



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

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DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

"Our nation should invest in peace. Our country should invest in diplomacy, development, and conflict prevention — cost-effective ways to improve national and global security."

American Friends Service Committee

Third Haven Friends Meeting: Meeting for Business Minutes for the 11th Month, 9th, 2008

I. Call to order

John Schreiner, Clerk of Meeting, called to order the meeting for business at 11:30am after a brief period of silent worship.

II. Attending

Leonard Baynham, Paige Bethke, Molly Burgoyne, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Jamie duHoffman, Doreen Getsinger, Norman Hackland, Tania Harrison, Helen Hooley, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Peter Howell, Lila Line, Connie Lewis, Joyce Macijeski, Bob Marshall, Nancy Mullen, Sumner Parker, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Meredith Watters, Ann Williams, John Winterbottom, Ralph Young,

III. Minutes

The minutes were approved from the 10th month after a correction in section XII. The Interfaith Housing Project is finishing up projects in Denton and Federalsburg not Denton and Salisbury.

IV. Query

The Query on "Stewardship of Resources" was read during meeting for worship. A Friend reminded all of us that PYM exists because of the individual Meetings. Quaker organizations work from the bottom up and part of our stewardship is to remember to support our organizations and our yearly Meeting.

V. Nominating Committee Please see attached report (1). This is the preliminary report as the final report will be given in December. In summary, we should all remain open to a call from this committee asking for our input. Please note the suggestions of the committee as to proposed changes in standing committees.

VI. Quaker Quest Please see attached report (2). Four Friends reported on their various experiences learning about the program called "Quaker Quest". These four Friends expressed enthusiasm and encouraged all of us to learn more about the program. The basics of the program are outlined in the report given and other handouts are available for all interested. A Minute was

then read and Approved by the Meeting. The complete Minute is included in this report. We will tentatively plan to schedule the exploratory session with PYM representatives on Jan10th.

VII. TACL Annual Report Please see attached report (3). In summary, there is more vibrant involvement from the community in the organization this year than has been in the past. The monies distributed by the Good Samaritan Fund go very quickly. The Meeting Approved this annual report with thanks to Ralph Young and Ann Williams for being the representatives of THFM to this important work.

VIII. Interim Meeting Report Published in November newsletter. Please note the Peace Meeting planned for January 13-17, 2009 at Arch Street Meeting.

IX. Southern Quarterly Meeting update: Eleven Friends from THFM attended the most recent SQM at Cadbury in Lewes, DE. Marsie Hawkinson did a good write-up of the event in the recent newsletter. The group had an hour presentation regarding Quaker Quest. SQM is looking for a representative to attend the Peace Gathering planned in January at Arch Street Meeting mentioned above in the interim report. The next SQM is in Jan 2009. THFM will be hosting SQM in May 2009. Suggestions were made to tie this in with our 325th year anniversary.

X. Talbot County Homeless Shelter: After discussing all the pros and cons of this program, there was unity regarding the importance of addressing this need during the months of January and February 2009. The following Minute was proposed: "We would like this Meeting to offer shelter overnight from 6pm to 7am this winter 2009 for two weeks for five people (either men or women). We agree this is not a long-term but a temporary solution to the problem to be used at this time as a long-term solution is sought." This Minute was approved by the Meeting.

XI. Other Business The Alternatives to Violence Project will be discussed at the next business meeting. THFM has volunteered to make sweet potato casserole for the Thanksgiving meal prepared by members of the Hunger Coalition. Please contact Lorraine Claggett to help. After a brief period of silence, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm

Respectfully submitted, Molly Burgoyne

Attached Reports

(1) Nominating committee preliminary report: The Nominating Committee has met and is working on filling vacancies and making sure that everyone who wants to serve has a committee responsibility. In reviewing the list of Committees to be filled, we noticed that many of the one person committees might be better served by being included as part of a larger committee so that information and activity can be shared. The Nominating Committee would like to recommend a consolidation for a few of the positions as a way to support the committees and more fully utilize the work being done by the individuals. We would like to suggest the following and bring our suggestion to Business Meeting, 11th Month, for Meetings consideration:

Assistant Clerk and Recorder – we suggest that the Assistant Clerk also be responsible for the duties of the Recorder.

Interfaith Housing –we suggest that this committee be laid down at THFM and that we ask Quarterly Meeting to manage this work

PYM Annual Giving – be included as a member of Finance Committee

FCNL- be included as a member of Testimonies and Concerns

AFSC Mid Atlantic - be included as a member of Testimonies and Concerns

Common Room Committee will include the Hospitality Committee to include all activities that take place in the common room.

We believe that the consolidations will provide for a concentration of man and woman power on the standing committees. If anyone has some additional recommendations or suggestions for how we can more efficiently organize and staff the work before us, please do not hesitate to contact Marsie Hawkinson, Clerk of Nominating Committee.

We have noticed that several of the Committees have been managed with Co Clerk's or Assistant Clerks (Overseers, Worship and Ministry, Hospitality) and believe this seems to strengthen the attentiveness to the Committee business. Nominating Committee would be pleased to seek Co Clerks if requested to do so or if someone is asked to serve as a Clerk but would like assistance in managing the work.

Finally, the Nominating Committee will be contacting all Members and Attenders 11th Month, to determine your interest in serving on a Committee. Please review the various Committee listings in the THFM Directory and call a committee member or clerk to find out more about the work of the various committees so that you can determine your interests.

(2) Quaker Quest Report by John Schreiner

"I looked up the meaning of proselytize: 'to convert someone from one faith to another'; not something I want to be a part of, in fact I find it repugnant. On the other hand it does seem right for us to consider the appropriateness of our reaching out and connecting w/ those who are seekers or even just curious.... by being welcoming and informative in a relevant and authentic way. And to do so using tools that have proven to be effective while being consistent with Friends' values.

After reading about it, talking to others, and attending a day-long workshop in Philadelphia, I see a path for us in the Quaker Quest model and process. It's fair to ask, who says we need to turn ourselves onto any outreach process? We're doing just fine in our traditional way. We've been here for 325 years. People know we're here. Sign's out front. Our doors are open. We don't need to advertise or promote."

My answer is (and that's why I've stepped off the facing bench for now): I say we better look that way. And I'm very concerned about our future. Let me paraphrase and read excerpts from an insightful piece written by Mark Myers (PYM Interim Meeting General Secretary) To me, he speaks succinctly and directly to some tough choices for us as Quakers not only among the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting but right here in Easton.

'Before we hear from others here today who've been introduced to this particular Quaker Quest process, let me share what those in England say about it. Incidentally, I don't propose to tell you how the process works today although I've copied a few hand outs which might answer some questions. Friends in Great Britain, in particular Manchester and London, have really launched and refined it and rate it a resounding success after six years of outreach and refining.'

My impression of this process is that it is well thought out and the preparation and delivery of our message in a personal and immediate way I found totally refreshing. The in-reach part of this is a powerful by-product. I found it invigorating and challenging to hone my description of our Society and its importance to me and my family. I had to think hard about the meaning for me of the phrases 'there's that of god in every one of us' and that we Quakers are at once 'spiritual, contemporary and radical.'" *John Schreiner*

Susan Claggett, Candace Shattuck, and Connie Lewis added their personal impressions from learning of Quaker Quest.

Minute of Third Haven Friends Meeting, approved November 9, 2008.

"Having sent representatives to three diverse presentations dealing with the Quaker Quest outreach process, and being united in its concern for the continued spiritual and organizational health of its meeting, agrees to further explore this process. This would begin by inviting trained representatives from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to give an informative, introductory Quaker Quest presentation to interested members and attenders here in Easton. That exploratory session would last about two hours all told and we would attempt to schedule it for a weekend date sometime between mid November '08 and the end of February '09. It is believed that such a session conducted at our Meeting will enable us to better and more broadly evaluate the suitability of this process to our needs."

(3) Annual TACL Report

The Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity or TACL is a loose association of some of Talbot County religious communities. The only requirement for membership is payment of annual dues of \$10. TACL meets monthly in the worship buildings of rotating faith communities. The primary mission of TACL is to disseminate information among the member churches (see monthly newsletter handout). Another TACL function is to raise funds and operate the Good Samaritan Fund. This fund was established to assist low income persons in financial crisis. Also, when there is a consensus among the members, TACL will issue public statements about issues that the members consider important.

During this past year, there were many generous donations to the Good Samaritan Fund, including donations from the Third Haven Friends Meeting, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton, Temple B'nai Israel, The Rev. Nathaniel Pierce, The Rev. George and Jo Merrill, and the Talbot Interfaith Website. A matching funds challenge resulted in a donation of \$7,500.

A resolution against slot machine gambling was read at Talbot County Courthouse and published in the paper.

A resolution was published regarding violence against religious faiths; specifically, the violence against a Unitarian Universalist Church in Tennessee.

The annual recognition award was presented to Rev. James Bank, former Uufe minister.

The 2007 Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was filled to capacity at Temple B'nai Israel.

The 2008 service will be held at Temple B'nai Israel on Sunday, November 23rd at 7 PM.

New faith communities welcomed include St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Cordova and Union United Methodist Church of St. Michaels.

During the past year, meeting attendance increased from an average of 8 persons to an average of 20 persons. At each monthly meeting there has been a presentation by representatives of one or more Talbot County organizations outlining the resources that they provide to the community.

Respectively submitted, *Ann Williams & Ralph Young*

Jim Paul shares his spiritual journey



Clearness Committee for Lorraine, Sarah and Laura Claggett



Third Haven Monthly Meeting Current Announcements

Meetings for Worship

First Days 10am	Fourth Days 5:30pm
December 7	December 10
December 14	December 17
December 21	December 24
December 28	December 31

December 6 (Saturday) 10am Quarterly all clerks meeting in the common room.

December 6 (Saturday) The Old Tyme Holiday parade will be in downtown Easton. Several of our Meeting members as well as some of the Meeting's children will be walking in support of our local P.E.A.C.E. group and playing music.

Winterization project volunteers needed:

Bernie Witter, the outreach person for this program from Trinity Cathedral, is asking for help with the Winterization Project. This year they have 18 people who need help but very few volunteers. Several people at UUFE have volunteered in the past; no special expertise is needed and all tools and materials will be provided by Easton Utilities. If anyone has a few hours to help in this project or has any questions about it, please contact Bernie at bwitter@aya.yale.edu

December 13 (Saturday) There will be a NAACP Banquet. For details, contact Doreen Getsinger 410-745-3485 or dcgets@atlanticbb.net

December 14 (Sunday) Meeting for worship followed by meeting for business. Annual reports from Worship and Ministry and Nominating committees. The following will be discussed: The Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment voted for repeal of the death penalty on Wednesday, November 12. This takes us one step closer to abolition of the death penalty in Maryland. The Commission, which includes a wide variety of perspectives, has spent months

holding meetings and public hearings to take a thorough look at Maryland's death penalty. Through these hearings and meetings it became clear that Maryland's system is cruel, costly, unworkable, and failed public policy. The Commission's final report is due on December 15. This vote ensures that the Commission will urge the Maryland General Assembly to repeal the death penalty. During the 2009 legislative session the final vote on abolition will take place.

January 10 (Saturday) 10am There will be a two hour Quaker Quest introductory session featuring Lois and Larry Forrest in the common room. Three specific topics that have been subject of Quaker Quest sessions at the Haverford, PA meeting are Quakers and Peace, Quakers and Spiritual Experience and Quakers and Raising Children. For more specific information about this endeavor please look at the following website: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest>

January 13-17, 2009 Peace Gathering at Arch Street. Friends should understand that the session on Saturday, January 17, is open to the public. For further information call 800-220-0796 or look at www.peacegathering2009.org

January 18 (Sunday) Chester River Monthly Meeting will host Southern Quarterly Meeting. There will be no program since this is the annual business meeting of the Quarter.

Each Thursday evening from 5 to 5:30, there join us for a Silent Peace Vigil in front of the courthouse on Washington St. Weather conditions have not interfered with the vigil. Many signs are available or bring your own. Join this protest to support the cause of non-violence in the world.

Volunteers are needed to continue the library program at the Talbot County Detention Center. Contact Leigh Ann Dodge: 410-822-5998

Volunteers for winter overnight shelter jobs: please sign up on the list in the common room - training is scheduled on December 6, at the Easton Library. Call or e-mail one of these members: Nancy Mullen ncrm32@hotmail.com (or call 410-310-5073) Jamie duHoffmann (410-713-4082) jduhoffmann2@washcoll.edu Lorraine Claggett - claggett@crosslink.net (410-822-0669)

The primary food pantry in Easton at the Neighborhood Service Center is in need. In the past year, the growing number of families served each week by the pantry has doubled to 150. Several faith communities in Easton are regularly collecting non-perishables for this pantry. On a bench along the east side of the common room is a plastic container marked "Third Haven Food Bank for the Neighborhood Service Center". It is hoped that members and attenders will bring at least one non-perishable each time they attend a Meeting for Worship.

To make these announcements complete, please write down whatever you find missing and e-mail it to hawkjm@goeaston.net. Please let us know if you have moved: e-mail and other address changes are always welcome at this address. <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> is your website - what would you like added that is not there? -Please review the website from your perspective: do you have a message that should be included?

Reminders

- Send a contribution payable to: Third Haven Monthly Meeting
Mail to Third Haven Treasurer, PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601
- Send a contribution payable to PYM Annual Fund (mention Third Haven)
Mail to PYM Development Office, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

- Save the dates March 27 to 29, 2009 for the March sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to be held at the Arch Street Meeting House - also July 29 to August 2, 2009 for the summer sessions to be held at DeSales University.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

COMPLETE TEXT MATERIAL - Please review the full accounts updated November 10, 2008 of coming events listed by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and other major Quaker organizations which may be found -Here are the latest headings - there full articles on each subject on the Third Haven Website, <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> click on Complete Text Material on the home page. Find more information at www.pym.org

INDEX

Parking at Arch Street
Publications Service Group looking for a few good Friends
Website Offers International Quaker Community
Writing and Art Workshops for Quaker Youth
Pendle Hill's Winter Lecture Series:
Silent Retreats for Friends
Alternatives to Violence Workshops
Friends Delegation Travels to India
What are Russian and Georgian Friends doing while their countries are at war?
Fair Hill Book Drive
Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse
Pendle Hill Offers Fall Tuesday Evenings on Justice Issues
Pendle Hill Quaker Basics: Clerking, Recording, Outreach, and the Peace Testimony
Spiritual Programs at Gwynedd Meeting
Fall Quakerism Programs at Pendle Hill
Call for Submissions for the Quaker Youth Book Project
Gardening at Fair Hill
December 4 to 7 Ten Thousand Villages at Woodstown Friends
December 5-7, 2008 Claiming Our Peace Testimony
December 10 Film at Buckingham Meeting
January 17 Peace Gathering to Address Gun Violence
February 28 Gathering for Quaker Educators in Public Schools
March 7 Meeting-School Leaders Seminar

Waterfowl Festival Open House/ Outreach



Quaker Quest-what is it?

Quaker Quest is a dynamic new form of outreach to seekers that encourages Friends to clarify and speak of their faith experience. It strongly affirms that Friends have a spiritual path for today that is simple, radical, and contemporary.

How is this outreach done?

Quaker Quest is a series of weekly public meetings on Quaker topics, which are presented on consecutive weeks in repeated cycles. The meeting decides how many sessions to offer in a cycle, usually between three and six, and chooses its own topics. The cycle is repeated at least once. Popular topics have included Quakers and Worship, Quakers and Peace, and Quaker Faith in Action.

What happens in a Quaker Quest session?

Each session offers a varied program of brief presentations by three Quakers who speak from the heart on the evening's topic, a time of listening to seekers in small groups, a question and answer period, a 30 minute meeting for worship, and hospitality.

Why so many sessions? Why not just one session?

The Friends who developed Quaker Quest found that by offering several sessions on different topics they were drawing more seekers than they could with a single topic. Some seekers might be attracted to a topic like Quakers and Worship. Others would be more interested in Quakers and Peace or Quaker Faith in Action.

Why repeat the cycle of sessions?

Like everyone else, seekers have busy schedules. By repeating the cycle Friends give seekers the opportunity to attend sessions they missed during the first cycle. This has been an important part

of Quaker Quest's success. Another reason why repetition is important is that experience has shown that the Friends offering Quaker Quest improve each time they do it.

Could we rotate the sessions around our quarter to help all the meetings?

While this is a thoughtful idea, it has been found that it does not work well. If the site changes from week to week, attendance will fall off markedly. This is something that Friends presenting Quaker Quest have learned by experience. Speaking of quarters and nearby meetings, though, if your meeting doesn't have the human resources by itself, your neighbors might help you put on a Quaker Quest. And next year you might help them!

How did Quaker Quest begin?

A group of about twelve Friends in London were troubled that although Quakers have a powerful, transformative faith to offer seekers, very few people have ever heard of us. Because they lived near each other, the group was able to get together frequently to consider what might be done. After much worship, thought, and discernment, in 2002, they created Quaker Quest under the care of Hampstead Monthly Meeting. In 2005 members of this core group began, upon request, to train meetings throughout England in how to offer a Quaker Quest.

How can I learn more about Quaker Quest?

You could begin by looking at other documents, including "Quaker Quest: A Brief Description," "Core Principles," and "Steps to Bring Quaker Quest to Your Meeting and the Wider Community". You could also explore the excellent web site set up by the British Friends who founded Quaker Quest, www.quakerquest.org.

What sorts of meetings have held Quaker Quests?

Quaker Quests have been presented by meetings all over England, in small villages, towns, and small and large cities. During the fall of 2007 more than 30 meetings in England offered Quaker Quests.

What about the United States? And Canada?

Quaker Quest recently arrived in the U.S. and Canada. In 2007 a Quaker Quest workshop at the FGC Gathering attracted 12 people. These Friends were so excited by what they learned that two afternoon sessions on Quaker Quest were swamped with nearly 100 eager Quakers. By the end of the week the Gathering was abuzz with talk of Quaker Quest. Soon after the Gathering the London core group asked the FGC Advancement & Outreach Coordinator to be the contact person for inquiries and workshop requests in the United States and Canada.

There will be another Quaker Quest workshop at the 2008 Gathering in Johnstown, PA. Sign up early!

How do I get Quaker Quest started in my meeting?

Building interest and knowledge in the meeting is a good first step. You could begin by circulating a copy of "Quaker Quest: A Brief Description" to others in your meeting. Then perhaps you could organize an informal discussion group around the topic. Some yearly meetings may be offering Quaker Quest workshops that members of your meeting might attend. As interest develops, you will want to bring the issue to your meeting for business. Quaker Quest is a project that involves the entire meeting. Review "Steps to Bring Quaker Quest to Your Meeting and your Community" and follow them as appropriate for your meeting.

My meeting just decided that we would like to offer a Quaker Quest next month. Is there a speedy way to get it started?

Unfortunately, the answer is "no." The average Quaker Quest requires about 6 months of planning. A Quaker Quest involves a significant publicity effort, which takes several months to

develop. Preparing the speakers and the hosts of each session also takes time. In addition, the meeting needs to consider ways to prepare to welcome and incorporate seekers into the meeting and to implement these preparations (for example, holding classes for new attenders).

The preparation time you allow and the care you take will contribute greatly to the success of your Quaker Quest program.

My meeting is interested in Quaker Quest. What is the next step?

The next step is to ask your meeting to invite an experienced trainer to give a Quaker Quest workshop. The workshop will help Friends 1) consider the needs of seekers today; 2) learn about the Core Principles that make a Quaker Quest; 3) practice responding to questions typically asked by seekers; and 4) begin thinking about the logistics of offering a Quaker Quest in your area should the meeting decide to go forward.

Any Quaker Quest program needs to begin with this meeting-focused workshop held under the care of a trained Quaker Quest Facilitator.

From FAQ Quaker Quest

Friends Historical Association

Jim and Anne Rouse, Allan Mielke and Kenneth Carroll attended the Friends Historical Association meeting at the Arch Street Meeting House on Saturday, November 8. After a reception and a very nice buffet lunch, Kenneth (as President) presided at the annual business meeting. This was followed by a very exciting talk entitled "Why Religious Freedom Was (Is) Necessary: Religious Violence in Early America - The Case of Mary Dyer."

Friendly Eights...coming soon

The following folks signed up to participate in Friendly Eights convening in January. If you still wish to participate, sign up in the common room and another group can form. Substitutes are also welcome. The first people in the group are the conveners, not necessarily the first hosts. Usual procedure is the host household provides an entrée, a place to meet (which could be a prior reservation to use the Common Room), and decides on the presence of children. Other members of the group bring dishes. Single individuals may want to team up to host a dinner. Enjoy our wonderful Friends!

Group 1:

***Frank and Joyce Zeigler**
Beth and Neil Mufson
Candace and Bob Shattuck
Doreen Getsinger

Group 2:

***Lorraine and Pinney Claggett**
Lila Line
Joan Wetmore
John Winterbottom
Denny Bliss

Group 3:

***Marsie and John Hawkinson**

Aiyan Paterson-Zikland

John Schreiner and Heidi

Jamie and Gunther duHoffman

First Day School Wreaths



FIRST DAY SCHOOL annual Christmas program will be presented after meeting for worship on December 21st. A Pot Luck meal in the common room will follow. Please bring entrees, casseroles, salads and desserts and join for good fellowship. Many thanks to First Day School, Molly Burgoyne, Leigh Anne Dodge and Sarah Claggett for helping with the decoration of the holiday wreaths that hang outside the meeting house doors.

Monthly query: FGC's Youth Ministries has found that a monthly meeting's readiness to accept young friends often determines how many young friends the meeting has. If a monthly meeting is supportive of the needs and concerns of young friends, they will be encouraged to attend.

Therefore, does your monthly meeting consider how they might best support the gifts of high school--aged Friends or a young adult Friend, even if your meeting does not have any young Friends present? Susan Claggett, FDS Clerk