



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

(410) 822-0293

Info@thirdhaven.org

DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

The Owl

Downhill I came, hungry, and yet not starved; cold, yet had heat within me that was proof
Against the North wind; tired, yet so that rest had seemed the sweetest thing under a roof.
Then at the inn I had food, fire, and rest, knowing how hungry, cold, and tired was I.
All of the night was quite barred out except an owl's cry, a most melancholy cry

Shaken out long and clear upon the hill, no merry note, nor cause of merriment,
But one telling me plain what I escaped and others could not, that night, as in I went.
And salted was my food, and my repose, salted and sobered, too, by the bird's voice
Speaking for all who lay under the stars, soldiers and poor, unable to rejoice.

Edward Thomas

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 11th Month, 2009

1. Call to order: John Schreiner, Clerk of Meeting, called to order the meeting for business at 11:35am after a brief period of silent worship.
2. Attending: Mark Beck, Paige Bethke, Cynthia Browne, Molly Burgoyne, Larny Claggett, Leigh Anne Dodge, Doreen Getsinger, Robert Gladney, Marsie Hawkinson, Bob Kemp, Connie Lewis, Connie Pullen, Michael Pullen, Kenny Russ, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Robert Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Sally Vermilye, Rob Wieland, Irene Williams, John Winterbottom, Winslow Womack, Ralph Young
3. Minutes: After deleting Ralph Young's name from those in attendance, the minutes were approved from the 10th month.
4. Query: The Query, "Stewardship of Resources" was read aloud during meeting for worship. A Friend recognized another who gave a cash donation to PYM shortly after the service. His contribution was received with gratitude.
5. Use of Facilities: The Clerk of Meeting brought forth a request for use of our facilities Dec. 4-6 by Middle School Friends. The Friends will come from different monthly meetings and participate in supervised activities. They will spend two nights at THFM. More details regarding this retreat will be published in the newsletter or Susan Leibman can be contacted for

information. Robert Gladney volunteered his services if food is needed. The Meeting approved the use of THFM for this gathering.

6. Nominating Committee: The committee presented a draft of standing committees. This will be published in the newsletter. There are several positions not filled. The committee members asked all to consider filling in some of these empty spots. There was discussion regarding "Quaker Quest" and whether it is a standing committee or an ad hoc committee. After discussing this issue, all agreed this is an ad hoc committee similar to the same-sex minute committee and should not be included at this time in the standing committee reports. Because, however, it does have some monies allocated to it in our budget, this committee will need to make regular reports to meeting for business as do other committees.

7. Testimonies and Concerns: (please see attached). The Clerk of this committee gave the annual report. This was approved by all along with many thanks for the impressive work and efforts of this committee this past year.

8. TACL and FCNL reports: These reports will be tabled until next meeting for business.

9. New Items: Same-Sex Minute Committee will meet on Nov 21st at 10am in the common room.

Meeting for business was adjourned at 12:20pm.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Burgoyne

TACL Annual Report for 2009

TACL activities this year included:

The annual Interfaith Seder Dinner

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner

Ongoing support for Habitat for Humanity

Ongoing support for Talbot Interfaith Shelter

Now supporting the Mayors Prayer Breakfast

Continue to disseminate information about member churches activities

Promoted the Talbot County Peace Week and the annual Multicultural Festival

Monthly presentations and discussions on a variety of topics such as:

Elderly Sensitivity Training

Islamic/Christian Interface

Mental Health and Substance Abuse issues

Pastoral Grieving

The Death Penalty

Promoted a program for restoring and advancing Civil Liberties in Maryland and the Nation.

Continued to operate the Good Samaritan Fund primarily with generous donations from the Talbot County faith community.

Submitted on 11/10/2009 Ann Williams & Ralph Young

**Report and Proposed Minute
from the study committee For Same Sex Union Under the Care of the Meeting
compiled on behalf of the study committee**

by Cynthia Browne, John Schreiner and others 11/28/09

John Schreiner writes, "As becomes evident at reading the attached minute, it's been a labor of love and give-and-take for the committee; and a time for listening and being inclusive. The draft deserves to be read and studied and allowed to season....in preparation for our deliberations at meeting for business this coming December 13th. Please call Cindy Browne or Bob Marshall or me w/ any questions but more importantly, read it and discuss it w/ friends prior to attending that session; keeping an open mind and heart for what could well be an important unifying session." In Friendship, John Schreiner, Clerk

Friends at Third Haven have, for the past several months, been deliberating in good faith on the issue of same sex marriage under the care of the meeting. Clearly we have built upon the Paul Minute of several years past and have gained further understanding of each other's views and positions.

After tender listening by all attending these sessions, it has become apparent that there has been an incremental and common discernment that --- same sex couples deserve equal treatment in seeking spiritual union, if not marriage, within our Meeting community.

The word marriage carries a variety of implications for different Friends. Concerns have been raised over the differentiation of the role of Quaker Meetings vs that of the State in the union of a couple.

Our collective discernment is guided by sections of Faith & Practice (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) and the words of George Fox. Below are references to the most pertinent passages and Fox's direct quote:

- * (Faith & Practice p50, Quaker Marriage Procedure; defining the clearness process)
- * (Faith & Practice p84, Advice III)
- * (Faith & Practice, Query #6, 4th paragraph p210)
- * (George Fox, letter #264) "For the right joining in marriage is the work of the Lord only, and not the priests' or the magistrates'; for it is God's ordinance and not man's; and therefore Friends cannot consent that they should join them together: for we marry none; it is the Lord's work, and we are but witnesses."

In the context of this centered discussion and these beliefs concerning the Meeting's recognition of same sex couple, below is a new (Nov 28th 2009) draft of a minute reflecting the work which we as a meeting and its committee have done. It is submitted here for review, deliberation, and possible approval... as we seek unity of spirit:

Preamble:

The meeting is open to everyone; all are welcome. Current Members and Attenders understand that they do not own the meeting but are just custodians and stewards of the spiritual

vessel that is Third Haven Monthly Meeting. Those with any sexual orientation are welcome. Despite this, the Meeting is not in unity with regard to marriage for same sex couples and because of this marriage for them is not an option.

Some discern that such a marriage would violate the testimonies of simplicity and integrity because a “marriage” ceremony for a same sex couple would not have legal effect today in Maryland. Others in this group also discern that--- same sex marriage could never be an ordinance of God; in that God’s will with regard to marriage pertains only to a man and a woman.

In contrast, the discernment of others supports same sex marriage coming under the care of the meeting. They hold that the Friends’ testimony of equality forms the basis for this discernment.

Despite these differences, All Members and Attenders recognize that those with same-sex orientation are equally God’s beloved children, and can be deeply rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus, clearly understand the manner of Friends, and find Third Haven to be their spiritual home. All members and Attenders recognize that there is a need to be fully inclusive and welcoming to such Friends, and to provide a way for them to include their partnerships with others within our spiritual community. In this Light, we offer the following minute.

Third Haven Friends Meeting reaffirms its belief in, and support of, the spiritual bond and commitment established by a loving couple in the presence of God, family, friends, and the Meeting. Consistent with our testimonies, Third Haven Friends Meeting gives the same consideration to all written requests for ceremonies of commitment for a spiritual union under the care of the Meeting. These requests, to be under our care, may come only from meeting members and those closely related to them or from Attenders who have become part of our faith community.

AFSC Annual Report for 2009 Over the past year, the AFSC has been very active. Here is a brief overview of the scope of their activities:

Fighting military recruitment in high schools around the US
Advocating for good public benefits and services to benefit economic justice in the US
Working towards marriage equality and LGBT rights in the US
The Wage Peace Campaign to end the war in Iraq
Working to promote a just and lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis
Distributing non-food necessities to refugee camps in the Democratic Republic of Congo
Working to create peace and alleviate the suffering of war and disaster in many Asian states, such as China, North Korea, and Cambodia
A Community Gardens Project in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Work in Latin America and the Caribbean to address poverty, inequality, and social conflict and much, much more. See their website (www.afsc.org) for more information.

Annual Report of Testimonies and Concerns, November, 2009

Members: Chris Polk, Cynthia Browne, Gwen Beegle, Jamie duHoffmann, Leigh Anne Dodge, Lorraine Claggett, Nancy Mullen, Norman Hackland, Sarah Sayre, Susan Dabney, Tatiana Harrison. In 2009 T&C engaged in:

T&C authorized the spending of \$3,000.00, as authorized by the Meeting for Business in January 2009, for emergency needs of the local community. \$2,000.00 went to the Neighborhood Service Center, \$200.00 each to the local soup kitchen at Asbury United Methodist, Scotts Methodist in Trappe and Bethel AME, and the remaining \$400.00 to the Talbot Interfaith Shelter.

Talbot Interfaith Shelter: Last season, we housed 13 individuals for 81 nights and 51 days. Thirteen faith communities provided 417 volunteers, 238 bed nights and 714 meals. We received \$3090 from individual donations, \$2000 from faith communities, \$330 from community organizations and \$250 from businesses. The coalition hopes to find more permanent quarters this year. As they did not find a place for the shelter, the churches will be asked to host as they did last year. Our meeting is in unity to lend our support to TIS and serve as a host church this year.

Lobbying/Letter writing to Repeal Capital Punishment: With Jim Paul's advisement, written & published in Star Democrat Feb. 2009. Forwarded to state representatives.

"Keep the Maryland Guard Home" campaign: Going on its seventh year, the Iraq war has taken its toll on not only the US military, but also on the states's National Guard units, which were called up when Congress passed the 2002 Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF) against Iraq. Now a growing state-level movement is working to keep the Guard at home. Its logic: The AUMF's goals have been fulfilled. The authorization's explicit purposes were to defend the US against the "threat posed by Iraq" and to enforce UN Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq's alleged ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussein - along with his supposed threat - is gone, and the UN resolutions are no longer relevant, so there's no longer a mandate to keep troops in Iraq. Our Lobby Night for the Campaign was Feb. 23. Two Friends attended this lobby night and one was asked to return to speak before the house and senate committees considering the bill, Lobby Day Death Penalty Repeal,

Monday March 9th activists came to Annapolis from around the state to lobby their elected officials. Attended by one Friend

Lobbying/Civil Disobedience to raise awareness of our climate in crisis: Non-Violence Training in advance of the Capital Coal Action took place on 2/21/09 in Landover, MD. On March 2nd, the largest mass civil disobedience for the climate, Capitol Climate Action, occurred in Washington, D.C. Three Friends attended the training and the action in Washington, D.C.

Faith in Action speaker: February 15 (Sunday) following Meeting for Worship, T&C hosted a Simple Meal and Faith in Action Speaker. David Hosey shared his story after a year of mission work in the Middle East. He was working with a Palestinian/Christian organization called

Sabeel, and is currently working in Washington, D.C. at the US Campaign to End the Occupation. We had 32 in the audience and about \$165 in donations for the Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation.

Faith in Action speaker: April 5 (Sunday) following Meeting for Worship, T&C hosted a Simple Meal and Faith in Action Speaker PYM's Ministry for Racial Justice & Equality speakers came to THFM to share their work in making Friends Meetings more open to all, how to heal the hurts of racism, and how to overcome fear and the practices of marginalizing of People of Color. Their focus is to 'take the plank out of our eyes...' before taking the plank out of the other....

Multi-cultural festival: May 2 (Saturday) THFM participated in the Easton Multicultural Festival. T&C had a table with handouts and another table for children to draw a peace mural.

Haitian Bake Sale: To support the Oxford Holy Trinity Church and 3 other churches who are planning a trip to Haiti in November to bring medical and school supplies to impoverished Haitian villages, T&C held a bake sale, with the help of First Day School, on September 27, and raised \$180 to support the mission.

ON-GOING PROJECTS & BACK BURNER ISSUES

Finding a volunteer to be the Host Site person for the Talbot Interfaith Shelter this coming winter. This person will be responsible for attracting and scheduling volunteers to help when the shelter is at Third Haven. This date is tentatively Feb. 28 through March 14.

Helping to find volunteers to help staff the lending library at Talbot County Detention Center, run by Ralph & Mary Young.

Continuing monthly workshops for the Alternatives to Violence Project at the Eastern Correctional Institution in Somerset Co, Maryland. AVP worked with 231 inmates in 14 3-day workshops and trained three more outside volunteers to assist at ECI.

Gathering and assessing information on a campaign to find answers to our questions regarding military recruitment in Maryland's public high-schools.

How do we counter media biases and spin? Where do we find information that is reliable and accurate?

Falling leaves draw members together



Third Haven Monthly Meeting Announcements

Meetings for Worship

First Days 10am Fourth Days 5:30pm

December 9

December 13 December 16

December 20 December 23

December 27 December 30

Friendly Eights is an enjoyable way to become better acquainted with the Meeting community. Each group of eight gathers for a monthly dinner from January to June.

A sign up poster prepared by Overseers is available in the common room - please join us!

December 6 (Sunday) 11 am Wicomico River Friends Meeting will have a Meetinghouse warming at their new home, 519 Dykes Road, Salisbury, MD - For map visit:

<http://wicomicoriverquakers.org> Directions: Take Route 12 in Salisbury to Toadvine Road. At the end of Toadvine take a left on to Dykes Road. At the end of Dykes Road is a culdesac. The Meeting is on the left at the end of a gravel driveway. Meeting Phone: 410-749-9649 or Clerk: 410-422-2332

Please join us for worship at 11am followed by an open house, buffet, and carol singing.

Testimonies & Concerns continues to look for a volunteer from Third Haven to help coordinate the weeks that the Talbot Interfaith Shelter will be housed at Third Haven. At this time, we have volunteers from two other faith communities to help coordinate Third Haven's efforts, but, we still need someone to step up and be our Site Host Please speak with Jamie DuHoffman or Lorraine Claggett if you would like a better sense of what the Site Host duties would be.

A Giving Tree: Property & Grounds, First Day School and Testimonies & Concerns are working together to create a Giving Tree for Third Haven Friends. This will be a living Christmas tree for the Meeting House, decorated with ornaments made by First Day children. Each ornament will be tagged with the name of an organization working for Quaker values and a suggested amount to be donated to that organization. T & C will help identify these organizations, both local and further a field, and would welcome suggestions from the Meeting as to which organizations to include. Please contact LeighAnne Dodge with suggestions or offers to help.

December 13 (Sunday) 11 am Meeting for worship followed by meeting for business. Annual reports scheduled: Worship & Ministry and Nominating Committee. Discussion of minute prepared by the committee about same-gender ceremony.

December 20 (Sunday) 10 am Meeting for worship followed by a First Day School Christmas Program – “A Simple Christmas” and potluck Christmas luncheon.

December 23 (Wednesday) Betty Jean and Charles Wheeler's 70th wedding anniversary

First Day school: We plan the program about one core Quaker Value each month, structured as sessions both for Middle Children (4 to 10) and for Older Children (11 – 16).

During December we will focus on Simplicity FDS program for December: We identified several activities and lessons that we would like to cover with the children. We have assigned where we had volunteers. There are plenty of places to participate if you see an activity you would like to lead or help out with. We continue to seek adults to come up and sit with the younger children (1 to 4) in the play room and help keep these children, who cannot sit still for the Godly Play, entertained. We also encourage anyone who would like to come up and lead a story or an activity to volunteer. WE will post this outline in the FDS room so you can pencil in your names and or provide input.



First Day School Committee hard at work

December 06: Circle time: talk about the gift of being simple with reference to some of the verses in the song
Godly play for Middle Children with Susan Claggett
Older Children begin a look at Whispers of Faith

December 13: Circle time: talk about what we like about being simple and share a Birthday Snack - All children work together on a simple craft project as a gift for someone and practice songs for Christmas program - Business Meeting – Child Care – Brandt Bethke and ?

December 20: Circle time: what we like about Christmas
Godly play for all children with Candace or Cathy
Finish projects and practice songs with Susan Claggett and Nancy Mullens
At Rise Of Meeting – Christmas Program – “A Simple Christmas”
December 27 Circle time: what do we hope the New Year will bring
Middle Children read a story about simplicity and journal
Older Children read from Whispers of Faith and journal
Discussing Ping Pong Tournament for Interfaith Housing

New address: Bob & Becky Hesse
545 Medford Leas – Medford, NJ 08085 – 609-654-3545
e-mail: beckyhesse@medfordleas.com

New attenders: Jill & Ian Ferrier
211 S. Harrison Street – Easton, MD 21601 – cell: 973-476-9314
e-mail: jnayers2000@yahoo.com

Please send all new announcements to 3rdhaven@gmail.com

Our meeting's website is ... <http://www.thirdhaven.org/>

Please consider making a contribution to:

Third Haven Monthly Meeting (to support annual budget)
c/o Treasurer, Third Haven
P.O.Box 2379
Easton, MD 21601

Contributions to **Third Haven Scholarship Fund**
should also be addressed to the Treasurer, Third Haven

Contributions to **Trustees of Third Haven Meeting**
should be addressed to Allan Mielke, Treasurer
and mailed to 405 South Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601
or to PO Box 701, Easton, MD 21601

Contributions to **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Fund**
should mention Third Haven and be mailed to PYM Development Office, 1515 Cherry Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19102.

**Third Haven Friends at Asbury Methodist Church
helping with Thanksgiving Dinners to be delivered
to Marilla's lunch recipients.**



**Harriet Heath socializes with Heidi
Wetzel's step-mom, Margaret**

Notes of appreciation:

Concert Success: Thank you to the folks who helped by showing up, manning the collection table (Thanks Cindy), bringing the food collection bin (Thanks Leigh Anne), spreading the word, etc. We were able to raise \$570 for TIS and collect a couple of bins full of canned goods for the Neighborhood Service Center with our two concerts (We Gather Together) at St. Paul's Wesleyan Church (the Stanley's church) in Oxford. It was a lot of fun!

Susan and Stephen



Obviously, the **Ping Pong Tournament** Pete Howell organized was successful. You thought out of the box and it worked! I am very happy to deposit \$423.85 in the TIS account. With your event and the two folk music concerts, Third Haven Friends have really stepped up to turn the shelter lights on again. Your hearts should be full, knowing that your efforts will help the homeless in our community.

Gratefully yours,
Evelyn Sedlack



First Day School decorates for the season



Friendly Friends

