



## **Third Haven Friends Meeting**

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## **March 2013 NEWSLETTER**

"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature—trees, flowers, grass—grow in silence; see the stars, the moon and sun, how they move in silence. ... The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to touch souls." -Mother Teresa

### **Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 2nd month, 10, 2013**

1. Candace Shattuck, Clerk of Meeting, gathered the meeting for worship with attention to business together at 11:35 AM after a brief period of silence.
2. Attending: Dawn Atwater, Paige Bethke, Molly Burgoyne, Lorraine Claggett, Benita Cooper, Mary Cotton, Catherine Cripps, Debbie Danser, Ed Danser, Doreen Getsinger, Tania Harrison, Marsie Hawkinson, Bill Lane, Jr., Joyce Macijeski, Sumner Parker, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Robert Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Sally Vermilye, Peggy Walbert, Meredith Watters, Rob Wieland, Anny Williams, David Williams, Ralph Young, Frank Zeigler, and Joyce Zeigler.
3. Minutes: The Meeting approved the minutes for meeting for business 1stMonth, 2013.
4. Query: The 2nd Query "Meeting for Business" was read aloud during meeting for worship. There were no additional comments at this time.
5. Membership Recorder's Report: (See full report below). We suffered two deaths of members in 2012, Peggy Paul in March and John Todd in October. We had 8 applications accepted for new members. This included Cynthia Quast and Catherine Cripps as adults. Then in the 3rd Month 2012 we approved a clarification on membership for children and added the four children of Luisa Adelfio and Erik Neil; Maggie, Nora, Juliette and Anna Sofia as well as Lucy and Zadoc Bond. This brings our total membership to 151. We were recently notified that Mary Gibney Bodel passed away in 2012 but this will not be recorded in our records until 2013. The Membership Recorder's Report was approved with thanks to Marsie for keeping the records straight for us.
6. Annual Report of THFM to SQM: (See full report below). The report was approved with changes to the second sentence, which should now read "Membership totaled 151 as we

mourned the deaths of 2 members and welcomed 8 new members 6 of whom were children”. This report will be written and given out earlier next year so all will have more time to review.

7. Outreach Committee Annual Report: (See full report below). The full report was approved with thanks without changes or additions.

8. Same Sex Marriage Minute: A committee of Dee Rein, Doreen Getsinger and Mary Cotton worked on a revised Same- Sex Marriage Minute that was presented to Meeting last month. The outcome of that meeting was to change the wording of the minute again and let the new wording “season” for a month before bringing it back to Meeting. The new wording is a revision of the 2009 minute and reads as follows:

“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 marriages and 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.”

Dee Rein reported that she has spoken at length to Ken Carroll regarding this issue, as he has been unable to attend meeting for business. With his permission, Dee reported his suggestion to the Meeting for discussion. His suggestion was to simplify the above minute by removing the words “for marriages and ceremonies of commitment”. This will be referred to as the “Ken Carroll revision”. He also felt that we needed to keep a sense of tenderness and loving concern as we deal with this often divisive subject. He concurred that if a person can not support the minute or if anyone does not feel they can support a particular couple’s marriage or union they can “stand aside” for the sake of unity.

This matter was then opened to discussion for the gathered group. Some Friends immediately expressed support for the Ken Carroll revision as being a change that they could live with as the wording is comfortable to all and the words “spiritual union” are more correct in calling it “what it is”. It was pleasing to several present that the words “spiritual union” conveys the recognition that God is in charge of a marriage. Several present however felt that by leaving the words “marriage” out of the minute, we were essentially backing away from our commitment of equality. Others agreed that it would show a lack of integrity not to use the word “marriage” and “call things what they are”. There was a concern that by removing this as part of the text we may be undermining the statement, as there are many among us who feels the importance of standing up for the equal rights of others and not discriminating against same sex marriage. Several felt dismay that we have not made a stronger stand on this sooner and that the State of Maryland was able to be nondiscriminatory before we were. The semantics of the word marriage seemed to center for many around the issue of being inclusive or exclusive. In other words, we may be trying hard to word the minute so that we don’t appear to be discriminating when we really are. Many couples may seek the freedom of calling their union what they want to call their unions without our prejudices interfering. So many gave heartfelt messages regarding the importance of using the word marriage so that the entire community would understand exactly what we mean. If Faith and Practice refers to this topic under “marriage” then we should be including similar wording in our minute. There was a suggestion that the above revision delete the words “and ceremonies of commitment for a spiritual union” and simplify the minute by leaving the words “for marriages” in. This was a suggestion that many but not all agreed to. At

that point in our discussion, we had three separate revisions on the table but not unity. A suggestion was made to change the title of the minute to include the word “Marriage” and this was discussed at some length. Both the Clerk of Meeting and Dee were able to call for silent introspection in order to move ahead with a minute that the corporate body could agree in unity with. After heartfelt reference to our testimonies of Equality, Integrity, and Simplicity, we have approved the following minute:

Marriage and Spiritual Unions 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 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. Meeting for business was adjourned at 12:45 PM

Respectfully submitted, Molly Burgoyne

**IMPORTANT POINTS:**

- Membership Recorder’s Report given and approved
- Annual Report of THFM to SQM given and approved with above changes
- Annual Outreach Report given and approved
- Minute on Marriage and Spiritual Unions approved.

**Report of Recorder**



Third Haven Monthly Meeting in Southern Quarter  
 2012 membership statistics (due 3/1/2013)  
 2012 Year-end Count as of December 31, 2012 we had  
 129 members age 21 & older (includes 2 who turned 21 in 2012)  
 22 members under age 21  
 Total 151

**Changes in 2012**

_____ "Births" - applications for infants under 1 year	2	Deaths
_____ Transfers in from another Monthly Meeting	_____	Transfers out
8 Applications accepted for new members	_____	Resignations
Applications by associate members for full membership	_____	Release by Meeting
Total (+) 8	Total (-) 2	
Net change: + 6		

**Computation**

Our total membership reported for 2011 was	146
Adjustment to 2011, if any	- 1
Adjusted total for 2011 (line 1 + line 2)	145
Net change in 2012 (from Section 2)	+6
Total for year-end 2012	151

*Martha L. Hawkinson, Recorder* January 21, 2013  
 410-822-0589      hawkjm@goeaston.net

## **THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING**

### **Annual Report for 2012**

This year was an active and healthy period in the life of the Meeting. Membership held even at 149 as we mourned the deaths of two members and welcomed two new members. Meeting for Worship was well attended, with an average of 75-85 on most First Days, dropping to closer to 50 in the summer. Several First Days, over 100 gathered. Meeting for Worship was also held on fourth days, with small but regular attendance. Meetings were consistently spiritual, rich and nourishing.

Worship & Ministry Committee was active in caring for meeting for worship and offering a variety adult education opportunities to help Friends deepen their spiritual practices: 4 sessions on “The Essence of our Quaker Faith and Practice,” 4 silent retreats, a “Course in Miracles,” 4 sessions on meditation practices in different religions, and 3 sessions in which Friends shared their spiritual journeys.

First Day School remained active, though attendance varied widely from week to week. Many projects involved working with meeting committees, notably T&C. The high school class became smaller with three members (of whom we are very proud) away at Westtown. Testimonies and Concerns Committee oversaw a wide variety of projects in which Meeting members are engaged, from weekly lunches to shut-ins to helping Bolivian Quakers. In addition, the Meeting again served as host location for the Talbot Interfaith Homeless Shelter for two weeks in the winter.

The Outreach Committee, having erected a new sign on Washington Street at the beginning of the year, turned their energies to a review of literature for visitors and newcomers. This resulted in fresh literature in a new, member-made literature rack in the lobby of the brick meeting house at the end of the year.

Overseers ably continued their function of pastoral care for the meeting and have begun to look at the question of how we care for senior members.

Fiscal Year 2011-12 ended on June 30 with expenses exceeding income by nearly \$4000.

Because we like to keep a year’s expenses in reserve, the shortfall is not a problem short-term, but could become so if this situation is repeated. Questions have been raised about our budgeting process, whether or not the income and expenses estimates are realistic.

Our new caretaker, member Clay Owens, moved into his newly-refurbished home early in 2012. Property and grounds remain in fine condition, thanks to committee work as well as the efforts of many members on special “clean-up” days and other occasions as needed. An Ad-Hoc Committee was appointed to review the condition and needs of the Common Room, now 30 years old. Their report recommending a number of changes, to be undertaken in 3 stages as resources permit, was approved at the November Meeting for Business. The process will be overseen within the regular committee structure of the meeting, with work to begin in 2013. We look forward to another vibrant year in 2013.

### **Reminder:**

Daylight Saving Time (United States) 2013 begins at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 10

## **Outreach Committee Annual Report February 10, 2013**

The mission of Third Haven Friends' Outreach Committee is: to support those activities which make the nearby general public more knowledgeable of our beliefs and more welcome at our meetings. Our goal is neither conversion to our beliefs nor is it proselytizing. Outreach is simply sharing, in an open way, information about our activities and our religious experience outside the circle of Quakerism. In some way it is bringing the community into the meeting and our meeting into the community. Early in 2012 the committee worked to design and install a new sign on Washing-ton Street. This process sought to enlarge the signage in a clean, appropriate way increasing visibility and introducing three new elements:

- The word "Quaker"
- reference our Children's program and,
- high-light our web-site. While doing this, reports were made to, and input sought from the membership.

Solar powered display lighting was added at modest cost, enhancing the sign's night-time visibility.

A thorough review was made of our printed hand-out materials. As a result, a new package of literature was developed. Some pieces were re-designed, some purchased, and some re-written. All were enhanced graphically. The purpose here was to offer a coordinated set featuring two fresh key pieces and supporting supplemental hand-outs. One 8pp brochure, Your Guide to Quakers, describes our community and our beliefs to the curious and seekers and new attenders. A smaller, colorful piece is directed to visitors and passers-by and focuses on our unique building and grounds.

This effort involved many hours, the whole committee and many meetings. It couldn't have succeeded without Friends with special knowledge and talents including: Ken Carroll, Ralph Young, Jessica Johnson, Nancy Robbins, and Peggy Walbert.

Thanks to John Hawkinson's craftsmanship (creating a new wood and Lucite rack) these five pieces can all be seen displayed inside the entrance to the brick meeting house.



Recent meetings and discussions of the Outreach Committee have turned to how we as a meeting might become more effective in connecting with new attenders.

The Outreach Committee believes that the overall process of qualifying, welcoming and informing new attenders can only be fully effective if it can be a truly a Meeting-wide, community effort. As a result, the committee will be communicating with Overseers, and the Worship and Ministry committees in the months ahead soliciting their ideas and support. We also will be presenting these concepts, from time to time, to the Meeting as a whole for review and implementation.

The committee acknowledges that this process of connecting with new attenders is a delicate one, yet truly critical to our mission.

Our committee will also be exploring in the year ahead: how we at Third Haven might become more active within and visible throughout the wider Talbot County community. We welcome fresh ideas and supportive suggestions from Friends.

Submitted by the Outreach Committee : *John Schreiner*, clerk, and participating members----  
Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Robt Gladney, Marsie Hawkinson, Joyce Macijeski, Candace Shattuck, and John Winterbottom

### **Announcements:**

March 9 (Saturday) 10am to 12pm: Services for Seniors: A Focus Group Session

Overseers has been discussing the care of Seniors and others with disabilities for the past several months. There seems to be a yearning to learn more about available services for the aging, disabled, and their caretakers. Some of us have personal needs regarding this issue and others have a passion to help those in need of care. We now wish to open up our discussion to a larger group of Friends. We invite all to join us on March 9th at THFM in the common Room from 10 AM to 12pm for a Focus Group discussion regarding this issue. We hope to come away from this meeting with a larger plan of how we may help our Senior Friends and neighbors. The session will be moderated by Molly Burgoyne and Debbie Cox.

March 10 (Sunday) Meeting for Business.

March 24 (Sunday) at rise of Meeting: The 1st Worship and Ministry adult religious education session, decision-making in the manner of Friends and clerking. Tom Corl and Dee Rein will present and facilitate this session. Suggested readings: "Faith and Practice," Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM), 1997, pp 21-28, 177-190. "Beyond Consensus: Salvaging the Sense of the Meeting," Pendle Hill Pamphlet (PHP) 307, Barry Morley, 1993.

The Worship and Ministry Committee (WMC) will offer a second adult religious education sessions at the rise of meeting on April 21, which will address "Quaker process" and performance (results). Rob Wieland and Tom Corl will present and facilitate this session. Suggested reading: "When Quaker Process Fails", John Coleman, Friends Journal , September 2012. The WMC is looking into offering some version of Quakerism 101 in the fall of 2013.

March 17 (Sunday) at rise of Meeting: Luncheon for New Members and Attenders.

You are warmly invited to a luncheon in honor of attenders and New Members following Meeting for Worship in the common room. Members are kindly asked to bring a side dish. Please RSVP to Larissa Kitenko.

Please hold in the light Jane Milliken, who fell in her home and needed evaluation at The Maryland Shock Trauma Center. She is now in rehab at Spa Creek Center, 35 Milkshake Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403. Her phone number is 410-260-6803.

"Understanding our Eastern Shore Immigrants from Central America" Presentations:

These presentations will be given by Matthew Peters, director of the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center. The three sessions will each explore why people leave their country, what the

trip entails and what their life is like after settling here. The lecture discussions will take place on April 1st, 8th and 15th (all Mondays) in the Brick Meetinghouse from 7 to 9p.m. Please see <http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>

The Worship and Ministry Committee (WMC) will offer 2 adult religious education sessions at the rise of meeting for worship that continue and extend the 2012 sessions on the "Essence of Our Quaker Faith and Practice." These will be brief, about 45 minutes. Please see <http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>

William Penn House is pleased to be hosting a 3-day basic training in Alternatives to Violence Program facilitated by Ed Sabine, Leigh Ann Dodge, and Giani Siri on March 8th through March 10th. Alternatives to Violence Program is a transformational, experiential program that teaches conflict resolution skills. It has applications in businesses, social justice, youth programs, prisons, and in our daily interactions. Please see <http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>

George McManus has moved to: Candle Light Cove, room # 101, 106 W. Earle Avenue, Easton, MD 21601. George wants visitors and home made cookies are most welcome. Once in a while he gets a little confused but for the most part is very alert. He has a nice corner room with lots of light. It appears that this will now be his permanent home.

Community Effort (P.E.A.C.E) of Easton. Please click here for the flyer.

- April 21, at rise of Meeting: The 2nd Worship and Ministry adult religious education session, "Quaker process" and performance (results). Rob Wieland and Tom Corl will present and facilitate this session.

Announcements from Third Haven's Committees:

- Four new reports are available on our website: Clerk's report, Membership Recorder, Outreach, and Overseers.
- Cynthia Quast (Third Haven Treasurer) writes, "Here is a recap of the treasurer's financials"

July - December, 2012:

Member Contributions: \$28,306, 52% of annual budget

Total Income: \$35,828, 58% of annual budget

Total Expenses: \$25,883, 42% of annual budget

Net Income: \$9,945

## **Talbot Interfaith Shelter at Third Haven in February 2013**



**Time Flies, we cherish our young people:**

Emma Leibman, then and now, with mom, Susan and Cindy Browne



**A venerable old tree leaves us**

Artists and others will use its fine wood anew.

