



Third Haven Friends Meeting

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NOVEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

"We cannot know what a human being can achieve until we have seen the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel." (Michelangelo's fresco was first displayed November 1, 1512)

Goethe

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 10th Month, 14, 2012

1. Call to order: Candace Shattuck, Clerk of Meeting, called the meeting for worship with attention to business to order at 11:35am after a brief period of silence.
2. Attending: Mark Beck, Poisey Boicourt, Molly Burgoyne, Katie Claggett, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, William Lane, Connie Lewis, Clay Owens, Sumner Parker, Constance Pullen, Michael Pullen, Cynthia Quast, Nancy Robbins, Candace Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Sally Vermilye, Meredith Watters, Rob Wieland, John Winterbottom, Ralph Young, Frank Zeigler, and Joyce Zeigler.
3. Minutes: The Meeting approved the minutes for meeting for business 9th Month as written.
4. Query: The Query, "Stewardship of the Environment" was read during the meeting for worship. No additional comments were made requiring the query.
5. Report from Interim Meeting: Two important items of business took place during the July Interim Meeting. The Interim Meeting schedule will be changed to 5 times per year or every other month not including the month that the Yearly Meeting takes place. This will be more convenient for those of us who need to travel good distances for these meetings. The second item concerns Arthur Larrabee's "Statement of Belief" (see attached). Interim Meeting took this up because the Clerk was uncertain how to respond to questions about how Friends might treat the writing. There was, perhaps, some interest on the part of the Clerk and others to encourage further consideration of the writing. Interim Meeting agreed that the writing is from an individual and is not a "corporate" statement of either Interim Meeting or PYM. A way was shown to revive consideration of this statement of beliefs through a process from monthly meeting to quarterly meetings. A Friend spoke of the cost of fear regarding "creeds" among the Quakers.
6. Treasurer's Report: <http://www.thirdhaven.org/reports.php>
The treasurer reported first on the Balance Sheet as of 6/30/12 which shows how we ended the last fiscal year. Although we have money in the bank, a large part of this is in a less accessible account. It is suggested that some consideration be given to the fact that an increasing share of

our money in the bank is in this illiquid account. We could think of it either as a “reserve” and note it accordingly in our books, or we could free some of it up to be available when our checking account empties. There has not been a problem yet but one can be seen developing. Another item addressed in the balance sheet was under the heading, “Other Current Liabilities”. The values attached to the Scholarship Fund and the International Education fund represent what the Meeting has put into those accounts and not their present monetary values. Those values change because of scholarships paid out or changes in share values etc. The Finance Committee may want to consider how best to reconcile the Meeting’s and the Scholarship Committee’s accounts in this regard.

The Treasurer then turned to the end of year (6/30/12) Income and Expenses. That report showed that member contributions were less than three quarters of what had been budgeted and that income overall was only 83% of budget. Our total expenses on the other hand were a larger share of what had been budgeted (89%) so that we spent almost \$4,000 more than we took in over the year.

Our third sheet shows the balance of our accounts as at the end of the 1st quarter of the current fiscal year. Although we still have adequate funds in the bank to manage needs, we have spent over \$6,000 more than we have taken in so far this year. This is typical for the first quarter and the first part of the second quarter with respect to income. These yearly fluctuations in income are important points for Friends to remember.

7. Update from Property & Grounds: The annual report from this committee will come during the 11th Month meeting for business. In the meantime, we were given an update regarding two important items. In an August called meeting, we approved expenditures of up to \$4800 for health insurance for the caretaker. The insurance proposed plan is Blue Cross/Blue Shield policy with a \$500 deductible that will be the responsibility of the caretaker. The premium will cost the Meeting around \$390/month, with an additional small increment for dental coverage. Clay has now been approved for coverage. It was noted that on an annual basis the total is slightly above \$4800. However, since coverage will begin several months into the fiscal year, the total amount that the Meeting will be responsible for this year will be less than \$4800. The second report concerns the tree work that needs to be done. Three different tree experts have now given opinions on two maples on the property. It seems the maple closest to the Common Room is the more fragile of the two and could cause the most potential damage. Friends discussed the prudence of getting both trees taken down at the same time in order to save costs. There was agreement that First Day School should be involved in some fashion since these giants have been a part of many of our children’s’ lives. All agreed the Property & Grounds committee, along with the Trustees, can decide which trees will come down, when they will come down and how they will come down. Several members volunteered to work with the First Day School in the near future to involve the children in the situation. They will work to help make this a “teaching moment” on how situations such as these are handled by Friends during our business meetings and how to go forward with creative ideas to use the residual stumps and plant new trees. All authorized these Friends to proceed and to keep the Meeting informed.

8. Testimonies & Concerns: Two items of interest were discussed. The first regards a project called the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF), which was started to help Quaker children from a Meeting in the mountains of Bolivia attend college. Some Friends have already donated to this fund and are corresponding with two of the students, Gabrielle and Isaac. The Fund pays for their room, board and tuition at the cost of \$600 each per year. T&C asked Meeting to approve this connection between Third Haven and BQEF. Funds will come from the

Shoffner fund and others are invited to support this charity, which is a US 501©3. The meeting approved the connection and expressed interest in learning more about the young people we are supporting. T&C was encouraged to share more information about this project and possibly sponsor a program on it for the entire Meeting in the near future.

T&C also asked approval to host the Homeless Shelter this winter for two weeks beginning the last Sunday in January. The first week we will man the shelter along with volunteers from the Church of the Brethren. The second week, we host the shelter but not supply the volunteers. The Meeting approved this.

The T&C committee also thanked Mike Pullen for his work with Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and their upcoming lobbying efforts through QPPI (Quaker Public Policy Institute?).

9. New Business: Catherine Cripps has requested membership to THFM. Her information has been passed on the Overseers.

Worship & Ministry has met to discuss the “Core Beliefs” statement introduced at Interim Meeting in July. The committee proposed a minute on the Core Beliefs (see attached). The Committee is not asking the Meeting to adopt the Core Beliefs statement but merely asking for “support”. The Meeting approved the minute and would like to see it circulated and discussed with the Quarterly Meeting. They asked that the words “and the Interim Meeting” be added to the end of the last sentence.

Meeting for business was adjourned at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Burgoyne

- IMPORTANT POINTS:
- 1st Quarter Treasurer Report given
- Interim Meeting statement “What do Quakers Believe” circulated
- P&G update re: health insurance for caretaker
- P&G along with Trustees to move forward re:damaged trees
- Dates for Homeless Shelter approved
- Connection with BQEF
- Minute supported re: “Core Beliefs”

Third Haven Friends Meeting, Worship and Ministry Committee Proposed Minute on “Core Beliefs” 10.14.12

The Worship and Ministry Committee discussed a paper “What Do Quakers Believe?” (July 2012) by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) General Secretary, Arthur Larrabee. This paper grew out of a talk that Arthur Larrabee gave at Third Haven on 10.4.09, “Carrying the Light of Quakerism into the Future.” His 2009 talk encouraged us to identify and articulate our own Third Haven “core beliefs.” Third Haven produced “The Essence of Our Quaker Faith and Practice,” approved at the 4.11.10 meeting for business.

Arthur’s paper has been presented and discussed at the 2012 PYM Annual Sessions and the 9th month 2012 Interim Meeting (IM). The WMC wants to support this effort and communicate our own “Essence of Quaker Faith and Practice” paper. The WMC approved and proposes the following minute:

The Worship and Ministry Committee and Third Haven Friends Meeting appreciates and supports the paper, "What Do Quakers Believe?" (July 2012) by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting General Secretary, Arthur Larrabee, and its summary characterization of our "core beliefs." Inspired by a talk that Arthur Larrabee gave at Third Haven on 10.4.09, "Carrying the Light of Quakerism into the Future," Third Haven developed "The Essence of Our Quaker Faith and Practice," approved at the 4.11.10 meeting for business. We support efforts throughout PYM to identify, articulate and communicate the core of our Quaker Faith and Practice. We share our own effort with the wider PYM community through Southern Quarterly Meeting.

Announcements

Tatiana Harrison writes: "Would Friends please hold me in the Light as I come to terms with a new diagnosis of Crohn's disease? Thanks."

November 11 (Sunday) Meeting for worship followed by meeting for business.

November 17 (Saturday) 8am Fall grounds clean-up day. Kids are more than welcome! Bring tools as you can—rakes, tarps, pruners,... Refreshments will be served.

December 2 (Sunday) at rise of Meeting for Worship: Fourth Religious Education session offered by Worship & Ministry: "Community", facilitated by Candace Shattuck, Clerk of the Meeting, and Dee Rein, Clerk of Overseers.

Announcements from Third Haven's Committees:

- WANTED: preferably lively members and attenders: °to CoClerk First Day School with Beth Mufson who may step down in another year and would like to help future clerks become more familiar with the program;

- °to serve as Representative to attend occasional American Friends Service Committee Meetings—While technology makes their information available, we should have someone to attend meetings on our behalf.

Please e-mail the clerk of Nominating Committee: Dee Rein if you would consider serving. Your contribution makes a big difference to the children and the meeting!

- John Schreiner writes, "The Outreach Committee thanks those who took the time to review text and photos. As a result, constructive changes were made in both brochures. We thank the meeting for its views. We will be submitting the copy to the printer shortly."

- Worship & Ministry is sponsoring a weekly discussion of A Course in Miracles from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the rise of Meeting in the Common Room three Wednesday evenings each month (please check the calendar). If interested in finding out about the Course or in joining the discussion, drop in or contact Michael Pullen.

Peace Vigils are held each Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m. The Tuesday vigil is held in Centerville in front of the Court House and the Thursday vigil is held in Easton in front of the Court House. You are welcome to come at any time during the vigil and stay as long as you wish.

Third Haven continues to make a meaningful donation to the Food Pantry each week. Thanks to everyone who remembers to share.

Thread Gatherings:

The common ministries of our monthly meetings are the threads that weave our Yearly Meeting together. Thread Gatherings bring Friends from our monthly meetings together for a shared sense of community and calling. Each gathering focuses on one primary thread and offers workshops, experience sharing of our ministry, wisdom sharing from our experience and more. The Gatherings are held at monthly meetings to encourage intervisitation and provide geographic diversity. These Gatherings are currently scheduled (locations indicated when they are known):

- Worship & Ministry January 26
- Communications February 16
- Pastoral Care February 23
- Peace & Social Concerns April 27

November 15-16 (Thursday and Friday) Please join us for Friends Committee on National Legislation 's first Quaker Public Policy Institute in Washington, DC, immediately preceding FCNL's Annual Meeting. If you have already registered for Annual Meeting, the Public Policy Institute is included in your registration. Friends may be interested in FCNL's Nuclear Calendar, a list of events about promoting nuclear disarmament and educating the public about nuclear weapons.

Please remember to greet visitors to meeting—answer what questions they have about Friends, our buildings, our programs and activities. We are all emissaries of Third Haven.

Contributions to the meeting can be made by way of the contributions box in the Brick Meetinghouse entranceway. Checks can also be sent to THMM, P.O. Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601.

Are your names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail listings all correct in the Third Haven Directory? Please review your information at Directory. The online directory remains protected: please e-mail taniahharrison@gmail.com or hawkjm@goeaston.net if you need the password. If you have corrections for the Directory, please send them to 3rdhaven@gmail.com. If you have material for the newsletter, additional announcements, or added information about any of these posted events, please send it to 3rdhaven@gmail.com.

Southern Quarter meeting was at Chester River in Chestertown, MD on October 21, 2012. Our guest speaker was George Schaefer, Care and Aging Coordinator with the PYM Care and Aging Program in Philadelphia, PA. We had question and answer time and brochures were given out with information about Quaker Aging Resources. As one of the brochures mentions "Often the most significant services a Meeting can provide are a visit, a phone call and an invitation to a meal". "And I desire that you may be very kind and courteous to all in necessity, in the love of God"..." George Fox , 1682. Some copies of the brochures will be put on the table

in the Common Room for those interested. This was followed by Worship time and then a delicious luncheon. Cadbury at Lewes, Delaware has been added to the Southern Quarterly Meeting rotation list. Quarterly Meeting on January 20, 2013 will be at Lewes, Delaware, and Third Haven will be the host May 19, 2013.

Visitors from afar



Ken and his very old friends Jonny and Sylvia Wigham from Churchtown Friends Meeting in Dublin Ireland as they visited with Ken and attended our Meeting for Worship.

Kristen Hawkinson rejoins us for a brief visit with her parents, Marsie and John.



Opportunities Abound

Committees and Tireless Workers help our meeting function. The Nominating Committee wants YOU! If you don't yet have a committee, contact Dee Rein, Susan Claggett, Norval Thompson or Michael Pullen for an opportunity to serve. The Third Haven website has details on all committee functions.



**Two tireless workers,
Winslow and Helen**



**Katie and Lorraine report at Meeting
for Business**

Testimonies and concerns



Overseers



Friends All Around
Can you name these folks??

