



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

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March 2010 NEWSLETTER

"Now is where we live, now is where the past must be overcome, now is where we meet others, now is where we must find the presence of God." *C. Murphy* 1993, Faith and Practice p. 139

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 2nd Month, 14, 2010

1. Call to order: John Schreiner called to order the meeting for business at 11:35 AM after a brief period of silent worship.
2. Attending: Mark Beck, Paige Bethke, Molly Burgoyne, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Doreen Getsinger, Robert Gladney, Joyce Macijeski, Priscilla Bond Morris, Dee Rein, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Peggy Walbert, Meredith Watters, Joan Wetmore, Rob Wieland, Ann Williams, John Winterbottom,
3. Minutes: The minutes were approved from the 1st month, 2010.
4. Query: The Query, "Meeting for Business" was read during meeting for worship. A remark was given that even though the Quaker process in meeting for business takes time and patience, the process may be more important than the outcome. Another said that the way Quakers should conduct business is important to carry with us in other aspects of our daily life with respect to reverence, patience, listening and care.
5. PYM Interim Representative: Connie Lewis has stepped forward to be a regular representative for THFM to PYM Interim meeting. She is requesting volunteers to travel with her and share the ride and the experience. Paige Bethke has been the first to volunteer. We hope that others will contact Connie and be willing to go at least once with her. We will put this request in the newsletter for the future. We now have a contact, Wright Horne, who works at PYM, who is willing to help keep our Meeting and SQM informed of business and events at PYM. John Schreiner has his contact information.
6. New Members: The Mufson Family: Neil, Beth, Charlie and Maeve, have completed the clearness process for membership. Everyone approved of their joining THFM and expressed

great joy in having them continue to be a part of our bigger family as they have already been such an integral part of our lives. The welcoming committee will be composed of Cathy and Norval Thompson, Paige Bethke, and Meredith Watters. Paige will be convener.

7. Carriage Shed Sale: The Carriage Shed Sale will be held on May 22nd and be organized by Meredith Watters and Beth Mufson as co-clerks. Robert Gladney volunteered his trucks and his expertise with the “page-maker” software system for the publicity posters. Anny Williams has volunteered to help supervise the Common Room the week of the sale as donations are brought in. Meredith will post a sign-up sheet in the Common Room for people to start picking their jobs for the sale. More information about upcoming organizational meetings will be shared in the newsletter and next business meeting. Paige shared some thoughts regarding recipients of the sale monies. First Day has suggested dividing the proceeds into thirds: one international, one local and one THFM project. The international suggestions include: Save the Children, PIH (Partners in Health), and AFSC. The local charities include Easton Rocks and/or the TIS project (Talbot Interfaith Shelter). The THFM projects include the Scholarship Fund, a memorial garden plan and/or future work on the children’s play garden. Be prepared to discuss these options at the next business meeting. This is a big event for THFM and we will need everyone’s help.

8. Spring Clean-Up Day: Lary Claggett reminded us that April 24th is our Clean-Up Day for spring. We meet around 8 AM and clean all morning and into afternoon if needed. P & G is considering this not just as a time to clean up but as a time to have a vision of the future with making improvements such as thinking about the scattering garden or renovating the office space. A Friend asked if anyone on P&G had thought about replacing the door handle on the Common Room yet and if any thought to replacing it with a key-lock pad had been given. So far those options have not been discussed in committee. He did mention the committee has now exceeded the annual snow removal budget.

9. Scattering Garden: Meredith Watters expressed an interest in developing a location on our grounds where remains may be scattered. The place should be nicely designed and suitable for a family and friends to gather for a simple ceremony. Paige Bethke, Marsie Hawkinson, John Hawkinson, Candace Shattuck and Connie Lewis have expressed interest in helping her with this. She also requested help looking into “green burial” options on the grounds of THFM. John Schreiner said he would be willing to help with this.

10. Committee Reports:

a) THFM 325th Anniversary Committee: The work of this committee formed last spring was extensive and comprehensive. Much work went into our celebration and the “thankful appreciation” read by our clerk in November 2009 reviews the work of our members. Joyce Zeigler has donated two oil paintings to THFM as part of the 325th celebration and those paintings are in the process of being sold. Other than that, the committee’s job is done and we approved laying down the work of the committee. Many thanks to Mary Cotton, Candace Shattuck and all who gave time and energy to this.

b) Same Sex Union Under the Care of the Meeting Committee: This committee also served long and hard last year before its work was completed and unity reached on the minute in December 2009. The Clerk wishes to thank all who participated in this process. He gave special thanks to Frank Zeigler, who had the courage to raise the issue on equality last year; to Tom Corl, who took the lead in drafting the minute initially; to Bob Marshall, who devoted time and energy into making sure all opinions were represented and unity was kept in mind; and the Sumner Parker, who was voiced his opinions even when doing so was difficult. We now approved laying down the work of this committee.

c) Recorder's Report: (see attached). Candace Shattuck gave the annual report of the recorder. This past year we have had a net gain of 2 members. Names of new members and those who have passed were read aloud. The Meeting approved this report.

11. Other Business: A Friend mentioned that in his travels he has been dismayed at the number of Meetings that don't have "seasoned Friends" to help guide them in worship, matters of spirit and ways to conduct business. He suggested that we try and think of ways to reach out to our elder Friends for help and guidance. Our Clerk felt it is important to visit and write to our "seasoned" and wise Friends and take it upon ourselves to do so.

Meeting for business was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, *Molly Burgoyne*

Membership Recorder's Annual Report for 2009

We began 2009 with 140 members, including sixteen minors. Over the course of the year, we added six new members (including one by transfer) and lost four through death, for a net gain of two members. Total at year end: 142 members.

We remember tenderly those whom we lost last year:

John Shoffner

Thomas Bartlett

Laurence G. Claggett, Sr.

Wayne Flanagan

And we welcome with joy new members:

John Winterbottom (by transfer)

Robert Gladney

Aiyana Paterson-Zinkand

Constance Pullen

Michael Pullen

Joan Wetmore

Our Numbers in the Context of PYM

Based on year-end 2008 figures, the latest which have been compiled, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has a total of 11,511 members in its 13 Quarters. Southern Quarter is the smallest quarter, with only 257 members, or 2.2% of PYM membership. All except four quarters of PYM

experienced declines in 2008. Not only was the Southern Quarter one of those with a gain in membership, but was the greatest gain – 12 members. (n.b., Third Haven accounts for 55% of Southern Quarter membership.)

The Future

Third Haven is holding its own and more in terms of membership numbers. While the high proportion of older members remains a concern, we are experiencing slow and steady growth in participation and membership among younger age groups. The strength of the meeting and the promise for the future is the more seasoned members who will guide us all and the influx of younger members keeping us fresh and open to new views.

Respectfully submitted,
Candace Shattuck, Membership Recorder

Final Note: Just this past week, PYM offered Recorders the option of accessing and updating their own records. I have said yes and am just beginning the process.

FRIENDLY EIGHTS January-June 2010

The **first people in the group are the conveners**, not necessarily the first hosts. They will contact the others and get things going. Usual procedure is the host household/partners (Single individuals may want to team up to host a dinner) provide an entrée, a place to meet (which could be a prior reservation to use the Common Room), and decide on the presence of children. Other members of the group bring dishes. If someone can't make a particular event, invite someone else from the Late Sign Up sheet in the Common Room or from the meeting in general to fill in. Enjoy our wonderful Friends!

Norval and Cathy Thompson

Aiyana Paterson Zincand
Phil and Sarah Sayre
Dona Sorce
Denny Bliss
Lorraine B. Claggett

Jamie du Hoffman

Connie and Mike Pullen
Susan Dabney & Stephen Gerni
Mark Beck
Sandy Kabler

Marsie & John Hawkinson

Gwen Beegle & Bob Day
Susan Leibman & children
Leigh Ann Dodge &
Rob Weiland

Lorraine T. & Larny Claggett

Joyce & Frank Zeigler
Catherine Cripps
Larissa Kitenko & Buddy Birch

Paige & Brandt Bethke

Chris & Patricia Britton
John Winterbottom
Kenny Russ
Priscilla Bond Morris & John Sener

Doreen Getsinger

John Schreiner & Heidi Wetzel
Nancy Mullen & Earl Greeson
Debbie & Ed Danser
Beth & Neil Mufson

Progress Report Quaker Quest Committee

3rd Month, 2nd, 2010

Introduction

The members of Quaker Quest Committee are: Larny Claggett, Tom Corl, Marsie Hawkinson, Susan Leibman, Joyce Macijeski, , John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck and Joan Wetmore. Tom



Corl and Candace Shattuck serve as Co-Clerks. The Committee has met 7 times and formed various work groups to address selected matters and to begin discern the core beliefs of Third Haven Friends Meeting. This initial progress report is presented to the Meeting community for its consideration and discussion at the 3.14 meeting for business. The Committee is coordinating its work with Meeting committees. The Committee will present progress reports and make recommendations for Meeting approval from time to time.

Work Group Progress

The Committee formed work groups for specific assignments. At present there are 4 works groups:

Signage and Image

Larny Claggett, Tom Corl and Candace Shattuck

A consistent name (format, font, logotype) and image (e.g. 1684 Meetinghouse) would have a variety of potential uses in the development and distribution of more consistent Third Haven communications, information and other items. The entrance and approach to the Meeting have been improved, though there is still work to be done on signage. This group will continue to work on the signage on Washington Street. It will consider signage more visible and readable from the street and passing cars. The group is considering a sign with more information and illumination. Through Larny Claggett, the Property and Grounds Committee has discussed and is agreeable to improving signage. The group will initiate work on name and image design. Candace Shattuck has determined that it would be possible to change the Third Haven phone number to 410.8xx.1684.

Welcoming

Marsie Hawkinson and Susan Leibman

There is a greeter present prior to meeting for worship nearly every First Day. Recently, Friends seem to have been appropriately active and engaging in welcoming visitors. Visitors are consistently welcomed at the rise of meeting for worship, and are invited to sign the guest book and join us for hospitality in the common room. The Committee is mindful about finding the right balance, with each visitor, between welcoming and not being too forward. This group will coordinate with Worship and Ministry to ensure consistent greeting and with Overseers on the

follow-up with visitors and occasional attenders. The group will work with Outreach and Library Committees as well. The group will continue to assess what we are doing to make visitors and returning newcomers feel welcome in the Meeting community.

Information and Presentation

Larry Claggett, Joyce Macijeski, Susan Leibman, Aiyana Paterson-Zincand and Joan Wetmore
There is a clear sense in Committee that the entry, office and front corner of the brick Meetinghouse, and the table in the common room are cluttered, not attractive and not very welcoming. Further, the information and displays are poorly organized and unappealing. This group, in collaboration with Buildings and Grounds, will redesign office space, which is not used as an office, and the entry foyer to be a more welcoming space. There is architectural and design talent available in the Meeting. The Committee has noted the desirability of removing the false ceiling, removing (but retaining and storing) the door to the office and repainting the office and entry foyer. This area will need to retain essential files, suitable Meeting committee mail boxes, provide proper nametag racks and present priority information about Third Haven, the meeting for worship and Faith and Practice more attractively. This welcoming space (and the back of the Meeting room) would have selected brochures, pamphlets, Faith and Practice, Ken Carroll's book, information resources and packets for newcomers. Our core beliefs (below) might help prioritize and organize such information. Perhaps some paintings or artifacts could be displayed in this area.

In collaboration with the Library Committee, the group will continue to assess the selection and display of information resources in the 1684 Meetinghouse, the brick Meetinghouse and the common room. The next task will be to assess the files in the office and the information in these areas to determine specifically what needs to be retained in or removed from these areas.

Core Beliefs

Tom Corl, John Schreiner and Candace Shattuck

Purpose

It is important to note that this identification of core beliefs is to facilitate Quaker Quest communications and outreach. The core beliefs are not a test of our collective Faith and Practice. These will be the basis for a brief, clear and cogent explanation of our Third Haven Faith and Practice to the broader community. The Quaker Quest Committee intends to reach out to and engage "seekers," those in our broader community who are searching for a different way to worship and new spiritual home. As Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) and Arthur Larrabee have advised us, this entails a clear understanding of our core beliefs. With our own clearer understanding of our core beliefs, we can better articulate our Quaker message to the broader community.

Background

Arthur Larrabee, General Secretary of PYM, in his talk on "Carrying the Quaker Light into the Future" at the 325th anniversary celebration, urged us to "proclaim with energy our core beliefs." The Committee and the core beliefs group has continued to discern and refine the following statement of Third Haven core beliefs. The Committee believes that we should have very few (4) core beliefs. Each of the beliefs can be elaborated at any length appropriate for other purposes. It

is essential that these core beliefs be simple and clear – easy to remember, communicate and explain.

1. That of God in Each Person

Third Haven Quakers believe that there is That of God in each and every person. Quakers refer to That of God in each of us in many ways, including the Inward Light, the Light Within, spark of the Divine, God Within and the Spirit.

Quaker Faith and Practice provides for a direct and unmediated relationship with God. Worship and prayer does not need to be led by clergy. Quaker Faith and Practice allows and requires substantial individual responsibility for one's faith, religious practice and spiritual journey. The notion of That of God in everyone entails essentially no doctrine, and little church hierarchy or institutional authority.

Quakers value the "life and teachings of Jesus" as an essential, even the primary, source of our understanding and expression how God or Spirit would guide us to live. The Quaker way is not the only path to the Divine. There are many valuable religions and practices. Friends acknowledge and even use such variations in Quaker Faith and Practice.

See Faith and Practice pp 16-17.

2. Silent Worship

Quakers have worshiped in the silent or "un-programmed" manner for over 350 years. Third Haven, like many other Quaker meetings, worships in silence – waiting silently and expectantly for the leadings of the Spirit. The silence is used and valued as an opportunity for Spiritual reflection, discernment, insight and understanding. The meeting for worship has been called a "meeting for relationship with God." Friends honor the enormous continuity and the enduring tradition of silent worship. However, Third Haven Friends strive to make the meeting for worship and Quaker Faith and Practice contemporary and relevant.

We listen in silence to hear leadings of the Spirit inwardly. During the meeting for worship, individuals discern leadings from the Spirit and are sometimes led to offer these messages as vocal ministry. Some leadings are for the individual alone, some for the meeting for worship. This spiritual discernment of vocal ministry in the meeting for worship is an essential Quaker practice. Listening for leadings collectively in worship is a powerful way to invite such leadings. Spirit has spoken in all times and ages, not just Biblical times, and continues to speak to us today – as continuing revelation.

See Faith and Practice pp 17-21, 100-128.

3. Testimonies

George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends, set forth a first principle of our faith – "Let Your Life Speak." Quakers believe that we should live our beliefs and faith in our daily lives, in witness, in action in the world. We value the life and teachings of Jesus as an essential example of how God guides us to live.

Our Testimonies express our beliefs and guide us in living our daily lives, as we accept responsibility, make decisions and take action consistent with our faith. The Testimonies express our shared values and commitments in the Religious Society of Friends and PYM. Testimonies have changed over time and from place to place. Yearly meetings have different Testimonies and different numbers of them. PYM Testimonies are – Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality (justice, fairness) and Stewardship (service), remembered as SPICES.

It is important that as Friends we live our daily lives led by God. Spirit consistently leads Friends to value and express these Testimonies. Beliefs and Testimonies help us set priorities, avoid self-indulgence and achieve a spirit of humility. A life lived in the Spirit leads to an enlightened conscience, gratitude, harmony and peace. See Faith and Practice pp 145-174.

4. Community

Third Haven is a community in how we worship, how we do the work of the Meeting and how we care for one another. A loving and nurturing community of Friends provides companions on the spiritual journey and community support for individuals, families and children. We take particular care for those not well and aging Friends. We welcome visitors, seekers, newcomers and new members. We share our beliefs, Testimonies, Faith and Practice but do not proselytize. While we are eager to share our Faith and Practice with seekers and newcomers, Quakers are very reluctant impose their views on anyone.

Our Overseers committee cares for the wellbeing of members and attenders, and the Meeting community. We are ready to offer assistance and to receive it. We conduct weddings, same sex spiritual unions and memorial meeting for worship in the manner of Friends.

The Meeting community is responsible for corporate (collective) discernment in the meeting for worship, the meeting for business and the Meeting community. Importantly, when leadings or courses of action are not clear or cause disquiet, we can share these concerns with others in worship, worship sharing, discernment, committees or meeting for business.

Quakers are distinguished by their method of making decisions and conducting business. Our meeting for business is sometimes called a “meeting for worship with a concern for business.” Business meetings and matters are to be led by the Spirit and conducted in a worshipful manner. Others sometimes call this consensus, but consensus is secular, not Spirit-led. Most Quakers call this method “decision-making in the manner of Friends.” This “Quaker process” is based on clearness (understanding) and unity (agreement). Decision-making in the manner of Friends is deliberate, sometimes slow, but very powerful in its clarity and binding Friends together in direction and action.

“Core Beliefs”

The Committee has considered whether the term “core beliefs” is the best alternative for these purposes. Beliefs seem to refer essentially to the nature of our Faith. That of God in each person is the essential core belief from which our Practices – Silent Worship, Testimonies and Community flow. Members of the Committee suggested and discussed some alternative terms to address both our Faith and Practice, including – Core of Quakerism, Principles of Faith and Practice. Quaker Essentials and Basics of Quakerism.

Process

The Committee is now sharing the results of this discernment on core beliefs with the Meeting community through a written report in the newsletter and a discussion at the meeting for business on 3.14. The Committee wants to expand the participation in the discernment of our core beliefs, by introducing, discerning, testing, and eventually approving and embracing these core beliefs for Quaker Quest outreach. The Committee proposes to convene a worship sharing on these core beliefs on Saturday 4.3, 10:00 – 11:30 in the common room.

The Meeting needs to discern these core beliefs with clearness and unity. Each belief we deem core can, of course, be expanded or elaborated. Our Quaker Quest task is to identify, discern and approve a small number of core beliefs. The core beliefs will help us organize and improve our information, messages and communications to the broader the community, and create a more welcoming environment at Third Haven Friends Meeting.

Respectfully submitted, *Tom Corl*, Co-Clerk, Quaker Quest Committee

Third Haven Monthly Meeting Announcements

Meetings for Worship

First Days 10am Fourth Days 5:30pm

March 3

March 7

March 14

March 21

March 28

March 10

March 17

March 24

March 31

Aiyana Paterson-Zinkand writes, "Today I asked the Meeting to hold my uncle and his family in the light in Chile. We have finally heard from them late tonight, and they are safe and well. They were in Concepcion (the city closest to the epicenter) 5 days ago, but had left and were driving up the coast. They were about 400 miles from the worst hit regions. They said it is still pretty hairy and they are not sure where they will be headed, perhaps back into the Bio region to help with any medical efforts going on there. I have a friend with a home that is structurally safe in Curacao - where the largest of the aftershocks hit, and he has offered to house the children while my uncle, an emergency surgeon, goes to see what help he can provide. For now they are in a border town in Bolivia waiting to see what they will do in the next week. Many thanks to the Meeting for their prayers, thoughts and well wishes as we awaited word of my family's safety.

Joe Davis writes," Please hold Lila Line in the light. Her son called me on Friday and said the doctor called him because Lila was not eating or drinking. Her son is planning on coming up some time this week. Karin and I visited Lila on her birthday. She turned 86 on 2/21. She was alert and in good, but subdued spirits. She tired quickly and complained of a headache, so we left her after only about 20 minutes."



March 1-14 **Talbot Interfaith Shelter** will be located at THFM the first two weeks in March. Coordinating the effort, Phil & Sarah Sayre report the need for a male evening supervisor March 10th (5:30-11 pm) and female overnight supervisors on the 8th, 9th and 10th. If you can fill one of these positions, please call the Sayres at:410-745-2988.

At left are cards made by First Day School students to welcome our guests.

March 14 We will wish Irene Williams Bon Voyage for her move to Maine. At the rise of meeting we will have refreshments, a box for cards if you care to bring one, and invite spoken thoughts and reminiscences as we wish Irene well in the next stage of her life's voyage.

March 14 (Sunday) Meeting for worship followed by meeting for business. Reports from the Hospitality Committee, the Common Room Committee and FCNL.

March 21 (Sunday) New Members and Attenders Luncheon- We invite all New Members from the past year and Attenders to be our guests at this annual luncheon in their honor. Experienced members, please bring a dish and celebrate our wonderful meeting community!

May 22 (Saturday) The Carriage Shed Sale at Third Haven. While you are cleaning out your closets, basement, or garage please consider donating your items to the sale.

Joanna Braswell writes, "I just wanted to inform you all of some upcoming volunteer opportunities that might be of interest to you and your congregation. On March 4th the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, in collaboration with Environmental Concern, Habitat for Humanity Choptank, the Maryland Environmental Trust, Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, Phillips Wharf Environmental Center, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, and the Sassafras River Association will be hosting a free volunteer information session entitled Go Green to Grow Green. Please feel free to join us anytime between 5:30-7:30 at the Chesapeake College Todd Performing Arts Center to meet new friends, and learn more about volunteering on the Eastern Shore. On March 6th, 13th & 20th the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy will be offering training sessions for those interested in becoming a Land Steward Volunteer. This is an excellent opportunity not only for those interested in protecting our unique natural resources and landscapes, but also for those who love to venture outdoors and be privy to some of the most beautiful sites of the shore. We serve six counties of the shore including Talbot. Please contact jbraswell@eslc.org for more information regarding the opportunity."

Joanna Braswell Volunteer Maryland Coordinator

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

PO Box 169 Queenstown, MD 21658(410) 827-9756 ext 169

jbraswell@eslc.org

The Preservation Maryland Annual Conference runs from Thursday 5/20 through Friday 5/21 and will attract up to 450 persons to Easton. It will be well advertised. There will be numerous concurrent seminars. The historic church walking tour will be one of the events and it will be 9-noon, one group only. Most likely it will be Friday 5/21, but that detail awaits confirmation. The church walking tour will probably attract about 30 persons. It starts at the Tidewater Inn at 9AM and will make four stops: Asbury United Methodist Church on Higgins Street, Bethel A.M.E. Church on Hanson Street, Third Haven (Old Meeting House) and Christ Church & Rectory.

Fellowship at all stages of life



One last look at winter, courtesy of Ralph Young

