



## **Third Haven Friends Meeting**

*405 South Washington Street*

*Easton, Maryland 21601*

*(410) 822-0293*

*Info@thirdhaven.org*

## **DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER**

“We have met the enemy and he is us”

*Walt Kelly*

### **Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 11th Month, 13, 2011**

1. Call to order: John Schreiner, Clerk of Meeting, called the meeting for worship with attention to business to order at 11:40 am after a brief period of silence.
2. Attending: Mark Beck, Gwen Beegle, Molly Burgoyne, Cynthia Browne, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Leigh Anne Dodge, Tatiana Harrison, Marsie Hawkinson, Don Kempel, Connie Lewis, Bob Marshall, Beth Mufson, Sumner Parker, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Meredith Watters, John Winterbottom, Winslow Womack.
3. Minutes: The minutes from meeting for business 10th Month were approved.
4. Query: The 11th Query, “Stewardship of Resources” was read during meeting for worship.
5. W&M minute for new bench arrangement: (Please see following report titled, “Worship & Ministry”). Many opinions were shared regarding the feelings Friends have about the “facing bench”. The “facing bench” has been used in Quaker Meetings as a place from which to “form a container” for the meeting for worship. There are those who do not like the idea of a special bench, as it seems to suggest that some people are more important than others. Overall, the “new” bench arrangement has been met with favorable regards as it suggests a more egalitarian feel. Many Friends would like to see the “facing bench” done away with completely. Others felt it should be either less conspicuous or perhaps more and different groups of people should sit on it weekly. A Friend suggested that more people could join in sitting on the facing bench so it looked more integral (more organic part of the meeting) while still enabling support for the

limited governance appropriate to Meetings for worship (not only ending the worship but conducting afterthoughts, joys & concerns, guest welcoming and announcements). One Friend suggested that the higher benches near the back of the meeting be reserved for families with children as these higher benches allow children to see everyone more clearly. One Friend felt it is important to have a facing bench as it gives a place for one person to be in charge of bringing the meeting for worship to a close. It was the general sense of the group to approve of the experiment of different arrangements and to look forward to having cushions and possibly carpet in the future to damper out the current echo but not to approve the minute as written. A trial of a slightly different arrangement will be tried over the next few weeks and give this new process time to “settle” before making a more permanent decision on the carpet placement.

6. Outreach Report on New Sign for Washington Street: The blueprint of the new sign for THFM has now been published twice in our announcements. The size of the sign remains modest at approximately 37” by 28” but will give a better street “presence” for guests to know our location. The sign will be paid for through the budget allocated to Outreach Committee. The old sign will be moved to a new place on the main property. The historical marker is being refurbished and will soon be reinstalled. The committee will proceed with the sign installation in the near future.

7. PYM Financial Report: Bob Marshall, our representative to PYM gave an updated report regarding the financial situation currently facing PYM. The unrestricted deficit beginning in 2006 will be equal to \$2,400,304 by this year’s end. They have now taken out a line of credit to help meet their monthly obligations. It is important to note that although PYM has had unqualified audits and has many assets and properties, most are restricted in their use. Our representative did not see promising signs of resolution towards fiscal stability in the near future. We currently pay a covenant of \$16,000/ year to PYM. We pay this money in quarterly payments. Many shared their disturbed opinions regarding the future of PYM and the difficulties we see in continuing to fund this amount of money to this organization unless attempts to balance their finances are more forthcoming. An ad hoc committee of Mark Beck (convener), Nancy Robbins, Norval Thompson, Bob Marshall and Rob Wieland will be meeting this month to discuss this issue. The group will need to form a response to present to meeting for business 12th Month in the hopes this could be presented to SQM during our annual business meeting 1st Month, 2012.

8. Testimonies & Concerns Annual Report: (see following titled, “Testimonies and Concerns Report, November 13, 2011). The work of this group this past year has been broad and dynamic. We are all impressed by their efforts. This annual report was approved with thanks and appreciation.

9. Testimonies & Concerns Donation Recommendations: (see following titled, “November 13,2012”). The proposal for distribution of the \$1500 donation budget was approved without changes.

10. Preliminary Report of Nominating Committee: The draft of all committees was reviewed. Attempts were made this year to find co-clerks or assistant clerks for each committee when possible. A few changes to the draft will be made before the final report is published next

month. Bob Marshall will resign this year as our representative to PYM. Cynthia Browne will be added to Overseers. Sandra Herbert will be off of Hospitality. John Schreiner will be Clerk of Quaker Quest and Outreach. There are some typos that will need to be corrected. Members of the Nominating Committee wish to thank everyone for their willingness to commit of their time and talents to THFM. The final report will be presented at meeting for business 12th Month for final approval.

11. AFSC Annual Report: (see following titled, "AFSC 2011 Annual Report"). This report was thorough, informative and impressive. The report was approved with thanks.

12. Membership of Martha Merz: There has been a request for membership from Martha Merz. Her letter of request is as follows: "Dear John, I would like to ask that THFM consider me for membership. I have always been part of the contemplative life and have been deeply involved in social justice projects all of my life. I feel that membership in Third Haven would offer me a spiritual home at this time of my life and that, hopefully, I can contribute to the work of the Friends here and in the world. I believe our values are the same." This lovely letter was passed on to Overseers for clearness.

13. New Business: no new business was brought to the attention of the Clerk. Meeting for business was adjourned at 1:10pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Molly Burgoyne*

**IMPORTANT POINTS:**

- No approval given on minute regarding the new bench arrangement at this time,
- Outreach to proceed with new sign on Washington Street.
- Ad hoc committee formed to discuss THFM response to financial problems of PYM
- T&C Annual Report approved.
- T & C annual donation recommendations approved.
- Preliminary report of Nominating Committee reviewed.
- Annual Report AFSC approved.
- Request for membership Martha Merz passed to Overseers.

**Third Haven Friends Meeting  
Worship and Ministry Committee  
Proposed Minute on the New Arrangement of Benches in the Brick  
Meetinghouse**

Approved by the Worship and Ministry Committee – 11.10.11

With the repairs to the foundation of the brick meetinghouse and the refinishing of the floor, there was an opportunity to reconfigure the benches and the seating arrangement. The Clerk of the Meeting, the Assistant Clerk, the Clerk of Property and Grounds Committee, the Clerk of Worship and Ministry Committee and Mark Beck, a member of Worship and Ministry Committee, consulted and collaborated to consider alternative arrangements of the benches. Mark Beck drew alternative arrangements for consideration. After advising the Meeting of the intent to try an alternative arrangement, this group settled upon the present arrangement, in a U shape with the facing bench against the north wall. This is much like the previous arrangement, rotated 90 degrees.

The comments and feedback on the present arrangement have been very positive. Accordingly, the Worship and Ministry Committee approved the following minute and asks that the meeting for business approve the current bench arrangement in the brick meetinghouse. It is important that the Meeting settle on the current arrangement for a good period of time, because this will require cutting, trimming and rearranging the existing carpet, or buying new carpet to match the new bench cushions.

Proposed Minute:

The Meeting approves the new arrangement of the benches in the brick meetinghouse and authorizes the Property and Grounds Committee to adapt, add to or replace the carpet as may be necessary.

*Tom Corl  
Clerk, Worship and Ministry Committee  
Third Haven Friends Meeting  
November 11, 2011*

**Testimonies and Concerns Report, November 13, 2011**

How does our meeting work to overcome social, economic, legal and political injustices in the world? How does our meeting work to advance peace, to oppose violence and to support the constructive use of authority in our community, nation and the world? *Faith and Practice* Allocation of Shoffner bequest work on behalf of the Meeting. Information about the Shoffner bequest is on the Third Haven website ([http://www.thirdhaven.org/testimonies\\_concerns.php](http://www.thirdhaven.org/testimonies_concerns.php)).

This year we were charged with facilitating the Meeting's designation of the John Shoffner bequest. Of the bequest, \$11,772.00 went toward the creation of the Shoffner International

Education Fund, invested in Friends Fiduciary, with 5% of the fund to be used on cooperative T&C-First Day School projects.. We have coordinated with the First day School committee and will continue to do so on the future projects.

In addition, after much ‘threshing’ to donate funds immediately to:

-Fuller Housing: \$3000, for the building of a house in Haiti

-Agua Ayuda: \$1000. This Easton-based, non-profit organization seeks sustainable solutions to water shortages throughout the world. For the cost of \$720, the money will provide water to a village for a year. The remainder of the money will be used for other of their on-going projects

-Migrant Ministry: \$1000. Easton faith communities, including Third Haven, collected and sorted donations of clothing, shoes, toiletries, and other items needed for the migrant workers in Caroline County.

-African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) of the Friends Peace Teams: \$1000, to support the work of Nikuze Zawadi, who visited Third Haven.

Following these gifts, many members assisted in the Migrant Ministry work in the summer. The funds were used primarily for purchasing work boots and some long pants for work in the fields. Members donated other items, sorted, and delivered these to the migrant labor camps. An announcement to the Meeting was giving following Worship on the results of the work.

Agua Ayuda gave a “Faith in Action” presentation to our meeting that was very well attended. A simple meal was provided and more than \$140 was given to the organization at that time. They presented on their work providing sustainable water solutions in Colombia and Costa Rica. They also presented to First Day School.

Mayors for Peace - Two meeting members , a high school student and Harvey Zendt visited Mayor Willey who later signed-on to be a Mayor for Peace. We helped Harvey on Hiroshima Day put up a table with peace information at Thompson Park in Easton that day. Mayors for Peace asks that member organizations hold peace events in honor of that sacrifice year-long.

In cooperation with PEACE, and the Multicultural Festival, we had a information table and decorated a peace tree with peace symbols made by children passing by.

HIPP Curriculum. When the Board of Education, at the request of parents, increased funding for JROTC at a time other programs were being cut, we made plans to initiate a peace program at the high school for after-school hours. Funding from the carriage shed sale will finance the training for leaders of this program and one of our members with work at the school has done extensive preliminary work talking with faculty and educating the Committee on the way that organizations are established at the school. Carriage shed funds were designated for training of adults and youth to support this program.

The Meeting continues to support the Talbot Interfaith Shelter. A T&C member was co-clerk and Meeting members organized and staffed the shelter program during the 2 weeks at the Meeting House. At least 5 persons were given shelter through our work.

Local Food Programs. Continued budget and work support Marilla's lunches which feeds shut in persons in the community each week, Thanksgiving dinners organized by a member, and NSC food pantry. Donations are coordinated and delivered through members.

Members continue to work in the Alternatives to Violence Program and the Detention Center Library. Additional volunteers are sought for these valuable programs.

Finally, we are communicating more effectively through the website and newsletter.

*Submitted by Gwen Beegle, Co-Clerk, who thanks all the T&C members for their contributions to the report.*

### **Testimonies & Concerns annual donation recommendations**

#### **National Quaker organizations, \$125 each:**

1. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
2. Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
3. Friends Journal
4. Friends General Conference
5. Pendle Hill
6. Quaker Earthcare Witness

#### **Local organizations, \$125 each:**

1. Neighborhood Service Center
2. TACL Good Samaritan Fund
3. Talbot Interfaith Shelter
4. Migrant Ministries
5. PEACE
6. Habitat for Humanity

## Spiritual Formation Program: A personal reflection

The nine-month long Spiritual Formation Program sponsored by Worship and Ministry Committee of Third Haven Friends Meeting ended on Sunday, November 20 with a weekend retreat. The program led by Working Group Leaders from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) included an opening weekend retreat last January and a one day retreat in May. Each participant

was also assigned to two groups. One group was a reading group, which gathered monthly to share, worship and discuss responses to assigned devotional readings. Our second group was a smaller subset of the reading group and these participants functioned as spiritual companions to support each other's spiritual journey. Twenty-one participants, including



life-long Quakers as well as new attenders and those from other faiths, completed the program. As a new attender last January, I joined this program to learn more about the Quaker faith in general and Third Haven in particular. Our assigned readings included ancient writers as well as modern ones and Quaker authors along with those from other traditions. I found some of the readings to be very challenging and some deeply moved me, but all of them expanded my knowledge and understanding. We were also encouraged to practice a daily spiritual discipline. This practice which was supported by my spiritual companions provided the consistency needed to carry my deepening spiritual awareness into my everyday life.

The level of commitment by the program's Third Haven Oversight Committee, the PYM leaders and the participants was inspiring and I was both challenged and uplifted by the experience. Some of the goals and expectations stated at the opening retreat included: beginning to build a community that will nurture our spiritual growth, and being nurturers of each other so that our lives will change, our Meeting will deepen, and our world will benefit. I feel that I have been nurtured and my spiritual life has been deepened through this program.

*Cynthia Quast*

## Thanksgiving Dinners

Ralph Young writes, "In some way, I'd like to acknowledge the gifts of so many Third Haven members and attenders who made the Thanksgiving dinner possible. 94 dinners were delivered to some of Talbot County's needy. The following persons made this possible: Aiyana Pateson-Zinkland, Allan Mielke, Beth Mufson, Candace Shattuck, Catherine Cripps, Cynthia Quast, Earl Greason, John and Marsie Hawkinson, John Schreiner, Katherine Johnson, Lorraine Claggett, Meredith Watters, Dee Rein, Molly Burgoyne, Page Bethke, Sarah Sayre, Valerie Sypula, Winslow and Helen Womack."

**Friends donate and deliver in cooperation with other community members and Asbury United Methodist Church.**



## Third Haven Monthly Meeting Announcements Meetings for Worship

First Days 10am	Fourth Days 5:30pm
December 4	December 7
December 11	December 14
December 18	December 21
December 25	December 28

December 4 (Sunday) 9am Scholarship committee meets in common room

December 11 (Sunday) 10 am Meeting for worship followed by meeting for business – scheduled reports include Worship and Ministry and the final report of the Nominating committee.

December 14 (Wednesday) 10 am - 3 pm: Inward Bound: A December Quiet Day  
In the Third Haven Friends Meeting Common Room

Join us for a weekday retreat away from the busy-ness of the holiday season. Katherine Johnson and Candace Shattuck will facilitate “Inward Bound”, a day of listening for the Light within, reflection, reading, walking the grounds, writing, or self chosen art activities in community with a shared, silent pot-luck lunch. The session will run from 10 am until 3 PM, ending with Worship Sharing. Participants are welcome to come for part of a day, entering with respect for the silence of the group. This is a perfect occasion to savor the beauty of the Third Haven grounds and buildings and take time to be in community with Friends. Please see the attached flier

To register: Contact Katherine Johnson: [katherinekai@goeaston.net](mailto:katherinekai@goeaston.net) or  
Candace Shattuck: [Candace.shattuck@gmail.com](mailto:Candace.shattuck@gmail.com)  
Or leave a message at 410-820-0341

**Books Wanted** We are always looking for more books to put into the Talbot County Detention Center lending library. If you have a quantity of books, I can pick them up or bring what you have to Meeting on First Day. We can use a wide variety of books. We have 30 different categories of books in the library including categories such as: poetry, fiction, multicultural, foreign language, philosophy, textbooks, non-fiction, etc. etc. etc. If for any reason we do not put a book in the library, we find an appropriate home for the book such as the Goodwill organization. There is a beautiful chest for book donations under the window next to the literature table in the Common Room and books can be placed in my truck, a white pick up usually parked near the Common Room on First Day. Thank you for remembering. *submitted by Ralph Young*

New Address Betty Jean Wheeler Telephone: 410-763-9232  
Room 1141, Heartfields at Easton, 700 Port Street, Building 100, Easton, MD 21601

Welcome new applicant for membership: Martha Merz  
207 S. Harrison Street, Easton, MD, 21601  
410-822-3336 (corrected) [mlmerz@goeaston.net](mailto:mlmerz@goeaston.net)

## **Don't know how to reach a Friend?**

If you need a printed directory please e-mail [3rdhaven@gmail.com](mailto:3rdhaven@gmail.com)

**Talbot Interfaith Shelter** Talbot County Faith Communities have banded together to provide a Winter time homeless shelter for individuals in our community who are less fortunate. The shelter travels from facility to facility on a rotating schedule printed below. It is chaperoned by community members during its guest hours, late afternoon to early morning. Guests receive a safe, warm, dry place to stay with bedding provided, the chance to have a shower and other personal care, a hot dinner, breakfast and bag lunch. Referrals are received from the Department of Social Services and other agencies while workers seek more permanent arrangements for the guests. There is a great need for shelter volunteer chaperones.

If you are moved to help, please talk to Lorraine Claggett, the Third Haven representative, or contact <http://www.talbotinterfaithshelter.org/Home.html>

P.O. Box 2004, Easton, MD 21601 410-310-2316 [tisboard@talbotinterfaithshelter.org](mailto:tisboard@talbotinterfaithshelter.org)

### **2011-2012 Shelter Sites:**

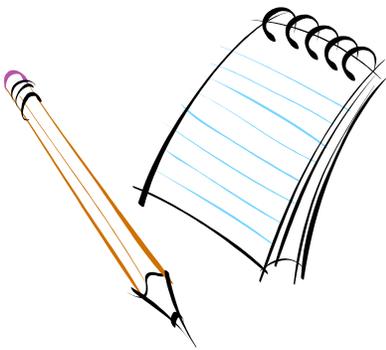
Dec 4 - Jan 1 -	Temple B'Nai Israel in Easton
Jan 1 - Jan 15	St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 12095 Blades Road, Cordova, MD
Jan 15 - Jan 29	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton
Jan 29 - Feb 12	Third Haven Friends Meeting
Feb 12- Feb26	Shore Harvest Presbyterian Church
Feb 26 - Mar 11	Christ Church in Easton
Mar 11 - Mar 25	St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Easton
Mar 25 - Apr 1	Trinity Cathedral in Easton

## Food Bank

Third Haven Meeting and the Food Bank at the Neighborhood Service Center have been blessed by the development of a 'focus on the need to provide' which Winslow Womack has created.



**sweet potato day is a success!**



## Paper and Pencils

The founders of Paper and Pencils Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation believe education is the one certain way to escape poverty. Our mission is to provide school supplies and other materials needed to support learning, to disadvantaged children and schools in the Mississippi Delta and other impoverished regions of the US.

Since October 2002 Paper and Pencils, Inc. has worked to create and host community service projects and fund raisers, to educate young people to the plight of less fortunate children, and raise funds to purchase and/or collect donations of new backpacks, school supplies and educational materials to send to children and schools in the Mississippi Delta and beyond.

*submitted by Mary Ann Hillier*