



Photo by Ralph Young

## Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

(410) 822-0293

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## September 2020 NEWSLETTER

"Come again to my house; for if thou and I were but an hour of a day together, we should be nearer one to the other"  
*The Life of George Fox*

### **Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Fourteenth Day Sixth Month 2020**

**Opening Silent Worship** Molly Brian, Clerk of the Meeting, gathered together the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:30 a.m. with a brief period of silence.

**Attending:** 29 attended: Mark Beck, Gwen Beegle, Molly Burgoyne Bryan, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Catherine Cripps, Robert Day, Stephanie French, Whitley Gray, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Larissa Kitenko, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Connie Lewis, Joyce Macijeski, Steven Meixner, Priscilla Morris, Beth Mufson, Amy Owsley, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Adrienne Rudge, Jonathan Slocum, Dona Sorce, John Turner, Kevin Walsh

**Comments on Sixth Query.** (read at Meeting for Worship)  
Social justice under current circumstances is especially powerful.

**Approval of minutes** from Fifth Month business meeting- Approved

#### **Clerks Desk**

Received Homewood Friends Meeting letter of transfer for Ellen Silbergeld. Referred to Pastoral Care for welcoming committee: Marsie Hawkinson, Katharine Bangart, Beth Mufson, Dona Sorce

## *Meeting for Worship on Meeting Grounds Discussion*

Background:

Worship and ministry: *Gwen Beegle*

DRAFT—Ideas for Guidelines for Third Haven Outdoor Meetings

General guidelines for out of doors gatherings

1. Maintain physical distance of 6 feet as a general rule
2. Wear a face mask, unless you have a medically necessary reason not to do so. Don't touch your face.
3. Bring your own chair
4. Be aware of others' needs and ask if you can assist before approaching them
5. Wave, greet and talk from a safe distance.
6. If you are giving vocal ministry, come to the center of the circle to speak. You may remove your facemask if you are a safe distance from others.

Considerations: Dress appropriately for an hour long out of doors meeting. Bring an umbrella to shield you from the sun. Wear sunscreen and insect repellent as appropriate. Bring water.

Arriving/being seated/getting settled

1. Bring your own chair, wear your mask, stay 6 feet apart
2. Sit with your partner or family, be aware of how this affects the spaced seating
3. Be willing to pick up and move if it helps someone else get seated easily
4. Fill seating spaces from the inside of the circle outward. Don't walk close to others while setting up your chair.
5. Be willing to move to a further seating location if a person with limited mobility needs to sit closer to their car

Closing/leaving meeting

1. Persons at the outside leave first, persons toward the center will wait till space to leave opens up
2. Be aware of your location if you stop to greet or talk—don't block others pathways to their car or the common room

Common Room Bathrooms (if needed)

Only the bathrooms are open in the Common Room (not the kitchen or seating areas)

Stay 6 feet away from anyone else waiting for the bathroom. Outside is best.

Use hand sanitizer before you enter.

Don't touch your face.

Use the toilet as usual.

Wash your hands 20+ seconds.

Use the paper towel to turn off the faucet and to open the door.

Discard towel in can outside the door

This is a start for various situations: seating, restrooms, arrival and dispersal. The key factor is maintenance of physical distance, safety and comfort outside.

*Technical approaches-Dee Rein*

We seek one unified meeting, by improving digital access to facilitate members not attending in person to attend by Zoom. Experimentation with a new WiFi extender placed on the bench in front of the Old Meeting House provided a signal almost all the way to the caretaker's driveway. Currently the extender is plugged in atop the cabinet in the Common Room corner closest to Old Meeting House for safekeeping. Other connections and locations are under consideration and a trial run will occur next week. As Ben Tilghman pointed out, it doesn't need to be pretty. Participants in this effort have been Molly Brian, John Turner, John Hawkinson, Ben Tilghman, Gwen Beegle, Clay Owens, and Tom Corl.

*Comments on a physical in person meeting with simultaneous Zoom:*

Excited to try. Likes concentric circle idea. Speaking from center OK.

Concern: fellowship part. How will we do that?

We are very adaptable. Outside personal interactions require sensitivity to boundaries.

You could drive to Third Haven and Zoom from your car.

We may have a resurgence of Covid and may be tempting fate since science does not yet indicate it's safe to interact more.

It's a personal decision about whether or not to attend.

Semicircle may create projection of voice toward the group.

Moving to center of circle to speak creates difficulties. Semicircle amphitheater style might work better. Stand and speak where you are prevents more possible transmission of the virus by movement.

Some families indicated they may not attend until there is a vaccine.

Families would sit in their own group with their own children who are used to staying inside lines.

Zoom will continue for the long term, like a couple of years, so everyone can participate on some level of comfort.

Heat indices may preclude sitting outside at a certain point in the summer.

How do we do Zoom and live hospitality and check in with each other. Might be easier to keep the physical groups and Zoom groups separate for check in. Packing an individual snack for hospitality and check in time might work.

The most important thing is to be aware of each person's comfort with this situation.

People will "vote with their feet." Some will not come; some will come to see how it works, some may not come back. Many have learned the new distancing strategy for the virus situation.

Linking Zoom and physical meeting may be a challenge. This is an experiment.

Pendle Hill has some specifications that may help us.

Thanks to everyone trying to get the technology set up for this.

What about other groups meeting on the grounds if they follow distancing and sanitizing rules? To date we've ignored any folks who have done this. Groups outdoors would need to police themselves. Small groups, fewer than 10 would be acceptable to some. Face to face and Zoom components would be appropriate for them too. Use of bathrooms could be an issue to keep indoor rooms uncontaminated.

If everyone had their cell phone they could log into Zoom and speak on their cell phone rather than moving to speak. Reverb could be a problem.

Add Luke's comments

Conditions and people's willingness and technological abilities to participate will change over time.

Details in writing and a method to monitor is important.

Maybe we need to limit attendance. Maybe attendance will be naturally limited by people's interests in attendance. We need to be strict and control the physical meeting.

Groups that are not part of the Meeting proper should not be on the property at this time.

Sitting in the car and calling on a cell phone may be another way of being connected.

Running cars could be an environmental issue.

Use of insecticides should occur at home since some people are sensitive to them.

Some people could form small groups to join the Zoom meeting.

Keep the buildings sanitary.

Bathrooms ventilation is important.

As an organization we should be leaders in safety and cannot be too conservative in that regard.

Use of the grounds by individuals on own responsibility has not been limited and is not possible to control.

Safety is high priority.

Registering to attend adds complexity. We need to keep this simple.

A list of who plans to come might be publicized and people who are not comfortable with that many might choose to come or not.

People who are not comfortable with Zoom may use the physical meeting environment to attend.

Wednesday Meeting for Worship may try the physical in person process with Zoom and try it out.

### **Minute:**

People want to explore the option of a physical in person meeting for worship simultaneously with Zoom. We could further explore the guidelines, staging and signup sheets, then move ahead with careful planning. Other groups might be incorporated later with appropriate scheduling.

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will occur in July**, contrary to normal scheduling, to continue this discussion and decision process.

### **Treasurer's Report** – *Cynthia Quast Accepted*

As of 5/31/20 we have the following financial results:

Member contributions total just over \$50,900 or 96% of our annual budget. Attender contributions total \$14,680 or 229% of the expected amount for the budget. Total income is over \$69,700 or 106% of the budget. Expenses are about \$61,600 or 94% of our expense budget. This gives us a net income year-to-date of \$8,064.

On the Balance Sheet as of 5/31/20, we had over \$65,800 in our operating checking account and over \$67,900 in our Invested operating funds at Friends Fiduciary.

In comparing to the prior year, Member contributions are up by over \$18,000 and total income is up by over \$18,000. Ordinary expenses are about \$7,500 more than last year giving us a net ordinary income of about \$10,700 more than last year at this time.

**Budget & Finance:** Approval of Budget for FY 2020-21 – *Bill Lane* **Approved**

Next fiscal year's budget (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2020) is posted on the website. The increase is 5%, from \$66,000 this year to \$68,900 for next year. One concern is the use of facilities income from First Day School outdoor schools/Summer camps may fall short.

**First Day School Annual Report** – *Amy Owsley*, Co-Clerk of First Day School-**Accepted** with a lot of gratitude for all the hard work.

First Day School hosted two “mindfulness in nature” summer camps in June and July, bringing together two batches of a dozen kids each who climbed and explored every inch of our grounds while taking in lessons about centering, community and Quaker values. All this energy fueled Third Haven's Family Open House on September 21, which welcomed twenty children and their families. Everyone enjoyed a kid-friendly supper, then the children scampered off with teachers for a dusk-time bug hunt while parents engaged with our guest speaker, PYM's Melinda Wenner Bradley, to discuss “How to Raise your Children in the Light.”

The fall schedule for First Day School offered a regular rotation of themes: nature seekers (Cherie Baron and Kristen Hanlon), Queries and Reflections (Jeanne Halpin), and Faith & Play stories (Susan Claggett). In addition, other Meeting members shared their talent, passions, and time including puppetry with Kevin Walsh, Marilla's Lunches with Cynthia Quast, and Climate Change with Dona Sorce. As is our custom, the Christmas season was filled with the traditions of wreath-making for the Meeting buildings, telling of the Christmas story, and our Christmas Pageant (this year featuring the Virdee/Whalen family as the Holy Family).

First Day School also continued this fall our popular outreach program, Little SPICES. The six-week session seeks to give parents genuine opportunities to center and connect with their babies and toddlers. From October 18 through November 22, with a special nighttime dinnertime potluck session on November 8<sup>th</sup>, the program offered themes and discussion for each class will be based upon key Quaker values of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship (SPICES).

In the spring, we added in series led by Kulveen Virdee and Lisa Kluepfel called Peacemakers. Every lesson the children added a new tool for their toolbox of techniques for understanding and managing their emotions. Faith & Play evolved into Godly Play stories with Susan, with the goal of building Bible story literacy among our children. Unfortunately, First Day School and Little SPICES offerings were cut short by COVID-19. This change, however, gave us the opportunity to join West Chester Meeting in their virtual First Day School offerings, and eventually to host our own lessons through Zoom.

In June, First Day School will help honor young Meeting members who are “Moving Up” in their education. The Ceremony will be held virtually with gifts from the Meeting sent to each child (Maev Mufson, Nathan Mullen, and Atticus Leibman). Also, led by

Dee Rein, First Day School has a summertime activity for kids (and kids at heart) of the Meeting. Based on the Flat Stanley children's books, all will be invited to take cardboard cutouts of Margaret Fell and George Fox on a summertime treasure hunt, looking for places where they see Quaker values and ideals. This project is organized by PYM's Faith & Play group, and First Day School will be sharing photos from everyone in the weekly announcements.

Additionally, First Day School was asked to join a planning group that is helping to form a Resource Friend practice area for Religious Education and Youth Work for PYM. Further, our First Day School spoke at a Religious Education and Youth Work Thread Gathering at the Wilmington Meeting in December. Finally, we have fielded requests for information and ideas to other Meetings within PYM to help grow other children's programming.

In summary, First Day School successfully attracted about 5-12 kids weekly, Little SPICES was at capacity with 14 children, and each summer camp (June and July) was enjoyed by 12 kids.

First Day School Clerks wish to thank the Meeting for the abundance of love, support, time and guidance. So many young lives have been touched because of you.

#### **New Business**

The Zoom account will be Zoom Pro using the Meeting's email address, a password, and scheduled through Larissa to allow meeting conveners to use it to host meetings. Cost is \$149.50.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:10k p.m.

D. Rein, Recorder

## **Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Twelfth Day, Seventh Month, 2020**

**Opening Silent Worship** Molly Brian, Clerk of the Meeting, gathered together the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:30 a.m. with a brief period of silence.

**Attending:** 25 attended: Kathleen Bangart, Molly Burgoyne Brian, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Stephanie French, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Bill Lane, Connie Lewis, Steven Meixner, Priscilla Morris, Clay Owens, Amy Owsley, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Adrienne Rudge, John Schreiner, Ellen Silbergeld, Jonathan Slocum, Paige Tilghman, Ben Tilghman, John Turner, Kevin Walsh

#### **Comments on Seventh Query**

The connection of Third Haven Monthly Meeting to events and local groups to share knowledge and ideas may lead to unified action.

Social justice under current circumstances is especially powerful.

**Approval of June's minutes** Approved

## **Clerk's Desk**

*Discussion on our meetings for worship*

Comments were wide ranging:

Great weather

If it's raining at 8 a.m. there should be no meeting outside.

It's hard to hear people who are away from the microphone

There is concern fewer people attending but more the situation is more complicated to manage.

Many love seeing people on the grounds but understand some people don't have good internet access at home. Speakers prefer to continue this the outdoor meeting.

Consider using the Old Meeting House, 6 ft. distanced with wipe down. How can we make this safe?

The increased chance of airborne transmission is a scientific concern. This data will be studied for a few weeks, and then we'll talk about the Old Meeting House again.

Restaurants are not analogous to our situation.

It's nice to hear birds and see property

One member plead to avoid the term Zoomie; we need another term: open for suggestions

Hospitality might go quicker if people stand and are ready to approach the mike.

Wireless mike on a pole would allow distance but gather sound as needed. A headset camera would allow people to see the person speaking. Another mixer and some wireless microphones would be needed to make this work. Property and Grounds and Communications can talk together about this. Could be done with a cell phone.

Perhaps we should assume this will go on forever.

**Report on meetings:** Larissa Kitenko in absentia

Categories of Meetings: All Listed on On-line Calendar for July

1 – Zoom Third Haven Account: Meeting for Worship 1st Day, Meeting for Worship 4<sup>th</sup> Day, Meeting for Business, Light Meditation, Worship and Ministry, Dream Group, Scholarship Committee, Book Group, Pastoral Care

2 – Zoom per Private Accounts: Smart Recovery, Journal Group, Planning committee

3 – Private Home: A Course in Miracles

4 – Third Haven Grounds in person: Meeting for Worship 1<sup>st</sup> Day, Meeting for Worship 4<sup>th</sup> Day, Meeting for Member's Group

## **Brief Committee reports**

**Property and Grounds:** Priscilla Morris

The pillar for the end of driveway is moving along. Time will say 10 o'clock. A Picture will be in the newsletter. The stream renovation is under way. 700 native plants and branches for beaver dams will be inserted.

**Worship and Ministry:** Susan Claggett

Since we have been meeting outside on the grounds, the committee members have helped with being greeters and posted suggested guidelines. A handful of small groups are still meeting via zoom. These groups are Light Meditation, book group, and Jungian dream group.

Katherine Johnson reported attending a year long series At Pendle Hill called Journey toward Wholeness and she reminded Friends to click on to the Pre- retreat of PYM annual session on 7/28 sponsored by the PYM spiritual formation collaborative.

PYM annual sessions are offering many different workshops and discussion groups for Friends via zoom. Please check them out.

W M plans to meet again via zoom in Sept

**First Day School** Amy Owsley

First Day School has had small touches with families. A Meal Train for Lisa Kluepfel, Brody, and Drew Gundlach, who is hospitalized in Baltimore, has been established. Sign up at Meal Train to help. Sadly, there are no Summer camps this year. The committee is planning Fall religious education for kids. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has great youth and family activities. Flat George Fox and Margaret Fell are out there. All are welcome to play! Contact Amy or Dee Rein for your own Flat figures.

**Testimonies and Concerns** Paige Tilghman

The committee is meeting in Sept. on the first week. There are many immigration task force activities re Sudlersville detention center proposal. Reform is also in the works. The peace pole carver at Maritime Museum is half way through: The pole will read “May Peace Prevail on Earth in 4 languages. A second peace pole of unknown origin has arrived. Anyone knowing its origin should contact the clerk.

**New Business**

**The Journal Writers Group** meets Thursday at 3 pm virtual or in person. All are welcome. Contact John Schreiner.

**Open discussion on Ralph Young photo project**

A project proposal to put together Ralph’s photos in an art book with meaningful sayings as been suggested. Profits would go to projects in the community that Ralph supported. Volunteers help is welcome. Paige Tilghman and Marsie Hawkinson volunteered. Ben and Paige both have publishing and printing experience and will look into cost and qualities.

Meeting closed with silent worship at 12:17 p.m.

D. Rein

**The Third Haven newsletter** circulates during the first week of each month to enable readers to review the minutes of the most recent meeting for worship with attention to business.

## **Town of Easton Stream Restoration**

By Sarah Hildebrand

The Town of Easton is doing their part to address polluted rainwater from flowing into our local tributaries and out to the Chesapeake Bay. One of their latest strategies is to work to restore portions of two streams running through the most developed areas of town toward the Tred Avon River. Papermill Branch, which runs along the northern border of the Third Haven property is the first stream under repair. This stream receives rainwater from surrounding developed areas through three large storm drains at the upstream end of the project. This water carries various debris and pollutants to the stream which quickly flow downstream during storm events. Partnering with *Envision the Choptank*, the Town received funding for the design of the two stream restoration projects. State Funding from The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, overseen by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, was awarded to pay for the project implementation.

The goal of the project is to stop the stream from its current conveyance of polluted water to the Bay and transform it into a system of pools, riffles and wetlands designed to slow the water, allow particles to filter out and connect the stream to a functioning floodplain. The successful restoration will allow the stream to interact with wetlands on its borders where the plant material will slow stormwater down, soak it in, and take up excess nutrients. This will reduce both the amount of sediment and nutrients being released into the Bay, resulting in better water quality in our surrounding waters. The stream restoration will occur along more than a 1200 foot length of stream leading toward the tidal areas. Invasive plant species will be removed along the length of the project to make way for native plantings to benefit local wildlife.

The Town of Easton is overseeing the project which began in July and should be wrapping up with riparian plantings this fall. A combination of earthwork, rocks, logs, and dense plantings will come together to accomplish the goal of a better functioning stream system. Various project partners are also involved in outreach efforts including Pickering Creek, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Talbot County Schools. Once the Papermill project is completed, similar work will begin on the Tanyard branch stream across town. These large scale efforts are can be supported by small scale practices that land owners can do on their own properties. Rain barrels, rain gardens and other landscaping that allows rain water to be captured or to soak into the ground instead of flowing along pavement and into storm drains help reduce the amount of water and pollutants from entering these streams.



Photos courtesy of Priscilla Morris

**Announcements** <http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>  
Calendar of Activities <http://www.thirdhaven.org/calendar.php>  
Online directory <http://www.thirdhaven.org/members/dir.php>

**September 3 [every Thursday]**

**Peace Vigil**

The peace vigil continues at 5PM Thursdays at the courthouse.  
Please join us. John Turner 240-650-5540

**September 6 [Sunday]**

**Testimonies and Concerns Committee Meeting**

We will meet on the grounds in the back of the Common Room at 8:00 am. We will also conduct a Hybrid Meeting with ZOOM for those who can not join us in person. IF IT RAINS- the meeting will be entirely on ZOOM.

For those who can come in person, please bring a chair - and a mask and maybe bug spray; those who wish to attend form home -

**September 13 [Sunday]**

**Meeting for Worship With Attention To Business**

This meeting will be conducted both in person on the grounds and simultaneously on Zoom.

## **PEARLS**

**Stacy Ewing**, of the Talbot County Health Department writes to our meeting, “I wanted to let you know about a home visiting program called PEARLS (Programs for Encouraging Active, Rewarding Lives).” Access this service through:

Case Management & Program Coordinator  
Senior Services Talbot County Health Department  
100 S. Hanson Street Easton, MD 21601

**Maryland Coalition of Families** continues to offer a variety of free virtual support groups for families, caregivers, and loved one of individuals with behavioral health challenges. We have weekly and monthly support groups for caregiver self-care, grief support, substance use, problem gambling, mental health, autism education, book clubs, and even ones for young adults aged 18-26. Our early childhood specialist is offering a special Pre-School Family Fun hour on Fridays – visit [Marylandcoalition.org](http://Marylandcoalition.org) for links.

MCF also offers free virtual trainings to families and partners who are interested. Topics include: About MCF: Who We Are and How We Help, Stages of Change, Recognizing and Responding to Substance Use Disorders, Overdose Prevention and Narcan, and Maryland’s Good Samaritan Law We can tailor our workshops and presentations to fit your needs.

As a reminder, you can make referrals to MCF by calling **410-730-8267**, or by e-mailing [info@mdcoalition.org](mailto:info@mdcoalition.org). You can also stay up to date on MCF’s offerings and resources by signing up for the newsletter at [mdcoalition.org](http://mdcoalition.org).

## **First Day School**

This year the planning for teachers and lessons for First Day School is dynamic, to say the least. Our driving purpose this fall will be to be a place of support and connection for Third Haven families. The message we have gotten back from many families is that they are busy and often overwhelmed with all on their plates - in response, FDS intends to be flexible and fun-focused, with less activities and all virtual for now.

That means that we are not planning out a detailed calendar for the fall, but starting with one virtual FDS in September (Faith & Play with Susan), then a virtual pizza party in early October. Then we will reassess, and plan more activities. *Amy Owsley*

*“For where two or three gather together in My name, there I am with them.”*  
Matthew 18:20