



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

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NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

“Civilization is from every little thing”

Carved on a park bench in China

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 10th Month, 2009

1. Call to order: John Schreiner, Clerk of Meeting, called to order the meeting for business at 12:45pm after a brief period of silent worship.
2. Attending: Paige Bethke, Cynthia Browne, Molly Burgoyne, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Mary Cotton, Susan Dabney, Leigh Anne Dodge, Robert Gladney, Doreen Getsinger, Tania Harrison, Marsie Hawkinson, Peter Howell, Susan Leibman, Connie Lewis, Joyce Macijeski, Bob Marshall, Jacob Mullen, Nancy Mullen, Sumner Parker, Jim Paul, Peggy Paul, Constance Pullen, Michael Pullen, Dee Rein, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Robert Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Peggy Walbert, Heidi Wetzels, Rob Wieland, Ann Williams, John Winterbottom, Winslow Womack, Ralph Young, Frank Zeigler, Joyce Zeigler
3. Minutes: One friend requested several changes to clarify his remarks in the previous meeting. A request was made that suggested a change to the 15th sentence under item #9 to read “He suggested that the Meeting had not been consistent in its outreach to racial and ethnic minorities and should do more. He asked what Meeting members had done in such outreach. Had any members gone to minority neighborhoods in Easton like Port Street, for example, to do outreach.” He also requested a change to sentence five in the same item to read “5” instead of “3” and to sentence number 17 to read “that those in opposition to same-sex unions under the care of Meeting had been unfairly represented”. After these changes were made, the minutes were approved from the 9th month. We accepted a policy of allowing the Clerk of Meeting to have the discretion of including letters written by members as part of our business meetings.
4. Query : The Query, “Stewardship of the Environment” was read aloud during meeting for worship. This query generated many comments. A practical suggestion to buy filters for your water rather than individual plastic was made. The movie “Our Daily Bread” and the Ken Burns series regarding our national parks were both recommended. We were reminded of the crime of sitting back not doing something towards helping the environment.
5. Letter of Thanks: (see attached). Our Clerk of Meeting read aloud a letter of thanks for all the efforts put forth by members and attenders in recent months.

6. Property and Grounds: (see attached). The annual report for property and grounds was given by the clerk of that committee. The budget for this committee runs around \$30,000 per year or about half of our annual budget. About \$18,000 goes to our caretaker expenses. Five thousand goes to maintenance and about \$5,000 to utilities. Spring Clean-up Day was a big success. This year, bids for more extensive pruning will be obtained as well as a bid to reputty the old meeting house windows. The caretakers took a week's vacation this year for the first time in 25 years. Consideration may need to be given in the future to the possibility of Sam and Vicki's retirement. We will keep communications open in that regard if and when necessary. Consideration may also need to be given to revamping the job description of the caretakers. The Meeting approved this report.

7. Consideration of Proposed Minute regarding Same Sex Marriage under the care of the Meeting: The Clerk of Meeting opened this discussion by reading from page 22 on Faith and Practice regarding the terms "unity" and "sense of the Meeting". In essence, unity does not necessarily mean all of one mind but does mean all of one heart while the "sense of the Meeting" is a spiritual process of discernment and when reached, all will know. The proposed minute was again read aloud. A Friend then read a prepared statement and asked that it be included in its entirety.

"For generations marriage under the care of Third Haven has been performed in accordance with Maryland law. The state of Maryland gave Friends Meetings the authority to marry couples just as it did for ordained ministers and clerks of the court. Marriage has been a part of the fabric of society for years and I know of no reason why it should not continue to be. At this time, I cannot approve the minute that is being considered by the Meeting or any minute that is similar to it because the minute defines marriage as only a statement of commitment and does not in any way provide same sex couples the rights and benefits of marriage that are available to couples of opposite sex. These rights and benefits can come only as a result of a change in the Maryland law. In time, this change will come about just as it did for blacks and whites to marry and blacks to vote. The only question that remains today is what part Third Haven will play, if any in bringing about this change."

This generated many comments from Friends regarding civil disobedience. Many felt Quakers have historically challenged laws when they are not consistent with Quaker values. Some felt strongly that it is against Quaker principles to tolerate an unjust law and simply waiting for the law to change before we take a stand is not an option particularly when spirit led to do differently. In this case, legal marriage is different from spiritual marriage to many in our Meeting and they do not see inconsistencies with having commitment ceremonies for those who want the blessings of our community without having the legal jurisprudence. Several voiced the opinion that standing up for what one believes is more important than following the letter of the law when the law is unjust. If the law is unconstitutional isn't our overwhelming principle our fidelity to our own testimonies rather than the state telling us what our testimonies mean? We were reminded that Faith and Practice states that marriage can be performed under the care of the Meeting without the legal status.

The changes in societal attitudes were recognized that all people regardless of sexual orientation deserve to have a partner for life. One Friend expressed great reserve that this minute would put an undue burden on our clearness committees. He felt that if the minute were passed, the life of our Meeting would be limited. Those of us left would have a difficult time continuing. This led to some discussion regarding how welcoming our Meeting actually is. One commented that our posture is analogous to saying "all fishermen are welcome but you can't fish". Some felt our

Meeting was welcoming and inclusive as it is. Discussion gave way to whether or not we base our decisions on Love or Fear. We should not make the fear of being limited keep us from acting on our beliefs. One member felt perhaps the Meeting was being "tested" by this issue. This issue causes dissension among us because we hold widely diverse opinions. Although we recognize that many opinions have been aired regarding same sex union, there is a feeling that we may be moving closer to each other rather than farther apart.

In this discussion, all were heard and diverse opinions aired. We feel consistently during the past two months that everyone's opinion has been respected. A groundswell was formed to work towards wording of the minute that may reflect the feelings aired today more accurately. It was decided that the initial committee working on this minute would meet again to tweak the wording of the minute to adequately reflect the thoughts shared today and during September's business meeting. Everyone is welcomed to come to this working meeting. The new wording will hopefully be ready to present at the next meeting for business. John Schreiner, Clerk of Meeting will announce the date for this as soon as possible.

8. Treasurer's Report: (see attached). Our income is one half of what it was this time last year. Please note on the page listing our assets, we are dwindling down our reserve funds from our ING account. It has gone from around \$20,000 to around \$5,000. Although the Queenstown CD monies are considered to be relatively liquid, we would like not to tap into these funds if we don't have too. The error in the Property and Grounds line item from last month's Treasurer's Report has been corrected.

9. TACL Report: The TACL report will be given in November.

10. Talbot Interfaith Shelter Report: (see attached). The coalition hopes to find more permanent quarters this year. If they do not find a place for the shelter, the churches will be asked to host as they did last year. Our Meeting is in unity to lend our support to TIS and serve as a host church this winter.

11. Other Business: There was no further business at this time.

Meeting for business was adjourned at 2pm.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Burgoyne

George Fox thought:

"For the right joining in marriage is the work of the Lord only, and not the priests or magistrates; for it is God's ordinance, and not man's. And therefore Friends cannot consent, that they should join them together. For we marry none, it is the Lord's work, and we are but witnesses."

submitted by Bob Marshall

Third Haven Monthly Meeting Announcements

Meetings for Worship

First Days 10am	Fourth Days 5:30pm
November 8	November 11
November 15	November 18
November 22	November 25

November 8 (Sunday) Meeting for worship followed by monthly meeting for business. Query 11 Stewardship of Resources. Annual reports due from AFSC, TACL, Testimonies and Concerns, and the preliminary report from the Nominating Committee

November 14 (Saturday) Library and Outreach plans to welcome guests of the Waterfowl Festival to Third Haven Meeting.

November 13, 14 and 15 UPCOMING Talbot Interfaith Shelter FUNDRAISER: Waterfowl Festival volunteers from Christ Episcopal Church will once again serve their savory crab cakes and other tasty goodies on the church lawn . Christ Episcopal has pledged \$4,000 from sales at the Duck Inn to the Talbot Interfaith Shelter.

November 22 (Sunday) Third session of Exploring Quaker Faith and Family Life with Harriet Heath will conclude the current series which follows meeting for worship.

Please send all new announcements to 3rdhaven@gmail.com

Third Haven website ... <http://www.thirdhaven.org/>

Updated addresses since August, 2009 check your contacts list and directory

(1) e-mail addresses

Laura Bode	laurabode1@gmail.com
Robert Gladney	robertgladney@yahoo.com
Don Kabler	dkabler@verizon.net
Larissa Kitenko	lkitenko@yahoo.com
Greg Leibman	gregoryleibman@yahoo.com

- New mailing address:
106 Tred Avon Ave.
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Meadow Ridge
925 Willow Valley Lakes Drive
Willow Street, PA 17584
717-490-8233

Leonard Baynham
Candle Light Cove
106A West Earle Ave.
Easton, MD 21601

REMINDERS

To contribute to our meeting please address your contribution to Third Haven Monthly Meeting, and mail to Third Haven Treasurer, PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

To donate to the Third Haven Scholarship Fund or to learn more about planned giving, contact Mark Beck at mb4833@aol.com or 410-822-6481.

To contribute to the Trustees of Third Haven Meeting please address donations to them and mail to 405 South Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601 or to Allan Mielke PO Box 701, Easton, MD 21601

To contribute to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Fund (mention Third Haven) mail to PYM Development Office, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 or 410-924-5752.

Historical Association Lecture on Woolman

The public is invited to attend the annual meeting of Friends Historical Association, where University of Rochester professor Thomas Slaughter will speak on the topic "Who Owns John Woolman?" He recently published "The Beautiful Soul of John Woolman, Apostle of Abolition." The meeting will be Saturday, November 14, at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia. Lunch is available at 12 noon by advance reservation. The free lecture will begin shortly after 1 p.m. Questions may be directed to 610-896-1161 or FHA@haverford.edu

First Day School Creativity in Journals



Fabric for covers



Finished journals
(Note Katie's, made when she was one!)

Talbot Interfaith Shelter

EASTON – Several of Talbot County faith communities have banded together to bring the homeless in from the cold this winter. They may not be conspicuous, but there are people in this county who have nowhere to live. Few, if any, choose to live on the street. For many, homelessness is a symptom of another crisis in their lives: sickness or injury; divorce; death of a breadwinner or other close relative; mental illness; or a tragic accident, such as a house fire. Some are what some people call the nouveau homeless: formerly working-class people who lived from paycheck to paycheck and had no reserves to fall back on when the recession cost them their jobs – and their homes.

The Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) is committed to helping them all. No one should have to sleep outdoors or in an unheated building during the coldest months of the year, and TIS' mission is to ensure that no one in Talbot County does. The projected cost of operating the shelter from Dec. 15 to late April is estimated at \$20,000 for liability insurance, an overnight supervisor for every night (all other workers are volunteers) and supplies. Each of the Talbot County faith communities that participate in the Talbot Interfaith Shelter is working to raise a portion of that sum.

On Nov. 13, 14 and 15, during the Waterfowl Festival, volunteers from Christ Episcopal Church will once again serve their savory crab cakes and other tasty goodies on the church lawn. Christ Episcopal has pledged \$4,000 from sales at the Duck Inn to the Talbot Interfaith Shelter. Third Haven Friends Meeting will team up with the Downtown Table Tennis Club and the Easton Volunteer Fire Department to host a ping-pong tournament at the fire hall on Nov. 21, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Players of all ages and skill levels are welcome to compete. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded in a variety of age and skill brackets, so everyone will have a shot at winning. Entry fees are modest: \$15 for adults; and \$10 for youth (under 18), senior citizens (65 and over) and EVFD members.

Watch this space for details about the tournament schedule and registration. Preregistration is encouraged, for the number of entrants will be limited. So the surest way to guarantee yourself a berth is to preregister. Contact Peter Howell at phrasemaker@hotmail.com or 410-924-5752.

Anyone interested in volunteering for any of these TIS fundraisers is invited to contact Peter Howell.

Third Haven Monthly Meeting - Property & Grounds Annual Report

10th Month 11th, 2009

Dear Friends: This year has been focused on maintenance our property and grounds and improvements in specific areas. We have kept to our budget for year ending 6th month, 2009.

Overall - \$30,000 which is slightly more that half the overall Monthly Meeting budget. Some of the expenses of P & G have been paid by the Trustees.

Webster's compensation - \$18,000 (includes salary and health insurance) which is 60% of the P & G budget. No increase in salary for this year. Note: Websters receive use of the caretaker cottage at no cost.

Maintenance costs - \$5,000 which is 18% of the P & G budget (primarily for grass mowing and a few small contracts (tree removal, electric).

All Utilities (electric, oil, water, telephone) - \$5,000 which is 18% of the P & G budget. Cost of oil is about half of the utility cost.

FICA taxes and workers insurance - \$1,400 which is 4%.

Activities:

Spring spruce-up day. Great day and great success. Highlights include Bill Lane painting of the iron entrance gates and Jim Paul in deep discussion with Stephan Gerni while keeping a hand on a rake. Most thanks to the Meeting for their enthusiastic participation: Winslow repairing window sill in the old meetinghouse and trim on the common room. Leigh Ann pruning the rhododendron. Rob in caring for the trees in the meadow. Candace and Sam pruning the ivy at the brick entry posts.

A Contract with Duvall Brothers to grade and top dress all our drives and parking lots. The Trustees provided half the funds for this project.

P & G is working with contractors (and Trustees) to do more extensive pruning of trees (used to be an annual expense) and to repoint and putty the window in the old meeting house.

Butch, Clay, and Larny conducted a walk-about the buildings and grounds in November, noting and photo documenting the conditions. Randy Arnesen Termite and Pest Control did a separate walk-about, inspecting the crawl spaces of both meeting houses and caretaker cottage and the interiors of all buildings except the common room. No active infestations were found.

New refrigerator for the caretaker's house.

Caretaker: Sam and Vicky requested and took a weeks vacation this summer. First vacation in many years (ever?). Some rough patches (little advance notice and a discrepancy in vacation days), but will be smoother next time. To date the Websters have not expressed any desire to end their tenure as caretakers. But that day will come. The meeting should begin to address this.

Duties - Some have noticed a need for better general maintenance of the property and grounds. This is an on going issue. The Websters are responsive to direction on specific tasks, but the impetus seems to always come from the P & G committee and not from their own initiative. But they stepped forward and made our buildings and grounds present very well for the 325 celebrations. And they are continually integral in maintaining our peaceful sanctuary within bustling town. It was good that meeting members expressed thanks to the Websters for their effort and good work .

Committee: Leigh Ann Dodge, Stephen Gerni, Bob Kemp, Sr., Butch Kemp, Bill Lane, Jr., Clay Owens, Craig Smith, Sally Vermilye, Rob Weiland, Tylor Wrightson, Winslow Womack, Joyce Zeigler, and Larny Claggett. A great group and any interested are welcome to join - contact the nominating committee. We need to find a way for all to participate more.

Respectfully Submitted, Laurence G. Claggett, Jr., Clerk

“Self” and Humility *by Bob Marshall*

“...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than ourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:3,4

Martin Luther King Jr. once offered a sermon regarding the “Drum Major Instinct”. One is to imagine the drum major, leading the band members, chest puffed out, wearing brightly colored clothes, carrying a large baton, making motions and gestures to draw attention. The natural human instinct is to assert one’s self-importance, advertise it, and look to others for validation of one’s importance.

Humility is taught because it is an essential component of a relationship with God, of a life centered in the Divine opening. It is taught because, like so many other teachings, it is counterintuitive.

The confusion for many is that humility is often viewed as a synonym for the destruction of “self”. But, like everything else, “self” is a gift from God. Like all other gifts, “self” can be misused. If I use “self” for material gain, for satisfaction of sexual desires, seeking approval by others, then I have misused “self”. If instead, I dedicate “self” to understanding God’s will for me and acting upon that understanding, then “self” becomes a powerful force, properly harnessed, and providing deep satisfaction and joy. To harness “self” in this way requires humility. It requires the discipline to understand that the gift of “self” was not offered to me for my own gain and satisfaction, but that it was offered to me so that I could harness it through discipline and faith to act in a Spirit-led manner. Humility is not the destruction of “self”. Humility is necessary to unleash the power of “self” as a creative force for good.

A Note of Thankful Appreciation *from John Schreiner, Clerk of Third Haven:*

“In the past couple of months much has been happening around here. More than a few people have stepped up and pitched in. Truth is, I’m frankly proud of our meeting and all the Friends who have stepped forward to mark this period with energy, focus, care and appropriate action. From my perspective it’s extraordinary! As a result I’d like to just review the highlights of what’s been going on and finally, mention those who willingly took part (knowing full well I’ll have inadvertently overlooked some).

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- Formulating and gathering of a Quaker Quest steering committee
- Orchestrating 325th Anniversary events –
- Orlando Rideout’s insight into the construction of our Old Meeting House
- James Turrell’s presentation on light and form; and its relevance to our spirit and meeting house design
- Arthur Larrabee’s provocative take on the state of our spirituality and ways to re-examine our beliefs and purpose

Careful development of an important minute on same sex marriage under our care... in spontaneous response to a focus on equality

- Attending to memorial services for dear departed Friend, Pinny Claggett
- Book study group sessions
- Pinch-hitting with the start up of first day school sessions
- Sponsoring I Bring What I Love film in the Chesapeake Film Festival
- Hosting a series of Harriet Heath dealing with Quaker Parenting Initiative
- Planning a fund-raiser thru a ping-pong tournament

All this emerged this fall and each required thoughtful planning and preparation and some extensive targeted publicity, hospitality with food and flowers, and having our setting and grounds looking good.

I'd like to give special mention to Tom Corl and his work with both Quaker Quest and the development of the minute on same sex marriage under our care. And to Candace Shattuck and her work particularly on 325th anniversary events. And to Mary Cotton in her work with James Turrell's presence here; and to Marsie Hawkinson to her contributions to Rolando Ridout's special look at the old meeting house as well as Arthur Larrabee's presence; and to Paige Bethke for skipping no beat in helping to start up our first day schools fall program. Finally, kudo's to Molly for funding and organizing our outreach in sponsoring a film at the Chesapeake film festival.

Here are some of the many others who stepped forward in what has to be the busiest and most productive two months in modern times. Thank you: Cathy Thompson, Prescilla Morris, Butch Kemp, Joan Wetmore, Frank Zeigler, Sam Webster, Rob Wieland, Jamie duHoffman, Meredith Watters, Clay Owens, Ayana Paterson-Zinkand, Ralph Young, Bob Kemp, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Connie Lewis, Leigh Anne Dodge, Dee Rein, James and Kyung Turrell, Mark Beck, Norval Thompson, Beth Mufson, Pete Howell, Ann Williams, Sam Mullen, Cindy Browne, and finally, all those serving on standing committees and the 42 Friends who bothered to participate in our Sept 13th meeting for business."

"Exploring Quaker Faith and Family Life"



Harriet Heath, the Parenting Initiating Coordinator of PYM's Education Standing Committee conducts the second workshop. New participants are still welcome. Come and join in the enthusiastic discussions!

Climate Change and Meat Consumption

Our family took up the message from the Pennsylvania Climate Network concerning meat consumption and greenhouse gases at our dinner this evening. Our dinners have changed recently as one of the family members has chosen to become more parsimonious in her meat consumption.

I am not an earth scientist, so I only have a general knowledge of the issue. But it seems to me that any meat I eat was not long ago a plant, and before that it was carbon molecules in the atmosphere and the top layer of the soil. So, from a “mass balance” perspective, where is the additional carbon coming from, with respect to the production and consumption of meat? There is another layer of processing for the carbon pulled from the soil and the atmosphere to feed me, but it is not clear to me how more atmospheric carbon is created by adding this layer. It was already part of the carbon cycling that goes on around here.

The counter point to this idea was that adding meat animals to our food chain reduces important carbon sinks (places outside the atmosphere where carbon can be stored for longer periods) because it takes more acres of land to feed meat animals than if all that crop production was being directly consumed by people. Certainly, that must be true. You could sequester more carbon for slightly longer periods of time if you didn’t cut down so much forest to generate so much cropland. But there, it seems to me that you are not so much reducing additions to atmospheric carbon as trying to maintain a natural system that, even before it was lost, was being overwhelmed with respect to its regulation of atmospheric carbon.

The root of the greenhouse gas problem is that we are extracting 300 million years’ worth of sequestered carbon from its underground storage and spewing it into the atmosphere as quickly as is economic (without counting environmental costs). Our burning of fossil fuel is what creates excessive atmospheric carbon. So, while the production and consumption of meat has some knock-on effects in that process, what is really a problem is the way we grow our foods (with fertilizers produced with fossil fuels, using tractors run on fossil fuels), the way we distribute them (in planes, trucks and ships – all run on fossil fuels – and by way of grocery markets heated and cooled with fossil fuels), and in the way that we seem disposed to eat them (cool in the summertime and warm in the winter – all made possible in one way or another by fossil fuels).

I do not know how the Pennsylvania Climate Action group generated the carbon loading estimates for the various meat animals, but I expect that they are valid with respect to their assumptions. However, I think that most of what they are measuring is “carbon cycle” carbon, not the additional carbon that we annually put into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels. And, even if fossil fuels generate a smaller volume of carbon than is cycled by meat animals, I believe that the serious part of the problem lies in reducing those additions to atmospheric carbon. Perhaps by buying local, driving less, dressing for the weather, and generally being more thoughtful about burning fossil carbon.

Of course, it is a good idea to eat less meat for lots of reasons. But it is not clear that this will solve our climate change problem.

A Third Haven Friend

Friends Creating Community

