



Third Haven Friends Meeting

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DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?

How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding? *Query 12. Integrity and Simplicity*

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Eighth Day, Eleventh Month 2017



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

Present: Gwen Beegle, Molly Brian, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Benita Cooper, Susan Dickinson, Jeanne Halpin, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Martha Holthausen, Pete Howell Larissa Kitenko, Bill Lane, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Bill Schauer, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Ben Tilghman, Paige Tilghman, Bob Wack, Mary Yancey, Ralph Young, Harvey Zendt

Comments on Eleventh Query, Stewardship of Resources:

A member commented that the new edition of Faith and Practice does not have an analogous query, and this is important especially with regard to income inequality. The proposed economic development use of Easton Point, which is owned by the town, concerns a member who noted this property is owned by us and should conserve its natural resources.

Approval of minutes from Tenth Month business meeting-Approved

Clerks' Desk:

Christmas service: On Christmas Eve the Old Meeting House will be 333 years old, a third of a millennium. So we might meet there at 10 a.m. on Christmas Eve day. Ideas for committee participation were suggested. Worship and Ministry discussed using the Old Meeting House to start and the clerk moving all to the Brick Meeting House, where some people who didn't want to spend time in the cold might already be. Carol singing at Hospitality and publicity by Outreach have been volunteered. We might also have a short meeting for worship on Christmas day. Friends commented on the desirability of such a meeting and hospitality on Christmas. It was agreed for the Clerk of the Meeting and the Clerk of Worship and Ministry to develop this plan with the cooperation of others.

All Clerks Meeting: Committees discussed their activities, including the Common Room renovations. Committees are preserving our heritage and seeking the preservation of the community for the long term.

Property and Grounds will report later. Amy Owsley and Susan Claggett continue to explore a nature based preschool, and we are open to hearing more about that in the future.

Burial Grounds: *Cynthia Quast*

A plan for care for the burial grounds was discussed with designated donations managed through the Meeting's financial records.. The treasurer suggested tracking donations and care for the burial grounds and restricting donations received for this purpose. A scattering garden might be considered in the future. Some thought this might be a function of the Trustees. It was suggested this could be a cooperative activity with both Trustees and Meeting representatives.



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Continuing Sessions Report: *Lorraine Claggett*

1. At Continuing Sessions three councils: Nominating, Administrative and Quaker Life gave reports. 2. A sprint group has been established to get the new Faith and Practice published. 3. A couple of minutes of concerns were presented. 4. A grievance process is being established for staff. 5. The issues involved in Dublin Monthly Meeting's reading a member out of meeting is being addressed by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. 6. Pairs and lectures covered multicultural awareness. A multicultural audit of PYM is being conducted to assess racism in the Yearly Meeting. 7. Resource Friends will be available to help Monthly Meetings on topics such as Social Justice, Worship and Ministry, Young Adults and others. 8. The annual fund for the first time since 2012 was higher than the year before.



Property & Grounds Annual Summary 10/2016-10/2017: *Ben Tilghman* Accepted with thanks

As of the end of October Property and Ground's expenses should track closely with the annual agreed budget of \$30,000. Exact expenses associated with the Fall cleanup projects, which includes the planting of some 90 trees and shrubs and erecting deer protections measures, are still to come, but we should be within budget at year end.

Our activities during the past twelve months, as they have for past years, fallen into two main categories; the general monthly tasks associated with maintaining a 300+ year old facility, and the more significant expenses involving structural repairs and major functional alterations as the needs of the Meeting evolve over the years.

Of the general monthly tasks, not much need be said. The grass gets mowed, and the lawnmower repaired. The carpets are cleaned, the caretaker paid, the basic utilities maintained, road work continues, and doors repaired on the New Meeting house.

Of the more significant undertakings, there are four:

- 1) The Common Room: In this case P&G functioned in an mostly advisory capacity with some horse trading regarding the new hot water heater and some incidental expenses. The project was essentially funded outside of the P&G budget, and is completed.
- 2) New Meeting House Front & North Rear Steps: The trustees have agreed to support a major redesign - in keeping with the existing structure - of the stone steps on the exterior of the front and back doors to make them safer and easier to negotiate, particularly for Friends of a certain age. Some preliminary design work has been done; we are in the process of establishing cost.
- 3) New Meeting House, Fire Escape: What began as a rebuild of the existing wooden exterior stairway at the back of the meeting house has evolved into a major project. After discussions with the State Fire Marshal's office, we determined that replacing/rebuilding the existing wooden stairs was impracticable - if not illegal-

and would require a metal structure conforming to existing state and local fire codes. Further, we most likely would need to create a true door out of the existing converted window. Obviously a significant expense, P&G met with the trustees in October, and the trustees have agreed in principle to fund the project with the understanding that they retain final approval over the scope and expense. A major consideration in the trustees involvement was the use of the second floor for the First Day School in its current configuration, or perhaps as an expanded undertaking as proposed by the Clerks of the First Day School.

- 4) Remote Spigot: As a result of the plantings along the east end of the grounds, we need an easily accessible water source proximate to the plantings. This would involve a buried water line and a “year round” hydrant. We have not discussed this with the trustees yet. It is possible that with myself and Bill Lane, playing with a diesel powered trencher, we can lay the pipe and engage the services of a plumber to only do the hook ups at minimal expense.

The Property and Grounds Committee routinely meets monthly the first Fifth day -Thursday - of the month at 4:30, and as needed for special projects. All interested members and attenders are welcome. Additionally, Friends are encouraged to contact us at any time with concerns or suggestions about the good order of the premises and buildings. Submitted, with thanks to the members of the Committee.



Nominating Committee Preliminary Report: *Paige Tilghman*

A proposed list of committee memberships for 2018 will be distributed to members in announcements by the Communications clerk. Finalization will occur at the December Meeting for Business.

Testimonies and Concerns Annual Report: *Paige Tilghman* Accepted with thanks
Members: Paige Tilghman, Beth Mufson, Amy Owsley, Ryan Ewing, Harvey Zendt

The 2017 PYM Faith and Practice describes Witness in the World as a underlining responsibility of the meeting and describes the work as “A social concerns committee to help meeting members address a variety of issues in their community, state, nation, or world. The name of the committee may reflect work on issues of peace, social witness, racial justice, or environmental concerns. These committees: Plan and carry out service projects; Recommend actions to individuals and to the meeting itself as a corporate body; Encourage members to participate in work for social change through established Quaker organizations such as the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Committee on National Legislation; Engage in social actions consistent with Friends testimonies; Support a member or members in seeking to bring a particular concern to the attention of the monthly, quarterly or yearly meeting; Initiate consciousness-raising and skill-building activities that reflect Quaker testimonies and help to create a culture of anti-bias, peace and justice in new ways”. Testimonies and Concerns (T&C) reflects these priorities and encourages members and attenders to respond to the needs of our community and to participate in the various entities that relate to the mission and work of the Quaker community: PEACE, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Talbot Interfaith Shelter, American Friends Service Committee and the NAACP.

The Committee meets on the first First Day of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the First Day School Room. We benefit from the website as a platform for contribution and sharing of activity and as a tool to chronicle our work and to outreach to others. We consider our committee member contributions in serving on Testimonies & Concerns and align those interests as priorities for the year. These areas guide our work as individuals and as an invitation for members of THFM to become involved in social action: Women and Children and Hunger; Immigration Reform; Prison Reform; Nuclear Disarmament; and Environment. T&C oversees the Schoffner Fund, established in Memorial for John Schoffner, held by the Friends Fiduciary. The Schoffner Fund is dedicated to scholarships for young adults in foreign countries and to projects organized with THFM First Day School for education and peace. The Fund balance for 3rd Quarter 2017 is reported to be \$16,744.58. The Schoffner Fund has provided a college education for Susana Ramirez, a Bolivian student who is in her final year of medical school. A request for \$200.00 will be made to the Schoffner Fund to support the \$850.00

tuition for the last remaining semester. The balance of the tuition has been provided by contributions from THFM members.

Recent topic:



A letter was received from Sandra Herbert and Pete Howell, who met with Testimonies and Concerns re: Talbot County court house statues, including one with a confederate flag. T & C had a deep discussion on this topic. It was noted that a committee on this topic is being formed with Talbot county citizens of all persuasions to come up with a solution acceptable to as many Talbot Countians as possible. A member proposed that Third Haven send a representative to this committee since it was seen as historically appropriate for Quakers to participate. Pete Howell is willing to be this representative but for the moment will attend as a private citizen and keep us informed.

Comments noted: Part of our Quaker foundation is to support the equality and unity of all people; however, Quakers have never erected monuments. Putting a statue up disregards those of color who suffered the effects of slavery and fought it the longest. Future consideration of such ideas is recommended.

The topic will be held for next month's Meeting for Business, perhaps preceded by a threshing session.

Recommendations from Charitable Contributions Committee: Molly Brian

Organization	2016	2017
Friends Committee National Legislation	\$400	\$450
American Friends Service Committee	250	300
Friends General Conference	150	200
Friends Journal	100	150
Pendle Hill	200	250
William Penn House	200	250
Total Quaker Organizations	\$1,300	\$1,600
Talbot Interfaith Shelter	400	550
Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center	400	750
Easton Elementary School Care Packs	350	450
Neighborhood Service Center	250	700
Good Sam	600	650
Building African American Minds	200	300
Total Local Organizations	\$2,200	\$3,400
Total	\$3,500	\$5,000

This document shows 2016 disbursements of the \$3500 meeting budget for charitable contributions. The idea was to keep the same recipients for three years. This year the budget was \$3500. The onetime \$1500 additional amount in this document is based on a surplus of funds from this year's fortunate budget income, which allows for increases to the organizations on the list. More could be given with the approval of the meeting. Members commented on budget sums and affirmed donating more. The clerk of Budget and Finance clarified that the Meeting's goal is to maintain \$55-65000 (one year's expenses) in reserve at all times. This Charitable Contributions Committee will report back with further suggestions next month.

Minute on Ban on Nuclear Weapons: *Harvey Zendt* Approved

A part of the Quaker peace testimony is supporting a ban on nuclear weapons. Support of this minute aids national and international organizations involved in this effort. This minute brings attention to the current United Nations treaty that over 150 nations have signed but nuclear states have not signed. The clerk will send copies of this minute to the appropriate organizations, Friends Committee on National Legislation and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting among them.

Third Haven Monthly Meeting approved the minute below:

"In accordance with the Quaker Peace Testimony, Quakers have worked tirelessly for abolition of nuclear weapons ever since United States airplanes dropped two of these secretly produced bombs on August 6 and 9, 1945. The bombs destroyed both Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, and the world has not yet recovered from all that those two bombs destroyed. This treaty may seem imperfect to many Friends because it does not seek the elimination of nuclear energy as well as weapons. It is, however, the longest step world governments have taken toward the actual elimination of these weapons from our already wounded earth. There is much work yet to do if we are to achieve actual abolition, to which our own government is adamantly opposed. The United States Congress has allocated a trillion dollars, already being used, to modernize our own nuclear arsenal over the next thirty years. Very few of our citizens are even aware of this new United Nations treaty since the major media have not reported on its development or discussed publicly its impact. We request that all Friends and Quaker Meetings, which are so led, join to make this Treaty more widely known. Let us show our fellow citizens that the door to abolition of nuclear weapons is open. Let us proceed together as the Spirit leads and as the Way opens."

New Business

Outreach: Name tags: *Jeanne Halpin*

Outreach has purchased magnetic name tags to keep on a board for access upon arrival. The question is, "Who will wear them?" Outreach believes name tags help newer arrivals learn names and get to know people. The Outreach Committee encourages this change in our culture.

Meeting closed at 1:10 p.m. with silent worship.

D. Rein, Recording Clerk



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>

December 21 (Thursday)

Join us for a day of peace and inward renewal!

Inward Bound Quiet Day

December 21, 2017; 10am to 3pm (pot-luck lunch at 12 noon)

Common Room and grounds of Third Haven Friends Meeting

Join TH Friends in a silent retreat that offers a day of listening for the Light within, contemplation, reading, walking the grounds, writing, and self-chosen art activities. We enjoy a shared, silent potluck lunch, and end our session with a short sharing session. Come for all or part of the retreat. Information and/or RSVP:

Candace Shattuck candace.shattuck@gmail.com or Katherine Johnson katherinekai@goeaston.net

December 24 (Sunday)

On Christmas Eve our Old Meeting House will be one third of a millennium old!

At 10 am on December 24, 2017 we will honor this occasion by opening the Old Meeting House for worship. You will have the option of joining us there for spiritual reflection and worship. Dress warmly as there is no heat in the building other than that which we generate ourselves! We will also look forward to a "Hot and Hearty" hospitality, good fellowship, a children's program and carol singing at the rise of meeting.

January 7 (Sunday)

Spiritual Journeys

On January 7th, after the rise of meeting and some time for socialization, at approximately 11:30 Susan Dickerson will share her own personal spiritual journey. We will meet in the Common Room. The sharing will last about 20 minutes including some time for questions. This will be the third in a series offered by Worship & Ministry, of monthly presentations by individuals sharing their own personal spiritual journeys. If you would like to share your own journey please email Mark Beck.

January 21 (Sunday)

Southern Quarter

Southern Quarter will meet January 21, in Lewes, DE. Consider going to an away game. More than a handful from Third Haven attended the most recent gathering in September at Chester River Meeting in Chestertown. We will host this event in May, 2018.

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Norval Thompson passed this message along from FCNL:

"I'm forwarding the article about the Quaker Welcome Center that appeared in yesterday's Washington Post. We are very happy to get this coverage and we're imagining the many possibilities of what our presence as a Quaker organization can open for civil dialogue here on the Hill. Thanks to each of you for your help and inspiration!"

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/new-space-in-dc-intends-to-play-host-to-bipartisan-dialogue/2017/11/25/8501db0c-cb0a-11e7-8321-481fd63f174d_story.html?utm_term=.9dd3b282c48b

Diane Randall Executive Secretary

Friends Committee on National Legislation

A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest

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Spiritual Formation

Third Haven Friends Meeting offered the Spiritual Formation Program again this year, beginning in March 2017 and ending in November 2017. Members of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Spiritual Formation Collaboration facilitated the program, along with Katherine Johnson. The Spiritual Formation Program offers components of retreats, personal spiritual disciplines, Quaker and associated readings, devotional groups, and prayerful support. These combine to provide a structured community in which each member was open to the Divine and prepared to follow leadings, as well as to nurture each other. Participants agreed to participate in their small reading group and their smaller spiritual support group monthly and to attend each of the three weekend retreats.

Nineteen individuals (18 from Third Haven) participated in the program. Third Haven Worship and Ministry is grateful for the PYM Spiritual Formation Collaboration for their wise and loving presence and leadership. Katherine Johnson, Connie Crow, Dona Sorce, and Cynthia Quast provided oversight for the program, planning logistics for each retreat, nurturing the activities of the reading and small groups, and meeting regularly to ensure program quality.

During the nine months, many insights and deep relationships were forged in this intimate exchange. The richness of this program has served our treasured Third Haven Friends Meeting in ways that continue to unfold. We are blessed to be in a community that nurtures us all to deepen and grow spiritually.

Katherine Johnson



Christmas Eve Day Meeting for Worship 3rd of a Millennium Celebration

The Old Meeting House will be open for worship at 10AM with Clerk Molly Brian. The Brick Meeting House with Candace Shattuck clerking will also be open for those who feel the weather is too hard for them. Worship and Ministry will have a reading prepared that is appropriate to honor the occasion. If the weather is too bitter, the Clerk may call the worship time a little sooner than one hour and participants may then join in the Brick Meeting House if they want to. All are encouraged however to dress warmly and last the whole hour if possible in honor of those who have worshipped there before us. Hospitality is ready with their theme of "Hot and

Hearty". Susan Claggett will be prepared to present a short children's program at the rise of meeting for worship in the Common Room. John Turner will lead us in Christmas Carols.

In other words, our celebration will be low key and lovely focusing on honoring those who have worshipped in the Old Meeting House for generations while celebrating our community.

Thank you, First Day School students and parents, for the pretty wreaths adorning our doors. Your creativity enhances our Meeting!

