



## Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

(410) 822-0293

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## JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

*Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all worshippers? Query 1*

“When you warm other people’s hearts, you remain warm yourself. When you seek to support, encourage and inspire others; then you discover support, encouragement and inspiration in your own life as well.”  
Yankel

### **Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Eleventh Day Twelfth Month 2016**

Molly Burgoyne Brian, Co-Clerk of the Meeting, gathered together the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:30 a.m. after a brief period of silence. The clerk opened the meeting with the decision making second paragraph from Faith and Practice, page 21.

**Attending:** 25 attended: Gwen Beegle, Molly Brian, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Connie Crow, Debbie Danser, Ed Danser, Jean Halpin, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Katherine Johnson, Bill Lane, Connie Lewis, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Adrienne Rudge, Candace Shattuck, Robert Shattuck, Ben Tilghman, Paige Tilghman, Bob Wack, Dolores Wack, Robert Wieland, Ralph Young.

**Comments on Twelfth Query,** Integrity and Simplicity (read at Meeting for Worship)- none

**Approval of minutes from Eleventh Month business meeting** Approved

#### **Clerks Desk**

Request for Membership from Connie Crow read and referred to Overseers.

#### **Treasurer’s Report- Cynthia Quast**

Financial Update from Treasurer as of December 11, 2016

July 1 – Dec. 11, 2016

Member Contributions	=	\$18,857 = 35% of annual budget
Total Income	=	\$23,657 = 38% of annual budget
Total Expenses	=	\$27,540 = 44% of annual budget

Net Income = -\$3,882

The treasurer noted that we are half way through our fiscal year and that end of calendar year donations often occur. Please consider making a contribution for the meeting budget to:

Treasurer, Third Haven Monthly Meeting  
P.O. Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

**Nominating Committee Final Report** – Adrienne Rudge

**THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING 2017**

**CLERKS**

Clerk Monthly Meeting Molly Burgoyne Brian  
Assistant Clerks Paige Tilghman, Adrienne Rudge  
Recording Clerks Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins  
Treasurer Cynthia Quast  
Membership Recorder Marsie Hawkinson

**COMMITTEES**

*Budget & Finance:* Bill Lane, Clerk; Doreen Getsinger, Neil Mufson, Sumner Parker, Cynthia Quast (Treasurer of the Meeting), Nancy Robbins, Bill Schauer, Bob Wack, Winslow Womack

*Charitable Contributions:* Molly Burgoyne Brian, Clerk; Lorraine B. Claggett, Norval Thompson, Paige Tilghman

*Common Room:* Candace Shattuck, Clerk; Mark Beck, Bill Lane, Jr., John Schreiner, Joan Wetmore

*Communications:* John Hawkinson, Clerk, Newsletter editor; Tatiana Harrison, website manager; Dee Rein, Newsletter & Telephone; Ralph Young, photographer

*Facilities Use:* Ann Williams, Clerk; Adrienne Rudge, Larissa Kitenko, e-mail contact.

*First Day School:* Susan Claggett, Clerk, Amy Owsley, Assistant Clerk; Alyssa Ehrsham, Martha Holthousen, Beth Mufson, Katie Theeke, Sally Claggett & Cathy Thompson (story tellers).

*Hospitality:* Dona Sorce, Susan Dickinson, Co-Clerks; Catherine Cripps, Beth Mufson, Willow Pittman, Adrienne Rudge, Dolores Wack, Heidi Wetzl, Helen Womack, Winslow Womack, Lainie Wrightson, Mary Yancey

*Library:* Joyce Macijeski, Clerk; Lorraine B. Claggett, Susan Dickinson, Ralph Young, Frank Zeigler, Online Library: Tatiana Harrison

*Nominating Committee:* Paige Tilghman, Clerk; Dona Sorce, Bill Lane, Jr.

*Outreach:* Jeanne Halpin, Mary Yancey, Co-Clerks; Lorraine B. Claggett, Peter Howell

*Overseers:* Dona Sorce, Clerk, Adrienne Rudge, Assistant Clerk; Laurence Claggett, Jr., Lorraine B. Claggett, Marsie Hawkinson, Connie Lewis, Nancy Robbins

*Property and Grounds:* Robert Wieland, Clerk, Ben Tilghman, Assistant Clerk; Laurence Claggett, Jr., Ed Danser, Bob Day, Susan Dickinson, Bill Lane, Jr., Priscilla Morris, Clay Owens, Amy Owsley, Nancy Robbins, Phil Sayre, Bob Wack, Joan Wetmore

*Scholarship:* Marsie Hawkinson, Clerk; Lorraine B. Claggett, Benita Cooper, Debbie Danser, Doreen Getsinger, Peter Howell, Neil Mufson, Sumner Parker, Sally Vermilye, Joan Wetmore

*Testimonies & Concerns:* Paige Tilghman, Clerk; Cynthia Browne, Ryan Ewing, Jeanne Halpin, Beth Mufson, Amy Owsley, Dona Sorce

*Worship & Ministry:* Gwen Beegle, Clerk; Mark Beck, Tom Corl, Catherine Cripps, Susan Dickinson, Jeanne Halpin, Katherine Johnson, Valerie Sypula, John Turner, Mary Yancey

**REPRESENTATIVES**

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): Leigh Anne Dodge

Detention Center Library: Ralph Young, Molly Burgoyne Brian, Leigh Anne Dodge, Beth Mufson, Robert Wieland

Food Link: Heidi Wetzl, Winslow Womack

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Frank Zeigler, Norval Thompson, Brandt Bethke

Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger: (Marilla's Lunches) Ralph Young

NAACP, Talbot County: Doreen Getsinger

P.E.A.C.E.: Ralph Young

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM): Dawn Atwater, Lorraine B. Claggett, Catherine Cripps

Southern Quarterly Meeting: Connie Lewis, Winslow Womack

Talbot Assoc. of Clergy & Laity (TACL): Jeanne Halpin  
Talbot Interfaith Homeless Shelter (TIS): Peter Howell (Point of Contact), Lorraine B. Claggett  
Questions around the Interfaith Housing Corporation were answered with an anticipated plan for another organization to take over the task of affordable housing provision on Delmarva. Interest was expressed in a report on the Neighborhood Service Center. Perhaps our committee structure could work on this topic. Report Accepted

## **Worship & Ministry 2016 Annual Report** - Gwen Beegle



### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Worship and Ministry Committee (WMC) was approved at the 10.3.11 meeting for business. The (abbreviated) purpose is:

- *Meeting for Worship* – The WMC cares for the meeting for worship.
- *Spiritual Nurture* – The WMC nurtures and supports the Spiritual life of the meeting, and the Spiritual journeys of members and attenders.

▪ *Adult Religious Education* – The WMC provides opportunities for the Meeting community to learn about our *Faith and Practice*, the Religious Society of Friends, and Quaker and other Spiritual practices. The Committee offers teaching and learning opportunities to support the meeting for worship, and the Spiritual journeys of members and attenders.

### **Worship and Ministry Committee**

The participating members of the WMC for 2016 were: Mark Beck, Gwen Beegle, Tom Corl, Catherine Cripps, Susan Dickinson, Jeanne Halpin, Katherine Johnson, Valerie Sypula, John Turner and Mary Yancy. In addition for the WMC, Peg Walbert cares for the midweek meeting for worship and Mike Pullen facilitates the Course in Miracles. Gwen Beegle clerked the WMC this year. The WMC met monthly at the rise of meeting for worship on 4<sup>th</sup> day, except for 7<sup>th</sup> month. Members attended WMC meetings regularly and actively supported many WMC programs and activities.

### **Meeting for Worship**

All the members of the WMC attend the meeting for worship as regularly as possible, listen, experience and appreciate the meeting for worship, silence and vocal ministry. The WMC considers and discusses the meeting for worship and vocal ministry at each WMC meeting. The WMC often discusses the rise of meeting for worship. The WMC finds the meeting for worship consistently meaningful, spiritual, rich and nourishing for members, attenders and visitors. Newcomers and visitors frequently acknowledge the meaningfulness of the meeting for worship in attracting them and leading them into participation in Third Haven Friends Meeting. The Third Haven meeting for worship, and participation in it, are blessings, appreciated by members, attenders and visitors. The Third Haven meeting for worship is a great gift from each of us to all of us. The WMC seeks to nurture and sustain our blessed meeting for worship.

The WMC provides greeters before the meeting for worship to welcome members, attenders and visitors. Greeters offer various pamphlets, brochures and information to visitors and those new to the Third Haven and our Quaker meeting for worship. Members of the WMC read the 12 Queries on the First Day of meeting for business and the 4 Advices in meeting for worship during the year.

The attendance at meeting for worship varies from week to week and month to month. Based on estimated counts, attendance averages 50-60. Attendance at a few meetings for worship approached 80. In summer months, attendance drops to around 40-45. This count includes children and adults who go out for First Day School. The meeting for worship continues to attract visiting Friends, non-Friends, and seekers curious about Quakers and our way of worship. It seems that Third Haven averages 2-3 visitors each First Day, sometimes many more. Members of WMC, the Outreach Committee, Overseers and other Friends often greet visitors at the rise of meeting for worship and follow-up with visitors as may be appropriate.

Approximately 5-7 people consistently attend 4<sup>th</sup> day meeting for worship, with up to 8-10 on dates that coincide with other meetings, including monthly WMC meetings.

Late arrivals and coming and going during meeting for worship continue to be problems. The WMC reminds Friends – to “come with heart and mind prepared for worship” and arrive on time. Reminders happen periodically through the year.

Vocal ministry was a concern for many this year and to assist the meeting a brief paper “On Hearing Vocal Ministry” was written and disseminated through announcements at the rise of meeting, through the newsletter, and the website.

### **Worship and Ministry Programs**

The WMC offered a variety of adult religious education opportunities, programs and activities in 2016.

#### Faith and Practice Sessions

Beginning in the spring, the committee discussed how to address the educational needs of new members and attenders. Faith and Practice revisions had been disseminated by PYM and approval of the new book was anticipated in July. The committee decided to use the as yet unapproved draft as the foundation for study sessions to be held in the fall and winter of 2016. While the revisions were not approved by PYM in July, the Faith and Practice sessions have been a successful education program.

The purpose of these sessions is to orient new and long time members to the content of Faith and Practice and to provide reading companions and discussion opportunities to those who wish to learn what it means to be a Friend. Organized into six, 75-minute discussions, the Faith and Practice Sessions are facilitated by Friends in the Common Room at the rise of meetings for worship. A simple meal is provided prior to each session. Three sessions have been held thus far, with from 15-20 participants at each session.

- September 25 Experience and Faith, facilitated by Gwen Beegle and Susan Dickinson,
- October 23 Faith Reflected in Practice and Daily Life, facilitated by Tom Corl and Catherine Cripps
- November 6 Faith Reflected in our Organization, facilitated by Jeanne Halpin and Gwen Beegle

Three sessions will be held in 2017 to complete the series. WMC appreciates the willingness of Friends to facilitate and attend the sessions.

#### Monthly Discussions

Mark Beck facilitated monthly discussion sessions, open to the wider local community (starting at 6:15 pm, lasting for 1 hour and 15 minutes). Mary Yancy co-facilitated some sessions this year. Topics for discussion offered opportunities for personal and spiritual understanding and growth. These discussions were much appreciated by many different Friends and others. The 2016 discussion topics were:

January	Word Origination
February	Beatitudes 1
March	Beatitudes 2
April	Beatitudes 3
May	Beatitudes 4
June	Samira Thomas
July	Mental Violence
August	Spiritual Practices 1
September	Spiritual Practices 2
October	Pema Chodren

WMC appreciates Mark's contribution to the spiritual community through his organization and facilitation of these discussions.

#### Carl Jung Study Group

Catherine Cripps organized and facilitated the Carl Jung Study Group, under the care of the WMC. The group studies and reflects on texts by Carl Jung and works inspired by him. Catherine Cripps facilitated most of the discussions, and Katherine Johnson also facilitated two sessions. The Jung Study Group meets the 2nd Tuesday each month at 6:00pm in the Common room and uses readings, DVD's, workshops and outside speakers. Twice last year the local community was invited to attend workshops facilitated by Jungian scholars and analysts.

About half of the participants are from Third Haven. Several new names have been added to the email list. The Jung group is proving to be a good outreach program for the Meeting. Some in the group are practicing psychologists or therapists with very great experience with Jungian approaches to psychology and Spirituality. The Jung Group will continue in 2017, with Catherine facilitating. The WMC appreciates Catherine's work to organize and facilitate the Jung Group, a valuable addition to WMC programs, serving the wider local community.

#### First Day Conversations

Facilitated by Susan Dickinson, First Day Conversations is a new program by Worship and Ministry which began in April, 2016 and continues to meet the First and Third First Days from 8:50-9:50 before meeting for worship. Topics are announced by Susan at the rise of meeting the week before. Example topics have included kindness, gratitude, prayer, the harvest, and wildness of God. Susan provides coffee and breakfast foods to accompany the conversations. WMC appreciates Susan's leading to organize and facilitate these conversations that serve to deepen and extend the spiritual experience and community of our Meeting.

#### Inward Bound

Katherine Johnson and Candace Shattuck organized and facilitated Inward Bound on behalf of the WMC. Inward Bound is a silent retreat or quiet day held 4 times a year – 3-22, 6-23, 9-22, and scheduled for 12.20. Participation varies between 5 participants to 12 participants and has drawn seekers from Third Haven as well as the local population and the Southern Quarter. Sessions run from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, including silent reflection, other silent activities, potluck lunch and worship sharing at the end.

Inward Bound provides the opportunity for a weekday retreat and time for silent reflection for members and attenders of Third Haven Friends Meeting, members of Southern Quarterly Meeting, and occasionally participants from the wider community. Participants are encouraged to find Spirit-led activities that encourage listening for the Light within, reflection, reading and enjoying the grounds of Third Haven. Inward Bound

will continue in 2017. The WMC is grateful to Katherine Johnson and Candace Shattuck for organizing these silent retreats.

### Spiritual Formation Program

Worship and Ministry explored the possibility of a Spiritual Formation Program to be offered in 2017. Members of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Spiritual Formation Collaboration have been contacted and plans have been made for a program to run from March 2017 through November 2017. They will facilitate the program, joined by Katherine Johnson of Third Haven. Gwen Beegle will clerk the Oversight Committee. Planning for the program is currently underway.

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 may discern God's call and prepare to follow it. During the nine months many insights and deep relationships are forged in this intimate exchange. Participants agree to participate in their small reading group and their smaller spiritual support group monthly and to attend each of the three retreats. The program is open to all who wish to attend; a fee of \$50 for program administration will be requested upon sign up.

The program includes the following dates:

Interest session: November 20, 2016 and scheduled Jan 15, 2017

Opening Retreat: Weekend of March 24-26, 2017 (Friday pm, Saturday, Sunday am)

Midyear Gathering: Saturday June 3, 2017 (day)

Closing Retreat: Weekend of November 17-19, 2017 (Friday pm, Saturday, Sunday am)

Monthly Spiritual Friendship Gatherings

Monthly Reading Group Meetings

Approximately 20 people from Third Haven have indicated interest. Further Introductory sessions are planned, as well as outreach to the larger community and the Southern Quarter. Third Haven Worship and Ministry is grateful for the PYM Spiritual Formation Collaboration for their wise and loving presence and leadership.

### Course in Miracles

*A Course in Miracles* is an individualized, self-study curriculum that leads towards knowledge. Knowledge, as used in the *Course*, comes of itself when we meet its conditions. The condition of knowledge is *peace*, which can be taught and *is* the goal of the curriculum. The *Course* includes both a metaphysical framework and daily lessons for practical application. It uses *forgiveness*, to lead us beyond our own mistakes, our misperceptions, and ultimately our own misidentification towards acceptance of others and ourselves, as we truly are, brothers and sisters sharing the same journey, "a journey without distance to a goal that has never changed." The weekly discussion group meets Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm in the common room following silent worship. The group has been meeting for several years and is open to anyone with an interest in the *Course*. The group typically includes 3-4 members and usually takes summers off. Mike and the WMC encourage new participation.

### Singing

John Turner convened singing opportunities before meeting for worship, 9:15-9:45 on First Days 3/20, 6/26, 9/25, and 12/11. On one occasion there was only one other singer, but on others from 6-11 participants.

## Conclusion

Third Haven Friends Meeting has a long tradition of Spirit-led practice in its WMC, caring for the meeting for worship and the Spiritual journeys of members and attenders. The WMC encourages all members and attenders to come to meeting for worship as often as possible, with heart and mind prepared, at the appointed hour of worship. Friends should participate in and support the meeting for worship, in expectant silence or with vocal ministry, as moved by the Spirit. Third Haven is blessed with a deep, rich and nurturing meeting for worship, and a vital and growing Meeting community. The WMC is grateful for the opportunity to help nurture and support the meeting for worship and the Spiritual life of the Third Haven Friends Meeting. Members expressed how varied and impressive the committee's work has been.  
Report Accepted

## Proposed Operating Guidelines- Candace Shattuck



### **THIRD HAVEN OPERATING GUIDELINES**

*This statement has been prepared to clarify Third Haven's vision, our purpose, our values and what actions or activities we see as important in both the spiritual and physical realms. The hope is that these will help people new to Third Haven understand how we operate, and will also serve as a reference for more experienced Friends.*

#### **OUR VISION**

Third Haven will remain a peaceful, tolerant and viable Quaker community where people seek the Divine in everyday life and share the belief that there is that of God in every human being.

#### **OUR PURPOSE**

To continue the tradition of offering unprogrammed silent worship in the manner of Friends; to continue to grow in faith and action; to preserve our heritage and build our future.

#### **OUR VALUES**

To live guided by Spirit, following Friends' testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship.

#### **OUR LONG TERM INTENTIONS**

##### Spiritual

Conduct meeting for worship with attention to the presence of God.

Care for one another.

Invite and welcome all.

Offer strong religious education programs for adults and children.

Encourage and support active engagement in issues of peace and social justice.

Encourage active involvement in our local community.

Encourage active participation in the operation of Meeting.

##### Physical

Preserve historical Meeting Houses.

Allow Common Room to evolve to serve the needs of our community.

Maintain all buildings in good repair, in keeping with "Quaker aesthetics,"

Plain yet pleasing design

Unpretentious  
High quality materials  
Built to last  
Low maintenance  
Safe

Maintain graveyard/memorial areas in good order.

Keep grounds natural and healthy, for example by eliminating invasive species and planting natives.

Consider the environmental impact of all decisions relating to operation of the Meeting.  
Consider both long and short term goals in using Meeting financial resources prudently.  
Approved

### **State of Meeting Report (Draft)**-*Molly Brian and Candace Shattuck, Co-clerks*

Third Haven Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting - Dec. 11, 2016

Third Haven Friends Meeting continues to flourish. Our membership continues to grow (3 new members this year, 152 total members), our weekly attendance is stable (about 40-65/week), and all of our committees are active. On many First Days, we have enjoyed the company of new attenders and visitors.

**Overseers-** This committee continues their excellent work reaching out to members in need, conducting clearance committees, welcoming new members, organizing New Member and Attenders luncheon. They have helped families with memorial services and looked into issues of aging and end of life.

**Worship & Ministry-** This committee is responsible for upholding the spiritual life of the Meeting and deepening our worship service. They have continued sessions on spiritual journeys, devotional readings, Course on Miracles, book club and Inward Bound days. This year they are conducting sessions on the newly revised Faith and Practice and planning a Spiritual Formation course for 2017.

**Testimonies and Concerns-** This group remains active in local, national and worldwide concerns. They continue to work with the Hunger Coalition, Talbot Interfaith Shelter and the Talbot County Detention Center locally. They remain involved with The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform, White Privilege Conference and the Syrian refugee crisis. They work with the Meeting's Charitable Contributions Committee on right spending of Meeting's resources. They are considering construction of a Peace Pole as a visual reminder of the Peace testimony. They help maintain an active booklist. They manage the John Shoffner Education Fund and keep in touch with students we sponsor in Bolivia. They continue programs on issues of social justice, right sharing of resources and protection of the environment.

**Property and Grounds-** This committee has had a very active year. In addition to regular attention to replacing worn out items, they supervised the building of the lovely handicap access ramp to the Old Meeting house. They also renovated the bathrooms in the Common Room so they are gender-neutral and wheelchair accessible. They have cleared the overgrown brush on our east border and have done much work on this part of the grounds improving it substantially. They are planning to work with Overseers on

maintenance and improvement of the burial grounds. Good environmental practices have been the foundation of their focus and efforts.

**First Day School-** Although our numbers in FDS remain small, the core group is active and a joy to the rest of us. We continue to explore ways to attract families and children of all ages. Our **Scholarship Committee** does an excellent job of communicating with grant recipients, reaching out to our College age members and encouraging younger members to attend Quaker schools.

**Outreach-**Last year was a very busy year for this group with the George Fox Forums. This venture both attracted many people and at the same time gave us great insight into the limitations of our Common Room when hosting larger groups. We will be reforming our Common Room Committee in 2017 to look into this with a focus on improving the multi-use of this space.

**Budget and Finance, Library, Communications and Hospitality committees-** These groups are vital to the day to day functioning and life of the Meeting. Their work is reflected in their annual reports and is active and impressive. **Facilities Use** updated our compensation structure this year to reflect current practices.

**Representatives of other organizations-** We are fortunate to have several members dedicated to groups outside of Third Haven such as Talbot Association of Clergy & Laity, NAACP, FCNL, PYM and several others. Their communications to us appear in our meetings for business, announcements and newsletters.

**Operating Guidelines-** After several All Clerks Meetings, we have written Operating Guidelines that have been approved by Meeting. We hope these guidelines will give us a template to use as we move forward into the next 5-7 years and help new Friends understand the work of Meeting more clearly.

*Third Haven Friends Meeting is an active, lively and engaged Quaker community of seekers blending together, respecting our differences and moving into the future with love for one another and attention to Quaker Faith and Practice.*

The state of the meeting report will be disseminated by announcements for further comments.

#### **Old Business:**

1. The clerking Workshop with Arthur Larrabee still has opening for attendees. It will be all day Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Candace Shattuck to reserve a seat. (Attendance limited to 40)
2. The Friends General Conference Nominating Committee meeting to be held at Third Haven still does not have a date. One will be requested to facilitate scheduling our own events.
3. Meeting members met with Congressman Harris' representative about a senate bill on criminal justice reform.

#### **New Business** –none

Meeting closed at 12:15p.m. with silent worship.

*D. Rein, Recorder*

**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>

## **Spiritual formation at Third Haven in 2017**

The Third Haven Worship and Ministry Committee (WMC), in collaboration with experienced facilitators from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM), will offer the Spiritual Formation program again in 2017. About 20 of us participated when this was last offered in 2011. Spiritual Formation enables participants to:

- Develop their own spiritual practices;
- Deepen their spiritual lives;
- Learn more about Quaker faith, practice and history; and
- Enrich the spiritual life of the Third Haven Friends Meeting community.

I participated in the 2011 Spiritual Formation program. A few came from outside the Meeting community. Though it took a considerable time commitment, I found the benefits very significant and lasting for me personally and spiritually, for our WMC and the Third Haven community.

There are a variety of Spiritual Formation gatherings with different groupings and purposes. The 2017 program schedule will be:

- Sunday, January 15, 2017: WMC members and PYM facilitators will conduct an “Interest Session” to present information and answer questions. This will follow meeting for worship, and our 11:30 am hospitality. This session will be 12:00 - 1:00 pm. Friends are encouraged to attend. Friends for Southern Quarterly Meeting are invited. This session will help you discern whether you want to commit to participation.
- Friday - Sunday, March 24-26, 2017: The “Opening Retreat” begins on Friday evening with dinner and ends on Sunday before lunch. This will include a full program of information, discussions and spiritual discipline exercises, to launch the program and engage participants.
- Saturday June 3, 2017: The “Midyear Gathering” will be a day-long meeting to review and assess the Spiritual Formation experience. It will include additional information, discussions and group spiritual exercises.
- November 17-19, 2017: The “Closing Retreat” begins on Friday evening with dinner and ends on Sunday before lunch. This reviews and culminates the whole 2017 Spiritual Formation program at Third Haven.
- The “Monthly Reading Group Meetings” are scheduled at the convenience of the participants. The readings are rich and meaningful, with a focus on Quaker texts, faith and practices. However, several texts come from other spiritual traditions, enrich the experience. Reading groups consisted of 8-10. I can attest to the excellent readings and rich discussions.
- The small (4-5 Friends) “Monthly Spiritual Friendship Gatherings” proved to be very valuable. These too are scheduled at the convenience of the participants, and easy to reschedule as needed. These small and intimate groups explored Quaker and other spiritual practices. Friends in small groups deeply share their spiritual journeys and experiences. Small groups are especially helpful in nurturing spiritual development.

My experience in the 2011 was very helpful to me personally and spiritually. There have been real benefits to the Meeting community as well. Many of us who participated in 2011 are considering participating in Spiritual Formation again 2017. I hope you will attend the interest session on January 15, and consider participating in Spiritual

Formation in 2017. Friends should feel free to discuss the program with Katherine Johnson, Gwen Beegle, others who participated in Spiritual Formation in 2011 and me.  
*Tom Corl*

Worship and Ministry Committee  
Third Haven Friends Meeting

### **Marilla's Lunches**

Helpers are always welcome to help prepare Marilla's lunches for delivery to homebound folks. January through April lunches are prepared at Asbury AME church; May-December lunches are prepared at Third Haven. Join us the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. All helping hands welcome for assembly or delivery.



### **Christmas Play and Cookies**



