



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

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February 2021 NEWSLETTER

Paige Tilghman shares her poem based on a message from Meeting for Worship on the First Day, January 24.

A Beautiful Day

Our lives thrown out before us
Like smooth pebbles skipped over the lake of time
Punctuated with exuberant brilliance,
poised in flight,
Fading to the horizon
Touching down for moments;
a day, birth, a death, a year
An hour a week of dedicated silence
A skip
A drop to the depth of our being
And we are here where we are found

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.

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Tenth Day First Month 2021

Opening Silent Worship Molly Brian, Clerk of the Meeting, gathered together the meeting for worship with attention to business at 4 p.m. with a brief period of silence.

Attending: 20 attended: Molly Burgoyne Brian, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Stephanie French, Jeanne Halpin, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Janet Kemp, Larissa Kitenko, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Connie Lewis, Priscilla Morris, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Adrienne Rudge, Jonathan Slocum, Dona Sorce, John Turner

Comments on the Query Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Worship

Focus on line of being attentive, nonjudgmental listeners was noted as well as the difficulty of doing this. Listening with a completely open mind and letting the way be led as the worship continues is the key.

A message may not be for everyone but every message is for someone.

Approval of minutes for December business meeting **Approved**

All mail to the Treasurer should be sent to the PO BOX 2379 address. See page 5 under treasurers report address should be PO Box 2379 address

Clerks Desk

State of Meeting Report 2020 Approved

Worship Summary

In a year like no other, Third Haven Friends Meeting quickly embraced the new reality of the COVID pandemic and its consequences. With the help of computer communications technology, Friends dedicated themselves to the task of finding new and innovative ways to stay connected. We started Zoom meetings on March 22nd and successfully combined both Zoom and live in-person worship during the warmer months. We briefly opened our 1684 meetinghouse in September and October, before the pandemic surged again. Safety remains our number one priority, as we carefully follow our Talbot County Health Department's guidelines, frequently speaking to local public health officials for advice. So far, we have been able to continue in-person Wednesday evening meetings for worship, with only 5-6 Friends gathering at that time, following social distancing and mask guidelines. The Wednesday meetings are also held virtually simultaneously. At this point, we realize that some of our members and attenders do not feel comfortable on (Zoom) virtual platforms or meeting in-person. We will continue to develop and implement innovative ways to keep as many people as possible connected and engaged in the meeting.

Committee Work

Pastoral Care

At the beginning of the pandemic, our Pastoral Care Committee increased its efforts to contact members and attenders on a regular basis. Every person was asked what their needs were, how we could help and what type of contact they felt comfortable with. A variety of responses helped direct us towards individualizing services (how often to call, how much tech help they needed, etc.). The Committee focused on people with serious health problems and their caregivers, families schooling from home, and Friends in social isolation. We are constantly reevaluating our outreach in the Meeting efforts to keep our Friends engaged, while being sensitive to meet them "where they are."

Worship and Ministry

The core value of the Meeting is supporting spiritual growth. Our Meeting is known for its deep listening and Spirit-led vocal ministry. Worship and Ministry worked hard to

keep the sense of the Divine alive and pertinent during changing times. We have had discussions about how hard it is to center on Zoom versus when we are together in each other's physical presence. We realize the experiences are not the same. The Committee continues traditional practices of greeting people to worship, reading the queries and offering guided meditation and readings groups. In December, along with Pastoral Care, Worship and Ministry Committee started special services for "Healing-Holding others in the Light" on Zoom.

Testimonies and Concerns

The ways this year has affected our day-to-day activism has been profound. We have all found it frustrating to be cut-off from our usual volunteer work and social outreach. The Committee held several meetings discussing engagements in important issues and found ways to contribute back to our community and to Quaker organizations. We are currently engaging with a group from Baltimore Yearly Meeting to address issues presented to Maryland General Assembly, most specifically environmental issues. Many of us continued our individual efforts including working locally on social justice issues, income and racial inequities, homelessness, meat packing workers, and nature sanctuaries. One special project this year has been to help a historic African American "sister" church, Asbury United Methodist Church, rebuild its soup kitchen for community use. Our efforts are going well so far. The Committee also allocates funding from our Shoffner Educational fund in international outreach. We have helped pay a Bolivian Quaker's way through her medical school. The Committee publishes an annual Giving Guide to help Friends donate to worthy groups at years end.

First Day School

What a big change this year has been for our families and small children. Children and their parents' lives have changed drastically. First Day School (FDS) has managed to stay in touch with families by Zoom, by sharing of resources and by Godly Play lessons. We delivered games, such as Fox and Fell in the spring, sent families age-appropriate anti-racist books and lessons, had a virtual pizza party and even decorated Christmas wreaths for Meeting. During Advent, we held a "Reverse Advent" activity and collected much needed food and personal items for a local service center. FDS continues to be amazing in their innovation and connection during most challenging conditions.

Property and Grounds

Our hoped-for plans of expansion and renovation have been temporarily tabled. The silver lining in this allows us to carefully plan needed repairs on the 1684 Meeting House. We have located talented craftsmen skilled in historic buildings to help ensure quality preservation work. We continue holding periodic workdays on the property because outdoor activities with social distancing is safe and fun!

Queries for Other Meetings

Everyone misses our in-person worship and wonderful hospitality time. We long for the good food and companionship. With zoom, we hold "breakout rooms" at the end of meeting for worship. This helps gives us some of the more intimate conversations we all miss. How are other Meetings filling the hospitality problem?

We are constantly trying to improve our technology, communications and connections. Have other meetings found technological tools and methods that they really like?

We are not really doing outreach now but have considered making outreach part of other committees such as Pastoral Care. What are other Meetings doing?

We have considered bringing Hospitality into Pastoral Care as well. Have other meetings thought of this? Could Hospitality along with Pastoral Care help with meals to families? What are other Meetings doing with their library? Are you lending books?

Finally,

There are many blessings to be appreciated from this past year:

1. As Friends, we enjoy quiet and solitude. That has come in handy this year.
2. Struggling with technology and communications together can strengthen new friendships.
3. Asking people what they are “comfortable” with is a new way of being kind.
4. Being in Community is invaluable, and being in community in difficult times is precious.

Comments included appreciation of the technology keeping us connected and active, including getting to know each other better.

Chester River Meeting and Southern Quarterly Meeting

Chester River has sold their building and moved to being a worship group. Their library has been donated a variety of places.

Breakout Rooms about Breakout Rooms

Group comments: People liked random approach, which avoids cliques. We can stay as long as we like. We talk to people we might not normally meet. Unexpected topics are interesting. Rooms of 5 people or fewer seem optimum. Questions: what is the etiquette for choosing not to join? A query on occasion would be interesting. We miss talking to a special person with a hug as we do in hospitality. Getting stuck with the same person week after week could occur. Moving from room to room might help. Worship and ministry might offer a religious education opportunity in place of breakouts one Sunday, like having a spiritual journey. Like being able to pick own room. Maybe use chat before the meeting. Smaller groups, under 6, is better. Pros and cons of self selecting meeting rooms were discussed. Some are not comfortable with virtual small group meetings. General appreciation for being allowed to connect with people not known well, catching up with others, following up on thoughts from meeting for worship. Let people know that returning to the main room would allow host to send you to a room to see a particular person.

Pastoral Care Annual Report 2020– *Dona Sorce*

The Pastoral Care Committee of Third Haven works to provide and maintain a caring meeting community. We embrace that role while recognizing that many other members and attenders contribute significantly to the health of our faith community.

Each Pastoral Care Committee member is responsible for maintaining ongoing outreach to the members and attenders on their list. In addition, the committee plans two lunches and one picnic annually and presents informational discussions on the topic of Aging As Friends.

The arrival of COVID19 and subsequent restrictions on meeting in person made the work of the committee both more challenging and more essential this year. Although we had to cancel our usual events, we stayed in touch with members and attenders by phone, mail and email more regularly than usual, and some members of the committee scheduled

socially distanced visits with those who were housebound. The committee assisted the Clerk with the delivery of care packages to two families that were experiencing serious illnesses and in the case of one family, the delivery of meals via Meal Train.

Members of the committee worked with the Communication Committee to update and revise the Third Haven Friends Meeting Directory.

The committee was able to hold a Clearness Committee for the Purpose of Membership for Jonathan Williams and welcome Ellen Silbergeld, who transferred her membership from the Homewood Meeting in Baltimore.

We collaborated with other committees to offer effective outreach and became a co-sponsor of a monthly Meeting for Light with Attention to Healing, which debuted on December 20th.

In 2020, the committee was represented by the following: Lorraine Claggett, Tom Corl, Marsie Hawkinson, Steve Meixner, Dee Rein, Adrienne Rudge, Candace Shattuck, John Schreiner and Dona Sorce(clerk). Candace resigned from the committee when she moved to Seattle in late spring.

The committee looks forward to welcoming two new members in 2021 and continuing our ongoing effort to assist members and attenders in a caring and supportive manner.

Treasurers Report – *Cynthia Quast*

Here is a recap of the Treasurer's financials for the 2nd Quarter of our 2020/2021 fiscal year.

July 1 – Dec 31, 2020

Member Contributions	=	\$21,806	=	41 % of annual budget
Total Income	=	\$29,629	=	43 % of annual budget
Total Expenses	=	\$34,930	=	51 % of annual budget
Net Income	=	-\$5,301		

Contributions Welcome!

Please consider making a tax deductible contribution in support of our annual budget to:

Treasurer, Third Haven Monthly Meeting

PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

New Business-none

The meeting closed with silent worship at 5:07 p.m.

D. Rein, recorder

Caregiver Support Meeting

We have started a Caregivers Support Group for those who are caring for others (friends and family members.) or have done so in the past. The purpose is to provide support during a time that can be isolating, as well as provide help in finding supports both within Third Haven and in the larger community. It is expected that the nature of the group will evolve as the needs evolve. You might not feel this is the right time yet, but when it is, feel free to join us. You can contact John Turner directly, if you wish. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Updates from the Upstairs of the Meetinghouse

As we make our way through the end of winter, watching and waiting for the Covid-19 troubles to pass, many find hope in planting seeds in our lives that will bloom brightly this spring and summer. This is exactly the theme that First Day School will celebrate at our February 7th virtual session. Susan Claggett will be sharing the Parable of the Mustard Seed, using the engaging Faith & Play storytelling style. Families (and all Friends!) are welcome to join in through zoom at 10:30 AM. We will end by 11, so that we can pop in to say hello to the full Meeting after Worship ends. Please RSVP to Amy Owsley. Thanks and hope to see you there!

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>

February 7 [Sunday]

Testimonies and Concerns Committee will meet this First Day, February 7 at 8:30 on Zoom. The clerk will send zoom meeting details and info to the Committee including a draft of the 2020 annual report to be presented to 2nd month Meeting for Business.

Pendle Hill Retreat Perfection of the Present Moment

March 24-28, 2021 Wednesday through Sunday

A Five-Day Virtual Mindfulness Meditation Retreat

with Mary Grace Orr, Anne Briggs, Larissa Kitenko, and Rebecca Kronlage

How can we be present in all the varied and often difficult experiences of our lives open heartedly and with acceptance? The simple technique of mindfulness, taught by the Buddha, teaches us to do just that. This silent virtual retreat will have periods of sitting and walking meditation, opportunities to talk with a teacher, and formal presentations. It is suitable for both beginners and experienced students from any faith tradition. The schedule will follow a simple daily rhythm.

Live sessions conducted via Zoom. Pre-recorded sessions shared via links or e-mail.

Retreat from Wednesday evening at 7pm to Sunday 4pm via Zoom. (All times are EST)

Leader(s)

Mary Grace Orr is a teacher emeritus at Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Marin County (CA) and the founding teacher of Insight Santa Cruz. She now teaches from both the Buddhist and Christian perspectives. A beloved teacher at Pendle Hill, Mary Grace has led retreats here since 1997. She lives in Hawaii and teaches both there and on the mainland.

Anne Briggs from Chester River Friends Meeting leads the Insight Meditation Community of Chestertown.

Larissa Kitenko from Third Haven Friends Meeting leads the Easton Meditation Group and Insight Meditation Community of Grasonville.

Rebecca Kronlage will teach yoga.

For questions please contact Larissa Kitenko

for more information and to register.

<https://pendlehill.org/events/perfection-of-the-present-moment/>

Virtual Wellness Series

Maryland Coalition of Families is collaborating with community partners to offer free Virtual Wellness Workshops: Financial Wellness Thursday, February 11, 2021 5:30 pm –6:30 pm, Wellness During Conflict Thursday, February 18, 2021 5:30 pm –6:30 pm. Register at <http://tiny.cc/WellnessSeries> For more information, please contact: Julie Slivka <http://www.mdcoalition.org>

Results of Reverse Advent in December

Molly Brian writes, “Sorry if took so long but I think it helps if folks know how much they help.”

Thank you, Friends, for participation in the Reverse Advent activity this past December. Over the course of 4 weeks, we contributed much needed supplies to folks in our community who have less. Here is a modern take on the Christmas Story and how we helped:

Week 1: Non-perishable Food. Dayana and her children had to leave their Easton quickly to help her mother in Texas who was ill. Dayana wanted to minimize stops on her way because of the pandemic and only planned to stop to get gas and in rest areas. Someone from Meeting gave packages of tuna. The family used these to "picnic" on while traveling. It helped out with their already slim budget for food.

Week 2: Warm Things. There are some groups of people in our area who live with "agoraphobia" which means they are very scared of most things in the world. These folks do not go into homeless shelters and some have more serious mental illnesses. The blankets and warm clothes are set outside near their tents and are much appreciated in the winter months.

Week 3: Household staples. These are in very short supply right now even for those who can afford them. The renters at Webb's Hope live on \$650/month on average. The supplies we gave help them with the luxuries they cannot afford. Yes, Virginia, toothpaste and soap is a luxury for some!

Week 4: Baby Stuff. There were new babies born in Talbot County over the Christmas week. Anyone who is a parent knows how fast diapers and wipes are used up. There is a supply closet at the Neighborhood Service Center dedicated to baby supplies. This year, we helped several families save money and take care of their babies.”

A Peace Pole honoring Ralph Young has been completed. Three yellow flag markers are placed between the three buildings at possible locations for the pole. Pictures were circulated in email announcements. Please let Priscilla Morris pbmorris@goeaston.net know your location preference.

Fridays: 7 PM Zoom Happier Hour Join in for a social Zoom Happier Hour Contact John Turner for access.

February 21 [Sunday]

Virtual Meeting for Worship For Healing 4pm

Members and Attenders of Third Haven Monthly Meeting are invited to the formation of a monthly Meeting for Worship for Healing during which we will share in the practice of Holding One Another in the Light. The purpose of this gathering is to share concerns and offer prayer to lift up ourselves and one another and deepen our spiritual connection with one another and the community as a whole. Participants may pray silently or share a concern for which they are seeking to be held in the light.

Directory

An updated Third Haven directory has been attached to recent emailed announcements. Due to Covid19 distribution of a print edition is delayed. You may save this directory to your computer or print it out for yourself. Each of you is asked to look at your listing and let us know whether we have the details correct. Please contact Marie Leonard if you have any change to report.

Quaker Voice is requesting that Friends use the Action Alert found attached to email announcements to reach out to their representatives about the 5 Demands of Police Accountability that the ACLU is supporting. Also, stay tuned for details on an upcoming training opportunity to learn about advocacy and the state legislative process. For any questions on Quaker Voice contact: Whitley Gray or Dona Sorce.

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Easton, Md. 21601

Meeting for Worship
Sunday 10-11 a.m. Zoom
Wednesday 5:30-6 p.m.
In person and Zoom
Children's programs also
Everyone welcome