



## Third Haven Friends Meeting

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## June 2021 NEWSLETTER

Faith is not, contrary to the usual ideas, something that turns out to be right or wrong, like a gambler's bet; it's an activity, an intention, a project, something that makes you, in leaping into the future, go so far, far, far ahead that you shoot clean out of time and right into Eternity, which is not the end of time or a whole lot of time or unending time, but timelessness, that old Eternal Now. - Joanna Russ

*from Connie Crow*

### **Third Haven Friends Meeting** **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business** 9th Day, Fifth 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:** 15 attended: Molly Burgoyne Brian, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Stephanie French, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Bill Lane, Dee Rein, Adrienne Rudge, Priscilla Sener, Jonathan Slocum, Paige Tilghman, John Turner, Kevin Walsh, Mary Yancy.

#### **Budget & Finance: Presentation of Proposed Budget for FY 2021-22** – Bill Lane

The committee says, "Great job by all in a challenging year." The new year has deferred tasks going back on track: First Day School, Facilities Use, and property care among them. Costs of materials have risen. The proposed budget is balanced. The Budget and Finance committee request approval. We ask all member and attenders to continue their generous ways of giving. The meeting is in good stead financially. They are doing an excellent job of holding down expenses. Generosity is helpful, but we also need to know what is actually being spent so we are clear on our expenses. We are trying to keep Philadelphia Yearly Meeting contributions and charitable giving the same and general administration costs low. First Day School's activities have been self-sustaining and the Kemp Trust gift funds will also help them. Facilities use anticipates groups returning to using the Common Room. A budget spreadsheet has been circulated in announcements and will be available on the website. The committee requests budget approval at the June Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

**Comments on Fifth Query** (read at Meeting for Worship)

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

**Trustee Annual Report-** *Adrienne Rudge, President*, Trustees of Third Haven Monthly Meeting

Seventy-three years ago, the members of our meeting took the bold step of incorporating the Trustees of Third Haven Monthly Meeting. That decision has been paying dividends, literally and figuratively, ever since. One factor that influenced their decision was the possibility that Third Haven might have to be “laid down,” in which case our historic Meeting House and graveyard would revert to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. By establishing a separate financial entity, the members thoughtfully provided for the future of Third Haven Friends Meeting in ways that even they may never have imagined.

Funding for the Trustee accounts has come from donations, legacy gifts and from the growth of investments. Traditionally the Trustees support capital projects, large and small. In the 1980’s, the construction of the Common Room was partially financed by the Trustees, and in the 1990’s a major restoration of the Old Meeting House was supported by nearly \$450,000 of Trustee funds. Working closely with the Property and Grounds Committee, the Trustees annually pay for such efforts as major tree trimming and any work other than routine maintenance of the buildings.

Seven members of THFM serve as Trustees. When there is a vacancy, the Nominating Committee proposes three members of the meeting from which the Trustees choose one. Current Trustees are Larny Claggett, Marsie Hawkinson, Bill Lane, Allan Mielke, Diana Rein, Adrienne Rudge and Priscilla Bond Sener.

Sumner Parker resigned last summer after many years of service to Third Haven as a member of the Trustees. His guidance on investing Trustee funds and on the establishment of the Scholarship Committee were key to many decisions during his tenure. Additionally, we mourn the recent death of long-time Trustee Ken Carroll. His leadership over several decades was essential to the growth and development of both our Meeting and the Trustees.

In 2021, the Trustees are excited to be embarking on a major restoration project in the Old Meeting House. Thanks to Bill Lane, we have found exceptionally well-qualified artisans to do extensive repair work on each of the 14 windows, to stabilize the plaster in the attic, and to repair and paint the siding. Willie Graham, an architectural historian who spent most of his career at Colonial Williamsburg, is providing oversight and will produce a report that includes a long-range maintenance plan. As part of the project, a laser scan of the OMH was performed in April. Regular updates on the restoration will be available to the membership.

I urge all members and attenders to support the preservation work of the Trustees of Third Haven Monthly Meeting by making an outright gift or by designating a legacy gift in their estate plans.

The Meeting thanks the Trustees for their continued support.

### **Technology Discussion-** *Molly Brian*

Tech team discussion has covered replacing the aging iPad with a quality laptop of reasonable price. Questions were what is going well and what ideas for improvement do Friends have?

Comments included:

Use of an education application and or hardware that might interface better to avoid the difficulties with hearing Zoom? The Brick Meeting House may be more conducive to the use of technology with its amphitheater seating.

Opening BMH doors and windows to reduce humidity and improve ventilation may be desirable and is under investigation.

Ken Carroll's memorial meeting went well with most people able to hear Zoom. For people at the end of the meeting house it was harder to hear. We are working to resolve this issue.

Exploration of an Owl device is possible.

A member looks forward to eliminating virtual meetings, feeling that they divide the meeting, suggesting that people who live at a geographical distance should join and participate in meetings where they live.

Several individuals worry that the meeting is being fractured. We need to think about our future and do all we can to get people back together in person.

How important is it to people to know who is present in the meeting, be it in person or on Zoom?

Some think that having people on Zoom keeps us as one unified group.

Zoom has the benefit of bringing together people who can't attend or are far away.

Are we over relying on technology rather than the spirit? There is nothing that stops us from sitting at 10 a.m. at home and being part of the meeting without technology, we are all of one spirit no matter where we are.

Regardless of how we use technology on First Day, having the technology to allow people to attend special events like memorial services or meeting for business is a boon.

Until the pandemic is under control, we need to consider the context and not exclude folks for whom the technology is helpful.

Some people find that Zoom has facilitated their engagement with the Meeting, compensating for time restrictions or, for example, the meeting for healing has been powerful. On the other hand, in person connections are wonderful when they can occur.

Having the technology to respond to opportunities is desirable and merits the purchase of a laptop for meeting use.

More could be done to integrate the Zoom and in person groups. In person people could join Zoom breakout rooms, for instance. We could pin different people on the Zoom screen so they can be seen from a distance. Another possibility is to have a laptop outside the meeting house so in person people could check in with folks on Zoom.

Our overall goal is to stay in community as we continue to deal with the pandemic. May we reach out to people who are further from immediate connections.

We will continue to converse on this topic.

### **Update Summer Camps-** *Susan Claggett & Amy Owsley*

With the support of the Meeting, we anticipate two camps, one week apiece, July and August.

10-12 children per half day camp in the mornings and featuring lots of nature play. Scholarships might be offered. Cherie Baron, a certified childhood instructor has committed. Another teacher will be added. Camp will follow all Covid protocols. Young families are excited. Asbury

Methodist church children may be interested in attending. **Approved**

Moving up day will be June 13<sup>th</sup> at the rise of meeting. 3 graduating seniors will join in person or on Zoom. Meeting for Business on Zoom at 4 p.m. accommodates this event.

We hope to have First Day School in the Fall. The upstairs classroom needs cleaning and may not be appropriate when considering safety and the situation at the time.

Friends commented that they are pleased we are bringing in young families to sustain the meeting.

### **T&C Update- Paige Tilghman**

The Peace Pole dedication ceremony in memory of Ralph Young will occur June 20<sup>th</sup> at the rise of meeting. People important to Ralph will be invited.

### **New Business**

Common Room availability will be announced once the CDC guidelines permit.

### **Closing Silent Worship 5:10 p.m.**

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>

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.

### **June 4 [Friday]**

#### **Zoom Happier Hour 7 PM**

Hospitality would also like to remind the community that the zoom happier hour conversation is still happening on Fridays at 7:00 pm. Typically about 7-10 people use the hour to reconnect, share news and again, offer fellowship. It is hosted by John Turner. Please consider joining the conversation. At 7 PM on Friday we assemble for a Zoom Happier Hour: host will be John Turner

### **June 6 [Sunday]**

#### **Meeting for Worship 10 AM**

Hybrid meeting in the Old Meeting House at 10:00 AM. Many of us have been fully vaccinated but we must continue to be mindful of preventive precautions. Friends will still need to abide by social distancing rules and wear masks, but it will be lovely to be together in person. We will hold simultaneous zoom meeting for worship. Dee Rein will be co-host with John Turner

### **June 6 [Sunday]**

#### **Spiritual Journey**

There will be a Spiritual Journey presentation by Adrienne Rudge on June 6 at the rise of Meeting. Thank you, Worship and Ministry Committee

## **June 7 [Monday]**

### **Caregiver Support Meeting**

We have a Caregivers Support Group for those who are caring for others (family members.) Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7 p.m. on Zoom. 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. Next meeting June 7 - you can contact me directly, if you wish. John Turner

## **June 13 First Day**

**Moving Up Ceremony:** June 13th is our annual celebration to honor children of the Meeting who are “moving up” or graduating to a new level in their education. And we are looking for the names of kids who we can celebrate! Please send information to Amy Owsley so she can reach out to coordinate.

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

4 p.m. on Zoom using the Meeting for Worship zoom access.

**June 20 First Day Peace Pole Dedication** at the rise of Meeting.

**Roberts Lawrence Smith** *Tom Corl* writes, “Roberts Lawrence Smith died on Monday, 5.24.21. he was 96. He was the Head of Sidwell Friends School in Washington DC, 1965-78. He is the author of *The Quaker Book of Wisdom*, 1999, which some Third Haven Friends may have read. It is excellent. There are copies in the Meeting library. Near the time of its publication he came to Third Haven and gave a talk about the book. I served with Bob, on the Sidwell Friend



Board of Trustees, 2002-08. He was a generous mentor and guide. He was a wonderful man, and exemplary Quaker, Friend and friend. He did so much good for so many people. He was 1 of my Quaker heroes” This is the link to the Washington Post obituary By Bart Barnes

*Robert L. Smith, who led Sidwell Friends School, dies at 96*

*He served as headmaster of the elite private school from 1965 to 1978.*

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/robert-l-smith-who-led-sidwell-friends-school-dies-at-96/2021/05/26/e5ccac52-bd76-11eb-9c90-731aff7d9a0d\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/robert-l-smith-who-led-sidwell-friends-school-dies-at-96/2021/05/26/e5ccac52-bd76-11eb-9c90-731aff7d9a0d_story.html)

## Restoration



The Old Meeting House is currently beginning restoration under the supervision of Bill Lane and Willie Graham. Mr. Graham has a long career in historical restoration with many of his efforts occurring during his tenure at Colonial Williamsburg. With the assistance of a variety of skilled artisans, windows are being rebuilt and replaced, and plaster is being stabilized. Ventilation needs are also being addressed. Mr. Graham comments, "Really enjoying our work (slow as it is) at Third Haven Meeting House in Easton, MD (1684)--oldest surviving building in Maryland and one of the oldest meetinghouses in America. Although altered over the years to meet changing demands of the Friends, it nonetheless retains much of its 17th-century character." Trustees of Third Haven Monthly Meeting are financing the project in keeping with their mission of preservation of Third Haven.

## Correspondence:

Dear Molly,

I have been meaning to contact you for some time. I would like to say a big thank you to all involved in making the Memorial Meeting for Ken Carroll available via zoom.



It was lovely to see your Third Haven Meeting House, and to see Friends worshipping in it and to be able to join with you in remembering Ken. Oddly, while the bagpipes were not so clear, the bird song from outside was quite audible! The tributes from former students were very appreciative of Ken's interest in them and their progress.

Ken often referred to your Meeting, and it is nice to be able to picture the Meeting House now. The dark wooden benches look very familiar to our older Meeting Houses in Ireland, but they have been replaced by chairs in some instances!

The Covid pandemic has been horrendous and is still terrible in many countries. But one good outcome has been the amount of activities now available via zoom, and secondly, that so many of us in the older age group have had to learn how to participate in this way! It has enabled us to be involved in gatherings and meetings without having to travel, whether within our countries or further afield. Being able to join with you all in remembering Ken, was one of these positive occasions.

With many thanks again to all involved in the organization.

Wishing you all a good summer.

Heather Bewley



**Peace Pole** dedication celebration will be held at the rise of Meeting, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

