

## Third Haven Friends Meeting

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## MAY 2010 NEWSLETTER

The possession of arbitrary power has always, the world over, tended irresistibly to destroy humane sensibility, magnanimity, and truth. Frederick Law Olmsted

### **Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 4th Month, 11, 2010**

1. Call to order: John Schreiner called to order the meeting for business at 11:35am after a brief period of silent worship.
2. Attending: Paige Bethke, Denny Bliss, Molly Burgoyne, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Tom Corl, Debbie Dawer, Ed Dawer, Robert Gladney, Doreen Getsinger, Marsie

Hawkinson, Katherine Johnson, Susan Leibman, Connie Lewis, Sumner Parker, Jim Paul, Peggy Paul, Connie Pullen, Mike Pullen, Sarah Sayre, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Sally Vermilye, Meredith Watters, Rob Wieland, John Winterbottom, Winslow Womack, Ralph Young

3. Minutes: There are three corrections for the minutes from the 3rd month. Marsie Hawkinson's name is listed twice in the attendance. In the paragraph addressing Quaker Quest issues, the third sentence should read "The Committee is seeking...rather than "is seeks" and the first bullet point should read "the Life" rather than "the Light". After these corrections, the minutes from the 3rd month were approved.

4. Query: The Fourth Query "Care for the Meeting Community" was read during meeting for worship. We remarked on the important influences each of us have in one another's lives. One Friend said it was important to him to hear different voices reading the queries and mentioned fond remembrances of Leonard Baynham reading the queries to us.

5. Quaker Quest: (please see attached report titled, "Third Haven Friends Meeting-Essentials of Our Quaker Faith and Practice"). Tom Corl, clerk of Quaker Quest committee, gave this updated report on the work of the group. This report is simply a work in progress from the Committee to help identify to those who are "seekers" some principles that help explain our beliefs. There was discussion regarding the word "essentials" which some Friends felt to be too dogmatic. The word "essence" was suggested instead and agreed upon by those present. This report was approved by Meeting after the changing of the word "essentials" in the document to "essence".

At the end of the report is an outline of the future steps of the QQ work. These four steps were discussed briefly and the Meeting can expect updates as the work of the committee progresses. Members and Attenders were invited to participate in the work of this committee.

6. Treasurer's Report: (see three attached sheets titled; Balance Sheet, Budget vs. Actual, Prior yr comparison). On the sheet Budget vs. Actual, note that member contributions are down \$21,000+ from actual budget. The Treasurer, Rob Wieland remarked that every year we commit our members to give more but that may not be realistic and we should deliberate carefully about this when we create the budget for 2011. Attender contributions are up \$1500+. Our contributions are up \$27,000+ mostly due to a bequest from the estate of John Shoffner. How those monies are to be dispersed still need to be determined. Interest income is down this year but overall income has increased by \$8,000+ over the actual.

The Scholarship Committee has requested their funds to be transferred from ING to Friends Fiduciary. In order to open an account there, a minute of approval is required from the monthly meeting. This was approved by the Meeting. There was discussion regarding allocations of scholarships. It is not clear to our Meeting if the Scholarship committee has the authority to delegate funds they are in charge of or if the Meeting must first approve how the funds are invested or dispersed. The Clerk of Meeting and Recording Clerk will investigate prior minutes regarding this and report back to Meeting next month.

7. Committee Reports:

a) Communications Annual Report: (cf., April Newsletter). Highlights this year include a new paper directory and updated website. There was a request from Tatiana Harrison for committee clerks to please review the web content regarding their committees and send an email to her with any necessary updates. The Meeting thanks Tatiana for her work on the website,

Ralph Young for his beautiful photos, and John Hawkinson for all his work on announcements, newsletters, current directory info, and keeping us all in touch with each other. The Meeting approved this report.

b) Common Room: It has come to the attention of this committee that the guidelines for usage of the Common Room have not been strictly adhered to. Some groups ask for donations. Currently our policy is to allow groups to use our Common Room if a member is associated with the group and the group has like minded principles. We have not used this facility as a means to make money or encourage others to charge fees at their events. Questions are raised about whether we have been too restrictive in this practice. Another question would be whether we should change the name of this committee to Facility Usage Committee to encompass the use of all of our property. The Meeting asks this committee to thresh over these matters and bring it back to Meeting for business at a later month.

c) Worship & Ministry: At a meeting this morning W&M discussed three projects. 1. Wednesday evening meetings at 6pm to discuss "A Course in Miracles" led by Michael Pullen. 2. Sunday 9Am discussion of a variety of topics such as the query read on 2nd First Day. 3. Day of Silence led by Candace Shattuck and Katherine Johnson on Saturday June 5th from 10-3:30pm at THFM. These projects were approved by Meeting.

8. Carriage Shed Sale: Meredith Watters, co-clerk of the sale brought the Meeting up to date regarding this project. Outreach will be helping with publicity and press releases. There will be a sign up sheet for duties in the Common Room. Information regarding charities was passed out (see attached sheet). These charities were discussed at length. In the past few years we have traditionally split our proceeds into approximate thirds and picked an international, local and THFM project to donate to. The decision was approved to donate this year's proceeds of the Carriage Shed Sale to AFSC, Easton Rocks and TIS and the THFM Memorial Garden. Exact amounts can be determined after the sale.

9. Other Business: The Multi- Cultural Festival will be held the first Saturday in May at Idlewild Park. We have hosted a table for the past two years. The donation box for food to the Neighborhood Service Center is hidden under the table in the Common Room. Ralph Young asked permission to place the box at the doors to the Brick Meeting House so the box will be more noticeable. This was approved.

Overseers has been approached by a Friend about a working committee to study Friends schools and help promote them. This suggestion was tabled to another meeting for business. Meeting for business was adjourned at 1:30pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Molly Burgoyne*

Highlights:

1. Approval of report on core beliefs by Quaker Quest Committee.
2. Approval to transfer funds of Scholarship Committee from ING to Friends Fiduciary.
3. Approval of Communications Committee's Annual Report.
4. Approval of donations of proceeds from the Carriage Shed Sale.
5. Approval of three projects by Worship & Ministry.

## Third Haven Monthly Meeting Announcements

Meetings for Worship

First Days 10am      Fourth Days 5:30pm

	May 5
May 9	May 12
May 16	May 19
May 23	May 26
May 30	June 2

Join us in holding the family of Betty Jean Wheeler, Adrienne Rudge, Susan Wheeler, Lindsley Smith and Charles H. Wheeler in the light following the passing of Charles Eliot Wheeler. A memorial service will be held at the Talbot Country Club at 11 am on May 8 (Saturday).

May 5 (Wednesday) The next A Course in Miracles study group will be at the rise of meeting in the common room. Worship & Ministry will be offering this series of discussions led by Michael Pullen.

**May 9 (Sunday) 10 am Meeting for worship followed by Meeting for Business.** Budget & Finance to submit proposed budget.

May 20 and 21: "The Preservation Maryland Annual Conference runs from Thursday 5/20 through Friday 5/21 at the Tidewater Inn with a full schedule of concurrent seminars and walking tours. On Friday May 21 from 9-noon, Orland Ridout will be part of the walking tour of historic churches. The tour starts at the Tidewater Inn at 9AM and will make four stops: Asbury United Methodist Church on Higgins Street, Bethel A.M.E. Church on Hanson Street, Third Haven (Old Meeting House) and Christ Church & Rectory. Friends who wish to participate in the conference can check registration information online at [www.preservationmaryland.org](http://www.preservationmaryland.org). Friends wanting to only hear Orlando Ridout discuss the Old Third Haven Meeting House should plan to arrive at the meeting house around 10AM."

May 22 (Saturday) The Carriage Shed Sale at Third Haven. While you are cleaning out your closets, basement, or garage please consider donating your items to the sale. The Carriage Shed Sale needs volunteers for: accepting donations during the week prior to the sale, parking, cashiers, baked goods, trucks and drivers to pick-up large items, assistants in the sales of: the furniture, toys, sporting goods, garden items, kitchen ware, etc., and finally, clean-up at the end of the day. Contact [meredithw@atlanticbb.net](mailto:meredithw@atlanticbb.net)

June 5 (Saturday) 10 am Katherine Johnson and Candace Shattuck will be leading a Silent Worship program on the grounds of THFM. Those interested should gather at the meeting at 10 am and plan an offering for a noon pot luck meal, to be conducted in silence. The day will conclude at 3 PM with a worship sharing session.

Anyone interested in participating in a group to examine our Third Haven grounds for a memorial garden (specifically for scattering ashes) please talk with Meredith Watters or e-mail: [meredithw@atlanticbb.net](mailto:meredithw@atlanticbb.net)

**MIGRANT MINISTRY UNDERWAY** There is already one migrant camp open at this time with twenty residents. The rest will be in operation by June 12.

The immediate need is for: work boots – sizes 9 – 11      sweatshirts – medium - socks, sheets, jeans, towels, work gloves, insect spray sheets ,jeans

Contact or Mariann Stackpole      mariann64@msn.com

Drop off points are Trinity Cathedral

Stackpoles – 8762 Mulberry Drive, Easton (410-770-5742).

Ralph Young is our Third Haven contact 410-819-0050 (donations may be put in his white pick-up which is normally parked in front of the common room on First Day meetings for worship).

Worship and Ministry is offering to all those interested, a morning session prior to meeting for worship. Mark Beck will lead the group at 9 a.m. on First Day. The meetings will be held in the Meeting House that is not in use and will focus on various topics and readings. On the morning of Business Meeting the Query will be shared and discussed. All are welcome.

E-mail addresses: please consult the up to date Third Haven Directory at <http://www.thirdhaven.org/>      The website of Third Haven Friends Meeting.

The online directory remains password protected: please e-mail [taniaharrison@gmail.com](mailto:taniaharrison@gmail.com) or [hawkjm@goeaston.net](mailto:hawkjm@goeaston.net) if you need the password.

Please don't forget to bring to Meeting, each Sunday, a non-perishable food item and place it in the boxes marked "your food pantry donations" located at Meetinghouse entrances.

- Faith and Practice can be read and portions extracted from the PYM website at this link: <http://www.pym.org/publish/fnp/index.php>

If you have material for the newsletter, additional announcements or added information about any of these posted events please send it to [3rdhaven@gmail.com](mailto:3rdhaven@gmail.com)



**Mary Young and John Winterbottom help at the detention center library**



**Worship and Ministry meets**

**Third Haven Friends Meeting**  
**Essence of Our Quaker Faith and Practices**  
**As approved at Meeting for Business 4th Month 11th, 2010**

**Purpose**

This identification of the essence of Third Haven's Quaker Faith and Practices is to facilitate Quaker Quest communications and outreach. These will be the basis for a brief, clear and cogent explanation of our Third Haven Friends' faith and practices to the broader community. With our own clearer understanding, we can better articulate our Quaker message to the broader community.

**1. That of God in Each Person**

Third Haven Quakers believe that there is That of God in each and every person. Quakers refer to That of God in each person in many ways, including the Inward Light, the Christ Within, Divine, God and Spirit.

Quaker faith and practice provides for a direct and unmediated relationship with God. Worship and prayer does not need to be led by clergy. Quaker faith and practice allows and requires substantial individual responsibility for one's faith, religious practice and spiritual journey. The notion of That of God in everyone entails essentially no doctrine, and little church hierarchy or institutional authority.

Quakers value the "life and teachings of Jesus" as an essential, even the primary, source of our understanding and expression how God would guide us to live. The Quaker way is not the only path to the Divine. Friends acknowledge and employ variations in Quaker Faith and Practice. See Faith and Practice pp 16-17.

**2. Silent Worship**

In Quaker worship, we listen in silence to hear leadings of the Spirit inwardly. During the meeting for worship, individuals discern leadings from the Spirit and are sometimes led to offer these messages as vocal ministry. Some leadings are for the individual alone, some for the meeting for worship. The spiritual discernment of vocal ministry in the meeting for worship is an essential Quaker practice. Listening for leadings collectively in worship is a powerful way to invite such leadings. God has spoken in all times and ages, not just Biblical times, and continues to speak to us today – as continuing revelation.

Quakers have worshiped in the silent or "unprogrammed" manner for over 350 years. Third Haven, like many other Quaker meetings, worships in silence – waiting silently and expectantly for the leadings of the Spirit. The silence is used and valued as an opportunity for spiritual reflection, discernment, insight and understanding. The meeting for worship has been called a "meeting for relationship with God." Friends honor the enormous continuity and the enduring tradition of silent worship. However, Third Haven Friends strive to make the meeting for worship and Quaker faith and practice contemporary and relevant. See Faith and Practice pp 17-21, 100-128.

**3. Testimonies**

George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends, set forth a first principle of our faith – "Let Your Life Speak." Quakers believe that we should live our beliefs and faith in our daily lives, in witness, in action in the world. We value the life and teachings of Jesus as an essential example of how God guides us to live.

Our Testimonies express our beliefs and guide us in living our daily lives, as we accept responsibility, make decisions and take action consistent with our faith. The Testimonies express our shared values and commitments in the Religious Society of Friends and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). Testimonies have changed over time and among yearly meetings. Yearly meetings have different Testimonies and different numbers of them. PYM Testimonies are – Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality (justice, fairness) and Stewardship (of resources and the environment, service), remembered as SPICES.

It is important that as Friends we live our daily lives led by God. Spirit consistently leads Friends to value and express these Testimonies. Beliefs and Testimonies help us set priorities, avoid self-indulgence and achieve a spirit of humility. A life lived in the Spirit leads to an enlightened conscience, gratitude, harmony and peace. See Faith and Practice pp 145-174.

#### 4. Community

Third Haven is a community in how we worship, how we do the work of the Meeting and how we care for one another. A loving and nurturing community of Friends provides companions on the spiritual journey and community support for individuals, families and children. We welcome visitors, seekers, newcomers and new members. We are eager to share our faith and practice with seekers and newcomers.

The Meeting community cares for the wellbeing of members and attenders, especially those not well and aging Friends. We are ready to offer assistance and to receive it. We conduct weddings, same sex spiritual unions and memorial meetings for worship in the manner of Friends.

Quakers are distinguished by our method of making decisions and conducting business. Our meeting for business is a “meeting for worship with a concern for business.” Business meetings and matters are to be led by the Spirit and conducted in a worshipful manner. Others sometimes call this consensus, but consensus is secular, not Spirit-led. Most Quakers call this method “decision-making in the manner of Friends.” This “Quaker process” is based on clearness (understanding) and unity (agreement). Decision-making in the manner of Friends is deliberate, often slow, but very powerful in its clarity and binding Friends together in direction and action.

The Meeting community is responsible for corporate (collective) discernment in the meeting for worship, the meeting for business and the Meeting community. Importantly, when leadings or courses of action are not clear or cause disquiet, we share these concerns with others in worship, worship sharing, discernment, committees or meeting for business.

Note: That of God in each person is the core belief from which our practices –silent worship, testimonies and community --flow. Together these notions are the essence of our belief and practices.

April 11, 2010

#### NEXT STEPS

1. Development of Outreach Program
2. Update logo and signage
3. Renovation of foyer and office (Brick Meeting House)
4. Cohesive plan for communication, including print materials

## Clearness Committees

Overseers Committee invites all members and attenders to make use of clearness committees. As individuals, or in our relationship with others, there are times when we may experience a sense of ongoing deep disquiet. For reasons that are unknown, discernment remains obscured -- the genuine nature of our feelings, or our sense of direction, is in question. The Meeting community is available to help all members and attenders who are experiencing such disquiet by offering the availability of a clearness committee. A clearness committee does not give advice or attempt to "fix" you. A clearness committee helps you remove the encumbrances to your discernment and thus allows you to move forward in your journey to discover your True leadings. Everything about a clearness committee is treated confidentially. To request a clearness committee, please write to the clerk of Overseers. You can request that specific Friends be on the clearness committee. You will need to prepare a statement, well in advance of the clearness committee meeting, three to five pages in length, describing the problem and providing background. Overseers refers Friends to two references to learn more about clearness committees. One is Patricia Loring's Pendle Hill Pamphlet on "Spiritual Discernment: the context and goal of clearness committees". The other is Parker Palmer's concise and clear description of clearness committees *submitted by Bob Marshall*

Ref: <http://www.couragerenewal.org/parker/writings/clearness-committee>

## Scholarships Help Dreams Come True

Connie Lewis knows how it feels to miss out on a dream. And she's doing what she can to ensure that no one else has to endure that feeling.

"I always wanted to be a nurse," recalls Connie. To reach that goal, she would have had to enroll in the academic, or college preparatory, curriculum at Easton High School when she was in ninth grade. But her Achilles heel was mathematics, and her parents, her guidance counselor and her math teacher all advised against the college prep track. She took their advice, and enrolled in the secretarial preparatory curriculum. After graduating from high school in 1970, she completed a one-year secretarial training program at Chesapeake College. Her entire career has been spent in secretarial positions, and she has been at Shore Health System for the past eight years.



In retrospect, however, Connie says she regrets not taking college prep classes and becoming a nurse. Yet even if she had enrolled in the academic track, college and a nursing career would have been a hard dream to realize. Her father, who died in 2004, worked for 40 years for Easton Utilities, and could not afford to send Connie and her sister to college. Only a loan from relatives enabled her sister to attend Frostburg State College.

Connie is doing her part to prevent a lack of funds from coming between promising young people and their educational goals. She has six grandchildren, and contributes to their 529

Plans. And she donates a portion of almost every biweekly paycheck to the Third Haven Scholarship Fund.

“It’s easier for my budget” than writing one or two large checks a year, says Connie, “and it’s the first check I write” after each payday. She supports other charities, too: the United Fund; the Care and Share Fund in Dorchester County, where she lives; the Third Haven food drive, coordinated by Ralph Young; and the food pantry at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Cambridge.

But she writes the first check to the Third Haven Scholarship Fund because, “I think it’s important for future generations to be educated and to learn to think for themselves,” she says. “We don’t ever stop learning.” *By Peter Howell*

The Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for financial aid for the 2010-2011 school year. Any Third Haven member, attender or family member is eligible to apply for a scholarship to any secondary or postsecondary school. Larger grants are available for students attending Quaker schools or colleges. Letters requesting financial aid are due by May 31. Applicants will be interviewed and notified in June. For more information, contact Mark Beck (410-822-6481 or [mb4833@aol.com](mailto:mb4833@aol.com)) or Peter Howell (410-924-5752 or [piratepete@goeaston.net](mailto:piratepete@goeaston.net)).

For long-range planning purposes, the Scholarship Committee wishes to track all the children in our meeting. So if you give birth, adopt or gain custody of a child, please notify Committee Chairman Mark Beck at 410-822-6481 or [mb4833@aol.com](mailto:mb4833@aol.com), and tell him the child’s name and date of birth.

### **Easter Eggs-uberance:**





**With a little help from my Friends!**

### **First Day School Kite Flying**



**CLEAN UP DAY 2010**  
**Many hands make light work!**



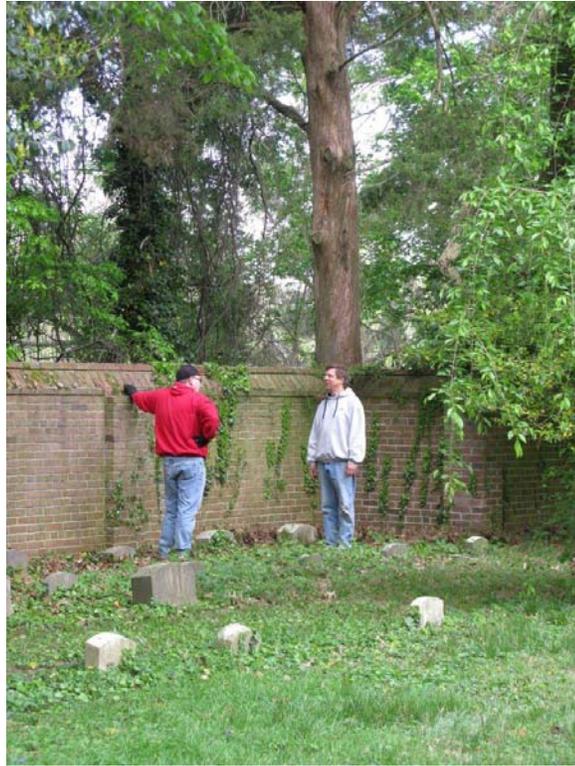
**Jim, Meredith and Winslow let the leaves fly**



**Marsie's camera catches Ralph hard at work**



**Tree surgery by Molly**



**Serious deliberations by Clay and Larnie**