



THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

405 South Washington Street
Easton, Maryland 21601
(410) 822-0293
3rdhaven@gmail.com

“Listening to our inmost being where the Inward Christ dwells enables us to go out and touch others in love and acceptance.” Faith and Practice 1997 p.32

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

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6th Month, 19th Day, 2022

Opening Silent Worship – Clerk Tom Corl opened the meeting with a period of silent worship at 11:30 a.m.

Attending: (hybrid) 29 Mia Brown Echerd, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Stephanie French, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Kristina Herold, Katherine Johnson, Larissa Kitenko, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Steven Meixner, Charlie Miller, Beth Mufson, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, John Schreiner, Priscilla Sener, Jonathan Slocum, Dona Sorce, Nancy Stanford, Ben Tilghman, Paige Tilghman, John Turner, Kevin Walsh, Jonathan Williams, Mary Yancey,

Comments on 6th Query, Stewardship of Resources, read in the meeting for worship With respect to this week’s query, in 1684 the first semiannual yearly meeting was held in this building, then in the shape of a T. An architectural study of the building indicated it took the entire membership of Quakers everywhere to build this. It was built on cedar block foundation. Friends 12 years later were not happy with how the blocks were weathering, so they put out a call to get as many Quakers as possible the next First Day to actually lift the building and put new cedar blocks under it. It took the entire group to make this happen, as it does now. It takes everybody to make things happen.

Approval of minutes from 5th month, 8th day, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business **Approved**

Clerk’s desk – *Tom Corl*

The clerk read a letter from Kristina Herold requesting membership. Referred to Pastoral Care.

Treasurer's report – Ben Tilghman

Although the fiscal year still has about 2 weeks to go, the budget numbers of June 16 project a good finish to FY21-22. Income is at 96.8% of budget, while expenses are at 99.3% of budget. We are still receiving checks in response to the appeal letter sent last month, and there is a good probability that we will hit 100% of donations.

Within the expenses, our forecasting leaves a bit to be desired. Some committees have not used any of their budgeted funds for the year, while others have exceeded budget amounts. These are relatively small line items, however, and the larger items have tracked as projected. As mentioned above, we anticipate finishing the year right on budget, if not with a modest surplus. Any surplus will be used as seed money for the Building Fund.

Balance sheets are posted on our website.

Budget & Finance Committee

Meeting budget for fiscal year (FY) 2022 - 23 – Bill Lane Approved

See budget balance sheet posted on our website for details.

Comments: We should consider increasing the annual contribution to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting if there is an excess at the end of the next 22-23 fiscal year. The last time the amount was raised was 2018. This will be considered in the next budget cycle.

Worship and Ministry expenses are hard to estimate because plans are not complete for the next fiscal year.

Hospitality receipts have yet to be submitted and should arrive soon. Note hospitality covers hospitality on First Day, but not for special events, which should be covered by the committee sponsoring the event.

The budget once set does not get changed. Members are reassured that contingency funds are available should they be needed.

Is there a way for members to contribute services or materials as in-kind donations?

Many people make in-kind contributions. The donor can send a note with valuation of the contribution to the treasurer requesting an acknowledgement.

First Day School Annual Report – Dee Rein for Susan Claggett Approved

We welcomed the children back in the Fall 2021 for in person learning holding the children's program every 2 weeks. Teachers for the Fall were Susan Claggett, Cherie Baron and Kristin Hanlon. Much of the learning was done outdoors on the Third Haven grounds. In Oct, FDS held a large family event called "Pumpkin Fun" where all families gathered in the Common Room for fellowship and food and carving/decorating pumpkins. As it began to get dark, the children took a spooky walk through the graveyard. It was a big hit!

In Dec, the FDS worked with the Pastoral Care committee in presenting gifts to our children during the annual holiday program. It was a time of connection and reflection while the young people got to know some of the older adults.

For the New Year, FDS had to resume via zoom. Susan Claggett led the zoom classroom twice per month. Some of the curricula this year were Quaker stories from Faith and Play and 2 books sent to us from PYM entitled "Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints" and "Together" by Mona Damluji. Once warmer weather returned in the Spring, we were able to meet in person again and resume many lessons from our natural world.

Miss Cherie and Miss Kristin returned as well and during one particular Spring lesson, the children made beautiful window art from natural objects found on the grounds. These can be seen in the brick Meeting House even now.

Finally, FDS ended in June with our annual celebration called Moving Up Day. We were able to acknowledge 4 young women who sent in remarks about their lives and where they are heading next, which was all read out loud to the Meeting. FDS acknowledges these accomplishments of our young people by presenting them with small gifts including a copy of "Faith and Practice."

Our FDS currently consists of 8 committed families -accounting for 15 children that regularly attend. Ages range from Owen Schaefer and Fio Whalen who are our youngest up into Damien Kesler (6th grade) and Serena Claggett, who just graduated high school. Third Haven had a birth this Spring (Whitley Grey) and another baby due in July (Kulveen Virdee.)

Third Haven FDS will be sponsoring the annual summer mindfulness camp in July held on the Meeting grounds. Registration is currently full. Miss Cherie and Miss Kristin along with Amy Owsley and Jr counselor, Liam Ewing will be overseeing the camp. Although the FDS committee currently does not hold regular committee meetings, the families have been especially receptive to the weekly e mails sent out by the Clerk and they are always helpful with hospitality when asked.

This Clerk enjoys the warm friendship from all the families and continues to appreciate the Meetings' support.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Claggett FDS Clerk

Comments:

Compliments on transition between clerks and keeping FDS active during Covid. Amy, Susan and Kulveen have managed the committee. First Day School seeks additional helpers to plan and implement First Day School programs with new teaching ideas and teachers for the Fall. With added help First Day School could return to weekly programming.

Planning Committee update – Tom Corl

Ben Tilghman, Tom Corl, and Mary Yancey met with Josh Kiehl and Christopher Miller, at their offices in Chadds Ford PA, with landscape architect Jonathan Ceci on the phone. They have enough information to prepare a scope of services document and a cost estimate by the end of June.

The planning committee will indicate to other architects that Milner was chosen architectural firm.

The planning contract, later to be approved by the Meeting, will be paid by meeting resources and a possible Trustees contribution, not from the Meeting Building Fund. A lot of fund raising will be needed. We must continue to support the annual operating budget as well as contribute to the Meeting Building Fund. We plan to do things as we have the money to act, as sequenced and prioritized. Some may involve sequenced donations.

Growth of the meeting is not the goal of the building program. The meeting membership has remained stable for 40 years and is currently shrinking. Our goal is capacity for the current demography and activities as well as safety and accessibility.

The following documents are available on the website:

- “Vision, Purpose and Guidance,” 5.19.22
- “Scope of Work for the Third Haven Planning Contract,” 5.19.22

Land Use Planning Committee (LUPC) update – Mary Yancey

The final presentations by the Morgan State University landscape architecture students were very interesting. The 4-hour video link will be shared in the future.

The LUPC will distill and synthesize the presentation information and documents and discern the best ideas. These LUPC results will be presented (in pdf form) to the Meeting community in sessions at the rise of Meeting for Worship to be scheduled this summer. Discussion about public access to and uses of the Meeting grounds will consider entrance changes, interpretive signage, at a called worship sharing session to discuss public access, safety and security ideas. This discussion should follow the LUPC presentations and occur in the Fall for greater participation. A survey map of the grounds is available on the website and in the common room.

Walking the grounds on Meeting for Worship dates might be helpful for envisioning these issues

Members and attenders appreciate the planning process and everyone’s efforts.

New business

Use of Brick Meeting House Jonathan Williams has a small business teaching music lessons and performances using music as something more than entertainment. He currently has a few students and looks for a place to use as a studio for teaching, rehearsal and administrative activities. He requests to use the second floor of the Brick Meeting House for a donation of \$3000 per year for 25-35 hours per week. Jonathan has liability insurance. Susan Claggett supports Jonathan and will coordinate First Day School activities and materials. Bill Lane will coordinate the agreement. Priscilla Sener, Susan Claggett will work with Jonathan on arranging the space for First Day School, Jonathan’s and any other uses. **Approved**

Trust Circles will start in the Fall, hoping to attract participants from Asbury AME church.

Closing Silent Worship 12:52

D. Rein, Reporter

Summer Happenings

Mindfulness Summer Camp

Third Haven hosted its annual mindfulness outdoor summer camp this Summer. We had 15 kids sign up with our wonderful FDS teachers Cherie Baron and Kristen Hanlon as teachers. Each day the kids arrived at 9 am and we’re greeted by our Junior Counselor, Liam Ewing. Kids played and connected with others as the teachers set up for the day. Day 1- with helpers John Schreiner and Jonathan Williams The kids made telescopes from cut out paper to see objects in nature more closely. During their walk about the grounds the kids collected bits of nature to be spray painted later.

Day 2- Today's theme was concentric circles and making mandalas. The kids looked for and collected more objects to make natural mandala art that can still be seen down by the stream bed.

Day 3- The theme this day was "Communities" and the kids learned about communities in the ground as well as on earth and in the sky. The ending project was painting an old wooden pallet from Clays stock using the boards as environmental layers. (This is currently against the wall near the common room) The day ended with Jonathan Williams volunteering again to let the kids play his ukuleles and Susan and the camp singing "All God's Critters." Final Day-the campers spent the morning making beautiful bead work which was woven around a wooden stick frame. This creation was later presented to the residents and staff of Candlelight Cove. As the kids made their way there, they followed a story of just pictures along the paths to the stream. Once at the stream Bill Lane showed up with a healthy box turtle which he found on the grounds and the kids enjoyed immensely. Kristina Herold walked with the camp all the way to Candlelight Cove where the kids presented their homemade gift.

All in all, it was a successful camp. Third Haven friends that attended were Daven Whalen, Annabel and Alice Lane, Liam, Finley and Riley Ewing and camp director, Amy Owsley.

Budget and Finance

Ben Tilghman writes: "The Budget and Finance committee is pleased to note that we finished fiscal year 2021-22 in excellent shape. Income was 101.5% of our budgeted income of \$70,250.00, and expenses were 100.1% of budgeted expenses at \$70,250. We ended the year with a surplus of \$992.73.

An Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends

This call to action from PYM was authored by a group of nineteen Quakers, who see forces at work in our country that undermine some of our basic values of equality, truth-telling, and deep listening.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has endorsed the Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends. Several Third Haven people participated in the National Zoom Call from Pendle Hill on August 18, along with nearly 200 other Quakers. All had the chance to speak briefly in break-out groups.

We Quakers, members of the Religious Society of Friends, hold strongly to the principle of speaking truth with integrity. We ground our speaking truth in our worship and our searching of ourselves, as we listen deeply and honestly within and across all differences. Our testimony to the world includes standing up for spiritually discerned Truth, the equality of all persons, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and respect and care for our neighbors and the earth. Right now, we see many forces at work in our country and the world that are undermining these basic values. Accordingly, we call on Friends everywhere to act. In this country, in 2020, we witnessed an attempted coup. The January 6 assault on the Capitol was a deliberate, violent attempt to prevent Joe Biden — the clear winner of the 2020 election — from taking office and keeping then-president Donald Trump in power. To maintain that the last election was riddled with fraud is demonstrably false. This politically motivated movement has now embarked on an orchestrated campaign to suppress voting by black, brown and young people and to pass new state election laws giving the power to throw out huge numbers of valid ballots to highly partisan legislatures, governors, and state attorneys general. Thus, this lie is being used to deprive people of their constitutional rights and constitutes a major injustice. As Friends, we feel called to speak out against these falsehoods and anti-democratic actions. We encourage Friends to seek spiritual guidance on any actions that you and your meetings might take to witness against this gross injustice. If this politically motivated movement succeeds in its anti-democratic takeover attempt, any hope of making significant progress on racial and economic justice, the equality of all people, the climate crisis, gun violence, and other urgent issues of our time will be gone. We know that democracy in the United States has many flaws. During the past 100 years, our local, state and federal governments have acted to prevent formerly enslaved people and other communities of color from voting. It was not until 1920 that women finally won the right to vote, and their equality is still being challenged. We call on Friends to act — first, to resist all efforts to undermine our current democratic processes, and second, to support true democratic reforms to our still flawed election system. We cannot allow a government that is built on lies and injustice. We the undersigned are encouraging Quakers throughout the country to work in their local communities, states, and the national arena to take critical actions to prevent an authoritarian takeover of our democracy. We urge Friends to discern the deep truths that provide a foundation for active love, wisdom, compassion, and a truly democratic electoral system—and then to actively support such changes. We know that love conquers fear. Let us lean into Divine Love and find ways forward in Truth. On the reverse are two queries for you and your meeting to consider in response to this call. We've also included a list of specific actions that Friends could begin taking now. Some actions may become necessary later if there is another attempted coup during the next presidential election cycle. Originators names may be found at the website <https://scym.org/news/news-feed/urgent-call-religious-society-friends>

QUERIES 1. What, if anything, is the Light Within calling Friends to do in response to the unprecedented rise of domestic extremism, white supremacy, and authoritarianism that is threatening the destruction of our democracy at home and abroad? 2. How can I/we respond with resolute love even while I/we may be struggling with fear, anger, apathy, or hate?

POSSIBLE ACTIONS Defending Truth We urge all Friends to discern the deep truths that provide a foundation for active love, wisdom, compassion, and peace in the world — and then to defend them. We ask:

- Individual Friends to search yourselves about the threats to our country, and the world, and to witness publicly to the truths that you discern are grounded in your experience of the Spirit.
- Quaker meetings and organizations to issue public statements calling out lies and the purveyors of lies, all in the context of our understanding of love, equality, and justice for all.

Working for True Equality and Justice for All We urge Friends to act for equality and equity within our diverse society:

- Join or support organizations led by people of color which are working for the empowerment of black, brown, indigenous and Asian people and communities.
- Speak, write, and protest in support for full equality of all people in American society, whatever their racial or sexual identity, gender, or class.
- Support legislative and economic changes that would lead to actual equity among all peoples.

Promoting Free and Fair Elections Stemming from our testimonies of Integrity and Equality, we urge Friends to:

- Support non-partisan voter-registration drives, particularly in communities under attack from those seeking to prevent them from voting.
- Publicly condemn partisan efforts to restrict access to voting.
- Confront partisan efforts to seize control of the election administration apparatus.
- Support conscientious, non-partisan election officials in our communities.
- Volunteer as poll workers, election monitors, and drivers to get people to the polls.

Preparing for Non-Violent Resistance We believe that as a religious society grounded in nonviolence, we can:

- Initiate discussions on the impacts of voter suppression and new laws enabling partisan actors to legally throw out ballots and change the results of elections, then garnering support for nonviolent resistance against all this, and forming community-based networks of support for such actions.
- Arrange for nonviolent direct-action training in our Quaker meetings and organizations, as well as with others in our larger communities.
- Form small “affinity groups” that can prepare to carry out direct actions in support of free and fair elections and the state and local officials who support them.
- Support wider efforts to plan and organize nonviolent resistance on a state and nationwide level, as needed.

You can endorse this Quaker message, find additional resources, register for national conversations on these issues, report on specific actions that you, your meeting, or your organization has undertaken, and sign up for continued updates at www.quakercall.net. We also welcome your questions, suggestions, and resources at info@quakercall.net

Condolences

Third Haven Friends send condolences to the families of Steven Escher, Esther Cooperman and Joyce Zeigler.

Steve was the husband of Jane Escher. His memorial service is September 25th at 1 p.m. at Third Haven.

Esther was a lifelong Quaker and active for many years at Third Haven. A memorial service is planned for the Fall at Crosslands, where she most recently resided.

Joyce was a wonderful artist and active member of Third Haven along with her husband Frank for many years. An October 15 memorial service is being planned. Details will follow.

Announcements

Full list of announcements may be found at

<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.

September 4 (Sunday)

Meeting for Worship + Spiritual Journey

Meeting for Worship will be held in the Old Meeting House this Sunday at 10 am. with simultaneous virtual meeting.. At the rise of meeting for worship, Kevin Walsh will present his Spiritual journey.

September 11, First Day School Our first welcome back children's program will be Sunday, September 11 at 10am. The children will be studying and understanding more about our Testimonies- starting with Peace. This Fall, the FDS would like to be part of a service project in our local or regional community. Any ideas kindly submit to Susan Claggett or Sarah Hildebrand. Please be prepared to lend a hand if you are able for these community projects. Many thanks.

Susan Claggett, FDS Clerk

September 24 [Saturday]

Vernacular Architecture Forum

The members of the Chesapeake Chapter of the Vernacular Architecture Forum are excited to tour our Old Meeting House. They will visit Cloverfields in Wye Mills the morning of Saturday, September 24, have a picnic lunch there, and then travel down to Easton arriving at about 2pm for a tour of our Third Haven Meeting House. Willie Graham and Carl Loundsbury will lead the group.

As one of the oldest positively dated buildings in Maryland and likely the oldest Friends Meeting House in the country, Third Haven is a terrific example of 17th and 18th century architecture. Built 1682~1684 by carpenter John Salter, Third Haven is of tremendous value in understanding evolving Meeting practices and Building design. Originally constructed in the form of a T, it was used for Quarterly and Half-Yearly meetings of local Monthly Meetings and Friends Meetings on the Western Shore near Annapolis. Known as the Great Meeting House, it played a significant role in the establishment of Quakerism in the Colonies.

We expect about 25 visitors and would like to share the tour with our Members. If you would like to sit in on the presentation, please drop a note to Bill Lane

September 25 [Sunday]

A Memorial Service for Steve Escher will be held at Third Haven on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 1 PM. The service will be held in the Old Meeting House and on Zoom.

September 25 [Sunday]

Southern Quarter will meet at Wicomico Monthly Meeting on September 25th. Details will follow.

October 14 to 16

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Spiritual Formation Retreat Fall 2022 at Pendle Hill

This year's focus is the formation of Spiritual Companion Groups as a tool to discover and revitalize the essence of Quaker practice. During our time together, we will explore these queries: Why are we Friends? How do we embody Quaker faith and practice in daily life? How do Companion Groups support our spiritual growth and practice?

When: Friday, October 14, 2022- 4PM – Sunday October 16, 2022 - 2PM

Who? Those seeking to deepen their spiritual lives. This is an excellent retreat for those new to Spiritual Formation, past participants of the program and those in ongoing SF groups. It is a great way to revitalize your group. It is not necessary to be a Friend/Quaker.

Here is the Link for more Information and to Register -

<https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=wxN9N2>

September 15, 2022 is the last day of registration, space is limited.

We hope to see you there! In the light, Spiritual Formation Collaborative