



THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

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September, 2026 Newsletter

“Testimony is the outflowing of life we cannot help but lead”

Ben Pink Dandelion 2014

Faith and Practice 2018 p. 158

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 6th Month, 14th Day, 2026

Opening Silent Worship: Clerk Ben Tilghman opened the meeting at 11:45 a.m. with a moment of reflection.

Attendance: Jim Altman, Susan Claggett, Nell Folmar, Beth Inabinett, Katherine Johnson, Janet Kemp, Larissa Kitenko, Joe Kirkinir, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Clinton Pettus, Kathryn Pettus, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Bill Schauer, John Schreiner, Ellen Schecter, Christina Swann, Ben Tilghman, Paige Tilghman, Jim Waddington, Heidi Wetzel, Mary Yancey

Approval of minutes from 5th Month Meeting for Business Approved



Clerk's Desk –Ben Tilghman

Ben Tilghman, Kristen Hawkinson and Bill Schauer are working on bylaws for our Limited Liability Company as required by Shore Bank. The draft will be shared for comments and then consulted with an attorney to fit the laws of the state of Md.

Pastoral Care, New Member Approval-Katherine Johnson Approved

Jim Altman was approved for membership. Welcoming committee: Ben Tilghman, Clinton Pettus, Nancy Robbins



Facilities Use Annual Report Calendar Year 2025-Larissa Kitenko

Accepted

Facilities Use Committee Members: Larissa Kitenko, Clerk

Third Haven Friends Meeting continues to provide a quiet, reflective space for the Meeting's activities, Members' outside activities; and occasionally, the meetings of non-members.

The primary purpose of the buildings is to accommodate the needs of the Meeting. Therefore, all Meeting activities have scheduling priority over any other group when a conflict arises.

Third Haven Meetings are being held in-person, hybrid format, or via Zoom.

Scheduling on the new Google Paper Calendar is syncing with on-line calendar (within a few days); Members are notifying Facilities Committee or leaving messages (kitchen phone) with plans for meeting times, Weddings, or Memorials.

This ensures that each usage has reserved space and/or on-line time.

The current system of categorizing meeting/event types has been working well and should be continued. This is listed on the webpage.

Donations have been forwarded by Facilities Comm/Friendly Presence to our Treasurer along with the event, date.

Recommendations from the Risk Control Consultant from Guidone Insurance to the Trustees (Sept 2022), P & G Comm, and Facilities Comm discussed these Safety Issues that applied to use of our buildings and property.

These recommendations have been included in the agreement document that prospective non-Member users of our property sign, viz., the need for a Certificate of Insurance or a signed Document that holds "Third Haven Harmless".

We make a distinction regarding the need for a COI as follows:

- 1 - organizations using Third Haven buildings to conduct their normal business
- 2- Third Haven Members who are hosting an event that may include Non-members;
- 3- (no need for COI) individuals/organizations that are invited by a Member to learn about Quakerism, its history, its role in this country/our community, and its approach to everyday life as well as the spiritual life.

Facilities Revenue 2025 Calendar Year – \$1736 (yr 2024 was \$7219)

For 2025 - Trial Google Monthly Calendar: seems to be successful and it will be continued. Thank you to the Meeting.

Generally, Common Room usage for meetings in descending order: Wednesdays (busiest), Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays (FDS, Hospitality),

Saturdays (occasional meetings/Memorial/Wedding Services), Mondays (fewer occasional meetings), Tuesdays (few meetings scheduled)

Usage included: Many Planning Committees, Spiritual Journeys, Relating to Differences, Thursday AM Men's Group, FDS Summer Mindfulness Camps, Tree Succession meetings, Ceci Landscapes, THFM Committee Meetings, Moccasins Across America, Bayleigh Chase Residents, A Member's Tombstone Placement & Service, Old Salem Museum Tour, League of Women Voters, and Carriage Shed Sale,

Discussion covered explanation of Certificate of Insurance for liability. The more closely aligned to the business of the Meeting, the less the need of COI. If people are not in an affiliated group, they individually sign waivers holding Third Haven harmless. Further questions may be directed to Ben Tilghman, Bill Lane or Larissa Kitenko

Library-Paige Tilghman Accepted

Susan Claggett, Janet Kemp, John Leon Donoghue, Paige Tilghman
Not available: Ellen Schechter, Lorraine Claggett

The Library Committee met on 05 04 2026 in the Brick Meeting House. We reviewed the current collection of books located in the THFM Library, including the 400 Pendle Hill pamphlet collection, the bibles and hymnals, and many books that have been recently donated. We reviewed the current classification for ordering books and determined that it was out of date. We also noticed that many of the labels on the current books were faded. John-Leon, a professional Librarian volunteered to review the classification and to recommend a new system for documenting the books with new labeling. We reviewed the current process for borrowing books which was active and simple and appears to be working well with several books recently lent out and returned.

Susan Claggett offered to organize the Pendle Hill pamphlets and is looking for five wooden boxes about the size of shoe boxes in which to store the pamphlets so they can be accessed by number order.

We apprised the collection of books in the Common Room and determined many of them were very old, had not been used and were at risk of deteriorating. We agreed that these books needed to be inventory, researched for value, and stored in a more accessible and conducive environment for old books. Janet Kemp and Ellen Schechter have begun to catalog and research the value of the older books. Paige Tilghman and Janet Kemp visited with the Director of the Maryland Room at the Talbot County Free Library to gather information about their criteria and interest in accepting books into their collection where they would be available to a greater number of people. The Maryland Room would only be interested in books about early Maryland Quakers and we agreed to consider this information.

We toured the upstairs of the Brick Meeting House. We determined that the library could provide a sample collection of books that are in the library to the proposed lounge area for members to use and to encourage reading of Quaker thought and material. We recommend the historic and valuable books be placed in glassed book cases in the Clerk's Office, adjacent to the Clerks Desk. This would provide for a safe, secure and controlled environment while also being

accessible to members. Ellen Schecter has offered to search locally for Barrister bookcases that would fit in this space.

The Library Committee will request to be placed on 6th month Business Meeting agenda to determine if the Library Committee can relocate the old and valuable Quaker books to the Clerk's Office, which is climate controlled on the second floor of the Brick Meeting House. We agreed to meet on Wednesdays and are considering a work day in the future.

Discussion: Re: desk and book case space in the clerk's office. Paige Tilghman and Mary Yancey will meet prior to planning committee's next meeting to discuss Brick Meeting House renovated rooms' use. Pendle Hill Pamphlets are now organized and available for reading.



2026 Art Show and Sale Proposal Marie Leonard Approved

Third Haven 2026 Art Show & Sale was proposed in order to move forward with planning details for a 2026 Show & Sale. In the past, we have been successful at engaging Members, Attenders and others from the Community at this event, with donations benefiting the Meeting. The proposed date is Saturday, Nov 7th from 10am-3pm. No conflict was seen with the proposed date. Marie Leonard and Sheryl Southwick will organize. Volunteers will be needed, so please save the date.

Presentation of the FY2027 Budget-Bill Lane & Finance Committee Approved

Third Haven Friends Meeting Draft 26-27 Proposed Budget

	25/26 Budget	Actual 6/9/26	26/27 Request
Attender Contributions	\$9,275.00	\$31,172.52	\$15,000.00
Camp Tuition	\$1,200.00		
Interest & Dividends Earned	\$350.00	\$1,045.02	\$400.00
Member Contributions	\$59,425.00	\$89,392.06	\$70,448.00
Sales & Cash Box	\$450.00	\$412.00	\$300.00
Use of Facilities	\$4,000.00	\$637.00	\$400.00
Contributions from Trustees			
Total Income	\$74,700.00	\$122,658.60	\$86,548.00
EXPENSES			
Burial Ground	\$200.00		\$3,000.00
Camp Expense	\$1,200.00		n/a
Charitable Contributions	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
Communications	\$3,250.00	\$2,806.97	\$5,160.00
First Day School	\$3,050.00	\$191.27	\$1,500.00

General Administration	\$4,250.00	\$4,924.76	\$5,000.00
Hospitality	\$250.00	\$292.45	\$700.00
Library			\$500.00
Pastoral Care	\$300.00	\$317.65	\$1,413.00
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	\$17,500.00	\$17,500.00	\$17,500.00
Planning	\$300.00		\$250.00
Property & Grounds	\$38,000.00	\$38,582.31	\$44,375.00
Quarterly Meeting	\$150.00		\$150.00
Scholarships	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Testimonies & Concerns	\$2,000.00	\$825.00	\$500.00
Worship & Ministry	\$250.00	\$248.50	\$500.00
Total Expenses	\$74,700.00	\$69,188.91	\$86,548.00

Operating Funds and Charitable Donations-Ben Tilghman, Mary Yancey Withdrawn
Proposal to send \$240 each to the following 5 organizations out of our surplus 2026 operating budget: World Food Program / School meals campaign or other campaign <https://donate.wfpusa.org/page/FUNAAPHMWHQ>, Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers (local) <https://cacckids.org/>, for child care scholarship, Trinity Cathedral Easton Md. <https://www.trinitycathedraleaston.com/> ESL (English as a Second Language) Program, American Friends of Combatants for Peace, <https://www.afcfp.org/ourmovement>, Caritas Ukraine (Working to repatriate and reintegrate Ukrainian children stolen by Russia) <https://www.ewtnnews.com/world/europe/caritas-ukraine-leads-efforts-to-reintegrate-children-taken-by-russia-in-wa><https://www.caritas.org/where-we-work-country/ukraine/>

Preliminary Precedent Question: Would a committee be allowed to come to entire Meeting for changed use of funds left at end of year? Decision: No.

Discussion:

Proposal 1: Committee with unused funds should go to Finance Committee for discussion.

Proposal 2: In July, out of new fiscal year budget, make these proposed donations. Committees should stick to budget as originated.

There was spirit behind this recommendation, a desire to help organizations in need.

In nonprofit development world even small sums are meaningful.

Request to make these donations **withdrawn**.



Review of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Readiness Signs-

Mary Yancey

Proofs were shown for signage in Brick Meeting House, Common Room, Annie's cottage and Old Meeting House, reflecting Philadelphia Yearly Meeting ICE injunction and house of worship and private space designations.

Comments: Will the immigration officials attend to the signs? Maybe the signs should not refer to a particular court case because it applies to anyone. PYM recommends mentioning the injunction which their lawsuit pursued for Third Haven's and others' benefit. Signs will be mounted for a month and comments welcomed.



Southern Quarter Meeting Summary-Susan Claggett Accepted

As the SQM Recording Clerk, I was asked by Worship and Ministry to give this report. W and M will welcome comments and questions afterwards.

At the January 2026, a concern was raised about the health of some of the monthly meetings within our quarter as well as a concern about the health and vitality of the quarter itself. After some discussion, a handful of members volunteered to form a SQ working group to discern this issue. Those members were Mike and Allison Richards from Camden, Susan Claggett and Clinton

Pettus from Third Haven, Eva Paxton from Wicomico River and Andrew Bell, Camden and member at large. Bob Denison from Chester River received the minutes but did not participate. This working group met 3x, once a month in Feb, March and April. Since Camden was the host of the next SQM in May, our deliberations centered on supporting their program. However early on other ideas sprung forth such as-

- 1) effective Clerking/finding a Clerk for Southern Quarter
- 2) holding Meetings for Business in Southern Quarter
- 3) space for listening, deepening our understanding
- 4) Quakerism 101 series for entire Quarter
- 5) attending/holding community events
- 6) improving communications between each Meeting
- 7) more welcoming to families
- 8) using PYM resources

At the May Southern Quarter Meeting, Camden held a Meeting for Business with attention to addressing three queries. The queries were written on large writing pads with Eva as recording the spoken comments. The queries were-

I How can Southern Quarter support the Monthly Meetings?

II Do you envision a Southern Quarter Clerk?

III List challenges and Highlights of your Monthly Meeting

A lively Meeting ensued with many thoughts recorded and Clerk Clinton Pettus asking for more discernment time. At the conclusion, Bob Denison, who will be one of the organizers for the Sept SQM in Chester River was enthused about working more closely with the working group

over the summer and beyond. Three new members who asked to join the group were Roy Zatcoff of Lewes, Nathan Shoyer from Camden and Nell Folmar from Third Haven.

It was also decided to have a fellowship gathering possibly at the beach this summer, either July or August. More to come.

This is the schedule for upcoming SQM host Meetings -

Sept 20- Chester River

Jan 17, 2027- Lewes

May 16, 2027- Third Haven

Sept 19, 2027- Wicomico River

New business

Joe Kirkenir presentation on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting covered methods of sustaining all meetings: annual sessions, help strengthen meetings, Friends Experiment virtual conversation circles, aging resources, support ministries, grants, relationships among all levels of meetings, covenant contributions, and frequent communications.

First Day School annual report postponed until September

Closing Silent Worship 1:17 p.m.

D. Rein, Recording Clerk

Ninth Month Queries Ninth Month is "Intergeneration Month," which gives us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how we demonstrate care and community across generations. The Worship and Ministry Committee queries for Ninth Month are:

- How do I recognize the Light in people of all ages?
- In what ways does Third Haven Meeting of Friends nurture relationships that cross generational lines rather than staying within age-based circles?

Spiritual Journeys

This Summer we heard two inspiring Spiritual Journey talks.



July brought **Sam Steffens** to us and in August we heard **Ellen Schechter**. Their journeys are attached to this newsletter for your review.

Attached: Spiritual Journey Sam Stephens

Ellen Schechter My Spiritual Journey

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting 346th Epistle

Blessings, f/Friends throughout the world from the 346th Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We were embraced as family by Cheyney University, the first Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in the United States, which was founded as an act of reparation by Friend, Richard Humphreys. In this time when we are so horrified by the cruelty we're witnessing in our country, to be so Held as beloved guests by these neighbors is a balm.

Much of our work and play were hybrid and allowed us to be in community with f/Friends who couldn't join us in person.

Our opening keynote speaker, Clinton Pettus, a former president of Cheyney, set the tone by emphasizing who we are, beyond our appearances or demographics, rather than what we are. He encouraged us to see beyond what we can see with our eyes and to look at each other's essence.

"So, we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

Romans 12:5 (ESV) He also reminded us that our way, as Friends, is to preach what we practice rather than practice what we preach and brought our theme, "Members One of Another" to life by saying "if you want to go far, go together."

Our Clerk invited us to join in our work, with open minds and open hearts and in that spirit we united, even though we did not always come to unity. But who are we when we cannot unite over an issue? Although we can't see it, we are still traveling together.

Our Friday keynote speaker, Christy Randazzo, continued the motif of our connectedness *"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit."*

Isaiah 11:1 (ESV) Our connection, *Members One of Another*, was grounded in our Worship which we carried with us through our engagement during our workshops, our intergenerational fun, and our renewed joy in being together. And as we continue to strive through our imperfections, as Christy Randazzo reminded us, we are hope.

News of Friends

Please hold Friends facing challenges and their families in the Light.

Joan Wetmore's brother, who has been seriously ill, passed away Wednesday last week. Please hold Joan and her family in the Light.

Condolences may be sent to Joan Wetmore, 24560 Deep Water Point Rd. #4, St. Michaels, Md 21663.

John Schreiner update: John is currently at the rehab in Cambridge. It's Autumn Lake Healthcare at Chesapeake Woods, 525 Glenburn Avenue, Cambridge, Md. Please hold him, Heidi, and the rest of his family in the Light. Heidi could use rides to the hospital and perhaps elsewhere. If you can help, please contact Katherine Johnson, who is helping schedule drivers.

Friends new and old celebrate our connections



**Claggett family welcomes
Baby Emilia**



**Katherine Peck Koustmer and Mom,
Delphin (Dee) Peck**

New Members and Attenders Luncheon, Sept 27th, 11 a.m. Common Room. Please join us in the Common Room after Meeting for Worship on 27-Sept, to welcome this year's new members and celebrate our attenders. Please bring a side dish to share if able.

Arts & Crafts Sale 2026 – at Third Haven Friends Meeting

We are planning an Arts & Crafts Sale for Saturday, November 7th from 10am-3pm. Third Haven Friends Meeting and other artists are invited to exhibit and sell their artwork. The entry fee is \$30 and a portion of each artist's sales will be donated to Third Haven. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Marie Leonard by September 15th at: leonardworksdesign@gmail.com.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Gather online on Thursday, October 29, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm for an evening discussion on this year's *One Pamphlet, One Yearly Meeting*.

This year's read is Pendle Hill Pamphlet 495: *Patterns of Racial Wounding and Racial Justice in Quaker Communities* by Lauren Brownlee and Zenaida Peterson.

Register for the Virtual Discussion

One Pamphlet, One Yearly Meeting, is a community read opportunity for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Friends to read and discuss the same Quaker pamphlet together.

The authors of the pamphlet are Lauren Brownlee (she/her) and Zenaida Peterson (they/them). Together, they invite Friends to consider how racial harm can occur within Quaker communities and what accountability, repair, and more loving relationships can ask of us.



Join us for a day of peace and inward renewal!

Inward Bound Quiet Day

September 30, 2026; 10am to 3pm (pot-luck lunch at 12 noon)

We begin in the Common Room,

Then: Brick Meeting House, Old Meeting House and grounds of Third Haven Friends Meeting

Join TH Friends in a silent retreat that offers a day of listening for the Light within, contemplation, reading, walking the grounds, writing, and self-chosen art activities.

We enjoy a shared, silent potluck lunch, and end our session with a short sharing session. Come for all or part of the retreat. Information and/or RSVP: Katherine Johnson

