



# THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

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**October, 2023 Newsletter**

*“Friends recognize that much of the misunderstanding, fear and hatred in the world stems from the common tendency to see national, religious, and racial groups as blocks, forgetting the varied and precious individuals who compose them.”*

*Philadelphia Yearly Meeting 1969*

*Faith and Practice 2017 p.173*

## **Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Ninth Month, Tenth Day, 2023**

**Opening silent worship:** Clerk Tom Corl opened the Meeting with silent worship at 11:45 a.m.

**Attending:** (hybrid) Mia Brown-Echerd, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Stephanie French, Whitley Gray, Marsie Hawkinson, Marie Leonard, Beverly Martin, Steven Meixner, Matthew Moore, Marian Murphy, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, John Schreiner, Priscilla Sener, Jonathan Slocum, Nancy Stanford, Ben Tilghman, Paige Tilghman, John Turner, Kevin Walsh, Winslow Womack, Mary Yancey

**Comments on Ninth Query: Grounding for Transformed Lives: Equality and Justice**  
(Read at Meeting for Worship)

Some resist changes to the query but find they ring true. Seeing that of God in people from whom we are ideologically separated is difficult. In the liberal/conservative political divide contempt is easy, easier than dehumanizing minorities or gender groups. The question in the query is huge. This land we occupy has unknown provenance and at one point was occupied by native people who later were not able to occupy it. We benefit from the current economic system a lot. People complain about the deer; they were here first, as were other creatures!

**Approval of minutes** from Sixth Month business meeting **Approved**  
with correction: Phase 1 Project 4, tree succession planning, was **Approved**.



**From the Clerk's Desk – Tom Corl** The 2023 draft State of the Meeting & will be reviewed in draft form in November, approved in December and then submitted to Southern Quarterly Meeting in January and sent directly to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Committee clerks will be asked to contribute, and the Clerk will compile. Spiritual State of the Meeting Report will probably be due in 4<sup>th</sup> month 2024.

Saints Peter & Paul 7<sup>th</sup> Grade will visit 1-2 p.m. on Thursday, September 28 or Wednesday, September 27, depending on the weather forecast since they come from the school on foot.

### **End of year Treasurer's Report – Ben Tilghman**



Third Haven closed out our Fiscal Year 22-23 with a surplus of \$2,100, as budgeted. This surplus will be added to our current operating cash which stands at \$84,638.39 as of today. Last year's budget projected a \$70,255 income, and matching expenses plus the surplus. We were able to achieve a balanced budget in FY22-23 because of the extraordinary generous response we received from members and attendees when we faced a significant shortfall in May. Shared expenses were also covered by the Trustees.

For FY23-24 we have approved a budget of \$72,500. One of the items that has driven this increase is administrative expense, or what some businesses call General and Administrative (G&A) expense. These are miscellaneous office supplies and the like but also include overhead items, which, in our case, includes a subscription to an online QuickBooks program, and access to a consultant/expert who is available to help the Treasurer with programing and accounting issues.

As of September 10, two months into FY23-24 income is \$7,590.22, and expenses are \$12,077.35. This early in the fiscal year this is not a matter of concern. During the summer, donations tend to slow down, and Property and Grounds (P&G) completed two projects on the brick meetinghouse which had been scheduled in the spring, but wound up completing after the end of last fiscal year.

Our balance sheet remains strong, with \$492,904 in current assets, virtually all of which is cash (restricted and unrestricted). This includes the the balance in the Scholarship fund. Liabilities are minimal, such as payroll taxes for the current quarter, Visa bill payable and so on.

Comments covered the complicated nature of modern-day treasurer's tasks for the Meeting.

### **Scholarship Annual Report – Marsie Hawkinson Approved**



The Scholarship Committee is dedicated to encouraging its young members in their pursuit of a good education – something which Quakers have long promoted. Friends Select School in Philadelphia was begun in 1689.

Our students for the Fall Term of 2023-24 include:

Zadoc Bond – junior – Haverford College  
Max McCall – junior – Vanderbilt Univ.  
Lucy Bond – junior/senior Univ. Maryland  
Serena Claggett – freshman – Lewis & Clark Univ.

Our young members coming along are:

Maeve Mufson  
Molly McCall  
Liam Owsley/Ewing  
Finley Owsley/Ewing  
Riley Owsley/Ewing

This Committee also contributed to the Summer Camp program by paying the salaries of the teachers. There were two sessions and each teacher received \$500. Per session. \$2000.

Currently at Friends Fiduciary:

Endowment Fund	\$147,250.52
Operating Fund	1885.22
Shore United Bank:	
Checking Acct:	3495.21

Committee Members:

Marsie Hawkinson – Clerk, Bill Schauer, Treas. Paige Tilghman, Lorraine Claggett, Marie Leonard, Sumner Parker

**Planning Committee Phase 1 Update-*Tom Corl***

**Planning Committee report on the external stairway to the brick meetinghouse (BMH).** The group working on this project consists of Molly Brian, Steve Meixner, Ben Tilghman and Tom Corl convenor. The group asked Joshua Kiehl of John Milner Architects (JMA) to prepare a proposal for professional design services for the external stairway to the BMH. The cost for: a) survey and building documentation, b) final design and construction documents, c) structural engineering, and d) "pre-permitting." These comprise the "base," costing \$18,900. Bidding and construction supervision would be additional. The group, generally satisfied with the proposal, met with Joshua on Zoom. After clarifications and minor changes, Tom signed the proposal. Some discussion followed. We need construction drawings to get the building permit and Easton Historic District approval. Permitting may entail changes. With permits, we can go on to getting bids for construction costs. This process will take time.

Comments noted that the Town of Easton historic district covers the Third Haven property. Needed are Dept. of Public works permits and Easton Historic District approval.

**Tree Succession** – *Mary Yancey*



The tree succession plan is one of the 4 projects of the Planning process approved by the Meeting to move forward. Third Haven members have begun the work of cataloguing all the trees. We have a proposal from Jonathan Ceci Landscape Architects to synthesize the data into a long-term plan considering the health of trees, their locations, activity zones, plans for infill trees, memorial trees etc. The proposal has a price tag of just under \$20K. We plan to seek grant assistance to help with the cost.

In surveying trees we've identified the critical need to address invasive vines which are killing some trees and are swallowing up border plantings and covering grassy areas not mowed. We have reached out to 3 contractors for estimates for vine control. The fix will likely be some combination of hand cutting and herbicidal application. It will require ongoing maintenance.

We plan to wrap a request for invasive vine removal funding into the tree succession plan grant request along with probably an assessment of stormwater flow, which is a focus of the granting authorities.

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) and Shore Rivers offer technical assistance to apply for these complex grants, determining which one would be the best fit for our needs and building a strong application. This requires that we sign a letter of commitment to IPC to request the technical assistance. It obliges us only to accept their help in exploring these grant opportunities.

**Approved**

Meeting members continue to conduct tree surveys most Friday mornings and First Day afternoons and anyone interested in helping is welcome to join us. Please contact Mary Yancey to be sure we are meeting on any particular day before showing up.

Respectfully submitted,

**Third Haven Art Show & Sale Proposal** – *Marie Leonard* **Approved**



Request was made to move forward with the planning of the art show and sale again this year, with work by Third Haven members, attenders, family & friends to benefit the Meeting. This year's Art Show & Sale is proposed for Saturday, December 2nd from 11am–3pm. The event will be structured much like last year. Volunteers will be needed so please save the date to help. No conflict scheduling was seen with the proposed date. Plans include advertising to publicize the event. Participation fees cover the expenses.

**Testimonies signs** – *Stephanie French*



Outreach committee proposes a Third Haven ad in the Star Democrat funded by Joan Wetmore. **Approved**

Outreach testimonies signs at the end of our drive will highlight our testimonies on a rotating basis. (Previously approved)

## **New Business**

### **Report on largest white oak-*Priscilla* Accepted**



The large oak is infested with Berkeley's polypore fungus, which can eat away at the tree's base per arborist, Dave Piver, and should be taken under annual care. The tree looks healthy and a fungicide can slow down and use fertilization to maintain health. He proposes to donate those services to the Trustees. He also recommends mowing differently to protect surface roots, so mulching would be needed. Other trees may also need services.

Comments: Better technique for leaf pick up and mulching were suggested and other property issues mentioned. Master planning for sidewalks should consider trees.

**Christie Duncan-Tessmer, General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, will for Quakerism 101 on September 24<sup>th</sup>** following hospitality. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting does want to hear from Third Haven, so this is also a chance to talk to her on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. in the Common Room. All are welcome to attend and facilitate this feedback.

**Closing Silent Worship** 12:55 p.m.  
Recording Clerk D. Rein

### **Prisoners of Congress: Philadelphia's Quakers In Exile 1777-1778**

A group of us from Third Haven arrived in August at the Imperial Hotel in Chestertown to hear Norman E Donoghue III discuss his just published book, "Prisoners of Congress: Philadelphia's Quakers In Exile 1777-1778". We were surprised to see so many from Third Haven in attendance and to learn that some of the prominent Quakers in this remarkable history were related to Bill Lane and perhaps others at our meeting. The book describes the harrowing experiences of 17 men who were exiled to Virginia, without a trial, by Keystone Pennsylvania state officials and labeled the "most Dangerous Enemies America knows". Mr. Donoghue's research describes the consequences of four Quaker families: the Drinkers, Fishers, Pembertons and the Gilpins, who abide by their Peace Testimony and go from prominent power in Pennsylvania to "be reviled by patriots who saw their refusal to fight the English as borderline sedition."

One copy, made possible by Molly Brian, is currently available in the Third Haven library. The book received favorable reviews as a must read for those interested in Colonial American history and this all but forgotten chapter. The book is also available for purchase at The Bookplate located on Cross Street in Chestertown, Md. *submitted by Paige Tilghman*

### **First Day School Discovery**

Our first day students today found a box turtle near the magnolia tree that appeared to have a broken shell. After many phone calls I spoke with a reptile rescue person at Reptile Wonders Nature Center in Carroll County, who gave me lots of advice on how to care for it ourselves since there's no rehab place that's likely to take it. So, I went back to the meeting house and she was still in the same place under the boxwoods. I took her home and on closer inspection her shell has a well healed old injury, and she's moving all her legs (trying to get out of this tub! Her

only ailment seems to be 1 eye that's bulging and possibly infected. But she seems very active and healthy otherwise. So, I called my friend back to possibly keep her overnight and talk to a vet to see whether it's better to keep her to try to treat the eye, or release her back where she was. I'm pretty sure that would have been her preference. It's possible she's incubating eggs there, or trying to hunker down to hibernate. In any event, we know she's there, so we should give her a wide berth, and be careful with our lawn equipment!

How did I know it was a She? If they're flat on the bottom it's a She; if they have an indent on the bottom, it's a male. Finally, I released her back under the boxwoods since she wanted nothing but to get out of that box. On release she buried herself under a few leaves and settled in like she'd never left. Our caretaker Clay notes she has been seen many times around the property.

<https://www.marshall.edu/herp/Old/boxturtle.htm#:~:text=Eggs%20are%20usually%20deposited%20in,to%20136%20days%20to%20hatch.> Submitted by Mary Yancey



## First Day School Welcome Back Brunch

September 17th all attending got to enjoy waffles and made-to-order omelets in the common room during a hospitality/family sponsored back to First Day School Brunch. Special thanks go to Kevin Walsh for the waffle brunch idea, making waffles and for setting up the room, Steve Meixner for omelet making, Evan Claggett as sous chef, Melissa Grant provided yummy fresh eggs and helped with clean up, Megan D'Arcy for a yummy chickpea salad.

Finally, an EXTRA BIG thanks to Mary Yancey who helped with set up AND clean up and prepared much of Sunday's meal. Thank you all! Submitted by Susan Claggett



## Quakerism 101 Guest Speaker

ON September 23 and 24 Worship and Ministry sponsored a visit and presentation by Christie Duncan-Tessmer, General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Christie joined the meeting for a pot luck dinner Saturday, September 23rd. On Sunday she was our guest speaker to launch our Quakerism 101 program on at the rise of Meeting for Worship. Her topic was decision making in the manner of Friends and Quaker history to place it in context. She included Friends and attenders of all ages.



**Announcements** Our 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.

**Additional announcements** may be found at <https://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>

**Faithful Green Leaders** We at Third Haven Friends Meeting invite you to join us for a Faithful Green Leaders Training sponsored by Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.

The purpose of the training is to develop a core group of environmental leaders within each congregation to promote environmental stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay region within that faith community. We also hope to form a coalition of environmental leaders from among diverse congregations to support one another and to take on larger projects.

The online training dates are October 12, 19 and 26 from 7 to 8:30 PM. Participants can join the training from anywhere, but we encourage you to join us at Third Haven to view the online training together, to begin the coalition building process.

Please call or email one of us below if you have any questions or to **RSVP to join us at Third Haven for the training**. In-person participation will be limited to 24 participants. For more information [https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/faithful\\_green\\_leaders\\_training\\_program](https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/faithful_green_leaders_training_program).

Thank you, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Mary Yancey

Jonathan Williams

**October 15 (Sunday) Southern Quarterly Meeting**

Lewes Worship Group is excited to welcome all to the next Southern Quarterly Meeting on October 15th, 2023. Meeting for Worship will be held at The Moorings (formerly Cadbury) at Lewes located on Gills Neck Road, Lewes, DE

Schedule for Quarterly Meeting:

9:30am Welcome & Coffee in Kalmar Nyckle Auditorium

10:00am Meeting for Worship

11:00am Program presented by Eileen Redden, long-time Quaker and Young Friends Book Review Editor of Friends Journal. She will present the job she does, some of the many changes we have seen at Friends Journal and in Friends Publishing, and answer any questions you might have. This should be a topic close to our hearts.

12:30pm Lunch provided by the Moorings and Lewes Worship Group