



# THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

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*December, 2024 Newsletter*

“...the mystery of God’s presence is at the heart of Meeting for Worship.”

Faith and Practice 1997 p. 127

## **Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Tenth Day Eleventh Month 2024**

**Opening Silent Worship** Clerk Molly Brian opened Meeting with silent worship at 11:41 a.m.

**Attendance** hybrid: Molly Brian, Mia Brown-Echerd, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Stephanie French, Christopher Angus Ford, Marsie Hawkinson, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Beverly Martin, Steven Meixner, Beth Mufson, Marian Murphy, Kathryn Pettus, Clinton Pettus, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Bill Schauer, Priscilla Sener, Paige Tilghman, Ben Tilghman, John Turner, Mary Yancey,

### **Comments on Eleventh Query, Witnessing in the World: Education**

(read at Meeting for Worship)

It was helpful to be reminded of how we make decisions in business mtg and come to discernment.

A parent whose child started college attended parent workshops, learning about support group sessions similar to Quaker silent meetings.

Quaker education is valuable. One twenty plus year old granddaughter said this week, following the election results, “Time to dig into community.”

Our First Day School thought children needed a wider view of the world, and adopted a relationship with an international school. The Schoffner donated money has been used to this purpose with a school in Bolivia.

Regarding public education and local elections, the board of education composition has changed. It’s important to pay more attention there, bringing our Quaker values to bear.

Hearing our queries more frequently, in small sections is appreciated. We look forward to hearing the advices as well.

**Approval of minutes from Tenth Month business meeting-Approved**



### **Clerks' Desk- Molly Brian**

A letter from Don Simon requesting membership passed to Pastoral Care for the clearness for membership process.

A letter from Sam Steffens was read and will be circulated with announcements. Note her queries on Earth Care to be addressed when she returns. Testimonies and Concerns is also concerned and welcomes Sam's

presence.

The draft State of Meeting report is missing contributions from various committees; please submit to allow completion next month.

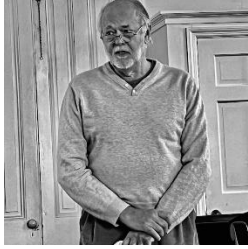
### **Property & Grounds Annual Report- Larny Claggett Accepted**

Committee members: Bill Lane, Robert Gladney, Nancy Robbins, Mary Yancey, Amy Kimball, Sally Claggett, Sam Steffens, Drew Gundlach, Dan Sweeney, Priscilla Bond Sener, Clay Owens, Ben Tilghman, Winslow Womack (emeritus), and Larny Claggett, clerk.

Activities from 10/23 to 10/24:

- A. The property and grounds committee provides hands-on care and oversight of our campus. We work to maintain our buildings in good repair; plain, pleasing, and unpretentious; with quality materials (e.g. the brick meetinghouse doors); and safe. The meeting, through the property and grounds committee, provides for our caretaker and pays the utility bills. One change the committee is instituting is to remove the trash pick-up from the Town's operation to us doing it in-house, at some cost savings to the meeting. The property and grounds committee oversees about half the monthly meeting's annual budget.
- B. Meeting wide semi-annual clean-up days in the spring and late fall with the usual efforts to mulch the beds with raked leaves, weeding and vine pruning, mowing, and general cleaning of buildings. The old meetinghouse was given a thorough dusting since most of the restoration work has been completed. It was recognized that some persons couldn't make the clean-up days, but were able to come at other days. There is always much to do.
- C. Vines continue to be a growing problem. Patrick Kelly was hired to administer herbicidal treatment on heavy vine and phragmites infestation in the meadow. After the die back, Clay has kept the vines/weeds somewhat in check with mowing. Vines and understory growth along our entrance drive have been attacked by meeting members as well as our neighbors. Property and Grounds with support of the Landscape Planning working group is continuing to work with Patrick Kelly and other professionals to help with our removal of vines and other invasives.
- D. The big property and grounds investment in 2024 has been a new riding lawn mower. The trustees have participated in paying for the mower and a service contract. Clay puts the mower to good use, but also uses the old, smaller mower for special areas and tight spaces.
- E. The committee has enjoyed providing hospitality after meeting this month. How about that ice cream cake and hot breakfast!

A member noted participation of some First Day School dads on the grounds as well as providing breakfasts.



**Nominating Committee Preliminary Report** – *Steve Meixner*

*Italics not yet confirmed.* Standard type has been confirmed.

**Trustees:** Priscilla Bond Sener, President; Laurence Claggett, Jr., Marsie Hawkinson, Bill Lane, Allan Mielke, Dee Rein

**Clerk:** Ben Tilghman; **Co-Clerk:** *to be determined*

**Treasurer:** *to be determined*

**Recording Clerk:** Dee Rein; **Assistant:** Nancy Robbins

**Records:** Janet Kemp; Marsie Hawkinson

**Committees:**

**Budget & Finance:** (Annual Reports due in May, June) Bill Lane, Clerk; *Treasurer of the Meeting, to be determined*; Bill Schauer, Assistant Treasurer; Steven Meixner

**Burial & Memorials:** Molly Burgoyne Brian, Tom Corl, co-clerks; Larny Claggett (P&G), Bill Schauer (Pastoral Care)

**Campaign (Fundraising):** *Merge into Planning*

**Communications:** (Annual Report due in April) Clerk/Tech support: Dee Rein; Website Manager: Tania "T" Hamboyan Harrison; John Hawkinson; Directory & Graphic Design: Marie Leonard; Photographer: Marian Murphy; Tech Support: Kathryn Pettus, John Turner, Stephanie French, Mary Yancey, Clinton Pettus, Jim Altman

**Facilities Use:** (Annual Report due in March) Larissa Kitenko, Clerk; Lisa Kluepfel, Beth Mufson *Need additional Member/Identify Bus tour docent(s), candidates; Tom Corl, Bill Lane*

**First Day School:** (Annual Report due in June) Susan Claggett, clerk; Sarah Claggett, Katie Claggett, Sarah Hildebrand, Melissa Grant, Kulveen Virdee Lisa Kluepfel *Co-Clerk?*

**Hospitality:** (Annual Report due in March) Mary Yancey, Clerk; Beth Mufson, Jonathan Williams, Kristina Herold, Marian Murphy, *one additional member*

**Library:** Paige Tilghman and Janet Kemp

**Nominating Committee:** (Annual Report due in December) Janet Kemp, Clerk; Paige Tilghman, Mary Yancey

**Outreach:** (Annual Report due in January) *Merge into Testimonies and Concerns*

**Pastoral Care:** (Annual Report due in January) Bill Schauer, Clerk; Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Marsie Hawkinson, Steven Meixner, Terry-Thomas Primer, *Additional Member(s)*

**Planning:** (Annual Report due in April) Tom Corl, Clerk; *Molly Brian, Sally Claggett, Sarah Taylor Claggett, Susan Claggett, Sarah Hilderbrand, Marie Leonard, Steven Meixner, Nancy Robbins, Priscilla Sener, Ben Tilghman, Mary Yancey*

**Property and Grounds:** (Annual Report due in October) Larny Claggett, Clerk; Priscilla Sener, Clay Owens, Amy Kimball, Bill Lane, Nancy Robbins, Robert Gladney, Ben Tilghman, Dan Sweeney, Drew Gundlach, Sally Claggett, Sam Steffens, Winslow Womack (Emeritus)

**Scholarship:** (Annual Report due in September) Marsie Hawkinson, Clerk; Bill Schauer (Treasurer), Paige Tilghman, Lorraine Claggett, Marie Leonard, Kristin Hawkinson; Emeritus members; Doreen Getsinger, Sumner Parker,

**Testimonies & Concerns:** (Annual Report due in November) Paige Tilghman, Clerk; Stephanie French, Mary Yancey, Lorraine Claggett, Beth Mufson

**Worship & Ministry:** (Annual Report due in December) Clinton Pettus, Clerk; Jonathan Slocum, Molly Burgoyne Brian, Tom Corl, Kristina Herold, John Schreiner, Sam Steffens, Harvey Zendt

**Liaisons and Representatives**

**Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM):** *Lorraine B. Claggett, Nancy Robbins, Susan Claggett*

**Southern Quarterly Meeting:** Marie Leonard, Paige Tilghman, Katherine Johnson  
**American Friends Service Committee (AFSC):** (Annual Report due in November)  
Lorraine B. Claggett

**Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center (CMRC):** Katie Claggett, Nancy Robbins  
**Detention Center Library:** Molly Brian, Stephanie French, John Schreiner, Beth Thompson,  
Mary Young, Jeanne Halpin, Paige Tilghman, Beth Mufson, Amy Kimball, Melanie Mosner

**Food Link:** Paige Tilghman, Winslow Womack

**Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL):** (Annual Report due in March)  
Paige Tilghman

**NAACP, Talbot County:** Doreen Getsinger, Mary Yancey

**P.E.A.C.E.:** John Turner

**Quaker Voice:** Dona Sorce

**Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity (TACL):** (Annual Report due in November)  
Molly Brian, Nancy Robbins

**Talbot Interfaith Homeless Shelter (TIS):** Sarah Sayre (coordinator), Heidi Wetzel

A Friend noted that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting uses presiding clerk and rising clerk (in training to step into role) for committee roles.



#### **Testimonies & Concerns: Annual Report- Accepted**

Committee: Paige Tilghman (Clerk), Lorraine Claggett, Stephanie French, Beth Mufson, Mary Yancey and Jonathan Williams. The Committee met monthly on the 1st First Day of the month at 8:30 am in the Common Room.

We began our year with an update to the Charitable Giving Guide and Recommendations for a \$3,000 distribution to five local groups at \$400 each: (MultiCultural Center, MidShore Council on Family Violence, 4 All Seasons, Life Time Wells and Habitat for Humanity) and the remaining \$1,000 to be directed to Palestine Peace Teams and to the Ukraine for aid through the American Friends Service Committee and the Red Cross. Checks were processed and letters with donations were sent. THFM received thank you notes from all the recipients.

We continued our work with the Talbot Interfaith Shelter in 2024, preparing approximately 18 meals for adults and children on the 17th of each month. This year we extended an invitation for members to help us purchase food items and cook the meals together in the Common Room. We had some successful gatherings including the preparation of a Turkey Dinner in November. We realized the commitment and expense was too big and laid down the donation of dinners in 7th month. T&C members, Mary Yancey and Beth Mufson continue volunteer with Sarah Sayre and Kristina Herold at TIS once a month.

We initiated Conversations on the Queries in January, and in honor of Susan Dickerson, who hosted 'Conversations with Susan' successfully for many years as a way to initiate conversation on topics of interest. We prepared and served biscuits and jam to those who joined us on the 4th first day and continued the practice for six sessions with some heart felt sharing. By the 6th month the biscuits were much improved.

Testimonies Concerns wrestled with the unrest in the Middle East and in April offered the American Friends Service Committee proposed Minute on the Israel-Gaza war to begin a discussion on the matter. We learned we were not of one accord on the matter and discussed and

edited the THFM proposed minute over several Meetings which was finalized at the 6th month Meeting for Business.

Through the efforts of Jonathan Williams, Mary Yancy and Beth Mufson, T&C became active with the Green Hands - a local initiative with Town Parks and the Presbyterian Church to plant summer community gardens and begin a recycling initiative. Meeting members were enthusiastic about organizing recycling efforts in the Common Room kitchen and several members contributed items from their homes. A celebration of the gardens was held in late summer.

On Seventh month, 14, Bill Shreves, President, Bay Hundred Community Volunteers, and several members, visited THFM Common Room at the rise of Meeting to share their mission to help improve the living conditions of residents of Talbot County and to raise awareness for the need for adequate, safe, affordable housing. The nonprofit is in need of volunteers. Beth Mufson attended a preliminary meeting on October 14th and shares interest with anyone interested in volunteering for one day projects to repair homes and install access ramps.

The Bolivia Quaker Education Fund will be the recipient of \$1,000 from the Shoffner Fund set aside to fund International Quaker Education.

We enjoy the opportunity to connect members with projects in our community and encourage everyone to consider an area of work where they might donate some time as Friends: Habitat for Humanity; Detention Center Library; Peace Teams; Talbot Interfaith Shelter; Multicultural Center; Quaker Voice of Maryland, Food Link, NAACP of Talbot County and Green Hands.

#### **Charitable Contributions Guide 2025 and recommendations for Meeting charitable contributions- *Paige Tilghman* Approved**

\$3,000 to be awarded as follows: \$1,600 aid to Palestine to AFSC, \$200 Chesapeake Multi Cultural Center, \$200 Mid Shore Council on Family Violence, \$200 Talbot Interfaith Shelter, \$200 Habitat for Humanity, \$200 Life Time Wells, \$200 Bay Hundred Volunteers, \$200 Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

#### **Planning Committee Update- *Tom Corl*-Accepted**

Following the long-term Master Plan for the property and grounds, “accepted” at 5.14.23 meeting for business, the Planning Committee continued to work with John Milner Architects (JMA) of Chadds Ford PA and Jonathan Ceci Landscape Architects (JCLA) of Baltimore MD, meeting in-person or on Zoom several times.

This year, the PC focused on the 4 Phase 1 priority projects (see below), approved at the 6.11.23 meeting for business. The PC identified and met with general contractors for construction, to assess the firms and get estimates for construction. The PC selected Harper and Son as the general contractor. On 9.8.24, the Meeting approved financing of \$323,400 from the Meeting Building Fund, including a \$150,000 contribution from the Trustees. Further, the Meeting authorized the PC to proceed with permitting, construction and implementation of Phase 1 projects. The PC continued to work on the 4 Phase 1 projects:

1. *External stairway to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the brick meetinghouse (BMH) for First Day School (FDS) access and safety, and other uses. For the purposes of permitting and construction Projects 1 and 2 have been merged (see 2 below).*

2. *Accessibility ramp to the BMH*, compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The PC continued to work with JMA and JCLA on design, code compliance, safety, drainage, historic preservation, preservation of trees and plants, and cost. With the revision and completion of the required permitting drawings, by JMA and JCLA, members of the PC and Trustees presented the proposed projects and drawings to the Easton Historic District Commission (HDC). The HDC approved “the application as submitted” on 10.29.24. Harper Construction has submitted the drawings and applied for a permit for these 2 projects to the Town of Easton (ToE). JMA, JCLA, Lane Engineering and members of the PC continue to work on the ToE permitting process. The PC and the Meeting are especially grateful to Priscilla Sener and Steve Meixner, and Ron Markey of Harper, for all their excellent work on advancing these 2 projects in the permitting process.
3. *Renovate 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the BMH* for First Day School (FDS), safety, and related uses. The PC has met and discussed the needs and plans for the renovation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the BMH (BMH2). The scope and content of these BMH2 renovation plans continue to evolve, in light of needed functions, present conditions, and permitting issues. The PC and Harper plans to finalize designs, drawings, permitting and a contract, separately from projects 1-2.
4. The *tree succession plan* working group has completed the survey of the species, size and condition of almost all of the trees on the property, our valuable canopy. The tree group applied to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) for a related grant and was rejected twice. Somewhat surprisingly, approval for a CBT grant for around \$14,500 came through recently. With Meeting approval for Phase 1 project financing, the tree group and the PC are negotiating a contract with JCLA to complete the very long-term Third Haven tree succession plan. The PC and Meeting are especially grateful to Mary Yancey and the tree group for all their excellent work on advancing this project.

The Meeting Campaign Committee did not meet this year and is deemed to be laid down. Nevertheless, the Meeting Building Fund grew to \$430,000, from generous members, attenders and Trustees in 2024.

Whitley Gray shared that ShoreRivers was awarded the funding for Invasive Species Management at Easton Middle School. We were awarded all of the funding we requested and it remains our plan to include the invasive issues at the northwest corner of Third Haven's property in project scope. More to come once we have a contract. This will fund a contractor to address this issue. No action needed, just wanted to share some additional good news.

### **New Business**

Friends are invited to sign a card for Mary Young who is resigning from the detention center library committee.



Molly will not appear as clerk at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in December. She notes that we are all clerks with responsibility for conduct of the Meeting.

**Closing Silent Worship 12:42 p.m.**  
**Recording Clerk: Dee Rein**

## **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Online Disability/Caregiver Support Groups (Registration Closes Dec. 20)**



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) is hosting two support groups: one for Friends with disabilities (**referred to as Disability Support Group**) and another for Friends who are caregivers of Friends with disabilities (**referred to as the Caregiver Support Group**). Each support group will meet monthly on Zoom over the course of six months, with closed captioning and transcript enabled for those who need it.

**Please note that these support groups are limited to members and attenders of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.**

The support group for Friends with Disabilities will be co-facilitated by Nancy Williams (Harrisburg Monthly Meeting) and Susan Elliott (Chester Monthly Meeting). Susan is a Pastoral/Spiritual caregiver and has had a disability for most of her life.

The support group for Friends who are Caregivers will be facilitated by Janaki Spickard-Keeler (Friends Counseling Service) and Kristin Simmons (PYM, Youth Engagement Coordinator). Along with serving the yearly meeting, Kristin works as a social worker, supporting autistic children. The support groups are set to begin in January 2025.

**Each support group will be capped at twelve participants.  
Participants must be ages 18+ in order to participate.**

Click link for further information and registration.

[PYM support group](#)

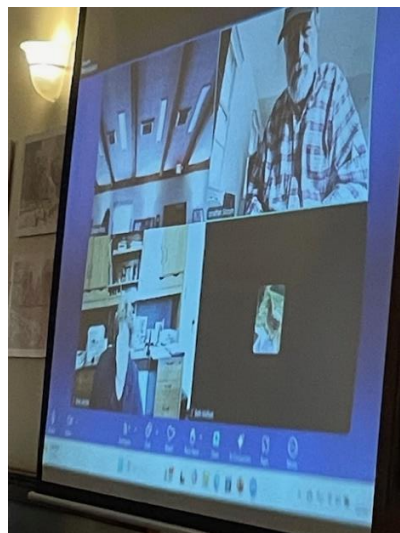
### **Internet Connectivity**

We understand that some Friends may find it difficult to connect to the internet. If you are a Friend that experiences problems with accessing the internet and joining this support group via Zoom would be difficult, please let us know. We would love to help find a way for you to connect to the online support group, through accessing local resources or connecting you with Friends that can support you from your local monthly and quarterly meetings. Please email Inaara Shiraz, [ishiraz@pym.org](mailto:ishiraz@pym.org), or call (215) 241-7213 if you have any questions.



## Relating Across Perceived Differences-Trust Circles

November 24<sup>th</sup> Sandra Palmer and her husband Steven Lavenhar from Alexandria Monthly Meeting in Virginia visited to share their journey with trust circles. This spiritual practice encourages people to think deeply and share openly their thoughts on queries posed by the facilitators. In the process Alexandria Friends learned to accommodate many different types of differences, cultural, physical, emotional and developmental among them, to become inclusive in their practice. The power of this process was witnessed by moderator Molly Brian and trained facilitator Jonathan Slocum. Friends at Third Haven are invited to consider trust circles as a practice helpful to communication in our Meeting and life communities.





## Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner Coalition

Again, this year Third Haven participated with Asbury United Methodist and 11 other churches to provide free, delivered Thanksgiving dinners. Recipients in need due to finances or disabilities were selected through the participating churches' and Senior Center's knowledge of the community. Dinners included turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, green beans, gravy and cranberry sauce with pie for dessert. All foods were prepared by parishioners and delivered to Asbury for carry out assembly Thanksgiving morning. Among many Third Haven volunteers are those seen below who helped organize, serve and deliver these meals throughout Easton and Trappe.

