



The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
Fourth Month, April 2021

Hopewell Centre Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
604 Hopewell Road, Clear Brook, VA 22624
Telephone: 540-667-9114 <http://hopecentre.quaker.org>

Dick Bell, Clerk of the Meeting, 304-268-8510
Donna Knight, Assistant Clerk of the Meeting, 540-771-8118
John Guiser, Clerk of Pastoral Care, 540-662-1436
Michele Christopher, Newsletter, Michele.christopher@hotmail.com, 540-908-8414
**If possible, The Monthly Silence will be published on or soon after the 20th of each month.
Please send items you want included in the newsletter by the 17th of the month.*

Please send donations to:
Hopewell Centre Friends
c/o Jim Riley
1321 Vanceright Circle
Winchester, VA 22601

Pastoral Care

**Join us in Holding in the Light John Trueblood and family in the loss of his beloved,
Margaret Trueblood 3/30/1938 – 3/5/2021**

**We hold in the Healing Light of Love these friends and their families as they deal with
health issues and life changes.**

Francine Guiser and husband John Guiser
Jose Camacho and the Harris family, Kelsey Harris Camacho and husband Alex
Janet Harrison and husband Andy Mossholder
Kary Haun and husband Frank, son Joe, daughter Margaret
Ellie Haun as she adjusts to her new home
Julia Storberg Walker and husband Jeff
Maggie and Peter Stetler, who have been dealing with stress of the past year along with ongoing health issues.

Meeting for Worship for Business
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, March 14, 2021
Collectively but Separately from our Homes and Hopewell
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: The Clerk referred to a list of characteristics of white supremacy culture that are generally accepted as norms from BYM's publication of "Dismantling Racism: A Workbook for Social Change Groups". Today's category was "Sense of Urgency." Dick read the characteristics and then asked for volunteers to read some of the antidotes to these characteristics. Comments included: We live in a culture that reflects a sense of urgency. The "Quaker Way" helps to counter this sense of urgency. On the other hand, our attempt to hear all voices in a discussion can sometimes derail our focus with too many details and specifics. Sometimes a quick action can be just as spirit led as one that takes its time. The characteristics and antidotes are attached to the original minutes.

Thanksgivings and Concerns: Donna Knight gave a thank you for much needed sunlight that illuminated the Meeting House. Margie Riley expressed that our hearts are with John Trueblood and his family during this time of grief for the loss of his bride Margaret. John Guiser gave thanks for the many educators that have been caring for students during the pandemic and especially for students with special needs. He mentioned two autistic students that have shown improvement because of this care and the fact that in-school instruction is starting back up.

Treasurer: Jim Riley reported that all is well with the Meeting finances.

Ministry and Counsel: Donna Knight presented the following report:
We met on March 1, 2021 via Zoom. (This report was written March 8 and includes developments since the meeting.)

We reviewed how the hybrid meeting was going. For example, last week we had eight in attendance at Hopewell. Added to our attendance via Zoom, our total attendance came to 24.

We began planning for a June 12, hybrid interim meeting for BYM at Hopewell. Attendance will be limited to 35. Interim meeting clerk Meg Myers will lead a Business Meeting which will begin at 10:00 am. Lunch will be served to the attendees (via bag lunches?). The clerk may open with a clerks of the committees meeting before the business meeting. The meeting will be broadcast via Zoom using hot spots brought by BYM and utilizing ours. We also must provide a morning snack, possibly a Port-a-potty. One member suggested an event tent with chairs underneath might be appropriate considering the pandemic for attendees to rest outside.

We reviewed RE's and planned for April's:

March 7 – an excellent RE reflecting the FCNL lobbying efforts presented by Meg Kinghorn and Casey Willson.

March 21 – Paul Britner on animals and our spiritual attachment to them.

March 28 – An exploratory session to determine if the meeting wishes to acquire a sister meeting and whether that meeting might be a programmed meeting, an unprogrammed meeting, or even another form of worship community.

April 4 – Easter (we are working on assembling a panel for discussion).

(Dick will substitute for Donna as host at Hopewell).

April 18 – Non-violence. Ellie Haun and Dick Bell will lead a discussion on how to present our Quaker commitment to non-violence to our community and our world in a non-partisan fashion.

April 25 – Non-violence II. Developing ideas for creating a platform to implement non-violence in addressing world issues.

We discussed buying an app through Otter which will allow Zoom attenders to read a close captioned version of meeting for worship. We decided to refer this issue to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Ministry and Counsel

Clerk Bell commented that we all have many gifts and interests and to please consider offering an RE if you are so moved.

Pastoral Care: John Guiser reported that the committee met last week and continued to discuss and clarify their new communiqué called “Light Lines.” They are making an attempt to reach out not only to regular members and attenders, but also to those listed in the Meeting Directory whom we haven't heard from lately. They invite us to write down our thoughts and prayers and send them to the committee for dissemination. The current topic for focus is about animals and their spiritual attachment to us. The next topic will be about how we view grief and loss. Send your personal examples to any committee member (John, Karen, Martha) for compilation into a Light Lines email. [You can find their email addresses in the CC line of this email.]

Advancement and Outreach: Karen Nelson reported on the success of the WATTS dinner held on March 2. She thanked all who helped: those who cooked and supplied food and those who volunteered to be at the dinner to help. She also reported that the leftover food was donated to the Evans Home. Thanks were given to Karen for organizing the dinner and ensuring its success.

Peace and Social Concerns: Dick Bell reported that the committee continues to meet monthly to discuss current social issues.

New Business: Julia Storberg-Walker reported on a recommendation from Ministry and Counsel that we explore the use of software called “Otter” when we Zoom. Otter is an artificial intelligence platform that transcribes speech to closed captioning that would appear on the bottom of the screen while we Zoomed. Those who are hard of hearing would then have a readable text of the discussions. It would cost \$240 per year. The transcription is also converted to a file that can be saved or deleted. A discussion commenced of the pros and cons of the software. One of the cons is the insecurity of cloud storage of files and one of the pros is that closed captioning could also benefit those who are not hearing impaired. Ministry and Counsel will discuss the recommendation further and report back at the next business meeting.

Martha Hanley suggested that we include music during our Easter Sunday Meeting. It was decided that we could have music played during our Zoom Meeting and those meeting at Hopewell could do some singing at the close of our Zooming.

Announcement: A reminder: we will host a hybrid Interim Meeting on June 12 at Hopewell. Only a business meeting will be held sans committee meetings.

The Meeting concluded with Kristin Zimet playing “Lift Every Voice and Sing” on the piano at Hopewell; a lovely way to end.

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Dan Riley, Donna Knight, Margie Riley, Anne Bacon, Martha Hanley, Judy McCarthy, Maureen O’Mara, Ellie Haun, Betty McCormick, Karen Nelson, Julia Storberg-Walker, John Guiser, Hilde Matheson, John Trueblood, Becca Bacon, and Kristin Zimet.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk



April Calendar

March 28 RE---An exploratory session to determine if the meeting wishes to acquire a sister meeting and whether that meeting might be a programmed meeting, an unprogrammed meeting, or, even, another form of worship community.

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