

**Meeting for Worship for Business  
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, January 9, 2022  
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding**

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

**CQE:** The Clerk read the following quote by Edward Burrough, 1634 - 1663:

All that dwell in the light, their habitation is in God, and they know a hiding place in the day of storm; and those who dwell in the light, are built upon the rock, and cannot be moved, for who are moved or shaken, goes from the light, and so goes from their strength, and from the power of God, and loses the peace and the enjoyment of the presence of God.

Comments included how this is such a basic statement of faith and how it expresses such a high level wisdom for a person who was only in his '20s and died before reaching the age of 30.

**Thanksgiving and Concerns:** Donna Knight expressed her concern for her granddaughter Kaci who is in the hospital hoping to delay a premature birth of her baby. Betty McCormick was thankful that John Guiser is home from the hospital and also expressed her concern for the health of his wife Francine. Becky Ebert was thankful for not having to be on the "concern" list. Kristin Zimet expressed her concern for her daughter and grandchildren that have Covid. We send prayers and hold in the light all of the above.

**Treasurer:** Jim Riley gave the treasurer's report for December.  
Major items included:

Contributions:

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Individual and Family:    | \$2,920 |
| Use of Centre:            | 730     |
| Shelter Donations         | 27,832  |
| Graveyard Contribution    | 1,000   |
| Sarah Zane Contribution   | 1,000   |
| Roger's Fund distribution | 9,911   |

Expenses:

|                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Donation to Shenandoah Univ. | 100 (hunger project) |
| Deposit on Shelter contract  | 5,000                |
| Checking account balance:    | \$12,469             |

The Treasurer's report is attached to the original minutes.

Jim also presented the financial summary for the year 2021:

Hopewell Centre Meeting ended 2021 in good financial shape. During the year, we collected \$30,692 in unrestricted income. This consisted of \$24,984 in contributions and \$5,708 in payments from groups for the use of Centre Meeting House. Our normal expenses which we budget for totaled \$30,710 in 2021.

Our cash balances as of December 31, 2021, consisted of the following:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Unrestricted cash                      | \$12,469 |
| Building funds for Hopewell and Centre | \$34,714 |
| Graveyard fund for Hopewell            | \$34,679 |
| Rogers income fund                     | \$50,146 |
| Youth fund                             | \$324    |
| Sarah Zane fund                        | \$4,009  |

All of these funds total \$136,341.

Rogers Property Fund: In 2012, the meeting received a bequest from Eloise Rogers totaling \$379,473. Her will stipulated that these funds were to be invested and the income was to be used for the upkeep of our property. At that time, the meeting agreed to invest the funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Friends Fiduciary is an investment management firm that manages money for Quaker Meetings and other Quaker organizations. Baltimore Yearly Meeting has funds invested with Friends Fiduciary.

Every year, we receive a distribution from Friends Fiduciary in June and December. In 2021, the total distributed to our meeting was \$19,552. Since 2012, the funds have been managed by Friends Fiduciary and the principle has increased to \$631,605 as of December 31, 2021.

In the coming year, I want to work with the Finance Committee to see if we can find ways to simplify the meeting's financial accounting.

**Ministry and Counsel:** Judy McCarthy presented the following report:  
The Committee met via Zoom on January 4, 2022.

We discussed thoroughly the Spiritual State of the Meeting. We decided with the comments shared from a member that we would undertake this year's process ourselves. Our first query is the following (Proposed first query) "How do we encourage and promote our spirit of diverse activity and action? How do we continue to ensure that so many of us follow our leadings and express ourselves in the Light?"

We decided to continue the absence of live, in-person meeting this week. We advise the meeting that we return to very restricted live worship beginning the meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> with attendance limited to 12, spaced widely within the meeting house, and have the kitchen and any activity in it off limits. We shall review the situation weekly with physicians' advice until the current wave of Omicron is passed.

For RE's we decided to add February 6 and 20 as days to work collectively on the Spiritual State of the Meeting. We confirmed January's RE's and factored in the 23<sup>rd</sup> (normally potluck) as a makeup day.

We noted how well the other major initiatives of the meeting are moving forward: shelter, timeline, community prayer, and an invitation for Peace and Social Concern to pursue bringing the Conflict Resolution workshop to Hopewell.

We decided to publish to the meeting the corrected addendum to the query of the BYM Change group to the meeting.

We reviewed the current offering of Washington Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology (Anne Pickup is offering a journey through Dante's *Divine Comedy* as a Jungian template for individuation) and Judy McCarthy's offering of Woodstock's memorial tree program as an example for fund-raising for us.

We affirmed that we have contacted Delegate Wendy Goditis's office about her offer to nominate some of us Quakers to open the General Assembly sessions with Quaker Silence.

Lastly we were amazed when we considered how much members of our faith community do for ourselves, each other, and our faith community.

A final recommendation emerged to invite members to extend to others references of books read and recommended.

Discussion ensued concerning in-person meeting at Hopewell. It was agreed that we do not have to implement the 12 person limit. We just need to use common safety sense. We will not permit use of the kitchen area (bring your own drink). It was suggested that we purchase the approved face masks for distribution if needed.

Two additional queries were offered for discussion: 1) Do Friends feel any disconnect when RE is presented to the hybrid Zoom/in-person groups? 2) Would Friends approve the purchase of a larger screen so we can see our Zoomers?

Many said that they do feel a disconnect and that we should consider the purchase of a large screen for displaying our Zoomers. In a broader picture, it was likewise noted that there is ample technology that would improve our Zoom set-up and our internet signal. All agreed that money spent to keep us together is money well spent. A sub-committee of Advancement and Outreach will follow up on these suggestions.

**Advancement and Outreach:** Margie Riley presented the following report:

The committee is continuing its outreach to Shenandoah University.

On Jan. 17, 2022, Martin Luther King day, Shenandoah University will be holding a food packaging event from 1p.m. - 3p.m. in the Wilkins Athletics and Events Center with the non-profit Rise Against Hunger. We would like to help with the packaging event. Contact Margie Riley if you would like to help.

A list of recommended books will be published on the Meeting website (see the last item in the M & C report).

We will contact WATTS to see if they need help with a spring dinner.

**Pastoral Care:** Karen Nelson gave the following report:

John Guiser was admitted to the hospital on Thursday to have tests done related to his heart condition. He was released on Saturday and is doing well.

Donna Knight's granddaughter Kaci is in the hospital spiking high blood pressure. Her baby is due in six weeks and they are hoping to delay the birth so the baby will be stronger when she arrives.

Hilde Matheson has a sty on her eye which has gotten bigger. She may require surgery. Her son Kenneth is doing much better.

Michele Christopher is recovering nicely from her double knee replacement surgery. She has recently moved from Florida to Virginia Beach.

Becky Ebert is doing well after her surgery and has returned to work full time.

Please hold in the light:

Tony McMellen (a friend of Dick Bell who is dealing with pancreatic cancer)

Betty McCormick's daughter Susie who has several ongoing health issues

Francine Guiser

Josh Riley

Bobby Nelson

**Shelter Project:** Jim Riley reported that he has received donations of \$32,982. Our goal is \$35,000 but will be happy to exceed this amount as we will need to finance a patio behind the shelter. Dan Riley announced that the personalized bricks fundraising project will commence soon. Preliminary information about this is attached to the minutes. Martha Hanley postponed a discussion of which of two shelter sketches she made that we would prefer as an architectural guideline for our contractor. Sketches are attached to the minutes.

**BYM Nominating:** We were honored with the attendance of Karie Firoozmand from the BYM Nominating Committee. She is a member of Stony Run Meeting in Baltimore and this was her third attendance to our Meeting. If you think you might be interested in joining a BYM committee, the process begins with her getting to know you and your interests. Contact her anytime for a chat. She can be reached at karifir@gmail.com. We also have several of our own Meeting members on BYM committees who are excellent references for more information.

**Hospitality:** A query for the committee: since our need for hospitality is becoming more limited during the pandemic, how might we extend our hospitality outward?

**New Business:** Jim Riley reported that he has a box of materials that were returned to him from the Handley Archives. Contained within are some interesting historical financial records for the Hopewell Graveyard fund dating back to 1910. The materials will be available for perusing at the Hopewell Library. For a sample, see Jim's report attached.

The Clerk reminded us of the two Spiritual State of the Meeting queries proposed in the Ministry and Counsel report above. Please think about them as we approach our discussion of same in February.

**Announcements:** MLK Rise Against Hunger with Shenandoah University on

Jan. 17, 1 - 3 p.m.

OATS meets Saturday, Jan. 15 at Panera, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Next Prayer Group Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 13, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Centre.

**In Attendance:** Clerk Dick Bell, Dan Riley, Martha Hanley, Judy McCarthy, Ellie Haun, John Trueblood, Jim Riley, Margie Riley, Betty McCormick, Julia Storberg-Walker, Anne Bacon, Richard Cooper, Donna Knight, Karen Nelson, Paul Britner, Kristen Zimet, Becky Ebert, Karie Firoozmond, Becca Bacon, and Maureen O'Mara.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk