



The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
Ninth Month, September 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

Hopewell Centre has a New Website

www.winchesterquakers.org

Eventually we would like the website to be group supported. Michele Sunderlin, who built it for us, is coming up with a booklet of "how to's" so anyone in the Meeting can work with updating/editing/etc. Please check it out and decide how you might like to get involved with the content. Each committee will have its own page to update its activities for visitors to see. The committee pages are still in development.

Pastoral Care

Please hold in The Light:

Dan Riley, who had a urinary tract procedure last Friday which led to minor surgery on his prostate. [Dan is home now and doing fine.]

Dick Bell's dad John Bell

John Guiser's wife Francine

Karie Haun

Amber Harris' father and mother in Ohio

Ginger Peloquin's sister-in-law Diana

Judy McCarthy as she and her siblings care for her mother

Jim Riley's son Josh

Hilde Matheson for a heart issue which may require surgery

Julia Storberg-Walker's sweet dog Buddy, who has cancer

Andy Mossholder's wife Janet Harrison

Laura Nell Obaugh, who recently lost her son

Meeting for Worship for Business Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, August 8, 2021 Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: The Clerk read a quote from Margaret Fell: "We are all thieves; we are all thieves; we have taken the scriptures in word, and know nothing of them in ourselves." Meeting comments reflected how much we all took this quote to heart and how it also presents a challenge to us.

Thanksgivings and Concerns: We were all thankful for Becky Ebert's ongoing successful recovery.

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

Contributions:

Individual and Family:	\$2,625
Use of Centre:	\$738
Hollingsworth Graveyard Contribution	\$185 (from the Hollingsworth Society)
Shelter Donation	30 (sale of 2 cookbooks)

Expenses:

BYM apportionment	\$500
Mowing	885
Utilities	179
Graveyard Maintenance	255 (Apple Pie Ridge)
Graveyard Maintenance	300 (Hollingsworth)
Checking account balance:	\$14,239
Roger's Fund Income	34,500 (saving a part for the shelter)
Shelter Fund	1,600

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

Ministry and Counsel: Margie Riley presented the following report:
The Committee met via Zoom on August 2, 2021.

We opened the meeting by welcoming our newest member, Judy McCarthy. Judy brings a wealth of caring and wise counsel to the committee.

We reviewed our current Covid protocols and have decided to recommend that all worshippers wear masks while in the building at either Hopewell or Centre. The delta variant is a game changer.

We planned RE's through September:

- I. August 1st – Paul Britner *Silencing the Past*, a highly successful presentation on what survives and what doesn't in the making of history
- II. August 15th – Presentation from the Shelter Committee, Martha Hanley
- III. August 22nd – Homecoming with a program derived from the book *A Quaker Book of Wisdom*, led by Jim Riley
- IV. August 29th – Some early Quaker women, Dick Bell
- V. September 5th – Discussion and interpretation of Biblical quotes, Donna Knight
- VI. September 19th - *The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming Heart and Mind--A New Perspective on Christ and His Message* by Cynthia Bourgeault, led by Margie Riley, Richard Cooper, and Peter Ford, Part I
- VII. September 26th - *The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming Heart and Mind--A New Perspective on Christ and His Message* by Cynthia Bourgeault, led by Margie Riley, Richard Cooper, and Peter Ford, Part II

We received a report that a letter has been mailed inviting churches to our Community Prayer Group. The churches were suggested by John Hill, vice mayor of Winchester.

We also began discussions investigating a broader support system for members and attenders of the meeting. We suggested identifying friends through whom we might contact or forward support to other friends, who were in need. We felt this approach might be a more organic and authentic way to offer support.

We discussed Homecoming and some of the challenges of having it safely, considering the impact of the delta variant. We shall discuss this more thoroughly in the business meeting.

We heard some suggestions for raising funds to help support the shelter committee, including and art auction and a yard sale.

Respectfully submitted, Ministry and Counsel

Building and Grounds: Pam Hambach reported that the two Hopewell chimneys on either side of the building were indeed capped and capped permanently. We had to have the middle chimney capped and some minor roof work done for a total cost of \$700. She also reported that we are having all of the windows at Centre inspected and will be repairing any that need it.

Advancement and Outreach: Margie Riley reported for the committee: Michele Sunderlin has been working with Margie Riley on our new website. Members' names will be loaded in by this coming week so members can create their own log-in to the new webpage. If you are currently in the directory, watch for an email. You'll make up your own password. Be sure to write it down or save it somewhere! The Members Log-In will take you to pages that are for our committees. Margie would like to work with committee chairs to help them learn how to post information to their committee page.

The website is winchesterquakers.org.

The following things are still under development:

- need to add Centre's history to the "About Us"
- Michele Sunderlin is making sure the links to the other Quaker resources work
- need to create pages for each committee
- need to add photos
- need to link a calendar to it

Michele S. recommended that the page be updated often to increase use of it. The Adult RE schedule will be kept current. One idea for increasing our interaction with the webpage was to put in a "Gratitudes" page where members could post things they are grateful for, quotes they want to share, etc. Is this something we should add? The Meeting approved this addition.

Please let Margie know if you see something that needs to be edited, or if something needs to be fixed. Everyone needs to know, though, that the GoDaddy templates for pages present some limitations, especially for font size and spacing of text. Those limitations may affect any edits suggested.

Michele Sunderlin will be sending us an invoice for her consulting work. She will be giving us her non-profit discount. If anyone knows anyone who needs website support, we recommend Michele. We will keep an ongoing communication with her as we move into full use of our website. Many thanks from the Meeting were extended to Margie for her work on this project.

Pastoral Care: John Guiser reported that the Pastoral Care and Advancement and Outreach committees are continuing with the Centre Community Prayer Group throughout the summer. He now has a list of churches submitted to him by Winchester vice mayor John Hill and will invite them to attend and/or to submit requests for prayers. A gmail account has been set up for anyone to send in a prayer request. Send your requests to hopewellcentrequakers@gmail.com. John updated us on the list of people known to the committee that need our thoughts and prayers at this time. Please let the committee know if you know of someone who needs help and if you would like to help coordinate the needed help. And please feel free to contact anyone known to Pastoral Care that could use some cheer. Speaking of which, it was also reported that Martha Hanley and Kristin Zimet purchased an air conditioner for Maggie and Peter Stetler. Thank you.

Shelter Project: We met on 8/7: Martha, Charlie, Jim, Dan, Scott, and contractor Mike Horst in attendance. We reviewed the new proposal adjusted from the original proposal (see the July minutes for details). The approximate price is now \$60,355, which includes a concrete pad, a metal roof, and electrical lights and outlets. Excluded is the required excavation and the permit fees. Mike has been excellent to work with and the committee agreed to hire him as our contractor. A more thorough report and discussion will occur at the next RE on August 15. Jim Riley, our esteemed treasurer, felt confident that we can raise the funds needed for the project. We have some Roger's Fund money and some fundraising projects. Jim will send out letters to potential donors as well. He estimated that we will need to raise approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000. Margie Riley reported that Mike Hambach and she will make 10 sets of bookends from the shed's interior wood to sell as an initial fundraising project.

Hospitality: Pam Hambach reminded us that the last person out of the building on Sunday should take the trash with them, please.

Interpretation: The committee explored the meaning of the previous committee minutes. It was mentioned that they were open to interpretation, but that some items seemed not to be interpretable while others were indeed interpretive. The committee then decided to interrupt the interpretation discussion before it lost all meaning.

New Business: The Meeting discussed dining protocols for the Homecoming picnic on August 22 relative to the CDC recommendations for gathering safely during the pandemic's delta variant. It was decided that we could still have a potluck meal if we spread out the serving tables in the Meeting House, minimize the number of people sitting at a table outside, and remind people of social distancing. All of this is naturally subject to change. We will also have a shelter project fundraiser at Homecoming, namely a silent auction of donated artwork. All artists are invited to donate.

Announcement: Homecoming at Hopewell on August 22.

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Dan Riley, Martha Hanley, Judy McCarthy, Maureen O'Mara, Ellie Haun, Hilde Matheson, John Trueblood, Michele Christopher, Jim Riley, Charlie Mortensen, Wolfie, Marie Tyler-McGraw, Mike Hambach, Pam Hambach, Margie Riley, John Guiser, Peter Ford, and Scott Lynch.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, etc.

Homecoming: Our annual Homecoming will take place on Sunday, August 22, at Hopewell Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with others as we picnic on the lawn. Iced tea and water will be provided, but please bring your own plate, utensils, and lawn chair, if possible.

Jim Riley

Community Prayer Group: The following is the content of the new Community Prayer Group flyer, which will be distributed to other churches. The flyer itself is attached to this email.

Community Prayer Group

Hosted by Hopewell Centre Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

**We invite all to community prayer,
A time and place for prayer, meditation, and silence,
With scripture, readings, song, and shared thought,
With a wish to unite in light, life, and healing.**

**Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month
At Centre Meeting House
203 N. Washington Street, Winchester, Virginia
(where Washington Street intersects with Piccadilly Street)**

Why Host a Community Prayer Group?

We are deeply concerned about...

- community unrest and practices of inequality that are divisive forces in our neighborhoods and nation,
- the personal needs of our neighbors, both physical and spiritual,
- equitable education,

- public health issues such as drugs, violence, mental health, and incarceration,
- climate disruption and the need for stewardship of our natural resources,
- global unrest that leads to instability and violence.

How Does God Call Upon Us to Act?

We pray together to bring the power of collective prayer and positive energy to these concerns. We pray together to build unity and support for positive actions in all our areas of concern.

Please Join Us.

Are you unable to come, but have a prayer request? Please email hopewellcentrequakers@gmail.com and we will include your request in our prayers.

From the Clerk XIV

A reader (yes, there are a brave few) of my column recently said to me, “You’ve shifted from purely Quaker-themed topics to more personal reflections.” Guilty as charged. My thinking about the shift is to reveal, as I see them, incidences of the Spirit operating in our lives, clues of the Divine at work within us or actively working in others to affect us. As I get older (I’m 71), I see more and more evidence of that happening.

Yesterday I took my father to the Surgi-Center in Winchester for a biopsy of a tumor growing on his vocal chords. Because of the orientation of the tumor (the surgeon described it as a ‘cauliflower’), he was able to get, in his words, 99% of the tumor while he got the sample he’ll need for a diagnosis. Dad’s voice already sounds better. My brother and his wife (who works as a palliative care personal aide) have Dad living with them. They take care of his daily needs. I’m the brother who takes care of getting him to his appointments. Our middle brother cheer leads from his home in Annapolis. We make quite the team.

Last week was a trial of thunderbolts. All of Dad’s phalanx of doctors had to sign on to him being put under for the biopsy. Competing concerns meant urgent trips to the cardiologist and then the neurologist and a final battery of previously unannounced lab tests. The three of us who form the core of the local team were strained to our limits and left doe eyed. We wondered what would have been Dad’s fate had we not been always available to meet the constantly changing list of demands the medical establishment kept pushing our way. The point is we were able to. So, when I took him in yesterday, the process of getting him admitted, prepped and on his way could not have been more seamless.

Spirit was everywhere in that building. Patient nurses smiled and answered Dad’s every worried query, reassuring him. The staff looked after his comfort. I was able to contribute by being by his side and clearing up any misunderstandings. Dr. Salata and his chief nurses were splendid, going over our wishes (no extreme measures in case of the worst) and telling us exactly what to expect. My job was to keep Dad calm and text brother Matt the latest

information so he could keep family and friends posted. He entered the surgical theatre at 3:00 pm. I expected we would not be leaving until 5:30 to 6:00.

I had just basically settled into the waiting room and was watching the President address the nation when my phone rang. It was the chief nurse of the recovery room. Dad was out and had done extremely well. She brought me up to speed and showed by her comments how on top of Dad's case she was. In just minutes she (picture an angel) appeared in person, waving and smiling at me. She took me back where Dad was dressed to go home (Thank God he was able to. They had three earlier patients still waiting for beds). Dr. Salata, the chief nurse, and I were the only ones there. They went over his post-op instructions.

Just before we left, I said to the nurse and Dr. Salata, "Guess where Dad was today in 1948?" Shrugs. "He was getting married to my mom." (Mother passed on in 2017).

"Wow," they both said.

"Seventy-three years ago," he rasped.

The nurse, after noting her marriage had lasted six, asked him, "What's your secret?"

"Marriage is a two-way street."

Then everyone's face lit up in that way that shows they had just heard the truth.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Dixon Bell, 8/17/21



Happy Birthday to Judy Enterline on September 29!

SEPTEMBER 2021 CALENDAR

August 22 – Homecoming, with a program derived from the book *A Quaker Book of Wisdom*, led by Jim Riley

August 29 – Some early Quaker women, Dick Bell

September 5 – Discussion and interpretation of Biblical quotes, Donna Knight

September 19 - *The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming Heart and Mind--A New Perspective on Christ and His Message* by Cynthia Bourgeault, led by Margie Riley, Richard Cooper, and Peter Ford, Part I

September 26 - *The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming Heart and Mind--A New Perspective on Christ and His Message* by Cynthia Bourgeault, led by Margie Riley, Richard Cooper, and Peter Ford, Part II

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