

The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting of
the Religious Society of Friends
The Twelfth Month, December 2025



Hopewell Centre Meeting of the Religious Society of
Friends 604 Hopewell Road, Clear Brook, VA 22624

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*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

P.O. Box 165

Winchester, VA 22604

Please keep them in Prayer

If you have any concerns you would like the Meeting to be aware of please contact Pam or Judy.
We will be happy to share it.

See additional information about individual concerns in the Pastoral Care Report below

Anne Bacon's Cousin, Marion Stump

Jennifer Dyer

Martha Hanley

Janet Harrison

Debbie and Ryan Lynch

Hilde Matheson.

Betty McCormick, her daughter Susie

Meeting for Worship for Business
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, November 9, 2025
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: (Continuing Quaker Education)

Words may help and silence may help, but the one thing needful is that the heart should turn to its Maker as the needle turns to the pole. For this we must be still. Caroline Emelia Stephen

Comments included: Few words but a lot to digest. What is the difference between silence and stillness? "For this we must be still", but being in motion works also. The needle turns to the pole because the needle is pulled to the pole. Think of the stillness of the Earth, especially the trees. "For this we must be still."

Thanksgiving and Concerns: Margie Riley gave thanks to those Meetings who are sharing their "minutes of concern" with us. Martha Hanley gave thanks for Virginians electing their first woman governor. Betty McCormick expressed her concern for our current state of national affairs, and especially for those people losing their SNAP benefits and those about to lose their health insurance. Anne Bacon gave thanks for the happiness of "little voices" from the adjoining room that enhance our Meeting for Worship. Dick Bell gave thanks for Herb the bird (too long a story to fit in here). Cheryl Reynolds gave thanks for our beautiful November weekend - perfect for lots of outdoor activities.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Riley gave the treasurer's report for October:

Major items included:

Contributions:

Individual and Family	\$ 1,450
Use of Centre	1,080
Sarah Zane Fund	100

Expenses:

Newspaper ads	\$ 195
Mowing	430
Utilities	303
Graveyard wall repair	3,695

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 15,771
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Fund totals:	Rogers	\$ 48,784
	Sarah Zane	4,002
	Youth	11,438

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

Jim reminded us that as we approach year's end, we have traditionally donated \$200 to each of eleven organizations. After he read the list to us, suggestions of other worthy organizations might be added to the list. Send your suggestions to Jim and/or bring them to the next business meeting. Jim also announced that Laura Nell Obaugh, who recently passed away, has left a bequest to Hopewell Centre of about \$37,000 to be used for Friend's expenses when attending Quaker related events such as conferences, workshops, etc.

Ministry and Counsel: Richard Cooper read the following report:

The committee met on November 3, 2025 via Zoom.

We reviewed and discussed communications.

We planned RE's through February 22nd.

November 2nd – Beatitudes *Sermon of the Mount*

November 9th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

November 16th – Jesus and his relationship with the law *Sermon of the Mount*

November 23rd – Worship and potluck at Hopewell with 3 other area Meetings

November 30th – Practices of Righteousness *Sermon of the Mount*

December 7th – Relationships with Others *Sermon of the Mount*

December 14th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

December 21st – Trusting God *Sermon of the Mount*

December 28th – Potluck at Centre

January 4th – Inner and Outer actions *Sermon of the Mount*

January 11th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

January 18th – Prayers (Lord's prayer) *Sermon of the Mount*

January 25th – Potluck at Centre

February 1st – First two queries of the Spiritual State of the Meeting

February 8th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

February 15th – Second two queries of the Spiritual State of the Meeting

February 22nd – Potluck at Centre

We discussed a suggestion of compiling a list of Outreach projects since circa 2000. We thought this was a terrific idea, but we thought this would be best directed by Social Concerns and Outreach. We stand ready to support any such list fully.

We also discussed briefly the themes of work we as a meeting may do: styling some under the heading of contemplation and others through the category of action.

Next meeting December 1st, 9:30 am via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel (written 11/5/25)

Social Concerns and Outreach: Margie Riley reported the following:

The committee met on November 6, 2025

Attending: Betty McCormick, Kristin Zimet, Martha Hanley, Sheila Tilley, Margie Riley

-We are hosting Coming to the Table at Centre Meeting House on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, 6:30 - 8 p.m. for a program titled "Quaker Solutions to Slavery: Freedom, Colonization, and the Underground Railroad". This highlights the work of Hopewell member and attendee Samuel M. Janney (1801-1880) and his Agricultural Science-based Abolition Writings. Next year- 2026- local chapters of Coming to the Table nationwide will be celebrating the history of the Underground Railroad, so there are more opportunities for Hopewell and other Virginia and West Virginia Meetings to partner with Coming to the Table Chapters. Belle McQuail (from Charles Town) is the contact for Coming to the Table.

-We are hosting a Regional Gathering with Frederick Friends (MD), Goose Creek Meeting, and Shepherdstown Meeting on Sunday, November 23, 2025. Please note: this is usually a potluck at Centre Meeting House but we will be at Hopewell Meeting House instead due to space.

Meeting for Worship will be as usual, 10 - 11 a.m., followed by a short break to set up group tables in the worship area. We will then reseal ourselves in mixed groups, representing the 4 Meetings, for conversation and a potluck meal. The four organizers of this event (Helen Doerr, Patricia Barber, Betsy Tobin, Margie Riley) have a list of conversation queries for the tables to follow as Spirit leads. We will end the gathering with a short reflection time where tables briefly share a highlight of their discussion. We will need childcare during the Meeting for Worship (2 volunteers) along with 6 volunteers to be a recorder and Hopewell table "host" for the programmed discussion and potluck. If you can help, please talk with Margie Riley.

The vision is to have our four Meetings rotate hosting gatherings in 2026 on the months that have a 5th Sunday: March 29, May 31, Aug. 30, Nov. 22 (a week early due to Thanksgiving). Feedback from this 2025 gathering will be used to plan for 2026.

We are asking Friends to RSVP for this gathering in order to accommodate everyone comfortably in our Meeting space. Please do so asap. And, plan to bring your own water bottle. Thank you!

-Anne Bacon and Kevin Slick have had a beginning conversation about our wish for online individual purchasing of Hopewell Centre Quaker merch. If you have a particular wish in mind, please let them know. We will ask them to try to have something available so we can order items in time for Christmas.

-Goose Creek, Shepherdstown, and Kent Friends Meeting of Columbus Ohio have all written minutes on current social concerns. We brainstormed ways to support these minutes, including 1) asking if we can add a Hopewell Centre endorsement at the end in support of the minute, 2) checking into having the Shepherdstown minute published in the Winchester Star, the Northern Virginia Daily, on

our website, 3) sending copies to our neighboring churches, along with phoning the churches to bring attention to what we're sending, and 4) putting copies in our Meeting Houses, sending a copy to Winchester Worth Fighting For, asking members to share the minutes with their families/friends/neighbors. We had a question about the proper procedure for this - and will call the respective Meetings to ask permission to use their minutes for outreach.

- We are hosting a WATTS dinner on Nov. 12. Becky Ebert is coordinating the outreach.

-The planning committee for Spirituality Retreats will be meeting soon to discuss the vision for these Saturday outreach events for 2026. Please let Margie Riley know if you wish to help with this.

-We are informally going through past business meeting minutes to list past outreach activities and also compiling a list of members and their past/present outreach activities to be used as an information base for our Meeting.

-We discussed a variety of other ideas including...

1. There's an interest in the Enneagram, a personality model that categorizes people into nine interconnected types, that is a helpful tool for self-understanding and personal growth, extending to one's spiritual path. It had been suggested that we include this in a Spirituality Retreat, but the committee felt this was of high interest and would like to recommend that we either include this as an RE topic OR a special interest group (perhaps at Centre Meeting House). Note: Would this be open to the greater Winchester community?

2. We discussed promoting music on Sundays and Kristin Z. offered to play the piano and Sheila Tilley was asked to share chants that she's used with youth. If anyone has a talent or idea about sharing music/chanting or other idea, please let us know!

3. The book Circle of Simplicity, by Cecile Andrews, was recommended for a study group. There are many books by Quaker authors that would also be strong choices for a study group as a "common read" related to Quaker culture and social justice. Perhaps we could include films, too. We will get a list of titles going and see where this leads. (Also, we need to note what books have been done in the past with the Seekers group.) Note: Would this be open to the greater Winchester community?

4. Kevin S. and Vicki Q. have shared with us how the Boulder, CO, Friends Meeting had a simple outreach after their weekly Meetings for Worship where they held a silent prayer vigil (need more specific detail). Our committee discussed ways we might share our Quaker voices after our 4th Sunday potlucks at Centre Meeting House, since it's in town and close to the Winchester walking mall. We could have signs available and anyone who would like to take a stroll down the walking mall could carry one...or people could bring a sign of their own; we could use the time to write post cards, get on our computers to write our congress representatives, write letters to the editor for the Winchester Star, etc. These could be activities for whomever feels led on any particular potluck Sunday. How does the Meeting feel about this kind of "impromptu activity that would be lightly preplanned?"

5. The idea of hosting volunteer work days where we have a group active with a community project was proposed. Ideas?

6. We would like to reach out with more directed intent to our newcomers, offering ways to meet/talk beyond our Sunday fellowship time and potlucks. Ideas?

Building and Grounds:

Jim Riley reported that besides the graveyard wall being repaired, tree and brush overgrowth is being cleared along the wall. Also, the furnace on the worship side of Centre is being repaired and the Hopewell furnaces will be checked for any needed service as well.

Pastoral Care:

Please hold these Friends in the Light:

Debbie and Ryan Lynch. Ryan has been in the hospital.

Anne Bacon's cousin Marion Stump, who has metastatic cancer.

Betty McCormick's daughter Susie, who has health issues related to long Covid.

Hilde Matheson who is now living with her daughter Deborah.

Jennifer Dyer. See Martha Hanley on how to help financially.

Janet Harrison who is recovering from a kidney transplant.

Martha Hanley who will be having a second knee replacement on December 19th.

New Business:

- 1) The Clerk reminded us that we will nominate a new Clerk as well as revisit membership in all committees in 2026. Please see Dick Bell if you are interested in clerking the Nominating Committee to help fulfill these positions.
- 2) Registration for our three Quaker camps will begin soon. We have money in the Youth Fund to send one or more young people to camp. Please bring any suggestions of names to consider for us to support financially for camp. We will finalize a decision at the December business meeting.
- 3) We are revisiting how we can successfully park cars at Centre for the Apple Blossom Festival.
- 4) We will once again send our Spiritual State of the Meeting to BYM early next year. Please see Dick Bell if you are willing to take notes and write up the narrative for one of the queries.

Anne Bacon announced that there will be a celebration for Black History Month on March 15 at Shenandoah University. Featured will be speakers from each of the three abolitionist religions from our area: Unitarian, Mennonite, and Quaker. We will be considering how we will participate in this program.

Sheila Tilley announced that she is considering offering a summer program for kids at Centre.

Please see Sheila with ideas. And what a great idea for community service!

The Meeting approved the sending of a "letter of invitation to Quaker Meeting" to the editors of local newspapers written by Margie Riley.

Announcements:

November 12 - Five volunteers will be serving dinner for WATTS at the Market Street Methodist Church.

Nov. 20 - Thursday, we are hosting Coming to the Table at Centre Meeting House in the evening for a presentation by Shepherdstown member Lisa McQuail, speaking on "Agricultural Science Based Abolition Writings" from Quaker Samuel M. Janey (1801- 1880), a member of Hopewell Meeting.

Sunday, Nov. 23 - We are hosting a regional worship and potluck at Hopewell (note the change from being at Centre Meeting on 4th Sundays) with Goose Creek, Shepherdstown, and Frederick MD. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Margie Riley, Dan Riley, Richard Cooper, Diane Popik, Anne Bacon, Betty McCormick, Ed Tilley, Sheila Tilley, Katherine Chatard, Martha Hanley, Kevin Slick, Vicki Quarles, Josh Riley, Cheryl Reynolds, Kristin Zimet, Peter Ford, Judy Enterline, and Becky Ebert.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk



From the clerk

Besides being my natal month, November is a time of high energy from me and, I believe, society in general. We typically have our elections then. Thanksgiving sees out the month and sends us full barrel into the Holidays.

That's why it's altogether appropriate that we are having the first ever regional worship/potluck the 23rd of this month along with Friends for Shepherdstown, Frederick, and Goose Creek. I'm so excited. This will hearken back to days when Hopewell was an active Quarterly Meeting for all regional meetings (at one time Hopewell was one of thirteen meetings founded in the Shenandoah Valley region). The purpose of this one is not some quarterly check-in (with chicken-salad sandwiches), which has been replaced with the interim meeting called by BYM. This will be a get-to-know-you meeting to say, "Howdy," and establish common ground among the four meetings. Who knows what may arise?

This get together is yet another activity or event planned by our energetic Social Concerns and Outreach committee, clerked by our inimitable Margie Riley, who could give any bunny, energizer or not, a run for her money. This committee keeps exploring minutes, giving news about community activities and actions, and seeking opportunities to carry our Quaker selves authentically into our community in helpful and meaningful ways. The three Spirit Fairs we hosted here at Hopewell were well attended and opened doors for our meeting and its message. The Winchester Kindness Fair was hosted at Centre and was a rousing community success.

As the winds of November bite harder into the land and the meat of our souls, I sense a lightening of the national mood. Subtle shifts in body language and aspects tell me that some great cosmic cape has been rounded. And the opportunity for peace and happiness is before us.

Let's all hope so.

Humbly Submitted,
Dick

November 18, 2025





CALENDAR

- November 30th** – Practices of Righteousness *Sermon of the Mount*
- December 7th** – Relationships with Others *Sermon of the Mount*
- December 14th** – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- December 21st** – Trusting God *Sermon of the Mount*
- December 25th** – **Christmas Day**
- December 28th** – Potluck at Centre
- December 31st** – **New Years Eve** (holding all in the light for safe travels)
- January 1st** – **New Years Day** (may 2026 be everything you hope for)
- January 4th** – Inner and Outer actions *Sermon of the Mount*
- January 11th** – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- January 18th** – Prayers (Lord's prayer) *Sermon of the Mount*
- January 25th** – Potluck at Centre
- February 1st** – First two queries of the Spiritual State of the Meeting
- February 8th** – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- February 15th** – Second two queries of the Spiritual State of the Meeting
- February 22nd** – Potluck at Centre

An abstract graphic on the left side of the page. It features a dense cluster of small, semi-transparent dots in various colors including green, yellow, orange, and red. These dots are interconnected by a web of thin, light-colored lines, creating a complex, organic shape that resembles a molecular structure or a network diagram. The background is a dark, gradient wash of colors, transitioning from deep red and purple on the left to a lighter, warm brown on the right.

Blogs and Items of Interest

FROM THE MEMBERS OF
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING



*"There's more, much more to Christmas
Than candlelight and cheer;
It's the spirit of sweet friendship
That brightens all the year."*

~ By an Unknown Author




Letters to the Editor


Dear Reader,

"Do you enjoy listening to podcasts? If so, did you know that there are at least two Quaker podcasts? They are easy to find on Spotify or Apple. One is The Seed which is sponsored by Pendle Hill. The other is Thee Quaker Podcast. You just put the name in the search feature and they should come up. I listen to podcasts at the gym, in the car while driving, or just hanging out at home with a nice cup of tea!"

*Peace,
Vicki Quarles*



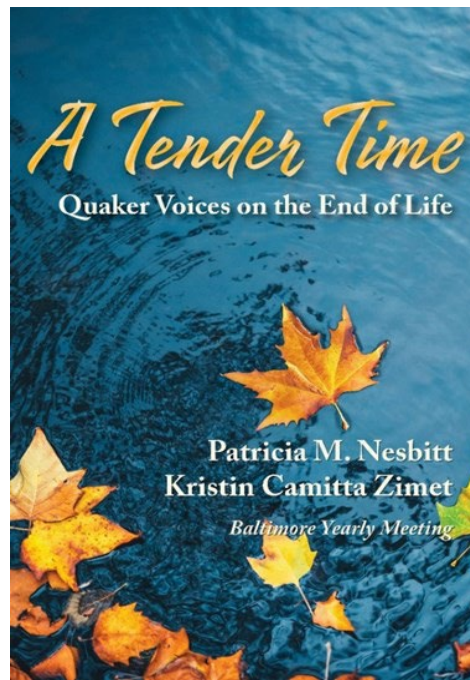
Pastoral Care Quotable Quotes



"The quieter you
become the more you
can hear."



Ram Dass



A wise blend of practical advice and spiritual grounding. This book is optimistic and upbeat. It can be referred to again and again."

*Terence McCormally, MD, Clinical Professor, Geriatric Medicine,
Virginia Commonwealth University*

"A delightful read! Not just for Quakers:

it is spiritually wise, clinically sound, and exceedingly pragmatic."

*Jim Higginbotham, Associate Dean, Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling,
Earlham School of Religion*

"A gentle conversation, like talking to a trusted friend."

*George Schaefer, former Care & Aging Coordinator,
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting*

On the End-of-Life Working Group of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, **A Tender Time** explores practical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of aging and dying well. A unique collection of voices, historical and contemporary, illustrates making end-of-life decisions.

This open-hearted primer moves through personal experiences from aging to dying and then outward in widening circles of caregiving. Intimate stories give poignant examples of aging and dying well, without fear. There are multiple ways that Love can guide us to the end.

Patricia and Kristin offer guidance on pastoral care at the end of life. The book includes resources for families, friends, and Quaker meetings, including checklists, sample forms, queries for clearness, and an annotated list of further readings.

A Tender Time is for sale now from Pendle Hill Bookstore and from FGC QuakerBooks. It will be available from major commercial outlets in Fall 2024. Contact admin@bym-rsf.org for bulk sales.

*We have Re's using queries from this book from time to time.
Get a copy, you will be glad you did)*

COACHING PEACE



Linda Wilk, MAPC

https://open.substack.com/pub/lindawilk/p/all-is-suffering?utm_source=share&utm_medium=android&r=b37x

RESOURCES TO LEARN ABOUT QUAKERISM AND THE WORLD

We want to provide a list of some resources for Friends to learn about what Quakers believe; what Quakers do in the world and a little bit about how to understand what is going on in the news. This list is by no means comprehensive, and we encourage others to send in resources that have been helpful to them.

LOCAL

- the **libraries** at Hopewell and Centre; lots of books, prior issues of Friends Journal, pictures and other materials
- the **Hopewell Centre Meeting** website: www.winchesterquakers.org
- the **Baltimore Yearly Meeting** website: www.bym.rsf.org; go here to access the latest **Faith and Practice** which is in the process of being revised. New paper copies of Faith and Practice will be coming soon.
- the **BYM camping** website: www.bymcamps.org
- in the library at Hopewell is a **QuakerSpeak DVD** about “What Quakers Believe” Check it out.
- Friends Wilderness Center**; www.friendswilderness.org

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

- Website: www.quaker.org; What do Quakers Believe? How do Quakers Worship? How do Quakers Live? Find Quakers
- Friends Journal**; monthly publication, many back issues at Hopewell, website friendsjournal.org. All issues available on the website
- Podcast; Quakers Today** sponsored by Friends Journal
- Thee Quaker Project**: weekly podcast; www.theequaker.org
- Quaker Speak**; bi-weekly Quaker video sponsored by Friends Journal; www.QuakerSpeak.com
- Friends General Conference bookstore**; www.quakerbooks.org
- Friends General Conference** website; www.fgcquaker.org
- Friends Committee on National Legislation**; Quaker lobby organization; www.fcnl.org

- American Friends Service Committee; www.afsc.org
- Friends United Meeting; www.friendsunitedmeeting.org
- Pendle Hill; Quaker study and retreat center in Pennsylvania; www.pendlehill.org
- Friends World Committee for Consultation; Quakers around the world; www.fwcc.world
- Right Sharing of World Resources; www.rswr.org
- Quaker United Nations Office; www.quno.org
- Friends Library; www.friendslibrary.com

OTHER

-many in the meeting subscribe to a daily newsletter from Heather Cox Richardson called **Letters from an American**. She writes about current and historical events from a historical perspective. Good for putting events of the day in a broader context.

<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com>

What have we left out? Let us know.

Helpful Resources for Immigrants

📢 📢 **THIS IS MEANT TO BE A NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST, PLEASE ADD TO IT WHEN YOU SEE FIT! 📢 📢**

General Enforcement

- Know Your Rights Card: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-card/>
- Know Your Rights: What to Do if You Are Arrested or Detained by Immigration: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration/>
- Warrants & Subpoenas: What to Look Out for and How to Respond: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/warrants-and-subpoenas-facts/>
- Know Your Rights: Trump's Registration Requirement for Immigrants: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-trumps-registration-requirement-for-immigrants/>

Locating Loved Ones

- How to Find a Loved One After a U.S. Immigration Arrest: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/how-to-find-a-loved-one-after-a-u-s-immigration-arrest/>
- Tracking the CECOT Disappearances: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/tracking-the-cecot-disappearances/>

Education

- Know Your Rights: Immigrant Students and Schools: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/protecting-our-students-and-families/>
- Education Providers and Immigration Enforcement: Know Your Rights & Your Students' Rights: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/education-providers-and-immigration-enforcement-know-your-rights-know-your-students-rights/>
- Protecting Immigrant Students & Employees: Guidelines for Higher Education Institutions: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/protecting-immigrant-students-employees-guidelines-for-higher-education-institutions/>
- Protecting Our Students: What You Need to Know About the Rights of Immigrants and the Threat of Deportation: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-immigrant-students-and-schools/>

Workplace

- A Guide for Employers: What to Do if Immigration Comes to Your Workplace: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/a-guide-for-employers-what-to-do-if-immigration-comes-to-your-workplace/>

Health Care

- Know Your Rights: Health Care and Health Insurance for Immigrants: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/health-insurance-and-care-rights/>
- Health Care Providers and Immigration Enforcement: Know Your Rights, Know Your Patients' Rights: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/healthcare-provider-and-patients-rights-imm-enf/>
- Know Your Rights: Immigrants' Participation in Protests: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/immigrant-participation-in-protests-rights/>

How to be a Good Ally/Informing your Community 101

- Planning in case of an immigration emergency <https://familiesuniteddcmetro.org/>
- Filming of an ICE arrest <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2wGxRN5YPM>
- Zine demonstrating ICE Operation Disruption <https://zinesforever.com/z/karens-guide-to-disrupting-ice>

This list was sent to us by Zakee McGill



(Please send links, coming events, or interesting items you would like to share with Friends and readers to Donna Knight)



Kelsey Harris December 13th

Elizabeth Goepp (Friant) December 25th

(Check the Hopewell Directory for your birthday, contact Rebecca Ebert if we need to add it)

Hopewell Centre Meeting of
Religious Society of Friends
604 Hopewell Road
Clear Brook, VA 22624