



The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
Twelfth Month December 2023

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 Hold in the Light

Karen Nelson is asking us to hold the following in the light:

Sally Seabright
Gerry Harris
John Guiser's Sister, Chrissy
Barbara Weiss (Margie Riley's Sister)
Francine and John Guiser
Pam Hambach
Hilde Matheson
Janet Harrison
Betty McCormick's daughter, Susie
Eloise Haun who is coping with declining health.
Chris Cox
Roger Saville
Jennifer Dyer
Kristen Zimet

**Meeting for Worship for Business
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, November 12, 2023
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding**

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: (Continuing Quaker Education) "Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another and helping one another up with a tender hand." Isaac Pennington

Comments included: Amen. Be nice. Be kind. Love one another.

Thanksgiving and Concerns: Pam Hambach expressed much thanks for the kindness of those who are taking care of her as she prepares for chemotherapy.

Margie Riley gave thanks for the veterans in her family (Veteran's Day was yesterday).

Donna Knight gave thanks for Handley High School celebrating its 100th anniversary.

(Ed: a very generous comment from a James Wood graduate).

Dick Bell gave thanks for an invitation from Powhatan School to help with and then see the performances of Romeo and Juliet. Dick spent his teaching career at Powhatan and one of his students was the play's director.

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

Major items included:

Contributions:

Individual and Family: \$ 7,205 (includes a donation for Outreach)

Use of Centre: 515

Building Fund: 8,850 (donations: \$8,500 for the patio construction, \$350 for commemorative bricks)

Insurance rebate: 429

Expenses:

Contributions: \$ 1,157 (includes \$1,000 donation to Rolling Ridge using yard sale income)

BYM quarterly apportionment 1,561

Tree work and brush clearing 1,600 - Centre, 1,500 - Hopewell,
1,400 - Hollingsworth graveyard 3,120 - Hopewell graveyard.

Checking account balance: \$ 21,665

Rogers Fund balance: 30,000 (funds available for use)

Sarah Zane Fund balance: 1,448

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

Jim also reminded us of our end-of-year donations to other community organizations. We send \$200 to each of 12 organizations. See Jim for the list.

Ministry and Counsel: Donna Knight gave the following Report

The committee met on November 6, 2023 via Zoom.

We discussed the need to move the internet receiver and wi fi out of the sunny window. It was decided to move it to the piano which is still close to the South facing windows to maintain good reception.

We planned RE's through December

November 19th – Friends Journal Article Reviews

November 26th – Potluck at Centre Meeting

December 3rd – Painting River Rocks with Hopeful Messages

December 10th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

December 17th – Christmas Singing and Sharing

December 24th – Potluck at Centre Meeting

December 31st -- Renewal for the New Year from a Jewish Perspective – Kristen Zimet

There was private discussion for housing needs concerning two new attenders.

We decided to meet again via Zoom, December 4th, 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel

November 12, 2023

Social Concerns and Outreach:

Becky Ebert gave the following report:

Hopewell provided dinner for 35 people at Kitchen of Hope on October 26, 2023, at Market St. United Methodist Church. This is an outreach effort sponsored by Market St. every Thursday evening, with various groups providing a meal and fellowship. The meal is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

We purchased baked chicken from Martins, salad, sweet potato French fries, and cookies. Becky, Martha, Paul, Richard, Christian, Scott, and Jeffrey prepared the meal, served folks, cleaned up and were door keepers. Fran of Market St. prepared drinks and kept everything moving smoothly.

The following picture is of those who facilitated at the Kitchen of Hope.



Paul Britner Richard Cooper Christian Mollitor Scott Lynch Jeffrey Vargas Becky Ebert
Martha Hanley (not shown) saved the day with clean-up.

Market Street would like us to provide a meal once a quarter. It was a rewarding experience, and it would be nice if we could provide this service. After discussion, the Meeting approved serving the Kitchen of Hope twice a year and WATTS twice a year.

Becky also reported that we will be serving the meal for WATTS on November 13.

Margie Riley gave the following reports:

On Sunday, Oct. 29, several Hopewell Centre members joined local Baha'is, a representative from the Valley Interfaith Council, and a representative from the Coming to the Table group for a Unity Gathering at Centre Meeting House. After sharing devotional readings about peace, all participated in painting river rocks with Unity messages. Sallie Grundman, one of the Baha'i members, took the rocks to place around Winchester as a visual reminder for the community that we are all God's children. A few have been placed at the Hopewell Meeting House doorway. The Unity Gatherings are fostering friendships and community among different denominations and faiths. **The next Unity Gathering is scheduled for April 20, 2024, and the AME church will join in with the planning.**

For second hour on Nov. 5, Anne Bacon shared about her involvement with Church World Service's efforts to support the many refugees from Afghanistan and other areas who have moved to the Winchester area. This work includes finding apartments to rent, gathering furnishings, purchasing food and household supplies, coordinating medical care, and helping with transportation, among

many other needs. We assembled 14 ready-for-school kits, backpacks filled with school supplies, that our Meeting members donated. We also had \$195 in donations. We have a few leftover school supplies as well as most of what we need to make one back-to-work kit. The Meeting previously approved doing this project quarterly and we will schedule that for 2024.

Building and Grounds: Jim Riley reported that we have a bid of \$3,200 for clearing brush from the south Hopewell graveyard wall, tree work within the graveyard, and brush clearing near the caretaker's house. The Meeting approved.

Dan Riley reported that all 50 commemorative bricks have been moved to the shed for availability when Mike Horst begins the patio work.

For the Graveyard Committee, Becky Ebert reported that Boy Scout William Collins has assembled a team to clean tombstones in the Hopewell Graveyard, enter tombstone information into the app "Find a Grave", and to install markers to help visitors find a particular grave. This will be his project as part of becoming an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scout organization.

Scott Lynch received a bid of \$2,000 from a stone mason to do the necessary prep work for the repair of the collapsed portion of the wall at the Hollingsworth Graveyard. The Meeting approved.

Pastoral Care: Karen Nelson reported as follows:

Please hold the following Friends in the light:

Sally Seabright who is still recovering from a hard fall breaking several ribs. She is being cared for at Rose Hill in Berryville.

Gerry Harris who was diagnosed with malignant melanoma on his back. He had surgery last Friday and is doing well. The doctor is confident that they removed all of the cancerous lesions.

John Guiser's sister Chrissy who has been diagnosed with endometrial cancer.

Pam Hambach as she continues to recover from her Stage 1 cancer surgery.

Barbara Weiss (Margie Riley's sister-in-law from Texas) who was recently diagnosed with recurring breast cancer.

Francine and John Guiser
Hilde Matheson
Janet Harrison
Betty McCormick's daughter, Susie
Eloise Haun
Chris Cox
Roger Saville
Jennifer Dyer

If anyone has any concerns or health issues to report, please let Karen know so she can reach out to you.

Hospitality: The Meeting thanks Jonathan for his delightful dishes that appear every week on the snack table.

Expediency and Promptness: The report has been delayed.

New Business: The Meeting thanks Margie Riley for volunteering to be Hopewell Centre's representative on the Interfaith Council.

Martha Hanley has graciously welcomed Roger Saville and Jennifer Dyer for interim lodging at her home.

Clerk Bell read a preliminary minute from the Reproductive Justice Working Group. He welcomes comments from all and will include a discussion of the minute at the next business meeting.

Scott Lynch has volunteered to take clothing to the homeless in our area. All we must do is clean out our closets (coats, socks, etc.) and bring them to Hopewell or Centre for delivery. Thank you, Scott.

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Betty McCormick, Judy McCarthy, Dan Riley, Christian Mollitor, Karen Nelson, Ellie Haun, Margie Riley, Becky Ebert, Maggie Stetler, Martha Hanley, Scott Lynch, Richard Cooper, Mike Hambach, Anne Bacon, Pam Hambach, Donna Knight, Roger Saville, and Charlie Mortensen.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk



From the clerk

At times the embers of the fire blazed at the invisible introduction of air, giving them a further characteristic of being alive. The night was pristine: stars winking in and out of wispy clouds. The Shenandoah silent before us, gathering itself before sluicing noisily over Swift Shoals – just downstream inhabiting the edge of our hearing. Around the fire, so animate it drew wondrous comments from those who watched it, sat six men – three of them had been doing variations of this scene for thirty years. The Northern Shenandoah Valley Men’s Council met again – dwindled in number from its halcyon days to three. We were like the infamous Long Parliament of England which ruled for decades in the 17th century until so few remained living it was called “The Rump.”

The fire on his land was lit by our host Patrick. The men gathered slowly by ones or twos. We began with some free-lance drumming and then went right into the saging. We invoked the seven directions (our institutional homage to the first inhabitants of this land) and then checked in using the talking stick. A new fellow (all 87 years of himself) named John told us about his career fixing yacht propulsion systems (when the wind doesn’t blow) and how that branched off into wiring and powering living systems on boats – making them wonders of modern living. “Never a ton of money, but my wife and I made a living.” His wife is still hale living with him in a home they occupy off Howellsville Road.

Patrick talked about how hard it was to get motivated to attack projects in his small kingdom of rentals. Like me he’s well into his 70’s. Eric, our other foundational member, is still shy of 70 at

69. He had brought with him his twin adult sons who are profoundly autistic. I have known them since they were five. They are now 35. The sons seemed to delight in our conversation and in the magical fire. Eric had to take them home early – he lives just minutes away – because they have a strict medicine regime that stymies seizures. He said how much the ‘guys’ were smiling as he handed them off to his wife Carol. When he returned, he told us what a good time they’d had. We love the twins. We make sure we talk to them and include them in the dynamics of our meeting. They are part of our men’s council family.

I talked about my recent support role with Powhatan’s production of Romeo and Juliet. It brought back many fine memories from my career. That experience made clear to me how valuable I could be to a production by eighth graders. I was humbled by how the cast and director Natalie Greenhalgh treated me. Reverence is the only term I can use to describe their aspects towards me. The performances were outstanding – much beyond what one would think possible of thirteen- and fourteen-years old teens. I told the men about a letter I had written to the cast expressing my gratitude.

The fire ebbed and after thoroughly dousing the ashes, we whirled away. Not unlike ancient autumn leaves gliding in a moonlit sky. Becoming part of new stories until we meet again.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Dixon Bell November 16, 2023



December 2023 Calendar

- December 3** --- Painting River Rocks
- December 10** --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- December 17** --- Christmas singing and sharing
- December 24** --- Potluck at Centre Meeting House
- December 25** --- Merry Christmas
- December 31** --- Renewal for New Year from a Jewish Perspective
Facilitated by: Kristen Zimet



Pondering "Prayer"...
How does prayer move in your life?

When I was little, one of the first songs my Mom taught me was "I see the moon, the moon sees me, the moon sees somebody I want to see. God bless the moon, God bless me, God bless somebody I want to see." Then we'd name family who lived a distance away. Now I realize she was teaching me prayer. We didn't sit by the bed at night to say our prayers. Mom and Dad had different religious philosophies, both with strong faith, evident in their daily lives without a Sunday church practice. My Sunday church began when I joined a Presbyterian high school choir with friends. The music we sang became my Christianity 101. But prayer? It was simply a rote part of the worship service.

Fast forward to meeting Dan and finding The Religious Society of Friends. Understanding that the Light of God is in all resonated. Hopewell Meeting House felt immediately like home. A message came to me in my first silent worship experience. I've learned about deep spirituality, and I continue to learn.

So this is where prayer comes in. Through worship, shared community, and lots of reading, I've come to believe prayer is ongoing. Yes, there are distinct prayer practices. Yet, prayer can go beyond bowing your head and purposefully saying words or listening to someone speak. When you notice a beautiful sky, that's prayer connected to our precious Mother Earth. When someone makes you smile, that's a prayer being sent to you. When your mind drifts into worry or concern, that's prayer for the community. When something prompts inner reflection, that's prayer for your soul. When you participate in prayer through any denomination of worship, that's connecting to all of God's children.

Sometimes we think "I should pray more." Adele Ahlberg Calhoun presents some intriguing ideas for adding prayer to one's day in her Spiritual Disciplines Handbook. Practice the presence of God in deliberate interruptions to the day and say to yourself, "God, I am here." Insert prayer into the moments of the day that are routine and name the prayer...my waking prayer, my shower prayer, my waiting time prayer, my cooking prayer, etc. Set a reminder on your watch/phone that is a stop and pray prompt for yourself, take a few minutes for deep breaths and gratitude.

However... if you haven't thought of the unconscious moments during the day that illuminate prayer, then try being open to that sense. With our faith, we recognize a creator - named to fit your belief system. With faith, we can live in prayer. Prayer can move with us as we move, strengthening and affirming our faith, God's Light.

Margie Risley

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