



The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
The First Month January 2024

Hopewell Centre Meeting of the Religious Society of
Friends 604 Hopewell Road, Clear Brook, VA 22624
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Dick Bell, Clerk of the Meeting, 304-268-8510

Donna Knight, Assistant Clerk of the Meeting, 540-771-8118

Karen Nelson and Martha Hanley, Pastoral Care. Contact Karen at 301-351-5538 or
knel23@yahoo.com

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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

Louise Megginson

**Meeting for Worship for Business
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, December 10, 2023
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding**

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: Continuing Quaker Education) Quakers use many names to describe this spiritual presence. Among the names we use are God, spirit, the light, the inward light, the inner light, Christ, truth, love. ...Quakers will talk about there being that of God in everyone, and it is the belief that the creator has endowed each person with a measure of the divine essence, and that as a consequence, all of life is sacred and interconnected. Arthur Larrabee

Comments included how the quote expresses a sense of connection throughout.

Thanksgiving and Concerns: Clerk Bell expressed thanks for the presence today of Hilde Matheson (and a delight for everyone), and for the attendance of guests Caitlyn and sons Braden and Reese, and for one year old Oliver. Margie Riley gave thanks for our Clerk and in particular his attentiveness to constant communications with everyone throughout the week.

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

Major items included:

Contributions :

Individual and Family:	\$ 2,826
Use of Centre:	120
Sarah Zane Fund	350

Expenses:

Contributions	\$ 2,356 (includes 9 \$200 community contributions and the rest to the Kitchen of Hope)
Insurance payment	2,125
Mowing	645
Tree work and brush clearing	3,500
New signs at Hopewell and Centre	1,751 (correction of mistakes, our fault)

Checking account balance:	\$ 18,956
Rogers Fund balance:	25,000 (funds available for use)
Sarah Zane Fund balance:	1,798

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

Clerk Bell volunteered to contact Pastor Mary of the Metropolitan Church to let her know that we value their use of Centre for their services and that the rent is "pay what you can".

Jim reported that with respect to our end-of-year community contributions, he added Friends Journal and omitted BYM Camping for this year since we had already donated \$1,000 to them to help with the move of Camp Opequon to Rolling Ridge. He also announced that the 2024 budget would be presented at next month's business meeting.

Ministry and Counsel: Richard Cooper gave the following report:

The committee met on December 4, 2023, via Zoom.

Regarding communications, we decided to recommend a new computer camera for Centre Meeting and, if feasible, adding a new set of equipment for Centre to keep us from moving the current set at Hopewell too much.

Second hours (schedule through the end of January)

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

January 7th – Reserved for the first two queries for a new State of the Meeting report.

January 14th – **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

January 21st – Peacemakers: at work, local, in families, in the nation and the world.

January 28th – Potluck at Centre

We continued discussions concerning aspects of supporting individuals in the meeting and in the community.

Becky Ebert reminded us of our commitment to supply a WATTS (Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter) dinner at 1st Baptist, February 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel: Ellie Haun, Dick Bell, Richard Cooper, Donna Knight, Becky Ebert, and Peter Ford. December 6, 2013

Social Concerns and Outreach: Margie Riley reported that she recently attended a meeting of the Valley Interfaith Council. The meeting included a planning session for an Interfaith Silent Prayer Vigil to be held at First Baptist Church in Winchester on December 16 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. A flyer for the event will be sent out via email.

Becky Ebert reported on the WATTS dinner that was held on November 13. Hopewell Centre provided dinner for the WATTS program at Market Street United Methodist Church on Nov. 13, 2023.

Broiled chicken from Martins was a hit, along with rolls, green beans, mashed potatoes, and two choices of gravy. Cookies for dessert rounded out the menu. Dick Bell, Paul Britner, Richard Cooper, , Scott Lynch, Karen Nelson, Christian Mollitor, and Jonathan Tolman provided the labor and the smiles. 35 guests and 15 workers were fed that evening. Thanks to all in the meeting who assisted with this worthy cause.



Becky, Richard, Dick, Karen, Paul, Christian, Scott

The next dinner that we will help with will be held on February 23. Let Dick Bell know if you could help coordinate this dinner if Becky might not be available.

The January meeting of the Committee will be a planning session for a spring peace event.

Building and Grounds: Jim Riley reported that the patio will now be installed in early spring.

For the Graveyard Committee, Jim reported that Boy Scout William Collins has submitted his Hopewell graveyard proposal for final approval to the scouts. As reported in last month's minutes, his project will be part of his earning the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scout organization.

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 but is hoping to be home for Christmas.

Gerry Harris who was diagnosed with malignant melanoma on his back. He had surgery a month ago 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
Louise Megginson

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

Martha Hanley reported that Roger Saville is moving from her house to another location on Monday. Jennifer Dyer, who is also staying with Martha, is trying to find a place to stay closer to Winchester.

Hospitality: Donna Knight reported that we are well stocked with cake for the moment, so we don't need any more right now. She also volunteered to bring Legos for the children's play area thanks to a request from a visitor today who nonetheless enjoyed playing with what we had available.

Expediency and Promptness: The report has been delayed again. The committee decided to change its name to Shortly and Soonness.

Announcements:

Prayer Group meets December 14 via Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

OATS meets December 16 at 10:00 a.m.

The Interfaith Prayer Vigil will meet on December 16 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church
Help needed with packing up Opequon Camp for the move to Rolling Ridge on December 19 at 10:00 a.m.

WATTS dinner on February 23, 2024, at First Baptist Church.

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Judy McCarthy, Dan Riley, Karen Nelson, Ellie Haun, Margie Riley, Becky Ebert, Martha Hanley, Richard Cooper, Anne Bacon, Donna Knight, Josh Riley, and Hilde Matheson.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk



From the clerk

As I recall it, I was in fifth grade, and it was Christmas Eve. We had gotten our tree from the woods behind us in Nanjemoy, MD. Tree lots were a wonder we had not yet discovered. Probably because we lived on the edge of a mature forest, most pines were spindly and focused on reaching the soaring canopy above. Our tree looked especially bedraggled that year – Charlie Brown had nothing on us.

We dragged out our box of decorations and realized soon that we didn't have very much to work with. The main problem was the lights. It took us awhile to get any to light. The sum total of actual working light bulbs we got to fire was 11. Worse, a plurality of them was this awful shade of weak lavender. We were boys and preferred bold colors like red, blue, and green. We kept trying bulbs in different sockets to see if they would suddenly light up. Sadly, no miracles occurred.

We then began hanging balls and realized that without lights the balls looked flawed, miscolored, and outstandingly inadequate. There were branchless areas on our tree where a hawk could have flown through without tipping his wings.

Also, we found we had done a pathetic job storing last year's icicles. They were mostly gobs of knots from which we were only able to resurrect at the most ten or twelve strands.

Standing back and taking stock of our creation, we were decidedly bummed.

Mother could not miss our disappointment. We thought this year Santa would surely pass our house by. Mother then produced her 1876 silver dollar – the one given her as a child by her Grandfather Ridgeway, and we hatched a plan. I would ride my bike to Kleins Grocery at least four miles away on Nanjemoy Point Road. The two stores in Nanjemoy, Finall's Grocery and Miss Mary's, did not keep Christmas light bulbs and the other main object of our shopping that day: a jar of baby food for my brother Matt. I had to be just nine. Mother instructed me to buy only Gerber's – but if there were none of the flavor Matt wanted then I was to substitute Beechnut. It would be the longest I had ever ridden.

Armed with Mom's heirloom silver dollar and dressed as warmly as I could, I began the epic ride. I ran into little traffic. The gray skies invited snow and the cold bit my cheeks and the tips of my ears. Making it past the beer joint, I knew I was in the home stretch. I pulled into Kleins and immediately went for the light bulbs. Their selection of Christmas bulbs was extremely limited. I finally settled on a set of four, only one of which was the hated lavender. They had no Gerber's baby food so I bought Beechnut. The ride back was shorter, and I got home with still plenty of light.

We set up our trains under the tree then put the four new bulbs in empty sockets, expecting a dramatic improvement. The tree looked only barely better. All our heroics – Mom's silver dollar, my epic bicycle ride – had only produced a pale imitation of any child's dreams.

When Dad got home after dark, we took him in to look at our work, leaving out none of the dramatic details. He agreed with us that the tree looked pretty grim.

That night we went to bed, and I'm sure because it was Christmas Eve, we had a hard time falling asleep.

The next morning, we got up and burst into the front room. The tree was full of strands of lights, festooned with brand new balls, and covered with cascades of unknotted icicles. Our train set had been expanded and had brand new cars. Wrapped presents overflowed the floor. The miracle of Christmas had happened.

Right there in our house.

The note left by Santa sealed the deal.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Dixon Bell

December 17, 2023



December 2023 Calendar

- December 24** --- Potluck at Centre Meeting House
- December 25** --- Merry Christmas
- December 31** --- New Year Renewal from a Jewish Perspective
Lead by: Kristen Zimet
- January 7th** --- Reserved for the first two queries for a new State of the Meeting report.
- January 14th** --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- January 21st** --- Peacemakers: at work, local, in families, in the nation and the world.
- January 28th** --- Potluck at Centre



*Beautiful Wreath
Created by
Charlie Mortenson
For
Hopewell Meeting House*

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Religious Society of Friends
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