



**The Monthly Silence**  
**The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre**  
**Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**The Third Month, March 2024**

Hopewell Centre Meeting of the Religious Society of  
Friends 604 Hopewell Road, Clear Brook, VA 22624  
Telephone: 540-667-9114 Website: [www.winchesterquakers.org](http://www.winchesterquakers.org)

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](mailto:knel23@yahoo.com)

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\*If possible, The Monthly Silence will be published on or soon after the 20<sup>th</sup> of each  
month. Please send items you want included in the newsletter by the 17<sup>th</sup> of the  
month.

Please send donations to:

Hopewell Centre

Friends c/o Jim

Riley

P.O. Box 165

Winchester, VA 22604

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### **Please Hold in the Light**

Karen Nelson is asking us to hold the following in the light:  
See additional information in the Pastoral Care Report below

Chris Cox

Jennifer Dyer

Francine and John Guiser and his sister, Chrissy

Pam Hambach

Gerry Harris

Janet Harrison

Eloise Haun who is coping with declining health.

Hilde Matheson

Betty McCormick and her daughter Susie

Zakee McGill

Margie Riley's Sister-In-Law, Barbara Weiss

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**Meeting for Worship for Business  
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, February 11, 2024  
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding**

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

**CQE:** (Continuing Quaker Education) “if love is not the answer, make sure to change the question.”  
— Charlyn Khater

Everyone gave this quote a “thumbs up”.

**Thanksgiving and Concerns:** Margie Riley gave thanks for the many voices and writers who are involved with responding to the four Queries for this year’s Spiritual State of the Meeting. Clerk Bell expressed his concern for the health of Zakee McGill which has recently digressed.

**Treasurer:** Jim Riley gave the treasurer’s report for January:  
Major items included:

Contributions :

Individual and Family:	\$ 1,370
Use of Centre:	835

Expenses:

from the Sarah Zane Fund	\$ 212
Tree work at Centre	950
Signs at Hopewell and Centre	184 (correction of web address)
Utilities	857

Checking account balance:	\$ 23,923
Rogers Fund	35,000
Sarah Zane Fund	2,920

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

**Ministry and Counsel:** Richard Cooper gave the following report:  
The committee met on February 5, 2024, via Zoom.

Of great note: Donna Knight joined us from Costa Rica!

We discussed continuing efforts to better the audio. We heartily commend the continuing efforts of Dan Riley to alleviate this situation. We commend heartily Donna Knight for her incredible service in procuring and setting up the Zoom equipment for Centre.

We established RE's through the end of March:

February 4<sup>th</sup> – Queries 3 & 4, Spiritual State of the Meeting

February 11<sup>th</sup> – **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

February 18<sup>th</sup> – Chinese New Year – Lisa Mortensen

February 25<sup>th</sup> – Potluck at Centre, assembling worker kits.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Simplicity and the Bible – Jim Riley

March 10<sup>th</sup> – **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

March 17<sup>th</sup> – Helping FCNL develop lobbying priorities - Dick Bell

March 24<sup>th</sup> – Potluck at Centre

We talked about the upcoming Ecospirituality Workshop in the Spring, the Interfaith Unity gathering in May (11<sup>th</sup>), and other matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel

February 6, 2024

**Social Concerns and Outreach:** Margie Riley reported the following:

At the Feb. 1 meeting of the Valley Interfaith Council, Jolie Williams from Habitat for Humanity presented information about their service in the Winchester area. Habitat is a non-profit organization that builds homes in partnership with families who have steady income, are in need of adequate housing, and are interested in homeownership. A few key points include that applicants must work or live in the city of Winchester/Frederick County, Clarke County, or Shenandoah County and be a U.S. citizen. Gross household income must fall between 60 and 80% of the area median income, with rent being more than 30% of income. This is a sliding scale depending upon the number of people in the household. If awarded a Habitat for Humanity house, the homebuyer must be able to pay an affordable mortgage, and Habitat works with the individual to match that to their budget. Homebuyers must also complete 250-450 hours of sweat equity, which is volunteer time in a number of activities. Additionally, Habitat works with the family on financial management. The process can sometimes take up to two years before closing on a house, depending upon what funding sources are involved. If an applicant doesn't qualify or are not accepted, Habitat refers them to other possible resources. Habitat is always interested in available properties. Winchester also has an area housing coalition available as a resource.

Habitat would like to increase the number of applicants they receive. They have six properties in Winchester that they will start to rehabilitate in addition to their building projects. They are looking to

“get the word out” about their process and the Valley Interfaith Council is planning an information session in the near future.

Does the Meeting approve offering the use of Centre Meeting House on a Thursday evening for Habitat to host an information session, provided that fits their coordination with the VIC? The Meeting approved.

Margie also reminded us that Welcome packets are available for newcomers and information business cards are also available for the taking on the doors of Hopewell and Centre. Volunteers are still welcome for the WATTS dinner on February 23.

Christian Mollitor brought a draft flyer for the “Inner Peace and Eco-Spirituality Workshop” to be held on April 13 in conjunction with Earth Day.

**Building and Grounds:** Dan Riley presented information concerning the purchase of a wheelchair ramp and two transitions to help make Centre Meetinghouse ADA compliant. The ramp will be lightweight and portable and will be used on the stairs at the entrance of the Meetinghouse. The transitions will aid in moving a wheelchair up to the porch and then the door. Total cost is app. \$800. The Meeting approved and payment will be made from the Rogers Fund. Dan will meet with a representative from Access Independent, a non-profit that specializes in making buildings accessible for the disabled, to finalize the purchase and installation.

**Pastoral Care:** Karen Nelson reported as follows: Please hold the following Friends in the light:

Gerry Harris who had surgery several months ago to remove cancerous lesions on his back. He is doing well but still has to have more lesions removed. He is on a strict 3 month schedule of getting his skin checked.

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

Pam Hambach is recovering from her cancer surgery and is now dealing with the effects of chemotherapy.

Barbara Weiss (Margie Riley’s sister-in-law from Texas) who is undergoing radiation treatment related to a recurrence of breast cancer.

Chris Cox

Jennifer Dyer

Francine and John Guiser

Hilde Matheson

Zakee McGill

Mary Riley

Janet Harrison as she continues her dialysis and is still seeking a kidney donor.

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

Eloise Haun

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

**Hospitality:** The reviews are in and the consensus is that the food spreads of which we partake at the break each week have been absolutely marvelous.

**New Business:** Margie Riley reported that our website comes up readily in a google search, but is mired in listings for alternate search engines such as Duck Duck Go, etc. GoDaddy, our website platform, was contacted to ask if they provide the service of linking us to search engines so we would be readily viewed. Currently our website is viewed regularly, with over 200 views in the last month.

GoDaddy does provide this service, \$60. Per hour, a minimum of 10 hours. They look individually at the program that is written for your website and manage it so that it interfaces with the various search engines. The process can take up to 2 months.

GoDaddy can also access our old website and take it off the web. The question of having someone in the Meeting handle this came up, but it was general consensus that this is a task for a professional IT person.

Shall we contract with GoDaddy for a minimum of \$600 (\$10 per hour) to manage this update to our website? The Meeting approved.

Christian Mollitor noted that if a search is made for Centre on Google Maps, the location only displays the Metropolitan Church. He volunteered his expertise (my word) to rectify this problem.

The WATTS Walk will be held on February 24. Check-in begins at 4 p.m. and the walk (your choice of a 2K or 5K walk) begins at 5 p.m. To participate, register online for the Hopewell Centre Team. Please call Margie Riley if you need help in doing this.

Also, the Meeting approved a \$500 donation to WATTS.

The narratives for Queries 1 and 2 pertaining to the Spiritual State of the Meeting were presented for discussion. Changes and additions were made that will be incorporated into a final writing of the narratives and will be presented for final approval at the March business meeting.

**Announcements:**

WATTS dinner on February 23, 2024, at First Baptist Church in Winchester

WATTS Walk on February 24

Interfaith Unity event on May 11

Ecospirituality Workshop on April 13

**In Attendance:** Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Dan Riley, Karen Nelson, Ellie Haun, Margie Riley, Martha Hanley, Richard Cooper, Anne Bacon, Peter Ford, Maggie Stetler, Judy McCarthy, Josh Riley, Judy Landis, Christian Mollitor, Mike Hambach, Betty McCormick, and John Guiser.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk

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#### From the clerk

I was travelling home from OATS (Open and Truthful Sharing) where I had shared that our topic of embracing time in the Wilderness was awfully similar to “Seeking Wholeness Amid the Chaos,” WFCRP’s (Washington Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology) current Zoom conference, which I was suddenly able to attend fully because of the snow and change in schedule. The plenary speaker was Jeffrey Kiehl, physicist, and Jungian master.

On my drive home there was this incredible story on NPR of a boy, orphaned at eight, who had been raised by his community. The boy had the ‘gift’ of finding lost objects. Folks would contact him with ‘missing’ objects such as keys or hairbrushes. The boy would invariably tell the person describing the object something like, “It’s in the silverware drawer.” He was always right. About half the town thought the boy – and later teenager – was gifted. Others were sure he was deliberately stealing objects and hiding them to make himself look good. One day he received a call from a hysterical mother whose little boy had not come home from school. The now teenager tried to place the boy but couldn’t. The mother said she had been contacted by a phoner who claimed he had her son Leonard and would return him if she turned over a beautiful emerald the whole town knew she owned. It was then the ‘gifted’ teenager walked in her door.

He tried but could get no fix on the missing child. Right then the police arrived, and the hysterical parent was describing what her son had been wearing. A blue shirt. The minute the teenager got the image of the blue shirt he was off. He followed his nose for several blocks and arrived at a house. The back door was open, and he marched right in. There was the tearful child and four adults. The teenager grabbed the boy from the astounded kidnapers and carried him home in his arms. Still dressed in his basketball uniform (he had been heading for practice), he delivered the child to his mother – who wanted to give him the emerald and was beyond grateful in her relief. The teenager refused and told the police the address where the boy had been kept...

Kiehl this weekend has been making the point brilliantly that there is a dualism in human nature between the 'factual, evidence-based' world and the collective unconscious, often the world of myth. Joseph Campbell and Carl Jung both called this dualism *coniunctio oppositorum*, a conjunction of opposites. The evidence of these two worlds joining lives in paradoxes and synchronicities. Kiehl showed us that when we are open to the 'advocate' from heaven – for instance, the god Hermes – that figure can help us navigate between the rational, sensate world and the world of myth. Someone interrupted and made the point that often in Quaker Business Meeting we will enter into Silence when a 'problem' presents itself. Frequently the solution to the 'problem' presents itself in a group 'aha' moment. Kiehl stated that was a perfect example of what he was talking about. He then asked us if we had heard the story of 'The Harp.'

In Oakland, California, a young girl was given a beautiful wooden harp that she loved to play. During a community concert the harp was stolen. Police looked everywhere. They followed all leads. Finally, the mother of the girl was advised by a friend to consult a dowser. The mother found one in Arkansas. He asked her to send him a photo of the missing harp. She did. The dowser said, "It's in Oakland, California. If you send me a street map, I can give you an address." She did and several days later he called, telling her exactly where the harp was. The mother gave the police the address which she said she had learned from a 'tip.' The police said they had not enough evidence for a search warrant and were going to shut the case down – it was too old. The mother decided, on her own, to hang posters, showing the missing harp, in a two-block area around the house. A few days later she received an anonymous phone call to meet behind an all-night Safeway. She did. Out of the darkness appeared a figure who handed the harp, unharmed, to her through the car window. The mother's reaction to a candid world? "This changes everything."

Imagine my feeling having heard two accounts within an hour or two of these similar,

inexplicable, miraculous events. Particularly in light of my attending a conference dedicated to precisely these phenomena. The universe is constantly talking to us – in ways both mundane and magical.

Kiehl's advice: Stop, be still, and listen.

Respectfully submitted,  
R. Dixon Bell February 17, 2024



### ***Return Trip***

I began to breathe again  
Deeply  
And with intent

Always mindful of  
Events that initiate  
Life with words  
The magnitude of  
Being alive rushes in  
Takes up residence  
Remembering the joy  
Of hearts beating wildly

On the cusp of tranquility  
Steps are taken  
Movement ahead occurs  
As the future unfolds

*Linda Hill*



## The heart

The heart is a very fragile thing,  
It is a place where bells can ring  
Or a dirge is heard and deeply sighs,  
Its sorrow can wing its way to the skies.

The heart is a very fragile thing,  
A home for the monk or a desolate king.  
A field to tend with a careful hand,  
A place to walk , A peaceful land.

John Guiser





ARTS CHORALE OF WINCHESTER

*Presents*

# UNITED IN PURPOSE

**MUSIC TO UNITE OUR  
HEARTS, SOULS AND MINDS**

**DR. KAREN KEATING  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

**SPECIAL GUEST  
JAMES WOOD HIGH SCHOOL AMBASSADOR CHOIRS  
DR. MELISSA LEGGE MAUCK, JWHS DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024 3PM  
ARMSTRONG CONCERT HALL  
SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY  
WINCHESTER, VA**

**TICKETS \$25  
ONLINE, AT THE DOOR OR  
FROM A CHOIR MEMBER**

SCAN FOR TICKETS



*Performing Promoting Preserving*

SPONSORED IN PART BY

*Marion Park Lewis Foundation*  
and the STEARNS ENDOWMENT FUND

*Come see our own Kristen Zimet who sings with the Arts Chorale of Winchester*

# Inner Peace & Eco-Spirituality Workshop

Saturday, April 13, 2024  
10am-3pm ~ North of Winchester, Virginia



*The above photos are from the Andes Mountains of Peru and reflect the love for Mother Nature inspiring this event.*



**Free Earth Day Outreach Event**  
Space is limited- RSVP by April 6th!  
Scan QR code or email for details:  
HopewellCentreQuakers  
@gmail.com

A simple whole food vegetarian  
lunch will be provided.

Hopewell Centre Meeting House  
604 Hopewell Road  
Clear Brook, VA 22624

This workshop contains a variety of Earth-based spiritual practices and body, mind, soul and Spirit healing modalities that will create openings for you to have a direct experience of the Divine mystery and allow witness to the awe and wonder of Mother Nature and the Universe.

- Drumming Journey for Spirit Guide/  
Council of All Beings
- Chair Yoga (easy and accessible for everyBody)
- Ecological Examen (reflecting on the Divinity in nature)
- Ancestors & Healing Haunted Histories
- Sacred Art of Eating
- Heart, Breath and Energy Silent Worship
- Sharing and Integration
- Thanksgiving Address and Prayer for  
Peace and Environmental Healing



SCAN ME

*Come join Christian Molliter*

# Let's Dance!

featuring Martín Palmer's *Misatango*, with orchestra

**Friday, April 19, 2024**

**7:30pm**

**Front Royal Presbyterian Church**

115 Luray Ave.

Front Royal, VA

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**

**3:00pm**

**First Baptist Church  
of Winchester**

205 W. Piccadilly St.

Winchester, VA

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

**7:30pm**

**All Saints Catholic Church**

9300 Stonewall Rd.

Manassas, VA

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

**3:00pm**

**Trinity Episcopal Church**

9108 John S. Mosby Hwy.

Upperville, VA



**BLUE RIDGE  
SINGERS**

**2009-2024**

*Celebrating 15 Years of Choral Excellence*



*Martin Luther King Jr. Foundation*

*Andrew Gertge sings with this group*



## March 2024 Calendar

- March 3<sup>rd</sup>** --- Simplicity and the Bible led by Jim Riley
- March 10<sup>th</sup>** --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- March 17<sup>th</sup>** --- Helping FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) develop lobbying priorities led by Dick Bell
- March 23<sup>rd</sup>** --- St. Paul's AME Church Prayer Breakfast 11:00AM  
contact Jenna Warren at 540-323-8136 [jennawarren1951@gmail.com](mailto:jennawarren1951@gmail.com)  
\$30 at Brandt Student Union 703 University Dr. Shenandoah Univer
- March 24<sup>th</sup>** --- Potluck at Centre Meeting House

# ***Universal Prayer for Peace***

*May Peace Prevail on Earth International*  
encourages people around the world to pray this pray each day at noon

It also sponsors the "Peace Pole Project."  
A Peace Pole was recently dedicated at John Handley High School.

**Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.  
Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.**

Submitted by: Margie Riley

## 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](http://www.winchesterquakers.org)

-the **Baltimore Yearly Meeting** website: [www.bym.rsf.org](http://www.bym.rsf.org); go here to access the latest **F**

**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](http://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](http://www.friendswilderness.org)

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

-Website: [www.quaker.org](http://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](http://friendsjournal.org). All issues available on the website

-**Podcast; Quakers Today** sponsored by Friends Journal

-**Thee Quaker Project**: weekly podcast; [www.theequaker.org](http://www.theequaker.org)

-**Quaker Speak**; bi-weekly Quaker video sponsored by Friends Journal; [www.QuakerSpeak.com](http://www.QuakerSpeak.com)

- Friends General Conference bookstore; [www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org)
- Friends General Conference website; [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org)
- Friends Committee on National Legislation; Quaker lobby organization; [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)
- American Friends Service Committee; [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)
- Friends United Meeting; [www.friendsunitedmeeting.org](http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org)
- Pendle Hill; Quaker study and retreat center in Pennsylvania; [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org)
- Friends World Committee for Consultation; Quakers around the world; [www.fwcc.world](http://www.fwcc.world)
- Right Sharing of World Resources; [www.rswr.org](http://www.rswr.org)
- Quaker United Nations Office; [www.quno.org](http://www.quno.org)

## 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.

Submitted by: James Riley



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