



The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre
Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
The Fifth Month, May 2024

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:
See additional information in the Pastoral Care Report below

Chris Cox

Jennifer Dyer

Francine and John Guiser

Janet Harrison

Eloise Haun who is coping with declining health.

Hilde Matheson

Betty McCormick, her daughter Susie

Zakee McGill

Katie Sorensen

**Meeting for Worship for Business
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, April 14, 2024
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding**

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: (Continuing Quaker Education) *God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them* (1 John 4:16)

Comments included: Quakers would say that God abides in you even if you don't abide in God; Some justify their actions "in the name of God" even though they don't abide in love; Singing "God is Love" as a child; Discovering a flyer with "Love your God with all of your mind, heart, and soul"; The Hebrew Bible included the worshipping of other gods; Did Osama Bin Ladin have an inner light? Yes, but it wasn't always on. The color of God is the color of water.

Thanksgiving and Concerns: John Guiser gave thanks that the most recent CT scan with his sister Chrissy showed no signs of cancer. Both she and John thanked all for our prayers. Christian Mollitor gave thanks for Hopewell Centre being an open and affirming Meeting toward all ideas, for supporting his workshop on Eco-spirituality, and to all who attended. Clerk Bell thanked Christian for all that he shared during the workshop. Donna Knight, zooming from Costa Rica, expressed her concern that there has been no rainy season recently and asked for our thoughts and prayers since this makes a serious impact on the country's agriculture. All gave thanks to Mike Hambach for his marvelous design of the new patio.

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

Major items included:

Contributions :

Individual and Family:	\$ 1,346
Use of Centre:	600
Sarah Zane Fund	350
Patio bricks	900

Expenses:

Meeting contributions	\$ 328 (for WATTS dinner and refugee kits)
Utilities	1,000 (mostly for propane)

Checking account balance:	\$ 19,675
Rogers Fund	33,000
Sarah Zane Fund	3,370

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

Ministry and Counsel: Donna Knight gave the following report:
The committee met on April 1, 2024 via Zoom.

We're still solving log-on issues with Centre computer. We agreed to a request for Linda Wilk to post a link to her blog in our newsletter.

We planned the RE's (Religious Education) through May.

April 7th – Poems and poets. We look to celebrate poetry month with members led by poets extraordinaire Kristin Zimet and Maggie Stetler.

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

April 21st – *Friends Journal*. A tentative proposal to take home issues of *Friends Journal* and share articles with attenders as we have in the past. We may also use this slot if an emergency item appears between now and then.

April 28th – Potluck at Centre

May 5th – Walking in the World as a Friend

May 12th – Mother's Day

May 19th – **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

May 26th – Potluck at Centre

While attending the regional meeting for listening we received a request from other meetings to visit via Zoom our Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business: Shall we invite other meetings to our Business Meeting? We agreed that it was always appropriate to have visitors and observers. We would ask any visitors to send comments and suggestions to Ministry and Counsel to present at the next business meeting. Note: at the business meeting today, we approved this invitation. The Meeting also agreed that our business meetings are efficient and enjoyable, and thus well attended. Thank you, Clerk, and thank you committees for making it so.

We are excited that Scott Lynch, Josh Riley, and Jonathan Tolman are spearheading an effort to sell Apple Blossom Parking at Centre during the festival. We wondered if perhaps there might be a special focus, a case for support to a particular charity or interest? We are concerned about interference with any AA activities which may have already been planned. Patrons must know they are parking at their own risk. We applaud the initiative of Scott, Josh, and Jonathan and look forward to supporting them anyway we can.

Speaking of commendations, the committee is beyond pleased and humbled at the beautiful completion of the patio. Many thanks to all the planners and enablers involved. A lovely addition to our grounds.

Dates:

April 13th Eco-spirituality Workshop
(TBD) next Interfaith gathering

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel April 3, 2024

Social Concerns and Outreach: Margie Riley reported the following:

Many thanks to Christian Mollitor for his superb “Eco-Spirituality Workshop” held on April 13 at Hopewell. We had 19 participants all of whom thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

We are hosting a Habitat for Humanity information session on Thursday, April 18, at Centre Meeting House from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sixty people have registered for the session.

We will be participating in the next Kitchen of Hope dinner on August 22.

The time and place for the next Unity Gathering is still in development.

Five people from our Meeting attended the AME Prayer Brunch on March 23 and three attended the Iftar dinner at Shenandoah University on March 20.

Building and Grounds: We are happy that the pavilion is complete, the patio is complete, and trees are planted behind the patio. The committee was asked and will be glad to consider the feasibility of future plantings in this area.

Pastoral Care: Karen Nelson sent the following report: Please hold the following Friends in the light:

Chris Cox

Jennifer Dyer

Francine and John Guiser

Hilde Matheson who is recovering at home after being in the hospital for heart issues. Hilde is so appreciative to everyone for holding her in the Light and is thankful to the Meeting for keeping her in their prayers.

Zakee McGill

Janet Harrison as she continues her dialysis and is hoping to find a kidney donor.

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

Eloise Haun

Katie Sorensen (Karen Nelson’s niece) who has Osteogenesis Imperfecta since birth and will be having major surgery on her hips and knees in the next few months. She is a professor at UNC and has been in a wheelchair for most of her life.

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

Hospitality: Judy Enterline reported on a serious refrigerator issue. When you open the door, you will see items that are begging for your attention. Expiration dates are approaching, and drinks are weary of shelf sitting. Even though this concern only applies to a small number of items, if you are so moved, please rescue these morsels and consume these liquids. Hospitality thanks you. (Note: the above is an extreme paraphrasing of what Judy actually said)

New Business: Richard Cooper made the suggestion that we make a "Please un-mute" sign that we can show to people on Zoom so that if they are muted, they can , if they wish, un-mute. Scott Lynch reminded us that there are at least two community refrigerators located in Winchester where produce and other perishables can be donated. The refrigerators are open 24 hours for donations and the food items are free for those in need.

Announcements:

Becky Ebert asked us to take a Friends Journal from the library for next week's RE.

Apple Blossom Festival parking at Centre on May 3 and 4.

Blue Ridge Singers (starring Andrew Gertge) at First Baptist Church on April 21 at 3:00 p.m. Free admission (donation requested)

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Dan Riley, Ellie Haun, Margie Riley, Martha Hanley, Richard Cooper, Anne Bacon, Peter Ford, Judy McCarthy, Josh Riley, Christian Mollitor, Betty McCormick, John Guiser, Donna Knight, Judy Enterline, Scott Lynch, Jeff Vargas, and Bo Beeman.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk



From the clerk

The universe is constantly giving us opportunities to express our values. This week I'm realizing an opportunity offered me by my former colleague Ann Robb, who asked me during the summer if I'd like to teach a mini-unit for her eighth grade history class this year. I told her I'd be delighted. And right then I decided I'd like to do my unit on the role of John Lewis in the Civil Rights movement.

Fast forward to October when distinguished Powhatan alumna Drew Gilpin Faust, who was the first female president of Harvard University, revisited Powhatan's campus. Dr. Faust (I always think of Goethe when I hear her name) visited the kids and gave an address which I attended. While at Powhatan, one of the third graders asked Dr. Faust if she had a hero. She answered immediately, "John Lewis." When I heard that, my skin crawled. Talk about synchronicity.

Tuesday had me show up at Ann's class bright and early. We had decided to use the peerless documentary "Eyes on the Prize" as our source material. I began by airing a short interview from *Amanpour and Company* of Drew Gilpin Faust by Walter Isaacson. In that interview she explained to Isaacson how she, as a college freshman, travelled to Selma, AL to take part in the great march from Selma to Montgomery. Later, as president of Harvard, she had opportunities to make friends with then congressman Lewis, who would inspire the name of her personal memoir *Necessary Trouble*. In that interview she explained how, through affirmative action, the Civil Rights Movement had affected her life as a woman – because Penn hired her as a professor under the aegis of that program.

That interview gave me a hook to directly tie Powhatan's eighth grade to John Lewis' story.

We watched segments on the Nashville sit-ins where John Lewis, Diane Nash, and Angela Butler led students of Fisk University to confront the segregation of the national chain store lunch counters there. Their actions would lead directly to the founding of SNCC, the student non-violent coordinating committee. We watched the students sitting-in being cursed, beaten, and arrested. But the sit-inners never raised a hand to defend themselves.

We next moved to the Freedom Riders, whose goal was to integrate interstate bus travel, and which were led by Diane Nash and John Lewis from Birmingham to Jackson. Eighth graders saw Lewis, Jim Zwerg, and many others brutally beaten.

Lastly, we focused on Selma where we watched the horrors of Bloody Sunday as Lewis was beaten into a concussion, which affected his speech for years. We followed events through until the triumphal entry into Montgomery of thousands of marchers where Dr. King delivered his famous, "How long? Not long" address.

The steps marched, the sit-ins undertaken, the buses ridden all accomplished their goal. At the end America's commitment to equal rights was enshrined in law. All undertaken under the banner of non-violence.

Seeing the kids riveted to the screen and reading their nightly journal entries, I became deeply moved. They too met and fell in love with that activist and later Georgia congressman who had spent his life affirming and holding the rights of all of us.

It's in moments like these seeing the emotions of my students and the story of John Lewis, just one of the legions of citizens who marched, sang, and practiced civil disobedience to ensure that all of us have equal rights, that I am most intensely proud to be an America.

What canst thou say?

Respectfully submitted,
R. Dixon Bell

April 17, 2024



CALENDAR

- April 27th** --- The Annual BYM Peace and Social Concerns Networking Day on ZOOM (Contact Dick Bell for details)
- April 28th** --- Potluck at Centre Meeting
- May 3rd** --- Fireman's Parade, Winchester, VA
- May 4th** --- Apple Blossom Main Feature Parade, Winchester, VA
- May 5th** --- Walking in the World as a Friend
- May 12th** --- Mother's Day
- May 19th** --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- May 26th** --- Potluck at Centre Meeting
- May 27th** --- Memorial Day



Spring Rentals at BYM Camps

The wild cherries and forsythia are in full bloom and the mountain azalea have begun to bud at BYM Camps. One-way BYM supports the financial sustainability of our camps is through seasonal rentals. Whether you're looking for a weekend writing retreat or group camping for your Meeting or family reunion, check out the rentals at BYM Camps!

[Catoclin Quaker Camp Cabins & Lodge](#) features 8 different cabins available to rent - with the option to book out the entire property. Toilets, showers, picnic tables, and potable water are all available near each cabin site with additional access to our large, environmentally friendly bathhouse. BYM Friends are also able to rent out the dining hall with commercial kitchen for larger events. BYM Meetings receive a discount - contact DylanPhillips@bym-rsf.org for the discount code.

[The Studio at Catoclin Quaker Camp](#) offers a less rugged experience for a quiet spiritual retreat or family outing. The Studio features beds for 5, kitchen, and private bathroom. Located on 385 private acres just 15 minutes from Catoclin Mountain Park, Cunningham Falls State Park, and Gambriel State Park - come to Catoclin Quaker Camp for a wonderful weekend in the woods.

Coming in Fall 2024: Rentals at Opequon Quaker Camp at Rolling Ridge

Construction projects are in full swing at the new Opequon Quaker Camp at Rolling Ridge Conservancy near Harper's Ferry, WV. Located on 1700 of protected land with a variety of programs offered at [Friends Wilderness Center](#), Opequon rentals will include a fully modern, 4-season lodge with working fireplace and beds for 18 - in addition to a variety of cabin and platform tent accommodations, dining hall, and commercial kitchen.



<https://lindawilk.substack.com/p/what-does-hope-call-you-to?r=b37x>

Election Violence Prevention Lecture

<https://pendlehill.org/events/election-violence-prevention-in-the-virtue-of-that-life-and-power-that-takes-away-the-occasion-of-all-wars/>

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



The Way Through the Woods

Rudyard Kipling

THEY shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago.
Weather and rain have undone it again,
And now you would never know
There was once a path through the woods
Before they planted the trees:
It is underneath the coppice and heath,
And the thin anemones.
Only the keeper sees
That, where the ring-dove broods
And the badgers roll at ease,
There was once a road through the woods.

Yet, if you enter the woods
Of a summer evening late,
When the night-air cools on the trout-ring'd pools
Where the otter whistles his mate
(They fear not men in the woods
Because they see so few),
You will hear the beat of a horse's feet
And the swish of a skirt in the dew,
Steadily cantering through
The misty solitudes,
As though they perfectly knew
The old lost road through the woods ...
But there is no road through the woods.



May 8 Donna Knight

May 28 Anne Bacon

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

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