

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



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

Telephone: 540-667-9114 Website: 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

Donna Knight, Newsletter, Donnaknight@allpointscountertop.com, 540-771-8118

*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

R. Dixon Bell

Francine and John Guiser

Janet Harrison (awaiting kidney transplant)

Eloise Haun who is coping with declining health

Hilde Matheson.

Betty McCormick, her daughter Susie

Karen Nelson (recovering from knee replacement)

Laura Nell Obaugh (from Jim Riley's recent visit "All has been well", thank you for your prayers)

Meeting for Worship for Business
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, December 8, 2024
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: (Continuing Quaker Education)

“Bring all into the worship of God. Plough up the fallow ground. Thresh and get out the corn; that the seed, the wheat, may be gathered into the barn: that to the beginning all people may come; to Christ, who was before the world was made. For the chaff is come upon the wheat by transgression. He that treads it out is out of transgression, fathoms transgression, puts a difference between the precious and the vile, can pick out the wheat from the tares, and gather into the garner; so brings to the lively hope the immortal soul, into God out of which it came. None worship God but who come to the principle of God, which they have transgressed. None are ploughed up but he who comes to the principle of God in him, that he hath transgressed. Then he doth service to God; then is the planting, watering, and increase from God.” Epistles of George Fox – From Launceston Gaol 1656

Comments included: God doesn't throw you away, but nurtures you so you can grow. You must go through transgression before you can come to God. Service is a pillar; like “planting, watering, and increase from God”.

Thanksgiving and Concerns: We all expressed a concern for Ellie Haun who is recovering from a recent fall but nonetheless has joined us today on Zoom in all her glory. We are also keeping John Trueblood in our prayers as he has been falling quite frequently but has also joined us today on Zoom in all his glory. Donna Knight gave thanks for being able to join her sister for a celebration at Connections Church in Inwood, VA. We are holding Jonathan Tolman in the light as he is currently fighting an illness. Martha Hanley gave thanks for gratitude: it makes us happy with the life we have.

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

Major items included:

Contributions:

Individual and Family	\$ 10,750
Use of Centre by AA	120
Graveyard Fund	200
Sarah Zane Fund	250

Expenses:

Contributions to Organizations	\$ 2,411
BYM	1,669
Quarterly Insurance	2,480
Social Concerns & Outreach	850 (newspaper ads)
Mowing	280
New carpet for Centre	500 (down payment)
Graveyard marker repairs	950

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 19,661
Rogers Fund	41,000
Sarah Zane Fund	3,346

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

Jim also presented the Meeting budget for 2025. Copies were given to all in attendance and a copy is attached to these minutes. Jim pointed out that the budget is a road map subject to change due to the uncertainty of income and expenses. Total expenses are estimated to be about \$38,000 for 2025 as compared to \$36,000 for 2024.

Ministry and Counsel: Donna Knight gave the following report: The committee met on December 2, 2024 via Zoom.

We welcomed Christian Mollitor on to the committee.

Concerning communications: We had been experiencing extreme buffering through the current WiFi modem which has knocked the host off. That situation seems to be resolved at this time. Buildings and Grounds has agreed to investigate getting us a permanent internet connection. The situation has grown more urgent because Donna Knight has informed all of us that the modem will no longer be available past March 2025.

We planned RE's through February:

December 1st –A presentation from the Braver Angels program: What's next?

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

December 15th – Addressing the first query of the Spiritual State of the Meeting: How does the Spirit prosper among you?

December 22nd – Potluck at Centre

December 29th – A return to our pamphlet Building a Community of Faith.

January 5th – Addressing the second query of the Spiritual State of the Meeting: In what ways are we tenderly eldering and educating adults and children in the manner of Friends to deepen our Vocal Ministry?

January 12th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

January 19th – Addressing the third query of the Spiritual State of the Meeting: How do we maintain the spirit of openness and humility as we proclaim our testimonies and live them?

January 26th – Potluck at Centre

Spiritual State of the Meeting Queries for 2024-2025 from BYM:

1. How does the Spirit prosper among you?
2. In what ways are we tenderly eldering and educating adults and children in the manner of Friends to deepen our Vocal Ministry?

3. How do we maintain the spirit of openness and humility as we proclaim our testimonies and live them?

4. As we work for peace, are we nourished by peace and justice within and among ourselves?

(Responses due to BYM by mid-April 2025)

The clerk will be away visiting family December 20 – 27.

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel December 5, 2024

As in the past, the Clerk asked for volunteers to write up our responses to the above queries (one volunteer per query).

Social Concerns and Outreach: Margie Riley reported the following:

Valley Interfaith Council Update for Hopewell Centre :

VICPP will host a zoom presentation regarding immigration on Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

VICPP Day for All People - Jan. 15, 2025 - flyer attached to this email.

A zoom session was held on Dec. 3 regarding 2025 legislative priorities - check YouTube for a recorded copy.

Virginia Legislature 2025 Session: Jan 8 - Feb. 22

Winchester:

State Delegate: Bill Wiley (R - District 32).

Capitol and District Phone (804) 698-1032

State Senator: Timmy French (R - 1st District)

Capitol Phone (804) 698-7501 District Phone (540) 325 - 8767

Clarke County:

State Delegate: Delores Oates (R - District 31)

Capitol and District Phone (804) 698-1031

State Senator: Timmy French

VIC is organizing efforts to support VICPP's legislative priorities for the 2025 VA Legislative session.

Of concern: immigration, voting rights for felons, higher education to those incarcerated, affordable housing, expansion, and equity of health care.

An overarching concern has been expressed for the underlying causes to these issues, including racism, class, and sexual/gender preferences. Two local events to be aware of and consider attending: Frederick County School Board, Tues., Dec. 10; and Listening Sessions for input regarding selection of next Winchester Police Chief: Mon., Dec. 9 6:30 - 8 pm at the Shawnee Fire Station; Tues., Dec. 10 6:30 - 8pm at the Douglas School.

VIC is arranging a zoom info/Q&A session with Sheila Herlihy, tentatively scheduled for Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m. to discuss the VICPP legislative priorities.

RE: Immigration and the threat of deportation:

Flyers are being shared regarding individual rights if ICE were to question anyone.

Church World Services has legal aid available. Another local legal resource is Roslyn Honesty with Legal Shield, 703-244-5671

A good overview article is: www.justsecurity.org/97146/trumps-immigration-agenda/

Building and Grounds: Pam Hambach reported the following:

The painting and glazing of the Hopewell Meetinghouse windows is complete. We are awaiting the bill. The forty plus year old carpet at Centre Meetinghouse will be replaced with new carpet by Ross' Floors and Carpets sometime this week. One of the next projects will be wall repair at Hopewell.

Dan Riley presented the Metal Detection Policy:

On the occasion of a request by a metal detectorist to search the property of Hopewell Meetinghouse or Centre Meetinghouse, the detectorist must adhere to the following:

- 1) Receive written permission from the Clerk of the Meeting or a member of the Building and Grounds Committee. The permit will specify the date when the search must be completed and must be with the detectorist during the searching. If not completed by the date specified, the detectorist must reapply.
- 2) Provide the method used for the search and how the ground will be repaired after digging has occurred.
- 3) No metal detection is allowed at the Graveyard at Hopewell, the Apple Pie Ridge Cemetery, or the Hollingsworth Cemetery in Winchester.
- 4) Pictures of all found items will be sent and an optional time set for a future display of the items.
- 5) The Meeting will decide whether any of the items that are deemed historically significant should be kept by the Meeting. All other items may be kept by the detectorist.

Jim Riley reported for the Graveyard Committee: Jeremy Coots, the maintenance supervisor at Mount Hebron Cemetery, completed work in the Hopewell Graveyard. He repaired many of the grave markers that had fallen or been damaged. The cost was \$950. It was agreed that marker repair work should also been done in the Apple Pie Ridge Cemetery.

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

Laura Nell Obaugh (Jim Riley's visit with Laura Nell recently: all is well)

Francine and John Guiser

Hilde Matheson

Janet Harrison

Betty McCormick's daughter Susie who has 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.

New Business: Please review the Spiritual State of the Meeting Queries from BYM for 2024 - 2025. They are listed with the Ministry and Counsel report above and discussion will commence in December.

Since we will no longer have the use of our current modem after March 2025, Buildings and Ground Committee will investigate an internet hookup for Hopewell and Centre Meeting Houses.

Announcements:

Virginia Interfaith Council zoom presentation on 12/17 at 6:30 p.m.

Blue Ridge Singers Concert at First Baptist Church on 12/15 at 3:00 p.m.

Called Interim Meeting for budget concerns on 12/14.

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Betty McCormick, Dan Riley, Margie Riley, Ellie Haun, Donna Knight, Pam Hambach, Mike Hambach, Anne Bacon, Richard Cooper, Martha Hanley, Judy McCarthy, Karen Nelson, Judy Enterline, Peter Ford, Josh Riley

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

This is a repost of last year's "From the Clerk"

Dick is recovering from an accident and subsequent surgery.

Please keep Dick in the Light and in your Prayers.



CALENDAR

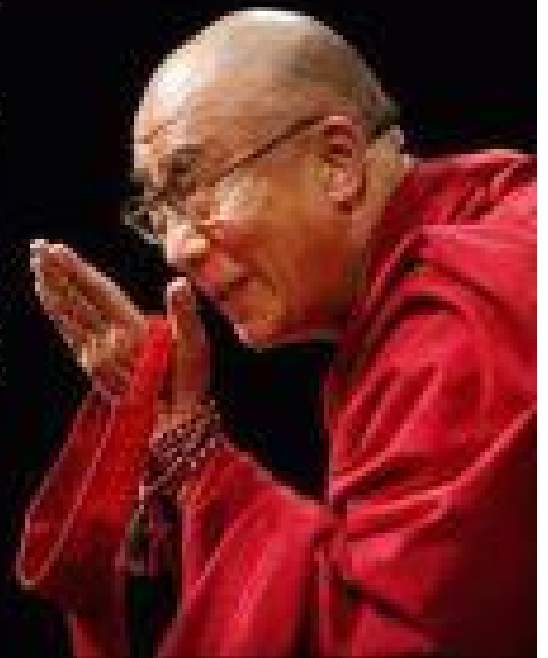
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|----------------------|--|
| December 25th | --- Merry Christmas!!! |
| December 29th | --- A return to our pamphlet Building a Community of Faith |
| January 5th | --- Discussing the 2nd Query on the Spiritual State of the Meeting |
| January 12th | --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business |
| January 19th | --- Discussing the 3rd Query on the Spiritual State of the Meeting |
| January 26th | --- Potluck at Centre Meeting House |



Blogs and Items of Interest

FROM THE MEMBERS OF
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING

The Dalai Lama, when asked what surprised him most about humanity, answered "Man. Because he sacrifices his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future that he does not enjoy the present; the result being that he does not live in the present or the future; he lives as if he is never going to die, and then dies having never really lived."



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

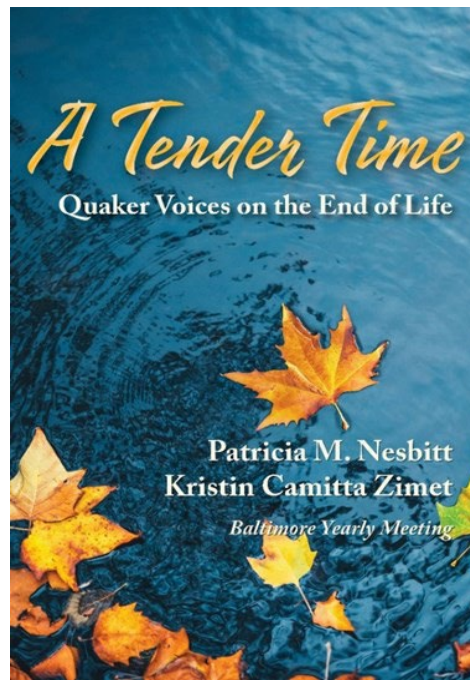
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

- 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

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.



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*

In 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.

COACHING PEACE

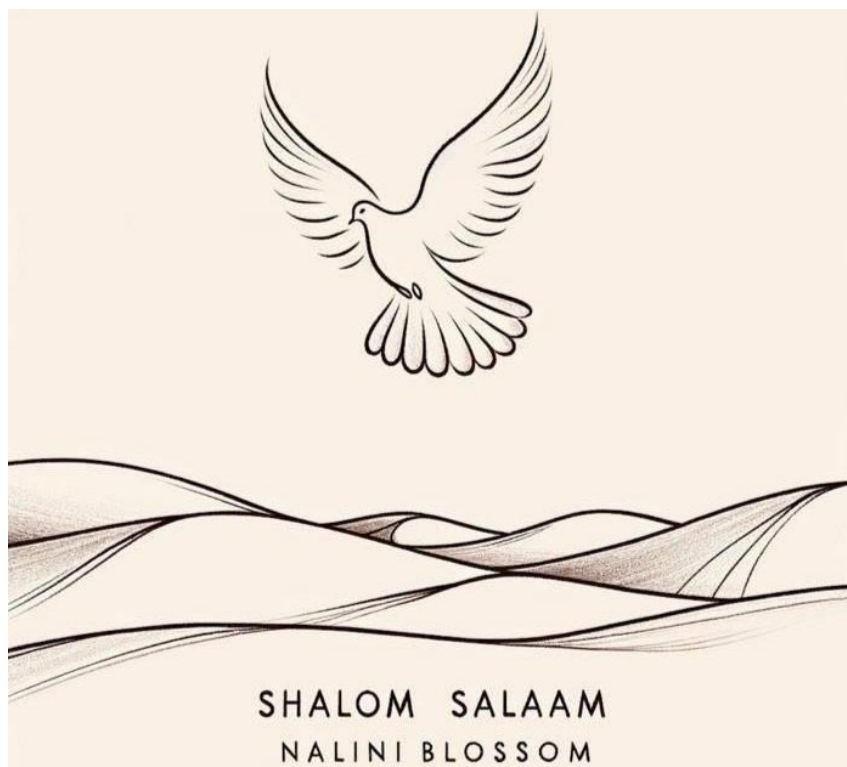


Linda Wilk, MAPC

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



Perspective of Palestinian Quakers Recording Now Available

<https://youtu.be/eeJoXj8yQfE?si=7D94yLamRE-vlzf5>



VICPP Day for All People - Jan. 15, 2025

Virginia Legislature 2025 Session: Jan 8 - Feb. 22

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



Laura Nell O'Baugh

January 26

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

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Clear Brook, VA 22624