The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
The Ninth Month, September 2026

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

Anne Bacon, Clerk of the Meeting, 540-533-0989
Becky Ebert, Assistant Clerk of the Meeting, 540-532-1250
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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 keep them in Prayer

If you have any concerns, you would like the Meeting to be aware of please contact Pam or Judy.

We will be happy to share it.
See additional information about individual concerns in the Pastoral Care Report below

John and Francine Guiser

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Sunday 8 August 2026

Attending: Dick Bell, Dan Riley, Bonnie Clark, Sheila Tilley, Becky Ebert, Ed Tilley, Martha Hanley, Betty McCormick, Jim Riley, Pam Hambach, Mike Hambach, Richard Cooper, Charlie Mortensen, Cheryl Reynolds, Kevin Slick, Kristen Zimet, Josh Riley, Anne Bacon, Katherine May

Anne Bacon, clerk, opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by an opening prayer.

Thanksgivings and Concerns

- We expressed gratitude to Dan Riley for the new (rechargeable!) microphones.

Treasurer's Report – Jim Riley, Treasurer

Below are highlights of financial activities for the month of July 2026. The full report is available by request from the Treasurer.

Income

Unrestricted Contributions: $2,320
Use of Centre: $ 660

Expenses

Jim highlighted some of our regular monthly expenses:
Ad in the paper: $ 45.57
Internet: $ 50
Phone, supplies: $135
Mowing: $505

We made a one-time new mower purchase of $4,500 from the Rogers Fund

Fund Balances

Hopewell Building:	$19,000
Centre Building:	$11,770
Rogers:	$41,000
Youth:	$19,220
Sara Zane:	$ 3,059
Laura Nell Obaugh Fund:	$38,000

Jim noted that property insurance costs are expensed from the Rogers Fund; it is not used for routine expenses (which are expensed from the meetinghouse-specific Building Funds).

Social Concerns and Outreach - Kevin Slick, reporting for the committee:

Below is a summary of the committee's report, which is appended to the end of these minutes.

The committee met on Monday 8/3 at Centre. The committee had a lengthy discussion about the committee's work and structure. The committee reviewed minutes from 2000 to the present noting that the meeting has taken up various causes. At present, much of the social concern and justice work of the meeting is carried out by dedicated individuals with a particular leading. SCO believes that the existing committee structure does not serve us well and recommends that the committee be laid down. In its place, smaller and more flexible groups can be organized around individual and collective leadings which can be more responsive to emergent needs and issues. This means being okay with letting things go while we discern our future work. The committee proposed some queries for the meeting to consider at a later date. (See full report at the end).

We discussed the report and recommendation:

Jim shared information about Sarah Gillooly, General Secretary's report at Annual Session recommending a top to bottom reassessment of BYM's structure, including committees. This work will continue this year.

Dan shared an addendum to the Social Concerns and Outreach report noting Hopewell Centre's outreach activities (culled from the minutes) from 1998 to the present. This report is not included in the minutes but is available at the meetinghouse.

A friend suggested that once a quarter we could have a 2nd hour to check in about our social concerns and outreach activities.

Anne asked M&C to create a second hour to discuss this further. With this discussion, the meeting accepted the report.

Ministry and Counsel Report – Dick Bell, Clerk

Dick Bell offered the report from Ministry and Counsel, appended to the end of the minutes but summarized here. The committee met on 8/3/2026.

- M&C recommended that we revisit our use of AV systems to better understand each other in person and on Zoom.
- The committee planned Religious Education/second hour activities through August (see report).
-
- Jonathan Noyales from SU will be visiting the graveyard with a group in November.
-
- M&C began discussing events and dates that should appear on the annual calendar.
-
- The meeting is still looking for a WATTS coordinator.

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- Records Clerk, Dan Riley shared a 6 question survey from BYM which we will consider during our September potluck at Centre.
-
- A friend shared a concern about Shenandoah County bussing children out of school during the school day to participate in religious education elsewhere.

  Betty McCormick spoke to the concern noting that when it was implemented in Frederick County it significantly impacted the school day and the quality of the students' education. They eventually stopped this practice. Sheila Tilley spoke of her experience in New York state which had a similar program in which public school busses and drivers were used and information was disseminated to students by teachers. Friends shared their surprise and concerns about the program.

  With this discussion, the meeting accepted the report.

Buildings and Grounds – Pam Hambach, Clerk
- The Hopewell bathroom renovation has been delayed as we await the plumber's availability to do their part.
- Pam will coordinate getting a second Johnny Blue for Homecoming.

Interiors – Becky Ebert - no report

Graveyard Committee - Jim Riley - no report

Pastoral Care – Pam Hambach - no report

Hospitality – Judy Enterline
- Judy reminded us about homecoming. Please bring your own plate and utensils to help minimize cleanup. Bring a dish to share, but nothing that needs to be heated or cooled as oven and refrigerator space is limited.

Old Business

1. **Homecoming** - Judy and Pam will coordinate food. Josh will coordinate set up, Bonnie Clark is coordinating clean-up.
2. **Music After Meeting** - Dan Riley reminded us that, acting on a proposal in June, a small group of enthusiasts have been sharing music and song with the meeting before the rise of meeting. Today was our 6th Sunday. Dan asked the meeting for feedback. We united, with gratitude to the music group, in support of continuing the practice.
3. **Values Into Action Chart** - Anne referred us to the chart that was created by Margie Riley and Social Concerns and Outreach to help us better visualize how our values have been and are being translated into action. This was previously emailed. Friends agreed that this is a useful resource to continue adding to as the meeting and its members undertake various social concern and outreach activities**.** This resource could/should be posted on the bulletin board.
4. **WATTS Coordination** - Becky Ebert has stepped down from coordinating our WATTS service. Katherine May and Ed Tilley agreed to meet with Becky to learn more about the role and will likely take it on. We expressed our thanks.
5. **World Quaker Day** - World Quaker Day is coming up on October 4th. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) is coordinating a worldwide virtual meeting for worship to be held on the first Sunday in October. Theme - Let Peace Be Among Us.

   Jim has registered the meeting as participating and will bring updates. A Friend suggested that perhaps we could do something at Centre and make it open to the public.
6. **Spiritual State of the Meeting** - Ministry and Counsel is still discussing plans for how we will handle completing the Spiritual State of the Meeting report. There is a desire among many to

make adjustments to this process.

New Business

1. BYM sent out a **letter to new members** about different ways to get involved at the BYM level. Anne will make the letter available.
2. Professor Jonathan Noyales from Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute is requesting a **short visit to the Hopewell Centre graveyard** on November 7th, 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Ministry and Counsel united in approving this request. Friends approved.
3. **Request for use of Centre for Sally Seabright's art** - A small group of members is requesting permission to use Centre for an informal art show sometime in the fall to display and make available Sally Seabright's large collection of paintings and other art she has created over her lifetime. The plan would be to display the paintings on benches and give the art away, requesting a donation to the Meeting. The group will promote the show in the community and through the art teacher at Handley High School. We welcome other ideas about how to promote the show. Friends suggested simple advertising through local arts organizations (Berkeley Arts, Shenandoah Arts Council) and possibly making the show coincide with a First Friday event in downtown Winchester. Friends approved
4. **Camper updates and donation request** - We intended to sponsor a total of 8 campers this year. The two AME campers did not attend camp. The clerk requested that the meeting consider the unused funds a donation to the camping program. Friends approved.
5. **Facing bench reminder** - Friends are invited to join the clerk on the facing bench during meeting for worship. Now with handshakes!

Friends expressed gratitude to meeting members for their service to the meeting.

Upcoming Dates:

- August 23: Homecoming
- The Regional Gathering to be hosted by Frederick Friends Meeting has been postponed.
- September 1: Fall Interchange (BYM Newsletter) submissions deadline
- September 11-13: BYM Fall Spiritual Formation Retreat – Claggett Retreat Center, Adamstown, MD
- September 25-27: BYM Family Camp at Opequon Quaker Camp. Registration is now open on the BYM website.
- October 3: Hopewell Centre Spirituality Retreat
- BYM's year-long spiritual formation program runs from October-May. We will announce the dates when we know them.

- A March on Washington 2026 is in the works for August 28, with Rev. Al Sharpton and many organizations planning the day. Check out the website Marchonwashington2026.com or simply google March on Washington 2026 to see more info and details. There are a number of sponsors, including the NAACP.

  Respectfully submitted, Josh Riley, Recording Clerk

Social Concerns and Outreach

Committee Report, August, 2026

The committee met on Monday, August 3, 2026, at Centre Meeting House. Attending: Kristin Zimet, Kevin Slick, Sheila Tilley, Martha Hanley, Margie Riley.

We had a lengthy, detailed discussion about the working process of the committee and agreed that it is time for a change. Martha shared information from the BYM Annual Meeting where Sarah Gillooly, General Secretary, suggested a year-long process of assessing BYM's committee structure (model), identifying "pain points" and discerning needed changes. We are feeling the same need for a pause and careful look at our structure and action process for social concerns and outreach. Several questions surfaced in our discussion:

What are the local or global needs that we are called to attend to?
Who might have leadings in these directions?

Who has the energy to serve in these directions?

Are we doing some things because they are "ingrained"?

Are we asking the right questions?

It appears that our Sunday silent worship is serving most of our members and attenders well. Yet while the full Meeting supports the activities and projects that extend beyond silent worship, a small number of active people lead these efforts. We are a small Meeting with an older demographic which directly influences interests, initiatives and energy. In a review of minutes from our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business 2000-present, community and Meeting action projects in the past have been the result of an individual's or small group's initiative and organizing. When someone has high energy for a specific idea or cause, the Meeting supports them and helps as asked. The project or cause wains as the individual's or small group's energy diminishes.

We turn to each other with a need for discernment. We feel that the existing committee structure is no longer serving our community well and suggest eliminating the Social Concerns and Outreach committee while our Meeting works to discern a better path forward. The five of us came to agreement that the existing committee structure for Social Concerns and Outreach could be replaced with a more flexible, inclusive, and responsive process. There are many ways to organize our social concerns and outreach activities beyond the traditional committee model.

One way is to organize groups focused on a particular leading rather than continuing a full committee of "who signed up." This calls for extended dedicated discussions and careful listening, involving all Meeting members and attenders to clearly identify our individual and collective leanings. It includes being ok with letting some things go while refreshing and discerning the best direction/s for our shared ministry and spiritual work.

We respectfully ask the Meeting:

How are we called to actively live our testimonies?

What is our work to do as a Meeting in regard to Social Concerns and Outreach?

What social concerns do we seek to address with Meeting action?

What outreach goals do we share as a Meeting?

How can we best use our Meeting energy to live our values?

Report of Ministry and Counsel - 8/3/26

We decided to recommend we revisit the use of auditory and microphone systems to advance our understanding of each other in person and over Zoom.

We planned RE's through the end of September:

August 2nd – Sheila Tilley presents on her ecological and community work.
August 9th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
August 16th – Anne Bacon reprises her speech to St. Paul's AME history brunch.
August 23rd – Homecoming. Paul Britner will present
August 30th – Beginning a formal review of the contents of the library – Anne Bacon (The regional gathering that was planned for this date in Frederick is to be rescheduled.
September 6th – Faith and Practice Committee (BYM) seeks input on Prejudice and Discrimination revision led by Dick Bell
September 13th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
September 20th – Presentation via Zoom about AFSC.
September 27th – Potluck at Centre.

We recommend heartily that Jonathan Noyales of Shenandoah University visit our graveyard at Hopewell with a group of 40 historical attendees Saturday, November 7th, at around 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. for around 20 minutes.

We began making entries on our annual calendar; e.g., starting our identification of camping candidates, scheduling Spiritual State of the Meeting, et alia.

We are looking for someone in the meeting to coordinate our support of the WATTS program.

We agreed to support Anne Bacon and her First Day attendance of St. Paul's AME.

Records clerk Dan Riley shared with us a six-question survey from BYM. We suggest it be administered during September's Centre potluck.

Another member of the committee expressed alarm that Shenandoah County students, with parental permission, are bussed to religious education daily.
Respectfully submitted, Ministry and Counsel August 3, 2026





CALENDAR

August 30th --- Beginning a formal review of the contents of the library

September 6th --- Faith and Practice Committee (BYM) seeks input on Prejudice and Discrimination revision led by Dick Bell

September 13th --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

September 20th --- Presentation via Zoom about AFSC

September 27th --- Potluck at Centre

(The regional gathering for August 30th has been postponed to a date to be determined.)



June 27

Dear Hopewell Friends,

Hilde's family wishes to express our gratitude for all your love and support not only for our mom, oh how she loved you, but also for us as you've held us in the light countless times, I'm sure.

Thank you for hosting her memorial celebration of life, for writing her story (Margie Riley), for loving her and enriching both her life and ours.

With love and deep appreciation,

Deborah Fitzner (and all of us)

(Just one more month, I miss her and I know you do too)


Blogs and
Items of
Interest
FROM THE MEMBERS OF
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING


Hello
September!
Princess Sassy Pants & Co.™
Thank you for
the reminder
that change
can be
beautiful!
©JaneLeeLogan



Pastoral Care
Quotable Quotes



Simplicity is a jewel rarely found.

~ Ovid

AZ QUOTES



"Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can." —Danny Kaye

HOMECOMING

AUGUST 23, 2026

HOPEWELL MEETING
604 Hopewell Road
Clearbrook, VA 22624

(The above is a picture of last year's Homecoming. If you have or know of anyone who has pictures or comments about this year's Homecoming, please reach out to me. Thanks!!)

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Most of you know I have been in Costa Rica for the whole month of August. Bob and I have been handling much needed repairs and taking time off to play with visiting family.

It seems everytime I come back from a trip here, someone will ask me if I visited Monte Verde. Monte Verde is a Quaker Town that was founded by Quakers from Alabama in the 1950's to avoid jail time for opposing the draft during the Korean War.

The following are some pictures of the Monte Verde Friends Meeting where Bob and I attended Meeting for Worship on August 23rd, I must say it was beautiful and Spiritually satisfying:

Donna Knight




SIMPLICITY
The Clerk
of August and
I were laughing
that a “Peace”
was missing.
INTEGRITY
COMMUNITY
EQUALITY
STEWARDSHIP





The view out a Worship Space Window



The Meeting shares the space with the Friends School



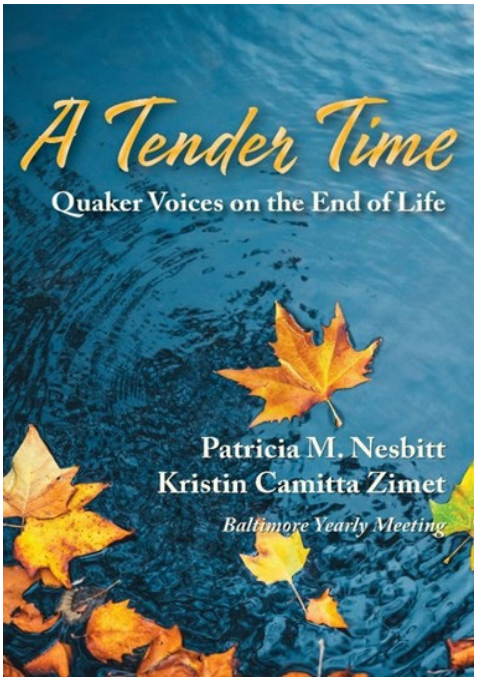
Baltimore Yearly Meeting

How do I sign up for weekly announcements and other information sent out by BYM?

Go to the BYM website: www.bym-rsf.org.
Scroll down to the bottom to "Subscribe to our mailings."
Click there and fill out the form online.
Indicate what information you would like to receive.

How can I get the latest copy of BYM's Faith and Practice?

Go to the BYM website.
Click on the menu in the upper right-hand corner.
Choose "Publications" and then "Faith and Practice."
You can read it online.
Our meeting also keeps extra copies of the print version.



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

n 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.

his 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 amilies, 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.

We have Re's using queries from this book from time to time. Get a copy, you will be glad you did)



https://open.substack.com/pub/lindawilk/p/all-is-suffering?utm_source=share&utm_medium=android&r=b37x

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 Meetin**g 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 Hil**l; 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
-**Friends Library**; www.friendslibrary.com

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.

Helpful Resources for Immigrants

🚗🚗THIS IS MEANT TO BE A NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST, PLEASE ADD TO IT WHEN YOU SEE FIT! 🚗🚗

General Enforcement

- Know Your Rights Card: https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-card/
- Know Your Rights: What to Do if You Are Arrested or Detained by Immigration: https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration/
- Warrants & Subpoenas: What to Look Out for and How to Respond: https://www.nilc.org/resources/warrants-and-subpoenas-facts/
- Know Your Rights: Trump's Registration Requirement for Immigrants: https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-trumps-registration-requirement-for-immigrants/

Locating Loved Ones

- How to Find a Loved One After a U.S. Immigration Arrest: https://www.nilc.org/resources/how-to-find-a-loved-one-after-a-u-s-immigration-arrest/
- Tracking the CECOT Disappearances: https://www.nilc.org/resources/tracking-the-cecot-disappearances/

Education

- Know Your Rights: Immigrant Students and Schools: https://www.nilc.org/resources/protecting-our-students-and-families/
- Education Providers and Immigration Enforcement: Know Your Rights & Your Students' Rights: https://www.nilc.org/resources/education-providers-and-immigration-enforcement-know-your-rights-know-your-students-rights/
- Protecting Immigrant Students & Employees: Guidelines for Higher Education Institutions: https://www.nilc.org/resources/protecting-immigrant-students-employees-guidelines-for-higher-education-institutions/
- Protecting Our Students: What You Need to Know About the Rights of Immigrants and the Threat of Deportation: https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-immigrant-students-and-schools/

Workplace

- A Guide for Employers: What to Do if Immigration Comes to Your Workplace: https://www.nilc.org/resources/a-guide-for-employers-what-to-do-if-immigration-comes-to-your-workplace/

Health Care

- Know Your Rights: Health Care and Health Insurance for Immigrants: https://www.nilc.org/resources/health-insurance-and-care-rights/
- Health Care Providers and Immigration Enforcement: Know Your Rights, Know Your Patients' Rights: https://www.nilc.org/resources/healthcare-provider-and-patients-rights-imm-enf/
- Know Your Rights: Immigrants' Participation in Protests: https://www.nilc.org/resources/immigrant-participation-in-protests-rights/

How to be a Good Ally/Informing your Community 101

- Planning in case of an immigration emergency https://familiesuniteddcmetro.org/
- Filming of an ICE arrest https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2wGxRN5YPM
- Zine demonstrating ICE Operation Disruption https://zinesforever.com/z/karens-guide-to-disrupting-ice

This list was sent to us by Zakee McGill



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

- **August 30: Regional Gathering hosted by Frederick Friends Meeting Frederick, MD (This has been postponed to a later date, stay tuned for updates)**
- **September 1: Fall Interchange (BYM Newsletter) submissions deadline**
- **September 11-13: BYM Fall Spiritual Formation Retreat – Claggett Retreat Center, Adamstown, MD**
- **September 25-27: BYM Family Camp at Opequon Quaker Camp**
- **October 3: Hopewell Centre Spirituality Retreat**
- **BYM's year-long spiritual formation program runs from October-May. We will announce the dates when we know them.**



Rebecca Bacon ***September 10th***

Paul Britner ***September 11th***

Richard Cooper ***September 14th***

Judy Enterline ***September 26th***

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

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