

The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting of
the Religious Society of Friends
The Sixth Month, June 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

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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:

See additional information in the Pastoral Care Report below

Francine and John Guiser

Hilde Matheson. (Struggling with memory issues)

Betty McCormick, her daughter Susie

Karen Nelson (cataract surgery on both eyes)

Ellie Ziegler (car accident requiring surgery)

**Meeting for Worship for Business
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, May 18, 2025
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding**

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: (Continuing Quaker Education)

I think that American women are further along than any other women in the world. But you can't have peace in a world in which some women or some men or some nations are at different stages of development. There is so much work to be done. Alice Paul

Comments included: Alice Paul was a very weighty Quaker. Look her up. Yes, there is still much work to be done.

Thanksgiving and Concerns: Betty McCormick expressed thanks to Margie Riley and others for their involvement in the Community Kindness Fair yesterday. (We had eight people from Hopewell Centre present to help out). Margie Riley gave thanks to everyone who made cookies for the event. We had more than enough. Bonnie Clark expressed her thanks for everyone's warm "welcome back" as she is now back in VA and able to attend in person. Pam Hambach gave thanks that her recent post cancer scans in April have all been negative. Pam reported that her non-smiling doctor actually smiled!

Treasurer's Report: Dan Riley gave Jim Riley's treasurer's report for April:

Major items included:

Contributions :

Individual and Family	\$ 1,000
Use of Centre	350
Sarah Zane Fund Contribution	100

Expenses:

Catoctin Quaker Camp	\$ 5,500 (We are paying tuition for 2 campers for 2 weeks.)
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Checking Account Balance:	\$ 19,053
Youth Fund	1,014
Sarah Zane Fund	3,799
Rogers Fund	47,000

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

Ministry and Counsel: Becky Ebert gave the following report:

Ministry and Council Meeting, May 5, 2025, by Zoom

We appear to have reached a permanent, acceptable solution for receiving a reliable Wi-Fi signal for Zoom meetings now that the meeting has purchased a Gateway system from T-Mobile.

Religious Education: We have planned through the end of June

(May 4th – Part I: Where do we as a meeting want to go as Hopewell Centre?

May 11th – Part II: Where do we as a meeting want to go as Hopewell Centre? – two highly successful sessions)

May 18th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

May 25th – Potluck at Centre

June 1st – A Discussion of some Quaker fiction – Becky Ebert

June 8th – Meeting for Business

June 15th – Being a Quaker dad – Jim Riley

June 22nd – Potluck at Centre

June 29th – Discussion on some queries from *A Tender Time* (Nesbitt, Zimet) – Dick Bell

We discussed topics such as generating a Friendly Eights article for the newsletter, encouraging members to submit more personal photos of Hopewell Centre events, establishing a Hopewell Conservancy, writing a procedures manual for the clerk, the role of the trustees, establishing a better Quaker human book club, and we closed with noting that 2026 is the 250th anniversary of Centre Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel written May 13, 2025

Social Concerns and Outreach: Margie Riley reported the following:

The committee met on Monday, May 12 at 6:00 p.m. at Centre Meetinghouse.

Attending: Paul Britner, Anne Bacon, Becky Ebert, Margie Riley, Christian Mollitor, Kristen Zimet, Betty McCormick, Josh Riley

We enjoyed pizza, salad and a big cookie pie provided by Christian.

The meeting opened with a moment of silence, Margie Riley clerking

Paul updated us on the FCNL Advocacy Team he's been working on forming. He's uncertain whether he can get the 15 people needed to qualify for dedicated in-person training. Paul is finding out if it might be possible to join another group's training or to combine with another group. There is a group forming near Dayton, VA. He may go in person to Goose Creek to see if there is interest. Margie agrees to reach out to the Valley Interfaith Council to spread the word. We recognize that people have limited time and energy and that folks are working through other avenues for advocacy like Indivisible, Winchester is Worth Fighting For, and others. Margie agreed to spread information

about the Advocacy Team at the VIC community kindness fair coming up this weekend at Centre. Paul agreed to help coordinate material for this.

We heard that the Trump administration is eliminating temporary protected status for many refugees.

The Valley Interfaith Council's community kindness fair - many of us are going to be out of town. Betty agrees to accept cookies this week from others who are baking but who are unable to attend. There are approximately 15 groups signed up to table. Parking spaces will be blocked off on the street for unloading and the Baptist church has opened their parking park lot for tables.

Spiritual retreat/outreach event - Kristen, Sunday, Margie, and Christian are planning the next spiritual outreach event scheduled for June 28th.

Housing Coalition of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Housing Summit will be May 23 at Laurel Ridge. VIC is supporting the event. Margie plans to attend.

The Baha'i have been doing outreach on the north end of Winchester and are hosting an event in Douglass Park upcoming.

Juneteenth events - There is an event at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley on 6/15 and an event in Clarke County on 6/14. Becky posted a flyer at Hopewell with several upcoming events.

Margie continues to work on the networking list started about a year ago compiling members 'past social justice involvement. Margie notes that the existing list is mostly focused on past involvement and therefore needs more development to better reflect attendees 'active/present involvement. We discussed how best to make this resource available to others.

Website - We briefly discussed the need to update and maintain the website ongoing, a perpetual project waiting for some passion and direction.

Future visioning work - following two weeks of RE second hours focused on visioning the future of the meeting, ideas and suggestions were compiled and sent to us to consider. We discussed and affirmed the following, recognizing that we will return to this consideration in the future.

We affirmed the idea of putting up a map with pins to mark where meeting members and attendees live. We have asked interiors to carry this forward.

We discussed Quakerism 101 events both for meeting newcomers and as larger outreach events. We clarified that there are at least three different levels or opportunities for this.

- I. Hopewell Centre 101 for newcomers - 9:30 a.m. or during fellowship time or whenever is convenient. Josh agreed to take this on.

- II. Introduction to Quakerism - A larger community outreach event held over the course of 2-3 evenings possibly in the fall at Centre, as has been done in the past.
- III. Continuing Quaker Education - the clerk facilitates this as a part of meeting for business. Are there other opportunities to integrate CQE ongoing (at the rise of meeting or before every second hour)?

How can we involve ourselves in existing community groups, activities and events with witness and presence? We are in a tender time for bringing our particular gifts to bear in the larger community and within the current political climate.

Connection and intervisitation - Connecting with meetings close to us. We would like to create a rotating periodic (quarterly?) regional gathering with Friends from Shepherdstown and Goose Creek. We would like to coordinate first day visits to other meetings, carpooling to area meetings to worship with them.

The meeting ended with a moment of silence.

Josh Riley, recording

Pastoral Care: Karen Nelson sent the following report:

Ellie Zeigler was in a car accident last week that required surgery. Here is the update she provided to me on Thursday evening to share with the meeting:

"I came home from the hospital tonight. I have a few months of hard work in physical and occupational therapy ahead of me, but I am happy to report that my surgery went well this week. I am non-weight-bearing on my left arm and right leg for recovery and will spend the next few weeks in home care until my follow-up appointments. I am very glad to be back home and will give more good news as it comes."

Ellie Haun has moved to a new assisted living community in Woodstock. Her new address is: The Warren, 935 S. Ox Rd., Woodstock, VA 22664

Please hold these Friends in the Light:

John and Francine Guiser, who continue to struggle with various health issues

Hilde Matheson who is struggling with memory issues.

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

Karen Nelson, who just completed cataract surgery on both eyes.

If anyone has any concerns or health issues to report, please let me know so I can reach out to them. Thanks.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Nelson

Hospitality:

Judy Enterline asked if anyone has a small container to donate for the purpose of holding powdered creamer for coffee.

Also (drum roll) need cheese!

Old Business: Margie Riley reported about Winchester's Valley Interfaith Council Saturday, May 17, Community Kindness Family Fair held at Center Meeting House. 19 groups hosted tables with community information, free books, planting and building activities, face-painting, lawn games and spin-for-swig freebies! Hopewell Centre's table was laden with all kinds of cookies, thank you to our folks who baked! Other groups brought cultural treats of kunafa, sambosas, and pastelillos. Three performing groups shared wonderful music and dances, Shenandoah University Harambee Gospel Choir, Armstrong Irish Dance Academy, and Alma y Folklore dance troupe. We enjoyed offering each group cookies of their choice following their energizing performances. Attendance ran from babies to seniors, with a delightful multi-cultural interfaith diversity. Truly this was a day of connection and kindness. One member observed, "Centre Meeting House must have had a very joyful time" with this community outreach!

New Business: Margie Riley announced that Valley Interfaith Council is sponsoring an "I Am Here" shared outreach of potluck gatherings between faith traditions. Hopewell Centre will be arranging a small group potluck with Winchester Muslims, members of the Winchester Islamic Society. VIC hopes this program will grow across faith traditions to build community connections and conversations.

Dan Riley presented the annual Community Statistics report for Hopewell Centre Meeting which is sent to BYM every spring. For 2024 we finished the year with 61 members and 27 attenders.

Announcements:

June 28 - Interfaith Spiritual Retreat at Hopewell

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Betty McCormick, Dan Riley, Margie Riley, Judy McCarthy, Becky Ebert, Mike Hambach, Pam Hambach, Judy Enterline, Maggie Stetler, Peter Ford, Diane Popik, Sunday Cote, and Bonnie Clark.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk



CALENDAR

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| June 1st | --- Discussion of Some Quaker Fiction
Presented by: Becky Ebert |
| June 8th | --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business |
| June 15th | --- Being a Quaker Dad – Jim Riley |
| June 15th | --- Father's Day |
| June 22nd | --- Potluck at Centre |
| June 29th | --- Queries from <i>A Tender Time</i> (Nesbit & Zimet)
Led by Dick Bell |



From the clerk

We've been talking about it for years. That beautiful green patch we own in downtown Winchester around Centre Meeting house. Using it for some event that would clearly state our values as Quakers and bring our brethren community members and us together. We've talked about having another church over and paving the lawn with blankets and umbrellas for a picnic. That idea never gained traction. Other ideas never got past a remark or two. It took the Virginia Interfaith Council to come up with the event that magically granted our wish: A community kindness fair. And yesterday, May 17th, amid gorgeous Spring weather, tables of area business and civic organizations – as well as fellow religious denominations, mounds of delicious cookies, a gaggle of kids, a smooth blending of harmonies, a tattoo of dance steps, and a flurry of dazzling Mexican dresses, the First VIC Community Kindness Fair took place. As the psalmist sang millennia ago, "This is the day that the Lord hath made, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

All kinds of organizations were represented: First Presbyterian Church, Home Depot, Master Gardeners, the Literacy Council, the Berkeley County Liberation Center, the Islamic Center, Master Gardeners, Handley Library, and even a local Alliance of Cat Lovers – to name just a few (my apologies for all the names I got wrong). They all had a story to tell and a mission to uphold. It seemed like everyone had food, or books to give away, or plants to take home, or aprons to wear. Kids played with hula hoops or corn hole. Everyone shared chairs, made friends, and talked. We were never too crowded, but we did have a nice flow of people always. Smiles cascaded along faces all day.

The genius of the event was its entertainment. Shenandoah University's Harambee Gospel Choir was the first group to perform, and they were terrific, sharing four numbers with us. They were followed by local Irish dancers, who wowed us with their precision and footwork. Lastly there were the incredible pageantry and beautiful dresses of a bevy of senoras and senoritas performing Mexican dances. The crowd loved the

entertainment. I knew my job as clerk was to thank personally as many members of the performers as I could. I got everyone but a few of the Mexican dancers.

We Quakers were well represented. Betty, Margie, Dan, Kristin, Jonathan, Scott, and Bo were there. We had dozens and dozens of cookies available for a donation. We made over \$60.00 for our camping fund. We encouraged the performers to take cookies to honor their work. They were all as gracious as they could be. If you could have seen them poring over their choices, I think you would have been as touched as I was.

Two people, our own Margie Riley and a lady named Klio, were primarily responsible for the fair. My hat is off to both.

Whenever I sense that God is present – and there was no doubt that Spirit was there in spades yesterday, I look for signs. I saw at least two: the first was when a young girl of the Irish dancers came up for her cookies. She had with her younger brother. He was shy and couldn't quite figure out what to do. Betty and I encouraged him to take some cookies too. He had huge brown eyes, and he studied the cookies as if he were making the most important choice of his life. He settled on a bag of three chocolate chip cookies. The look he gave us in thanks could have come right from one of God's angels. The second involved a baby. There was a fair number of babies present. And near the end of the day, I went up to a stroller of one who was smiling from ear to ear at his big sister. I couldn't resist. I bent over the pram and said, "Hi!" His initial response was trepidation at this strange hominid looming over him. But then he broke out in the biggest smile imaginable. I was abashed. I asked his sister what his name was...

His name was Adam.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Dixon Bell May 18, 2025

An abstract graphic on the left side of the page. It features a dense cluster of small, semi-transparent dots in various colors including green, yellow, orange, and red. These dots are interconnected by a web of thin, light-colored lines, creating a complex, organic shape that resembles a molecular structure or a network diagram. The background is a dark, gradient wash of brown and red tones.

Blogs and Items of Interest

FROM THE MEMBERS OF
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING

DADS
ARE MOST ORDINARY MEN
TURNED BY LOVE
INTO HEROES, ADVENTURERS,
STORY-TELLERS,
AND LIFE LONG FRIENDS

HOME
BERRIES
SVG

Pictures from the Community Kindness Fair

May 17, 2025

Centre Meeting in Winchester, VA



• ***Alma y Folklore Dance Troupe***



• **Harambee Gospel Choir**

• **Kids building Home Depot Projects**



BYM Summer Camp Programs

- Our Strategic Plan
- Providing a transformational experience for all campers remains the core focus and purpose of BYM Camps.
- Our camping programs have transformed the lives of campers for 100 years. With spirit-led “fire at the center” attention to the individual and group needs of young people, we have led exuberant, joyful, and affirming camping programs each summer. We aspire to continue to provide the kind of experiences that will stretch, affirm, and nurture campers to find their voice, courage, artistry, and work ethic, while we acknowledge a variety of changes in our world and society impact our ability to do so in the same manner we have in the past. We commit to addressing and responding to these outside influences from a deep sense of connection to our Quaker values. **With clarity, transparency, and accountability, along with fidelity to a strong mission and vision, we will continue to foster camping programs that illuminate young people’s power and brilliance for the next 100 years.**





Nalani and Lailah are pictured here with their Grandfather, Zakee
Hopewell Centre Meeting is sending these two lovely young ladies to
the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Summer Camp this year



Read by Anne Bacon at Meeting for Worship

from:

Prayers From An Island, by Richard Wong.

When speed is king, O God, teach me to be slow
slow to anger,
slow to condemn,
and slow to walk,
that I pass neither friend nor those who need me. Amen

You are invited! BYM RE Meet-Ups via Zoom in 2025!



The BYM RE Committee is hosting Friendly RE Meet-Ups.
Share ideas and information!
Create connections and develop resources!
Come join us on-line this spring and early summer.

May 18th: 2:00-3:00pm

“Quaker RE Functioning and Connecting in a Virtual World ~ Best Practices and Shared Resources”

Meghan Goldman **Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83759655282?pwd=YRbg6kVglwlei07Li9ntbAWbA9iVcM.1>

Meeting ID: 837 5965 5282 Passcode: 963079

June 8th: 7:30-8:30pm

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) ~ Information session on the children’s program during Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Annual Session (BYM) **July 29 - August 3, 2025** Hood College, Frederick, MD.

Zoom detail:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88493014737>

Future topics may include:

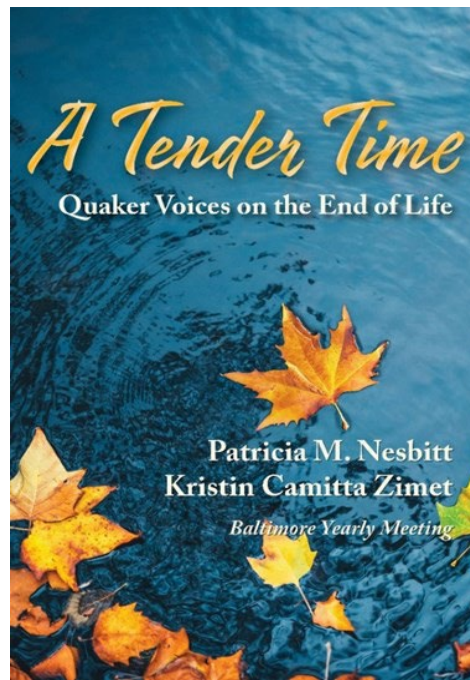
- Organizing Intergenerational Experiences/Worship Sharing
- Promoting Your 1st Day School Program to New Families
- Communicate & Connect – considering best practices to link young families and RE committee news
- JYFs & YFS (Junior Young Friends and Young Friends’ Programming)

Past topics included:

“Learn about the 1st Day School Curriculum, Faith & Play”

Celebrating Neurodiversity

“How do we as Quakers welcome and support families and children living with neurodiversity?”



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

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.fcni.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
- 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.



Saturday, June 28th Spiritual Retreats 8:30-Noon

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



We don't seem to have any June Birthdays.

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

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