**The Monthly Silence**
**The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**
**The Sixth Month, June 2026**

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 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
Bob Huntsberry and Donna Knight
John Trueblood family and friends

**Meeting for Worship for Business**
**Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, May 10, 2026**
**Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding**

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

**CQE:** (Continuing Quaker Education)

*"Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God..."* — Britain Yearly Meeting

Comments included: Very basic yet very complicated. Trust is the key issue here. Nice to hear such a positive statement. Take time to stop and listen to your leadings.

**Thanksgiving and Concerns:** Betty McCormick gave thanks that she has finally achieved her mission of decluttering as exemplified by her empty attic. Lisa and Charlie Mortensen gave thanks for their recent visit with Paul Britner and Karen Nelson in Lancaster, PA. Pam Hambach gave thanks for the simple thrill of watching two skunks having a grub dinner in their yard. Dick Bell gave thanks for the AI generated Quaker Blues song that was created by Mike Hambach and sent out to everyone. Peter Ford gave thanks that he has completed his book, and a proposal has been sent to a publisher.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim Riley gave the following report for April:

Major items included
Contributions :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Individual and Family | $ 2,095 | |
| Use of Centre | 210 | |
| Apple Blossom parking | 799 | (which will go to the youth fund) |
| Expenses: | | |
| Mowing | $ 430 | |
| Propane | 751 | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Checking Account Balance: | | $ 17,113 |
| Fund totals: | Laura Nell | $ 38,707 |
| | Sarah Zane | 4,209 |
| | Youth | 11,458 |
| | Rogers | 52,000 |

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

Margie Riley thanked Jim and the committee that put together the guidelines for use of the Laura Nell Fund that was presented and detailed in the April minutes. She asked if they might consider use of the funds for non-Quaker spiritual gatherings that reflect Quaker practice along with the Quaker related gatherings specified in the guidelines. The committee agreed to consider this suggestion.

**Ministry and Counsel:** Richard Cooper gave the following report:

The committee met on May 4, 2026, via Zoom.

We discussed the current state of communications which seemed good to us. We noted that a communication czar will be on the business meeting agenda

We planned second-hour presentations through the end of June.

May 3rd – Bible Verses (supplied by Donna Knight)

May 10th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business end by 12:30 pm.

May 17th – "Enneagrams" Sunday Cote

May 24th – Potluck at Centre

May 31st – Parsing a hymn – Donna Knight (Also regional meeting at Friends Wilderness Center hosted by Shepherdstown)

June 7th – Spiritual Practice – Christian Mollitor

June 14th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

June 21st – Quakerism and Social Witness – Dick Bell

June 28th – Potluck at Centre

We discussed a broad range of subjects in support of meeting initiatives.

We decided to put out signup sheets for Friendly (insert number here)'s. We decided to call for a volunteer to head this up.

We are recommending not doing the Spiritual State of the Meeting annually. We recommend it being done every three years. The current format takes up a great deal of time and almost always leads to unfortunate exchanges during the final vetting process. We believe the primary function of the Spiritual State of the Meeting is self-examination, which we believe the meeting already does.

Respectfully submitted,
Ministry and Counsel, written May 6, 2026

**Nominating:** Jim Riley reminded us to check the sign-up sheets for joining our various committees and sign up for any that you wish to join. The final report of the committee will be presented at the next business meeting.

**Social Concerns and Outreach:**

We've not met but we have communicated by email. Items of current note:

.Shepherdstown Friends have asked for our help in contacting other Virginia Friends Meetings to assist with seeking endorsement of their Harms minute. If anyone is led to help, please see Margie Riley.

.It has been suggested that we review our website. Maggie Stetler had been working on this. Does anyone want to help her? See Margie.

.We need a volunteer to check in to what WATTS might need for the summer and look ahead to the fall. Please let Margie know if you can help out.

.After our May Regional Gathering, we'd like to get feedback about the regional gatherings - we'll ask Ministry and Counsel to schedule a time for that to happen.

**Recorder:** Dan Riley gave the following report:
The role of the Recorder is to keep track of the numbers associated with gains and losses in Meeting membership and attenders. For 2025, the Meeting gained one new member and ten new attenders. The Meeting lost two members and one attender by death and four members and nine attenders by lost contact. The Meeting now has approximately 56 members and 27 attenders. This report is sent to BYM once a year. It was suggested that we consider an anonymous survey pertaining to member and attender retention. Ministry and Counsel and Pastoral Care committees also volunteered to discuss how we can better stay in touch with members and attenders who haven't attended for awhile. Peter Ford added how grateful he is to those non-attenders who still keep in touch, some of which still contribute financially.

**Building and Grounds:** Jim Riley reported on the committee's work concerning the renovation of the bathrooms. He presented a brief history of when the current bathrooms were constructed after we installed a septic system in 1955 and dug a new well in 1966 which allowed for running water.

Pam Hambach then read a renovation proposal from a contractor that the committee is recommending for consideration after exploring many options with several consultants.

His proposal is to merge the two bathrooms into one, completely reconstructing the interior from scratch with all new installations. The new bathroom would have one toilet so that there would be enough space to be ADA compliant. The project would cost $27,000.

The Meeting's discussion showed no misgivings other than a concern for only having one toilet. See Jim, Pam, Mike, or Dan for more info. Discussion will continue until the Meeting approves a proposal so that construction can begin.

**Hospitality:** Judy Enterline thanked everyone for all of the food brought in for our snack time. And here's a surprise: we are low on cheese.

**Old Business:** The appointing of a communications czar was tabled because we agreed that communications are going smoothly now.

Clerk Bell announced that near the end of Meeting for Worship when he announces that there are a few minutes left, please consider sharing any joys that you've had as well as mentioning anyone that you would like the Meeting to hold in the light.

**New Business:** Ministry and Counsel has recommended compiling the Spiritual State of the Meeting

report every three years instead of every year (see the Ministry and Counsel report above for more info). After a short discussion, it was agreed to revisit this proposal at next month's business meeting.

It was suggested that maybe we need a coordinator for Friendly Eights. Pending. Another suggestion was to rename the gatherings Friendly Groups since there is nothing magical about the number eight except for the magic eight ball and a smaller number in each group might work better.

**Announcements:**

May 16: OATS meets at 10 am at Hopewell
May 31: Regional Gathering at the Friends Wilderness Center hosted by Shepherdstown Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Go to BYM's website (https://www.bym-rsf.org) and sign up for weekly announcements if you haven't already.,

**In Attendance:** Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Martha Hanley, Betty McCormick, Richard Cooper, Judy Enterline, Dan Riley, Margie Riley, Josh Riley, Pam Hambach, Sunday Cote, Vicki Quarles, Kevin Slick, Peter Ford, Katherine May, Cheryl Reynolds, and Katherine Chatard.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk





From the clerk

O. the perils of volunteer editorial ship!  Poor Donna Knight.  She's been ready to go since the seventeenth, and the clerk has not written his column.  There were reasons.  The latest of several was a wicked little GI virus which laid him low since Monday.  But now that all is well, he wants to share with you a historical figure he admires.

I first learned about John Lewis through John Lathrop, former Head of Powhatan.  Lathrop added to the eighth-grade curriculum in history a unit on the American Civil Rights Movement keyed around the incredible PBS series *Eyes on the Prize,* which will go down in my experience as the finest, most even-handed treatment of a difficult, complex subject.  The series, in addition to featuring such SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) heavy hitters as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ella Baker, Rev C. T. Vivian, Andrew Young, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, and Rev. Ralph Abernathy, also revealed the story of a young man, one of nine from a share-cropping family, who through his actions, rose to nova-like prominence not only in the Movement but also in real life, the man most of us know as the congressman of "Good Trouble," John Lewis.

I used film clips out of three of the episodes to introduce him to the students.  The first action was the Nashville sit-ins of 1960, which were undertaken by college students primarily out of Fisk University and led by John Lewis, Angela Butler, and Diane Nash.  The group they founded would eventually join the Movement as a separate, independent entity, SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee).  The second action was his participation in the 1961 DC to New Orleans Freedom Rides where he was one of seven Blacks and six Whites (all students) who chose to systematically flaunt then current segregation laws which dictated where in the buses each race would sit and that they must use segregated depot facilities.  They were stopped in Anniston, AL and later threatened by riots in Birmingham.  CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) threatened to suspend the rides, but SNCC offered to take on the responsibility.  John Lewis, one of the original thirteen riders, continued.  A violent mob attacked the buses in Montgomery, and there John Lewis suffered a concussion over the left temporal lobe.  The riders were all arrested in Jackson, MS. The third action was Lewis' determination to lead a march from Selma, AL to Montgomery, AL over the Edmund Pettus Bridge to protest the assassination of Jimmy Lee Jackson and to appeal the cause of Voting Rights at the state capital. During that march which came to be known as "Bloody Sunday," Lewis, in the front, was targeted by police and suffered repeated blows to the head.  Afterwards and forever, he would show a speech impediment.

Later because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Lewis was elected to Congress from his native Georgia. In Congress he served with distinction from 1987 until his death in 2020. Many of his colleagues there referred to him as the "Conscience of Congress."

Like me, the eighth graders who saw the series came to admire Lewis deeply.

Whenever someone tells me that one person, one vote, one career cannot make a difference in this vast country, my reply is "Look to the life of John Lewis."

Respectfully submitted,
R. Dixon Bell, May 21, 2026



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# CALENDAR

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **May 17th** | -- | "Enneagrams" Sunday Cote |
| **May 24th** | -- | Potluck at Centre |
| **May 25th** | -- | OATS meet at 10 am |
| **May 25th** | -- | **MEMORIAL DAY** |
| **May 31st** | -- | Parsing hymn #194 Turn Back Oh Mortal – Donna Knight |
| **May 31st** | -- | Regional Gathering at the Friends Wilderness Center hosted by Shepherdstown Meeting |
| **June 7th** | -- | Spiritual Practice - Christian Mollitor |
| **June 14th** | -- | Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business |
| **June 21st** | -- | Quakerism and Social Witness - Dick Bell |
| | -- | FATHERS DAY |
| **June 28th** | -- | Potluck at Centre |


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 singers of song.”
– Pam Brown




**Dear Friends,**
**Since I have fully retired from all accounting and tax work, I must phase out the use of my email: jriley@jtrileycpa.com.**

**Please use this email: jariley4334@gmail.com.**

**Eventually I will discontinue the old email address.**
**Thanks.**
**Jim Riley**

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE MEETING

In the coming months, the meeting will be reviewing and making adjustments to our slate of officers and committees. The nominating committee will be contacting Friends to see if they have a leading to serve the meeting on a committee or in some other way.

We are asking all to think about this query: **What is Mine to Do?**

There are a number of committees that carry out the functions of the meeting. Are you called to serve on one? If you are currently serving on one, would you like to make a change?

Our committees include:

Social Concerns and Outreach

Finance

Building and Grounds (including Interiors and Graveyard)

Pastoral Care

Hospitality

Also, we recognize that not all are called to serve on a committee.
I was recently reminded of a Quaker game invented in the UK. It is about the nominating process. It is called “Unwilling and Unable.” Our hope is that we have many who are both willing and able to serve.

Jim Riley
Clerkl, Nominating Committee



# Pastoral Care
## Quotable Quotes

MOST OF US ARE JUST ABOUT AS HAPPY AS WE MAKE UP OUR MINDS TO BE

WILLIAM ADAMS

PICTUREQUOTES.com

# Earth Kindness Festival

VALLEY INTERFAITH















***Our own Ann Bacon receives a plaque for Quaker involvement in the Civil Rights Movement***



# Sharing the Shepherdstown Harms Minute with 90 local Churches, Synagogues, and Mosques

"What are we called to do?"

Send our voices to Congress -- writing postcards!!!



The Meeting has stamped postcards available for use. Pick up a few to send your message to our state and national leaders…postcards are next to our name badges at Hopewell

**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.



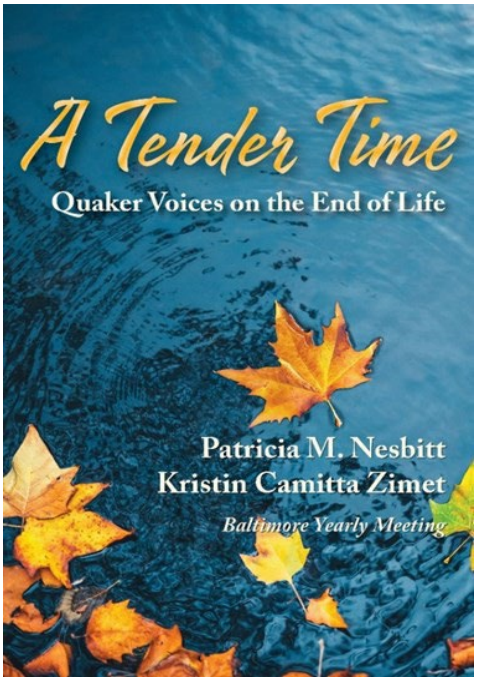
# Walking the Heroine's Journey in Edge Times

A women's retreat at Wellspring Retreat in Germantown, MD

May 29-31, 2026

with Lindsay McLaughlin, Julie Gabrielli, Lisa Bardack, and Katy Gaughan

https://friendsofsilence.net/heroines-journey-2026




**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)*

**May 25: OATS meet at 10 am.**

**May 31: Regional Gathering at the Friends Wilderness Center hosted by Shepherdstown Meeting**




***I didn't see any June Birthdays on the Directory.***

***If your Birthday is in June, consider this a "Happy Birthday" from the Meeting***

(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