



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

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

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*If possible, The Monthly Silence will be published on or soon after the 20th of each
month. Please send items you want included in the newsletter by the 17th of the month.

Please send donations to:

Hopewell Centre Friends

c/o Jim Riley

P.O. Box 165

Winchester, VA 22604

Please Hold in the Light

Karen Nelson is asking us to hold the following in the light:

See additional information in the Pastoral Care Report below

Francine and John Guiser

Robyn Harris

Janet Harrison

Eloise Haun who is coping with declining health

Hilde Matheson.

Betty McCormick, her daughter Susie

Laura Nell Obaugh

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

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: (Continuing Quaker Education) *The Lord showed me, so that I did see clearly, that he did not dwell in these temples which men had commanded and set up, but in people's hearts... his people were his temple, and he dwelt in them.* George Fox

Comments included: Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them"; We are our own church; No middle person is required; The quote is easily extendable to include all of nature.

Thanksgiving and Concerns: A concern for the local farmers having to deal with our current draught; A concern for the well being of Laura Nell Obaugh who is in the hospital after a recent fall; A thanks for the just published book "A Tender Time - Quaker Voices on the End of Life", written by our own Patti Nesbitt and Kristen Zimet. Many, many kudos to the authors for this fantastic resource; A thanks for the return of Robyn Harris to her home after three weeks in the hospital; A thanks that Scott Lynch is okay after a quick emergency visit to the hospital.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Riley gave the treasurer's report for May and June:

Major items included:

For May:

Contributions:

Individual and Family:	\$ 1,306
Use of Centre:	543
Income from parking cars at Centre	1,259 (during the Apple Blossom Festival)

Expenses:

Newspaper ads	\$ 91
Quarterly Insurance payment	2,482
Web site renewal	240
Gutter guards	850 (for the caretaker's house)

For June:

Contributions:

Individual and Family:	\$ 2,300
Use of Centre:	120
Hopewell Graveyard Fund	333 (In memory of Mary Lupton Spiedel)
Youth Fund	5,000 (BYM camping)
Rogers Fund	11,083 (semi-annual distribution)

Expenses:

BYM Camping	\$ 2,700 (on hold to support a potential camper)
Mowing	985

Checking Account Balance:	19,632
Rogers Fund	43,800
Sarah Zane Fund	3,972

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

Ministry and Counsel: Richard Cooper gave the following report:
The committee met on July 1, 2024 via Zoom.

We reviewed communications. Donna Knight put out a call for articles. We're all looking forward to hearing from Paul Britner and Karen Nelson about their 'Quaker' tour of Britain.

We settled the RE's for the rest of July and through August:

July 7th – Annual Hopewell wiener roast.

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

July 21st – "Before the Beginning," a short story written and presented by Mike Hambach; afterwards a field trip to old Ridge Meeting House via car pools (Scott Lynch).

July 28th – **Potluck at Centre**

August 4th – Paul Britner and Karen Nelson present an RE on their Quaker tour of Britain.

August 11th – **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

August 18th – An open discussion presented by Friends who attended Annual Session.

August 25th – **Homecoming** at Hopewell.

Becky Ebert reminded us that a good RE consists of twenty minutes presentation, twenty minutes of discussion, and twenty minutes of follow up. She also reminded us to put Aug 22nd on the calendar for sponsoring and serving dinner at the "Kitchen of Hope."

We followed up last month's discussions on insuring peaceful elections at the polls. In that regard John Guiser has contacted deputy mayor John Hill about developing expected behaviors to be posted at all polling sites.

We discussed the idea of creating Centre as a 'cool' oasis during heat events this summer. We realized this might clash with Centre's use of AA meetings. There are community public 'cool' zones: Handley Library, Apple Blossom Mall, and (through WATTS) Montague Street church, which, according to one member, will be operative beginning in August. We agree to put on our agenda for business the possibility of supporting Montague Street opening sooner. We also could assemble packets of quarters and bus tickets giving the homeless transportation to these 'public' cool zones.

We discussed the frustration of the Ukranian War and its continuing carnage. We agreed that the best thing each of us could do would be to support the UN's peace-keeping proposals.

We talked about improving the clarity of Ellie Haun's transmission. One of our members contacted Frank Haun about helping. Ellie maintains it is the intermittent and breezy functioning of the internet in Woodstock which is the problem.

Jonathan Tolman and Dick Bell have offered to re-affix the wash basin in the women's rest room at Centre. Jonathan thinks the job's a snap. Dick will probably do a lot of watching.

Jonathan Tolman found at least four complete boxes of Froebel's 'Gifts' at Hopewell. When they appeared in the late 19th century, the 'gifts' were the latest in teaching children forms and early computation. The boxes made of cherry wood contain wooden manipulatives which youngsters could use to make forms or perform basic operations. Jonathan maintains they are quite rare. He is contacting Jeff Walker and another expert he knows about their value. At least these finds show that Hopewell was trying to give its kids the absolute best and latest learning experience we could muster at the time.

Mike Hambach asked if we could form an Ad Hoc committee for flora and fauna. The committee thought this would be a great idea, and the clerk will include it as a business item this month.

Shenandoah County is currently trying to rename two of its schools for Stonewall Jackson and Turner Ashby. This has caused quite an uproar. One of our members, Ellie Haun, has been meeting with the principals and writing to the *Northern Virginia Daily*. The committee thought it would be a great idea to write a minute in support of Ellie and the good folks of Shenandoah County.

Our next meeting will be August 5th at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel July 8, 2024

Two follow-ups from the report: Jonathan presented a more detailed history of the Froebel boxes to the Meeting. Margie Riley volunteered along with Jonathan to put his research in writing for our historical record. Also, Ellie presented a summary of the current situation in Shenandoah County and her participation in trying to stop the school name changes.

Building and Grounds: Mike Hambach reported that due to the abundant supply of remaining hot dogs and buns from the July cookout, we should have another cookout in the fall. The suggestion was met with tasty approval.

Jim Riley reported for the Graveyard Committee. William Collins completed his Eagle Scout project with the Hopewell Graveyard in June. Along with many volunteers, he cleaned 180 grave markers over two multi-hour sessions. He gave us a one page document that he created on "How to Clean Grave Markers". After the cleaning, he took pictures of the markers which have been uploaded to the website "Find a Grave". The Meeting is most grateful to William for his work. A thank-you card signed by those present today will be sent to him. William will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall on a full scholarship to study biomedical engineering.

A copy of his "Eagle Scout Service Project Plan" is attached to the original minutes.

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

Laura Nell Obaugh who was admitted to the hospital last week after a fall

Robyn Harris who was finally released from the hospital after being there for several weeks

Francine and John Guiser

Hilde Matheson

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

Betty McCormick's daughter Susie who has multiple 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.

Jim Riley is asking the Meeting for support in helping him with his support and care for Laura Nell Obaugh. The Meeting concurred. Jim will send out an email with more details and Karen Nelson will help with establishing a Care Committee.

Old Business: Martha Hanley raised a concern about the Meeting's process in considering Jennifer Dyer's request to live in her RV on the Hopewell property for a period of time.

"After a month's reflection I see this as "Learning Opportunity" for our meeting. Whenever an issue/concern arises we have processes for addressing them in a spirit led way . Unfortunately, not all in meeting, especially new attenders, know how to proceed with a concern. Most of us operate on habitual, learned (often unconscious) methods that may have worked, or not, in our families, work places or other groups. Since we are a spirit led, religious organization we have other, spirit led practices to help us in resolving differences.

We need to take the time needed to educate our members and attenders on how to proceed with a concern. Those of us serving in leadership on committees, M&C etc often find ourselves learning by trial and error. Many of us have had to find and use our Quakers resources as best we can. The results can often lead to more misunderstanding or worse. Consulting with an "weighty" Friend is often a good first step along with sitting with an issue long enough to find how the spirit leads. Talking behind the backs of those involved, spreading misinformation are not helpful.

In a Quaker Meeting all of us are responsible for the spiritual health of our meeting. Which means, as in a democracy, we must all be educated and practiced in how to live in a spirit/God based community. I won't go into how we can educate ourselves here. But, I ask that we start the process of learning what it means to live as a Friend in a Friend's Meeting."

It was suggested that in light of Martha's concern, an RE on the education of Quaker practice should be considered. Ministry and Counsel will take up this item.

Jennifer has since decided not to bring her RV to Hopewell.

New Business: Mike Hambach asked if we could form an Ad Hoc committee for flora and fauna that would canvass the property and record the many variety of plants. Today's volunteers were Mike, Sally Anderson, Scott Lynch, and Kristin Zimet. Let Mike know if you are interested in joining the committee. With regard to our supporting Winchester's 'cool' zones, it was suggested that we ask WATTS what is most needed and proceed accordingly.

The Meeting agreed with Ministry and Counsel that we should write a minute demonstrating our support for Ellie Haun in her work to support community efforts to reverse the Shenandoah County's school board's decision to reinstate the names of Stonewall Jackson and Turner Ashby as county schools.



Announcements:

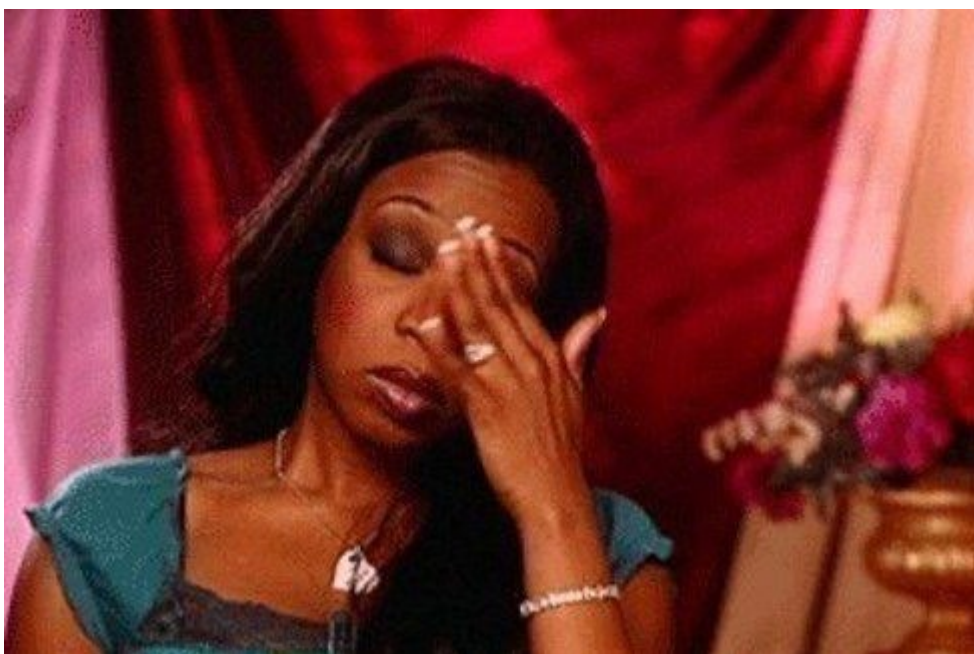
Kitchen of Hope dinner on August 22
BYM Annual Session will be held July 30 - August 4 at Hood College in Frederick, MD
Homecoming is scheduled for August 25 at Hopewell. Margie Riley will send an email with details.
A Unity Gathering will be held at the pavilion on September 21

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Dan Riley, Ellie Haun, Margie Riley, Martha Hanley, Richard Cooper, Judy McCarthy, Judy Enterline, Mike Hambach, Pam Hambach, Karen Nelson, Paul Britner, Betty McCormick, Scott Lynch, Peter Ford, and Kristin Zimet.

Footnote: I think we may have set a record for the longest set of minutes in recent history. But just to make sure, I've lengthened the minutes even more with this footnote.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk





From the clerk

The theme for this column lay in reactions I have had since I attended. The impetus to explore these further began last week when I attended – via Zoom – a BYM conference chaired by Greg Robb and Elaine Stanzione talking about various meetings’ experiences in writing and producing the Spiritual State of the Meeting reports. You could see there were two major schools of thought: develop and get the queries out fast – as close to December 1st as possible and efficiently gather opinion, write narratives, and submit final documents by March 15th; the other more common method, it seemed, was to use queries – however generated – amply discuss them, generate narratives, pore over them, tweak them, and work forward until the meeting submits the report which, as Elaine said, could be pretty much any time. Almost everyone complained about this year’s ‘gotcha’ query on racism. So, it seemed that that query (and the process in general) exposed each meeting’s ‘inward’ or ‘outward’ looking vision: If you’re spending a large portion of your time in self-examination, how can you be focused outward into your community, or the environment, or other germane human issues? To me, it boils down to paying attention to what Spirit wants.

I’m glad we’re a meeting that attacks the Spiritual State of the Meeting efficiently and generates a solid report that meets deadline. That allows our broad-minded, creative, and far-ranging community the time to touch on many issues gaining voice through our mission, all the issues our members generate to get a look and a holler. We are not just a factory of inward soul-gazers. We attend programs, sit on community boards, march for the homeless, attend OATS, extol each other’s poetry, invite guests, eat way more than we should in community, write cards, visit each other, raise money for good causes, climb Pendle Hill, and help as many folks as we can. I call that: Doing Spirit’s work.

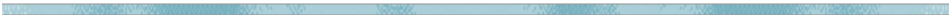
One of the greatest criticisms I’ve heard leveled at the Religious Society of Friends from people we ask concerning racism (specifically) and our commitment to the SPICES (generally) is that we talk a great game but somehow poop out before we really get going. I think a great deal of that frustration can be laid right at the foot of excessive self-examination and doing things the ‘Quaker’ way.



Last year I attended a day of the Annual Session. On arrival I popped into the day’s business meeting. A Friend of color had shared a searing anecdote, which I had just missed, about racial biases she had experienced. The issue ranging across the floor was whether to include the ‘anecdote’ in whole or somehow abbreviate it in the minutes. Schools of speakers had an opinion. After a prolonged period, the assemblage agreed that the whole anecdote should be included. At that point a well-meaning Quaker arose to say the entry needed to be put into third-person, edited for tenses, and perhaps be reviewed for active voice. I cannot tell you the pall that descended over the room at that point. The Friend whose anecdote it was then roared, “What are you people thinking?” I could have reached into the Zoom screen and hugged her. Not one of the persons I had heard contribute to the exhaustive debate commented on her substance. Or acknowledged her truth.

Is that what BYM meetings have become? Inward facing groups increasingly grown old, arguing over words and commas, rather than “going forth into the world, cheerfully greeting that of God in each person we meet”? How many hours have been spent in writing Spiritual States of the Meeting that lie in archives rarely – in my case, never – read?

Do we live in our heads or in our hearts?
Time is a gift Spirit gives us to heal ourselves and to care for others.
Respectfully submitted,
R. Dixon Bell July 17, 2024





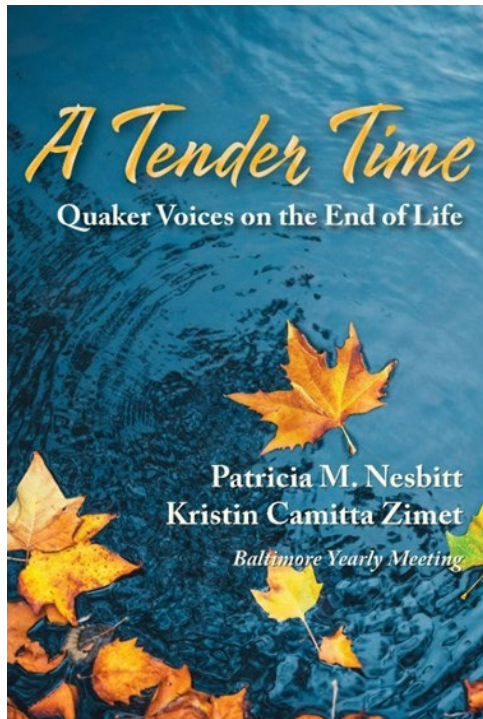
CALENDAR

- July 28th** --- Potluck at Centre
- August 4th** --- A Quaker Tour of Britain
Presented by Paul Brittner and Karen Nelson
- August 11th** --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- August 18th** --- Open Discussion of BYM Annual Session
- August 25th** --- *HOPEWELL ANNUAL HOMECOMING*



Blogs and Items of Interest

FROM THE MEMBERS OF
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING



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*

From 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.

The Beauty and Influence of Opequon Camp

When Eli Phillips was 11 years old, he recalled in this 2020 interview, he got a formal introduction to Quakerism through a stay at Opequon Quaker Camp in Clear Brook, Virginia.

"I was really, really anxious growing up and the prospect of going to sleep-away camp was not one that I was a fan of," he admitted. "I remember the night before the first day of camp we saw some family friends and one of them asked me the part I was looking forward to the most and I said leaving and coming home."

Follow this link to watch the interview

<https://quakerspeak.com/video/camp/>



Morning worship at the fire circle proved to be a transformative experience for young Eli. "Like, the way that the wind rustles the leaves, that's God or the Spirit," he reflected. "The way the light comes through the trees, that's the Spirit. [It was] putting into words a lot of what I already felt within myself but had never really explored."

Did you go to Quaker camp when you were young? Did you ever serve as a counselor?
What were those experiences like?

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/>

Dates to Remember:

- BYM Annual Session July 30 - August 4 at Hood College in Frederick, MD
- August 22nd Kitchen of Hope Dinner
- August 25th Annual Hopewell Homecoming picnic
- A Unity Gathering will be held at the pavilion on September 21

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



A walk in the woods
Rain Forest, Costa Rica
Me gusta mucho

By: Donna Knight,
Shout out to Bonnie Clark



Matthew Bacon August 7th
Jordan Landes August 23rd

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

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