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**The Monthly Silence**  
**The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre**  
**Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**The Seventh Month, July 2024**

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

Telephone: 540-667-9114 Website: [www.winchesterquakers.org](http://www.winchesterquakers.org)

Dick Bell, Clerk of the Meeting, 304-268-8510

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

Please send donations to:

Hopewell Centre Friends

c/o Jim Riley

P.O. Box 165

Winchester, VA 22604

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**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

Rebecca Ebert's Family on the loss of their mother, Pearl  
*(Pearl passed the Thursday following our Business Meeting)*

Francine and John Guiser

Martha Hanley – Knee Surgery

Janet Harrison

Eloise Haun who is coping with declining health.

Hilde Matheson

Betty McCormick, her daughter Susie

Zakee McGill

Katie Sorensen – Karen Nelson's niece

John Trueblood

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**Meeting for Worship for Business  
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, June 9, 2024  
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding**

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

**CQE:** (Continuing Quaker Education) *Seeking to forget makes exile all the longer; the secret of redemption lies in remembrance. I have loved justice and hated iniquity: therefore, I die in exile.* Richard von Weizsaecker (Brainy quotes)

Comments included: A very profound quote; He seems to dwell somewhat on the negative; According the Buddhist philosophy: Don't ignore pain and hurt, absorb it and live through it.

**Thanksgiving and Concerns:** Pam Hambach expressed her concern that occasionally someone will walk into or out of Meeting for Worship while a message is being delivered. We will seek to educate all of us on the proper etiquette of waiting until the message is complete before walking. Margie Riley gave thanks that Martha Hanley's recent surgery went well and that she is on the mend. Donna Knight gave thanks for being able to travel safely with her sister incident free.

**Treasurer:** Jim Riley gave the treasurer's report for May:  
Major items included:

Contributions :

Individual and Family:	\$ 1,306
Use of Centre:	473
Income from parking cars at Centre	1,259 (during the Apple Blossom Festival)
Sarah Zane Fund	600

Expenses:

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

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

**Ministry and Counsel:** Donna Knight gave the following report:  
The committee met on June 5, 2024, via Zoom.

We discussed all methods of communication and their efficacy. We encourage more articles for the newsletter.

We settled RE's through the end of July:

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Use Your Vote – ten openings used to prevent violence at local elections. Margie Riley

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June 9<sup>th</sup> -- **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

June 16<sup>th</sup> – Spiritual Experiences in the Hebrew Bible – Christian Mollitor

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Potluck at Centre

June 30<sup>th</sup> – Bluegrass Sunday at Hopewell Pavilion

July 7<sup>th</sup> – Annual Hopewell wiener roast

July 14<sup>th</sup> – **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

July 21<sup>st</sup> – Field trip to old Ridge Meeting House via car pools (Scott Lynch);  
backup – another lesson from *Walking Through the World as Friends*

We also discussed having emergency RE's ready in case one fell through at the last minute: Donna Knight will work on putting Bible verses together for random discussion; Dick Bell will put one together either on the theme of Quakers and money or Quakers and the law.

We discussed having Vivienne Jackson's estate sale at Centre with some stuff being stored in Centre's shed. This of course had been OK'd by the meeting. We worked in support of that decision. Some suggestions that occurred were a short introduction about *Ruth's Tea Room* might be in order. Another suggestion was that we serve tea during the sale.

We considered two proposed actions to support November's peaceful election. One was a beautiful statement written by Kristin Zimet, which we agreed should be prominently shown at Centre Meeting House. Donna Knight will check with Frederick County election officials about rules around polling places. Another proposal was put forward by John Guiser to post expected positive polling behaviors. He offered to speak to deputy mayor John Hill about that. Waiting on the outcome of that conversation, we will present ideas to the meeting after we know more.

We reviewed Eagle Scout Will Collins' proposal to clean and record grave markers in our cemetery. We are grateful for his interest and organizational ability. He and his crew will be here June 9, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

We affirmed the meeting's decision to let Jennifer Dyer's RV stay at Hopewell for a short stint as she seeks to explore living in as many spiritually potent places as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel, June 5, 2024

Donna then presented the results of her research about polling places in Frederick County. There is a Poll Worker's Guide (that she had with her) that included:

- Poll workers are paid \$200 for training and working at a polling place on election day
- Any congregates must stay at least 40 feet from the polling place door and cannot follow voters into the polling place

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- The guide has a list of prohibited activities and penalties for violation of said activities.

The Social Concerns and Outreach Committee will utilize this information and more when discussing ideas for supporting November's peaceful election (see above).

**Social Concerns and Outreach:** Margie Riley reported the following:

After meeting with Sallie Grundman, a representative with our local community Baha'is, Margie proposed that we have a Unity Gathering at Hopewell on September 21. As we did in 2023, we will invite other groups from our faith community. The Meeting approved. Details will be forthcoming, and the Baha'is will help with the planning. Margie is a member of the Virginia Interfaith Council and announced that the Council has suspended their monthly meetings for the summer.

**Building and Grounds:** Pam Hambach presented the following report:

New signs have been ordered and received for the bathrooms at Hopewell and Centre. They display the international signage symbols that indicate the restrooms are non-gender. Gutter guards have been installed on the gutters of the caretaker's house. The portable fire pit for Hopewell has been ordered and received. It also came with some wood, fire starter, and grilling forks.

The Eagle Scout project is scheduled for today in the Hopewell graveyard (see more details in the Ministry and Counsel report above). Jim Riley has volunteered to meet with the group at 1:00 p.m. with an introduction before they start to work.

Donna Knight volunteered to secure the east side screen door that needs a latch.

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

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

Katie Sorensen (Karen Nelson's niece) who has Osteogenesis Imperfecta and is having complicated hip surgery soon at a special hospital in NYC.

John Trueblood who is recovering from a fall

Martha Hanley who is recovering from knee replacement surgery

Lisa and Charlie Mortensen who have been dealing with bronchitis for over a month

Becky Ebert's mom Pearl who is in hospice care

If anyone has any concerns or health issues to report, please let Karen know so she can reach out to you.

**Hospitality:** Judy Enterline reported that we are overflowing with cheese. What we need is more sweets like cookies.

**Old Business:** The Meeting approved holding Vivienne Jackson's estate sale at Centre. This will probably occur in September. Items for the sale will be stored in the shed at Centre and in the back area of the Meeting House.

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**New Business:** Jennifer Dyer will start her retreat of solitude and silence on June 19. She will do this in her RV which will be parked on the Hopewell grounds. She is seeking a care committee of two or three people that she could reach out to if necessary. This could be for a procedural matter or for a spiritual connection. Martha Hanley and Dick Bell have volunteered to be on call.

Margie Riley reported that Elijah Filbert, a Winchester resident, has requested permission to metal detect on the Hopewell grounds. He would document anything noteworthy for its historical content. The Meeting approved but will ask him to avoid the graveyard.

**Announcements:**

A Bluegrass concert will be held at the Hopewell pavilion on Sunday, June 30 in the RE time slot. Pam and Mike Hambach are making this possible. Yay! Bring a “substantial” snack. The annual hot dog roast (with premier chef Mike Hambach) will occur on July 7 after Meeting for Worship. Bring a dish to share.

BYM Annual Session will be held July 30 - August 4 at

Hood College in Frederick, MD Homecoming is scheduled for August 25 at Hopewell

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, Josh Riley, Donna Knight, Judy Enterline, Mike Hambach, Pam Hambach, and Karen Nelson.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk

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### From the clerk

He was always so full of life, impish and caring at the same time. He was taller than me; he loved football, hanging out with family, playing video games, and generally ruling the roost with his infectious personality and incredible energy. He was just 13. The wide world awaited him. And then on the Christmas holidays of 2018 a mysterious immune system disease took him in scant days. The baby of a large, loving, and energetic family, Matthew Lloyd Bell II was my nephew. This column is about how a shattered family looked past their grief and began a process that turned Matthew's death into an incredible gift of life.

Taryn, Matthew's mother, told me that during the frantic treatment of his last days they learned that the hospital was flooding him with platelets, a type of infusion in which the sera only was viable for three days. She realized then that there were folks out there donating blood on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day itself because Matthew was getting their blood products. This profoundly moved the family.

So that January they hooked up with a blood drive in Frederick, MD and began the extraordinary journey that has resulted in six years of memorial blood drives, twice a year, that now characterize the community life of Berryville, VA. At first the Bell family tried coordinating with the local VFW blood drive and there a phlebotomist told them they could host their own memorial blood drive for Matthew. The first memorial drive was, according to Taryn, both fabulous and a disaster – awful and wonderful – at the same time. The problem was the Red Cross was in no way set up to handle the number of walk-ins which appeared. Some donors waited over three hours. Others never got the opportunity to donate. That first drive, however, did collect around 75 pints of blood – a huge amount.

Taryn kept meeting with officials of the Red Cross trying to finesse the process and location so that the maximum amount of blood could be donated. The pandemic proved to be an indirect help because it eliminated walk-in donations, since then the MLB II memorial drive operates with appointments only. The last one had 131 registrants, a number which reduced to 120 by the time I gave at midday. They ended getting 106 donations. Pretty normal that that percentage fails to complete the process of actually donating. It was the final number of donations which brought this commentary from one the Red Cross staff, "This is the largest blood drive I have ever worked."

The MLB II memorial drive has become a true community event. None of the venues it has been held in – VFW, Enders fire department, or the current site Clarke Count Parks and Recreation – ever charged a cent of rent. Mario's Pizza has donated pizza for every drive. Other community organizations have also generously supported this event.

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The unofficial motto of this event is “Don’t miss an opportunity to help.” Taryn’s – and the rest of the family’s too – great comfort is that his name is still spoken.

You can bet the family and close friends all donate. There have been notable out of family donors. Ten to fifteen of Matthew’s friends have given blood and over their lifetimes this group will probably give gallons to the community. Each of the thirteen memorial drives has been characterized by the number of first-time donors. Matthew’s story continues to inspire ordinary folks. One young man named Jacob learned about Matthew’s story and became a six-time donor. Ironically, he died the day after he had donated blood in December 2023, prompting the family to note his blood was almost certainly giving life – after he had, in fact, died. Seven parents who have lost children – including a couple who have lost two – are regular donors.

Taryn noted that about one third of the population is able to give blood. Of that third three percent do. That group donates all the blood used in the United States. She also noted, “The day you need blood could be tomorrow.”

The drives occur in Berryville twice annually: In December, the month he died, and in May, to honor his birthday. If you want to know how you can be a donor, just contact me.

In December 2023 the MLB II blood drives passed the 1,000 pints mark. Today, the count stands at 1201 pints over thirteen drives. What a legacy Matthew’s life has given. I could not be prouder of Taryn, my brother Matthew, and their entire family.

Respectfully submitted,  
R. Dixon Bell            clerk  
June 17, 2024





## CALENDAR

- June 23<sup>rd</sup>** --- Potluck at Centre
- June 30<sup>th</sup>** --- Bluegrass Sunday at Hopewell Pavilion
- July 4<sup>th</sup>** --- Independence Day
- July 7<sup>th</sup>** --- Annual Hopewell wiener roast
- July 14<sup>th</sup>** --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- July 21<sup>st</sup>** --- Field trip to old Ridge Meeting House via car pools (Scott Lynch); backup – another lesson from *Walking Through the World as Friends*



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**Murphy's  
Bluegrass  
Bandits**



*Come and Enjoy  
Bluegrass and Fellowship  
In the Pavilion*

*Courtesy Of: Mike & Pam Hambach*

Hopewell Friends Meeting House  
604 Hopewell Road  
Clearbrook, VA 22624

June 30, 2024

11:30am

Bring a Heavy Snack to Share



*Kes (Reverend) Amena*

*Kes Tariku*



On Monday evening, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at Opequon Presbyterian Church, Peter Ford and I were joined by Kristin Zimet, Scott Lynch, and Judy McCarthy (via Zoom) – among other Winchester community guests – to hear a presentation of two ministers of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (Illubabor Bethel Synod), Kes (Reverend) Amena and Kes Tariku as they tour the United States and specifically to meet with folks of the Shenandoah Presbytery to bring news of the phenomenal growth their church is undergoing, especially in northwestern Ethiopia. Since its national founding in 1959 the EECMY has grown from basically 500 to over 11 million members today. That number represents nearly a tenth of Ethiopia’s total population.

Tall and graceful, Kes Amena spoke first. He principally thanked the attenders and expressed his personal gratitude for the support Americans – specifically in the Shenandoah Presbytery – have given their church since 1989. The unusual cadence and lilting melody of Amena’s voice was a marvel to hear. After a minimal amount of adjustment, he was easy to understand. His mellifluous voice and loving message laid the stage for his partner Kes Tariku.

Kes Tariku, who reminded me of a Middle Easterner with his features, suggesting the beautiful multitude of

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genotypes which exist in Ethiopia, was shorter, older, and carried the story of his synod – and the larger EECMY church to which it belongs – forward in greater detail. He told the story of the church’s formation, which he said relied on three things: the flu, an ant, and a question. Apparently, the great international flu outbreak of 1918/19 caused the idea of a new national church to evolve. Later in the ‘20’s, the governor of the province suffered an ant stuck in his ear, which was taken out by a person associated with the nascent church. This act of healing led the governor to grant the new church land on which to build. Through many national trials and delays in history, the church lurched forward – without much growth or clear mission. According to a story told by Mersha Seyom to Bill Burslem, “In February of 1972, an upper-level student, Endalcachew, Endy for short, had been questioning why the Holy Spirit was not working in Illubabor as it had in Book of Acts.” This inspiration fired up the people of Ethiopia, and beginning in the late seventies, the church exploded in numbers. (It was at this point that I thought of how much Endy sounded like a Quaker.)

The growth of the EECMY has led to a shortage of pastors, which the church is trying to address through training and ordination. One of the biggest two problems of this expansion is building a dormitory to house students as well as a dining hall to feed them. The estimates shared by Tariku were in the range of approximately \$160,000 for the dormitory and around \$140,000 for the dining hall. Considering our prices in the United States, I thought how (relatively) little it would cost to help our Ethiopian Friends. His presentation ended on a note of great hope.

Seeing how other Christians around the world worship and live their lives, for me, is fascinating. I was greatly drawn to the two men who smiled and clasped both of their hands around yours when shaking. I devoutly hope they have a successful trip in the United States. To me, the EECMY shows how varied and marvelous the ways Spirit moves among the peoples of the earth.

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*Worship in the Park!*



with

Saint Paul AME Church

Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024

Time: 11:00am

Where: Lion's Shelter – Jim Barnett Park

Casual Dress

Come and enjoy the presence of the  
Lord in His natural setting.

Following our time of worship, we will celebrate  
one another in fellowship with a picnic meal  
provided by our Culinary Ministry

Reverend Kevin E. Wilson, Pastor



## Spring Rentals at BYM Camps

The wild cherries and forsythia are in full bloom and the mountain azalea have begun to bud at BYM Camps. One-way BYM supports the financial sustainability of our camps is through seasonal rentals. Whether you're looking for a weekend writing retreat or group camping for your Meeting or family reunion, check out the rentals at BYM Camps!

**[Catoclin Quaker Camp Cabins & Lodge](#)** features 8 different cabins available to rent - with the option to book out the entire property. Toilets, showers, picnic tables, and potable water are all available near each cabin site with additional access to our large, environmentally friendly bathhouse. BYM Friends are also able to rent out the dining hall with commercial kitchen for larger events. BYM Meetings receive a discount - contact [DylanPhillips@bym-rsf.org](mailto:DylanPhillips@bym-rsf.org) for the discount code.

**[The Studio at Catoclin Quaker Camp](#)** offers a less rugged experience for a quiet spiritual retreat or family outing. The Studio features beds for 5, kitchen, and private bathroom. Located on 385 private acres just 15 minutes from Catoclin Mountain Park, Cunningham Falls State Park, and Gambriel State Park - come to Catoclin Quaker Camp for a wonderful weekend in the woods.

### **Coming in Fall 2024: Rentals at Opequon Quaker Camp at Rolling Ridge**

Construction projects are in full swing at the new Opequon Quaker Camp at Rolling Ridge Conservancy near Harper's Ferry, WV. Located on 1700 of protected land with a variety of programs offered at [Friends Wilderness Center](#), Opequon rentals will include a fully modern, 4-season lodge with working

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fireplace and beds for 18 - in addition to a variety of cabin and platform tent accommodations, dining hall, and commercial kitchen.



<https://lindawilk.substack.com/p/what-does-hope-call-you-to?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:

- June 30th - Bluegrass Sunday at Hopewell Pavilion - courtesy of Pam and Mike. Bring a heavy snack
- July 7th for our annual hotdog roast. Dick will bring a pack of non-meat hot dogs. Others who wish to have non-meat options are encouraged to do the same.
- August 25th – Annual Hopewell Homecoming picnic.

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



*Hopewell by Mike and Pam Hambach*

What do you hear?

I hear God, the Higher Being. The universe is singing that One's song.

I hear it through the birds song.

The leaves rustling in the wind.

I feel it as a breeze caresses the skin of my arms.

Listen what do you hear?

By: Pam Hambach



**David Landes      July 15**

**Brett Osborn      July 15**

**Maggie Stetler      July 16**

**Robyn Harris      July 17**

**Martha Hanley      July 18**

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



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