



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

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

Donna Knight, Assistant Clerk of the Meeting, 540-771-8118

Karen Nelson and Martha Hanley, Pastoral Care. Contact Karen at 301-351-5538 or
knel23@yahoo.com

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 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

Chris Cox

Jennifer Dyer

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

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business 19 May 2024

The meeting opened with a moment of silence with Clerk, Dick Bell, presiding.

Ministry and Counsel: Richard Cooper (who needed to leave early thus bumping this report to the top of the agenda), reported for the committee, which met via Zoom on 13 May 2024.

Donna Knight has resurrected the Centre computer we use for Zooming on Centre Sundays. Thank you, Donna!

Second hour religious education was planned through the end of June:

- May 26 - Potluck at Centre
- June 2 - Use Your Vote - Margie Riley
- June 9 - Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- June 16 - Spiritual Experiences in the Hebrew Bible - Christian Mollitor. See flyer on the first bench for more info.
- June 23 - Potluck at Centre
- June 30 - Bluegrass Sunday at Hopewell Pavilion - courtesy of Pam and Mike. Bring a heavy snack.
- July 7 - Hopewell Centre Annual Weenie Roast

Donna Knight has updated the meeting website with the most recent fifteen newsletters. Storage capacity issues require us to remove one (oldest) issue every time a new one is added. Donna is keeping up with this.

Eloise Haun wrote a letter that was published in the Northern Virginia Daily regarding the Shenandoah County school board's recent decision to revert two schools to their former confederate names.

Jennifer Dyer has made a request to the meeting to be able to park her new RV on Hopewell meeting property for about two weeks in June. There will be minimal to no need for electric, water, or sewer connections. She will be going to the Flying J to dump sewage and practice making utility connections. Friends wondered if our insurance or the law imposes any limitations on having an inhabited RV on our property. Friends united in support of Jennifer's request and look forward to having her.

CQE – (Continuing Quaker Education): Friends shared their reflections on this month's CQE quote:

We define eldering as the ministry of deepening the spiritual grounding of individuals, a Quaker meeting, or other faith groups or gatherings. Elders are those who have a distinct and noticeable gift of spiritual groundedness that uplifts, deepens, and broadens the spiritual core of a meeting or gathering. When the gifts of eldering are present, Spirit often takes individuals and groups to places they might not otherwise go. Quaker eldering is not connected with chronological age. Some come to the gift very young and others never develop the gift past a basic capacity. - from the website, Friendly Meetings

Thanksgivings and Concerns:

- Dick shared his gratitude for the semi-annual blood drive in Berryville that is conducted in honor of his late nephew, Matthew Bell, in which he participated this week.
- Donna shared gratitude for the many blessings that have come from recent hardship and loss.
- Peter expressed gratitude for his renewed concern for and involvement with the Ethiopian visitors and his continued leading to carry their concerns.
- Pam shared aloud the poem "I Worried" by Mary Oliver as an expression of gratitude for many recent blessings.

Treasurer's Report (Includes news and reports from Finance): Jim Riley shared the Treasurer's report for April:

Income: Contributions totaled \$1,450. For the use of Centre, \$335, Sarah Zane fund \$100.

Expenditures included \$8,500 for the patio. Jim reminded us that we had received a special contribution earmarked for this last year so there was no additional expenditure out of any general or restricted funds. We paid our quarterly apportionment of \$1,670 to BYM. Sarah Zane disbursement \$78.

At the end of the month, we have \$10,605 in our checking account, a little over \$33,000 in the Rogers property fund, and \$3,371 in the Sarah Zane Fund.

Social Concerns and Outreach: Josh Riley offered an informal report about the committee's recent meeting at Christian Mollitor and Andrew Gertge's home. The committee has united in support of another Interfaith supper to be held in the fall. The committee also united in support of possible future Eco-spirituality Workshops.

Buildings and Grounds: Pam Hambach reported that the committee had met last first day, 12 May 2024 with the following updates and requests:

The gutters at the caretaker's residence clog easily and are well out of reach. We approved seeking estimates for installing gutter guards.

Gender neutralizing of Hopewell and Centre bathrooms: Pam has found vinyl signs with a combined male/female pictogram. Some members expressed a desire for more historically appropriate or attractive signage. We approved moving forward with vinyl signs as a good first step. We will need to re-label the keys as well.

Fire pit: The committee has researched portable smokeless fire pits that could be stored in the shed and cost about \$300. We approved this purchase.

Brush clearing around holly tree: We have a glorious holly tree near the rear corner of the carriage shed that could use some clearing around its base. We approved moving forward with estimates for this work. Interiors (under care of B&G) - no report
Graveyard (under care of B&G) - no report

Pastoral Care: No report this month. Those whom we are holding in the Light are always listed in the newsletter. Donna Knight reminds us that we may submit any pastoral concerns (and anything else for that matter) to the newsletter editor. She is beginning to work on the June newsletter now.

Martha Hanley shared about her upcoming knee surgery on May 31st, indicating that she has good support lined up before and after. We will be keeping Martha in the Light.

We continue holding John and Francine Guiser in the Light.

Hospitality: The committee made requests for storable/freezable sweets. Our current inventory of cheese and crackers is solid.

Old Business: We revisited what we might do with the Apple Blossom parking money. Sending a child to camp could be a worthy use of it. Josh's friend's son, Dorian has been identified as wanting to attend.

Betty recalls that in the past we have given half of it to the youth fund and half of it to the Highland Food Pantry.

We also heard a suggestion to have a Hopewell picnic.



We agreed that we would move forward using general funds to support Dorian Hewlett's attendance at camp and that Scott and Josh and Jonathan would meet to discuss other possible uses of the parking money.

New Business: Jim was approached by an AA group with a request to use Centre on Wednesday nights at 7:00 while their regular meeting place is being renovated, possibly permanently. We discussed this request and affirmed our aim of keeping Monday and Thursday evenings at Centre unscheduled and available for other uses.

Dates to Remember:

- June 30th - Bluegrass Sunday at Hopewell Pavilion - courtesy of Pam and Mike. Bring a heavy snack
- July 7th for our annual weenie 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 homecoming picnic.

The meeting ended with a moment of silence.

Josh Riley, recording





From the clerk

Luxuriant Spring surrounds me. My yard is teeming with life. Mother's dark purple iris has bloomed for the first time in two years – in unsurpassed beauty of three blossoms. Abundant rain has bolstered the annual total since January to unprecedented levels of over 22" – the most I've measured in that time span since I've kept records beginning in 2011. The temperature has not been oppressively high. I enjoy the cool, rainy weather.

I am a rain guy. The rain on my tin roof is a beguiling tattoo that often whisks me off to dreamland – whether at night or to a delicious afternoon session of napping. I drove home from Charlottesville on Monday, May 6th in torrential rain after having visited my beloved, lifelong friends Beta Anderson and Barb Leedy, who were in Charlottesville for the memorial of Barb's cousin Libby. They, having returned to Portland, OR immediately tested positive to CoVid. Somehow after a day of rides, hugs, lunches, constant conversation, and kisses good-bye, I dodged the infection, verified by three negative CoVid tests.

Sudden showers have caught me often this season without my umbrella – left always in my car. No major drownings have occurred – yet.

This past week offered me the opportunity to speak to Powhatan's seventh grade over two days about Abraham Lincoln and his growth during his presidency. The focus was on the incredible creativity he brought to the office and the service he provided to humankind – a prime example being the Emancipation Proclamation. I am always amazed at the depth of his thinking and the assuredness of his acts – even though he often confessed uncertainty himself. His gloomy aspect (he had more than enough to be gloomy about) masked the tight rigor of his unmatched mind.

Another event for our meeting this month was the Apple Blossom parking at Centre, so ably resurrected this year by Josh Riley, Scott Lynch, and Jonathan Tolman. Bo Beeman and I helped out for a few hours, but the lion's share of effort was undertaken by the "Big Three." They provided a great service and raised a good deal of money for the meeting. Of course, it rained both days. Somehow the rate, the timing, and the saturation happened in a way that the lawn suffered no detectable damage.

This past week I've enjoyed the rare pleasure of meeting up with Josh Riley and Jonathan Tolman to enjoy a couple of lunches and run daily errands together. Somehow we missed the rain, though both days had showers scudding through. Their presence never dampened our vigorous conversations. I'm reminded by both Friends how



invigorating good conversation may be – and how good conversation underlies and builds friendships.

Tomorrow, Saturday the 18th, I shall be returning to the second iteration of Powhatan’s 75th Alumni celebration. The second iteration was necessary because the first ‘celebration’ in September was heavily curtailed due to rain. Of course, I’ll be there – missing my beloved OATS – to see former students and colleagues. It will be wonderful, and I can’t wait to see all my friends and the kids.

The forecast is 80% showers.
Is Spirit continually baptizing us with water from the heavens?

Respectfully submitted,
R. Dixon Bell May 17, 2024



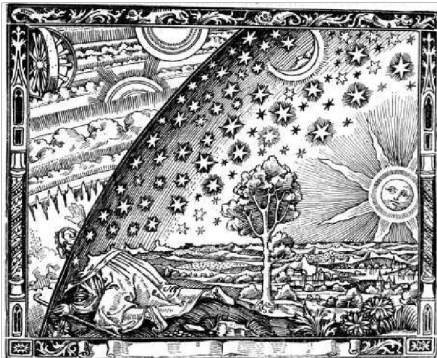


CALENDAR

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|-------------|-------------|-----|--|
| June | 2nd | --- | Use Your Vote: Margie Riley |
| June | 9th | --- | Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business |
| June | 16th | --- | Spiritual Experiences in the Hebrew Bible:
Christian Mollitor |
| June | 23rd | --- | Potluck at Centre |
| June | 30th | --- | Bluegrass Sunday at Hopewell Pavilion-
Brought to you by Mike & Pam Hambach |
| July | 7th | --- | Hopewell Centre Annual Weenie Roast |

Spiritual Experiences From The Hebrew Bible

11:25am ~ Sunday, June 16, 2024



Quaker Religious Education Class

Hopewell Centre Meeting House
604 Hopewell Road
Clear Brook, VA 22624

Attend by Zoom
Meeting ID: 841 0768 6997
Passcode: 503520

This religious education class analyzes selected spiritual experiences found in the Hebrew Bible (formerly known as the Old Testament) and gives participants an opportunity to have their own direct mystical experiences of the Divine.

- Introduction on the topic of spiritual experiences
- Explore the history and wisdom of ancient mysticism
- Hear selected readings from the Hebrew Bible
- See beautiful historic artwork with images of the Bible readings
- Opportunities will be created for participants to experience their own spiritual openings from the scripture
- Background and commentary on the readings from Hebrew Bible scholars and Christian Mollitor's experiences during his Hebrew Bible class at Earlham

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



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!

[Catoctin 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 for the discount code.

[The Studio at Catoctin 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 Catoctin Mountain Park, Cunningham Falls State Park, and Gambril State Park - come to Catoctin 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 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/>

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



Buttercups in Hopewell Graveyard: by Mike and Pam Hambach

A Lady red -- amid the Hill

by [Emily Dickinson](#)

A Lady red -- amid the Hill
Her annual secret keeps!
A Lady white, within the Field
In placid Lily sleeps!

The tidy Breezes, with their Brooms --
Sweep vale -- and hill -- and tree!
Prithee, My pretty Housewives!
Who may expected be?

The Neighbors do not yet suspect!
The Woods exchange a smile!
Orchard, and Buttercup, and Bird --
In such a little while!

And yet, how still the Landscape stands!
How nonchalant the Hedge!
As if the "Resurrection"
Were nothing very strange!

Happy Birthday
To Everyone
Born in June!

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

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