

The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting of
the Religious Society of Friends
The Twelfth Month, December 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

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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

Judy Enterline (recovering from knee replacement)

Francine and John Guiser

Gerry Harris (shoulder surgery planned)

Janet Harrison (awaiting kidney transplant)

Eloise Haun who is coping with declining health

Hilde Matheson.

Betty McCormick, her daughter Susie

Karen Nelson (recovering from knee replacement)

Laura Nell Obaugh

Meeting for Worship for Business
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, November 10, 2024
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: (Continuing Quaker Education)

When I came to eleven years of age, I knew pureness and righteousness; for while a child I was taught how to walk to be kept pure. The Lord taught me to be faithful in all things, and to act faithfully two ways, viz., inwardly to God, and outwardly to man; and to keep to Yea and Nay in all things. For the Lord showed me, that though the people of the world have mouths full of deceit, and changeable words, yet I was to keep to Yea and Nay in all things; and that my words should be few and savory, seasoned with grace; and that I might not eat and drink to make myself wanton, but for health, using the creatures in their service, as servants in their places, to the glory of Him that created them; they being in their covenant, and I being brought up into the covenant, and sanctified by the Word which was in the beginning, by which all things are upheld; wherein is unity with the creation. From George Fox's Journal

Comments included: Yea; I liked that he included the "creatures in their service"; I liked eating and drinking for health rather than for wanton; Fox was rather precocious for an eleven-year-old.

Thanksgiving and Concerns: Pam Hambach gave thanks for a chance encounter with a stranger who had a family member with cancer. And Pam, celebrating a one-year anniversary since her own diagnosis, had an uplifting conversation that resulted in a wonderful hug. Betty McCormick reported that her daughter Susie needs a lot of light as she continues to fight the pain associated with long covid. Anne Bacon gave thanks for the marriage of her son Matthew who is now "legally hitched". Dick Bell reported that his daughter Anne had to have some extended dental work and gave thanks that all went well. News has been received that Elizabeth Goepp gave birth to a son, Kellen Wolf Goepp on October 20. Congratulations Elizabeth and Kellen!

Treasurer's Report: Jim Riley gave the treasurer's report for October:

Major items included:

Contributions :

Individual and Family	\$ 2,015
Use of Centre by AA	980
And by the Metropolitan Church	150

Expenses:

Signs at Hopewell and Centre	\$ 250 (transferred to Social Concerns and Outreach Committee)
Tree removal	1,850 (near the caretaker house)

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 17,273
Rogers Fund	42,000
Sarah Zane Fund	3,096

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

Jim also reminded us that at year's end, we donate \$200 to each of twelve organizations. The \$2,400 for 2024 will be added to \$1,741 already donated this year to other worthy causes.

Ministry and Counsel: Becky Ebert took time away from celebrating her birthday to give the following report: The committee met on November 4, 2024 via Zoom.

Concerning communications: We felt things were going well and discussed candidly the amount and quality of emails we were sending out to the meeting.

We planned RE's through the end of December

November 3rd – a session on the queries from A Tender Time.

November 10th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

November 17th – Robin Miller from WATTS

November 24th – Potluck at Centre

December 1st – A presentation from Adelphi meeting concerning their "Seeds for Peace" program and their support for the Gaza Relief Fund through AFSC

December 8th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

December 15th – A presentation about the Braver Angels program: What's next?

December 22nd – Potluck at Centre

December 29th – A return to our pamphlet Building a Community of Faith.

This schedule is quite fluid now, dependent on reaching someone from Adelphi Friends willing to present on December 1st.

Possibilities for future second hours include someone sharing her/his personal Quaker story; another session on the queries from A Tender Time; possibly an exploration of The Lamb's War; a discussion about Quaker fiction including works by Nancy Haines – also, fictional works with titles The Quaker Mid-wife, and The Peaceable Kingdom. Margie Riley visited and suggested these topics: We explore the FCNL documentary entitled Salt of the Earth, exploring the Israeli/Palestine struggle through eyes of two young men. "Seeking the Public Good" Richard Rohr, following the Faith and Housing bill through the state legislature, and that we look into scheduling a performance of the Harambee Gospel Choir of Shenandoah University. Ellie Haun suggested we interview immigrant physicians, as they grow in number in area hospitals, about their experiences in the United States. Other topics welcome.

Becky Ebert led us in a review of steps we need to take to develop a menu and serve people at the Market Street Methodist church, Saturday, November 16th. Please let us know if you're interested in helping.

We discussed bringing another member on to Ministry and Counsel.

The clerk will be away visiting family December 20 – 27.

Respectfully submitted,
Ministry and Counsel

November 5, 2024

Social Concerns and Outreach: Margie Riley reported the following:

The three half-page ads that we placed in the Winchester Star leading up to the election received some good feedback from several readers.

Martha Hanley has formed a working group for newcomers to the Meeting along with Kristin Zimet and Christian Mollitor.

The next committee meeting will be held on December 15.

Building and Grounds: Pam Hambach reported the following:

The painting and glazing of the Hopewell Meetinghouse windows is nearly complete.

The forty plus year old carpet at Centre Meetinghouse will soon be replaced with new carpet by Ross' Floors and Carpets. Pam brought a sample to show us. The Meeting approved the color of the sample and also the price of \$1,150 for the job.

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

Laura Nell Obaugh

Gerry Harris who is having shoulder surgery soon

Francine and John Guiser

Hilde Matheson who has been in and out of the hospital with heart issues

Janet Harrison

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

Eloise Haun

Judy Enterline and Karen Nelson who are recuperating from knee replacement surgery

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

Hospitality: More cheese is needed. Also a reminder to please wash and put away dishes after use.

New Business:

A policy needs to be established regarding allowing metal detecting on the grounds of our two meetinghouses. This would include where and where not the detecting would be allowed and would

also require a show and tell of the results so that the Meeting could decide on if we wish to keep any of the objects. The Building and Grounds Committee will write the policy and present it to the Meeting for approval.

An AA group has requested to move their weekly meetings from Tuesday evenings to Wednesday evenings beginning in January. The Meeting approved. We have always kept Monday and Thursday evenings open for our use.

Jim Riley displayed and is donating some pictures from days past that are connected to the Meeting.

Conversion: The committee made note that if the thermostat is accidentally set on Celsius, please convert to Fahrenheit as follows: Multiply the Celsius temperature by 1.8 and then add 32 to the result. Or: press the button that says "Fahrenheit" on the thermostat. Thank you.

Announcements:

WATTS dinner on November 16 at Market Street Methodist Church: begin eating 6:45 – 7:00.
Helpers arrive around 6:00 pm. Cook arrives at 5:30 pm

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Betty McCormick, Dan Riley, Margie Riley, Ellie Haun, Donna Knight, Allison Huntsberry, Pam Hambach, Mike Hambach, Becky Ebert, Anne Bacon, Richard Cooper, and Martha Hanley.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk



From the clerk

I always intend for these columns to be positive and uplifting. But that's hard to do when you're feeling forlorn. The national landscape is in aftershock. I'm wondering what Quakers will be called to do when US military troops are used to deport millions of "illegal aliens."

I've been a political junkie for as long as I could read and think. Our dinner table conversations as a youth always included a discussion of the latest issues and a cultivation of points of view. One of the best lessons I learned at that table was compromise: an extreme view was tempered with "if's and but's." Compromise is all but extinct in our national dialogue. The two parties, one reeling in defeat, the other all but dead through internecine conflict, now vote in their own blocs in Congress. The arcane rules of the Senate require sixty votes to bring a bill to its final vote (Try finding that rule in the Constitution). The House has become two feral armed camps. Representatives and Senators now take their marching orders from party chiefs rather than the Constitution.

Wars rage. Institutions are shaken.

Personally, I feel as if the economy has gone haywire: the 'average home' now costs in the mid-three hundreds (that's thousands), food going up, the threat of tariffs causing prices to explode on all foreign made goods in an increasingly global economy. The list is endless. How does a young adult get started? The mechanic who fixed my car today told me that he and his wife lived in a camper for three years just so they could put together enough money to buy an old, fix-it-up home. And he's a good mechanic. Who works every day.

Robin Miller told us last Sunday that the ‘no-frills’ WATTS homeless shelter they’re planning will cost eight million dollars. She told us that fifty-eight percent of the population now living in Winchester are below the poverty level. Winchester, Virginia. Where the current average hourly pay rate is \$26.54.

What’s a Friend to do?

Well, I’m working hard to emulate George Fox, answering queries with ‘Yea’ or ‘Nay’ and trying to make my life an example of the values in which I believe. Somehow, I’d like to see a lot more folks who think like me, who think like us, sitting in those benches on a Sunday. God did not create a world of chaos. It doesn’t take much just to live a quiet, peaceful life.

I’m craving simplicity and peace – not just for me but for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Dixon Bell November 18, 2024



CALENDAR

- November 28th** --- Happy Thanksgiving!!
- December 1st** --- A presentation from Adelphi meeting concerning their “Seeds for Peace” program and their support for the Gaza Relief Fund through AFSC
- December 8th** --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- December 15th** --- Presentation about the Bravers Angels Program
- December 22nd** --- Potluck at Centre
- December 25th** --- Merry Christmas!!!
- December 29th** --- A return to our pamphlet Building a Community of Faith



Blogs and Items of Interest

FROM THE MEMBERS OF
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING



**"LET NO ONE
EVER COME TO YOU
WITHOUT LEAVING
BETTER & HAPPIER.**

**"BE THE LIVING
EXPRESSION OF GOD'S
KINDNESS:**

**KINDNESS IN YOUR FACE,
KINDNESS IN YOUR EYES,
KINDNESS IN YOUR SMILE."**

BLESSED MOTHER TERESA



[FACEBOOK.COM/SHARECATHOLIC](https://www.facebook.com/SHARECATHOLIC)

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

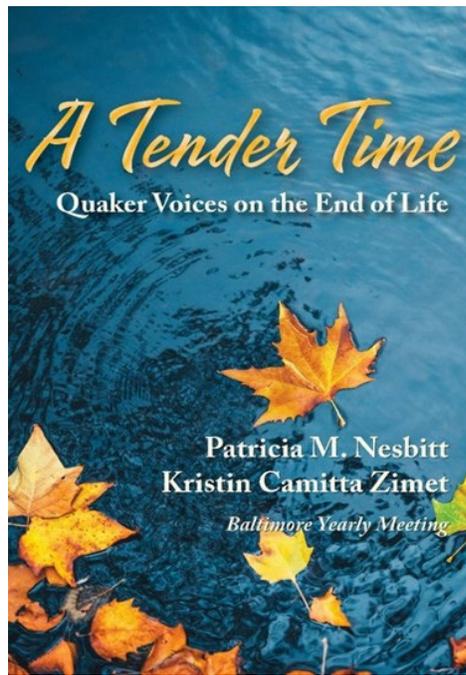
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

- 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.fcnl.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

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.



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

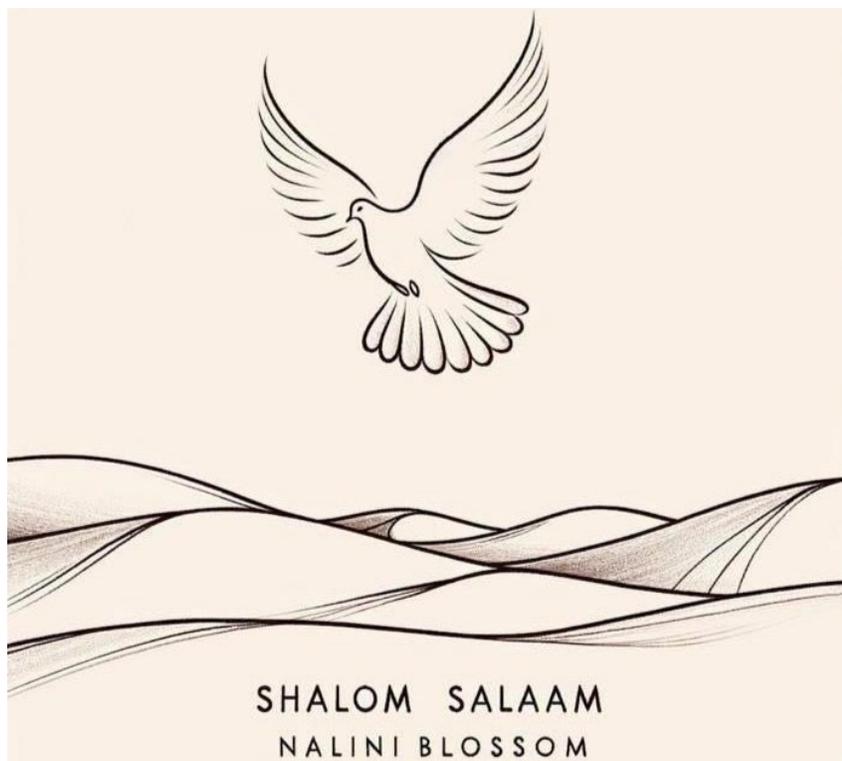


Linda Wilk, MAPC

https://open.substack.com/pub/lindawilk/p/all-is-suffering?utm_source=share&utm_medium=android&r=b37x

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/>



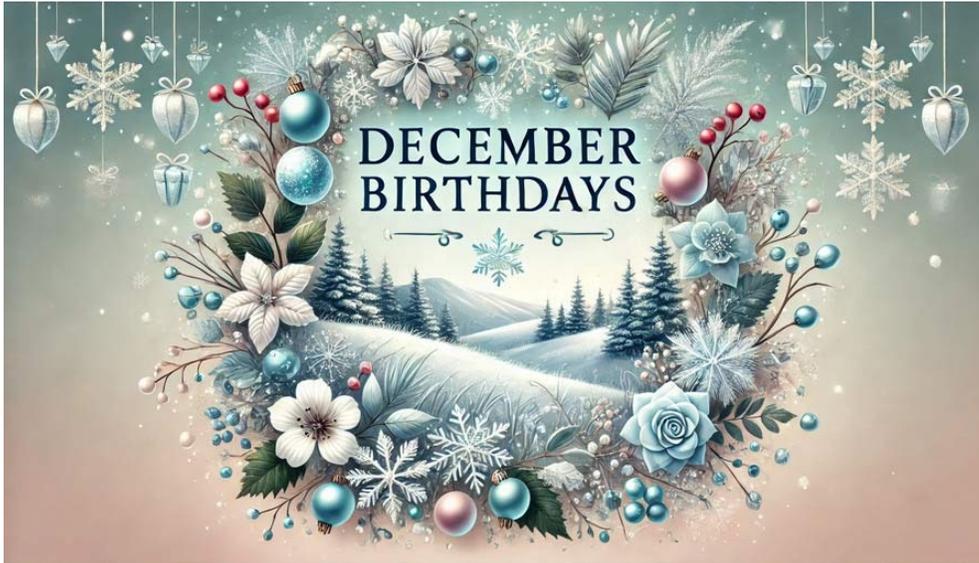
Perspective of Palestinian Quakers Recording Now Available

<https://youtu.be/eeJoXj8yQfE?si=7D94yLamRE-vlzf5>



The Clerk will be away visiting family December 20-27

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



Kelsey Harris

December 13th

Elizabeth Goepf (Friant)

December 25th

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

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