The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
The Eighth Month, August 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
Richard Cooper Knee Surgery
Betty McCormick - Big move

Hopewell Centre Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Sunday 12 July 2026

Anne Bacon, clerk, opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by an opening prayer:

Our father, grant us peace... not the peace of numbness but the peace that comes after brave decisions are made, the peace that comes when we have given honest work, and the peace that comes when we have told the whole truth. Amen

Thanksgivings and Concerns

- Donna Knight reports that husband Bob Huntsberry's health is doing better and she is grateful for our prayers and Light.
- Pam reports that the family of skunks that had been living under the caretaker woodshed willingly relocated following treatment of their access point with a natural citrus spray.

Treasurer's Report – Jim Riley, Treasurer

Below are highlights of financial activities for the month of June 2026. Full financial reporting may be requested from Treasurer, Jim Riley.

Income

Unrestricted Contributions: $2,635
Use of Centre: $240
Misc fundraising: $210

There was a $15,000 contribution to the Youth Fund.

We received a semi-annual disbursement from the Rogers Fund of $11,372

Expenses

$2,500 was paid from the youth fund for camp.

$13,797 was paid as a deposit (half the cost) to begin the renovations of the Hopewell bathrooms.

Fund Balances

The Rogers Fund is invested at Friends Fiduciary.
The initial value of the fund was $379,000.
At the end of June it stands at $690,000.

Ministry and Counsel Report – Dick Bell, Clerk

Dick Bell offered the report from Ministry and Counsel. The committee met on 7/6/2026. Dick Bell was named clerk. The committee discussed meeting communications (email, emailed announcements, and the newsletter) and affirmed our current practices as adequate. Our annual 4th of July BBQ was a success. The committee planned Religious Education/second hour activities through August:

- July 12 – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- July 19 – Making music through AI
- July 26 – Potluck at Centre
- August 2 – Sheila Tilley presents on her ecological and community work.
- August 9 – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- August 16 – Anne Bacon reprises her speech to St. Paul's AME history brunch.
- August 23 – Homecoming. Paul Britner will present
- August 30 – Regional Gathering, Frederick Friends, Frederick, MD. Plans for those staying at Hopewell, TBD.

The committee discussed and established long-range topics for the rest of the year including a query session framed by BYM's *Faith and Practice*; and established a clearness committee for an applying member. The committee is going to create an annual calendar to help guide and plan for recurring events and activities. Members of the committee and others will resume joining the clerk on the facing bench going forward.

The committee has recommended the establishment of an events committee to help coordinate set-up, break down, and food for meeting events.

A friend suggested that we begin shaking hands again at the rise of meeting now that the COVID-19 pandemic has waned. There was ***unity*** to restart this practice.

Social Concerns and Outreach

No report. No clerk. The committee is coordinating a future, but not too distant future, meeting.

Buildings and Grounds – Pam Hambach, Clerk and Jim Riley

- Pam reported that there is a need for a new lawn mower. The committee recommends purchasing a Scag mower which is currently on sale for $4,700. The meeting ***approved*** this expenditure.

- Work on the Hopewell bathroom renovation is scheduled to begin on 7/13. The portable toilet will be delivered on 7/14. The estimated duration for the work to be completed is from between two weeks to a month. A friend suggested that we might consider getting a second portable toilet during Homecoming.

- Jim reported on the Hollingsworth/Parkins family graveyard (one of the three) that Hopewell Centre caretakes. A part of the graveyard wall in the back (on the train track side) collapsed some years ago. During the Hollingsworth family reunion, which was recently held in Winchester, a Hollingworth family member offered to donate the sum for rebuilding the wall and the embankment on which it is built, which had also collapsed. The committee is identifying people who can do the work and is soliciting estimates.

Interiors – no report

Pastoral Care – no report, but please hold in the Light...

- Richard Cooper, who will be going for knee surgery on Wednesday, July 22.
- Betty McCormick who is in the middle of a move from her home (to be sold) to Westminister Canterbury.

Hospitality – no report

Old Business

1. Spiritual State of the Meeting - we will have a second hour at some point to further discuss and make a plan for completing our Spiritual State of the Meeting report. There is a desire among many to make adjustments to this process.
2. Values Into Action Chart - Anne referred us to the chart that was created by Margie Riley and Social Concerns and Outreach to help us better visualize how our values have been and are being translated into action. This was previously emailed. Social Concerns and Outreach is curious about whether and how the meeting might be able to use this tool to guide our outreach and service activities. Such a tool dovetails nicely with the plan to make an annual calendar for the meeting (which Ministry and Pastoral Care is undertaking). Other committees may create a similar calendar for their activities. We discussed how we might use this tool to inform ourselves about, and explore additional service opportunities for the meeting and its members. Margie will email it once more. A larger ongoing query is, do the vision and goals outlined on the chart reflect our intentions and our values?
3. WATTS in the summer - we acknowledged that at this point in the summer we are unlikely to be able to contribute planning and labor for a WATTS dinner.
   WATTS coordination - Becky Ebert has stepped down from coordinating our WATTS service. We hope way will open for a new coordinator to

volunteer. We will ask Becky to tell us a little more about WATTS and what the role entails at our next business meeting. 4. World Quaker Day - World Quaker Day is coming up in October. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) is coordinating a worldwide meeting for worship to be held on the first Sunday in October. Jim will investigate the details.

New Business

1. Homecoming is coming up on August 23rd.
   Josh Riley agreed to coordinate the setup.
   Sheila and Ed Tilley will check their schedule to potentially coordinate cleanup. Friends affirmed that everyone should help with cleanup.
   We will ask hospitality if they are able to coordinate food set-up.

2. Dick Bell and Anne Bacon will reach out to the Hopewell Centre-sponsored campers to check in about their experience and investigate opportunities and interest for them to visit to share their experience with us.

Coming Dates:

- July 26: Potluck at Center
- August 23: Homecoming
- August 30: Regional Gathering hosted by Frederick Friends Meeting - Frederick, MD
- September 1: Fall Interchange (BYM Newsletter) submissions deadline
- September 11-13: BYM Fall Spiritual Formation Retreat – Claggett Retreat Center, Adamstown, MD
- September 25-27: BYM Family Camp at Opequon Quaker Camp
- October 3: Hopewell Centre Spirituality Retreat
- BYM's year-long spiritual formation program runs from October-May. We will announce the dates when we know them.

Jim Riley reminded friends about "Thee Quaker Podcast". It is informative and thought-provoking. A recent episode replayed an interview with

George Lakey who has been involved with Quaker non-violent action for decades. Jim recommends a listen.

Attending: Dick Bell, Margie Riley, Dan Riley, Bonnie Clark, Chloe Madden, Peter Ford, Sheila Tilley, Ed Tilley, Martha Hanley, Betty McCormick, Jim Riley, Mike Hambach, Richard Cooper, Cheryl Reynolds.

Respectfully submitted, Josh Riley, Recording Clerk





CALENDAR

July 26th -- Potluck at Centre

August 2nd -- Sheila Tilley presents on her ecological and community work

August 9th -- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

- **August 16th** -- Anne Bacon reprises her speech to St. Paul's AME history brunch.

August 23rd -- Homecoming

- **August 30th** -- Regional Gathering, Frederick Friends, Frederick, MD. Plans for those staying at Hopewell, TBD**.**



June 27

Dear Hopewell Friends,

Hilde's family wishes to express our gratitude for all your love and support not only for our mom, oh how she loved you, but also for us as you've held us in the light countless times, I'm sure.

Thank you for hosting her memorial celebration of life, for writing her story (Margie Riley), for loving her and enriching both her life and ours.

With love and deep appreciation,

Deborah Fitzner (and all of us)


Blogs and
Items of
Interest
FROM THE MEMBERS OF
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING



Recent Message in Meeting for Worship

I'm compelled to write down a message that came to me in Meeting for Worship on Sunday, June 7. It was a message that had been forming in pieces and Spirit was pushing me to stand up and share it. I asked myself several times…is this for me? Is this for the Meeting? Suddenly I had to stand. Here goes my best recollection - for how can one truly capture "the" words that were spoken in Meeting?

"I have a message that has been developing over time. The first piece of this message came as Dan and I had taken our usual morning walk through our beautiful woods that we are blessed to live in and I had stopped at a 60 - 70-foot old tree that was slowly dying. Bark was accumulating around its base creating a mess and the tree itself was clearly a home for insects. As I looked at the tree I was reminded of my recent reading and conversations prompting awareness and thought of unity with nature. I started to think of what the tree might be saying to me. At some point, a strong wind is going to come and topple you, I thought. You'll become a snag or we'll hear a resounding thud and wonder which tree fell…Dan caught up with me, and I directed his eye to the tree. Then I commented about all the other trees around it - baby trees, other types of trees…this one was oak, but there are beeches, elm…and different sizes. There was a tall skinny one next to it, taller - yet younger. I thought about the foundation network of trees that we now know of and how they communicate with one another.

As I was picturing this tree during silent worship, my thoughts drifted to a Richard Rohr meditation I had read that morning about the Trinity. The main idea of the meditation was how God is presented as Father, Jesus, and Spirit. I realized this was connected to the tree…. (At this point, I had to stop as emotion suddenly welled up in me. I silently said "Help me, God.") Suddenly in my mind I started to see a circle rotating slowly and I thought about all the faith traditions in the world - Buddhist, Jewish, and so on…and how we're all a place on that

circle. Spirit is what connects us. We're all part of a current - and the current is moving. It made me think of pronouns - how they move from I to we…to us. We are prompted to ask "what is ours to do?" As Quakers we depend upon silence - and that is important to our worship and our being. Yet there comes a time when silence must be broken and voices heard. Where is our place on that circle? The "I" becomes "we", "us".

Which takes me back to the old tree in the forest. Should we always wait for something to "season", a Quaker practice? I began a body prayer of awake, allow, accept, attend. Awake, allow, accept, attend. All the trees are the forest…when we consider the "us" and "we" voices, how do we react? How do we respond? Do we hear them? Do we dismiss them? Do we shut the door on them? Do we open ourselves to what they are saying? Do we give all the voices a chance?

The pronouns make a difference…I, we, ours, us."

After writing this and letting it sit, I'm led to add an afterthought. This message could resonate in any number of ways. Here's where it is for me. Our Meeting is going through change right now - a new clerk is stepping in, and committees are shifting a bit. Several topics…music, values into action, and "what is the future bringing?" have been explored…enough? We have a wonderful resource of newer people attending who have a variety of talents…ecumenical background and practice, music, education, business, therapists, to name a few. *Are we checking in with them?* Do we know what they are seeking? Sometimes people don't know what questions to ask about "how" things are done. Have we explained enough about Quaker process and the rhythms of Hopewell Centre? Do we present a clear picture of who we are and what we're all about, both in Meeting for Worship and in community? *Have we checked in with ourselves on this?* How about the members who we haven't seen for awhile? Is there something they need that would bring them back, or are they content with their life "as it is moving"? Let's work on communicating and being a faith community that listens, hears, and responds - *individually and collectively.*

With respect and care for all,
Margie Riley



Pastoral Care
Quotable Quotes

- “Our role as pastoral carers is to be internally brave,
- and comfortable enough in our own life story to hold
- strong emotions in such a way as to offer them to be
- explored if requested, but equally, to carry them for a
- time if they are too heavy or painful”

- Steve Wickham



"Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can." —Danny Kaye

Come make Memories!!!

HOMECOMING

AUGUST 23, 2026

HOPEWELL MEETING
604 Hopewell Road
Clearbrook, VA 22624

- Clerk Bell reported on his visit with Jordan Landis at the Swarthmore College library. She showed him a 1653 transcription from George Fox with his signature on the back.



"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

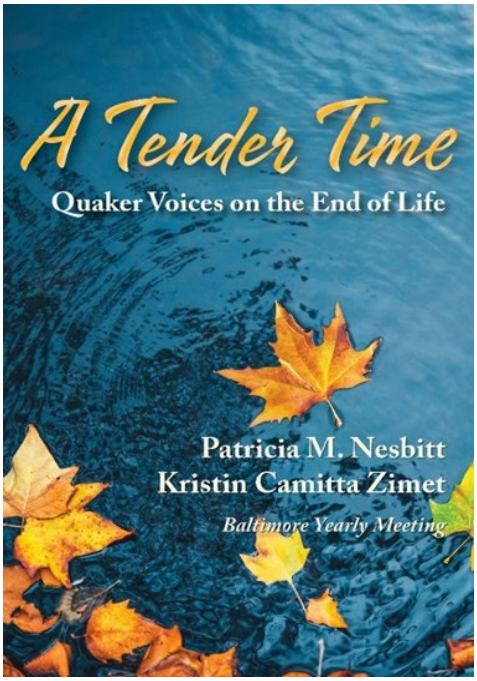
Baltimore Yearly Meeting

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.



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)

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Christian Mollitor August 3rd

Matthew Bacon August 7th

Judy Landes August 17th

Jordan Landes August 23rd

Cheryl Reynolds August 28th

(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
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