

The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting of
the Religious Society of Friends
The Fourth Month, April 2025



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

Francine and John Guiser

Eloise Haun (recently in the hospital with pneumonia)

Hilde Matheson. (Struggling with memory issues)

Betty McCormick, her daughter Susie

Rolf Menzel and his wife Judia (Rolf is currently in Hospice Care)

Gary Morgan (Severe work accident leading to serious injuries)

(for his Family Wife Susan, daughter and son-in-law Kelsey & Matthew Bacon)

Kristin Zimet (recently in the hospital with complications stemming from the Flu)

**Meeting for Worship for Business
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, March 9, 2025
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding**

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: (Continuing Quaker Education)

"If our principles are right, why should we be cowards?" "Liberty is not less a blessing, because oppression has so long darkened the mind that it can not appreciate it." "My conviction led me to adhere to the sufficiency of the light within us, resting on truth for authority, not on authority for truth." Lucretia Mott

Comments included: Very appropriate for today. Timeless words. To quote the bible: "What is truth?"

Thanksgiving and Concerns: Betty McCormick expressed joy for the news that her son Michael is now living with her for a while. He recently moved here from California. Margie Riley gave thanks for how much our community means to all of us. Dick Bell expressed a concern and a thanks for the life of Rolf Menzel as Rolf is currently nearing the end of life. All of us are holding Rolf in the light.

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

Major items included:

Contributions :

Individual and Family	\$ 780
Use of Centre	120
Youth Fund Contribution	250
Sarah Zane Fund Contribution	250

Expenses:

Quarterly Insurance payment	\$ 2,482
BYM apportionment payment	1,801
Checking Account Balance:	\$ 19,867
Youth Fund	6,510
Sarah Zane Fund	3,597

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

Ministry and Counsel: Richard Cooper gave the following report:

Ministry and Council Meeting, March 7, 2025, by Zoom

Communications: We agreed that using Dick Bell's Gateway T-Mobile WiFi worked well on the first two occasions. The committee recommends that the meeting buy its own Gateway system for \$50 a month.

Religious Education:

March 2nd – Elias Hicks, Christian Mollitor

March 9th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

March 16th – Individual tales of personal outreach supported by a presentation from Social Concerns and Outreach

March 23rd – Potluck at Centre

March 30th – Presentation by BYM staff over the mission and purpose of the Yearly Meeting

April 6th – A review of the meeting's responses to this year's Spiritual State of the Meeting queries

April 13th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

April 20th – **TBD**

April 27th – Potluck at Centre

We agreed to pursue other topics which focused on the 'loving values' of the Religious Society of Friends in planning future RE's. We also agree that it is appropriate for M&C to plan, from time to time, RE's which illustrate and inform about Quaker worship – particularly for newcomers.

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel March 7, 2025

Social Concerns and Outreach: Margie Riley reported the following:

The Spiritual Retreat to be held at Hopewell on March 29 will begin with a continental breakfast followed by a sound bath presentation by Elizabeth Bava. The Meeting approved covering the expenses for the breakfast and also approved a \$50 gratuity for Elizabeth. Check out the fabulous workshops being offered and register as soon as possible.

Building and Grounds: Jim Riley reported that tree work has been completed in the Hopewell Graveyard including the removal of a tree that fell across the stone wall. A stone mason is being considered to repair the wall where the tree fell as well as other places in the wall in need of repair. Dan Riley reported that the metal detecting has been completed at Centre. We will get a follow up report on the findings soon.

Graveyard Committee: Becky Ebert reported that a youth group from the Mormon Church has offered to clean up the Hopewell graveyard as part of their outreach. Thanks expressed by all. She also reminded us of the ongoing project of organizing the graveyard burial records. Bob Pidgeon's two sons have recently installed a grave marker at Bob's grave.

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

Hilde Matheson who is struggling with memory issues.

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

Eloise Haun who was briefly hospitalized with pneumonia and is now recovering at home.

Rolf Menzel who is in hospice care and also Judia who is by his side.

Karen Nelson's niece Katie who is in Ghana on a mission trip to bring wheelchairs to disabled children there.

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

New Business:

- There are signup sheets on the refreshment display table for Friendly Eights. One idea put forth was for a group to have a discussion theme if so desired. Each group will need to have someone as a contact person.
- The Meeting approved financing up to two weeks at Camp Catoctin for Layla and Nalani McGill. Two weeks for two campers costs \$6,600.
- The Meeting approved donating \$1,000 to help with the \$50,000 shortfall in the 2024 camping program. The shortfall comes from a sliding registration fee so that campers unable to pay the full tuition can still attend and experience the joy camping.
- The Meeting approved paying the \$50 per month fee for the Gateway WiFi system referenced in the Ministry and Counsel report.
- If you are in the donating mood, Camp Opequon could use your help. The camp has many extra expenses associated with their recent move to Rolling Ridge.

Announcements:

March 15 - St. Paul's AME Church's Black History luncheon at Laurel Ridge Community College campus

March 22 – Interim Meeting at Alexandria

March 29 - Spiritual Retreat at Hopewell

April 27 - Blue Ridge Singers at First Baptist Church, 3:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Betty McCormick, Dan Riley, Margie Riley, Martha Hanley, Karen Nelson, Judy McCarthy, Maureen O'Hara, Christian Mollitor, Charlie Mortensen, Anne Bacon, Richard Cooper, Becky Ebert, and Maggie Stetler

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk



CALENDAR

- March 30th** --- BYM Staff - Mission and Purpose of Yearly Meeting
- April 6th** --- Review Spiritual State of the Meeting Query Responses
- April 13th** --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- April 20th** --- **Easter Sunday (RE: TBD)**
- April 27rd** --- Potluck at Centre Meeting



Blogs and Items of Interest

FROM THE MEMBERS OF
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING



From the clerk

One of the biggest phenomena I've experienced being a Quaker is the level and quantity of friendships I've acquired. Leaving my home monthly meeting aside, I have acquired an abundance of friends being a Quaker.

It all began with my men's council: there I met several men who went on to become great friends. Among them were John Thelen and Tim Brown. John had just given up his career of being a monk at Holy Cross monastery outside Berryville, VA. John loved this conference or get together he attended in Pennsylvania which he sold as men's council – only better. He ground on me for years but finally got me to go. John had been right. He introduced me to the Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology (FCRP). There I met a world of friends that I'll flesh out later. Tim, a birthright Quaker and member of Goose Creek meeting, picked up on my newfound interest in Quakerism and took me over a period of several weeks to Centre, Hopewell, and Frederick meeting for worship. Interestingly, we never attended his home meeting in Lincoln, VA. You know which one I picked. Tim, one of my (five or six!) Quaker twins, found out about a job at Powhatan through me and was hired. We taught together for eight years.

My connection with the Friends Conference grew over the years as I became a member of the Planning Committee and served as co-clerk with Loy Shaw-Jones until I graduated out. Loy, Marion Snipes (our peerless small interest groups organizer – she'd walk into this upscale storage area at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA, and say, "This would be perfect for Yoga." And to our amazement it always was!), and I came to be known as the triplets. We wowed them when we all graduated off the committee and sang together "The Triplets" at the conference No Talent Talent Show (guess what Quaker you know who came up with that sobriquet?). Fred Astaire, Nanette Fabray, and Jack Buchanan had nothing on us.

Marion was one of the first two people to greet me when I attended my first conference. The other was Mike Conklin. Mike was (is) one of those idea guys that makes any committee hum. You know him as Patti Nesbitt's husband. Any room Mike enters is filled with energy and laughter. If they ever named a town after Mike they'd have to put in the HEART of the country and make it huge. He's my second twin (I know, I know).

Three of my other twins, Stephen McDonnell, John Sappington, and Riley Robinson, also came from the conference. Stephen, a Sixth Avenue NY therapist, first made his appearance at the Washington Friends Conference of Religion and immediately acquired the title of 'clerk in waiting.' He was. He proved to be an all-star. John Sappington is a half-Ukrainian, my age, who spreads joy all over Philadelphia. He is a terrific artist and LOVES flamenco. If the two of us are in the same room talking, you seriously might consider pumping in some more oxygen (mass quantities). When I went on the FCRP Planning Committee, I replaced Riley Robinson (how could anyone replace Riley?). It always seemed as if we shared a room at the big conference. From attending numerous meetings of all stripes (Riley went on to become General Secretary of BYM) with him, I learned no one has a better sense of humor or keener wit. These are Friends and Gentlemen I'd show off to any crowd.

My last, but *cosmic* twin, is Casey Willson – of our own meeting. (Yes, I know someone can't have six twins.) I got to know Casey and Meg when they began attending meeting. They went on to found and lead a hugely successful FCNL Advocacy Team in my part of West Virginia. I had to give up my membership in that team when I became clerk. Along the way I discovered just how compelling and eloquent (particularly with the written word) Casey could be. Also – this is the biggie – Casey and I were born on the same day, the same year, and, possibly, the same hour. (Is the theme of *The Twilight Zone* playing in your head yet?)

And I haven't even mentioned the twelve million other friends I have made since I've been a Friend... So many worlds open with a smile and simple hello.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Dixon Bell, clerk

March 18, 2025

Amazing Grace

That first Easter
morning, God filled
the earth with hope
so real, joy so pure, and
love so true - our hearts
still rejoice today.

Easter Sunday
Kelly's Treehouse
Blessings





GOOSE CREEK MINUTE

The Goose Creek Religious Society of Friends Meeting is concerned for the physical safety and humanitarian needs of undocumented immigrants and refugees in this country, especially in light of changing political priorities. We are aware of our interdependence with immigrants, documented and undocumented alike, as well as the contributions these persons make to our community. Consistent with our testimonies, we affirm that all persons are entitled to liberty and the opportunity to work and pursue their goals. We abhor the dehumanization of persons by policies that separate families and round up, detain, or deport individuals as though they were less than human.

We believe it is essential to establish responsible, fair, and reasonable criteria for future immigration and amnesty policies and processes. We believe current undocumented immigrants should be provided a path to permanent residency and citizenship. We advocate the expansion of guest registry for foreign workers, which would enable them to temporarily work in this country with legal status. Our immigration laws should be tightly enforced throughout the system but with consistency, fairness, and basic respect for human needs.

We intend to participate with other Meetings, Quaker organizations, faith communities, and groups to address this concern.

PATHWAYS TO LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Storer Ballroom, Shepherd University

210 North King Street

Shepherdstown, WV 25443

April 2, 2025

7:00 p.m. -- 9:00 p.m.

Followed by audience engagement and refreshments.



Join us to engage in constructive dialogue about

- **the current situation in the Middle East**
- **how we can educate and advocate for peace.**

Panelists:



Nazar Farsakh
Political Analyst



Ruti Kadish
Founder of
Trovanot



Rev. Gusti Linnea
Newquis, Shepherdstown
Presbyterian Church



Philip Farah
Palestinian Christian
Alliance for Peace

CO-SPONSORS

Eastern Panhandle T.E.A.M. (Together educating and advocating for Middle east peace)

The Muslim Students Association of Shepherd University

Martinsburg-Berkeley County NAACP, Branch 3242

Eastern Panhandle Green Coalition

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church

Others to be confirmed

Please RSVP at [this link](#). First 150 to RSVP will be welcomed in person.
All others will be emailed a link to join on Zoom.

Anchored in Song

featuring *The Lighthouse Keeper*
by Jake Runestad

Friday, April 25, 2025

7:30pm

Front Royal Presbyterian Church
115 Luray Ave.
Front Royal, VA

Sunday, April 27, 2025

3:00pm

First Baptist Church of Winchester
205 W. Piccadilly St.
Winchester, VA

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

7:30pm

All Saints Catholic Church
9300 Stonewall Rd.
Manassas, VA

Sunday, May 4, 2025

3:00pm

Trinity Episcopal Church
9108 John S. Mosby Hwy.
Upperville, VA



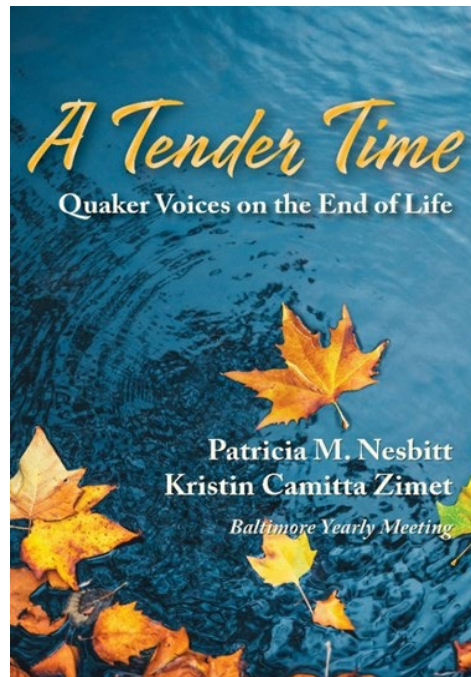
Marion Park Lewis Foundation

FREE CONCERT • SUGGESTED DONATION \$15.00

Artwork by: Harold Newton

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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*

On 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.

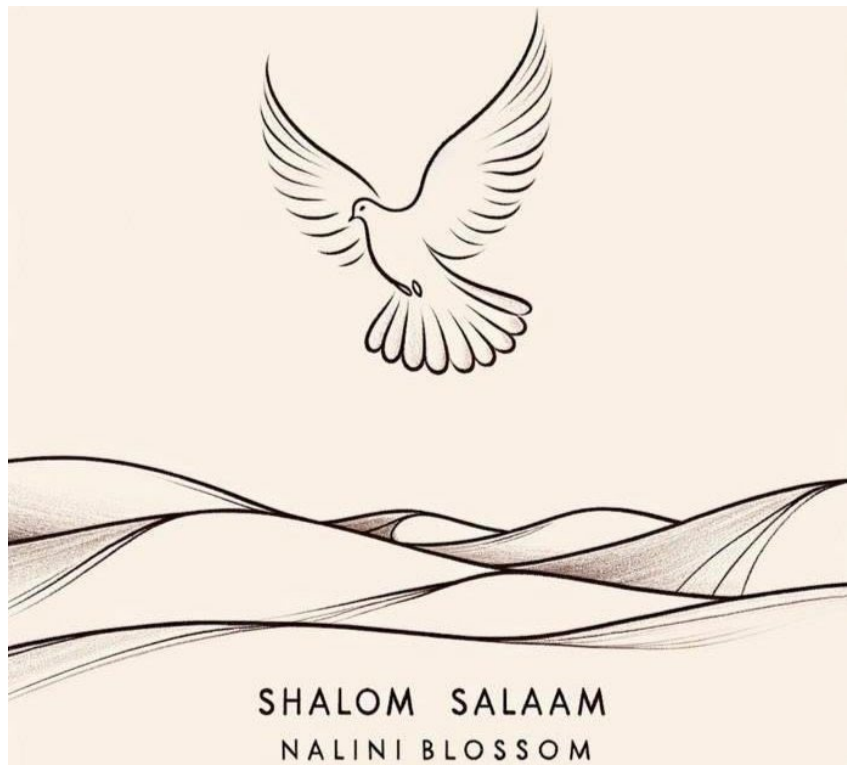
A Tender Time is for sale now from Pendle Hill Bookstore and from FGC QuakerBooks. It will be available from major commercial outlets in Fall 2024. Contact admin@bym-rsf.org for bulk sales.

COACHING PEACE



Linda Wilk, MAPC

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



Perspective of Palestinian Quakers Recording Now Available

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

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.



Saturday Spiritual Retreats June 28th 8:30-Noon

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



April 17th Jim Riley

April 20th Kristin Zimet

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

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