

The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting of
the Religious Society of Friends
The Eleventh Month, November 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

Judy Enterline & Pam Hambach, Pastoral Care Judith_se@yahoo.com, pmbach@comcast.net

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

Pam Hambach and Judy Enterline are asking us to hold the following in the light:
See additional information in the Pastoral Care Report below

Anne Bacon's Cousin, Marion Stump

Francine and John Guiser

Debbie and Ryan Lynch

Hilde Matheson.

Betty McCormick, her daughter Susie

Meeting for Worship for Business
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, October 12, 2025
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: (Continuing Quaker Education)

“There is much work to be done which is not paid, but which is vital, desperately undervalued and undertaken to a large extent by women. I refer, of course, to caring for children and/or elderly disabled relatives and homemaking. The work itself is often hard, stressful, mundane and repetitive, unseen and unacknowledged, with low status. We need a transformation of our attitudes to this work, giving it all the esteem it deserves.” Jane Stokes

Comments included: Somewhat dated. Historically speaking, women were always the unsung heroes. The founding fathers left the important task of caring for each other and for the earth to the women. The quote speaks true to the care my sister-in-law gave my father for many months during the end of his life. Laura Nell Obaugh’s caregiver was a remarkable human being, staying with and caring for Laura Nell 24 - 7 during her end of life. What a mess we would be in if there were no women in this world. Many men have also taken on the work mentioned in the quote. My marriage was a total partnership. I witnessed a young man taking on the role of fatherhood with their newborn incorporating many of the tasks traditionally associated with the mother.

Thanksgiving and Concerns: Martha Hanley gave thanks to those who have contributed to the fundraiser for Jennifer Dyer (see Old Business for more details). Jennifer has recently been taken under the care of a wonderful neurologist and has found a possible new place to live. (Ed. note: Martha has been a caring angel for Jennifer for many moons). Betty McCormick thanked Margie Riley and her committee for all of their work in organizing the most recent and wonderful spiritual retreat. Dick Bell expressed much gratitude to his family for their support in firstly, his trip to New York to visit with family (especially his twin granddaughters) and secondly, being there for him and other members of the family during time of his Dad’s recent passing and funeral.

Treasurer’s Report: Jim Riley gave the treasurer’s report for September:

Note: This is an incomplete report due to Jim’s travel time. An update will be forthwith next month.

Major items included:

Contributions:

Individual and Family	\$ 965
Use of Centre	120
Sarah Zane Fund	620
Youth Fund	10,000

Expenses:

Newspaper ads	\$ 45
Sarah Zane withdrawal	300
Mowing	470
Utilities	292
Graveyard	125

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 14,304
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Fund totals:	Rogers	\$ 52,466
	Sarah Zane	3,901
	Youth	11,435

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

Ministry and Counsel: No report

Social Concerns and Outreach: Margie Riley reported the following:

We have not had a recent meeting but have been keeping up with items through email.

Recently we recognized World Quaker Day on October 5th with a small group of us creating a Quaker presence on the Winchester Old Town Walking Mall that Sunday afternoon. Kevin Slick played guitar and sang a variety of songs supporting peace and social concerns, while three other Hopewell Centre folks joined in singing and representing Quakers. A sign saying "Today is World Quaker Day. Did you know that The Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers, have been making good trouble for almost 400 years? Freedom for ALL!" was in front of the group.

We also had our Fall Interfaith Spirituality Retreat on Saturday, Oct. 11, at Hopewell Meeting House. Elizabeth Bava led a guided meditation with chimes, Christine Kestner led a session on Tai 'Chi/Qigong, and there was a silent reflection/meditation time. We had a dozen participants, and the feedback was very positive. We'll put together a summary of the three Interfaith Spirituality Retreats for 2026 planning purposes. Anyone interested in working on that should contact Margie Riley.

There's a WATTS dinner date coming up in November. Becky Ebert will coordinate the details with the help of Jonathan Tolman.

We have two new items to be discussed during new business: coordinating Hopewell Centre volunteer shirts/hats, and our involvement/support of two minutes addressing current social concerns.

Building and Grounds: The graveyard wall repair is mostly complete with one more area left.

Pastoral Care:

Please hold these Friends in the Light:

New concerns:

Debbie and Ryan Lynch. Ryan has been in the hospital. The diagnosis of a medical condition is underway.

Please sign the card for Hilde Matheson. Martha Hanley will send it to her shortly.

Ongoing Concerns:

Judy Enterline continues to recover from hip surgery.

Anne Bacon's cousin Marion Stump, who has metastatic cancer.

John and Francine Guiser, who continue to struggle with various health issues.

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

Old Business: Martha Hanley has asked members for their continuing support of Jennifer Dyer. A fundraising page (similar to Go Fund Me) has been set up for Jennifer at givebutter.com/OiHLBW.

New Business: Jim Riley announced that the memorial service for Laura Nell Obaugh will be held on October 25 at Hopewell at 2 p.m. with a reception after the service. Zoom will be available for those unable to come in person. Margie Riley wrote a memorial minute for Laura Nell with the help of Hopewell Centre Friends and Laura Nell's spiritual formation group. She will read it at the service and Jim will send a copy of it to BYM. Laura Nell left her body to science so there will be no immediate burial. However, her ashes will probably ultimately be returned to Hopewell to be buried with her husband Felix under their tree behind the Meeting House.

Margie Riley reported that Social Concerns and Outreach asked for a working group to coordinate getting Hopewell Centre 'merch' - for purchase on-line. There would be a variety of logos etc. to choose to match whatever color/shirt...hat...bag... you'd like.

Anne Bacon and Kevin Slick volunteered to look into two websites that they have worked with before, compare notes, and set up some choices. IF ANYONE WANTS TO JOIN IN WITH THEM, PLEASE LET ANNE KNOW. Thank you to Anne and Kevin!!

Social Concerns and Outreach asked for a second working group to look at two minutes regarding current social issues that Shepherdstown and Goose Creek have written. The minute from Shepherdstown Meeting addresses the harm our current government is causing and the Goose Creek minute addresses immigration. We don't need to rewrite or reinvent...but we do feel a committee should look at these items and make recommendations to the Meeting about how to support them.

The following people volunteered to be a working group for this...Dick Bell, Anne Bacon, Betty McCormick, and Katherine Chatard. The sense was that 4 people would be a good size to work together...if it's more than that it can get cumbersome. However - if anyone feels a strong pull to be involved, give any of them a call. Thank you to this group!!

Announcements:

October 25: Memorial Service for Laura Nell Obaugh at 2 p.m. at Hopewell.

Mid November: WATTS dinner at Market Street Methodist Church. Stay tuned for the date.

Nov. 20 - Thursday, we are hosting Coming to the Table at Centre Meeting House in the evening for a presentation by Shepherdstown member Lisa McQuail, speaking on "Agricultural Science Based Abolition Writings" from Quaker Samuel M. Janey (1801- 1880), a member of Hopewell Meeting.

Sunday, Nov. 23 - We are hosting a regional worship and potluck at Hopewell (note the change from being at Centre Meeting on 4th Sundays) with Goose Creek, Shepherdstown, and Frederick MD. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE. :-)

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In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Margie Riley, Dan Riley, Richard Cooper, Donna Knight, Diane Popik, Anne Bacon, Betty McCormick, Ed Tilley, Sheila Tilley, Katherine Chatard, and Martha Hanley.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk



From the clerk

Autumn. The great river of life that is summer abates and slips away, almost like Lost River slips away into an aquifer. This season of abatement often adorns itself with the brilliant colors of trees for its final show as the chlorophyll of leaves returns to the plant leaving vivid trace elements behind. I saw the breathtaking pageantry of the Adirondacks as my son Tom drove me to the airport in Albany from Saranac Lake October 4th. I had never seen such a display of colors...and I have spent a lion's share of my life in sight of the Blue Ridge. I also knew the colors meant life was taking a different form and that like Lost River reemerges as the Cacapon, the river of Healing Waters, a mountain range away, so too would life return, cleansed by winter, greener and richer from the experience of time.

My father died since I last wrote. It was not at all unexpected. In fact, for him, for us, it was a release. I told a friend the next day that it was like a part of my life was born anew. The background noise of dad's long twilight, the part of me that every minute knew he was failing and flailing at how to make his final exit, was gone. A terrible urgency ended and resolved itself into a glorious autumn day where we celebrated his life and memorialized him. We laughed. We told stories. We ate and drank heartily.

Somehow a hundred or more of his extended family showed up. I don't know where they all came from. Because of dad's extended age, he was an amazing 96, my brothers and I expected about six people. But the younger folks came through, and they remembered the days that dad and the family had been part of. My favorites were first cousin, once-removed Sara's Ali, Leo and Max. They were so cute dressed up. And behaved as if they were little putti, joyfully hanging from some Rococo heaven, affirming life with their mere presence.

My cosmic twin, born the same day and the same year as me, Casey Willson fell and broke his hip recently, so yesterday I paid him a visit. Earlier in my 75th year I suffered an accident in which I broke my neck and have been recovering from it ever since. We both lamented what is this 75th year stuff? Is this the beginning of the great diminishment? We're both pretty active fellows and seeing him work his walker and me hobble along did raise the topic. We're still scrappy, and maybe it's a false star we're following, but we both pledged to reassert ourselves and return to regular life. As proof Casey forwarded me an email he wrote our representative, Congressman Moore:

"Dear Rep. Moore,

You use Matthew 5: verse 9 to introduce your latest update in reference to the president. Surely you are aware that Christ's Sermon on the Mount comprises chapters 5 through 7 of the Gospel of Matthew. I urge you to analyze djt's behavior, language, motives, and history in the context of the full Sermon. You will find him falling far short of any congruence with the teachings of Christ.

The hypocrisy of maga and its sycophants knows no limit. Plus, the shutdown is a GOP problem rooted in the party's negligence of the common good and its allegiance to an elite authoritarian self-serving oligarchy- exactly what the Founders feared.

I urge you to abandon your use of maga rhetoric and find your own voice to support our Republic."

Speaking truth to power. Showing a command of the Gospel. A Quaker doing his best to bend an ear of the mighty.

I had a dream when I turned 75. In it a voice told me get ready for the second act. If my good buddy Casey is any indication, it promises to be a great one.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Dixon Bell, clerk

October 16, 2025



CALENDAR

October 31st --- Trick or Treating Children – Be Careful!!

November 2nd --- To be determined

November 9th --- To be determined

November 16th --- To be determined

November 20th --- Coming to the Table at Centre Meeting House

November 23rd --- We are hosting a regional worship and potluck at
Hopewell

November 27th --- Thanksgiving

An abstract graphic on the left side of the page. It features a dense cluster of small, semi-transparent dots in various colors including green, yellow, orange, and red. These dots are interconnected by a web of thin, light-colored lines, creating a complex, organic shape that resembles a network or a stylized map. The background is a dark, gradient brown.

Blogs and Items of Interest

FROM THE MEMBERS OF
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING

ENTER HIS GATES WITH

Thanksgiving

AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE:
GIVE THANKS TO HIM AND PRAISE
HIS NAME. FOR THE LORD IS GOOD
AND HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER:
HIS FAITHFULNESS CONTINUES
THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS.

PSALM 100:4-5






Letters to the Editor

Dear Reader,


Some suggestions for post-minutes engagement:

- * Is there anyone mentioned in the minutes you would like to send a greeting to?
- * Is there an upcoming event that you need to put on your calendar?
- * Do you have a concern or an idea that you would like to send to Ministry and Counsel?
- * Do you have an item of old or new business that you would like the Clerk to put on the agenda for the November business meeting?
- * Did you check the Hospitality report to see if we need more cheese?

Cheers,
Dan



Pastoral Care Quotable Quotes



The hardest arithmetic to
master is that which enables
us to count our blessings.

Eric Hoffer

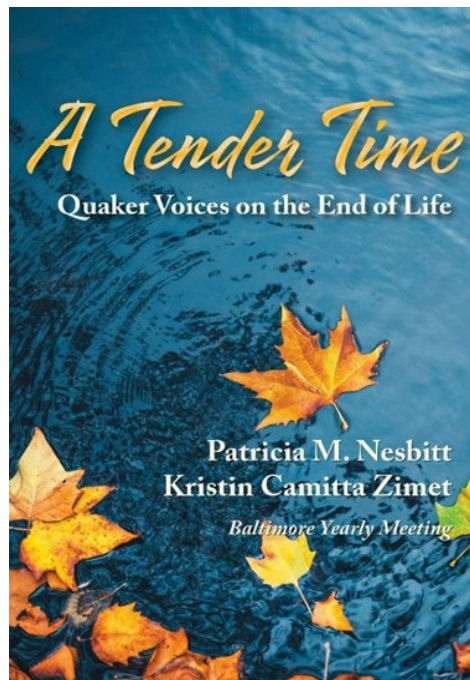
Support the Highland Food Pantry

The main fundraiser for the Highland Food Pantry called Men on a Mission will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Winchester on **Saturday, November 1 from 5 to 7 pm**. This is a yearly event where attendees can sample dishes created by volunteer chefs who are men in the community. Dishes include appetizers, soups, chili, main dishes and desserts. There will also be a live auction. Information about the food pantry will be on display as well as other surprises.

Hopewell Centre Meeting has been a faithful supporter of the Highland Food Pantry for many years. One hundred percent of the ticket sales goes to support the pantry since sponsors and the church cover other expenses. Tickets are \$30 but remember, it all goes to the pantry. Betty McCormick and Jim Riley have tickets so please support this project if you can.

If you want to learn more about the Highland Food Pantry, visit their website: highlandpantrywinc.org.





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.

*We have Re's using queries from this book from time to time.
Get a copy, you will be glad you did)*

COACHING PEACE



Linda Wilk, MAPC

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 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
- 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



Nov. 20 - Thursday, we are hosting Coming to the Table at Centre Meeting House

Nov. 23 - Sunday, We are hosting a regional worship and potluck at Hopewell (note the change from being at Centre Meeting on 4th Sundays) with Goose Creek, Shepherdstown, and Frederick MD



A Picture of Potluck at Centre Meeting House

submitted by Joshua Riley

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



Lisa Mortensen November 1st

Dick Bell November 7th

Becky Ebert November 10th

Bob Huntsberry November 14th

Peter Ford November 17th

Betty McCormick November 17th

Michele Christopher November 20th

Pamela Hambach November 26th

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

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