

The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting of
the Religious Society of Friends
The Third Month, March 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

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

Francine and John Guiser

Mike Hambach (recovering from recent surgery.)

Janet Harrison (awaiting kidney transplant)

Eloise Haun who is coping with declining health

Hilde Matheson.

Betty McCormick, her daughter Susie

Gary Morgan (Severe work accident leading to serious injuries)

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

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

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: (Continuing Quaker Education)

Darkness is no less desirable than light. It is rather, a rich source of creativity... First there is the darkness of the earth in which the seeds wait all through the winter. Second, there is the darkness of the womb in which the young mammal grows into sufficient viability to be born and take its place on earth, as a separate being.... And third, there is the darkness of night, when the garish sun has gone down and the things of earth are blotted out, and we may glimpse the vastness of the universe of which we are part...

We say that God is the Inner Light, but I want to affirm that also the Inner Darkness, and I do not mean desolation or evil, but a quiet waiting and creativity. "The darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee." – Elizabeth Watson, "Your God is Too Small", 1996

Comments included: Amen. Lovely. Darkness is a rest from distraction. Darkness is your creative time.

Thanksgiving and Concerns: Judy Enterline expressed a concern for her son Darren who works for USAID. A recent executive order may put his job in jeopardy. Betty McCormick expressed joy for the news that her son Michael is moving back to this area from California, Donna Knight gave thanks for a safe trip that she and her father had when they drove from Florida to Winchester. With regard to the executive orders that place government employee's jobs in jeopardy, Margie Riley gave thanks for the people who know the legal steps to take to provide checks and balances for these orders. Martha Hanley reminded us of the law suit that is designed to keep ICE from making arrests in places of worship.

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

Major items included:

Individual and Family	\$ 820
Use of Centre	695

Expenses:

Painting of windows at Hopewell	\$ 3,200
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Checking Account Balance:	\$ 23,843
Rogers Fund	48,000
Youth Fund	6,259
Sarah Zane Fund	3,346

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

Ministry and Counsel: Donna Knight gave the following report:

Ministry and Council Meeting, February 3, 2025, by Zoom

We began by discussing communications. We may have a solution to the perennial Wi-Fi problem in which Dick Bell buys the service as his own, using Donna Knight's modem (our current source). Dick would use the service at home and bring it to meeting. Concerning calls to the meeting's phone number, we are exploring options where a signal may be left when a call comes in with a message that would be non-onerous to the caretakers (Pam and Mike).

Religious Education:

On February 2nd –we discussed the last of four Spiritual State of the Meeting, **“As we work for peace, are we nourished by peace and justice within and among ourselves?”** The clerk is now calling for anyone who has taken notes on any of the queries to get them to him so that he may begin writing narratives.

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

February 16th – Earth Care proposal for BYM *Faith and Practice*, a review

February 23rd – Potluck at Centre

March 2nd – *Elias Hicks, Christian Mollitor (Any of the next three RE's may be in any order, depending on dates of availability.)

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

March 16th – *Presentation by BYM staff over the mission and purpose of the Yearly Meeting

March 23rd – Potluck at Centre

March 30th - *Individual tales of personal outreach supported by a presentation from Social Concerns and Outreach

The clerk reported on his continuing progress toward full health.

Becky Ebert presented ideas and proposals from Social Concerns and Outreach: among which were M&C focusing on the welcoming and supporting new members, SC and Outreach focusing on reaching out outside the meeting, a powerful and beautiful new pamphlet to be now available to newcomers, and a reintroduction of Friendly 8's (a valuable social activity which deepens our bonds within the meeting).

Respectfully submitted, Ministry and Counsel February 6, 2025

Social Concerns and Outreach: Margie Riley reported the following:

The committee met on Jan. 19, 2025 by Zoom. Present were Becky Ebert, Anne Bacon, Betty McCormick, Kristin Zimet, and Margie Riley.

The following items were discussed:

Parking at Centre during Apple Blossom -

This was resumed and successfully accomplished last year. ***For the Feb. Meeting for Worship for Business...Does the Meeting approve using Centre for Apple Blossom parking this year, given the field is in good shape? APPROVED***

If approved, a working committee would discuss the protocols and consider whether this could be an outreach opportunity with some kind of handout/item/etc.

Saturday Spiritual Retreats -

The idea is to have two Saturday morning spiritual retreats this spring that would offer choices to participants for engaging in and deepening their spiritual practice. A planning committee would put together the activities which may include guided meditations and other meditation practices such as sound baths. The format would be simple - a continental breakfast, workshop choices, full group sharing/follow-up. We would hope to involve people from other faith traditions in the planning group.

Dates we are proposing: Saturday, March 29 and Saturday, June 28

For the Feb. Meeting for Worship for Business...Does the Meeting approve hosting two Saturday spiritual retreats? APPROVED

Protocol or guidelines for forwarding items of interest/information to the Meeting-

-We will ask the clerk to continue to be the contact for forwarding items of interest to the Meeting at large.

-Items should be related to our Quaker concerns. We encourage sharing of articles, events, and information pertinent to our testimonies. We don't want to censor information, yet we ask that items of political nature be nonpartisan.

-The notation of "FYI - Outreach" would be used in the address line so members would recognize the items.

-If the sender doesn't see the item forwarded, they should check with the clerk to see if it wasn't initially received, inadvertently deleted, was repetitious, or deemed inappropriate to send to the full Meeting.

Everyone is encouraged to send items of interest to the Clerk for email sharing. Please use the notation FYI - Outreach.

Networking of our individual outreach activity -

Many members are active with different community outreach and knowing these activities would be helpful should anyone need a particular resource or want to be of particular support.

We would like Ministry and Counsel to schedule an RE where members/attenders share their community involvement activities. We will create an excel spreadsheet listing people and what they're doing and add it to the back of the directory. A copy will also be kept on the bulletin board at Hopewell.

Welcoming information for visitors and new attenders -

We appreciate what the working group has put together. The current draft of the brochure and use of bulletin board space was discussed at the January Meeting for Worship for Business with no objections.

Since that Meeting, several brochure edits were suggested that prompted the committee to differentiate between Quakerism 101- an introduction to Quakers, and Quakerism 102 - deepening an understanding of Quakerism. The committee suggests that Ministry and Counsel periodically consider offering Quakerism 101, 102 as Adult RE sessions or Saturday workshops, as needed. Two edits were made to the brochure, and Martha is working on the next step of having it printed.

Spiritual Formation groups, Discussion groups, and Friendly 8's -

The committee discussed the differences between these groups and referred organizing them to Ministry and Counsel.

WATTS. Feb 22. 5:00 pm. This year we will not be registering as a team - but we will meet up and walk together. Contact Margie Riley mcweducatorphone@gmail with any questions and let her know if you plan to participate.

Building and Grounds: Jim Riley reported that the light bulb in the originally designated men's bathroom has been replaced.

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

Francine and John Guiser

Hilde Matheson

Janet Harrison and her husband Andy Mosholder who is a Federal employee

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

Eloise Haun

Mike Hambach who is recovering from recent surgery

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

New Business: Jim Riley reported that we need to consider sending a kid to camp. If we can find someone locally, all the better. If not, he proposed that we donate \$3,300 to BYM camps to pay for two weeks for a camper. The camps use a sliding scale for fees and this is the true cost for one camper for two weeks. The Meeting approved this proposal adding that we could also send 2 campers for one week or even go above the \$3,300 if necessary.

Jim also reported that we have received a large, framed print of Hopewell done by Alf Lupton. It belonged to Ann Janney who died in Arizona. Her executor asked if we wanted it. He told her to send it on which she did. One idea is that it could be used as part of a fundraiser. Other suggestions are welcome, but for now as one person expressed it, we seem to be on the bubble. Wrapped up the discussion for now.

Announcements:

March 15th – Earth Care report due to BYM

April 15th – Spiritual State of the Meeting due to BYM

February 22 - WATTS Walk - 5 p.m.

In Attendance: Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Betty McCormick, Dan Riley, Margie Riley, Donna Knight, Martha Hanley, Judy Enterline, Karen Nelson, Scott Lynch, John Guiser, and Kristin Zimet.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk



CALENDAR

- March 2nd** --- "Elias Hicks and Stand Against Slavery"
(Presented by Christian Mollitor)
- March 9th** --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- March 16th** --- Presentation by BYM Staff (waiting to finalize)
- March 17th** --- St. Patrick's Day
- March 23rd** --- Potluck at Centre Meeting
- March 30th** --- Individual Tales of Personal Outreach (waiting to finalize)
(Presented by Social Concerns and Outreach Committee)



Blogs and Items of Interest

FROM THE MEMBERS OF
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING



Patrick

I arise today
through God's

strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me from
snares of the devil, temptations,
and every one who desires me ill.

Amen

from the Lorica of St. Patrick



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

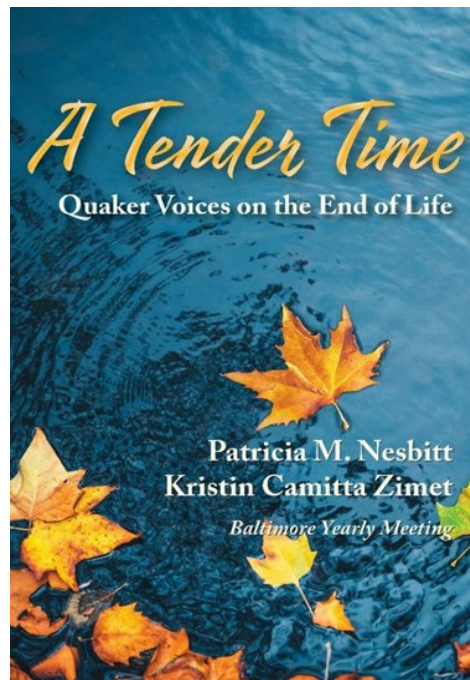
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

- 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*

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.

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.



NATIONAL CALL FOR REPENTANCE & TRUTH-TELLING

ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 5, 2025
11 am ET

Gathering at Saint Mark's
Episcopal Church, 301 A Street SE

Procession to the U.S. Supreme Court
& Capitol

A MORAL & PROPHETIC STAND

Clergy, faith leaders, and people of conscience will **stand together in prayer, lament, and moral resistance**—calling our nation to **repentance** from **injustice, apathy, corruption, and oppression**.

Clergy are asked to wear full vestments of their faith tradition.

Conveners: Bishop William J. Barber, II, the Repairers of the Breach Prophetic Council and other denominational and faith leaders.



*A nonviolent walk from the Supreme Court to the Capitol
will be a sacred act of witness and truth-telling.*

REPAIRERS
OF THE BREACH

Register here: <https://bit.ly/ROTB-AshWednesday>

The Reparations Action Working Group of BYM
invites you to a presentation by

Rev. Dr. Robert Turner

Creating a Culture of Repair

Saturday, March 8, 2025

1:00 pm

At Stony Run Friends Meeting

In person and online

Refreshments and book signing will follow the talk

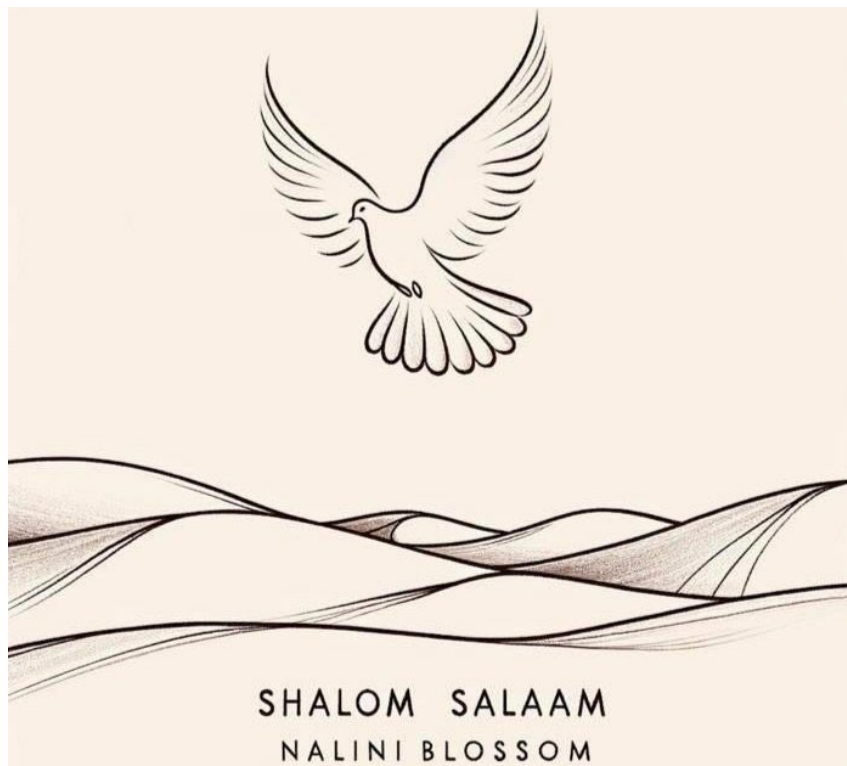
Please join us in person if you can!

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>



Saturday Spiritual Retreats March 29th and 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)



March 9th Robin Landes

March 13th Carol Buck

March 15th Hilde Mattheson

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

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Clear Brook, VA 22624