

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Second Month 2011

WEEKLY	CURRENT EVENTS			MONTHLY	
<p>EACH 1ST DAY: (Sunday)</p> <p><u>10-30-11-30 am</u> <i>Meeting for Worship</i> <i>First Day School</i> <i>for younger children</i> <i>join Meeting during</i> <i>or after Worship</i></p> <p><u>12:00-12:30 pm</u> <i>Silent Peace Vigil</i> <i>in front of the</i> <i>meetinghouse_</i></p> <p>EACH 4TH DAY (Wednesday)</p> <p><u>8:30- 9 am</u> <i>Meeting for Worship</i> <i>All are welcome</i> <i>with special</i> <i>invitation to School</i> <i>and Meeting</i> <i>Community</i></p> <p><u>7 pm</u> <i>Mid-Week Prayer</i> <u>7:30 pm</u> <i>Worship Sharing</i> <i>Query: "What is the</i> <i>spiritual vision, the</i> <i>light and life, of our</i> <i>Meeting" Where</i> <i>does Meeting feel</i> <i>led?"</i></p>	3/8/2011	6 pm	JCOC Shelter Meal	<p><u>1st First Days</u> 12:30 pm Silent Peace Vigil in front of the Meetinghouse</p> <p><u>2nd First Days</u> 8:30 am <i>Meeting for</i> <i>Worship with</i> <i>attention to</i> <i>Business</i></p> <p><u>3rd First Days</u> 9 am <i>First Day School</i> <i>Discussion –</i> <i>Pendle Hill</i> <i>Pamphlet, "The</i> <i>Use of Silence"</i></p> <p><u>4th First Days</u> 9 am <i>Meeting of</i> <i>Ministry and</i> <i>Oversight</i></p>	
	3/18/2011	6-9 pm	Finding our Way through Conflict – Third in a series of workshops- Topic for this workshop, "I Am Peace"		
	3/20/2011	12:30 pm	Brown Bag Lunch with discussion topic on the Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "The Mind of Christ, Bill Taber on Meeting for Business"		
	4/4/2011		Closing of the Season for Peace & Nonviolence , an interfaith ceremony held at the Martin Luther Park – corner of Brambleton and Church Streets in downtown Norfolk		
	4/6/2011	6 pm	JCOC Shelter Meal		
	4/21-25		No school - Easter Break, Office will be open on the 21st		
	4/23/2011		Representative Body – location tentatively set for West Grove Meeting		
	2011 EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES				
	Tuesdays & Saturdays	7 am	7 am each Tuesday & Saturday_ <u>CATHOLIC WORKER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Breakfast on the Streets:</u> (prep begins at 6 am at Sacred heart Church). Serve and share a meal with over 100 brothers and sisters left out of the downtown boom, on Armistead St. (behind the HRT building on Monticello).		
	5/29/2011	3 pm	Yearly Meeting Inter-visitation gathering in Greenville NC		
7/13-17 2011		Yearly Meeting at UNC Wilmington Campus, Wilmington NC			
2011	4 pm May 3 October 6 November 8	JCOC Meeting/School serves the meal at the shelter to feed the homeless. Contact Tracy Paladini to volunteer 392-1480 tpaladini@yahoo.com			

Meeting Query #8 to ponder for next month: *Do we observe simplicity and honesty in our manner of living? Are we careful to live within the bounds of our circumstances, punctual in keeping promises, prompt in the payment of debts, and just in all our dealings? Do we choose those activities which will strengthen our physical, mental, and spiritual life; and do we avoid those harmful to ourselves and others?*

MEETING QUERY # 7: *Do we endeavor to live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war, seeking to do our part in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations? Do we faithfully maintain our testimony against nuclear and all other military preparations, the bearing of arms, and all participation in war?*

Response: As a Meeting we have recently committed to a weekly silent vigil held in front of our Meetinghouse protesting the use of violence and war in resolving conflicts. We have also recently participated in two workshops on interpersonal conflict management skills as part of an ongoing series of programs focused on improving our personal choices in conflict sponsored by our Peace and Social Justice Committee. As individuals and as a Meeting, we politically and financially support those Quaker organizations such as FCNL and AFSC who work for world peace and against social injustice, which we see as a cause for violence and war. We are also actively involved in community activities which move us toward peace, including Friends School, the Season for Nonviolence, the One Love Peace Festival and others. In the past we have had more visible individuals who were peace activists and can use them as examples to follow in our own personal peace testimonies.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 2/13/2011

OPENING: 2nd Month 13, 2011 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the VA. Beach Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends opened with a period of waiting worship. Some 21 members and attenders were present.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report at this time. Linda Smith's request for a \$250 donation to sponsor a hole in the VBFS annual 2011 golf tournament was tabled until next month due to our treasurer's absence.

MARRIAGE: Clerk received a letter from Judith Stevens and Jack Callan requesting to be married in the care of the Meeting. Meeting approved a Clearness Committee for Marriage made up of Louise Wilson, Bob Clapp, Rose Kennedy, Keith Williamson, and Peggy Romen Waterfield. The committee will meet with Judith and Jack individually and as a couple in their homes and report back to March Meeting for business.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT: Ed Hollinger reported that 3 students and counselor Andy Young attended the Quaker Youth Leadership Conference Feb. 3-5 at Friends Central in Philadelphia. Those who attended will make a report on that experience at a future meeting for business. A successful Open House was held on Saturday, January 22 from 1 to 3 PM. A school ski trip to Wintergreen will take place February 17. Basketball season concludes this month with spring golf and soccer season beginning in March. SPRING BREAK is scheduled for March 14-18. This year VBFS will be hosting the Forensics Competition on Sunday, April 17th. T. Megan is coordinating this, which is quite an undertaking. She is currently looking for a venue that can accommodate 400 people. She is asking for volunteers to help in many areas: baking, coaching, judging, and many other opportunities. If you feel led to help in any way, contact Megan at tmegan@friends-school.org

CAMPUS RELOCATION efforts have been put on hold for now as the School has determined that the financial feasibility of relocating at the present time is not in the best interests of the school. Options will continue to be explored, and the Meeting will be kept informed. Enrollment stands at 162 with approximately 80plus students in Upper school and Middle school, just over 30 students in Lower school, and 40 plus students in the Early school. An unusual number of families have been lost through transfers out of the Hampton Roads area. Meeting members are encouraged to be ambassadors for our School in the recruitment of mission appropriate families.

HRSD: The Hampton Roads Sanitation District has completed installation of the new sewer pipe on the school campus. Repaving will occur over the President's Day holiday. HRSD will continue to restore the property to its original or an improved state as they complete the project. We need to keep an accurate log of anything that impacts the Meeting and the School as a result of this project and report this to Nancy Craft. Documentary photographs will be appreciated.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT: Spiritual Life News The student group (Friday elective) is progressing well on creating an Arts Magazine online focusing on the Quaker testimonies. The blog is up and running. The students welcome any and all additions and thoughts. They hope to complete work on all 6 Quaker testimonies within this elective cycle. Then decide how to reproduce the magazine (maybe it will just be online?). Here is the link: <http://vbfriendslibrary.weebly.com/literary-arts.html>. The magazine is called SPICE. Just scroll down, and look on the left.

Parents Meeting for Worship: In the spirit of making Quaker meetings and practice more accessible to our parents, we plan a new 1/2 hour morning Meeting for Worship for parents (and any other attenders) to be held on [Wednesday mornings from 8:30-9 AM](#) in the meetinghouse. These will begin on Wednesday, March 2. To launch this effort we will offer an "Intro to Quakerism" session at the close of Ed's parents' meeting on [February 24th](#). He will give his "State of the School" speech, already planned for that evening, have a short break with refreshments, then about 1/2 hour to 45 minutes of "Intro to Quakerism presented by Paula Justice.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: No report at this time.

PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE: Gwynne Wells reported that the second in the series of dynamic events in the form of workshops on FINDING OUR WAY THROUGH CONFLICT: EXPLORING OUR PERSONAL CHOICES was held January 28.in the Meetinghouse. A POTLUCK at 6 pm was followed by a very successful experiential program from 7-9 PM on Helping Conflict Feel Safe: Creating Conflict Norms presented by Patricia Swan. Twenty-seven participants attended. The third in the series is planned for Friday, March 18. Once again a potluck will be held at 6 pm followed by an experiential program entitled, "I am Peace" facilitated by Rebecca Mani and Gwynne Wells, which will explore how our personal lives can reflect this statement.

STEADY FOOTSTEPS: Rebecca and Gwynne have been communicating with Virginia Lockett to clarify our Meeting's financial commitment to Steady Footsteps. In 2010, Meeting sent \$350 to SF, and PSJ sent an additional \$1025. PSJ has decided to focus on selling the PACT products (olive oil, soap, etc.) only at the annual Fair Trade Festival, since profit margins are very small on these products, and instead to look for other sources of revenue to support SF. A combination Yard Sale/bazaar/dinner and coffeehouse is being considered to raise funds to be held in late Spring. It will feature local artists in our Quaker community and items donated by members of our community. Gwynne recommended a website to us which suggests 64 ways in which to support the Season for Nonviolence.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Linda Smith reported that this committee as well as the recently appointed Ad hoc Communications Committee is continuing to explore the following agenda items and will make future recommendations to Meeting for Business:

Reducing the number of hard copy Newsletters we currently send out monthly, updating our Web Site, deciding on needed changes in our current Phone service, clarifying Policies for sending out Emails on our Meeting email list, including the possibility of creating a special Prayer email list and/or Community announcement email list.

M&O: Nancy Craft reported that M&O is continuing to review the updating and expanding of our introductory pamphlet on Quakerism which is distributed to visitors. On M&O's recommendation, Meeting approved holding a brown bag lunch discussion on March 20 following our Peace Vigil on the pamphlet, the Mind of Christ.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Pat Phelan Young stated that Meeting members and attenders should be expecting a call from Nominating Committee members in the near future requesting their preferences for serving on Meeting committees for next year. Please review the list of committees to see where you best might serve.

VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY. Nancy Craft reported that we have been invited to participate in the VICPP. She will pursue more information on this group and bring it to the next Meeting for Business.

STUDY BY THREES: Louise Wilson recommended John Woolman's Journal as a source of spiritual inspiration to our Meeting. She, Keith Williamson, and Rose Kennedy are the first group to carry out our Meeting's approval to have Study by Threes of spiritual literature.

CLOSING: Meeting for Business closed with a period of Silence.

Rebecca Mani, Clerk & Paula Justice, Recording Clerk

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Ministry and Oversight posts a list on the meetinghouse bulletin board with names of those for whom we have been asked to pray. Watch for this and feel free to add your name if you like. The list will be updated monthly. Perhaps this month we may want to add prayers of Thanksgiving!

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HRSD has completed the 42 inch sewer pipe across the Meeting property. Some restoration works has been done. We do not know how long this work may take but we still need to keep track of all inconveniences and issues related to this project. **Please contact Nancy Craft with any information you have related to this project.** craftn@juno.com, or 757-426-2019.

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If you do not receive this newsletter electronically it means the meeting does not have an active email for you. **To receive the newsletter and/or other meeting news electronically only via email, send a request to vbfm.emailer@gmail.com.** Please include your name, address, phone number and email when making requests. If you no longer want to receive the hard copy newsletter, please include this in your email. You may also communicate via the meeting's mailing address, Virginia Beach Friends Meeting, PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454. **Please remember it costs the Meeting 50 cents for every returned newsletter. Please forward address changes to avoid returned newsletters.**

Much thanks to those who have asked to have their newsletters delivered only by email. This is very helpful in reducing our expenses. We currently have 319 members and attenders receiving the hard copy newsletters and we do want to continue communicating with all our members. The current cost of the hard copy newsletter per year is approximately \$4.00. To change the way you want to receive the newsletter and/or other meeting news (electronically only via email or hard copy newsletter) send your request to vbfm.emailer@gmail.com or Virginia Beach Friends Meeting, PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454, or leave a message at 428-9515. Include your name, address, phone number and email when making requests.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share the monthly meeting minutes with members, attenders and others interested in the Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting. The minutes represent the official view of the meeting. Other articles relating to the meeting are included on a space available basis and reflect the views of the person submitting the information. The name of the person writing or submitting each article is included to avoid the impression the information represents the opinion of the meeting.
