

## Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Fourth Month 2011

WEEKLY	CURRENT EVENTS			MONTHLY
<p><b><u>EACH 1st DAY:</u></b> (Sunday)</p> <p><u>10-30-11-30 am</u> <i>Meeting for Worship</i> First Day School- younger children join Meeting during or after Worship</p> <p><u>12:00-12:30 pm</u> <i>Silent Peace Vigil</i> in front of the meetinghouse</p> <p><b><u>EACH 4th DAY</u></b> (Wednesday)</p> <p><u>8:30- 9 am</u> <i>Meeting for Worship</i> All are welcome with special invitation to School and Meeting Community</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> <i>Mid-Week Prayer</i> <u>7:30 pm</u> <i>Worship Sharing</i> Query: "What is the spiritual vision, the light and life, of our Meeting? Where does Meeting feel led?"</p>	4/21-25		<b>No school - Easter Break</b> <b>Office will be open on the 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<p><b><u>1<sup>st</sup> First Days</u></b> 12:30 pm <u>Peace &amp; Social Justice Meeting</u></p> <p><b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> First Days</u></b> 8:30 am <i>Meeting for Worship with attention to Business</i></p> <p><b><u>3<sup>rd</sup> First Days</u></b> 9 am <i>First Day School Discussion – Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "The Use of Silence"</i></p> <p><b><u>4<sup>th</sup> First Days</u></b> 9 am <i>Meeting of Ministry and Oversight</i></p>
	4/30/2011	9-12am	<b>Earth Day clean up</b> Contact Whit Peace to assist!	
	5/13/2011		<b>School Golf Tournament</b> – Fund Raiser Volunteer to help. Play golf. Come to dinner. Donate to the silent auction. Purchase an ad. Contact T. Eileen!	
	5/19/2011	7-8 pm	<b>School</b> open house	
	5/20/2011	6 pm	Potluck followed by a program on Restorative Practices led by Andy Young from 7until 9 pm	
	5/22/2011	12:30 pm	<b>Brown Bag Lunch</b> to continue the discussion on the Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "The Mind of Christ"	
	<b>2011 EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES</b>			
	<b>Tuesdays &amp; Saturdays</b>	7 am	7 am each Tuesday & Saturday <b><u>CATHOLIC WORKER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Breakfast</u></b> <b>on the Streets:</b> (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).	
	<b>5/29/2011</b>	3 pm	Yearly Meeting Inter-visitation gathering in Greenville NC	
	<b>6/4/2011</b>	2 pm	School Graduation	
<b>2011 "Save the Dates"</b>	<b>6/4</b>	<b>Clean The Bay Day</b> Contact Whit Peace, <a href="mailto:whitpeace@cox.net">whitpeace@cox.net</a> , 425-8440 Additional days: <b>7/23, 9/17, 11/5</b>		
	<b>7/13 – 17</b>	<b>Yearly Meeting</b> at UNC Wilmington Campus, Wilmington NC		
	<b>10/6 &amp; 11/8</b>	<b>JCOC Meeting/School</b> serves the meal at the shelter to feed the homeless. Contact Tracy Paladini to volunteer 392-1480 <a href="mailto:tpaladini@yahoo.com">tpaladini@yahoo.com</a>		

**Query #11 to ponder for next month:** *Do we reverence that of God in every human being with concern for the needs of each individual? Are we seeking to rectify existing social injustice and racial discrimination in our local communities and in the world at large?*

**Meeting Query #9** *Our Manner of Living. Are we mindful of Friends testimonies against alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and other harmful drugs; and do we refrain from using them or dealing with them, realizing that abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence? Do we seek to avoid all kinds of gambling and places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing? Do we keep in mind how diverse and widespread are the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others? Are we faithful to our testimony against taking oaths?*

**Response:** Early Friends were aware of a double standard for truth-telling, formal swearing to be truthful versus daily honesty and integrity. They wished to subscribe to the latter in their manner of living, thus the origins of our Testimonies of Integrity and Against the Swearing of Oaths. We may also be aware of our daily commitment to Integrity in word and deed. As Quakers we are conscious of our commitment to not prosper at the expense of others, but how do we best get this message across to everyone that we need to care about the welfare of all people? As individuals, we frequently use our talents and resources to help diverse communities, acknowledging that of God in everyone. We are reminded not to take more than we give in this life. Humanity is helping our brothers and sisters in their hours of need and in all circumstances.

**Meeting Query #10:** *Harmony with Nature. Do we endeavor to live in harmony with nature? Are we careful in our stewardship of the world's irreplaceable resources?*

**Response:** Our country is currently going through a transition in determining how best to use our natural resources and how to produce and conserve energy. Our global consciousness is also changing in an attempt to understand our relationship with our planet. This is a complex issue which involves our grass roots behavior in consumption and recycling as well as corporate responsibility in using resources. As individuals we are charged with becoming more mindful of our daily behavior in energy and product use. We have seen some progress and positive change, but we have far to go. As Quakers we can take it upon ourselves to help clean up our wider community as well as our Meeting and School grounds.

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**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 4/10/2011**

**OPENING:** 4th<sup>rd</sup> Month 10, 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 16 members and attenders were present.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Ruth Childress reported general fund income in Third Month to be \$1975.01 (which included a \$1000 bequest made by Jessie Barclay) and expenses to be \$1816.78. Financial contributions met included: VBFS - \$550, NCYM \$250, and Empower Hampton Roads \$225. Total disbursements from the HRSD Reserve Fund this month were \$1860, to date \$4490. We anticipate additional expenses of \$2500 from the Appraisal Consultation Group, and possible invoices from Waldo and Lyle. School Committee requested and Meeting approved a \$250 donation to sponsor a hole in the 2011 Annual Golf Tournament fundraiser for Friends School.

**9/11 TRIBUTE:** Sean Bowers requested and Meeting approved that he will reserve Meetinghouse space on the afternoon and evening of Sunday 9/11/2011 in order to hold a Tenth Anniversary Tribute to the Disasters of 9/11/2001. Peace and Social Justice will work with Sean in helping him plan this event.

**WINGS IN MOTION GRANT:** Paula Justice requested and received approval that the Meeting will apply for a \$1000 grant from the Tidewater Susan G. Komen Affiliate for purchasing exercise equipment for the Wings in Motion Breast Cancer Survivors Exercise Group. The processing of the grant will be managed by Komen Board member, Paula Justice and Meeting Treasurer, Ruthanne Childress, who will report back to Meeting.

**HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT:** Acting Head, Linda Serrette reported that Upper School will be hosting a "lock-in" sleepover where students spend the night on campus on Friday April 15. Our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade forensics teams will compete at the Williams School on Saturday, April 16. The school will be hosting the Robert Sergeant Independent Schools' Forensics Competition for 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders on Sunday, April 17th. Easter break is scheduled for April 21-25. The Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 13. Spring Open House is planned for May 19. The Friends School Community Association (FSCA) has been revived with a core group of 10 parents. They have taken the initiative to gain 100% parent participation in the organization. A painting/clean-up party of parents and staff took place on Saturday, April 2. The Wilson gym and some external walls were painted, and many areas were cleaned and raked. Work continued throughout the week, including the painting of the gym foyer with the

help of students. FSCA is busy pruning trees around campus, and they secured free carpet cleaning for Middle School and the Wilson center on April 9.

The HRSD project is completed on campus. New fencing along the property line has been installed. The storage shed beside the Cottage will be replaced this week.

Parent contracts for 2011-2012 were mailed Friday, April 1.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT.** Clerk Linda Smith reported that the School Committee united in the following minute in response to the following Query: The "Peculiar Mission of a Friends School," is to "empower" its members-faculty, staff and students – to live more fully in Truth. For Friends, to "empower" is to enable a person to be his or her own minister in seeking that Truth. "To live more fully" is to witness in all one's acts that measure of the Truth one has experienced (from Douglas Heath, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 225. "The Peculiar Mission of a Quaker School.) How does this apply to VBFS today and into the future? What steps do we take to maintain and sustain this mission and to continue to live more fully in Truth?: Response: VBFS' mission has always been to empower our students, and we have seen the fruits of this. As we begin the new model of Administration, we hope to empower our staff and faculty as well and be open to the sense of our community.

SC came to unity that we have strategic fiscal concepts that will form the basis for building a neutral budget. This was accomplished with the business expertise of Cheryl Dronzek, SC treasurer, and pro bono consultant, Andy Smith, MBA. The following steps have been taken: right-sizing of our staff/faculty, a neutral budget established in which hard income covers expenses, and a strong fiscal discipline. The sale of the Things Unlimited property is currently under negotiation. \$85,000 has been raised for the 2011-2012 annual fund, more than halfway toward the goal of \$150, 000. Alice Twining has resigned from the School Committee as of February 2011. Several people have expressed interest in joining the SC, which has begun the established process for bringing them on board. Current members include, Linda Smith, Clerk; Lisa Wynkoop, Assistant Clerk, Cheryl Dronzek, Treasurer; Nancy Nixon, Recording Clerk, and Patrick Gould. Consultants include: Billy Almond, Property issues; Andy Smith, Finances and Patricia Swan, Marketing and Spiritual Life.

**JOHN WALLER:** Nancy Craft recommended that Meeting and School formally acknowledge the many contributions of John Waller to our Quaker community over the last 50 years.

**M & O:** sponsored a successful brown bag conversation on First Day, Third Month 22 on the pamphlet, "The Mind of Christ", and recommended that we have a second discussion on this theme on First Day, 5<sup>th</sup> month 22, following our Peace Vigil. Meeting approved.

**PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:** will be sponsoring its third event in the series of Finding our Way through Conflict on 6<sup>th</sup> Day, Fifth Month 20. A potluck will be held at 6 pm followed by a program on Restorative Practices led by Andy Young from 7 until 9 pm. All are invited to attend.

**CLOSING:** Meeting for Business closed with a period of Silence.  
Rebecca Mani, Clerk and Paula Justice, Recording Clerk

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Nominating Committee will be contacting members and attenders as they discern committee assignments for the coming year. This year they will be looking for new clerks, both the Recording Clerk and the Presiding Clerk. Below is a brief note from our current clerk, Rebecca Mani.

"I would encourage people to consider Clerking even if they feel it would move them out of their comfort zone. My time as Clerk has been rewarding, in part because it gave me an opportunity to use gifts that I didn't know I had until I was called. I feel that to make the Meeting work we each have to take a turn and it has felt good to be part of a place that means so much to me. The nuts and bolts aspects of Clerking require organization, timely attendance, and a willingness to see all sides of an issue while trying to facilitate the process of finding unity. There are many "rules" to learn but there are many in meeting who can guide you through the details."

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**HRSD has completed the 42 inch sewer pipe across the Meeting property. Please forward any information related to this project to Nancy Craft as we need to provide the lawyer with all information.**  
[craftn@juno.com](mailto:craftn@juno.com), or 757-426-2019

**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 is updated monthly.

**M&O Query 6:** "Are we careful not to become involved in the business and activity of everyday life to the impairment of our religious lives and the service to our meeting?"

**Response:** *Service to the Meeting can become just another job; part of daily life, especially when we are over-involved. We seek balance and integration of the spiritual and temporal in our lives. It is perhaps easiest to answer "yes" to this query when we are most challenged, and surrender to God is the only way forward.*

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**NOTICE:** Your **Farm Fresh** and **Kroger** receipts need to be turned in before the end of 5<sup>th</sup> month to the school! The collection of receipts will begin again in 9<sup>th</sup> month! There is a collection box in the meeting library!

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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](mailto: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 317 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](mailto: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.*

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*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.*

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