

## Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Eleventh 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>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> <p><b><u>EACH 6th DAY</u></b> (Friday) <u>9 – 9:30 am</u> <i>Meeting for Worship</i> All are welcome, with special invitation to School &amp; Meeting Community</p>	11/22	12 noon	<b>School</b> – dismissed for Thanksgiving	<p><b><u>1st First Days</u></b> 9 am <i>Peace &amp; Social Justice Meeting</i></p> <p><b><u>2nd First Days</u></b> 8:30 am <i>Meeting for Worship with attention to Business</i></p> <p><b><u>3rd First Days</u></b> 9 am <i>First Day School Discussion – Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "The Use of Silence"</i></p> <p><b><u>4th First Days</u></b> 9 am <i>Meeting of Ministry and Oversight</i></p>		
	11/28		<b>School</b> – resumes			
	11/30 -12/3	all day	<b>School - Christmas Book &amp; Craft Fair</b> Location - Wilson Center <b>SPCA</b> pet food drive <b>Spirit Rising</b> non-perishable food drive for the <b>Mattaponi Indians</b>			
	11/30	4:30-5:30 5:30-6:30	<b>During Book Fair -</b> Book signing by a local author of a Children's book Teacher Jane Book Award Ceremony			
	12/1	11/30 am - 4:30 pm	<b>Red Cross Blood Drive.</b> If possible, please pre-register via the school web site or the American red cross web site. Then click on blood drive sites and type in the code VBFS			
	12/3 & 12/4	2 days	<b>Fair Trade Festival -</b> at Waterside. Help support <b>Steady Footsteps</b> . Sign-up sheet on the meeting bulletin board			
	12/22	10:30 am	<b>Holiday Concert -</b> In the Wilson Center			
	12/22	Noon	<b>School</b> dismissed for Christmas			
	12/24	7- 8pm	<b>Christmas Caroling</b> – at the Meetinghouse			
	12/24	8 pm to midnight	<b>Open waiting worship</b>			
	1/9/2012	8 am	<b>School</b> resumes after Christmas holidays			
	1/13/2012	6 pm	<b>School -</b> Homecoming activities			
	1/16/2012	All day	<b>School -</b> Closed for Martin Luther King Birthday			
	1/17/2012	All day	<b>VICPP Advocacy Day at the General Assembly -</b> Bus to Richmond provided. Contact Nancy Craft			
	<b>2011 OPPORTUNITIES</b>					
	Every Tuesday & Saturday	7 am	<b><u>CATHOLIC WORKER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Breakfast</u></b> on the Streets: (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>"SAVE THE DATES"</b>	2012 TBA	<b>Clean The Bay Day.</b> Contact Whit Peace, <a href="mailto:whitpeace@cox.net">whitpeace@cox.net</a> , 425-8440			
2012 TBA		<b>JCOG</b> Meeting/School 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>				
4/28/2012		<b>Representative Body Meeting.</b> Durham Friends Meeting, Durham North Carolina				
7/11-15/2012		<b>Yearly Meeting</b> at Guilford College Campus, Greensboro North Carolina				

**Query #5 to ponder for the next business session, Work of the Meeting:** *Do we regularly attend our meetings for business, and are they held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance? Do we seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine guidance?*

**Query #4 Work of the Meeting.** *Do we assume our rightful share in the expenses of our Meeting? Do we regard our time, our talents, and our possessions as given to us in trust, and do we use them freely for the needs of others?*

**Response:** *Though we are a meeting small in number we joyfully share our time, talent and possessions to support the work of Friends both near and distant.*

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### **Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Eleventh Month 13/2011**

**Meeting opened** with a waiting silence with approximately 13 members and attenders present.

**We read the Fourth Query:** *Do we assume our rightful share in the expenses of our Meeting? Do we regard our time, our talents, and our possessions as given us in trust, and do we use them freely for the needs of others?* Friends responded: *Though we are a meeting small in number we joyfully share our time, talent and possessions to support the work of Friends both near and distant.*

**The Clearness Committee recommended VBFM membership for Faye Bailey.** Joyful acceptance resounded from the Meeting.

**The Communications Committee reported the work of their meeting, summarized below:**

Telephone/directory listing for the meetinghouse will be left as is for now. Whit Peace and Linda Smith are working on updating the website. Dave French and Nancy Craft are working on reducing the number of paper newsletter copies printed and mailed. Another goal is a quicker transmission of Meeting Minutes. We will continue with print ads in Quaker publications, with the addition of our web address. Currently Linda Smith sends an email to new attenders who give us an email address; Barbara French will begin sending a handwritten note to any new attenders who leave us a postal address as well. Clearer definition of the proposed scope of this committee is pending.

**Members of the Peace and Social Justice Committee reported the following updates:** The recent coffeehouse, with approximately 75 attendees, on 11/11/11, raised more than \$800 to support friend Virginia Lockett's work in Vietnam. Even more important than money, warm feelings and support for the arts were generated. Warm weather items are still being collected in the lobby of the Meetinghouse to be distributed to local homeless men and women. The Fair Trade Festival is coming up on December 3 and 4. Members and attenders are needed to staff our tables on Saturday from 3-6 PM, 6-10 PM and Sunday from 12-2PM.

**Ministry and Oversight reported the following:** A small group met for a third session to discuss the pamphlet *The Mind of Christ* pamphlet at a recent potluck. Using a novel approach for VBFM, and in order for VBFM to achieve clarity about our outreach spending, M&O will review all outreach spending planned for 2012 in context. The meeting to consider this topic is on 11/27/11 at 9Am in the Meetinghouse library. M & O Meetings are open for all to attend, with advance notice about the reason for attendance, given to the committee convener, Paula Justice. Meeting also agreed M&O would develop training to support Quaker processes for committee conveners and members for delivery in the near future.

**Head of School Report:**

#### **Admissions:**

- Recent efforts at bringing representatives of local schools in for a luncheon yielded two attendees, and a recent open House resulted in 6 families inquiring about VBFS, with one potential new student enrolling soon.

#### **Maintenance/Safety:**

- Plumbing issues appear to be resolved. Several small cleanups took place. A fire inspection resulted in some upgrades to equipment and processes to enhance life safety. Concern is ongoing about the pothole at the front of the driveway, and a request was made for Meeting and the School to jointly explore a solution. Head of School will call the City of Virginia Beach as a next step.

#### **Development:**

- The recent Art Auction raised approximately \$6,100. Grandparents Day was a big success. Students were well received at their performance at the one Love Festival. Upgraded Annual Fund brochures have been mailed.

#### **School Life and Staff Development:**

- Everyone enjoyed the Halloween Carnival. The new quarter began this week in Middle School. A recent in-service for teachers focused on tools for working with students on the Aspergers spectrum. Five members of staff will attend the VAIS Regional Conference in Richmond on 11/14/11.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Book and Gift fair (and Blood Drive) begins December 1.

**Clerk read a note from VBFS thanking VBFM for scholarship support.**

**School Committee Reported the following:**

Enrollment is still the greatest challenge; at 141 VBFS is 6 students below budget.

Full copies of School Committee minutes are available in the library of VBFS for all to read.

**Minute:** On June 30, 2011, the trustees of VBFS finalized the sale of the property known as Things Unlimited at 501 Virginia Beach Boulevard, Virginia Beach to HE2 Enterprises, LLC for \$1.1 million. This was an unsolicited offer. The electronic copies of the sale documents are in the Business Office. Meeting requested School Committee refresh VBFM on the process of selecting future School Committee members from meeting membership at our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

**Yearly Meeting Representatives reported that Yearly Meeting Minutes in book form are available on the bench in the main lobby and Meeting members are invited to take one.**

**Building and Grounds reported the following:**

Another cleanup day is coming soon for projects both inside and outside the Meeting House. The committee hopes to have support from many hands. Meeting approved the planned replacement of the two storm doors on the front of the Meeting House. Meeting requested Building and Grounds Committee bring the comprehensive capital improvement plan to accomplish the larger project of remodeling the Meeting house currently under consideration to the next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for discussion and approval.

**First Day School Committee presented the following report:**

The goal of the committee is to have two facilitators available for First day School each week. All talents are welcome. Sign-up sheets will be on the front lobby bulletin board. Space is being cleaned and rearranged on the Meeting House lower floor to create a more functional and inviting area. Members and attenders are encouraged to invite children and leaders to participate. Outreach to VBFS families and Friendship Village families were mentioned as possibilities. Meeting expressed appreciation for the creative gifts of current committee convener, Gwynne Wells.

**Treasurer's Report was delivered and is summarized below:**

Current income is matching expenses. Yearend contributions are very welcome to help meet ongoing expenses for 2011, and begin 2012 in a healthy financial position. All major expenses for the year have been paid.

	10 <sup>th</sup> month	YTD	Budget for 2011	YTD % actual vs. budget (should be 83%)
Income	\$5,993.36	\$19,736.58	\$24,513	83%
Expenses	\$2,706.99	\$18,287.13	\$24,763	81%

**Budget and Finance Committee Report is summarized here:**

No decision has been reached to date regarding an annual audit process. \$50,000 was moved into an account with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation Consolidated Fund, with the intention of adding more in 2012. The proposed budget for 2012 was passed out to everyone in attendance. Additions and changes to lines items should be directed to the Treasurer this month, please. A draft of a letter potentially to be sent to meeting members who have not contributed financially to the Meeting will be forwarded to by Nancy Craft to Ministry and Oversight for comment.

**Meeting closed with a period of silence.**

Judith Stevens, Clerk and Patricia Swan, Recording Clerk

**VICPP – Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy.** (By Nancy Craft)

**Vision:** A world where people of all faiths cooperate to create compassionate communities that are just, peaceful, equitable and sustainable.

**Mission:** To empower Virginians to create social justice for all by advocating for systemic change.

There is a local coordinator, Mike Stark, of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Norfolk. In addition there is a quarterly meeting, usually in Charlottesville, for planning.

From The Brochure of the Virginia Interfaith center for Public Policy (Motto: **LEARN. PRAY. ACT.**)

VICPP is a respected and well-established ecumenical organization that advocates on poverty and social justice issues in the Virginia General Assembly, serving a role comparable to that performed by the Friends Committee on National Legislation with respect to Congress. (VICPP is a non-profit, tax exempt, 501(c)(3) organization, and does not endorse political candidates or parties.) Its small staff is located in Richmond Virginia. Since VICPP works at the state level on many issues of concern to Friends, it is important that Friends find effective ways to support its efforts. (More information about VICPP can be found at its website—[www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org](http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org).)

Our meeting has been invited by the Baltimore Yearly Meetings in Virginia to join the VICPP. They have paid the annual fees and are inviting us to participate for free as part of the Virginia Quaker group.

Sally Guides is the current clerk. Here is information from her invitation to us.

In January, 2010, representatives from ten Virginia Monthly Meetings reached unity on forming a joint membership in VICPP and developed a general framework for this membership. The Coordinating Committee of this membership is comprised of representatives designated by these ten member Monthly Meetings. Monthly Meetings are not required to contribute financially in order to be a part of the joint membership. Thus far, however, suggested donation amounts from each of the ten Meetings have enabled the Coordinating Committee to fund the joint membership.

The Coordinating Committee is eagerly seeking the membership of the remaining Monthly Meetings in this effort, which we hope will facilitate the advocacy of Friends on poverty and social justice issues in Virginia as well as improve communication among Friends and VICPP on these issues. The Coordinating Committee of the joint membership meets approximately four times a year and all Friends are welcome to attend.

Last month a local Justice University was held to educate members about the issues for this General Assembly session. They will be furnishing a bus to take us to Richmond on first month 17. They provide education and guidance for those new to advocacy as well as opportunities for those who are more experienced to visit our state senators and delegates. Last year about 300 folks from around the state attended this event. Annually, the VIFC surveys members to assess the priorities for each Virginia General Assembly session. This year the focus is on:

**IMMIGRATION:** Support policies that preserve families intact, that strike a balance between enforcement and compassion, that do not result in racial profiling, and that respect federal law.

**URANIUM MINING:** Uranium mining in Virginia would jeopardize the health of Virginia's communities. It could adversely affect the cities of Hampton Roads which receive their drinking water from Lake Gaston.

**PREDATORY LENDING:** Predatory lenders impose unfair, deceptive, fraudulent and abusive loan terms on borrowers.

**HEALTH CARE:** Virginia Health Benefits Exchange Priorities:

**MORAL BUDGETING:** Lately, Virginia did not raise any new revenue to meet the resulting budget crisis. Rather we relied on a combination of budget gimmicks and program cuts

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Empower Hampton Roads celebrated its eighth PUBLIC MEETING: We met in the lovely old sanctuary of the Third Baptist Church in Portsmouth. After welcoming our newest member, First Presbyterian Church of Norfolk, we read together the covenant all members agree to when we join. That was followed by four task force reports and a personal story by Michelle Cook, a Housing Task Force Member and a resident of Tidewater Gardens Housing Community. She is the new president of the residents council. She is a wonderful partner for us as we stand with and work on behalf of that Housing neighborhood. As people of faith, united in our passion for social and economic justice, we celebrate our diversity in a spirit of unity, respecting the dignity and worth of each person among us. People with faith in a good and just God and who share these values, are organizing to bring about shared abundance, sacred community, unrelenting hope, equal opportunity, and justice in their communities and throughout the world. **WE ARE THEY** as we work together on these challenging issues right here in Hampton Roads. Jean Rutherford

**Newsletter Notes:** The **Deadline for the newsletter** is the day of our monthly Business session.

We are encouraging folks to receive the newsletter electronically to help save our funds. Please consider receiving this newsletter via only electronic emails. **To receive the newsletter and/or other meeting news electronically via email only, send a request to [ybfm.emailer@gmail.com](mailto:ybfm.emailer@gmail.com).** Please include your name, address, phone number and email when making requests. Please indicate if you no longer want to receive the hard copy newsletter. 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.**

*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.*