

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Twelfth Month 2011

| WEEKLY | CURRENT EVENTS | | | MONTHLY |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p><u>EACH 1st DAY:</u> (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><u>EACH 4th DAY</u> (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><u>EACH 6th DAY</u> (Friday) <u>9 – 9:30 am</u> <i>Meeting for Worship</i> All are welcome, with special invitation to School & Meeting Community</p> | 12/22 | 10:30 am | Holiday Concert - In the Wilson Center | <p><u>1st First Days</u> <u>9 am</u> <i>Peace & Social Justice Meeting</i></p> <p><u>2nd First Days</u> <u>8:30 am</u> <i>Meeting for Worship with attention to Business</i></p> <p><u>3rd First Days</u> <u>9 am</u> <i>First Day School Discussion – Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "The Use of Silence"</i></p> <p><u>4th First Days</u> <u>9 am</u> <i>Meeting of Ministry and Oversight</i></p> |
| | 12/22 | Noon | School dismissed for Christmas | |
| | 12/24 | 7- 8pm | Christmas Caroling – at the Meetinghouse | |
| | 12/24 | 8 pm to midnight | Open waiting worship | |
| | 1/9/2012 | 8 am | School resumes after Christmas holidays | |
| | 1/13/2012 | 6 pm | School - Homecoming activities | |
| | 1/16/2012 | All day | School - Closed for Martin Luther King Birthday | |
| | 1/17/2012 | All day | VICPP Advocacy Day at the General Assembly -Bus to Richmond provided. Contact Nancy Craft | |
| | 1/21/2012 | 9-12 noon | Workshop hosted by M&O followed by a pot luck lunch. Purpose: Explore the role of each committee in the working of the Meeting as a whole, and the role and responsibilities of conveners of the Meeting committees. | |
| | 1/21/2012 | | School Admissions Open House | |
| | 2/17/2012 | | School – no classes, Teacher work day | |
| | 2/20/2012 | | School Closed – President’s Day | |
| | OPPORTUNITIES | | | |
| | Every Tuesday & Saturday | 7 am | <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). | |
| “SAVE THE DATES” | 2012 TBA | Clean The Bay Day. Contact Whit Peace, whitpeace@cox.net , 425-8440 | | |
| | 2012 TBA | JCOC Meeting/School serves the meal at the shelter to feed the homeless. Contact Tracy Paladini to volunteer 392-1480 tpaladini@yahoo.com | | |
| | 4/28/2012 | Representative Body Meeting. Durham Friends Meeting, Durham North Carolina | | |
| | 7/11-15/2012 | Yearly Meeting at Guilford College Campus, Greensboro North Carolina | | |

Query #6 to ponder for next month: *Growth of Our Children: Do we endeavor by example and precept to cultivate in our children a sense of openness and expectancy about life, and to aid them in their growth in spiritual understanding and moral discernment? Do we share with them the faith that guides the practice of Friends, while encouraging them to develop their religious insights as the Spirit of God may lead them?*

Query #5: *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?*

Response: *Only a small group of Meeting members and attenders come to each Monthly Meeting for Business. Those present today feel led to be here. Spirit is moving within Meeting now to seek ways to open and expand the involvement of Meeting members and attenders into deeper levels of Meeting, beyond first day worship. We feel joining together in the joy of sharing will enrich our sense of unity.*

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Twelfth Month 11/2011

Meeting opened with approximately 14 members and attenders present.

Treasurer's Report was delivered and is below:

Summary income and expenses (excluding bequests, capital, and HRSD project)

| | 11 th month | YTD | Budget for 2011 | YTD % actual vs. budget (should be 91.5%) |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---|
| Income | \$3497.02 | \$23,233.60 | \$24,513 | 94% |
| Expenses | \$599.50 | \$23,235.85 | \$24,736.00 | 94% |

There were significant contributions in November and fewer expenses, so income is now equal to expenses for the year. The details of income and expenses vs. budget are in a spread sheet report available by paper copy. The \$1483.81 storm doors were paid for from the SHCU account directly to Lowe's. A check for \$1214.12 was sent to Steady Footsteps; this included the balance of the meeting's donation (\$175) plus the money raised from the coffee house, the "Prodigal Son" workshop, and misc. others. No important expenses are anticipated for the balance of the year. Members are requested to make any financial donations before the last week in December to assist in closing year end books.

Budget and Finance Committee Report:

The proposed budget for 2012 was passed out to everyone in attendance, and approved as amended today. Business Meeting approves that the finance committee is authorized to make all financial investment decisions, including buying and selling securities, without prior approval of the Business Meeting. As a specific example, the Business Meeting agrees it isn't necessary to pre-approve the finance committee decision to invest \$50,000 in Friends Fiduciary Fund. Business Meeting expects to be kept informed of such decisions at regular meetings.

Ministry and Oversight: M and O will sponsor a gathering on 7th day (Saturday), January 21, 2012 from 9 AM to Noon. All meeting subcommittee members and conveners are expected to attend, bringing with them a mission statement for their committee. Both education and clarification of committee responsibilities will be the focus of this meeting. A potluck will follow.

Members of the Peace and Social Justice Committee reported the following updates: The recent Fair Trade festival was a success, with a presence by Virginia Beach Friends Meeting. Many items were sold to support Steady Footsteps.

First Day School Committee presented the following report:

Think children, youth, and young families and invite them to Meeting and First day School. We are offering ways to cultivate inner peace and from that experience, peace with others in one's family, school and community. We are working on our space downstairs, making it inviting and functional to serve our young people with activities and enjoyable activities. We ask Meeting members and attenders to sign up on the bulletin board to join us with the children and youth on First Day. Bring your Quaker presence and talents you would like to share, for 15, 30 or 45 minutes. Next week we will be tie-dyeing t-shirts which will be made into tote bags to fill with items Gillian and others are collecting to donate to "For Kids". Nancy is working on giving Bibles to our children who do not have them yet, using funds from the Jonathan Barclay Fund.

The Communications Committee reported:

The committee has not met this month. They are still working on reducing paper copies of the newsletter, speeding up distribution of our minutes and updating the website, with the help and support of M&O and other committees. Members of committees are encouraged to submit information to be included in this public website. Internet access in the Meeting House was discussed and will be explored by the committee.

Head of School Report:**Admissions:**

We admitted a seventh grade boy this week.

There has been a steady stream of inquiries for next year and a few visits recently.

Development:

We are completely revamping our Homecoming event.

Preparations have started regarding Career Day.

Parent Annual Fund donations are slow to come in.

Teacher donations are doing much better.

Our second quarterly newsletter was sent home Tuesday 22nd November. We are striving to do as many publications as possible in-house.

Maintenance and Safety

The Fire Marshal saga continues. We were required to cover the wall next to the kiln with fire resistant material. She is also researching who has responsibility for the hydrant. She should have visited campus on the 30th.

The city has ordered us to clear the retention pond behind the gym. This is no mean feat.

Work has begun on updating our safety/crisis manual.

School Life:

The gym was a hive of activity during the Book and Giving Fair last week. Basketball is in full swing. Our school placed third in the Middle School Forensics competition on Wednesday December 7 at Norfolk Collegiate. We are so proud of our team!

Oyster gardening is in full swing. We would like to keep our Pearl School Status.

Charisse Spencer is T. Jo's substitute while she is on medical leave. T. Charisse is doing well and so is T. Jo!

Eve Ocasio will be working with us on Mondays and Fridays helping us to prepare for our 10-year accreditation process.

Staff Development:

During this week's staff meeting teachers evaluated the Leadership Model.

Five representatives attended the VAIS accreditation workshop in Richmond on Thursday.

It was extremely interesting.

New Business:

- Meeting decided to invite the Peace and Social Justice Committee to consider the Meeting's membership in the Virginia Interface Center for Public Policy, and bring an answer to our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.
- Meeting decided to host our annual Christmas caroling at the Meeting House from 7 to 8 PM on Christmas Eve, and Open Worship from 8 PM to Midnight. Musicians and singers are specifically invited to lead our joyful noise. All are invited to bring friends and refreshments to share.

Meeting closed with a period of silence.

Judith Stevens, Clerk and Patricia Swan, Recording Clerk

Meeting Opportunities

First Day School for the Children is looking for a friendly adult presence to join the children – for helping with activities, singing, and having fun! There is a sign-up sheet on the Meetinghouse bulletin board!

Peace and Social Justice continues our drive for the homeless. We are inviting meeting folks to create small toiletry bags containing items like soap, toothpaste, shampoo, band aids, razors, etc. in zip-lock baggies and bring them to the Meetinghouse. Or, if you prefer, just purchase several items from the dollar stores and Quaker Women and P&SJ will be responsible for putting them in the baggies. Thank you for your support.

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 vbfm.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.