

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Third Month 2014

CURRENT ACTIVITIES	
<p>3/30 Noon Brown Bag Lunch –Led by Keith Williamson – <i>Waiting on Holy Ground</i></p> <p>4/10 3pm to 6:30m pm JCOC serving the homeless meal – Contact Tracey Paladini to assist and for details tpaladini@yahoo.com</p> <p>4/12The River Cleanup Days. Contact Whit Peace, 613-2828 whitpeace.river@gmail.com</p>	<p>4/13 to 4/15 FWCC Regional Consultation, High Point NC</p> <p>4/17 through 4/22 No School classes – Easter Weekend</p> <p>4/26 11 am to 3 pm Yearly Meeting Representative Body meeting, Durham Meeting, Durham NC All are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate.</p>
MONTHLY	
<p><u>EACH 1st DAY</u> (Sunday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>10:30 – 11:30 am Meeting for Worship with First Day School- younger children join Meeting during or after Worship</u> * <u>12:00-12:30 pm Silent Peace Vigil - in front of the Meetinghouse</u> <p><u>EACH 4th DAY</u> (Wednesday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>7 pm - Mid-Week Prayer</u> <p><u>EACH 6th DAY</u> (Friday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>9 – 9:30 am Meeting for Worship All are welcome, with special invitation to School & Meeting Community (except when school is not in session)</u> 	<p><u>1st First Days</u> –</p> <p>9 am – Buildings & Grounds Meeting</p> <p>12 noon - Peace & Social Justice Meeting</p> <p><u>2nd First Days</u> –</p> <p>8:30 am - Meeting for Worship with attention to Business (except Seventh Month)</p> <p><u>3rd First Days</u></p> <p>9 am - First Day School Discussion <u>The NCYM-C Book of Discipline</u></p> <p><u>4th First Days</u></p> <p>9 am Meeting of Ministry & Oversight</p>
SAVE THE DATES 2014	
<p>5/10, 6/7 7/12, 8/9, 9/13 11/1</p>	<p>The River Cleanup Days. Contact Whit Peace, 613-2828 whitpeace.river@gmail.com For more information or to register, call our office at 757-962-5398, Trista@LRNow.org</p>
<p>10/7, 11/6</p>	<p>JCOC dates for 2014 – Contact Tracey Paladini to assist and for details tpaladini@yahoo.com</p>
<p>7/9-13</p>	<p>Yearly Meeting, Guilford College, Greensboro NC</p>

Query #9 to ponder for next month: *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?*

Query #8 Manner of Living - *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?*

Response: As a meeting, Friends focused on the choice of activities as an area we might want to examine more carefully going forward. We were reminded by this query that John Woolman and other early Friends were led by this kind of self-examination to conclude that slavery was wrong. As individuals, perhaps simplicity is the most elusive of these qualities in modern times. Many of us do not experience our lives as simple and we sometimes question just what that means.

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Third Month 9, 2014

Opening: Virginia Beach Friends met for worship with attention to business on 3rd Month, Nine in the Meetinghouse. The meeting began at 8:32 AM with silent worship. There were some 18 Friends and attenders present.

Head of School Report: Continuously growing enrollment is beginning to fill up some of our grades. An active group of parents are hard at work planning the annual Founders Day for 4/26, at which T. Eileen Vernon will be honored. Severe winter weather has been hard on the physical plant. We are in the design/planning stage of creating a small meditation walk to honor past faculty. Students planned the annual Peace & Social Justice Day to benefit Operation Smile which repairs facial deformities around the world. A successful basketball season showcased our students' excellent sportsmanship no matter the outcome. All three Lower School lead teachers attended a Pendle Hill workshop for educators new to Quakerism.

Treasurer's Report: Income continues to closely match expenses, falling short this month by just a few hundred dollars. The 2013 Annual Review has been completed. A report and spreadsheet are available.

Buildings & Grounds: Water leaks from attic condensation have been repaired and the upstairs ceiling has been given its first coat of paint. The Committee is finalizing decision making on replacing all the building windows, and hope the work can be done in 4th Month. Work day is predicted to be 7th day, 4/5, with a rain date of 4/12. Pat Phelan-Young has left the Committee for the remainder of her tenure as Meeting Clerk.

Peace & Social Justice: A survey regarding peace & social justice issues will be available to the membership online mid-way thru this month. Hard copies will be made available for those without internet access. Peace vigils on Laskin Rd. will continue after the rise of Meeting for Worship. The Committee agreed to raise more funds to support our member Virginia Lockett in her physical therapy work in Vietnam. Members of the Committee have challenged each other to get more publicly active in making change for the better at all levels of government, a tradition that dates back to 17th century England.

Faith & Practice Revision: Business Meeting approved our response to the draft revision of the first section of the Discipline. It will now be returned to the Yearly Meeting Revision Committee. The Revision Committee is making an effort to anticipate how changes in this section may affect other revisions as they are drafted.

Hospitality: The use of biodegradable, recyclable, or reusable items for hospitality is going well. We are grateful that Nancy Craft is able to purchase most paper products for our needs that are made from recycled paper and buy coffee from fair trade sources. Our having a "person in charge" each Sunday is working fine. The Committee thanks those who generously bring refreshments and offer their assistance every week.

Ministers, Elders & Overseers: The group decided to retain the name of the Sufferings committee. A concern was brought by a meeting member regarding distractions in Worship. The Meeting Clerk and MEO are composing a gentle statement to be made after M F W addressing the sacredness of the silence. Hosting of the Wider Quaker Fellowship went very well. Discovery dinners were held last night at three different members' homes. A "Brown Bag" discussion led by Keith Williamson entitled "Waiting on Holy Ground" will be held at the rise of Meeting on 3/30. The current draft of our welcoming brochure is published and available.

Young Friends Religious Education: Gwynne Wells, the Committee clerk, expressed feeling drained by the lack of volunteers to work with the children, and the unpredictability of attendance from week to week. Without further help, once a month activities will have to be considered. Friends agreed that our young people are the future of Quakerism. The Meeting approved a subcommittee of Lewis White, Dave Timm, Rebecca Mani, and Linda Smith to meet with Gwynne and discuss these issues.

Nominating Committee: Rebecca Mani is the new convener, with Rose Kennedy and Gwynne Wells. Annually they connect with Committee Conveners to hear concerns, and consider the gifts and talents of the entire membership in order to match them with opportunities for service to the Meeting. Additional members wishing to contribute are welcome to join. Contact Rebecca.

Joint Property Task Force: Hank Ghittino has joined this group.

Closing: No further business appearing, meeting closed at 10:19 AM with a few minutes of silence, to meet again in 4th Month.

Patricia Phelan Young, clerk and Andrew M. Young, recording clerk

Watch for the Peace and Social Justice Survey in your email!! It is an on-line survey. For those without email pick up a hard copy survey from the Meetinghouse or contact Tom Bertrand for a copy. It is anticipated that EVERY local person will complete the survey!!

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First Day School on Third Month 16

This month the topic is on the topic of Membership. We are hoping for a good turnout and a lively discussion.

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This year the Friends World Committee for Consultation – Section of the Americas has chosen to have four different events instead of the annual meeting. The purpose is to enable more folks to participate and gather face-to-face for a weekend gathering. We are fortunate that the east coast gathering will be taking place in High Point North Carolina. Please check out the FWCC web site to register and plan to attend!

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Our Yearly Meeting Representative Body Meeting is planned for the fourth 7th day of Fourth Month at the Durham Meetinghouse, Durham North Carolina. All are welcome to attend and participate in our Yearly Meeting business.

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.

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. **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 your request via our mailing address: Virginia Beach Friends Meeting, PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

Please remember it costs the Meeting 57 cents for every returned newsletter. Please forward address changes via email or regular mail to avoid returned newsletters.