

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Fourth Month 2012

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

4/20-21 Ministry and Oversight sponsored Weekend Retreat. Begins with a light supper on the 20th and continues the next morning 9am to noon with Robert Gosney facilitating a discussion on the Concept of Clearness. Everyone is welcome!!

4/26 Meet The Producers, 5:30 pm, Screening at the Beach Movie Bistro, 6 941 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. **No Way Out But One** is the riveting new independent documentary that has been generating intense buzz and heated controversy since its first public screening. The film tells the remarkable, true-life story of Holly Collins and her children, the first American family to be granted asylum by the Dutch government as a result of domestic violence. Produced by our member, Garland Waller along with Barry Nolan.

4/28, 9am to Noon Great American Earth Day River Cleanup with Lynnhaven River Now Contact Whit Peace, 613-2828 whitpeace.river@gmail.com

4/29 Empower Hampton Roads Silent Auction, 4pm and Banquet, 5pm, Murray Conference Center, 455 E. Bramleton Ave., Norfolk, VA 23510. See Nancy Craft or Tom Kennedy for tickets.

4/30 JCOC Meeting/School serves the meal at the shelter – Middle School students are planning this meal as part of their studies. Volunteer to help and see what they are doing! Contact Tracy Paladini to volunteer - 392-1480 or tpaladini@yahoo.com

Every First Day in Fourth Month - The VBFM Children's First Day School Committee is offering a free basketball camp for boys and girls ages 5 - 7. The first camp is Sunday, April 1 from 1 - 2 pm in the gym of the Wilson Center at the Friends School. Coaches Keith and Gigi Williamson, along with others from our meeting, will help the children learn about teamwork and basic basketball skills while increasing the awareness of VBFM and Friends School. We see this as outreach to the community and doing something to support parents in developing mindfulness in budding young children.

5/14 School's Fund Raising Golf Classic - at the Cypress Point Golf Club. Play golf, make a donation, sponsor a hole, give a gift certificate, join everyone for supper and the silent auction - check out the web site www.vbfgolfclassic.com

WEEKLY

EACH 1st DAY (Sunday)

- * 10:30-11:30 am, Meeting for Worship
First Day School- younger children join Meeting during or after Worship
- * 12:00-12:30 pm Silent Peace Vigil - in front of the Meetinghouse

EACH 4th DAY (Wednesday)

- * 7 pm - Mid-Week Prayer
- * 7:30 pm Worship Sharing - Query: "What is the spiritual vision, the light and life, of our Meeting? Where does Meeting feel led?"

EACH 6th DAY (Friday) 9 – 9:30 am - Meeting for Worship

All are welcome, with special invitation to School & Meeting Community

EACH 3rd & 7th days (Tuesday & Saturday) 7am **CATHOLIC WORKER**

- * Breakfast 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).

MONTHLY

1st First Days - 9 am
Peace & Social Justice Meeting

2nd First Days - 8:30 am
Meeting for Worship with attention to Business

3rd First Days - 9 am
First Day School Discussion –
Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "Leading and Being Led"

4th First Days - 9 am
Meeting of Ministry and Oversight

SAVE THE DATES

5/12, 6/2, 7/14, 9/16
Plus 8th, 10th & 11th
months TBA

The River Cleanup Days. Contact Whit Peace, 613-2828 whitpeace.river@gmail.com

5/31, 9/28, 12/10

JCOC Meeting/School serves the meal at the shelter to feed the homeless. Preparation begins 3-4 pm with meal ready at 6pm. Contact Tracy Paladini to volunteer 392-1480 tpaladini@yahoo.com

7/11-15

Yearly Meeting at Guilford College Campus, Greensboro North Carolina. Check out our web site at www.NCYMC.org, [Current Schedule for 2012 Yearly Meeting](#)

Tenth Query to ponder for next month: *Harmony with Nature. Do we endeavor to live in harmony with nature? Are we careful in our stewardship of the world's irreplaceable resources?*

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: Meeting responded: This query asks if we act as God intends – as a witness or model. We do this out of care for our community. The query also challenges us to feel guilty about a glass of wine for dinner – each of the elements of this query can be used against someone in judgment. God looks in our heart. Queries are questions which may be disturbing to us individually, but we are not judged by others. Although this query questions legal behavior, we can find value in questioning whether we should change. A “naïve” question is open to any answer – we benefit from living in questions and being able to ask them.

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Fourth Month 8, 2012

Head of school report

Admissions and Development:

- * We have admitted two sixth graders, a seventh grader and a first grader. There is another Middle School student waiting in the wings.
- * The annual fund postcard for the spring mailing looks great. We hope that between the efforts of some members of school committee who have been making phone calls, testimonies from parents in the newsletter and a plea from me at our Spring concert, we can fill the coffers!
- * We are negotiating some radio advertisement time.
- * Preparations are underway for our spring Open House.

Faculty:

- * The teachers who went to Pendle Hill have already instituted some positive changes in their Advisory programs.
- * We are sending a LS teacher to a Singapore Math workshop this month and our US History teacher is going to a workshop in early May.
- * Cottage and Pre K teachers and assistants spent an afternoon participating in a training webinar and several teachers from different divisions will be taking some on line courses in the near future.
- * I have received most faculty intention forms for next year.

School Life:

- * A group of parents are trying to resurrect and transform the old FSCA (similar to a PTA). They had a brainstorming meeting last week.
- * We are hoping for a good response at our spring clean up day on Saturday, April 14th.
- * The winter athletic banquet was dignified, fun and a tad nostalgic as it was the final season for two of our seniors.
- * Members of School Committee and faculty met for a strategic planning session last Tuesday. It was thought provoking and beneficial.
- * We had our spring book fair last week.
- * New MS electives for this quarter include yoga, poetry and writing, a teen survival class (e.g. cooking skills) and a drama class.
- * Field Day will be at the end of this month.
- * Preparations are underway for the May 4th golf tournament.

Treasurer's report the treasurer noted that 3rd month expenses included large budget items of the annual donation to the school (\$6500) and the balance of the Yearly Meeting allotment (\$1500).

- * The remainder of the sewer project money (almost \$70,000) was turned over to the school. Another \$30,000 was invested in the Friends Fiduciary fund, bringing that total to \$80,000. Steady Footsteps accounting was corrected regarding the cost of the table at the Fair Trade festival, charging that to the P&SJ budget instead, and thereby eliminating much of the shortfall in the account.

* Income	* \$3870.86
* Expenses	* \$9847.66

Finance Committee report. The Committee clarified that the Rita Wass fund is a **Meeting-designated** endowment, whose principal can be spent at Meeting's direction (but the committee hopes to not spend principal).

ME&O

- * A successful 3rd workshop on Meeting Committees, roles, and Clearness was held 3/31
- * Bob Gosney (from Rich Square Meeting) will lead a workshop on “Clearness” 4/20-21. We need help for supper, breakfast, and lunch. Pat and Nancy N. will provide Friday supper, we need clean up. Potluck items are needed for breakfast and lunch; also we need help with set-up and clean up at all 3 meals. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

- * Meeting approved that Helene Phillips be removed from our membership as she is likely deceased.

First day school – kids

- * Dee Talbert and Natalie Bray have joined this committee.
- * The basketball camp began successfully last week, and is planned to continue each Sunday in April.
- * We are reminded of the request for assistance with CFDS for the remaining first days in April.
- * This committee shares the photo “waiver / release” form with communications committee.

Building and Grounds

- * They are postponing work on the basement ceiling and painting until after their next meeting (April 14 at 9 AM). All are welcome to attend.
- * Work day is also April 14 beginning at 9 AM – 1 PM.

Communications

- * Web site upgrade work continues. All should take a look at it and offer any suggestions to this committee.
- * “Friendly reminders” will continue to be sent although most of the information should also be on the web.
- * A joint committee of MEO and communications was formed including Whit Peace, Rebecca Mani, Paula Justice, and Linda Smith.
- * Getting internet access remains a priority.

School Committee

March 2012 meeting

- * Our board Development activity reviewed Quaker business practice using the FCE Governance Handbook.
- * Joint Property Task Force Minutes of the meeting on Feb. 29, 2012
- * As reported last month by Nancy Craft for the Joint Property Task Force. the joint committee recommends that the remainder of the (HRSD settlement) \$44,354.65 be split equally between the VBFS and the Meeting. The members of the Meeting on the joint Task Force Committee further recommend that the Meeting contribute their remainder to VBFS as a commitment to the future of the school and the continued relationship between the Meeting and the school.
- * *SC and HOS thank the Meeting for their generosity and continued support of our Friends School mission.
- * On March 17th all SC members attended a 4 hour workshop, “Governance Through Partnership,” sponsored by Virginia Independent Schools (VAIS). Ron Sykes facilitated this workshop on campus. The purpose of this workshop was to strengthen our board processes and help prepare for our 10 year VAIS accreditation.
- * Student contracts for next year have been sent out.
- * In our efforts to diversify this talent and expertise on SC, we welcomed a new member, Jeff Merritt. Jeff is a parent of a MS and an US student. He brings marketing and sales skills to the Committee. This past year he has been active in working with T. Danny in gaining local support for the athletic teams. Jeff has been brought on board immediately due to our need for his expertise as we prepare for VAIS accreditation.
- * Update on our Strategic Long Range Planning for VAIS accreditation: with pro bono help from Ryan Luzak (Meeting member) and his firm, Booz Allen Hamilton, we have completed phase 1 of our plan during a four hour workshop on March 27th. Patricia Swan (Meeting member) is participating in this process as well to offer additional support and expertise as we move forward. A second follow-up meeting will be held later in April.
- * Volunteer Appreciation party will be held on May 18th at Joanne Crass’ home. The Development office will send out invitations.

April 2, 2012 meeting

- * Development Activity - we visited the Cottage and the Pre-K; T. Francis and T. Sue provided a wonderful overview of their programs. Both the Cottage and the Pre-K classrooms are warm, welcoming, and educationally stimulating. In addition, T. Dafna and T. Susan provided a delightful overview of the Lower School programs, grades 1 through 5.
- * Annual Fund - donations are below expectations so the Advancement office is mailing out another reminder post card.
- * Budget for 2012-13 will be presented to full SC at the May meeting.

New business

- * Occupy Virginia Beach had difficulty getting into the building last time; Judith Stevens contacted Myra Brown and she agreed to open the door for each OVB meeting. Bob Clapp will be a back-up.
- * Nancy Craft announced Representatives Meeting April 28th.

- * Meeting approved that the Catholic Workers could again use the Meeting House Oct. 5-7; we expect this will work out OK as in previous years, and they will also work out details with the school. Clerk has contacted Steve Baggerly to let Catholic Worker know they were approved and on the Meeting house schedule.
- * Members were reminded to be quiet during the break between Meeting for Business and Meeting for Worship so that worshipers would not be troubled as they settle into worship.

Judith Stevens, Clerk and David French, Recording Clerk for the day

Join NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE) on FACEBOOK!!!

Our Yearly Meeting has set up a Facebook page to share information about our monthly and yearly meetings.

Join the page and keep up with what is happening in our Yearly Meeting.

Look for information on Representative Body meetings and the Yearly Meeting.

Share what our meeting is doing and planning with our other Monthly Meetings.

No need to wait for the Yearly Meeting gathering to "meet" other members and attenders of our Yearly Meeting.

Information about the Yearly Meeting plans is posted on Facebook!

(From Nancy Craft – a member of the YM Web Committee) <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/103267383104286/>

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.