

## Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Fifth Month 2012

CURRENT ACTIVITIES	
<p><b>5/22 Phase III – final phase of the Hilltop Strategic Growth Area Public Meeting</b> – the future plans for Hilltop including our property.</p> <p><b>5/31 JCOC Meeting/School</b> 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 <a href="mailto:tpaladini@yahoo.com">tpaladini@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>5/28 School Closed</b> – Memorial Day</p>	<p><b>6/2 The River Cleanup Days.</b> Contact Whit Peace, 613-2828 <a href="mailto:whitpeace.river@gmail.com">whitpeace.river@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>6/8 Last day of school</b> – noon dismissal</p> <p><b>6/9 School Graduation 2pm-</b> Everyone is invited to attend!</p> <p><b>6/20 Deadline for registration at Yearly Meeting</b> – spaces cannot be guaranteed after this date, and additional charges and fees may be incurred.</p>
WEEKLY	MONTHLY
<p><b><u>EACH 1<sup>st</sup> DAY</u></b> (Sunday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <u>10:30-11:30 am, Meeting for Worship</u> <i>First Day School- younger children join Meeting during or after Worship</i></li> <li>* <u>12:00-12:30 pm Silent Peace Vigil - in front of the Meetinghouse</u></li> </ul> <p><b><u>EACH 4<sup>th</sup> DAY</u></b> (Wednesday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <u>7 pm - Mid-Week Prayer</u></li> <li>* <u>7:30 - pm Worship Sharing - Query: "What is the spiritual vision, the light and life, of our Meeting? Where does Meeting feel led?"</u></li> </ul> <p><b><u>EACH 6<sup>th</sup> DAY</u></b> (Friday) 9 – 9:30 am - Meeting for Worship <i>All are welcome, with special invitation to School &amp; Meeting Community</i></p> <p><b><u>EACH 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 7<sup>th</sup> days</u></b> (Tuesday &amp; Saturday) 7am <b><u>CATHOLIC WORKER</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <u>Breakfast on the Streets - (prep begins at 6 am at Sacred Heart Church).</u> 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).</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>1<sup>st</sup> First Days</u></b> - 9 am Peace &amp; Social Justice Meeting</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, "Leading and Being Led"</i></p> <p><b><u>4<sup>th</sup> First Days</u></b> - 9 am <i>Meeting of Ministry and Oversight</i></p>
SAVE THE DATES	
<b>7/14, 9/16 Plus 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup> months TBA</b>	<b>The River Cleanup Days.</b> Contact Whit Peace, 613-2828 <a href="mailto:whitpeace.river@gmail.com">whitpeace.river@gmail.com</a>
<b>9/28, 12/10</b>	<b>JCOC Meeting/School</b> 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 <a href="mailto:tpaladini@yahoo.com">tpaladini@yahoo.com</a>
<b>7/11-15</b>	<b>Yearly Meeting</b> at Guilford College Campus, Greensboro North Carolina. Check out our web site at <a href="http://www.NCYMC.org">www. NCYMC.org</a> , <a href="#">Current Schedule for 2012 Yearly Meeting</a>
<b>10/5-7</b>	Catholic Workers have a weekend retreat on campus.

**Last two Queries to ponder for next month:**

**Query #11.** *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?*

**Query #12.** *Outreach: Do we welcome newcomers and non-members to our meetings? Are they encouraged to share in Meeting activities and to consider membership when they are in agreement with the principles and practices of Friends? Are our younger members appointed to committees and encouraged to share in other responsibilities of the Meeting? Do we visit one another frequently, remembering those who may be lonely? Does this visitation and caring extend beyond the members of our own 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:** *First, we acknowledge that we are part of nature; our brief lives are part of a larger chain of humanity. We cannot control the huge and complex natural world. Our western lifestyle, to which we all adhere to some degree, encourages us to try to control and destroy some elements of nature that inconvenience us. The result is that the choices we have made collectively have damaged the natural world, as we use so much of the world's resources. We are careful stewards of the small patches of earth we occupy as a meeting and individually. We try to be environmentally conscious in the decisions we make. We continue to support local environmental causes, like the Lynnhaven River Now, with our time and treasure. Is it time to do more, and fundamentally reorganize our lives toward sustainability, not just mildly modify our lifestyles? New ways of stewardship and new methods to live in harmony may come to us if we give to God the determination of the way forward and allow our leadings to come from a place of love.*

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## **Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Fifth Month 13, 2012**

**Meeting opened** in waiting silence with approximately 17 members and attenders present.

### **Head of School Report:**

**Admissions:** Spring Open House was successful. Several foreign agencies have contacted us about bringing students to our school.

**Development:** There have been some positive responses to the most recent annual fund initiative. A volunteer celebration will be held on May 18, 2012.

**Facility:** Our spring cleanup was great; many maintenance items have been addressed. Tiling or carpeting of our lower school classrooms will be a major part of our summer maintenance. The power company began cutting down our beautiful trees on April 28, and this will continue through fifth month 12. Many parents have been upset. We are working to reassure everyone.

**School Life:** Forensics, with a prize winning team, is growing. Arts are very active, from our steel drummers to our Spring Arts Festival on May 18, 2012. Field Day was well organized and fun. The Golf Tournament was enjoyable and had a large number of sponsors. Thanks to all the Meeting members who supported us. The kindergarten room will be dedicated as the Lippincott Room at 10am on May 18, 2012. Graduation will be held on June 9, 2012 at 2pm.

### **Treasurer's Report was delivered and is included below:**

Summary income and expenses:

Expenses exceed income significantly year to date. One AA group meeting here bi-weekly has switched to once a week. The Occupy group is no longer using the Meeting House space. During this report, Meeting decided that, in conjunction with Myra Brown, the Finance Committee

	<b>April 2012</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>2012 Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$1467.25	\$8310.63	\$27548.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$1061.37	\$12871.45	\$27,548.00

sets the rates for the use of the Meeting House for renters who want a special rate, on a case by case basis. The Finance Committee will make recommendations and bring them to Meeting when needed.

**Communications Committee:** We are "going live" with our [www.VBFriends.org](http://www.VBFriends.org) website today – Mother's Day. Later this month MEO will meet to review/complete the PowerPoint doc from the three MEO led workshops and then this document will be posted as a "working doc" on the website. Communications Cmte Ministers, Elders and Overseers Task Force will work out a Plan of action with milestones report on the planned growth of [www.VBFriends.org](http://www.VBFriends.org) for 2012 and hope to report on these plans in sixth month. After reporting, this task force will have completed its work and will be laid down. We are still looking for new committee members to help with weekly posting of the events calendar hard copies, and some other TBD positions to help us, and share in the joy of our work.

**Nominating Committee Report:** VBFM Committee and Contacts 2012-13 tentative roster was presented. Review is encouraged. Approval is slated for 6<sup>th</sup> month Meeting for Business.

**Peace and Social Justice Committee Report:** P&SJ proposed hosting a film forum to be offered quarterly, with the first proposed date of July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, from 7-9 pm. The first film would be “The Dhamma Brothers”. A projector is required; a laptop is available. Meeting approved the film series as an ongoing project for the committee.

**School Committee Report:** VAIS is due to visit for a re-accreditation soon. Much work is underway to prepare, including an update to the School’s Strategic Plan. Bank of America sent VBFS a settlement of a class action suit for unfair practices of approximately \$24,000. The Annual Fund is growing, due to an anonymous donor, members of Meeting, and 100% School Committee participation. The School Committee Handbook is under line by line revision.

**Ministers, Elders and Overseers Report:** Committee descriptions have been edited and are in use. We held a successful retreat with Bob Gosney, on clearness. Approximately 20 members and attenders participated. Verbal sharing of guidelines for vocal ministry during Meeting for Worship is underway in Meeting for Worship. Various MEO members are reading these guidelines. MEO is continuing outreach to non-local members and local non-attending members and attenders. MEO is composing a history of VBFM and it will be posted to the new website when the history is complete.

**Representative Body Report:** Minutes have been distributed through email and printed hard copies are available at the Meeting House, and on the Yearly Meeting website. Monthly Meetings are encouraged to review the Book of Discipline and offer edits. MEO will discuss and bring a recommendation on a process for this to Meeting.

**Trustees Report:** The Final (Phase 3) meeting of City of Virginia Beach planners regarding the Strategic Growth Area plan for the Hilltop area will be held at 6:30 pm at Linkhorn Park Elementary School on First Colonial Road on Tuesday, May 22, 2012, at 6:30 pm.

**New Business:**

Wes Chaney requested a transfer of his Meeting membership to Christ and Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church in Norfolk. Our Meeting Clerk will write a letter to his new church. Meeting sends him and his family forth with caring, friendship and love.

A Meeting Member had concerns about the recently shared VBFM pamphlet, “The Explanation”. Written copies of these concerns were given out to all present today, and the concerns were referred to MEO, which will address the concerns at their next meeting.

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

Judith Stevens, Clerk and Patricia Swan, Recording Clerk

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***Check out the plans for our yearly meeting at [NCYMC.org](http://NCYMC.org) – or - see what folks are saying in our yearly meeting on Face book at NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING CONSERVATIVE***

***Check out our newly revised Monthly Meeting web page for current events and much more at [www.vbfriends.org](http://www.vbfriends.org)***

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**Notes from the School – from Linda Smith**

Congratulations to all of our students who participated in basketball this winter. Our Girls and Boys teams had a great season, gaining valuable skills and experience. The Middle School Boys won the first tournament game against Bay Lake Pines and will proceed to the next round.

Congratulations also to Virginia Beach Friends School Chess Club students who participated in the Hampton Roads Scholastic Chess Championship. Students Jake Harris (MS8) and Duncan Guthrie (MS7) and ES and LS students, Ava, Kyle, John C, Blake and Emma turned in excellent performances, placing and moving forward in their respective categories.

We are very proud that WHRO has recognized Virginia Beach Friends School as Independent School of the Month for February on School Talk Monthly. Schools are selected based on achievements, contributions and involvement in student education. Watch this month’s show at [www.schooltalk.org](http://www.schooltalk.org).

*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.*

## **The Unseen is Eternal** (II Corinthians 4/18)

By Midori Bamba

There is the world that I can see  
only when I close my eyes.

There are words that I can hear  
only when I close my lips.

There is a voice that I love to listen to  
only when I cover my ears.

There is a person whom I come to meet  
only when I stop walking.

Be still. . .

When I want to find a way and truth

I seek Jesus,  
Who loves and forgives  
The unseen is eternal.

**Friends School puts SPICE in learning** – Found on a bulletin board in the Lower School!!

- S – Simplicity - Students develop reflective thoughts and habits. Honesty and a search for truth are stressed
- P –Peace - Students work for being peacemakers and ending conflicts in a peaceful manner. Students work toward social justice
- I - Integrity - Students develop a moral code based on inclusiveness, honesty, respect and truth.
- C – Community - Students learn to be part of a community.
- E – Equality - Students develop an appreciation for diverse cultures and races. Students learn to value that “all people” have equal worth and all human life is sacred.

### **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](mailto: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.**