

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Sixth & Seventh Months 2012

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

6/20 9 am to 3 pm School Summer Camp begins and lasts 8 weeks – until 8/10
Early arrival 7:30 am
Late Departure until 5 pm

6/20 Deadline for registration at Yearly Meeting – spaces cannot be guaranteed after this date, and additional charges and fees may be incurred.

6/29 Movie night at the meetinghouse: Pot Luck at 6pm followed by discussion with Steve Bagerly of the Catholic Worker & “The Dhamma Brothers” - feature this quarter!

7/11 – 7/15 Yearly Meeting at Guilford College Campus, Greensboro North Carolina. Check out our web site at www.NCYMC.org, [Current Schedule for 2012 Yearly Meeting](#)

7/14 The River Cleanup Days. Contact Whit Peace, 613-2828 whitpeace.river@gmail.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

9/16
Plus 8th, 10th & 11th
months TBA

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

9/28, 12/10

JCOOC 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

10/5-7

Catholic Workers have a weekend retreat on campus.

Query to ponder for next month:

Query #1. *Do we faithfully uphold our testimony for worship which is based on silent waiting, and for free and unprogrammed ministry that may be shared by all? Is there a living silence in which we feel drawn together by the Light of Christ, the power of God in our midst; and is this inspiration carried over into our daily lives? Do we come to Meeting with hearts and minds open and ready to worship in silence or in vocal ministry or prayer as the Holy Spirit leads us? Does our meeting encourage those who may have a gift for the spoken ministry?*

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?

Response: This query strikes us personally. We approach it in several ways. First, we examine ourselves in an ongoing way. In each of our interactions, at work, at home and in the larger community we strive to live this query by reverencing that of God in everyone, and that of value, however one expresses it, in every person, every day. This year we reduced the potential for strife internally in our Meeting with role clarification. We want to use this freed energy to live harmoniously within the larger community, for example by continuing our Peace and Social Justice outreach. Supporting a Quaker school means we are invested in future generations creating a less socially and racially divided world than the one we inherited. Teaching Quaker values to children can change the world.

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?

Response: Evidence for our welcoming community are: Many new members have joined our community this year, we have redefined our introduction to Quakerism in both the written form and on our newly revised website, and we have worked to clarify committee roles to simplify joining in the work of the Meeting. Our outreach efforts, like our recent basketball workshops, expose our weekly Meeting for Worship and First Day School to our larger community.

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sixth Month 10, 2012

Meeting opened in waiting silence with approximately 22 members and attenders present.

Membership Request: Lewis R. White requested, through a letter to the Clerk, consideration for membership in Virginia Beach Friends Meeting. Nancy Craft, Bob Clapp, Bob Young and Tom Kennedy will serve as the Clearness Committee to consider this request.

Head of School Report:

Development: Letters have gone out soliciting donations to the Louise Wilson Scholarship Fund, The search for a new Director of Development continues. Two children have been given scholarships for the 2012-13 school year using monies shared with the school by Meeting from the HRSD settlement. Additional endowment sources for scholarship would be very welcome.

Facility: Work continues on repairs and upgrades to facilities, including roofs, carpets, and tiles as well as landscaping and concrete. A fresh overview of the Woolman building, the early school building, is underway.

School Life: The Middle School hosted a Science Fair and Musical Revue on Friday, June 1, both of very high standard. School is out. Graduation was Saturday, June 9. It was lovely and touching, with 9 students graduating. The VAIS document box is almost complete and it will be reviewed for final changes the week of June 18. First visit by VAIS will be July 17/18. The school wide curriculum review is almost complete. The school self-study narrative will be ready for the VAIS visit in December.

The Head of School expressed much gratitude for Meeting's support of this school this year.

Treasurer's Report was delivered and is included below:

Summary income and expenses:

	May 2012	YTD	2012 Budget
Income	\$1870.35	\$11062.48	\$27548.00
Expenses	\$751.27	\$13925.72	\$27,548.00

Nominating Committee Report: VBFM Committee and Contacts 2012-13 roster was presented and approved.

Peace and Social Justice Committee Report: P&SJ will host a pot luck dinner and film forum on June 29th, 2012, from 6-9 pm. Before the film, Steve Baggerly of The Catholic Worker, will speak briefly about his recent incarceration for civil disobedience. The film will be "The Dhamma Brothers", a documentary about a 10-day silent Vipassanna retreat held in a maximum security prison in Alabama. A meeting member brought a copy of a letter to the editor re: Peace and Social Justice that was published in the local newspaper today. We note as a Meeting that we surround our member with love, light and protection for expressing his views publically.

School Committee Report: School Committee met with ancillary faculty this month and was very impressed by the quality of the curriculum and the teachers' commitment. Preliminary accounting shows the school ran at a small profit this year. Current Annual Fund proceeds are estimated at \$40,000. A Volunteer Appreciation Event was very successful. The School Committee Handbook is under line by line revision. The School Calendar is now on the website. The donor responsible for the large technology upgrade accomplished in Summer 2011 was trustee, Cheryl Dronzek, and the Committee expressed much gratitude. SC committee has adopted and approved a new vision statement for VBFS: "*VBFS will become a recognized model of excellent academic Quaker-founded education in Hampton Roads.*"

Children's First Day School: Members are reminded to support CFDS by using the signup sheet on the bulletin board.

Ministry, Elders and Overseers Report: The approved description of Quakers for our website was revised. Hard copies will be made available for members and attenders. The VBFM pamphlet, "An Explanation", will no longer be used. MEO is continuing outreach to non-local members and local non-attending members and attenders. They found that Marnie Werth had passed away. Bobby Oliver requested a transfer of membership to the Unitarian Church in Norfolk. Rob Lauer, Richard Hebner, Dan Hebner and Rick Holcombe requested removal from our membership through email correspondence and phone conversations. Amy Jacobs, an inactive member, had a child, Sebastian James Armstrong on Fifth Month 15. Ryan Sieg, also an inactive member, also had a baby this spring.

Representatives to Yearly Meeting: Registration forms for North Carolina Yearly Meeting are on the bulletin board now; the deadline for registration is June 20. The gathering is at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC seventh month 11-15. Our meeting representatives will be Nancy Craft, Keith Williamson, Ruth Ann Childres, and David and Barbara French.

New Business: Meeting approved offering to host Representative Body on the 4th Saturday in tenth month (10/27). Hospitality Committee for this event will be Pat Phelan-Young and Paula Justice, (co-conveners), Nancy Nixon, and Andy Young. Nancy Craft will forward the offer to Yearly Meeting.

Meeting closed with a period of silence.

Judith Stevens, Clerk and Patricia Swan, Recording Clerk

Check out the plans for our yearly meeting at www.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

From the Library Committee – by Nancy Craft

We plan to obtain additional shelving for the library and slowly the library books are being sorting through with all duplicate copies removed to make room for one copy of each book! One duplicate is being stored in the library closet. Books are placed in their categories in the order of the author's name. Please have patience as we update the books and re-label the shelves! Quaker newsletters are held in the clear plastic racks in the library with additional Quaker related materials, including information about Quaker schools, in the black rack next to the piano! The library computer has the complete listing of all of our books, videos and tapes.

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. 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.