

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Twelfth Month 2012

CURRENT ACTIVITIES	
<p>12/21 to 1/6/2013 School Christmas Break</p> <p>1/13/2013 Homecoming</p>	<p>1/16 JCOC Meeting/School serves the meal at the shelter. Contact Tracy Paladini to volunteer 392-1480</p> <p>1/16 School Closed for Martin Luther King Birthday</p>
WEEKLY	MONTHLY
<p><u>EACH 1st DAY</u> (Sunday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>10:30-11:30 am, Meeting for Worship</u> First Day School- younger children join Meeting during or after Worship * <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> * <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> <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</u> <p><u>EACH 3rd & 7th days</u> (Tuesday & Saturday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>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).</u> 	<p><u>1st First Days</u> - 9 am Peace & Social Justice Meeting <u>Noon</u>- Knitting</p> <p><u>2nd First Days</u> - 8:30 am Meeting for Worship with attention to Business</p> <p><u>3rd First Days</u> - 9 am First Day School Discussion – Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "Leading and Being Led"</p> <p><u>4th First Days</u> - 9 am Meeting of Ministry and Oversight</p>
SAVE THE DATES	
<p>To Be Determined</p>	<p>The River Cleanup Days. Contact Whit Peace, 613-2828 whitpeace.river@gmail.com</p>
<p>2/4, 3/19,4/8, 5/13,10/7,11/18</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>2/9, 2013</p>	<p>Coffee House and silent auction – fund raiser for Steady Footsteps</p>
<p>3/8, 2013</p>	<p>School Spring Break – school office is closed</p>
<p>3/28 to 4/1, 2013</p>	<p>School Easter Break - school office is closed on 3/29 and 4/1</p>
<p>4/27, 2013</p>	<p>Representative Body meeting – Durham Meeting House, Durham, NC</p>
<p>5/3, 2013</p>	<p>School Golf Tournament – fund raiser – open to all golfers and non-golfers!!</p>
<p>6/8, 2013</p>	<p>School Graduation</p>
<p>7/10 to14, 2013</p>	<p>NCYM-C Wilmington North Carolina – Location: UNC Wilmington College Campus</p>

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?

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Twelfth Month 9, 2012

Meeting opened in waiting silence with approximately 16 members and attenders present.

Head of School Report:

Admissions: We have admitted a new student in Pre K. She starts in January. 3 to 4 students look likely to join the school in January.

Development: I met with our Alumni rep and T. Larry on Friday to strategize our alum outreach. Improvement in this area, as promised to VAIS, is beginning in earnest. There is more focus on all students who have ever attended VBFS as opposed to graduates only. We are preparing an ad for January's *Tidewater Parent* targeting our pottery and music programs.

Facilities: The gym foyer looks lovely. The walls have been painted a light blue and the floor is now tiled! There has been a lot of "sprucing up" around campus in preparation for our VAIS visit -which went very well. Thanks to everyone involved. The Laskin Road frontage looks better and the sign is much more visible! We are still in a holding pattern regarding the gym roof repairs. Thanks to members of Meeting for the final push to ready the campus for the Virginia Association of Independent Schools visit. It went well!

Life of the School: Several faculty members attended the VAIS annual conference earlier this month. When they passed on some of the information gleaned from the sessions to the rest of the faculty, it generated a lively discussion. We had wonderful weather for our Thanksgiving Feast. It was -as always- a delicious affair! Basketball is in full swing! The Upper and Middle School students are sponsoring several children from the Mattaponi Tribe during the holidays. Seventh Grade is embarking on a mini business venture. The students are developing a business plan with the hope of opening a "soup kitchen" in the near future. We had a faculty spirit day on Friday in preparation for this week's visit!

Treasurer's report to business meeting November, 2012

1. Regular income / expenses

2. YTD income has approached spending.

Remaining spending items (for December) include estimated \$1300 for insurance, about \$500 for hospitality supplies, and usual spending for monthly costs such as electricity, cleaning, etc. estimated \$1500.

3. The Building and Grounds expense reported at the August Business Meeting has been altered to move the basement painting work (\$840) out of the regular expenses and instead show it as spending that amount from "escrowed" funds. As earlier noted, the money for that work was specifically donated to the Meeting, and therefore shouldn't be accounted for against the budget. This resulted in having \$575 remaining in the budget for regular maintenance. Of that, \$480 was spent on grounds maintenance pending the school accreditation visit.

4. As discussed last month, a check for \$50,000 was deposited in the Friends Fiduciary Fund in a newly created sub-account called "Capital". This money came from the Lippincott donation two years ago, and is being held in reserves with the expectation that some of it will be used for major projects for the Meeting House.

5. Any outstanding expenses or planned spending should be reported immediately to allow the treasurer to prepare year end reports.

	November 2012	YTD	2012 Budget
Income	\$2975.32	\$23,168.05	\$27,548
Expenses	\$1739.87	\$23,881.88	\$27,548

Finance Committee Report:

Budget: Budget creation is underway. Blanks remain. The draft presented today was approved as presented. Year end budget review will take place in mid-January. Revisions are expected.

School Committee: School Committee's focus this last month was on preparation for the arrival of the Visiting Team of the Virginia Association of Independent Schools. This visit was a major step in our ten-year re-accreditation review. In the event, things went extraordinarily well. The visiting team was grateful for the hospitality they received. At the conclusion of their visit, the committee met with school committee, teachers and staff to share their preliminary findings. The gathering was held in the meeting house. The visiting team commented on the pride and sense of purpose of all members of the school community and the close-knit family atmosphere. They noted that every aspect

of the school was integrated with its mission to a degree not seen in any other school. The visiting team praised the devotion of the faculty and the way they let their lives speak their devotion to the values of the school. The team praised Teacher Linda, the Head of School, in terms that brought tears to many eyes in the room. They called her a truly exemplary head of school, admonishing the school committee and the faculty to cherish and support her. The team reviewed the high praise the school received from the parents they interviewed. And they spoke in glowing terms of our students, who they found confident and compassionate. Speaking of the students, the team leader said, "It is clear they feel emotionally safe here" and they have pride, passion and purpose.

The visiting team went on to outline major challenges that the school must address. Among these was the need to upgrade the physical plant. Because of the limitations of the current site, the team strongly recommended that the school committee continue to explore the possibilities for moving the school to a different site. No less important was the need to address salary and professional development issues. The extraordinary devotion of Friends School teachers to their work has kept the school together, but the situation is unsustainable. The teachers are stretched too thin, taking on extra duties for which they are sometimes not qualified, and doing all this for a salary and benefit package that falls far short of what they could reasonably expect. School Committee was admonished to move further away from operational management and focus on marketing and advancement. The need for enhanced fundraising and long-range planning was underscored, as was the need for better data management and communication. The candor and good will of all who had a role in this visit made it a transformative experience. I wish every member and attender of Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting could have been present at Teacher Caitlyn's presentation to the visiting team on the mission and philosophy of the school. And I wish all could have been present at the exit meeting, overflowing as it was with light and life and love.

In recognition of the extraordinary amount of extra work teachers and staff put into preparing for the VAIS visit, School Committee authorized a pool of money for bonuses to be distributed by the head of school.

Building and Grounds Report: Leaf raking party went well last First day. Thanks to all.

Nominating Committee: Met, searching for a new convener for Hospitality Committee. Anyone willing would be welcomed. Anyone with a leading toward a new role can approach a committee they want to join, or they can speak to a member of Nominating Committee. Meeting members and attenders are reminded they can join committees at any time, and an effort to support the designated work of any committee is always welcome.

Meeting closed with a period of silence.

Judith Stevens, Clerk and Patricia Swan, Recording Clerk

Fifth Query: 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: *Surrounded by the spirit of Meeting for Worship, deliberations are held and decisions are made. In our Meeting for Business we use Quaker process, listening and speaking with patience and forbearance. The structure of our Meeting for Business insures efficiency of dispatch as well as concordance with the leadings of the spirit. We appreciate this. Stirring within us as a group is a leading to use our energy and address larger issues in our world. There is a yearning for more creativity and openness to divine inspiration for us as a group. Does this leading come only to individuals, or can it come to us as we gather in Meeting for Business? Can a group be led in a creative search for fulfillment of larger goals? We are left with a sense that Divine Guidance should be sought about the readiness of our Meeting for Business to receive guidance as a group.*

About JCOC: The Judeo-Christian Outreach Center. Many years ago when this non-profit organization began its mission to feed and shelter the homeless, our Meeting began to serve some of the meals at the shelter. It began with us serving meals as often as monthly. As the news of this outreach grew over the years, more and more churches and other organizations began to also volunteer to serve the meals. In 2013 we will be serving 7 meals. (See the calendar for the dates.) The JCOC has grown and added new buildings to house more of the homeless and to provide training and education opportunities to assist the homeless to learn skills and help the children with school. And yes, they house children with their mothers. Each 10th month they have an event hosted by one of the

organizations to sign up for the meals for the coming year. For the past several years Tracy Palaldini has volunteered to coordinate the JCOC meals. She organizes each meal and helpers. She receives much support in food and donations from the school community. The children sing the prayer before the meal, make table decorations, help prepare the food and serve the meal. Tracy has also been known to arrange a “quick” meal when an organization “forgets” it is their turn!!

(Note: This is in response to, “What is the JCOC?”)

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.