

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter First Month 2013

CURRENT ACTIVITIES	
<p>1/30 6:30- 8pm Season Of Peace & Non-Violence, Basilica of St. Mary's Fellowship Hall 232 Chapel Street, Norfolk, VA 23504 Free and open to the public</p> <p>2/7 Deadline for donation of Silent Auction Items for the Coffee House</p>	<p>2/9 6pm Coffee House & Silent Auction at the Meetinghouse</p> <p>2/14 School Ski Trip</p> <p>2/15 Teacher Work Day – No School</p> <p>2/18 President's Day – No School</p> <p>2/20 Administrative ½ day – School Noon Dismissal</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</u> All are welcome, with special invitation to School & Meeting Community <p><u>EACH 3rd & 7th Day</u> (Tuesday & Saturday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>7am Catholic Worker Breakfast on the Streets</u> (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). 	<p><u>1st First Days</u> - 9 am Peace & Social Justice Meeting Noon- 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>

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER: Letters to those who donated to the Meeting in 2012 are being distributed. If you donated a check but did not receive a letter, please contact the Treasurer David French at bfrench14@cox.net or a member of the Finance Committee (Bob Clapp, Bob Smith, Nancy Craft, Tom Kennedy, or Andy Young) to correct our records - this is important to ensure our financial integrity

Query #7 to ponder for next month: Peace Testimony. Do we endeavor to live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war, seeking to do our part in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations? Do we faithfully maintain our testimony against nuclear and all other military preparations, the bearing of arms and all participation in war?

Query #6 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?

Response: We have few small children in this Meeting currently but we can look at our relationships with our grown children as well. Adult children continue to seek guidance from us throughout their lives, and we try to be present to these relationships. Our School and our First Day School give us opportunities to share our Quaker values with the children under our care as we seek to share our faith. We struggle at times to be consistent in bringing our values together with issues such as the safety of the children, and we recognize this will be an ongoing challenge for many of us. There is an awareness that we have not fully answered this Query, and we are asked to look deeper within for an understanding of our role in the educating and listening to all the children in our lives. These children benefit from the examples offered by the school teachers, and these lessons often last in the minds of both teachers and students. We are all children of God, and this encourages us to see all our relationships as sacred.

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business First Month 13, 2013

Membership: A letter for membership was received from Louis Stadlin and was read by the Clerk. The body of the letter is as follows: "I would like to apply for membership in the Virginia Beach Friends Meeting with all its rights and responsibilities." The following members approved for his Clearness Committee: Judith Stevens (Convener), Dave French, Kathie Garner, Bob Clapp and Bob Young.

Head of School Report.

Admissions: Preparations are underway for our January Open House. We have accepted a new Upper School student and a returning student, one new Pre-K student and a Kindergartner. There is a Middle School student waiting in the wings.

Development: The Honorees for our Founders Day event will be Andy & Pat Young.

Life of the School: After the Sandy Hook tragedy, we arranged for a security guard to be at school from 8:30-4:00 during the last week before the holidays and the week after the break until we had a chance to discuss security. Had a coffee with parents on the Wednesday before the holidays to allow them to air their concerns.

The Holiday performance was wonderful and we were honored that Louise Wilson attended. Next week is the final week of Semester 1. We received the full report from the VAIS Visiting team. *Our new bus arrived just before the Holidays. T. Danny has located someone to drive it while people work towards getting their licenses. This Monday the faculty had a two-hour training session with the Virginia Beach Police on how to respond to active shooters on campus. It was interesting and thought-provoking. Parents have been invited to Paula Justice's "Parents New to Quakerism" presentation this Wednesday.

Maintenance & Facilities: The gym sewer pump is finally up and running. Some much needed cleaning and maintenance was carried out on the cottage over the holidays. Two heating systems are in the process of being repaired – one in Middle School and one in the front office. Pedestrian and bike traffic are being diverted through the students' car park and onto the easement. The security guard has been very helpful in changing behavior by directing people off the school grounds. We have new cleaning staff. They are doing a great job thus far.

Discussion regarding the temporary armed security guard on campus followed the report. T. Linda encouraged each of us to seek her out whenever there are issues that concern us. A request was made that a School Committee member inform Meeting in a timely manner when the temporary armed guard is gone and T. Linda agreed. We were reminded by a Member that a special Called Meeting for Business may occur whenever the need arises in between regular meetings and the requests should be made to the Clerk or to MEO. We were also reminded that the School Committee works closely with Head of School to maintain the relationship between the School and Meeting and we appreciate the good job they have done in this difficult time. We continue to look at our responsibility as we look at what it means to have the school in a "care relationship" with Meeting as this is an evolving relationship. We would have welcomed, however, being included earlier in the discussion with the school from the beginning, in light of our pacifism.

School Committee Report. We warmly welcomed Lewis White as our newest member on School Committee. We are pleased to have his experience and expertise on our committee. We now have 10 active members, 4 of whom are Quakers.

SC held their winter retreat yesterday. We began at 9 a.m. with a Board Development activity based on Art Larabee's clerking workshop, "Quaker-Based Decision Making." A good discussion developed on the topics of consensus, unity, sense of the meeting, the role of the clerk and the role of each committee member. This activity was not only educational but also community building for the committee.

Founder's Day date has been changed to Friday, Feb. 22 at 6:30. It will be held at the Princess Anne Country Club. Invitations are being mailed this week. Cost is \$75 per ticket. This event originated with the intent to honor the founders of our school, Louise and Bob Wilson, at which time a scholarship fund in their name was created. This year Andy and Pat Young will be honored for their many years of dedication to our school.

Much work was completed during our six-hour meeting including an honest and open discussion of security on campus. SC came to unity in supporting the hiring of an unarmed watchman or security person at this time; this is a topic that will continue to be threshed.

Linda Smith asked that we let her know if we are not receiving mailed invitations to school events so the school database can be updated.

Treasurer's Report by From Dave French	Regular income/expenses			
1. Substantial year-end donations pushed the total income over expenses.		12/2012	YTD	2012 Budget
2. The only remaining unspent item was the transfer of \$1000 from income into the capital account.	Income	\$4974.04	\$27,234.59	\$27,548
3. A year-end report will be prepared in the next several weeks to give a full summary of 2012 income and expenses. This report will also describe the several investment funds and their status.	Expenses	\$2543.62	\$25,585.50	\$27,548

Peace & Social Justice Report by Rebecca Mani

Nancy Craft reminded us of the upcoming Advocacy Day, sponsored by Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and Empower Hampton Roads, in Richmond on Jan. 22. Peace and social justice groups will gather at the Capitol Building to speak with representatives on a variety of topics. There is a free bus that will be taking people to Richmond for the day. Please contact Nancy for more details.

We will show the Pete Seeger movie that Bob Young recommended to us at the Meetinghouse on Jan. 20 after a brown bag lunch together around 12:30, following Meeting for Worship. The film will start at 1 p.m.; discussion to follow.

Reminder of our upcoming Coffeehouse and Silent Auction to raise money for Virginia Lockett's "Steady Footsteps" Clinic. The program is on Feb. 9 and will open at 6 p.m. with Silent Auction and light refreshments such as coffee, cider, soup, cookies, brownies, etc., downstairs. The entertainment will run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. upstairs. Please let everyone know that anything brought in for Silent Auction that is left over (unsold) from the auction will be donated to a charity, unless they specifically let us know that they want the item(s) returned.

MEO Report by Paula Justice Discovery Dinners have been proposed for March and Hosts/Hostesses are needed. Dates and topic for discussion to be decided by MEO at a later date, and it was suggested that topic for discussion be inclusive since non-Quakers may also be present.

Building & Grounds Report was made by Bob Clapp who said that completed projects include cleaning the gutters and raking the leaves. One upcoming project is the landscaping in the SE corner of the building.

Communications Committee Report was made by Linda Smith. She reported that committee descriptions are nearly all on the website now and she reminded us that the website link is listed on every Friendly Reminder email she sends out. The committee is also taking up the question of the need for a land-line phone in the Meetinghouse, in light of the fact that the phone has not worked for some time, although the answering service continues to take message. They have asked for feedback from members and attenders.

Nominating Committee: No report, but we were reminded that all members and attenders will be called in coming months, and we are all encouraged to join one or more of the committees. Also, it was noted that the Hospitality Committee is actively seeking more members.

Meeting closed with a period of silent centering.

Judith Stevens, Clerk and Rebecca Mani, Recording Clerk of the Day

A Fun Evening of Music, Art, Poetry, Song, Theatre, Delicious Snacks & Silent Auction!

When: Saturday, February 9th, 2013 at 6:00 PM---**Where:** Virginia Beach Friends Meetinghouse

Featuring: Narissa Bond, Houston Shirk, Martin Somers, Playback Theater, D.D. Delaney, Bob Young, Suzanne Rhodes, Pete Freas, Dave King, Daniel Pravda **Hosted By:** Poet Jack Callan

Suggested Donation: Love offering of your choice. All proceeds & donations go to support STEADY FOOTSTEPS - a program of physical and social rehabilitation in Vietnam, founded & run by our meeting member, Virginia Lockett.

BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF NON-VIOLENCE

Season for Peace and Non-Violence, Journey of Peace: "Focus on Youth" Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, January 30, 2013, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Refreshments to follow.

Basilica of Saint Mary's Fellowship Hall, 232 Chapel Street, Norfolk, VA 23504

Donations of cash or nonperishables will be accepted for St. Mary's food pantry. Join us as we celebrate the opening of the Seasons for Peace & Nonviolence with an interfaith ceremony that includes poetry, skits, and music by youth from various area groups. For more information, please call Elva Stukes at 717-HELP (4357), justiceandpeace.es@gmail.com or Herta Okonkwo at 427-5190, hsokonkwo@aol.com

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.