

## Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Third Month 2013

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

**4/8 4 -6 pm** Meeting & School serve the JCOC shelter meal. Contact Tracy Paladini to assist.

**4/23 7 pm** Special event EHR and other health care advocacy groups sponsor HHS regional director, Joanne Grossi at New Hope Baptist Church 395 Old Great Neck Road

**4/27 11 am** YM MEO followed by lunch then Representative Body Meeting, Durham NC

**4/28 4-8 pm** EHR Spring Silent auction & Banquet see Tom Kennedy or Nancy Craft for tickets (\$40), or place an ad in our program – 1/8, 1/4, 1/2. Or 1 full page

**5/3** School's Golf Tournament-see school staff to register to play golf. All are welcome to join golfers for the evening meal (\$30)

### WEEKLY

**EACH 1<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> DAY** (Friday) 9 – 9:30 am

\* Meeting for Worship All are welcome, with special invitation to School & Meeting Community

**EACH 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Day** (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

**1<sup>st</sup> First Days** - 9 am

Peace & Social Justice Meeting

Noon- Knitting

**2<sup>nd</sup> First Days** - 8:30 am

Meeting for Worship with attention to Business

**3<sup>rd</sup> First Days** - 9 am

First Day School Discussion –

*The Great Divorce* by C. S. Lewis

**4<sup>th</sup> First Days** - 9 am

Meeting of Ministry and Oversight

### SAVE THE DATES

**To Be Determined**

**The River Cleanup Days.** Contact Whit Peace, 613-2828 [whitpeace.river@gmail.com](mailto:whitpeace.river@gmail.com)

**5/13,10/7,11/18**

**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](mailto:tpaladini@yahoo.com)

**5/3**

**School Golf Tournament** – fund raiser – open to all golfers and non-golfers!!

**6/8**

**School Graduation**

**7/10 to14**

**NCYM-C Wilmington North Carolina** – Location: UNC Wilmington College Campus

**Query #8:** *Do we observe simplicity and honesty in our manner of living? Are we careful to live within the bounds of our circumstances, punctual in keeping promises, prompt in the payment of debts, and just in all our dealings? Do we choose those activities which will strengthen our physical, mental, and spiritual life; and do we avoid those harmful to ourselves and others?*

**Response:** *Those of us in this meeting, some of us raised with the ideals of this query and others convinced later in life, resonate with the integrity of these questions. In response to them, as a checklist, we can say yes, yes and yes. In some ways this seems quite simple. But this query stirs us in deeper places. When we delve into the many choices we make about the way we live, we realize that our North American lifestyle is highly energy consuming and is not simple or austere. Still using these basics of behavior, can we find joy and true generosity of spirit in the lifestyle the query describes? Regardless of our means, can we find ways to share our gifts, not just monetary, but emotional and spiritual, with others? After asking these questions, we go deeper still: is seeking simplicity also a way to shift the focus of our attention from our relationship with things to our relationship with God, and a way to seek a greater acceptance of and generosity of spirit to ourselves? This query encourages us to seek ways to quiet ourselves to hear the stirrings of the spirit, to help us follow the individual passions of our lives, to grow strong and well, to create the abundance that encourages physical, emotional and spiritual help.*

## Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Third Month 10, 2013

Meeting opened with approximately 20 members and attenders present.

### Head of School Report by T. Linda

Admissions: We have admitted two new students, one in Early and the other in Lower school.

Development: Founders Day turned out to be a wonderful gathering of those near and dear to T. Andy and T. Louise.

Thanks to Joanne Young, T. Larry, T. Lauren and everyone who helped make the evening a success. Donations are still coming in for the Louise and Bob Wilson Scholarship fund. Our next big event will be the Golf Tournament in May.

Life of the School: The six students who went to the Quaker Youth Leadership conference at Sidwell Friends returned completely transformed and energized by their experience. I spoke with them about it and they felt that it validated what we do at VBFS and all were particularly moved by the Meeting for Worship experience. They led our last Meeting for Worship in February. All of them spoke eloquently and from their hearts, triggering many beautiful responses and comments. It was a wonderful Meeting. Thank you to the Meeting for helping us send the students to this wonderful experience. It was significantly spiritually meaningful this time! Basketball season is over. Our teams made us very proud by having one of the best seasons ever. Middle School girls and JV boys made it all the way to the finals. Kudos to T. Danny for all his dedicated efforts in developing this program. Our faculty workday comprised the final security training session, clearness committee training and a team building session. Our faculty members who attended the Educators New to Quakerism workshop at Pendle Hill were as profoundly and positively affected as our Quaker Youth Leadership students were. They organized the Clearness Committee session for the faculty. Once again, we are grateful for the contribution that Meeting makes to help us send our teachers to this meaningful time at Pendle Hill.

Facilities: We had some minor plumbing hiccups this month, which have been resolved. Our ageing HVAC systems in the administrative building are beginning to require attention. We have had to do significant repairs on two systems in the last few months. Work continues on our Greenhouse, which we hope to have ready by April.

### Treasurer's Report was delivered and is below.

The major expense was our annual contribution to Yearly Meeting of \$3000. Since they are on a June-to-June fiscal year, our contribution is for the second half of 2012-2013 and for the first half of 2013-2014.

A year-end report is now available, giving a full summary of our 2012 income and expenses, and the several investment funds and their status. See the treasurer for a copy.

	2 <sup>nd</sup> month 2013	YTD	Coffee house
<b>Income</b>	\$1073.00	\$1073.00	\$1600
<b>Expenses</b>	\$659.88	\$659.88	\$1720*

\*Coffee house income, plus \$30 accumulated last year for Steady Footsteps donation.

**Finance Committee Report:** The Annual review was conducted and the result is the above mentioned Annual Report. Member Tom Kennedy is revising the mission statement for the investment and use of the Rita Wass endowment.

### Young Friends First Day School Report

Last week's brunch at the rise of Meeting with parents was a successful sharing, and will be repeated. The committee has let go of the idea of a Sports Camp this spring. Needs persist for assistance on First Days during Meeting, and for a dedicated space for Young Friends in the Meetinghouse basement. Building and Grounds Committee could support this second need with a cleanup day. Also, the definition of the space in the basement needs to be shared with all renters and other users of the space, to keep the area defined for young Friends as a priority.

### Peace and Social Justice (P&SJ) Committee reported:

On 3/3/2013 Sally Guidas, from the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), spoke to Meeting. P&SJ recommended to Meeting that VBFM join with other Quaker Meetings as part of VICPP. VICPP is a counterpart to the national level Quaker public policy advocacy of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. P&SJ recommended Meeting donate \$100 to VICPP. Meeting approved this funding and participation. The committee also reminds Meeting members to join in our silent vigil for peace at the rise of Meeting. Meeting member, Virginia Lockett, founder of Steady Footsteps in Vietnam, a group that VBFM supports, is reported to have sent a piece of art to our meeting. The committee will frame the piece for the Meetinghouse.

**Ministers, Elders and Overseers reported:**

Discovery Dinners were held on 3/9/2013 at 6:30 PM, in various members' homes to share their experiences of Quakerism. Dinners included a query, "How does your Quaker faith inform your personal and professional life?" Seventeen people attended. MEO is continuing to create a format for Clearness Committees for Membership and marriage under the care of the Meeting.

**Building and Grounds Committee reported:** The committee will meet on 3/24/2013 to create a long-range capital expense plan. All are welcome to attend this planning meeting.

**Nominating Committee** reminds all Meeting members and attenders it is time to focus on Meeting participation for the coming year. Committee descriptions are available to help everyone explore their leadings before the committee member's call, within the next few weeks.

**Reminders about Communication:**

Committee conveners and all wishing items included as reports or other notes in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business minutes, please send them via email to Recording Clerk, Patricia Swan, [patriciaswan@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaswan@gmail.com) in advance of the meeting, or bring them. All items appropriate for the FVFBM Newsletter should be emailed to Nancy Craft at [craftn@juno.com](mailto:craftn@juno.com). All items appropriate for reminders and email distribution should be send to Linda Smith at [vbfbm.emailer@gmail.com](mailto:vbfbm.emailer@gmail.com).

**New Business:**

Member Dave French spoke about the Yearly Meeting's effort to revise our Faith and Practice, and suggested that our Adult First Day School might want to explore the current Faith and Practice as a subject of study. A method of revision of the Yearly meeting Faith and Practice has not been established yet. A called Meeting for Business would be necessary to provide input to Yearly Meeting, when required.

On 4/4/2013 at 6 PM at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Norfolk, a closing ceremony will be held to mark the end of the Season for Nonviolence. A recent young Meeting attender, Kasey Burns, son of Kathy O'Keefe, and member Bob Young, will read at this event.

**Meeting closed with a period of silence.** Judith Stevens, Clerk and Patricia Swan, Recording Clerk

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**Query # 9 to ponder for next month:** *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?*

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**NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL**

Dear Friends,

**Some exciting events taking place at VBFS:**

- 1. \*Spring Scholastic Book Fair - April 8 - 12, 9:00am-3:00pm.** - T Barbara is actively seeking volunteers to help run the cash register at the Fair. Online shopping will also be available from April 8-April 28th. Proceeds go to acquiring additional Smart Boards!
- 2. Saturday, April 27th** - VBFS Upper School Springathon - Set up your own table to sell your own merchandise. 3x6 table - \$20, 3x3 table \$10, BYO display - \$15. See flyer for more details.
- 3. T-Shirt Tuesdays:** Every Tuesday (weather permitting) we are selling T-shirts & Sweatshirts at 8-9am and 2:45-4pm on the breezeway. There are lots of colors and tie-dyes in Adult and Youth sizes. T-shirts: Tie-Dyes & Solid; Sweatshirts: Adult & Youth.
- 4. Car Wash:** Autobell Car Wash tickets are available for \$15 each. Tickets can be used at any Autobell. One location is on First Colonial in the Kmart shopping center. Pollen season is upon us. Clean your car and support FSPA!

\*\* See Linda Smith or Joanne Crass for tickets.

**5. Remember: Box-Tops, Farm Fresh Receipts, Education Labels (Campbells Soup, Pepperidge Farm), Harris Teeter card** (sign-up and link to VBFS), **Target Red-Card:** Sign up and link the Friends School - you save 5% each time you shop & you help the school. Please know every little bit counts. Clip Box-Tops and put the labels in a baggie and drop them off in the front office or boxes provided in Early School and Front Office. \*\*\*\*Meeting members may give box tops to Linda Smith or Joanne Crass Thank you for your support.\

*(Editor's NOTE: There is a plastic box in the Meeting Library to drop off labels and box-tops)*

*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](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.**