

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Fourth Month 2013

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

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)

5/2 School's Golf Tournament-see school staff to register to play golf. All are welcome to join golfers for the evening meal (\$30)

5/8 School Spring Arts Festival

5/13 JCOC Meeting/School serves the meal at the homeless shelter contact Tracy Paladini to volunteer 392-1480 tpaladini@yahoo.com

6/8 2-4 pm School Graduation

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 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

1st First Days - 9 am
Peace & Social Justice Meeting
Noon- Knitting

2nd First Days - 8:30 am
Meeting for Worship with attention to Business

3rd First Days - 9 am
First Day School Discussion – The Great Divorce by C. S. Lewis

4th 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
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
7/10 to14	NCYM-C Wilmington North Carolina – Location: UNC Wilmington College Campus

Query # 9: *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?*

Response: To some among us this query can seem like a list of Do's and Don'ts. Looking deeper, the many ways to focus our attention and energy as listed in this query all have the potential to cost us our relationship with our true spirit, our light within. We live in the 21st century world, as it is, and individually we engage with others and the physical substances and activities of the world differently, each of us. We find it good to take time to reflect individually on each of our actions, from the way we earn and use wealth, or alcohol, to the choices we make about figures of speech that imply we are not always honest. Applying this query to us as a Meeting, we are aware that our actions demonstrate to the larger community our adherence to our testimonies. We show what is important to us by how we focus our attention as a group as well. We are reminded to choose wisely and well those actions that encourage our light within to shine, both individually and as a group.

Queries to ponder for next month:

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?*

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?*

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

Meeting opened with approximately 22 members and attenders present.

Head of School Report

Admissions: Preparations are underway for this Thursday's Open House.

Development: The Bob and Louise Wilson Scholarship fund continues to receive donations. Plans are continuing for the Golf Tournament although response has been disappointingly slow.

Facilities: The hiring of a Safety and Facilities Officer is proving extremely beneficial. Prioritized list of maintenance needs has been created. Needs concerning the safety of students and faculty have been placed at the top of the list. Dominion Power has finally moved its fence and reconnected the school's fencing along our property line. We are considering some landscaping suggestions to soften the starkness around the tower. T. Nancy is going to follow up with Dominion re: compensation for the trees that were removed.

Life of the School: We have begun the fourth and final Quarter. Reports and Progress reports were mailed at the end of last week. Middle School hosted a delightful Medieval Fair on Friday, March 22nd. This was the culmination of the 3rd Quarter Medieval Unit. Some interesting 4th Quarter Electives are *Move It Move It*, *Cultural Café*, *Improv* and *Collage*. The Digital Dj-ing class hosted a community dance on Friday, April 12. We just finished our Scholastic Bookfair week. However, purchases may be made online till April 28. The Upper School is holding a Springathon for crafters on Sat. April 27. Our Greenhouse has been built. We are now furnishing it. I am going to the Friends School Heads' Gathering at Sidwell April 14-16.

Treasurer's Report was delivered: Regular income / expenses, and also the coffee house. There were no major income or expense items in March. The budget and finance committee didn't meet, and there isn't anything unusual in our short term forecast.

	March 2013	YTD
Income	*\$1785.47	\$7459.50
Expenses	\$677.74	**\$7213.50

* includes the coffee house fundraising for Steady Footsteps - \$1720.

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

SC Report to Meeting for Business - March and April 2013

SC Development Activities: March focused on the Clearness process and how it might be utilized in the SC setting. In April, the Director of Admissions, T. Lauren, gave an overview of enrollment/retention strategies, which included launching a Parent Ambassador Program.

Building and Grounds Committee: This committee continues to meet with city officials concerning the future of the VBFS campus. Convener, Patrick Goold, will provide a separate update on this committee's work.

Budget and Finance: SC approved the tuition rates for the 2013-14 school year. These rates include a decrease in E.S., L.S. and 5th-6th grade rates. MS/US will increase by 4%. These rates were determined based on area tuition studies and marketing strategies. Enrollment incentives have been implemented to address retention and increase enrollment. Supplemental Homeschool Program has been developed with a complete fee schedule for grades 1-12. It will be advertised through the website and direct contact with Homeschool groups. T. Lauren has already received numerous phone calls expressing interest in the program.

Advancement: Founder's Day event netted approximately \$7,000 with donations still coming in. SC is planning a Senior Luncheon for seniors and their parents. At this time, the importance of staying connected to VBFS and supporting the Annual Fund will be discussed. Annual Fund - second set of request letters were sent to parents, alum, donors, and Meeting members. At this point in time, the AF giving is below expectations.

FSPA: - Friends School Parent Association- selling car wash tickets as a fundraiser for IPADS for the library; grateful for the enthusiasm and hard work of the FSPA chair, Laurie Terry.

Reminders about upcoming events:

4/13 - Campus Clean-up

4/18 - Spring Open House

4/27 - US Springathon Craft Sale

5/2 - Golf Tournament and Dinner

Special Supplement to School Committee Report- The School's Strategic Plan calls for moving the campus of VBFS. The School Committee's Building and Grounds Committee has been re-formed to explore the possibilities of the move, slated for approximately 2017. One option is to trade land with the City of Virginia Beach. A survey of the current site is planned by the school and clear title is being sought. This committee suggested Meeting choose a process to explore the move options and maintain communication.

Meeting has a Property Task Force consisting of Trustees and Meeting members: Tom Kennedy, Nancy Craft, Bob Clapp Houston Shirk and Lewis White. We feel this group can work with the School Committee to make good recommendations. Anyone interested can lend their support to this effort through contact with the Nominating Committee and joining the Property Task Force.

Ministers, Elders and Overseers reported: The next Discovery Dinners will be held on 5/4/13, at 6:30 PM, in various members' homes, to share their experiences of Quakerism, once hosts have volunteered.

Hospitality Committee Request from Meeting: Will conveners and members please analyze their current situation and bring needs for support to Business Meeting?

Building and Grounds Committee reported: The committee met on 3/24/13 to create a long-range capital expense plan. A work day is planned on May 18th. The Committee requested a \$1,500- capital expense, to be used to purchase items (movable dividers and a lockable storage cabinet) to create a dedicated space for Young Friends in the Meetinghouse lower level, at the fireplace end of the room. Meeting approved this expenditure.

Young Friends First Day School Committee Report:

The committee is grateful and excited about the Meeting's support for the creation of a dedicated space through the capital expense just approved. We have not yet posted any photos of our active Young Friends on the VBFM website as we do not yet have photos or signed releases from parents. The next Young Friends' Parents Brunch is May 5th. This is time set aside to get to know each other, discuss YF lessons/activities, goals and ideas for building our community. The committee needs volunteers to work with the children while adults talk; please sign up on the bulletin board. If anyone has thoughts about activities or games as icebreakers please see Gwynne. Please also sign up to support YF by choosing a date, on the bulletin board, to join in YF and share your talents.

Meeting expressed gratitude for the energy and commitment Gwynne Wells has expended to build Young Friends.

Nominating Committee is actively contacting members and attenders to see who is interested in supporting Meeting in what ways in the coming year. A draft of the Nominating Committee report for VBFM will be presented in Fifth Month, and a final in Sixth Month.

History Committee Report: Working to create a video history of VBFM and VBFS. Our first subject for interview will be Louise Wilson, focusing on the origins and evolution of our Meeting. A draft list of questions has been prepared and videotaping will take place very soon.

The **Communications Committee** was commended for excellent graphics design in VBFM emails.

Membership: Linda Tingle Shirk, in a letter read in Meeting today, requested membership in Virginia Beach Friends Meeting. A Clearness Committee was formed, consisting of Paula Justice, Gwynne Wells, Dave French and Nancy Craft.

Request for Preparative Meeting: Houston and Linda Shirk requested Virginia Beach Friends Meeting consider supporting the formation of a new Quaker Meeting in Creeds, as a Preparative Meeting, under the care of Virginia Beach Friends Meeting. It will be meeting in a building owned by the Shirks. Meeting welcomed and approved this request. Meeting requested Ministers, Elders and Overseers prayerfully consider sharing with Meeting for Business how we can support this new Meeting.

Request for funds: Meeting member Paula Justice requested scholarship funds in the amount of \$400- to support her attendance at Friends General Congress. Meeting approved this request.

Meeting closed with a period of silence.

Judith Stevens, Clerk and Patricia Swan, Recording Clerk

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.

www.vbfriends.org

www.ncymc.org

Facebook Group: North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative