

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Sixth & Seventh Months 2013

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

June 21 Deadline For Yearly Meeting To Receive Registration If You Plan To Eat Or Stay On Campus During Yearly Meeting.

6/17 School Summer Camp begins

7/ 10-14 NCYM-C, UNC Wilmington, Wilmington NC

7/17 School Open House

7/20 9am to Noon Canoe Cleanup. Join us at the launch site at the end of Old Virginia Beach Road off of Birdneck Road for a canoe/kayak based cleanup of Great Neck Creek. You need to provide your own boat for this cleanup or partner with someone with a canoe or tandem kayak. We will put in at 9:00 and finish by noon. Free Virginia Beach 50th birthday tee shirts will be given to all participants. For more information or to register, call our office at 757-962-5398 or email Trista@LRNow.org

WEEKLY

EACH 1st DAY (Sunday)

* 10:30 – 11:30 am Meeting for Worship with 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 (Except when school is not in session all summer)

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 – 12:15 pm

Peace & Social Justice Meeting
Noon- Knitting

2nd First Days - 8:30 am

Meeting for Worship with attention to Business (Except Seventh Month)

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 and 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

Query 1 to ponder for next Business session (8/11/2013): *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 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: Thinking of involving the vibrancy of youth in our Meeting we are grateful for the work of our Young Friends Committee. Many of us have been invited to share talents with young friends. So much more can be done to grow this part of our Meeting. A greater commitment of resources and energy would be needed. Prayerful consideration will help us find our way here. This query stirs us personally, bringing to mind specific memories of our own warm welcome, recent or distant, to the VB Friends Meeting. We have a role model in one of our founding members, Louise Wilson, whose link to the spirit has spread among us. More of us than ever are acting as greeters, and our efforts to join together, through Discovery Dinners, are bearing fruit. Meeting itself helps us connect more cleanly to our deeper selves, and gives us energy to reach out to others. We could grow by sharing more freely all information we each have about who might want visits, and asking with love if time spent together in worship is wanted.

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sixth Month 9, 2013

Meeting opened with approximately 22 members and attenders present.

Membership Clearness Committee Reports:

Linda Tingle Shirk- The committee met with Linda on June 1, 2013 at the Creeds Meeting. The work of the committee is ongoing. The next meeting is scheduled for Sixth Month 19 at the meetinghouse.

Nicholas Tobias "Toby" Paddock- the committee met with Tobias twice. The committee is in unity recommending Tobias for membership in VB Friends Meeting. Meeting joyfully welcomes Tobias to our membership.

A letter was written to the Brevard Friends Meeting accepting the transfer of membership of John Thomas Bertrand to VB Friends Meeting. A welcoming committee will meet with Tom soon.

A Meeting member raised a concern in interpreting the Faith and Practice Book of Discipline regarding two possible interpretations on the process of welcoming a transfer of membership. It is an example of the type of revision for clarification and consistency being considered by Yearly Meeting for our Faith and Practice, Book of Discipline.

Peace and Social Justice Committee Report:

A recommendation was made that the painting sent to us by Virginia Lockett be hung downstairs in the Meeting House. This was approved by Meeting.

Discussion focused on how often we each work in isolation in our various ways of advocacy and how we might share our efforts with one another. The purpose for this is not only to connect us and let us know that we are more than just one voice but also because we realize that only when there is a "critical mass" of attention on a topic does change occur. It was suggested that within the committee that when we each send a letter or call a politician on a particular bill or issue, that we also let the other committee members know and those who feel led can also send a letter or make a phone call on the same issue. Each of us will be left to speak for ourselves but we will make more of a difference if several (or more!) of us address the same topic at the same time. We will suggest this also to the Meeting as a whole. Bob Young has agreed to be the point person for these messages. If members of Meeting send him a notice that they have sent a letter or made a phone call then he will let others know so that we, too, can add our voice if we wish. A change in monthly meeting time was approved – we will now meet on the first First Day of each month at the Rise of Meeting (approx. 12:15)

Head of School Report:

Admissions: The last few weeks have been busy with a number of visits and applications. There will be another summer Open House on July 17.

Development: There was a wonderful article about Lower School's weather balloon release on the front page of the Beacon last week. T. Larry made the end of year picnic quite exciting.

Facilities: Progress on the Greenhouse has been delayed by some upgrading of the well pump and tank. The gym and Middle School are to be painted this summer and of course, there will be a thorough cleaning of the entire campus. After much consideration, we are moving the Cottage program into the Fox building for the 2013-14 school year. The Cottage will be closed for renovations from the end of this semester. We will make a decision on the future of the Cottage program as the extent of the issues in the Cottage building are known. We are hoping to upgrade the panic bars and locks on the ES/LS buildings.

Life of the School: The last few weeks of this year have been extremely busy with many activities and outings. Prom was absolutely wonderful and the décor was the best yet! Kudos to T. Caitlin, T. Jeff and the prom committee. The Young Leaders held a mini Peace and Social Justice event on May 23. This included an activity and discussion break out groups. The Science Fair and Festival was of a high standard. There were exhibits from all divisions and the MS Science fair entries were judged. Our awards ceremony and grad were well attended and memorable occasions.

A copy of the article about Lower School's weather balloon is posted on the Meeting's Friends School bulletin board.

School Committee Report:

Winding down the 2012-13 year:

Enrollment: Our goal for enrollment next year is 160 and we are more than one third of the way there! Keep spreading the word about our wonderful school! SC implemented several enrollment incentives and they seem to be working well. Registration for Summer Camp is happening. Check out the website for details. Tell your neighbors, family and friends!

Trustee Development: Joanne Crass visited New Garden Friends last week and Linda Smith will be visiting Tandem Friends later this month to gain wisdom from their trustees and build relationships.

Development: Annual Giving update for the 2012-13 school year as of May 15th: We are pleased to say that we have 100% participation from faculty/staff and School Committee. Amounts to date: \$35,107 for the Annual Fund, \$5000 for the Graydon Sullivan Scholarship Fund, \$6,680 for the Bob and Louise Wilson Scholarship Fund (The Bob and Louise Wilson Scholarship Fund has been created as an endowment, which means it will be allowed to grow until it reaches \$50,000. At that time, the interest will be used for scholarships.) School Committee would like to thank Meeting and the faithful individuals who have contributed to the Annual Fund this year. Your support is vital and greatly appreciated. Annual Giving will be open for receiving donations for the 2012-13 school year until the end of June. Donations may be made via the Friends School website at: friends-school.org, or just Google Virginia Beach Friends School.

To refresh in our minds the mission and vision of Friends School:

Mission:

At Virginia Beach Friends School, we integrate the Quaker values of equality, integrity, simplicity, peace, and environmental stewardship in a nurturing community of academic excellence that encourages mutual respect, personal responsibility, and the fulfillment of each person's potential, based on the Quaker belief that there is that of God in everyone.

Vision

VBFS will become a recognized model of excellent academic Quaker-based education in Coastal Virginia.

REACH

Retain and Grow Enrollment; **E**nhance Facilities; **A**chieve Financial Goals; **C**ommit to Curriculum & Faculty; **H**onor Quaker Values

Treasurer's Report was delivered.

Regular income / expenses:

	May 2013	YTD
Income	\$2236.25	\$10,981.03
Expenses	\$2252.09	\$16,937.44

Major expenses included the contributions to a few other groups. Most contributions for the year have been made. The budget and finance committee didn't meet, and there isn't anything unusual in our short term forecast. \$1221.50 was paid from the SHCU account for the basement room equipment (not shown in above report). Year to date expenses have significantly exceeded income. Our checking account has about \$7000 as of 5/31/13. There are no significant outstanding expenses, and there aren't large expenses expected for the remainder of the year.

The Committee of Ministers, Elders and Overseers reported:

They are still working on creating a process and guidelines for Membership or Marriage Clearness Committees. Once these recommendations are ready they will be brought to Meeting for Business for approval.

Building and Grounds Committee reported:

Since Pat Young reported at last Meeting for Business on 5th month 12, 2013 there has been a flurry of B&G activity. Updating Pat's report:

1. Clogged downspout and direction of rain water flow to the driveway. We discovered that the original ribbed drainage pipe was not connected to the downspout and even if it were, it was clogged with dirt. Contrary to a report that the downspout had been cleared, a test with a hose to the top indicated the full length was still clogged. In the meantime Larry has gone forward with the drainage pipe ready to be attached when the "way opens".
 2. Porch step leveling. Yet to be done.
 3. Shutters. Changing color of shutters and doors to green has lost steam since Dave volunteered to caulk and paint them white himself - and they look wonderful.
 4. Hospitality after MFW. The relocation to the basement has been successful, eliminating the need to move the round table from the library. Preparation and clean-up has been greatly facilitated.
 5. Work Day. On May 18th about half of the Committee showed up, despite the rain. The stove and refrigerator were cleaned, the baseboard on the stairs re-stained, burned out light bulbs replaced, dishwasher has been removed and discarded (use of space to be determined), and benches cleaned with oil of soap etc. Dave changed the air filter at the head of the stairs.
 6. Outside the birdbath/planter is in place and being maintained, pruning of some of the shrubbery on the front of the building done, and the handicapped ramp was power washed and looks brand new - thank you, Andy.
- Next meeting: 6/16/13 at 9 a.m. in the basement. Sure to be on the agenda: Proposed new sink for the kitchen. Restoration of the round table to the library. The consideration of installation of leaf guards for the gutters. Pressure washing where bricks have become stained and moldy. Handicap access to the basement. Landscaping at the southeast corner of the building.

The clerk will write a letter to Larry Herz expressing the meeting's appreciation for his "above and beyond" assistance.

Property Issues Update:

Dominion Virginia Power has not completed the "restoration phase" of their project that crossed Meeting and VB Friends School property. Nancy Craft is the lead in the communication with Dominion. A check will be coming from Dominion to finalize the project, in repayment of damages to property. Meeting approved signing this check over to VB Friends School when it arrives. Some last elements of work remain to be done, focused on the local electric distribution lines.

Young Friends First Day School Committee Report:

After checking availability and prices for room dividers in local used furniture stores and not finding anything that was suitable, they were ordered online at SchoolsIn. They are scheduled for delivery at Gwynne Wells' house on Monday, 6/10. One or two strong able-bodied volunteers are needed to help move them into the basement on Monday sometime between 6 - 7 PM, or whatever time works for us and the volunteers.

Three photos depicting Young Friends in action are now on the meeting's website. We hope that this will encourage families to attend our meeting and bring their children.

The Young Friends Committee has in its mission statement: "Explore opportunities to expand and build the community of our children to include the Friends School and local neighborhoods." Two weeks ago for our lesson/activity, we learned to play African djembe drums lead by Louis Ruffa and Teacher Jo. Louis is an eighth grader at Friends School, and Teacher Jo is a music teacher at FS. Our drum

circle was in the school library so we would not disturb the meeting. This was the first time Kai and Landon Luzak had been inside the FS.

Please let a YF committee member know when you can assist or lead our Young Friends on a first day this summer.

Nominating Committee Report: The Committee presented the final draft of the list of Committees and Contacts for 2013-2014, Meeting approved and appreciates the hard work of this committee. The list is attached here.

Communications Committee Items: Please direct website updates to Whit Peace. Because phone service has not been changed yet, as planned into the budget, the actual spending on the Meeting house telephone year-to-date has exceeded the amount budgeted for all of 2013. The new convener of the Communications Committee has been made aware. Meeting approved an increase in the amount budgeted for telephone expenses to \$350.00 annually as way opens to change the phone system.

New Business. A letter from Friendship Monthly meeting in Greensboro, NC was read and was referred to our Sufferings Committee.

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.