

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Ninth Month 2013

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

9/21 9 am – 3pm Women’s Retreat, Durham Meeting, Durham NC. Pot Luck Lunch (See below.)

9/21 One Love Festival –Virginia Wesleyan College, Virginia Beach, VA. Activities from 2:30 pm, reservations for dinner plus a concert in the evening. See www.onelovefestival.com

9/28 8am-1pm - Sandcastle Classic -4th to 6th Street at the Beach!

9/29 3-5 pm – Social Justice University – the VICPP program to prepare us for the advocacy work with the General Assembly! Featuring Dr. Quentin Kidd, Director of The Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University

WEEKLY

MONTHLY

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

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)

1st First Days –

9 am – Building & Grounds Meeting

Noon- Knitting

12:15 pm - Peace & Social Justice Meeting

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 & Oversight

SAVE THE DATES

To Be Determined	The River Cleanup Days. Contact Whit Peace, 613-2828 whitpeace.river@gmail.com For more information or to register, call our office at 757-962-5398, Trista@LRNow.org
10/3	Empower Hampton Roads Public Meeting, Norfolk VA
10/27	Representative Body Meeting, Davidson Meeting, Davidson NC
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
4/14-16/2014	FWCC Consultation, High Point NC
4/26/2014	Representative Body meeting, Durham Meeting, Durham NC
7/9-13/2014	Yearly Meeting, Guilford College, Greensboro NC

Query 2 Meeting for Worship: *Are we faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship and are we careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by our late arrival? Is our behavior therein that of open submission to God in silent communion?*

Response: We rejoice at each individual who is present for worship. No matter the time of their arrival, Spirit is here waiting for us. Consideration of this query leaves us with a positive feeling, especially when the children enter just before the rise of meeting. We reach out as best we can to those who seldom attend, hoping to see them soon again.

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Ninth Month 8, 2013

Opening: Virginia Beach Friends met for attention to business in the Meetinghouse. The meeting began at 8:35 AM with silent worship. There were some 12 members and attenders present.

Treasurer's Report: Expenses are about \$5000 more than income. Electrical work and a new vacuum cleaner contributed to the 8th-Month expenses. Most of the Rita Wass bequest has been transferred into Friends' Fiduciary Fund.

Head of School: Enrollment is up this year! Children have moved out of the Cottage into newly refurbished space in Fox. There are three international students, one 16 year-old still in need of a host family. We also have three homeschoolers. The gym in the Wilson Center has also been upgraded. Cross Country and volleyball are the fall sports this year. Spiritual life will focus on peace and social justice, as well as preparing our young leaders.

Young Friends: Are hoping to have an outing to Creeds Meeting on the fifth 1st day this month. Friends there have designated a "humdinger" meeting consisting of music and food every fifth 1st day. More information will follow via email. Teachers are working together to organize a curriculum.

Buildings & Grounds: The Committee feels we should take care of our property as if it was our own home, which it is. A meeting of the joint property task force concluded that we should move forward in our business, as if we would remain in this location for more than five years. Gutters are getting more regular attention. The next workday will be 9/15 after worship. The entire 10 ft. walkway at the bottom of the front stairs will be replaced at a cost of \$950. Business meeting increased the general budget by \$2000, so there are more funds for our work. Dominion Power has replaced our electric meter.

Ministers, Elders & Overseers: A spiritual workshop was approved, to be led by Dave French and based on the Faith section of the Discipline. It is planned for the weekend of 10/18. Friends also agreed to keep the Meetinghouse open on Christmas Eve for caroling and silent worship.

Peace & Social Justice: Although the Committee did not meet, weekly vigils for peace will continue after worship each 1st day. With "action" on the civil war in Syria a hot topic, we were encouraged that "action" can also mean writing letters, making phone calls, and sending emails to encourage a dialogue for peaceful resolution to the conflict. Contact information for this kind of action will be distributed to the membership via the emailer. We can also hold all the people of that troubled region in the light, as we meet together.

Hospitality Committee: People have been designated to serve refreshments at each 1st day after worship. Anyone interested in helping is asked to contact Faye Bailey.

New Business:

- Yearly Meeting requested a person be named to help with the revision of the Discipline. The recording clerk will email them that we have already designated Dave French. Dave will follow up with additional information regarding these changes.
- Meeting approved a pending transfer of membership for Carol (Arnold) Oste from Virginia Beach to Goose Creek (Baltimore Yearly Meeting), once we have been made aware of their requirements for such action.
- It was announced that member Mary Talley made her transition late last night at Atlantic Shores. Friends were asked to hold her and her partner Bettie Currie in the light as we closed.
- A member's concern relative to the 4th day night worship sharing meeting was referred to M.E. & O.

Closing: No further business appearing, meeting closed with a few minutes of silence, to meet again in 10th Month.

Patricia Phelan Young, clerk & Andrew M. Young, recording clerk

On The Brink?

I oppose U.S. military action in Syria.

The two inch bold print headline of The Virginian Pilot, October 28, reads "On The Brink." The report indicates that "a military strike appears to be imminent." The much heralded "red line" of chemical weapons appears to have been crossed. Four Norfolk-based destroyers are on alert in the Mediterranean Sea awaiting orders to fire on Syria. The report further states that since Destroyer crews often complete entire deployments without launching a single offensive attack, "there is a high level of excitement on those ships right now."

American foreign policy has become the lust of war -- a military hammer looking for a nailhead on which to strike. In the Pilot's opinion page the editorial suggests that anything less than a military strike is considered "inaction." Where have we the people heard that before? Only to learn soon after, that at great cost in dollars, in human lives, and in our standing in the international community, everything was more ravaged when we left than when we entered. Whatever happened to the power of honest and skillful political action and diplomacy? Where is the will, from President Obama on down, to use the United Nations and the International Criminal Court to work toward a lawful intervention, and to support the convening of an international emergency summit of heads of state? We need to negotiate a way forward to end the bloodshed, allow unrestricted humanitarian access and find a sustainable settlement to the conflict.

The beleaguered people of Syria are in the midst of a horrific struggle to find their common ground, religiously and in affairs of State. Their struggle mirrors the global unrest in the family of man. Outside forces, including the U.S., Israel, Russia, Iran, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, are pouring propaganda, manpower, and weaponry into that struggle toward their own self-centered ends rather than toward a humane resolution. The planet Earth is a tiny port of call. Yes, we are on the brink. Peace in the world or the world in pieces.

Robert E. Young

Guard Duty by Robert E. Young

We stand at attention, tall in the grass
Of the Laskin Road feeder lane
Lookout to the blur of traffic
At the outpost of the Friends Meeting House.
We are foot soldiers on a silent vigil for peace
Holding signs as witness
War is Not the Answer
Give Peace A Chance
Bread Not Bombs

A hard rain is falling.
Wrathful winds whip under the umbrellas
Sending splashes of squall ricocheting
Through the demilitarized zone
Strafing our gear and the Sunday-go-to-Meetin' shoes
Grounded in the muck and mud.

Cars whiz by
Armored cavalry, kings of the road
Hell-bent on a mission from headquarters
Oblivious of us.
We are the not reported. We are the collateral damage.
"Who goes there?" I ask myself
"Advance and be recognized," I reply.

Sometimes we catch a friendly honk
A slow down and a fleeting smile
Sometimes, buckled down tight, someone
Missles a middle finger our way.
In either case, we smile softly.
"Thank you for sharing," we muse.

We are peaceful warriors
Guided by an inner light
One or two or three out of many
Open to Love that which we find hard to like.
Guarding the silence, the reflection
The sweetness of life.

Women's Retreat 9/21/2013 Durham Meeting, 404 Alexander Ave. Durham NC Breakfast will be furnished, potluck lunch. Breakfast at 8:30 am for registration. Contact Kristin Olson-Kennedy kolsonkennedy@gmail.com 704-799-1711 to register!!

Title: The Elephant and the 6 blind people; exploring our spiritual experiences together. Open to all women to attend!!

Objective: To consider and explore our own personal spiritual experience using words and other modes of expression. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of these experiences as well as possibilities for further exploration and/or sharing with others.

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.