

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Second Month 2014

CURRENT ACTIVITIES	
<p>2/17 No School Presidents Day – Sports Tournament</p> <p>2/18-21 School Sports Tournament</p> <p>3/1, 9am to 2pm – Empower Hampton Roads Our Vision for the next Decade, Attitudes and Disciplines for congregational based organizing Ascension Episcopal Church, 410 Talbot Hall Road, Norfolk, VA</p>	<p>3/3-7 School Spring Break</p> <p>3/8/ Discovery Dinners 6pm Sign-up sheet is at the Meetinghouse or contact Nancy Nixon</p> <p>3/11 JCOC Our turn to serve the shelter meal. Contact Tracy Paladini to assist tpaladini@yahoo.com</p> <p>3/30 Noon Brown Bag Lunch –Led by Keith Williamson – Topic to be announced later.</p>
MONTHLY	
<p><u>EACH 1st DAY</u> (Sunday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>10:30 – 11:30 am Meeting for Worship with First Day School-</u> <i>younger children join Meeting during or after Worship</i> * <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> <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 (except when school is not in session) 	<p><u>1st First Days</u> –</p> <p>9 am – Buildings & Grounds Meeting</p> <p>12 noon - Peace & Social Justice Meeting</p> <p><u>2nd First Days</u> –</p> <p>8:30 am - Meeting for Worship with attention to Business (except Seventh Month)</p> <p><u>3rd First Days</u></p> <p>9 am - First Day School Discussion <u>The NCYM-C Book of Discipline</u></p> <p><u>4th First Days</u></p> <p>9 am Meeting of Ministry & Oversight</p>
SAVE THE DATES 2014	
<p style="text-align: center;">To Be Determined</p>	<p>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</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4/10, 10/7, 11/6</p>	<p>JCOC dates for 2014 – Contact Tracey Paladini to assist and for details tpaladini@yahoo.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4/13-16</p>	<p>FWCC Regional Consultation, High Point NC</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4/26</p>	<p>Representative Body meeting, Durham Meeting, Durham NC</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7/9-13</p>	<p>Yearly Meeting, Guilford College, Greensboro NC</p>

Query #8 to ponder for next month –Manner of Living - *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?*

Query #7: *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?*

Response: It seems that many can agree on the first sentence of this query. It is the second, being faithful to our peace testimony, where Friends stand apart from most faith communities. We are challenged to continue to be “lit up” enough with the fire of this testimony to stay active in maintaining it. Much of our local economy depends upon preparations for war, making it more difficult for many of us employed here not to participate in some way. There is also an opportunity to bear witness against the “war of words” that exists in our political dialogue. Our school affords us many other opportunities for this witness. Peace begins at home, and our example can be effective at all levels.

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Second Month 9, 2014

Opening: Virginia Beach Friends met for worship with attention to business on 2nd Month, Nine in the Meetinghouse. The meeting began at 8:31 AM with silent worship. There were some 18 Friends and attenders present.

Head of School: Enrollment has surpassed our goal, and two visits are planned for this coming week. Snow closed school for a number of days that also avoided the spread of illness. Despite that, our open house was a success, and the school will make up the time lost during the 2nd semester. More makeup days will follow in the weeks to come. Students just returned from the annual Quaker Youth Conference, fired up about Friends education and enjoying interactions with their peers at other schools.

School Committee: The School Committee meeting this month was devoted to next year’s budget. The Advancement Committee sent out a fundraising letter to Meeting members.

Treasurer’s Report: 1st month income was some \$1400, with expenses of about \$500. New shutters for the west side of the Meetinghouse were purchased, and will soon be installed. Letters to all donors were sent out, confirming their contribution for 2013. If there is a discrepancy in your letter, please contact the treasurer! A review of last year’s financial activity is expected in 3rd-month.

Buildings & Grounds: \$1000 towards a joint property survey with the School was approved. They’re continuing to develop information on replacing the windows and have a second quote. The next workday may be in 4th month. The committee is seeking input for work projects

Faith & Practice Revision Committee: The Committee reviewed the first three-page revised section on “Organization & Procedures” sent in by the Yearly Meeting. Dave French is the contact person. A copy of the draft revision, and our Committee’s response, is available for feedback from anyone desiring to see its contents. The Yearly Meeting would like our monthly meeting’s response by 4th month. This is part of a back-and-forth process that is intended to culminate in a complete discipline revision.

Peace & Social Justice: Has met twice in the last month. A retreat this coming 7th day is planned to discuss a joint publication by FCNL and the AFSC on a vision of “Shared Security” going forward. Meeting approved the Committee’s plans to survey the membership on their commitments and passions for Peace & Social Justice issues in order to more deeply involve Virginia Beach Friends.

Ministers, Elders & Overseers: Will share the response to each of their queries at the rise of Meeting for Worship that follows. They hosted a regional meeting of the Wider Quaker Fellowship this weekend. The Committee clerk thanked the School for use of their generous accommodations. Response to Discovery Dinners on 3/8 has been

very strong. Other hosts may be needed for that day. Keith Williamson has agreed to lead a brown bag discussion on 3/30. Topic to be announced.

Joint Property Task Force: The committee comprised of folks from both the Meeting and School met on 2/6/2014 to continue planning for the Laskin Road widening project. Once the survey, approved for Buildings & Grounds (above) is completed, they plan to begin addressing property access during and after construction, drainage of the front of the property, and the need to replace the School/Meeting sign after construction is over. When impetus for the project builds again, this group will have much more work to do. Members interested in helping out are cordially invited to contact convener Nancy Craft.

Memorial Garden: Meeting approved a Committee interested in exploring designing and managing a memorial garden. They would develop conceptual details on location, design, maintenance, etc.

Closing: No further business appearing, Meeting closed at 10:13 am with a few minutes of silence, to meet again in 3rd Month.

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

Yearly Meeting Discipline Revision

Dave French and his small committee received and reviewed the first (of many to come) suggested changes to our Yearly Meeting Book of Discipline. This first installment is the section on pages 20-23 and is comprised of the first 4 Sections under "Organization and procedures". A copy of the draft revision, and our Committee's response, is available for feedback from anyone desiring to see and review its contents. Contact Dave French to receive an electronic copy of this document. Comments and suggestions should be sent to Dave French.

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Discovery Dinners

Sign up now if you are interested in attending a Discovery Dinner. The dinners are pot lucks at the homes of members. Everyone is welcome to attend. This is an opportunity to learn more about our Meeting and who we are.

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First Day School on Second Month 16

This month the topic from our book of Discipline will be the Advices and Queries. We are hoping for a good turnout and a lively discussion.

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Empower Hampton Roads

EHR has scheduled a workshop open to everyone to learn more about Attitudes and Disciplines for congregational based organizing. This opportunity usually occurs only once a year to give member congregations an opportunity to learn more about how this interfaith organization works within Hampton Roads, and how to work within our own congregations or issues of importance to us.

Peace and Social Justice Survey

Our P&SJ Committee has created a survey to find out more about our individual interests in social justice and peace. When you receive the survey, please complete and return it to this committee. This is an important step in determining what our meeting is and could/should be doing.

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 ybfm.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 email address. Folks are encouraged to receive the newsletter electronically to help save our funds. Please consider receiving this Meeting's mailing address, Virginia Beach Friends Meeting, PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

Please remember it costs the Meeting 55 cents for every returned newsletter. Please forward address changes to avoid returned newsletters.