

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Fifth Month 2014

CURRENT ACTIVITIES	
<p>5/18 4:30 pm Empower Hampton Roads Annual Banquet – celebrating 10 years of Social Justice in Hampton Roads. Contact Nancy Craft to purchase tickets, place ads in the program, or to make donations for the Silent Auction. Donations are welcomed any time!</p> <p>5/19 7 pm Empower Hampton Roads Regional Equity Engagement Task Force Meeting – Learning about felons’ rights and how to regain their voting rights.</p>	<p>5/22 Friends School Golf Tournament Signature Golf Course Registration 11am Start 12 noon.</p> <p>5/26 School Closed for Memorial Day</p> <p>6/5 All School Picnic</p> <p>6/7 2 pm Friends School Graduation - all are welcome and invited to attend</p>
MONTHLY	
<p><u>EACH 1st DAY (Sunday)</u></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 2nd DAY (Monday)</u> <i>11:45 am Moral Monday - Richmond VA St. Paul’s Episcopal Church steps (across the street from the General Assembly/Capitol Park).</i></p> <p><u>EACH 4th DAY (Wednesday)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>7 pm - Mid-Week Prayer</u> <p><u>EACH 6th DAY (Friday)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>9 – 9:30 am Meeting for Worship</u> <i>All are welcome, with special invitation to School & Meeting Community (except when school is not in session)</i> 	<p><u>1st First Days</u> <i>9 am – Buildings & Grounds Meeting</i> <i>12 noon - Peace & Social Justice Meeting</i></p> <p><u>2nd First Days</u> <i>8:30 am - Meeting for Worship with attention to Business (except Seventh Month)</i></p> <p><u>3rd First Days</u> <i>9 am - First Day School Discussion</i></p> <p><u>4th First Days</u> <i>9 am Meeting of Ministry & Oversight</i></p>
SAVE THE DATES 2014	
<p>6/7, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, 11/1</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>10/7, 11/6</p>	<p>JCOC dates for 2014 – Contact Tracey Paladini to assist and for details tpaladini@yahoo.com</p>
<p>7/9-13</p>	<p>Yearly Meeting, Guilford College, Greensboro NC</p>

Query #12 to ponder for next business session: *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?*

Query 10: *Manner of Living - Do we endeavor to live in harmony with nature? Are we careful in our stewardship of the world's irreplaceable resources?*

Response: Living in harmony with nature is easy when it is peaceful and comforting. To do this when nature is frightening, such as in a tornado or flood, is much more challenging. We become more aware of our interdependence as we learn about more recent challenges, especially to our limited freshwater supply, from pollution in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, to such modern practices as hydro-fracking for natural gas. Our Meeting and school are doing much to raise community awareness of these. We bear not only a corporate, but an individual responsibility to do what we can. We know that if we devote more attention to what is going on around us in nature, we will discover more ways to carry out the goals of this query.

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?*

Response: As individuals, we cannot help but discriminate in all we perceive. If we look deeper to the God within, the similarities become more apparent. Mankind is uniquely able to reason and choose similarities over differences. We are reminded that our society is based on white privilege. It is in those random acts of kindness that we gain awareness that we are all part of the human family.

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Business with Attention to Business Fifth Month 11, 2014

Opening: Virginia Beach Friends met for worship with attention to business on 5th month, eleven in the Meetinghouse. The meeting began at 8:30 am with silent worship. There were some 10 Friends and attenders present.

Head of School Report: Care of the physical plant is more pro-active as work begins on the Middle School and cottage. The campus looked beautiful for April's Founders' Day fundraiser. The golf tournament was postponed due to weather to 5/22. The open house generated quite a buzz, both in visits to campus and phone calls about both international and local students. More involvement of the high school in all areas of school life made for increased excitement in the entire community. Mark your calendars now for graduation on 6/7 at 2:00 pm.

School Committee: School Committee welcomed Tim Craddock as new member. Enrollment is at 170, compared to 147 this time last year! The \$100,000 annual giving goal is about 90% achieved with six weeks to go. The Founders' Day auction raised almost \$9000.

Treasurer's Report: Expenses exceeded income this month by nearly \$200. Year-to-date totals show expenses running about \$3000 ahead of income. The largest expense was \$765 for painting the trim on the Meetinghouse.

Buildings & Grounds: Approved window replacement, which will begin in a few weeks, and coordinated by Kathie Garner. We hope to have another workday soon.

Adult First-day School: Ended with a review of our doctrines & testimonies. A summary report has been sent to members.

Faith & Practice Revision: The Yearly Meeting Committee leading the discipline re-write is compiling submissions from the various meetings and hopes to send this work to us prior to the annual gathering. Next topic will be the sections on membership.

Ministers, Elders & Overseers: Welcomed Kristin Olson-Kennedy from Yearly Meeting who queried us, "How does our monthly meeting use the recording process to recognize and nurture spiritual gifts?" Judith Stevens wrote asking to lay down her role as an overseer, but not as a member of Meeting. The brown bag lunch discussion led by Keith Williamson was very well attended and discussion was thoughtful & lively.

Peace & Social Justice: Requests a time of discernment during the Meeting for Worship with an Attention to Business in June in order to determine how committed we are as a Meeting to our traditional First Day Vigils for Peace on Laskin Road.

Communications Committee: Wi-fi for the Meetinghouse is still being pursued. The Committee helped Peace & Social Justice Committee to design the survey. They have taken up a suggestion that we take pictures of "Meeting People" for the website.

Joint Property Task Force: Recommended we use the School's attorney to amend a request from VDOT, in light of a current urgent need for a permanent utility easement along Laskin Rd. There is also a disputed ownership between the School and VDOT over a piece of land, which could be resolved.

Nominating Committee: The current roster of those serving on Committees is posted on the bulletin board. Linda Smith will be putting this out on the email list. Is looking for two more people to fill our vacancies on their board of Empower Hampton Roads. No one is currently serving this need, though we retain our membership in that organization.

Representative Body: Met on 4/27 in Durham. They are asking for additional financial support for children attending Yearly Meeting sessions so that it can fund itself. There will be a change in the dates from Yearly Meeting in 2015 to 7/15-17 so as not to conflict with Friends General Conference being held that year in Western NC during our normal sessions in 7th month. Durham is proposing a regional youth ministries program to be brought up for discussion at Yearly Meeting in 7th month.

Closing: No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM, to meet again in 6th month if consistent with Divine will.

Patricia Phalen-Young, Clerk and Andrew Young, Recording Clerk

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Peace & Social Justice Committee – from Tom Bertrand, convener

Request for time of discernment at Meeting for Business in June concerning Peace Vigils on Laskin Road.

The Peace & Social Justice Committee requests a time of discernment during the Meeting for Worship with an Attention to Business in June in order to determine how committed we are as a Meeting to our traditional First Day Vigils for Peace on Laskin Road. Our participation has waxed and waned over the years, and now is experiencing an extended eclipse. Because our Meeting's membership is widely distributed throughout the southern Hampton Roads communities and various members must travel far to participate in our worship and other activities, the times before and after Meetings for Worship on First Days are at a premium. During a typical month, discussions of Faith & Practice, various committee meetings, preparations of the hospitality committee, and brown bag conversations crowd into the times before and after Meeting for Worship, not to mention the leisurely fellowship over coffee and tea and home-baked goodies and the precious visits in the pews with some of our older members – all of which our members seem to crave. Are members of Meeting also committed to spending that time on Peace Vigils on Laskin Road? Clearly, there are members who are not comfortable, or able, to stand on the public thoroughfare in all weathers holding signs. Would Members be willing to try to participate at least one Sunday per month? Would the Meeting welcome our P&SJ committee proposing alternative ways – a more varied menu of opportunities to witness for peace, with perhaps more targeted foci?

Suggest - we all sign up on the mailing lists at FCNL and AFSC "so we can have common ground for concerns, knowledge and action"

To sign up for weekly action alerts from FCNL go to <https://fcnl.org/>

To sign up for AFSC updates go to <http://afsc.org/>

If you have not yet taken the "Survey of Peace & Social Justice Activities and Concerns of Virginia Beach Friends" please do so. Go to <https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=buDY-0HcKtxmnUafTRvNSw#>

Join us for Virginia's Moral Mondays

Each Monday, people of faith will again gather across from the Capitol in Richmond to pray for good decisions by our legislators regarding health care for all Virginians. You are the key to Moral Mondays in Virginia. We need to keep the focus on getting a budget that includes health care for all Virginians. Invite friends to attend. Let's continue to meet each Monday with more and more Virginians to call for leadership that gets results. Join us on the steps of St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 11:45 am as we lift up the Virginia General Assembly and the need for health care in Virginia.

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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. **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 your request via our mailing address: Virginia Beach Friends Meeting, PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

Please remember it costs the Meeting 57 cents for every returned newsletter. Please forward address changes via email or regular mail to avoid returned newsletters.