

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter First Month 2015

CURRENT ACTIVITIES	
<p>1/19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day School Closed</p> <p>1/20 Teacher work day no students</p> <p>1/23 Friends School Admission Open House</p> <p>2/4 JCOC Shelter Meal - Contact Tracey Paladini to assist and for details tpaladini@yahoo.com</p>	<p>2/6 6pm-8:45pm Retreat begins – <i>“Deepening our relationship to spirit through contemplative practices”</i></p> <p>2/7 9am- 2:30 pm Worship continues (See details below.)</p> <p>2/7 Quarterly Meeting, New Bern NC</p> <p>2/16 No school – Presidents Day</p> <p>2/21 Founders Day</p> <p>3/9-13 School – Spring Break</p>
MONTHLY	
<p><u>EACH 1st DAY</u> (Sunday)</p> <p>* <u>10:30 – 11:30 am Meeting for Worship with First Day School-</u> <i>younger children join Meeting during or after Worship</i></p> <p>* <u>12:00-12:30 pm Silent Peace Vigil - in front of the Meetinghouse</u></p> <p><u>EACH 2nd DAY</u> (Monday)</p> <p>* <u>11:45 am for 30 minutes Moral Monday - Richmond VA St. Paul's Episcopal Church steps (across the street from the General Assembly/Capitol Park).</u></p> <p><u>EACH 4th DAY</u> (Wednesday)</p> <p>* <u>7 pm - Mid-Week Prayer</u></p> <p><u>EACH 6th DAY</u> (Friday)</p> <p>* <u>9 – 9:30 am Meeting for Worship All are welcome, with special invitation to School & Meeting Community (except when school is not in session)</u></p>	<p><u>1st First Days</u> 9 am – Buildings & Grounds Meeting 12 noon - Peace & Social Justice Meeting</p> <p><u>2nd First Days</u> 8:30 am - Meeting for Worship with attention to Business (except Seventh Month)</p> <p><u>3rd First Days</u> 9 am - First Day School Discussion</p> <p><u>4th First Days</u> 9 am Meeting of Ministry & Oversight</p>
SAVE THE DATES	
<p>3/5, 4/9, 10/29, 11/19</p>	<p>JCOC Homeless shelter meal – Contact Tracey Paladini to assist and for details tpaladini@yahoo.com</p>
<p>5/3/2015</p>	<p>Quarterly meeting –</p>
<p>4/25/2015</p>	<p>Interim Body Meeting – Greenville NC</p>
<p>5/2/2015</p>	<p>Quarterly meeting - Host TBD</p>
<p>7/15-19/2015</p>	<p>Yearly Meeting, Guilford College, Greensboro NC: <u>Note: Date Change From Routine</u></p>
<p>10/24/2015</p>	<p>Interim Body Meeting – Location TBD</p>

Query to ponder for next month: 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?*

www.vbfriends.org, www.ncymc.org, Facebook Group: North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative

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: We say, “Yes” to reverence and seeking! Being involved at levels beyond the local community can lead to discouragement at the enormity of the world’s problems, yet many of us have persisted working in larger spheres. Our own Peace & Social Justice Committee is seeking a forum for the Meeting to bridge the differences among people. The Meeting also holds membership in other organizations active in rectifying injustice & discrimination. There will always be limitations to the effectiveness of our work. Let us not let guilt over what we have not gotten done discourage us. We feel that getting to personally know individuals different from us helps us to work harder in the wider world.

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Business with Attention to Business First Month 11, 2015

Opening: Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting of Friends gathered for Worship with Attention to Business on First-day, 1st-month, eleven, 2015 at 8:36 AM in the Meetinghouse. Present were some 14 Friends and attenders.

Treasurer’s Report: Substantial donations in the last month seem to have alleviated the past shortfall in income. A full report will follow since the treasurer has just returned from an extensive absence in South America.

Head of School Report: A crosswalk just before the Circle was created, and the edge of the Dominion easement has been cleared for more parking. The Greenhouse was damaged during a storm in late fall and will undergo some repairs this month. Upper and Middle Schools are winding up their semester. We are introducing a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) science elective in Upper School next Semester. The school has begun a cooperative relationship with FACT, an autism support group that had a camp here last summer. They have donated money for new playground equipment, and will be using parts of our campus for their programs. The Quakerism aspects of our website are being updated. The *Young Leaders* are going to Charlottesville on January 24 to plan the national Quaker Youth Leadership Conference with the Tandem Friends School students. Early and Lower School faculty recently completed a ten-week course on Mindfulness conducted by our own T. Charisse. They can now integrate these skills into their teaching and with the students.

School Committee: Had a day-long retreat on 1-10-15. The mission statement and the master plan were reviewed. The plan is due for completion by mid-spring. Property issues are moving forward as well! There was a pervasive camaraderie and upbeat cooperation reflective of our faith community as a whole. “The Art of Possibilities” was the theme of the retreat. Meeting is seen as an integral part of the School. Six of the thirteen Committee members are from meeting.

Ministers, Elders & Overseers: Asked for acceptance of their description of committee conveners. The Meeting deferred action until this document could be more closely reviewed. M.E.O. will also be reviewing proposed guidelines for Meeting membership and serving on clearness committees. The book “The Creed of Christ” by Gerald Heard has been proposed for study for Adult 1st Day School. Twelve or thirteen people have already signed up for the workshop being presented by Susan Wilson called “Deeping Our Relationship to Spirit Through Contemplative Practices” on Second month 6th and 7th.

Nominating Committee: Meeting approved a “snapshot” of current committee assignments as of the end of 2014, as a basis for its work on this year’s nominating season. We clarified that committee service begins in eighth-month following yearly meeting for a two-year term. Approval of proposed changes to their committee description was deferred until next month.

Faith & Practice Review: The newest draft of the section on “special occasions” has been received and will be addressed soon.

Closing: No further business appearing, the Meeting closed at 10:10 AM with a brief period of silent worship, to meet again in 2nd Month, 2015 if consistent with Divine will.

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

VIRGINIA BEACH FRIENDS MEETING RETREAT: 2/6 and 7/2015

"DEEPENING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO SPIRIT THROUGH CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES"

WHERE: VIRGINIA BEACH MEETING HOUSE

WHEN: FRIDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 6th. 6:00PM- 8:45PM (SUPPER PROVIDED), SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7th 9:30AM- 2:30AM (Pot luck dish appreciated but not required – see sign-up sheet!)

THIS RETREAT WILL PROVIDE AN INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES, OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE THESE PRACTICES AND SHARING OUR PRACTICES WITH OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY. THE GOAL IS TO REMOVE OBSTACLES TO DEVELOPING A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SPIRIT AND THE "SMALL VOICE WITHIN" LARGELY EXPERIENTIAL AND SHARING.

The retreat will be facilitated by Susan Wilson, a member of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative whose Spiritual Journey has included an internship at Fr. Richard Rohr's Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, NM and the School of the Spiritual Nurturer Program. Susan's teachers include Fr. Richard Rohr, Fr. Thomas Keating, Thomas Merton and Cynthia Bourgeault. Her passions are contemplative practices and contemplative life and mystical Christianity. Susan is currently a Sojourning Member of Friendship Friends Meeting in Greensboro, N.C.

THIS RETREAT IS FREE. Bring a dish to share for lunch (optional). We look forward to this special time together as a spiritual community.

Liana Fleming wants us to know about a free Spanish class she is teaching!

She indicates all are welcome to participate!

Location: Spring Branch Community Church, 1500 North Great Neck Road, VB 23454

Dates & Time: Thursdays, January 15 through March 19, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm Room 301

Questions or to sign up, contact Debbie@springbranch.org

From the School:

Anyone who shops at Harris Teeter, now is the time to link your VIC card to Virginia Beach Friends School. If you have done this in the past, it needs to be re-linked every fall. Click on this link (or cut/paste into your browser): https://www.harristeeter.com/other/my_harris_teeter/login_page.aspx to connect your VIC card to our school. If you have trouble, just go to the Customer Service counter at any HT store.

Target: if you use a Target red card, you can link this to Friends School as well. Just go to the Customer Service counter and this can be quickly set-up. They donate a percentage of your purchases to the school.

Coke caps and Box Tops for Education - these small items also bring in cash to the school. There is a box in the Meetinghouse to collect these items.

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.