

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Sixth and Seventh Months 2015

CURRENT ACTIVITIES	
<p>7/15-19 Yearly Meeting, Wilmington NC</p> <p>7/31 School, Open House and T. Bobby's Birthday party</p>	<p>8/8 11am Eastern Informal Quarterly Meeting, Fayetteville NC. Worship followed by pot luck lunch and fellowship</p> <p>8/8 River Cleanup</p> <p>9/9 River Cleanup</p>
MONTHLY	
<p><u>EACH 1st DAY</u> (Sunday)</p> <p>* <u>10:30 – 11:30 am Meeting for Worship with First Day School- younger children join Meeting during or after Worship</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>8:50 – 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></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</p> <p><u>4th First Days</u></p> <p>8:30 am Meeting of Ministry & Oversight</p>
SAVE THE DATES	
9/12, 11/19	River Cleanup
10/24	Interim Body Meeting – Location TBD
10/29, 11/19	JCOC Homeless shelter meal – Contact Tracey Paladini for details & to assist. tpaladini@yahoo.com

THIS IS THE LAST MAILED VIRGINIA BEACH FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER YOU WILL RECEIVE UNLESS YOU CONTACT US TO REQUEST IT BE MAILED TO YOU!

To request a mailed newsletter –
 Send a note to our mailing address: VBFM, PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-0371
 Or by emailing us at vbfm.emailer@gmail.com
 Or by phone at 757-428-9515

Query #1 to consider for the next Business Meeting.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP: 1. Do we faithfully uphold our testimony for worship which is based on silent waiting, and for a 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 in the spoken ministry?

Mail address: PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454, **web site:** www.vbfriends.org, **Phone:** 757-428-9515

Query #9. *Our Manner of Living. Are we mindful of Friends testimonies against alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and other harmful drugs; and do we refrain from using them or dealing with them, realizing that abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence? Do we seek to avoid all kinds of gambling and places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing? Do we keep in mind how diverse and widespread are the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others? Are we faithful to our testimony against taking oaths?*

Response. *We remind ourselves that the advice to refrain from taking oaths ought to be taken in a broader sense than referring only to the formal swearing of oaths. We are to speak directly and with the intent always of speaking truly. The alcohol clause strikes some as too absolute and that 'abstinence' could be softened. To others the trap that alcohol is for many makes this word seem appropriate. The investment culture raises worries about profiting from the loss of others. In its more speculative forms it may involve us in a form of gambling. We take the query to call us to thoughtfulness about all our speakings and doings. How this thoughtfulness plays out in individual lives will vary. The challenge remains valid.*

Query #10. *Harmony with Nature. Do we endeavor to live in harmony with nature? Are we careful in our stewardship of the world's irreplaceable resources?*

Response: *Stewardship in this complex civilization requires vigilance. Our shiny devices do not proclaim openly the resources of the earth and the labor they require. Our abundant food supply hides the chemical interventions it is based on. Harmony with nature also means preparation for the storms and cataclysms with which nature will present us, and for the turmoil in our own human nature.*

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with attention to Business 06/14/2015

Opening. Meeting opened with a period of silent worship, nineteen persons present.

Queries: As there is no monthly meeting for attention to business in seventh month the Ninth and Tenth query was read.

Building & Grounds Committee Report. A draft mission statement was presented for approval.

The Building and Grounds committee's mission is to do what is necessary to have a meeting house and grounds that are suitable for our worship and the various activities that use the building, while maintaining compliance with jurisdictional requirements.

The term 'housekeeping' was added to the list of examples given under "Specifics" point a. This refers to the need to maintain supplies, keep storage closets tidy and similar things. The statement was approved with this addition. It was noted that this statement intentionally omits any mention of long-range planning and that this important function will need to be addressed somewhere.

Head of School Report from Linda Serrette, Head of School, was received.

Nominating Committee Report. The final list of committee members was presented. Friends are asked to send corrections to Whit Peace and to send email communications concerning committees and their work using the designated addresses for clerk, scheduler and emailer as given on the meeting's website.

Treasurer's Report. Income for fifth month was \$1985 while expenses amounted to \$833. The meeting's contribution to the school and other budgeted contributions have yet to be made. The checking account has around \$10k in it. Our school contribution is close to that. Another \$5k plus the money to pay regular bills is still required. This is only sixth month but Friends are asked to be mindful of the financial situation of the meeting.

Ministry, Elders and Overseers Report. Queries for the year have been completed and responses have been forwarded to Yearly Meeting Ministry & Oversight. Hank Ghittino will clerk for the next two years and Faye Bailey will record.

Peace and Social Justice Committee Report. A detailed list of the committee activities was reported. Tom Bertrand emphasized the committee's emphasis on coalition-building, on leading within those coalitions, and on connecting with and working with national Quaker organizations.

School Committee Report. The sixth month meeting of the committee was devoted to master-planning. Members of the committee joined the steering committee for master planning for a presentation by Mike Ross of HBA Architects. Mike outlined four possible concepts for the overall design of the campus. This material will be brought to the Joint Property Task Force soon with the expectation that a called meeting will follow.

Representatives to Yearly Meeting. Named were Tom Bertrand, Nancy Craft, Dave French and others of the meeting who are able to attend. This occasioned a reminder that Friends should inform themselves about changes to the discipline that will be considered for approval at this yearly meeting. These changes are explained on the yearly meeting website. Meeting expressed its gratitude to Nancy Craft and Dave French for the work for yearly meeting.

Meeting closed at 10:25 with a moment of silent worship.

Closing: No further business appearing, the Meeting ended with a brief period of silence with gratitude, to meet again in 6th month if consistent with Divine will.

Nancy Nixon, (Acting) Clerk and Patrick Goold (Acting) Recording Clerk

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REMINDER: If you have any report or material for Meeting members' consideration at Monthly Meeting for Business, please forward to vbfm.emailer@gmail.com no later than 4th day (Wednesday) prior to Meeting. In this way, Meeting members can receive all documents to be considered in a timely fashion. (This would be in addition to sending your report to the Clerk and Recording Clerk). Thank you, from our Communication Committee!!

Watchful Waiting *(by Robert Young)*

The silence
sits patiently on the window sills
of the Meeting House
aware of inside and out
swaying this way and that

Curious
as to who will
gather
this morning
to come under its spell

and maybe dare to speak

AGENDA FOR OUR YEARLY MEETING IN WILMINSTON NC Seventh Month 15-19, 2015

Preliminary outline for worship, fellowship, play, learning and business for all ages - Additional info later!

"Living Into Our Gifts"

Wednesday, 7-15: Afternoon registration, greeting one another and moving in,

Late afternoon worship, evening Meeting of Ministry and Oversight (for everyone)

Thursday, 7-16: Morning Bible Study with Bruce Arnold, children and youth activities and Meetings for Business, Special Interest groups

Evening Program on "Discernment of Our Gifts" led by Katherine Damiano

Friday, 7-17: Morning Bible Study with Bruce Arnold, children and youth activities and Meetings for Business, Special Interest groups and Evening Program on "Living Into Our Gifts" with Katherine Damiano

Saturday, 7-18: Morning Bible Study with Bruce Arnold, children and youth activities, short morning Meeting for Business, Meeting for Worship, afternoon Meeting for Business,

Evening Inter-generational Event

Sunday, 7-19: Morning Bible Study with Bruce Arnold, pack up, Meeting for Worship and Closing Minute

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.

The Virginia Beach Friends Meeting newsletters are available:
on our web site (www.vbfm.org) and via email (emailer.vbfm@gmail.com).

NCYMC web: www.ncymc.org, or on Facebook Group: North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative