

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Twelfth Month 2015

CURRENT ACTIVITIES	
(for details see VBFM Upcoming Events and the Friends School calendar)	
1/14 Discovery Dinner 1/16 Discovery Dinner 1/31 Creeds Hum Dinger	3/10 Discovery Dinner 3/12 Discovery Dinner 4/23 Interim Body Meeting
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>8:30-9:00 am – Morning Worship (start your 4th Day off with silent morning worship)</u></p> <p>* <u>7 pm - Mid-Week Prayer (prayer time especially for those in need)</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> 9 am – Buildings & Grounds 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> 12 noon - Peace & Social Justice Meeting</p> <p><u>4th First Days</u> 8:30 am Meeting of Ministry & Oversight 12 noon- Communications Committee Meeting</p>

Query Number 7 to consider for the next Business Meeting: *Peace Testimony*

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?

**Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
12/13/2015**

Meeting opened at 8:34am with a period of silent worship with twelve persons present.

1. Query #6 was read:

Do we endeavor by example and precept to cultivate in our children a sense of openness and expectancy about life and to aid them in their growth in spiritual understanding and moral discernment? Do we share with them the faith that guides the practice of Friends,

while encouraging them to develop their religious insights as the Spirit of God may lead them?

Meeting united in the following response:

Parenting is a humbling experience. We suspect at times that the openness and expectancy we see in our children arises in spite of us. We are grateful for the work of Friends School and of our first-day school in aiding parents in this delicate task. We see evidence of their success. In the face of daunting cultural obstacles, we trust the children while moving gently to make our limited leadings available to them.

2. Ministers, Elders and Overseers reported that they decided not to read its queries and responses regularly in the face of the meeting as it had previously indicated it would. It will instead do this only when the query and response address an issue particularly alive to the meeting as a whole.

3. Head of School reported that enrollment stands at 190. The head attended the first meeting of the new Board of Visitors. Plans for the next Founders' Day in February are underway. The frugal Thanksgiving meal tradition continued. The forensics team did well at a competition held at Cape Henry School, capturing a first and several third places.

Improvements were made with the help of Virginia Dominion Power to the efficiency of the heating system in the gym.

The head of school noted the need for maintenance of the signage on Laskin Road and her desire to see the visibility of the school enhanced. This request was referred to Building and Grounds to consider.

Formation of a new and more vibrant Spiritual Life Committee is advancing.

Several alumni reunion/homecoming events are planned for Saturday, 19 December.

Faculty enjoyed this year's Christmas party aboard the Spirit of Norfolk.

4. Treasurer reported that income for the month was \$990 while expenses were \$1090. Expenses exceed income by about \$4000 for the year to date.

A budget was presented for approval. Treasurer noted that this budget was simply a compilation of the requests of the various committees and is not the result of any meeting-wide discussions. Several committees have yet to submit requests. The total budgeted amount is very similar to last year's.

The budget was approved as submitted. Treasurer requested that the budget be published in the newsletter with the minutes. Meeting approved.

5. Communications Committee reported that it is revamping the Meeting's website, which has remained largely the same since it was first established. It is doing this in stages with a staging site that will allow those interested to preview changes before they are put in place of the existing pages. Friends who want to get involved in this process can contact Whit Peace.

6. Building and Grounds Committee reported that it had received two quotes for repairs to the ceiling in the meeting house. They deemed both too high to consider. They are exploring alternatives.

Work day was a success.

The lawn care contract is up for renewal. Bob Clapp is looking into this.

Friends are asked to take some responsibility for the building. Specifically, the dehumidifier in the basement must remain on and needs to be emptied frequently.

The committee is monitoring the building to see that it is ready for winter. The de-ice compound is in the upstairs closet and the snow shovels are in the downstairs closet. Friends should alert a member of the committee if they see any deficiencies.

7. Peace and Social Justice Committee reported that five of its members attended the Social Justice University, a collaborative meeting of twelve different local activist organizations, on 8 November. The task was to develop a lobbying strategy on four issues: health care, predatory lending, the Virginia Coastal Protection Act, and congressional redistricting. Other issues the committee has been working on, or would like to call attention to, include: Michele Ewing's work in diversity training, Laley Lippard's upcoming play, *Grounded*, coming in March, which is a one-woman play about the shift in American warfare as drones take over the battlefield, planning for a potluck dinner at the meeting house to meet and to hear the stories of refugees who have settled in our community, plans to invite Harriet Schley, clerk of Norfolk Friends Preparative Meeting, to make a presentation on mass incarceration, and the raising of cash donations for Feeding America. This last effort, spearheaded by Bob Clapp, raised \$475, which he says leveraged into almost \$22,000 worth of food for hungry fellow citizens.

8. The Long Range Planning Group reported that consultants have been contacted and that the process is moving forward.

9. Dave French reported on the discussions he conducted concerning the Faith and Practice revisions proposed by Yearly Meeting. These meetings, open to members and attenders, generated a unified response to Yearly Meeting, which Dave presented for approval by the Meeting. In addition to minor editorial suggestions, Meeting approved three major responses:

(i) The changed text omits the existing first section, "Early Years". We believe this omission is inappropriate, and want it restored to the text in some form. Fox's statement is central to our Faith, and must be given early in the booklet.

(ii) The proposed new text is just too long to be placed in the beginning of the book. We believe it would be better as an appendix or later section. We found the material interesting and have no doubt about its accuracy, but there is just too much of it to be in the beginning of our book.

(iii) The term "Conservative" is very awkward for us, given how it is used in the moment. We find that the historical sketch doesn't adequately describe why we have that name, and ultimately wish we would find another name that might both connect us with our rich heritage and differentiate us from other Friends who have taken different paths.

These will be sent to Yearly Meeting for its consideration.

Meeting broke at 10:07 after a period of silent worship.

Nancy Nixon, Clerk, and Patrick Goold, 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 ybfm.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!!

Also, please check our **Documents for Review** page. Documents are submitted by committees for review and comment before being presented to MFB for approval. See this link for details - http://vbfriends.org/DocPad/Review/_main.html.

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.vbfriends.org) and via email (ybfm.emailer@gmail.com).

**VBFM mailing address: PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454
Phone: 757-428-9515**

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

* The proposed 2016 budget is published on the following page:

	EXPENSES	2015	2016
	General Meeting Expenses	Budgeted	Budget
Comm	Ads - Friends Journal Listing	\$105.00	\$105
Comm	Ads - Quaker Life Dir. Listing	\$36.00	\$35
P&SJ	Peace & Social Justice Committee	\$200.00	\$200
Hosp	Hospitality Committee	\$400.00	\$300
Adult FDS	adult first day school	\$0.00	
FDS	young friends	\$0.00	\$250
Hosp.	Consumable Supplies	\$0.00	\$0
Library	Library Materials	\$75.00	\$75
Comm	Newsletter, Postage and printing	\$1,300.00	\$100
Comm	Web site and outreach	\$0.00	\$125
Comm	telephone		\$100
Treasurer	Postage, Treasurer	\$50.00	\$50
trustees	Safe Deposit Box/Other Banking Exper	\$40.00	
MEO	MEO general	\$500.00	\$500
trustees	Trustee insurance	\$770.00	
MEO	Sufferings	\$1,000.00	\$800
	Total	\$4,476.00	\$2,640
	Building and Grounds		
B&G	Building and Grounds Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$2,000
B&G	Lawnmowing	\$1,500.00	\$1,500
B&G	Cleaning	\$3,700.00	\$3,700
B&G	Electricity (\$80 / mo)	\$1,100.00	\$1,100
B&G	Insurance	\$1,900.00	\$2,100
B&G	Natural Gas	\$1,000.00	\$1,000
B&G	Telephone	\$100.00	\$0
B&G	Water, Sewer	\$350.00	\$350
	Total	\$11,650.00	\$11,750
	Financial Contributions		
P&SJ	AFSC	\$100.00	\$100
CWU	Church Women United	\$25.00	\$0
MEO	Earlham School of Religion	\$100.00	\$100
E H R	Empower Hampton Roads	\$250.00	\$0
P&SJ	Ramalah Friends School	\$0.00	\$150
P&SJ	FCNL	\$200.00	\$200
MEO	Friends Council on Education	\$100.00	\$100
School Cor	Friends School Quaker Enrichment	\$200.00	\$200
School Cor	Quaker professional development	\$300.00	\$350
School Cor	Friends School Financial Aid	\$9,175.00	\$9,450
School Cor	Wilson scholarship	\$100.00	\$0
School Cor	spring festival at school	\$200.00	\$0
School Cor	VBFS - Golf Tournament Sponsorship	\$250.00	\$250
MEO	FWCC	\$150.00	\$150
JCOC	JCOC	\$100.00	\$0
JCOC	JCOC Shelter Meal	\$400.00	\$500
P&SJ	Norfolk Catholic Worker	\$50.00	\$50
MEO	Pendle Hill	\$100.00	\$100
P&SJ	Quaker House Fayetteville	\$100.00	\$100
P&SJ	Quaker UN Office	\$50.00	\$50
P&SJ	Steady Footsteps	\$350.00	\$350
P&SJ	virginia interfaith center	\$100.00	\$100
Treasurer	Yearly Meeting	\$3,000.00	\$2,700
	Total	\$15,400.00	\$15,000
	Total Expenses	\$31,526.00	\$29,390