

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting

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www.vbfriends.org

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Fourth month 10, 2016**

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship. 20 persons present.

Announcement was made of the passing of Curtis Spear's father.

The 10th query:

Do we endeavor to live in harmony with nature? Are we careful in our stewardship of the world's irreplaceable resources?

Meeting united in the following response:

We make small steps as a Meeting as we become aware of the ways we can reduce our level of consumption. We need to think more comprehensively in terms of sustainability while



Weekly Events

* First Day (Sunday), 10:30-11:30 am - Meeting for Worship.

* First Day (Sunday), 10:30-11:30 am - First Day School - younger children join Meeting during or after Worship.

* Fourth Day (Wednesday), 8:30-9:00 am Morning Worship.

* Fourth Day (Wednesday), 7:00 pm Mid-Week Prayer.

* Sixth Day (Friday) 9:00-9:30 am - School's Meeting for Worship. All are welcome, with special invitation to the School and Meeting Community. Meets weekly when school is in session.

Newsletter Submissions

To submit news, photos, articles, or original writing for the newsletter, please email Christen at christenhansel@cox.net.

remembering the spiritual core of this query. This means seeing creation in a new more spiritual light. We value the work of the school in bringing children into this project. We see the unfair way the degrading consequences of our mode of life are distributed and managed. This awareness calls to us to speak to the world and to help that world envision an entirely new path.

A thank you note from Tracy Paladini for the Meeting's donation to the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center (JCOC) was read in the face of Meeting.

A report was received from Head of School, Linda Serrette. A new 10th grader joined the student body. Many special activities went on, including a middle school trip to the Sea of Cortez. Many more are in preparation, including the annual golf tournament. A number of exciting projects in science education, environmental education, community service and Quaker spirituality were described. The spring cleanup done yesterday, 04/09/16, was a great success with almost 40 people lending a hand.

Ministers, Elders, and Overseers reported that the workshop on "humble leadings" went well, with good attendance and an active discussion.

Treasurer reported that income for the third month was \$645 and expenses amounted to \$720. The annual report has been completed and is posted on the Meeting website. Friends can read it there or, if one requires a hard copy, talk to Dave French. Finance Committee has not met. Treasurer announced that the Yearly Meeting is looking for a new treasurer.

Communications Committee (CC) reported that it worked with the Peace and Social Justice Committee (PSJC), to conduct the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) survey. Communications Committee continues to expand and improve the Meeting's website. The committee

Upcoming Events

[Curious about Quakerism? A Short Symposium for Parents](#)

Date/Time: April 21 5:30-7:30pm
Location: Meetinghouse

[Interim Body Meeting](#)

Date: April 23, 2016
Location: Durham Meetinghouse

[Friends School - Spring-It-On-A-Thon](#)

Date: Saturday April 30
Time: 10 a.m - 3 p.m.
Location: 1537 Laskin Road

[VBFM - Long Range Planning](#)

Date: Sunday, May 1
Time: Rise of Meeting
Location: Meetinghouse

proposed including a link to the site Quaker Speak on our website. Meeting approved.

Building and Grounds Committee reported that the approved roof work has been completed. Ceiling work has been held up but will continue. The committee seeks someone to power wash the building in places and to re-point the brickwork on the front steps.

School Committee reported that it is preparing for review of its accreditation by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS). The master planning process moves forward. They have now engaged the city with the new plan, looking for approval.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), has agreed not to move forward with the Petition of Condemnation while Mr. Bourdon (the attorney representing the Meeting and the school) and Mr. Greene (the attorney representing Virginia Department of Transportation) work out details of an agreement.

The spiritual life subcommittee is planning a parent education event for parents of Friends School students on 4/21/16. It will take place in the meetinghouse.

Young Friends Committee (YFC) reported that YFC is functioning well. Each month Linda Smith makes sure there is coverage for every week and that there are regular posts on the internal web; each week Natalie Bray emails the current lesson to the teacher covering the following First Day. The committee will have a table at the Spring-it-on-a-thon to inform Friends School parents about these activities. Volunteers to staff this table are needed. Please contact Linda Smith if you can help.

Nominating Committee reported that they have met. Their work is coming along. They expect to have a proposed roster in fifth month. Friends can expect a call from the committee in the weeks ahead.

Peace and Social Justice Committee reported on its work gathering a sense of what this Meeting wishes to convey to the Friends Committee on National Legislation about its legislative priorities. Tom Bertrand described FCNL's work, the committee's process in gathering its information, and

Upcoming Events

Coastal Friends Gathering

Date: Saturday,
May 7
Time: 11:00 am, potluck
follows
Location: Fayetteville Friends
Meeting
223 Hillside Ave
Fayetteville, NC
28301

Work Day at the Meetinghouse

Date: Saturday May 21
Time: 9:00 am -1:00 pm
Location: Meetinghouse

Third Annual Virginia Beach Symposium For Peace And Racial Harmony

Date: Sunday, June 19
Time: 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Location: Mount Trashmore,
Virginia Beach
Flyer: [Click Here...](#)

Yearly Meeting

Dates: July 13-17
Location: Guilford College
Greensboro,
North Carolina

the final report of the Meeting to FCNL. The results of the report are summarized below:

Through very constructive cooperation between the VBFM Committees on P&SJ and Communications, we were able to secure participation from fifty-nine (59) members and attenders of the Meeting. One participant selected only one priority; another selected only two; all the rest selected four; several added comments about their chosen priorities. Here are the aggregated priority choices of those participating in our process, as requested by FCNL: Total number of responders: 59

- 1. Advance peacebuilding and the peaceful prevention and resolution of violent conflict: 43*
- 2. Address poverty, reduce income inequality, and promote economic justice: 41*
- 3. Support solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate disruption: 35*
- 4. Reduce the influence of money in politics: 27*
- 5. Reduce military spending and militarized responses to global and domestic situations: 24*
- 6. Promote fair, humane and demilitarized immigration policies: 24*
- 7. Promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation: 19*
- 8. Advance policies that reduce mass incarceration: 11*
- 9. Continue our witness and advocacy on Native American issues: 9*

Meeting approved this report.

Empower Hampton Roads is sponsoring a presentation on "the school to prison pipeline" on 4/30/16 from ten to noon at Messiah Presbyterian Church in Norfolk.



Monthly Events

* First First Day (first Sunday of each month), 9:00 am - Building & Grounds Committee meeting.

* Second First Day (second Sunday of each month), 8:30-10:15 am - Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention To Business.

* Third First Day (third Sunday of each month), Noon - Peace & Social Justice Committee meeting.

*Third First Day (third Sunday of each month), 9 am – Adult First Day School

* Fourth First Day (fourth Sunday of each month), 8:30 am - Ministry and Oversight meeting.

* Fourth First Day (fourth Sunday of each month), Noon - Communications Committee meeting.

The long-range-planning task force reported that it plans a meeting on 5/1/16 at rise of Meeting in the upper school building. All members of the community are invited to review and discuss the summary of the goals that emerged from the first two meetings. This meeting will be setting responsibilities and a timeline. Anyone who would like to read the summary can find it on the website under "upcoming events".

Meeting ended at 10:15 am with a period of silent worship. 24 persons present.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Nixon
Clerk
Patrick Goold
Recording Clerk



If We Do Not Believe, It May Not Come

By Bob Young

Welcome little one. How far you have traveled to pay me visit.
You, the first of the ruby throats to flutter to the feeder
To drink of the sweet succor I have set
In hopes that you will appear
After a winter of long dark nights.
I hoped for you.
It is only April
There were several sad days I looked for you to drop on by.
I wondered whether I was too early
Whether this was one more reminder of my impatience.
Or whether you had forsaken us.

No, but yes, here now you are --
Too young to wear
That tailored regal red collar
And the iridescent green feathered chest.
You, an early scout for your family
Testing as to whether
My modest offering is safe
And worthy of attention by the elders
And for the rest of the tribe.

It takes much courage to be the first.
I recall the small boy who whispers
To the muted throng
Look, the emperor has no clothes
And quickly is shushed.
Or that modest daffodil
Who pushes the crown of her tight bud
Up through the heavy soil
In hopes of finding a loving sun
So she can call out, proud

It's ok guys. Y'all can come out now.

It is Earth Day in Virginia
An important day of worship.
I notice that the dawn shows up every day.
It seems to know its place.
It never comes too early.

Every morning it must put away the darkness
Not fully certain that it will be heralded
On the other side.
That is why we are here, you and I
To watch for it; to welcome and honor it.

Query to Consider for Next Month:

Social Justice and Equality

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?

Spring-It-On-A-Thon

Friends School is hosting the second Annual Friends School Spring-it-on-a-Thon on April 30th from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., with all proceeds going to support the school's technology needs. The event will host a wide range of activities for friends and families, including a huge plant sale, yard sale, over 40 vendors, a wide range of interactive and fun games for people of all ages and two food trucks. The sales from the event's large yard sale will be used specifically to purchase the food Friends School students will serve in the upcoming year at the JCOC.

The event is free and open to the public and all are welcome. Many Friends Meeting attendees and members are also volunteering, and if you are interested in doing so, contact Whit Peace at whitpeace.vbfm@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Reminders

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.

Materials for consideration at Monthly Meeting for Business should be sent to the Clerk, Recording Clerk, and vbfm.emailer@gmail.com no later than the Wednesday prior to Meeting for Business. Thank you, from our Communication Committee!!

Documents submitted for review and comment before being presented to MFB for approval can be found at:
<http://vbfriends.org/DocPa d/Review/ main.html>.