

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
Fifth month 8, 2016**

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship. 15 persons present.

Query # 11

Social Justice and Equality

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 to query number 11.

Seeing that of God in everyone isn't always easy. It will always be something we must work at. The second part of the first sentence intensifies the challenge: to address the individual needs of others. The recent long-range planning effort has made embracing the individual uniqueness of all in our community one of three major goals. The Peace and Social Justice Committee has envisioned and enacted reaching out to groups outside of our community. This committee and the



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.

number of individuals working singly push forward the unending work of rectifying social injustice.

Head of School reported that she and three other staff members attended the VAIS regional meeting at Nansemond Suffolk school on fourth day of fourth month; that the golf tournament generated over \$11,000 in proceeds; and that there were many fruitful activities in community outreach, environmental grants, admissions and spiritual life. All are encouraged to read the detailed head of school report on the website on the many activities and the life of the school.

Teacher Linda addressed the question about the use of silence in the school. Silence, she said, begins all gatherings and athletic events. All faculty meetings and many other meetings and classes end with silence and silence is used to restore classes that have become scattered or disrupted. The use of silence deepens and broadens as more teachers attend Pendle Hill.

Ministers, Elders and Overseers reported that it has changed its meeting time to rise of Meeting on the fourth First Day. This was not entirely successful on its first run through because of competition with other groups for meeting space. They will be working on this.

They also discussed assistant clerks and recorders, and the need for succession planning. They referred the matter to Nominating Committee.

Treasurer reported that expenses for last month went to \$10,000, the bulk of which was Meeting's budgeted contribution to the school. Income for the month was approximately \$1200. Capital spending for the month came to \$3200 for roof work and materials for the planned ceiling repairs.

Treasurer urged early and regular contributions to the Meeting.

Finance committee reported that it will be bringing forward a proposal for a procedure for making grants from the Rita Wass fund. The details have been posted online. All are encouraged to review it and come prepared to act on it at the next business meeting.

Building and grounds reported that the next work day is on the



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.

21st day of fifth month. The committee continues to look into replacing the carpeting. One quote of \$10,000 plus installation has been received.

School Committee reported on progress with master planning. The joint city/navy staff group approved the Master Plan. A steering committee is meeting with the architects to produce a concept drawing for the Phase One academic building.

The Bob and Louise Wilson scholarship fund and the Grady Sullivan scholarship fund are now endowed. Endowed scholarships use only the interest for awards, the principle remaining protected. New donations to a scholarship fund add to the principle.

Membership of the School Committee is changing. Jeff Merritt, Friends School parent and School Committee treasurer, Michelle Ewing, parent and Meeting member, and Patrick Gould, Meeting member, are rotating off. Lewis White is taking over clerkship from Joanne Crass.

It was suggested that Meeting support training for new School Committee clerks at Pendle Hill or other appropriate venues. No action was taken.

Young Friends Committee reported that they still need a volunteer to lead the young friends on fourth First Day.

Nominating Committee reported that their interim report is posted in the foyer and on the website. The final report will come in sixth month.

The current representatives to Church Women United recommend that these positions be laid down. Treasurer noted that the membership fee to CWU was no longer in the budget. The matter was left to season.

The committee raises the possibility of creating the office of assistant clerk. The matter was left to season.

Communications Committee reported that it has heard a presentation on putting microphones and speakers in the meetinghouse and is informing itself about the possibilities in preparation for making a proposal.

Peace and Social Justice Committee reported that it will be setting up an event to talk about refugees. The committee, as

“Robert’s 101 Rules of the Order for a Good Life” by Bob Smith

My new book started in a Quaker Meeting for worship when a woman said, “God is Love!” Then she sat down. Nothing more was said. Just a deep well of silence blessed the room.

I had heard that phrase God is Love before, but this time it was different. As I meditated on it, a new meaning of God came to me.

We can think of God as a being or a spirit. I think of God as energy – Love energy. Love has a special power to change everything for the better. It affects most things positively – babies, animals, plants. As the poet Rumi put it, “Love is a mother.”

(Continued on next page)

well as individuals in the community, is actively working in this area. Look for an announcement in the coming weeks.

A request for membership from Mary Pelham White was read in the face of Meeting. A clearness committee was formed consisting of Hank Ghittino, Tom Bertrand, Bob Young, and Gwynne Wells.

We agreed that the definition and history of the term "Discipline" as it applies to the title of this book doesn't include the understood meaning of that word. Faith and Practice Review Committee asked for approval of its recommendations to the Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Revision Committee. The suggestion to strike the phrase "Book of Discipline" from the title did not meet with unity as neither did the definition of "conservative." The Historical Sketch Introduction was approved after much discussion. As time was gone, this meeting broke at 10:35 to resume at 12, following regular Meeting for Worship. Meeting resumed at 12 noon with 10 persons present.

The meeting began with consideration of the use of the word 'conservative'. A wide-ranging discussion ensued from which no unity emerged.

The question was asked: Are friends satisfied with the proposed revision of the Faith and Practice with respect to the attempts to define the term 'conservative'? A few of those present having read the revision, the matter was left to season.

Friends are asked to consult the Yearly Meeting website for a copy of this revision. A paragraph from the Pendle Hill pamphlet "But who do you say that I am" pages 15 and 16 by Douglas Gwyn was recommended to the body as relevant and enlightening.

Submitted by,

Nancy Nixon

Clerk

Patrick Goold

Recording Clerk

The final act of love, as Reinhold Niebuhr said, is forgiveness. When you can forgive those who have wronged you, you're on the right track for Eden. Eden is what lies ahead after giving up parading around in our skin. The book is composed of proverbs to follow on the road to Eden.

Bob

Note: Bob's book can be purchased on amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Roberts-Rules-Order-Good-Life-ebook/dp/B01FCQJW1Y>

Bob will also have copies of his book available at Meeting. Donations received in exchange for the book will go toward a new sound system for Meeting.

Upcoming Events

Creeds Humdinger

Date: May 29, 2016
Location: Creeds Preparative Friends Meeting
1941 Clifton Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23457

Norfolk Friends Meeting hosting Sea Level Rise Speaker

Date: June 9, 2016
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Event Title: Sea Level Rise in Hampton Roads, and What To Do About It
Location: Slover Library, Flex Room #640

VBFM Adult First Day School

Date/Time: June 12, 9 am (3rd Sunday of the month)
Location: Meetinghouse
Current Topic: Metaphors of Meaning

Third Annual Virginia Beach Symposium For Peace And Racial Harmony

Date: Sunday, June 12
Time: 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Location: Mount Trashmore, Virginia Beach

Yearly Meeting

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

Query to Consider for Next Month:

Outreach

12. 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?

Just Friends

Officially, the Meeting opens at 10:30
But there is no real beginning
No real ending
There is no minister, no church bells, no Bible passages
No word from on high.

The Quaker way is a long, slow journey
A venture inward over and over.
We tip toe in slowly,
In ones and twos and threes
And seat ourselves in simple wooden benches.
We practice being still.

And for the likenesses, a gratitude
And then a stepping out to honor the differences
And for gentle persuasion
For where there is certainty
A keeping open a window for doubt

For each and all
Equal stake-holders,we
In the sweetness
And glow
Of the light within.

bob young

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>.