

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting

PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454

Phone: 757-428-9515

www.vbfriends.org

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
8/14/2016

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

Query #1: Meeting for Worship.

Do we faithfully uphold our testimony for worship which is based on silent worship, and for a free and un-programmed 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?

Meeting united in the following response:

With respect to these elements of our communal worship, we believe we are in good order. Whether we come with heart and mind open or a heart full and in need of clarity, the gathered silence and the spoken ministry that emerges out of it ground us and strengthen us in our worldly work.



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.

The **Clearness Committee for Mary Pelham White** reported that they were united in the belief that Mary Pelham, a long time attendee of Virginia Beach Friends Meeting who is active on Meeting committees and who acts on her own to support Friends in need, is clear for membership and, accordingly, they recommended that Virginia Beach Friends Meeting approve her request for membership. Meeting joyfully approved welcoming Mary Pelham White as its newest member.

Ministers, Elders and Overseers, in light of discussion about *Faith and Practice* review by Yearly Meeting, requested a called meeting to revisit the *Faith and Practice* review process. Meeting approved. Clerk will announce a time and date for this meeting.

School Committee reported that enrollment for the fall is down from this point last year and that budget has been cut in response. With several new members who bring important expertise to the group, School Committee is hopeful that adequate response will be made to this situation.

Treasurer reported that monthly income for the months five through seven was \$6500 and expenses for the same period came to \$6800. Income for the year to date stands at \$13,000 while expenses YTD are at \$20,000.

All budgeted donations for the year have been made, with the exception of JCOC meals and professional Quaker education at the school.

Yearly Meeting still seeks a new treasurer.

Work continues on fine tuning the grant process for distributing funds from the Rita Wass fund.

Communications Committee described its work on the Meeting handbook. They have zeroed in on the Meeting for Business process. It is documenting a process that will both facilitate the work of the Meeting for Business and preserve and publicize its results.

No progress was made on acquiring loudspeakers and microphones for the meetinghouse.

Usage guidelines for the meetinghouse are being crafted and will be posted when complete.

Thoughts shared by the Peace and Social Justice Committee:

“FCNL gets to the root of problems by changing the systems and policies that drive them. We believe that Congress has immense power to effect positive change. It's our job to make sure they use it. The world we seek is a prophetic vision of hope and renewal for our democracy. Our work is concrete and pragmatic, moving Congress to action in that direction.” (from FCNL, “The World We Seek”)

A letter from **Friendship Monthly Meeting** was read in the face of the Meeting. FMM asks for help in funding their new building. Meeting agreed that individual contributions, rather than one in the name of our Monthly Meeting, would be appropriate.

Nominating Committee will recommend a representative of our Meeting to the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee.

A request from **Yearly Meeting** was received. A document on racial justice from a concerned Friend is being circulated. Monthly Meeting is asked to respond and make comments available at Interim Body. Peace and Social Justice Committee agreed to take this up.

Dave French announced that he was the sole Meeting representative at Yearly Meeting and that for various reasons he did not feel comfortable presenting the statement about the *Faith and Practice* revision that the Monthly Meeting had charged its representatives to present.

The Peace and Social Justice Committee report began with notice of the death at age ninety of Ed Snyder, the voice of Quakers in Washington, DC for forty years.

The committee has been working to influence legislative priorities at the state level via the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. Matters of concern have included increasing the availability of health insurance, easing the process for regaining drivers' licenses and strengthening regulations on predatory lending.

Other issues with which the committee is concerned include action against religious intolerance and the plight of Syrian refugees.

The next meeting of the committee is on the 21st day of eighth month following Meeting for Worship.

Long-Range Planning task force reminded conveners of committees that their groups should be working on their own LRP issues and passing along any questions to Dave French or Linda Smith.

Dave French noted that the first month query response is inaccurate in its published form. Communication Committee is



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.

asked to note the discrepancy and to make the correction in the archive.

Building and Grounds Committee noted that the meetinghouse was pressure washed in seventh month and that it looks wonderful!

Meeting concluded with a period of silent worship. Fourteen persons present.

Submitted by

Nancy Nixon
Meeting Clerk

Patrick Goold
Recording Clerk

Upcoming Events

[Friends School Back To School Picnic \(Potluck\)](#)

Date/Time: Thursday September 8, 5:30 PM
Location: Friends School

[2016 Lynnhaven River Paddle Festival](#)

Date/Time: Sat Sep 10th 9:00am - 1:30pm
Location: Brock Environmental Center
3663 Marlin Bay Dr
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

[Friends School Judeo-Christian Outreach Center Service \(JCOC\)](#)

Date: Thursday September 15
Location: Judeo-Christian Outreach Center
Address: 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

[Friends School Annual Golf Classic](#)

Date: Monday, September 19, 2016
Registration: 11:00 am
Shotgun Start: 12:00 noon
Location: Signature at West Neck Golf Club

[One Love Festival](#)

Date: October 1
Time: 1-9 pm - events going on all day
Location: Virginia Wesleyan College
1584 Wesleyan Drive
Norfolk, VA 23502

[Friends School Judeo-Christian Outreach Center Service \(JCOC\)](#)

Date: Thursday October 6
Location: Judeo-Christian Outreach Center
Address: 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

[NCYM\(c\) Interim Body Meeting](#)

Date: October 22
Time: 11:00
Location: Friendship Meetinghouse
1103 New Garden Road
Greensboro, NC 27410

[Coastal Friends Gathering](#)

Date: Saturday November 6
Time: 11:00 am, potluck follows
Location: Wilmington Friends Meetinghouse
202 N. 5th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

[Friends School Judeo-Christian Outreach Center Service \(JCOC\)](#)

Date: Thursday October 6
Location: Judeo-Christian Outreach Center
Address: 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Query to Consider for September:

Meeting for Worship

2. Are we faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship and are we careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by our late arrival? Is our behavior therein that of open submission to God in silent communion?

How do I recycle stamps to benefit others?

Submitted by Nancy Craft

Since 1996 Right Sharing of the World's Resources (RSWR) has received \$71,000 from recycled stamps. Right Sharing's stamp project was begun in 1996 by Brad Hathaway from Mattapoisett Friends Meeting in Massachusetts. Brad was a retired stamp dealer and began to collect and sell stamps to benefit Quaker missions after his retirement. With help from a committee at his meeting, he was able to send thousands of dollars to several Quaker service projects including Right Sharing of World Resources. Brad was forced to discontinue his service in 2009 due to poor health. Since then, the project has been continued by Earl Walker of Claremont Friends Meeting in California.

All stamps are valuable, although some have greater value, particularly those from foreign countries. The new domestic Forever stamps that are currently being released are especially valuable.

Stamps should be cut from envelopes with 1/8" to 1/4" of paper around the stamp. For foreign mail include the envelope as well because many dealers collect foreign envelopes. Save the envelopes of domestic mail postmarked prior to 1946 too. Do not remove stamps from very old letters, as the envelopes and letters can have considerable value.

The Virginia Beach Friends meeting began collecting stamps about 15 years ago. Attached to the bulletin board (behind the library door) we keep a small envelope to collect the stamps. About once a year or more often, if

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>.

we have enough stamps to fill a large envelope, we mail the stamps to Earl Walker in California!

Please feel free to add to our used stamps envelope!

Details of the RSWR work is found at their web site:

www.rswr.org.