

# Virginia Beach Friends Meeting

PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454

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[www.vbfriends.org](http://www.vbfriends.org)

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Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
11/13/2016

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship with 16 persons present.

Response to query five:

*Our business meetings have been well ordered, carrying us through a prepared agenda with a good spirit and tone. For some, Meeting for Business is where we come to know each other best. And the patient search for truth found here carries into daily life.*

**Head of School** reported that a change of health insurance broker has resulted in savings for faculty. Another stage of the diversity training for faculty was held. Head of school and two teachers attended the VAIS annual conference and several administrators attended the VAIS regional meeting. Head of School served as vice chair of a VAIS accrediting team for a Richmond independent school. Teacher Lauren has been certified as an instructor for use in the Smart Board. The golf tournament was a modest success. There was a great turnout for Grandparent's Day, including successful musical performances.

**Treasurer** reported that that income for the month of October was \$2000 while expenses were \$600. Income for the year



## 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.

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## Newsletter Submissions

To submit news, photos, articles, or original writing for the newsletter, please email Christen at [christenhansel@cox.net](mailto:christenhansel@cox.net).

2016 is approximately \$5000 **behind** expenses. While this is consistent with years past, it is a concern. Last year a note to members asking for year-end funding netted about \$500. A similar note will be sent this year.

The Rita Wass grant project has been put on hold pending additional consideration.

A detailed budget is being circulated. It will be presented for approval at next meeting for worship with attention to business.

Treasurer noted that the premium for trustees insurance came in \$109 over budget. Meeting approved payment of the difference.

A suggestion was made to look into enabling regular giving via bank draft in online giving through the website.

Meeting asks that the second sentence of #5 of the Finance Committee report, which referred to work in the joint School/Meeting Property Committee, be removed.

**Communications Committee** reported that a kick-off meeting was held. Linda Smith was made convener.

The website main page is being reconceived as “an intentional communication with the outside world” rather than just a vehicle for internal communication.

The committee had considered a question of whether it should continue advertising in *Quaker Life*, the publication of Friends United Meeting. The question arose because of FUM’s stand on LGBT issues. Comments were divided. The matter was left to season. The question of whether to take it up or not will be on the agenda of the next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

The committee is working on establishing a Meeting Facebook page.

Sound system work has been slow but is still on the list.

**Building and Grounds Committee** reported that ceiling project work continues. The wood has been stained and grooved. New lights and wiring have been purchased.

The next work day has been changed from 19 November to December 3, beginning at 9 AM.

Many other projects are receiving attention, including, thanks to Debbie Reilly, brick re-pointing to steps.



## 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), 9-10:15 am (library), and Noon-1 pm (Meetingroom) - Ministry and Oversight meeting.

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

A subcommittee has been formed to follow-up on the Long-Range Planning commitment to make the building accessible and accommodating to more people.

The **Peace and Social Justice Committee** presented a richly detailed report which all are strongly encouraged to read. It is available on the Meeting website. It includes news of the Friends Committee on National Legislation's recent annual meeting in Washington, an account of Steve Baggerly's recent trial, and the committee's budget allocations for 2017.

The **Faith and Practice Review Committee** reported on its first meeting as the standing committee. Dave French will serve as convener. A committee charter was approved:

The Faith and Practice (F&P) Committee will coordinate between our Monthly Meeting (MM) and the Yearly Meeting to consider proposed new material and revisions to F&P, and lead our MM considering those proposed changes per the committee procedure. This committee will meet as needed vs. on a fixed schedule.

**Ministers, Elders, and Overseers** reported on 2017 workshop planning. Deborah Shaw will be the speaker. First month 20 and 21 are the dates. Building vocal ministry will be the topic.

MEO reminded us to bring to them any concerns about friends in need.

The Clearness Committee considering Deborah Reilly's application for membership enthusiastically recommended that she be accepted into membership. Meeting approved.

The question of a Christmas Eve service was raised. Meeting approved holding Christmas Eve worship as has been customary.

Meeting closed with a period of silence, 22 persons present.

Nancy Nixon - Clerk

Patrick Goold - Recording clerk

## Bob Smith

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting mourns the death of Bob Smith on November 14, 2016. His memorial service will be held at A.R.E. on Saturday, November 26 at 2 pm.

### Hineni

bob young, November 15, 2016

Bob Smith died yesterday.

It feels like the deaths are piling up on me.

My dad in '66, my mom in '89, my sister a few years ago

My wife, Marguerite, in January of last year

Leonard Cohen this week, Gwen Ifill, Bob Clapp's wife

And now my dear friend, Bob, at 90 something.

Bob and I were Redskins fans.

We watched a lot of games together on tv at his place.

Bob always had popcorn ready.

We hated that the owner was stubbornly holding on to that racist nickname

But we hadn't gotten around, ourselves, to a better version as we jabbered.

I watched the game on tape at home on Sunday. It was a good one. Our guys won.

I called Bob Sunday night to check in with him on it.

He didn't answer his phone.

I thought of him a lot on Sunday night and Monday.

I went to his home Monday morning and knocked on the door

Dana told he was ill and she was taking him to the doctor.

Later I learned that he passed away that same day.

I thought of Cohen's last recording.

It was titled, "You want it darker."

In the chorus, he uses the word "Hineni" over and over.

Hineni is a Hebrew word, meaning, roughly, "I am ready Lord."

It is part of the Kol Nidre ceremony, the ritual of mourning and atonement.

The music ends with what sounds like a group of cantors

Chanting, mourning, calling out to that darker night of death.

A Robert Smith was ready. Hineni.

While with us, he was, to the last, so fully alive.

I used to pick him up to take him to and from Quaker Meeting on Sunday

What the Quakers call "First Day."

He appreciated the ride and always let me know.

To Bob, every day was first day

A brand new sunrise

Something new to read, to write, to share.

We met weekly

At his and Dana's home for our book group

We'd take off our shoes and sit down and get to work.

Bob had done his homework.

Although he struggled to hear our muffled voices

And often to find the right word

As he battled the stroke

That knocked him down hard several years ago

He was fully alive in his questions, his responses

In his continued presence as a reporter, a journalist  
And as an author, and a seeker.  
It is such a cliché to say we will miss him  
To convey what we feel in our deepest Self.  
We do take on the challenge. That's what he would want.  
"Bob, we will always carry with us the twinkle in your eye  
Your depth and your quick wit  
And your way of living every moment to the fullest  
As you remained, always , "Hineni, I am ready, Lord. "  
May you rest in peace.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting  
Called meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
10/30/2016

The meeting opened with a brief explanation of the purpose of the called meeting by the clerk, which was to consider changes to our *Faith and Practice*, Book of Discipline. 19 persons were present. There followed a period of silent worship.

Nancy Craft described the Yearly Meeting process for updating the *Faith and Practice*, including a history of the development of this process. After some questions for Nancy, Hank Ghittino asked on behalf of MEO that the *Faith and Practice* review group be made a standing committee. Meeting approved.

Hank went on to lay out suggested guidelines for the work of this committee.

- Along with selecting a convener, the committee would determine how long members serve and when members of other committees should be brought in because a proposed revision affects that committee.
- Dave French was appointed as our liaison with Yearly Meeting and will hopefully continue in that position and be part of the committee.
- When the Liaison receives a proposed revision from Yearly Meeting we would like to have the original correspondence forwarded to the Clerks of Monthly Meeting and MEO and the committee convener.
- The proposed revision would then be posted on the Meeting's documents review webpage along with the related existing portion of the F&P, unless it is a totally new section.  
We would like this posting to not include comments from the committee. We feel that posting comments from the committee could frame the discussion around those comments and influence others in their perception of the proposed revision and the comments they may have. Committee members could provide their individual comments along with other commenters.
- An announcement would then be sent out through the emailer that includes a time frame and a method for providing comments to the committee.
- Once the time period given in the announcement for commenting has closed, the committee would review all comments and compile them into a proposed response from VBFM.
- We would like the proposed responses to not include editorial comments in the form of grammar or punctuation changes. Yearly Meeting has this covered.
- Once the committee has come to unity on a proposed response it would be brought to MFB through the usual process for document approval and when approved, transmittal to YM.

The current *Faith and Practice* review group will meet as the initial standing committee. Dave French will convene this initial meeting. Nominating Committee will facilitate and monitor selection of future membership of the *Faith and Practice* Committee.

Dave French raised the following problem: our working group raised a number of suggestions for changes to *Faith and Practice*, which have been rejected by the Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice* review group without any feedback on how this was decided and why. Members of the

working group are frustrated by this. It is likely the members of the new standing committee will be similarly frustrated. The process seems to solicit and then to exclude without explanation the responses of individual monthly meetings. The committee is charged with recommending a response to these concerns for action at a future Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Meeting closed with a period of silent worship at 1:22 p.m. Sixteen persons present.

## World Quaker Day

We celebrated World Quaker Day at Virginia Beach Friends Meeting with a group photo, potluck, and videos from QuakerSpeak to inspire discussion. The Young Friends had a lesson and craft about Quakers from all around the world. What a terrific day!!!



## Upcoming Events

### [River Cleanup with Lynnhaven River Now ==>](#)

**Date:** November 19, 2014  
**Time:** 9am - noon  
**Location:** Potters Road / Lynnhaven Parkway

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### [Work Day at the Meetinghouse ==>](#)

**Date:** Saturday December 3  
**Time:** 9am - 1pm  
**Location:** Meetinghouse

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## 2017 Dates

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### [VBFM Workshop ==>](#)

**Dates/Times:**  
Friday night January 20  
Saturday morning=>afternoon January 21  
**Location:** VBFM Meeting House

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### [Coastal Friends Gathering ==>](#)

**Date:** Saturday February 4  
**Time:** 11 am, potluck follows

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

**Date:** Wednesday February 8  
**Location:** Judeo-Christian Outreach Center  
**Address:** 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

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

**Date:** Wednesday March 15  
**Location:** Judeo-Christian Outreach Center  
**Address:** 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

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

**Date:** Wednesday April 5  
**Location:** Judeo-Christian Outreach Center

**Address:** 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

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[Interim Body Meeting ==>](#)

**Date:** April 22 2017  
**Location:** Durham Meeting  
Durham Meetinghouse  
404 Alexander Avenue  
Durham, NC 27705

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[Coastal Friends Gathering ==>](#)

**Date:** Saturday May 6  
**Time:** 11 am, potluck follows

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[Yearly Meeting ==>](#)

**Dates:** July 13-16 2017  
**Location:** UNC Wilmington Campus  
Wilmington, NC

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[Coastal Friends Gathering ==>](#)

**Date:** Saturday August 5  
**Time:** 11 am, potluck follows

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

**Date:** Tuesday October 3  
**Location:** Judeo-Christian Outreach Center  
**Address:** 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

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

**Date:** Wednesday November 1  
**Location:** Judeo-Christian Outreach Center  
**Address:** 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

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[Coastal Friends Gathering ==>](#)

**Date:** Saturday November 4  
**Time:** 11 am, potluck follows

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We're All Doing Time  
By Bob Young

I went to Federal Court in Norfolk the other day  
To witness the proceedings of a trial for a friend of mine I'll call Steve.  
Soft-spoken, religious fellow, Catholic.  
He's been to court many times before and has done lots of time .  
He's an addict.  
Steve has a wife and two kids  
They know of and support his addiction.  
A bunch of his cronies were there. They are cut of a similar cloth.  
They met peacefully outside the court room before the hearing  
With signs of protest.  
Some of them had done time themselves for a similar addiction.  
The prosecuting attorney was a young handsome fellow.  
He looked like he stepped out of a GQ magazine  
He delivered a laundry list of charges against Steve  
For Steve's previous arrests and jail time.  
He recommended 6 months and a \$500 fine.  
The judge was up on high, resplendent in his black robe.  
Steve was on ground level and in his jeans and t shirt.

The judge called Steve to the stand and asked if he was guilty as charged  
Steve nodded that he was/is.  
The judge asked if Steve has anything to say.  
Steve pulled a crumpled paper from his pocket  
And read a long, detailed statement of why he does what he does  
And what he did in this most recent episode.  
I was surprised that the judge allowed him to read the entire statement.  
The court room became very quiet  
There had been 6 or 7 cases before Steve's  
Most of them were for petty crimes .  
In each case the judge gave the perpetrators a fine and sentenced them to supervised probation.  
The court room was very quiet.  
The judge said he was not going to order probation  
Because obviously Steve was committed to his habit  
And not about to change.  
The court room became very quiet.  
The judge fined Steve 500 dollars which Steve said he would not pay  
Because he has no income and gives away whatever he gets to others  
The judge sentenced him to two days in prison  
One of which was already half gone.  
The cronies applauded.  
The bailiff took him away.

What is Steve's addiction?  
He is addicted to the belief that we have to end all wars  
That we have to welcome the stranger and to love our enemies  
That we have to spend our money in service to others  
That if our government, particularly our military

acts in any way to undermine those beliefs  
It is his sacred duty to challenge, to resist those efforts.  
Steve's been doing this for twenty-some years  
And that's how he gets to be a criminal and gets to know the  
prisons so well.  
Every time I am with steve I ask myself  
"What are my addictions? And what am I willing to do to support  
them?"

## Queries to Consider for December:

### *Growth of Our Children*

6. 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?

## 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](mailto: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>.