

# Virginia Beach Friends Meeting

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

## Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

### Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

14<sup>th</sup> day of fifth month 2017

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

#### **Query number 11: "On 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:**

*At this time it behooves us to work toward open and public communication both locally and globally among people with diverse opinion. We desire to put more effort into honoring the essence of goodness in every human being.*

#### **School Committee:**

Jack Lewis, the new interim head of school met with the faculty and the parents in separate meetings. Some Meeting members attended the parent meeting. June is the final opportunity to give to the annual fund for this academic year. Hank and Lewis attended a VAIS conference and reported to School Committee. VAIS preliminary visit scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> day of sixth month. VDOT negotiations are stalled.

#### **MEO:**

Lewis White was approved as a trustee.



## 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 to [vbfm.emailer@gmail.com](mailto:vbfm.emailer@gmail.com).

Robert Clapp and Houston Shirk requested to be removed as trustees of the Virginia Beach Friends Meeting. The Meeting accepted their resignation with gratitude for their years of service as trustees. The Meeting appoints Henry Ghittino and Lewis White as trustees. Nancy Craft is confirmed to continue as a trustee, giving the meeting a total of three trustees.

The Use of the Meetinghouse document was approved.

Adult first day school does not have a convener. MEO members are assisting nominating committee in this effort.

**Communications:**

Communications has supported many events. In addition, they have assisted with the Assistant clerk documents, nominating committee data base and SIOAT volunteer support. The committee continues to work on issues with emails not going through.

The committee requests feedback regarding website overall improvement testing page. This will affect every webpage. The meeting approves the communication committee to make presentation improvements without specific approval by the Meeting. The table of contents, calendar and footer will be improved.

The VBFM Handbook has developed into a viable document. Membership will be able to review it on the document page.

**Treasurer:**

Review of income / expenses

Income expenses 4th month

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
4th month 2017	\$1601.27	\$3408.69
YTD 2017	\$6657.82	\$8510.02
YTD Capital Expenses		\$2114.02

Largest expense item was our annual contribution to North Caroline Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of \$2700

Several years ago Meeting approved \$27,000 capital spending. About \$9500 remains. Largest expense was new windows (about \$10,000) 3 years ago. Our ceiling work,



**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.

including purchase of materials and of blown-in insulation, has been about \$2500 thanks to large donations of labor.

The treasurer will begin paying our budgeted contribution items soon. The largest contribution is to the school - about \$10,000. Our checking account has over \$13,000, so the school donation will bring it down a lot! Contributions always welcome!

### **Buildings and Grounds:**

The Meeting room ceiling and attic are complete. A sum of \$375 has been given to the school to contribute half the cost to remove the tree behind the building. Meeting approved \$1500 for the purchase of approximately 24 cushions for the Meetinghouse benches. The color will coordinate with the eventual carpeting for the Meeting room.

The air conditioning is not cooling and we are in contact with repair.

Next work day will be 17th day of sixth month.

### **Nominating:**

Nominating has contacted the community for positions for next year. Their concerns are for open positions in Adult First Day School, library committee, nominating committee, newsletter, young friends, history committee, yearly meeting nominating committee representative and hospitality committee.

Today's nominating report is provided as a draft to be updated for approval in June. Each committee meets in the fall and decides the new convener, schedule and events.

The nominating committee recommended that MFB sponsor a Life and Work of VBFM gathering to foster discussion among those serving and to do community and long range planning. Meeting decided to let it season until next MFB.

### **Peace and Social Justice:**

Two quotes were brought forth: "Activism is my rent for living on the planet." by Alice Walker and "Whatever you can do, begin it." by William Hutchinson Murray. The mission of Peace and Social Justice remains the same. Earth Care Witness is a leading concern. We are especially concerned about a significant local anti-Muslim group. We discussed Lobbying Congress and the Virginia General Assembly as well as the importance of listening to those with divergent views. The inequality in the distribution of wealth is another concern. Tom and Beth Bertrand will host a book event for Rosalie Heart's new book on 15th day of sixth month. All are encouraged to suggest program ideas to MEO.

### **Action Items:**

Meeting approved the Assistant Clerks document with the change from "Weighty knowledge and experience of Quaker meetings and process" to "Knowledge and experience in Quakerism." It is a living document. It will be in the Handbook and the positions will be listed.

Meeting closed for the period of silent worship. 15 persons present.

Nancy Nixon - Clerk

Joanne Crass -Recording clerk

*"Activism is my rent for living on the planet." -- Alice Walker, poet/novelist*

*"Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way. Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it. Begin it now." -- William Hutchinson Murray (1913-1996), from his 1951 book entitled *The Scottish Himalayan Expedition* [quote is often mis-attributed to Goethe]*

## Upcoming Events

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

**Date:** Saturday June 17  
**Time:** 9:00 am -1:00 pm  
**Location:** Meetinghouse

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### [Yearly Meeting ==>](#)

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

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### [Creeds Hum Dinger ==>](#)

**Date:** Sunday July 30  
**Time:** 10:30 am until...  
**Location:** Creeds Preparative Friends Meeting  
**Phone:** 757-721-9320  
**Address:** 1941 Clifton Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23457

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

**Date:** Saturday August 5  
**Time:** 11 am worship followed by potluck

## Query to Consider for June:

### 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?

## 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/DocPad/Review/\\_main.html](http://vbfriends.org/DocPad/Review/_main.html).