

STATE OF THE MEETING 2023

Somerton Friends, Suffolk, VA

Somerton Friends Meeting has been meeting for worship on Sundays at 11:00 am with adult Bible Study at 10:00 am and children's church during meeting time monthly or bi-monthly depending on participants being present. Richard Wilcox serves as our Pastor. On 5th Sunday months, we share in a plenteous and always delicious potluck lunch. Our community building located next to the meeting house is open as a meeting place for local special events and gatherings. Somerton's attendance is still lower than it had been prior to the Covid pandemic levels.

Somerton has an active USFW which meets after worship 1st Sunday of the month for a meal and business meeting. The yearly Bazaar which is the main USFW fund raiser was held November 4. It was well supported by the local community, raising enough to fund support of the various local, national and international projects in which we are involved. USFW also holds different food, clothes, supply drives throughout the year, including those to CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty of Suffolk), 4-Kids, Angel Tree and this year FEMAP (Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program). USFW ladies maintain a growing lending library of recommended books. USFW continues to have an active greeting card ministry for birthdays, get well, comfort and encouragement to our families.

In 2023, the Music Jams were continued as a community outreach, fellowship opportunity and fund raiser for missions, usually held on the 4th Saturday January through October. These continue to be popular, well attended fun evenings for the community in support of missions. The Jams have given us resources to donate more than \$3,300 to needy causes this year including \$860 to the American Cancer Society.

The Trustee's Committee continues to work on the planning of our proposed facility expansion and necessary improvements needed to support the expansion.