

Somerton Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report to NCFE for 2024
November 2024

Somerton Friends continues to serve the community and gather to worship as we have for 352 years, but as each year brings new challenges and opportunities, so each year's journey with the Spirit changes a little.

Our worship looks much the same as it has, with Sunday morning services, our sunrise service on Easter, our candlelight service on Christmas Eve, and having covered-dish meals after worship on the fifth Sundays. We sing traditional hymns sometimes, more contemporary sometimes, and have had Sundays led by a musical family: Mac Express, which we have enjoyed and hope to experience more in 2025.

We hold music jams about once a month, hosting local bands that play a variety of genres of music, and serve hamburgers, hotdogs, french fries, onion rings, and homemade desserts to provide exposure for the bands, to increase community engagement, and to raise funds for our mission fund. Our average attendance for the jams was about 50, but one evening we were at full occupancy, and over the year have raised over \$3,000 for missions.

Our USFW remains active and had another successful Fall Bazaar where it raises funds to support its annual budget and is a favorite event in our local community.

On Wednesday nights, our pastor, Richard Wilcox, who is celebrating his eleventh year serving us, is leading us in Bible Study. This has been another opportunity for fellowship, spiritual growth, and great food.

We continue to be an active member in the Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk, and have participated in a couple of homeless feedings. We support numerous ministries in the area, both financially, and have gathered supplies, including for ForKids and our local animal shelter.

Our membership has grown from 40 to 41. We've had some new faces in our midst over the past year, but also have had the deaths of two faithful Friends, George Poston and Genevieve Hewitt.

Our Trustees have been hard at work, including completing a survey of our property (the first time we've truly known where our property lines have been in a couple of centuries), and undertaking a major remodeling project of our Community Building.

We are small, are getting older, and sometimes we tire out, but the same Spirit that has called us to serve for over three hundred years continues to sustain us, challenge us, and pushes us to find more and more ways to be relevant and meaningful, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, minister to the sick and the imprisoned. Overall, we have fun. We are blessed, and enjoy being a blessing whenever and wherever we can.