

# The Living Light

“...and Christ shall give thee light.” *Ephesians 5:14*



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First Friends Church of Whittier

First Month, 2012

## Gratefully Remember, Gladly Respond!



### What A Wonderful Time!

Our annual Family Christmas Dinner on the evening of December 11 was a wonderful event. Highlights were a superb dinner, an exciting benefit auction and a charming play, “The Little Shepherd Girl” by Melissa Sue Mendoza with Joe Mendoza, performed by the younger Sunday School children. Anne and Harry Eggleton organized and prepared the dinner for this celebration. Anne writes:

“We truly enjoy returning to Whittier to be a part of the fun and festive atmosphere and to see our First Friends family again. It’s delightful to see how the ‘kids’ have turned into beautiful young adults. And, where did this new crop of wee ones that we saw scampering around the stage come from? Love it!

Philip and Dan Wright brought a masterpiece in glass to the dinner to auction off — a gorgeous beveled glass star/snowflake. This piece of exquisite art set just the right tone for the event as a lovely reminder of that star that guided the Wise Men to the precious Child. And, the high and

*Continued on Page 3*

With the beauty of the Christmas Season still fresh in our memory, Friends look forward with renewed inspiration to another year of Christian experience. And what a Christmastime it was! Some of the highlights of the year’s end are summarized in these pages, and some forthcoming events of the New Year are listed below.

Our beloved pastor, Becky Memmelaar, will take a short leave of absence beginning in early January. Loletta Barrett will substitute for her as full-time interim pastor. She is familiar to First Friends from her participation in Becky’s welcome service two years ago. Loletta is highly regarded for her recent work as interim pastor at Hillside Congregational Church. Her first Sunday to officiate at Meeting for Worship will be January 15. Friends should feel free to call upon Loletta for all pastoral concerns.

Whittier Friends School begins its Winter-Spring term on the upswing with eight elementary students and eleven preschoolers. WFS parents are planning their annual parking-lot benefit sale for Saturday, January 14. Friends are urged to give the school a boost by turning out for a fascinating morning of alternative shopping.

First Friends Church will participate in the Interfaith Council’s Cold Weather Shelter the week of January 16-22. This year we will not be able to lodge the homeless people overnight, as we have done in previous years, because of new regulations on wheelchair accessibility, for which our Sharpless building is not equipped. We have, however, undertaken to prepare evening meals for the guests being housed at First United Methodist Church, our close neighbor.

On Saturday, February 25, Jay Marshall, Dean of the Earlham School of Religion, and some of his current students will present our annual Quaker Forum. This occasion will coincide with the annual meeting of the Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends (WARSF), through which association First Friends Church has membership in our parent body Friends United Meeting.

A very major event in Quakerdom will take place in April when the 6th Friends World Conference will be held in Kenya. Please follow announcements in *The Living Light* closely as our First Friends participation in this exciting once-in-a-generation event takes shape.

## Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

**Dear Friends,** As I write this column for January 2012 I wonder how is it possible that another year has passed. I think of distant family often as I check their weather forecasts on my cell phone “app.” That helps me feel a little closer to them, though I’m glad to be in Southern California. Even with our cold weather, it’s been even colder in Antelope, CA, Newcastle, WY and Aarhus, Denmark where my siblings are. We enjoy seeing our local family often, and it’s fun watching my grandson, **Landon**, grow. He’s 15 months old already.

**Friends Visit:** **Jamie Benjamin**’s in-laws visited in December. Her mother-in-law, Susan Benjamin, accompanied her to choir practice. Jamie says, “She loves to listen to us sing, and she loves to hear Russ Litchfield play the organ.”

**Friends About Town:** **Carol Urner** spent the weekend of Dec. 10 at the LAX Radisson, representing the national Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) at a U.S. Human Rights Network Conference. **Alpha Overin**’s daughter **Melinda McGee** and family, including Alpha’s grandson’s baby, are moving to New York. The others have gone ahead by car and Melinda will fly to join them soon. **Ashley** and **Katerina Ryder** were in a very small group of kids who went to be part of a taping of “Home for the Holidays,” a TV special with Justin Bieber. They saw him sing a few songs and talk with the kids. It was scheduled to air on Dec. 21st. Katerina was picked to play soccer on the Whittier AYSO U-12 All-Star team. Her dad, **Bill Ryder** will be an assistant coach for the team. **Vi Smith** has moved to a new home at *the Palms*. Miss **Anathea Woirhaye** was quite busy practicing night after night for the 2011 presentation of “The Nutcracker Ballet” performed by Claylee’s Dance Academy. This year Anathea was featured as a mouse (battle scene) and a peppermint (land of sweets). She gave a spectacular performance that made her parents very proud.

**Friends Celebrate:** **Audine Coffin**, celebrated her 90th Birthday on Christmas. Her daughters **Janice Lindsay**, **Audine Votaw**, and **Carrin Bouchard**, and her son **Jerry Coffin**, grandchildren **Stacy** and **Matt Bouchard**, and **George Bouchard** joined in the celebration. **Dave & Stephanie Murillo** were excited to spend **Nathaniel**’s first Christmas in their new house. **Frank & Lyn Gruber**’s dog, **Spud**, was the winner of Temecula’s 2011 Holiday Pet Photo Contest. Spud received the most online votes on this Facebook contest, and he will get 5 free days of daycare at Camp Bow Wow in Temecula.

**School and Work News:** As promised last month, here is the meaning of SCSBOA: Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association. **Wes Van Dorn** and the Patriot High School Cardinal Regiment Band and Color Guard received the Silver Medal Award and their Percussion (with Wes playing 4th bass drum) received 1st

place over all the bands in Southern California in the 3A division. **Tammy Van Dorn** is now working most weekends at Village Sweets in Uptown if any Friends want to stop by and see her while they are in the area. **Steven Caringella** will be popping Kettle Korn afresh at the Whittier Farmers Market on Friday mornings and the Yorba Linda Farmers Market on Saturday mornings. He’s very excited to be back at the farmers’ markets.

**Friends Travel:** In early December, **Cedric Woirhaye** (along with Cabin Leader **Deanna Woirhaye**) spent a week at the Los Angeles County Outdoor Science School at Malibu as part of his 6th grade curriculum. There he learned about three ecosystems (Riparian, Coastal Sage Scrub, and the Coastal Inter-tidal) via day and night hikes, interactive classes, and a skit. They also enjoyed meals, late night discussions, and even a night of dancing with their friends. His parents know that this wonderful experience will be with him for the rest of his life. In October **Elisabeth & Michael Elliot** traveled back east for the Friends Committee on National Legislation annual meeting. They stretched out their trip to include sights in New York City, Orlando, Fl. and Washington D.C. They managed to include at least one Broadway play and enjoyed brunch overlooking the ice skaters at Rockefeller Plaza. On their last (beautiful and exhausting) day in Washington D.C. they walked from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial by way of several Smithsonians and the MLK and FDR memorials; then back for one more look at the White House. **ABCDE Woirhaye (Anathea, Brendon, Cedric, Deanna, & Elyse)** were very excited to have spent a week traveling up in beautiful Big Sur, Monterey, and San Simeon, CA. **Dan & Lea Wright** took a day trip to Jamul, 20 miles east of San Diego to see Simpson’s “Garden Town” nursery, during its final week in business, now closed after a long successful run. It moved from Pasadena to Jamul when their property on Colorado Boulevard was acquired for the 210 freeway in 1968. On the grounds, are two “car barns” with over 50 collector cars ranging from antique Model T Fords to 1960’s Hot Rods and “Muscle Cars.” Here is Dan enjoying some of the antique cars (along with his “Living Light.”



continuing our tradition: “*The Living Light Travels.*” (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)

**Friends Sharing News:** How did you celebrate Christmas and the New Year? Help to keep the Friendly Fare going. Email me a quick note and tell me your news. Send to Lea at [lealouw@gmail.com](mailto:lealouw@gmail.com), or deliver to me at church on Sunday. See you next month!

## **The Holidays Begin With The Secords**

The annual Christmas Party of Bob and Lou Secord is a great way to start the holiday season. The 27th renewal of what has become a cherished tradition took place on Sunday afternoon, November 27.

As always, we gasped at the interior splendor upon opening the front door to the Secords' Pomona home. The great living room tree was decorated in white this year, brilliant with 3,150 (!) electric lights and glittering with icicle ornaments. In the dining room beyond, the bounteous hors d'oeuvre table was visible, overhung by the familiar upside-down Christmas tree, one of scores of beautifully decorated trees and Nativity scenes that turned the Secord home into a veritable Christmas museum.

As more of the Secords' large family, neighbors, professional acquaintances, and



F(f)riends arrived, the festive spirit increased. The passageways gradually filled with a throng of celebrants. Inviting smells issued from the kitchen where chef Carlos Buonavita and his helpers prepared albóndigas (meatballs in sauce), pizza and fondue. The Secord grandchildren served beverages and kept the nut and candy bowls filled. Winston, a gentle 180-pound mastiff belonging to the Secords' daughter, Lisa, was a center of attention in the back yard. This well-disciplined animal looked longingly at Chef Carlos' barbecue operation but restrained his impulses admirably. Fellowship and good cheer pervaded the completely filled house and yard.

Driving back over the hills toward Whittier, a magnificent panorama of lights in the greater L.A. area began to appear under a brilliant sunset, complementing our increased awareness of all things beautiful, thanks to Bob and Lou.

— Bob Newton

### *Christmas Dinner continued*

junior high schoolers were – once again excellent purveyors of the best candy ever. Thanks for the extra gingerbread, too, Mary Marshburn! All to benefit cancer research in Becky's honor.



So many people made the dinner a success – truly a “Meeting family” working together – it's hard to know where to start. Our beloved friend Marilyn Fant spent all day Saturday and nearly single-handedly decorated Fellowship Hall and carried the lovely “star” theme throughout. She also hosted us at her home for our visit back to Whittier. Carrin Bouchard was our “voice to the Meeting” encouraging Friends to donate, participate, and who can resist her? Thanks so much Carrin – you, too, George!

Our “Turkey Team” came through as never before with beautiful platters of carved turkey, complete with gravy. Ted and Mary Marshburn gave a turkey whose carving showed the “surgeon's touch,” and there were lovely delectable turkey platters from Lynda Ladwig, Tom & Tish Purkiss and family, Gwen Woirhaye, and – of course – Don & Shirley Votaw, whose years of tender touch with turkey showed once again. Good gravy!

This year we also supplemented with succulent pork. And many thanks to those who provided a “little extra donation” to cover for the pork, including Jack & Sharon Huffaker, Esther Nelson, Sue Walker, and Bill & Marygene Wright. I know, Friends, Harry had a heavy hand with the salt, but he promises to watch more closely next year.

We had so much help in the kitchen this year! It's wonderful to see everyone pitch in and do whatever is needed to make it all work – a “family” working together in the kitchen. Jack and Sharon Huffaker spent the day before making the dressing according to Shirley Votaw's tried-and-true recipe. Helpers the day of the dinner who worked diligently before, during, and after included Austin Allen, Raquel Allen, Todd and Nancy Cramer, Marilyn Fant, Linda Flournoy, Lynda Ladwig, Mary Marshburn, Bob and Sabron Newton, Sharon Sturr, Mindy Van Dorn, Philip Wright, Lea and Dan Wright, and surely others that we are unintentionally forgetting in the chaos. Carrin and George helped throughout – Carrin kept up the pace, the organization, and the cheer, and George jumped in to save Harry's sanity as together they jumped from pot-to-pan and stove-to-oven to tend the turkey, pork, gravy, veggies, and dressing simultaneously!

And, we must remember the junior high and high schoolers. Thanks for serving and tending tables, young Friends!

Once again, thanks to ALL for contributing to make a Merry First Friends Christmas! Come visit us in Cambria! Love and joy to you and yours ... and let us know the promise of Peace in our hearts, lives, and world in 2012.”



## ***The Carols Were Lovely And the Chili Was Hot!***

Did you know that “Silent Night” was first sung in German, accompanied by guitar, on a Christmas Eve two centuries ago in a church in Austria? Whittier Friends School students sang this carol at their Winter Revue in Fellowship Hall on the evening of Dec. 2. They added another beautiful feature, rhythmic gestures, by translating the well-loved words into American Sign Language as they sang.

Students and teachers Alicia Atkinson and Sarah Cooper wore colorful original holiday attire. The program of Christmas carols combined with the traditional Chili Cook-off Supper, was a highly successful school benefit attended by more than 80 staff, students, family members, and WFS supporters.

Before each number, a student described the history of the piece to be sung. Katerina Ryder (6th grade) and Anatheia Woirhaye (4th grade) introduced the first two songs, “White Christmas” and “Silent Night,” sung by the combined elementary and preschool groups. The latter carol was repeated in Spanish as “Noche de Paz” by the elementary students. “Jingle Bells” was introduced by Ashley Ryder (2nd grade), and its modernistic analog “Jingle Bell Rock” by Matthew Queseda (Kindergarten) (with prompter Alicia). Chloe Krebs (2nd grade), preambled “Holly Jolly Christmas.” Brian Thornhill (6th grade) introduced “Frosty the Snowman,” James Tucker (5th grade) described “Deck the Halls (this one has been with us since the 16th Century!),” and John Karr (6th grade) explained “We Three Kings.”

The preschoolers combined again with the elementary students in “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas,” an hilarious finale. The performers received enthusiastic acclamation for their fine performance.

Seven gourmet chili preparations by school parents competed for “Best Chili.” Side dishes were present in the form of home-made cornbread, veggie trays, macaroni and cheese, and rice. The winning chili was a rich traditional concoction submitted by Candice Ryder.

## ***Meaning of Generosity Explained As Campaign Closes***

“What does God require of us financially?” Lynda Ladwig posed this question in her Worship Message on Sunday, Nov. 20. Consideration of this seemingly simple query gets us into the very complex area of attitudes towards money. We see in our society all extremes of behavior, from frivolous spending to hoarding. Little wonder that we might be confused about our obligation to God.

Lynda illustrated her point with anecdotes about her stepfather and her uncle, both of whom grew up during the Great Depression. The uncle was an unusually generous man who never worried about money, money in those times was something you learned to live largely without. Her stepfather, on the other hand, was a cautious financial manager, resulting from his experience of hard times.

Lynda’s answer is that giving is a way to grow in faith. By giving we reinvest in those things that mean the most to us. Lynda spoke of her indebtedness to First Friends Church. She told of some of the nurturing and character-building benefits that she experienced, starting with her Cradle Roll days. The adage, “Where your money goes, your heart goes,” applies to all that we hold most dear, and, to her, First Friends Church is central.

Don and Shirley Votaw followed on Lynda’s message with their own statement on generosity. Don spoke of the rich heritage of Quaker faith and practice that First Friends Church maintained for him in his formative years. He and his family have been recipients of “grace upon grace,” he stated. His foremost dream is that, 100 years from now, there will still be a vital First Friends Church in Whittier, so that coming generations might inherit this grace. Shirley reiterated the same devotion as she recited the words of a beloved hymn:

*Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated Lord to Thee.  
Take my silver and my gold  
Not a mite will I withhold.*

Cards bearing members’ statements of what First Friends means to them were on display in the church foyer. A brief perusal of these expressions of gratitude and devotion showed how important maintaining a well-supported and vigorous First Friends Church is to all of us.

To show appreciation for the congregation’s financial support, the Business and Finance Committee sponsored a Thank-You dinner after Meeting for Worship on December 4. Chefs George and Carrin Bouchard laid out a splendid dinner, and contributors to the annual fundraising effort felt multiply blessed. — *Bob Newton*

## **Tips and Tools for Clerking Imparted at Workshop**

Many people in our Meeting believe that being a committee clerk, or even the Meeting's Presiding Clerk, is not for them. On Saturday, Nov. 19, Joe Franko and Cliff Lester came to First Friends from Orange Grove Meeting (Pasadena) to refute this negative impression. Both are greatly experienced at Quaker clerking. Joe has been clerk of Pacific Yearly Meeting. Cliff has been Clerk of Orange Grove Meeting and is now co-clerk of its Pastoral Care Committee (similar to our Ministry and Counsel Committee) with his wife, Jean, who also came to the workshop. Both Joe and Cliff have also been active with American Friends Service Committee—Joe is a former Secretary of the Southwest Regional Office of AFSC.

After coffee and breakfast rolls and a short silent worship session, about 30 Friends listened to Joe Franko explain the structure and goals of their traveling workshop, which the two presenters have given for other Friends Meetings in the Southland. Joe concentrated on the mechanics of preparing for a committee or business meeting, and the importance of setting up a proper agenda. He stressed the necessity of dealing with important action-requiring items early in a meeting, and arranging beforehand that the most concerned and knowledgeable Friends be present. After a short refreshments break, Cliff led the discussion, contributing from his long experience of what works and what can go wrong in a Friends business session. The several committee clerks of our Meeting were present and periodically contributed to the discussion from their own experiences.

Friends carried on a lively discussion over an amply provided potluck lunch, organized by Ted and Mary Marshburn and Lea Wright. When the workshop reconvened, the refreshed participants felt ready to tackle the difficult details of what constitutes an effective business meeting. Here the long experience of the two moderators came into play, as they related many examples of problem-solving in corporate decision making.

Friends require consensus of the meeting to undertake action, and when this condition seems difficult to obtain, Friends must appeal strongly to the Inward Light. Friends must strive for "unity" in order to reach "consensus" and the Clerk must try to clarify that subtle quality termed "sense of the meeting." These three decision-making qualities are not synonymous. Cliff related an illustrative experience that occurred in his early home meeting in Philadelphia. Friends Rufus Jones (acting as Clerk) and Henry Cadbury disagreed over a proposed course of action, and Henry asked to be recorded as "standing aside" in order that there might be a consensus. After the meeting, Henry approached the Clerk with his check-book open! "This project will cost money," he stated, demonstrating his

## **Russ, Choir, and Friends Bring Memorable Christmas Music Worship Service**

Friends enjoyed magnificent pre-Christmas music at Meeting for Worship on December 18. Our Worship Choir combined with five guest instrumentalists to perform the *Magnificat* (Song of Mary) in B flat, a Baroque composition attributed to G. B. Pergolesi (1710-1736). The text in Latin is taken from the first chapter of Luke. Soprano Christine Li, mezzo Allison Coop, tenor Steven Bingman, and baritone Christopher Jones sang solo parts.

The *Magnificat* was followed by *Light Eternal*, a modern choral-orchestra work in four parts by contemporary composers John Michael Talbot and Phil Perkins. Guest tenor Will Dickerson sang solo parts, part of the time accompanying himself on the guitar. The two choral works were introduced by Jo Nita Beede reading Isaiah 9:2-7 and John 1:1-14. Music Director Russ provided the complete libretto, with English translation and notes on the pieces and their composers, as an insert in our Sunday bulletin.

The guest artists, all professional musicians, were Larry Tuttle, contrabass; Will Dickerson, tenor; Novi Novog, viola; Glen Grabb, cello; Cary Belling, violin, and David Stenske, violin. Retired director of the La Mirada Symphony Orchestra, David Stenske has contributed to our worship music several times previously, as has Will Dickerson. Will is a graduate of Whittier College and currently entertains on an ocean-going cruise ship.

Russ Litchfield directed the service and accompanied the entire program on the organ. Asked how he managed to assemble this group of such prominent musicians, he said merely, "I just got on the phone." The group had only one rehearsal prior to December 18. Their high-level musicianship, Russ' incomparable directing skill, and our own richly talented Worship Choir together brought us an extraordinary Christmas musical experience.

— Bob Newton

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concern for unity among Friends.

Joe brought many printed hand-outs, including his "Ten Top Queries for Clerks," and Cliff contributed his voluminous tracts on "Tips and Tools for Clerking" and "Quaker Decision Making." They made their material available only after the workshop, so that Friends could concentrate without distraction. That there was intense concentration was evident in the lively open discussion which summarized the workshop. Friends expressed their gratitude to Joe and Cliff for a valuable learning experience.

— Bob Newton



## **New Youth Fellowship Recruits Swell Ranks Of Candy Crafters**

At 9 o'clock on a fine Saturday morning early in December, Ethan Purkiss, Katerina Ryder, and Cedric Woirhaye reported to the Fellowship Hall kitchen. They were about to be initiated into the arcane guild of Youth Fellowship Christmas Candy Crafters.

Confections Coordinator Lynda Ladwig arrived with a great load of plastic mixing bowls, recipe sheets, and chocolate, nuts, coconut and other special ingredients. She was joined by veteran candy crafters Olivia Allen, Rennie and Emma McIntosh, and Jasmine and Bella Sturr. Christmas Candy Crafting was underway once again at First Friends.

As adult volunteers Mel and Sharon Sturr washed and dried the bowls, the novices received their first assignments, under the tutelage of the experienced confectioners. Ethan undertook "Rocky Road" candy enthusiastically, explaining "I like to cook at home with my sister Jacy." After covering a bed of marshmallows with chopped walnuts in a large baking dish, he melted chocolate in the microwave and spread it across the substrate, finding that he needed to double the amount of chocolate.

Cedric's first assignment was to help Jasmine and Olivia with "Oreo Truffles." Unfortunately, their electric mixer burned out on the excessively viscous



## **WFS Appreciates Support for Annual Nut Sale**

Whittier Friends School would like to thank all who supported our annual Nut Sale this past fall. The order-taking began on October 3rd and lasted until October 26. Students, parents, and friends of the school solicited orders for almonds, pistachios, cashews, pecans, walnuts, peanuts, mixed nuts, trail mix, soup mix, peanut brittle, and an assortment of Christmas themed confections.

Once tallied, a bulk order was placed with a local wholesale distributor. The individual packing began on Friday, November 11 when Whittier Friends School parents and supporters sorted, packed, and labeled the items in Fellowship Hall. On Saturday, November 12, more volunteers worked to sort and pack the customer orders.

This unique fundraiser was begun years ago as a "healthy" alternative to the more common school candy sale. It continues to be our most successful of the year. Long-time customers tell us they look forward to using the nuts as baking ingredients as well as gifts. The Ten Bean Soup Mix is especially popular, with the recipe and ingredients graciously provided by Gwen Woirhaye.

Cassie Caringella, School Administrator, reports that there were 120 pre-orders for 740 items which gave an initial profit of \$1900. In addition, 50 additional pounds of assorted items were ordered to be sold individually. The sale of each of those items gave the school 100% of the price as profit. This money goes directly to support our preschool and elementary classrooms which continue the tradition of providing a high quality education in the context of Quaker values. Again, many thanks to all who purchased and volunteered!

— Candice Ryder

blend of crumbled Oreo cookies and cream cheese. Cedric was then transferred to another project, new this year, of coconut-grapefruit gum drops. After Mel managed to find another electric mixer, Jasmine and Olivia got back into business, crumbling the Oreos more thoroughly this time.

Novitiate Katerina, with help from Bella Sturr, became adept at making pecan truffles with a Rolo chocolate mounted on a small pretzel and, after gentle melting, a half pecan pressed on top. Experienced crafters Emma and Rennie expeditiously turned out caramel "haystacks" and chocolate fudge. They then added to their repertory of skills the fine art of making pumpkin fudge and crock-pot candy.

On Sunday morning, December 11, before Meeting for Worship, the Fellowship members elegantly packaged their products on decorative paper plates, to be sold at the annual Christmas dinner that evening. Half of the proceeds from their devoted and skillful efforts will go to support Youth Fellowship activities in the coming year. — Bob Newton



## January 2012

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| <b>1</b><br>11:00a<br>Meeting For<br>Worship   | <b>2</b><br>Staff Holiday  | <b>3</b><br>6:30a<br>Spiritual<br>Growth &<br>Quaker Men                                    | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b><br>7:00p Choir<br>Rehearsal                            | <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>8</b><br>9:30a First<br>Day Classes<br>11:00a<br>Meeting For<br>Worship<br>12:15p<br>Monthly<br>Meeting | <b>9</b><br>10:00a<br>Quilmakers<br>1:30p Writing<br>Class               | <b>10</b><br>6:30a<br>Spiritual<br>Growth &<br>Quaker Men<br>7:00p M&C                      | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b><br>7:00p Choir<br>Rehearsal                           | <b>13</b><br><b>Friendly<br/>Fare<br/>Deadline</b> | <b>14</b><br>WFS Yard<br>Sales-Parking<br>Lot & Hall |
| <b>15</b><br><b>Living Light<br/>Deadline</b><br>11:00a<br>Meeting For<br>Worship                          | <b>16</b><br>MLKing Jr<br>Day—Staff<br>Holiday<br>1:30p Writing<br>Class | <b>17</b><br>6:30a<br>Spiritual<br>Growth &<br>Quaker Men<br>9:15a<br>Trustees<br>7:00p M&C | <b>18</b><br><b>Living Light<br/>Layout Day</b>  | <b>19</b><br>7:00p Choir<br>Rehearsal                           | <b>20</b><br>JHF/YFF<br>Snow Camp                  | <b>21</b><br>JHF/YFF<br>Snow Camp                    |
| <b>22</b><br>JHF/YFF<br>Return from<br>Snow Camp<br>11:00a<br>Meeting For<br>Worship                       | <b>23</b><br>10:00a<br>Quilmakers<br>1:30p Writing<br>Class              | <b>24</b><br>6:30a<br>Spiritual<br>Growth &<br>Quaker Men                                   | <b>25</b><br><b>Living Light<br/>Folding Day</b> | <b>26</b><br>9:05a Senior<br>Sneaks<br>7:00p Choir<br>Rehearsal | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b>  |
| <b>29</b><br>11:00a<br>Meeting For<br>Worship  | <b>30</b><br>1:30p Writing<br>Class                                      | <b>31</b><br>6:30a<br>Spiritual<br>Growth &<br>Quaker Men                                   |  |   | <b>Feb 3</b><br><b>Movie Night</b>                 |  |

Jacob Adam  
Barbara Adams  
Carlos Bailey  
Oliver Bates  
Edward Bonner  
Matthew Bouchard  
Helen Boyd  
Jared Bradley  
Mark Brickley  
Jesse Browning  
Megan Browning  
Spencer Carty  
Taylor Carty  
Christopher Foley  
Susan Hall  
Jeanne Harlan  
Bob Henley  
Marshall Hockett  
Barbara Koch  
Richard Krause  
Joan Krause  
Janice Lindsay  
Jeanne Love  
Meredith Marshburn  
John McClean  
Jack McFerran  
Lorene Mowell  
Rosemarie Newton  
Robert Semans  
Sarah Singleton  
Miranda Staley  
Cedric Woirhaye  
Daniel Woyski  
Alli Wright

If we've missed your birthday, we apologize (and happy birthday)! We're working hard to keep our birthday calendar up-to-date so please let us know if we're forgetting anyone. Thank you!



An invitation to Whittier Reads from Charlie Chan (Rob Settlege)

## Friends Support Local Causes in Uptown Christmas Parade

On December 10th, the city of Whittier brought holiday cheer to all with its 58th annual Uptown Christmas Parade. Community members and businesses from all over the city and neighboring areas marched and prepared floats to show their community spirit and also make visitors aware of the many activities and important services that the city has to offer. Nearly 150 participants were led by this year's grand marshals Sharon Herzberger, President of Whittier College and actress Lupe Ontiveros, known for her roles in *Selena* and *The Goonies*.

Members of First Friends also played a part in the festivities. Rob Settlege, dressed as the character Charlie Chan, walked the parade route while Bill and Marygene Wright rode in Milton Wright's 1921 Studebaker showing their support for the Whittier Public Library by advertising the title selected for the 2012 "Whittier Reads" program, *Charlie Chan: The Untold Story of the Honorable Detective* by Yunte Huang. The program promotes community literacy by encouraging everyone in the city to read the same book during the month of April.

Quaker presence did not end with the library. Also marching was the Whittier Area Peace and Justice Coalition in which some Friends are involved. The Coalition is a grassroots organization seeking a fair, peaceful and environmentally sound world by promoting awareness of local and global issues that threaten this vision. There were also marchers carrying signs in support of the growing Occupy movement, which has brought attention to the



economic inequalities that have caused great hardships for many people across the nation.

Other important organizations that participated included the Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project, which showcased their cause with a lovely winter-themed float; the Whittier Area First Day Coalition, which helps the homeless by providing food and shelter; the Care Force One mobile clinic from the Whittier Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, which uses this vehicle to provide low-cost health care for those who do not have insurance; and various youth activity groups such as the Uptown and East Whittier branches of the YMCA; the Boy Scouts of America; and the Girl Scouts of America.

— Brandi Tolleson

## Europe, Here I Come!

This summer, with the support of our meeting, I traveled to Ohio to attend the Friends United Meeting Triennial conference with some of the other members of our youth group. One of the speakers we heard was Margaret Fraser from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). She spoke passionately about the 2012 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. It is a program that brings together young Quakers from around the world to learn about our Quaker heritage. They select 14 pilgrims from the Americas and 14 pilgrims from Europe and the Middle East.



This year's journey will take the Pilgrims to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, and will last for one month, July 12—August 13. I applied for the program as soon as the application was available. Last week I received the news that I was hoping for – I was accepted! First Friends has a long history of sending young people on the pilgrimage. I am looking forward to bringing greetings from this meeting to the global Quaker community. I am also excited about reporting back to you all the amazing adventures I am sure I will encounter.

To make this trip possible, I am asking for both the financial and spiritual support of this meeting. Please keep me in your prayers throughout my journey. If you are willing to contribute funds, please send a check to the church office with "Pilgrimage" noted in the memo section.

— Jasmine Sturr

## **“Monday before Christmas” Workshop Entertains Community Children**

Fellowship Hall was a buzz of activity on December 19th as 35 children from our meeting and the community gathered to participate in the “Monday Before Christmas” workshop organized by Lynda Ladwig. What started out as a service project provided by our high school fellowship to give parents some free time for last minute Christmas preparations has become an annual tradition at First Friends.

Diane Wemmerus got the day off to a good start by leading them in some familiar and some not so familiar Christmas songs. Who knew “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas” would become a favorite Christmas song? Cassie Caringella provided some instructional use of a thesaurus, helping the children find some very clever and interesting word substitutes for a mad lib version of the classic song “Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer.”

After some free play it was off to the craft tables, where volunteers Austin Allen, Raquel Allen, Sarah Garland, Katerina Ryder, Jasmine Sturr, Cedric Woirhaye, and Philip Wright assisted in making seeded glass ornaments, reindeer pins made from puzzle pieces, Santa suit napkin rings and Hershey Kisses mice. After lunch we all enjoyed the movie “Elf” and then as time allowed continued making crafts and playing games until parents arrived. It was a day full of fun, laughter and surprises. As the parents reclaimed their children, many expressed their thanks and, like Frosty the Snowman, promised to return again next year.

— Lynda Ladwig

## **Practicing Extravagant Generosity**

To all of you who participate in the life of the Meeting and who have returned a Plan for Support of programs of the Meeting for 2012, thank you. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your Plan for Support, please do so soon. The asking budget for 2012 and anticipated income for 2012 will be presented to Monthly Meeting on January 8th for consideration for approval. In December, the asking budget for 2012 was sent back to the Business and Finance Committee for further consideration.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who participated in putting together “Practicing Extravagant Generosity”: Becky Memmelaar for her messages, Lynda Ladwig for filling in for Becky when needed, Mary Boltz and others in the office who prepared and organized print material, George and Carrin Bouchard for the celebration meal, and Business and Finance committee members.

— Tim Root, Clerk, Business and Finance Committee

## **USFW Resumes With Christmas Luncheon**

Four tables were set in Fellowship Hall for the United Society of Friends Women’s Christmas luncheon on December 15, each seasonally decorated by Mary Marshburn. Carrin Bouchard welcomed the guests and presided over a brief business meeting.

Sharon Huffaker, Treasurer, reported that the Non-Event Fund Appeal had brought in \$2,645 to date. From this Whittier women have again been able to make donations to the Lugulu Hospital and Friends Theological College in Kenya, the Ramallah Friends School, and other USFWI outreach projects.

Soon after the Whittier Friends School students arrived, they were introduced by Cassie Caringella. Preschoolers sang three numbers and left to take their naps. Elementary school students continued the musical program, which included a student-researched history of each Christmas song sung and two carols not only sung but signed in American sign language.

After receiving a round of applause, the students joined the audience at the tables. Adults enjoyed a salad buffet with cheery cherry pie which the students also sampled after dipping into their take-out Happy Meals. Sue Walker once again prepared the lunch in memory and in honor of Helen Walker Watson, her mother-in-law, who was a local and national USFW leader. Sarah Garland, Sharon Huffaker, Sabron Newton, and Sharon Sturr assisted Sue in the kitchen.

To bring this traditional event to a close, Carrin read a Christmas poem and the story of “The Christmas Truce” of 1914, when German and English soldiers, sick of war, came out of their trenches and fraternized on Christmas day.

Before leaving, attenders wrote into their calendars the dates for two coming events: an old-fashioned Box Lunch plus Bake Sale on Sunday, March 4, and a Family Dinner with Marionette Show on Saturday May 26.

— Sabron Newton



*Happy New Year  
Wishing Blessings  
And Peace for All in 2012*



## **Anne and Emma Bring “McIntosh Sunday”**

Advent is a time for Christians to anticipate. Accordingly, department stores open for bargain sales on the stroke of midnight, Thanksgiving night, observed Anne McIntosh in her Worship Message on November 27. Commercialism seems almost to have eclipsed discipleship.

Anne and daughter Emma presided over “McIntosh Sunday” at First Friends. Emma’s reading of the First Advent visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth in the hills of Judea set the stage for her mother’s message, “Just the Way You Are.”

Following up on the Children’s Message, Anne brought her own Wonder Box, filled with pre-Christmas reminders. Most prominent were ads, catalogs, coupons, and appeal letters. Anne’s box also contained a packet of last year’s Christmas cards, a video of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss, a sheet of Christmas cookie recipes, and the 12th Month issue of *The Living Light*, which Anne commended as one of the more meaningful introductions to the Christmas Season.

These seasonal things are dear to our hearts, Anne observed, and have their rightful place at Christmastime, but sentimentality can be a distraction. Perhaps it is better *not* to anticipate, but be prepared to be surprised, like the shepherds on the first Christmas morning. We can best open the door to Christ if we come just the way we are.

After a gathered Meeting for Worship, the team of Anne and Emma catered refreshments in Founders’ Court, as they often have done together.



## **Affiliation With Friends General Conference on January Agenda**

An association with Friends General Conference (FGC) has been suggested for First Friends. This item will be on the agenda at Meeting for Business on January 8. Friends are urged to do some research and come to Monthly Meeting prepared to discuss this issue. The following is a brief description of FGC. Additional information can be found at [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org).

The best known of the activities of FGC is the annual Gathering attended by up to 1,400, described as “part conference, part family camp.” The event was held last year in Grinnell IA, and next year will be in Kingston, RI. FGC also offers religious education materials, the QuakerBooks catalog and mail-order service, and a *Directory for Traveling Friends*. FGC helped First Friends bring Quaker Quest to Whittier last spring.

Fifteen North American Yearly Meetings or Associations, mainly in the eastern US, are affiliated with Friends General Conference, plus 11 individual monthly meetings: Davis and Sacramento in California; Olympia WA; Wyoming WY; Heartland (Wichita), Manhattan, Oread, and Topeka KS; Central City NE; Fairhope AL; and Five Rivers SC. Some of these are dually affiliated with FGC and FUM bodies.

“Meeting at the Center,” by Bruce Birchard, who recently retired after 19 years as FGC’s General Secretary, is a very thoughtful article in the November 2011 issue of *Friends Journal* about relationships between FGC and FUM Friends. This issue is in the First Friends library. The text of this article has not been published online, but the whole issue may be ordered through this link: [www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-center](http://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-center).

FGC’s new General Secretary is Barry Crossno, a convinced Friend from the Dallas Friends Meeting, who came to this position from being Development Manager at Pendle Hill. He says that his experiences in the Pendle Hill community and before that as a Quaker on the staff of an international Buddhist organization enable him to “walk with people who come from many different perspectives and experiences including Christian and non-Christian...theist and non-theist, from inside and outside of the Religious Society of Friends.”

— Sabron Newton

## Remembering John Fopiano

John Fopiano, who lived in San Diego County, died at Palomar Hospital in Escondido on November 3, 2011.



Martha and John Fopiano, and their daughters, Amy and Shelley, attended First Friends Church for many years. Marty was a birthright Friend. John admired the Quaker way of living and enjoyed attending services and family gatherings at the church. He was very close to both daughters.

John had a long ordeal with emphysema and was confined to home for his last two years with Marty as his caregiver. They played many games. He made use of his computer, always interested in politics, history, archeology, and sports. He enjoyed the family pets, two cute dogs who were generally at his side, and also enjoyed watching the wildlife out by the lake. However, his greatest enjoyment came from his three granddaughters, Maiya, Marissa, and Maura.

A 1960 graduate of Whittier College, John pursued a career in pharmaceutical sales. He was a great athlete in his time, running track and playing baseball and football. He worked with children, teaching and managing Little League teams. John was also very handy and helped re-do for sale a number of houses, working with Guy Puckett, his wife's uncle. The Pucketts were well known among Whittier Quakers and contributed to First Friends Church for many years.

— *Martha Mason Fopiano*

## Come, Hear Update On Whittier's Homeless

This month at All Friends Fellowship Night (AFFN), we will be hearing from Ted Knoll, Executive Director of Whittier Area First Day Coalition. Ted has done a remarkable job in developing this comprehensive program to provide housing and help train men and women for gainful employment. He will speak about both the First Day program and the homeless now being housed by our community Cold Weather Shelter. His presentation will include a power point program.

Please join us at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, for a "Complete Pot Luck" dinner in Fellowship Hall with the program to follow. Sign up in the church patio to bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Drinks and bread will be provided. Please bring \$1 per person with food or \$3 per person if you do not bring food. All are welcome.

## Becky's Byline



## Catching The Light

Dan and Phillip Wright created and donated a spectacular stained glass piece for our youth program this year. As I examined it, I was struck both by its simplicity and its complexity. It is simple in that only clear glass was used, and complex with the intricacy of striations, bevels, and facets. Each individual piece of glass catches and reflects the light a bit differently.

Some might say that this has been a time of darkness for me. First there was the death of my Daddy, and then there have been my own struggles with breast cancer. I find that the words of John 1: 5 are particularly meaningful to me this year. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

As we combine these two differing thoughts, I realize that we were created by an Artist. Each facet of our life adds dimension to our understandings. Each challenge adds a bevel or a bend. Each flaw adds a striation. When you place a piece of stained glass into a dark place it is beautiful. However when you move it into the light you see how magnificently it catches the light. When the light is refracted through it you see both the handiwork of the artist and the beauty of the piece.

I think that we were designed to refract and reflect the beauty of God and the Light of Christ outward into the world. In everyone's life there come times of darkness, heartache, and sadness. The challenge for individuals is not letting the darkness overcome us. The challenge for the church is to continually catch the Light and reflect and refract it outward to those hurting and struggling around us.

Each individual catches and reflects the light differently, because we are each made up of unique striations, bevels, and facets. Individually we are a part of God's magnificent creation. However, when we gather together in a group we become an intricate part of the handiwork of God--if only we will catch the Light.

Following is the web site for the Sixth Friends World Conference organized by Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). It has a great deal of information including essays written by Friends around the world (from which the study booklet was assembled). You can also download the actual study booklet. [www.saltandlight012.org](http://www.saltandlight012.org)

*The Living Light*

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## Senior Sneaks

Wow, another year! 2012 will bring us lots of time to take some new and some old outings. On Thursday, January 26, 2012, we will go to the Drum Barracks in Wilmington. The Civil War is a pivotal event in the history of the United States; today, few people realize that California played an important role in that conflict. Although the major engagements took place in the East, troops from Drum Barracks, kept California in the Union, protected much of the Southwest and secured the territory which is now Arizona

and New Mexico for the Union. The Drum Barracks Civil War Museum is housed in the last remaining wooden building on the site, named after Adjutant General Richard Coulter Drum. This facility served as the Union Army headquarters in the Southwest (Southern California and the Arizona Territory) from 1861 to 1871. Come with us and learn about this and much, much more in our guided tour.

After our tour we'll go to Signal Hill where the first oil well was drilled and hope it's a clear day for a good view. All you need to do is call Shirley Votaw, meet in the church parking lot promptly at 9:05 a.m., and bring \$4.00 for the entry fee plus money for lunch. We hope to be back between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m.



*Please  
remember in  
prayer  
those Friends  
unable to  
worship with  
us regularly.*

Peggy Anderson  
Carlos Bailey  
John Basham  
Arden Bode  
Audine Coffin  
Monica Dean  
Ruth Esther Durham  
Gerry Jansen  
Esther Morris  
Alice Newsom  
Alice Rosenberger  
Ami Troedsson  
Mary Wanner

— Shirley Votaw