

# The Living Light

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



**Volume 52, Number 1**

**First Friends Church of Whittier**

**First Month, 2013**

## Faith for the New Year

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
The conviction of things not seen." — Hebrews 11:1*

We begin a New Year with faith in the meaning of life, and in the validity of striving to make a better world. We are encouraged in our endeavor by the realization of accomplishments during the year that has passed.



The year 2012 was, in many ways, a year to encourage hope for the future of First Friends. We began an intensive study of the Meeting's finances, with discussions about steps to be taken to secure ongoing financial health. Becky Overmyer-Velazquez and daughters Amara and Zoe

were lovingly welcomed as new members. We participated in many Whittier-area community projects, including the Interfaith Council's Cold Weather Shelter, a Whittier Community Work Day, and the Interfaith Community Thanksgiving celebration.

In April our Deanna Woirhaye (pictured) represented us at the 6th World Conference of Friends in Kenya as a delegate from the Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends (WARSF). In July, Jasmine Sturr participated in the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage organized by Friends World Committee for Consultation, visiting sites in England, Brussels, and the Netherlands important in the history and contemporary work of Friends. Both of these Friends have enriched our congregation with reports on their experience.



Whittier Friends School is undergoing resurgence.

For the first time, intermediate level classes (grades 7 and 8) are being offered. Seven well-adjusted Intermediate students completed the fall semester and are progressing well in their learning program. The Elementary School gained two new students from the Preschool, and the latter now has a healthy enrollment of thirteen. The sell-out benefit event on December 1, which brought 160 paid attendees into Fellowship Hall to see the winter play, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," and to enjoy the annual Chili Cook-Off, testified to the considerable outreach of the school into the Whittier community.

Hubert Perry, our member for all of his nearly 100 years, was honored by the City of Whittier when it named him Grand Marshall of the 2012 Uptown Christmas Parade. Hubert has been active in so many cultural and civic enterprises that he has acquired the title of "Mr. Whittier."



Many of our members continue to be active in the wider world of Quakerism as board and committee members of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Earlham College, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Friends United Meeting (FUM), and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). Our ties to Whittier College are maintained by teaching scholars serving Whittier Friends School, music scholars singing in our Worship Choir, and worship messages and forums brought by faculty members.

On February 2-3 we will be visited by a delegation from the Earlham School of Religion. On the following weekend, Feb.8-9, we will send delegates to Berkeley Friends Church to participate in the annual meeting of WARSF, an umbrella organization founded by members of this Meeting. We also look forward to March 2nd when Colin Saxton, Executive Secretary of FUM, will present our 2013 Quaker Forum.

*We feel assurance of things hoped for.*

## Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

*Dear Friends,* The next best thing to having new babies to talk about is having a wedding to write about.

**Friends Celebrate:** **Norman Wright & Donna Andrauskas** were married December 15 at the home of **Jeananne & Lind Coop**. During the time of worship, Norman & Donna declared their commitment and signed the Marriage Certificate, which was then signed by Pastor **Becky Memmelaar** and each person present. Twenty persons attended, including Norman's siblings Jeananne (Whittier), **Bill** (Riverside), **Lea** (Riverside), **Kirk** (Vancouver, WA), **Betsy** (SugarLand, TX) and parents **Bill & Marygene**.

**Friends Visit:** **Dave Edinger** from Richmond, IN, and his brother **Fred Edinger** from Hartsville, SC were here to spend Thanksgiving with their sister, **Linda Flournoy**. During the children's message, Dave presented the children's library with a book about John Greenleaf Whittier's "barefoot boy" which Dave had found on a recent visit to Whittier historic sites in Massachusetts. **Ruth Kinsey** has sent greetings via **Sue Settlege** to the Friends of Whittier, where she was once assistant pastor. She has retired to Foulkeways, a Friends retirement community near Philadelphia, after 20 years as pastor at Farmington, NY,

Friends Meeting. This fall **Don & Ande Wright** visited for a family celebration. The *Living Light* was there as **Milt & Donna Wright**



had their four children present (**Dan, David, Donald & Mindy**.) **Jasmine Sturr** was home from college for Thanksgiving.

**Friends About Town:** **Hubert Perry** was Grand Marshall for the Whittier Uptown Christmas Parade. **Milton Wright**, with **Donna**



riding in the front passenger seat, drove one of his antique cars, along with **Donna Wright**. Their passengers were **Bill & Marygene Wright** representing the Whittier Public Library

Foundation celebrating the tenth anniversary of "Whittier Reads." In January, **Judith Austin** is going to start attending an adult day care program in Downey which offers breakfast, lunch and activities.

**School and Work News:** **Emma McIntosh's** Monrovia High School Robotics Tam received first place in their

regional qualifier on December 8, 2012 This means they will participate in the championship on March 2, 2013.

**Friends Travel:** In October **Dan Wright** and his parents, **Milt & Donna** along with **Brad Harmer** went to Sutter Creek for a weekend of organ cranking. They took a detour along the way to visit the corporate office of Sun Maid in Kingsburg, CA. Milt was pleased to arrange a short visit with Gary Marshburn (see below). Here are Milt & Donna posing with the Sun



Maid girl and the *Living Light*. **Ted & Mary Marshburn** drove back on Dec. 1 from Fresno where they attended the Sun Maid Company's centennial. While there, they were guests of Ted's nephew **Gary**, son of **Howard Marshburn**. Gary is Sun Maid's Corporate Secretary. **Elinore Petoletti** enjoyed a trip on the American Queen, a flat bottomed, paddle wheel steamboat (which was tastefully decorated and lit for an old fashioned Christmas Season.) The cruise went from Memphis to New Orleans and included 640 miles of winding river whose water level was the second lowest it's ever been. The boat has an 8.5 foot draft. Some areas were barely 9 feet deep. Sand bars were plentiful, but steaming at 10 mi/hour was relaxing. Excellent meals, entertainment, shore excursions and friends made for a delightful time. In December **Pat Garland** traveled to Windsor Locks, CT for training for her job. Here she is at the Mark Twain house in Hartford, CT on 12-12-12 with the *Living Light* continuing our tradition: "**The Living Light Travels.**" (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)



**Friends Remember:** It's never easy to lose a loved one, particularly during the holiday season. Please keep **Mel Sturr** and his family along with his siblings and their families in your prayers as they pause and remember the remarkable **Angela Sturr**, who passed away recently.

**Friends Beware:** Was a member of **First Friends** really in Spain just before Thanksgiving needing people to send money to help him fly a relative back to the U.S. for surgery? Several people received this email appeal, but it was a scam. This is the third such appeal the **Newtons** have received from Spain, but none of the named "senders" had actually been in Spain or needed money. Take time to verify if you get such an appeal.

**Friends Sharing News:** Help to keep the Friendly Fare going. Email me a quick note and tell me your news. Send to Lea at lealouw@gmail.com, or deliver to me at church on Sunday. See you next month!

## **Anne, Harry, Santa and Elves Throw A Great Party**

Anne and Harry Eggleton relocated from the Southland to California's Central Coast several years ago, but remain a vital part of First Friends Church. Every year since their move, they have returned to engineer our annual Christmas dinner. Their production on Sunday evening, December 9, was accorded one of the finest ever. The Eggletons served a turkey dinner with all the trimmings to a paid attendance of 136 diners. George and Carrin Bouchard chipped in with an alternative entrée, pork roast.

Anne and Harry have followed the serving system set up by their predecessor, Shirley Votaw, systematizing the large-scale operation to an exact, highly efficient procedure. Standing in one of two double rows of plate-filling lines were Austin Allen loading turkey and dressing, Marilyn Fant and Lea Wright adding mashed potatoes and peas-and-carrots, Bob and Sabron Newton spooning gravy. In the other line, Sharon Sturr served pork roast and Carrin Bouchard served sides. Philip Wright was busy refilling the food supplies. In the background, Harry was emptying the ovens and George slicing the pork, while Dan Wright was frantically whipping potatoes, trying to keep up with the demand.

The Youth Fellowship members were out in front serving diners. Olivia Allen, Raquel Allen, Amanda Cramer, Samantha Cramer, Bethany Marshburn-Ersek, Ethan Purkiss, Katerina Ryder, Bella Sturr, Wes Van Dorn, and Cedric Woirhaye raced between the kitchen and dining tables, carrying plates and filling special orders: "a child's plate," or "no gravy, please."

Lettuce-tomato-shrimp salad, cranberry sauce, and chocolate candy-cane cake rounded out the sumptuous menu. Tables were loaded with relish trays of pickles, olives and veggies, and pots of hot coffee and tea. Nothing further could be imagined as necessary for a perfect holiday feast.



The tables were beautifully decorated by Marilyn Fant, using a collection of toys saved from her children's Christmases and her own childhood, including Santas, toy trains, and doll houses. Song sheets were placed on every table for the carol singing which followed the dinner.

One of the most exciting events at every FFC Christmas dinner is the auction of a work of art to benefit the JHF & YFF programs. Auctioneer Harry Eggleton, who could have had a great career at Sotheby's, secured \$450 for this year's masterpiece, a large leaded glass

poinsettia flower created by master sculptor, Dan Wright. The winning bid was submitted by Gwen Woirhaye. Harry enjoined diners to further contribute to the benefit by buying packages (\$5 small, \$10 large) of Christmas candy made by the Youth Fellowship groups. The supply was quickly and completely sold out. Half of the proceeds of the auction and candy sale will go to Whittier's Interfaith Food Center.

Cheery old St. Nick, with his red suit and white beard, circulated among the party-goers, shaking hands, listening to children's requests, and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. Santa seemed familiar but unidentifiable to this reporter. I confessed as much to Santa himself, who replied, "What, you don't recognize Santa Claus?" Immediately the sonorous voice of one of our choir members gave it away. "Jon-Paul?" "Your servant," he acknowledged with dignity.

The grand finale of our Christmas party was an original play presented by the Sunday School children.

This year's play, written by Melissa Sue Mendoza and directed by Lynda Ladwig, was "Santa's Elves." The evening's program, at each table setting, was adorned with a delightful depiction of Santa's toy shop, designed by Rennie McIntosh. The program listed the cast members: Amara Overmyer, Ashley Ryder, Katerina Ryder, Bella Sturr, Lara Wemmerus, Anatheia Woirhaye, Cedric Woirhaye and Elyse Woirhaye.



The Elves were loafing around, seemingly forgetful of their important task as Christmas approached. Elf Katerina called them to attention by passing around cups of coffee. The Elves scampered back to their work, done while singing Christmas songs to the rhythm of sawing, nailing and painting. They managed to load Santa's sleigh in the nick of time—all except for one important toy being crafted by Elf Elyse. Santa (Jon-Paul Cook) entered to "Here Comes Santa Claus" and took away his sleigh-full of toys for good girls and boys. Later, he returned in a great hurry, relating that a certain little girl named Avalon (Hmmm...the name of Cassie and Steven's new baby) would be disappointed if the special teddy bear she had wanted wasn't delivered. By this time, Elf Elyse had finished that toy, and off went Santa again, at top speed. The audience was relieved to learn that Avalon's special request was granted on Christmas morning.

The Christmas Dinner was a tremendous community event involving nearly everyone at First Friends. It will be remembered as one of the highlights of 2012.

## **Loletta Barrett Heads For Namibia**



Friends think of Loletta Barrett most warmly. She substituted for her friend, Becky Memmelaar, as our Interim Pastor last winter. Reciprocally, Loletta formed a close kinship with our congregation. In a letter addressed to all of us, dated November 15, she began:

“Dear Friends at First Friends: Greetings in the Spirit of Love, Joy, Hope

and Truth. I think of you all so fondly and all I learned at First Friends when I was so blessed to spend an interim time with you.” Loletta states that from her sojourn with Friends, she learned about listening to the Spirit in new ways.

Loletta’s interesting career as an interim pastor has taken her recently to such places as San Diego, Hemet, Palm Springs, Fullerton, and Hollywood, mostly to serve churches of her own ordination, which is the United Church of Christ. She has also been a volunteer chaplain and paid social worker in San Antonio Community Hospital in Upland.

Very recently, Loletta received a call to an unusual opportunity for ministry. In her own words, “I am joyfully, if a little apprehensively, preparing to begin an adventure of a lifetime. In November I was commissioned to join one of our partner denominations in Namibia, southern Africa, as a pastor for two of their churches, one in Kalkfeldt and the other in Otjiwaranga.” She will leave in February to follow her “spirit call.”

Loletta says that she wants to go to her new life “sans baggage,” so she is cleaning out her apartment. She sends her love and prayers—and stamps for Earl Walker’s Quaker Missions West—and asks for our prayers for her radical new venture.

You’ve got them, Loletta, most fervently!

### **Mark Your Calendars for Quaker Forum**

Quaker Forum, our annual discussion of what it means to be a Quaker in the world today, is scheduled for Saturday, March 2.

This year’s facilitator is Colin Saxton, Executive Secretary of Friends United Meeting. Several exciting topics for the Forum are currently being explored.

Further information is coming in February’s *Living Light*.  
— Elisabeth Elliot

## **A Glory-Us First Friends Christmas!**

“Wow, the kids are getting older and bigger, and the adults are looking younger!” That’s our impression as we return to First Friends to help with the Christmas celebration. (Okay, it may just be the magic of the season, but whatever the reason, it’s nice to be “home.”)



Dan Wright, once again did a masterful piece with his stained glass “poinsettia snowflake.” Truly gorgeous, and it captured just the right feel of the season with the special significance of the “Christmas blossom.”

It takes a “family” within our First Friends family working together on the celebration. There were so many compliments on Marilyn Fant’s Toyland themed decorations in Fellowship Hall — just beautiful!

As always, our Turkey Team came through with beautifully cooked and carved turkeys. We give many thanks to the Bouchards, the Flournoys, the Ladwigs, Ted and Mary Marshburn, the Votaws, and Gwen Woirhaye and family. And several others made special donations for pork.

Jack and Sharon Huffaker spent part of their Saturday making dressing according to Shirley Votaw’s tried-and-true recipe. Dan Wright was master of the mashed potatoes again. And, George made some of the best pork loin ever tasted — excellent, George.

The kitchen crew of servers and helpers included the fine talents of Austin Allen, George and Carrin Bouchard, Jerry Coffin, Marilyn Fant, Jim Flournoy, Sabron and Bob Newton, Sharon and Bella Sturr, Dan and Lea Wright, Philip Wright, and Norman Wright.

And — of course — the high schoolers and junior high schoolers who were great servers and table tenders: Olivia Allen, Raquel Allen, Amanda Cramer, Samantha Cramer, Bethany Marshburn-Ersek, Ethan Purkiss, Bella Sturr, and Wes Van Dorn.

But, mostly, we want to give HUGE thanks to our dear friends, Carrin and George Bouchard. Expert chef George prepared the pork, Carrin was our “voice to the Meeting,” and both provided help, lent their organizational acumen, and kept us (nearly) sane.

Once again, thanks to all in making a Merry Friends Christmas. Come visit us on the Central Coast in Cambria. We wish you the best of the season and a year filled with Love, Peace, and Joy.

— Harry & Anne Eggleton

# January 2013

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Schedule for Sundays</b> <b>First Day Classes—9:30 a.m.</b> <b>Unprogrammed Worship—9:30 a.m.</b> <b>Meeting for Worship—11:00 a.m</b>		1	2 7:30p Quaker Men's Evening Group	3 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 12:15p Quarterly Meeting of Clerks	7 1:30p Writing Class	8 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men	9 6:00p AFFN	10 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	11	12 7:00a WFS Parking Lot Sale
13 <b>Friendly Fare Deadline</b> 12:15p Monthly Meeting	14 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	15 <b>Living Light Deadline</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men	16 7:30p Quaker Men's Evening Group	17 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20	21 1:30p Writing Class	22 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men	23 <b>Editors Compose Living Light</b> 7:30p Quaker Men's Evening Group	24 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	25 JHF/YFF Snow Camp @ Votaw Cabin	26 JHF/YFF Snow Camp @ Votaw Cabin
27 JHF/YFF Return from Votaw Cabin	28 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	29 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men	30 <b>Living Light Folding</b> 7:30p Quaker Men's Evening Group	31 7:00p Choir Rehearsal		



Birthdays  
This Month

3 Barbara Adams  
3 Jeanne Harlan  
3 Rosemarie Newton  
3 Daniel Woyski  
4 Bob Henley  
6 Matthew Bouchard  
6 Barbara Koch  
7 Meredith Marshburn  
9 Spencer Carty

11 Ella Huffaker  
11 Sarah Singleton  
12 Oliver Bates  
12 Jared Bradley  
12 Christopher Foley  
12 Miranda Staley  
13 Jacob Adam  
13 Mark Brickley  
13 Megan Browning

13 Joan Krause  
14 Cedric Woirhaye  
14 Alli Wright  
16 Marshall Hockett  
17 Robert Semans  
19 Taylor Carty  
19 Janice Lindsay  
20 John McClean  
24 Jeanne Love

27 Carlos Bailey  
27 Richard Krause  
29 Susan Hall  
30 Edward Bonner  
30 Linda Mengel  
31 Helen Boyd

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!

## **United Society of Friends Women (USFW) Update**

*“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up;  
Do you not perceive it?” — Isaiah 43:19*

Friends, we are happy to share with you that, at the end of December, USFW released the last of the 2012 support funds to our local community organizations (see below for the amounts given). This leaves around \$600 in our general fund and \$3100 in our USFWI Conference Fund for the 2013 Triennial. Look inside the February 2013 issue of the *Living Light* for USFW’s *Between Thee & Me* newsletter. In 2013, we plan to continue to give outreach/mission support and explore new opportunities for fellowship. The 2013 Non-Event Fundraiser will begin during the month of LOVE. Please follow your heart. We invite you to join USFW if you are not now a member.

### **2012 USFW Contributions**

#### **to Local Community & \*Quaker Service Organizations**

First Day Coalition .....	\$100
Interfaith Food Center .....	\$200
HOW House .....	\$100
Whittier Friends School Scholarship .....	\$500
Women’s & Children’s Crisis Center .....	\$200
*Right Sharing of World Resources .....	\$100

— Carrin Bouchard, USFW Planning Committee

## **“40 Days of Prayer” Inspires Many Levels of Participation**

Some people prayed together in the chapel each Sunday before meeting during the October-November devotional period promoted by Friends United Meeting. Some purchased the prayer guide and prayed individually each day. Some prayed following the online notices Becky sent out to her e-mail followers. Some prayed all forty days, and some prayed and read the prayer guide occasionally. At every level people of different beliefs and commitments worked together to pray for themselves, for each other, for our meeting, and for FUM.

The experience has been a positive one. The people who met together and prayed for each other’s concerns experienced a powerful spiritual bond, deeper, some felt, than that which can be realized in regular Meeting for Worship.

Those who participated on an individual level have reported that it was a good experience, and that the prayer guide encouraged them to be more self aware, to see if there were ways they could give more, to do more, to reflect the love they feel from the spirit.

Lynda Ladwig was the facilitator of this prayer experience. She gave of her time and intellect for this project, and also of her heart. —Diane Wemmerus

## **New Century Singers Delight Holiday Crowd**

One of the highlights of the holiday season is the annual Christmas and Hanukkah concert put on by the New Century Singers at First Friends Church. This year’s concert before a capacity audience in the Meeting Room will be remembered as one of the very best. The concert theme of “Light the Candles, Celebrate” was carried out with 17 musical offerings.

The renowned 45-member all-woman chorus under the direction of Judy Kertes started off with “Hanukkah Night” by D. and J. Perry. Well-loved songs of the season varied from light popular (“I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus”) to classical (with Lojeski’s “A Rhapsody of Christmas.”)

There was something for people of every persuasion, including traditional Brazilian and Hawaiian Christmas songs. After several beautiful choral presentations, the music-intoxicated audience got into the act as Director Kertes called for “O Come, All Ye Faithful” as a sing-along. Then, young virtuoso pianist Shawn Wright brilliantly performed two etudes, Hayden’s “Sonata in C Major” and Beethoven’s “Sonata in C Minor,” to give the choristers a couple of breathers.

One of the most effective numbers was Althouse’s arrangement of “Let There Be Peace on Earth,” in which our Jean Sponsler and fellow chorus member Sue Comstock sang duet parts. Later, Jean presided over a special presentation session. Clella Snider was cited for her many years as the group’s accompanist, and Sue Walker for hers as program manager. FFC Music Director Russ Litchfield was also called to the stage to receive special thanks for his role in expediting this and previous New Century Singers’ concerts. All three honorees received large potted poinsettias.

A wonderful concert ended with “Joy to the World,” another sing-along which brought all present to their feet.

— Bob Newton

## **Friends School 2013**

### **Parking Lot Sale Announced**

Whittier Friends School is holding a **parking lot sale on Saturday, January 12 beginning at 7:00 a.m.** This is an important fundraiser for the school and Bill Ryder works very hard to make it all happen. You can rent your own space for \$10.00 and sell your personal items. The school is also looking for donations. If you have questions call the school office. Please come, shop, and enjoy the fellowship and support our school.



## **Charlie Brown Learns Meaning Of Christmas**

More than 150 Whittier Friends School parents, staff and guests enjoyed the school's winter program and Chili Cook-Off fundraiser the evening of December 1 in Fellowship Hall. Seventh-grader John Karr played the title role in "A Charlie Brown Christmas." He and all of the other intermediate and elementary students turned in fine performances in the classic play based on "Peanuts."

The Intermediate students showed the poise and maturity that they have acquired together over several years as classmates. The characters created by cartoonist Charles Schultz were immediately recognizable to "Peanuts" fans. Linus, with his ubiquitous security blanket, was faithfully portrayed by Katerina Ryder. Anatheia Woirhaye as Lucy, Cedric Woirhaye as Red, and narrators James Tucker, Bryan Thornhill and Avon Dhawal were authentic in their roles.

Elementary students rounded out the cast of well-loved characters: Ashley Ryder as Sally, Matthew Horbino as Schroeder, Elyse Woirhaye as Peppermint Patty, Mikhayla Hays as Frieda, and, of course, Snoopy (Jayden Vance-Velez) and Woodstock (Matthew Quesada), dressed in charming canine and avian costumes, respectively, designed by Marie Kaneko. Periodically, all of the students, joined by the Preschoolers, gathered on stage to sing Christmas carols.

Charlie Brown is feeling depressed at Christmas time. He sees his friends excited by decorating and singing carols and, somehow, is unable to get into the same spirit. He interviews psychiatrist Lucy. She recommends as therapy that he undertake to direct a school nativity play. Charlie reluctantly accepts this assignment, and gathers his friends for the play, but everything seems to go wrong with his directing. He feels that his friends are amused at, or disgusted with him, and wonders if, indeed, there is any real Christmas spirit. Scholarly and perceptive Linus knows the answer to Charlie's problem. He explains Christmas by reciting from Luke: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will towards men," concluding "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

Thanks to Lucy and Linus, and all of Charlie's other friends, his cure is complete. They all gather together to sing "Hark the Herald Angels" to conclude one of the best theatricals delivered by a Whittier Friends School cast. Zach Stecklein, a Whittier College Theater Arts grad and WFS consultant, did a fine job of directing the play. Preschool teachers Cindy Edmunds and Sandra Escobedo, along with substitute teachers Marielle Askew and Skyler Bergman, expertly ushered the Preschoolers on and off the stage and directed the singing. Elementary School Teacher Alicia Atkinson supervised the performance and the sumptuous chili and cornbread supper which followed. Lea Wright's Southwest Turkey Chili won the Cook-Off taste test contest. School supporters got a lot for their \$7 contributions.

## **Small Christmas Candy Crew Completes Major Task**

Saturday morning, the first day of December, was drizzly and chilly. Possibly because of weather, and also because of coincidental family circumstances, only two of our Youth Fellowship group reported for Christmas candy making. The most loyal of the loyal,

and Katerina Ryder, and supervisor Lynda Ladwig were faced

with a daunting list of a dozen different candy recipes to be prepared and packaged for sale at the annual First Friends Christmas Dinner the following weekend.

When this reporter arrived at the Fellowship Hall kitchen in mid-morning, the small crew was assembling Martha Washington Mounds (coconut crème and chocolate patties), Bacon and Eggs (white chocolate with M-and-Ms on a pretzel substrate), and Butterfingers (corn candy and chocolate melted together). Earlier, Darrell Warren had helped to prepare Crock-Pot Candy, a demanding recipe. Fortunately, the youth crew was joined later in the day by Cedric Woirhaye. Becky and Ron Memmelaar helped Lynda put the finishing touches on the creations the following Monday.

The younger confectioners, both experienced from previous years, were in continuous motion, efficiently carrying out their assignments with only an occasional request for instruction from coach Lynda. Ingredients were mixed "by instinct," as exact measurement would have further challenged the small work force. Most recipes called for hand-mixing with a large spoon. Only the Martha Washington Mounds, a delectable confection premiered this year, required a power stirrer. Fortunately, Lynda was given a new electric mixer as a Christmas present to replace the one that burned out on "Oreo Truffles" at last year's candy session.

When this reporter left the scene, this admirable band of candy crafters showed evidence of determination to complete their assignment. And so they did. Their products were packaged by a larger work force the following Sunday morning and placed on sale at the Christmas Dinner that evening. The candy sale brought in \$771, half to be donated to the Interfaith Food Center.

— Bob Newton





## **Marilyn Fant Sings Solo From The Messiah**

*“Every valley shall be exalted  
And every mountain and hill shall be made low.”  
Isaiah 40:4, King James Version*

Marilyn Fant helped bring in the Christmas season at Meeting for Worship on December 10<sup>th</sup> by singing the tenor solo from Handel’s *Messiah*, accompanied by Russ Litchfield on the piano. Her recital, rendered with authority and feeling, served as the offertory music and augmented the worship theme of the prophecy of Christ’s coming by Isaiah and by John the Baptist.

Amazingly, Marilyn has never sung in a Messiah group. Her mother, however, took her to Messiah performances, where she sat in the front row and acquired a deep love of the oratorio. She says that she learned the demanding “Every valley” recitative by listening to a recording. She learned music as a child by playing the clarinet, and has sung in church choirs, from youth groups in her home town of Vallejo CA to First Friends Church, where she is a mainstay in the Worship Choir. She started as a soprano, but over the years her voice has developed into a lustrous contralto. In our choir, she has been singing with the tenors.

When Marilyn retired four years ago from the Montebello school system, she was a middle school teacher. She has also taught such diversified subjects as math and physical education. Since retirement, she has devoted herself to her family of two sons, and also volunteered with the Women and Children’s Crisis Center, and, greatly to our benefit, contributed to many activities at First Friends.

Bravo, Marilyn!

— Bob Newton

## **Liturgical Advent Music Provides Unusual Worship**

The “Great ‘O’ Antiphons” originated as Advent chants of praise written by Gregorian monks of the 7th and 8th centuries. The antiphons were continued in the Anglican liturgy and later became part of the Christmastime devotional music of Lutheran and then Presbyterian churches. On Sunday, December 2, the antiphons finally found their way into a Quaker Meeting. Music Director Russ Litchfield gave First Friends a new worship experience, complete with a Gregorian Advent message sung by members of the choir.

The seven “O” Antiphons, so-called because their titles begin with the Latin form of address “O,” are traditionally sung at evening services during the week preceding Christmas. The antiphon text is taken mostly from the book of Isaiah, foretelling the coming of Christ. Each antiphon session includes the Magnificat, or Song of Mary, from the Gospel of Luke: “My soul magnifies the Lord.”

Five of the seven “O” Antiphons were presented by the choir, standing in a circle and directed in front by Russ, who joined in some of the singing. The text of the first antiphon, “O Sapientia” (O Wisdom) is taken from Ecclesiastes: “O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things. Come and teach us the way of prudence.”

Singing of this and each of the other antiphons was followed by Scripture readings by members of the choir, and a short prayer by Russ. Marilyn Fant read the Scripture pertaining to the first antiphon, Diane Wemmerus the second (O Root of Jesse), Allison Coop the third (O Dayspring), Mark Juaton the fourth (O King of the Nations) and Chris Jones the final (O Emmanuel) antiphon. Marilyn returned to read Luke’s “Song of Mary” poem before the choir sang the concluding Magnificat, with solo parts by Kathryn Schuman.

The congregation then joined the singing of the familiar Advent hymn “O come, O come Emmanuel” to conclude an unusual and moving Christmastime worship experience.

— Bob Newton

## **Adoption to be Topic For the January AFFN**

Come on Wednesday, January 9, and hear Candice and Bill Ryder’s own interesting story. Hear guest Robyn Harrod, of the Southern California Foster Family & Adoption Agency, speak about adoptions in California. Join us for a good time of fellowship, dinner and this special program.

We will meet in Fellowship Hall for dinner at 6 p.m. with the program to follow at 7 p.m. This month will be a complete potluck dinner. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert and \$1, or bring \$3 if you do not bring food. All are welcome.

— Ted Marshburn



## Remembering Jack McFerran

Former member Jack Walter McFerran died in Whittier on September 13, 2012. Jack and his wife Mary joined First Friends Church in 1975 during his third career—as a stockbroker. Crippled by polio after graduating from South High School in Denver, CO, in 1945, Jack used his manually-operated automobile as a drive-up office for his elderly, homebound Whittier clients. Parked in front of a client's home, he would call them on his mobile phone to have them join him in his car for their appointment.

Jack's first career, following his graduation from UCLA with a degree in mathematics in 1949, was as an accountant for the city of Denver. Not satisfied after several promotions, Jack embarked on his second career by enrolling in the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA. He was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church in 1955. Following ordination as a priest, he served the Episcopal Church of Reincarnation in Norwalk, CA. While he enjoyed working with his congregants, he made his final career change in 1964, returning to the world of numbers as a stockbroker. He worked his way up in management for several brokerage firms, but in 1977 devoted full time to client accounts, which he continued until he retired.

Jack married Mary Chilton in 1964, and they had two daughters, Kathryn and Janet, who in turn presented them with three grandchildren and one great-grandson. Jack and Mary were early and strong supporters of the Long Beach Aquarium. He was a Rotarian with nearly 50 years of perfect attendance, and an avid fan of Anaheim's Mighty Ducks.

Jack completed his spiritual journey as a Roman Catholic. His funeral mass was conducted on October 11th at St. Bruno's church by his fellow Rotarian and long time friend, Father Jim Bradley. — Rob Settlage



## Becky's Byline

### How Are We Preparing?

These last few weeks we've spent a lot of time with John the Baptist. John quotes the prophet Isaiah when he says: "Prepare the way of the Lord." Of course it got me thinking, always a dangerous thing. How are we preparing for the Lord? Do we plan our lives in preparation for worshipping God or is worshipping God our last priority?

Years ago I attended a membership class. The pastor reminded us that preparation for worship should not begin 30 minutes before we need to leave the house. Preparing for the following Sunday should begin on the way home from Meeting for Worship.

As we leave Meeting, we should think about the questions raised, the places where we were challenged, or even the places where we disagreed—heaven forbid. (Actually disagreement is good, if it makes you think). Perhaps we should read the day's scripture over. Pray for God to provide openings or intersections with the scripture and/or message.

As the week continues, begin to prepare heart and mind for worship. Allow some time for daily quiet times. There are wonderful devotional materials available; take some time to read one of them. Pray for our worship services. Pray for inspiration for me, Lynda, and for Russ. Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit.

The pastor in our membership class reminded us to prepare for worship, by planning our week around it. Plan Saturdays so there will be energy left to worship God. Get clothes ready. Have children prepare their clothes. Set a time to get up and a time to leave so that you can be on time. Funny how these are things that we do on a daily basis for school, work, and appointments, but instead of setting aside our best for God, we sometimes offer our least. I wonder how often we walk out of Worship disappointed by the service when we've done nothing to prepare ourselves.

Quaker worship was designed to be participatory. I've read numerous accounts of the daily worship of Quaker families. As an attender and as a pastor, I know that the deepest leadings come after spending quality time with God during the week.

So with these thoughts in mind I ask you: How are you preparing for worship? Is worshipping God your daily and weekly priority?



*Community Grand Marshall Hubert Perry & Ali McClean  
Whittier Christmas Parade 2012*

## *The Living Light*

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## ***New Study and Worship Planned***

With the New Year upon us we often feel the need for new beginnings or a desire to turn and reexamine what we have always known. The Sharpless lounge adult Sunday school class invites you to join them starting on January 6th as they begin anew with *A Quest There Is*. This pamphlet offers various mediations and ideas for reflection. The author Elizabeth Gray Vining, was a librarian, teacher, and American tutor to the crown prince of the Japanese imperial family. Upon becoming a convinced Friend she wrote "It was the silence that drew me, that deep healing silence of the meeting at its best, when the search of each is intensified by the search of all..." In the spring, this class will be exploring *Christianity and the Inner Life: A Twenty First Century Reflection on the Words of Early Friends* by Margery Post Abbott.

Additionally, beginning January 6th Friends are invited to experience unprogrammed worship in the Chapel. Those interested in this worship are invited to gather at 9:30 a.m. to settle in, be open to the leadings of the Spirit, and prepare their hearts for worship.  
— *Lynda Ladwig*



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

Peggy Anderson  
Arden Bode  
Monica Dean  
William Hockett  
Gerry Jansen  
Alice Newsom  
Alice Rosenberger  
Ami Troedsson  
Mary Wanner

### ***“Church Office Hours Change in 2013”***

Beginning January 2, 2013, First Friends Office  
will be open Tuesday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
This change occurs because of a 2013 budget reduction.