

The Living Light

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



Volume 53, Number 1 First Friends Church of Whittier First Month, 2014

Memories Foster Great Expectations



Christmas Season Opener Features Banquet and Drama

Harry and Anne Eggleton engineered another fine Christmastime banquet for First Friends on the second Sunday evening of December, as they have done for the past several years. They put together the ingredients for a well-rounded turkey dinner, including stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables and dinner rolls. George Bouchard added his own alternative entree specialty, roast pork loin. Shrimp-and-lettuce salad and chocolate cake decorated with candy canes completed a feast that matched the high standards set by this team in previous years.

The cooks were ably assisted in the kitchen by Carrin Bouchard, Marilyn Fant, Jim Flournoy, Bob and Sabron Newton, Sharon Sturr, Dan and Lea Wright, Philip Wright, and Norman Wright. The Youth Fellowship groups served plates to about 100 guests.

The tables were beautifully decorated by Marilyn Fant with evergreen boughs, pine cones and holly sprigs. Marilyn contacted several tree-trimming companies before finding a satisfactory source of greenery. The pine

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The past year was a period of transition at First Friends, with substantial accomplishment that gives the prospect of growth and renewal. A beautiful Christmas Season, highlights of which are recounted in this issue, kindled optimism for a new year of progress.

We began the search for a new pastor with a ten-member team leading the way. The Pastoral Search Committee launched an in-depth survey of members' hopes and dreams for our church, especially in the context of leadership. The questionnaires were available to members in both written and on-line form. The Committee reports a high degree of response with constructive opinions and useful comments.

This year's Quaker Forum speaker is Mary Lord, a Friend renowned in world-wide Quakerdom. The Outreach Committee hopes that FFC members will make a big effort to publicize the coming visit of this distinguished speaker to other Friends communities in the Southland! Quaker Forum will take place the weekend of February 22-23, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends (WARSF).

Monthly Mission Monday (MMM) continues its community outreach. After only two years, this trans-generational activity has become a tradition at First Friends, combining service, fellowship, and creativity. In February a soup luncheon will feature the ceramic soup bowls decorated at the November MMM session. Proceeds will go to the Whittier Interfaith Food Center.

Whittier Friends School starts off the new year with five Intermediate and six Elementary students. Two of the students look forward to becoming the first graduates of the Intermediate School. The Preschool continues at a healthy pace with 14 students. Major events scheduled by the School include a January 24 preview of posters prepared by students for the state-wide History Day contest, the Winter Rummage Sale in the church parking lot on January 25, and the annual Science Fair and Open House on April 8.

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, The holidays are a wonderful time for sharing traditions with family and friends. One of my favorite things to do when we go to Disneyland is pose the kids (or the grandkids), in front of the white rabbit's little door. It's always fun to look back at pictures from over the years and see how they changed. Here,



Avalon and I are with the *Living Light* continuing our tradition: "*The Living Light Travels*"

Friends Visit: The triennial Marshburn Thanksgiving reunion, hosted this year by **Ted & Mary Marshburn** with the assistance of **Marygene Marshburn Wright**, was attended by 65 relatives. Some guests visited FFC the next day including one of Ted's Marshburn cousins, **Robert Hadley Sydnor**, an engineering geologist and seismologist from Fair Oaks and **Gary & Janet Marshburn** from Fresno. Gary is retired after a long career with the Sunmaid Company. He is the son of Ted's brother **Howard**. When **Chris & Carolyn Cox Barnes** of Portland, OR visited, Carolyn recalled attending First Friends as a child. She is the granddaughter of **William C & Miriam Kelsey Bruff** and of **Henry Davis & Alma Welch Cox**. Her Bruff grandfather was a physician in Whittier for many years and her Cox grandfather was pastor of the Pico Rivera Friends Church after retiring to Whittier from 30 years with the Friends mission in Cuba. **Jane Litchfield**, who lives in San Diego County, visited FFC twice recently, including Christmas Music Sunday, to hear the special musical program put together and directed by her son **Russ**. **Lauren Goodman**, a member of the Tallahassee FL Meeting visited. She is a scriptwriter who is visiting Southern CA Meetings while making connections in the motion picture industry.

Friends About Town: News from the **Harris** family includes: **Marina** will be performing in Pacific Opera Project in Britten's "The Turn of the Screw" in January with the Inner-City Arts Institute Workshops. **Clint** moved back to Phoenix, but returned to Whittier for Christmas. **Iris** is enjoying the Bell Choir. **Dave** is enjoying his Velo Solex motorized bicycle. **Anathea Woirhaye**, **Elyse Woirhaye**, **Gavin Huffaker** and **Ella Huffaker** performed in the Claylee's Dance Academy production of *The Nutcracker* in December.

Friends Celebrate: **Mary Raymond's** children and their spouses, **Dan & Holly Raymond**, **Ginny & Gregg Goodwin**, and **Beth Munday**, threw a lavish party for Mary's 90th birthday. Fifty friends and relatives, some from as far away as Vermont, Florida, Chicago and northern CA attended the party at the Goodwin home. For the first time, Mary met her newest great-granddaughter,

two-month-old **Kennedy Rae Goodwin** (named for her great-grandpa **Ken Raymond**). **Carlos Bailey** will be observing his 100th birthday on January 26.

School and Work News: **Jasmine Sturr** was home from college for a long Thanksgiving weekend. After a busy fall working at Knotts Berry Farm and the Marshburn Eye Center, **Bethany Marshburn** is saying goodbye to her grandparents, **Ted & Mary Marshburn**, to return to Maine and then to take up her studies at Mt. Holyoke in mid-January.

Friends Travel: **Lyn & Frank Guber** spent Thanksgiving week in England visiting their youngest son, **Jeff**. They had great weather and enjoyed London, Liverpool and York. The **McIntoshes** also spent Thanksgiving week traveling to England and Scotland. They visited London, Edinburgh, the Highlands and Newcastle. The weather was perfect: in nine days, only about 15 minutes of rain. **Elisabeth & Michael Elliot** recently returned from a month's vacation of theatre in New York, history in Virginia, and FCNL advocacy in Washington DC. They would like to add an additional word about their visit to the "Quaker Gun" Exhibit described in last month's issue. "A Quaker gun was used as a tactic during the American Revolution and the Civil War," they explain. "A tree trunk was painted black and placed on a fortification. From the enemy lines, they appeared to be actual cannons. It was a clever way to mislead the other side and it worked very well. Quaker gun was a perfect name for 'a cannon that doesn't fire!'"

Special prayers for this Friend: **Becky Memmelaar** had surgery on her spinal cord to remove a cyst that was causing hand pain and weakness. She and **Ron** feel like they're living their own miracle. Miraculous: because it was found. It is a very rare condition and lots of doctors had reviewed the MRIs through the years but they never saw or recognized it. Miraculous: because it was a meticulous surgery on her spinal cord. Miraculous: because if it hadn't been found and removed she would have gradually lost strength and most likely she would never have regained what was lost. Miraculous: because she is doing so well, so quickly.

Friends Remember: We received news from Brian Young at Berkeley Friends that **Ellen Hatcher** passed away in her sleep on December 1 at age 97. For some months she had been living with her daughter **Margaret** and her son-in-law in Sonoma. Ellen and her husband **Gordon** were active with First Friends while in Whittier and residents of the historic Harvey House at Painter and Beverly. Gordon, a veterinarian who died in 2011, did a number of overseas assignments for Heifer Project. There will be a memorial service for Ellen on January 18 at Berkeley Friends Church.

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!

Christmas Season Opener continued from Page 1

cones were collected by Micah Eggleton in the Sierra Nevada foothills where he works, and the holly came from Anne Eggleton's mother's yard.

Our traditional after-dinner activities were duly accomplished. First there was Christmas carol singing, accompanied by Russ Litchfield on the piano. Next was the auction of a sculpture created by glass artists Dan and Philip Wright. The exquisite praying angel wrought from glass of several pastel colors was paraded up and down the aisles by Wes Van Dorn so that bidders could get a close look. Bidding proceeded swiftly under the skillful prodding of auctioneer Harry Eggleton. The winning bid, a near-record for our Christmas sculpture auction, was submitted by Liz Gwinn for the John Marshburn family

The Sunday School classes for grades K-4 presented a play "The Night Before Christmas" written by Melissa Sue Mendoza. The four family children were not dreaming of sugar plums in this version, but were assembled in their bedroom. The oldest, Ashley Ryder, read Luke's account of the Nativity, while Lara Wemmerus as the heralding angel and Elyse Woirhaye as Mary acted out the story for the edification of the youngest sibling, Shreeya Dhawal. The four interspersed their drama with several well-sung carols accompanied by Russ.

After the play the Youth Fellowship members circulated among the tables peddling the packages of assorted Christmas candies that they had concocted in a day-long session during Thanksgiving week. All of the plates were sold. Proceeds from the auction and the candy sale will go to benefit the Sunday School program and the Heifer Project, which was chosen by the Fellowship members as this year's charitable beneficiary.

— Bob Newton

Christmastime Welcomed

Christmas Season started officially on Sunday, December 1, with the Worship Choir Handbell Ringers playing "An Advent Carol." The elegant pumpkin-and-cornstalk harvest decoration by Ted and Mary Marshburn made its final appearance of the year in the Meeting Room, to be replaced by the familiar Christmas wreath.

Bob and Lou Secord's traditional Christmas Open-House, also held on December 1, had to be scaled back slightly this year because of family obligations, but the fellowship and food were as rich as ever. Guests lingered into the evening, enjoying the back lawn on an unusually clear and warm night.

The beautiful worship service and the fellowship of the annual open house were a great start to the holiday season.

— Bob Newton

Scholar Speaks on Missions

"Good Morning," said Ann Riggs to those assembled in Meeting for Worship on December 8. "Good morning!" she repeated, explaining that in Africa people always say "Good Morning" twice.

Ann, who has spent five years in Kenya as the Principal of Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, wore a beautiful blue-green African-style dress. Her opening words described the mission of North American Quakers to Kenya in 1900, an outreach effort which has resulted in the largest community of Friends in the world.



Ann stated that effective missionary outreach must be designed to be meaningful to people in their own framework of understanding. It was necessary for American Friends to understand the culture of the Kenyan people and to attempt to work in the African idiom. Jesus' mission to the human race worked through the medium of common people; the elite minority of his day criticized him for his low-class constituency, as they saw it. Similarly, John Woolman was able to identify with the black slaves and Native Americans as fellow human beings, an uncommon sentiment among colonials of his day, even among some Friends.

In spite of the need to adapt, there is a higher principle, Ann stated. To share with others, we must recognize our own particular gifts and build upon them.

Ann summarized with this guiding query: "When you share your gifts, are you proclaiming the Gospel?" Ann's message inspired several vocal contributions from Friends during the open worship that followed.

Since 2007 Ann Riggs has been an adjunct professor at the Earlham School of Religion (ESR). With an MA in art history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, two masters degrees from Duke Divinity School, and a PhD in theology from Catholic University in Washington DC, Ann has held important positions with the National Council of Churches and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. In her writing she suggests that Quakerism is more like a religious order than a church, and what it has to teach is more a distinctive way of life and prayer than a theological doctrine. She helped plan a conference of Africans associated with the three peace churches held in 2004 at Limuru, Kenya. In 2012 she met our delegate Deanna Woirhaye at the World Conference of Friends at Kabarak University, Kenya.

— Bob Newton and Sabron Newton

Uptown Whittier Christmas Parade Makes a Brave Show

It was rainy and chilly Saturday morning, December 7, the day of the Whittier Uptown Christmas Parade. As I headed down Hadley to Greenleaf where the parade was to start, I wondered if they would call it off. But no! The Whittier High School cheerleaders were assembled in white plastic raincoats ready to start. A surprisingly large crowd was there also, lining Greenleaf Ave. with their umbrellas and slickers.

With a great drum roll and oom-pah, the Whittier High School Band surged forward. Marchers and spectators alike instantly forgot the weather in the excitement of one of



Whittier's biggest annual happenings. Next came Grand Marshall L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe's car, followed by Whittier Mayor Bob Henderson. Both cars were modern enclosed sedans. The only vintage car participating was the bright yellow Model A bearing Miss Whittier 2013, Victoria Inez Rivera who was in the rumble seat under an umbrella.

As the rain picked up, the California High School cheerleaders came by. Gutters on Hadley St. were nearly over the curb just when I found that I could not manipulate my notebook, camera, and umbrella and keep wiping my glasses all at once. The most expendable item was the umbrella. As the Soroptimists International contingent came by, I managed to take a picture of Elizabeth Camp and her doughty comrades in Santa Claus outfits. The last entry I was able to make on my sodden page of notes was the City of Whittier Dept. of Community Services Pepsters.

Candice Ryder carried one end of their street-wide banner, and daughter Ashley marched at the head of the pom-pom column, enthusiastically executing intricate maneuvers.



I waited some time for the appearance of the Whittier Public Library car, which usually carries a number of our First Friends members. Not finding them, I walked up the column of groups queued along Greenleaf to Broadway, then down Comstock. Some of the waiting marching bands were taking shelter on front porches along

Comstock Ave. I saluted the banner of the Whittier Area Peace and Justice Coalition, borne by five brave peace workers. Finally I got to the end of the lineup. I asked a red-jacketed



parade monitor about the Whittier Library car. He told me that they had decided not to enter this year.

Suffering from hypothermia, but congratulating myself on having carried out a reporting assignment comparable to covering Superstorm Sandy, I sloshed home to a hot shower.

— Bob Newton

Why Did MMM Cross the Road?

Like the proverbial chicken, a group of participants in Monthly Mission Monday (MMM) crossed the road (Philadelphia Street) on December 16 for its last gathering of the year. This time, however, the goal was not just "to get to the other side." Instead, it was to spread holiday cheer by wrapping gifts for the residents of Chateau Whittier/Emeritus (still known to most of us as "Merrill Gardens"), the retirement home across from our Meetinghouse.

Knowing that many residents were unable to wrap the gifts they planned to give to their family and friends, Lynda Ladwig arranged for MMM to step in and play Santa. Bringing festive holiday paper, ribbons, and gift tags, several F/friends wrapped gifts and chatted with the residents. Our young people were represented by Ashley Rider (an expert ribbon curler), Bella Sturr, and Jasmine Sturr, who was home from college for the holidays.

While the turnout of residents who needed wrapping services was somewhat small, all were grateful for the assistance. Each was able to choose the paper and ribbon to be used for their gifts, and they were pleased with the festive results.

Monthly Mission Monday meets on the third Monday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. A task which benefits some group in our community is chosen for each month. There is always good conversation and fellowship. Join us for our next gathering on Monday, January 20, 2014, when we paint ceramic bowls (round two) which will be sold at our upcoming Soup Fundraiser to combat hunger. All supplies are provided and no reservations are necessary — just come and paint a bowl.

— Vikki Kendrick

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Schedule for Sundays Unprogrammed Worship—9:30a First Day Classes—9:30 a Meeting for Worship—11:00a			1	2 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5	6 1:30p Writing Class	7 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men 9:15a Trustees 7:00p M&C	8 6:00p AFFN	9 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 12:15p Monthly Meeting— Carlos Bailey will be the honored guest at luncheon	13 Friendly Fare Deadline 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	14 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men	15 Living Light Deadline	16 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19	20 1:30p Writing Class 6:00p Monthly Mission Monday	21 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men	22 Editors Compose Living Light	23 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	24 6:00p WFS History Day Presentations	25 7:00a WFS Parking Lot Sale — FFC Main Parking Lot
26	27 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	28 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men	29 Living Light Folding	30	31	



Jacob Adam	Marshall Hockett
Barbara Adams	Barbara Koch
Carlos Bailey	Janice Lindsay
Matthew Bouchard	Meredith Marshburn
Mark Brickley	Robert Semans
Barbara Cote	Cedric Woirhaye
Christopher Foley	Alli Wright
Susan Hall	

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!

Friends Briefed on Indiana's New Association of Friends

Whittier Friends have been hearing all year about a split in Indiana Yearly Meeting, one of the oldest Quaker bodies in the Midwest, established in 1821. A quarter of



the 64 meetings in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan which were previously part of this body, once the largest yearly meeting in the world, have now become the New Association of Friends. On Sunday, December 15, those able to stay after Meeting had the opportunity to hear an insider's report on the situation. Our informant

was none other than the New Association's Clerk, Margaret Fraser, who has visited Whittier before.

Margaret joined Friends in 1985 while teaching business management at the University of Brighton in southeastern England. London Yearly Meeting sent her to the 1991 World Conference of Friends in Honduras, where her life took a new direction. She learned there about the Earlham School of Religion, applied, enrolled, and earned an ESR degree. In her time there, she came to feel at home in the West Richmond Meeting, with which Whittier Friends have numerous ties. West Richmond has figured prominently in the news about this separation. Since ESR, Margaret has been the Dean at Pendle Hill, near Philadelphia, and for ten years Executive Secretary of the American Section of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), working out of its Philadelphia office. She traveled widely for FWCC, not only in the U.S. but also abroad. Now retired, she said "yes" when asked to clerk the New Association through its first year, even though the other meetings in it are 300 miles away from where she lives in Traverse City MI.

The New Association, which includes some of the oldest meetings in Indiana, was accepted into FUM last June. It is comprised of 15 independent pastoral meetings with a total membership of over 800, some large, some small, some more traditional in outlook than others, most of them clustered around Richmond. In a negotiated division of the old yearly meeting's assets, it received several endowment funds, especially those concerned with education. Its meetings were also given the deeds to their meetinghouses if they applied in time. It has not yet, however, been offered representation on the board of the church camp owned jointly by Indiana and Western

Yearly Meetings. On its website at <http://newassociationoffriends.org> it describes itself as "a voluntary association of monthly meetings, churches and individuals that supports worship, ministry and service through the cultivation of Christian faith in the Quaker tradition."

Indiana Yearly Meeting is left with its traditional name and legal status, its two largest meetings, around 2,000 members, and a slightly downsized staff. In 2010 it gave Earlham College, which it founded, full independence from the yearly meeting. The Friends retirement home in Richmond is in the process of becoming independent, but has agreed to continue to subsidize the retirements of elderly pastors, one of its original missions. The yearly meeting sees this "reconfiguration" as having resulted from prolonged struggle over a variety of issues. Its position is spelled out on its website at <http://www.itym.org/>.

Margaret Fraser traced the history of Quaker controversies in Indiana back to the 1820s, and emphasized that contrary to accounts which focus on a single hot-button issue, this separation, which has made 2013 a "tumultuous year" for all involved, can be seen as the latest episode in a rather contentious history. Are we young or are we old? Do we welcome, fear or even encounter diversity and change? Are we new to the Society of Friends or held in it by bonds of kinship and friendship? Did we learn to be Quakers in our homes, our schools, our meetings, our reading, or our life experience? Do we see the glue that holds Friends together to be a common history, common beliefs, common social concerns, or common culture? Such factors will influence whether one cheers for, laments or just accepts this organizational change in Indiana.

— Sabron Newton



**New
Association
of
Friends**

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43: 19



l to r: Roast Pork, Turkey, and Mashed Potatoes

Angels Everywhere!

Once again we were delighted to return to First Friends to help with the Christmas celebration. And, as always, there were “angels” everywhere. Angels to help prepare, angels to help serve, angels to sing and perform for us, a gorgeous stained glass angel to auction – angels EVERYWHERE!

Dan and Phillip Wright once again did a masterful piece with their stained glass angel. It stood as a reminder of the angels that graced the coming of the Christ child and as a reminder of the angels in our lives. Thank you, Phillip and Dan! And, thank you, as well, to Wes Van Dorn, who helped display the angel during the auction – good job, Wes.

And, thank you too, to our dear and loving friend Marilyn Fant. She truly “decked the halls with boughs of holly” turning Fellowship Hall into a place of Christmas celebration and joy. She opens her home to us every year as we stay in Whittier. Marilyn IS our loving family.

As always, our turkey team came through with beautifully cooked and carved turkeys. Many thanks go to the Bouchards, the Flournoys, the Ladwigs, the Votaws, and Ted and Mary Marshburn for providing turkeys.

Jack and Sharon Huffaker spent a large part of their Saturday making dressing according to Shirley Votaw’s tried-and-true recipe. But, they weren’t alone this year – Sarah Garland lent a big, and very welcome and timely, hand on Saturday. Dan Wright was master at the mashed potatoes – perfect as always. And, George and Carrin supervised preparing the most succulent pork loin ever.

The kitchen crew of servers and helpers included the fine talents of George and Carrin Bouchard, Marilyn Fant, Jim Flournoy, Sabron and Bob Newton, Sharon Sturr, Dan and Lea Wright, Philip Wright, and Norm Wright. And, of course, the youth were great servers and table tenders – they are now so professional that they know exactly what to do. Thanks, all!

But mostly, we want to give HUGE thanks to our wonderful friends, Carrin and George Bouchard. George is the ‘good right hand’ on just about everything and Carrin was our ‘voice to the Meeting.’ Both provided

Candy Crafters Do It Again

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 27, was a school holiday for most Southland kids. Lynda Ladwig seized this opportunity to call the youth together for their traditional Christmas candy-making session in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Six young people turned out, along with three adult supervisors. Lynda brought the ingredients and recipes for eleven different confections to be packaged and sold at the annual First Friends Christmas dinner, which was held on December 8.

Most of the workers were experienced candy-crafters. Wes Van Dorn pitched right into his “haystacks.” This year he used dark chocolate, rather than his usual caramel, to bond the crispy chow mein noodles. Bella Sturr is a past master of Rolo pecan pretzels (the individual Rolo chocolates have to be slightly melted and the pecan pressed into each one while still warm). Apprentice Amara Overmyer teamed up with veteran Kat Ryder on a new concoction called “raisin candy logs” made with peanut butter and powdered sugar. Old-timer Jasmine Sturr made “Ritzy fudge payolas.” Guest candy-maker Michelle Sosa became adept at coconut-almond mounds. Exact timing of the the microwave oven is a critical skill for this confection.

Wes’s mom, Mindy Van Dorn labored over the kitchen range melting the dark chocolate required for some of the recipes. Supervisor Sharon Sturr undertook the difficult assignment of “Butterfingers” made with peanut butter, candy corn, shortening and chocolate chips. Mel Sturr was given the less demanding task of sugar-coating the green and orange gum drops made by Sharon and Lynda. He placed them in impeccably neat rows on his work tray. Lynda took charge of the slowly-cooked “crock-pot candy” and circulated around overseeing all of the operations.

Midway in the proceedings this reporter was startled out of his concentration by a horrendous clatter, as a tall stack of large metal trays fell to the floor. Fortunately only minimal damage was done to the candy-factory products.

The Fellowshipippers completed all of their assignments on schedule and returned on December 8 to package the goodies on attractive Christmas paper plates. They were sold at the Christmas Dinner to benefit youth programs for the coming year. All of the packages were sold.

— Bob Newton

help, lent their organizational ability, and kept us on the right track throughout.

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



WFS Winter Revue Event Features “A Christmas Carol”

“Bah, Humbug!” cried Ebenezer Scrooge, in the person of lead actor Cedric Woirhaye. Cedric’s interpretation of the crotchety old miser in the Whittier Friends School’s Winter Revue on December 15 would have thrilled Charles Dickens. *A Christmas Carol* and the traditional Chili Cook-Off staged by the students, parents and staff of WFS packed Fellowship Hall with a crowd estimated at 120. At \$10 per ticket, the benefit to the school earned by this event is substantial.

Kat Ryder as “Stage Manager” and Anatheia Woirhaye as “Director” had the essentially equivalent jobs of shepherding elementary student actors and the supporting cast of preschoolers on and off the stage, in addition to hustling the scenery props for the fast-paced narrative. These two managers, dressed in black to appear inconspicuous though both are tall girls, were impressively effective.

Ashley Ryder narrated the familiar story from a microphone beside the stage. She spoke distinctly and with expression, and skillfully adapted to the inevitable occasional confusion that resulted from coordinating 24 young actors on a small stage.

First-grader Elyse Woirhaye revealed extraordinary acting ability as the ghost of Jacob Marley (with dragging chains) and Tiny Tim (with a bright red crutch). Intermediate student Avon Dhawal was scary as the Ghosts of Christmas Past and Yet to Come. His classmate Hunter Collins was equally effective as the Ghost of Christmas Present. Mr. Fezziwig was recognizable in Joshua Schwarz’s whiskers. Costumes were created by Marie Kaneko.

The Elementary students played their parts well. Matthew Horbino was good as honest, hard-working Bob Cratchit, Scrooge’s employee. His very large family was played by Shreeya Dhawal, Daniel Lisnek, Matthew Quesada, Mathias Song, Elijah Song and Vegas Stewart (and that’s not all of them!). More Cratchit kids were Preschoolers Zoe Overmyer, Stevie Preston, Gia

Schweizer and Alex Ugarte.

Other Preschoolers, including Bishop Aereaux (son of Elementary Teacher Alicia Atkinson) and Landon Caringella (son of Intermediate Teacher Cassie Caringella), Sebastian Mateos-Carpio, Ramsey Reyna and Emma Torres performed as a gray-shirted Greek-drama wailing chorus and joined enthusiastically in the several boisterous Christmas carols sung by the entire cast. The sheer joy of the youngsters was contagious.

Stevie Preston’s father, Jeremy, masterfully managed the light and sound effects from his large control box. At one dramatic moment in the play, when Scrooge (Cedric) was groveling, head-in-hands, in front of his own grave, conjured up by Ghost Avon, Jeremy unleashed a thunderclap with flashing lights that scared the wits out of this reporter (and others, no doubt).

The extravagant chili supper that preceded the play had 16 (yes!) different chili crocks and 10 varieties of corn bread brought by the parents. After the applause for the actors died down (and it took a long time), everyone reveled in the home-made cookies, brownies and goody-bars of all kinds. This was a really great Winter Revue event!

— Bob Newton

Chorus Sings Holiday Music

The atmosphere in First Friends Meeting House on Sunday afternoon, December 8, was joyful as the New Century Singers performed holiday music to a very appreciative audience. Judy Kertes directed the concert and Clella Snider accompanied the singers on the piano.

The first number was “Sleigh Ride.” Subsequent pieces had special flourishes. Rehearsal accompanist Edward Sywulka played chime bells for the singers during “Carol of the Bells.” A group of children constructed a cotton snow man during “Winter Wonderland,” much to the delight of the audience. Lettie Brooks played her recorder to accompany “Candles, Candles,” a Hannukah song, and her tambourine for “Shine Little Light” and “Proudly Sounds the Tambourine.”

A medley of winter songs, including “Let It Snow,” featured soloist Rosalva Reza. Pam Laswell brought tears to some eyes with her beautiful rendition of “O Holy Night.” The final number was “Christmas in About Three Minutes,” a medley of 23 songs!

Thank-you gifts of See’s candy were presented by the chorus members to Judy, Edward, Clella and long-time chorus manager Sue Walker in recognition of their commitment, devoted efforts, and contribution to the musical culture of the Whittier area.

— Jean Sponsler

Remembering Marsha Allen

Marsha Allen was born in March 1941 to Harold and Helen Allen in East Los Angeles, where she lived until the age of 8. She then moved to a tent on Painter Ave. in what is now called South Whittier while her father built the first of two houses there. Later he built a four-bedroom house on that same block.



Marsha grew up loving music and all her life would be heard singing at home. On the recommendation of her 6th grade teacher, her mother arranged for her to receive voice lessons for several years. This prepared her for later being a welcome member of the First Friends choir and of the New Century Singers of Whittier.

Her enjoyment of participating in the writing group at First Friends was likewise a continuation of her girlhood love of reading and writing stories. Her last home in Santa Fe Springs was full of pieces she had written.

Marsha was in the first graduating class at Sierra High School in 1959. She then married Robert Moore and became the mother of three boys. At an early age, while her youngest was still in diapers, she became a single mom but managed to keep them all together as a unit. She once worked three jobs at once to support them, but never admitted to finding it a struggle. One of the positions she held was manager for the Physicians Exchange answering service. In her late years, she made a home for her oldest son after an accident left him disabled.

Marsha died on November 19 at 72, after the recurrence of a blood clot problem which had sent her to the emergency room two years before. She is survived by her three sons, Channing, Cameron, and Corwin; grandchildren Cameron Edward Moore, Aubri Michelle Moore, and Addy Marie Campbell; great granddaughter Ember Jane Cervantes; brother James Allen; sister Heather Allen; and several nieces and nephews.

Lee Riley, a probation officer, chaplain, and member of First Friends since the 1950s, assisted Lynda Ladwig with the memorial service held at First Friends on December 14. The Riley family's connection with Marsha's family dates back to the days when she lived across the street from the old brick church. Lee's father, then on the church staff, although perfectly aware of certain misdeeds, took a personal interest in these young and mischievous boys. Today they remember a wonderful dinner to which the Rileys invited Marsha and her boys,

Oboist Sanchez Returns For Christmas Music Sunday

"Prophets and Angels," an Advent festival of carols and lessons directed by Russ Litchfield and presented by the Worship Choir, brought the Christmas spirit to First Friends Church on Sunday, December 15. The music was by Aaron David Miller and the text by Herbert F. Brokering. Guest oboist Evan Sanchez added greatly to the presentation with leading parts at least five times during the service, including the prelude, offertory and anthem pieces. This was Evan's second appearance at First Friends Meeting for Worship.

This complex service with congregational participation unfolded expeditiously under the skilled direction of Russ. Michael and Elisabeth Elliot read from Genesis, Isaiah and Luke and led responsive readings. The congregation sang advent carols at appropriate places in the program. The text of the hymns and responsive readings appeared in the Sunday *Bulletin*. Anthems by the choir were also interspersed, with solo parts by Jamie Benjamin, Pam Laswell, and Jean Sponsler, and poetical readings by choir members Jo Nita Beede, Allison Coop, Chris Jones, Mark Juaton, Kathryn Shuman, and Diane Wemmerus. Russ concluded the service by playing "Festival Dialogue" on the organ.

A recent high school graduate, Evan Sanchez is already an accomplished musician. In November he went to South Korea with the Cal State Long Beach orchestra. In January he will enter the Guild Hall Conservatory in London to study woodwind performance. He plans to make music performance his life's career.

— Bob Newton



One of Secords' 100+ crèches.

and credit Lee's father, Bill Riley, with having been a great moral influence. The sons also feel that Dorothea Boyd, church secretary at the time, had quite an impact on their lives, and have fond memories of Esther Nelson, who also worked in the office.

The memories voiced at the memorial service highlighted, above all, that Marsha was a devoted, understanding and loving mother, but also appreciated her generous smile and gift for seeing and sharing the funny side of things.

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Carlos Bailey's 100th Birthday Coming Up

Carlos Bailey will turn 100 in January. First Friends will honor him on Sunday, January 12 at the luncheon before Monthly Meeting. Please sign up in Founders Court or call the church office to reserve your place at the luncheon.

— Gwen Woirhaye



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

Meet Harriet Strong at AFFN



Harriet Strong (1844-1926), portrayed by Dr. Kathleen Rabago, a Cal State Long Beach history professor, was an early Whittier area resident who arrived here before Jonathan Bailey. After her husband's death she had to provide for her family and hold on to her land, purchased from Pio Pico. Come to AFFN on January 8 and enjoy the rest of the story.

The program will follow a complete potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. 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 but will be joining us for dinner. There is no charge for children under 12 who come with parents. All are welcome.

— Ted Marshburn

- Peggy Anderson
- Judith Austin
- Arden Bode
- Audrey & Carlos Bailey
- Helen Carlisle
- Alice Newsom
- Jack Phinney
- Maureen Russell
- Vi Smith
- Ami Troedsson
- Gerry Wolfe