

# THE LIVING LIGHT

*For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.*

*Ephesians 5:9*

Volume 56, Number #2

Whittier First Friends Church

Second Month, 2017

## What Is That in Your Hand?



### Outside Chill, Inside Love

Thirty-three guests came and went each day at the Cold Weather Shelter last month. Some rode bicycles, some walked briskly and others took the hand of a family member or friend. For the week of January 9 through 16, volunteers from our Meeting provided overnight supervision, breakfast, dinner and snacks to go!

Each day began at 5:30 a.m. with a call of “good morning” as bright lights were turned on by our overnight supervisors. Some guests would rise quickly, pour themselves a cup of coffee or hot chocolate, dress, organize their location and do their chores. Others continued to enjoy the warmth of their blankets well after the call came for breakfast. But by 7:00 a.m., everyone was headed out the door. Many exited with a cheerful farewell, “Have a good day!” The week’s

*Continued on page 4*

### Jan Wood Brings Us Quaker Forum '17

Moses was afraid that the people would not believe that the Lord had appeared to him. God asked, “What is that in your hand?”

When we seek out opportunities to serve, we often look outward instead of right here, within ourselves and in our immediate community. What’s in front of you is always the starting place.

Author and teacher Jan Wood will facilitate a day of conversation and spiritual development at Quaker Forum on Saturday, March 4.

Jan will place special emphasis on identifying and strengthening our own gifts for service and how they work together within our Meeting.

To help prepare us for the Forum, Jan has suggested we take some time to think about our own abilities and desires. A guide to our own “giftedness” can be found in this issue’s insert. You are encouraged to make some notes and bring the sheet with you to the Forum.

The Forum starts at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and concludes at 3:00 p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Friends are asked to provide breakfast items, sandwiches or soups. Please sign up in Founders Court.

Reservations are available by contacting the church office by phone at (562) 698-9805 or by email at [firstfriendswhittier@verizon.net](mailto:firstfriendswhittier@verizon.net).



—Elisabeth Elliot

*A CHRISTIAN PEOPLE CALLED TO LISTEN, GATHERED TO SEEK PEACE AND SENT FORTH TO SERVE*

## Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

**Dear Friends,** Happy February, everyone. Christmas was a great time for visiting with friends and family. I have always thought of January as a time for relaxing after the holidays. It has been a time for thinking ahead and planning for the New Year. But, I have a true confession: I never realized that January could be so exhausting. I do end of the year bookkeeping for multiple places, and there are so many deadlines in January.

**Friends Visit:** **Vikki Kendrick** was glad to be back at First Friends after spending several months at the Jersey Shore caring for her mother. Happily, her mother has recovered, and Vikki came home with daughter **Christy Tavernelli**, who squeezed in a quick week's vacation away from the Philly winter to visit her CA friends, including **Tammy Van Dorn**. Christy works in the fund-raising department at American Friends Service Committee and has recently been busy writing thank-yous.

**Friends About Town:** **Dave Harris**, who built the organ at First Friends has been helping with the installation of a Wurlitzer theater organ at Whittier High School. He would like everyone to know, the dedication has been postponed as **Ken Crome**, the head organ builder and friend of the Harris family, is fighting cancer, so prayers are requested. He does the final voicing for the pipes, which gives the organ its musical blend. No new date has been set yet.

**Friends Celebrate:** Friends recently signed cards and sent greetings to **Carlos Bailey** in celebration of his 103rd birthday. Happy birthday, Carlos! **Sami (Samantha) Sanchez** (our soprano section leader in the Friends Choir) was very excited to share that she got married over the holidays to **Alex Joaquin**.

**Friends Remember:** Our lives have been touched and enriched over the years by several friends that we now say good-bye to. **Beth Graham Strader** is now at peace. She was 86 earth years old. She was a birthright Quaker and a graduate of Olney Friends School and USC. A second-generation member of the Meeting, she loved all elements of our music ministry, especially the organ. She was also an enthusiastic Golden State Warriors fan. Beth served on La Habra City Council and as Mayor for 12 years and was a loyal PEO member. Her daughters **Elisabeth Elliot** and **Lori Graham** and their husbands **Michael** and **Bruce** are doing okay and are thankful to be surrounded by the love of their family and friends. **Monte Wicker**, member of our memoir-writing group (and past mayor of Whittier), passed away on Christmas Day. **Ignacio**

(**Nacho**) **Marin** passed away on January 15. His wife, **Kathy Marin**, a member of Whitleaf Friends Meeting, is a faithful member of our school committee. **Ken Nowels** called to inform us that his wife **Joan (Jody) Taber Nowels** passed to new life on Saturday, January 7 in Claremont. She was a birthright Quaker, born in 1931 in Whittier. Ken & Jody were married here at First Friends Church in 1954 and lived in Covina and then Claremont. She had requested her membership be changed to Affiliate Member in 1970 when their family became active in a church in Claremont. In that letter she wrote "It is difficult to put down on paper all that this Meeting has meant to me throughout my life. Having been brought up under its teachings and influenced deeply by its ministers and leaders, First Friends will always be home to me, no matter the status of my membership. I will continue to be interested in its life and progress in all ways."

**Friends Travel:** We received grateful greetings to the First Friends community from **Jerry Coffin** in Mati City in Mindanao, Philippines. He wrote, "I am tremendously grateful to all the Friends and friends who prayed me back to active good health after six months of non-specific fatigue syndrome. I am particularly grateful to all who sent cards and emails. My deepest regret is to have missed Esther Nelson's memorial service. She was a great friend of my parents and a special Friend to me. I did recover at the end of November, just in time to rush to the Philippines and resume the work on my internet project, 'Movement Photographers and Artists Collection' before it was cancelled due to non-activity. Now more than any time since the Vietnam War, the inspiration of their work is needed by the new generation of non-violent activists. Special thanks to Loletta

for posting the prayer request from my loving sister, Carrin Bouchard." Here he is with *The Living Light* continuing our tradition: "*The Living Light Travels*." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)

**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!



## This Month in Meeting for Worship

February 5	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Salt and Commandments</i> Isaiah 51:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20
February 12	Youth Sunday
February 19	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Serving Our Enemy</i> Matthew 5:38-48, 1 Corinthians 3:10-23
February 26	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Serving a Master</i> Matthew 6:24-34



At January Monthly Meeting, the Christian Education Committee reported that the proceeds from the Family Christmas Dinner candy sale will be distributed equally between the Trustees' catastrophic fund and Heifer International. Esther Nelson also gave money which was used to purchase goats, sheep, rabbits and chickens through Heifer.

The next Music Sunday will be April 23, the Sunday after Easter.

A Minute of Service was approved for the Cold Weather Shelter volunteers. It is requested that we be in prayer as we consider being a sanctuary community. A Committee on Immigration and Refugees is being formed to consider further recommendations to the Meeting.

Derek Blankenship writes from Boston with thanks for the Meeting's support of his work with the Quaker Volunteer Service, and the guidance and love we have shown him. Please continue to hold him in the Light.

Friends are asked to return their pledge cards of planned giving for 2017. It was approved that we will continue to pay our bills without an approved budget.

Electricity use is being evaluated as the Trustees continue to explore solar power for our facilities.

It was requested that we look at how our facilities are serving our open and affirming minute, including transgender restrooms, changing tables and high chairs among other facilities and equipment.

February Monthly Meeting is February 12. The menu is cranberry chicken on rice, Caesar salad, mixed vegetables and brownies for dessert.

## Loletta's Lines

Why serve? I would love to hear from you! What is your reason(s) for serving and for serving where you do? What has been good or challenging?



Most of you know my service in Namibia was both good and challenging. My reasons for going to serve included the profound and the more mundane; I felt the Spirit lead me and so "I could do no other", and I always wanted to live in another country. What was good included the PEOPLE, learning about their lives and perspectives, and the ongoing connection I am blessed to have with them! I am also grateful for the ways in which my relationship with God and with myself were strengthened and expanded. What was challenging included my inability to speak Afrikaans and lack of transportation, and the ways my relationship with God and myself were stretched and tested! (I know if I allow them, challenges can turn into blessings, even if I do grumble along the way.)

Our reasons for serving can range from altruism to self-interest. They can include a need to learn about other people and explore the world, and a need to learn about ourselves and explore our own values, perspectives and spirituality. It seems to me that in Jesus' service his purpose was connecting with people, connecting them to God, and ultimately transforming their perspectives and lives completely. He served through his radical teaching about God's love, a word of forgiveness, a look that said, "I really see you," a touch, or even just his presence. His service transformed the disciples; their idea of first and last was completely upset by the Master who tied on a towel, humbled himself to wash their feet and called them Friends.

I believe in serving. I believe that for whatever reason I begin to serve, whatever good or challenges I experience along the way, the Spirit can use the opportunity to transform the people and community around me. But, even more, the Spirit can use the opportunity to transform the little world within me.

**We welcome and encourage your comments as well as your contributions and photos for inclusion in *The Living Light*. Kindly send your email to Elisabeth Elliot at [communiquaker@gmail.com](mailto:communiquaker@gmail.com).**



weather was unpredictable, so umbrellas and trash bag ponchos were in demand. Every guest had eaten a hearty breakfast prepared by our breakfast crews. Thank you to Mary Hall, Milton and Donna Wright, Darrell Warren, Barbara and John Healey and the Woirhaye family for rising early to get food on the table by 6:00 a.m. Anatheia Woirhaye was alert and proposed a new science: Donutology!

All returned as the sun went down, grateful to have a warm, friendly place to spend the nights. Cold Weather Shelter Coordinator Dottie Anderson greeted them at the back door to the Wesley Building at First United Methodist Church, our neighbors and hosts. Guests grabbed a hot drink and put away their daytime items. Dinner was served promptly at 7:00 p.m. with seconds and then dessert. Our cook coordinators, Gwen Woirhaye, Becky Overmeyer-Velasquez, Lynda Ladwig, Mary Marshburn, and George and Carrin Bouchard, planned a variety of menus, offering everything from lasagna to pork roast. Their assistants, Loletta Barrett, Sylvia Graber-Pastrone, Bob and Sabron Newton, and Barbara Cote contributed side dishes and desserts. Our youth provided one dinner, jostling around an unfamiliar kitchen to create a delicious casserole. As always, they were enthusiastic, helpful and kind. Many hands helped cook and serve the tasty, hot meals and our guests expressed their gratitude.

After dinner, the night time supervisors arrived alert and ready to share the dark hours. Once lights were turned out at 9:00 p.m. guests courteously turned quiet and restful. Many had already closed their eyes and were comfortably sleeping on their rollout mats. Safety during the nights was ensured by Russ Litchfield, Samantha Sanchez, Diane Wemmerus, Evan Mooney, JoNita Beede, Alene Burke and Nick Kontaratos. Additional help needed for overnight shifts was generously provided by volunteers from H.O.W. House.

The cold weather gear that was gathered under our Christmas Tree for Peace was distributed and all of our guests were donning bright, new knit caps as they ventured out into the brisk mornings. What a meaningful way to start the new year and conclude our vital, local mission project for December and January.

Huge hugs of gratitude to all Friends for your energetic participation!

—Carrin Bouchard and Marilyn Fant



## News from Whittier Friends School

When Whittier Friends School students were in the throes of studying about “Simple Machines” during January, many of the children in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade seemed to have a grasp of the concept on paper. They could identify pictures of a pulley, a wheel and axle, an inclined plane and wedge, a lever, and a screw. However, our classroom did not have many concrete examples of these simple machines, so it became clear that a field trip was in order.

A five minute drive on Tuesday, January 17 led us to “Grandpa Dan’s Workshop,” where over the course of an hour Dan Wright shared the many treasures in his garage, backyard, and blacksmith shop. The children got to witness how a vise, powered by a screw, wheel and axle, makes it possible to hold any items that are being worked on. They also saw how a screw is used in drilling with a power drill press and a hand-crank drill press. They got to see how a level is used both in making an old mechanical record player play music, and in enlarging drawings using a pantograph. The children got to see how a wedge, or hatchet, is sharpened using a wheel and axle.

One of the greatest highlights was at the end, when all of the students got to take a turn playing music on the hand-crank organ. The children of our school left the field trip with all kinds of ideas about where simple machines could be hiding in everyday objects, while parent drivers and staff left feeling inspired by the vast collection of unusual objects. It is so fulfilling to learn and teach at a school where we have the opportunity to learn in depth from someone in our own community. Thanks so much, Grandpa Dan!

—Cassie Caringella



# What are your spiritual gifts?

*Take a moment to center on each of these abilities and desires. Do they apply to you? Is the answer **yes**, **sometimes** or **not usually**? If you are puzzled by any of these, that's ok. They are a basis for discussion.*

The ability to see the spiritual dynamics behind/under things.

The deep assurance that "all is well" even when circumstances go awry.

The ability to know things you haven't been taught and have no "logical" way of knowing.

The ability to see/sense/communicate whether or not a group is aligned with its root/God's heart.

The ability to apprehend and apply truth to groups or circumstances.

The ability to communicate through language never learned.

The ability to translate/understand languages you don't know.

The ability to organize people and resources to get things done.

The ability to come alongside people, to be truly "with" them so that they are helped/touched by God's love.

The desire to pour out resources for others.

The ability to cure and restore body, mind, emotions and spirit.

The ability and desire to assist the leader/those burdened, often with a desire to stay out of the limelight.

The ability and desire to hold other in love/light/goodness/prayer for their benefit.

The ability to have vision and give motivation for a group to act with purpose.

The ability and desire to care for a group of people over time.

The ability and desire to meet the practical needs of people.

The ability to help people learn, grow and become competent.

The ability and natural authority to care for/lead groups of organizations/communities of faith.

The desire/compulsion to share what excites you and to bring others along in it with you.

The ability to liberate from systemic oppression.

The ability to create warm, welcoming spaces/circumstances that make others feel cared for, nurtured and safe.

The ability and desire to alleviate suffering--physical, emotional, economic, etc.

The ability to cooperate with the power of God to intervene in specific circumstances.

The ability and desire to reach out across cultural boundaries.

The ability to touch another person's mind/spirit through speaking, writing and/or the arts.

*Bring this with you to Quaker Forum on Saturday, March 4*

## Need Help Choosing the Right Financial Path?

Several years ago, our meeting approved Everence as the custodian of our endowment funds and Business and Finance meets with Everence representative Dennis LeFevre annually for his help in reevaluating our growth and needs. Dennis offers his services to our individual members as well, to help them create a complete strategy tailored for their specific needs by walking them through the seven branches of their financial life.

Are you the type who likes to be prepared? Or do you resist asking for advice and prefer the “wait and see” approach? In matters of faith and finances, some preparation is often a good idea and Dennis can meet with you during his next visit to Whittier. Whether tomorrow includes an unexpected set of twins, higher education for you or a child, or early retirement to fulfill a long-time dream, we recognize that it’s never too late to seek additional advice or help.

When it comes to our finances, many of us don’t plan ahead—and don’t have a guide or map to set us in the right direction. Sometimes it takes someone else to alert us to potential opportunities, detours and missteps, as well as hold us accountable along the way. Dennis can work alongside you to determine the financial path that fits your dreams, goals, faith and values.

If you are interested in learning more about financial planning or additional options, please sign up in Founders Court or call the church office requesting Dennis contact you to set up an appointment.

—*Business & Finance Committee*



## Quakers in Unity New From Friends Around the World



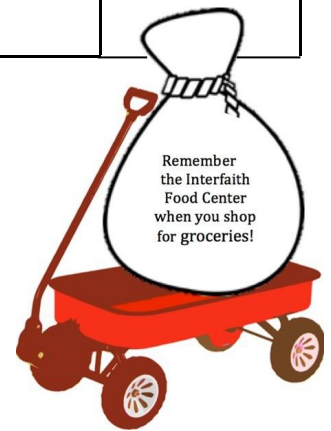
**Friends Committee on National Legislation**—Spring Lobby Weekend is March 18-21, nine weeks after the president is sworn into office. We are asking Congress to not repeal the Affordable Care Act without replacing it with something better, how they will provide health care to the 22 million people at risk and if they are willing to stand up against the oncoming cuts to core programs that keep people out of poverty. Many members of Congress don’t want to make these cuts. Our voices, at the beginning of the next Congress, can make a difference. [fcn.org](http://fcn.org).

**Friends General Conference**—The Gathering team is excited to present this year’s schedule of speakers. This July, go on a spiritual journey with the advocate who has worked tirelessly for 30 years to promote and defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations system, commemorate the centennial of American Friends Service Committee with Palestinian Quakers and an Israeli Jew as they discuss their Spirit-led resistance and liberation, and learn from the clerk of New York Yearly Meeting’s Earthcare Working Group how you can build up the physical, emotional, and spiritual muscle needed to navigate uncertain times. [fgc.org](http://fgc.org).

**Friends United Meeting**—FUM invites and welcomes Quakers from all over the world to join us in Wichita, Kansas, on July 12–16. Plan on plenty of opportunities for worship, small group activities, and forums that will energize you, equip you, and connect you with other members of FUM. A very active program for young Friends will be available, as well as childcare for our littlest Friends. Our speakers for this Triennial will use themes from Thomas Kelly’s book, “The Eternal Promise,” as we rekindle our spiritual passion and ready ourselves to be the Children of Light in our communities and around the world. Early registration fee (before March 31) is \$180, excluding food and lodging. The Triennial will be held in conjunction with the Stoking the Fire conference, also in Wichita. [fum.org](http://fum.org)  
**Friends World Committee for Consultation**—the 2017 Section of the Americas meeting is March 23-26 in Stony Point, New York. A variety of registration plans are available. [fwcc.org](http://fwcc.org).

# February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Schedule for Sundays</b> <b>Unprogrammed Worship—9:30a</b> <b>First Day Classes—9:30 a</b> <b>Meeting for Worship—11:00a</b>			<b>1</b> 6:30p Business & Finance Meeting	<b>2</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 6:30p Family Movie Night— <i>Finding Dory</i>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 12:15p Quarterly Clerks' Meeting	<b>6</b> 1:30p Writing Class	<b>7</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 9:00a Trustees Meeting 7:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:00p M&C	<b>8</b> 6:00p AFFN	<b>9</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> WFS Grandparents Day	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 12:15p Monthly Meeting	<b>13</b> <b>Friendly Fare Deadline</b> 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	<b>14</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> <b>Living Light Deadline</b> <b>Editors Compose Living Light</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 12:30p Christian Education Meeting	<b>20</b> 1:30p Writing Class 6:00p Monthly Mission	<b>21</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> <b>Living Light Folding</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 12:15p Music Committee Meeting 12:30p Outreach Committee Meeting	<b>27</b> 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	<b>28</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal				



Kasey Allen	Caroline Foley	Elyse Woirhaye
Danielle Bald	Sarah Garland	Betsy Wood
James Ward Bates	Mary Marshburn	Donna Wright
Donald Carty	Melissa Sue Mendoza	Karlene Wright
Joyce Darrow	Sophia Sadler	
Philip Ellis	Kathy Sargent	

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!

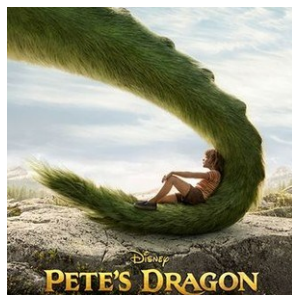


## FRIDAY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

**FRIDAY, MARCH 3**



**FRIDAY, APRIL 7**



**6:30 p.m. in FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**Free admission and popcorn**

**Open to the community**

**Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult**

**Donations of canned goods for  
the Interfaith Food Center are appreciated**



All Friends Fellowship Night is Wednesday, February 8. A local beekeeper, Bob Cymbolin, will talk about honey bees and their importance to agriculture.

Potluck dinner begins at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with the program to follow at 7 p.m. Sign up in Founders Court 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 12 or under with their parents.

—Ted Marshburn

## A Mission to Nourish

The Interfaith Food Center is one of the most important charitable agencies supported by First Friends. Founded in 1983 by the Interfaith Council of Whittier, this agency supplies much needed nutritional supplements to low-income residents of Whittier, La Mirada and Santa Fe Springs. On January 11, IFC volunteer Scott Radcliffe came to All Friends Fellowship Night describing his group's current activities and plans for the future.

Scott is an admirable example of the value of volunteer service. He worked for 30 years in the aerospace industry of Southern California before founding a successful commercial sign-making

## On Our Calendar...

Quaker Forum	March 4
Whittier Friends School Science Fair	March 15
Youth Fellowship events	March 26 and April 23
Easter Breakfast	April 16
Whittier Friends School Spring Event	April 29



*Jack and Sharon Huffaker volunteer with Scott Radcliffe in service to the Interfaith Food Center.*

company. His capability as a coordinator and promoter were well-displayed in his slide show. He showed pictures of the staff headed by Amy Catt, the Santa Fe Springs depot that serves the public, their fleet of delivery trucks, and especially the corps of volunteers that carries out many of the operations, including food dispensing and delivery.

The Food Center hands out groceries in the form of canned and dry foods and fresh produce to over 3,000 local families each week. In addition, the Center provides 75 nutritious sack lunches per day for homeless residents of the area. Several churches, including our meeting, collect non-perishable food items and deliver them to the Center. Other important sources are grocery stores, which donate surplus items like day-old bread, and importantly, the L.A. Regional Food Bank, a large non-profit surplus food redistribution agency. Operating funds come from donations by churches, community groups and larger funding agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Members of First Friends have been active in IFC as volunteers since its inception. Ted Marshburn has been on the IFC Board of Directors. Jack and Sharon Huffaker are active in IFC operations and take our Red Wagon donations to the Center each week.

Mary Marshburn's exquisite garden flower table decorations embellished a superb AFFN potluck supper under her direction.

—Bob Newton





## Remembering Esther Nelson

On December 6, 2016, the living world lost the wonderful soul of my great aunt, Esther Winder Nelson. My family had learned to dread this day more and more with each passing year, knowing it had to come, but of course not knowing when. But Esther wasn't dreading anything. When I asked her the day before her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday if she'd reach 100, she replied, with typical candidness, "I sure hope not." She'd lived through the deaths of many family and friends and no longer had a body that allowed her easy and painless mobility. But her mind and her memory retained good fitness, and I think part of the reason she was so ready to go was that she had lead her best life.

Esther was born in 1919 in Marion, Indiana into a Quaker community to Seneca and Alberta Winder. She had an older brother Lowell, and after Esther came Elizabeth (later Cradler, my grandmother).

Esther was both so loving and so loved. In her memoirs, she writes fondly of her family: her mother was "kind and patient," someone from whom she learned by example and hoped to emulate. Her brother,

who died at the young age of 48, "brightened up all our lives," and the way she writes of her husband Carl makes it clear that she adored her life companion, who died in 2005. In 1949, Esther was overjoyed to adopt Linda and then Bruce in 1952. "When they came into our lives we couldn't have been happier," she wrote.

Esther's parents offered four years of private education, and she chose two years at Westtown boarding school followed by two years at Earlham College. As fate would have it, Lowell asked Esther to come to Los Angeles the summer of 1939 to help out in his restaurant, and she happily agreed. She traveled alone on a bus from Indiana to California, and on her first day in what would be her new state, she met Carl. She was already engaged to a man back at Earlham, but Carl managed to change her mind.

After she and Carl were married in 1940, she worked in Carl's family bakery in Los Angeles serving Swedish bread and pastries—on one occasion, to Greta Garbo. She recalls spending the afternoon of Sunday, December 7, 1941 on the roof, sitting in the sun and listening to the radio as the attack on Pearl Harbor was announced. A year later, Esther packed up their life in Los Angeles and traveled with Carl to Atlanta where he completed his training as a high speed code operator for the war, seeing him on weekends for about 9 months until he left for Europe and she returned to Whittier. She held various jobs, until Carl came home safely in 1945.

Esther was supportive of all and rarely put her needs first. Once, as a guest at Easter dinner with distant family members, she found an unwelcome surprise in her salad: a worm. In characteristic fashion, she carefully considered her predicament: would it be better to embarrass the hostess by alerting her to the (rather grievous) mistake, or chew and swallow the slimy invertebrate? "I ate him," she reports. "Maybe I ate more than one. I'll never know." One wonders what Esther would *not* have done to avoid putting someone else in a bad position.

Another impressive trait was Esther's being active and productive. After retirement, she and Carl started a cooking newsletter called *The Uncommon Cook*. Esther had been an avid home chef and reader of cookbooks, and Carl was a former professional baker and passionate writer, so writing and cooking seemed a perfect project. In the days before the internet and computers in every home, Carl and Esther managed to produce, print, and send an eight-page monthly between 1982 and 1987. They compiled not just recipes, but personal experiences and anecdotes, cooking-related and otherwise, and enjoyed

subscriptions from 48 of the 50 United States as well as Canada, Venezuela, China, Finland, Italy, and the La Varenne Cooking School in Paris.

I remember Esther as gracious, kind, understanding, wise, and perpetually positive. “We knew things would work out,” she once wrote, “they always do.” Esther was optimistic but also realistic, practical, and clever. I remember sitting with her when a burglar posing as a delivery man rang her doorbell, hoping to be let in. I was alarmed, but Esther, at that point widowed and in her 80s, wasn’t. She was a woman of independent thought ahead of her time, and she could take care of herself.

Esther wrote about having such respect for her mother that she asked herself, even thirty years after her death, what she would have done when “in a tight spot.” This, she writes, is “a wonderful heritage to have.” As I pore over Mrs. Winder Nelson’s memoirs, I agree and find myself asking the same thing only in reverse: what would Esther do?

My great aunt was, in short, a wonderful woman: an unimpeachable example of a life well lived, a modern lady and an unending spring of hope and faith in the goodness of others. This world will be the worse for her loss, and Esther Nelson was, is, and shall remain a model for the rest of us in our navigation of the future.

—Jenna Davis Knott



## A Last Wish Granted

When Esther Nelson’s grandson, Mark Nelson Brickley brought Natalie up to meet her, Esther approved immediately. Esther really wanted to attend her grandson’s wedding on October 29, 2016. Health issues were a great concern, though. Things settled somewhat and her “three angels” (caregivers), whisked her away for a gorgeous drive down the coast to Balboa Park, San Diego where she was the beautiful VIP at the wedding! People who knew her and knew of her were thrilled. Especially her grandson Mark.

There was a moment of silence during the ceremony honoring Natalie’s late grandmother Anita, and Mark’s late granddad Carl Nelson. At the reception, there was a special table with their pictures, “In loving memory of those still loved, still missed, and very dear.”

Esther asked me to please see that this picture of the table went into the Living Light. I said I would try.

—Linda Nelson Brickley

(Our pleasure, Linda. Anything for Esther and Carl!—Editor)



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 The Living Light  
 First Friends Church  
 13205 Philadelphia St  
 Whittier, CA 90601-4303

Periodicals  
 Postage Paid at  
 Whittier California

*The Living Light*

USPS 316-320

Volume 56 Number #2

Issue Date: February 1, 2017

*The Living Light* is published monthly by First Friends Church, 13205 Philadelphia Street, Whittier, California, 90601-4303. Periodical postage paid at Whittier, California.

Elisabeth Elliot ..... Editor

Marie Kaneko ..... Copy Editor

Loletta Barrett ..... Pastor

Lynda Ladwig ..... Associate Pastor

& Christian Education Coordinator

Russell Litchfield ..... Dir of Music Ministries & Organist

Mary Boltz ..... Office Administrator

Lorenzo Mora ..... Custodian

Telephone 562-698-9805

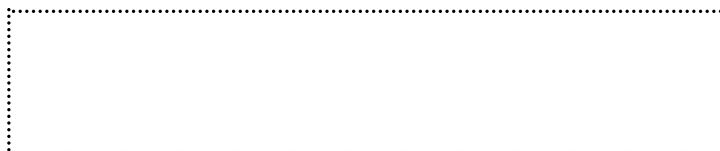
FAX 562-698-1127

[www.firstfriendswhittier.org](http://www.firstfriendswhittier.org)

Whittier Friends School Staff

Marie Kaneko ..... School Committee Clerk

562-945-1654



*So the Lord said to [Moses], "What is that in your hand?" —Exodus 4:2*



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

Peggy Anderson  
 Audrey & Carlos Bailey  
 Helen & Jack Carlisle  
 Phil & Liz Ellis  
 Rose Nedrow  
 Maureen Russell  
 Vi Smith  
 Ami Troedsson  
 Sue Walker  
 Gerry Wolfe