



Volume 61, Number 2

Whittier First Friends Church

Second Month, 2022

Continuing in Faith

Clerks and Committees for 2022

Please hold our Clerks and committee members in the Light.

There are still vacancies in a number of positions, including Clerks. If you do not see your name, please contact Nominating Clerk Marilyn Fant in care of firstfriendswhittier@verizon.net.

Monthly Meeting

Presiding Clerk: Deanna Woirhaye
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Elisabeth Elliot
Recording Clerk: Russ Litchfield
Assistant Recording Clerk: Marilyn Fant

Business & Finance Committee

Clerk: Brendon Woirhaye
Carrin Bouchard
Pat Garland
Bob Secord

Communications

Clerk: Elisabeth Elliot
Russ Litchfield
Bob Newton
Lea Wright
The Living Light: Elisabeth Elliot, Editor; Candice Ryder, Copy Editor.

Christian Education and Outreach

Clerk: Marilyn Fant
Alene Burke
Francoise Dutil
Lori Graham
Barbara Healy-Sprague
Ted Marshburn
Bob Newton
Darrell Warren
Librarian: Milton Wright

Ministry & Counsel

Clerk: Jo Nita Beede
Elisabeth Elliot
Candice Ryder
Mindy Van Dorn

Trustees

Clerk: Mel Sturr
Liz Ellis
Todd Cramer
Dan Wright

Continued on page 5

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, We missed spending New Years' Eve in Fellowship Hall with our Friends. In the past, we have enjoyed playing games, doing puzzles, snacking on leftover Christmas treats, visiting with our Friends, and watching the drop of our paper ball! Singing Auld Lang Syne just isn't the same when you're at home without Friends.

Friends Celebrate: **Luke Oliver Harris** was born December 28, in Charlotte, NC. He is the first son and second child of **Clint & Alyssa Harris**. **Dave & Iris** are thrilled to have a grandson, and we hear that "he's very cute." Prayers of Thanksgiving for the safe arrival of **Dalia Yoshiko Kaneko-Ignacio** born January 11. Her parents are **Laura Kaneko & Lori Ignacio** and happy grandparents are **Marie & Lloyd Kaneko**.

Friends About Town: The **Wright** family enjoyed another sunny Sunday afternoon driving the old cars to a park for a picnic. Included were **Dan & Lea Wright, Milt & Donna, Elinore Petoletti, Cassie, Steven, Landon, Avalon & Hudson Caringella, Ward Bates** from Wyoming and **Tom & Mindy Van Dorn**. It's always fun to get together and get the old cars out. Here they are with the Living Light continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)



School and Work: The fall issue of the University of Redlands alumni magazine had an article about **Bella Sturr's** work to promote vaccinations at Redlands. She is now in her last semester and will soon be a college graduate with two degrees, in biology and religious studies. Back in September 2021, **Landon**

Caringella had the fun opportunity to audition for, and get cast in, the Benton Middle School stage production of "Frozen Jr." In December, we finally got to see the performance, which was filmed and is still available to watch digitally (ask **Cassie** for the link). **Landon** was cast as the only male ensemble member, which means we got to see him in many of the scenes throughout the play. He had such a great time, and he is excited to take part in the school's production of "Annie Jr" now. The **Woirhaye** family is very happy to acknowledge that **Cedric** is set to earn his Associate's Degree in Science from Rio Hondo College with the hope to transfer to a four-year school in the fall, and **Elyse** was Student of the Month in Spanish at Troy High School.

Friends Correspond: It's always fun to hear from friends, especially when they are sending greetings saying "We deeply enjoy reading *The Living Light* every month and hearing about the church activities with all the familiar names." Thank you **Dennis & Linda Upton**.

Friends Remember: **Ray De La O**, friend of the Meeting and participant in Peace Café, recently passed away. Ray was responsible for restoring and reupholstering our choir chairs and pew cushions in the recent past. Prayers for peace for the family and friends of **Chris Boyd**, who passed to new life on Christmas Eve. Chris was the son of **Dorothea Boyd**, longtime secretary at First Friends. Prayers for the family of **Lavelle Basham (pictured here with Klane)**, who passed to new life on December 26. Lavelle was mother of **Joy Creelman** and sister of **Klane Robison**.

Friends Sharing News: No news is too small? **Brendon Woirhaye** reports that he did the dishes. Well, I bet he does the dishes more often than we hear about it. You can help to keep the Friendly Fare going. Email me a quick note and tell me your news. Send to Lea at lealouw@gmail.com. See you next month!



This Month in Meeting for Worship

February 6	Gill George, brings the message <i>Reclaiming Lament as Worship</i>
February 13	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Vanity</i> 1 Corinthians 15:12-20,
February 20	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Concerning Unity</i> Luke 6:27-38
February 27	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Generational Responsibility</i> Luke 9: 37- 42



At Monthly Meeting for January on January 9, Business and Finance reported that all budget requests for 2021 have been met and we are beginning

the new year with a surplus. Unfortunately, we have received fewer faith promises and less total contributions pledged for 2022. We approved the 2022 budget with faith that shortfalls will be met. Trustees reported that temporary roof repairs at the parsonage have been working, and we are contacting roofers for permanent repairs. In addition, inspectors have found the kitchen sprinkler system to be out of code and needs replacement, and ADA improvements to restrooms are required as well. We are continuing discussions with tenants and reaching out to groups in need of meeting and gathering space in an effort to share our facilities. Reverend Tsukasa Sugimura contacted the Meeting reaffirming our century-old relationship with the Japanese church, acknowledging that we provided a place when they could not go anywhere else. Training continues in preparation for fully-hybrid Meeting for Worship. We are actively working on updates to our calendaring and communication capability.

Monthly Meeting for February is Sunday, February 13 at 1:00 p.m.

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.

The Facing Bench

Jesus told his disciples “Come away to a deserted place by yourselves and rest a while.” This was after they told him all they had done, and so much was going on they did not even have time to eat. It seems the church was busy then as well.



There are so many things going on in our lives, the world, and our Meeting. We might not see it because there are many different people and different groups doing things. The activities are not public and we aren’t driving or gathering. Some of it is done to us—the stress of headlines, news, emails, phone calls, junk mail, and social media. And, oh yes—the pandemic.

It is also something we feel with emotions vacillating between excitement and disappointment over not being able to be with people we care about because, “Yep, the infection rate is surging again.” We feel it all. It makes us tired. I read an article that said if you are usually a very productive person but are feeling lazy, it isn’t actually laziness. You are tired.

Jesus told us—he was a pretty smart guy. Come away to a quiet place where nobody is going to call, text, email, or Zoom you. Leave your electronics behind. Turn off the stimulation—and yourself. Rest: take a nap, look at the trees, watch grass grow, do nothing but just be. It won’t solve anything, and nothing will get “done.” But you will be rested, the issues and solutions will be clearer, and your blood pressure will be lower, too.

Before the disciples went away, they told Jesus all they had done. In February, committees submit their annual reports to Monthly Meeting. It is recommended reading.

We need to celebrate what we have accomplished following the Spirit, and know that after all we have done, we should be tired. Then we can rest knowing we did what God set before us, and we are not even one little bit lazy.

Thanks, Friends, for all you have done: in person and virtually with your gifts of time, talent, resources and precious prayers. Have a nap—it’s on me!



Russ' Reflections *On missing our singing together*

I recently attended an online conference for church musicians that began with a lecture by Tom Trenney, Minister of Music at First Plymouth United Church of Christ in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is a great thinker and a great musician. These thoughts were provoked by his words.

One of the aspects of our community has been missing since March 13, 2020, when our Covid restrictions began: singing together. When we sing together, we breathe together. At Creation, God gave breath to humans. God gives *us* breath. We give back our breath when we praise God in song, together. Alas, this is one reason we have had to stop singing and worshipping together, because our breaths combine and potentially can spread the Covid virus. This is also a reason that some of us long for the time when we can gather in person again.

God also gave humanity the gift of music. There is music inside *all* of us. It is for each of us to discover how to release the music inside of us. When we are able to sing together in worship, we have an opportunity to return to God our gift of music. It is a way we can actively participate in worship, in the same way Spirit-led vocal ministry can bring the Meeting together. Music unites us. Henry Van Dyke said, "Use the talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."

When was the last time you read scripture or recited a poem or prayer out loud? Probably not often, but when we sing in worship, we sing prayers, poetry, and words from the Bible. Music helps us remember these words and ideas.

How can you participate in the music remotely from your Zooming devices? When there is a hymn, you can sing along, muted of course, or tap your toe, jingle your keys, or listen attentively and breathe in and along with the music you are hearing. When it is appropriate and possible, we will provide you with the texts that are sung by our musicians. It may be a while before we are able to make music together again in person, but when we do, I hope you will join in.



News from Whittier Friends School



If the holiday vacation from school HAS to end, the best way to go back to school is with a family field trip! A dozen Whittier Friends School students, plus siblings and parents and grandparents met up at Santa Ana Zoo on January 3 to visit the beautiful birds,

loud monkeys, and perhaps most importantly, the zoo playground. As a school, we are more accustomed to taking field trips to Los Angeles Zoo, but with over half of our children aged six years or younger, we found this smaller zoo a better fit for the shorter legs and shorter attention spans of those who were attending. Our school children were so pleased to see their friends after the winter break, and it was a great opportunity for our school parents to get a chance to visit with each other. Though we are not in a place where we can host family events on our school campus yet, it is a comfort to be able to take an outdoor trip together, with plenty of learning, visiting, and playing.



Everyone at the School would also like to thank you for supporting our Ruby's Diner fundraiser in November. Our school earned \$166.88 from people visiting the restaurant and sharing our flier. Keep an eye out for more restaurant fundraisers in the future.

And as always, you can follow our adventures on Facebook and on Instagram.

—Cassie Caringella

I invite your prayers that a way will open so that we may meet again in person, and I look forward to the time when I can hear your voices again, praising God in song.



Crystal Cush - Weitkamp	Elyse Woirhaye
Keri (Cush) Livingston	Cory Benjamin
Mary Marshburn	Vikki Kendrick
Kathy Sargent	Danielle Bald
Betsy Wood	Laura Torres
Donald Carty	Melissa Sue Mendoza
Louis Borg	James Ward Bates
Melissa Berardino	Andrew Ellis
Waters	Sarah Garland
Donna Wright	Sophia Sadler
	Richard Hall

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

Setting Our Priorities for Congress

Friends Committee on National Legislation is requesting that Quaker meetings give input into FCNL's lobbying priorities for the 118th Congress (2023-2024). This process happens every two years.

FCNL's legislative priorities are set by Quaker meetings and churches all around the country who meet to discern FCNL's way forward. They value our worshipful input and guidance.

Look for information in the ENews soon about gathering members of our Meeting to express their thoughts regarding this process.

Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends to Gather

As a member of the Religious Society of Friends, First Friends will take part in WARSF's annual meeting this spring.

Our Meeting looks forward to meeting with Friends from Berkeley Friends Church and Bakersfield Worship Group. Watch the ENews for information.

'Clerks and Committees' continued from page 1

Fellowship

Clerk: Vacant

Decorating: JoNita Beede, Lynda Ladwig, Mary Marshburn and Donna Wright

All Friends Fellowship Night Coordinators: Ted and Mary Marshburn

Kitchen: George and Carrin Bouchard

Receptions: Mary Marshburn

Usher Coordinator: Tish Purkiss

Ushers: The Woirhaye family, Tom and Tish Purkiss, Carrin Bouchard and Ted Marshburn

Technology Group: George Bouchard, Michael Elliot, and Brendon Woirhaye

Rise of Meeting Fellowship Coordinator: Carrin Bouchard

Music

Clerk: Vacant

Lloyd Kaneko

Mindy Van Dorn

Nominating

Clerk: Marilyn Fant

Elisabeth Elliot

Russ Litchfield

Tish Purkiss

Cedric Woirhaye

Personnel

Co-Clerks: Darrell Warren and Ellie Bewley

Nancy Cramer

Carrin Bouchard

Pastoral Care

Presiding Clerk: Deanna Woirhaye

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Elisabeth Elliot

Personnel Clerk: Darrell Warren

Ministry and Counsel Clerk: Jo Nita Beede

Whittier Friends School Committee

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Recording Clerk: Brendon Woirhaye

Marie Kaneko

Vikki Kendrick

Lynda Ladwig

Kathy Marin

Wendy Marsh

Philip Wright

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Meeting for Worship on Zoom

In response to the Omicron variant surge, Ministry and Counsel has approved a concern that we return to Zoom-only virtual Meeting for Worship throughout the month of February.

These ongoing concerns are being seasoned by the clerks of the Meeting and will be discussed at Monthly Meeting on Sunday, February 13 at 1:00 p.m. It is requested that all families in our Meeting have a representative present at Monthly Meeting.

Friends are encouraged to take advantage of free at-home tests, now available to all residential households in the United States. Each household can order one set of #4 tests from the United States Postal Service website at usps.gov.



Please remember in prayer those Friends unable to worship with us physically on a regular basis.

Peggy Anderson
Barbara Cote
Kathy Hood
Rose Nedrow
Kathy Robison
Ami Troedsson
Carol Urner
Gerry Wolfe

