

# The Living Light

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



Volume 51, Number 8

First Friends Church of Whittier

Eighth Month, 2012

## Peace Camp To Foster Growth



### Jasmine Becomes Member

Jasmine Sturr has been an important part of First Friends Church all her life. Therefore, it was surprising to some present when Pastor Becky Memmelaar called her to come forward during Meeting for Worship on June 17 to be recognized as an Adult Member.

This year is a milestone for Jasmine in many other ways — graduation from high school, acceptance at the college of her choice, selected to be a Quaker Youth Pilgrim. At the time of this writing, Jasmine is en route to New York, where she will embark on the Pilgrimage to early Quaker historical sites in England and to the Netherlands, organized by the Friends World Committee for Consultation.

In her former role as Junior Member, Jasmine has served our Meeting in many ways, including as a Peace Camp counselor for several years, and as a delegate to the Friends United Meeting Triennial held last summer in Wilmington OH.

Many Friends came forward with Jasmine at Becky's call to witness her membership ceremony. When Becky asked the congregation to support Jasmine in her spiritual journey, there was a resounding “We will!” On behalf of the membership, Becky presented Jasmine with Thomas Kelly's *A Testament of Devotion*. At the rise of Meeting, Friends thronged around their new adult member with congratulations and well-wishes.

— Bob Newton

“Growing Where We Are Planted” is this year's theme for the Friendly Neighbors Peace Camp at First Friends Church. Children who are going into first grade through eighth grade will take part in songs, crafts and lessons that foster conflict resolution and friendship skills. Another aspect of Peace Camp every year is the discovery and development of peace within the self, community, and world, often with an environmental emphasis as well.

This year's theme was decided almost by accident during 2011 Peace Camp planning last year. Friends who were brainstorming for that year came up with ideas that were too big for just one year! They realized that with all the exciting ideas, the brainstorming ideas could be carried over into a second year.

“Growing Where We Are Planted” will focus on the idea that children—and people—can grow into strong individuals no matter their backgrounds. Our “roots” are where we come from, and they can grow strong with the right choices, or can weaken with bad choices. All people leave behind a legacy, and it is our hope that as we grow and flourish, we leave a positive atmosphere in our wake.

Among other things, the Peace Campers will take the Great Kindness Challenge, and try to do as many acts of kindness as possible from a checklist of 50 suggestions. They will learn about Johnny Appleseed, who spread the love of apples and generosity across four states (Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois) in the early 1800s. They will learn lessons in empathy, impulse control, and anger management. They will also have time for cooperative games and earth-friendly crafts.

Peace Camp will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday, August 13 through Friday, August 17. If interested in attending or volunteering as an adult helper, please ask Cassie Caringella or Mary Boltz in the church office for more information.

— Cassie Caringella

## Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

**Dear Friends,** Summer is a great time to hear from Friends. Visitors at Whittier First Friends Church have been plentiful including: **Isaac Chu's** parents and brother from the Bay area, **Maggie and Crysanthi (Setlage) Leon** from Newark, Delaware, **Max Memmelaar** from Montana, **Kaleb, Mahlon & Cyndi Woirhaye** from Alabama, **Dick & Judy Wood**, and **Emily, Sarah, Betsy & Mike Wood**.

**Friends Visit:** A special "Living Light on the road" photo was taken at **Esther Nelson's** care center. Included are four-generations: **Amanda Ferguson-Cradler** with son **Finnagan**, **Chris Cradler**, **Melissa Nelson Martinez**, around their star



Esther Nelson. (Chris, daughter of **Jim & Liz Cradler**, grew up at WFFC.) Out of town family was visiting from Portland and Seattle. Esther sends greetings and thanks for the cards and visits.

**Friends Celebrate:** **Carrin Bouchard** says her baby girl is all grown up! Congrats on the announcement of the engagement of **Adam Day & Stacy Bouchard**. **Marina Harris** was wed to **Marc Hirsch** in July. She is currently singing opera with the San Francisco Opera while Marc will be in a master's program at the San Francisco Art Institute. **Iris Harris** says thank you for the prayers. She completely recovered from hip surgery, just in time for Marina's wedding. Good news! **Becky Overmyer-Velazquez's** mom, **Estella Overmyer**, found out that her chemo treatments appear to be beating back the cancer.

**Friends keep in Touch:** It was nice to get an update on these Friends: **Marjorie & Mark Hadley** moved from Sacramento to the home of their son, **Neal & E. Lee Hadley**, 15 miles west of Roseburg, OR near the town of Lookingglass, a long ago center for logging and mining. Spring in Oregon at their son's 11-acre spread was an exceptionally pretty time. Their abode is now a doublewide mobile home across the driveway from Neal's newly built 2-story home. Daughter **Jan** lives in Seattle so they're getting closer, but son **Carl** still lives in Sacramento. He expects to be transferred north soon. The Hadleys now attend the unprogrammed Roseburg Meeting, but still feel loving ties to First Friends Church. They send hearty greetings to all. **Ami Troedsson** who lives in Ventura, loves reading the *Living Light* and misses First Friends with the quiet time, the sharing and prompting by the spirit. She sends much love to all.

**School and Work News:** **Rex Jones** is now officially retired from his pastorate. But he's not retiring from ministry. He says he just has to figure out what particular

ministry God is calling him to, but he has some time to figure it out. He says it is nice to just sit in the pew and absorb rather than stand behind a pulpit and speak. **JoNita Beede** performed at "Summer Sounds," a benefit concert for the Whittier Area Cold Weather Shelter held at St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

**Friends Travel:** When is a vacation not a vacation? **Jack & Sharon Huffaker's** trip to Italy, Montenegro, Greece, Santorini, Turkey, and Croatia was a learning experience of seeing, listening, and WALKING. The food was interesting but would take some



time to appreciate. The people were gracious and helpful. The cruise accommodations were very nice. The common currency, the Euro, made purchasing very simple. Favorite sites were Venice, Turkey, and Athens. The group picture was taken in Ehpesus. **Elinore Petoletti** traveled to Scotland for a 10 day trip to Argyll, Bute, Kintyre and Cowal Peninsulas and the Island of Islay with a "Men of Worth" tour. The group enjoyed folk concerts by Donnie and James with special guests every night. **Ella Tiffany** traveled to Pennsylvania recently to attend a school reunion, visit with friends, and see her many cousins in the area. **ABCDE Woirhaye (Anathea, Brendon, Cedric, Deanna, & Elyse)** enjoyed a trip back east. More details next month. **Judith Austin** flew to northern Virginia, near Dulles Airport, at the end of June to be with her fourth son, **Grant Austin**, for the funeral of his wife, **Kathleen Weeks**. All six of Judith's sons were there. **Ted & Mary Marshburn** flew to Maine and attended the high school graduation of granddaughter **Olivia Marshburn-Ersek** who was Salutatorian of her class. They enjoyed visiting with daughter **Carol** and her



family as well as three of Ted's "old" high school classmates in Maine and Massachusetts. Olivia plans to work on an organic farm for a year before starting college.

Her sister, **Bethany**, who will be staying with Ted and Mary next year and taking her senior year at La Habra High School, is in Washington DC doing a summer internship in the office of Senator Olympia Snowe.

**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](mailto:lealouw@gmail.com), or deliver to me at church on Sunday. See you next month!

## ***FCNL Influences For Peace In Kenya***

The United States, along with the international community, has a substantial interest in providing sustained support for reform and peace-keeping in developing countries with emerging democratic governments. This point of view, advanced by the Friends Committee on National Legislation, was put forth eloquently to Whittier Friends at an evening after-supper lecture July 11 by Diane Randall, the new Executive Secretary of FCNL.

A case in point of particular interest to Quakers is Kenya. The 2007 national elections in that country were attended by tragic violence: over 1,000 people were killed and nearly half a million lost their homes. Peace was finally restored and a government coalition between the adversary factions was mediated by an international group led by African nations and furthered by Kenyan civil society groups, including Friends churches. The great challenge facing Kenya and the world community is to forestall a repeat of this violence during the national elections, to be held early next year, and to attempt to promote a smooth succession of leadership that truly reflects the results of the election and which has the support of the electorate.

The obstacles facing a peaceful electoral process in Kenya are many and severe. Foremost is the widespread poverty, which results in competition for land, resources and economic assets. Tribalism aggravates this struggle, especially in the absence of a strong central government trusted by the people. An ominous growth of armed tribal militias has taken place in recent years, reflecting centuries-old ethnic rivalries which still persist. The low level of education of many of the people exacerbates the mistrust and animosity.

The U.S. government contributes many millions of dollars to the Kenyan military as part of our worldwide program of counter-terrorism. FCNL contends that this money would be better spent on programs to promote civic education and development assistance to address the root causes of conflict. Our government should condition our support for Kenyan national security to observance of strict civil rights standards. We should press for holding the perpetrators of violence accountable and support society-wide reconciliation.

A significant step in this direction was the recent establishment of a Conflict and Stabilization Operations Bureau in the State Department. This new agency brings together a cadre of civilian experts who can be deployed to conflict situations



and attempt to prevent or mitigate potential violence. Partly in response to FCNL's lobbying, this group is already working to find ways that our government may support Kenya's efforts to maintain peace in the coming election year.

Stephen Donahoe, FCNL's fundraiser, accompanied Diane on her Southern California trip, which included visits to the Claremont, Orange Grove and Santa Barbara Friends Meetings, as well as to Whittier. He spoke briefly about various aspects of the FCNL program. One of the most important is the Intern program. Six to eight young people just out of college receive one-year appointments to FCNL staff, where they learn the practical aspects of lobbying congresspeople and government agencies. The Spring Lobby Weekend brings about 100 college students in for an intensive introduction to the peace lobby in Washington.

Diane Randall had an outstanding career heading state-level advocacy groups before coming to FCNL last year. She and her family are members of the Hartford CT Friends Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting. In April, she attended the World Conference of Friends in Kenya and took part in the post-conference Peace Tour arranged by the African Great Lakes Peace Initiative (AGLI), a Quaker-sponsored group. Her bus tour visited sites of the 2007 election violence, where grim signs of the atrocities are still evident. Diane's power point presentation to Whittier Friends included many pictures from the World Conference, adding to our appreciation of that event brought by our representative, Deanna Woirhaye.

Sue Settlege and Diane served together on the Board of Advisors of the Earlham School of Religion before Diane moved into her current position at FCNL. Sue now serves on the FCNL Executive Committee, and is also Clerk of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. The Settleges were instrumental in arranging for Diane's visit, providing hospitality for Diane and her daughter, Nora, and organizing an elegant potluck supper for our distinguished visitor, assisted by Tim and Neva Root and others.

—Bob Newton



## Summer Mission Project Kicks Off

Children in the remote Samburu district of Kenya are under a formidable educational handicap. They are required to tend the family herds for eight hours during the day. This does not include transportation (mainly walking) to and from the grazing area. It is understandable that the illiteracy rate among this group is 85%. Yet, many families are so ambitious for their children to be educated that they enroll them in four hours of evening school, termed “shepherd’s school.”

When the Samburu Friends first began their work with the shepherd children in 1995, they were given use of a four-room school made of mud bricks. This type of construction lasts at most several years before weathering takes its toll. Nevertheless, the school has been remarkably successful. The current enrollment is 102 with what is, for rural Kenya, a high percentage of girls (30%). The Samburu School District as a whole, under the leadership of a dedicated administrator, has a very good record of high school matriculation as a result of improved primary school enrollment and test scores. This is an educational effort that abundantly merits the support of Friends United Meeting and its constituent churches.

This summer’s FUM Summer Mission drive, “Cash for Classrooms,” hopes to collect \$20,000 to replace two of the mud-wall classrooms with sturdy cement blocks, to make a durable, safe and hygienic school environment. In addition to providing much needed learning space, the new classrooms will be equipped with solar panel-powered lighting to allow shepherd children to attend the night school classes safely. This will give further encouragement to the devoted church members who escort these children home from school in the dark.

On July 8, a Summer Mission collection box appeared in the foyer of First Friends Church. The box is

accompanied by an elegant poster crafted by Marie Kaneko, describing the Samburu project. Carrin Bouchard and the Outreach Committee hope to raise \$500 from donations by Sunday worshippers over the course of the summer as our Meeting’s contribution. If results from the previous two “Summer Mission” collections are indicative, we may expect to over-fulfill our goal. Last summer’s mission, “Kids for Kids,” supporting the animal husbandry project in Kaimosi and the mission of the previous summer, “Water for Life,” for water well drilling in the Kenyan desert, exceeded



their individual \$500 goals by at least \$200. Whittier Friends take special satisfaction from the great success of these investments in a better life for rural people in an under-developed country.

— Bob Newton

## First Friends Budget And Future

Friends,

What do you see as “success” for First Friends Church in the twenty-first century?

What excites you about your church?

What would stimulate you to bring others to First Friends?

For many years we have been supplementing our budget by using our reserves. The Business and Finance Committee projects that we have less than three years before the reserve funds run out if we continue to operate as we have been.

At the July Monthly Meeting a lively and productive discussion led to the formation of a first step in solving our problems and clearing the way ahead. We are asking all members and regular attenders of First Friends to join us for the next Monthly Meeting on August 12. We need to establish what we are willing to support with our time, our talents, and financially.

Currently we have received 61 giving plans for the year and our giving falls short of what is needed to cover the fixed expenses of maintaining the property and staff plus the programs and ministry that we feel called to provide to our members and to the community. We need to get excited about what we have to offer.

Please talk it over and be there at rise of Meeting on August 12 with your ideas and your enthusiasm. If you are not able to be in Whittier I would love to hear from you in writing – either addressed to me at First Friends or by email at [gwen@woirhaye.com](mailto:gwen@woirhaye.com). Thank you.

— Gwen Woirhaye, Clerk

# August 2012

			1 7:30p Quaker Men	2	3	4
5 10:00a Meeting for Worship 5:00p Book Study	6	7 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men	8	9	10	11
12 10:00a Meeting for Worship 11:00a Monthly Meeting 5:00p Book Study	13 <i>Friendly Fare Deadline</i> 9:00a Peace Camp	14 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men 9:00a Peace Camp 9:15a Trustees 7:00p M&C	15 <i>Living Light Deadline</i> 9:00a Peace Camp	16 9:00a Peace Camp 6:00p FFC Family Summer Picnic	17 9:00a Peace Camp	18
19 10:00a Meeting for Worship 5:00p Book Study	20	21 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men	22 <b>Editors Compose Living Light</b>	23	24	25
26 10:00a Meeting for Worship 5:00p Book Study	27 10:00a Quiltmakers	28 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men	29 <b>Living Light Folding</b>	30	31	



Bishop Aereaux	Gloria Rice
Ellie Bewley	Sandra Robison
George Bouchard	Jennifer Root
Mary Alice Case	Robert Settlege
Linda Flournoy	H. Russell Smith
Pat Garland	Bonnie Streeter
Laura Kaneko	Melvin Sturr
Emma McIntosh	Tom Van Dorn
Bruce Nelson	Deanna Woirhaye
Tish Purkiss	Philip Wright

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

## **WFS Day Campers Learn About Customs And Quakers In Kenya**

Two of the most characteristic wild animals of eastern Africa are the lion and the dung beetle. The former animal is mainly restricted to wildlife preserves these days, but the enormous shiny black insects are one of the most common sights in Kenya, the country that was the study subject of Session One of the Whittier Friends School Summer Day Camp. Campers made realistic paper models of lions and of dung beetles from styrofoam eggs covered with shoe polish. These were among the many arts and crafts projects they enjoyed during the week of July 9-13. Other craft items were papier-mâché drums and bead necklaces of the same material.

Introduction to Kenyan food was an important part of the learning experience. On the first day of camp, counselors Cassie Caringella and Alicia Atkinson showed the children how to make chapattis, the world's simplest form of bread. Though the chapatti originated in India, it is widely used in eastern Africa. All that is required to make this tortilla-like bread is flour, water, and a hot pan. The next day the children learned to make mandazis, or delicious fried donuts.

Thursday, the 12th, was a special camp day. In the morning Deanna Woirhaye, mother of campers Cedric, Anatheia and Elyse, told about her recent visit to Kenya to attend the World Conference of Friends. Campers learned that Kenya is home to the world's largest community of Quakers, numbering perhaps a million. The ten campers were thrilled by a slide and video show of zebras, giraffes, flamingos and crocodiles that Deanna filmed on safari trips to Kenya's famous wildlife preserves. Later that day campers visited the Africa Room at the Fowler Museum at UCLA.

On Friday, the campers prepared a Kenyan meal featuring ugali, the cornmeal staple of the people's diet. They entertained parents and visitors with a play titled "The Poor Man and the King" which is based on a folk tale of the Kamba tribe of Kenya.

Session Two of the WFS Enrichment Day Camp took place the following week. The activities centered around Ancient Greece, and will be reported in the September issue of the *Living Light*.

— Bob Newton



*Making African Drums at WFS Day Camp*

## **WFS Preschoolers Advance**

Nine youngsters came to the Fellowship Hall stage the evening of June 29 to receive recognition for a year of learning, character-building and fun in the Whittier Friends School



Preschool class. Among them were five graduating students in aqua-green caps and gowns: Aubrey Bush, Matthew Horbino, Lorraine Valenzuela, Roy Vasquez, and Elyse Woirhaye. Of these, Matthew and Elyse will

be continuing in WFS as kindergarteners. As each of the five graduates came forth to receive their diploma from preschool teacher Cindy Edmunds, he or she received a hearty applause from the capacity audience of parents, school staff, WFS School Committee, and the volunteers that devoted many hours to benefit the school during the 2011-2012 year.

The ceremony began with words of welcome from preschool director Alicia Atkinson, followed by an animated rendition of the song "Five Little Ducks" directed by teacher Sarah Cooper. Administrator Cassie Caringella paid tribute to the devoted school staff members. Sarah Cooper described the stimulating language-learning experiences that she offered the children. These included artistic depiction of abstract concepts such as joy or surprise in the form of sketches by the children. Teacher Sandra Escobedo recognized the promotion of the younger preschoolers to another year of learning.

As a finale, the assembled students sang "The World is a Rainbow" by Hap Palmer, with translation into American Sign Language gestures as they sang. Happy students, proud parents, and pleased supporters recessed to a period of fellowship and refreshments.

— Bob Newton



*Benn Clatworthy and Russ Litchfield*

## **Summer Worship Begins**

Sunday worship at First Friends during the summer is a refreshing change of pace. The less-formal summer mode formulated by Pastor Becky Memmelaar has the effect of a closer participation by the congregation with more opportunities for sharing.

Last summer we gathered around a simulated campfire to hear Becky's in-costume improvisational soliloquies of Biblical characters. Some worshippers even sat on the platform around the campfire with her. This summer's mode will be improvised dialogues between Becky and volunteers from the congregation, recreating the parables of Jesus. On July 1, the first Sunday of early summer worship (10:00 a.m.), Becky and Diane Wemmerus together created a modern day Good Samaritan parable titled "Debt Free." The congregation was encouraged to sit near the front of the Meeting Room, but it was evident that it will take a few Sundays for people to modify their seating habits.

While the Worship Choir is on leave during the summer, Music Director Russ Litchfield invites some of his many gifted musician friends to share their talents with worshippers. One of the best known and most appreciated is saxophonist Benn Clatworthy. As this reporter approached the church before Meeting on July 1, the unmistakable strong and clear strains of Benn's tenor sax (he has several instruments) warming up issued forth. Benn played "De Colores" by Hassell, accompanied by Russ on the organ, for the prelude, and during the offertory, "For Marie."

Summer meetings for worship are opening with hymns by request. On July 1 worshippers called for "Jesus Loves Me" and "Take Time to be Holy." During the open worship period there was much sharing by Friends of their experience of Good Samaritan events. The first summer worship session was a gathered one.

— *Bob Newton*

## **A Dream of Summer**

John Greenleaf Whittier  
1<sup>st</sup> Month 4<sup>th</sup>, 1847

[The Whittier Friends School students recited this poem at their promotion ceremony June 15, 2012]

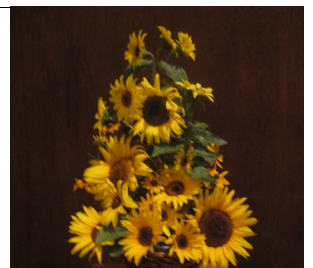
Bland as the morning breath of June  
The southwest breezes play;  
And, through its haze, the winter noon  
Seems warm as summer's day.  
The snow-plumed Angel of the North  
Has dropped his icy spear;  
Again the mossy earth looks forth,  
Again the streams gush clear.

The fox her hillside cell forsakes,  
The muskrat leaves his nook,  
The bluebird in the meadow brakes  
Is singing with the brook.  
"Bear up, O Mother Nature!" cry  
Bird, breeze and streamlet free;  
"Our winter voices prophesy  
Of summer days to thee!"

So, in those winters of the soul,  
By bitter blasts and drear  
O'erswept from Memory's frozen pole,  
Will sunny days appear.  
Reviving Hope and Faith, they show  
The soul its living powers,  
And how beneath the winter's snow  
Lie germs of summer flowers!

The Night is mother of the Day,  
The Winter of the Spring,  
And ever upon old Decay  
The greenest mosses cling  
Behind the cloud the startlight lurks,  
Through showers the sunbeams fall;  
For God, who loveth all his works,  
Has left his Hope with all!

Beautiful sunflowers that graced the Meeting House were arranged by Donna Wright for the second summer Meeting for Worship.



## **Remembering Jean Sargent Hanks (1923-2012)**

Jean Sargent Hanks, born in Los Angeles on May 4, 1923, passed away on the evening of May 26 in her home at Friends House in Santa Rosa. She and her brother, Will Sargent, grew up in Whittier. During WWII she met and married Tom Hanks, a young army officer. After the war she went back to Occidental College and completed work for her degree.

While a Whittier resident, she raised five children, volunteered with the pediatrics ward at Presbyterian Hospital, and belonged to AAUW, E. Whittier Women's Club, and the unprogrammed Friends meeting.

In 1972, with two children still at home, she and Tom moved to Santa Rosa. There she worked with the Volunteer Center and volunteered with the Home Hospice Program and the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. Before Tom's death in 2005, they traveled a great deal, both with their children and on their own.

In addition to Will, she is survived by all five children (Susan, Judith, Steven, Brian and Lisa), 8 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. The memorial service planned for July 22 was to be held at Friends House, under the care of the Redwood Forest Friends Meeting, to which she belonged.

## **Local Ministries To Share On FFC's Outreach Sunday**

As you may be aware, First Friends gives financial support to several local organizations that minister to those in need in our community. Funds are passed from us to them by both the Monthly Meeting and the Outreach Committee. There has been concern that not everyone in the Meeting may know about these organizations or the people who administer them.

The Outreach Committee is planning a special Meeting for Worship on Sunday, August 12, 2012. Representatives of four ministries we support will give the message. Mark Scott, from H.O.W. House; Amy Catt, from the Interfaith Food Center; Marilyn Fant, representing the Women's and Children's Crisis Center; and Marilyn Neece, from Intercommunity Counseling Center will represent their organizations and will share with us about their own call to ministry. Our questions to them are: A) What brought you to this ministry or service? B) How does your organization promote harmony or spiritual wellness in our community?

At rise of Meeting, these friends will be available to talk individually with you about their respective ministries as you wend your way into Monthly Meeting for Business. Please take advantage of this opportunity to get to know these community leaders and find out more about the organizations you support.

— Russ Litchfield

## **Becky's Byline**



### **The Crooked Tree**

Several years ago I was waiting outside the Yearly Meeting office in North Carolina. It was a mild day, so I sat down on the ground to enjoy the sunshine. The office building was surrounded by a wooded area. As I was admiring the trees and the sunshine, I noticed that in the midst of the tall beautiful trees there was one small crooked tree.

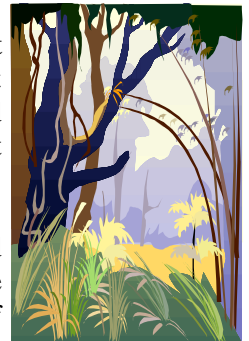
Gazing up at the trees, I could almost see the struggle of this rather gnarled tree, as it sought out the light it needed to survive. It was as if it had to twist and turn to find enough light to grow. Its growth had been stunted as a result. While some might have thought this small tree needed to be removed so the bigger trees might grow around it, I marveled at its tenacity. It invited me into its story.

The crooked tree reminded me that while some of us find our way easily in life, some of us have to struggle. Some find the path to God and the Light of Christ a straight line or an easy trajectory. Others of us take wrong turns and get lost along the way. Some of us have to wrestle with the challenges of life and are battered by the winds and rain.

But what of the huge beautiful trees that were flourishing? Were their seeds nestled in the ground as if lovingly planted by a master gardener? Were they watered at the appropriate moments? Did they purposely block the light of the crooked tree, or did they even notice its existence?

Some of us are like the beautiful trees living life in smooth trajectories, finding our way without overwhelming challenges and hardships. Still others of us are the crooked trees, a bit gnarled by the winds of life, always struggling to grow. Either way, it is Christ that provides the Light, and the Light that brings us life. The crooked tree reminds me to make sure that nothing I say or do blocks another's pathway to God. Sometimes it is the gnarled and crooked tree that catches my eye and invites me into the story of God.

— Becky Mommelaar





*The Living Light*

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

**Return Service Requested***The Living Light*

USPS 316-320

Issue Date: August 1, 2012

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

Becky Memmelaar .....Pastor  
Bob Newton .....Editor  
Mary Raymond .....Advising Editor  
Sabron Newton ..... Copy Editor  
Lynda Ladwig .....  
.....Christian Education Coordinator  
Russell Litchfield .....  
..... Dir of Music Ministries & Organist  
Mary Boltz ..... Office Administrator  
Lorenzo Mora .....Custodian

Telephone 562-698-9805

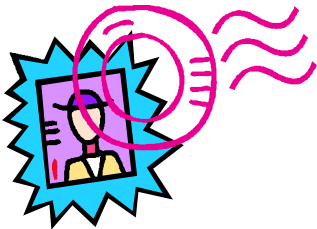
FAX 562-698-1127

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

Whittier Friends School Staff

Marie Kaneko ... School Committee Clerk  
562-945-1654

**Periodicals  
Postage Paid at  
Whittier California**

**Quaker Missions West Doing Good Work**

The Quaker Missions stamp project, currently run by Earl Walker, is now into its 16th year. The resale of stamps Earl receives from Friends all around the country has resulted in substantial donations to many worthy Quaker causes, including our own Whittier Friends School.

Earl gives this advice to stamp donors to the project, now known as Quaker Missions West: "The following are items dealers pay high prices for: domestic envelopes, stamp attached and no cross-outs, with pre-1946 postmarks; foreign envelopes, stamp attached and no cross-outs, postmarked any year; cancelled domestic U.S. stamps, especially 2011 and 2012 Forever stamps; 1st-day issues prior to 1960; U.S. mint sheet stamps; picture post cards, stamp attached and no cross-outs, or unused; baseball cards."

Earl spends most of his spare time clipping, peeling, organizing and sending out the incredibly large volume of stamps he receives from Quaker donors. Some of the contributions are amusing, including, recently, a baby book for a person born in 1917 (no stamps attached!). One envelope marked "sanitized mail" bore the emblem of the U.S. State Dept. The dealer said that was valuable and he would like to get more.

Save the envelopes you receive and request return of envelopes bearing interesting stamps that you send out. Send them to Earl Walker or leave them in the Quaker Missions West box in the church foyer. For further information, call the church office and ask for contact information for Earl. Thanks for your donations.

— *Bob Newton and Earl Walker*



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

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