

The Living Light

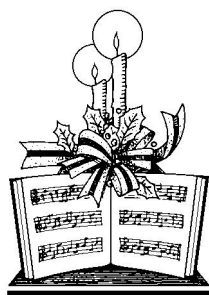
“...and Christ shall give thee light.” *Ephesians 5:14*



Volume 53, Number 12 First Friends Church of Whittier Twelfth Month, 2014

Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace

Music is as important to the Christmas Season as wreaths and decorated trees. Our Worship Choir under the direction of Russ Litchfield will begin Advent by presenting the first half of Handel's *Messiah* as the **December 7** Sunday worship message. Other musical events at First Friends will be the Bel Canto Chorale concert "Christmas in Brass!" on **Dec.**



6 in our Meeting House, 4:00 and 7:30 p.m. (tickets on sale at www.choralebelcanto.org, \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$10 students) and the annual Christmas concert of the New Century Singers at 3:00 p.m. **Dec. 14.** Concerts by this fine chorus are free and open to the public.

An active schedule of seasonal activities is slated at FFC:

December 6. The Youth Fellowship candy crafters will gather in Smith Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. to prepare their famous confections for the Christmas Dinner benefit sale and auction.

December 14. Our gala Christmas dinner and pageant will take place in Smith Fellowship Hall, starting at 5 p.m. We are promised "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by the Sunday School and Whittier Friends School youth. The turkey dinner is always "The Best Ever" also. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children (up to 3rd grade) and go on sale November 23.

December 15. The Monthly Mission Monday group will sing Christmas carols with elderly residents of Emeritus Chateau across Philadelphia St. from the church, and assist them in wrapping Christmas presents. They will also carol to some of our home-bound members.

December 17. First Friends will host a Service of Reflection, sponsored by the Whittier Clergy Association, at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All Friends are invited to participate. There will be gentle music, readings, and time for quiet devotions, as well as a time to light a candle in memory or hopefulness. You may know of someone who

Young Adult Group Meets Over Pizza

A few weeks ago five young adults gathered in the First Friends Library for pizza and conversation. The main goal of this first meeting was to get acquainted and in some instances reacquainted with each other and to be a safe place to voice questions and concerns. As conversation continued it was decided that Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. would be a more convenient time and so we met again just 4 days later, in the conference room. These Monday gatherings take on a different tone and flavor depending on who is in attendance, with each individual broadening the conversation by sharing their own light and perspective. Since we gather more for the conversation, and though pizza is always available, if it is not your thing, bring your own food and join us for spirit-led sharing.

— *Lynda Ladwig*

would enjoy a quiet pre-Christmas service — please invite them to come.

December 22. The Monday Before Christmas community children's workshop will convene in Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. Children from the Whittier neighborhood will wrap packages, play games and watch movies, giving their parents a free day to prepare for the holiday.

Christmas Eve. Our traditional Christmas Eve service will be somewhat different this year. It will begin at 8 p.m. and be more proactive and spontaneous. Friends are urged to bring a light of some sort, like a small flashlight or a cell phone light. All come to our Nativity Vigil!

New Years Eve. The Holidays would not be complete without our "Philadelphia Midnight" Countdown to the New Year. There will be snacks, games and lots of fellowship for four hours starting at 6 p.m. Come help start the New Year right!

— *Bob Newton*

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, Christmas is coming! Preparations are under way getting ready for Christmas cookies, visitors, programs, carols, shopping, gifts, gift wrapping, more cookies, and the lists go on. Read through this month's *Living Light* to stay in touch with all of the upcoming events at First Friends Church.

New Friends: The Wright family is celebrating a new family member. **Saleem Abdulrahman Mousa Elturk** was born to **Caroline (Wright) & Abu Elturk** in Chandler AZ. His grandparents are **Donald & Andrea Wright** and great-grandparents **Milton & Donna Wright**. **Friends About Town:** Friends may not yet have heard of "Rowntree Gardens." This is the new name for Quaker Gardens, the Friends retirement home in Stanton CA where many of our members have lived since its founding in 1965 by California Yearly Meeting. Perhaps best known to current members were the late **Martha Cush, Peggy Paull, Ernie Wells, and Clara Woodard**. A 1916 house in the uptown Whittier historical neighborhood is the new residence of **Cassie, Steven, Landon & Avalon Caringella**. The Christmas season officially opened up for many when **Anathea Woirhaye, Shreeya Dhawal, Gavin Huffaker and Ella Huffaker** had a wonderful opportunity to perform in scenes of Claylee's Dance Academy's 2014 Nutcracker at Disneyland's California Adventure. The audience was treated to visions of Chinese dancers, Peppermints, and Angels. The complete show can be viewed Thursday December 11 through Sunday December 14 at the Whittier Center Theatre.



Todd Cramer and Dan Wright got together recently for a "Steam Up" of their butane-fired live steam locomotives. Operating on the same principles as the full-size counterparts, water is heated in a boiler to create steam. You can even hear the "chuff" of the steam as it exhausts through the stack! Here they are preparing the 1:20.3 scale engines for the day's run....and the *Living Light* was there! (Remember, your "*Living Light* Travels" submissions are welcome and needed.) **Cedric Woirhaye**, has been working very hard at Don Bosco Tech High School maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. The family largely attributes his success to his love for knowledge

and school in general. His goal is to become a great scientist or inventor, which with his good grades and determination may well be his future coming soon. **Ashley Ryder** made the All-Star team for her AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) Region 75 (Whittier) U12 Girls Division. **Betty Gibson** at Mt. San Antonio Gardens wants to say hello to her friends and asks for continued prayers. **Sherrill & Earl Walker** are enjoying their new life and place at Claremont Manor and all the activities available there. In a video reenactment of



early Whittier, **Russ Litchfield** donned Quaker garb and portrayed Jonathon Bailey in a historical story about Robert Turnbull and how Turnbull Canyon got its name. The video can be seen on YouTube. Search for "How the Canyon Got Its

Name—A Forgotten Tale of Turnbull Canyon." **Beth Graham Strader** is moving back to Southern California. She will be residing at Walnut Village Retirement Community. Contracts are signed. Her Willits house goes on the market January 1. Welcome back to Orange County, (former) Mayor Beth.

Friends Celebrate: **Glenn & Barbara (Adams) Fuller** got married in May, and they are now living in Lake Forest. Although we miss Barbara, it's good to know she takes her Quaker faith with her. She said, "I take great solace and it makes me smile when I hear my Quaker roots come tumbling out of my mouth as a psychologist working with clients. I find comfort in the fact that my beliefs and values are so ingrained. They are my guideposts in my approach to therapy. In fact, because of this, I think I have finally come to terms with the fact that I can attend other churches without loss of my core beliefs."

Friends Travel: **Brendon Woirhaye** just endured a week in Pune, India during a recent business trip. Although the family was glad to have him safely home in a short amount of time, they acknowledge how hard it is to travel over 24 hours departing and nearly 32 hours on the return leg of the trip. A different kind of vacation: **Mary Boltz** took some vacation time in November with the intent to do some unpacking, reorganizing, and cleaning of the garage hoping to get her car in there. Her goal met, she is now able to park her car inside.

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!



Mary Marshburn and Joyce Okazaki

Former Manzanar Internee Tells of Friends Support

There are many Japanese-Americans still living in the Southland who remember poignantly the days after Pearl Harbor when they were forced to leave their West Coast homes and move inland to large detention camps scattered around the western U.S. One is Joyce Okazaki, who has twice, at the invitation of Darrell Warren, visited our summer Peace Camp to tell the children the intriguing story of her childhood in the Manzanar camp in the eastern California desert. On October 26, she returned to give the adult Sunday School class some historical perspective on those traumatic events, and to acknowledge the important help given to the Japanese Americans by Quakers. Joyce is a member of the Manzanar Committee whose mission is to raise public awareness about the WWII incarceration and violations of civil rights.

The story of Japanese immigration to the United States ties in with the larger history of American diversity. All new immigrant groups experienced discrimination, but the systematic, legalized discrimination against non-Caucasian people from Asia was greater. Chinese immigration began in 1848, Japanese immigration in the 1880s. An executive order of 1907 forbade immigration of "laborers," but some Japanese with desirable skills in business or farming were admitted. Asian immigrants could not, however, become citizens, and in 1913 ownership of land by aliens was forbidden (though one could list one's property in the name of an American-born child). The Oriental Exclusion Act of 1924 ended all Japanese immigration. Bans on Japanese immigration did not end until 1965.

Immediately after the Pearl Harbor attack, intense hostility was directed towards Japanese Americans, more than half of whom were now American born citizens. General John DeWitt's military edict that all persons of Japanese descent be removed from the West Coast was given legal force by an executive order signed by the

President. Removals began in Los Angeles in March 1942. People were given very little time to dispose of their things. Many lost substantial portions of their property, which could never be reclaimed. Congress voted in 1988 to pay reparations of \$20,000 to each camp survivor.

Joyce was seven years old when she and her sister were sent to the huge detention center at Manzanar with their father, who had trained in architecture at UC Berkeley, and their mother, a physical teacher who had graduated from USC. It was legal to live outside the camps if not in a restricted area, so after two years Joyce's family moved to Chicago. Young men willing to join the army and fight in Europe were also early leavers. In describing how Friends helped the Japanese Americans through this wartime ordeal, Joyce called special attention to American Friends Service Committee programs which enabled thousands of students to leave the camps for colleges in the East and helped released internees relocate when the war ended.

The story of Manzanar is a tribute to the amazing strength of the Japanese-American community. In spite of the initial hardships they experienced (four families, for instance, crowded into one room each in a hastily constructed and unheated army style barrack lit by a single light bulb with no running water), they quickly developed a community structure with civic center, sports arena, religious congregations, schools, and even an orchard, vegetable garden and poultry farm. Joyce's aunt, who was a doctor, started a hospital at Manzanar. The saga of internment at Manzanar Camp, now a National Historic Site, was admirably documented in photographs by Ansel Adams. An album of these with a portrait of Joyce herself on the cover is now a collectors' item.

Prior to Joyce's visit, the adult Sunday School class studied *Quiet Heroes*, a new book about Quaker help to the Japanese, both by founding schools and doing mission and relief work in Japan and, like Whittier's Dr. William Bruff, offering personal assistance to interned Japanese Americans in the US. Tsukasa Sugimura, the author, did research in the archives of AFSC and First Friends in addition to collecting personal stories. He is a pastor in Orange Co. who was born and educated in postwar Japan, but later studied geology at Cal State San Jose and received a Master's degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Kathy Marin of the Whitleaf Meeting, daughter of Bob and Helen O'Brien, spoke to the class on the Sunday after Joyce's visit. At the time of Pearl Harbor, her father was a UCC pastor teaching at the University of Washington and advisor to its Japanese American students. Because of his success in helping these students cope with the problems posed by internment, he was asked by AFSC to organize and direct the program through which thousands of students were released from the camps. The O'Brien family became Friends after Bob joined the Whittier College faculty and moved to Whittier.

Science Is Scary (and Fun!) At WFS Chili Cook-Off

Twice a year Whittier Friends School stages a benefit dinner with stage show. The event this fall was at an unusual time—right after First Friends Meeting for Worship on October 26. School staff, parents and supporters gathered in Fellowship Hall to enjoy a dozen different chili concoctions and watch the students in their Hallowe'en-theme musical revue “Science is Scary (And Fun!).”

The chili dinner was one of the best ever. It was hard for many to decide which chili to vote for in the traditional balloting. Macaroni and cheese and spaghetti options were offered those who were not chili fans.

The stage show began while patrons were still dining. There were seven delightful Hallowe'en-adapted songs such as “If you’re a monster and you know it...” sung by the Preschoolers, “There was an old woman (all skin and bones)” by the Elementary students, and “Weird Science” by the combined classes. Teachers Alicia Atkinson, Cassie Caringella and Cindy Edmunds deserve credit for arranging a good show.

WFS students and their families made some elegant science-related costumes. Ashley Ryder was a spectacular blood cell in her bright-red attire. Elyse Woirhaye’s face was painted ghastly white. Pre-schoolers Landon and Avalon Caringella were adorable skeletons.

The seventy-some patrons got a lot for their \$10 donations and had the satisfaction of contributing to quality education.
— *Bob Newton*

Youth Visit Local Stables

Towards the end of the first full month of fall our JHF and YFF youth groups ventured out to the Anaheim Stables, where Amara Overmyer has been learning the art of western style horseback riding for a few years. However, it is a facility that goes far beyond being a place to ride. The students must learn how to take care of the horse before and after riding. As Amara desired to own her own horse, she explained that the instructors determine if the student is ready for the responsibility of ownership, and aid in the choosing of the horse for the student. Before touring the facility Amara introduced us to her horse “Blue” as she led him to a corral known as the cooling down area. Once there, she hooked ‘Blue’ up to a spindle apparatus large enough for four horses to leisurely walk until retrieved by their owner. After the tour of the nicely kept stables and explanation of the different areas and the various riding instruction taking place, we returned to take ‘Blue’ to another area where Amara took us through the process of grooming “Blue’ before leading him back to his stall. After a quick trip through the general store we said our goodbyes to the



Artistic Friends Gather to Paint on MMM Project

Twenty-five Friends gathered in Fellowship Hall on the evening of November 17 for one of Monthly Mission Mondays’ most popular activities — painting ceramic soup bowls. The painting session marks the first phase of First Friends’ annual Souper Bowl event, in which custom-painted bowls are sold during a Soup Buffet to raise funds for the hungry in our community. The Soup Buffet will be held on Saturday evening January 31, 2015.

As always, the well-represented Wright family produced some very artistic bowls. Dan designed a checkerboard-trimmed bowl, while Phillip painted one a starkly modern white and dark blue. Donna’s white heart-shaped bowl was dotted with multi-colored circles, and Cassie Caringella’s heart bowl was striped inside with a rainbow. Though she said that she is not artistic, Pastor Loletta Barrett used sponges to create a floral pattern which conjured Monet.

Our meeting’s children turned out a variety of bowls. Anatheia Woirhaye created a green sponge paint design on a fluted-edge bowl, while her sister Elyse’s design had wide pale blue and yellow stripes. Amara Overmyer designed a bowl with maroon swirls inside. Both Landon Caringella and Bishop Aereaux used stickers to create “reverse stencil” designs of caterpillars and ladybugs. Zoe Overmyer was also fond of the stickers.

Monthly Mission Mondays invites all to join on the third Monday of each month for an activity which helps our community. (Soup bowl painting is always a favorite, and a second session is planned for January.) December’s activity will be wrapping Christmas gifts for residents of Emeritus, the senior living facility across the street from our Meeting. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. on December 15.
Hope to see you!
— *Vikki Kendrick*

Anaheim Stables and headed off to “The Ranch House” for lunch before returning to the church. All who attended gave thumbs up on the restaurant and the bit of open country, unsuspectingly located behind the Honda Center, known as the Anaheim Stables.

December 2014

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 1:30p Writing Class 6:30p Young Adult Gathering	2 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men 9:15a Trustees 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30p M&C	3 7:00p Quaker Men's Evening Group	4 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	5	6 1:00p JHF/YFF Candy Making Corale Bel Canto Concerts 4:00p & 7:00p
7 12:00p Monthly Meeting	8 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class 6:30p Young Adult Gathering	9 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	10 7:00p Quaker Men's Evening Group	11 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	12	13 Friendly Fare Deadline
14 3:00p New Century Singers Concert 5:00p Christmas Dinner	15 Living Light Deadline 1:30p Writing Class 6:00p Monthly Mission Monday 6:30p Young Adult Gathering	16 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	17 Editors Compose Living Light 7:00p Quaker Men's Evening Group 7:30p Service of Reflection	18 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21	22 9:00a Monday Before Christmas Children's Day Camp 6:30p Young Adult Gathering	23 Living Light Folding 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	24 8:00p Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27
28 12:15p Outreach Meeting 6:30p Young Adult Gathering	29 1:30p Writing Class 6:30p Young Adult Gathering	30 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men	31 6:00p New Years Eve Party	Happy New Year!	Schedule for Sundays Unprogrammed Worship—9:30a First Day Classes—9:30 a Meeting for Worship—11:00a	



Lisa Adam
John Bateman
Derek Creelman
Ann Davidson
Elisabeth Elliot
Jack Huffaker
Russ Litchfield

Ryan Marshall
Luke Marshburn
Elise Marshburn
Brooke Marshburn
Holly Marshburn
Ted Marshburn
Becky Memmelaar

Jay Oberholtzer
Amara Overmyer
Chris Thirkettle
Milt 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!



l to r: Anne, Diane, Emmanuel, David, Shanon

Our Time Is God's Time

“God’s own time is the time appointed for us” is the English translation of the title of J.S. Bach’s Cantata BWV 106 for choir and instruments. This work and complementary music from the Baroque period formed the Music Sunday worship program on November 2.

Russ Litchfield drew from his vast network of accomplished musical friends for the instrumental accompaniment. Anne Young is the principal clarinetist of the Rio Hondo Symphony and Diane Lang also plays clarinet with that group. Those virtuosas played recorders, as called for in the Baroque-style cantata. Emmanuel Ventura-Cruess played the cello parts, perhaps the most continuously active accompaniment apart from Russ on the organ. David Garrett and Shanon Paul Zusman played the viola da gamba, a cello-like instrument.

Russ provided detailed historical notes in the Sunday Bulletin on the music he selected. The hymns sung by the congregation, “Kyrie! God, Father” and “All Glory Be to God on High” are old church pieces dating from the Renaissance. The offertory piece, “Who Shall Separate Us from the Love of Christ” was written by Heinrich Schütz, who lived in the century before Bach. Russ’ notes state that the music of Schütz bridges the Renaissance style and that of the Baroque.

The musical Worship Message began with the strings leading, followed by the recorders, then the choir with “God’s Own Time is the Time Appointed for Us.” (The Cantata was sung in English; the text could be followed in Russ’ notes). Choir tenor Evan Mooney sang the solo passage “O Lord cause us to remember” followed by bass Ryan Hoffmann. Gena Sabido sang the soprano part “It is the ancient law: man, you must perish,” followed by alto Allison Coop with “Into thy keeping I shall commit my soul.” All soloists gave highly creditable renditions of their sections of the demanding Cantata. The whole choir came in with all instruments for the finale “All glory, laud and praise be thine.”

Once more Russ Litchfield demonstrated his

Youth Scavenge for Charity



It seems the question arises every year, should we do a Market Scavenger Hunt to benefit the Interfaith Food Center? And the answer is always a resounding yes, it is so much fun.

On November 16th after Meeting the youth grabbed some lunch at Del Taco and then headed off to Ralphs Grocery where Loletta joined us in our hunt for food items to fill our baskets. The youth decided a challenge was in order, one shopping cart under the direction of the youth (Amara, Bella, Cedric and Katerina) versus one under the direction of the adults (Mel, Sharon and Loletta). Lynda gave the teams their instructions: each team had \$75 to buy as many of the items as possible and to try to spend within \$1 of the amount allotted. Thirty-one clues were given in the form of riddles, word scrambles and very, very bad puns. Solve these clues, find the food item and calculate the cost. Shoppers shopped for 45 minutes and returned. Lest you think this is easy here’s a sample clue: “You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat? Now find a can without the inside that you threw away.”

In case you wonder who won the challenge it seems to be a matter of perspective. Adults found all the items and come in under budget. Youth bought multiple items but came in over budget. All our shoppers returned with baskets full of items to support the Interfaith Food Center with much needed items for the November 22nd food distribution. That’s a win-win in my book. Incidentally, the answer to the sample clue is “corn.” — *Lynda Ladwig*

incomparable musicianship. In addition to designing the presentation and coaching the musicians, he played the organ almost continuously throughout the cantata, directing the choir and instrumentalists with his left hand and turning the pages of his music with the other hand!

After the rise of Meeting, Russ and his friends enjoyed a moment of camaraderie on the platform, and received praises from members of the congregation. The two da gamba players, Shanon and David, explained their Baroque instruments to curious listeners. They are much like the cello except somewhat more rugged in construction and bowed underhand. The large heavy instrument does not rest on the floor but must be held between tightly clamped knees while playing. The two recorder players, with whom many in the congregation are acquainted, had to leave promptly to get ready for a major Rio Hondo Symphony concert that same afternoon.

AFFN Audience Views

“Last Frontier”

Fifty-some years ago, Sabron Reynolds (later Newton) worked for two summers in Sitka AK. Many years later she told her daughter, Miriam, stories of her Alaskan adventures. Summer before last Miriam and family (son-in-law Chris, grandkids Amanda and Noah) treated Mom and Dad (Bob) to an 80th birthday trip to Sitka. And late last summer, Adam Makhluof, Bob’s UCLA research colleague, and his bride, Kate went to Alaska on their honeymoon. Sabron and Adam teamed up to relate their impressions of “Our Last Frontier” to a large All Friends Fellowship Night audience on November 12.

Sitka is a small port city situated in one of the most scenic parts of our country, the fjord land of southeastern Alaska. Deep Sitka Sound is encircled by snow-capped mountains. Although quite far north, the coastal region is a lush temperate rain-forest, with tall Sitka spruce and deciduous trees. Even in winter, the daytime temperature rarely drops below freezing. Fog and drizzling rain is the characteristic year-round weather. However, on the day Sabron and family flew into Sitka from Seattle, and for most of their 4-day stay, the sun was warm and the skies bright blue.

Sabron showed slides of tall locally carved totem poles, a bear preserve for rescued Alaskan brown bears (more than twice the size of California bears), a raptor center for rescued eagles and owls (bald eagles seem as common as crows in the forest there), with otters and humpback whales seen on a tour of the area by boat. Historical sites included the small but beautiful St. Michael’s Russian Orthodox Cathedral, built during the sixty years of Russian settlement prior to Alaska’s purchase by the U.S. in 1867.

Of special interest was the campus of Sheldon Jackson Jr. College where Sabron had worked as a volunteer librarian. Founded as a school for the local Tlingit (pronounced Clink-it) Indians in 1878, with a boarding school added in 1917 for students from other parts of Alaska, it was transitioning into higher education in the 1960s, and did become a four-year college but had to close its doors in 2007. Sabron stated that the campus had changed little in appearance since she last saw it, but now the facilities were being used as a summer fine arts camp. One campus building is a splendid anthropology museum, built in 1895 and now owned by the state. Here the Native American artifacts collected in the 1880s by Presbyterian missionary and educator Sheldon Jackson in his travels around rural Alaska are preserved and well displayed. The main change in Sitka is that now, on alternate days in the summer, great cruise ships unload hundreds of tourists, flooding the small town with sight-seers and shoppers for several hours.



Adam showed AFFN-goers a wilder and more awesomely beautiful part of Alaska. He and Kate are enthusiastic back-packers, with much wilderness experience. Adam showed us the great glaciated peaks of the St. Elias and Alaska Ranges where they trekked last August.

Adam and Kate drove from Anchorage to the St. Elias-Wrangell area, 200 miles north of Sitka, and were dropped off in the wilderness by a bush plane. Mt. St. Elias at 18,000 ft. towers right above the fjords, and great rivers of ice, like the Malaspina Glacier, pour off its flanks into the Pacific. Adam showed stunning pictures of the glaciers, some miles across, veined with broad dark ribbons of rock debris. An occasional timed shot of Adam and Kate showed the vast empty land of rock and snow into which they ventured. Adam confided that their attempted week-long cross-country trek had to be shortened to three days when it proved too difficult for even these seasoned backpackers!

Adam’s pictures of the defunct Kennecott Copper Mine were of great interest. The ore-processing building is said to be the largest wooden structure in the world. During its brief operation, the Kennecott mine was the world’s richest copper source. Its one great ore pocket played out, however, leaving the mine, processing plant, and 100-mile railway to Seward as ghostly relics. Adam brought several specimens of copper ore (colorful blue-green minerals) from the mine tailings to show with his and Sabron’s display of souvenirs, books and maps.

On one fortuitously clear day, on a drive north from Anchorage at the end of their trip, Adam and Kate got what most tourists hope for but fail to find—a clear view of magnificent 20,350-foot-high Mt. McKinley, the highest elevation in North America.

Ted and Mary Marshburn put together a fine potluck supper featuring Mary’s baked stuffed eggplant and beautiful table decorations with small pots of bright yellow flowering succulents.

— Bob Newton



Two Friendly Faces: Bill & Marygene Wright

In 1942 William Wright, Sr, was invited to become Professor of Choral Music at Whittier College. He arrived in late summer that year with his wife Clara and sons, Bill and Milton. Shortly thereafter he became the Minister of Music at First Friends and all the family became active in our Meeting. Bill was born in Salem, Oregon. As he was growing up he attended eight different schools through high school from the east coast to the west coast. The thing that helped with all these moves was an instant church family with each move because of his father's involvement in church choirs.

Marygene's parents and grandparents were long-time members of our Meeting. She was born and raised here, attending East Whittier grammar school, Whittier High School, but spent two high school years at Olney Friends School in Ohio, and Whittier College.

Marygene and Bill saw each other for the first time in the summer before their junior year in high school when both were involved in church youth activities. They started dating in the fall of 1945, and married after their first year at Whittier College.

Bill started teaching school after he graduated from Whittier College in 1950. He received a masters degree in counseling and guidance from Cal State LA and became a guidance counselor at Rowland Union School district. He subsequently became the Director of Pupil Services and Guidance Consultant and School Psychologist. Bill received his Doctor of Education degree in Educational Psychology from USC. He continued to work in the Rowland Unified School District until he retired.

Over the years Bill has been involved in a number of professional and church-related organizations. He has been active in the Phi Delta Kappa Professional

Educational Fraternity for many years. He was the first president of the board of the Whittier Intercommunity Counseling Center and often attended international counseling conferences. Bill was a representative to and served on several boards of California Yearly Meeting. He was also a representative to the Friends World Committee for Consultation for many years, attending several of its triennial sessions. In 1991, he and Marygene were delegates to the World Conference of Friends in the Netherlands. He has been clerk of the Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends and on its board.

At First Friends, Bill helped teach a young adult class; chaired the Board of Christian Education; served as clerk of Trustees for 5 years, clerk of Business and Finance for 5 years, clerk of the Monthly Meeting for 5 years and is currently clerk of the Personnel Committee serving for more than 5 years. Bill sang in the choir for a number of years.

Meanwhile, at home, Marygene kept busy raising six children and over the years became involved in a number of other activities. She served on the Board of Advisors of Earlham School of Religion and has always been active in our United Society of Friends Women, its treasurer for a number of years. She has been active in and was president of her PEO chapter. She was secretary of the Whittier Historical Society for 3 years and continues on the Whittier Public Library Foundation. Both Marygene and Bill have been involved in "Whittier Reads" and have been Co-Presidents of Friends of the Shannon Center at Whittier College.

The Wrights have always treasured and kept in close contact with their children and their spouses and the eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Daughter Jeananne taught at Cal State Long Beach. Son Bill (who sadly recently passed away) was a laser field engineer for General Electric. Daughter Lea is vice president and office manager of their family business. Son Norman is a PhD chemist specializing in infrared spectroscopy. Son Kirk is a business management consultant. And daughter Betsy is a homemaker with great involvement in her children's schools.

Bill and Marygene have travelled widely, including to Japan, Norway, Alaska, Thailand, New Zealand, Egypt and other Mediterranean ports, Casablanca, Costa Rica, the Amazon, China, Viet Nam, Australia, the Black Sea, Baltic seaport cities and Panama. Many of these trips have been shared as travelogues at All Friends Fellowship Night (AFFN) programs.

Marygene enjoys reading and needlework. Bill has enjoyed photography, music appreciation and of course reading. Bill feels his spiritual journey has especially been enhanced by his association with First Friends. Over the years this couple has been faithful and has contributed much to our Meeting as well as to the wider community of Friends and to many others beyond. — *Ted Marshburn*

Crafts Fair Gets Holiday Shopping Underway

Pam Laswell's grandmother taught her to sew when Pam was a young girl. She developed this skill into a



lifelong pastime, and expanded it to include beadwork, glasswork and many other craft skills. Jean Sponsler is another talented sewing artist. Her garment and towel creations are well known at First Friends. Pam and Jean discovered their mutual interest in crafts through

their association in the New Century Singers and got the idea of a Holiday Boutique at First Friends. The event of Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16, is their third production in Fellowship Hall.

Pam and Jean brought together a number of other arts and crafts makers from the Meeting and a few outsiders. This year's Christmas Boutique was exceptionally beautiful. Pam's illuminated glassware, ornaments of all kinds, hand-sewn dolls and cloth books for young children made a dazzling display.

Jean and her daughter-in-law Lori Hopkins have a great mutual hobby — sewing hot pads, place mats, hand towels, and children's garments and quilts. Their elegant display occupied almost the entire length of one side of Fellowship Hall. They exhibit their joint craft items at other church-sponsored, usually benefit, events.

Dan Wright is one of the most accomplished professional glass artists in the area. He and Phil have shown some of their smaller items at previous Boutique events—elegant colored glass and metal ornaments in the form of frogs, caterpillars and cunning google-eyed curly-tailed geckoes. Their display also included religious art objects such as crosses and Hindu chakras.

As in previous Fellowship Hall boutiques, Mindy Van Dorn was there with her adorable monkey stocking dolls, Gwen Woirhaye with her colorful knitted scarves, Deanna Woirhaye with art-photo prints, and Lou Secord with her lovely display of Christmas motif towels, place mats, hot pads and more from her "Sew-N-Sew" industry. A new item was Justine Whitehead's clever water-bottle carriers with shoulder straps—great for those who must always have water-at-the-ready. A few friends of Pam and Jean brought colorful displays of toys, ornaments and plastic kitchenware, both cottage-made and commercial.

Pam's and Jean's Holiday Boutique was a great way to start Christmas shopping well in advance of the great post-Thanksgiving department store crush. Twenty percent of the Boutique's proceeds will go to benefit Whittier Friends School.

— Bob Newton

Great Granddaughter of Martha Cush Dedicated at First Friends

Crystal and Keri Cush, twin granddaughters of our late beloved member Martha Cush, were dedicated as babies and grew up in First Friends Church. In honor of her grandmother, who guided her in her faith, Crystal requested that her three-month old daughter, Julia Martha Weitkamp be dedicated here also. Crystal, her husband James and baby Julia drove down from central California with James' parents, Bill and Sally, for the dedication in Meeting for Worship on November 9. Aunt Keri was present also, and several close family and friends from the Los Angeles area.

Pastor Loletta Barrett summoned all of the family and friends to the platform (15 in all!) to stand with the baby and her parents. According to tradition, Loletta first sought the promise of nurturing and support of those on the platform, and then asked for and received an affirmation of support from the congregation. Baby Julia Martha, beautiful in a long white embroidered gown, was happily attentive in her mother's arms through it all. Loletta then presented the family with a certificate of dedication.

Lynda Ladwig paid a short tribute to Martha Cush, noting that Martha directed the children's choir at FFC and "brought harmony into the lives of others." Lynda gave the parents a copy of the book *Twelve Gifts of Birth* to read to, and read with, Julia as she grows, to help her appreciate that her innate capacities include Courage, Compassion, Wisdom, Faith and Joy. The congregation sang "Lord We Bring to You Our Children" as the dedication concluded.

After the rise of meeting, Friends made a closer acquaintance with a serene and smiling new Friend. Crystal and James are members of the Central Coast Friends Meeting in San Luis Obispo, which had, until three months ago, only 14 members. Julia Martha Weitkamp is a most welcome addition. — Bob Newton





Remembering William Howard (Bill) Wright

Bill Wright was born at Murphy Memorial Hospital in Whittier, California to William and Marygene Wright on February 8, 1949. He joined his older sister Jeananne and then greeted his sister, Lea, his brothers Norman and Kirk and youngest sister Betsy. Living in Whittier and Southern California all of his life, Bill attended Laurel Elementary School, East Whittier Middle School, and Sierra High School, finally graduating from National University.

Bill, as a conscientious objector, worked in hospitals as an orderly for his alternative service to the military draft. Little did he know that this would set his feet towards a career in the medical field in years to come. Bill became a nationally certified surgical technician and worked at Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital for twenty years, often acting as the unofficial liaison of First Friends when members came to the hospital. During his tenure at PIH Bill became skilled in the field of laser safety while continuing to be “on call” as a surgical technician. His next employment was with a surgical service company supplying hospitals with equipment for laparoscopic surgery. Eventually this morphed into third party service for medical laser service and repair. Eighteen years ago, General Electric Healthcare purchased the company Bill was with and retained the experienced laser field engineers. As one of these field engineers, Bill traveled to hospitals and medical offices throughout the GE’s western region.

Bill met Karlene Swirbul while in high school. They dated and then, as often happens, went their separate ways. However, that was not the end of the story for Bill and Karlene as they were reunited by a chance meeting some years later. In August of 1984 Bill and Karlene were married at a cabin located in the mountains at Idyllwild.

His personal interests were varied and extensive, from electronics, auto maintenance and repair to travel, skiing

and crossword puzzles. Bill’s curiosity about how things work and sound led him to become a volunteer audio and acoustical engineer at First Friends Church where he and Sam Walker recorded worship services and special choral events. This concentration of interest by no means lessened as Bill got older and he continued to maintain reel to reel sound equipment adding digital capacity as it became available. When he and Karlene moved to a new house in Corona, he installed the wiring for his sound system.

Bill was truly a friend to everyone he met. He embraced life and the situations it presented with knowledge, patience, humor and concern. He passed from this world following a hemorrhagic stroke on August 13, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Karlene; parents Bill and Marygene Wright; sisters Jeananne Coop [Lind], Lea Thirkettle [Chris], and Betsy Wood [Michael]; brothers Norman Wright [Donna Andrauskas] and Kirk Wright [Allison Lew]; stepson Roy Sheraden; stepdaughter Jennifer Thiele and many, many other family members and friends.

Blessed Be The Tithes!

Friends who returned their 2015 pledges by the first week of November were especially gratified by the Business and Finance Committee’s Appreciation Dinner, held after Meeting for Worship on November 9.

On the gourmet menu designed by George Bouchard were:

- Bacon-wrapped scallop appetizer
- Herb-broiled pork chops, colorful lasagna or macaroni and cheese [alternative entrees]
- Dressing
- Baby potatoes
- Mashed winter squash
- Sautéed green beans almondine
- Cabbage salad
- Dessert choice of five kinds of pie (all made by Mary Marshburn) served with vanilla ice cream for topping



Carrin Bouchard, Marilyn Fant, Sharon Huffaker, Vikki Kendrick, Mary Marshburn, Mindy van Dorn, Dan Wright, and Philip Wright helped turn out this sensational banquet. Tables were beautifully decorated with colorful small gourds and California-style harvest fruits (persimmons and avocados).

Stewardship is the greatest!
— Bob Newton

Holiday Blessings

As we prepare to gather for the upcoming holidays we remember that some families in the Meeting are less fortunate than others economically. Those who can, please consider sharing blessings with the others. (Indicate “Holiday Blessings” on your check or on an envelope and place it or grocery or 99-cent store gift cards in the offering plate). As we share our blessings we are blessed. Thank you for sharing.

Special Services In The Christmas Season

On Wednesday, December 17, First Friends Church will host a Service of Reflection at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with members of the Whittier Clergy Association. This service is sometimes referred to as “Blue Christmas” or “Longest Night Service.” For some people the holidays are a difficult time because of past or present life circumstances. Others find a need to take a quiet break to center. There will be gentle music, readings, and time for quiet reflection and prayer. There will also be an opportunity to light a candle in memory or as a sign of hope. You may know someone who would like to attend this service. Invite them to come with you. Anyone who might enjoy a quiet service amidst the hectic days of the holiday is welcome.

On December 24 we will have our Christmas Eve service at 8:00 p.m. “Love Comes Down” will be the theme of the message. We invite and welcome everyone and ask you to please bring your Light but also bring A light — a big flashlight, a pen light, a battery-powered lantern, your cell phone flashlight. We plan to light up the meeting house and we need you to be there shining your little Light and we need your light to help us fill the room and ensure there are no dark spaces!! Just a note: come prepared for something special. It will be a little less formal, but a meaningful time of worship, prayer and community together.



E News Reminder

First Friends Church now has a weekly E News (Friday) with reminders for the Meeting and prayers of joys and concerns. If you do not receive this but would like to please email Loletta at

PastorFFC@verizon.net.

— Loletta Barrett



Loletta's Lines: “Letting in the Light”

Light is essential to life as we know it. Appearing in the beginning in the expansion of the Divine, as an explosion of reality, it exists across the cosmos and within eternity. It brings warmth and growth, and possibility for life.



The story of, and the actuality of Light, are important elements in the spiritual life of many cultures and religions. As the light diminishes and disappears in the day, the people look for hope of its return. And in our tradition we celebrate the story of Christmas as a coming of hope, peace, joy, and love in Light; a gift from God in a poor place, in a humble person. Yet we know that this story shows us the Light is present to us in every moment of our lives, rich or poor—and in moments of arrogance, injustice, and violence, as well as serenity and compassion. The story, in whatever form or language it is told, never grows old if we open ourselves to the transformation Light can bring.

Being open to transformation means being willing to see and do things in a new way. It means being willing to BE in a new way. In some ways I am just getting used to doing things the old way. Especially after returning from Namibia, and (resisting) re-acclimation to a culture of material plenty. I also have the opportunity of being a new person at First Friends Church where traditions and heritage are deep important resources. Stability and familiarity bring a sense of safety and comfort where we can be at peace and rest. With all the changes I have seen in the past two years I can testify that a sense of permanence can be very good, and new is not necessarily better than old!

In reality, we know that nothing is permanent except the One in whom we live and move and have our being, and even the Divine expands beyond all our understanding. As mortals we are on a journey of becoming, and being transformed requires that something exists to begin with. We must know our starting place, where we are centered and grounded before we begin to fly. So take time to rest in our traditions in this joyous holiday time. It takes a lot of energy to live intentionally in our thoughts, minds, hearts and spirits. But don't hesitate to also peek around the corner in prayer at what is to come in the New Year on our journey. The Light will be there, leading, luring, exciting, comforting, and illuminating.

— Loletta Barrett

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Order deadline December 14, 2014

Please place ____ poinsettia plant(s) in the Meetinghouse on Christmas Sunday, December 21, at \$7 each.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Name _____

Phone _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

[] I will take after worship [] Deliver to shut-ins.



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

- Peggy Anderson
- Judith Austin
- Audrey & Carlos Bailey
- Helen & Jack Carlisle
- Phil Ellis
- Alpha Overin
- Maureen Russell
- Vi Smith
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