

The Living Light

"...and Christ shall give thee light." Ephesians 5:14



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First Friends Church of Whittier

First Month, 2011

For All That Will Be—Yes!



"Monday Before Christmas" Becomes FFC Tradition

On December 20th Fellowship Hall was filled with the bustling activities of children and Christmas for the 3rd year of our "Monday before Christmas" children's workshop. Our High School and Junior High youth, Austin Allen, Jasmine Sturr, Raquel Allen, and Wes Van Dorn along with Tammy Van Dorn, Mindy Van Dorn and Lynda Ladwig assisted 36 children from our church and community in the workshop. Parents expressed their thanks for the respite that provided time to attend to their own Christmas activities. The children spent time creating Christmas Spiders to go with the story about how tinsel came to be on Christmas Trees. They made reindeer ornaments and various other crafts and peppermint-y hot chocolate mix. A movie, a few games and singing their favorite Christmas songs rounded out the afternoon.



— Lynda Ladwig

In the afterglow of a wondrous Christmas Season, Friends look back upon an eventful past year and look forward with faith to a productive New Year.

The most important event of 2010 for First Friends Church was the installation of our new pastor, Becky Memmelaar. She brings a sense of resurgence and optimism as she completes her first year at FFC. We rejoice also in the recognition during the year of four new members, all of whom have contributed much to the life of First Friends.

The New Year begins with an active schedule. The week starting January 10 will be our second time this winter to host the churches' Cold Weather Shelter for the homeless. Our task this time will be greater than in December, when members of the local Latter Day Saints group assumed much of the work of feeding and overseeing as many as 40 guests. Volunteers are still needed.

The annual meeting of the Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends (WARSF) will be held at the Berkeley Friends Church the weekend of February 11-13 in conjunction with their annual Quaker Heritage Day. This year's speaker is an up-and-coming Young Adult Friend, C. Wess Daniels — a widely read Quaker blogger. This important gathering serves to connect First Friends with its parent body, Friends United Meeting, and the larger world of Quakerdom.

In March and April we will undertake a novel community outreach effort. Quaker Quest will be a six-week series of Monday-night open house events designed to acquaint our Whittier neighbors more closely with First Friends Church and Quakerism.

Another important outreach activity is our annual Quaker Forum which, by invitation, brings to Whittier for a weekend some prominent Friend from another part of the Quaker world. Because of our busy schedule early in the year, this will be held in mid-April, later than usual.

Easter Sunday comes on April 24, unusually late this year. This is always a major event at First Friends.

Many challenges and opportunities await Friends in the New Year. In the words of Dag Hammarskjöld, "For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes!"

— Bob Newton

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends,

New Friends: Another month with exciting baby news: **Tim & Melissa (Berardino) Waters** welcomed their daughter, **Riley Joy**, on Thanksgiving morning at the Ohio State University Medical Center. She weighed in at just over seven pounds. She's a very happy little girl, but her big brother **Aiden** likes to share his stuffed musical dog with her if she happens to fuss. Baby's grandma, **Marci Vaden** currently lives with her cousin about four hours away in a small town near Flint, Michigan, but she gets down to Ohio to visit as often as she can. She spent two weeks there when Riley was born, mainly to keep big brother **Aiden** company, but she also spent as much time as possible holding the baby. Marci is really sorry to be so far from her son **Chris** and his son, **Jude** but they try to keep up on Skype. Jude is now two, and he's a happy, active little guy.

Friends Celebrate Thanksgiving: A lot of people had special visitors or travel adventures over Thanksgiving. **Elisabeth & Michael Elliot** spent Thanksgiving with Michael's brothers Dane and Jeff in the Bay Area. Elisabeth's mom **Beth Strader** drove down from Willits. This was the first time both sides of the family were together so it was lots of fun. **Elinore Petoletti** spent Thanksgiving in Henderson enjoying dinner with her brother Jim Dodd and his family on Thanksgiving Day. The **Woirhayes (ABCDE)** toured the Grand Canyon, Bryce, and Zion National Parks over the Thanksgiving holiday. The **Marshburn** Thanksgiving family reunion (including **Ted** and his sister **Marygene Wright**) with about 50 people had a great time when they met in Fellowship Hall on Nov. 20. **Anne, Bedford, Rennie, and Emma McIntosh** traveled to Washington State for Thanksgiving to visit Bedford's sister's family in Oak Harbor. Along the way they stopped at a McDonalds in Kelso, Washington, and they ran into **Bob & Dianne Hughes** with **Blake** and **Katrina** who were in Kelso visiting Bob's mother. **Max Memmelaar** was in Whittier to enjoy his mom's home cookin' for Thanksgiving. **Becky's & Ron's** daughter **Laura** came into town a few days later.

Friends Travel: Recently a fellow worker arranged transportation and lodging for **Jack Phinney** so that he could return to Yosemite National Park for a week. The first weekend of December, Mountain Outin' travel group arranged an amazing tour to take advantage of the beginning of the Christmas lights season. **Elinore Petoletti** along with her travel companions went on the Coast Starlight to San Luis Obispo, then by bus to the Hearst Castle for an evening tour. Some of the rooms were decorated with trees and poinsettias. The trip continued by bus up Hwy 1 to Monterey. After a yummy lunch at Fisherman's Wharf, they continued north to

Sunol in the Pleasanton area, to ride the Niles Canyon Railroad, all wrapped up in Christmas lights. This is the route of the original transcontinental RR. More lights in Pleasanton, then off across the hills to Oakdale to the Sierra RR and a Christmas Brunch with Santa, then to Fresno for their famous Christmas Tree Lane, two miles of lighted homes and trees. It was raining, but that just made things sparkle all the more. Mary Raymond and her daughter, Beth Munday, flew to Orlando, FL to celebrate Mary's great-granddaughter Kaylee's third birthday. In addition to two birthday parties and an evening at Disney World, Mary, Beth, Kaylee and her parents, Erin and Tom Sharman, took in the sights at the Kennedy Space Center.

Friends About Town: On Dec. 2 **Milton Wright** drove his 1921 Studebaker with passenger **Steven Caringella** in the Monrovia Christmas parade. On Dec. 11 Milton Wright and his Studebaker participated in another parade, this time the Whittier parade. Mary Sullens and her three daughters rode for the Whittier Conservancy. **Dan Wright** drove his 1929 Model A Ford. His passengers, representing the Whittier Public Library, were **Sue Settlage**, and **Bill & Marygene Wright**. **Agnes Douglass** works with the "White Cane for the Blind." She recently received a special recognition.

Cassie, Steven and Landon Caringella, and **Melissa Sue & Joe Mendoza** went to Newport Harbor to watch the holiday boat parade and enjoy the lights. Here they are with the *Living Light* continuing our tradition: "*The Living Light Travels.*" Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed. Approximately 20 neighbors enjoyed appetizers at



Dan & Lea Wright's house, as the traditional Armour Road progressive dinner got under way.

School and Work News: **Jamie Benjamin's** office has moved from Fullerton to Orange, so she is driving farther to and from work now. **Wes Van Dorn** did well in his school science fair and his project will continue on to the district level.

Friends Visit: **Laura Kaneko** was home for the holidays from Oakland. She will start work on a Masters degree at Columbia University Teachers' College in New York City next fall. **Vikki Kendrick** was very happy to have daughter **Christy Tavernelli** and Vikki's mother **Peggy Kendrick** home in CA for the Christmas holidays. The two flew in together from Philadelphia.

Friends Sharing News: Have you been anywhere special? Did you have any special visitors over the holidays? 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!

Housing the Homeless

We will again be housing homeless guests from January 10th to the 17th in the Sharpless Basement. We are looking for volunteers to help with hosting, preparing and serving food, and staying over night upstairs. Please check the sign-up sheet in the church patio or talk to me.

We hosted the homeless for a week in December when the Mormons assisted. Thank you all who assisted during that week. The homeless are very appreciative of this service that various churches have provided each winter for more than 20 years. — *Ted Marshburn*

Friends Enjoy Christmas Dinner

A wonderful tradition continued on Sunday night, December 12 when Friends and family once again gathered for our annual Christmas dinner.

Over 140 members of the First Friends community were greeted by Santa Claus and enjoyed a traditional turkey dinner as well as a number of recipes from the kitchens of our families.

After dinner, guests sang traditional carols and favorite songs. The Junior High and Young Friends Fellowships enjoyed brisk sales for their plates of homemade candy and a stunning art-glass wreath created by Philip Wright was auctioned to spirited bidding.

The finale of the evening was the performance of the original play "Return of the Magi" by the preschool through 5th grade First Day classes. Written by Melissa Sue Mendoza with Cassie Caringella and Joe Mendoza, the play featured music sung by the children who obviously had a wonderful time trodding the boards!

Many dinner guests have wonderful memories of the dinner dating back to when it was held in the basement of the 1917 building. The dinner is, as it was then, a joyous opportunity to pause and share fellowship at this magical and busy time of year. — *Elisabeth Elliot*



*l to r: Edward Trybek, Wendy Velasco,
James Stark, Scott Wolf*

Christmas Music Sunday Brings Bach To Worship

Christmas Music Sunday is a cherished tradition at First Friends Church. The service prepared and directed by Russ Litchfield on December 5 was one of the most memorable. J. S. Bach's Cantata 61, "Come Redeemer of our Race," was performed in its entirety by the Worship Choir, four visiting instrumentalists, and Russ playing the organ.

The musical worship message was preceded by excerpts from the Cantata in the call to worship. Russ and six choristers punctuated the preamble with handbell accompaniment. After Becky Memmelaar's welcome to worshippers, Michael Elliot's strong and pleasant voice recited the Scripture from Romans 15, and Lynda Ladwig's message for the children, the choir and instrumentalists provided an elevating worship message in music to a large and fortunate congregation.

A complete English translation text of the Cantata was enclosed in the Sunday bulletin. In addition, Russ provided detailed notes on the history and musicology of the work and a list of choir members and visiting instrumentalists: James Stark, violinist, Edward Trybek and Scott Wolf, guitarists, and Wendy Velasco, cellist. Russ transposed the guitar parts from the original music written for viola.

The work opened with the choir and instruments performing the overture "Come Redeemer of Our Race." The next four sections were narratives with solo parts sung, successively, by tenors Stephen Bingman and Mark Juaton, baritone Josh Wood, and mezzo-soprano Allison Coop. The soloists were accompanied by organ and/or strings. All dispatched their roles with authority and feeling. The last section brought all voices and instruments together in a chorale "Amen."

James Stark is the concert master of the La Mirada Symphony Orchestra and plays in the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra. This was his first visit to First Friends Church. James Trybek is a classical guitarist soon to obtain the doctoral degree in music from the University of Southern California. Scott Wolf teaches music at Whittier College, as does Wendy Velasco. Friends remember Wendy from previous appearances with our Worship Choir. The choir's soprano section was reinforced by Whittier College music student Melissa Natalie Hernandez.

Those who attended Meeting on December 5 were privileged to experience an outstanding musical worship service created by our incomparable Music Director.



Santa Meets Father Christmas At WFS Play And Supper Benefit

Once upon a Christmas Mother Goose and all of her rhyme-characters threw a party for Father Christmas and Santa Claus. This rollicking reunion, from “Christmas With Mother Goose” by Walt Kelly, was enacted by Whittier Friends School students and preschoolers under the direction of teacher Alicia Atkinson. The WFS fundraiser event took place on Friday evening, December 17 in Fellowship Hall.

You did not have to read the program notes to know who the characters were — the clever costumes created by Marie Kaneko patently identified Little Bo Peep, Little Boy Blue, and the other Mother Goose characters whose stories we can all recite from memory. Mother Goose’s bonnet, worn by Katerina Ryder, was made from a straw hat painted black and trimmed with lace from an old gown. The red pants of Santa (Isaiah Vasquez) were made from a family-sized Christmas stocking. Little Tommy Tucker (Anathea Woirhaye) sang for her supper and then prompted the smaller children as they shyly introduced themselves—Peter Pumpkin Eater with a pumpkin, Curly Locks (Elyse Woirhaye), and Little Jack Horner (Eric Vasquez) with his Christmas pie. Ashley Ryder was fetching in a white smock and lace cap as Polly Flinders. Mother Goose’s son Jack (maybe you didn’t know about him) was played by John Karr in a bright red vest.

This might have been the only occasion in children’s literature when Santa Claus and Father Christmas (played by James Tucker) got together. The latter wore a splendid fur-lined green robe, a holly-wreath crown, and a long white beard.

Preschool teacher Sarah Cooper was Happy New Year in white Grecian robes and a black top-hat. She led preschoolers “Hope,” “Peace,” “Plenty,” and “Good Resolutions” all dressed in charming white costumes.

The combined cast of 19 sang Christmas songs with gusto, ending with an audience sing-along of “Jingle Bells.” They enjoyed a resounding applause from proud parents and delighted guests.

There followed a supper of home-made chili (11 different crocks!), corn bread (seven varieties) and cheesecake (nine different kinds). WFS parents revealed that they are among the best chili-cooks in the universe. Patrons of the play and supper enjoyed a marvelous evening for their contribution to the benefit event.

— Bob Newton

WFS Supporters Bag Groceries For Benefit

On Mon., Dec. 13, the students, parents, and staff of Whittier Friends School participated in their first ever “Shop for Schools” shopping night at the Fresh & Easy market on Painter Ave. and Whittier Blvd. This generous program offers participating schools a portion of a night’s proceeds (4 to 8 p.m.) in exchange for work bagging groceries. In addition, credit is given for all receipts over \$20.00 collected from Sept. through Dec. including the ones collected that night. The WFS parents and staff provided the labor while the students used their “Friendly” charm to collect customer receipts in hand-decorated shoe boxes. The elementary students got to put one “marble in the jar” (a classroom incentive project) for each receipt collected in an effort to earn a class party. There was even some good natured competition among the students to see who could collect the most receipts.

Millie Vasquez, WFS Administrative Assistant, said, “The Fresh & Easy manager was very impressed with our school. For a school of our size to have so many volunteers and students participate, they said, was amazing. And the kids did a wonderful job.” A total of 11 adults and 9 students volunteered. WFS extends its heartfelt thanks to all of the First Friends family who both donated their receipts this fall and shopped on the fundraiser night. We hope to have the opportunity to participate again next year.

— Candice Ryder



Quaker Class Begins in February

In early February of 2011 a new Quakerism class will begin. Interested in learning more about the Quaker faith from its beginning and how this faith impacts our daily walk in 2011? Are you a long time attender but not a member? Perhaps this is the class for you. If you are already a member of this faith community come and share your journey and understanding with others. Plan to join us at 9:30 a.m. Sundays in the conference room.

— Lynda Ladwig

Let's Prepare For The Next Friends World Conference!

The 2012 Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya will be a time of looking ahead with awareness of the roots of spiritual experience and the experience of faith in action for three hundred and sixty years.

In 1652, when George Fox was 28, he began his ministry which led to the Religious Society of Friends. As Friends traveled around the world, small groups met for worship with a strong sense of the presence of the Spirit of God. Publishing "truth" was an expression of their spiritual experience.

In Britain, Europe and the United States, groups of Friends supported the 'stirring of the spirit' called 'leadings' for individual outreach to many physical and spiritual needs of others—including prisoners, the mentally ill, slaves and oppressed people.

These efforts became organized in spirit-led programs of missions and service. Spiritual experience and the testimony for peace were continuing concerns for individuals and worshiping groups. During World War I, Friends determined to hold a world wide peace conference which would draw all Friends together. This First World Conference was held in London in 1920. Communication among Friends increased in the next 15 years and momentum grew for another world conference. Five commissions were established to consider concerns of Friends, to include members from around the globe, to prepare study guides for all Friends, and to plan the Second World Conference in 1937 at Swarthmore, PA. The Friends World Committee for Consultation was established at this meeting. Unfortunately, war was developing again in Europe and travel for continued exchange became difficult and then impossible.

At the end of World War II, Friends were eager to resume international fellowship. Contacts were carried out with Friends around the world. In September 1947, the need became clear for another world conference. London Yearly Meeting invited FWCC to arrange the Third World Conference of Friends at Oxford in 1952, 300 years after George Fox began his ministry. The general subject chosen was "The Vocation of Friends in the Modern World" with three main themes: "Man's Condition," "The Christian Answer," and "Our Faith and Service." The gathering "brought together all sections of the Religious Society of Friends to consider in fellowship and worship together the tasks of the Quaker faith, witness and service in face of the needs and challenges of the present day." Study booklets were developed so all could prepare and consider the conference issues. A report titled *Friends Face Their Fourth Century* was circulated widely after the conference.

From 1954 to 1960 FWCC emerged from a loosely organized European-American body into an active more

international organization. In 1958, FWCC was granted Non-Governmental Organization consultative status and has conducted Quaker UN programs in New York and Geneva. A large number of Friends have participated in UN conferences and seminars reflecting Quaker concerns.

The Fourth World Conference of Friends in 1967 gathered 900 delegates from 34 countries at Greensboro, NC. The study theme was "No Time But This Present" with five topics: "The Nurture of the Spiritual Life," "The Ecumenical Challenge," "The Community of Friends," "The Community of Peoples," and "Peace Making and Peace Keeping."

It took ten years to plan the Fifth World Conference of Friends of 1991. An international Friends gathering, with different languages, cultures, and religious experience was a daunting challenge. The Religious Society of Friends had spread across all continents and the problems of travel, cost and participation of 1,000 people were immense. The 1991 conference was therefore planned and scheduled on three sites on three continents at three different times—Elspeet, The Netherlands, in June; Tela, Honduras, in July; and Chavakali School, Kenya, in August.

The conference theme "In Spirit and Truth: Faith in Action" asserted that faith and action are intertwined. The vital connection between these elements of Quakerism was a refrain throughout the three gatherings. In addition to about 300 delegates, many from each site area participated. The Kenya report noted, "The spirit moved powerfully among us as we praised God in worship, song, and fellowship. As we met in various forms of worship, we experienced the same divine fellowship in other Quaker traditions as we experience in our own."

The contribution of FWCC is reflected in the comment of one delegate to the 1991 gathering: "Being at the same physical site did not produce unity. Rather, it was in the internal nature of the experiences. In our own ways, each of us experienced transformations, openings, confrontations, and challenges. We have shared the sense of touching one another, and we now have an expanded sense of what it is to worship, to know God, to be a Friend in world context. In coming together, we discovered so many people expressing faith in action in their lives with integrity and dedication. Above all, we experienced the willingness to change and be changed."

The Sixth World Conference of Friends is planned for April 2012 in Kenya. The theme for consideration is "Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World." Study materials will be available so the Friends of the world can participate in their own lives and meetings. Also during 2011, the FWCC will convene a Worldwide Consultation on "Friends Responses to Global Change," for which a participation guide is available.

References for this article and FWCC publications are available on request and in the First Friends Library.

— *Bill Wright*

USFW Holds Christmas Luncheon

As soon as Friends sat down for the USFW's Christmas luncheon on December 2, the Whittier Friends School students filed in the door, accompanied by their teachers Alicia Atkinson, Cindy Edmunds, and Amanda Settlage. Taking their places on the platform near the tree which they had decorated, the children proceeded to sing several of the best loved songs of the Christmas season, including "Jingle Bells" and "Feliz Navidad." Mothers with clicking cameras were part of their appreciative audience. As they filed out, each child, pre-school and elementary, spoke his or her name nicely into the microphone. USFW presented a monetary token of thanks to the school.

Carrin Bouchard, in Christmassy attire, presided over the meeting which followed. When the Steering Committee met in November, she reported, it contemplated laying down the Whittier USFW, but chose instead to keep looking ahead. Carrin Bouchard has volunteered to preside during the coming year, and there will be a new edition of the *Yearbook*. An intergenerational activity for women will be scheduled in early 2011, and later in the year at least one meeting focusing on the overseas outreach of the United Society of Friends Women International (USFWI). Since the Non-Event Fund raised more than enough money, it was approved that all budgeted donations to USFWI and local service agencies be sent by the end of the year. The budget for 2011 will be discussed after the holidays.

For a number of years, Sue Walker has volunteered to prepare the Christmas luncheon in honor of her mother-in-law, Helen Walker Watson of FFC, national USFW president in the 1940s, later first woman Presiding Clerk of the 5 Years Meeting (now FUM). This year's luncheon featured soup, sandwiches, and Sue's home-baked lemon cake. Before anyone could finish eating, to Sue's total surprise, in walked her son, Samuel Walker and his wife, Anne from Sacramento, with a birthday cake and ice cream. That very day was a milestone birthday for Sue, so "Happy Birthday" was sung, of course, and many indulged in a second dessert. Sharon Huffaker and Sabron Newton helped serve, and everyone enjoyed the seasonal greenery with which Mary Marshburn decorated the tables.

— Sabron Newton

Youth Fellowship Confectioners Fabricate Christmas Packages

Painting, sprinkling, log rolling, smelting and haystack making are a few of the skills that our Youth Fellowships have acquired over the past several years. No, we're not referring to Heifer Project work camp. These are essential operations of the Christmas Candy Factory which takes place every year just before the First Friends Christmas dinner. The manifold and ornate confections are neatly packaged to sell at the dinner, to benefit both the Fellowship's programs and a charity of the young folks' choosing.



Bella Sturr and Samantha Cramer

Candy crafting began in Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, under the direction of Master Confectioners Lynda Ladwig and Mel Sturr. Ten Fellowship members went right to work with the assurance borne of much practice in prior sessions. Olivia Meschell and Raquel Allen cooperated on peanut clusters and chocolate-covered caramel squares. Rennie and Emma McIntosh wrestled with a huge tub of melted chocolate, walnuts and marshmallows destined to become "choc-mallow logs." Samantha and Amanda Cramer white-washed long pretzels with sugar coating and sprinkled them with colorful candy bits. Bella Sturr worked with her dad to make gum candy objects. Austin Allen artfully created candy bars something like Snickers. Zoe Zucco toiled over a hot microwave oven to keep the candy makers supplied with melted chocolate and caramel.

In a complex operation like Christmas candy making, there are inevitably some mishaps. Wes Van Dorn spent half an hour separating hundreds of individual chow mein noodles from a vat of caramel bits because they had inadvertently been mixed before the caramel was melted. His patience was rewarded eventually by pert and crispy "haystacks."

Attractively packaged plates of Fellowship Candy went on sale at the Christmas dinner December 12 for \$3 per small plate or \$6 per large. Every plate was sold. Fellowship members decided to give half of their substantial proceeds to support Friends United Meeting's African Ministries worker, Eden Grace. The other half will subsidize the youth group's many activities in the coming year.

— Bob Newton





Peace-Makers Are Prominent At Uptown Christmas Parade

The 57th annual Whittier Uptown Christmas Parade got underway at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 11, led by the El Rancho High School ROTC color guard. The weather was warm and clear, unlike last year's drizzly parade ambience which created an ordeal for baton twirlers and spectators. A low-flying formation of geese buzzed the parade, as if to confirm Nature's good intentions this year.

Troops of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts carried banners stating the parade's theme: "Community Pride." There was a greater emphasis this year on local school, civic, cultural and commercial groups than in previous years. Following close upon the Scouts were two vehicles representing the Whittier Public Library. One was the familiar 1929 Ford Model A "Phaeton" driven by Dan Wright and bearing Library supporters Bill and Marygene Wright and Sue Settlege. The vehicles carried banners announcing the Library-sponsored 2011 "Whittier Reads" selection "My Life in Paris" by Julia Child and Alex Prud'homme. Rob Settlege marched beside Dan's car carrying a "Whittier Reads" poster.

The usual amazing array of marching bands accompanied by drill teams twirling batons, carrying flags, and waving pom-poms came next. One elementary school baton team had 118 girls and two boys! Candice Ryder escorted Ashley and other cheerleaders and pepsters of the Whittier Community Center, all dressed in beautiful red-and-white holiday attire. This was Ashley's second Uptown Christmas Parade participation.

Presently along came a large contingent from the Whittier Area Peace and Justice Coalition, wearing blue and white peace-symbol tee-shirts. Alene Burke and Holly Overin marched with this group. Their lead vehicle broadcast peace messages and holiday greetings. The

WAPJC group was well-received by the large crowd lining Greenleaf Ave., to judge from cheers and V-finger peace signs. At the corner of Hadley St., Carol Urner joined the parade, exchanging her walker for a chair vehicle escorted by Bill Miller. A small, brightly-attired peace marcher took turns with Bill pushing the chair. At one point it got away from her, scattering side-line spectators, who laughed with Carol and shook her hand. The camaraderie and holiday spirit were evident. It seemed to this observer that the peace message was one of the most visible and popular aspects of the 2010 parade.

— Bob Newton



Bob and Lou's Annual Party Kicks Off Christmas Season

Each Christmas season for the past 30 years, Bob and Lou Secord have hosted a holiday gathering at their home in Pomona. On Sunday, Nov. 28, Friends again enjoyed the beauty of the Secords' decorations and their sumptuous buffet tables.

As many as 80 people circulated at close quarters through a wonderland of scores of decorated trees and over 100 nativity scenes. Besides members of First Friends Church there were the Secords' family, friends, neighbors, and business associates. A prominent guest was the gentle 180-lb. Mastiff Winston, owned by the Secords' daughter, Lisa. All visitors were infused with seasonal cheer and good will by the gracious surroundings.



Louise's extraordinary decorating skill stems from her former profession as a store exhibit designer. She confided that she spent at least 12 hours arranging the 3,000-plus lights on the largest decorated tree in the living room. This year's color scheme was gold and white. The upside-down tree hanging from the dining-room ceiling always brings a chuckle from guests. The upstairs rooms are similarly decorated, and there was a continual queue of visitors ascending the stairway, panoplied with a gallery of family photographs. Louise's Holy Land quilt was hung over the top railing. This magnificent tapestry was created from souvenir fabrics illustrating Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Cana and Nazareth, collected during the Secords' 2005 trip to the West Bank with the FUM-sponsored Ramallah pastoral visit.

We at First Friends Church have come to regard the Secords' annual event as the traditional start of our Holiday Season.

New Century Singers Sing For The Holidays

Rain didn't discourage the attendance at the delightful concert presented at First Friends Church Sunday, Dec. 19th. The choir sang Christmas and other holiday music under the direction of Judy Kertes and accompanied by Clella Snider. The opening song, "Deck The Halls" with a little different flair, was warmly accepted by the audience. "Gesu Bambino" beautifully performed by the chorus, featured solists Patricia Williams and Brigitta Weger. Other favorites were "Happy Holiday," "White Christmas," "Do You Hear What I Hear?," and "Feliz Navidad," where the audience was invited to sing along.

Clella Snider and Pat Williams joined together on the piano playing an upbeat rendition of "Sleigh Ride." Adding to the Home for Holiday theme was a reading of "The Night Before Christmas" followed by a medley of Christmas carols. The concert ended with an appearance from Santa Claus passing out candy canes. Judy Kertes thanked First Friends Church for the use of the meeting house and the beautiful decorations.

— Jean Sponsler

And First Friends Thanks Harry and Anne!

Seeing everyone again was pure joy! We love the Central Coast (come visit!), but miss you all.

With the 2010 First Friends Christmas Dinner behind us, we have a moment to reflect on the wonderful spirit and help we received in the kitchen. A special thanks to those who helped prepare, including Debi Nelson (who spent nearly all of Saturday with us), Melissa Martinez (who spent the entire Sunday morning helping prep), and the Huffakers (stuffing makers par excellence!).

The following people were part of the "Turkey Team," supplying turkeys for the event: Lynda Ladwig, Gwen Woirhaye, Debi Nelson, Ted and Mary Marshburn, Melissa Martinez, and Mel and Sharon Sturr. A special thanks to Don and Shirley Votaw who provided a lovely cooked, carved, and ready-to-go turkey with gravy!

The kitchen team on the day of the dinner was wonderful. Each brought their special touch and talent. These included Dan & Lea, and Phil Wright, Bob and Sabron Newton, Mary Marshburn, Sharon Sturr, Carrin's brother Jerry

Becky's Byline



"The people are bringing much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do." Exodus 36:5b

This time of year we begin to think of New Year's resolutions. Rather than resolutions I thought I would highlight a theme for the next few months. These themes are places that are personal challenges for me. My hope is that they will speak to you as well.

This month I wanted to talk about the word "enough." Quakers like to talk about the testimony of simplicity. Surely the word "enough" is part of a materialistic concept of simplicity. If we have enough then we are living this testimony, an idea that most of us can wrap our minds around.

However there is another aspect of "enoughness" that I want to consider. It is the idea that each one of us is enough. My pastoral care professor at Wake Forest told us that before walking into any hospital situation say to yourself: "I am enough." These words were to remind us that regardless of the situation that we faced beyond the door we were sent to offer our "enoughness." Sometimes words fail us; sometimes situations are beyond our control, but in offering the comfort of presence we are enough.

As a pastor, woman, wife, mother, grandmother, person on this planet I find that sometimes I struggle to be enough. As I sit on the facing bench preparing to stand and speak, I face once again my "enoughness." What if I forget the words, or say them badly? What if they focus on my failings rather than on the message? What if people don't get what I'm trying to say? What if my words offend someone? What if they care more about the way I look than the offered words? And the list goes on and on. My challenge this year is to say to myself: "You are enough."

In keeping with the Quaker testimony of simplicity, I want to say to all of you: "You are enough." I want to offer a ministry of encouragement and challenge you to do the same. Our work, our words don't have to be perfect to have validity; they simply have to be offered as a gift. Gift yourself this day, this year with the concept of being enough, and then give this gift to each and every one you encounter.

Coffin, and Micah Eggleton.

And thanks to the Youth for serving! And, of course, Lynda, for arranging everything and taking care of all details 'administrative.' And, especially, a BIG THANK YOU to our kitchen partners, George & Carrin Bouchard – cooking, clean-up, prep of pork loins (what a nice change!) and everything else. And, special thanks to our dear friend, Marilyn Fant. Marilyn hosted us in Whittier, did the table decorations and was an ever-present partner working along side us as a loving friend through the entire event. (Who have we forgotten to thank?)

The meal is over, the leftovers gone, but the loving spirit of the season endures – see you all next year!

— Anne & Harry Eggleton

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Senior Sneaks to Visit Recycling Plant

Hope you all had a healthy and wonderful Christmas and New Years. What a wonderful time it has been rejoicing in the birth of our Lord!

We will be on our way to see the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) on Thursday January 27, 2011. The MRF is an innovative and environmentally sophisticated recycle and recovery operation. The MRF is permitted to receive an average of 4,000 tons per day. This facility uses manual and mechanical methods to sort the recyclables. Even though we will be behind glass when we view the operation, we still need to wear CLOSED TOE SHOES.

Please meet in the parking lot at 9:50 a.m. This will be a short outing with lunch after the tour. We should be back by 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. Call me for a reservation.
— Shirley Votaw



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

- Peggy Anderson
- Audine Coffin
- Monica Dean
- Ruth Esther Durham
- Trudy Kurth
- Esther Morris
- Virginia Moorhead
- Alice Rosenberger
- Russ Summerhays
- Ami Troedsson
- Helen Vanover
- Mary Wanner



There will not be an AFFN meeting in January because of scheduling and room use conflicts.

— Ted Marshburn