

THE LIVING LIGHT

For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.
Ephesians 5:9

Volume 57, Number 2

Whittier First Friends Church

February, 2018

Light! Commitment! Solar!

At Monthly Meeting on January 7, years of research and Quaker threshing culminated in the approval of a solar power system for the entire property, including the Meeting House, Fellowship Hall, the Sharpless Building and the Christian Education Building. At the same time, lighting in the meeting house will be upgraded to energy-efficient LEDs.

Funding for the project will be provided by the fund designated by the Meeting exclusively for capital improvements.

As a result of this investment, our operating costs

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Speaking of Quakers...

Quaker Forum is Saturday, March 10. Join Jon Watts for an exploration of the topic “How Do Quakers Speak?”



The Forum will start with continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and continue until 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at noon.

Then, at 8:00 p.m., Jon performs in concert with JoNita Beede, Russ Litchfield and friends in the meeting house. Sign up in the foyer to bring breakfast or lunch items.

Loletta's Lines

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.



—*Faith and Practice; Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain.*

When things in life start shifting, you can feel it. It isn't just a demographic change, challenges in the world, trying to balance finances, or having people cross our paths with new information, insight and encouragement—it is the conjunction of all of it. It happens in our lives and it is happening in our Meeting. The Spirit is moving amongst us powerfully. Think about all that has happened in the last years.

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Anathea Woirhaye prepares to serve up goodness at the Cold Weather Shelter (see page 6). Photo by Deanna Woirhaye.



Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, It's been a rough year so far for many Friends who have been sick with the flu. Let's implement all those healthy New Years resolutions for a better rest of the year.

Friends Celebrate: Congratulations to **Melissa Jones** & Alex Grabmiller who became engaged in January. A big happy birthday to **Cedric Woirhaye**, who has now become a legal adult. (Yes, we are all saying, "where does the time go?")

Friends About Town: After many years dancing as a child, **Cassie Caringella** is officially a dance mom now. **Avalon Caringella** was counting down the days to her first ballet class. She was very excited to finally get to wear her ballet outfit and "ballet hair." **Linda & Jim Flournoy** have moved their things to Bellingham, WA but they are back in So Cal for the remainder of the winter, attending to additional family business. **Anathea Woirhaye** has recently acquired her provisional driver's license. **Becky Overmyer-Velazquez, Loletta Barrett, Pat Garland** and **Jasmine Sturr** participated in the January 16 demonstration at a 7-11 in Koreatown protesting Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in the community. ICE had planned on a sweep of the store on that day and did not appear in the face of the demonstration.



Friends Travel: The 62nd Horseless Carriage Holiday Motor Excursion of 2017 included 350 pre-1932 cars. Participants drove 40 miles as a group from Santa Anita through Pasadena, Altadena, San Marino, Arcadia, and Sierra Madre. **Dan & Lea Wright** drove their 1914 Model T Ford, **Cassie, Steven, Landon & Avalon Caringella** were in the 1929 Model A Ford and **Milton Wright** with three friends rode in his 1921 Studebaker.

Thinking of Friends: On the day before Thanksgiving, **Doree Votaw** was diagnosed with ALS/Lou Gehrig's disease. She still uses her walker a little bit, but is mostly in a wheelchair now for getting around. She now lives on the assisted living floor of

her retirement home. If you would like to send a card, the church office has her address.

Friends Remember: Prayers for peace for the family of **Phil Ellis**, who passed to new life on January 16. A memorial will be held on February 3 at 2:00 p.m. at the meeting house. Prayers also for **Laura, Emlyn** and **Owen Torres**. Laura's mother, **Marjorie Radford**, passed peacefully in January after a 10-year struggle with Alzheimer's.

Friends Sharing News: We are taking a break from our tradition: "*The Living Light Travels*" this month. (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.) You can help to keep the Friendly Fare interesting. 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!

On Our Calendar...

Whittier Friends School Candy and Flower Sale	February 13 through March 5
Quaker Heritage Day at Berkeley Friends Meeting	Saturday, March 10
Monthly Meeting	Sunday, March 11
Whittier Friends School History Fair and Open House	Tuesday, March 13 6:30 p.m.
All Friends Fellowship Night	Wednesday, March 14 6 p.m.
Friends Committee on National Legislation Spring Lobby Weekend	March 17-20
Chorale Bel Canto Concert	Saturday, March 17 4 p.m.
Shelter's Right Hand 5K Walk	Saturday, April 21
Whittier Friends School Spring Event	Saturday, April 28 5 p.m.
Founders Day in Central Park	Saturday, May 12
Stoking the Fire in Stony Point, NY	May 17—20
Friends General Conference Gathering in Toledo, OH	July 1—7

This Month in Meeting for Worship

February 4	Youth Sunday <i>Define Quaker</i>
February 11	Jon Watts brings the message
February 18	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>God Surprises</i> Isaiah 43:18-25, Mark 2:1-12
February 25	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Come for Dinner</i> Mark 2:13-22



At Monthly Meeting on January 7, we moved closer to our budget goals with the approval of modifying the current year's budget line items to 2017 actuals.

We approved a solar power system for the property (see page 1) to be paid for with designated capital improvement funds.

The next Monthly Meetings are Sunday, February 4 and Sunday, March 11 at Rise of Meeting.

End of Life with Dignity Workshops Continue



Our second workshop was a success! We talked about independence, dependence and interdependence- coming to grips with the fact that none of us is completely independent and all of us want community at some level. Deciding how much alone time and how much community we need is a

balancing act for our whole lives. Our next workshop is Saturday, February 24 at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our topic will be financial issues.

We welcome and encourage your comments as well as your contributions and photos for inclusion in *The Living Light*. Kindly send your email to Elisabeth Elliot at communicuaker@gmail.com.

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Listen to the sounds around us, observe with your eyes, feel it with your hands and skin, deeper with your heart and soul, inhale and smell, let the taste linger on your tongue; a subtle but discernable shifting. Walk around. Sit still. Be in solitude. Be in community. There is a pause, pregnant with possibilities. It is change Spirit-brought, waiting to unfold before us. It can lead us to "see God more clearly, love God more dearly, follow more nearly," if we just let it. We can call it scary, or we can call it exciting. They are two ways of looking at the same journey.

Something has come to our attention in a new way. Finances. Some might call it a problem. Others call it one of the many signs in the transformation we are experiencing and can choose to be an active part in. Will we resist, or find a way to immerse ourselves in the flow of the Spirit? Can we examine and let go of our dependence upon what has been and things of the world, and instead seek things of the Spirit, in the now and where we are to go in the future?

We can do the work to balance our budget. We can think outside the box and do smart financing. We can shift resources, cut costs, reduce old programs, invest and expand growth initiatives, hire younger staff and start new programs to attract people. We can convert fixed capital to liquid cash, develop new rental opportunities, and sell. We can down-size and right-size and fund-raise and donate. We can figure and calculate, make tough choices and smart decisions. We could even make no decisions, do nothing, rely on what resources "The Meeting" can come up with, and that too, would be making a choice. Or we could eliminate the box altogether and open ourselves together to the Spirit.

Get rid of the box?! All the notions of what our meeting and a church is, who we have been, where we have done ministry before? What would that look like? It would not start with spreadsheets, stewardship calls, fundraisers, program development, and financial brainstorming. Instead, prayer, open worship, communion in the manner of Friends, deep listening to the Spirit of God for insight and direction and leading. In every moment; alone and together with Friends, in every gathering and new gatherings specific to the queries: "Who are we called by God to be?" "What gifts is God calling us to nurture,

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YOUNG FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP



The youth fellowship and their leaders started off January in the best of ways, by serving others at the Cold Weather Shelter. Working together, we chopped, we mixed, we stirred, we measured, we laughed and we learned a little bit about cooking. But the best part of the evening is when we actually served and interacted with those whose home over the next few months is the Shelter. Talking with those who are in the shelter humbles you and reminds us to be grateful for all we have. Several of our youth returned again on other nights to participate with their families and friends. We prepared and served a meal of meatloaf, potato casserole, and broccoli, topped off with lemon cake for dessert and our friends ate until there was nothing left but crumbs. But we too were fed by the gratitude, the fellowship and laughter and the camaraderie of the evening.

Taking part were Bella Sturr, Ashley Ryder, Kat Ryder, Ashley's friend Xitlali, Cedric Woirhaye, Anthea Woirhaye, Lara Wemmerus, and Elyse Woirhaye, assisted by Mel Sturr and Lynda Ladwig.

—Lynda Ladwig

Light! Commitment! Solar! continued from page 1

will be reduced by an estimated \$1,500 each month.

The decision to move forward with the project exemplifies the Meeting's leadings to use primarily sustainable resources and to reduce our carbon footprint. It is also informed by our prayerful mission to craft a sustainable budget now and in the future, and to provide a visible witness of stewardship to the community.

The Meeting has hired the Los Angeles-based Sunistics Group for the design, installation and ongoing service of the system. Installation is expected to begin in late spring in time for the summer heat.

Michael Knight, the senior partner of Sunistics, attended Monthly Meeting and was both impressed and reassured by the depth of questions Friends had for him concerning this major capital project.

We look forward to following the progress of our solar power system along with further exploration of this new expression of our responsibility to God's world.

—Elisabeth Elliot



News from Whittier Friends School

Whittier Friends School has recently acquired a face lift in the form of brand new carpet! It has been close to ten years since some of the rooms had received new carpet and some areas were wearing through. Over the winter break, we had several family volunteers plus staff members come on campus over the course of three days and move all the furniture out and then move it back in. There is also a plan for two back office rooms to be re-carpeted at a later date. The new carpet, installed in the preschool room, the elementary room, the office, and the library, gives the whole campus a bright, new appearance. Come visit us and see how great it looks.

Last month, Whittier Friends School elementary students had fun with gourds provided by Ted and Mary Marshburn, which were part of the beautiful harvest display in the Meeting House during November. Two of the gourds were very long, but one was very curved. The children hypothesized which gourd was longer, despite the curve. They also had to problem-solve to determine a way to measure the curved gourd when their ruler was straight. They decided to use a string to hold against the gourd, and then measured the string. Most children were right in their hypothesis about the straight gourd being longer. It was a fun, hands-on project which showed the children, ranging in ages from 4 years old to 10 years old, that math is necessary for daily life, while depending on teamwork.

Keep in mind a couple of upcoming fundraisers! Beginning February 13, we will be taking presale orders for See's Candy. The large chocolate eggs and Easter-themed mixed chocolates will be delivered prior to Easter. Also, we will be submitting Box Tops for Education coupons during February. Get these turned in by February 15.

—Cassie Caringella

Are you on the pastor's E-News mailing list? A weekly email, sent out by Loletta Barrett, has all the current happenings going on around and about First Friends. It includes Joys and Concerns, the week's calendar and details about upcoming events. If you aren't able to be in Meeting for Worship on Sundays (or even if you are there), this is a great way to keep connected. Contact the church office to get added. While you're at it, drop an email to lealouw@gmail.com and ask to be added to the Friendly Fare email list so you can share your news. We love hearing from all of you!