

# THE LIVING LIGHT

For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Ephesians 5:9

---

Volume 61, Number 6

Whittier First Friends Church

Sixth Month, 2022

---

## All God's Creatures, Great and Small

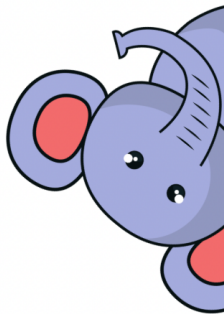
It is that time again! Each summer, First Friends hosts Peace Camp, a week-long day camp for elementary school children focused on teaching kids about peace.

This year, to reach out to the local community, the committee has been led to host a Peace Day in Founders Court and in the Whittier Friends School yard. This outdoor event on Saturday, June 18, gets started at 10:00 a.m. with crafts, games, songs, snacks, and a special visit from Nettie's Party Pals and Petting Zoo.

Families are invited to come and celebrate the theme *Caring for All of God's Creatures, Great and Small*. There is no charge and no registration required.

Volunteers are needed to help with the event, so let the church office know if you are willing and able to help. We also need to spread the word, so please tell your friends and family about this fun and interactive opportunity to share the message of peace and stewardship of the earth.

For the past two years, the traditional format had to be modified due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Peace Camp was held virtually. Now we can meet again in person!



### Messages from Far Away Fields

We are always excited to host our Friends United Meeting Field Staff in Meeting for Worship. When the pandemic started, we were able to experience the blessing of virtual world travel and learning about FUM ministries. Two years later, we are happy to reprise the experience.

Oscar Mmbali starts things off for us on June 5, updating us about his ministry with Belize City Friends. On July 3, Eden Grace, former member of the FUM staff, will update us on the newest phase of her life journey with the Spirit. On August 7, we welcome Robert Wafula from Friends Theological College in Kenya. On September 6, Nikki Holland will join us from the Belize City Friends Center. Finally, on October 2, we spend World Quaker Day with Rania Maayeh, in celebration of the completion of her first year as the Director of Ramallah Friends School in Palestine.

We've invited Western Association Friends from Berkeley and Bakersfield to join us for these messages. Welcome to special Meetings for Worship the first Sunday each month from now to October.



Oscar Mmbali



## Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

**Dear Friends,** Last month I had the pleasure of traveling to Philadelphia with **Cassie** and **Hudson Caringella**. While Cassie attended the Friends Council on Education (FCE) annual meeting, my grandson and I walked around nearby visiting historical sites, parks, and of course, our hotel room where he could nap. I'm looking forward to reading Cassie's report about her trip.

**Friends Celebrate:** Introducing the newest member of the Jones/Grabmiller family: Everett John Grabmiller was born on Good Friday to **Melissa (Jones)** & Alex Grabmiller. Everett's grandparents are **Rex & Paula Cardoza-Jones** and **Anne Jones**.



**Friends About Town:** **Deanna Woirhaye** earned first place in photography at the Santa Fe Springs Art Festival. *The Living Light* traveled to the American Association of University Women awards ceremony where



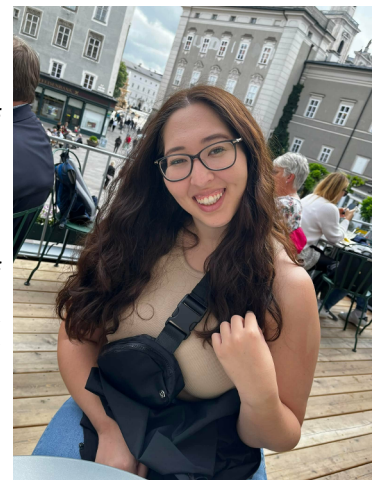
**Elizabeth Camp** was recognized as a Las Distinguidas recipient. Pictured with Liz are her sister **Colleen Anasis**, **Gwen Woirhaye** and **Loletta Barrett**. Her mom, **Joanne Camp**, was able to watch on Zoom thanks to son-in-law George

Anasis. The award recognized all her work volunteering in leadership with Soroptimists and the credit union as well as many other things. Here they are with *The Living Light* continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)

**School and Work:** **Cedric Woirhaye** will be walking in his graduation ceremony at Rio Hondo College and moving on to Cal Poly Pomona in the fall to study Environmental Biology. **Anathea Woirhaye** will be studying abroad at St. Catherine's College at Oxford in England in the fall. **Ashley Ryder** graduates from La Serna High School on June 2. She plans to pursue her certification as an early

childhood educator. **Jay Wemmerus** is graduating from La Mirada High School. **Rita Barakat** is graduating from USC. **Elise Marshburn**, who we know as **Ted & Mary's** granddaughter, graduated from Whittier College after being on the Dean's List for eight semesters. She received an award as Outstanding Student in Studio Art and the Fifth-Year Fellowship in Studio Art. She also has received a grant to do a permanent art piece for Whittier College. **Landon Caringella** got to go see *The Sound of Music* at La Mirada Theater for a middle school drama club field trip. He said it was really good, and then he started humming "Sixteen Going on Seventeen." **Elisabeth Elliot** is wrapping up her first season as a facilitator of the *Leadership the Disney Way* class with Imagination Campus at Disneyland. It's a three-hour experience that looks at how leaders of the past and present "stand on the shoulders of giants," which leads into an in-depth discussion of the students' own core values and how they shape their leadership styles. Elisabeth says she feels like she's taking the class herself every time she teaches it.

**Friends Travel:** **Liz Ellis** was traveling again in May. In the middle of the month, she attended her granddaughter Hazel's graduation from Creighton University in Omaha, and at the end of the month, she was returning with Iris, to Maui for about ten days. **Katerina Ryder** recently returned from a trip to New Jersey, New York, and Atlantic City, which included a tour of the United Nations. **Bella Sturr** is enjoying her last University of Redlands experience in Salzburg, Austria. She is taking the month-long course, "The Voice of Conscience in Dark Times," taught by their chaplain, John Walsh. This is her third attempt to take this course, as it was previously canceled due to Covid for the last two years.



**Friends Sharing News:** Help to keep the Friendly Fare going. Email me a quick note and tell me your news. Send to Lea at [lealouw@gmail.com](mailto:lealouw@gmail.com), or deliver to me at Meeting for Worship on Sunday. See you next month!

## This Month in Meeting for Worship

- June 5** Pentecost  
Oscar Mmbali  
Friends United Meeting Field Staff  
brings the message
- June 12** Promotion Sunday  
Bella Sturr  
University of Redlands Class of 2022  
brings the message
- June 19** Fathers Day  
Loletta Barrett brings the message  
*Son, Servant, or Slave?*  
Luke 7: 1-10
- June 26** Loletta Barrett brings the message  
*Rising*  
Luke 7: 11-17



At Monthly Meeting for May on May 15, we discussed returning to in-person Monthly Meeting, and we will continue to season this. Christian Education and

Outreach asked us to prayerfully consider hiring a staff member to coordinate outreach in the community, and we approved the forming of a study committee. We had an extended discussion about future goals of ministry. We are continuing our dialogue with the city of Whittier in regards to a memorial in Central Park that includes images of war. We reached unity in our enthusiasm to take part in Flourishing Friends, a new worship and discussion group connecting Quakers from all over the country.

Monthly Meeting for June is June 12, at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom.

**We welcome and encourage your comments as well as your contributions and photos for inclusion in The Living Light.**

**Kindly send your email to Elisabeth Elliot at [communiquaker@gmail.com](mailto:communiquaker@gmail.com).**

## Loletta's Lines

In June, we enter the season of the Meeting year that focuses on ministry. There are no holy days, so the Meeting focuses on Jesus' ministry and ours.

Quakers try to live deeply into Protestant belief that all members are ministers. This means we are all uniquely gifted and called by God. Now there are varieties of gifts...but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. The Meeting community helps us identify and strengthen our gifts and supports us in following Jesus, and the Spirit leads and empowers us to use them in service to God, others, the Meeting, and the world.

Our Meeting chooses to be a pastored meeting--with a "released ministry." This means we support a Friend financially, therefore releasing them from the concern of working in another place to earn a living so they can focus on serving as a pastor.

First Friends defined what they wanted in a pastor: a spiritual leader, someone to help them grow deeper in their Quaker identity, and a fellow traveler on the journey. There are specific pastoral tasks, but the gifts and tasks are not needed more than other ministries. The pastor is not CEO as is the case in some churches, and the pastor is not a hireling to "do church" for or instead of Friends. Our Meeting focuses the pastor's role in facilitating our spiritual life--to support and encourage all ministers.

A meeting is a collective of ministers who are growing and serving together. It is a dance with the Spirit in the lead. As a fellow traveler on the journey, I witness the amazing growth and blossoming of the gifts of Friends. A recent example was a group who spoke to oppose a memorial proposed for Central/Friends Park.

*Continued on page 5*





## Russ' Reflections

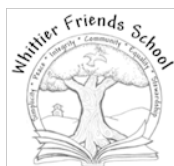
### Spirit Songs

This year during the month of June, I am planning Spirit music. This includes hymns, choral, and organ music. I want to draw your attention to the organ pieces. They are based on two German hymns, both translated from Latin by Martin Luther. *Komm, Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott* (Come Holy Ghost, Lord God) dates from 1524. I will play an ornamented setting by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707) on June 5. The other, *Komm, Gott, Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist* (Come, God, Creator, Holy Ghost), is based on the Latin hymn, *Veni Creator Spiritus* (Come Creator Spirit). On June 19, I will play a gentle arrangement of the Latin hymn by English composer, Noel Rawsthorne. On June 26, I will play an arrangement of the German version by Gunther Martin Götsche that is kind of jazzy. I played a version of this by Johann Pachelbel on May 2.

Hymns will include my setting of 688, *When God the Spirit Came, Uyai Mose* (Come All You People) by Alexander Gondo of Zimbabwe, and my setting of 587, *Of All the Spirit's Gifts*. The section leaders will sing 285, *For Your Gift of God the Spirit*, set to the beautiful Welsh tune, *Blaenwern*, associated in England with the text, *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*.

The section leaders will sing *Whirlwind Spirit*, a contemporary piece by Joel Raney and a Pentecost Chorale by J.S. Bach on June 5.

Other music will include my usual march on Promotion Sunday, an arrangement of *O Christ, the Healer* (Southern Harmony tune) by yours truly, and a hymn, *Healer of Our Every Ill*, by Marty Haugen. It is my hope that our musical offerings will lead you closer to the Spirit.



## News from Whittier Friends School

Summer is right around the corner for Whittier Friends School! Our school's plans for summer include full-day and half-day preschool for kids 2-5 years old, plus Summer Enrichment for elementary students. Summer preschool is a chance for the children to have the continuity of school routines, while getting to take part in fun activities. Summer Enrichment for elementary kids will occur on select weeks, Tuesday through Friday, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. It is an opportunity for kids to work on educational skills in a casual, multi-age setting, while getting a chance to socialize as well.

The School has been wrapping up the school year with some traditional events. In May, we experienced a virtual version of our annual silent auction occurring online over the course of a week, with an in-person performance on the last day of the auction. It was our first in-person performance since December 2019! Our elementary recognition and preschool graduations will be in-person again this year, too, outdoors. Coming up on June 8 is the last day of elementary school, with the recognition ceremony that evening at 6:00 p.m. Preschool graduation is planned for June 23, also at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to attend our ceremonies, contact Cassie at [cassie.wfs@gmail.com](mailto:cassie.wfs@gmail.com) for more information. They are always sweet opportunities for our community to share their appreciation of our students, and to see how much the kids value each other, too.

We are currently accepting applications for elementary and preschool, both for summer and the fall, but we are close to being full for summer! You can contact Cassie for enrollment information. We also appreciate financial support, in the form of checks, mailed to Whittier Friends School or the church (just write Whittier Friends School on the memo line). You can also use Paypal ([finance@whittierfriendsschool.org](mailto:finance@whittierfriendsschool.org)). And we always welcome visits to our Amazon wishlist.

--Cassie Caringella

*'Loletta's Lines' continued from page 3*

Each Friend spoke Truth; simply, from the heart, with eloquence. We did not know what the other would say, but we supported each other and Spirit ensured our words complimented each other. We didn't choose how we lined up to speak, but Spirit put us in perfect order.

Friends, I experience our ministry dance as quite exquisite. I am truly grateful you follow the best ministry advice: "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing!"

## **It's Always Friendly in Philadelphia**



I was blessed to attend the Friends Council on Education Heads Gathering in Philadelphia on April 26 and 27, with the generous support from the Meeting through the Durham Travel Fund. I am happy to share a bit about this trip, and how it supported my growth as both a Quaker and as a leader of our Meeting's school.

I have been attending almost monthly Zoom meetings with Friends Council on Education since April 2020, so I have developed a rapport with other individuals who take part, and it was great to finally meet these leaders in person. We are currently one of 76 independent Quaker schools that holds a membership, and I was one of 29 school leaders that were taking part.

The event began with the Friends Council on Education annual meeting luncheon (sponsored by CulinarGroup, the company that several of the Friends schools in the area utilize for school lunches), with many different people attending the meeting. The annual meeting included the honoring of FCE supporters, nominations and a Governance Committee presentation, and a report by Drew Smith, the executive director.

We then heard presentations by the graduates of the Leadership Institute, a cohort of upcoming Friends school leaders who go through a nomination and application process and then spend two years together supporting each other as



Raquel Allen  
Steven Bates  
Robert Borries  
Wyatt Bradley  
Alene Burke  
Nancy Cramer  
Iris Harris  
Taylor Hays  
Bryce Marshall  
Joe Mendoza  
Judith Nelson  
Bob Newton

Shane Purkiss  
Ethan Purkiss  
Thomas Purkiss  
Meghan  
Rollins-Davis  
Justin Singleton  
Isabella Sturr  
Sharon Sturr  
Weston Van Dorn  
Shirley Votaw  
Diane Wemmerus  
Sarah Wood

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

they conduct Action Research on a topic that is important to them.

There are four in-person retreats for this cohort over the course of two years. This year's presentations included such fascinating topics as Quaker Pedagogy for Teachers, Employees' Appreciation of Quaker Identity, Grading with Equity, and Climate Crisis and Activism as Professional Development. These Action Research findings are published and can be found on the FCE website.

After the Leadership Institute finished their presentations, we got to enjoy Meeting for Worship in the same place the presentations had been held, in historic Arch Street Meeting House, built in 1806.

*--Cassie Caringella*

*Look for more stories from Cassie's trip to Philadelphia next month in The Living Light.*

**Return Service Requested**  
**Postmaster: send address changes to:**  
**The Living Light**  
**Whittier First Friends Church**  
**13205 Philadelphia St**  
**Whittier, CA 90601-4384**

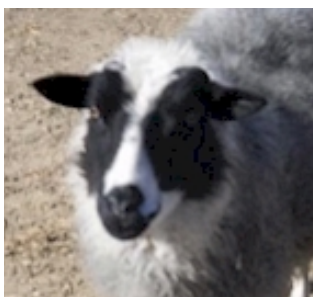
**Periodicals**  
**Postage Paid at**  
**Whittier, California**

**The Living Light**  
**USPS 316-320**  
**Volume 61 Number #6**  
**Issue Date: June 1, 2022**

The Living Light is published monthly by  
Whittier First Friends Church, 13205  
Philadelphia Street, Whittier, California,  
90601-4303.

Periodical postage paid at Whittier, California.

Elisabeth Elliot, Editor  
Candice Ryder, Copy Editor  
Loletta Barrett, Pastor  
Russell Litchfield, Dir of Music Ministries and  
Organist  
Lorenzo Mora, Custodian  
Telephone 562-698-9805  
FAX 562-698-1127  
[www.firstfriendswhittier.org](http://www.firstfriendswhittier.org)  
Whittier Friends School Staff  
Candice Ryder, School Committee Clerk  
562-945-1654



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

## **Here's Looking at You!**

*We have some special guests  
coming to Peace Day. See Page 1  
to read all about us.*



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