Ephelsians 5:9

Volume 58, Number 7

Whittier First Friends Church

July/August, 2019

Blazingly Alive

Moving On and Moving Inside

As the school year ends, we love to hear from our graduating seniors and young people about their journey thus far and how being a Quaker is incorporated and understood in their daily life. At Promotion Sunday this year, Jacy Purkiss brought us a beautiful message about how she found herself in the silence. While in college, she was introduced to an unprogrammed meeting in Santa Barbara, and while she felt a bit uncomfortable with the silence at first, she came to enjoy this time of stillness and seeking clarity about the issues that surrounded her. Jacy is currently attending an unprogrammed meeting in San Diego while pursuing her doctorate and she continues to learn and be open to the spirit as it presents itself to her.

Jennifer Bermudez and Cassie Caringella introduced the children and youth that participated in the Sunday school program this past year. Copies of *The Quaker Book of Wisdom: Life Lessons in Simplicity, Service and Common Sense* were given to our college graduates, Sydney Summers, Josh Fant and Weston Van Dorn.

The Mildred Votaw Jessup scholarships to help those planning on college and currently in college with educational expenses were given to Amanda Cramer, who is currently attending Rio Hondo College; Samantha Cramer, attending California State University Fullerton, and Bella Sturr, who will begin her second year at the University of Redlands in the fall.

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Energized, refreshed and joyful are some of the words that Bella Sturr and I can use to describe our experience at the 2019 Stoking the Fire gathering held at Quaker Hill Conference Center and the Friends United Meeting offices in Indiana.

Our program included worship, workshops, small group discussions and personal rest and renewal time. The worship leaders included Kelly Kellum, Doug Gwyn, Bob Henry, Katie Ubry-Terrel, Mary Kay Glazer and Richard Sitate. Each stirred up the embers with their own spiritual spark, poking the fire when needed with thoughtful queries such as "What would happen if we really caught on fire and became 'blazingly alive?" Are we ready for that? The worship and the gathered silence were deep and meaningful times and the spirit was palpable.

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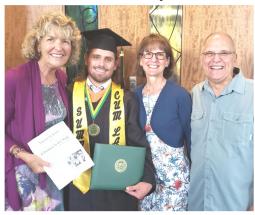
Bella Sturr, Lynda Ladwig and Stanley Ngesa Chagala share fellowship at Stoking the Fire.

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, Summer is in full swing, and how are you celebrating?

Friends Graduate: Elyse Woirhaye graduated from Whittier Friends School and will be attending Rancho Starbuck Intermediate School in the fall. Joshua Fant,

pictured with his mom, Marilyn, and Anne & Harry Eggleton, graduated summa cum laude from Interamerican University in Puerto Rico with his



Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Weston Van Dorn graduated from Riverside City College with an Associate of Arts in Communications, Linguistics and Sociology. Sydney Summers graduated with honors from Whittier College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater and Music. Later that day, Sydney sang a solo at the New Century Singers concert, being one of three scholarship winners in the choir's annual voice competition. Sydney's mother Gwen Stegelstrom and sister Lauren traveled from Corcoran, MN, for the occasion. Liz Ellis made a quick trip to visit her son Mark and his family in Austin, TX, for the high school graduation (with honors) of her grandson Toby. He will attend the University of Texas, Dallas, in the fall. Emlyn Torres will graduate in August with a Masters degree in Communications from Northwestern University. Any other graduates? Let us know.

Friends About Town: Deanna Woirhaye was very joyous to learn that she earned 1st and 2nd place in Photography for some new framed images at the Whittier Art Gallery Summer Show.

Friends Visit: On May 19, Stanley Ngesa Chagala visited First Friends. Stanley comes from Vihiga Yearly Meeting in Kenya but has been enrolled in the doctorate program at the Earlham School of Religion since January. He was on his way to receive his Master in Divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary. With him were his daughter, Faith Lobwota and her three children, Emmy, Naomi and Isaiah, who are living in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Upon learning that the children wanted to visit Disneyland before leaving California, Michael & Elisabeth Elliot

were happy to be able to present them with complimentary tickets. Elisabeth and several other members of the Meeting have gotten to know Stanley through Friends United Meeting Triennial and Stoking the Fire.

School and Work News: Lynda Bates was thrilled that her Fluff Buddies organization (see <u>fluffbuddies.org</u>) was recognized by the PetcoFoundation for their lifesaving work! They recently received an amazing \$10,000 grant to assist in the care of foster kitties, especially those with special or additional medical needs. She sends a huge thank you to the greater Fair Oaks Petco community for their wonderful, ongoing support over the past 15 years! Lyn Beede Gruber attended the 40th reunion of her 1979 high school class at the Olney Friends School in Barnesville, OH on the weekend of May 25.

Friends Travel: This summer the ABCDEGM Woirhaye Family, (can you figure out all those initials?-Anathea, Brendon, Cedric, Deanna, Elyse, Gwen and Mahlon), will be traveling once again to Ashland, OR, for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and then later to Laguna Beach to catch up on some much needed R&R. ABCDE Woirhaye plan to add a journey to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, because Cedric thought it would be a good idea.

Friends Celebrate: The Wrights & Caringellas

celebrated Fathers Day with the Van Dorns in Moreno Valley. Here are Avalon, Landon and Steven Caringella trying out the zipline at Shadow Mountain Park with a copy of *The Living Light* continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)



Friends Remember: Prayers for the family and friends of Carlos Bailey who passed to new life on May 31 at the age of 105! We look forward to remembering Carlos in a future issue of *The Living Light* as memorial arrangements are pending at press time.

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!

July and August in Meeting for Worship

Summer Schedule 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

	•
July 7	A good old-fashioned hymn sing with Candice Ryder and Russ Litchfield
July 14	Tom Purkiss brings the message Friends in Recovery
July 21	Diane Wemmerus brings the message Being Jesus
July 28	Loletta Barrett facilitates Reflections from First Friends in Mission
August 4	A musical meeting for worship with Iris Harris and Lynda Ladwig
August 11	TBDBLOS (To Be Determined by the Leading of the Spirit)
August 18	Bella Sturr and Lynda Ladwig facilitate Cycle of Grace with Occasional Consort
August 25	Elisabeth Elliot brings the message Cultured Cheese
September 1	Loletta Barrett and Lynda Ladwig facilitate Questions Are Good! A Very Query Day



At Monthly Meeting for June on June 9, the Envisioning Group reported on a roundtable discussion with members of the group and millennial members and

attenders of the Meeting. This generation is having a huge crisis in faith and it is up to the Meeting to do a better job at communicating using social media, online sources of information and email. Among the reasons expressed for their continued relationship with the Meeting is that they "get to ask questions here"! The Business and Finance committee reported a strong month. Trustees requested to be tasked with researching greater and more reliable wi-fi coverage throughout our property. This will become increasingly important as groups who rent our facilities require it and this would open many doors for outreach including interactive remote gatherings. We discussed how best to address the proposed HUD policy change that a family could be made ineligible for aid if one member of the family is not eligible.

Loletta's Lines

I had an interesting experience recently. I entered a chapel; beautiful sacred space, white marble with vaulted ceilings, small windows placed high in the walls, each a different rainbow color, and dramatic abstract sculptures of earth, sea, stars and radiating sun luring in worshippers. A space of awe, reverence and worship. As we



gathered, worshipped, fellowshipped and conducted business, there were different experiences, but not too far outside the usual music, people, words, and ideas. Noise rose and fell, echoed and bounced, and filled every space.

But later when I fled the space for outdoors and the relative quiet of street noise; I was wildly vibrating. Not just ears, mind, and spirit. My body was shaking from the inside-out. If you ever had way too much caffeine (I hadn't—well, *that* day) you have an inkling. To say I was uncomfortable is a vast understatement. I was shaken, stirred, shivering, quivering, quaking, wobbling, agitated, unsettled, unnerved, and disturbed down to the cellular level. What happened?

Maybe it was the "differentness," but I had been there, met the people and experienced that business and worship before. Perhaps it is related to the message I brought a few weeks ago "When Foundations Are Shaken;" when chaos swirls and everything we believe is challenged. Or maybe it was Spirit calling me to pay attention. Maybe both, because I missed the church work for justice.

I am reading Thomas Kelly's "The Eternal Promise." Kelly says we need worship and action, listening and struggle, mystical experience and the social gospel. True worship leads to social passion and activity. "Love of God and love of neighbor are not two commandments but one... [church, worship, mysticism] is not ...the source of... world-flight, but of the most intensely 'practical' Christianity..."

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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.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



We're heading off to New Mexico on July 14.

We will board the train in Fullerton and head off to Gallup, New Mexico. From there, it'll be rental cars and a 35-minute drive to our destination—the St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School in Thoreau, New Mexico. We will help with projects that the Mission has already started. The St

Bonaventure Mission is one of the recipients of money that comes from Dig Deep, a non-profit set up to help with water projects. Friends will remember that the youth gave a contribution to Dig Deep from the candy sale proceeds last Christmas.

Upon returning, we won't have any time to relax because all youth volunteers will immediately go into Peace Camp. July will definitely be a month of service.

On June 30, we took some time for fun fellowship with a lunch-and-a-movie date to see *Toy Story 4* following Meeting for Worship.

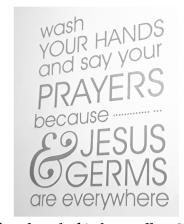
In August, we hope to get in a beach trip before everyone is back in school

—Lynda Ladwig

Moving On...' continued from page 1

Affirming the gifts and talents of others is a gift for both the giver and the recipient. The Davidson Award for encouraging children, youth and young adults to share their gifts is under the care of the Christian Education committee and this year, Ashley Ryder and Charley Aguirre, were recognized for their gifts and contribution to our Meeting.

—Lynda Ladwig



Wisdom found on the kitchen wall at Quaker Hill.
Photo by Lynda Ladwig.



Summer is in full swing but that doesn't mean Whittier Friends School students have nothing to do. This summer we challenged our students to do at least thirty—or as many as possible!—adventures on our "75+ Summer Adventures for Kids" list. This list includes such classic summer favorites as "read a book at a park" or "make fruit popsicles and eat them." Taking the place of the traditional summer homework packet that our school gives to students, we hope this challenge inspires our kids to get out in the world and learn from experiences. It is also in line with our two-year-old policy of reducing homework assigned at our school. If you want to play along with our challenge, see the full list at whittierfriendsschool.org.

We encourage people taking part to post pictures of them enjoying these activities on social media, using the hashtag #WFSsummer19 and #whittierfriendsschool as well as tagging us @whittierfriendsschool.

Along with our summer adventures challenge, WFS is active with our second annual summer enrichment program. During select weeks throughout the summer, this program meets Monday through Thursday from noon to 3:00 p.m. and allows our students, graduating preschoolers, and former students an opportunity to socialize, play games, do arts & crafts, and practice reading and math skills (but shhhh...that last part is a secret!). It is not too late to join in with our last few sessions. If you have friends or family members who are looking for something fun for their kids to do, check us out! You can enroll by the week to balance with your other summer plans. The remaining dates are: July 8—July 11

July 15—18
July 29—August 1
August 5—8.

Talk to Cassie or Lea at WFS to arrange for attendance. Enrollment is \$70 per week per student and \$60 each for each additional sibling in a family.

—Cassie Caringella



July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 9:00a Trustees Meeting	3 6:00p Picnic in the Park	4	5 1:00p Peace Camp Planning Meeting	6
7	8 10:00a Quiltmakers 7:00p Concert in Central Park	9 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group	10 6:00p Picnic in the Park 6:30p Business & Finance Committee Meeting	11 700p Concert in Parnell Park	1:00p Peace Camp Planning Meeting	13 Friendly Fare Deadline
14 12:15p Monthly Meeting	15 Living Light Deadline 7:00p Concert in Central Park	16 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group	17 6:00p Picnic in the Park	18 700p Concert in Parnell Park	19 1:00p Peace Camp Planning Meeting	20
21 11:30a Music Committee Meeting	Peace Camp 10:00a Quiltmakers 7:00p Concert in Central Park	Peace Camp 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Ministry and Counsel Meeting	24 Peace Camp 10:00a Christian Education Committee Meeting 6:00p Picnic in the Park	25 Peace Camp 700p Concert in Parnell Park	26 Peace Camp	27 5:00p Ice Cream Social & Game Night
28	7:00p Concert in Central Park	30 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group	31 Living Light Folding		Schedule f Unprogrammed W Meeting for Worsl	-



Travis Allen Eric Bald Carrin Bouchard Cassie Caringella Jon-Paul Cook Allison Coop Amanda Cramer Harry Eggleton

Lynda Ladwig Elinore Petoletti Jane Takata Patty Tillman Marci Vaden Don Votaw Julia Weitkamp

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!

August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Schedule for Sundays Unprogrammed Worship — 8:30a Meeting for Worship — 10:00a				1 7:00p Concert in Parnell Park	2	3
4	5 7:00p Concert in Central Park	6 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 9:00a Trustees Meeting	7 6:30p Business & Finance Committee Meeting	8 7:00p Concert in Parnell Park	9	10
11 11:30a Monthly Meeting	12 10:00a Quiltmakers	13 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group	14	15 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal for "Train Day"	16	17
18 11:30a Music Committee Meeting	19	20 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group	21	22 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal for "Train Day"	23	24 9:00a WFS Parent/ Student Work Day
25	26 10:00a Quiltmakers	27 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Ministry & Counsel	28 8:15a WFS First Day of Elementary Classes 10:00 a.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting	29 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal for "Train Day"	30 2:00p Train Day Food Prep & Setup	31 10:00a "Train Day" Lunch & Musical Entertainment Fundraiser



Bishop Aereaux Trevor Allen Ellie Bewley George Bouchard Savanah Burke Mary Case Josh Fant Linda Flournoy Pat Garland

Laura Kaneko Alex Marshburn Emma McIntosh Jane Moody Bruce Nelson Tish Purkiss Gloria Rice Sandra Robison Jennifer Root Rob Settlage Bonnie Streeter Mel Sturr Tom Van Dorn Marylinn Wheatley Deanna Woirhaye Isaac Wright Philip Wright

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

Thank you!

Fellowship Picnics in the Park Wednesdays through July 31 at 6:00 p.m. Michigan Park

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at the corner of La Cuarta St. and Michigan Ave.

Bring food and drinks to share and your own table service.



The Kingdom of Bhutan, tucked away in the Eastern Himalayas between Tibet and India, is the closest approach on Earth to the fictional hidden valley of Shangri-La, as envisioned in James Hilton's novel "Lost Horizon." A small population of less than one million contented Bhutanese people live secure and peaceful lives under a benevolent king whose untiring efforts in seeing to the welfare of the country have endeared him to his people. A "real Shangri-La" is how Kathy Marin described Bhutan to a large All Friends Fellowship Night gathering on June 12.

Kathy visited Bhutan last February on an excursion that included India and Nepal. She and eight other intrepid tourists landed at Paro, the only major airport in the country, and proceeded to the capital, Thimphu. Her first impression was its wholesome and tidy décor, in contrast to many other Asian cities. Wood-and plaster traditional construction decorated with ornate painting in Buddhist symbolism was most attractive. Seen everywhere are stupas, or Buddist shrines, and chortens, the memorial monuments.

The Bhutanese people are welcoming and friendly, even though the country has been open to tourism for only a few decades. The Bhutanese language, Dzonkha, is related to Tibetan. Tibet has been the only cultural contact of Bhutan for many centuries. Because of its geographic isolation, Bhutan has escaped the cycles of conquest and colonialization of other Asian countries. Under their ruler, King Jigme Khesar, the country has made great progress in health care and education—the literacy rate in the underdeveloped eastern region has increased from 17 to 71% in only a few decades.

Kathy's party crossed the Dochula Pass at nearly 11,000 feet elevation. Her slide pictures showed stunning views of the High Himalayas—the Bhutan mountains rise to more than 26,000 feet. The group descended into the verdant Punakha Valley, where the Dzong, or government buildings are located in an impressive riverside setting. Half of the official building is a religious headquarters and monastery—this mixture of civil and religious authority characterizes Bhutanese society.



American Friends Service Committee--Join us in urging Congress to support legislation like the Shut Down Child Prison Camps Act and Families Not Facilities Act. This bill would prohibit the use of emergency influx facilities like the Homestead detention center and prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from sharing information with the Department of Homeland Security that could lead to the detention and deportation of family members or other sponsors willing to care for these children. afsc.org.

Friends General Conference—the Central Committee has resolved that in all decision-making, each body shall answer the following query with respect to each decision: "How does this decision support Friends General Conference in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?" **fgc.org**.

Friends World Committee for Consultation-Friends Church Dandora Sanctuary is officially open to the congregation. In a function presided over by the Presiding Clerk of the Nairobi Yearly Meeting, Stephen Magwilu, assisted by the Nairobi Yearly Meeting General Superintendent, Pastor Churchil Malimo, in February, the congregants were called upon to embrace Unity and forge peace amongst all. The Friends United Meeting Triennial gathering is July 12 through 18, 2020, in Kenya. fwcc.org and fum.org.

As part of the excursion, Kathy's party stopped near the "Tiger's Nest," a monastery perched on a sheer cliff-face at 10,000 feet. Kathy and four companions successfully undertook the dizzying and arduous trek up to the monastery, with the result that fortunate AFFN-goers got a rare peek into a picturesque habitat rarely seen by westerners.

Kathy is a member of the Whitleaf Friends meeting. She has previously described some of her world travels to AFFN audiences. The bounteous preprogram potluck supper organized by Mary Marshburn helped to create an exciting travelogue evening.

—Bob Newton

On Our Calendar	
Affirmation Sunday	September 8
Peace Café	October 5
World Quaker Day Outreach Sunday	October 6

ALL FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

All Friends Fellowship Night is on summer hiatus. See you on Wednesday, September 11 for an evening of food and fellowship.

What's A Gym Ball Chair?

Starting July 7, our Meeting will once again take part in the Friends United Meeting Summer Mission Project.

The Project this year is building a world in which all people feel welcome. We'll help do our part in this goal through making some physical improvements on the Upper and Lower Campus of Ramallah Friends School.

These improvements include:

- A ramp for the entrance of the Administration Building to allow students with physical disabilities to enter the building.
- An escalator chair between the 1st and 2nd floors of the Administration Building. The chair will give all students access to the second floor, where music and art are taught and where the computer labs and the library are housed.
- · Convert bathrooms for accessibility.
- Provide gym ball chairs that allow students to wiggle without being disruptive, and are effective in helping students with attention disorders to focus.

So bring your small bills to Meeting for Worship every Sunday to help the students at Ramallah Friends School.



These are gym ball chairs.

Loletta's Lines' continued from page 3

The business of the church is not just worship (and handling administrative affairs), it is doing justice. "...each needs the other ...if the social implications of Christ's way have not become widely clear to those whose thoughts have loved to linger with God, we pray for a fuller interpretation of the heavenly vision of the earthly round. But as certainly, if we have become strong in world betterment and...in feeding the hungry and clothing the naked ...we need to root these things more deeply in the heavenly vision of divine vistas..."

Kelly calls us to the integrated life. I really want that for me and our Meeting. "...life lived out from an all-embracing center of motivation... coordination of all one's powers, within a singleness of commitment." Maybe that was why I was vibrating...too much literal and figurative "noise" bouncing around looking for singleness of commitment.

This summer's worship experiences will combine all the best elements of tradition, music, speaking, silence and surprise and will be facilitated by various members of the Ministry & Counsel committee, the meeting, staff and the leading of the Spirit.

"Blazingly Alive" continued from page 1

Workshops were varied and enriching with subjects such as Photography for Spiritual Practice, Does Truth Prosper, Welcoming the Stranger, Prayer without Ceasing? Praying the Jesus Prayer, Healing 101, and How I Became An Accidental Missionary were offered. The only difficulty with the workshops was that we could choose two. Bella and I each enjoyed the participation in the small group discussions and sharing. While the bigger groups were worthwhile, it was in these small groups where friendships were made and will continue to be cherished.

During our free time, Bella and I joined a group of about 15 others who travelled to the Levi and Catherine Coffin House and Historic Site. If you get a chance to go there, it



is an eye-opening experience to see the creativity, craftsmanship, courage and commitment these friends and their community gave to the Underground Railroad.

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Elisabeth ElliotEditor
Marie KanekoCopy Editor
Loletta BarrettPastor
Lynda LadwigAssociate Pastor
& Christian Education Coordinator
Russell Litchfield
Dir of Music Ministries & Organist
Mary Boltz Office Administrator
Lorenzo MoraCustodian
Telephone 562-698-9805
FAX 562-698-1127
www.firstfriendswhittier.org

Whittier Friends School Staff Marie Kaneko.....School Committee Clerk 562-945-1654

ALL ABOARD THE PEACE TRAIN!



PEACE CAMP

For the children in our lives July 22 to 26

Call the church office to enroll or volunteer



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

Peggy Anderson
Jack Carlisle
Ruth Marshall
Rose Nedrow
Kathy & Klane Robison
Ann Smith
Ami Troedsson
Carol Urner
Gerry Wolfe