

THE LIVING LIGHT

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

Volume 63, Number 07

Whittier First Friends Church

7th Month, 2024

Promotion Sunday 2024

Promotion Sunday is an annual occasion to honor and celebrate First Friends youth and young scholars in Meeting for Worship with certificates, awards, and recognition. On June 23, Marilyn Fant, clerk of Christian Education and Outreach prefaced this year's presentation by saying, "What a joy for all of us to watch them grow in the Spirit!" CEO Committee members are responsible for reviewing and approving the honorees each year.

Children Participation Certificates were presented to Adrian Day, Annabell Day, Kisa Doten, Robert Doten, and Hudson Caringella. Youth Participation Certificates were awarded to Elyse Woirhaye, Landon Caringella, and Avalon Caringella.

Each year, junior high and high school candidates are considered for the Davidson Award, a monetary gift from an endowed fund provided by the generosity of friends and family of Larry, Lucy, and George Davidson. This award is in recognition of students that use their gifts to serve the meeting. "In addition to artistic talents, the recipients are honored for displaying leadership, sharing humor and joy, exhibiting dependability and being faithful in attendance." This year's recipients are Elyse Woirhaye and Landon Caringella. It is also traditional for the meeting to congratulate college graduates with



a Quaker themed book to add to their personal bookshelves. This year, Anatheia Woirhaye graduated from the University of Redlands in May and has accepted an internship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. She was able to join the meeting online from New York to greet Friends and express her gratitude, joy, and hope for the future.. She will be receiving a copy of "Mothers of Feminism, The Story of Quaker Women in America" by Margaret Hope Bacon as well as a copy of "Healing Haunted Stories, A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization" by Elaine Enns and Ched Myers.

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Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, Welcome to summer. It gets here so quickly, and it's over before we can make plans. I'm so excited that Dan & I renewed our passports this year. But unfortunately, we have no plans to use them this year. It's so hard to leave everything and everyone behind and get away for even a short time. Until we decide when and where to go, maybe I'll just enjoy looking at my passport. Hmm, simple pleasures.

Friends About Town: On May 26, **Dan** and **Milt**



Wright drove the 1921 Studebaker to the All Studebaker Car Show at La Palma Park in Anaheim. There were

Studebaker Cars and trucks from the 20's through the 60's with over 80 in attendance. This is the 50th year for this gathering in Anaheim. Here they are with *The Living Light* continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)

Jo Nita Beede is very excited to be moving ever closer to finishing up design and content for



production of her first self-produced album "Winter Fires." On it are six originals and nine songs by some of her favorite writers. She loved the whole process of recording in two professional

studios with talented, seasoned engineers and musicians. She looks forward to bringing this project into the Light. **Deanna Woirhaye** was very honored to have her image of a juvenile

Nuttall's Woodpecker ("Woody's Kin") earn 1st Place in Photography at the Whittier Art Gallery's June Summer Show 2024.

Friends Move:

Anathea Woirhaye

has moved to New York City. She has secured an

apartment and has been seeing friends

including **Elisabeth Elliot**, **Steven** and **Landon Caringella**, and **Amara Overmeyer-Velasquez** as they travel through town.

School and Work: **Avalon Caringella** graduated from 5th grade on June 12, completing her 8th and final year at Whittier Friends School. Her classmates selected her for the "Scholarly Award," an award well-earned due to her tremendous effort in class. She looks forward to exploring art opportunities at Benton Middle School next year. **Landon Caringella** graduated 8th grade from Benton Middle School on June 5.

He collected numerous awards, including Co-Salutatorian (delivering a speech he wrote at graduation!), A's in all of his honors classes, and straight A's in 8th grade. He also collected several awards in the Drama Department. Landon and dad **Steven Caringella** enjoyed an 8-night trip to the East Coast to culminate Landon's 8th grade experience. They visited dozens of historical sites with more than 60 students from Landon's graduating class.

Friends Remembered: We learned that **Sue Settlege** passed to new life on June 24, 2024. Please hold Rob, Sue's family and friends in the Light. We hope to celebrate her life sometime in July.

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 in September! (*The Living Light* is taking August off.)



Loletta's Lines



Summer - A time to relax and take time away from the things of the year, do different summer-type things, and maybe even take a vacation! No choir, no meetings for learning, no discussion groups;

skip a monthly meeting and a committee meeting. Yet we have picnics, concerts, Peace Camp Day, and organ recitals weekly. And, don't forget our George Fox birthday celebration in July! It is a time of fun and summer fellowship. How good it is to be among Friends! It is a Sabbath of sorts as we step back from some programming and get into un-programmed time.

Let it be a time for rest, relaxation, and deeply breathing in the love and joy of the Presence. Listen to the birds, the cicadas, and wind in the trees. Inhale delicious scents of life in full bloom, and revel in the joy found in voices of both younger and older humans. Let us also take time to listen in quiet stillness and peace to the Spirit. Where is She leading our meeting and our own ministries in the next months of our lives; how do we remain deeply faithful to the lure of the One in whom we live and move and have in our being?

Perhaps we can listen even more in the summer than when we are in our "church year." We can hear better when we are not rushing and anxious about all the things we need to do, and we are simply waiting in worship with our hearts open to God. "Be still, and know... I will be with you in the stillness of your soul." Friends know God is in every moment and place, every person and creature, and in our minds and hearts, always. See you in the summer!

Summer Organ Concert Series - 2024



Beginning July 2nd and ending August 6th, Russ Litchfield will be offering a series of Organ recitals on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm in our Meeting House. They will be wide ranging in repertoire. An offering will be taken to benefit our Organ Fund. Each concert will conclude with the singing of a hymn together.

July 2 - Music by J.S. Bach, including the *Passacaglia* and *Fugue in C minor*, a trio sonata, the *Fantasia in G*, and two sung arias from the *Mass in B minor* with Rita Barakat and Jonathan Trimble.

July 9 - Out of This World, will include music from the Star Trek series, Interstellar, and, perhaps, a star hymn or two.

July 16 - Iberia and Italia, will feature music from Spain and Italy.

July 23 - Hymn Arrangements from Then to Now will consist of a variety of organ pieces based on hymn tunes.

July 30 - Music by Cesar Franck: the Three Chorales, his final organ works.

August 6 - Music for Solo Handbells and Organ/Piano will feature Linda Krantz with Russ accompanying.



News from Whittier Friends School



Whittier Friends School wrapped up the school year with two field trips and two meetings for recognition. Our first trip, on May 31, was to the Bailey House, the

home of Whittier's - and First Friends Church's - founders, Jonathan and Rebecca Bailey. Fourteen children and 11 adults attended this special trip, including Whittier Friends School Committee Clerk Candice Ryder and First Friends Church Pastor Loletta Barret. On this trip, the children got a hands-on chance to try some 1880's chores, such as scrubbing and wringing out laundry and grinding corn; plus they got to try some old-fashioned children's games like Jacob's Ladder and jump rope. They also got a chance to tour the old ranch house, seeing the furniture, photos, and curiosities of the Baileys and their descendants. The children were eager to inform the docents that the original bench from the porch of the Bailey House is in the room where their class meets for chapel every week!

The final WFS field trip for the year was our annual trip to Mother's Beach in Marine Park, Long Beach. It was a joy having 12 elementary children attend, plus 4 preschool students, 1 former student, 2 siblings, and 14 adults in attendance. Though it was very chilly (Thank you, June Gloom!), the children enjoyed their antics in the water, and the parents enjoyed conversations with each other.

Whittier Friends School Elementary held their Meeting for Recognition on Wednesday,

June 12. The children sang "You've Got a Friend in Me" (From *Toy Story*), "Try Everything" (from *Zootopia*), and "When Can I See You Again?" (from *Wreck - it Ralph*). Younger children read motivational quotes from Disney movies while older children read some of their favorite excerpts from the novels they read in class, such as *Tuck Everlasting* and *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. Besides recognizing staff, donors, parents, and the School Committee, the children also recognized each other with awards they helped choose. These awards gave them a chance to celebrate the unique gifts they recognize in their classmates.

WFS Preschool's Graduation was on Friday, June 21, with 10 graduates honored. Though some of these children will go on to public school, we are pleased that a few will stick around with us in our TK/Kindergarten program. The children sang "A Tooty Ta" and "My Itsy Bitsy Preschool," and like the Elementary students, all children - even those not graduating yet - received certificates recognizing a unique quality they exhibit. At Whittier Friends School, we celebrate not just the accomplishments of our children, but also their individuality. What a special group of students we have grown to care about this year!

We continue enrollment for the elementary 2024-2025 school year, as well as our Elementary Summer Enrichment Program, which will occur from June 24 through August 8. Weekly summer enrichment themes will include such topics as Ocean, Zoo, and Fairy Tales. Families can sign up for whichever weeks they are interested in attending. You can find information about our enrollment processes for summer and fall at, whittierfriendsschool.org, or by emailing cassie.wfs@gmail.com

As always, you can follow Whittier Friends School's adventures on Facebook: facebook.com/whittierfriendsschool/ Instagram: instagram.com/whittierfriendsschool/ and visit our wishlist at amzn.to/2QK8Yp8

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In 1985, the family of Mildred Votaw Jessup, a beloved Sunday school teacher at FFC, requested that a scholarship fund be established in her name. The funds are intended to assist with the purchase of books and general supplies to aid those students continuing their education. For the past 38 years, Christian Education Committee has put out a call for applications from new high school graduates and continuing college students interested in receiving this support. This year's recipients are Cedric Woirhaye and Ashley Ryder. Cedric attends California Polytechnic University, Pomona, with a long-term goal of establishing a career in the edible insect farming industry in order to make a positive impact on the environment. Ashley attends Rio Hondo Community College taking classes in child development and working at the Whittier Friends School, with a long-term goal of pursuing a career as an early childhood educator.

Congratulations to all!

**Bob and Sabron Newton
Send Greetings**



O Love That Will Not Let Us Go! We are deeply moved by the love and moral support from our dear Whittier Friends. Leaving them was a great wrench, softened by the knowledge

that we still belong.

We are getting used to the extravagant greenery of this area. We didn't realize before moving what a beautiful place this is. Friends Home is a community of about 400, about half

Quakers. There is an extensive woodland with a small river bordering the residence, with a vast meadow/pasture beyond. The Sandy Spring Meeting House is about a mile away, accessible by road or rustic trail. Halfway to the Meeting House is the Sandy Spring - a little puddle at the bottom of a hollow. A sign at the spring says it was a stopping point on the Underground Railroad.

We have been to Meeting for Worship twice. Our first visit brought two surprises. Meghan Roush, our regular attender from Whittier College, was present and I recognized her (and vice versa). Turns out she is from Sandy Spring - her folks are stalwart members here. Tom Taylor from Ann Arbor, MI, introduced himself. Tom brought a memorable October celebration event to First Friends several years ago. He introduced us to the Swahili hymn Mungo Pendo which Russ followed up on several times at Meeting.

The cute little town of Olney is only three miles away. Our car arrived a week after we got here. I still have to get a Maryland drivers' license. Olney has everything - two huge markets rivaling Ralph's, Bank of America, State Farm, a complete-care medical center. Our son Ben lives 20 miles away in Columbus. He helped us greatly to get relocated.

The residents here are very friendly - several have taken special interest in making us feel welcome. There are lots of special events - outdoor suppers, movies, sing-along evenings, a small Sunday worship group, and Midweek Meeting for Worship.

I was especially touched that you earmarked some of your last Peace Café contributions to Right Sharing in honor of us. That must have pleased Jackie Stillwell - she counts on Whittier Friends for continued support. She wrote us a personal thank you.

We feel the love of our California Friends from 3000 miles away!

~ Bob and Sabron Newton

Peace Cafe Returns in Person

On Saturday, May 25, the return of the first live Peace Cafe since the pandemic pause, was a resounding success by all accounts. Over 60 people attended the evening held in Fellowship Hall filled with music, poetry, stories, food, and crafts, and over \$500 was raised (after covering basic expenses) in order to support this year's Peace Day Festival - a kid's event to be held on July 20 at FFC. This year, in addition to First Friends participants, friends, family, and those from the community, we were joined and supported by many from the Mission Collaborative Group.

Jo Nita Beede coordinated the "open-mic" entertainment program. The talented musical performances included lively ukulele pieces by "Susie Q and the Vagrant" and by Cynthia. There was a contemplative flute recital by Mike Whitehorse, and guitar with vocal sets were performed by several musicians - Johnny Hendricks, Laurie Falter, Holly Overin, Jo Nita Beede, and Mark Moran. The Woirhaye family sang a Tongva song accompanied by Mike Whitehorse on the native flute, and Deanna sang a Tongva song a capella. Russ Litchfield taught and led the audience in a round of "Da Pacem Cordium" ("Give Peace to Every Heart").

Poetry reciters included Lyn Mulligan with three poems from her recently published book, Loletta Barrett with an original, and Elisabeth Elliot from Walt Whitman. George Lopez, a local published author, read one of his stories, and one of the crafters, Helen, told her personal narrative of how she recovered from trauma during the pandemic by making 1,000 paper cranes. Pastor Loletta poignantly shared how Bob Newton, who recently moved with his wife to Maryland, had for years supported Right Sharing of World Resources at Peace Cafe by selling trinkets that he had found on his infamous hikes. Jo Nita also read audience responses to queries on the tables asking about their own personal thoughts and experiences regarding peace.



Crafters included Helen, who sold her handmade jewelry in addition to her paper crane creations, Barbara Covell with hand-sewn creations, and Barbara's husband, Bill, with his uniquely hand-crafted premium writing pens. Holly brought her mother's (Janet Church) original artwork, and Deanna offered a beautiful array of greeting cards featuring her own original photography as well as handmade jewelry by her father, Jerry. Additionally, Russ Litchfield manned a table with information about FCNL and Right Sharing of World Resources.

Many thanks go to all who attended, performed, participated, and volunteered. Special recognition goes to Carrin Bouchard for planning the menu, George Bouchard for working the sound system, Marilyn Fant, Candice Ryder, and Loletta Barrett for their work in the kitchen, Ashley Ryder for being greeter, and to Jo Nita Beede for her work in promoting and organizing the event. Thank you, also, to Elyse Woirhaye for creating the promotional poster, and to Bose Robinson for sharing her marketing and styling talents. Many thanks, also, to members of the Mission Collaborative for their loving and generous support.



Our annual summer mission project will start July 7, in Fellowship Hall and end on September 15, when we return to the Meeting House. We will present five projects that are happening in Cuba, Africa, and Belize. Friends will be invited to learn about the projects and indicate their support with their donations as Spirit leads. Check out the display!



Peace Day tradition continues!

Join us on **Saturday, July 20th, from 10 - 1pm**, for our 3rd annual Peace Day Family Festival.

Spread the word - Invite Family and Friends!!

Children of all ages and their parents are invited to learn about how to "Be the Peace" needed in the world today.

The event will feature:

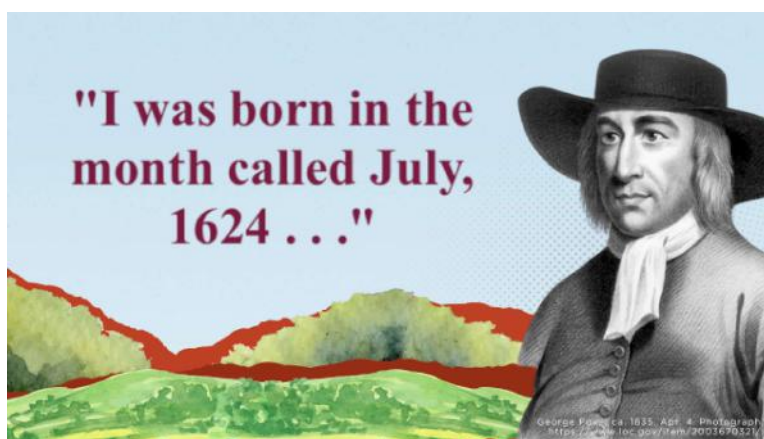
- **Petting Zoo**
- **Crafts**
- **Games**
- **Prizes**
- **Stories**



Get Ready to Celebrate George's Big 4-0-0!

It's George Fox's 400th birthday, and we'll be celebrating throughout July with Fox-centric messages and activities during Sunday morning worship. The month kicks off on July 7, when Diane Wemmerus brings the message: "What Does George Fox Say" followed by a birthday cake during coffee hour. Elisabeth Elliot will speak about Fox's writings on July 14, and on July 21, Loletta will bring a message entitled "Great Man, Fantastic Woman" focusing on the influence of Margaret Fell Fox. We will finish off the month-long celebration with Open Worship Sunday on July 28. George, you don't look a day over 399! For more information about celebrations worldwide, visit:

<https://fwcc.world/fox>



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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!