

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 08

Whittier First Friends Church

September, 2024

Summer Events



As the summer season draws to a close, it is time to reflect on fond memories. One recurring event that brought joy and fellowship to local friends were the traditional picnics in Michigan Park. Each Wednesday evening, a faithful group gathered in the shade of the huge trees to share a variety of main dishes, salads, fruit, and desserts. Meals were complemented by lively conversation, interesting anecdotes, and lighthearted humor, enticing some of us to linger long after the meal was over. Although the picnics are done for now, fellowship opportunities will continue with All Friends Fellowship night on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Check your email for more details in the weekly newsletter.



Another unforgettable event was the third annual Peace Day Family Festival, an outgrowth of our traditional Peace Camp for kids. Held on Saturday, July 20, from 10 to 1 pm on the First Friends Church Campus, this year's theme was "Be the Peace." This family friendly event featured opportunities for children and their families to participate in art projects, such as coloring a kindness mural, painting peace rocks, and creating peace-themed sidewalk chalk art, as well as discovering the calming magic of bubbles and learning about peace through stories, songs, and games. The favorite stop for most was the petting zoo, which was made possible by the generosity of Peace Cafe participants this past June.

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, It's been another summer of fun with family and Friends. I have heard from many folks about their fun times this summer including Monday night concerts, the Wednesday picnics with Friends at Michigan Park, so many other concerts in the park, and even Shakespeare in the park. As I write about everyone's adventures, I can't help but wish I had more to share, so if you haven't already, please share your news, too.

Friends Celebrate: Cassie & Steven Caringella

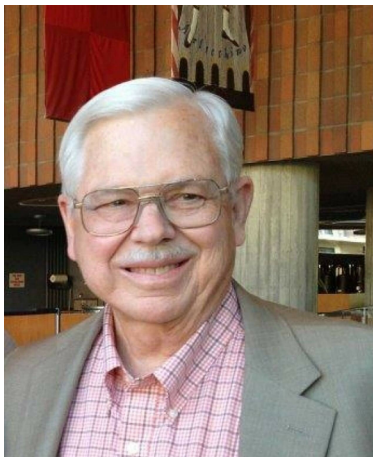


got away to San Diego for an extended weekend for an early 15 year anniversary celebration.

During that time, their kids **Landon, Avalon** &

Hudson Caringella enjoyed a sleepover with grandma **Lea** & grandpa **Dan Wright**.

School and Work: Friends have resumed school already, many with new adventures ahead. **Jenna Sturr** started graduate school at San Jose State. **Landon Caringella** has started high school at La Mirada High, and **Avalon Caringella** now attends Benton Middle School.



Ashley Ryder continues her studies in Child Development at Rio Hondo College.

Friends At Home: Iris & David Harris enjoyed hosting their son **Clint** and his family - wife **Alyssa**, and kids **Lily**, and

Luke - for a quick visit July 19 - 21, for the first time ever. What a special visit that was! And that leads us into **Friends Remember:** Please hold **Iris, Clinton, Marina**, and other family members in the Light as **David Harris** passed to new life on August 1, 2024. There was a celebration of life at First Friends on August 24, and we will read more about him next month.

Friends Travel: Kathy Marin and her granddaughters,

Isa and **Ana**, sent greetings from the Netherlands.

Here they are with the Living Light continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels."



(Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)

Candice & Bill Ryder took a driving trip to Monterey, with

stops in San Luis Obispo on the way up and Solvang on the way back. They also enjoyed a visit to the Huntington Botanical Gardens for their anniversary on August 12. The



Woirhaye family, including **Mahlon, Loren, Brendon, Cedric, Elyse**, and **Deanna**, traveled to Wyoming for a family wedding followed by jaunts to Utah and Oregon to attend Shakespeare Festivals. Cedric is noted to have heavily contributed to driving

Loletta's Lines



Welcome back! We have a lot of sharing about summer fun to do and a lot of fall fun to look forward to!

I have been thinking about connecting with Friends. There is never enough time to greet

everyone before or after meeting for worship, to catch Friends on Zoom, or visit with Friends who do not have Zoom access. There are never enough activities to gather with Friends and really chat. Being "ships passing in the night," definitely does not satisfy the heart.

I keep trying to expand the things I do to help connect with you. I send birthday cards (if we know your birthday!). I look at the attendance sheet and think about the lives of all who attend and try to visit those who cannot. I pray over the prayer list - the concerns and the joys. Finally, in Meeting for Worship, I look at the faces on-site and on Zoom, and I think about those who live permanently in God's Presence. This wraps my heart around you and I feel yours around me. Holding each other in prayer and in the Light every day, and in our private devotion time; greeting each other in Meetings for Worship; participating in activities whenever you can; reading the Living Light: how do you stay connected? Today I am enjoying *The Message* paraphrase of one of my favorite passages: Paul's greeting in his first letter to the Corinthians. "Every time I think of you—and I think of you often!—I thank God for your lives of free and open access to God...The evidence of Christ has been clearly verified in your lives." I wish I could have more time with all of you. But, I have the comfort of knowing God is with you, and the Light is shining through you. We can't have all the time we want with the ones we love, but God has given us plenty of other people to share God's love with!

Friendly Fare Continued from page 2

long distances during the time. Shortly after the family travels, Deanna set out on her own to attend the Friends World Plenary in Johannesburg, South Africa, this August where she met with Quakers from all around the world. She felt very connected to so many friends in the world Quaker community. On the way to the conference, she visited

Anathea in New York to celebrate Deanna's birthday before leaving the continent.

Deanna really enjoyed having a "behind the scenes" look at the internship work Anathea is doing at the Metropolitan



Museum of Art

in New York City. After the conference in South Africa, Deanna had an opportunity to enjoy excursions around Johannesburg and to Kruger National Park observing the "big five" game animals. Deanna reports facing several difficult challenges along the way but is glad to be back with her home Quaker community in Whittier - with a broader new perspective. We look forward to hearing more about her travels at an upcoming AFFN event. **Loletta Barrett** traveled to Oregon for a memorial service and was able to stop in and visit **Ami Troedsson**, who sends her greetings.

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!

Russ' Reflections Music Update

The summer saw a bit of activity in the Music Ministry at First Friends. Russ Litchfield (that's me) presented six Organ Concerts that offered a variety of music to a faithful audience of Friends, returning music loving friends, and a few first-timers. The concerts included pieces by J.S. Bach, Baroque Spanish and Italian composers, Cesar Franck, music from Star Trek and other star music, music for solo handbells and organ, and an assortment of hymn-based organ compositions. Russ was joined by solo Bach singers, Jonathan Trimble and Rita Barakat, some singers of the chants for a Frescobaldi mass, and Linda Krantz, solo handbell artist. Each concert ended with the singing of a hymn together. The audiences varied from about 20 to around 50, and offerings to our Organ Fund were generous. We were able to stream a couple of the concerts: they have been viewed by a wider audience. I enjoyed working on an interesting repertoire and keeping my brain challenged over the summer. I look forward to other opportunities to present music for organ in the months ahead.

We had a much simpler musical offering this summer as the Meeting moved to Fellowship Hall for worship. The piano has been the principal instrument for prelude music. We have continued to sing a couple of hymns each week, and we sang some George Fox related songs to commemorate his 400th "birthday" in July. I took some vacation time in August/September but am looking forward to the return of the Friends Choir and a move back into the Meeting House in mid-September.

The Friends Choir will resume Sunday, September 15th, with rehearsal at 9 am in the



Music Room, moving to the Meeting House at 10 am to prepare for Meeting for Worship at 11 am. Our section leaders will be back, along with returning choir members and, possibly, a new voice or two. Please accept our invitation to join the choir. A bass or two would be especially welcome. If you are interested, please let me know so a folder of music may be prepared. We are planning a couple of Music Sundays and will sing in a variety of musical styles. And, if you're not in the choir, please join the hymn singing with verve - Quakers don't always have to be shy and retiring!

I commissioned an anthem from Jonathan Trimble, who just graduated from Whittier College. It is a setting for choir and organ of a John Greenleaf Whittier text, "Forgive, O Lord, Our Severing Ways," entitled *One Hope, One Faith*. In order that we can prepare it well, we will probably present it on World Quaker Day, October 6th.



Calling All WFS Alumni **Save the Date!**

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Whittier Friends School.

Please join us to celebrate:

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 28, 2024
(2 - 4 pm)

Come and re-visit your school and see your old friends. All former students and school families are welcome!

(contact wfs50years@gmail.com to be added to our anniversary email list!)



News from Whittier Friends School

Summer at Whittier Friends School was full of fun and skills practice, with themes to keep it interesting. As they explored “Oceans” and “Fairy Tales,” for instance, there were plenty of arts & crafts, games, and water sprinkler days. Our preschool friends attended all summer, and our elementary and pre-kindergarten friends had “Summer Enrichment” for 7 weeks, Monday through Thursday from 10:30 am-3:00 pm. It was a great chance to see former students return for weeks here or there as they practiced numbers and letters skills, made art projects, played card games and mad libs, and experienced numerous social activities.

This summer we have also worked on beautifying our campus more than usual as we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary! Volunteer Contractor Austin Lane, with a crew of former students and parent volunteers from our campus, successfully rebuilt the short wall around our sand and wood chip areas in our campus. Austin’s expertise and service was especially appreciated as he comes from out in the community with the intention of “giving back” to a worthy cause. We highly recommend him to anyone local looking for handiwork getting done around the house.

We were also pleased to have sprucing up done by the youth of Pacific Yearly Meeting back in July when they were in town at Whittier College for Yearly Meeting. It was a joy having a group of about 20 Quaker youth from elsewhere visiting *our* Quaker school and Quaker Meeting to provide the service of washing our dirty windows and gates and fences. It is very important to us to foster relationships with other Quakers!

Now Whittier Friends School is gearing up to start Elementary on Wednesday, August 28, with Preschool beginning the day after Labor

Day. We currently have 24 students enrolled, more than last fall! This year our students will be exploring the topics of early humans and civilizations, along with ecosystems and dinosaurs.



Our school continues to rely on fundraising to support our budget. During the next few weeks, invitations will go out to support our Annual Giving Campaign. Please consider adding us to your regular giving. We are also collecting memories and stories and photos about experiences for our 50th anniversary celebration. We’ve got a big Reunion Party scheduled for Saturday, December 28th! If you do not receive information about this and would like to, you can email Cassie at cassie.wfs@gmail.com. There are also other ways you can support us. Scrip virtual gift cards can be purchased anytime. You can email Lea at lea.wfs@gmail.com for information on scrip: gift cards where you receive the face value that you pay for, while the company donates to us. It is a great way to budget your monthly spending or purchase gifts. You can purchase scrip and then donate it to our school to help with classroom expenses. We especially appreciate amazon.com and Petco scrip. Visit our Amazon wishlist at <https://amzn.to/2QK8Yp8> If you prefer not to shop at Amazon, looking at our wishlist can give you ideas for the types of items we can use.

-Cassie Caringella

Remembering Sue Settlage



The life of Sue Settlage was celebrated on July 19 at First Friends. She is survived by her husband, of almost 49 years, Robert Settlage, daughter Rachel Settlage,

son-in-law Paul Gonzalez, grandson Alex Settlage Gonzalez, daughter Chrysanthi Leon, son-in-law Miles Leon, granddaughter Margaret Helen Leon, grandson Robert Henry Leon, daughter Amanda Settlage, granddaughter Trinity Solis, niece Debby Hebert, and great-nephews Kyle and Drake Hebert.

Sue is most remembered at First Friends for her involvement in and support of the Meeting since becoming a member in 1983, as well as her extensive work with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, her service on the Board of Advisors for the Earlham School of Religion, and as a member of the Whittier Friends School Committee.

She was born Susan Pamela Friedhof in Hammond, Indiana before moving to Whittier, California as a child. She attended Sorenson Elementary, Dexter Middle School, and Whittier High School where she graduated in 1962. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Social Science from Cal Poly Pomona and completed a WICHE internship with the Probation Department before accepting a position as a guidance counselor at the Sherman Institute, a Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school in Riverside, California. She earned her teaching credential and was hired by Los Angeles City Schools as a Motor Skills Development Coordinator, then taught at Grape Street School in Southeast Los

Angeles while completing her Master's Degree in Education from Pepperdine University.

Sue was also involved with Greek folk dancing as a dancer, costume coordinator, assistant director, lead dancer and director. She was a member of the Greek dance group Panegyri, which brought into her life some of her closest friendships and the love of her life, Rob, whom she married in 1975.

Rob and Sue made Whittier their home in 1977, and her love for her community is evident in her extensive list of community involvement which includes: The Whittier Historical Society (of which she was President for the Whittier Centennial in 1987), National Charity League Whittier Chapter, Whittier Cultural Arts Commission, Whittier Cultural Arts Foundation, Art in Public Places Committee, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital Hospice House Guild, PEO Chapter IR, the Whittier Public Library Foundation, the Rio Hondo College Foundation, Friends of the Ruth B. Shannon Center, Whittier First Night, and the American Association of University Women.

Sue also volunteered at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) as a docent for mainly school age groups from 1977 to 2007. While at LACMA, she served on the Docent Board and worked with the education department to develop curriculum and art workshops for children. She was incredibly proud of all of her volunteer work and the involvement that this gave her in her community.

In an interview with her good friend Jean Korf, Sue was asked what she would hope God has to say as she enters the pearly gates. Her response was, "You did GOOD." For all of those who were affected by her active volunteerism and love of community, it is without a doubt that she "did GOOD." She touched the lives of so many people and will be greatly missed by all.



The Sunday Morning Adult Class will resume on September 15, at 9:30 am in the library. Candice Ryder will facilitate the study of a book that the group selects. We have gathered a list of six titles that we want to consider (see list below). A copy of each book will be available at our first class, and you are invited to join us to look them over, pass them around, and discuss which book speaks to your needs at this time. If you are joining from Zoom, you will be included in the discussion and be invited to ask questions. Out of that session we will decide on a book, and copies will be ordered.

In addition to a book study, Loletta is planning an exploration of the Bible. She intends to visit the class once a month to bring a study that is fashioned around the group's interests and questions. The Christian Education and Outreach Committee asks for your prayerful consideration of what approach you want her to take during that study time. Please know that CEO is always seeking to minister to your spiritual learning needs.

We welcome your ideas and input at any time and look forward to walking alongside you.

BOOKS FOR CONSIDERATION

Adult Sunday Morning Class - FALL 2024

- Our Life is Love*, by Marcelle Martin
- Finding God in the Verbs*, by Jennie Isbell and J. Brent Bill
- Quaker Bible Reader*, editors Paul Buckley and Stephen Angell
- A Testament of Devotion*, by Thomas Kelly
- Quaker Book of Wisdom*, by Robert Lawrence Smith
- The Wisdom of John Woolman*, by Reginald Reynolds



Summer Mission Project Update

This year's Summer Mission Project has reached a little over half its goal so far. As of this printing, we have raised \$551.91 towards the \$1000 that we wish to contribute to the work of Friends United Meeting worldwide. In addition to financial support, we are asking for input on which of the FUM projects we feel most strongly led to support. We are focusing on five projects happening in Cuba, Africa, and Belize. So far, the sustainability project in Belize is leading. But time is running out! Our campaign ends on September 15, so donate now and cast your "vote" for a project, if you haven't already. Be sure to designate it for "Summer Mission Project." For more information, see the display on Sundays, or contact Marilyn Fant.

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

Barbara Cote

Kathy Hood

Kathy Robison

Ami Troedsson

Shirley Votaw

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!