

The Living Light

“...and Christ shall give thee light.” Ephesians 5:14



Volume 55, Number 11 First Friends Church of Whittier Eleventh Month, 2016

Let Everything That Has Breath...

Why I Give

I have been a member of this meeting since 1980, so this month, it will be 36 years. This meeting has been here for my joys and my sorrows.

It has given me support, friendship and love. I give back out of concern and loyalty for my meeting, for my community and for Quaker organizations and wider world concerns.

Please look into your hearts and discover your Joys from Giving, return your pledge card showing how you will distribute your joy.

—Pat Garland

Compassionate Communication

In October, Friends traveled to Dana Point for the biennial All-Meeting Retreat. Led by Jim Higginbotham, associate professor of pastoral care at Earlham School of Religion, the Retreat was an inspiring time of profound and challenging questioning, honest and open conversation and, most of all, deep worship. The following is the first in a series of reflections of our weekend of “Compassionate Communication.”

Communication is a really big subject. Every day, it seems to encompass more as technology expands our ways of talking to one another. But are we truly “communicating?” The varied apparatuses and lightning pace that embodies interaction today is, one has to admit, lacking. What should be more efficient is actually slowing us down.

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The Friends Choir will present three musical works on Music Sunday at Meeting for Worship on November 6.

Te Deum laudamus (We Praise Thee, O God) is one of the oldest non-Biblical Christian texts. Richard Proulx’s setting uses a translation by John Dryden that differs from the usual liturgical translation. Proulx uses melodic material from the traditional Gregorian chant melody associated with *Te Deum*. The choir will be accompanied by handbells.

Rejoice In the Lamb by Benjamin Britten was commissioned for the 50th anniversary of St. Matthew’s Church in Northampton in 1943. Britten chose excerpts from “Jubilate Agno,” a long poem composed by Christopher Smart in a mental asylum where he was committed for apparent religious mania. Smart’s poem depicts idiosyncratic praise and worship of God by all created beings and things, each in its own way. The cantata is divided into eight sections, according to the divisions of the selected texts. The choir and soloists will be accompanied by the organ.

Psalm 150 is all about the praise of God in music. Belgian-born composer César Franck was known as a great organ improviser and travelled widely to demonstrate new instruments built by innovative organ builder, Aristide Cavallé-Coll. Franck served Sainte-Clotilde in Paris, where he played an important Cavaille-Coll organ. *Psaume 150*, originally for mixed chorus, orchestra and organ, was written for the Institute of Young Blind People in Paris to introduce their new organ to the public in 1884.

Let everything that has breath praise God.

—Russ Litchfield

A CHRISTIAN PEOPLE CALLED TO LISTEN, GATHERED TO SEEK PEACE AND SENT FORTH TO SERVE

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, This month, we have a little history lesson.

Friends About Town: The Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association included several homes connected with Whittier's Quaker history on its 2016 Home Tour on October 15. **Carina Sass** helped organize the tour, and some members of First Friends were tour workers. At 6727 Painter Avenue, docents, including **Laura Torres**, showed people through the recently renovated home that was built in 1905 as a parsonage for First Friends. It was here, in 1940, when **Herschel Folger** was pastor, that **Esther & Carl Nelson** were married. **Dan Wright**, who created some of the (new) stained glass windows in the house, displayed his antique Model T Ford in front and was on hand to discuss cars with visitors. At 7332 College Avenue, tour guests were shown through the Craftsman home of **Alpha Overin's** in-laws, Joseph (J.A.) & Leona McGee. Alpha helped lead a successful neighborhood effort in 2003 to get their hilltop house declared historical, saving it from demolition by a developer. Also on the Home Tour were the historic Bailey House at 13421 Camilla Street, home of Whittier's first Quaker settlers, **Jonathan & Rebecca Bailey**, and the home at 6211 Painter Avenue built in 1907 by their son, **Edward Bailey**. Here's a photo of



our early parsonage with Dan's model T out front. **Milt Wright** drove his 1931 Chevrolet sedan to the annual Vintage Chevrolet Club of America "All Chevy Show" in Tustin.

Friends Travel: **Jasmine** and **Mel Sturr** drove up to Portland, OR, for the World

Parkinson's Congress, where she was invited to speak on one of the panels (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06mNUmSEn70>). A few days after they returned, **Sharon** and **Jasmine** flew to Edmonton, Alberta, to visit a dear friend with a medical condition similar to Jasmine's. They had a wonderful time and even got to experience a beautiful snowfall. **Brendon & Deanna Woirhaye** spent a weekend in Indio at the Desert Trip music festival celebrating their anniversary. They had a great time seeing music acts including newly minted Nobel laureate Bob Dylan, Neil Young, The Rolling Stones, The Who, Paul McCartney, and Roger Waters. The Meeting helped out by enabling the **Woirhaye** children to attend the All-Meeting Retreat

without their parents—special thanks to **Russ, Loletta**, and the **Wemmerus** family for sharing lodging. **Marina Harris** & her husband **Marc Hirsch** need to move to New York, and would appreciate any advice regarding places to live, day jobs, and life in general. "She is singing, and he's an artist, so they're poor," says mom **Iris**. "She can do temp work and has good references. He has been managing for an art handler, but can also do construction, event set up, stagecraft, etc." If nothing else, wish them luck and pray for them.

Friends Celebrate: As **Lynda Ladwig** recuperated from knee surgery, she and husband **Mike** had a chance to celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary.

Friends Remember: On September 25, **Ralph & Pauline Rosedale**, who recently visited from



Dinuba, CA, returned two weeks later for the memorial service of Ralph's first cousin, **Ed White**, once pastor at several meetings in the area. Ed, who died on September 12, at the Friends retirement home in Newberg, OR, and his wife, Martha Yocum, were graduates of Whittier College. The White family founded the White Emerson mortuary where the service was held and it is now the oldest family-owned business in Whittier. In earlier years, the family was active in both this meeting and California Yearly Meeting. As relatives, including **Sabron Newton** and Ralph's twin brother, Roy Rosedale of Lake Arrowhead, talked together, it was pointed out that six cousins of Ed's generation had been ministers or missionaries. **Nikki Gage** brought greetings from Berkeley Friends at the end of worship on September 25. She had flown down to represent the Berkeley Friends Church at the memorial service for Ed White, who was an interim pastor there in the 1990s. Please remember in prayer the family of **Lou Lincoln**, daughter of **Ali McClean**, who died on September 27 in Ventura. Our late member **Peggy Paull** was remembered for her three years as Principal of the Friends Girls School in Ramallah during the memorial service at the United Society of Friends Women International Triennial in Iowa this past 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 next month!

This Month in Meeting for Worship

November 6	Music Sunday <i>Let Everything That Has Breath Praise the Lord</i>
November 13	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>So Which is It?</i> Isaiah 65:17-25, Luke 21:5-19
November 20	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Where is Your Holy City?</i> Psalm 100, 122 and 46
November 27	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Signs of Peace</i> Isaiah 2:1-5



At Monthly Meeting for October, committee clerks for 2017 were approved and will be in the January issue of *The Living Light*.

Monthly Meeting for November is November 13. The Stewardship Appreciation lunch menu is roast prime rib of beef au jus with Yorkshire pudding, herb roasted new potatoes and green beans almondine. The vegetarian option is quinoa-cranberry stuffed acorn squash. Dessert is an assortment of pies. Best of all, lunch is complimentary, courtesy of the Business and Finance Committee.

All Faiths Gather Together

The Thanksgiving Interfaith Service is at 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 20. First Christian Church on the corner of Greenleaf and Hadley will be our host church this year. Representatives from many faiths and a combined choir from different churches will participate.



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.

Loletta's Lines



"Take it to the Lord in prayer." In the hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," the lyricist Joseph Scriven advises us to take our cares to God in prayer. Take everything: trials and temptations, troubles, cares, loss of friends, sorrows and weaknesses, and find peace there. The hymn is based on James 5:13. The first part of the verse reads, "Are any among you suffering? They should pray..." It is a lovely song and I have found comfort in it, and in prayer.

Lately I have been taking our country and our world to God in prayer, much more than any personal concerns. There are many things going on in our country and world that we can be concerned about. I was reminded by one of our young Friends that we do not have the power to change them, but we do have the power to make the world a better place for one other person. And therein begins hope, especially when Friends join together. Many of us have seen the quote from Margaret Mead, the American anthropologist: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Prayer is the beginning of change, especially of our own thinking and actions, for those are the only things we can change. And it makes sense that the second part of James 5:13 is, "Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise." Mead also said, "Prayer does not use up artificial energy, doesn't burn up any fossil fuel, doesn't pollute. Neither does song, neither does love, neither does the dance." So dear Friends, let us pray, sing, love and dance!

Decorate the Tree of Christmas Peace

Coming soon: an opportunity to make someone's winter warmer with our Tree of Christmas Peace! Add your gift on or under the tree, or to the gift box in the foyer during the month of December. Decorate the tree with new socks, gloves, and hats. Put new blankets, jackets, umbrellas and rain ponchos under the tree. Add a gift to the gift box by cash, check or gift card. All the decorations and gifts will be used to minister to our neighbors living on the streets. Share the warmth, share the peace.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



At the Rise of Meeting on November 6, Young Friends Fellowship will go on the annual Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt. The youth will descend upon a local market, be given a set of game clues, and be challenged to gather a veritable feast to be delivered to the Interfaith Food Center on Saturday, November 19 at 10 a.m.

Join our youth on the 19th to help bring Thanksgiving!
—Marilyn Fant

“Compassionate Communication” continued from page 1

At the very root of communication is storytelling, the ancient art of passing along our narrative. Perhaps the greatest gift of the Retreat was the mix of generations contributing to the mix. What a joy to participate in dialogue seasoned with the perspectives of all ages!

The ritual of beginning any session with the “tell us a little bit about yourself” is pretty much a cliché. Or so we thought. In addition, we were asked to share a time when we felt that we were truly heard by another person. The dynamics of the group brought this opening sharing to a new level, as our individual personalities came to the surface rather quickly. As members of our meeting, don’t we already know each other pretty well? As we talked, the answer went from “sure!” to “well, maybe not...” Surprise!

Joanne Camp shared one of the best examples of what it is to be truly heard, as her late husband Ken was, everyone agreed, among the very best of listeners. Ken’s presence was felt keenly—a true instance of loving communication being passed on.

Clear and present listening is a challenge. As Friends, service and worship go hand in hand. But how many times do we find ourselves simply fulfilling an immediate need without putting effort into understanding that need and offering more than a physical act? When someone has a flat tire, for instance, isn’t it easier to just change the tire and then go on our way? It is true that faith without works is dead (James 2:14) but how about the other way around? How do we express our faith through listening? Which is harder: the hearing or the helping?

—Elisabeth Elliot

Next: listening to others—and to “the others.”



News from Whittier Friends School

Students took a field trip in October to the California Science Center and were fascinated by the IMAX film “Journey to Space” and “The Science of Pixar” exhibit.



What is This Strange Thing in the Middle of *The Living Light*?

The Living Light is mailed each month as a bulk mail periodical. That means we pay less postage, which is a good thing.

Part of this arrangement with the United States Postal Service is the annual publishing of a Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation. This fulfills our responsibility to the USPS.

Thus we conclude our lesson in government responsibility.

—The Management

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Schedule for Sundays Unprogrammed Worship—9:30a First Day Classes—9:30 a Meeting for Worship—11:00a		1 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 9:15a Trustees Meeting 7:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:00p M&C	2 10:00a Personnel Committee Meeting	3 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30p Family Movie Night— "Ice Age"	5
6 12:15p Quarterly Clerks' Meeting	7 1:30p Writing Class	8 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal	9 5:00p Business & Finance Committee Meeting 6:00p AFFN	10 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 Friendly Fare Deadline 12:15p Monthly Meeting 12:15p JHF/YFF Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt	14 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	15 Living Light Deadline 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal	16	17 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	18	19 9:00a – 3:00p Holiday Craft Fair-Fellowship Hall
20 12:30p – 3:00p Holiday Craft Fair	21 1:30p Writing Class	22 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal	23 Editors Compose Living Light	24 Thanksgiving Day	25 Staff Holiday	26
27	28 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	29 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal	30 Living Light Folding 10:00a Personnel Committee Meeting 5:00p Business & Finance Committee Meeting		Please Add to Your Calendars Dec 4 – Monthly Meeting Dec 10 – Christmas Dinner	



Austin Allen
 Patrick Andrews
 J. William Bateman
 Lynda Bates
 Steven Bingman
 Judy Browning
 Avalon Caringella
 Samantha Cramer
 Thomas Cush
 Judith Ellis
 Marie Kaneko

Albert Langley
 Kent Marshall
 Rennie McIntosh
 Jerry Montgomery
 Stephanie Murillo
 Dawn Ortega
 Zoe Overmyer
 Dylan Purkiss
 Mary Raymond
 Neva Root
 Ashley Ryder

Bob Secord
 Kristina Shull
 Blossom Snively
 Audine Votaw
 David Warren
 Brendon Woirhay
 Norman Wright
 Marygene Wright
 Lea 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!

Renew Your Subscription to *Quaker Life*

Get ready to receive the newly redesigned *Quaker Life*, the quarterly publication of Friends United Meeting.

Friends are invited to renew their subscriptions, or subscribe for the first time, at the special group rate of \$25 a year.

Mail your check to the church or drop it off in the church office. Please put *Quaker Life* in the memo field.



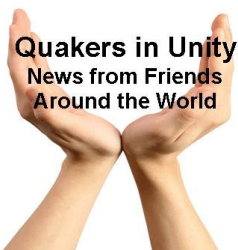
Enjoying time with friends—just one highlight of the

An old Sufi tale tells of a man who strayed from his own country into the world known as the Land of the Fools. He soon saw people fleeing in terror from a wheat field. “There’s a monster in that field!” they shouted to him. The man looked and saw that the monster was a watermelon. Nevertheless, the man cut it from its stalk, carved a slice and began to eat it. The denizens of the Land of the Fools were now more terrified of him than they were of the watermelon. “He’ll kill us next!,” they shouted and drove the man away with pitchforks.

The next day, a woman strayed into the Land of the Fools and the Fools told her the story of the man and the watermelon. But instead of offering to help them with the “monster,” she agreed with the Fools that, yes, it must be dangerous. And so she led them away on tiptoe and by so doing, she gained their confidence. She then spent time—a long time—in their houses, and taught them little by little the basic facts that would enable them to not only lose their fear of watermelons but even cultivate them for themselves.

My friends, which person—the man or the woman—proved to be the compassionate neighbor in the Land of the Fools?

—as told by *Jim Higginbotham at the All-Meeting Retreat*



Friends Committee on National Legislation—

First Friends have six representatives at the annual meeting in Washington D.C., November 10-13.

fcnl.org

Friends General Conference— Get some movement going in your meeting and discover fun new ways to connect and to play together. “Light and Livelies” are intergenerational activities to build community. **fgc.org**

Friends World Committee for Consultation—the new website is now live, much to the relief of our friends at FWCC. The project was bigger than anyone thought and took a year to complete. In order to preserve the history of FWCC Section of the Americas, and in order to carry the Section into the next years, a careful review of the past as well as a plan for our future were completed. The result is a bright, hopeful, and modern take on their important work and the connections they hope to create for many years to come for seekers across the Section and around the globe. **fwcc.org**



The Interfaith Food Center is again sponsoring a special Thanksgiving food distribution to low-income families in Whittier. They need the generous help of volunteers to pack up and hand out the food

on Saturday, November 19. Three shifts are available for sign ups: 7-10 a.m., 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and 1-4 p.m. The center is also requesting help with set-up on Friday, November 18 in three shifts between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Check your calendars!

If you have already signed up in Founders Court, your name will be entered onto the IFC volunteer schedule. If you still wish to volunteer, visit:

<http://thanksgiving.interfaithfoodcenter.volunteerhub.com/SignIn.aspx>

—*Marilyn Fant*

FRIDAY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4



6:30 p.m. in FELLOWSHIP HALL

Free admission and popcorn

Open to the community

Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult

Donations of canned goods for the Interfaith Food Center are appreciated



Deanna Woirhaye will present a program on November 9. Potluck dinner begins at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with the program to follow at 7 p.m. Sign up in Founders Court to bring a main

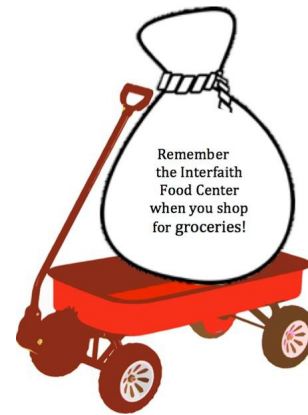
dish, salad or dessert. Drinks and bread will be provided. Please bring \$1 per person with food or \$3 per person if you do not bring food but will be joining us for dinner. There is no charge for children 12 or under with their parents.



Jo Nita Beede introduces an impressive array of musicians and poets at the September Peace Café in honor of the United Nations International Day of Peace.

On Our Calendar...

Young Friends Fellowship Candy Making in Fellowship Hall	Saturday, December 3 9 a.m.
New Century Singers in Concert	Sunday, December 11 3 p.m.
Family Christmas Dinner	Sunday, December 11 5 p.m.
Whittier Friends School Family Potluck and Christmas Program in Fellowship Hall	Wednesday, December 14 5 p.m.
The Monday Before Christmas	Monday, December 19 9 a.m.
Wrap and Sing at Brookdale	Monday, December 19 6 p.m.
Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship	Saturday, December 24 8 p.m.
Christmas Day Meeting for Worship	Sunday, December 24 11 a.m.
New Year's Eve Party	Saturday, December 31 6 p.m.



Holiday Boutique

Saturday, November 19 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, November 20 12:30 to 3 p.m.

One-of-a-kind hand-crafted treasures

- * Baby items and children's toys
- * Kitchen goods
- * Clothing and accessories
- * Office professional and teacher gifts
- * Fall and Christmas decorations



20% of all profits will go to the Meeting

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**Order Your Christmas Poinsettias Now**

Please place ____ poinsettia plant(s) in the Meeting House
 on Christmas Day, at \$7 each.

Order deadline is Sunday, December 18, 2014

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Name _____

Phone _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____



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

Peggy Anderson
 Audrey and Carlos Bailey
 Helen and Jack Carlisle
 Phil and Liz Ellis
 Rose Nedrow
 Maureen Russell
 Vi Smith
 Ami Troedsson
 Sue Walker
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