

Volume 57, Number 10 Whittier First Friends Church November, 2018

# To Everything There Is a Season

There are many seasons on earth with their various distinctive weather, although in California they sometimes get munched together in the moderate range or be hot when they are supposed to be cool, which we're seeing more and more of.

The seasons of our Meeting are more spiritual than cyclical, and frequently overlap and fall over each other—in a good way! It's always the season of children, and always the season of family and friends. We wish for longer seasons of peace, of understanding, and of patience.

We celebrate this season of abundance, but with it comes the season of responsibility. Stewardship Sunday is November 11, the time each year when we evaluate and reflect on our gifts to the Meeting. Without our faith promises of financial support, the church lacks a strong practical and physical foundation. For the last several years, we have not been able to meet our operating costs through our members' pledges-we have had to rely on reserve funds and gifts of the past to stay financially solvent. But, although we have our rough seasons, we have never let go of our commitment to our role in the community and in the lives of our members and attenders. We have put our designated endowment funds to work, making our operation more efficient and strengthening us for the future.

Please prayerfully consider your annual faith promises and pledges of support, as we celebrate this season of giving as well as hope.

## Let There Be Light

On the morning of September 22, Whittier City Councilman Henry Bouchot threw the switch illuminating the stained-glass sun and church windows of Dan Wright's artistic depiction of our church and officially dedicated the newly installed array of solar panels that now supplies all of our electrical power. This was the peak moment of our Solar Celebration community event.

Continued on page 7



Councilman Henry Bouchot powers up the solar array.

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

## Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

**Dear Friends,** It's hard for me to believe that I have been writing this column for over 10 years now. And we have been featuring wonderful pictures from our Friends' travels and family events for almost as long. My family recently got an updated picture from the Disneyland White Rabbit door. How many of you have the same tradition? Here is **Steve, Lea, Landon**,



**Oliver, Avalon, Philip, Steven & Cassie** with *The Living Light* continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.).

Friends Celebrate: Sometimes it's hard to keep track of all the birthdays a n d anniversaries, but 53 was a celebration special for Lynda & Mike Ladwig when they went to Big Bear with Ken, Shannon & Jon-Michael Ladwig. Friends Visit: The cousins celebrated the arrival of

(Bouchard),

Stacy



Adam, Adrian & Annabelle Day to SoCal by attending the LA County Fair. Dave, Stephanie (Votaw) & Nathaniel Murillo were excited to see the twins. Peggy Anderson, who currently lives in Yucca Valley, and her son Gary, who currently lives in Oregon, visited with us at First Friends on October 1. Steve & Oliver Bates (from Denmark), Lynda Bates (from Antelope, CA) and Elinore Petoletti (from Seal Beach) all spent the Whittier College Homecoming weekend "camping out" at Dan & Lea Wright's house. It was a cozy full-house weekend. Pat Garland flew to Carthage, TX to visit her dad. Friends About Town: Tim & Neva Root had their home featured in the Claremont Heritage Annual Home Tour. Iris Harris won a first prize from the Whittier Art Gallery, and she is also exhibiting in a show at the Crowell Library in San Marino and a show at the Huntington Baseh

at the Huntington Beach Central Library. **Dave Harris** is helping **Russ Litchfield** with his part in Whittier Regional Symphony's performance of the Saint-Saens Organ Concerto at Whittier High School on Nov. 11. Iris says, "Come and hear an



organ bury an orchestra. After all, it's a Mighty Wurlitzer."

School and Work News: Freshman Ashley Ryder made the Girls Varsity soccer team at Whittier High School. Amanda Bates just returned home to Denmark following a 3 month stay in Norway studying to be a veterinarian technician. She will return in January to continue her "internship." Cedric Woirhaye went on a research trip with a school group to Santa Rosa Island. Brendon Woirhaye worked on a Norton Security IOS app for iPhone and iPad for 17 months. It has now been published for sale in 90 countries in the app store. Bella Sturr wanted everyone to know how much she is enjoying college at the University of Redlands and what a wonderful surprise it was when she checked her mail and found she had received her own copy of *The Living Light*.

*Friends Travel:* Marina Harris was scheduled to perform Donna Anna in "Don Giovanni" in Idaho; Dave & Iris Harris traveled there to see her. Liz Ellis had a quite a fun (hectic?) summer of travel. Bob & Louise Secord traveled to Richmond, IN for the Friends United Meeting general board meeting. Elinore Petoletti spent a week in Sequoia, Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Parks. Carrin & George Bouchard traveled to Maine. I can't wait to hear details about all these trips.

*Friends Correspond:* We recently heard from **Susie Cush** who requested we keep her brother **Tom Cush** in our prayers for comfort and peace as he struggles with cancer. **Fred & Nancy Edinger** wrote that they often think of us in Southern California as one of their "home meetings."

*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 4	Loletta Barrett brings the message Leading in Community
	Mark 10:35-45
November 11	Stewardship Sunday Lynda Ladwig brings the message <i>Jehovah-Jireh</i>
	Genesis 22:14, Matthew 6: 19-21 and 31-33
November 18	Loletta Barrett brings the message What Will We Eat?
	Psalm 126, Matthew 6:24-34
November 25	Loletta Barrett brings the message Is Community Possible?
	Ephesians 2:11-22



At Monthly Meeting on Sunday, October 14, we discussed how we want to use our significant outreach funds for 2018. There was interest expressed in projects

that are specific to make our engagement more personal. The new lighting in the meeting house is complete and looks great. We look forward to seeing smaller electric bills over the next several months.

November's Monthly Meeting will be on the 11th.

## Sunday School for All Ages

Our next intergenerational Meeting for Learning is Sunday, November 4. Darrell Warren will be facilitating conversation as we take on "The Butter Battle Book" by Dr. Seuss. Written at the height of the Cold War, the book is a satiric look at the futility of nuclear proliferation. Will the Zooks and the Yooks really drop the Bitsy Big-Boy Boomeroo? Join us for peaceful negotiations at 9:30 a.m. on November 4.



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

As people living in the "modern world" most of us do not have the connection to the seasonal changes that was common for our ancestors, nor the experience of those who farm and garden now. They saw and see the bright sunny days with frantic planting, growing, and harvesting time, transition



into a time of decreasing sunlight, canning, processing and storing the harvest. An accumulation and realization in concrete terms of the bounty that is reaped through effort, but also God's blessings and gifts of seed, soil, rain and sun.

I do not have this relationship to the earth. Perhaps that is why I find myself unbalanced, not sleeping well, and feeling unfocused. I am searching for a way to make a deep connection to the rhythm of the earth's song, to experience a wholeness of mind, body, spirit and heart. Therefore I am looking forward to the luxury and challenge of a retreat. Sometimes I need the spiritual equivalent of cleaning a rug—I need to be taken out and given a good shaking. Then experience a time of quiet, deep listening and just being, to process all I have and am experiencing.

Perhaps that is a little of what Thanksgiving is about. A time to be brought up short and confronted with all the blessings that are part of our lives, and then gently cocooned by the love of family and of friends to allow us to process the gratitude that can and should overwhelm us. Blessed be beloved Friends. I thank God for the gift of seed and soil, rain and sun I see in each and every one of you. You are a bountiful harvest of God's Light.

## Thanksgiving Worship with the Community

Our neighbors at First United Methodist host the Whittier Community Thanksgiving Celebration at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 18. This is a time to celebrate together in an interfaith setting led by our local church choirs, music directors, and the Whittier Area Clergy Association. Bring your family and friends, invite the neighbors, and share community worship.

**Query**: How would you like the Meeting to use our Significant Outreach money? Which is more valuable—large amounts to fewer recipients or small amounts to many? What projects matter most to you?



## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

A touch of Asia came to our church kitchen after Meeting for Worship on Oct 21, when members of Young Friends Fellowship tried their hand at making and tasting several different flavors of boba tea! The word "boba" itself refers to tapioca balls made from the cassava root. While we didn't have the time required to make the boba from scratch, we cooked the tapioca

balls in sugar and water until they reach a chewy consistency, similar to a gummy candy. Perhaps we'll open our own shop!

We participated in the annual pumpkin carving and are now turning our minds toward Thanksgiving and what we can do to help our neighbors who receive donations from the Interfaith Food Center. The Great Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt, our annual grocery shopping competition on November 11 may have a new twist! After the Hunt, on November 17, we will help distribute our bounty at the Food Center.

#### **Build-A-Feast**

Many of our friends count on the Interfaith Food Center to supplement their food needs throughout the year. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, the need is even greater, and there are several ways you can help.

1. Intentionally buy extra non-perishable food items that can be used in preparing breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Place the groceries in the Red Wagon in the foyer. It may be disguised as a turkey, but don't be fooled—it's still the Red Wagon.

2. If shopping is not your thing, the Center accepts checks and credit cards! Using your donations, they have the ability to buy in bulk at lower prices than we can as individuals. You can write a checks payable to the Interfaith Food Center and place them in the offering plate, or mail them to 11819 Burke Street, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 or visit



www.interfaithfoodcenter.org.

3. Volunteer to help at the food distribution on November 17. See Lynda Ladwig or go to www.interfaithfoodcenter.org and click on the Volunteer tab.

It's that easy and your help is needed. If you are blessed to be able to help, be thankful for the opportunity and bless others.



Whittier Friends School visited Tanaka Farms on Wednesday, October 17. Besides getting to choose a pumpkin and hand-pick some vegetables, the children

got to see a living example of the pumpkin life cycle, and see in person features of herbivore animals. It's always more fun to learn out in the field!



The school's annual costume party and "Pumpkin Caroling" had the theme of "Animals" this year, keeping us consistent with this year's science curriculum about biomes. To go along with making a costume of an animal, the children wrote a report focusing on aspects of the animal they have been studying in class. It was fun hearing children as young as four years old saying their animal was "an omnivore" for instance. On October 29, the children wore their costumes and sang animal-themed songs, such as "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir" and "Let's All Sing Like the Birdies Sing" to the residents of Brookdale retirement home. These costumes and songs will be shared again on January 26 at our Chili Cook-Off, so come see us then if you like animals and chili.

The presale period is finished for our famous annual Nut & Candy sale, but we will have plenty of goodies available for purchase after Meeting for Worship for a few weeks, beginning November 18. These reasonably priced nuts and candies (our lowestpriced items are \$3!) make great gifts and are perfect for holiday cooking and baking, so help support our school. If you pre-ordered, your items will be available for pick up on Sunday, November 11.

Finally, be sure to purchase any gift cards you might need for the holidays through our scrip program. You pay for and receive gift cards at face value, while the company donates a percentage to our school. Be on the lookout for an order form, or ask Lea Wright for assistance.

As always, we appreciate the endless support of our First Friends Church friends, as we strive to provide a safe, loving and inspiring place for our children to learn and grow!

## November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Schedule f Unprogrammed W Meetings for Learr Friends Choir Reh Meeting for Worsh	ning — 9:30a earsal — 9:30a			<b>1</b> 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	2	3
<b>4</b> 12:30P Clerks' Quarterly Meeting	5 1:30p Writing Class	<b>6</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 9:00a Trustees Meeting	7 3:30p Personnel Committee Meeting 5:30p Business & Finance Committee Meeting	<b>8</b> 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00a Whittier Regional Symphony Concert Preview	10
<b>11</b> 12:30p Monthly Meeting Stewardship Luncheon 1:00p Youth Fellowship Scavenger Hunt 1:30p Music Teachers Assoc Student Recitals	<b>12</b> 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	<b>13</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group	14 6:00p All Friends Fellowship Night	<b>15</b> 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	16	17 Interfaith Food Center Thanksgiving Food Distribution—call the office for details on how to volunteer and participate in ride sharing
<b>18</b> 12:30p Christian Education Committee and Music Committee Meetings 5:00p Community Thanksgiving Celebration at First United Methodist on Bailey St.	<b>19</b> 1:30p Writing Class	<b>20</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group	21	22 Thanksgiving Day Friends Choir Rehearsal will not be held	23 Office Closed Today	24
25	<b>26</b> 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	27 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 9:00a Trustees Meeting 7:00p Ministry and Counsel Meeting	28 3:30p Personnel Committee Meeting 6:30p Business & Finance Committee Meeting	29	30	Dec 1 Youth Fellowship Candy Making Dec 2 Monthly Meeting



Patrick Andrews J. William Bateman Lynda Bates Steven Bingman Judy Browning Avalon Caringella Samantha Cramer Tom Cush Judith Ellis Marie Kaneko	Al Langley Kent Marshall Rennie McIntosh Jerry Montgomery Stephanie Murillo Dawn Ortega Zoe Overmyer Dylan Purkiss Mary Raymond Neva Root	Ashley Ryder Bob Secord Audine Votaw David Warren Brendon Woirhaye 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!
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Barbara demonstrates our trademark Quaker hospitality.

The celebration started in a festivelydecorated Founder's Court with breakfast attended by church members, teachers, students and parents of Whittier Friends

School, and a number of residents and

Marilyn has fun sharing our

Christian Ed programs.

Sunistics Group, the solar panel suppliers, were on hand to explain the workings of our new facility, installed atop

Fellowship Hall, and gave

some explanatory remarks on

the future of solar energy. The

array generates 45 kilowatts of

daylight hours, more than

adequate for the majority of

electrical power

from

during

Representatives

community members who turned out in response to our invitation to the Uptown neighborhood.

studied Celebrants displays highlighting the ministries of our Meeting. Representatives of some of the many organizations who use facilities were our the Bilingual present: Seventh Day Adventist church group, Narcotics Anonymous a n d Broadoaks School. others. among Bill Peterson, our interim pastor for two years, also came to help us celebrate.



Mary's floral art spreads sunshine everywhere.

our Sunday and weekday activities.

Meeting Clerk Ellie Bewley opened the dedication ceremony. She affirmed that our new engagement with solar energy witnesses First Friend's commitment to our planet's welfare. We unite with others of like persuasion who hope to achieve major conversion to renewable energy sources by mid-century. Anathea Woirhaye, in the role of "environmental responsibility correspondent," reported via video from the rooftop and showed the panels in operation, assisted by cameraman Brendon Woirhaye.

Jo Nita Beede and Kat Ryder led a combined choir made of up of our own Friends Choir members and guests from the New Century Singers in George Harrison's "Here Comes the Sun" and were joined by the whole congregation. The New Century Singers are another group that share our facilities, hosting concerts twice a year as well as sponsoring an active scholarship program. Russ Litchfield capped off the ceremony portion of the day a rousing organ with rendition of "Ode to Joy."



A 750 watt lightbulb contributed by Cedric Woirhaye, plays a starring role in the dedication.

After the ceremony was an open house with our own crew of Quaker docents stationed at various locations sharing the history of our Meeting and

answering questions about our mission and our role in the Whittier community.





At Meeting for Worship on Sunday, Oct. 7, Russ reported for the Trustees on the installation of LED lights in the Meeting House that require only 18 percent of the electrical power previously required (and make our Meeting for Worship even brighter than before). We are indeed Friends of the Light!

—Bob Newton and Elisabeth Elliot

## Get your Family Christmas Dinner tickets starting November 25

**Quaker Life**—Because we no longer have enough subscribers, First Friends is not able to receive the group subscription rate. Please go to the FUM website to renew your subscription.

## Outreach Highlights Cold Weather Shelter

Pastor Loletta Barrett met Richard Balkus when they served on the Whittier Area Interfaith Council Board together. Their acquaintance led to Richard bringing the message on Outreach Sunday on October 7, which this year coincided with World Quaker Day, as designated by the Friends World Committee For Consultation.

Richard's message was titled "How I Came Before You" and recounted his first experience of Friends' testimonies as a student at Whittier College from faraway New Hampshire. At Whittier, Richard participated in community service projects and was a member of the William Penn Society. This training propelled him to a distinguished career with the U.S. Social Service Administration, beginning in 1979, after graduation.

Richard's experience with one of his first welfare clients, a young man suffering from mental disability and having a hard time finding help, cemented Richard's desire to minister to those marginalized by society, particularly the homeless. After ten years as a field worker in Whittier, Richard became a high-level administrator in Washington D.C. in charge of overseeing hearings for the many thousands of applicants for disability aid. His accounts of individual cases were both touching and inspiring.

Richard retired in 2012 and returned to Whittier to care for his wife's parents. He and Darlene attend St. Bruno Catholic Church in Whittier. His lifelong concern for the needy continues to manifest itself as a volunteer, including as an organizer of the Interfaith Council's Cold Weather Shelter for Whittier's homeless. Richard concluded his message with a quote from Mother Teresa: "I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is a hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This one has leprosy or gangrene, I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus".

A fine luncheon in Richard's honor was organized by the Outreach Committee under the direction of Clerk Carrin Bouchard. Following lunch, Richard gave an in-depth description of the Cold Weather Shelter program. The 2018-2019 Shelter begins the first of this month and runs through March, a month longer than in previous years.

The program is experiencing a budgetary concern—although most of the supplies and staffing are contributed by the 11 participating churches and synagogues, it still costs about \$25,000 per season to



Friends World Committee for Consultation-Quakers worldwide celebrated World Quaker Day with a wide variety of inspiring and celebratory activities. Friends from Winchester Friends Meeting, Indiana, shared the Praver of St. Francis of Assisi, printed on cards borne by balloons launched in hope and longing for a world made new by Christ's love. Friends from the Iglesia Los Amigos en La Reina, El Salvador celebrated the day with FWCC traveling minister Oscar Rodriguez. Friends at Downers Grove Friends Meeting in Illinois held in the Light all refugees and their children who are being detained and often separated from parents by the US government and displayed a map of places around the world where Friends from their Meeting have attended other Meetings and where they have Friends. Afterwards, they shared a simple meal with donations going to people in need. Friends in Mumias, Kenya sought to remind Friends of the great things done by Quakers in Kenya and the entire world, especially in peace and environment. Most members were given information regarding the role of FWCC for the first time. You can check out more things Friends did to celebrate at www.worldquakerday.org. Thanks to everyone for celebrating with us!

## What if *Everyone* Voted?

About 12% of voters participate in local Whittier elections. In a working democracy, everyone votes.

We believe you can have a powerful impact on your community. Volunteer for Whittier Votes! and help get 4,000 inactive Whittier voters to the polls for the 2018 midterm elections on November 6.

Work with student leaders from three local schools. Talk to people who love Whittier about why voting is an important way of caring.

operate. Much of this expense stems from mandatory liability insurance. The shelter program had been operating on the generous gift of an anonymous donor but now must seek alternative funding. Richard and Loletta expressed faith that the Shelter will somehow be able to carry on with its important work.



Claire Schlotterbeck the Executive Director of Hills For Everyone will bring an interesting and informative program on the wildlife corridor from the Puente and Chino Hills to the Cleveland

National Forest at All Friends Fellowship Night on Wednesday, November 14.

We will hear about the biodiversity of the corridor as well as the threats and how these threats are being addressed.

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 18 or under with their parents. All are invited. Come and enjoy the food, fellowship and a special program.

—Ted Marshburn

## An American in Vilnius

Tammy Van Dorn is a wonderful goodwill ambassador for our country. A few years ago, she reported to All Friends Fellowship Night on her several-month visit to Ghana as a teacher of American Sign Language to deaf children. She is recently returned



from Lithuania, where she spent three months as a grade-school teacher of English. She described her visit to the Balkans at an AFFN gathering on Oct. 3.

Tammy went to Lithuania as one of a team of six young women sponsored by

International Language Programs, an innovative outreach program started by an American foreign language professor and his students. Instructors in this program are housed with host families who often become almost adoptive parents. The teachers worked with small groups of children at a local grade school to finish out their term, and then with a language summer camp in a suburb of Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania.

Instruction was carried out largely with innovative communications skills devised by the instructors, and Tammy is adept at quasi-verbal communications skills,

# On Our Calendar...Candy MakingDecember 1Family Christmas DinnerDecember 9Family New Years Eve PartyDecember 31Chili Cook-OffJanuary 26, 2019Stoking the FireJune 7-10, 2019

at Quaker Hill Center

in Richmond, Indiana

utilizing art-work, improvised theater, and role-playing techniques. Her elegant slide show conveyed the excitement of the students and their affection for their American instructor.

Tammy was lodged with a Russian-speaking Jewish host family in a beautiful three-story home. She had a room to herself with a fine view of the verdant Lithuanian fields and woods. Her host family considered themselves ethnically Lithuanian, as do most of the large Russian-speaking minority in that country. Most Lithuanians are bilingual, dating from the days of Soviet domination. Tammy's great rapport with children was evident in the affection shown her by the host family's two young boys. The host mother is an excellent cook, and Tammy learned to appreciate traditional Eastern European cuisine, especially the yummy-looking pastries shown in Tammy's pictures.

Weekends were devoted to popular summer pastimes, visiting places of historical interest such as an impressive 17th century church and "Crosses Park", a sculpture garden where anyone may place an art object with a cross motif. Tammy and her fellow teachers often went swimming at a fine lake near their school, and sometimes to Catholic church on Sunday. Lithuania has a fine Baltic Sea coastline, which the Americans visited a couple of times.

During a camp interim, Tammy and her friends flew to Amsterdam, and thence by rail to Paris, Barcelona, Venice, Budapest, Switzerland and Austria (nine countries in two weeks!). Tammy's pictures of her Europe tour would have made a great AFFN in their own right.

Mary Marshburn decorated the tables with autumnal flowers and gourds from her garden, and supervised the excellent pre-program potluck supper.

--Bob Newton

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Marie Kaneko ......School Committee Clerk 562-945-1654



Christmas Poinsettias Order Form Place a poinsettia plant in the meeting house on the Sunday before Christmas December 23. \$8.00 each. Order deadline is Sunday, December 16. Additional forms are available in the church office and in the foyer after Meeting for Worship	Lever L
In memory of	
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In honor of	
Name	ŀ
Phone Amount enclosed \$	к
<ul> <li>[] I will take after Meeting for Worship on Christmas Eve</li> <li>[] Please deliver to those unable to worship with us regularly</li> </ul>	



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

Peggy Anderson Carlos Bailey Helen & Jack Carlisle Rose Nedrow Kathy & Klane Robison Maureen Russell Ann Smith Ami Troedsson Carol Urner Gerry Wolfe