

# 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 10

Whittier First Friends Church

11th Month, 2024

## 50 Years of Whittier Friends School

Whittier Friends School Sunday is always a special day at First Friends Church when school families join Meeting for Worship, and students and school staff bless the meeting with readings, songs, and a special message. This year's worship program was extra special as it commemorated the 50th anniversary of the founding of WFS.

Cassie Caringella, the director, elementary school teacher, and a member of the the meeting brought the inspiring and thoughtful message entitled "Walking In Truth, Walking In Legacy" which posed the query, "What is our secret for surviving and thriving for multiple generations, when we are just a small independent school in a sea of other schools?"

In exploring an answer, she reminded us of the historical Quaker belief that all people are worthy of education based on the divine inner Light that is found in each person regardless of wealth, race, religion, or gender. William Penn Charter School, the first Quaker school in North America (founded in Philadelphia in 1697) embodied these values. From that beginning, over 300 years ago, the number of Quaker Schools in the United States has officially grown to 78 schools across 21 states embodying approximately 20,000 students taught by nearly 5,000 educators. Additionally, there are 15



Quaker colleges and universities across the United States and numerous other Quaker schools worldwide. Quaker education has survived and thrived for centuries.

There is more to a Quaker education, however, than inclusivity. By living out the testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship, Quaker schools embrace and celebrate differences, rather than simply tolerating them. Beyond just exploring and recognizing feelings, Quaker schools promote reflecting one's inner Light through peaceful actions and caring for, and providing service to, others. Cassie summarized, "To simplify everything to the bare bones, I would attribute our longevity to our community's custom of seeking truth, and then walking in that truth."

*50 Years WFS - Continued on page 7*

## Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

**Dear Friends,** Every month I look forward to hearing from Friends about what they have been up to lately. (See my email address at the end of this story.) I'm so appreciative when people think to send me their news or share other people's news. This month has had a lot of happy news.

**Friends Celebrate:** Congratulations and happy retirement to **Elizabeth Camp!** Extra happy news for **Marilyn Fant** who has a new grandson. **Thomas**

**Joshua Fant** was born to **Josh Fant** & fiancée **Carina. Mike & Lynda Ladwig** celebrated their 59th Anniversary enjoying the sights in and around Temecula. **George & Carrin Bouchard** celebrated their 40th Anniversary by taking a road trip to Williams, AZ, to enjoy the Grand Canyon Railway adventure. **Chris (Osborne) Quarnstrom & Jack Thomas** were



wed in the Meeting House on October 19th surrounded by their children and grandchildren.

**Friends At Home:** **Debi Nelson** reports daughter **Missy (Melissa Martinez)** had emergency surgery to remove her gallbladder. She was in the hospital overnight. When she went home she was doing well, but Melissa's son **Jordan** was disappointed because a new baby didn't come home. "When mom and dad leave late at night, from home, for the hospital,,, well, he drew his own conclusions."

**Friends About Town:** **Tina (Beede) Post's** grandson JP is now in 2nd grade and enjoys

playing baseball in Little League. Tina & husband **Jerry** enjoy going to San Diego to watch JP play ball. JP's parents, Mahalah and Justin, are doing well. **Carrin & George Bouchard** had a lot of news to share this month. They celebrated their great niece



**Claire Votaw's** 12th Birthday in October. They also attended their great nephew **Clayton Votaw's** Band competition where his group came in first place.

**Friends Move:** **Marina Harris & Marc Hirsch** moved into the Harris home in October. **Iris Harris** will be moving to Windsor Run Retirement Living in Charlotte, North Carolina, to be closer to her son **Clint** and family there. They're all very happy about this rearrangement. Iris promises to visit California often.

**Friends Travel:** **Tina & Jerry Post** traveled to Northern California in mid-October to visit her son, Ian, and see other friends. They plan on staying home for the holidays. They wish everyone Peace during these trying times. **Brendon, Cedric, Deanna, and Elyse Woirhaye** made a late night trip to Las Vegas on October 8th to watch the Tropicana Hotel implosion. They had a blast! **Deanna** also joined **Candice Ryder** and some friends to visit Sedona, AZ.

**Friends Correspond:** **Sabron & Bob Newton** send greetings to Friends. They report it rains frequently and everything is green. They are looking forward to the fall colors on the abundant maples. The Friends House community is loving and caring. and they keep tabs on them. It is a diverse group from all over

## Loletta's Lines

Happy Gratitude Month! I am grateful to God for all my blessings, but especially for the gift of you and our meeting, and how we are living out Abundant Love and sharing our Light.



This fall we hosted a group from the Friends Committee on National Legislation, representing Friends from across the United States. They are dedicated, gentle, and caring, and live their gratitude not only by supporting FCNL and advocacy, but they are also committed to being anti-racist, and seeking justice, equality, diversity, and inclusion in all they do. We invited them to come to the "West Coast-FCNL" so they could experience the abundant hospitality, service, and joy of our Meeting, and meet our engaged and productive Advocacy Team.

Here are some words of gratitude they expressed for you. "I was so moved by the generous and heartfelt welcome you gave... The logistics, food, and comradery were all outstanding. You epitomized the concept of hospitality." And, "My... gratitude for your gracious hosting... is overflowing... [B]eing present... was a chance to reflect on the power of physical and spiritual gifts. You embodied ... [the] invitation for us all to gather here in Whittier, and your faithful leadership [in] this community [is a reminder] of what it means to be a Friend. Thank you for the unconditional welcome. The Spirit of Field Committee flies higher and more skillfully thanks to you."

Through timing that can only be attributed to Spirit, in the middle of their retreat, the committee, Friends from our meeting, and friends from the Ministry Collaborative were able to join in opening the Greater Whittier LGBTQ+ Community Center. It was a joyful

experience of true community – actively living out testimonies of justice, equality, community, stewardship, peace, gratitude, and integrity - recognizing, encouraging, and celebrating that of God in everyone. We all experienced gratitude for those who have brought us this far, and joined in supporting the center in serving all with abundant love.

In November, our Meeting will have the chance to shine our hospitality and abundant welcome lights and expand community again. On November 14, we welcome people who want to learn how to create positive relationships with our elected leaders. On November 24, at 3 pm, we will host a Community Thanksgiving Celebration along with two of our facility partners. We will welcome other faith groups for a musical celebration of gratitude to God and appreciation of each other's gifts.

It is a circle God created. Overflowing and abundant love from the Creator begets gratitude from the Creation, which encourages giving in abundant and loving ways. This begets blessing after blessing in a community built on love.



### A Note of Support from Loletta

This season holds concerns of many kinds for us. As always, your meeting is here to support you. Please contact Loletta on her cell phone at 562-781-1457. She will listen, hold your words in confidence, support your discernment, help you find ways to get what you need, and pray with you. If she does not answer, please leave a message with a time in which she can call you back. Please be assured you are loved and appreciated. Together we hold each other, our community, country, and world in the Light.

## Russ' Reflections Music Sunday - Nov. 3rd

The Friends Choir will lead us in a musical worship service on Sunday, November 3rd, at 11 am called "Behold Your Saints in Glory," by Aaron David Miller. Friends don't really have saints, but we do recognize "that of God in all persons," and we have some weighty Friends, historically and in the present, that we honor and respect. This is the time of year when many remember those who have departed this life. The hymns, anthems, and readings are from diverse sources like the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10), the Prayer of St. Francis, and texts that speak of light, spirit, and community, ideas that resonate with Quaker thought. The music is festive and scored for trumpet and organ. Please join us and bring a friend!



## News from Whittier Friends School



Whittier Friends School's "Back to School Sunday" was met with feelings of joy and being gathered as a meeting on Sunday, October 20. The attending WFS students and staff shared about Quaker Education, with songs and words that explored the theme "Walking in Truth, Walking in Legacy." It was a joy to hear the children sing "This Little Light of Mine" and "Make me a Servant," songs that express the outward reflection of the inner light. A collection of quotations by Quakers and the Bible were shared by students and elementary teacher Marielle Askew. The message was prepared and presented by elementary teacher and director Cassie Caringella, sharing how our school, in its 50th anniversary year, is thriving through its continued following of the model of Quaker Education. After the meeting, families and the First Friends Church community visited the school campus for an open house, while also enjoying refreshments. Along with the usual cookies and juice, Cassie prepared WFS's famous Beautiful Bean Soup for people to try. Though the pre-order portion of our Beautiful Bean Soup fundraiser is over at the time of press, there are a few extra soup mixes available for purchase.

*Russ' Reflections - Continued from page 4*

### **Food and Conversation**

In the book of Acts, we read about the Apostles and Early Christians, who, equipped by the Spirit, gathered together for study and shared meals and resources to build community. In Acts 2:42, it says "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Formal worship didn't emerge until the Fourth Century. William Penn expressed Quakerism as "primitive Christianity revived." Is this something we would like to emulate here? A group of Friends came together after meeting for food and conversation on October 6th - people brought food to share, and there was lively discussion. This could be a way to get to know each other more deeply. There has been talk about gathering this way more often. Since we are here for worship, perhaps we can bring simple food (no big productions) to share and just hang out with each other: Food and Conversation. Let me know what you think.

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### **Whittier Friends School - Continued from page 4**

Also enjoyed during the month of October was Whittier Friends School's visit to Tanaka Farms Pumpkin Patch. Children and families took a tractor tour around the farm, pet farm animals, ran through the corn maze, picked vegetables, and chose their own special pumpkin to take home. Though the pumpkin patch field trip is one that happens every year, it is still met with excitement and joy, as children step away from the classroom and experience nature through all of their senses.

Please support our upcoming fundraisers which include WFS Day at Ruby's Diner in the Whittwood Mall (Nov. 14., all day, eat in or take out; must show the flier) and See's Candies beginning Nov. 4 (watch for ordering information in the weekly eNews and WFS website).

*-Cassie Caringella*

### **Make a Difference!**

#### **Learn how to take positive action!**

Learn how to lobby. Let your voice be heard. You are invited to join Friends from our Whittier FCNL Advocacy Team on Thursday, November 14, 2024 from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall as we participate in the Quaker Public Policy Institute online. Food will be provided. There is no cost to attend, but donations are appreciated. Please RSVP to [fcnlwhittier@firstfriendswhittier.org](mailto:fcnlwhittier@firstfriendswhittier.org) or (562)698-9805.

Two online workshops and a time of preparation for a lobby visit will be offered in the morning. After lunch, we plan to meet with one of our members of Congress to express opposition to increases in the Defense/Pentagon Budget that will be proposed in the next Congress. We will also have an opportunity to view some presentations from FCNL in Washington D.C.

Learn to develop a working relationship with your Congressional representatives. Hear from people across the country on how to lobby. Engage with grassroots efforts with the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Join us on November 14th!

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### **Friendly Fare - Continued from page 2**

the country and originally from around the world: South Africa, Bosnia, Pakistan to name a few. About half of the residents are Quakers. Bob is slowly improving after numerous setbacks. They recently attended an illustrated lecture on the geography of southern China by a former contemporary of Bob's at the University of Chicago- although they did not meet until now!

**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](mailto:lealouw@gmail.com). See you next month!

## Landon Caringella Shares His East Coast Adventure



It's always fun when a member of our meeting gives a presentation at All Friends Fellowship Night, but it is even more special when the speaker is one of our youth. October's AFFN featured Landon Caringella sharing his photos and stories from his 8th Grade trip this past June to the East Coast.

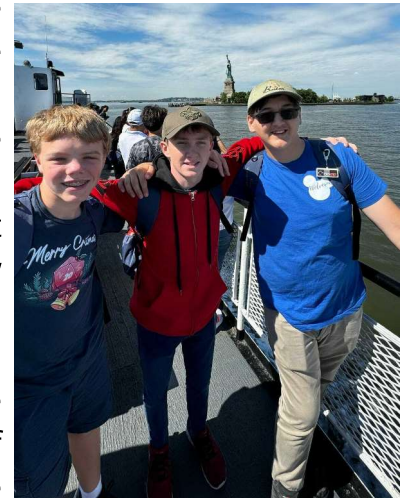
Accompanied by 49 classmates and a host of chaperones (including his dad, Steven Caringella), the 8-day, 4 state trip began with a red eye flight from Los Angeles to Boston. The first stop for the sleepy teens was Fenway Park (where the Coke machines are green), followed by a visit to the Old North Church (George Washington's place of worship), the USS Constitution (the oldest commissioned warship afloat today), and the USS Constitution Museum. Landon remembers it as a "very long day."

Day 2 began with stops at the Old State House and the Granary Burying Ground (both sights on the Freedom Trail) as well as the Harvard Campus and the Lexington and Concord Museum. A Boston ghost tour topped off the day where he learned about Mary Dyer, a Puritan turned Quaker activist, who was executed for her beliefs (known by Friends as one of the Boston Martyrs.)

On Day 3, the group made the 4-hour bus ride to New York to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art (where they saw Anthea Woirhaye, an intern there), and the Empire State Building (one of Landon's favorite stops). Day 4 gave them an opportunity to eat New York pizza for lunch, visit the Statue of Liberty (another favorite), ride the subway (which he described as "very fast."), and grab a quick dinner in Times Square before attending the Broadway musical, "Back to the Future" (his very favorite part of the trip.)

Day 5 began with a visit to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum followed by a bus ride to Philadelphia where they ate Philly Cheese Steak, and visited Independence Hall and Liberty Hall. This was followed by another bus ride to Washington D.C. (where the driver got lost, and they ended up in Maryland by mistake). The trip concluded with three days in D.C. where they toured the U.S. Capitol, the Holocaust Museum, Ford's Theater, Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Marine Corp. Memorial, George Washington's Mount Vernon (located 15 miles south of D.C. in Virginia), and spent a day at their choice of a Smithsonian (either American or Natural History). Landon is grateful for this fantastic opportunity and thanks all who supported his fundraising efforts through candy purchases and donations.

Mark your calendar for the next AFFN potluck on November 13, when Kathy Marin will present "The People and Culture of Eastern Africa" based on her travels there.



## 50 Years WFS - Continued from page 1

Cassie expressed gratitude to Gwen Woirhaye and other Friends who had the foresight and fortitude to establish "The Growing Place" (now known as Whittier Friends School) on FFC grounds in 1974 with "the intention of creating an educational environment that was different from the other opportunities available to children in the Whittier community . . . a friendly, multi-age community where children could learn in the ways that suited them best, without the constraints found in larger, government-regulated learning atmospheres." As Cassie pointed out, ". . . and (it) still is!-- a school that honors individuality, while simultaneously striving to forge bonds of community through the values of the Quakers,"

Upcoming events during this special year include a **reunion of all alumni and former staff members on Dec. 28, 2-4 pm**, (spread the word, and if you have anyone's contact information, please send to the school office) as well as a Red Cross blood drive on Feb. 20. (see the eNews to sign up). Here is to another 50 years!

**WFS Reunion Party!**

**RSVP**

<http://evite.me/wfs50years>

**now!**

**12/28/24**  
**2:00-4:00 pm**

## Final Results are in for the Summer Mission Project!



All the voting has been completed, and the donations were recorded. Our Summer Missions project for Friends United Meeting (FUM) was a huge success! More people than ever came out to vote, and we raised more funds as a result.

## Our grand total was \$1,328!

We focused our campaign to benefit worthy causes supported by FUM around the world. When it was all over, we contacted FUM and inquired which projects are still in the greatest need of assistance. They encouraged us to give our donations to the remote areas of Turkana and Samburu in Africa. In Africa, Quakerism is experiencing huge growth, especially in these two areas. Mission directors, Peter and Felix, are planting new churches, bringing food relief, and providing education. In addition, they are training Friends for leadership positions in the churches. New Friends are eager to learn about the proper governance procedures in the Quaker tradition. Our donation will support these efforts and help meet many challenges. Because of the efforts and generosity of Friends in our meeting, these mission projects will receive a boost from our contributions. We are reaching out into our wide world and making a difference. Thank you, all!

~Marilyn Fant

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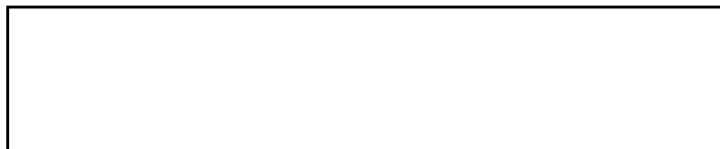
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Please remember in  
prayer those Friends  
unable to worship  
with us regularly.

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!