

THE LIVING LIGHT

For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Ephesians 5:9

Volume 57, Number 11

Whittier First Friends Church

December 2018

Good Tidings of Great Joy



Sing We Now of Christmas

A Charlie Brown Christmas Family Dinner, a tree of warmth, joyous music, a child's gift and caroling, caroling—all starting on page 6

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

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, I hope you enjoyed a Happy Thanksgiving and that you look forward to the rest of the year. I don't know about you all, but I'm still waiting for things to slow down a little. (No time soon, right?) We all stay so busy, and it feels like there's never enough time for it all.

Friends Celebrate: Best wishes to two special couples that were wed this month: **James Garland & Andrea (Rodriguez) Garland** and **Melissa Jones** and her new husband **Alex Grabmiller**.

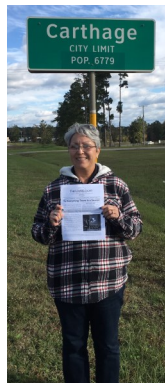


Friends About Town: The Whittier Regional Symphony featured **Russ Litchfield** playing the Mighty Wurlitzer at Whittier High School for a full house on Veterans Day. **Iris Harris** said, "Most inspirational concert I have heard in a long time. Many tears and often from both Dave and me." **Owen and Laura Torres** will be in the 42nd Black Watch Highland Society color guard leading the Whittier Christmas parade for the third time at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 8. Be sure to watch for them.

Friends Travel: **Pat Garland** traveled



to Carthage, TX to spend time with her dad, his wife Carol and their dog, Buddy. Here she is with *The Living Light*



continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)

Emlyn and Laura Torres spent four days in Barcelona, Spain before heading back to Ireland to share Thanksgiving with friends **Wendy & Paul Connolly** in Gorey.

Michael & Elisabeth Elliot made their once-a-year visit to Las Vegas for the Live Design International show, one of the biggest technical theatre gatherings in

the country. "Basically a candy store if candy was made of stage lighting technology," says Michael. They also enjoyed a visit with Elisabeth's cousin Will Wood, who is also in the entertainment field—he's on the lighting crew of the Cirque du Soleil show Zumanity. Elisabeth also spent some time with her good friend Mark Perkins, who is on the wait staff at Edge, one of Las Vegas' premier steakhouses. "Anything you want to know about cuts of beef and how to prepare it, ask Mark," says Elisabeth. Elisabeth and Mark got up early to attend a get-out-the-vote rally and hear Vice President Biden and candidates for Congress and state offices in Nevada speak. Elisabeth was particularly impressed with Senate then-candidate Jacky Rosen and is thrilled that she won her race. **Lynda (& Mike) Ladwig, Cassie Caringella** and **Lea Wright** also spent a weekend in Las Vegas together for a Jamerry/M Global convention. They heard many inspirational speakers, including Mike Schlappi pictured with our friends.



School and Work News: **Christy Tavernelli**, who



works in communications at American Friends Service Committee headquarters in Philadelphia, recently had



a chance to hold the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize medal. The prize was jointly awarded to AFSC and British Friends Service Council representing all Quakers. It recognized Quaker peace efforts, particularly the work done by both organizations to feed starving children and rebuild Europe after the world wars.

FriendsRemember: Please hold **Leanne Thompson's** family in your prayers. **Lou & Bob Secord's** daughter-in-law entered new life on October 20. Keep the family of **Jamie Benjamin** in your thoughts and prayers. Jamie died unexpectedly on Wednesday, November 14. And on November 22 after a long and good life, our dear friend Les Marshall entered new life.



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

December 2	Lynda Ladwig brings the message <i>Love—More Than Words</i> I Thessalonians 3: 9-13
December 9	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Return to the Beginning</i> Malachi 3:1,-4, Luke 1: 68-69, 76, 79 Luke 3:1-6, Philippians 1:6
December 16	Music Sunday
December 23	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Knock, Knock, God Calling</i> Luke 1:39-46
Monday December 24 8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Called by Name</i> Luke 2:1-20
December 30	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>I Need a Do Over</i> Colossians 3:12-21 and Luke 2:41-52



Sunday School for All Ages

Our next intergenerational Meeting for Learning is Sunday, December 2. George Bouchard will be facilitating conversation as we revisit “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” Join us, along with Max and the Whos, at 9:30 a.m. on December 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

Some people believe Jesus caused the most dramatic change to the world that ever happened. I recently watched a lecture John Dominic Crossan gave at Pendle Hill Retreat Center. My understanding of Crossan's theory is that it wasn't just because of Jesus. If Jesus had come in any other time, place, in any other tradition, or brought a slightly different vision, it is unlikely that the spark of Christianity would have taken. Crossan thinks it was a confluence of four phenomena. It was a moment in history that developed out of an emerging political power and philosophy, including the idea that a human who did something spectacular for humanity could be divine. It was a place where war, occupation, exploitative economics, and extreme poverty all converged in a tiny strip of land — the connection between the Roman's breadbasket countries of Syria and Egypt. It was the Jewish tradition of prophecy and desperate yearning for the consummation of God's kingdom. It was a vision of a life in God, a beloved community that would bring peace through justice. Jesus stepped into that mish mash, a man who loved without condition, called God Abba, Daddy, and obeyed the call to serve with his whole being. It was the confluence and culmination of changes both evolutionary and revolutionary, accidental and intentional.

It could be argued that we, too, live in a confluence of phenomena, power, exploitative economics, and war, yearning for God, and certainly visions both old and new, accidental and intentional. But in reality, a culmination of changes occurs in every time and place, only some bring transformation. I think about our time, place, tradition and vision as we celebrate the advent of Light to the world, the coming of the Christ, the birth of a baby named Jesus. I wonder what the swirling eddies of time, place, tradition, and vision in our times will birth in the world. But more imminently the query is what will it birth in us? How will we be changed and transformed to love without condition, build the beloved community that creates peace through justice, and live our lives in God, serving with our whole being? How will the Light of the World shine through us?



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



In October we had our first boba tasting activity. Boba really has no flavor but adds a chewy texture to the cold drink. It was a lot of fun and very interesting sampling all the various flavors of tea. Among those flavors were mango, watermelon, green tea and black tea. Honeydew made for an especially refreshing drink and won the taste test.

November was the time of year when we participate in service to the Interfaith Food Center. We changed up our scavenger hunt a bit this year and focused on the children served by the IFC. The IFC has a Santa's workshop so this year we found toys to match the loosely formed questions and clues provided about each toy. During our hunt for the biggest and best that did not exceed our budgetary constraints we made a new friend. His name is Rufus, named for noted Quaker Rufus Jones. Rufus is a dinosaur, and you may find him hanging around during the holidays to remind you of our toy drive. It is hoped that you will bring a new unwrapped toy to the Family Christmas Dinner or place a toy in the receptacle located in the foyer.



In December, we will gather in the kitchen and make as many wonderful treats as possible to be sold at the Family Christmas Dinner. The money raised from this sale and the sale of a unique stained glass creation provided by D & L Stained Glass will be split, with half going to the youth program and the other half to a charitable cause yet to be decided by the youth of the Meeting.

—Lynda Ladwig



News from Whittier Friends School

The scene is set: a group of children are dressed for winter, singing merrily about the Christmas season, while one child sits with his friend, lamenting, "I think there must be something wrong with me. I just don't understand Christmas, I guess. I might be getting presents, and sending Christmas cards and decorating trees and all that, but I'm still not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel." And how many of us feel so bogged down by the commercialism—the busy, busy, busy, spend, spend, SPEND!—of Christmas that we misplace and forget the "peace on Earth, good will toward all" part of Christmas? Whittier Friends School and the Meeting's Sunday School children will be telling the story of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at the Family Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 9. The children look forward to presenting Charlie Brown's story, particularly as we've discussed ways we can make the holiday season more special in our hearts.

The school children will also perform this play on Thursday, December 20 for more families and friends, with delicious Christmas cookies enjoyed by all following the performance. We have asked that attendees of our Thursday night performance bring a new, unwrapped toy rather than paying an entry fee. We want the gift of our performance to help us pass on gifts to children who are less fortunate in our community.

Whittier Friends School enjoyed their annual feast day, celebrated on November 16, the last day before Thanksgiving break. This feast day was, again, an opportunity for the children to celebrate their friendship and importance to their school community. They each brought an ingredient that was used to make a large feast for each other and their family guests. Fourteen children, in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade, prepared a meal of rotisserie chicken, mashed potatoes, creamed corn, sweet carrots, crescent rolls, and chocolate brownies. When we each share a little, and work as a team, our whole community is rewarded!

—Cassie Caringella



December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Schedule for Sundays Unprogrammed Worship — 9:30a Meetings for Learning — 9:30a Friends Choir Rehearsal — 9:30a Meeting for Worship — 11:00a				7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal		1 9:00a Youth Fellowship Candy Making
2 12:30p Monthly Meeting	3 1:30p Writing Class	4 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group	5	6 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 3:00p New Century Singers Concert 5:00p Annual Christmas Dinner	10 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	11 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group	12	13 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 12:30p Christian Education Committee Meeting 12:30p Music Committee Meeting	17 12:00p Writing Class Christmas Luncheon	18 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 6:00p Caroling at Brookdale	19	20 6:00p Whittier Friends School Christmas Celebration 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23	24 8:00p Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 6:00p New Year's Eve Celebration-Fellowship Hall & Kitchen					



Lisa Adam
 John Bateman
 Derek Creelman
 Ann Davidson
 Elisabeth Elliot
 Jack Huffaker
 Russ Litchfield

Ryan Marshall
 Luke Marshburn
 Elise Marshburn
 Brooke Marshburn
 Holly Marshburn
 Ted Marshburn
 Becky Memmelaar

Jay Oberholtzer
 Amara Overmyer

 Chris Thirkettle
 Milt 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!



CHRISTMAS AT THE MEETING



Saturday, December 1

Young Friends Fellowship Candy Making

The youth prepare the plates of sweet treats to be sold at the Family Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 9 at 5 p.m.

A Charlie Brown Christmas Family Dinner

- * Our annual tradition of fine dining, carol-singing and a presentation by Whittier Friends School and the Meeting's Sunday School classes.
- * Candy sale and auction of a new creation by D&L Stained Glass.

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children through third grade

Bring a new, unwrapped toy for the children served by the Interfaith Food Center

Sunday, December 16 at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Music at Meeting for Worship

Presented by the Friends Choir and special musical guests (see page 7)

Tuesday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Caroling at Brookdale

Monday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship

See page 10 for poinsettia ordering information

Rejoice With Music

The Friends Choir and instrumentalists will offer two Baroque works for worship on Sunday, December 16 at 11:00 a.m..

The first, *Rejoice In the Lord Always* by Henry Purcell (1659-1695), also known as the *Bell Anthem*, is a “verse anthem” comprised of scripture verses sung by a trio of soloists (alto, tenor and bass) and the full choir in response. The text is Philippians 4: 4-7 and was set by Henry Purcell between 1682 and 1685. The piece begins with a short “symphony” and contains several brief instrumental interludes, played by strings.

The second, *Meine Seel erhebt den Herren* (*Magnify the Lord, my soul*) is a setting of Mary’s Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-55) in German rather than Latin by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). This cantata, written for July 2, 1624 (The Feast of the Visitation), is musically based on the Gregorian Psalm tone, *Tonus Peregrinus*, familiar to worshippers in Leipzig at the time. The cantata has seven sections, including two arias, two tenor recitatives and a duet, in addition to the choral movements 1 and 7. The first and fifth movements are based on the biblical text and the others are based on freely paraphrased Lutheran texts of anonymous origin. The final movement is a harmonized version of *Tonus Peregrinus* containing the Gloria Patri text. The piece is scored for trumpet, two oboes, two violins, viola, cello, bass and continuo organ. We will omit the trumpet part as it doubles the chant melody sung by the sopranos and altos of the choir.

We hope that this music will help you deepen your worship and inspire your preparations for the coming of Christ at Christmas as it surely did for the worshippers in Leipzig in 1624.

—Russ Litchfield



Give The Gift of Play

Our meeting is sponsoring a holiday toy drive to benefit the children served by the Interfaith Food Center (IFC). We are collecting new unwrapped toys or gift cards for children through 14 years old. Toys will be collected until December 11 in the foyer (next to the Little Red Wagon.) We are also collecting toys at the Family Christmas Dinner on December 9. Please put a smile on a child’s face by bringing a toy with you to donate.

Remember that food is always needed, so help keep our Little Red Wagon full during the holidays.

—Vicky Kendrick



A-Caroling We Will Go.

This is an invitation to spread some Christmas love on Tuesday evening, December 18 with our friends across the street at Brookdale. Join us from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the lobby at Brookdale to sing Christmas songs with the residents. All are welcome to join us in sharing the joy of the season with our presence.

Bringing Hope To Our Neighbors

First Friends Church community is extending love and warmth this winter season. Our Winter Mission is focused on serving our homeless friends that live here in Whittier. You can participate in the mission project now through January 21. Invite your family and friends to contribute through you by making donations of gifts or time! The more the merrier!

Tree of Christmas Peace—Friends are invited to share their blessings of peace by adding a gift on or under the tree 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. All the decorations and gifts will be given to the St. Matthias Soup Hour in January to minister to our neighbors living on the streets. By giving warmth, we share peace!

Cold Weather Shelter—Every winter from November through March, the Whittier Area Interfaith Council sponsors the Cold Weather Shelter to provide overnight hospitality for some of the homeless in our Whittier community.

In January, First Friends Church will be coordinating with our friends and neighbors at First United Methodist Church (FUMC) to house and feed up to forty homeless people. FUMC is graciously opening their doors Monday evening, January 14 through Monday morning, January 21. They will provide an accessible location for dinner and sleeping and pitching in with the meals and the night supervision. We are asking Friends to cook dinner meals or make monetary contributions to help cover the cost of breakfasts.

Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer as we begin to seek volunteers to help with cooking dinners each night at 7:00 p.m.), breakfasts each morning at 6:00 a.m. and with overnight supervision. There is a need for supervisors (one male, one female) to be on site from 6:00 until midnight and from midnight to 7:00 a.m. each night and early morning. Coffee and a hot breakfast is provided.

Please consider how you might want to serve. Contact Marilyn Fant with questions and suggestions.

Bring hope! Share love!

—Marilyn Fant



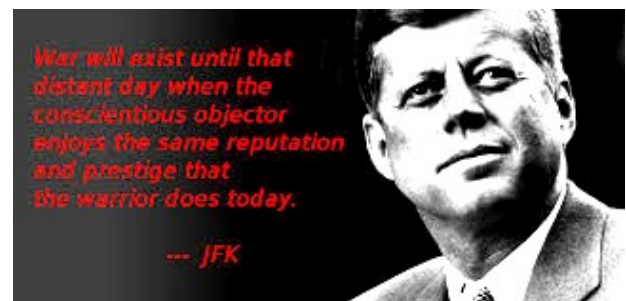
Quakers in Unity New From Friends Around the World



Friends Committee on National Legislation—Several Friends from our Meeting attended the FCNL Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. and we look forward to their insightful reports during this tumultuous year. fcn1.org

Friends General Conference—Two years after Friends General Conference's governing body approved the initiation of an institutional assessment on systemic racism; a full report and summary with recommendations are now available regarding systemic racism on the FGC website. Based on this report and recommendations, FGC approved a minute to become an anti-racist organization in a multi-year process. There was strong unity in the body, which gives hope to many. The discernment process that brought us to this unity further revealed why FGC needs a spirit-led intervention – many of the processes that inform our faith community are tainted by the destructive power of white supremacy and require a widespread commitment to transformation. fgc.org.

Friends United Meeting—Over \$11,000 has been raised so far for the Summer Mission Project: Rebuilding a Friendly Place. This is not a final number, as donations will continue to come in through the end of the year (First Friends raised \$1091 for the project. Construction work has already begun to rebuild the Wilmington School as an ecumenical meeting space and educational facility. The Quaker Heritage Center at Wilmington College in Ohio is featuring an exhibit spotlighting the deep commitment to nonviolence of five young Quaker students at the college who, amid tremendous social and political pressure to register as soldiers during World War I, left their families and their studies to serve nonviolently rebuilding a war-torn Europe. In so doing, they rebuilt their image of themselves, their Quaker identities, and their firm belief in the need to abolish war. fum.org.





Reflections on Election Day

This midterm election was special in our household, not due to any candidate we were passionate about or proposition we wanted to succeed, but rather as an opportunity to teach the next generation about our family approach to participatory democracy. This was the first election that our son Cedric has participated in, and he voted by mail from school. Anthea has also developed a real interest in the political process. Although she is only 16 and cannot vote, she participated as a poll worker in La Habra on November 6. After a 15-and-a-half hour shift, she has now spent more of her lifetime in a polling place than both of her parents combined.

Although we have frequently discussed political matters, our children have had only mild exposure to the actual voting process. They came along and waited outside polling places over the years while their parents disappeared into the mysterious booth and handed over a ticket in exchange for a cool "I voted!" sticker, but much of the mechanics weren't a topic of discussion. We needed to prepare them for the responsibilities.

Not being a family which simply votes a party ticket or is suckered by a glossy insert-name-of-respectable-sounding-special-interest-organization voting guide, we set up an evening to go through the ballot. We invited some friends over and had representation of liberal, moderate, and conservative viewpoints. We read through every proposition and listened to a nonpartisan discussion on our Amazon Echo. The group discussed the pros and cons, explained our perspectives and viewpoints, and argued back and forth. Once we were spent, we'd take notes on our sample ballots or a notepad and move on. Multiple times, I came away with a different decision than I was leaning towards in the days before our gathering. We practiced civil discourse, and did not embrace the partisan acrimony and politics of undermining and destroying the opposition.

It was a grueling but wonderful experience, and I felt that we were demonstrating democracy as it is meant to be to our children. They will learn that we are

On Our Calendar...

Whittier Friends School Chili Cook-Off	January 26, 2019
Stoking the Fire at Quaker Hill Center in Richmond, Indiana	June 7-10, 2019



ALL FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

All Friends Fellowship Night is taking December off and will bring in 2019 on Wednesday night, January 9. Look for details in the January issue of *The Living Light*.

a nation of differing viewpoints, and only by communicating different perspectives and considering an issue from multiple angles will they be able to make the best informed decisions. Cedric's ballot is secret. I do not know how he ended up voting and how close or divergent it will be to my selections, but I am confident that he has learned how to fulfill this most important responsibility of an adult American citizen.

—Brendon Woirhaye



Errata: In the November issue of The Living Light, the wrong credit was given to the Solar Celebration flower arrangement. The beautiful sunflower arrangement pictured was designed by Donna Wright. We apologize for the mistake.

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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

In memory of _____

or

In honor of _____

Name _____

Phone _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

☐ I will take after Meeting for Worship on
 Christmas Eve

☐ Please deliver to those unable to worship
 with us regularly



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

Peggy Anderson
 Carlos Bailey
 Helen & Jack Carlisle
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 Kathy & Klane Robison
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