

THE LIVING LIGHT

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

Ephesians 5:9

Volume 58 Number 11

Whittier First Friends Church

December 2019

Open Wide Our Heavenly Home



Welcome Christmas!

A Christmas dinner in Whoville, a tree of warmth, joyous music, a child's gift and a warm home for the holidays—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, Merry Christmas!

Friends Celebrate: Congratulations and best wishes to **Matthew Bouchard** and his bride, **Kimberly**, who were married in November in Corona.

Friends Visit: **Rex, Paula** and **Nathan Jones** visited the Meeting on November 10 and stayed for our stewardship lunch. Rex, who was pastor at First Friends from 1997 to 2008, officiated at Matthew & Kimberly's wedding.

Friends Travel: **Lanning, Danielle** and **Olivia Bald** went on a trip to China for the girls' first visit to their grandparents who live there.

Pat Garland traveled to Texas to celebrate her dad's 90th birthday. Here is her dad, Joseph, her brother Tony, her son, James & Pat. Pat received news that her dad was just admitted to the hospital due to pneumonia.



School and Work: **Rebecca Overmyer-Velázquez**, an associate professor at Whittier College and recently appointed C. Wright Mills Chair in Sociology, was featured in the College's e-news. She took part in an environmental justice protest in her home neighborhood of Hacienda Heights, which attracted the attention of the local CBS station and Univision. As reported (and as Friends already know!), Becky is a public sociologist whose activism and scholarship is focused on engaging communities for social justice and change.

Friends Remember: Prayers for the family of **Clella Snider**, a longtime attendee. Clella passed to new life on Sunday, November 10. A couple of years ago, I had the privilege of getting to stand next to Clella in the Friends Handbell Choir. She was a wonderful lady that I enjoyed getting to know. A celebration of life is being planned for sometime in January. **Marcus Hadley** passed away in October at the age of 98. Mark's father was a Friends pastor, and the family moved around a lot. His sister, Clarabel, was **Ted Marshburn's** chemistry teacher at Olney Friends School in Barnesville, OH and Mark's sister Ruth was a classmate of Ted's at the same school. Mark's brother David was a doctor, and a Friends United Meeting medical missionary in Kenya. Mark and his wife **Marjorie** were well known when they lived in the Whittier area.

Margie was active in our Women's Society and was its treasurer for years. Mark & Margie became members of the Meeting and later helped to form Whiteleaf Friends Meeting. They eventually transferred their membership to Sacramento Friends Meeting where they lived until they moved to Oregon and then to Montana. They were active in Friends organizations including American Friends Service Committee and Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Friends About Town: The prom dress which **Anathea Woirhaye** designed and spent several months making won first place in a community art contest. It was on display last month at Harmony Center, where she was presented with her award on October 20. Ask her to show you the pictures of it—she carries them on her phone. **Deanna Woirhaye** felt very blessed to have been the featured photographer at a book launch held at King Richards Antique Center in Whittier. Deanna photographically designed and provided the book cover. It was a wonderful opportunity for her. Deanna was also called to be the designated photographer for the Historic Grand Opening of the Lassie House in Pomona with Jon Provost, the actor who played Timmy in the classic "Lassie" TV series and, of course, the beautiful collie herself. Fortunately, Timmy was not stuck in a well.

Finally, we all went to Disneyland to celebrate Avalon's 7th birthday. Here are some of us with *The Living Light* continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)

Friends Sharing News: Help to keep our "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 Meeting for Worship on Sunday. Merry Christmas and see you next month!



This Month in Meeting for Worship

December 1	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>What is God's Promise Fulfilled?</i> Jeremiah 33:14-16, I Thessalonians 3:9-13
December 8	Music Sunday The Friends Choir brings the message <i>The Childhood of Christ</i>
December 15	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Prophetic Messengers</i> Malachi 3:1-5, Philippians 1:3-4
December 22	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Peace Offerings</i> Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10
December 24	Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship 8:00 p.m. <i>Were You There?</i>
December 29	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Zeal</i> Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14



At Monthly Meeting for November on November 10, the asking budget for 2020 was submitted by Business and Finance and the Envisioning Group reported that they are looking at ways to meet the projected budget shortfall. Plans for Giving received to date are down from last year.

The solar panel system is now covering 65% of our energy costs. The Technology Group reported that audio and video conferencing has been installed in the pastor's office to enable online participation in events and meetings. They are currently looking into improved data connections and internet speed.

The Nominating Committee has nearly completed the assignment of filling the 2020 clerks and committee members positions. We are still seeking a clerk for the Personnel Committee.

We are working with First Christian Church as they continue their planning for the future use of their building and are in conversation with members of the neighboring Good Shephard Family Bible Church, who lost their building to fire last month.

Monthly Meeting for December is December 8.

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

I have been thinking about the query: Why go to church?

It came out of our experience at the first ever Whittier Pride event. We went Quaker simple. We had our banner, some Quaker materials, balloons and flags. The most important part of our booth was our blank table. We covered it with white paper, provided some markers in rainbow colors and asked people to consider the queries: "What do you want in a church?" and "What are you seeking?" The primary purpose was to invite and engage people in conversation. It might give us some insight about whether they would come to our church. The answers people gave to our queries were as simple as our simple table: Love. Acceptance. Walk your talk.

It brought to mind all the reasons I hear people give for not being in church. It starts too early; it is my only day to sleep in. It is my only day to spend time with family. I travel. I have company. I had tickets for a performance and didn't want to be late. It is too far. The music is too old or contemporary or loud. The sermon and/or silence is too long. The words are not inclusive. The theology is too inclusive. If I go they will expect me to help. There is too much work to do. I don't want to get dressed up. There is too much church politics or talk about national politics. I want to change the world, not sit in church.

But then there are other answers. I am home recovering from illness or surgery. I am in the hospital. I live in a nursing home. I am in a foster care group home. I am too poor to afford the bus fare. I have no offering. I have nothing to give. I am shy and don't know how to interact with people. I am depressed. I am afraid. Nobody invites me or asks me to do anything. I don't have the right clothes. I look different. I have to work, or I need this second job to make ends meet.

I am still processing what this means as to how we can reach out to the community and answer why people are not in church. While we have many activities in our buildings, most of the campus—the Meeting House, Fellowship Hall, the kitchen, the Sharpless building—are empty, 9-5, 300 days a year. My queries are: How do we fill God's space with ministry, love, and laughter? And, how do we get out of our pews, meeting house, and fellowship hall, not just to invite others in, but to be where they are? What can your pastor and your Meeting do differently?



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



What's the best way to start off the holiday season? Well, the youth know the answer to this question: ask Mary Marshburn to teach you how to make an apple pie. She replies not only "of course" but also "how would you like staying for lunch?" So Thanksgiving came a week early for us as we enjoyed our sandwich buffet and learned a bit about pie making and generosity. Each pie maker took their pie home ready to bake and can't wait to share it with others around the table. We are so thankful for Friends like Mary and Ted who generously share their home and their gifts with us.



Moving further into the holidays, we exchange our baking hats for confectioner's aprons. On December 7, our Meeting's kitchen will be a sweet place to make some traditional, as well as some favorite candies to be sold at the Family and Friends Christmas Dinner on December 15. In addition to selling their candy the youth take this opportunity to be of service to the meeting by serving those who attend. Tickets for the dinner are on sale through December 10.

Our service projects continue all the way up to Christmas week. Since 2011, our children's workshop (formerly known as the Monday Before Christmas) has been a gift to the community, offering additional help from a few supportive adults, so parents can have a holi-day off to finish shopping, wrapping, decorating or just enjoying a relaxing moment. On Friday, December 20, from 9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., kids kindergarten through sixth grade will come together once again to play, make stuff, and have a lot of Christmas fun.

—Lynda Ladwig



News from Whittier Friends School

In recent weeks, our Whittier Friends School children have had some terrific opportunities for hands-on and up-close learning. On October 28, Darrel Warren allowed us to borrow his amateur ("ham") radio so that we could listen in as astronaut Luca Parmitano answered questions about working and living in space posed by students at Vermont Elementary School in Los Angeles. It was fascinating to the children as we attempted to move the large antenna around to make contact with space. They were also interested to hear the astronaut speak in real-time. It brought space travel and science to life for the children.



Then on November 1, the children were fortunate to have a private concert by the Felici Piano Trio at the Shannon Center. We always look forward to the School Outreach Concerts, organized by Shannon



Center Theatre Manager Shane Cadman, but this time we had the added benefit of being the only school in attendance because other schools, who usually attend the outreach concerts, had a scheduled day off. We

were able to sit directly on the stage right in front of the musicians, where we could see the musical instruments up close. We are appreciative of the special privileges our students have that students in other learning environments might not be able to experience, but this particular week we were reminded especially of these privileges.

In December, our children will once again have the opportunity to perform a holiday story for friends and family. First, WFS and along with Sunday School students of the Meeting will tell the story of "How the Grinch Found Christmas" at the Family and Friends Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 15. The school children will also perform this play on Thursday, December 19 for more families and friends, with a cookie potluck following the performance. The children look forward to presenting the Grinch's story and sharing festive holiday songs.

—Cassie Caringella

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 1:30p Writing Class	3 7:30a Spiritual Growth Group 9:00a Trustees Committee Meeting 6:30p WFS Parent Meeting	4 6:30p Business & Finance Committee Meeting	5 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	6 7:30p Beth Shalom Worship	7 9:00a Youth Fellowship Candy Making 12:30p Monthly Meeting Dinner Prep
8 12:15p Monthly Meeting	9 10:00a Needle Workers 1:30p Writing Class	10 7:30a Spiritual Growth Group 4:00p WFS Committee Meeting	11	12 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	13 Friendly Fare Deadline 7:30p Beth Shalom Worship	14 9:00a Beth Shalom Worship
15 Living Light Deadline 12:30p Music Committee Meeting 3:00p New Century Singers Concert 5:00p Annual Christmas Dinner	16 Hosting Cold Weather Shelter Begins with Dinner 1:30p Writing Class	17 Hosting Cold Weather Shelter 7:30a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Ministry and Counsel	18 Hosting Cold Weather Shelter 10:00a Christian Education Committee Meeting 1:00p Envisioning Group	19 Hosting Cold Weather Shelter 6:30p WFS Family Christmas Celebration 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	20 Hosting Cold Weather Shelter 9:30a Children's Christmas Workshop 7:30p Beth Shalom Worship	21 Hosting Cold Weather Shelter
22 Hosting Cold Weather Shelter <i>No Meetings for Learning Today</i>	23 Hosting Cold Weather Shelter Ends with Breakfast 10:00a Needle Workers-TBD	24 7:30a Spiritual Growth Group TBD 8:00p Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship	25 Christmas Day	26 7:00p Friends Choir Rehearsal	27 7:30p Beth Shalom Worship	28
29 <i>No Meetings for Learning Today</i>	30	31 7:30a Spiritual Growth Group TBD 6:15p New Years Eve Celebration		Living Light Folding Day and Time TBD Jan 5 Clerks' Quarterly Meeting	Schedule for Sundays Unprogrammed Worship—8:30a First Day Classes—9:30a Friends Choir Rehearsal—9:30a Meeting for Worship—11:00a	



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
Milton 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 7

Young Friends Fellowship Candy Making

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

Sunday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Music at Meeting for Worship

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

Sunday, December 15 at 5 p.m.

Family and Friends Christmas Dinner

- * Our annual tradition of fine dining, carol-singing and a presentation of "How the Grinch Found Christmas" 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

Call the church office to donate a cooked and sliced turkey!

Monday, December 16—Monday, December 23

Cold Weather Shelter

(see page 8)

Friday, December 20

Children's Christmas Workshop

(see page 4)

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

Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship

See page 8 for poinsettia ordering information





Russ' Reflections

Music Sunday is December 8 and we are looking forward to sharing *Die Kindheit Jesu* (*The Childhood of Jesus*) by Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach with the Friends Choir and guest musicians at Meeting for Worship.

Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach (1732-1795), the ninth son and sixteenth child of Johann Sebastian Bach, was born during the time his father was Cantor in Leipzig. He studied at St. Thomas School and Leipzig University and became chamber musician to Count Wilhelm of Schaumburg-Lippe at Bükeburg, near Hanover, where he remained for the rest of his life. It is here that he met and collaborated with Johann Gottfried Herder, the court preacher and author of the text of *Die Kindheit Jesu*, on some important cantatas.

Die Kindheit Jesu is in three parts. The first, based on Luke 2, begins with the angel announcing the birth of Christ to some shepherds, who then hear the heavenly chorus sing *Glory to God and on Earth, peace*. In the second part, the shepherds go to the manger, where they find Mary singing to her baby child and recounting the angel's visit to her, telling her she would bear God's Son. The section ends with the shepherds rejoicing in song.



Part three finds Mary singing the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-50) followed by Simeon (Luke 2:22-32), who came to the temple when Jesus was presented. Moved by the Spirit, he blessed Jesus with the words of the Nunc Dimittis. The music is a chorale (hymn) version of the Song of Simeon. The choir ends the cantata with recounting the shepherds and angels singing, Mary looks on Jesus with joy and sorrow, and Simeon, in rapture, departs the world.

This cantata is scored for two flutes, two horns, strings, and organ with soprano, alto, tenor and two bass solos and choir. J.C.F. Bach wrote in a simpler style than his father, hinting at the classicism of Haydn and Mozart. We hope that you will find the music inspiring and worshipful.

On Our Calendar...

Young Friends Fellowship Snow Camp	January 31—February 2
Friends Committee on National Legislation Spring Lobby Weekend	March 28—31
Yearly Meeting of the Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends	February 29
Shelter's Right Hand 5K Walk	April 25
Friends United Meeting Triennial in Kisumu, Kenya	July

**Quakers in Unity
New From Friends
Around the World**



Friends Committee on Legislation of California—Thank you for your support this year, which enabled us to bring a voice of conscience to the state Capitol and weigh in on over 100 bills on economic justice, environmental justice, criminal justice reform and immigration. We invite you to participate in our Champion Campaign with the goal of raising \$400,000 to finish our work this year and start off strong in 2020. See reports on our work at the Action Center on our website. www.fclca.org.

Friends Committee on National Legislation—a letter urging a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has been sent to the president from over 50 faith leaders, including representatives from FCNL. The letter further urges lifting the Gaza blockade and the recognition of rights of Palestinian refugees. fcnl.org.

Friends General Conference—The 2020 Gathering "Way Will Open" is June 28–July 4 at Radford University in Radford, Virginia. fgc.org.

Friends United Meeting—Belize City Friends Center hosted an outreach event with Belmopan Nazarene Church. The Church brought lawyers, counselors, a medical team (including doctors, a nurse, and a pharmacist), groceries, clothing, and shoes. The day ended with an enthusiastic street-side worship service. Teams of people went into the neighborhood in the morning to let people know what was happening, and a steady stream of people came all through the day to access the holistic services the group provided. fum.org.

Continued on page 9

You'll Never Walk Alone

Jean Sponsler introduced 17 of her fellow New Century Singers Whittier choristers to a large All Friends Fellowship Night gathering in Fellowship Hall on November 13.

For most of the audience, no introduction was needed—the all-woman chorus is well-known and well-loved at the Meeting. The chorus was founded 55 years ago as the PTA Mothersingers and has since become a Whittier-area institution. Each year they give three concerts in our Meeting House.

The special AFFN recitation involved about half of the Singers, including long-time Director Judy Kertes. They wore long black dresses with autumnal scarves, as in their fall concert on October 27, and presented many of the same songs. Our Director of Music Ministries Russ Litchfield is the group's new piano accompanist for the group and rendered his good offices (naturally).

The New Century Singers specialize in golden oldies from musical theater and movies. They sang "Getting to Know You" from *The King and I* and "Do Re Mi" from *The Sound of Music*, "I'm Going to Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair" from *South Pacific* and Carole King's ever-popular song "You've Got a Friend," among many others. Jean sang a beautiful solo in "Do Re Mi."

Russ's favorites, "Climb Ev'ry Mountain, also from *The Sound of Music* and "You'll Never Walk Alone" from *Carousel* were the grand finale of both their fall concert and of the AFFN event. Russ demonstrated his piano virtuosity in an elaborate introduction to the pieces.

Jean serves as program director and announcer at the concerts. She has been active with the group for many years and sings in the soprano section of the our Friends Choir.

The monumental task of providing a pre-program supper for audience and artists was superbly carried out by Mary Marshburn, with the help of the Fellowship Committee, in the form of a potato bar with potluck contributions from the attenders. Mary decorated the tables with autumnal chrysanthemums and colorful gourds grown in her famous garden.

—Bob Newton

Deck the Halls with Warm and Cozy

Throughout the Christmas season, Friends are invited to decorate the Tree of Christmas Peace in the church foyer. Attach caps, gloves and socks directly onto the tree and place blankets, jackets, umbrellas and rain ponchos underneath. Our tree lights will shine starting December 1 and all donations will be delivered to our homeless friends at St. Matthias Soup Hour in January.

Twas Before Christmas at the Cold Weather Shelter

This month, the Meeting will be coordinating with our neighbors at First United Methodist Church to house and feed up to forty-five homeless guests. The Methodist Church is graciously opening their doors starting Monday evening, December 16 until Monday morning, December 23.

We will be providing breakfast, dinner, and night supervision throughout that week. Volunteers are needed as:

- **Dinner Cooks**—Teams of 3-4 people are recommended and the FUMC kitchen is available for our use. Teams will provide a main dish, side dishes, rolls and dessert. Dinner is served at 7:00 p.m. each night.
- **Breakfast Cooks**—Food for breakfasts is provided but we need cooks. Breakfast is served at 6:00 a.m. each morning.
- **Overnight Supervisors**—One male and one female are needed to be on-site from 8:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. each night and from 12:30-5:00 a.m. each (early) morning. Coffee and a hot breakfast is provided.
- **Monetary Contributors**—to help cover the cost of breakfasts and paper goods.

The Winter Mission team is grateful for your assistance. Contact Marilyn Fant at marilynsfant@gmail.com or call the church office to volunteer.

—Marilyn Fant



All Friends Fellowship Night is taking December off. January will be the next time we gather for food, fellowship and a stimulating program.

'Quakers in Unity' continued from page 7

Right Sharing of World Resources—Vihiga, Kenya is a rural county with several challenges, including that women are not allowed to own or inherit property and have little access to education. Through the Jiinue Self Help Group, women are working to achieve financial independence and take a leadership role in their families and communities. After the group received a RSWR grant in January 2018, initial loans of \$50-\$100 were distributed to 25 beneficiaries to scale up or diversify their businesses. Beatrice is a physically disabled mother of three, who runs a tailoring business making school uniforms. Since receiving a loan from the RSWR grant, income has doubled, and women have been able to pay for school fees and medical expenses as well as contribute to the group's savings plan each month. rswr.org.

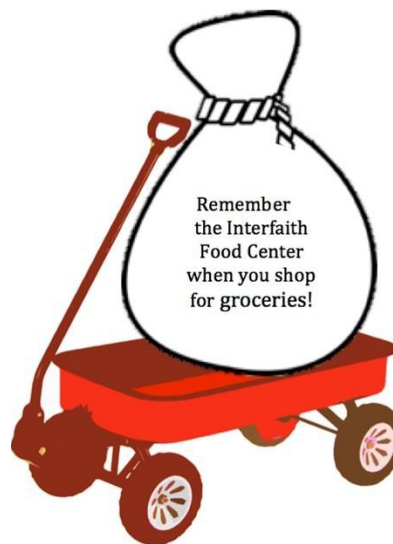


Passing it on—Young Friends Fellowship spends some kitchen time with Mary Marshburn, learning the secrets of creating a great apple pie.

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 in the foyer (next to the Little Red Wagon) and at the Family and Friends Christmas Dinner on December 15. 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.



Friends Books On Sale

Friends United Press is celebrating their 50th anniversary with a big sale. Go to bookstore.friendsunitedmeeting.org now through December 31 and use promo code FRIENDSUNITEDPRESS50 to take 50% off most Press books. Discount is applied at checkout.



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Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

Place a poinsettia plant in the meeting house on the Sunday
 before Christmas December 22 and on Christmas Eve.
\$9.00 each.

Order deadline is Wednesday, December 18.
 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.*

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