

THE LIVING LIGHT

For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.
Ephesians 5:9

Volume 60 Number 6

Whittier First Friends Church

Sixth Month 2021

Renewed in the Spirit

Mary Boltz Retires

Mary Boltz will step down at the end of June from her position as office administrator after 19 years of faithful service to Whittier First Friends. Mary started her position on November 19, 2001. "It has been both an honor and privilege to serve the members and friends of First Friends Church," said Mary.

After retirement, Mary looks forward to doing some relaxing travel with Randy in their camping trailer. One spot to visit on their list is near Cloverdale, California, camping on a scenic cliff overlooking the Russian River. Mary and Randy love to watch the deer, quail, and woodpeckers among the serene coastal oak trees.

Mary is also looking forward to travel on shorter trips with Randy, during the course of his work. The two will combine a bit of business travel with some more pleasurable and relaxing excursions on the side.

Mary has asked that her retirement celebration be kept low-key, but she would also love to receive cards and notes sharing with her your thoughts and memories. You may send these to the church office.



Friends are also gathering a love offering for Mary's retirement. If you wish to take part, please send your gift to the church office. Be sure to include "Mary's Retirement" on the memo line of your check. We thank you, Mary, for your many years of service to First Friends Church. We wish you the very best!



The maintenance and upgrade projects at the church continue. Thanks to all who assisted in the cleaning-out of the audio booth, shown here getting a fresh coat of paint from George Bouchard. Other improvements include wi-fi capability in Fellowship Hall.

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

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, I know this is beginning to sound cliché, but this has been a very weird year. We have been keeping our distance from each other. We have learned to wear masks when we go places. We have learned to communicate in various new ways including using Zoom online. Many of our Friends are getting the Covid vaccine. And now, all of a sudden (after more than a year) we are actually anticipating and looking forward to being able to stop wearing our masks everywhere. And yet, it feels weird to not wear a mask.

Friends About Town: **Tom Van Dorn** has received a pin from the American Red Cross recognizing his 500th donation. He now has a lifetime donation of 1200 units of platelets. **Mary Raymond**, now living in the Morningside retirement home in Fullerton, received her virus vaccine shots there. One of her poems appears in each issue of the Morningside newsletter. At the end of last year, the ones published during 2020 were collected in an illustrated booklet called "Poems for All Seasons".

Friends at Home: **Tom & Mindy Van Dorn** traveled to their new front yard! They had a landscaper do the hard scape, and Mindy selected all the plants from the collection she has in their backyard.



Debi Nelson had right knee replacement surgery last month. She says the hardest part has been an allergy to the pain medication. Most certainly not the best of experiences.

Friends Move: **Sherrill Walker** has moved from Claremont to a retirement home in Idaho where she is near her daughter and her daughter's family.

Friends Visit: **Ted & Mary Marshburn's** daughter **Carol** was expected to arrive from Maine for a visit in May.



Friends Travel: **Elinore Petoletti** went on a steam-boating trip to New Orleans! Here she is with *The Living Light* continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)

Friends Remember: Please hold the family and friends of **Bob Browning** in the Light and in your prayers for

peace. Bob passed in May after an extended illness. He is survived by his wife **Judy**, brother **Charles**, and sister **Anne McIntosh**.

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. See you next month!



The sunflowers will be appearing in the school yard before we know it. Look how tall the plants are getting! Photo by Cassie Caringella.



Virtual Triennial

Thursday-Saturday, June 17-19

Spanning multiple time zones, each session begins at 8:00 a.m. PDT and is limited to three hours.

Thursday: Travel with Friends. Virtual trips to Kenya, Belize, Palestine and more!

Friday: Discover. Energizing and equipping our meetings.

Saturday: Worshipful Work session.

Register at http://bit.ly/registration_triennial2021

This Month in Meeting for Worship

June 6	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>A House Made Whole</i> Mark 3:20-35
June 13	Promotion Sunday Weston Van Dorn brings the message
June 20	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Abundant Calm</i> Mark 4:35-41, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13Jo
June 27	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Abundant Celebration</i> Mark 5:21-43



At Monthly Meeting on May 16, we reviewed the responses of our committees to the queries presented concerning the future of our meeting, and the resources required to put us on

the right path. The Personnel Committee is using this report to determine staff needs. The report can be found on page 4 and 5.

We approved the recommendation of Trustees to sell the van that has been used for Meeting events, as the insurance and maintenance costs are not viable compared to usage. Renting vehicles on an as-needed basis is more cost-efficient, and there is a current market for used vans. Trustees also report that the courtyard fence has been installed.

After much consideration, we approved the distribution of the funds left to us by the Paul Partington estate. Our gratitude to Friend Paul is boundless, and we celebrate his life as well as the ministry his gift has made possible.

**The Whittier Area Interfaith Council
Invites You to Join in Virtual Interfaith Dialogue:
Part II**

**Living Our Faith:
Rules, Prayer, Social Justice and
Roles for Women**

Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Featuring **Loletta Barrett** and **Rabbi Mark Goldfarb**,
Temple Beth Ohr, and **Jamaal Zaheen**, Islamic
Institute of Orange County.

Panelists will be prepared to respond to questions
from the attendees.

Please register in advance at pastorffc@verizon.net



The Facing Bench

While walking I was treasuring the beautiful diversity of trees; enjoying their different colors, sizes, shapes, and heights, the ways they move, and both reflect sunlight off their leaves, and create blessed shade for me as I pass under them. Then I remembered: trees talk to

each other.

I read an article that explained it all in scientific terms of pathogens, symbiosis, enzymes, chemicals, fungi, and photosynthesis. Ecologist Suzanne Simard found trees are social creatures that give warnings and nurture younger trees. She says trees are part of a cooperative system and help each other survive and share information important to the health of the whole forest. If it were all about competition there would be no need for dynamic diversity. It would be a much simpler place.

It was interesting to read about the sharing, dependence, interdependence, and “obligate relationships” (meaning that they need each other to survive). There is an essential exchange and sharing network, communication, balance, collaborative actions between neighbors, and a regenerative transfer of energy and information to the next generation. Wow! The ecology of trees.

Sounds a lot like humans actually. It is how we have not only survived but thrived through the ages and through the pandemic as a meeting. Trees remind us about community. They show us resilience is really about the ability of systems to recover their structures and functions within a range of possibilities. The range may change, but there are always possibilities for growth, love, creativity, peace, caring, learning, generosity, compassion, beauty, and joy, for both trees and for us. It is the Creator’s abundant, ongoing, diverse participation with us in eternity and Now.

I learned a lot from trees. Maybe that’s why I heard God’s voice one day as I sat under a tree with my back to a trunk and the dappled sunlight streaming through the leaves. I think I’ll go listen for God under a tree. Or maybe I’ll eavesdrop on their conversation. Please feel free to join me.



SKILLS

Organizational and Work Skills

- Ability to manage facilities, scheduling, and rental contracts
- Ability to work with facility and technology contractors and contracts
- Ability to support and/or coordinate planning and implementation of retreats, classes, educational forums, and fellowship events for the meeting
- Ability to support and/or coordinate planning and implementation of special events for the meeting, community members and organization (weddings, celebrations of life, conferences)
- Abilities to support, work in, facilitate and lead teams

People Skills

- Multi-cultural and multi-language competencies
- Ability to interact with people of all ages, cultures, and economic conditions
- Passion and skill to work with adults of all ages as well as the youth
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Ability to use peaceful communication and conflict resolution skills
- Listening skills
- Eagerness to reach out and connect with others
- Ability to maintain confidentiality

CENTRAL VALUES

- Listening to Spirit
- A fellow journeyer with a heart for the ministry of the Meeting
- Enthusiasm for working in a multi-cultural intergenerational setting
- Interest in learning, growing, sharing and teaching, and a willingness to mentor and be mentored
- Adaptability and flexibility
- Eagerness and ability to invite and engage others

Technical Skills

- Teaching, pastoral care and spiritual devotion skills
- Translation/multi-language abilities
- Ability and knowledge in use of electronic technology: audio/visual, social media, online giving, internet, website, publishing, graphics, databases, office and communication equipment and tools
- Ability to provide technical support, mentor and support Friends and facility users in use of technology
- Facilitate weekly news and devotionals online
- Skills in writing and producing publications

Work Orientation Skills

- Ability to see beyond the Meeting, and to interact with local community and Quaker organizations
- Imagination in how facilities and resources can be used
- Willingness to lend a hand when needed in new areas
- Adaptability and flexibility in working with many people, projects, and deadlines
- Enthusiasm in reaching out to work with others including members, renters and the community
- Ability to take direction and work independently

MINISTRY

Ministry Through Spiritual Connection

- Worship and ministry that is multicultural and inclusive in ethnicity and language
- Ministering to spiritual needs of internet community--those not reached by traditional church, those who cannot attend and those who are "hones" or disillusioned
- Efficient pastoral care/contact ministry that goes two ways
- Pastoral care back-up
- Vibrant, meaningful worship that is accessible to all, including using technology
- Weekly devotionals on line
- Supportive of individual spiritual journeys

Ministry Through Education

- Mentor and learn from a pastor new to ministry
- Increase Meeting knowledge of other Quaker organizations
- Offer tutoring for students in the community, as well as Christian and Quaker education for all ages in the Meeting and the community
- Multi-cultural competence
- Financial and stewardship competence
- Discernment, especially in understanding gifts to serve
- Skills for living including parenting, peaceful communication and conflict resolution

Central Values

- Listening to Spirit
- Learning, growing and openness to try new things and accept ambivalence
- Welcoming, serving and walking together with people of all ages, cultures and economic status
- Enthusiasm to gather and engage, invite and retain others
- Partnership with Friends and staff
- Deepen our Quaker identity and expand our connection to the wider Quaker world
- Expand our Quaker presence, witness and impact in the community
- Use all the resources we have wisely, generously, and imaginatively, including money, technology, buildings, skills, and spiritual support
- Justice and equality in our actions, internally and in the community
- Outreach and connection in every way possible (technology and with our local, national and global communities--Quaker and others)

Ministry Through Resources

- Use facilities to provide services that enhance the community, including a tutoring program
- Create a conference center for global action, peaceful communications and conflict resolution
- Invite other Quaker organizations or social services to share facilities
- Utilize ministry endowment for service and new ministries
- Improve access to online giving for donors
- Use resources to support a new pastor from another country

Ministry Through Outreach

- Broaden age and multi-cultural appeal
- Minister to and mentor a pastor from another country
- Be a beacon of Quaker values in Whittier
- Contact, interact with, and integrate our ministry with other Quaker organizations
- Assess and serve needs in community tutoring was specifically mentioned
- Outreach to community to deal with social inequities and social injustice, health care and technology
- Intergenerational mission projects through the Meeting and with other meetings
- Involvement in legislative matters

Russ' Reflections



Jubilate in C by Benjamin Britten —An Anthem Story

Psalm 100, Jubilate Deo (Be joyful in the Lord), is one of the most common texts used in Christian worship and must go back in usage centuries to pre-Christian and Jewish roots.

One only has to read the text to determine its suitability for morning worship. We are called to be joyful, serve God, and be present with a song. We are assured that God made us to be people of God. We are admonished to enter God's gates with thanksgiving and praise, to be thankful and speak good about our gracious God, whose mercy and truth is everlasting.

We have encountered this text before, with the choir singing several musical settings in 2019.

Our section leaders and choir scholar will present another setting on June 6, one by English composer, Benjamin Britten (1913-1976). He is best known for his opera, *Peter Grimes*, his War Requiem, and his orchestral piece known as *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*.

He was also known for writing songs for solo voice, music for children, including his opera, *Noye's Fludde* (you can hear portions of it in Wes Anderson's film *Moonrise Kingdom*), and church music.

The setting of Jubilate Deo we will sing was written for St. George's Chapel, Windsor, at the request of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh (we might know him as Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth's husband and consort) and was published in 1961.

The piece was sung by four singers at his recent memorial service. The piece has two musical ideas. The first consists of short phrases that alternate between high and low voices where two versions of the same melody exist together, one more decorated than the other. This is contrasted by quiet sections that are more chordal in nature.

The psalm is presented in its liturgical form for Morning Prayer with the addition of the Gloria Patri. We look forward to the time when we can all enter worship together and sing God's praise.



News from Whittier Friends School

Whittier Friends School has been wrapping up the school year with some traditional events. In May, we experienced a virtual version of our annual Spring Event, with a silent auction occurring online over the course of a week, with an Arts Showcase on Zoom to mark the closing of the auction. Students were given the opportunity to share their artistic endeavors, from arts and crafts to creative writing. Coming up on June 9 is the last day of elementary school, with a recognition ceremony planned for Zoom, plus a preschool graduation on Zoom planned for June 24. If you would like to attend our ceremonies virtually, contact Cassie. They are always sweet opportunities for our community to share their appreciation of our students.

Our school's plans for summer include full day preschool, plus Summer Enrichment for elementary students. Summer preschool is a chance for the children to have the continuity of school routines, while getting to take part in fun activities. Summer Enrichment for elementary kids will occur on select weeks, Tuesday through Friday, from 12 to 3 p.m. It is an opportunity for kids to work on educational skills in a casual, multi-age setting, while getting a chance to socialize. We also always encourage our students of all ages to take part in the summer reading program at the library, plus the Meeting's Peace Camp for the elementary kids. Throughout the summer, we plan for all students and staff to continue to wear face masks, as we value the health of our community.

We are currently accepting applications for preschool, both for summer or the fall. Plus we only have a couple of openings for fall 2021 in the elementary class! You can contact cassie.wfs@gmail.com for enrollment information. We also appreciate financial support, in the form of checks, mailed to Whittier Friends School or First Friends Church (please write Whittier Friends School on the memo line) or through Paypal at finance@whittierfriendsschool.org, or you can visit our school's Amazon wishlist at <https://amzn.to/2QK8Yp8>.

—Cassie Caringella



Remembering Bob Browning



Jack Adam
Raquel Allen
Steven Bates
Alene Burke
Liam Burke
Nancy Cramer
Iris Harris
Taylor Hays
Marjorie Markel
Jordan Martinez
Joe Mendoza

Bob Newton
Tom Purkiss
Ethan Purkiss
Shane Purkiss
Amanda Settlege
Sharon Sturr
Bella Sturr
Weston Van Dorn
Shirley Votaw
Diane Wemmerus
Sarah Wood

Robert "Bob" Browning passed to new life on May 1, from complications of a longstanding lung disease. He was 69.

Bob grew up in the Meeting and was a member of the Friends Choir as well as a soloist for 23 years. His musical ministry was a gift to Meetings for Worship, special events, and weddings at the Meeting.

The son of longtime members Charles and Jessie Browning, Bob was an editor at the Whittier Daily News, San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Orange County Register and finally, at the Los Angeles Times during his 37-year career.

In 2005, Bob was the copy editor of the Times' Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative series on the King/Drew Hospital, for which he was named Los Angeles Times Copy Editor of the Year.

The job of copy editor suited him, says Judy, his wife of 31 years.

"Getting into copy editing turned out to be the perfect job for his talents," she says. "I don't want to say he was nit picky, but he liked details. He wanted to be sure the details were correct. It sort of became a calling."

"He was a genial, gentle man, easy to work with," said Henry Fuhrman, Bob's former supervisor at the Times. "But a big measure of Bob's influence was how widely he was admired. So when there was a big project, editors said, we want to be sure Bob's our guy."

Judy said Bob made a point to speak directly to reporters face-to-face if he had a question about a story. "He always wanted to be sure it wasn't one-sided. He said 'I'm asking for the reader. If I have questions, they're going to have questions.'"

Bob and Judy met at Rio Hondo College, where he was taking some music classes and she was the secretary of the fine arts department. Music and theatre continued to be a blessing in their lives. They were season ticket

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!

holders at the Disney Hall, and they regularly attended the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

After graduating from California High School, Bob attended Carleton College in Minnesota, where he received a bachelor's degree in history.

"After graduating, Bob wasn't sure what he wanted to do for a living," Judy said. He worked as a paralegal, and at one point thought he might want to teach music before he started his journalism career as a freelance critic for the Daily News. He was later hired as a reporter/writer and soon became community news editor.

After his retirement from the Times in 2013, Bob devoured books, which he had neglected during his years on the job.

"He felt he needed to read the whole newspaper every day, says Judy. "Except sports."

In addition to Judy, Bob is survived by his brother Charles Jr. and sister Anne McIntosh. All are members of the Meeting.

There will be a memorial service on June 26. If Friends would like to attend, please email Judy at bobjudy89@verizon.net.

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 communicuaker@gmail.com.

Return Service Requested
 Postmaster: send address changes to:
 The Living Light
 Whittier First Friends Church
 13205 Philadelphia St
 Whittier, CA 90601-4384

Periodicals
 Postage Paid at
 Whittier California

The Living Light
 USPS 316-320
 Volume 60 Number 6
 Issue Date: June 1, 2021

The Living Light is published monthly by First Friends Church, 13205 Philadelphia Street, Whittier, California, 90601-4303. Periodical postage paid at Whittier, California.

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Registration Now Open!



SEEKING PEACE AROUND THE WORLD

A free program via Zoom for youth 1st grade through 6th grade*

JULY 19-23

Email FriendsPeaceCamp@gmail.com for information

*for the 2021-22 school year



*Please
 remember in
 prayer
 those Friends
 unable to
 worship with
 us physically
 on a regular
 basis.*

Peggy Anderson
 Rose Nedrow
 Kathy Robison
 Ami Troedsson
 Carol Urner
 Gerry Wolfe