

# THE LIGHT

We're writing to you today with the hopes of sharing information and encouraging creative thinking. The transition team has been reading the book *The In-between Church* by Alice Mann, which discusses the churches in transition, especially as it relates to size transitions.

In last month's newsletter, Catherine described the different size categories the book uses to talk about congregations: family size (0-50); pastoral size (50-150); program size (150-350); and corporate size (350-500+). She also wrote, "As the Transition Team reflected on these ideas, we realized that University Friends is a pastoral-size church with a program-size identity (and a program-size committee structure and staff) and a corporate-size building."

*The In-between Church* also talks about the fact that having a sanctuary less than half full can actively prevent new people from attending. Our sanctuary is a gorgeous space that was made to seat 300+ people. On a good day, our attendance is about 85. On holidays, we might reach 150+, but every Sunday isn't Christmas Eve or the Singing Quakers.

As the transition team was talking about this fact, we see three possible directions forward. (1) Selling all or part of the building. (2) Keeping the building, but making changes or improvements. (3) Do nothing/ not make any changes.

- Selling all or part of the building- We could sell part of the building, bricking off the old side from the new. We could even sell one side and demolish the other to sell the land.
- If we were to sell or divest ourselves from building entirely, we could have a fresh start. We could keep some or all of the money to invest in whatever the church will look like in its future iteration. We could also give all, or a portion to our congregants who are in financial need.
- Keeping the building- If we were to keep the building we could make it ADA compliant so that it's user friendly for everyone. We could even lease out all or part of it to a local non-profit or even another congregation to help pay the bills. In the sanctuary, we could take out current seating and implement something more versatile that could work for a variety of situations and make the space feel less empty.
- Do nothing- We could continue as things are. Without an unexpected influx of people (and money), we would pull money out of different accounts to make up for our budget shortfall every year until nothing remains.

This article is meant to be the beginning of a conversation about our future. We have an opportunity to think creatively. The transition team would like to invite everyone to be a part of this. We will be trying to meet with small groups of congregants to get a wider perspective.

So please, begin to think and talk about this. And as you do, also consider, what projects would you like to focus on? What's a ministry that you would like to be a part of?

The building and our finances have been such a focus that it's difficult to discern what programs or missions we should do. Programming shouldn't be about attendance or raising finances. It should be about following the Spirit's leading.

What does a more financially stable future look like for us? How could we be freed up to love our neighbors?

## June 2020

*Meetings for Worship are on  
Sunday Mornings at 10 a.m.  
Virtual live streaming on FB  
and website*

**Great Plains Yearly Meeting  
Has been Postponed**

**EFC-MAYM has cancelled all  
camps for 2020**

**Father's Day  
Sunday, June 21**

**Monthly Meeting  
Sunday, June 16 TBA**

**Light Deadline—Wed., June 24**

*Happy Father's Day*



## Welcome, Sandy Hartness-Parret!

We want to officially welcome Sandy Hartness-Parret to University Friends Meeting as our new secretary! This is Sandy's first week, and she is getting acclimated. Jennifer will continue to come in once a week for a while to do training and answer questions.

Sandy is originally from Derby, Kansas, but has lived in Hawaii (Sandy is an Army/Air Force brat—so to speak), New Mexico, New York, Texas, Colorado, and Florida. She is married with adult children and they have a 2-year-old dog, a Lhasa-Apso, named Squirt. They also have a 24-year-old Yellow-Collared Mini Macaw bird named Mawkey. She and her husband, Jeral, just recently moved back to Derby from Colorado. Jeral is a salesman at the Indian Motorcycle dealer. Sandy is semi-retired and is enjoying working part-time now. She has had many administrative/secretarial positions in the environmental field and was the office manager with a passenger elevator company.

Sandy and her husband enjoy motorcycle trips locally and out of state and playing miniature golf. Sandy also enjoys cooking and baking (and used to have a small cheesecake business!).

Please give a warm welcome to Sandy and feel free to call her at the office or send an email.

*Sandy, we are glad you are here!*

“Why should any man have power over any other man's faith, seeing Christ Himself is the author of it? “

-George Fox

### Directory Changes. . .

**Bonnie Casado** -

727 6th St Springfield OR 97477

**Dorlan Bales'** new email is

Dorlan@cox.net

**Doug Ballard** -

dougballard1968@gmail.com

**Lewis Snyder** -

bls2610a@yahoo.com

### With Sympathy

**Pearl Cole** - Our heartfelt thoughts and condolences go out to her Family. Pearl passed away Wednesday, May 13, 2020. She would have been 100 yrs. of age on July 28th!

### Celebrating



### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES!

(40+ Years)

**Ben & Mary Lyndal Nyberg** on 6-7-58; **Philip & Nancy Davis** on 6-19-59; **Reid & Mary Beth Charles** on 6-1-63; and **Larry & Judy Bennett** on 6-10-72; and **Clarence & Annette Walz** on 6/3/79.

*Congratulations!*

The 2020 FGC Virtual Gathering, "Sink Down To The Seed Sown In The Heart", will be held June 28 - July 4, 2020. Of particular interest, see Tom Rothschild's "Listening Meetings and Organizations into Wholeness":

(<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/workshops/listening-meetings-and-organizations-wholeness>). This will be offered in the afternoon on Sunday, June 28th. For more information, check out the Gathering website:

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

**Bless our Fathers  
for all they do.**





## Happy June Birthdays!!

**June 3:** Joe Dawley, Matt Liston; **June 4:** Thomas B. Hatcher; **June 5:** Rene Johnson, Chelsea Perkins, Linda Davis, Leann Wine; **June 6:** Sarah Jack; **June 9:** Jennifer (Frazee) Whitcomb; **June 10:** Don Savely, Matt Chacko; **June 12:** Don Parker, Banff Perkins; **June 14:** Beth McDonald, Barry Farquhar, Lyndal Nyberg; **June 16:** Erin (Ivy) Chan; **June 17:** Leah Logan, Kevin McDonald, Kimberly Shaw, Juanita Binford; **June 19:** Randall Moss; **June 21:** Susan Chacko; **June 22:** Norah Suttle; **June 24:** Mary Fowler, Jena Chacko, Erin DeGroot; **June 25:** Kalie Lupton, Anna Hendricks, Rachel Hendricks; **June 26:** Paul Mallonee, James Pond; **June 27:** Russ Siemens, Artie Pond; **June 28:** Erica Fowler, Scott Fowler, Olive Clonts; **July 2:** Doug Donaghue, Zach Mosher; **July 3:** David Kingrey (Jr.), Kent Lupton, Pamela Taverner; **July 4:** Arthur Binford; **July 5:** Caleb Mills, Darline Heffelfinger

## Yearly Meeting 2020 postponed

*date to be announced later in summer*

at [Heartland Friends Meeting in Wichita, KS](#)

**Guest Speaker:**

**Noah Merrill**

**of Putney Friends Meeting**



The 2020 EFC-MAYM Ministry Conference (Evangelical Friends Church—Mid America Yearly Meeting) will be held during the last weekend of July, July 23-26, either onsite at Friends University or online. The theme for this year's conference is "Entertaining Angels: Walking in the Way of Hospitality" (cf. Heb 13:2), featuring guest speaker [Dan Kimball](#).



Dear Friends,

As always, it is my pleasure to say 'thank you' for your regular support of Great Plains Yearly Meeting. Although we are not gathering together in person this June for our annual sessions, we will continue to honor our yearly meeting charitable intentions to Quaker agencies and FUM. The support of our member monthly meetings allows us to do this. So, thank you very much for extending our faith into the world through your gifts to GPYM

**-Connie Adams, Treasurer**

## Prayer Concerns...

**Steve Grether & Family** - Steve was in Intensive Care Unit at the VA Hospital but he is home now with follow up visits with the doctor.

**Dan Schuster** has blood pressure issues.

**The Bengi Family**

**Greg Newby** on his treatment plan for bone lymphoma.

Our June Monthly Missions Offering will go to **United Methodist Open Door Ministries**, which provides food, clothing and shelter and to reflect service to the 11-county area served by their Commodity Supplemental Food Program.



Please check out what is happening on our Facebook pages both public and private, such as:

Wichita Friends School  
Family Promise  
University Friends Church

Or visit the website:  
[WichitaQuaker.org](http://WichitaQuaker.org)

Beginning on June 9, the book club will be discussing Phil Gulley's book *For Everything A Season*. Join us in the church library or on Zoom at 6:30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. If you would like to attend via Zoom, please email for an invitation. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, we will talk about the first two chapters. Pages 13-28.

<i>Finance Report</i>	
General Budget:	
Apr. Income.....	\$14,442
Apr. Expenses.....	\$15,442
YTD Income .....	\$55,551
YTD Expenses.....	\$76,213

***David McDonald reports:***

We did see some drop off in collections in the last half of March. This was offset by the semi-annual disbursement from the Casado trusts of \$17,000, so along with normal expenses, we had a net gain of \$7,000 for the month. In April, we had our best collection in several years, with \$13,500 in regular giving. With modest expenses, we were only short \$1,000 for the month.

We greatly appreciate friends continuing to support the Meeting during this time of unusual circumstances.

***Electronic Giving...***

Don't forget, we have the ability to accept donations using your debit or credit card. The card scanner will be available in the foyer on the first Sunday of the month after meeting for worship, and will also be available at Monthly Meetings and other special events. If you prefer, you can have your donation sent directly to our bank from yours. Just contact the church office to get the bank routing and account numbers.