



## October

*How good and pleasant it is when brothers  
live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)*

UNITY

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#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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#### IN THIS ISSUE

CALL Article	2
October Calendar	2
JOG Flyer	3
Night Under the Stars	4
September Photos	5
Missions' Corner	6
Birthdays	7



## **"Dwelling Together in Unity"**

(Excerpts from the Sermon on Sunday, September 23)

NIV Psalm 133

A song of ascents. Of David.

*1 How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!  
2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard,  
running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes.  
3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the  
LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.*

"Sweetheart, I don't feel like going to church this morning."

"I'm tired, the people don't like me, and the sermons are boring. Give me four reasons why I should go to church this morning."

"You will feel better once you get up and start moving."

"The people there really do like you."

"The sermons aren't that bad."

"And most important. YOU'RE THE PASTOR!"

We laugh at this story because sometimes we don't feel motivated to go to church. But usually once we go we're glad we did as we connect with God and with one another! Now I've heard some people say over the years, "I'm a spiritual person. I don't need organized religion, after all I can worship God anywhere." The problem with that kind of thinking is that you can't build relationships with people without spending time with them and getting to know them. God has designed us to live in community! When we worship God together and get to know one another as we live in community our lives are enriched!

Yvonne Wang brought some flowers over to Penny a few weeks ago when she was laid up at home recovering from her knee replacement surgery and we went out to lunch. Yvonne Wang is from China and about eighteen months ago relocated with her family to Irvine. She shared that the underground church she attended in China, known as a house church, had around 30 members.

(Continued on Page 7)

## **October**

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

10:30am in the Sanctuary

### **NorthEast of the Well**

Mondays, 6-8pm

McKenzie Hall/Sanctuary

### **International Children's Music Program led by**

**Raffia Thomas**

9:00-10:00am

Griffith House Chapel

October Rehearsals:

Sundays, Oct 14th and 28th

### **Night Under the Stars**

**Dinner and Concert**

**with Raffia and C.C.**

**Thomas, Jr.**

Dinner \$70

Funds raised will go  
towards the International  
Children's Music Program

Register at:

[www.nightunderstars.com](http://www.nightunderstars.com)

### **Small Groups**

7 Week Series, "Detours"

Started Sunday, Sept. 30th

Sunday Group: 9-10am

Tuesday Group: 6:30-

7:45pm

### **Men's J.O.G. Meeting**

Monday, October 8th

12-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

RSVP: Mike 714-425-2649

Cost: \$12

### **Women's Group**

Join us for lunch and fun!

Monday, November 5th

11:00 in McKenzie Hall

RSVP: 714-776-0960



## JOG Men's Luncheon Featuring Guest Speaker, Sam Parsons



Meet Sam Parsons, a former advertising executive. When God called, Sam answered. He grabbed his guitar and began in earnest to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Just months ago, Sam was faced with the death of his greatest admirer, his wife, Colleen. Now doctors have told Sam that he has stage four pancreatic cancer and he has just months left to live. Please join us as Sam shares his testimony and the hope that is in him.

**When: Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
12:00 pm - 1:30pm

**Where: First Congregational Church of Anaheim**  
515 North State College Blvd; Anaheim, Ca 92806  
(Located one block south of La Palma on the west side of State  
College in the city of Anaheim)

**Cost: \$12**

Plan on enjoying another delicious meal prepared especially  
By Adam Curry and his helpful staff.

Please RSVP via email at [chuck@penningtons-inc.com](mailto:chuck@penningtons-inc.com) or  
Call Chuck at 714-350-8983 or Mike Austin at 714-425-2649

# JOG



Of Orange County  
**Just Ordinary Guys**  
Meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Every Month

## *Save the Date:*

*Saturday, October 6th, 6:30pm*

*Night Under the Stars with Raffia and C.C. Thomas, Jr.  
- and other guest musicians*

*Fundraiser for the International Children's Choir*

*A private concert with dinner and dancing at Rolf and Ronda's home in Anaheim Hills  
8101 E. Bailey Way; Anaheim, CA 92808*

*Silent Auction*

*Cost: \$70 per person*



*Raffia Thomas is a New York born, Los Angeles based, singer and song-writer. Raffia is also the owner of Raffia Music Studio in Los Angeles. From her ballads to the up-tempo dance tracks, Raffia possesses the musical rhythm and style that compares to Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin and Toni Braxton. Raffia graduated from the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. She has performed back-up vocals with*

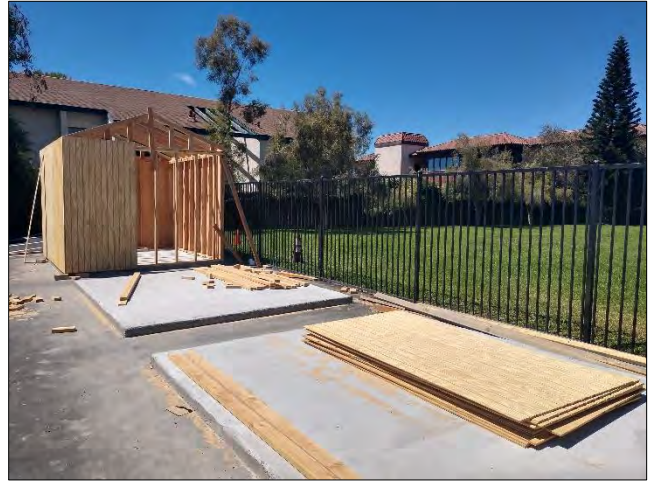
*Christina Aguilera, Toni Braxton, Anita Baker, Gloria Estefan, Melissa Etheridge, the Jacksons, and many more.*

*C.C. Thomas, Jr. is a Los Angeles based bass player who has played with Jeffrey Osborne and Diana Ross, among many other world class musicians. C.C. is the owner of Sound Vision Entertainment, Inc., a bassist at Wayne Foster Entertainment, Musical Director at Diana Ross, and Co-Director at Raffia Music Studio. We recently learned that C.C. is also a Golf Tournament organizer extraordinaire and a great golfer himself.*



***Come out for an incredible night of music under the stars!***

# August Photos



**Above:** Adam Curry has been working hard on our new storage sheds! Storage space has been a hurdle for a long time, and we are getting excited about having more space to work with!

**Below:** (Left) Women who attended our last Women's Group lunch. It has been a great opportunity for women in the church to get to know each other better with so many new faces this year!

(Right) Pastor Jason Griffice speaking at NorthEast of the Well last month. Jason was hired to lead men's discipleship for NorthEast this year, and we pray for his work and outreach!





# Missions' Corner

*Rev. Ernanie C. Castillo, a beloved Filipino missionary and pastor, passed away this summer. Below is a letter from the family about Nannie's life.*

Rev. Ernanie C. Castillo passed away at home on July 10, 2018. The morning before he passed, we thought he was dreaming. We found out that he was actually praying intensely for family, the ministry, and his vision.

Born in a sugarcane planting province, Negros Island, Philippines, and raised during World War 2, "Nannie" was toughened by his personal circumstances. As a child, he dug sidewalk drainages and sewers, and he carried sugarcane refuse onto train cars just to uplift his family's finances. "Nannie" attended Bible College, and it was a "no turning back" Christian commitment for him from then on. He served churches despite hard times and financially challenging situations. During his early married life, Nannie and his wife experienced times when they only had bananas and harvested mushrooms to eat.

"Nannie" was led to start the Congregational Way in the Philippines, and National Association of Congregational Churches (NACC) was born in 1991. With the NACC, "Nannie" found great joy directly alleviating the plight of those who were experiencing the same financial hardships he had experienced years back. NACC also allowed him the privilege of seeing hundreds of students receive scholarships for continuing education.



The late Rev. Dr. Ernanie C. Castillo dreamed of and began building an income-generating, people-employing, and church-edifying CAMP SITE. The Vine and Branches Camp Site now has quality structures built on fully purchased land located in a tourist city (Tagaytay City). Awit, Nannie's surviving wife and co-founding leader of the NACC, decided that donations received towards the family/Nannie's funeral will be allotted to The Vine and Branches Camp Site and Christian

Venue Center. Nannie had always believed Psalm 18:25: "FAITH HONORS GOD AND GOD HONORS FAITH." By faith, we carry on Nannie's desire and may God be honored and honor our Mission's vision.



## October Birthdays

- 1 Helen Hummel
- 5 Daniel Ahl
- 9 Jessy Luquez
- 9 Robbie Robinson
- 16 Rudy Marderos
- 17 Rev. Emily Miller-Todd
- 19 Amanda Pacillas
- 23 Nancy Clark
- 24 Pam Evans
- 24 Jon Ryan Hill
- 26 Justyn Gonzales
- 29 David Hill
- 30 Penny Schibsted
- 30 Lucas Rider

If you would like to have your birthday included in the CALL, please contact the church office at 714-776-0960 or [fccaooffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaooffice@gmail.com).

("Dwelling Together in Unity" Continued...)

Recently, the Chinese government began clamping down on those churches. So the church divided in 2 with around 15 people meeting at two different homes so that they won't draw attention to the authorities.

The Chinese Christians are very committed to worship and gathering together in the name of Christ. They know the importance of dwelling together in unity.

There is something very compelling about worshiping God! It doesn't happen at a football game or other sporting events. It doesn't happen at a Broadway musical though those are very enjoyable to watch. There is a mystery about worship as the Spirit moves among us and lives are transformed.

When the church, the people of God, the body of Christ are functioning as God designed us to function, it is something to experience, isn't it? It feels right and attracts us to the Christian faith. I'm so thankful for the opportunities we have to worship God as we dwell together in unity!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jim

### New Storage Sheds are Under Construction!





# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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phone 714.776.0960; email [fccaooffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaooffice@gmail.com)  
Check us out on the web at [www.fccanaheim.org](http://www.fccanaheim.org)

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Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.  
Please contact the Church Office for details at 714.776.0960