

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF
ANAHEIM



The Call

"To Discover and Grow in God's Grace and Love"

Vol. 372 No. 8

Published Once A Month

August 1, 2019

August

INSIDE:

"SUMMERTIME"

GRIFFITH

HOUSE ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION

MISSION UPDATE FROM

THE WEST BANK

STAFF

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

Dr. Jim Schibsted—Senior Pastor, Rev. Emily Miller-Todd—Associate Pastor
Tyler Robinson—Music Director
Angella Kisson—Accountant
Beverly Aye—Administrative Volunteer
Diana Hutchinson, Myra Allen, and Linda Martin—Event Coordinators
Janice Bowers—Missions, Gil Owen—Visitation
Mike Austin & Chuck Pennington—J.O.G (Just Ordinary Guys)
Sandya Costa—Montessori Director

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"Grateful for the Past—Hopeful for the Future!"

“Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy”

Dr. Jim Schibsted

This morning I listened to Jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald's rendition of George Gershwin's "Summertime." In a few beautifully sung phrases she captures the essence of summer – warm nights, relaxed days, a slower pace. Every week various groups are enjoying the beauty of our grounds at FCCA as people gather to share meals under the shade of the trees.

As summer comes to an end we are privileged to host the 40 voice Samoan Choir from the Samoan Congregational Christian Church in San Diego. Their presentation through song and dance of the missionaries coming to Samoa was one of the highlights of last year's National Association of Congregational Christian Churches Annual meeting. Seeing this presentation again on Sunday, September 15th, at the 10:30am worship service will inspire all our hearts. Following the service we will have a Polynesian meal under the trees. Feel free to wear Hawaiian clothes that day.

Don't forget the Griffith House 94th Anniversary Celebration!

Saturday, September 7th from 2:00 - 4:30pm

We are moving forward with plans for the Griffith House Anniversary Celebration! While we previously believed the Griffith House was built in 1919, further research has revealed that it was built in 1925-1926. We look forward to celebrating the story of this historic house alongside church members who have living memories of our beginnings as a church!

(Continued on Page 5)

August

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30am in the Sanctuary

NorthEast of the Well

Monday Dinner & Worship

6:00-8:00pm

McKenzie Hall/Sanctuary

Women's Luncheon

Monday, August 19th

11:30am-1:00pm

McKenzie Hall

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Join JOG for lunch, comedy, music and a testimony!

No Meeting in August

Next Luncheon: Sept. 9th
12-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

RSVP: Mike 714-425-2649

Cost: \$12

FCCA Choir Rehearsals

Now on Summer Break

Upcoming Events:

Griffith House 94th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, September 7th

2:00-4:30pm

Griffith House and Lawn

Worship Visitors: Samoan

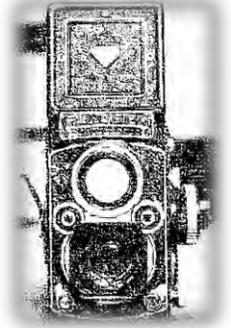
Congregational Christian Church, San Diego

Sunday, September 15th

Worship will include music and dance presentation of missionaries coming to Samoa. We will provide lunch on the lawn following worship.



Save the Date



SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

**Griffith House
94th Anniversary Celebration**

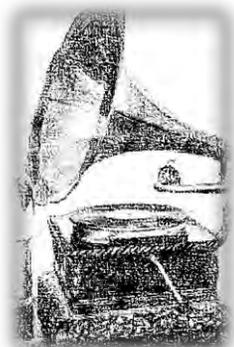
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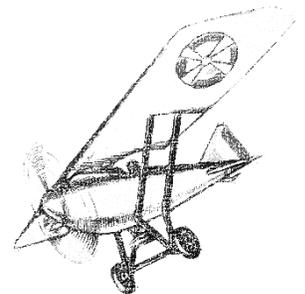
2:00pm - 4:30pm

1920's Theme

Entertainment! Model T Cars! Light Refreshments!



*We look forward to celebrating and sharing
the rich updated history we have learned!
We are grateful that we may also share the living
memories of our long time members.*



Missions' Corner...

Andrew and Karen Bush

Update from the West Bank, July-August 2019



Hey Friends!

Greetings from Bir Zeit, a Palestinian village about ten miles north of Ramallah. Serving on the West Bank is a constant reminder that God's grace may be found in the most unexpected places. We see God's grace here in the hopefulness of Palestinian youth and in the vigorous work of the churches to promote the gospel. Karen and I also see God's grace in the efforts of the Palestinian Christian community to build bridges of love with their Muslim neighbors. This is especially true in the Bible Society's summer camps in Muslim villages...

***What is accomplished at these camps? Trust is built between the Christian and Muslim communities.** Muslims are given an opportunity to interact closely with Christians, which village people often rarely do. Palestinian Christians, also, get to know their Muslim neighbors through their hospitality in welcoming us into their village. The kids are able to participate in well-organized activities in art, sports, music, and drama. The Bible Society summer camp staff is always joined by local adults and teens who volunteer to help with the activities. We are able to have quality and interesting personal discussion with them.*

Helping the Weakest

During the last several months, Karen and I have been made aware of some of the most vulnerable people in the West Bank – pediatric cancer patients from Gaza. These very ill kids are brought to Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem either alone or with a grandparent, as adults under the age of 60 normally are not allowed to leave Gaza – even to accompany their children to the hospital. Sadly, some of these children die without the comfort of family at their side. Augusta Victoria is the main hospital for cancer treatment in the Palestinian Territories. It is a Christian based hospital.

*With the Bible Society we are starting a program of visitation to these children with the permission of the hospital president, Mr. Walid Nammour. **This is a small first step, but all of our ministries began with such a step. Thank you for keeping these dear children in your prayers. To be born in Gaza is tough. To be poor in Gaza is really tough. To be a poor Gazan child with cancer is heartbreaking. We want to do what we can to ease their suffering.***



August Birthdays

5-Aug Rumyana Staneva

6-Aug Kristina Pena

7-Aug Paul Haas

13-Aug Blake Ramsay

14-Aug Celeste Yanez

14-Aug Jan Briley

19-Aug Julie Schibsted

21-Aug Joan Edwards

22-Aug Andy Dang

27-Aug Adrienne Villa-Real

28-Aug Marsha Robinson

If you would like to have your birthday included in the CALL, please contact the church office at 714-776-0960 or fccoffice@gmail.com.

“Summertime” Continued...

Mrs. Griffith and her family's faith in God (they were part of the underground railroad as slaves were transported to freedom in Canada) is inspirational.

The celebration will have a 1920s-1930s theme. We will have some Model Ts parked on our grounds and music from that era will be performed. I'm looking forward to hearing the song “Summertime.”

Enjoying the slower pace,

Pastor Jim

Why Is It McKenzie Hall?

By: Eleanor Phillips

Soon there will be a big celebration for the 100th anniversary of the home now known as Griffith House. Then owner of the property, Mrs. Griffith, donated the home and property to be a Congregational Church in 1947.

Burton and Isabella McKenzie, now living in Anaheim, saw there was to be a Congregation Church. They were members of a Congregational Church for many years. Being semi-retired they were able to take the time to listen to the Reverend Walter Vernon at Mission City. When the Vernons arrived to their new home (Griffith House) they were there to meet them.

Burton had organized philanthropic clubs, so he was ready to help the church get started. Isabella was always there backing him. Through the years they supported the church in many ways. Following the 25th anniversary of the church they were honored by the naming of McKenzie Hall. There is a plaque as you enter the hall. They continued supporting the church until their deaths. The church is still being supported by members of the McKenzie family.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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