



November



CATCH THE JOY!
INFORMATION INSIDE
ABOUT OUR THANKSGIVING
DEDICATION SERVICE
AND FEAST! (SEE PAGE 2)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

Dr. Jim Schibsted—Senior Pastor
Rev. Emily Miller-Todd—Associate Pastor
Beverly Aye—Office Assistant
Tyler Robinson—Music Director
Angella Kissoon—Accountant
Janice Bowers—Missions, Gil Owen—Visitation
Mike Austin & Chuck Pennington—J.O.G (Just Ordinary Guys)
Sandya Costa—Montessori Director

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Upcoming Dedication Service and Thanksgiving Feast

Recently Pastor Emily and I had the joy of meeting with pastors and leaders Taisi Aumua (Unlimited Church), Samuel and Susana Villafana (Iglesia de Dios), Paul Chang (On You Church), George Enriquez (Episkiazo Chritian Church), Sandya Costa (Owner of the Montessori School), Jen Sandoval and Alex Maradiaga (Northeast of the Well). Pastors Osvaldo Rivas (Open Door Christian) and Fred Garciano (United New Life) were unable to attend.

Each of these churches use our facilities for worship. Our facilities are used during the day by the Montessori School and utilized for other meetings six to seven days a week by the churches and Northeast of the Well. As we gathered together we studied Paul's letter to the Philippians out of chapter 4 regarding gratitude:

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:4-8 New International Version (NIV)

While sharing our concerns as well as our joys there was a wonderful sense of camaraderie. I invited these leaders to join us on **Sunday, November 24th at 10:30am** as we celebrate the remodeling of our sanctuary. (It's been quite a project and we thank God we had the funds to complete this project.) During the worship service that day each of the pastors will share about their ministries and each church choir will share a song. My good friend Dr. Peter St. Don will preach on "The Irresistible Church."

Following the Dedication Worship Service we will have a **Thanksgiving Feast Potluck**. Our church will provide turkey and ham. We are asking everyone to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. There will be sign ups in the office and after the worship service for our church. We will need help with food preparation, set up and clean up.

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November

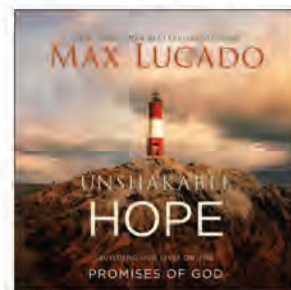
Sunday Morning Worship
10:30am in the Sanctuary

NorthEast of the Well
Mondays, 6-8pm
McKenzie Hall/Sanctuary

FCCA Choir
Thursdays at 7:00pm

Men's J.O.G. Meeting
Monday, November 11th
12-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall
RSVP: Mike 714-425-2649
Cost: \$12

Small Groups



Sunday Group:
9:00-10:00am,
October 13-November 17
Tuesday Group:
6:30-7:45pm
October 15-November 19

Thanksgiving Worship and Feast!

Sunday, November 24th
We look forward to dedicating the sanctuary alongside other congregations that use our facilities! Plan to stay for a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast and feel free to bring your favorite side dish!

Men's JOG Luncheon Featured Speaker Marc Ottestad



For the last 20 years Marc Ottestad has worked at the intersection of faith and commerce. During that time Marc has connected over 1000 Christian CEOs into peer groups across the nation to help them grow in their leadership and their connection to God!

Marc's passion is connecting leaders to the idea that God's best work, His masterpiece is MAN. Man who works to create and provide. This is every man's calling and opportunity.

Today Marc works as an Executive Coach and serves CBMC a Regional Director for CEO Business Forums.

When: Monday, November 11th
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 First Congregational Church of Anaheim and their *Very* helpful staff.

Please RSVP via email at 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 2nd Monday of Every Month

October News and Events

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys: Nick and Lucy Della Valle spoke at the October JOG luncheon, sharing the ways that God has been at work in their lives. This month Susan Fraker added beautiful flowers to the tables – what a nice touch. To the right is a photo of Tiarrah Stoll, ready to greet guests. We are grateful for the MANY volunteers that help each month!



Women's Lunch: On Monday, October 28th, women came together for a wonderful enchilada lunch, assembled care packages and made encouraging cards to take to Mary's Kitchen. We look forward to including these cards with food and clothing items collected for Mary's Kitchen in hopes that they may brighten someone's day. We enjoyed fellowship with women from Grandma's House of Hope again during this luncheon. Thank you to Carol Peterson, Bev Aye, Susan Fraker, Janice Bowers, Christine Davis and Liz Waite for contributing to the meal and activities!

Recent Projects: Thank you Jim Weddell and Raul Caicedo for getting a new projector up and running!



They creatively assembled a pulley system using a rabbit's litter box to hoist up the new projector. Thank God for creative minds!

Drum Roll...We have a new sign on State College Blvd! Thank you to Samuil Stanev and Rumyana Staneva for their help with the design! The stone work still needs to be completed, but the basic frame of the sign is up!

A writing from a bookmark given at Pastor Don Sturm's memorial service this fall:

The deepest level of worship is praising God through pain. Thanking God during trials. Trusting God when we're tempted to lose hope, and loving him even when He seems distant. At my lowest, God was my hope. At my darkest, God was my light. At my weakest, God was my strength. At my saddest, God was my comfort.

At my happiest, He celebrated with me. To have loved and been loved were the greatest gifts I was given.

NEWS FROM THESSALONIKI



Fall 2019

Dear friends,

May the Grace of God cover you and may He protect and provide for all your needs. Our extended family is doing well, thank God. Roula and I had the opportunity to visit our two daughters with their families in Athens and enjoyed especially the 6-month-old grandson Christos, who is growing very fast. During our stay in Athens, I preached about the holiday of "Thanksgiving" and related the story of the Pilgrims and the origins of this special holiday of gratitude to the Lord.



Taken last summer on Mt. Olympus without our eldest granddaughter Katerina.

As Thanksgiving is approaching, we feel a deeper sense of gratitude to the Lord for all His blessings. The encouraging words of the Apostle Paul come to mind:

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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NEWS FROM THESSALONIKI



Continued...

How can one rejoice in time of hardship? It can only be accomplished when we practice the next exhortation, "pray continually". That means to have a close relationship with the Lord. Only then we can give thanks in all circumstances. A mother, whose 17-year-old son is in a coma since May, due to an athletic accident, told me: "If I did not believe in God, I would jump off the balcony of a high building." I visited her recently and her smile and hopeful outlook encouraged my heart.

At the end of September, we held our 4th Men's' Retreat, in Volos, central Greece. Bishop Ignatius hosted this event again at the Orthodox Educational Center and delivered a message on "Using Our Time Wisely".

Since my retirement in May, I have been working even harder. Besides my frequent visits to the Agape Hellas office, (CRU in the U.S.), I have held numerous counseling sessions with singles and couples, led numerous seminars and delivered sermons to various churches throughout Greece. If God provides health and protection, we will continue to minister in any way we can. My paradigm is a 98-year-old preacher, who went to be with the Lord last August. He kept preaching until two months prior to changing residences. This beloved pastor (Spiros Portinos) wrote to his neighborhood mailman: *"One day young man when you deliver my mail, I will not be here. I will have a new address. Please forward my mail to Jesus."*

Recently, we experienced several serious accidents, illnesses, and deaths in our small Evangelical community. One of our goals is to comfort people in grief by personal contact and through seminars and sermons, on how to deal with pain.

Please pray that we may become vessels of encouragement, comfort and hope that only Christ can provide to our brothers and sisters who are suffering.

Thank you and God bless you,

Pantelis and Roula



November Birthdays

5-Nov Millie Gardner

10-Nov Susan Fraker

15-Nov Nhon Nguyen

18-Nov James Purvis

23-Nov Virginia Ramsey

26-Nov Bob States

29-Nov Wally Haas

30-Nov Kayla Glass

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.

Pastor's Letter Continued...

Needless to say I am enthusiastic that all the churches are working together to help make a difference in our community. If you know someone in need, please let them know about our Thanksgiving Feast. I believe it will be a lot of work and a lot of fun as we share a Thanksgiving meal together. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4: *"6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jim

"Getting to Know You, Getting to Know All About You"
Articles by Resident Expert and Interviewer...Ms. Eleanor Phillips :)

Not a King or a Queen

Born in Corvallis, Oregon, this person's first home was in Lobster Valley Logging Camp. The camp consisted of 10 homes built in a semi-circle, fenced-in cattle and a shop to repair logging trucks. It seemed as the cards were dealt, they were not the best. Her parents divorced when she was 5 years old. By the time she was in 4th grade, she had attended 5 different schools.

Then at the age of 17 she moved to Stanton and was on her own. Where better could a young girl get a job than Baskin Robins Ice Cream Parlor. She worked her way to manager. Working full time she was able to pay her own way through college.

Her first job out of college was a bookkeeper at a test lab for foreign cars. Her next job was receptionist for Coldwell Banker. Then in 1990 she received her real-estate License. Wanting a fine good man she found David, and they were married in 1996.

She does well in the kitchen but is not a chef, she is a cook. Cheryl Cook.

Cheryl is not a King or a Queen. She has been Knighted and is now a Prior of the Knights Templar of the United States. This November she will be Knighting her husband.

Cheryl is ready to rescue and lend a helping hand. She heads our church counsel, sings in the choir and takes care of the Sunday collection. Oh, yes...and takes members to and from church. As in the past she and David will be deep frying turkeys for our Thanksgiving Feast.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Member: Cal-West Association—Since 1964

Please consider sponsoring an issue of "The Call".
Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.
Please contact the Church Office for details at 714.776.0960