



## December



### 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)  
Sandy Costa—Montessori Director

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## *The Joy of Fellowship*

On Sunday, (November 24, 2019) songs of Thanksgiving filled our sanctuary as six of the eight ministries using our facilities met for a combined Dedication/Thanksgiving Service.

As a united congregation we added our voices in declaring the goodness of God in song and words of testimony. It was an inspirational worship service as each of the leaders shared the good things happening in their respective ministries. Hearing how God has changed people who once were broken and now are healed on the inside brought hope to those in attendance. It was a precious time as we rededicated the refurbished sanctuary to the glory of God.

Following the service we ate a delicious Thanksgiving meal prepared by many volunteers in our church. Special thanks to Penny for coordinating the feast, Cheryl and Dave Cook for cooking three of the turkeys that morning, Jeffrey Williams for setting up the tents, Gary Rider for cooking all those mashed potatoes, Stephanie, Carol, Bev, Nancy, Isy, Shalend, Alpana, Linda, Bishop Taisi, Pastor Grettel, Trinity, Vito, Maria, Claudia, Raul, and Brandon for cooking, serving, childcare and of course all the choirs, praise teams and soloists from the various congregations. Though we ran out of bulletins and barely fit in the Sanctuary — it was an amazing time of worship. There was plenty of room outside during the feast as we enjoyed the beautiful weather. It was so good to see people enjoying one another's company, seeing children running around and hearing so much laughter.

Many other opportunities to experience the joy of fellowship are planned during the next few weeks. Cathy Trinh, a refugee from Viet Nam will share about her spiritual journey at our next JOG meeting on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at noon. She has an inspiring story to tell.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## **December**

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
10:30am in the Sanctuary

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

**FCCA Choir**  
Thursdays at 7:00pm

**JOG: Just Ordinary Guys**  
**Lunch Meeting**  
**Featured Speaker:**  
Cathy Trinh  
Monday, December 9th  
12-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall  
RSVP: Mike 714-425-2649  
Cost: \$12

**Next Women's Lunch**  
Friday, January 17th  
11:30am-1:00pm

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## ***Christmas Calendar:***

**5 Star Band**  
**Christmas Concert**  
Sunday, December 15th  
During 10:30am Worship

**Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Service**  
Tuesday, December 24th  
7:00pm in the Sanctuary

**NorthEast of the Well**  
**Christmas Worship**  
Monday, December 16th  
6:00pm Dinner,  
6:45-8:00pm Worship  
\*There will be no service in  
Anaheim—the service will  
be held at St. Andrew's



# JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

## Men's Luncheon

### Featured Speaker Cathy Trinh



Cathy Trinh is a successful Business Partner and Executive Recruiter with a top-tier search and consulting firm based in Orange County, CA. Cathy has had a successful career spanning over 20+ years advocating and connecting finance executive job seekers to their next career. She has expanded her reach to begin a movement of social-consciousness through life mentorship/coaching and through her book, "Don't Die with Unused Vacation Days! Effective Self-Care Practices for an Extraordinary Life."

A Vietnam-born, California-raised mother, world traveler, Vietnamese refugee, speaker and cancer survivor with tremendous passion, Cathy Trinh has created a global community platform to raise awareness for the urgent need of Self-Care in Corporate America. She has answered her life's calling to help others discover their passion and create a joyful life they love and deserve through Self-Care practices for their soul. Cathy has a degree in Business Management from California State University, Fullerton and is a Landmark Forum/S.E.L.P. Graduate. Come hear Cathy Trinh's journey of faith!

**When: Monday, December 9th**  
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](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

# *Thanksgiving Worship and Feast*



The Sunday before Thanksgiving, we worshipped alongside other ministries that share our property and enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast together on the lawn. We are grateful for the many ways God is at work in the different ministries here each week. Thank you, Shalend Krishna, for the photos!





# Missions' Corner...

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Thank you for praying for and supporting our missionaries and our mission projects this past year. I would like to give you a little update on several of our FCCA projects and the Saints who are serving on the front lines to bring the Gospel of saving grace through Jesus Christ to the least and the lost around the world.

Greetings from **Dr. Corrie De Boer and Mission Ministries, Philippines.**



Corrie writes from Heritage Homestead in Waco, Texas, "I am immersing myself in this sustainable, intentional and Covenant Christian community for the next several months. I pray we (MMP) can develop a similar community in the Philippines patterned after this "City on a Hill" Church. I call it a "pre-departure area" before being raptured to the City of God. Saints here are truly committed to seeking God's Kingdom and doing His will. They are multiplying similar churches in Africa, New Zealand, Israel, Mexico, and Lord willing, hope to do the same in the Philippines, China, India and Myanmar. It is an amazing place and I am learning so much."

Greetings from **Pastor Symphony John Castillo, his family and the NACC, Philippines.**

He writes in his last newsletter about the appreciation he has (and that we all should have) for those who have been called to be pastors and who serve in sometimes extremely difficult situations and places. He quotes the following statistics: "75% of pastors report being "extremely stressed" or "highly stressed." *(Continued on Next Page)*

**(Pastor Symphony John Castillo, his family and the NACC, Philippines Continued...)**

90% work between 55 to 75 hours per week. 70% say they are grossly underpaid. 80% will not be in the ministry ten years later and only a fraction make it a lifelong career. 91% have experienced some form of burnout." Symphony John took the opportunity to recognize and honor the pastors and their families who are serving the NACC churches in the Philippines, many are paid less than \$200 per month. Pastor Castillo struggles to help raise support for these dedicated but underpaid pastors. To help, funds may be given to FCCA missions for "pastor support" at NACC, Philippines.

**Christmas Greetings from Andrew and Karen Bush currently living and serving in Bethlehem.**



They write in their newsletter of the small breakthroughs they are having to facilitate opportunities for peace among the Jews and Palestinian Christians. Andrew writes, "...last week I sat around a dinner table with three Jewish rabbis who reside on settlements in the West Bank, two evangelical Palestinian Christians, a Lebanese Christian and one other American. It was a gathering, albeit small, that I would not have thought possible a few years ago. The conversation was directed toward finding the road to a better day, one without violence, in which we all enjoy the same human rights in whatever final political configuration is reached in Israel and Palestine."

May God bless you with His peace and His Spirit of compassion and love,

Janice Bowers  
FCCA Missions





## December Birthdays

1-Dec Joshua Williams  
4-Dec Maria Doyle  
10-Dec Amber Johnson  
14-Dec David Hoke  
17-Dec Ryan Rolnicki  
19-Dec Natalie Garis  
20-Dec Maria Caicedo  
21-Dec Bruce Edwards  
23-Dec Vito Di Camillo  
25-Dec Schvounder Robinson  
26-Dec Cole Trimpe  
27-Dec Cindy Ramsey  
28-Dec Stephany Williams  
30-Dec Dolores Rapp  
31-Dec Debbie Fells

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).

### Pastor's Letter Continued...

The 5 Star Band will play on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> during our 10:30am worship service as we join them singing our favorite Christmas Carols. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is scheduled for 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. We continue to collect items for Mary's Kitchen which serves underprivileged and marginalized people in our community.

I am looking forward to this Advent season.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jim

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

### LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND

Says this person of interest. A native of Fullerton, California. While attending Fullerton College she took a class in Child Development.

Sitting on my patio, the sun is shining, birds, butterflies are flying and many colorful flowers. At the age of six, the site of these things would no longer be seen by a remarkable lady, La Nona Hoke.

A brain tumor caused her blindness. Doctors diagnosed it to be inoperable. Then an act of God had the tumor disappear. Doctors were amazed and wrote of it in journals. Then La Nona's mother, Jan Briley, received a phone call from an unknown church group telling her to go to her child. When she did, La Nona was saying ah, oh. That was when many years of the healing process started. La Nona and her mother are now living close so they have special time together. La Nona's favorite book is the Bible, and it is always near. She likes music. She has a nice voice and in the 80's she sang in our choir.

La Nona was married to Martin Hoke for 30 years before his passing. They raised two sons who went to Sunday School here. She is also blessed with two granddaughters.

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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