



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

Vol. 373 No. 1

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## January



### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

#### STAFF

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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## *Truly a Season of Giving*

Sometimes I forget how much has happened until I start looking back through photos of church events. As I open my phone and scroll through my camera, I am grateful to be reminded how much hope and generosity was shared this Christmas season. Susan and Tom Fraker built a beautiful, tall shining star above a manger for the sanctuary this year. We had a friendly debate among the decorating team, and we decided to wait to put Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. As we waited and watched for the gift of God's son to appear, we saw Him appear among us throughout the season.

Cathy Trinh spoke at the JOG luncheon in December and inspired us with her story. She was born in Vietnam and was a refugee as a baby. Her parents got on a boat that was headed aimlessly into the ocean away from Vietnam with Cathy in their arms. Cathy shared that as she faces and overcomes challenges now—she always remembers where she came from. Cathy inspired us with the hope and the life that she has found in God. As I think of Cathy's story, I can't help but remember that Mary and Joseph also fled for safety with baby Jesus in their arms. God entered the world and God enters our own stories and lives in intimate ways.

Laura Jiminez, her family, and her work office blew us away again this year! They adopted an individual family for Christmas—a mother and two little boys who lost their dad this Christmas season. Laura and her two children were adopted at Christmas time about 20 years ago after Laura was widowed. She and the family this year shared precious time together as she blessed them with gifts. Laura, her family and work office also provided gifts for all of the children who attended NorthEast of the Well on Monday, December 23rd. One boy was brought to tears as he received his first gift ever. God moves among us.

Personally, I was blessed this season by the generosity I witnessed at the Panamerican Institute in Tijuana. The director, principals and some of the teachers and staff took their personal time on a Saturday to make sure families were fed during Christmas break.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## January

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

10:30am in the Sanctuary

### **NorthEast of the Well**

Mondays, 6-8pm

McKenzie Hall/Sanctuary

### **FCCA Choir**

Thursdays at 7:00pm

\*Watch the e-news for  
Thursdays off

### **JOG: Just Ordinary Guys**

#### **Lunch Meeting**

#### **Featured Speaker:**

Dr. Peter St. Don

Monday, January 13th

12-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

RSVP: Mike 714-425-2649

Cost: \$12

### **Women's Lunch**

Friday, January 17th

11:30am-1:00pm

### **Honoring Roger and**

### **Janice Bowers**

#### **Sunday, January 26**

Following worship we will have a lunch on the lawn to celebrate and honor Roger and Janice Bowers. We are so grateful for them and pray for their new adventures in the desert!

### **Small Groups**

We will finish the second half of

*Unshakable Hope* by Max

Lucado this winter.

#### **Sunday Group:**

9:00-10:00am

February 2-February 8

#### **Tuesday Group:**

6:30-7:45pm

February 4-February 10

### **Annual Church Meeting**

Sunday, February 9th

We will meet following worship in the sanctuary. Please plan to stay and hear church updates.



## **JOG: Just Ordinary Guys Men's Luncheon**

**Featured Speaker: Dr. Peter St. Don**



Dr. Peter St. Don is the founding pastor of Huntington Harbor Community Church in Huntington Beach--founded 35 years ago. God has led Dr. St. Don through many challenges, including a terrible car accident a number of years ago. Come and hear Dr. St. Don share the many ways he has experienced God at work!

**When: Monday, January 13th**  
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

# *Advent Season*

This Christmas was filled with hope and generosity!



**Above:** Cooks, Susan Fraker and Gary Rider, helped prepare the meal for the monthly JOG: Just Ordinary Guys luncheon. Cathy Trinh was the speaker and inspired us all!



**Above Left:** Anna and her mother Jennifer after the Montessori Academy of Anaheim Christmas pageant. Anna made a wonderful angel!

**Above Center/Right:** Laura Jiminez with family and friends preparing to surprise a family for Christmas.



# Mission Corner...

Mike Villa-Real will be travelling to the Philippines next month! He will be spending time with family and has been able to allocate a full day to visit Mission Ministries Philippines in Manilla and to go to some of the schools that are located in the slums. It was a privilege to host guests from MMP here at our church this fall, and we are grateful that Mike will be able to visit them in the Philippines!



We empower children to bring ideas to life, unleashing the potential each child has.

“Mission Ministries Philippines serves its community and the poorest by partnering with churches, Non Government Organizations, community based groups and authorized individuals in setting up, or enriching, an existing Early Childhood Development Program.

We believe education is a way out of poverty. Our experience has proven that in order to eradicate the cycle of poverty that many of the poorest children inherit – this can only be accomplished by initiating better education choices for children at an early age. This is even more prevalent in the slum communities we serve.”  
Visit [missionministriesphilippines.org](http://missionministriesphilippines.org) for more information.

# Mission Corner Continued...



The reality of seeing young children living in the most deprived of conditions opened the heart of one man. Over twenty years later, the legacy of helping the poorest continues.

**Did you know that the incredible work of Mission Ministries Philippines started thanks to a chaplain right here at FCCA many years ago?**

The History of Mission Ministries Philippines as read on their website:

“Mission Ministries Philippines initially started in 1984 as a vision, desiring change, when Chaplain John A. Lindvall (Retired Colonel, USA Armed Forces) visited the Philippines in 1984 and witnessed firsthand the conditions of poverty as people’s lives lay in decay. Chaplain John’s heart opened wide as he became an eyewitness to the scope of the depravity. There were many opportunities by stepping forward in commitment to help.

In sharing his passion to help the Filipino poor, Chaplain John Lindvall contacted a friend, Dr. Stewart W. De Boer - then President of the Asian Theological Seminary, Philippines). Having the same heart to serve, both men collectively utilized their own resources and contacts. Soon after, Mission Ministries Philippines was established.

Soon after in 1985, Congregant members and friends from the “First Congregational Church of Anaheim” (FCCA) were invited to the Philippines to visit among the poor firsthand. (Included were; Maxine Hayes, Lowell and Doris Williams, Dottie Miller, Kathy Mitchell and Pastor Jim Schibsted, Senior Pastor of FCCA. Later on John Mark Lindvall, (Current President of Mission Ministries USA, and Mrs. Janice Bowers, National Delegate of FCCA) also visited the Philippines. FCCA provided financial support and Mission Ministries USA gave administrative support for Mission Ministries Philippines with ongoing encouragement and friendship.”





## January Birthdays

3-Jan Rachel Rolnicki

5-Jan Noah Torres

11-Jan Greg Ramsay

13-Jan Francisco Morales

21-Jan Dennis Johnson

24-Jan Jeffrey Williams

25-Jan Andrew Ramsay

27-Jan Kim Collier

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...

Thanks to donations from churches, the school was able to purchase enough food to feed 33 families for 2 weeks. Watching the staff laugh and work together as they prepared for families to arrive was a great reminder of the love and generosity that God calls us to show. I thank God for His generous, abundant love, and I cannot wait to see how God will use us to be a blessing in 2020. Grace and Peace, Pastor Emily

### *Getting to Know You, Getting to Know All About You*

*By: Ms. Eleanor Phillips*

This California native spent his school years in Redondo. In high school he was in track and excelled in hurdling. He didn't realize then, they were the easiest hurdles that he would face in his life. His twin brother was first in school and he was third. Sadly his brother was killed in a traffic accident. Graduating from high school he enrolled in college. After a year he dropped out. It was time for adventure. He and three other fellows toured the country

It was back to college and he received his Bachelors degree in English. His next step took him into the medical field. Working at Red Hill Medical Management Corp. he advanced to Vice President of operations, overseeing 180 employees.

His son was enrolled in the church school. When taking him he became friends with Pastor Jim. He was able to help procure bricks for the memorial at the base of the flag, pews for the sanctuary and the gate into the parking lot.

Then another hurdle. This hurdle he almost didn't make. He flipped the 4 wheel motorcycle he was driving. He was flown by air to a hospital in Palm Springs. He was in a coma for a month then transferred to UCI. He suffered from traumatic brain injury. Many months of healing followed. Counting his blessings he says it was the best thing that ever happened to him. He has his children in his life. A son is following him in the medical field and his daughter is an attorney. Beaming he said she is getting married soon.

For 14 years he visited the shut-ins of our church. His time now is spent reading, watching a movie each day (he has a collection of 1,400). He eats one meal a day and has it at IHOP. Greet our champion hurdler Gil Owen.

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.  
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