



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

Vol. 374 No. 2

Published Once A Month

February 1, 2021

February



MISSION MINISTRIES PHILIPPINES
BREAKING GROUND!

FRUITFUL LIFE LEARNING CENTER WILL BREAK GROUND TO
BUILD THEIR WELL IN FEBRUARY! THANK YOU TO ALL WHO
DONATED TO THIS CAUSE.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

Dr. Jim Schibsted—Senior Pastor
Rev. Emily Miller-Todd—Associate Pastor
Tyler Robinson—Music Director
Angella Kissoon—Accountant
Linda Freud—Missions
Mike Austin & Chuck Pennington—J.O.G (Just Ordinary Guys)
Sandya Costa—Montessori Director

IN THIS ISSUE

CALL Article	2
February Calendar	2
Church Updates	3
Black History Month	5
Missions Corner: PAI	6
Birthdays	7

Honoring Eleanor Phillips on her 99th Birthday

A few years ago Eleanor Phillips told me she would love to see the church mortgage paid off. In 2020 we started a campaign called “Burn the Mortgage – Not the Burgers” hoping to have a fundraiser to expedite the paying off of the mortgage. COVID -19 hit and we were not able to have the fundraising event. In spite of the economic downturn people have graciously given toward this campaign. Last week, I was reflecting on my conversation with Eleanor and thought to myself, “Wouldn’t it be fun to honor Eleanor’s wish by paying off the mortgage by her 99th birthday on April 10th?”

Eleanor has had a fascinating life. She was born in Downey and lived in Anaheim. Graduating from Excelsior High School in 1940, she enjoyed singing in the acapella choir at school and in church. For her own enjoyment Eleanor plays the piano and organ.

While attending Pasadena Business College she met a young man, Glenn Phillips, at a USO dance in 1942. Later on Glenn said to Eleanor, “I don’t make enough money in the army to support a wife. If you get a job then we can get married.” The next time Glenn saw Eleanor she had a job as a teller at the Bank of America.

Eleanor determined never to marry a meat cutter. Never say “never.” Love caused her to change her mind! She ended up marrying Glenn who had been a meat cutter. In 1942, they were married by a Congregational minister.

Glenn and Eleanor moved to Norwalk. In 1943 Glenn told Eleanor he had some news for her. He said he was going overseas to serve in the Army. During World War II Glenn flew gliders. He was deployed to North Africa, Italy and Southern France.

(Continued on Page 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30am, Sundays

We are holding worship in person and on Facebook Live.

Please plan to wear your mask and social distance.

Encouragement for Today

Pastor Jim, Pastor Emily and friends are sharing short encouraging videos on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week through Facebook Live.

Church Facebook Page?

“Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim”

What if I don't have Facebook?

No problem! Go to our church website at www.fccanaheim.org. On the home page, click on the link that says “Join Live.” That will take you to our church Facebook Page. Scroll down to see postings. Click on videos to watch.

Operation Bless Food Distribution

Wednesday, February 10th and
Wednesday, February 24th from
4:30-5:30pm. Set up starts at
3:30pm

Small Group Study on James

This will be a two part series.
The first part, 7 weeks, will
begin the week of February 7th.
There is no cost—we will email
or print materials for you.

Email us to join a group!
fccaoffice@gmail.com

Tuesdays: 6:30-7:45pm
or
Wednesdays: 7:00-8:15pm

FCCA Updates

Small Groups are starting again in February!

We will be studying the book of James in a 2-part series. The first series will be 7 weeks long, starting the week of February 7th. We will meet via Zoom—join us from the comfort of your home! There is no cost for this study. We will email or print materials for you. Email the church office at fccaoffice@gmail.com to sign up for a group.

Choose between two group times:

Tuesdays from 6:30-7:45pm with Pastor Emily (February 9th through March 23rd)

Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15pm with Pastor Jim (February 10th through March 24th)

Church members have been hard at work on the property!

Last month, Jim Taylor and Fernando sanded and refinished the bridge. Jim also refinished the door to the courtyard outside of the Griffith House Chapel. Raul Caicedo and Jeffrey Williams installed new lighting for the parking lot and for the garden area as well. We are blessed to have so many people taking care of the property!



Operation Bless Food Distribution

The food distribution continues every other Wednesday. Setup starts at 3:30pm and food is distributed between 4:30 and 5:30pm. Drive thru for some food!

- Wednesday, February 10th from 4:30-5:30pm
- Wednesday, February 24th from 4:30-5:30pm

FCCA Updates Continued...

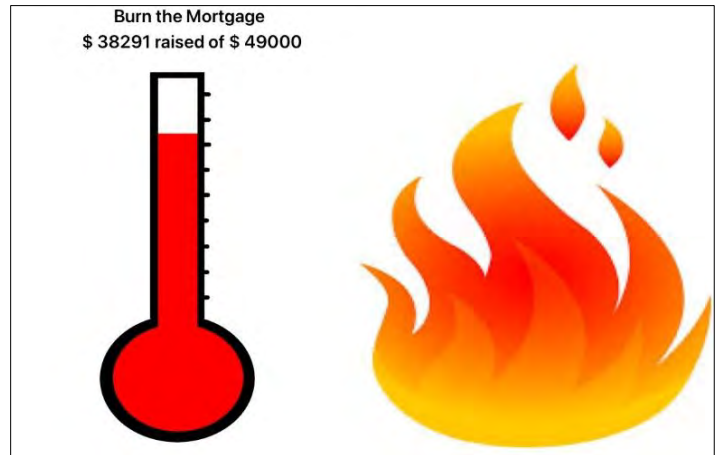
Burn the Mortgage, Not the Burgers

We have a balance of \$10,709 left on the mortgage. This month we are starting a new game – our goal is to pay off the mortgage by the time Eleanor Philipps turns 99 on April 10th! Eleanor has truly been a lifelong part of this church – she was at the very first church service held in the living room of the Historic Griffith House (see Pastor Jim’s article). The game is to

donate any amount with a “9” in it – 9 cents, 99 cents, \$9.99, \$999. Whatever you feel led to give! If you would like to help us chip away at the mortgage, you may give online, mark your offering on Sunday morning or mail in a check. Mark your donation “Burn the Mortgage.”

Give online at www.fccanaheim.org.

Or mail checks to: 515 N. State College Blvd.; Anaheim, CA 92806.



Mission Ministries Philippines is building the well!

Pictured on the left, part of the Mission Ministries Philippines team met to go over the contract to build the well! Mike Villa-Real visited Mission Ministries Philippines during a trip to visit his dad in the Philippines just before COVID-19 hit last year. When he saw Pastor Rodel and his community’s need for a well, Mike envisioned FCCA providing for this need. He came back and shared his experience and their need with the church. FCCA raised the money this fall to provide a well for the Fruitful Life Learning Center! Now, the contract is signed! They are scheduled to break ground at the Fruitful Life Learning Center in Macabud Rizal this February. Thank you to all who donated toward this project, and thank you Mike for sharing your vision with us! God is good!

Celebrating Black History Month

22-year-old Amanda Gorman became the youngest poet ever to perform at a presidential inauguration. She became the country's first National Youth Poet Laureate in 2017—an award previously given to Robert Frost and Maya Angelou.

“Born in Los Angeles in 1998, Gorman had a speech impediment as a child - an affliction she shares with America's new president. "It's made me the performer that I am and the storyteller that I strive to be," she said in a recent interview with the Los Angeles Times. "When you have to teach yourself how to say sounds [and] be highly concerned about pronunciation, it gives you a certain awareness of sonics, of the auditory experience." Gorman became LA's youth poet laureate at 16. Three years later, while studying sociology at Harvard, she became National Youth Poet Laureate. She published her first book, *The One for Whom Food Is Not Enough*, in 2015 and will publish a picture book, *Change Sings*, later this year (from BBC news).”



Below are excerpts from Gorman's “The Hill We Climb.” It was powerful to hear themes from the Christian faith. I am reminded that Jesus tells us, “You are the light of the world.” As Christians, may we be inspired by Gorman's words, and may we choose to partner with Jesus to labor for peace and justice.

*Somehow we've weathered and witnessed
a nation that isn't broken
but simply unfinished
We the successors of a country and a time
Where a skinny Black girl
descended from slaves and raised by a single
mother
can dream of becoming president
only to find herself reciting for one
And yes we are far from polished
far from pristine
but that doesn't mean we are
striving to form a union that is perfect
We are striving to forge a union with purpose
...Scripture tells us to envision
that everyone shall sit under their own vine and
fig tree
And no one shall make them afraid
If we're to live up to our own time
Then victory won't lie in the blade*

*But in all the bridges we've made
That is the promised glade
The hill we climb
If only we dare
It's because being American is more than a pride
we inherit,
it's the past we step into
and how we repair it
...We will rebuild, reconcile and recover
and every known nook of our nation and
every corner called our country,
our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,
battered and beautiful
When day comes we step out of the shade,
afire and unafraid
The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it*



JANUARY 2021

NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP



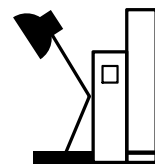
Our families are very grateful for all Sponsors who donated to our Christmas Program, our school members were safe at home and still received support to buy food and have a warm Christmas dinner.

We continue our online classes with all the laptops that were donated and paid for by Sponsors. Your support has also helped them pay for their medical expenses and internet bill.

During these unprecedented times, your good hearts, thoughts and support have kept us going.



THANK YOU





February Birthdays

1-Feb Rolf Rolnicki
6-Feb Aidan von Grabow
7-Feb Ronda Rolnicki
8-Feb Twana Marderos
12-Feb Laura Doeschot
13-Feb Carson Davis
16-Feb David Rider
17-Feb Lori Rider
18-Feb Bill Wilson
18-Feb Miranda Brunson
20-Feb Christian Galindo
22-Feb Candace Vallarta
22-Feb Joana Rodriguez

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.

Honoring Eleanor Phillips Continued...

Eleanor told Glenn she had some news for him. She was pregnant. Glenn Jr. was born in 1944. When Glenn returned from the war he went to work for Eleanor's father, Burt McKenzie. Donald was born and later Jeanette came into the world.

During that time Eleanor was active at the Congregational Church in Norwalk. Glenn and Eleanor attended the first service of the First Congregational Church in Anaheim on March 7, 1958. Glenn and Eleanor worked together at a meat market which they leased in Artesia. Later on they leased the entire store. Eleanor enjoyed working at the church with the Mayflowers Craft Group and raised a lot of money for the refurbishing of Griffith House. They made quilts for shut-ins, and would knit items for preemies and the babies of unwed mothers. Eleanor was also involved with the Seniors' group. Eleanor's family was raised in the church. She has precious memories here including three weddings, baptisms, and five funerals.

Eleanor is turning 99 on April 10th and recently she came up with a game plan called NINE. Anyone can play regardless of your age. You can play as often as you want!

The game goes as follows...

- Your donation toward "Burn the Mortgage, Not the Burgers" has to have a "9" in it. For example you can donate 9 cents, 19 cents, 99 cents, \$9, \$99, \$999 etc.

Eleanor is starting the game by donating \$99. (She said she saved her money by not going to Denny's after church since the Pandemic.) If you would like to play Eleanor's game of NINE, make your contribution to FCCA and itemize your check: Burn the Mortgage. I hope you can participate. Hopefully, we can honor Eleanor's wish by burning the mortgage by her 99th birthday on April 10th.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

515 N State College Blvd. Anaheim, CA 92806
phone 714.776.0960; email fccaooffice@gmail.com
Check us out on the web at www.fccanaheim.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANAHEIM, CA
PERMIT # 323

Member: National Association of Congregational Christian Churches—Since 1956

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