



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

Vol. 373 No. 11

Published Once A Month

November 1, 2020

November



INSIDE:
A conversation on trust and
faith with
Marsha Robinson



STAFF

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Catching Faith, Giving Thanks

Pastor Emily Miller-Todd

Recently I had the privilege of visiting Marsha Robinson. I asked Marsha if she would share some words of encouragement and faith with the church. It was so refreshing to sit with her. Marsha has a quiet, steady peace and joy that comes over her when she talks about God. I thought about Pastor Jim's sermon from last Sunday as I listened to Marsha. I felt like I was "catching" her faith.

Pastor Jim preached on the opening verses of 2 Timothy—highlighting that sometimes faith is "caught," not just taught. In the book, Paul is writing a letter to encourage Timothy. Paul celebrates the sincere faith that was passed on to Timothy from his mother and grandmother, and he encourages Timothy to rekindle the gift of God that is within him through "the laying on of my hands." That phrase indicates that Paul placed his hands on Timothy's shoulders or head as he prayed for Timothy's ministry and blessed his work. There is something mysterious and powerful about connection and about the way we "catch" the faith of those who surround us and support us.

Marsha's words of encouragement are simple, powerful words: God is in control. We don't have to like it, we don't have to understand it—just truly know that God is in control. She reminded me that we don't have to tell God how to fix everything. She has accepted that God is in control, and as a result her life is a lot better. She has peace that she hopes we all experience. When we give up on trying to control everything, we have space to relax and see what we *can* do for others rather than worrying so much about ourselves.

Marsha observed beauty that has surfaced in the midst of all that has happened this year. She said, people are trusting God and they are starting to take care of each other. People are starting to feed each other. People are giving food and clothing—they are becoming more generous. Marsha said—"That's what God has wanted all along. For us to take care of each other rather than outspend each other."

Each morning, Marsha wakes up knowing that God is in control. I mentioned this statement later in our conversation, asking Marsha if her peace comes from believing that God is in control. Marsha smiled, correcting me. She said—"No. I wake up *KNOWING* that God is in control." (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, social distance and remember when you greet each other that each person may have a very different comfort level.

Encouragement for Today

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

What is the name of our 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.

What do I do when Facebook asks me to login?

You can click "Not Now" at the bottom of the pop up window, or you may click on the small x that appears in the top right corner of the login pop-up.

Small Groups

Small Groups are meeting via Zoom to finish "Jesus Called: He Wants His Church Back" by Ray Johnston. There are two group options:

Tuesdays:
6:00-7:15pm

Thursdays:
7:00-8:15pm

October Updates



Food Distribution: “Operation Bless,” led by Unlimited Church, moved outside for the food distribution. It worked out well to have cars drive through. Volunteers loaded the vehicles directly with food. Multiple neighbors walked by and came back with grocery carts or with a vehicle – they did not expect there to be so much food! The next food distribution will be on Wednesday, November 4th. The distribution will start at 4:30 this week in order to catch the daylight.

Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim was live.
Posted by Jim Schibsted
2h · 🌐



Worship and Encouragement Videos Continue

Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim was live.
Posted by Emily Miller-Todd
Oct 7 · 🌐



Join us online or in person for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30am, or see Encouragement for Today videos posted on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Videos are posted live on Facebook at “Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.” You are also welcome to join us for Sunday morning greeting via Zoom-subscribe to our church enews for more information.

Getting to Know You, Getting to Know All About You

By: Eleanor Phillips

Tumbling along with the tumbling tumble weeds. Not a time of virus but a time of hardship in the United States. Drought had parched the land, winds blew crops dried and people were out of work. Oklahoma was in the middle of the dust bowl, where our person of the month was born.

She was born and at the age of 3 they packed all their belongings and traveled to Buena Park California. They settled at a rural area south of the Fullerton Airport. This was a time of the big depression. Where there were bread and soup lines, homeless people knocked on doors for food. Many diseases prevailed, diphtheria, Scarlett fever, small pox, and polio.

Our person of the month went to Orangethorp grammar school, where they played hopschotch and jumprope. While attending Fullerton High School she was on the tennis team. During summer vacation she worked packing oranges, and a rubber factory and other jobs.

The following years brought on a marriage, two children and a divorce. Going on a blind date her eyes were opened to a better life. After 3 years of dating she married Rudy. They then added a girl and boy to the family.

While working at western High as a manager of the cafeteria, she was asked to serve cake to college recruiters looking for potential students. Tiger Woods, a student there was their target (Stanford was his choice). She worked there retiring after 20 years.

Unfortunately they had the loss of a son and a daughter, and are caring for 2 grandsons. Traveling with Rudy have been enjoyable, seeing the Great Wall of China was most impressive.

Missions' Corner

The Missions Board is grateful to Mike Villa-Real for his passion to provide a water well for Fruitful Life Learning Center—a church and school he visited when he was visiting Mission Ministries Philippines. We also appreciate that the Church Council has gotten behind this project, and we thank Pastors Jim and Emily for highlighting the project each Sunday. Then came the matching gift of \$800 to help us reach our goal of \$3,400. I know that prayers are being answered. Praise God! Thank you everyone for sharing your blessings. *“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11*

The following excerpts come from recent communication with a few of the missions we support.

From Panamerican Institute in Tijuana “At school everyone is adjusting to the new way of learning and teaching from home, which our Governor said will be for the whole school year, but ‘constant change’ could come back and we will have to adjust once more



and as many times as needed. Our staff, students and their families have been working together to overcome this difficult and quite different time. With struggles, our students migrated to online classes despite their lack of technological resources. Both teachers and students had to find new ways to attend classes.

Fortunately, thanks to sponsors we have been receiving funds to buy laptops and give economical support for food and medical expenses. More sponsors for students are still needed this school year. Our school community is thankful for your support in August.”

From Andrew and Karen Bush about their Philippine ministry “The elderly over sixty and youth under twenty-one years of age are confined by government order to their homes all day long. There is, of course, no air conditioning to relieve the humid heat of Manila, and an electric fan is expensive to run. The children are trying to learn on their own by doing pages of homework. For the fortunate families, they may share one digital tablet provided by the government to try to study online for a few minutes a day.”

From Rev. Matthew Oladele of Christ to the Villages in Nigeria “I was down with malaria twice for weeks earlier this year, but I am healthy now. I have to admit that I



am behind in communication and in writing a newsletter. Large gatherings were forbidden and Churches were closed in Nigeria for months. Churches are now open, members are to use face masks. Our school will be able to open in mid October. We are grateful to FCCA for their generous donation to Christ to the Villages. Please send my sincere appreciation to the Mission Board and the entire church.”

From The Macedonian Outreach in Greece “Your support helps us in continuing our assistance to those in need in the Balkan Peninsula. This includes medical, educational, spiritual and physical support to orphans, refugees, and families in dire need. Thank you and may God bless you richly.”

Lastly, I am excited to report that again this Advent Season we will be collecting clothes, non-perishable food, and monetary donations for **Mary’s Kitchen** in Orange. Pastor Tom Fraker headed this campaign in 2019 and our congregation was so supportive. Details about this local mission will be shared in the next issue of The Call.



*All are invited to Virginia Ramsey and her grandson Dylan's birthday open house on Saturday, November 21st from 11am-3pm in McKenzie Hall here at the church. Stop by and say hi to Virginia and Dylan!

Please observe social distancing and bring your mask.

November Birthdays

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 fccaoffice@gmail.com.

Pastor's Letter Continued...

I then asked Marsha how she learned to have this kind of faith. Again, Pastor Jim's sermon topic from last Sunday came up. She "caught" her faith from her mother.

Marsha grew up watching her mother. She watched her mother raise 4 kids—2 boys and 2 girls—as a single mom. Marsha's mother had a bad heart and was told not to work. She had 4 kids and no choice—she continued to work and raise her family, trusting God to care for her. Marsha said, each night when her mother came home, she would give them all she had left to give. She would sit on the couch and ask them about their day. Marsha said—parents don't realize how much their kids are watching. They learn what you do, not just what you say. Marsha said, "I learned how to walk in faith by watching my mother." After pausing, she added, "You can tell I miss her a lot." Marsha continued, "She would pray every day at 12pm—and she kept that appointment. We'd see her rushing home and we would say, 'There comes mom.' Mom always said she was praying by the time she was 4 years old. She never gave it up until the day she died."

Our conversation shifted to Thanksgiving. Marsha reflected about the beauty of the holidays—people's attitudes seem to shift. We recognize the needs of others. The end of the year brings a thoughtfulness to our hearts. Marsha said, "God seems to have pushed that thoughtfulness from last Christmas through the entire year. God probably got rid of a lot of pride this year. We had to be there for each other. If someone received help, hopefully they'll give help."

Marsha ended our conversation emphasizing her hope. "I want people to allow God to bless them as *He* sees fit. They have to allow God to do that," she said. After a pause, I heard Marsha start quietly laughing. "Allow," she said. "It tickles me. You have to give up control and let God do it." Marsha reminded me that the responsibility of knowing and understanding everything is not ours. When we can accept that God knows more than us, it puts the responsibility of control where it should be. It frees us to pay attention to what we can do, and it frees us to pay attention to the people around us.

I left Marsha's home giving thanks for time spent "catching" her faith. I give thanks for Pastor Jim and the Schibsted family—they have a contagious way of enjoying life and walking in faith. I give thanks for this church and the joy and peace you bring each time we gather. May God bless you this Thanksgiving and may the gifts of the Spirit overflow among us.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.
Please contact the Church Office for details at 714. 776.0960