



## Church Life

Worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
714-538-9681 • [www.fccorange.com](http://www.fccorange.com)

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Chapman University Partner • Stephen Ministry Congregation • Habitat Covenant Church  
February 15, 2012

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## ***"A Call from the Catacombs"***

**Lent 2012**

**February 22 through April 7**

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths." – Mark 1:3*

The Gospel of Mark calls Jesus' followers to urgency and action on behalf of all God's children. Recognizing the needs to be immediate and the costs high, Mark's Gospel offers hope and healing, strength and courage, inspiration and empowerment. This was the first Gospel. And this Lent, we are invited to make its story our story.

Join us for Sunday morning worship, Wednesday evening Bible study, our Pastors' Web Blog and other special events this Lent as we encounter anew the Good News of God in Jesus Christ as compellingly told by the Gospel of Mark.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 22**

**7-8:00 am and 12-1:00 pm – Imposition of Ashes**  
**7:00 pm – Worship**

This coming Wednesday, February 22, is Ash Wednesday. The traditional beginning of the season of Lent, Christians take time this day to remember the gifts of God and to commit to disciplines of repentance for the 40 days leading up to Easter. This year, the Chapel will be open 7-8:00 am and 12-1:00 pm to come and receive Ashes as a sign of repentance. At 7:00 pm, our Pastors will lead a brief contemplative service in the Chapel. All are welcome.

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

**February 29 – March 28**

***"Encounters with the Gospel of Mark"***

Wednesday nights during Lent, Rev. Suggs will lead a Bible Study in the Searchers Room exploring the coming Sunday's sermon texts from the Gospel of Mark. In addition to historical background and contemporary application, Rev. Suggs will engage participants in the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina* or "*Divine Reading*." Reservations are not needed. Attending every week is not required. All are welcome.

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## THOUGHTS FROM DALE . . .

### **“A CALL FROM THE CATACOMBS” LENT 2012**

The sanctuary was dark. The only light came from candles scattered throughout the chancel whose dancing flames cast ever-moving shadows on the walls and ceiling. Into this darkness walked a man dressed in the clothing of a first-century peasant. His head was down and his arms crossed like a monk in prayer. Slowly, dramatically, he raised his head and his arms and proclaimed, *“Here begins the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”*

The place was Central Christian Church in Lebanon, Indiana. The actor was Frank Runyeon. While most people remember Frank as a soap opera star, I know Frank as a student of theology gaining a Masters Degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York. His Master’s Thesis was the one-man play he now performs across the country in small and large venues, mostly churches, which dramatically presents the story of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Mark. His play is simply entitled, *“Afraid!”*

In seminary, I learned that Mark’s Gospel came together around 70 CE and was probably written in or on behalf of the church in Rome. You may remember that this was the time of the first great persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire. History records that in the summer of 64 CE, as much as 70% of the city of Rome was consumed by a fire that raged out of control for 7 days. True or not, survivors believed that the Emperor Nero himself set the blaze either for monetary gain or for *“his own amusement.”* Needing a scapegoat, Nero blamed the fire on an obscure and secretive religious sect whose followers were commonly called, “Christians.” According to the contemporary historian, Tacitus, Nero began by arresting a few members of the sect who *“under torture”* implicated others in the crime. Spreading the word that the Christians had burned Rome, Nero created huge resentment against the sect whose believers were *“mercilessly hunted down and put to death.”* Tacitus notes that Christians were convicted *“not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind”* and that they were *“covered with the skins of beasts, {and} . . . torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt”* (Annals, 15.40).

With this as the historical backdrop, Frank’s play suggests that Mark’s Gospel was first an oral tradition, told to the persecuted Christians of Rome, who, for their own protection, worshipped in secret in the catacombs under Rome. In other words, they were *“Afraid!”*

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During Lent this year, we will explore the story of Jesus as told by Mark to a people in desperate need of Good News . . . not in the by and by . . . but right here, right now! I believe this perspective has a great deal to teach us. But more than that, I believe this perspective can inspire and empower us to speak and to act and to be Christ’s disciples in our world today.

So, come join us as we hear once again Mark’s *“Call from the Catacombs”* this Lenten Season. And may the Good News of God in Jesus Christ liberate, heal, transform, and send us to share God’s blessing with our families, our friends, our community and our world.

Blessings,

Rev. Dale Suggs, Interim Senior Pastor

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### **UPCOMING SERMONS**

**Transfiguration Sunday  
February 19, 2012**

***“A Transforming Encounter”***  
*Mark 9:2-9*

How worship can transform us,  
our church and our world

**Ash Wednesday Services  
February 22, 2012  
7:00 pm**

***“So This Is The Wilderness”***  
*Mark 1:9-15*

A Season of Repentance and Renewal

**February 26, 2012**

***“The Time Has Come”***  
*Mark 1:1-15*

From the Catacombs Comes a Call  
to Urgency and Action

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### **CAMPFIRE WORSHIP**

**MARCH 10 AT 6:30 PM**

Don’t miss out! Come and see the magic of **Brian Shrout!** Come and hear the stories of **Dean Shepherd and Ella Foster-Weaver!** Wear appropriate weather attire and bring a light snack/dinner, as we once again will share with one another.

Updates on small group options will soon be posted in the weekly e-mail and in the bulletin.

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## DISCIPLES WOMEN

### MARCH 2012 STUDY GROUPS

**PAL Group** - Thursday, March 1, at 9:30 AM, at the home of hostess **Janet Sands**. **Geri Nothwang** will give the devotional.

**LONG Group** - Wednesday, March 7, at 11:00 AM, in the Fireside Room. **Carol Worthy** and **Bev McMillin** will be co-hostesses.

**KOINONIA GROUP** - Wednesday, March 21, at 7:00 PM, in the Fireside Room. **Diane Francis** will be hostess. **Barbara Post** will give the devotional.

March's Study Leader is **Gayla McDowell**.

### COMING EVENTS

#### **DISCIPLES WOMEN LUNCHEON and PROGRAM,**

Thursday, March 8, at 12 PM, in the Fireside Room. Program is "Woman to Woman - Go to Turkey," by Nancy Fowler, University Christian Church.

**DISCIPLES WOMEN Board Meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, March 22, at 9:30 AM, in the Fireside Room.

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## ADULT LEARNING / SEARCHER'S CLASSES

For March 4 and 11, 2012, the focus will be on Global Ministries. We hope you will plan to join us as we enjoy and learn from these important topics. Everyone is welcome. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM, in the Searcher's Room, Room 2A.

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## AMAZIN GREYS - MARCH 20, 2012

Come and celebrate the Irish, even if you're not! There will be corned beef and cabbage, Irish music and songs with Roy Bullock and Millie Messer, lots of Irish humor, and Nancy Brink sharing a little Celtic lore. "Surre'n" you must participate in the fun! Call Marge Carter or sign up on a Welcome Card on Sunday morning to make a reservation. See you at 11:30 AM in the Fireside Room!

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## JANUARY 2012 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

- ◆ Pledge Giving = \$32,089
- ◆ Budgeted Pledges = \$28,768
- ◆ Loose Change = \$366
- ◆ Budgeted Loose Change = \$288
- ◆ Total Income Increase over Budget = \$3,405

Thank you First Christian Church of Orange!

## ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING

### Save the Date

**Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 9 AM to 11 AM**

Volunteer in an area of your choice to give the church facilities and grounds some TLC before Easter. Only 2 hours of your time will make a huge difference! Look for sign-up sheets after church beginning February 26. Areas where we need your help include:

#### Indoors

Window cleaning and dusting in  
Narthex and Sanctuary  
Church Office Reception Area

#### Outdoors

Pick Weeds	Pick Up Trash
Trim Bushes	Sweep

Bring some buckets with your favorite window cleaning solution, rags or paper towels, gloves, clippers and rakes. Don't forget a hat, some sun screen, and drinking water, too!

\* \* \* \* \*

## OUR THANKS TO YOU

Please take a look at the new gates now installed at the entrances to the Memorial Gardens. There are also replacement doors installed at the inside entrance to the Bride's Room and to the Whitworth School storage room. Our thanks go out to two of our most generous church members who provided the funds to have this work performed. Special thanks to Ruth Raheb and Kathy Sorensen who coordinated and supervised getting this job done.

In addition, note the new mulch around the plants along the front walkways. Thanks to Mike Reynolds for this time and hard work in getting the task done!

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## CHURCH LIFE ON EMAIL OR THE WEB

Each time the Church Life is published, we send it either by US Mail or electronically as an identical email. If you are receiving it in the US Mail and would be willing to switch to email, call the church office. It is also published on our web page, minus personal information.

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## SUNDAY NIGHT TOGETHER — TWO PIECES OF FRUIT

We invite you to support Sunday Night Together - just two pieces of fruit, brought to church on 4th Sunday mornings, to help feed our homeless and hungry neighbors. Multiply two pieces by each person in church...and we have more than enough! And YOU will be responsible for helping with the meal. Cooler collection bags will be in the Narthex on these Sundays.

# More Happenings

## MUSIC MINISTRY SPOLIGHT

Each month, the Music Department would like to take a moment to spotlight one of our Band members/Musicians here at FCCO so you can get to know the wonderfully talented musicians you see up front each Sunday.

This month's featured musician is (please insert drum roll here).....

### **JIM RUBY**

Jim Ruby, aka "Dr. James Ruby," is a professor in the Human Services department at Cal State University Fullerton. He was raised in Kentucky, but lived in Chicago for 15 years. Jim is married to Nanci Carol Ruby, an equity actress, agent recommended acting coach, and part-time university instructor. Their two sons are David, aged 18, and Wesley, age 11. Jim's hobbies include music -- he is a fine tenor, he plays guitar, bass, and mandolin -- in addition to playing team sports, and being outdoors. He also loves spending time with family.

Jim has an eclectic taste in music and likes to say that he can enjoy any kind of music as long as it is done well (symphony orchestras, Broadway musicals, heavy metal bands). Being raised in Kentucky, his musical interests were highly influenced by his Scottish, Celtic roots. Bluegrass, southern Gospel, and folk music permeated his mother's side of the family. Jim's father, however, was a musician and was particularly attuned to Broadway musicals. As a result, he was raised with varied tastes.

Jim has been a solo performer, sung with ensembles and choirs, and played in several bands, the most notable of which developed into the 70's rock band, Traveler. The bands he has played with have ranged in genre from original rock compositions, cover bands, and Christian music. He has also worked as a studio musician for several independent artists, providing background vocals and instrumental work.

Within the realm of Christian ministry, Jim has played with several smaller ensembles and has served as a worship leader for local churches and retreats, as well as directed choirs and instrumental ensembles.

Regarding his faith journey, Jim's faith has been notably shaped by music. It has been the key to his involvement in the church for many years; and, it is one of the most profound and meaningful ways for him to express and share his faith. Jim has written songs at some of the most important times in his life, whether they be joyous or painful. He considers these songs as gifts from God that helped him continue to grow as a follower of Christ.

*(Cont. next column)*

Jim and his family have been attending FCCO for nearly 2 years. They came because of the progressive theology and rich, open worship experiences provided each week. Jim plays with the FCCO band, because he says it allows him to share his gifts in a creative way, and he is able to fellowship with other wonderful musicians of faith. When he is allowed to express his faith in music, as in the FCCO band, Jim feels closer to God and to those in his church family. He feels like he is making a contribution, using the gifts that God has given him.

Jim is grateful for FCCO, the church family here, the high quality music, and the creative energy that is present in all the many facets of the congregation.

Special thanks to Jim Ruby, Christian musician extraordinaire for sharing your bountiful gifts with us here at FCCO!

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## DEAR CHURCH FAMILY

We have no idea how to say thank you for all the love and warm wishes you gave us on Sunday. Thank you for showing us how much we are loved. We can't tell you how much each of you mean to us and want you to know that we appreciate the wonderful gifts (a Willow Tree Angel and gift card) that were presented to us. It truly touched our hearts. Thank you for sharing God's love and your families with us. It is great to know we have a wonderful church family to lean on for support of all kinds. So thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We will miss you, but will keep you in our thoughts and prayers; and if you find yourself traveling up to the Pacific Northwest please give us a call so we can get together. May God Bless You and Keep You Always.

Love, Steve & Sandy

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## FCCO STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Our thanks to those church members who have agreed to be a part of our FCCO Strategic Planning Committee.

Marc Harper (Chair)  
Gabe Spuckes (Moderator)  
Dale Suggs (Interim Pastor)  
Olivia Bryan Updegrove (Associate Pastor)  
Bev Kramer  
Ruth Raheb  
Kathy Sorenson  
Jim Ruby  
Nanci Carol Ruby  
Mike Reynolds  
Ellen Reynolds  
Brian Shrout

# More Happenings

## MARCH 2012 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Personal information has been removed from this version of Church Life that is being published on our web site.

Please refer a hard copy of the Church Life or call the office to receive this information.

**Important Note:** As always, if we have missed any special dates, please let the church office know right away. We look forward to celebrating life's journey with you.

NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

The next Church Life Deadlines are **March 5** and **March 26, 2012**



## ELDERS PRAYERS IN WORSHIP

### January 22, 2012 OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of Generosity, we bring You our offerings and hope that You are well pleased. We ask that You bless these gifts and their givers. Let those who will administer it continue to follow the Epiphany star, that the funds may be used in the best manner to help those in need. And, we ask that those who receive it would feel the love with which it is given and that each may come to know You and Your love and have that love etched upon their hearts. In Jesus' name we pray,  
Amen. – Estelle Worden

### January 29, 2012 COMMUNION PRAYER

A very long time ago, a bright star shining in the heavens led wise men to You; just as we have been led today to this table -- Your table, where You nourish our soul and quench our spiritual thirst. As we leave this table, sated by Your transforming grace, we are still mindful that there are those in this world who are less fortunate. Give us eyes to recognize those who suffer. Give us ears to hear Your call to us to help them. And, give us a strong voice to respond with the words of Isaiah - "*Here am I. Send me.*" Amen.  
– Wayne Arnold

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## PROJECT HOPE SCHOOL PLANS NEW YEAR

Our committee got off to a great start with plans for continuing our support to Project HOPE School. Here are some of the exciting events we have planned:

- Help with the 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony;
- Chaperone students on Disneyland trip (date TBA) and provide souvenirs;
- Help with hosting a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser;
- Hold our 2nd annual Church-wide Parking Lot Sale;
- Provide for e-recycling at the parking lot sale;
- Project HOPE School Sunday in October;
- Provide Holiday Food Baskets in December.

We welcome everyone to participate in any of these activities. Our goal through this church-wide mission is to support the homeless children of Orange County through our hand-on participation and donations. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact me. Thank you for all your wonderful support last year!  
Sandy Hansen, Chair

# News from the Pews

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## CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

**Gwen Shaw, Ken and Lois Worden, Paul Roberts, Doris Luraschi, Nikolas Mills, Tom Gregg, Mark David Parsons, and Madison Raheb; *Our Military/State Members:* Nick Aguilera, Nick Cisneros, Marvin Floer, Josh Reynolds, Erica Prenzlów, and...**

## OUR CONCERNS SINCE LAST CHURCH LIFE

**Wanda Avery** - Awaiting further surgery on her malignant eye tumor.

**Sharon Pearson** – Former FCCO Member – Prayers for Sharon who is in extended care with very serious health issues. Please pray for husband, Carl, and other family. (Nancy Hoey)

**Floyd Hedrick** – Prayers for healing of hand and wrist injury.

**Neighbor** – Fell off his roof putting up Christmas lights and has been in rehab for almost 2 months now. (Wesley Ruby)

**Chuck Kahlberg** – Husband of friend – Dealing with return of cancer. (Barbara Post)

**Ted Post** – Husband – Infection that is not healing quickly enough for him. (Barbara Post)

**Relative of the Chaps** – We hope that they get here safely, but we still pray. (Camille Chap)

**Karen Watson** – Friend – Went to be with the Lord this week-from cancer. (Cindy Shrout)

**Sibylle** – Friend – Prayers for her and seriously ill daughter with sinus malignant cancer; and, this week, recent death of her co-author Dr. Tobias from UCI. (Martha Jensen)

**Reback Family** – Long Time Friends – David died last week after a series of strokes that placed in a coma for three weeks. (Jim & Della Gabelsberg)

**Bea Ortiz** – Friend's Mother – Recovering from stroke that happened on Monday; and, dealing with lung cancer diagnosed following the stroke. (Linda Smith)

**Bruce Borden** – Underwent heart surgery at St Joseph Hospital on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, to replace a valve that had a congenital defect. (Kathy Vail)

**Gloria Galvan** – Prayers to help in building a stronger relationship with her oldest son. (CAMPFIRE Worship Group)

**Jessica Browne** (DOC) – Friend – Prayers for friend who has been diagnosed with MS. (CAMPFIRE Worship Group)

**Wendell Pew** – Is in serious condition following a second knee replacement surgery plus installation of pace maker.

## OUR CONCERNS SINCE LAST CHURCH LIFE (cont.)

**Sue Moline** – Healing prayers as she goes into her sixth year battling ovarian cancer. (Linda Smith)

## OUR CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS SINCE LAST CHURCH LIFE

**Attendees of CAMPFIRE Worship** – Friends and Family – Prayers for and with all those who expressed Concerns and Celebrations. (Craig Vail)

**John, Laurel, & Joshua Cross** – Family – Displaced and living in hotel due to a house fire. Pray they will be able to rebuild quickly. Praise God for their lives. It could have been worse. (Jack Cross, Barbara Wigginton, & Jackie Burchell)

## OUR CELEBRATIONS SINCE LAST CHURCH LIFE

**Nora Jacob and Fernando Jara** – We've begun a new church – Rockhill Disciples of Christ – in Bakersfield. It'll be a ministry within Mill Creek Christian Church (DOC). First worship service is Sunday, February 12.

### FCCO Leadership and Volunteers

**Youth Choir** – Working hard, coordinating our outfits, and learning our parts and having fun while we do it. (Christan, ShaeLyn & Wesley)

**Josh and Andrea Reynolds** – We celebrate Josh and his wife Andrea being in Worship today. (Mike & Ellen Reynolds)

**Josh Reynolds** – Josh is home! (Suzanne Vaugine)

**Reeley Family Ministry** – Farewell to the Reeley family. Following church, they embark on a new adventure in their lives by moving to Harrisburg, Oregon, for Steve's new job. Sandy was on staff at FCCO for 23 years – you will be missed!

**NOTE:** All references to children and youth have been removed from this list.

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# FCCO YOUTH AND KIDS

## Regular Week-to-Week Sunday Schedule

3:30 PM Children's Choir  
4:00-6:00 PM Kid Groups  
4:30 PM Youth Choir  
5:30-7:30 PM Youth Group

(No CYF on Sunday, February 19, 2012)

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## Children's and Youth Choir Schedule

### Children's Choir

February 26: Performance – Call time 9:20 AM  
March 18: Variety Show – Call time 3:30 PM

### Youth Choir

February 26: Performance – Call time 9:00 AM  
March 18: Variety Show – Call time 3:30 PM

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## Congrats!

Sharon Addington has been named the new Young Disciples Coordinator. She will begin . . . yesterday.

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## Young Families Academy Awards Party

Sunday, February 26, 2012, from 4 PM to the end, the young families of FCCO will attend an Academy Awards Party at the home of Dean and Rose Thomas. Chili will be served, so just bring a side dish (bread, salad, appetizer), drinks, or dessert. Child care will be provided at the church from 5 to 9 PM.

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## Variety Show...



Variety Show

Coming Soon!  
Sunday March 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Fundraising Goal: \$5,500!!!

## Who We Are

### First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

1130 E. Walnut, Orange CA 92867  
(714) 538-9681 voice; (714) 538-4686 fax  
e-mail: orange1st@fccorange.com  
website: www.fccorange.com  
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M - F

### Church Staff

Interim Senior Pastor ..... Rev. J. Dale Suggs  
Associate Pastor ..... Rev. Olivia Bryan Updegrove  
Admin. Secretary ..... Linda Smith  
Bookkeeper ..... Wini Chuidian  
Minister of Music & Arts ..... Dean Shepherd  
Organist ..... Phil Chap  
Children & Youth Choir Director ..... Jazmine Hamishfeger  
Children & Youth Choir Accompanist ..... Pam Wykoff  
Chi Rho Coordinator ..... Natalie Nevin  
CYF Coordinators ..... Erin Cooper and Jeannie Oliver  
JYF Coordinator ..... Dana Gray  
YD Coordinator ..... Sharon Addington  
Nursery Supervisor ..... Sandy Carden  
Custodian ..... Miguel "Mike" Cosme



First Christian Church of Orange  
Disciples of Christ

1130 E Walnut Avenue  
Orange, CA 92867

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