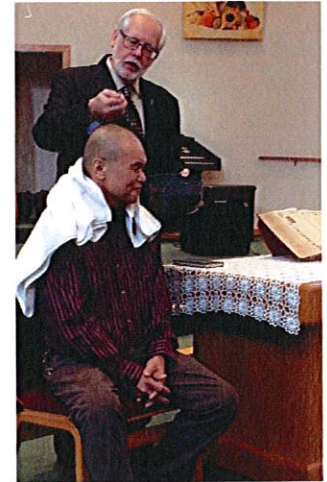
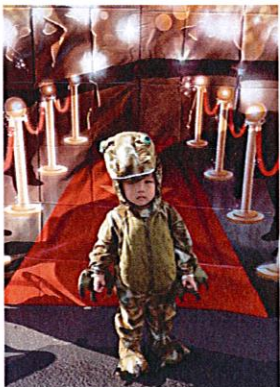


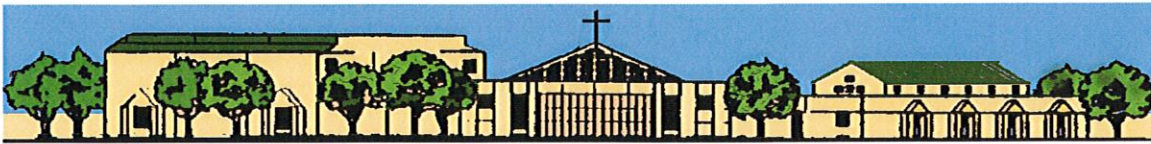
Annual Meeting



2014 in review



First Chinese Baptist Church, Fresno



First Chinese Baptist Church

6080 N. Angus St., Fresno, CA 93710

(559) 438-0303

Pastor: Rev. Danny Jack D.P.C MDiv.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING January 18, 2015

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

II. Election of 2015 Church Officers

Chairman of the Board (Moderator):	Boon Tee
Church Clerk:	Gwen Ko
Financial Secretary:	Richard Ward
Treasurer:	Lanny Chan
Church School Superintendent:	Vicky Lowe

III. Election of Deacons (Class of 2017)

Irma Jue
Martin Jung
Jeff Kimura
Patricia Tom

Class of 2015

Richard Bruce
Lena Chin
Irene Lai
Jennifer Oldham

Class of 2016

Patti Kunkel
Bobby Standing
Boon Tee
Howard Togo

IV. Presentation of 2015 Annual Church Budget (Richard Ward)

V. Benediction (Pastor Danny Jack)



Cupcakes? Really?!? FCBC Fresno Connects with Community

2015 Annual Report of the Senior Pastor

Looking Ahead... 131 years of Ministry!

I believe the above photo from a spotlight article done on our Matthew 25 ministry by the American Baptists is a good example of what has been accomplished over the past year. Our missions, wonderful worship, adults and children stepping forward, discipleship through our VBS and Sunday school, consistent giving (number five in a list of 50 top giving churches in our denomination), and global impact for our Savior are all examples of what God has done through us in 2014. So, as you read through the following reports you should pause and marvel at the miracles this congregation has been called to participate in. We have been truly blessed.

Over the last year I've been personally blessed through faithful service to our denomination on the General Board of Ministries and World Relief. I believe such work has also allowed me to intervene in some Regional decisions regarding other Asian fellowships that would not have been possible unless serving in this manner. So God put me in the right place at the right time. I have one more year in these roles and will then fulfill my responsibilities.

My point? **This has been a great year!** Yet, as you look at this annual report you will notice a deficient budget. Actually we are quite good at watching the bills, keeping our expenses as frugal as possible. But...the business of church such as staffing, utilities, upkeep and health care are financial realities we have to face. (Actually a word about health care and benefits. Over the 19 years as your pastor I received reimbursement for health care expenses about four years. But Arlean and I felt to help with the budget and other staffing costs we would not take health insurance since she received hers from St. Agnes and we covered the expense of the families portion, which averaged to around \$7-8,000 a year. In the same manner as an American Baptist pastor I'm entitled to a Sabbatical every ten years but I have not taken one. I just didn't want to burden the church with the expense of filling a pulpit while gone and also covering salary during that time. These have been small ways your pastor and his family felt we could save the church some dollars and allowed us to help with cost of living raises etc. for our staff. But now Arlean is retired we do need your gift of health insurance and I want the entire church to know we are grateful!)

But, after saying that there are some other facts we need to consider. Several of you have confronted me with the following statements, "We have to do something pastor there just is no way we can keep running at a deficient. We need to grow, we need to be better givers."

These of course are good observations and must be acknowledged and your Board will be looking at and struggling with vision, and direction in 2015 and how to best use the money we now have. I too have similar

thoughts and there are a few things that keep me up at night in regards to our purpose, mission and stewardship. So let's do some FACT checking.

MINISTRY(Christian education, Shepherding and Home Bible Fellowships)

- **FACT:** We are a congregation that ministers to a very specific population. Many of the younger people that would have went to this church in the past now go to churches (or don't go) that are less specific than us. Which means we have issues of getting that population through our doors. To be honest being the First Chinese Baptist Church isn't the draw to younger families as it was in the past since the cultural ties are weakening.
- **FACT:** Which means there are staffing issues. As your pastor I have the specific duties of sermon, adult teaching and worship. As such I know, if God allows, I will be able to continue providing challenging sermons, interesting worship experiences that will produce stable attendance probably for at least the next five years. (The denomination is even pushing pastors of my age to keep going until age 72 since pulpits are so hard to fill).

But even after making the above statement I've got to be honest with you. I was hit hard this year with where I'm headed? Arlean retired plus all of the missionaries, teachers, and professors I started out with in ministry have either retired or died. On January 7th 2015 I celebrated 36 years of ordained ministry, in 2015 I will have been with you for 19 years. In other words most of my ordained ministry has been in service with and to FCBC. So, I've had to ask myself, "Do I want to stay your pastor, do you want me to continue in order to do the required work of moving us well into the next century?" Such labor always takes its toll spiritually, emotionally and physically on pastors and might be better accomplished by a younger man or woman.

Also in the last couple of years I've been invited to do some devotional writing and speaking. But with sermons to write every week, Bible studies to lead every week, worship experiences to provide every week, along with counseling members, meetings, and more meetings. Makes other creative endeavors almost impossible or at least improbable.

Plus I carry another burden. As I have compiled the worship statistics for the last eleven years a fact becomes apparent. The lowest Sundays of the year coincide with the Sundays I am gone. Whether for vacation, General Ministry duties or even mission trips. When the senior pastor is away so are you. I write this not trying to be egotistical and get you to acknowledge what a wonderful communicator I am but to see the reality: When the senior pastor is gone numbers fall and subsequently a drop in donations as well.

Which brings me back to my original discussion. When I consider my future as your shepherd I must acknowledge there is a responsibility, a commitment to our mission, ministry, there is an accountability I spiritually and personally carry that no one else can at this critical stage in our church's life. You might say, "Get over yourself pastor God will take care." I totally agree but it remains for my family a serious professional question: Is this something Arlean and I can continue to do at this stage in our ministry and if we don't what happens to you?

Answer: I believe we can, for a couple years more, if we feel God still wants it. But, a lot depends upon you and your willingness to give, to reach out, to set vision and struggle with the reality of who attends and where we serve over the next few years.

I also have to say this. Such a decision on my part to stay is only possible because of our Shepherding team and the phenomenal job they do of keeping track of the who, what, when and where of our fellowship. This allows me the hours needed for prayer, preparation, and writing of quality sermons and worship experiences. So, thank you Lena Chin and my fellow ministers. In other words, with their help I am able, if God keeps me healthy, to stay in the pulpit for a few more years.

But...my "call" and years of ministry does not solve the bigger issue of our younger people and families. They deserve someone closer to them in age. So in 2015 I will seriously be involved with seeking an intern, or a volunteer (someone) that college age and millennial adults will be able to have some kind of relationship. This is **one of those issues we must address or we will lose the young adults we already have.**

Why? Because of this FACT. We need to enlarge our base with younger adults. But...that means we need staffing, we need Bible study for these same younger people, and couples plus we need somewhere to put them. Plus... Our Agape ministry is doing well and growing which is reaching an entirely different population which is again impacting space, time and budget (of course this is great news)! Jeannie Gong has been God sent and the growth is due to her commitment and energy. Jeannie has decided to go on for her Masters of Christian Ministry at Dallas Theological Seminary so in 2015 we will be asking the Region for permission to License her towards Ordination (a 2-4 years process). Keep her in your prayers as she seeks to be a mom, wife and minister. God has obviously placed a future pastor among us.

Which brings us back to this FACT. As we struggle with direction, numbers, and dollars we must be honest with each other. If we don't have appropriate learning opportunities, if we don't have the right staff, if we have no-where to meet this logically means those we would like to bring into the church family will go someplace else. Obviously if we lose people, we lose resources we then lose the ability to impact our specific community and to continue our global ministry. There must be some real discussion on where to put people and who is going to teach them in 2015 if we want to grow.

MISSION: (Matthew 25, Medical Missions, Long Life, Social Concerns and our denominational offerings)

- FACT: I told this church nineteen years ago I would only stay as long as we were reaching out, serving "going" as God has commanded. We responded and have witnessed miracles in our medical missions. The work in Myanmar this past year was an opportunity that few churches are given. To go where only a precious few Christians have been able to reach. To work across faith lines to serve, to support, to participate daily in miracles. A true blessing for our congregation.

Then there is our work with Matthew 25. The reaching out into Fresno and Sanger has fascinated, shocked, and taught me some vital lessons on letting God do the work and to get out of the way. Of course someone asked me just this last month, "How long do we keep giving and doing for Matthew 25 and our Medical Mission?" My answer: How long will we have the poor with us? How long are people hungry? How long do people need physical and spiritual healing? How long do we keep bringing the Good News of a risen Savior? Answer: until our Savior tells us our time is done.

Now just so you know I totally understand the question of "how long." Because I'm confident such questions are asked for the protection of the church. But the reality is FCBC you got what you prayed for...year after year people asked, asked, and asked, "Why can't we have missions here at home just like our overseas work?" In response we tried a variety of things such as teaming with food shelters, seeking to aid new immigrants, reaching out in a variety of ways. But the work never seemed to quite fit the personality and "call" of our church family. Then...God answered our constant prayers with a very unique ministry, Matthew 25 which allows us to help a variety of outreaches at one time. My point? We got what we asked and prayed for and the waiting is over. God has blessed the outreach and we have a responsibility to follow where He leads.

This also holds true for our Long Life mission work as well. We reach into a community that has not for one reason or another, walked through our doors. But with the changing cultural dynamics of the 21st century we are seeing more and more of our senior adults needing somewhere and someone to care. Whether we want to accept it or not this is missions.

FACT: This is sacrifice both financially, physically and spiritually. Granted, the borders are fuzzy and porous, and some ministries may span more than one area. BUT here is the key! We are called to be involved in what God is doing in the world and if we are not we hurt ourselves spiritually and on top of that we miss the blessings God says will come our way by not doing what God has commanded.

WORSHIP

- **FACT:** Our average worship for the last eleven years has been 191. In 2014 our average worship attendance was **188**. We are and have been very consistent in our attendance for the last few decades. In fact we have a great worship team with our music director, accompanist, Bell, adult, and Chinese choir, and our praise team have all been factors in keeping our worship God honoring and unique.

The worship committee has been proactive with considering possible digital needs to enhance the worship experience. The pastor's blog and sermons on line have also kept our name in the public and has been the reason some attend. With such participation I believe we will be able to maintain this level of participation in worship for a number of years more.

- **FACT:** In 2014 we took in 15 new members which is also an average for us over the last nineteen years. We have never lost more than we have gained in membership while I have been in service with you. God has truly blessed us!

CONCLUSION

- **FACT:** There are probably some better ways to handle the resources God has blessed this congregation. Maybe we need to investigate some endowments and/or investments in order to provide alternative ways for you and I to give toward the future of this body of believers. We need to fix this!
- **FACT:** Culturally we are losing our young men and women. If we don't figure out some way to attract them through mentoring, Bible study, excellent staff, fellowship and outreach opportunities they will not come.

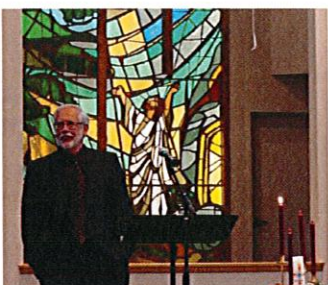
- **FACT:** This is tied to the above point. Our senior adults need a place to serve, to fellowship and grow. As the ties within the community continue to disintegrate there will be more and more need for culturally sensitive programs. Now as an ethnic outsider I shouldn't have to tell you this...of course maybe I am the right person to say this out loud after all, because this is coming whether you like it or not. As the young people move away, as their cultural ties weaken our seniors will fall through the cracks. In other words, we should be preparing, discussing, supporting ways for us to be "THE" place for Asian seniors in Fresno. So they can be cared for within a **Christian community**, energized and can even pass on their heritage to another generation. But pastor Jack can't make this happen it has to come from you.

Okay I believe you understand some of the challenges we have ahead in the coming years. In fact, some are issues any 131 year old congregation must confront and yet a few unique issues as well. They are not theological, spiritual or even financial issues (even though if you don't give then God's work will definitely be short-circuited). Rather these are fundamental question(s) of..

- How do we reach a younger population and find the right staff for those that no longer feel a cultural responsibility to return?
- How do we reach that same population and yet honor and minister to the older membership that will have difficulty in the changes and the growing diversity they see taking place?
- How do we financially support an immigrant community that will not be able to support the church body until some future day?
- How do we care for Pastor Jeannie Gong as she outreaches to this same population? (To be honest she is a rare find. Someone that has the language skills and the "calling" to serve).
- How do we make this growing population feel they are part of FCBC and not a separate worshipping community?

Wow God has truly set us some challenges and privileges before this fellowship for 2015 but what an honor to have such opportunities. I truly believe you can do this but it will require creative thinking, some leadership challenges and possible changes, a cost factor, the really difficult task of reframing how we picture ourselves and of course lots of prayer.

Okay I guess I should stop even though this has been an appropriate way for me to report on what I see requiring attention in the next few years for the health and growth of FCBC. So, as you read this Annual Report celebrate where we have been, how far we have come but also take a moment to pray about your personal commitment, stewardship, and specific roll here within this fellowship.



I also hope you realize Arlean and I have been truly blessed through our ministry with you. We have watched your children and ours grow into adults and I have married, baptized and even cried with many of you within this family. A rare privilege for a pasturing couple to have such a tenure and to see most of that God provided vision accomplished. I'm not sure how long God will keep Arlean and I among you but I do know this. We have some exciting times ahead not just for 2015 but for the decades beyond. May God bless each and every one of you.

Rev. Dr. Danny L. Jack

Associate Pastor

"Awesome!" That's what comes to mind when I think back on the year of 2014. By God's goodness, grace, and blessings, the year has been full, eventful, productive, fun, and life-changing. Just a few of the highlights have been:

- BYF's 30 Hour Famine, which included serving at the Poverello House, Vintage Gardens, and cleaning our own church, while we went 30 hours without eating.
- Participating at the week-long Sugar Pine Camp with 13 others from our Youth Ministry. The Camp was filled with physically-challenging activities, awesome worship, messages, and heart-felt cabin times.
- Watching excellent movies like, "God's Not Dead" with the college students and enjoying studying the Book of Luke together, and discussing all kinds of questions.
- Doing VBS with the church and seeing 32 children accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord.
- Having 50 kids involved in the Sunday School Kick Off, joyously singing worship songs, and excitingly eating lunch together and playing games at John's Incredible Pizza.
- Seeing relationships deepening in the HBF's as they study God's Word, do life together, and just hanging out together celebrating birthdays and other special events.
- Working with an incredible Christian Education Committee, BYF Sponsors, and STORM Sponsor every week.

And these were just the tip of the iceberg. God did so much.

"Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.

One generation commends Your works to another; they tell of Your mighty acts." Psalm 145:3-4

Here's what else God did this past year:

In the Sunday School Department

God provided fantastic and amazing **Sunday School Teachers and Aides**, who were so faithful all year to provide our children excellent life lessons each week on God's character and love, and what it means to be a part of His Family. They also taught on how to live to please God and what attitudes we should have towards others and towards life. The curriculum has been from Gospel Light, which has been creative and well planned out. But it's the teachers and the aides that keep the class fun, energetic, and memorable. Just think, they are teaching some of the most important lessons a child could ever learn! We can never take our Sunday School Teachers and Aides (past, present, and future) for granted! Never!

Overall, our Children and Youth Ministry is healthy and doing well because God has provided an extremely gifted and dedicated **Christian Education Committee**. CE currently serves a monthly average of 17 children and 11 youth through Sunday School. Each month they sincerely pray, creatively plan, diligently prepare, and joyfully execute what they believe God wants for the children and youth ministries. Their heart is to help every child love God and Jesus more and more, and become all that God has in store for him/her. And each week, they're faithfully serving not only this ministry, but also in many of the other ministries in our church. The members of the Christian Education Committee are Vicky Lowe (Chair), Sylvia Chinn, Ginny Kamimoto, and Lisa Tom. And I get the privilege to serve along with them.

"STOP, be still, DROP, to your knees, and PRAY, always" continued to be our **Sunday School Theme** for the school year. The Christian Ed Committee developed Prayer Books with sample prayers to guide the children in saying grace and their bedtime prayers. Each month the sample prayers got more involved, thanking God for and praying for our families, friends, school, church, teachers, and the day's activities.

The children were reminded that when we talk to God, it makes Him very happy and puts a smile on His face. And they were reminded that God loves to chat with us so we should pray often since He always has time for us.

Each time the children prayed, they were encouraged to mark it off in their Prayer Notebook and after each month they were rewarded with stamps and stickers. Then every 3 months, they received special prizes like Ice Cream Sundaes. It was exciting to see the children develop their relationship with God as they developed their prayer life.

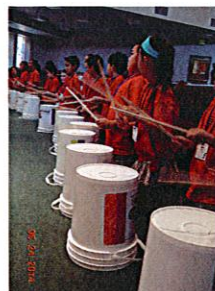


In February, the Christian Ed Committee held a special **Sunday School Teacher Recruiting Luncheon**. We had about 20 in attendance. Our purpose was to inform potential teachers and aides about what God is doing in the Sunday School classes, Junior Worship, and the Nursery. We gave out job descriptions so they would know what's required to be a teacher or an aide. We heard testimonies from current teachers (Thanks to Patti Kunkel, Allen Wong, Lisa Lee, and May Wong). After a Q/A time, response cards were passed out and collected. Praise God that many are now serving in Sunday School, Junior Worship, or Nursery. I guess it didn't hurt our recruiting that our luncheon food was from Ding Ho!

Thanks to the Men's Group, in April, we celebrated **Easter** starting off with a delicious and filling breakfast. Then the charged-up and eager children were gathered in the Christian Ed Wing as we shared what the difference is between Good Friday and Easter and how that relates to them. Christian Ed also shared the Easter story using the 12 Plastic Easter Eggs, which contained 12 different items related to Jesus' death and resurrection. Then the children were lined up and sent out to the courtyard and garden for their annual Easter Egg hunt. They had a blast running around, filling their bags full of Easter eggs. Some even found the special eggs that earned them a large chocolate Easter bunny. A special thank you to the Amy Purcell Circle for preparing the eggs and BYF for hiding all of the Easter eggs every year.

Usually, in May, we have our annual Tommy Uyemaruko **Fishing Derby**. But unfortunately, due to the extreme drought, we were not able to have the fishing derby. The lake was too dried out. But Lord-willing, next year the lake will have enough water to have trout in it.

Every June, we honor our graduating **High School Seniors** and present the **Craig Jue Scholarship** to those who qualify. Christian Ed organizes and administers both of these events. This past year, Andrew Yang and Sabrina Win were both graduating seniors and recipients of the Craig Jue Scholarship. After 10 years of helping our High School Seniors attend college, next year will probably be the last year for the Craig Jue Scholarship as the funds will be depleted. The Scholarship has served our seniors well for so many years. Thank you, Craig, for your love and very generous support of our youth.



Vacation Bible School Chinese Cultural Program (submitted by Vicky Lowe)

A new VBS was held on June 23-27. It was an inaugural year of a new face to our existing Vacation Bible School Program. With the closing of the Xue Xiao Program in 2013, the VBS team worked hard to incorporate the Chinese culture into the yearly VBS summer program. In the process, God was so gracious and we were able to create the Vacation Bible School Chinese Cultural Program 2014, and our theme was called "SHINE". This title refers to how we all have the ability to SHINE for God because He is our light source.

Using curriculum from *Go Fish*, we formed 3 stations, Songs, Bible Stories, Games and Drums. Two other stations were developed by our church members. They were the Chinese Crafts and Language, and Cooking stations. The children would rotate daily through these 5 stations. We are so thankful for the talents of our volunteers from the existing Xue Xiao Program and our faithful VBS crew as they came together to produce an amazing God-filled week of fun and learning. We are so thankful for the 80 children in attendance and from this, 32 children desired to learn more about God to commit their lives to be in God's family. It was an amazing week!



Every August is a new beginning for our Sunday School ministry. We started the new school year off with our annual **Sunday School Kick Off**. It was a blast as the 50 children and youth together had their own worship service with praise music lead by Boon Tee and a message was given about how we can show God that we love Him through our service. It was great to see the children and youth excited to sing to Jesus and want to follow Him. Then we had a great time of fellowship and eating the large buffet lunch at John's Incredible Pizza. There was so much enthusiasm in the room as the kids talked, ate, and deepened their friendships. Then the high schoolers paired or tripled up with the children and they had an awesome time playing games in the game room. Thanks, high schoolers, for being a great example of serving and caring for the younger ones. You're terrific!



We also explained the new **Sunday School Theme** at the Kick Off. We've been encouraging our children and youth to spend time in the Word and memorize Scripture. We've also encouraged them to pray not only at church, but also at home, and to pray for family, friends, church, and every day events.

Now this new school year, we are encouraging them to show their love for God by serving Him at home, in our church, and in their school/community. So for 3 months, the focus was serving at home. Currently, the focus is serving in our church. This Spring they will focus on their school and community.

October was **Pastor Appreciation month**. A heart-felt thank you to the many of you who gave such kind and encouraging gifts. And a very special thank you for the very gracious gifts from the church and from Christian Ed, who put together wonderful gift bags of scrumptious snacks and treats. This church is a very uplifting and supportive church.

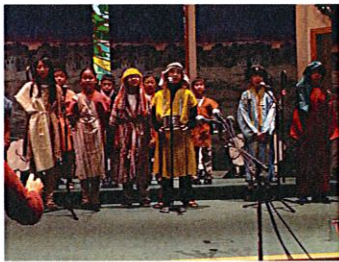
On October 5, we had a **special Baptismal Class** for many of the children who became Christians through VBS. We had 12 children and their parents attend the luncheon and class. The Good News was again explained to them using various items to illustrate God, us, Jesus, and how Jesus cleansed us of our sins though the cross. We wanted to make sure they understood the Gospel clearly and the importance of their own personal decision to accept Jesus.

We also explained the meaning of and the reasons for baptism and how baptism is an important step in our Christian growth. Jesus was our example and He wants us to be baptized. So 9 of the children replied on their response cards that they desired to be baptized. After receiving their parents approval and support, they were baptized on November 30. Christian Ed presented each child with a baptismal gift from the church as we celebrated this momentous event. The 9 children were Amy Gong, Kelly Wong, Chloe Wong, Ethan Wong, Ryan Wong, Lucas Wong, Jingwen Yang, Peilin Yang, Jimmy Yang, along with adult Jenny Liu.



December brought our annual **Christmas Program**. This year our focus was to have a more traditional program to help us prepare our hearts and souls for this wonderful celebration of the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus, God's Son. The play was "**The little Drummer Boy**", which included many traditional Christmas songs like "Joy to the World", "Away in the Manger", and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing". The children and youth worked very hard to practice their singing, their lines, dancing, and drumming. They were reminded that their participation in the program is a gift to Jesus. The Christmas play went very well and the children and youth did such an amazing performance. They were awesome!

A very special thank you to all the children who participated, and to Boon Tee, Cookie Chan, Jean Yang, Nick Tom, Barbara Fung, Carole Tom, Jill Prince, Arlean Jack, Vicky Lowe and Christian Ed for their major and special involvement in the program. The program was put together from scratch, with a little help from the internet. So it was truly a team effort including many others who aren't listed above. By God's grace and for his glory, the program was a blessing to all. DVD's are available if you'd like one.



And it was a wonderful blessing to have the incredibly talented **Youth Praise Team** be a part of the Christmas Program as they started the evening with several Christmas songs reminding us of the extraordinary birth of Jesus Christ. It was a powerful time of worship. The members of the Youth Praise Team were Eric Azevedo, Sean Chan, Kimberlee Gong, Jacob Holiday, Cori Tee, Nick Tom, and Hannah Wong. Thank you to Jennifer Oldham and Melissa Tee for training and assisting the Youth Praise Team.

And praise God for Kelley Lowe and Allison Chin, who personally baked their super delicious and beautiful **cookies for the refreshments** after the Christmas Program. Truly a huge labor of love. Thank you so much!

And a wonderful thank you to Ric and Nancy Welch, who took care of our **Santa Claus visitation**. You both must have been very nice this year to get Santa to come visit us! Santa and his helper did a superb job providing gift bags for the children and beautiful picture opportunities for the families.

Junior Worship continues to be a highlight for our 2nd to 6th graders. They meet every Sunday, except the first Sundays of the month so they can stay in the adult service and take Communion. At Junior Worship, Boon Tee leads them in worship songs, flag salutes to the American and Christian flags, offering, prayer, and a host of other activities.

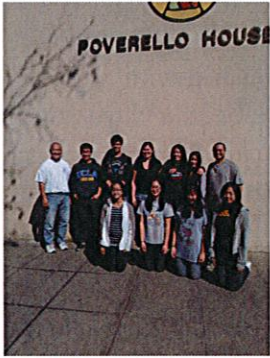
On the second Sundays of the month, they also have stations where the kids are challenged with fun computer Bible games, and various scripture puzzles and games. The third Sundays of the month, they have creative and impressive crafts that relate to upcoming holidays or Christian character. The crafts are an enjoyable way to reinforce godly virtues while engaging their tactile skills. The fourth Sundays are usually dedicated to doing physical challenges like an obstacle course or dodge ball. But even with physical activities, they are still incorporating memorizing the Books of the Bible or becoming more familiar with the Bible in some creative way. Melissa Tee, Allen Wong, and Joy Chan are the key co-leaders and assistants.

For the 1st graders and younger, we have the **Nursery**, while the parents can enjoy the adult worship service. The little ones start off with singing children's Christian songs and praying together. Then they enjoy some refreshments, usually juice and crackers. Then it's free play. The boys typically build spaceships or cars with the legos or construct train tracks with the wooden blocks. And the girls love to cook plastic meals for the adults or use the other toys.

Once or twice a month, the children will have a craft to make to help celebrate upcoming holidays or just because it's fun. May Wong is in charge of the Nursery and does a great job, especially doing the crafts, in which she always includes a scripture verse. She has an excellent group of volunteers to help her who are great with the little ones.

BYF (Junior High and High School Ministry)

In January, our BYF (Baptist Youth Fellowship) **Student Leadership Team** continued to guide and lead the BYF group, with the help of our sponsors Richard and Taryn Ward and myself. This leadership team consisted of High School seniors Sabrina Win and Andrew Yang, and juniors Sean Chan and Jacob Holiday. The Student Leadership Team provides great opportunities for the youth to develop their leadership skills and learn how a church operates.



On February 21-22, God allow the youth to participate in the annual **30 Hour Famine**, where we fasted for 30 hours, raised funds for overseas missions, and learned about the poverty of Third World countries, through games, stories, and competition. We also used some of the time to do community services. We helped serve meals at the Poverello House and the food never looked and smelled so good when you're fasting for 30 hours.

We also went to the Vintage Gardens Assisted Living facilities to be a light for Christ and to encourage the residents by playing bingo with them and handing out prizes. We also helped clean their vegetable garden and pull out weeds. And there was a special visit with Mrs. Sally Uyemaruko, Tommy's mom, who lives at Vintage Gardens. A third service



project was to clean our church's windows, screens, doors, pews, nursery toys, and the kitchen storage room. There was an awful lot of work to do, but it helped pass the time of fasting and it was rewarding to serve our church. Our time ended with taking Communion and then enjoying our first meal together to break the fast. A special thank you to our church Praise Team who helped in our worship time on Friday night.

On April 16, BYF joined up with the **Matthew 25** ministry to help served food in the poorer side of Sanger. We passed out hot dog lunches outside the apartments and then went door to door passing out the extra lunches. The event was a great experience to meet and interact with some of those who are less fortunate at this time, but are working hard to make ends meet. It was also a good opportunity for our youth to learn to take the initiative to begin conversations with strangers and show the love of Christ in a safe environment.

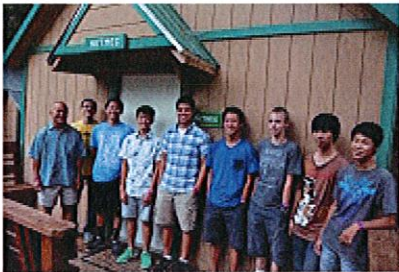
On May 31, we held our **Car Wash** to raise funds for the upcoming Summer Camp at Sugar Pine. This is not only a fun event for our youth, but it's also one event that they totally plan. The Student Leadership Team calls all the shots. They choose the date, establish the cost, design the tickets, make sure we have the supplies, and organize the stations for the wash. Praise God, we washed enough cars to cover our cost for going to Summer Camp. Thank you to all of you who brought your cars/trucks to be washed and for supporting our youth.

Youth Sunday was July 20. It was a momentous day as the first Youth Praise Team (Sean Chan, Jacob Holiday, Jason Lum, Titus Patton, Cori Tee, Karissa Win, Hannah Wong) led our worship singing. They are a very talented group with a bright musical future. They did an excellent job leading us in worshipping our Lord. Thank you, Jennifer Oldham, for mentoring this group and providing leadership and your expertise.

Matt Lum was the Youth Sunday Moderator, and Hannah Wong and Sabrina Win led the Children's Time. They encourage the children to be loving and loyal to each other, just like our pet dogs are to us. Jason Lum provided our Offertory Prayer, while Sean Chan made his violin come alive for the Offertory Music. Cori Tee at the piano played the Doxology.

High School seniors, Andrew Yang and Sabrina Win, delivered an especially energetic and powerful sermon. Andrew and Sabrina's sermon title was, "Say 'Yes' to God". They related how Jonah initially said 'No' to God, but finally ended up saying 'Yes'. Both Andrew and Sabrina shared various events in their lives where they had to say 'Yes' to God and were so glad that they did, like when they participated on the Mission trip to San Francisco's Tenderloin district. They challenged us to take the next step of faith that God has in store for us and to "Say 'Yes' to God".

The youth also presented an extremely creative and thought-provoking home-made video entitled, "What Should I Do". It played off of a LeBron James TV commercial. They wrote the script, did all the acting, and edited the final product. Job well done!

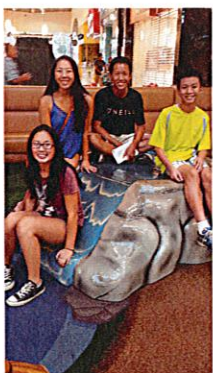


August 3 to 8 was our week long **Youth Camp at Sugar Pine**. The theme was "Fathom". Each day we were challenged to go deeper in our relationship with Jesus. No matter how long we've been a Christian or how mature we are, we all can and should go deeper in our love for Jesus.

A typical day started with a small group morning devotion, breakfast, large group worship, personal devotional time, team meetings, team competitions (water, field, and mud sport), then lunch. The afternoon were devoted to activities like paintball, high ropes, archery, swimming, ping pong, foosball, basketball, crafts, and hiking that allowed for times of fellowship and relationship building.

After dinner, we had chapel time where our speaker challenged us to go deeper in our walks with God. He said we often get stuck doing good things and become complacent. Then we miss out on doing the best things that God desires us to do. We are called to press forward and not be complacent. (Philippians 3:12-14). After chapel there were cabin times where we discussed what we learned from the speaker and spent time in prayer. Then we'd have a late night activity like Hide-n-Seek or other fun-in-the-dark games. Finally, we'd get to bed around midnight, exhausted.

Those that attended camp from FCBC in order of the 2 pictures, beside myself, are Sean Chan, Matthew Lum, Andrew Yang, Jacob Holiday, Weston Cook, Ting Feng Zhou, and Kenny Liang. And there were Taryn Ward (our female sponsor), Kimberly Gong, Gaby Ramirez, Cori Tee, and Vivian Chow.



To start the new school year off with a bang, we had our annual **BYF Kick Off** on August 24. The evening centered around a Photo Scavenger Hunt. After a few get-to-know-you games, we broke into teams and off we went driving around Fresno taking a wide



range of unusual group pictures based on a set list. Each picture we sent back to church via our smart phones earned various points. It was a blast taking fun pictures together and being crazy in some of them. We all returned to church to view all the pictures together and announce the winners. Then we had a devotional on the



importance of putting God first in our lives and how that leads to being truly successful and satisfied. And of course, we ended with refreshments and prayer.

August is also the beginning of a **new Student Leadership Team**. It's always sad to see the graduating seniors move on to college, but at the same time it's exciting to see the new high school juniors and seniors step up to new responsibilities and grow as church leaders. The new Student Leadership Team members are Sean Chan,

Jacob Holiday, Matthew Lum, and Karissa Win. They've already done a great job providing leadership and their unique skills and talents for BYF.

On Oct 26, we had a special treat. For a time of fun, just being together and building friendships, we went out to the Corn Maze. Often we receive entry discounts to **Corn Maze Park** because the very gracious owners know one of our church families very well. But this year, as we were in line to purchase our tickets, we discovered that all 12 of us got to go for free because of the owners' generosity. Needless to say, it was a special, fun, and unity building time.

This past year also presented a few unique **opportunities for BYF to serve others**. In January, BYF provided childcare services when there was a Community Meeting held at our church. And they also provided childcare for the Agape Ministry and for the Sunday School Kick Off.

During the year, **BYF meets every second and fourth Sunday night of the month**. Our Student Leaders run the meetings with our sponsors overseeing. The meetings include fun ice-breaker games, meaningful worship songs, strengthening Bible Studies, recreation activities, and refreshments.

Some of the topics for our **Bible Study times** were "The Life of King David" where we learned how to live triumphantly over trials, temptations, and failures, "Reckless Abandon" where we were asked, who's approval are we ultimately seeking...friend's, family's, teachers', or Jesus', and "The Power of a Praying Teen" which is a fantastic book that we are currently going through. "The Power of a Praying Teen" by Stormie Omartian, is not only about prayer but on the vital basics of a flourishing faith that is real and not just intellectual with fancy well-said words. This book is highly recommended for not only teens, but anyone who wants to take God seriously, ages 13 to 103.



We ended the year with our **annual BYF Christmas party**. We enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner then tested our gift wrapping skills as we split into teams and attempted to wrap a gift with either using our elbows or only one hand. We also tested our knowledge of Christmas as we competed in a Christmas Trivia Quiz. (Now, which Book of the Bible mentions the magi coming to visit Jesus? Why was the Grinch who stole Christmas so mean? And where was Jesus when the magi visited Him? These were just a few of the questions.) We always have fun with the traditional gift exchange where we chose a new gift or stole an opened gift from someone else. This is one time where stealing is not a sin and forgiving is fun.

A very **special thank you** to Doug and Leslie Holiday for hosting the dinner party at their beautiful and festive home. They were so accommodating and helpful.

It's a pleasure having Richard and Taryn Ward as **BYF Sponsors**. They have contributed greatly to the ministry with their teaching, planning, and musical skills. They are doing a great job as sponsors. We meet each month to plan out the BYF activities and evaluate how the ministry is going and set direction for the future. Barrett Eng also attends the BYF activities and provides leadership. He helps lead the small groups or assists wherever needed.

And BYF is already planning for the **upcoming summer mission trip**. We won't be traveling far, but we're looking forward to a fantastic mission project. We will be participating in **Gleaning for the Hungry**, located near Dinuba and sponsored by YWAM. One of their representatives actually spoke during one of our worship services this past year. The project involves drying fruit that will be used to feed the poor and hungry in Third World countries as a means to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The trip will be in July so it will be a lot of hard and hot work. We still have a lot to plan and prepare for, like doing a fund raiser, but we're looking forward to seeing how God will work through us as we trust and obey Him.

This past year has been a joy **seeing our youth** at various high school music concerts, plays, and sports activities that they were participating in. Their talents are impressive. And these events are a great time to build relationships, trust, and see and appreciate some of their other talents that God blessed them with. And it's been a great opportunity to get to know the families through these events. So thanks for the invites.

STORM

STORM is the College ministry that meets **every Friday night**. We usually catch up on how our week went and talk about life, as we enjoy a light dinner together (Food and Fellowship, two key needs of every college student). Then we have some type of ice breaker and move into our Bible Study.

Our group is relatively small, but we've grown from 3 to 6 plus. And they are a very eager and teachable group, taking their relationship with God very seriously. They love to explore the Bible and have all kinds of questions about the Christian life and how to please God. Through the discussions there are always new insights and appreciations for what Jesus has done for us and how much He loves us.

We've enjoyed going through the **DVD series called "Doctrine", by Francis Chan**. It's amazing to learn that we are dead to sin and the old nature, and we don't have to live according to the old self, but rather we have a new nature empowered by the Holy Spirit, God living in us. Besides great, solid teaching about the Christian faith, the video series provided powerful testimonies of how God radically changed students' lives for Christ.

And currently, we're going through the **Book of Luke** chapter by chapter each week. It's great to hear everyone's perspective of each chapter and how God is speaking to our individual needs and circumstances. But it's also great to learn from some insightful commentaries that we are using.

Every so often, we'll take a break and see a **Christian movie** together like "Son of God", "Heaven Can Wait", and "God's Not Dead", just to have some fun together, and yet keep our focus on God. "God's Not Dead" was especially good to see since the setting was on a college campus and it really helped solidify the importance of taking a stand for Jesus, even in the classroom.

Since STORM meets on Friday nights, we're often asked to set up tables and chairs for our Sunday church events like Chinese New Year, Easter, and other luncheons. And we're more than happy and grateful to have these opportunities to serve our church.

A huge thank you to Jennifer Oldham as she helps lead STORM as one of our **STORM sponsors**. Meetings each week is a big commitment and sacrifice. But working with college students is gratifying because it involves things like enjoying Bible Studies, fellowshiping, watching movies, playing basketball, eating meals together...AND developing character and integrity, deepening our faith, grasping God's truth, praying, serving, reaching out, walking in the Spirit, and becoming multiplying disciples.

HBF

Where do you go for a Super Bowl party? Who will consistently give you a hug or a firm hand shake at church? Who will celebrate your birthday with you? Who will help you when you need a helping hand or someone to talk to? One answer to all these question would be "Your HBF members!"



Home Bible Fellowships (HBF) have so much to offer. They are a great place to meet new people and develop quality friendships. They're a safe and informal place to learn about the Christian life and have your personal questions answered. They're a place where you can feel special and be reminded that God loves and accepts you just the way you are. It doesn't matter if you're new in the faith or a long-time believer or just checking

Christianity out, we'd love to have you join us. If you want to get more tied in with the church, HBF's are a great place to start.

Currently, God has provided **six different HBF's** that you can choose from. There is a women's group that meets every other Monday night, and another women's group that meets every other Saturday morning. There are three coed groups. One meets every other Thursday night, another meets every other Friday night, and the other one meets every other Saturday night. The college group meets every Friday night. HBF's usually meet in the comfort of a home, but a few meet at the convenience of a restaurant or at church.

The Bible Study part of the HBF's are usually excellent video series by godly speakers like, "The Circle Maker" by Matt Batterson, "Stepping Up" by Dennis Rainey, and "Unstuck" by Francis Chan. Or the HBF group may discuss books like "Walking By Faith" by Jennifer Rothschild, "Verbs of God" by Margaret Feinberg, and "Encountering Jesus" by Douglas Connelly.

Patricia Tom is doing a great job overseeing the HBF's, along with her wonderful **HBF committee** of Richard and Nanette Bruce, Lee Anne Iida, MaryAnne Lai, Boon and Melissa Tee, Lynnelle Win, and yours truly. This is a very positive and uplifting group who work extremely hard to serve their HBF's.

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Team continues to meet **every Sunday morning** from 9:00 to 9:30am. It's a great way to start off the week. We usually pray for the church prayer concerns collected by the Shepherding Ministry which is about three pages long. We also pray for the Sunday School teachers and students, the Worship Services, the growth of the church, various church meetings and fellowships, the well-being of our church members, the non-believers to be saved, and any other personal prayer requests that individuals share with us.

Our prayer group is small, but our God is big and we're grateful that He bends down to hear us and answer our prayers. If you'd like to join us in the ministry of prayer, we meet in my office.

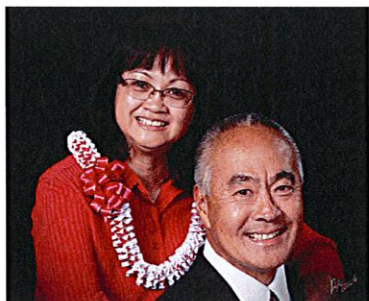
"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."
Jeremiah 33:3

In Closing

Yes, it's been an Awesome year, by God's grace! Whether it's doing ministry together, or performing or attending weddings, or performing funerals, or visiting you multiple times in the hospital, or delivering a new born gift, or joining you at a birthday or baptismal party, or seeing you at an assisted living facility, or sharing the gospel with you, or playing basketball and ping pong together, or delivering some freshly caught fish, it's all been a joy and privilege of sharing God's love and grace together with you.

Thank you for serving our Lord together and being a blessing to Lee Anne and me.

May God continue to bless FCBC as we love and follow Him. And may we continue to reach the lost and raise up leaders and laborers for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the power of His Holy Spirit.



In God's Love and Grace, and for His Glory,
Pastor Dennis and Lee Anne Iida

"We always thank God for all of you
and continually mention you in our prayers."
1 Thessalonians 1:2

Agape Ministry (爱加倍事工)

“We love because he first loves us.” 1 John 4:19



Director: Jeannie Gong

Committee Members: Nancy Forden, Lyann Huang, Jeanny Tong

2015 is going to be the 5th year for our Agape Ministry. Since we started as a small Sunday class in the summer of 2010, we continue to grow and bear fruits for God's Kingdom. The vision statement of our Agape ministry is to reach out to our local Chinese community with God's love, to bring them to Christ, and help them grow and mature in their faith.

As we are serving the Chinese immigrants, we often run into different needs with these families: culture shock, transportation, language barriers, children's schooling, English learning, financial struggles, and other challenges as well. It could be overwhelming if we try to meet their needs. We know that we can't do it all but our gracious Father in Heaven can. He is bringing the needed people to us for a special purpose, which is to reflect his love and grace through our fellow Christian brothers and sisters. We give them rides to church, and help them with some basic translation. Jim and Nancy Forden are doing a phenomenal job of tutoring English and helping some of them prepare for the citizenship exam. Because of their great help, Mr. He passed the exam and sworn in as US citizen in October.

Home visit is another opportunity to build the relationship and serve the immigrant families. Especially for those who cannot drive, they really appreciate that we visit them, listen to their struggle, and pray with them for comfort and strength. It was right inside Jenny's apartment that we prayed and she accepted Jesus as her personal Savior. Later she received Baptism at church along with her three children.

How to help our new believers continue to grow and mature in their faith is always the focus of our Agape Ministry. The sermon translation helps them understand Pastor's message and participate in our worship service. In Sunday class, we are going through the book of Acts and learning how the early church grew rapidly and spread the Gospel efficiently. We are also having different small groups meeting during the week. On Wednesday, we have a discipleship class to help beginners to understand some basic Christian doctrines. Our Mom's group meets on Saturday morning while the kids are attending Tae Kwon Do class. Besides keeping the gazebo and the playground clean, we share our daily challenge as a wife and a mother, trying to balance work

and family. This year we went through a book together, *Life Management for Busy Women* by Elizabeth George, which provides us some practical ways to manage different areas in our personal walk with Christ.



During the year, we hosted different potlucks as our special fellowship and outreach opportunities, including Chinese New Year and Thanksgiving celebration. We always encourage our members to bring families and friends to join our festive events. As a new outreach program, our Monday cooking group has been meeting twice a month. We learned how to make Mochi, pot sticker, and some other delicacies. It is through the kitchen interactions that we get to

know one another. Some of the attendants are restaurant workers who cannot attend the church Sunday service. They are glad that they can come to our Monday fellowship. We love to try each other's home style recipes. After the delicious meal, we usually have a devotional time of singing Chinese worship songs and sharing some testimonial stories.

While we are growing spiritually, we learn to give and serve. As a fellowship, we are giving a monthly pledge to Shiling Peng, a SALT missionary in Hong Kong. It is a challenge for some of our attendants since they don't have a steady income. We set aside the Sunday class that we give our monetary support, as the time of praise and prayer. By the end of 2014, we collected the total of \$600 for this specific mission.

2014 has been a challenging year for me since I was taking more online courses from Dallas Theological Seminary. I also traveled to Hong Kong in the summer and took two of their site classes. I am very grateful for the love and understanding from James and the girls.

I want to thank our church family for all your supports and prayers for our Agape Ministry. I am looking forward to the year of 2015, as God continues to use our Agape ministry as his instrument to reach out to the Chinese community with his love and grace and to prepare us for his good work.

In His Name we serve,

Jeannie Gong



Music Department

The music department has enjoyed a full schedule of rehearsals and performances during 2014. FCBC Music has also benefited due to the acquisition of two wonderful instruments. An Organ and Piano.

New Life Choir:

Rehearsals (50)

Performances (26)

Special Performances: *Good Friday, Easter Sunday Musical and Christmas Eve.*

Chinese Choir:

Performances (8)

Bell Choir:

Rehearsals (37)

Performances (9)

Worship Services: (54)

Sundays

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Christmas Eve

Praise Team:

Practices: 18

Praise Sundays: 10

Assisted VBS

Assisted youth praise team for Youth Sunday and Christmas Program including practices.



Overall the praise team is continuing their service for the church both on Sundays and helping with the youth praise team. The praise team is still looking for skilled musicians who are willing to share their talents with the church. If you are interested please feel free to contact Jennifer. The praise team is also looking forward to sharing some praise Sundays with the youth praise team in the coming year.

*As mentioned before a new youth praise team has been forming over the last year. It is composed of seven youth. In 2014 they shared their musical talents on Youth Sunday and most recently during the Children's Christmas Program.

Thank you to the volunteers and paid staff who give their time week after week over the course of a year, glorifying God and edifying the church with their talents: Our Sound Techs, Choirs, Vocalists, Instrumentalists and the office!

Sincerely,

Jeff Burkett

Building and Grounds Committee

Chairs: Jeff Kimura and Tom Win

Committee Members: Howard Togo, and Steve Lee. Support from Norman Lee, Boon Tee and Bill Ho.

Our team meets the first Thursday of every month.

Building and Grounds has three different categories of expenditures.

The first group of expenses consist of custodial and paper supplies, custodian, gardener, kitchen supplies, liability insurance, PG&E, property taxes and city utilities. The budget for the custodian and gardener remains the same as for 2014. Custodial, paper and kitchen supplies budgeted amounts were slightly decreased from 2014, based on projections. The PG&E budgeted amount was increased from \$21,000 to be \$24,000 due to experience and anticipated rate increases. Liability insurance was increased slightly by the finance committee projection. City utilities were budgeted the same as 2014 based on history.

Building Fund is a Balance Sheet account that the Diaconate Board uses whenever large capital expenditures need to be made, like the handicap ramp by the playground. New rain gutters and repainting the church and replacement of air conditioners will also come from the Building Fund. Some items like new tables were funded from the Memorials fund.



The last category of expenses is the repairs and maintenance expenses, which for a 17 year old Church Complex should be increasing, however we kept the same 2014 budget amount. More air conditioning machinery maintenance is anticipated for 2015, which is the reason for keeping this budget amount unchanged, even with the final expense for 2014 being projected to be less than the \$15,000 amount budgeted.

This committee benefits from the continued hard work and advice of Norman Lee, Boon Tee and Bill Ho. We look forward to continued service in keeping the church facility functioning and attractive.

Missions & Social Concerns

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another. 1 Peter 4:10

FCBC continues to branch out and serve as commanded in His Word. Long Life Learning Center serves our seniors and those in our local community. Thru exercise, travel, lunches and social events - there is a continued uplifting and gratifying weekly experience. What started out with just some cakes, cookies, and bread - Matthew 25 has grown to serve 9 local ministries. Our congregation has so willingly brought diapers, canned and dry goods, clothing, egg cartons, and more. Last year our Medical Mission Team served in Thailand and Myanmar. Traveling by jet plane, bus, rafts, and even ox carts they reached out to thousands with medical, dental, vision, and spiritual care. Plans for the 2015 Medical Mission are under-way. Our congregation also serves others financially with our monthly communion offerings.

January – MBMS (\$1193.27)

February – World Vision (\$1406.09)

March – America for Christ (\$1204.00)

April – SALT (\$1453.60)

May – Gleanings for the Hungry (\$2075.37)

June – One Great Hour (\$1604.27)

July – Evangel Home (\$1039.66)

August – Camp Sugar Pine (\$758.65)

September – Joni & Friends (\$716.50)

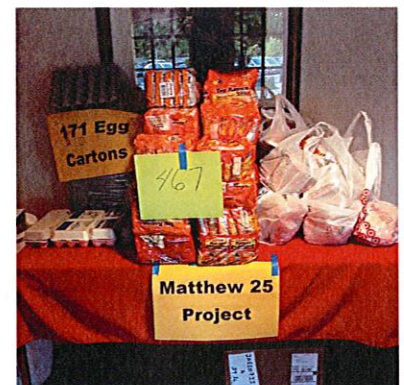
October – World Mission (\$1227.00)

November – Valley Teen Ranch (\$1071.00)

December – Thank You M&M (\$2170.25)

We serve a risen Lord when we serve others. Our impact spans not only local people, but also reaches out to those around the world. Thank you for being ambassadors for Christ.

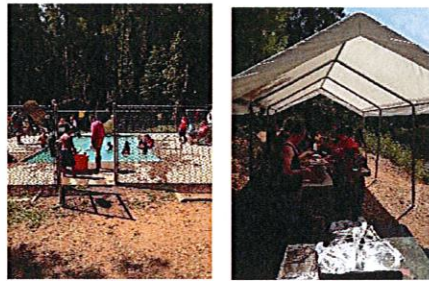
Respectfully submitted,
Patti Kunkel



Mathew 25

Committee Members: Lisa Coelho, Irma Jue, Irene Martinez, Ginny Kamimoto, Gail Ho, Dustin Ho, Cynthia Ho, Vicky Ma, Jennifer Ma, Boon Tee, Melissa Tee, Lanny Chan, Andy Alejo, Harriet Tom, Ming Chong, Gerlene Chinn, Richard Bruce

We started in June of 2013 with a few and we now have 19 members. We are currently serving 9 ministries in the Fresno & Sanger Area every month. Pick up from Save Mart began in 2013, since then we have been able to collect from a few different stores on occasion also. This year we have given out over 11,000 items, we have helped send 49 inner city children to Outreach Camp and have distributed 250 meals for Christmas. We hope to continue to grow this in 2015.



We also help Sierra View Church in Sanger with their Kings apartment Outreach every month with pastries and bread. During Thanksgiving we provided them 40 turkey dinners.



We distributed 250 turkey dinners to our other organizations at Thanksgiving which fed approx. 1,200 people. With help from the church and Kaiser these items were packed and ready for dinner.



Social – Recreational – Fellowship – Usage

Committee members: Rev. Jack, Boon Tee, Richard Bruce, Silvia Chinn,
Barbara Fung, Melissa Tee, Carol Tom, Vi Nomura, Jennifer Oldham

Meeting Date & Time: We are meeting Quarterly times and dates to be announced

We had:

Four Fellowship Potlucks

Our Men's basketball ministry continues on Tuesday nights

All Church Chinese New Year Potluck

Our Agape Ministry Chinese New Year Dinner and a few other Potlucks

Rev. Jack's Tae Kwon Do Class has 21 members

Stewardship Luncheon

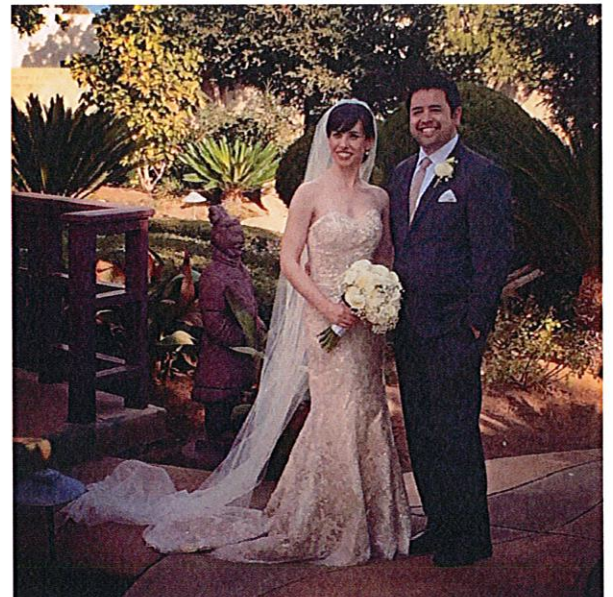
Several Funerals & Memorials

Two Weddings

One Baby Shower

VBS & Xue Xiao Chinese Cultural School

Moved LLLC to Friday's



Shepherding Ministry

Chairperson: Lena Chin

Committee Members: Reverend Danny Jack, Andy and Diane Alejo, Nanette Bruce, Lena Chin, Mark Chin, Yolanda Chong, Marlene Eng, Nancy Forden, Jeannie Gong, Gail Ho, Gerry Jue, Jeff Kimura, Gwen Ko, Irene Lai, Dolores Lee, Carol Togo, Jeanny Tong, and Lynelle Win.

At First Chinese Baptist Church, our Shepherd Ministry carries out one of God's commands, which is to love one another and to share each other burdens.

For the past six years, our Shepherd's Ministry has the privilege of caring for our members and friends in our church family.

Our role as your Shepherd is to let you know that whatever circumstances you may be experiencing, you have a church community who supports and encourages you.

In 2014, Shepherd leaders have prayed for you, made home and hospital visits, been a listening ear, have prepared meals, welcomed you into our homes and we have made contact with you just to say, "Hello" and "How are you doing?"

To equip Shepherds in our roles, we conducted two workshops in 2014.

On January 12, 2014, Pastor Jack held a spiritual retreat for all Shepherds. It was a time of prayer, scripture, poetry, and reflection.

Lisa Vernon, member of FCBC and Director for Spiritual Care for Hines Hospice, conducted a workshop titled, "Self-care...so we may care for others." Through scripture, Lisa reminded all of us how Jesus took time to refresh, regroup, and relax. This workshop gave the Shepherds the opportunity to come together and share with one another.

FCBC currently has 111 families/individuals who have a Shepherd leader.

On average, new prayer requests for 2014 have numbered 9 each month. Ongoing prayer requests average 17 each month.

We are grateful to God that as a ministry we can continue to serve and care for our sheep at FCBC.

Pastor Jack, along with 18 Shepherd leaders meet the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

*When I sit in darkness,
the Lord shall be my light.
Mic. 7:8*

