

Annual Meeting

2015 in review



First Chinese Baptist Church, Fresno

See our Facebook page to zoom in and find yourself at FCBC www.facebook.com/FCBCFresno



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 17, 2016

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

II. Election of 2016 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 2018)

Richard Bruce
Lena Chin
Irene Lai
Jennifer Oldham
Dr. Jack Patton

Class of 2016

Patti Kunkel
Bobby Standring
Boon Tee
Howard Togo

Class of 2017

Irma Jue
Martin Jung
Jeff Kimura
Patricia Tom

IV. Presentation of 2016 Annual Church Budget (Richard Ward)

V. Benediction (Pastor Danny Jack)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

The definition of “conform” for a person is to “behave according to socially acceptable conventions or standards” but as Christians and as a church body, we should strive to “adapt” in our ministries to meet the ever-changing climate if we are to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in our community and to this world. We must also learn to “adapt” even in the face of experiencing the loss of members who have contributed greatly in the physical and spiritual building up of our church and its ministries. We will truly miss them but yet know that they now are in the presence of God.

This past year we again give God all the praise and glory for continually blessing us with the opportunities to meet the needs of our community through our Matthew 25 ministry and using our cross cultural VBS to share our culture and heritage while proclaiming our faith in Jesus Christ. Our youth this summer were also afforded the opportunity to see how the fruits of their labor with “Gleanings for the Hungry” touched the livelihoods of people around the world.

“God is Good ALL the time! Let us look towards 2016 with much excitement knowing this fact and to be willing to “adapt” to meet the needs of those who grace the walls of our church.

Boon Tee, Church Moderator

Rejoice!

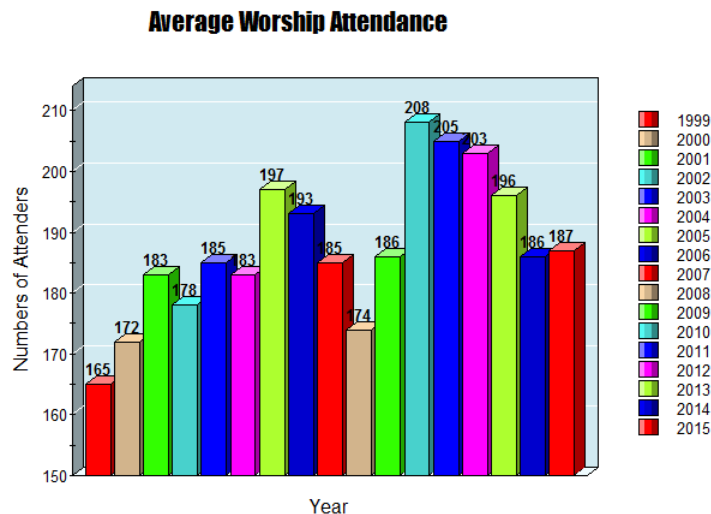
Dear Board Family,

What a year! A time of celebration and also a time of loss. Several of our dearest church family transferred their membership to heaven. We will miss them but look forward to that time when we all gather together with our Savior.



For Arlean and I 2015 was a time to celebrate forty years of marriage and 19 years as your pastor. We've watched this church grow from a small fellowship to a team of servants, teachers, and people of hope. To see our young people grow, travel off to college, have the honor of marrying and also to hold some of their hands in sorrow. The privilege and the burden of shepherding.

One of my greatest pleasures over the years is working with our worship committee. Their willingness to try different ways of getting our Savior's message of hope to the congregation. Planning Lenten, Easter, Advent and year round worship services with music, bells, choirs, and even beach balls. The response has been great! Our average worship attendance was 187 for the year. Which so happens to be the nineteen year average.





Yet, Arlean felt there was something missing before worship. Where was the fellowship? Where was the chance to just sit for a few moments and relax? So she reinstated the Coffee Time during the Sunday school hour and not closing until just before worship. In 2015 she served over 1,600 cups of coffee and is still brewing. Others bring baked goodies and good times were enjoyed by all.



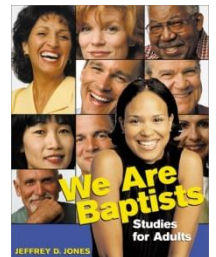
In 2015 I continued to sit on the Board of General Ministries for our American Baptist family. I am a member of the finance committee and represent our denomination on the World Relief Team as well. That has been a wonderful privilege to be on the front lines of our mission giving and to see where the money goes and how our giving is impacting the world for our Savior. FCBC was recognized by the denomination for being number twelve in the entire nation in our mission giving through America for Christ, One Great Hour, Minister and Ministries, and World relief. We were highlighted for our Matthew 25 work as well. Church family you have done great!



I continue to serve as Master for our Tae Kwon Do ministry while Michael and Sarah Oldham are the major instructors. We are very proud of their progress and how they are moving up the ranks. Learning not only a martial art but how to be humble servants of our Savior.

I really enjoy our Adult Sunday morning Bible study. This was originally a men's study but has since grown into a co-ed class. (By the way...I continue to believe we need more Adult Sunday morning classes. If you agree, would like to volunteer to lead, co-lead or find

the right people please let me know).



I also conduct a Wednesday night study that has been consistent for the last nineteen years. What a thrill to see people willing to give up their evening to study God's Word in the middle of the week! With all the scheduling, time commitments and other responsibilities they are still ready and willing to learn.



After more than three years of being mentored I have become a member of Spiritual Directors International. I have also been certified as a Conscious Aging Facilitator. In 2016 I hope to provide some workshops for the congregation in contemplative prayer and for our seniors a class to help examine aging within a spiritual context. (Yes you are right I'm getting older too so what a great time for me to learn and grow with those willing to look at where God wants them in the next stage of their pilgrimage).



Which brings me to this fact. For the last several years I have spent a lot of time in prayer and contemplation thinking about FCBC and where we are today and how God might be directing us. Over the years I've attempted to gently lead you in vision and goal setting. Which has resulted in you doing some wonderful things for our Savior. But, for any 132 year old body we have some challenges ahead. These are nothing new and we are all aware of them. Yet, this does not lessen the need for considering how to address them. Many of you have sensed the growing changes in cultural dynamics, the loss of younger families resulting in a much lower children's attendance in our Sunday school, and recognize that our population is aging as well. All of which will affect our education, ability to reach out through missions, stewardship, budget, worship experiences and of course staffing. So...it is time to look at where we are headed in the next five to ten years. To seriously consider our commitment, our core values, our mission and ministry.

This has been on my mind and heart for quite some time (almost ten years) and subsequently I've struggled with where the Lord wanted me to go with the possibilities. In 2015 I had already told the board I was moving ahead with plans to form and lead an Adaptive Change Team. Only problem was I didn't feel good about leading the group. There needed to be a facilitator with the skills, the Biblical commitment and heart to lead such a team but also one that isn't on staff. Because let's be honest I have some real views on where this church needs to go and how that should happen. So would have brought some bias to the process.

Then one day this phrase literally came to mind, "Danny why not ask Dr. Quentin Kinnison?" So I asked and Quentin agreed to lead the Adaptive Change Team.




Dr. Kinnison is a professor at Fresno Pacific and has written on this very topic(s) we are facing here at FCBC. He will help us not only look at the issues but be proactive with the numerous changes and shifts in culture that are affecting our church.

They have already started meeting and laying the foundation for the future of FCBC. I look forward to what they learn, discuss and help us to understand as a church family. Thank you so much Quentin for being willing to answer God's call!

Of course the major factor that is pushing me to force you to look at these needs is the driving of the Holy Spirit and the Savior reminding me that transition is no longer a thing in the future but a fast approaching fact for your pastor. So, as we start to focus on where we are headed, what your mission will be for the next five-ten years you will also need to consider what leadership should look like, gifts needed, and teaching style. How old does that next shepherd need to be, what ethnicity should he/she be for a diverse congregation or does he and she need to be more culturally focused? NOW IM NOT QUITTING YET... but these are realities that will need to be addressed. I was blessed to take you to this point and I believe God has kept me around to help you transform as well. God is truly wonderful!

So here is how I see our God leading this fellowship. Pastors must be willing to be change agents that's why you are getting this message loud and clear. So hang on here goes...

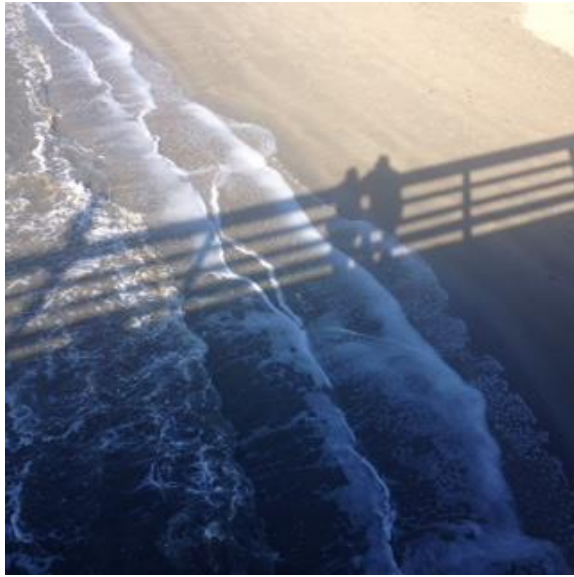
Time Line Time Line

- A. Our Adaptive Change Team will be meeting through 2016 and possibly even through 2017. There is no need to hurry. They must be given the grace to consider history, God's leading both personally and as a Team in regards to the future of our church family. But eventually we will benefit from their review, times of devotion, prayer and commitment. They will share with us their conclusions and what adaptive changes are needed in order to move this church forward in regards to values, vision and leadership.
- B. In May 2016 I will celebrate 20 years as your pastor. Honestly never expected to last that long. Yet, what an honor to see this fellowship grow and reach out globally in missions.
- C. Which does bring me to this next point. Granted, we should never presume on God's time line but we are encouraged to plan. So, in 2019 I would like to see us have a celebration. We will have reached our 135th anniversary let's give God the glory recognizing the past and looking forward to the future! That same year I will also be celebrating 40 years of ordained ministry so I would like to be included in that celebration.
- D.  Now this is very hard for me to write. Honestly I grieved for a few moments then I felt God's leading and knew this is the right thing to be doing and saying. A true shepherd looks ahead preparing the flock for the dangers, for the thrills for the possibilities of new and greater ministry for the Savior. So...here goes. In May 2019 if God allows I will be 66 and have been your pastor for 23 years, quite a tenure for any preacher. I believe after the Adaptive Change Team has done their work it will be obvious that FCBC NEEDS and DESERVES a younger man or woman with new

skills and God given ideas to fulfill what the transformation team envisions for this fellowship. Of course I will not just abandon you but this gives you and the congregation time to become comfortable with the idea of your leader leaving in the near future.

Rejoice

What a year! We honor those who have gone before. The time, the energy the gifts and resources given. But we cannot afford to continue looking backward. The work, the people deserve leaders who run with faith. So, dear brothers and sisters let us run the race God has set before us! This is just so exciting! Rejoice! Again I say Rejoice!



Danny and Arlean

From Pastor Dennis

Many thanks to all the people who provide leadership and assistance in the following ministries I help support. Your sacrifice and teamwork as volunteers makes ministry a joy and so rewarding. You're not only a co-laborer of Christ, but you are also a friend, an encourager, and a brother/sister in the Lord. Thank you for your labor of love and teamwork in Christ!

Our Children and Youth Sunday School Department

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10



The curriculum, Gospel Light, has been creative and well planned. But it's the teachers and aides that keep the classes fun, energetic, and memorable. Just think, they are teaching some of the most important lessons a child could ever learn! They definitely play a vital and important role in raising up the next generation of Christians!

To help our teachers and aides feel appreciated and connected, we meet about every quarter for training, prayer, updates, and to simply touch base. This past May, we had a **special Sunday School Teachers' Conference** we attended at the Pasadena Convention Center. The 2 day conference was put on by the Christian Ministries Training Association. It was an eye-opening, refreshing, motivating, and uplifting time for our teachers and aides.

Every year, our Children and Youth Ministry changes as we add students and others move on to the next grade. This year we had an average of 15 children & 9 youth. Our **Christian Education Committee** pray, plan, prepare and execute what they believe God wants for the children and youth ministries. Their heart is to help every child love God and become all that God has in store for them. The members of the Christian Education Committee are Vicky Lowe (Chair), Sylvia Chinn, Ginny Kamimoto, and Lisa Tom.

"Loving God by Serving Others" continued to be our **Sunday School Theme**. The children were encouraged to serve at church and in their community.

"serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people." Ephesians 6:7



For the past few years, besides learning their regular Sunday School lessons, we have been emphasizing that the children own their own Bibles, read them regularly, memorize Scripture, pray daily, and serve our family, church and community. We had them work alongside their parents to develop these godly skills and log their activities and progress in their journals. Then each quarter we would celebrate their success and growth with special activities and rewards, like a trip to Yogurtland.

This year, our emphasis for the Sunday School department is to work alongside the parents more. It's difficult for any parent to train up their children in the Lord on their own. And the Sunday School teachers only have 52 hours out of the year to impact them. But together, parents and the Sunday School department can play a vital role in the children's lives as we instill godly character and skills. This will involve more communication to the parents on what their children are learning and suggestions for weekly discussion.

Beginning January 2016, the elementary Sunday School department will be implementing a **new curriculum called Orange**. We are looking forward to it because it is station-based much like VBS. It has great, practical Bible lessons and many hands-on activities. It also emphasizes and provides ideas for parent involvement during the week.

Easter Celebration



April brought the celebration of our risen Savior. Every year we gather all the children after breakfast in the CE Wing to share what Good Friday and Easter is all about. Then the children are ushered outdoors for the Easter Egg Hunt. What mass confusion and chaos! A huge thank you to the Amy Purcell Circle, who fills all the Easter eggs every year, and to BYF, who hides them.

Graduating High School Seniors and the Craig Jue Scholarship

On June 7, Grad Sunday, we honored our 3 graduating High School seniors, Sean Chan, Kyler Gleason, and Jacob Holiday. All three had stellar High School experiences. Sean and Jacob were also recipients of the Craig Jue Scholarship.

Cross Cultural Vacation Bible School (Submitted by Chairperson Vicky Lowe)



In our second year of merging Vacation Bible School with Chinese Cultural School, we now have adopted “Cross Cultural VBS” as the name of our yearly summer program. Gratefully, with the use of Group’s Everest program, this year’s theme was about Mountains. Five daily points and Bible verses talk about God’s mighty power and when we “HOLD ON” to HIM, 80 students learned we could conquer challenges in life.

This year we choose to visit Guilin, China due to the unique karst mountains along the Li River where the students enjoyed cooking home style dishes that look like mountains. In our “Made in China” station students made crafts and learned words relating to the fisherman who live and work along the Li River. We had fun with the group names this year, because we incorporated biblical mountains.

The kids started out their evenings with an opening program of songs, videos and lessons. Followed by 4 stations (art & language, games & science, cooking & Bible expedition). After we concluded back in the sanctuary for closing program. Special surprise to this year's program was a visit from mission project recipients, the Akha Youth Development Center. The Chermui family came all the way from Thailand to participate with us.

Sunday School Kick Off

Every year we start the new school year off with a very special Sunday School Kick Off. So on August 30, the 60 children, youth, and teachers gather at John's Incredible Pizza for a great time of worship, a message, a testimony, small group discussion, and a ton of food and fun.

The children who came early got to enjoy playing a variety of table games. Then Boon Tee led us all in singing. Since sports was our theme the children came wearing their favorite uniform or cheer leading outfit, a message was given on the importance of practicing the basic skills of both sports and spiritual growth; even the professionals need to practice the basics to succeed. Ethan DeJongh shared his testimony as a world-class triple jumper and what helps him succeed in sports and in life.

Then it was lunch time and the food feast began at the all-you-can-eat buffet. Once lunch was done, the children received their "tokens" to play the arcade games and rides. A huge "Thank You!" to the high schoolers, who helped the kindergarteners through 3rd graders.

"God's Gift to Us!" Christmas Program



shined through.

December 20 brought the annual **Children's Christmas program**. However this year, the script included a couple of adults. And with a little revision, we were able to have 3 fantastic, and often comical, adult actors. The children worked really hard to learn the songs. A special "Thank You!" to Patti Kunkel, Lisa Lee, and Mark Chinn for doing such a wonderful job as the 3 shoppers in the program. Your sense of humor and zeal for life truly

Through the songs and dialogue, the Gospel was simply and clearly shared. After all this is what Christmas is all about. We hope the Christmas Program reaffirmed and refreshed your faith and helped those who aren't Christian to become one in the near future. I know one of the children in the program said he became a Christian because of the message in the program. Praise God!

A great big "Thank You" to everyone who performed, worked behind the scenes and supported this show, you did a fantastic job and we really appreciate your labor of love!

Junior Worship and Nursery

Do you ever wonder what the children do after they are dismissed from Children's Time each Sunday? The 2nd through 6th graders go to the gym for Junior Worship, while the 1st graders and younger go to the CE Wing and Nursery room.

Junior Worship is a worship service designed for kids. They sing, salute the American and Christian flags, take offering, have a message and prayer time. They also have fun activities depending on the week.

The first Sunday of the month, there is no Junior Worship so they can stay in service to take Communion. The second Sunday, they usually have challenging Bible computer games to play. The third Sunday of the month, they make fun crafts that relate to an upcoming holiday or theme. The fourth Sunday, the activity is usually an obstacle course that incorporates learning the Bible or a physical challenge like dodge ball.

Boon Tee runs Junior Worship and he has a great team who assists him each week: Melissa Tee, Allen Wong, and Joy Chan. They are very creative, resourceful, and great with the kids.

Nursery time starts off with singing a couple songs. Currently, their favorite song is Holy, Holy, Holy. Then we have a brief prayer time. We then move to the Nursery room for some yummy snacks and a time to play. This is a great time to interact and encourage the children and show them that God loves them.

On the first Sunday of the month, May Wong, who oversees the Nursery and all of its activities, provides a craft that relates to a holiday or lesson. May will carefully and patiently show them how to make the craft and include an appropriate scripture. The Nursery has a great team to help May: June Callahan, Noy Nakamura, Dorothy Chow, Pon Chin, Vicky Lowe, Sylvia Chin, Ginny Kamimoto, Kimberlee Gong, Cori Tee, and Hannah Wong.

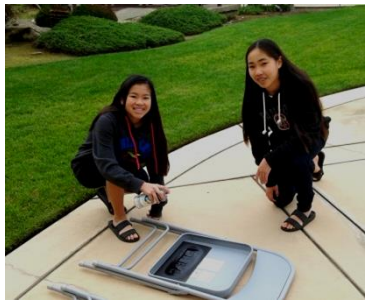
BYF/SIP (Junior High and High School Ministries)

The year started off for BYF helping clean the **Chinese Community Cemetery**. There were many other groups from the Chinese American community and it was great working with them. We worked all morning removing weeds and trash from 6 acres. It was a great experience for BYF to serve our community and learn the value of working hard together.



Thanks to Bobby Standring and Subvert, BYF was treated to a **Murder Mystery** event. The youth formed teams and went room to room to gather clues to solve the mystery. There were so many twist and turns to the plot. It was both very challenging and a ton of fun.

Every February BYF/SIP participates in **30 Hour Famine**. This is where we fast for 30 hours, raise funds to help the hungry in Third World countries, and learn about the hardships in these countries, through videos, activities, games, and competitions. During this time we served our community by playing bingo with the residents at the Vintage Gardens Assisted Living facilities and the San Joaquin Assisted Living facilities. We also cleaned the windows and doors at FCBC, along with cleaning the nursery toys, and the sanctuary. We painted all the church's folding chairs and tables with the FCBC letters for identification. And we spent time praying for the different ministries at our church.



Our fast ended with taking communion and enjoying our first meal together. Thank you Patti Kunkel, Vi Nomura, and Ginny Kamimoto for always being there to help us organize this meal.

On April 19, BYF/SIP held their **Spaghetti Fundraising Luncheon** for the summer Mission Trip. This fundraiser served 3 great purposes. First, we needed to raise funds. Second, we wanted this to be a team building event for BYF/SIP. And third, we wanted to serve and bless our church members with a nice meal. It was a great success on all three accounts. Thank you to all of you who bought a meal and helped make this such a terrific event for us. Over 150 meals were served and it all went so smoothly.

April was the end of **Richard and Taryn Ward's** role as BYF sponsors. They did a super job and it was sad to see them leave after serving for 2 years. Richard was a great Bible study teacher and Taryn was wonderful at leading worship songs. Thank you, Richard and Taryn!

July 19 -25 was our **mission trip to "Gleanings for the Hungry"**. Our BYF had a wonderful time. Though the travel distance was short (Dinuba, CA), the experience was tremendous! Each day, after worship and devotions, it was off to a full day of hard physical labor of slicing and drying peaches, and packaging dried soup. The dried fruit and soups that we produced helps overseas missionaries feed the poor and establish bonds of trust so they can share the Good News. We learned a lot about the value of hard work and not quitting. We also learned how working hard together really lightens the load. Our view of the world grew as we got to hear from missionaries and other speakers. A special highlight was having our Youth Praise Team

lead one of the morning worship times. It was nice each day to have our FCBC group meet together, share about the day, pray together and focus on God's love for us.



August 16th, was our annual **Youth Sunday**. Graduating Seniors, Jacob Holiday and Sean Chan, gave a wonderful message on Worship, the overall theme of the service. The Youth Praise Team did a great job starting off the service. Jason Lum was our moderator and Hannah Wong did Children's Time. Tiffany Gong handled the Offering and Doxology, and Sydney Wong read the scriptures regarding worship. Kimberlee Gong provided Special Music. Jason Lum produced a video where the youth shared how they personally worship God in their private times. Many other students were Greeters and Ushers. They all did a superb job in this service dedicated to Matthew Lum.



We had a fantastic **BYF/SIP Kick Off** on August 30. The evening began with our traditional Fast Food Scavenger Hunt then Rachel Eng gave the inspirational devotional, followed by delicious ice cream sundaes for all. The evening ended with a fun and vigorous game of Knock-out Basketball. A special thank you to Boon Tee and Marlene Eng for being extra drivers for the Scavenger Hunt.

This August, Rachel Eng and Ethan De Jongh started heading up BYF, while Kreston Tom and myself head up SIP. They all are doing a great job as new sponsors and leaders. Barrett Eng also attends the activities and helps provide leadership. He leads small groups and fills in wherever necessary. BYF and SIP meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30pm, and has special events about every other month.



On October 25, we had our trip to the **Corn Maze**. It's a scary, faith-stretching, but fun time to be out in the country walking through mazes at night. It was a great time of fun together.

During our **regular Sunday evening meetings** twice a month, our schedule is playing ice-breaker games, singing worship songs, handling business items, having a Bible Study with small group discussion, then refreshments and more

games.

The **BYF Student Leadership Team** continued to meet once a month. They help run the BYF/SIP bi-monthly meetings. They also plan the many events throughout the year. The Student Leadership Team provides a great opportunity for these young leaders to gain experience in leadership and learning how the church operates.

This past year brought a **tremendous sadness** as one of our very beloved youth went home to be with our Lord. Matthew Lum was literally one of the nicest guys you could meet. I'm thankful for all the special moments with such a beautiful and kind person. We know Matt's in Heaven as sure as we know that the sun will set tonight. Thank you, Matt, for blessing our lives!

We ended the year with our traditional **Christmas Party**. It was special to fellowship over such good food and catch up on each other's lives. We enjoyed singing and hearing the Christmas story. We played a very creative unwrapping game that included yards upon yards of cellophane wrap. We also had fun with the gift exchange game. We ended the evening with prayer and cleaning up.



STORM Kick Off

STORM is our college ministry that meets every Friday night at 5:30pm. We spend time catching up on each other's lives and discuss different issues, as we enjoy a light dinner together. Then we have some type of ice breaker, followed by our Bible Study, prayer, and a fun table game.

Earlier in the year, we went through the Book of Luke chapter by chapter. Now we're going through **Acts** since this Book is also written by Luke and continues the story. Every so often, we'll have a special event like going to the movies and see "War Room" or go to a piano recital. And since we meet on Fridays, we often have the opportunity to serve by setting up chairs and tables for our church-wide events in the gym.

We may be a small group of 3 to 6 on any given week, but there is a great and sincere hunger to know God and His Word and to follow Him. And that's what's important, developing lasting faith is.

We had a special **STORM Kick Off** on September 7. Thanks to Lester and Vicky Lowe, our collegiate were treated to a very special dinner to start our evening off. We had a time of singing and heard a devotional from Kreston Tom. Then we enjoyed breaking into small groups for discussion, sharing, and prayer.

A special thank you to Jennifer Oldham who helped lead **STORM** as one of our sponsors. She did a fantastic job and always added so much to our discussions. We're grateful that Kelley Lowe has filled the void and now is one of our **STORM** sponsors. She's doing a great job and fitting in well.

Often college is a time when Christians put their faith on the shelf. But we believe college is the best time to grow in the faith. So please pray for the college ministry to be strong as we press on.

HBF (Home Bible Fellowship)



Have you ever noticed that some people are super close to each other at church? How did these people get so close, and so caring? More often than not, it's because they are part of an HBF.

HBF is a place where you can just be yourself. And it's a time when you can talk about God and be encouraged. It's a place to learn more, as you listen to some of the best teachers in the world through DVD studies. And HBF is a safe place to ask questions, even "dumb" questions, because we have those same questions. And of course,

HBF is a place where you can enjoy some really good refreshments!

We have 6 different HBF's to choose from. I hope you will try one out this year. HBF's are ongoing, but you can leave an HBF at anytime. We realize we have seasons in our lives, and at times it may be the season not to meet.

- a. Monday Night Women's HBF
Meets every other Monday at various homes in North Fresno area 7-9:30pm
- b. Thursday Night HBF
Every other Thursday at the Bruce's home 7-9pm
- c. Friday Night Northeast HBF
Every other Friday at various homes in NE Fresno 7-9:30pm
- d. STORM (College and Post-college)
Every Friday at church 5:30-8:30pm
- e. Saturday Morning Cross-Cultural HBF
2nd and 4th Saturdays at Toledo's Restaurant (Mission Village) 9:30am
- f. Saturday Night Northwest HBF
Every other Saturday at various homes in NW Fresno 7-9pm

The HBF Committee consists of Patricia Tom, Nanette Bruce, Lee Anne Iida, MaryAnne Lai, Boon and Melissa Tee. They are a dedicated group and are doing a great job making sure each HBF is running smoothly and focused on the Lord. If you have any questions about HBF's, feel free to contact me or talk with one of the committee members.

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Team continues to meet almost **every Sunday morning** from 9:00 to 9:30am. 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

Yet, another awesome year of ministry, by God's grace, has gone by! God has been good to all of us. In His sovereignty and mercy, God has blessed. To Him be the glory, honor, and praise in the Name of Jesus.

What a privilege to do ministry with all of you. It's so exciting to do ministry as a team. This is how God meant it to be. We work together as a Body, each with their own skills, strengths, and contributions. Thank you to all who have served alongside of Lee Anne and me.

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

Thank you all for being a blessing to Lee Anne and me. May God continue to bless you as you follow our Savior, Jesus.



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

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

It has been five and half years since our Agape Chinese Fellowship started as only four people in the summer of 2010. I still remember right before our first Sunday class, one of our dear sisters assured me that we would do it even if only one person showed up. It is amazing to see how God has been expanding us from a small Sunday class into an ongoing ministry. 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, driver license, financial struggles, and other challenges as well. It could be overwhelming if we try to meet all 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. While we are taking care of some of the needs of the new immigrants, we are building the relationship with them. We give them rides to church, help them with their language barriers, and the most important, pray together for God's guidance and strength so that they can experience His love and grace here in America.

In 2015 some of our members went through different health issues. One had a stroke and was hospitalized for over a month. Our fellowship was able to pull together to help this family with transportation, childcare, and other challenges that they were facing during such a crisis. Thanks to Jeanny, Nancy and Yolanda for your special love and support this family needed and also for a couple other members who are in chronic illness and pain. There were times I received phone

calls from hospital chaplain asking for help for their Chinese patients and the family members as well. While I am in and out the hospital visiting different people, I am so thankful that God is using the Agape ministry to bring comfort and support not only to our members but also to other ones in the community.

How to help our new believers continue to grow and mature in their faith is always the focus of our Agape Ministry. In our Sunday class, we went through the book of Acts learning how the early church grew rapidly and spread the Gospel efficiently. Then we started the book of Psalms to learn how to pray and praise our God Almighty in His powerful word. We encourage our members to read one chapter of Psalms everyday as a special devotional time with God. The sermon translation helps them understand Pastor's message and participate in our church worship service. I am very grateful that we have the resource and the technology to provide the simultaneous Chinese translation during our Sunday worship.

We have different small groups that meet during the week. Our Wednesday group is mainly for restaurant workers, and meets at McDonald's for fellowship and prayers. Our Mom's group gets together 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 keep the balance of work and family.

During the year, we hosted different potlucks as our special fellowship and outreach opportunities, including Chinese New Year and Thanksgiving celebrations. We always encourage our members to bring families and friends to join our special events. Besides all the delicious food that everyone brings, we enjoy worship together with Chinese hymns and a festival sermon message.

In May, I received my Graduate Study Certificate from Dallas Theological Seminary. Then I continue to pursue the MA in Christian Studies through DTS. I am so thankful that God gives me such a great opportunity to learn and to grow, and he also sustains me through the people around me: my husband James and our three girls with their help and understanding, Pastor Jack and Pastor Dennis with their advice and encouragement together with our church family, and all the support with prayers. I am looking forward to the year of 2016, as God continues to use our Agape ministry as his instrument to reach the Chinese community with his love and grace.

In His Name we serve,

Jeannie Gong

Music Department

The music department has enjoyed a full schedule of rehearsals and performances during 2015.

New Life Choir:

Rehearsals (36)

Performances (19)

Special Performances: *Good Friday (Bells), Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve. (Choir), Christmas By Candlelight (Bells)*

Chinese Choir:

Performances (9)

Bell Choir:

Rehearsals (39)

Performances (9)

Worship Services: (56)

Includes: Sundays,

Maundy Thursday,

Good Friday,

Christmas Eve,

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!

Praise Team

Praise team has enjoyed a fun year with a couple of themed Sunday services where we got to worship in new and creative ways. We also were able to mentor and assist the youth praise team who were asked to play Christian Christmas songs on Christmas Tree Lane's opening night to thousands of visitors.

We had a great year and look forward to another and as always if you are interested in joining the praise team, please contact Jennifer.

Sunday mornings: 11

Practices: 15

Youth Band performances: 2

Youth Band practices: estimated 12+

Building and Grounds Committee

Chair: Jeff Kimura

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 consists of custodial and paper supplies, the custodian, the gardener, kitchen supplies, liability insurance, PG&E, property taxes and city utilities. The budget for the custodian remains the same as in 2015. The budget for the Gardener was increased slightly for more trimming work. Custodial and paper supplies budgeted amount was slightly decreased from 2015, based on projections. The kitchen supplies budget amount was unchanged. The PG&E budgeted amount was increased from \$24,000 to be \$25,000 due to anticipated rate increases. We are having a solar power feasibility study done for cost options. Liability insurance budgeted amount was unchanged. City utilities budgeted amount was decreased by \$500 based on experience.

Building Maintenance Fund is a Balance Sheet account that used whenever large capital expenditures need to be made, like the trellis repairs and new rain gutters done this past year. Repaving the parking lot and replacement of air conditioners will also come from the Building Fund.

The last category of expenses are the repairs and maintenance expenses, which for an 18 year old Church Complex should be increasing, however based on experience, the budget amount was decreased by \$1,000.

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 and Social Concerns

First Chinese Baptist Church continues to set aside funds for our Mission Budget. This summer our BYF went to Gleanings for the Hungry in nearby Sultana. They learned a lot about themselves and their ability to work hard, they learned to appreciate the food on their tables in preparing dried fruit and soup mix, and they learned to overcome adversity when some of the other teams' members walked away from the fruit line or clean up duty. Our Medical Mission will embark on another overseas journey in 2017.

In November, we invited the ministries served by Matthew 25 to church service and a pot luck lunch. It was a great fellowship time. Pastor Jack was told that although other churches assist their particular ministry, no one had ever invited them to worship and to eat together with the congregation before!

Jesus has asked us to spread the good news to all nations and to love our brothers as ourselves. FCBC is working hard to do both commands. Although each of us individually might not be able to go out into the mission field, we continue to generously support leadership training, Bible distributions, the hungry, the homeless, and children locally and around the world! Thank you for being ambassadors for Christ thru your giving.

2015 Communion Offerings

January -	GIDEONS	\$1032
February -	WORLD VISION/30 HOUR FAMINE	\$1295.56
March -	AMERICA FOR CHRIST	\$1289.10
April -	SEAFARERS MINISTRY	\$975.75
May -	RESCUE THE CHILDREN	\$1280.00
June -	ONE GREAT HOUR	\$1362.00
July -	SALT	\$782.00
August -	CAMP SUGAR PINE	\$869.70
September -	AYDC MINISTRY/BOYS DORMITORIES	\$1012.14
October -	WORLD MISSION	\$1504.69
November -	HOPE NOW	\$994.00
December -	THANK YOU M & M	\$1260.00

From Mission in 1884 at E and Inyo Streets to Ministry in 1994 moving to Angus and Mesa Avenues.....to today. What will the Lord have us do, where will He send us, who will He have us reach in 2016 and the future?

Entrust your efforts to the Lord, and your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:3

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Kunkel

Shepherding Ministry

Chairperson: Lena Chin

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

During the year of 2015, Shepherding Ministry at First Chinese Baptist Church, provided COMFORT to those in need.

God gave us this ministry to show His love for this congregation. Members and friends of FCBC have a Shepherd leader who will stay connected with them for the purposes of prayer, visitation and meals along with support and encouragement. The role of the Shepherd continues to be in obedience to God's command by taking care of one another.

As the ministry is approaching its seventh year, our prayers continue to be the same. Just as God wants a relationship with His children, the Shepherding Ministry also desires to have one with their sheep as well.

In the year of 2015, the ministry has seen a shift of more detailed and specific prayer requests for the care of spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. This has required more communication with our team of Shepherds, now totaling 18. We currently have 104 families/individuals who have a Shepherd.

In March 2015, Pastor Jack held a workshop for the Shepherd leaders on Contemplative Prayer. The following month, the ministry welcomed a new Shepherd leader.

FCBC purchased 10 sets of a series of books on the subject and the process of grief. They are available, free of charge, for those that are interested.

Members and friends of FCBC are not alone, and as a church family we are there for them!

“Comfort, Comfort my people says your God.” Isaiah 40:1

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



Matthew 25

Committee Members: Lisa Coelho, Irma Jue, Irene Martinez, Ginny Kamimoto, Gail Ho, Dustin Ho, Cynthia Ho, Boon Tee, Melissa Tee, Lanny Chan, Andy Alejo, Ming Chong, Gerlene Chinn, Jerry Chinn, David Chow, Richard Bruce

We started in June of 2013 with a few and we now have 16 members that help with pick up.

We are currently servicing 9 ministries in the Fresno & Sanger Area every month. In 2013 we started food pick up with Save Mart, Eddie's Bakery was added this May. We have been able to pick up from a few other stores on occasion also. This year we have picked up and distributed over 18,000 items. We also helped send 49 inner city children to Outreach Camp at Camp Sugar Pine. In 2015 we will have served approx. 1,710 people for Thanksgiving dinner and approx. 1,900 for Christmas dinner. We hope to continue to grow this ministry in 2016. Thanks to our church family we also distribute house hold items and clothing as we receive it. A look back at 2013 shows we picked up approx. 1,250 items and traveled approx. 327 miles and in 2015 we picked up 18,010 items and traveled approx. 3,186 miles.



We continue to help Sanger Community Church with their Kings Apartment Outreach every month with pastries and bread. Holiday meal numbers: **Kings Apt** in Sanger 45 turkeys & loaves of bread at Thanksgiving, 45 hams & loaves of bread for Christmas; **Martin Park & Hope Now** 53 turkeys & loaves of bread at Thanksgiving, 53 hams & loaves of bread for Christmas; **Live Again Fresno** 10 turkeys & loaves of bread at Thanksgiving, 10 hams & loaves of bread for Christmas; **Lumeya Ministry** 251 turkeys & loaves of bread at Thanksgiving, 252 hams & loaves of bread for Christmas.



This year we helped Martin Park with their Christmas BBQ and party. There were approx. 160 kids and parents in attendance. We bought all the food and with the help of Marlene Eng and Jean Yang we served.

