

FIRST CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH  
Annual Report 2011



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# WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? — 2011

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## FIRST CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH

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### ANNUAL REPORTS

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## Senior Pastor

Rev. Donald Ng

### Do This, and You Will Live!

Lifting up the emphasis of social concern in 2011, our church theme was “Who Is My Neighbor?” When the lawyer in Luke 10 asked Jesus, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” The lawyer answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” When Jesus heard this, he told the lawyer, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But the lawyer probably was thinking that he already loved God with all his heart, soul, strength and mind but he wasn’t sure whether he loved his neighbor as he already loved himself. So he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” From here, we have the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Throughout the year, our fellowship groups and annual ministries such as Youth Camp used this emphasis of social justice to help us grow in understanding our responsibility of caring for our neighbors.

### Significant Developments

Building on this commitment to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbors by providing faithful ministries, there were two significant developments that happened in 2011. After many years of having a church staff position designated for Christian Education, we decided to bring to conclusion this position in our church. The different CE tasks and ministries are now assigned to all pastoral staff members in ways that more strategically fit their portfolios. We believe that this decision will strengthen the overall Christian education programs of our church by having more pastors connected and involved.

Witnessing the growth and development of the 9:00 English Worship congregation, we decided to call a pastor who would serve this emerging part of our church. At the end of March, we celebrated Rev. Christine Otani’s more than ten years of faithful and effective ministry with us as the Minister of Christian Education. The church approved a new pastoral position, Associate Pastor of English-speaking Ministries, appointed a search committee and was hoping to recommend a candidate before the end of the year. When the committee was unable to complete its task, the church decided to reopen the pastoral search for new candidates to submit applications by February 12, 2012.

The second significant development in 2011 is the recognition of the importance of having enhanced and inspiring worship by providing more time for the worship services on Sunday morning. With the availability of the YMCA gym that was renovated for us to have Sunday worship, the 9:00 English Worship relocated to the gym on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. The 9:00 worshipers and worship leaders have affirmed this move that has allowed for a one-hour-and-fifteen-minute service. Currently, discussions are under way to adjust worship times and Sunday school class times to provide longer times for the two services that meet in the church sanctuary.

### Seasons of Church Life

Inasmuch as there were significant changes that occurred this year as evident above, the health and vitality of our church can be seen in the rhythm of what happens on a seasonal basis. The strong and reliable infrastructure that our church embodies enables us to sustain life-changing

ministries from year to year. Our Church Membership Meetings, moderated this year by Anna Quan Wong, are times when we come together to express our ideas and thoughts as well as to celebrate God's plans for our church. And when there were times when special meetings were necessary, we were able to do this because we affirm our common mission in Christ.

The Finance Committee chaired by Jackie Chou met to review our finances and to keep everyone informed about our financial health. The Canvass Committee led by Wes Chan and Wallace Chu invited us to believe that all our resources belong to God. The Nominating Committee chaired by Steven Ng worked diligently to identify gifts and skills that people didn't think they had. The Search Committee chaired by Anna Ng served and is still serving with the faith that God is preparing a servant in Christ to labor with us because the harvest is plentiful. The Music Committee chaired by Wendy Quan reminded us that if we can make a noise, it's a praise to God that makes his heart sing. The Social Committee chaired by Sharon Fong always kept us satisfied with goodies and hot tea to experience God's abundance.

### **Christian Education**

Our church has always been known as a "teaching church." We have strengths and gifts in this area that are just amazing! Unlike many churches that take a summer off, our Sunday school meets year-round. Teachers and aides offer classes from the preschool Toddlers Time all the way up to Bible studies for seniors. Our children's classes meet in the church home while all of our youth and adult classes are at the YMCA. While one worshiping congregation is in worship, the other congregations are in class. We thank God for equipping and calling many dedicated and skilled teachers to nurture and develop disciples.

On an annual basis, our church continues to sponsor significant ministries that reach out to our neighbors, deepen biblical literacy and discipleship and provide ways for persons to sharpen leadership skills. While six weeks of summer Day Camp directed by Donald Ma and assisted by Tim Lee attracted over 100 children to our church, over 40 youth and young adults also had the sustained opportunity to teach curriculum, lead games and activities and to share their faith with others. Youth Camp co-directed by Kenneth Tom and Jonathan Wong on the social justice theme of "Do the Right Thing!" challenged junior and senior high students to recognize that what they do can make a difference in the world.

The Christian Education ministries at our church are the best example of how we on a regular basis, year after year, provide a way for people to know Christ as their Lord and Savior and to use their gifts and talents for ministry in the world. There were Bible studies, summer series, overview courses taught by Dr. James Chuck and Advent/Lenten Bible studies available throughout the year.

### **Beyond FCBC**

For some time now, our church has sensed the call to go beyond the immediate surroundings of our church home in order to bear witness and to do mission. In March, we sent another team of seven people to visit Thailand with the specific objective to expand the Lanna Coffee Ministry. We visited coffee plantations; helped load picked beans onto pickup trucks; and saw how coffee is sorted, washed, shelled, dried, roasted and packaged for sale. While we were exploring how we can become a better advocate and partner for Lanna Coffee, we returned with an even greater passion of wanting to get involved some more. We wanted to help change systems that continue to hurt people. The Missions Committee has decided to officially partner with the Integrated Tribal Development Project, directed by ABC Missionary Mike Mann, to help develop a healthy and life-sustaining economy of a

hill tribe village. In 2013, we are planning to send a work team to this village to begin this partnership. This deeper and more active involvement will go beyond the typical mission tour to becoming ongoing partners and friends helping others in need. We'll be answering the question, "Who is My Neighbor?" The plan is to send future mission teams back to the same village until we have completed God's work.

After Jesus' ascension, the disciples were commissioned to preach to the world the Good News they witnessed. The apostle Paul, after his dramatic encounter with the Lord on the Damascus Road, began to expand beyond Jerusalem and into Macedonia and Greece. In May, we sponsored a group to follow the Steps of Paul and visited Turkey and Greece. We visited the seven churches in Revelation, the island of Patmos, Athens, Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth and many other places that enabled us to see with our own eyes the spread of Christianity into the known ancient world at that time. We know that eventually Christianity spread to Rome, then to Western Europe, across the Atlantic and to the New World. The Bible comes alive when we are able to have these wonderful opportunities to experience and explore our faith.

In June at the ABC Biennial in San Juan, Puerto Rico, I was elected to serve as the Vice-President of ABC, USA for 2012–2013. This voluntary office is a culmination of a lifetime of being an American Baptist. I felt and heard the call to share my life with the ABC family as well as to share the faithful ministry of FCBC in this role as I travel around the denomination and work with ABC leaders and churches. While I will be doing a fair amount of traveling, I remain committed to the ministry of our church and seek your prayers and support to accomplish all that God has asked of me and you.

### **In Appreciation**

The successful, faithful and far-reaching ministries of our church are the result of many dedicated and gifted people. All of you have made and are still making a difference in the world because of the way you trust your lives in being with Christ. Christ has made us whole out of God's grace and mercy so that we may continue to be good neighbors with others and in the end we do live. I want to take a moment to thank some people who are usually behind the scenes but are the real actors, movers and shakers in our church: Joe Chan and the Sunday kitchen crew who make us breakfast and a cup of Lanna Coffee; Lea Wong who washes the baby toys in the dish washer every Sunday before our little ones put them in their mouths; Bill Leong who crawls into tight places to replace our furnace filters; Wendy Chu and Norman Chin who wash clean our solar panels twice a year; Santos, our janitor, who works at night to clean our floors and restrooms; Wendi Lin who goes beyond her office duties to sort out our trash for composting and recycling; Nelson Wong and Bill Chin who monitor our disaster preparedness; Gil Quong who takes our church newsletters to the bulk mail center; Adam Kung, Joshua Chou and Don Fong who are developing a new church website; Ian Heung and others who go to the Y at 8:00 to begin setting up for 9:00 Worship. And I deeply appreciate our church staff who faithfully perform their ministerial and administrative duties in the name of Christ. There are so many people who have stepped up and, God willing, will continue stepping up to support the ongoing ministries and infrastructure of FCBC!

As we remain faithful to the historic ministry and mission of this church and remain focused on answering the question, "Who Is My Neighbor?" Christ tells us, "Do this, and you will live." Thank God for 2011 that we are living in Christ!

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## Chinese-Speaking Ministries

Rev. Peter Lee

### Who is Our Neighbor?

We reached our neighbors through programs and visitations throughout the year. There was a Spring Festival for the community held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Adam Kung was the director and we provided programs, snacks and games for kids. We approached their parents and let them know more about our faith during the event. Different fellowship groups helped with the event and served together with joy on that day. We met kids and parents again during Day Camp which built closer relationships with our neighbors.

Gospel Sunday was held on Father's Day, June 19<sup>th</sup>. A luncheon followed the worship service. We invited friends from the community and relatives of our members. Dr. Eugene Choi was our guest speaker. He was a medical doctor who served in Chinatown and had been a missionary for 12 years. His message touched us very much.

About 30 children and parents participated in the bowling activity on December 4<sup>th</sup>. We arranged carpool to give rides to the children and parents. Many kids had their first experience bowling and they enjoyed it very much. Parents sat behind the lanes and were excited to watch the games. We provided drinks and snacks during the activity and it was very helpful to share and chat in such a pleasant atmosphere. We plan to arrange activities for children and parents in the coming year in order to share our faith with them. Children are our future and we would like to equip them well to be potential leaders for our church. We would like to approach parents to develop the communication and closer relationships with them in order to win souls for families.

We had Christmas caroling on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and visited our English class students' families to sing Christmas songs with them. Although their homes were simple and small, we were full of joy and love in the evening. We saw a lot of night clubs and bars just outside Chinatown and many people stayed there without hope and faith. They, our neighbors, need Christ.

In order to take care of the new believers, we arranged a follow-up training course on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Amen Tang was our guest speaker. He shared his experience with following up with people in the community. After the seminar, some participants signed up to follow-up with people in the community. Fellowship leaders also helped to follow-up with the newcomers. Newcomers' information was sent to fellowship leaders according to age groups and they invited them to join our fellowships. We do hope that all people have their own fellowship group at church.

Apart from reaching out, we also built up fellowship groups through activities and caring.

Summer Retreat was held from July 22–24. Rev. James Ip, Vice-President of Christian Witness Theological Seminary, was our guest speaker. The theme was "24/7: Witnessing God in Daily Life." Eighty people registered to join and they prepared for spiritual renewal during this meaningful event. We held a fundraiser on June 12<sup>th</sup> and raised more than \$1,150 (after deducting expenses) to financially support the retreat.

Chinese Mission Workgroup (CMW) set up a Fellowship Department to coordinate different fellowship groups in order to build closer relationships among our congregation. Steven Leung was

the coordinator and he led the fellowship representatives to develop fellowship ministries. We tried to match people into different fellowship groups in order to grow healthy spiritual lives.

We were pleased that many fellowships and groups came to our home throughout the year. We regularly had a monthly prayer meeting, CMW meeting and cell groups in our home. It is much easier to get parking in a residential area and we would like to continue providing our home as a meeting place for brothers and sisters.

It was very important to serve our Lord with churches around us. Pastors and church leaders in Chinese Christian Union met every month and celebrated Easter and Thanksgiving with worship together. We worked as neighbors and co-workers. I was elected as vice-chairman of 2012 and surely will keep serving our Lord among nearby churches.

There was a need for theological courses for the Cantonese-speaking congregation in San Francisco. I was invited by Christian Witness Theological Seminary to join a committee to plan a master course of theological study. It started in September and many joined. The master course was intended to help equip leaders in churches to serve our Lord in an effective way.

I attended the Chinese Mission Conference in San Diego from December 27–30. Francis Chan, George Murray and Greg Ogden were the guest speakers. There were also many missionaries from around the world who joined and shared at the conference. It was a very good opportunity to learn from them. As our church theme for 2012 is “Harvest Time,” we would like to help church people to explore more about the mission field for Chinese people, especially the ministry in China, our motherland!

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## **Community Outreach**

Pastor Jane Lam

### **Friday Night School**

Over 100 students from the community were blessed by Friday Night School’s seven classes in 2011: ABC; Conversation 1; Conversation 2; Conversation 3; Advanced Conversation; Pronunciation; and Citizenship. These classes would not have been able to take place for three semesters without the dedication of the teachers and helpers: Bill and Flo Chin, Caroline Woo, Eleanor Huang, Faye Lam, Francis Kwong, Howard Lee, Min-Ling Yu, Nancy Guan, Nate Wong, Paul Chew, Shannon Kong, Shung Lam, Victor and Melanie Low and Wendi Lin. Our Night School Coordinator Feng-Yi Wu acted efficiently as a liaison between CCSF classes and FCBC; not only did she promote FNS to students, she helped them in many ways in their daily lives.

→ *Pray that our Lord will continue to bless FCBC and the community through this English-teaching ministry!*

(Please refer to Feng-Yi Wu’s report for more details.)

### **Community Kitchen**

Without the participation of fellowship groups, individuals and our Cooks-Coordinator Mei Ng, the Friday Night cooking ministry would not have happened in 2011. Despite limited time and budget, talented cooks always presented delicious meals for students and teachers after class. Students really appreciate the love shown to them via this ministry! Students not only enjoyed their meals here, some even packed the leftovers to go! As Chinese people always build relationships around the meal

table, dinner time on Friday evenings provides a golden opportunity for FCBC members to mingle with newcomers from the community. It's also a practical way to show them God's love.

→ *Pray that God will continue to bless the community through this ministry. May he use us not only to feed them physically, but also to fulfill their spiritual needs.*

### **Joshua Fellowship**

Joshua Fellowship continued to be a platform for presenting the gospel message to the community members on Fridays. We celebrate with the members both Christian and Chinese festivals (Chinese New Year, Easter, Mid-Autumn, Thanksgiving and Christmas), sharing with them how our Lord Jesus loves us by entering human history. At "Gospel Tea House" (casual form of evangelistic Bible study), members studied stories about people encountering Jesus (and how they may encounter him too). While viewing testimonial videos from SOBEM ministry, members shared how they were touched by these lives changed by God. In order to help immigrants learn more about lives in America, we held special seminars including the topics of Finances (by Wallace Chu) and Mental Health (by Dr. Bella Yu). Members also enjoyed home visits, outings and a Fun Day of playing ping-pong and board games during term break.

→ *Pray that relationships will continue to grow close (not only among members but also with Christ).*

### **Faith Class**

Eight weeks of Faith Class were held in the fall. We were glad to have a few volunteers, new believers and seekers who joined us regularly. We always have great in-depth discussions about various difficult questions regarding our faith. Some regular attendees learned a lot from the class and got to know more about Jesus. We rejoiced in seeing them get one step closer in the walk of faith.

→ *Pray that their hearts will be touched by Jesus in the future!*

(Please refer to Wallace Chu's report on Friday Night School and Joshua Fellowship for details.)

### **Community Worship**

New believers from FNS continued to participate by reading the Scriptural passage at the Community Worship in 2011. Many of them have grown a lot in the past few years by serving in this capacity, and they all participated in the Good Friday Community Worship on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Christmas Community Worship on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Many newcomers learned to pray by saying the Lord's Prayer; even the most timid ones were not hesitant to read it aloud together!

→ *Pray that God will continue to work in the hearts of these new believers, that they will grow steadily in faith in our Lord Jesus!*

### **Cell Group Ministries**

In 2011, the focus of Ainesis Cell Group was spiritual formation. We started reading the Bible together and sharing each week through conference phone calls.

Mary Cell Group enjoyed building relationships among group members by sharing, encouraging and praying for each other.

→ *Pray that members of these cell groups will continue to grow in Jesus each day.*

(Please refer to Sherry Zhang's report on Ainesis Cell and Mei Ng's report on Mary Cell for more details.)

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## Night School Coordinator

Feng-Yi Wu

I thank Jesus for the opportunity to continue serving as the Night School Coordinator in 2011. Every evening from Monday through Thursday, I had opportunities to build relationships with community students at City College of San Francisco (CCSF). As a new immigrant myself, I understand the struggles they face in language learning and at work, and the helplessness they sometimes feel in life. Most students come to class after a full day of work and still need to go home to cook and clean after two hours of class; indeed they lead a busy life each day. I invited them to attend Friday Night School, Joshua Fellowship and other FCBC activities while talking to them. Some started to come and still persist today.

I helped students translate English letters to Chinese and also helped them fill out various forms (job applications, affordable housing application and EDD forms, etc.). Making English phone calls to governmental departments and checking online information for them were also a part of my regular routine as well. Using the skills I learned as a core group member of the Community Outreach Ministry, I was better equipped to share the gospel with students more effectively during my duties on weeknights. May the Lord continue to use our church to reach those in need in our Chinatown community! Amen!

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## **Board of Deacons**

Sarah Wong

The Board of Deacons experienced a very challenging yet blessed year in 2011. God was always faithful to us and provided wisdom for us as we made decisions on some very difficult issues.

Early in 2011 we decided to eliminate the position of Minister of Christian Education and to integrate the Christian Education responsibilities with those of a new position, Associate Pastor for English-speaking Ministries. While we were sad that Pastor Chris Otani would be leaving, she shared with us that her departure would be a win-win situation for herself as well as for FCBC. It was a good time for her to move on and to make herself available for calls in other areas of ministry. The Board of Deacons convened a search committee to develop the details of the new job description and to conduct a search process to fill the position. We believe that God's will and plans will be realized for both FCBC and Pastor Chris.

During the year, we were blessed that six people accepted Christ as their personal savior and became part of the church family. The Board of Deacons was proud to recommend the following individuals for church membership: George Chen and Caitlin Ung by baptism; Pauline Chen, Winifred Chinn and Xue Ping Lee by transfer of letter; and Jimmy Chen by statement of Christian faith.

On November 6, 2011, we were happy to see the 9:10 a.m. service officially become the 9:00 a.m. service using the YMCA gymnasium space for worship. We were grateful for the worshippers' willingness to work out the logistics every Sunday morning so that they could worship as if they were in the sanctuary. The change of time and place for the 9:00 a.m. service would free the 10:20 and 11:30 services each to adjust their worship times in order to encourage growth and to enhance worship experiences.

We proclaimed God's good news by sharing his love with our neighbors this year. The Deacon's Fund, collected on every Communion Sunday, received \$3,529 and distributed \$4,995 in 2011. At the end of the year, there was a balance of \$7,158.78. We were thankful for generous giving throughout the year so that we could help those in urgent financial need.

At year's end, there were several items of unfinished business to be continued in 2012. We will continue to explore the change of our present regional affiliation from Growing Healthy Churches to American Baptist Churches of Oregon. We hope to finalize the change of time for the present 10:20 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services. In addition, we look forward to calling a new pastor to join the FCBC staff as the Associate Pastor of English-speaking Ministries. We ask that God's blessings continue to flow upon us next year as we continue our service.

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## **Board of Christian Education**

Don Lam

The CE Board had a very active and challenging year in 2011. In addition to the scheduled six meetings throughout the year, three additional meetings were added in order to address all issues in a timely and thoughtful manner. A special thanks goes out to all the board members for their faithful service, especially to Wes Chan who volunteered to serve on the board as an additional resource filling in for Shannon Kong who agreed to serve on the special search committee for a qualified candidate for the new pastoral position. Wes began attending all CE Board meetings in May. Additionally, Pastors Don Ng, Peter Lee and Jane Lam attended most meetings offering valuable

advice and insight that was much needed as the board had relied on the Minister of Christian Education for direction and leadership in recent years.

Chronological highlights beginning with the January meeting:

1. Reviewed and discussed the CE Board's roles and responsibilities in preparation to be better focused and aligned to address the upcoming issues.
2. Organized and implemented the Teachers' Appreciation luncheon.
3. Reviewed, evaluated and refined the new pastoral job description.
4. Created a new sub-committee within the board to evaluate, review and approve funding, budgeting and other staff-related issues. The sub-committee consisted of Wallace Chu, Leslie Chin, Wes Chan and Don Lam.
5. Reviewed and recommended for approved the Thailand Mission proposal.
6. Addressed the Annual Church Picnic issues related to the CEB.
7. Discussed, debated and evaluated all issues related to the proposal to adjust worship service times and durations in order to maximize and enhance the worship experience.
8. Discussed a new CEB structure along with redefined roles and responsibilities within the board in order to better align with the original intent and function of a CEB within Baptist churches.
9. Assisted in the communication and endorsement of Dr. James Chuck's fall series, "Overview of the Christian Faith for Lay People."
10. Discussed Leadership Training for church group leaders.
11. Discussed the need for teachers' training for children with special needs.
12. Planned and implemented the Fellowship Group Chairs' luncheon.

Thanks again to the board and other church members who helped throughout the year. Your faithful service is very much appreciated.

### **Nursery – Becky Lessler**

Every year we are reminded of God's faithfulness to us—that babies will thrive and continue to be a blessing to families, that parents and children will both celebrate and struggle with family life, that God will present to and inspire every baby into his or her own creature self despite our most calculated efforts. The Nursery team strives to be constant in this churning time— to be encouraging for parents, rested for crying babies, kind when making peace, energetic for toddlers who want to race around the room and sing "Jesus Loves Me" and hear "Snuggle Puppy" for the 30th time. Sometimes we fall short, experiment, need each other's help to be the best, but in all of this, there is a faithfulness and commitment to the notion that parents need to focus on worship, Sunday School and fellowship when they bring the family to church on Sundays, and that babies can be safely left in our care.

The babies quickly enter and leave this mezzanine ministry. One Sunday, Quincy and Colby are just starting to stay awake more than sleep, Rebekah is sitting like a princess, Brenden knows when Mom is leaving and does not like it. The next Sunday, Naomi, once the only baby, is the ruling toddler. Michelia, Ayla and Gamelial are cruising, Aaron is running and asking for "bao bao" and refills on Cheerios. There are so many J-boys that they will graduate upstairs before we know for absolute sure who Jacob, Jonah, Jonas, Jordan and Jadon are. Others laughing. Others smiling. All in God's plan.

We give thanks for the parents—faithful on behalf of their infant children—who make the Nursery ministry possible.

We give thanks for the workers, faithful to the mission field: Nancy Fong, Maddie Dong, John Tom, Franklin and Marian Hom, Dan and Diana Lee, Debbie Manguiat, Rosalie Jing and Laura Pang and supporting cast Lea Wong, Clay and Jena Manguiat, and other friends who cover for retreats and camps.

### **Toddlers** – Melanie Low

We have a vibrant ministry. The children are eager to come to class. We could use a few more people to help if you feel led by God's calling. We average between 11 and 14 kids. We've been using the David Cook curriculum and it has worked out very well. Our prayer and mission are to help our children see God's love through our stories, singing, art and getting along together. Most important is our staff providing that loving atmosphere that shows them that God loves them very much.

### **Children's Ministries** – Charlene Fong

The 2011 harvest was plentiful! In our canvass theme from Luke 10:2-3a, we see that the "harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." We have been blessed with many young elementary-age children on Sunday mornings who come with eagerness to learn and experience Christian life. A group of dedicated leaders and helpers come regularly to teach and provide them with a rich and fun experience at church. We desire to expand our staff and train more volunteers in order to reap the growing harvest. The highlights of the year include the celebrations of Easter, promotion, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and activities with the children and their families (bowling). The highlights of each week include asking the children many questions and guiding them toward the best answers. At the end of the day, we often ask them what they learned. "I learned that God loves me and I can ask God for anything. Jesus is the answer to all the questions. Thank God for everything." These are the sweetest fruits of all.

### **Day Camp** – Tim Lee and Donald Ma

God was good to us with the Day Camp program this past summer. We had over 95 campers as well as 45 staff and counselors who were able to experience God's movement in our community. Among other things, campers were able to participate in games and crafts, go on field trips and watch their counselors make fools of themselves in our morning games. Most of all, though, campers and counselors were able to bless one another—whether it was by the teaching of God's Word or by the embodiment of God's grace and the celebration that he calls us to be in when we come to know him. We were all able to see and feel the love of God and his people.

### **Junior High** – Caroline Woo

The Junior High ministry saw many changes this year. In terms of staff, we were excited to have Kevina Mao and Aaron Tom become part of our team as Keegan Doung and Ian Heung moved onto other areas within FCBC. We were also proud and happy for those who were promoted to the senior highs as we saw first-hand the growth these individuals had undergone during their time with junior highs. In addition, we had a large group of sixth graders move up to join the junior highers. With this new group of kids, there were many things that we as leaders had to evaluate in hopes of positively fostering their learning and growth as seekers. As we evaluated our teaching and effectiveness as leaders, we saw that that in itself was a learning experience as God was teaching us patience with what was happening currently as well as with the changes we were to implement.

These changes are not without their ups and downs, but as we head into the second half of the 2011–2012 school year, we look to God for support, guidance and encouragement as we continue to build a positive learning environment for the junior highers.

### **Senior High** – Kyle Lessler

The Senior High department had a wonderful 2011. All six leaders returned: Odelia To, Ricky Wong, Jackie Ma, Tiffany Lessler, Matt Chin and Kyle Lessler. While we were sad to see the class of 2011 seniors graduate, we were excited to see them successfully head off to amazing schools. The students have been learning about living out their lives as examples of Christ, and more recently about the role of the Holy Spirit within each Christian. The Senior High department has learned to make the YMCA our second church home, and we are grateful for the space provided and look forward to continuing to grow into it in the coming year.

### **Youth Camp** – Kenneth Tom and Jonathan Wong

### ***Do the Right Thing!***

As with previous years, Youth Camp 2011 was held at Redwood Glen Baptist Camp in Loma Mar, CA. However, we broke tradition slightly and had camp from July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup> instead of the first full week of August. Nevertheless, God reminded us that he is not limited to traditions in order to move in the hearts of those who attend Youth Camp. Our theme this year was “Do the Right Thing!” and focused on Social Justice and Bible Study. Our speaker was Mary Glenn, who both teaches about social justice in universities and lives it out in her community and through her work as a police chaplain. Her messages were both enlightening and challenging, helping us to see that “Social Justice” was more than just an ideal, but a way of life reflected Christ's own life. The week was a unique and wonderful opportunity to grow in the Lord and in fellowship together, with campers, counselors and staff totaling over a 100 people. In total, 40 youth made either first-time commitments to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior or renewed commitments of faith. As we look to 2012, we're excited to see how God will continue to bless and grow all who are part of Youth Camp.

### **Adult Committee** – Alan Fong

The Adult Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Christian Education. The mission of the Adult Committee is to develop and implement programs for the adult congregations in order to equip members for discipleship, personal growth, ministry and service. The chairperson of this committee for 2011 was Alan Fong. Also serving on the Adult Committee are Howard Lee, Wes Chan and Sharon Fong. Pastor Don Ng provided pastoral support this year.

Events sponsored by the Adult Committee for 2011 are as follows:

- Eight-week Summer Series, coordinated by Pastor Don Ng
- Family Camp from September 4–6, 2011, coordinated by Alan Fong
- Senior Appreciation Luncheon (incorporated with Thanksgiving Luncheon) on November 21, 2011, coordinated by Pastor Don Ng
- Christmas Workshop on Sunday, November 28, 2011, coordinated by Sharon Fong
- Regional Lenten and Advent Study Groups

The Adult Committee also sponsors the Adult Sunday School classes for the English- and Chinese-speaking congregations. The classes this year have been held at the YMCA and were led by our pastoral staff and lay people of our congregation. In addition, various Bible study groups meet throughout the year, with a special emphasis during Advent and Lent.

The Senior Center, which has been in existence for six years, ended their program this year with a Christmas Celebration. We thank Dick and Anna Wong, among others, for their contributions and energy, which made this program so successful.

In closing, the role of the Adult Committee is being re-evaluated by the Christian Education Board in 2012.

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## **Board of Trustees**

Bill Leong

At the close of 2011, thanks go to the service of outgoing Trustee members Janey Chan, Wendy Chu, Norman Chin, Bill Chin and Milton Dong. Remaining for another year are Luke Kwan, Ben Man and Mike Wong. For 2012 we welcome new members Becky Chen, Francis Kwong, Alan Fong, Ricky Wong, Darlene Mah and Daniel Chin.

Replacement of the worn-out carpet in the hallways and stairs with hard surface flooring is scheduled for the first week of 2012. This will give a longer-lasting and better-looking appearance to our facility.

Solar panels were installed on the roof in 2010. PG&E bills prior to the installation of the solar panels averaged \$5,358 per year. 2011 was the first full year of solar usage, and the PG&E total for electric and gas usage was \$1,075. That calculates to an 80% reduction in our overall energy usage!

Two all-church cleanups were completed—one in April and one in November. Special thanks go to all the volunteers and especially to Norman Chin, who stored and transported all the cleaning supplies and equipment.

As 2011 closes, I would like to acknowledge the leadership and dedication of outgoing Trustee Bill Chin. His efforts have been outstanding and much appreciated. We hope and pray that he will make a full recovery from his health issues and be with us stronger and more energetic than ever!

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## Missions Committee

Steven Ng

Robert Frost once wrote, “Good fences make good neighbors.” Unfortunately, fences keep out in addition to protecting those within. Nations also have fences—mostly legal, political and logistical—but occasionally physical ones as well. If we are to do God’s work in this world, it will most likely be within our national borders, and possibly outside those borders. In the past, First Chinese Baptist Church has sent its members to do God’s work in San Francisco, Chicago, New York City, New Orleans, Mexicali, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Belize, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, China, Hong Kong and Mongolia, just to name a few. We have been good neighbors, both within and beyond our borders.

Our ABC missionaries in northern Thailand, Mike and Becky Mann, have been working with the hill tribes there. After a mission trip there six years ago, our church started the Lanna Coffee Project. Buying coffee, and donating to the project, has provided opportunities for our church to help strengthen the market economy of our neighbors in Thailand, improve their way of life, lessen human trafficking and bring the Word of God into their lives. FCBC has pioneered the sale of Lanna Coffee, and we will continue to support it fervently in the years to come.

Another example of a good neighbor, one who serves without borders, is our Mission Sunday guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Luran Bethell. In 1987, Rev. Bethell became the first Director of the New Life Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand. She pioneered projects in Southeast Asia that addressed the issues of child prostitution and human trafficking of women and children. Rev. Bethell was Director at the New Life Center for 14 years, and at times there were over 200 young women and girls at the New Life Center’s houses in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai.

For the last ten years, FCBC has been faithfully participating in the Operation Christmas Child ministry. We collected 117 gift-filled shoeboxes from you this year! The shoeboxes headed to the following countries: China, Mongolia, Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal and Peru. This shoebox ministry exemplifies your love of neighbors without borders.

With their commitment of \$300 a month, a couple at our church has faithfully supported the Love for the Poor ministry financially for the past three years. We pray that the people of God at FCBC could learn from this example and make greater commitment to advance the kingdom of God around the world.

Nate Lee from our young adult group is now serving in Chicago under the Mission Year program. Mission Year is a year-long program where Christian young people live in an urban neighborhood volunteering, loving their neighbors and worshiping. In order to love and serve the community well, team members are to live incarnationally, that is, to meet people where they are, to build trust and friendship first, to truly know their needs, to contextualize the gospel in a poor and urban setting, to give to folks who are in need, but to also receive from these people as well. Please continue to pray for Nate to experience God in this program.

Like a good neighbor, FCBC is there!

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## Music & Performing Arts Committee

Wendy Quan

What would a worship service be without the sound of singing voices, piano, organ, bells, guitar and drums? We are truly blessed to have many of us at FCBC provide talents and gifts in praise, joy and love every Sunday.

We thank all directors, accompanists, organists and committee members for their service to the music and performing arts ministry, and for their amazing commitment in support of praise teams, choir members, youth ministry and the entire congregation.

Unique to 2011 was the inception of “Inside Out,” a visual and performing arts exhibit displaying the art of members and friends. There was much to do and much to learn during the planning phase of the exhibit, headed by: Nate Lee, Pastor Don, Joyce Ng and Wendy Quan. Proceeds from sales of artwork were designated for the Gifts Planning Program. Thanks go out to our fine exhibitors, and to each participant. Special thanks go to Jonathan Ng who provided much technical support.

The FCBC choir, directed by Victor Low, continues to offer anthems at the 10:20 service and has had a faithful host of singers, who practice weekly. The Men’s Chorus has also graced us with their joyous and robust singing on a regular basis.

Two highlights for the Bell Choir: Lawrence Pang, Sarah Wong and Andia Lee attended the Concordia handbell workshop where they learned new techniques and had a wonderful time. We added three new bell members: Aiden Yong, Michelle Young and Jennifer Young. They are blending well and adding lots of talent to our choir.

The Say Amen! Gospel Ensemble ended its 11<sup>th</sup> season with a much-anticipated trip to the American Baptist Biennial Meetings in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in June. With many months of rehearsals and fundraising efforts, 22 choir members represented FCBC on the main stage at the opening session of the Convention to sing praises in front of the delegates and visitors gathered there. We also presented music at the Asian American Baptist Caucus Dinner; the American Baptist Seminary of the West reception; and at Sunday morning worship at Primera Iglesia Bautista De Santurce, with a wonderful lunch hosted by the Rev. Julio González and his congregation. We were honored to be present to see Pastor Don being voted in as Vice President of American Baptist Churches USA. After the meetings we spent a few days sightseeing and touring the beautiful island of Puerto Rico, visiting historic sights and eating the food! The choir thanks Becky Lessler, our faithful accompanist; Gloria Shih Gulley, our Puerto Rico accompanist; and Wendy Quan and Joy Shih Ng, our co-directors. Special thanks go to Wendy Chu, our tour coordinator.

Finally, we wish to thank our AV technical folks who support each of the worship services with essential services. They are invaluable.

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## Pastoral Relations Committee

Joel Jang

**Workload of Church Staff** – In March 2011, when the church bid farewell to Pastor Christine Otani after her ten years of service at FCBC, the church staff was reduced to two ordained ministers and one licensed minister. The staff workload of the church was then attended to by the three ministers. With the support of a strong lay network, the business of the church marches on. Our church continues to be strong thanks to the dedication and devotion of both clergy and laity. We

hope soon that the pastoral staff will be fully staffed when the Search Committee has successfully secured a candidate in its current search for a new minister.

**PRC Meetings with Pastors** – During 2011, Byron Chan and Joel Jang served as the contacts for Pastor Don Ng. The two of us met with Pastor Don over lunch and chatted for about two hours. Separately, Butch met with Pastor Don and Joel also met with Pastor Don on two other occasions. Similarly, Lisa Chau Kwan has met with Pastor Jane Lam on several occasions. And before Pastor Chris Otani left, Wes Chan had met with her. Others also met with Pastor Peter Lee. These social meetings are mutually scheduled.

**What Did We Talk About?** – Typically in our meetings with our respective pastors, the PRC member inquires about the pastor’s family members, ministry at FCBC, and personal well-being. We want to support the pastors by encouraging each pastor to take time off to be with family or to refresh. Occasionally, a member of the congregation may convey something (good or bad) for us to convey to the pastor. And in the case of the senior pastor, we are interested in learning how he envisions the work at FCBC in the next five to ten years. Beyond completing the church renovation and the partnership agreement with the YMCA, what other mountains does he see our church climb and reach?

**Rejoice and Be Thankful** – On behalf of the 2011 Pastoral Relations Committee, thank you for sharing with us your concerns. Please continue to pray for the work of our ministers and our church in the coming days.

**PASTORS**

Don Ng  
Peter Lee  
Christine Otani  
Jane Lam

**PRC MEMBERS**

Joel Jang (Convener) and Byron Chan  
Milton Dong and Steven Ng  
Wes Chan and Carol Jensen  
Wallace Chu and Lisa Chau Kwan

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**Search Committee**

Anna Ng

**Wait for the LORD**

The Search Committee started the search to fill the new Associate Pastor for English-speaking Ministries position in June. The position opportunity was posted on our church website and also distributed among several Christian networks.

After the application deadline in August, the Committee diligently reviewed all the applications received and interviewed three potential candidates. When all the interviews were completed in early November, the Committee reached a unanimous decision to extend the position offer to one of the candidates. However, in the end, the candidate declined the offer.

The Committee has decided to re-open the search and set the application closing date for February 12, 2012. For this round of the search, Shannon Kong and Anna Ng are co-chairs.

Please continue to seek God’s provision in your prayers and have confidence in God’s timing to prepare and send a new pastor to serve with us. Will you commit yourself to fast and pray for this pastoral search?

“Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.” - Psalm 27:14

“Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.” - Psalm 62:5

Let’s wait for the Lord together.

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## Social Committee

Sharon Fong

Membership Meetings: 4 meetings, cha siu bows bought by Jimmy Yee. Third meeting had ham and egg bow instead of cha siu bow. Fourth meeting had combination of cha siu bow and ham and egg bow. Tea was also served with the bows. Refreshments served on sidewalk in front of church.

Baptism Sunday in the Spring: Sidewalk Tea Reception with cookies, punch and tea.

Baptism Sunday in December: There was no Sidewalk Tea Reception due to no baptism.

Chris Otani's Farewell Reception in March: Punch, coffee and tea, tea sandwiches, fruit, dips and salads were served. Desserts were cupcakes made by all the fellowship groups of the church. Coffee Crunch cake was bought for Chris O.

Church Picnic: Sold approximately 250 tickets. Picnic held at Ortega Park in Sunnyvale. Cooking team led by Wes Chan and Sojourners; tickets, serving, set up and clean-up by Social Committee; clean-up by Sojourners also. Dessert contest awarded prizes to winners.

Thanksgiving Luncheon: 15 turkeys donated, not all were used (two left over). Jimmy Yee ordered no mai fan (sticky rice) for the luncheon. Joy Ng made vegetarian dishes. Peas and carrots, punch, tea, candied yams, turkey, cranberry and no mai fan were served, in addition to pumpkin and apple pie. George Lai and the Social Committee were in charge of decorations. Needed more people to set up. Had three people to take down walls and set tables. Eventually many people pitched in to help. Needed more time to set up. Kitchen was available at 10 a.m. and fourth floor was available at 11 a.m. Lunch began serving at 12:30 p.m. No food was brought down to Sunday school classes this year. Betty Jin checked for kids and no one was in the classrooms.

Many thanks to Wendi Lin for all her support. She was always there when I needed her. Also, many thanks to my Social Committee. They were very supportive and worked very well as a team. I will miss them. Thank you for the privilege of serving as Social Committee Chair in 2011.

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## Sports Ministry

John Tom

The Sports Ministry committee members for 2011 were Matt Chin, Jayson Gatdula, Rev. Chris Otani and John Tom (chairperson).

The objective of the Sports Ministry committee is to invite church members and friends, young and old, English- and Chinese-speaking, to participate in sporting activities. Our hope is that the participants will find the love and grace of God through these activities and fellowship time. This year, we sponsored the following events:

1. Three teams in the CCU summer basketball league
2. One team in the CCU summer softball league
3. Golf tournament in June
4. 3-on-3 basketball tournament in March

The coaches for the CCU basketball teams were Guy Takahashi for a team in the platinum division, Aaron Tom for a team in the gold division and Dan Smith for a team in the silver division. The coaches for the CCU softball team were Alan Fong and Matt Chin.

This year, Butch Chan and Joel Jang dedicated the annual golf tournament to Chris Otani, who helped initiate the tournament ten years ago. We had 27 men and women play at the Metropolitan Golf Links in Oakland on July 25<sup>th</sup>. After the tournament, the group went to New China Buffet to share a fellowship meal. The tournament coordinators, Butch and Joel, delivered a check for over \$3,200 to support Redwood Glen and FCBC Day Camp low-income subsidies, Youth Camp and Sports Ministries.

We had our 3-on-3 basketball tournament at the YMCA gym, which we have not had for a while. We had seven teams playing in the competitive division and four teams in the recreational division. Gifts cards were awarded to the winning teams. We had fellowship time for the players to get to know each other.

We want to thank all the coaches, event coordinators, team managers, spiritual leaders and volunteers who supported the Sports Ministry program.

Also we want to thank the committee members who served this year. As you know, Chris Otani decided to leave FCBC and to move on to new challenges in her life. Jayson Gatlula decided to leave the committee. We welcomed Guy Takahashi to the committee.

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## **Agape Fellowship**

Anita Yong

2011 was a fun year. Besides our monthly meetings, we had two outings that we are hoping to make into annual events. We had a ski/snow trip in April that was really fun for kids and adults. In October, we took to the seas and tried kayaking. Mainly, though, we met monthly in home fellowships with programs focusing on communication, intimacy and even financial matters. As Stephen Hawking says, "Women are a complete mystery," so we spend a fair amount of time trying to figure out how to understand our spouses. Agape is a fun group and we are slowly learning how to grow up and be better adults and leaders, not only in church but also in our families.

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## **Ainesis Cell Group**

Feng-Yi Wu and Sherry Zhang

As co-leaders of Ainesis Cell Group, Feng-Yi and I are thankful to God that we could serve our Lord Jesus and our dear sisters in 2011.

As a group, we continued to sponsor a college student, Sally, in China through Glory Foundation for the third year now. All the sisters shared our love and care with Sally and her family through email and prayers.

Every Thursday evening around 9:00 p.m., we were busy holding our phone for close to an hour for our group conference call. We started with only four sisters but now we have up to eight joining the call. As we follow the "First Steps Reading Plan" (from [www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com)) to do our daily Bible reading together, we share with each other any inspirations we found, ask questions on Scriptural passages, listen to Pastor Jane's explanations, and then close in prayer.

We are so joyful that our group continues to grow, as Juliet Wong, Helen Xie, and Min-Ling Yu joined us in the past year. We are thankful that God gives us the opportunity to know each other, to accompany and encourage each other on the heavenly journey. Life is so wonderful when all of us gather together. We laugh, we cry, we cook, we play, we care, we pray, we hold hands and hug each other tightly together...

Some of our sisters are mothers with young kids learning to balance between caring for our families and being responsible at work, while trying to be true to ourselves. As a group, we keep praying for the wisdom and knowledge from God, the One who will guide us to walk on the right track and to the bright future.

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## **Ashira l'Adonai Fellowship**

Caroline Woo

2011 saw much growth and learning for Ashira. This past year, God had taught us to appreciate the relationships we have with each other as a reflection of our relationship with him. Although it was somewhat discouraging to see low attendance for some of the gatherings we had this year, God had afforded us the time and opportunity for members to go beyond surface friendships. In other words, God had helped us to see the importance of the relationships we have with one another as more than what they already are. He had taught us the value of what a true friendship with our fellow brothers and sisters looks like. As Ashira is still relatively new in its formation and operation within FCBC, God continues to grow this fellowship and further provide us with guidance in fostering relationships within this group.

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## C9 Prayer Group

Anita Yong

The year 2011 didn't bring about many changes. We were steadfast in our monthly meetings. At times it was hard to allocate time to go to prayer meetings, but as always, when we made the effort, we were always rewarded in fellowshiping with our sisters. In meetings, we used the time to encourage one another, share our burdens and celebrate thanksgivings. We lifted our husbands up in prayer and hope that they will lead our families spiritually in the coming year.

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## Christian Circle

Francis Kwong

Christian Circle Fellowship is a Cantonese-speaking fellowship group. We welcome Christian adult families and friends to join our fellowship. Usually we meet on the third Sunday of the month after worship service. After opening prayer we begin our fellowship luncheon, eating while we chat. Then we sing hymns, share Scriptures and pray for each other. This year we decided to have an outing. During the spring we walked the Land End trails of San Francisco. God gave us a very nice day with mild wind. We finished the walk in less than two hours. Thanks to our LORD who gave us a nice tea house for much good food. Amen.

This year our last fellowship meeting was on Christmas Day. We had guests from Mary Cell and Joshua fellowships join us to celebrate Christmas. Thanks be to God who gave us good news that Ken is planning to be baptized next year. He is from Joshua fellowship.

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## Emmanuel Family Group

Joel Jang

**Let's Celebrate** – In 2011, a number of our EFG members surpassed the ages of 60, 70 and 80. We had the good fortune to help celebrate anniversaries, weddings and baby parties. Most notably, we attended the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Jimmy and Nancy Yee in April and Ed and Margaret Lum's 50<sup>th</sup> in May; welcomed baby Julianne Yeh in May and baby Hayley Frances Lew in December; and celebrated EFG's own 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September. Also, George and Nancy Chen became grandparents for the 15<sup>th</sup> time, and still counting. God must be smiling with us.

**Growing Pains** – Not because of all the banquets, but a good number of our members or their families had endured health issues, accidents or other physical setbacks. During the year, the following persons did sustain and may still be experiencing discomfort, pain or inconvenience in varying degrees: Anne Lee, Anna Lee, James Wong, David Wong, Richard Tom, Sophie Tom, Joy Shih Ng, Nancy Yee, Muriel Chan, Gilbert Jing, Marie Chuck, Ruth Chan, Victor Lee, baby Miles Smith, Flo Chin and Bill Chin. Please pray for these persons and others for a prompt recovery to good health.

**In Remembrance** – During the year, we mourned the loss and paid respects for the lives of the Ed Chan and Mrs. Mae Lee.

**Continuing Education** – As we continue to age, our bodies need more attention. Topics of discussion for our monthly meetings ranged from Your Health and Medicine; Bending, Stretching, Preventing; Eye Care; and Nutrition for Seniors. Sprinkled in between were topics relating to ministry in our community, the Puerto Rico Biennial, taxes and a meeting with the Adult Fellowship. As the saying goes, the more we learned, the more we want to learn.

**Looking Ahead** – As we look forward to another year of getting together for singing, eating and learning, a milestone for our fellowship will take place in 2012: EFG's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And celebrate we shall. With the grace of God, we are planning not just to celebrate throughout the year, but we'll try to set an example of our stewardship for our children, grand children and our friends. As the Messiah has dwelled within us, may we continue to glorify God in word and in deed. Rejoice and be thankful!

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## **Faithfully Loving Youth (F.L.Y.)**

Debora Mok

As many of the youth in our fellowship entered their second year of college this year, the target group that we are serving changed from high school to college students, and their needs have become much more focused on their schoolwork. Our role as fellowship leaders is not only to help them explore their career interests, but also to guide them in seeking God's guidance in their daily lives. Every week, we have an hour of Sunday school at church and this year we studied the story of Jacob. During Sunday school we had great interaction and discussion about the Word we studied. We also had very good bonding time through small gatherings after class. We want to praise the Lord that many of them have become more interested and mature in learning and thinking about God's Word. We pray that their faith and spiritual lives will continue to grow in the Word of God.

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## **GIFT Fellowship**

Christi Jin

The GIFT Fellowship is made up of young families with children in the age range of 0–13. Our fellowship group has had a quiet year as the schedules of our little ones have taken over our lives. There are many activities that our families enjoy at FCBC such as the Christmas workshop, the Annual Picnic, Family Camp and CCU sports. In the midst of our busy lives, we have seen God work in his miraculous ways. We welcomed the birth of Colby Ung, baby #5 (yes, #5) to the Ung family. Kris and Dan Smith have seen God's healing and grace as Miles (3 years old) was in a car accident. Miles touched all of our hearts as he fought his way back to health. Through prayer and visitation we have learned what it is to truly support each other through difficult times. As we all have young families, this hit very close to home for all of us. We also had to say goodbye to the Li family—Banny, Karen, Mason and Marcus—as they moved to Canada. We miss them dearly but look forward to their visits and Facebook updates. Though we have met infrequently this year, it is in times like this when we come together in spirit. Our GIFT family has been brought closer together this year through joy, hope and forgiveness. We look forward to a joyous 2012 and will continue to look for God's blessings in our lives.

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## **Joshua Fellowship & Friday Night School**

Wallace Chu and Pastor Jane Lam

Friday Night School and Joshua Fellowship ministry continued to grow with God's blessing in 2011. Joshua Fellowship maintained steady attendance throughout the year.

We keep hosting a variety of programs such as Gospel Tea House, testimony videos (SOBEM) and discussions, workshops for immigrants (on topics like financial planning, mental health and healthy eating), sharing and games. We also continued having regular Community Worship on the first Friday of each month. Things went smoothly with the participation of brothers and sisters from

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all three congregations who were committed to serving in the ministry faithfully by teaching, cooking, leading programs and outreaching to the students.

In 2011, our goals were to deepen the relationship within the group, to share our faith with seekers and to build up the spiritual lives of fellow believers. We focused more on the spiritual nurturing of the group through consistent evangelistic Bible study and worship. We also hosted an eight-week Faith Class on Tuesday evenings to share the gospel systematically with attendees. Hopefully all these ministries will bring changes in their lives.

As most of the regular Joshua Fellowship members seem to be middle-aged, we are seeking ways to speak into their lives in more practical ways. At the same time, we're also exploring possibilities to outreach to the younger members in the community; please lift us up in your prayers, that God may give us creativity and inspiration to do so.

The Community Outreach Ministry Core Group also started discussing the possibility of starting a new weekly worship service for the community. We aim to customize the style according to their background and hopefully that will outreach to more people and spur their spiritual growth.

"They are ripe for harvest!" God keeps bringing people to Friday Night School and Joshua Fellowship. It's time for us to get ready and reap the harvest for God's kingdom. We pray that God will continue his blessing for this ministry and give us wisdom in working together in unity to bring more people to him.

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## **Koinonia**

Debora Mok

Koinonia meets every Saturday at church from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Our fellowship program mainly focuses on Bible study and small group sharing. This year, we put in great effort in welcoming newcomers to our fellowship and helping them seek guidance from God in their salvation. It's been a blessing to see the growth of our spiritual lives and the commitments we have for the fellowship. We always bring valuable input in fellowship program planning and we take turns leading the fellowship every week. We also serve together as a group in church events, such as Church Retreat, Friday Night School and All-Church Clean-Ups. We look forward to continuing to serve our Lord in the coming year.

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## **Mary Cell Group**

Mei Ng and Lan Liu, Co-leaders; Pastor Jane Lam, Advisor

We chose our group name "Mary" from Mary of Bethany in Luke 10:38-42, hoping to learn from her to seek after Jesus and stay close to him. As most of our members are housewives, the tendency is that we live a really busy lifestyle like Martha; rather, we wish to choose better like Mary—what "will not be taken away from her"—to sit at our Lord Jesus' feet to listen to him and rest.

We were glad to see our group grow a little in the past year; we now have ten members in our group. Our group gathers after worship service once a month on the second or third Sunday. Besides having lunch and catching up with each other, we sing together, have devotional sharing, try to memorize Scriptures together and pray for each other. We also plan for service projects together; we now agreed to cook for Friday Night School students once every two months.

We are thankful when we count our blessings in the Lord. Our wish for the new year is that all members would like to read the Bible more and join Sunday School, so that we may know God more.

May we continue to grow deeper in him! Amen!

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## Men's Fellowship

Nelson Wong

Many of the activities in 2011 reflected on the church theme "Who is My Neighbor?" The year began with a service project where the men of the church participated in the city-sponsored volunteer effort of cleaning and greening the Chinatown community. We worked side by side with other community volunteers in cleaning and clearing tree pits along the Broadway corridor. In the process we got to know who some of our neighbors are and they in turn learned who we are.

Other activities included a Bible study session, led by Don Lam and Robert Mah; a visit to the Chinese American Historical Museum of Santa Clara Valley, organized by Wes Chan; and a guided hike in the Rockville Trails Property in the Fairfield area, arranged by Steve Lessler. The hiking event was a joint event with the Chinese-speaking men.

In all the events we were able to enjoy fellowship with one another while participating in the activities, meet new neighbors in the greater Bay Area, share devotions and enjoy wonderful meals together. We are blessed to have faithful men who enjoy serving and fellowshiping with one another.

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## OYYA

Melanie Low

Our year started off sharing our 2010 joys, achievements and disappointments at James and Marie Chuck's home. We went to the Grand Canyon in May and had a wonderful time. 2011 was an amazing year because by the grace of God we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> at Gulliver's restaurant. We had a PowerPoint slideshow of old pictures highlighting our years together with a lot of laughing and kidding around. We decided to set up an OYYA charitable fund because God has given us so much through the years. This fund will continue yearly "until the last man/woman is standing." Thank you, wonderful God, for all those years of serving, celebrating, loving and crying together. Walking together in God's love, we have been so blessed with James and Marie as our advisors.

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## Semanon

Robert Mah

The Semanon fellowship is comprised of adults and families in their fifties. Our advisors are Paul and Maxine Fong and our meetings are scheduled on the second Saturday of each month. Our goal is to cultivate and nourish spiritual growth and faith in Christ together through practical serving, honest sharing and support. Our calendar events provide a balance between service projects, devotionals and fun social events, which each foster our growth together as a group.

February began the year with our annual "Reflections" meeting held at the home of Paul and Maxine Fong. It is here when we share on an individual basis significant events of the past year and our prayer concerns for the upcoming year.

In May, James Chuck led a devotional on the topic of our changing relationships with our aging parents. We are able to benefit greatly from Dr. Chuck's spiritual guidance and wisdom as well as to share concerns about our own parents.

Service activities for 2011 included our participation in Friday Night School, cooking for the entire month of April; the Spring and Fall church clean-ups, in which the Semanons worked in the sanctuary; and the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon, for which we provided several cooked turkeys. In

August, a group of 20 Semanons, family and friends spent a morning at the San Francisco Food Bank boxing cantaloupes and packaging pasta, followed by a delicious lunch at Goat Hill Pizza. In November, a group of Semanons led by Jimmy Lim participated in the City Impact Thanksgiving Program delivering cooked meals to seniors and other residents of the San Francisco Tenderloin.

Our 2011 social calendar highlight was attending the Broadway show *Billy Elliot* at the Orpheum Theater in August, which was followed by dinner at the Daily Grill Restaurant.

Our year concluded on December 18<sup>th</sup> with our annual Christmas party we hosted at UCSF recreation center. Our guests were members of the Xplorers and Ashira Fellowships. With nearly 100 total attendees, including many young children and our special guest from the North Pole, a wonderful time of singing, eating, games, basketball and fellowship was had by all.

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## Senior Adult/Youngfolks Fellowship

George Lai

The Senior Fellowship/Youngfolks usually meet on the second Friday of every month. Our average attendance is around 12. This year's officers were George Lai and Pauline Chin.

Some highlights:

1. In February we combined a short planning meeting with a program on stress management.
2. In March we met at Piedmont Gardens in Oakland where James Chuck made a presentation on the recent developments of the Chinese churches in the Bay Area. We had lunch at a nearby restaurant.
3. In June the Emmanuel Family Group invited our group to their meeting at Anita Chan's home in Milpitas. Tommy and Bonnie Lim shared with us slides from their Thailand mission trip.
4. Ben and Susan Lee hosted a BBQ in San Anselmo for our July meeting. Because of the unusually less-than-warm summer, the fruits at Ben and Susan's were less plentiful, some of which we took home in previous years. However, we had a great time of fellowship.
5. We completed our annual Seafarer's Ministry Project in September. This was an on-going project during the year, as we knitted caps, sewed bags and purchased and gathered small personal items with which to fill the bags.
6. Many of us, together with others from FCBC's adult fellowship groups, attended the Senior Retreat at Redwood Glen. There were over 30 participants. The main speaker was Dr. John Chuck. Ray Tom led the group in Chi Gong and Tai Chi. After all of the singing and fellowship, prayerful worship, animated small discussion groups, attentive listening of the theme and devotional speakers, all came away inspired and with renewed spirits. We concluded our retreat with Communion and Passing of the Peace.
7. For the second consecutive year, we helped serving lunch at St. Anthony's. We waited on tables and bused dishes. We worked from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., serving over 3,000 diners.
8. We ended the year with our annual Christmas program at Wally and Josie's home. The potluck dishes were outstanding, and the White Elephant gift exchange was hilarious.
9. Another of our on-going projects is the Compassion project, facilitated by Shirlene Nakano. We sponsor an Ethiopian girl now aged 13, and we contributed financial aid towards her education.

We thank God for his presence not only in all of our activities but also in our everyday lives.

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## Senior Center “Keenagers”

Anna and Dick Wong

Each one of our 2011 gatherings included a healthy lunch, healthy attendance, good conversation and enrichment program topics, as follows:

- Meir Schneider, PhD: ***Yoga for the Eyes, Part 2***
- Heatherose Peluso, MSPT: ***Building Better Bones***
- Docent Team of 4: ***Angel Island, Yesterday and Today***
- Phil Choy: ***Jake Lee Paintings Exhibit (Chinese Historical Society of America)***
- Jocelyn DeTorre, RN: ***Independent Living at Home***
- Kaiser Permanente Senior Services Team: ***Driving Safely***
- Patricia Tsang, MD: ***Optimal Healing with Chinese Medicine***
- Nancy Chee, OT: ***Healthy Hands Therapy***
- All Ageless Seniors: ***Holiday Celebration with Jolly Bearded Fellow***

We continue to meet on the second Wednesday of the spring and fall months. Early birds can practice Tai Chi with George Lai. At noon, we all enjoy hot healthy meals by Jimmy Yee. We learn from the program presenters. We thoroughly relish each other’s company! It takes many hands to set up for our gatherings, and everyone *willingly* and *instinctively* lends a helping hand. What Keenagers are we!

Join us, if you are active and ageless! You don't have to be a “senior.”

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## Sojourners

Wes and Sheryl Chan

In 2011, the Sojourners fellowship group, composed of active English-speaking members of FCBC in their 50s and 60s, had a very active year under the leadership of Co-chairs Sheryl and Wes Chan. In our activities this year, we did the following:

- Met in the homes of six of our members, located in six of the seven counties in the Bay Area: Marin, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco and Santa Clara
- Heard and learned about mission trips to Vietnam (Kenley Mew) and Thailand (Tommy and Bonnie Lim); reviewing the milestones of the previous year for our members
- Were educated by the slides from the Steps of Paul Pilgrimage, led by Don Ng and some Sojourners
- Were prodded to maintain and improve our health as we get older by Dr. John Chuck
- Served in our community by working at the Second Harvest Food Bank in San Jose and cooking and serving dinner at Friday Night School for seven evenings in March and November
- Prepared and served dinner at the Friendship Banquet at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, near Western Addition, for 50 people
- Led the cooking and food prep teams for the All-Church Picnic in Sunnyvale in August
- Visited the Marine Mammal Center in Marin County to learn more about protecting the fragile ocean environment and the mammals that live there

- Visited the Angel Island Immigration Center and State Park; had a docent-led tour that gave a better understanding of the travails of our immigrant ancestors and gave insights into our common heritage as Chinese-Americans
- Had a historical and architectural walking tour of Nob Hill, one of San Francisco's elite neighborhoods
- Organized a three-day Weekend Retreat in Sacramento on the topic of "Making the Most Out of Our Retirements, *and* Serving the Lord, Too"

All of the above activities would not have been possible without the active participation and leadership of many members of Sojourners. Because of our stage in life, we have been blessed to celebrate milestone birthdays as well as the births of many grandchildren. However, our faith and endurance have also been tested in the health-related tribulations of some Sojourners and their family members. Romans 5:3-5 has been a source of comfort for us all, for our suffering has given us "hope that will never disappoint." Sojourners have a great enthusiasm and joy in serving the Lord and having loving and caring fellowship with one another. We have strived to foster the 2011 FCBC themes of Social Action and Bible Study.

Peace and blessings to all.

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## Women's Retreat

Joy Shih Ng and Lea Wong

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Retreat was held March 11–13 at San Damiano, Danville, on the theme of "Sticks and Stones: Whatcha' call me?!" Taking the title from an old English proverb, "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me," we spent the weekend talking about our names and all the baggage that comes with them. What were some of the hurtful things we were called? What were some of the names we called ourselves? What does it mean when God calls us by name? How does that comfort us? "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you: I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43: 1).

Our small groups explored different ways God called people in the Bible. Abraham was called to take a risk, to leave behind everything safe and to follow blindly without a hint of a destination. Moses objected to God's call but to each of his objections, God gave a promise. Samuel was called by God but did not recognize it until it was brought to his attention by a mentor, Eli. Deborah was called through the invitation of a community.

We watched the movie *The Namesake* based on the best-selling novel by Jhumpa Lahiri, a story about a new life, a new culture, a new country. The main character Gogol Ganguli is transformed through many life experiences, coming to terms with his given name which he hated but eventually embraced. After Sunday worship, our final act of the weekend was to turn our "sticks" of agony (self-reflections written on sticks throughout the weekend and broken on Sunday morning) into "stones" of hope to take home as a reminder of the promise that comes with Jesus Christ. "Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it" (Revelation 2:17).

We were blessed to have women of varied ages, from college age to seniors! What great mentoring and fellowship! The retreat sessions were led by Lori Lam and Joy Shih Ng. Retreat Coordinator extraordinaire was Lea Wong. Saturday Origami Dolls Workshop was led by Jane Wong. Thank you to the many "angels"—you made it possible for all who wanted to attend the retreat to do so, a dream come true!

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## **Women & Brothers' Society**

Helen Poon, translated by David Wong

We thank our gracious Lord who blessed our group and gave us peace from the beginning to the end of the year 2011. Our weekly attendance was about 14 people.

We have Bible class every Sunday. Our Women & Brothers' Society (W&BS) met every second Sunday with singing, prayers, Bible study, devotion, sharing, business (treasurer's report, planning activities), celebration of members' birthdays and a delicious lunch prepared by Anna Ng.

Besides thanking our God in the year, we have many thanks to sister Anna Ng and brothers Steven Ng and David Wong and for their devoted service in leading the Bible study, singing hymns and praise to God through music, directing singing at the Sunday Chinese Worship Service and preparing the wonderful luncheon. We also thank Joyce Moy for playing the piano to accompany our singing at the worship service.

Our long-time member Mrs. Mae Lee, who taught our Bible study for many years to help us in spiritual growth, passed away on November 28, 2011. Now she is with the Lord resting in peace. We all miss her.

Every year we collect some money to do a project. This year we contributed to Chinese Mission for their gospel work.

We were very fortunate to have Anna and Steven Ng who provided transportation for some of our members to church, the Chinese-speaking retreat and a field trip to Fresno. The Fresno trip was a special one that allowed seven members to enjoy a wonderful and happy time seeing the Christmas light show and solar energy plant, shopping at the big outlet mall and ending with a delicious dinner at Mr. and Mrs. Che Chiu Yee's home.

Our fellowship group is a Chinese-speaking one and is open to everybody. We invite you and your family and friends to come for Bible study, singing and good fellowship. We meet on Sunday, 10:00 a.m. at the Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the FCBC church.

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## **Xplorers Fellowship**

Chris Chin and Jackie Chou

During 2011, we said farewell to Chris Otani; celebrated the births of Rebekah Yow, Quincy Chou and Jonas Ng; and rejoiced at the marriages of Kenneth and Eunice Tom and Anthony and Joy Liu. We continue to be challenged to have activities that are both family-friendly and meaningful for each of our members at the same time.

This year's events included missions sharing by Kenley Mew and Steven Ng, our annual game night, a joint Easter picnic with GIFT fellowship, organic strawberry picking at Swanton Berry Farms and hike at Ano Nuevo, a Giants baseball-themed evening complete with nachos and grilled hot dogs, Thanksgiving tri-tip BBQ and a joint Christmas party with the Semanon and Ashira fellowship groups. We had plenty of hang-out time as well where we just focused on enjoying food and fellowship together. We are thankful for the support of the Ashira fellowship who provided childcare for our children at several of our events this year. The children really love the extra attention they receive!

We look forward to continuing to build strong ties with one another in 2012 and as we support each other through our life journey.



## 2011 Fun (and Some Serious) Highlights

(Answers can be found in the 2011 FCBC Annual Reports)

1. What sport was introduced on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> to some of our kids for the first time? (p. 4)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What do FNS students take home after dinner? (p. 5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who sits in the church office Monday-Thursday evenings as our ambassador to the community? (p. 7) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the name of the fund that we take an offering every month to assist people with urgent financial need? (p. 8) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is “Snuggle Puppy?” (p. 9) \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the theme for 2011 Youth Camp on social justice? (p. 11)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What are the Trustees doing right now to improve our church home? (p. 12)  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Where is Nate Lee doing his Mission Year? (p. 13) \_\_\_\_\_
9. What was the name of the new visual and performing arts exhibit on March 26<sup>th</sup> (p. 14)  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. When we celebrated Pastor Chris Otani’s ministry, she especially requested this cake for her reception? (p. 16) \_\_\_\_\_
11. What did Stephen Hawking say about women? (p. 18) \_\_\_\_\_
12. What fellowship group is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012? (p. 19)  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Who is Mary Cell Group named after? (p. 21) \_\_\_\_\_
14. What did the OYYA do to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? (p. 22)  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What are “Keenagers?” (p. 24) \_\_\_\_\_

### Correct Scores

- |        |                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 1-5    | Welcome to our church!               |
| 6-10   | Where else would you like to serve?  |
| 11-14  | Thank you for your faithful service! |
| All 15 | You read all the reports!            |