Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20
BE CHRIST’S DISCIPLE — 2019
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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FIRST CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORTS
Emmanuel Family Group Christmas lunch @ Danny & Mary Lee’s

Don Ng - Wes Chan - Nate Lee - George Lai
Colby and Eva Ung Share @ The Gathering 2019

17 of our 20 faithful Sojourners and Semanon finish a lovely walk @ Sawyer Trail, followed by a picnic lunch At Laura Meadows Park in San Mateo.

Warren and Alvina Tai, Agape Fellowship with Semanon February 2019
Women’s Retreat 2019

Men’s fellowship (and family) at Sunset Ministry

Clean up Ocean beach → Baptism of Dave Chinessi

Xplorers Christmas 2019 →

Sojourners Christmas 2019

& a picture from how many years ago? ^^-
Agape Bible Study after Spring cleanup & Christmas gathering

Grace Point fellowship

10C Young Couples

Mary Cell Group
K-1 Fun activities
Senior Pastor
Rev. Sebastian Ong

In the past year we responded to the Great Commission wholeheartedly and made disciples of different national origins, generations, cultural and language backgrounds. We baptized some in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and taught all who worshipped and participated in the life of FCBC how to creatively and persistently follow after Christ. Sure enough, we felt the enduring presence of our Lord, cajoling and guiding us all the way!

I am immensely thankful to God and our brothers and sisters who, as followers of Christ, labored together to nurture more of the same. The fact that in 2019, the twelve who publicly professed their faith and joined this corporate body hailed from Friday Night School, Day Camp, Youth Camp, Sunday School and many of our fellowship groups is proof that it is each and every one of us, compelled by the Spirit to employ our uniquely endowed gifts, who have made the end result possible.

It is not just the names we come across in this report. No doubt we cannot take for granted the usual illustrious names that are lifted up year after year, even decade after decade; they are precisely why this congregation is so endearingly durable! But it is also the ones that are not printed, the names of those, disciples no less, who quietly went about serving behind the scenes. Week in and week out, whenever the needs arose—sometimes late at night or early in the morning, from regularly providing food, drinks and snacks to large gatherings, cleaning up after meals, repairing broken equipment and fixtures, working in the sound-room (although at times this is necessarily not quiet!), distributing Christmas gifts, hand-carrying coffee and hot water canisters from one place to another (and back), giving instructions on how to get the grime off the grill to sweeping the sidewalk before worship services—the list goes on and on, the ones among us engaged in such less glamorous tasks are legion. They are equally deserving, if not more, of recognition.

Just as raising a child takes a village, it is the same with growing a disciple. In our case, departments across the board, each functioning in its specific roles, bring their heart, mind and soul to bear on all believers along their faith journeys. In all my years of participating and serving at churches, I have not come across a CE system that is as comprehensive, organized and renewable as ours. The need for old and young to attend Sunday School is ingrained in people’s mind very early on. In time, students become teachers as their children enter the same Christian Education pathway, thus perpetuating the cycle. Our trustees worked tirelessly to provide an optimal and safe setting for the spiritual nourishment of believers. I should know; one of the major projects, the installation of a new heating ventilation air conditioning system for the upper two floors, directly benefits me. I am now able to control the temperature in my office without affecting others. Another initiative that resulted in the installation of surveillance cameras enabled the police to identify the culprit responsible for twice setting fire in front of our church building.

Realizing that Jesus’ command to “go” means we venture out both far and near, the past year saw us sending the largest mission team ever—nineteen of us—to a tribal area in Thailand to build clean water system and teach vacation bible school, financially supporting our own short-term missionaries to the Middle East and Albania, hosting a Kenyan missionary and learning of his mission work, continuing our partnership with CCDC and YMCA to provide gifts for SRO parents and children, and for the first time, combining efforts from both English- and Chinese-speaking members in organizing a community health and evangelistic fair in September.
Our historic Friday Night School is also thriving. Together with the Joshua Fellowship and under the leadership of Pastor Lydia, their ministry of reaching out to the Chinatown community to proclaim the name of Christ by means of preaching, food and fellowship, outing, health and festive events and the equipping of its core leaders is an excellent model for evangelistic endeavors.

In my second year of coming on board, I carried on to intentionally attend as many fellowship gatherings and retreats as time permitted. As it turned out, it is just like the EFG’s theme song, “the more we get together, the happier we’ll be,” I cherish more and more the folks at FCBC and look forward to our joyful time together. It is the true bond among brothers and sisters in Christ that is such a standout. It is not just the way people genuinely support and care for one another, it is also noticing that folks would take the trouble to cross Bays to show up, even when only making it to the very tail-end of fellowship meetings. How I wished I too have the same deep tie with all of you that is only possible with the longevity of Christian friendship!

With regard to our relationship with the wider church, my time at last year’s ABC Biennial brought greater awareness of our denomination’s organizational structure. The inspiring keynote and workshop messages, friendship building, and the refreshing change of pace had me eagerly expecting the next big get-together in Puerto Rico. The MMBB-sponsored Asian American Pastors Colloquium was a felicitous opportunity to learn from fellow colleagues serving in the same context. In the three-year commitment to the group we are responsible for a one-time presentation on a topic that is relevant to the church we are pastoring at.

In part to jumpstart our discernment as to whether GHC remains a viable region for us to be affiliated with, I have been attending the monthly cluster meetings since June of last year. It is a cohort of pastors from nearby GHC churches who covenanted to render mutual collegial support and—this turned out to be what really drew me to the group—study and exchange insights from the new frontiers in Christian leadership and church growth. I find the book we are to read and discuss, *Canoeing the Mountain*, to be most convincing of the need for a paradigm shift in carrying out church ministry in the 21st-century. Deacon Che-chiu Yee and I also attended our region’s annual business meeting and celebration at Modesto in early October during which I was introduced to Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Tim Brown and Executive Director of Recruitment and Development Rev. Gilbert Foster and became acquainted with GHC’s history, ethos and mission.

Last but not least, the ongoing work of enhancing working relationship among staff has been my first priority. Recognizing the goal of cultivating organizational health of a church must start from the top, no effort has been spared in the years passed in addressing dysfunctions at the staff level and the same resolve will be sustained in the near future until palpable change is detected. In this regard, the support and trust afforded me by the deacons (and in particular the Chinese-speaking contingent) has been the most reassuring sign that Higher Hands are indeed leading us in the process. I am most hopeful our labor will not be in vain.

I must also take this opportunity to thank the church staff for the work that they do: Wendi Lin as our Church Administrator who always make sure things get done on time; Marian Hom, our Bookkeeper who is never late on paying an invoice; our team of custodians who keep our church home clean. And I thank Pastors Peter Lee, Chris Otani and soon-to-be-ordained Lydia for their dedication in serving as the hands and feet of Christ at FCBC.

2019 was just like what Jesus promised, “and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Because of that we can look ahead to 2020 with great expectation. All thanks be to God!
Chinese-Speaking Ministries

Rev. Peter Lee

We give thanks to our Lord that there are committed leaders to work together to serve in our church. They serve in different areas included boards and committees to help extending the Kingdom of God. Some even may not know Chinese so well, they are humble to pray, support and stand firm in the faith to help for the ministries.

We are blessed to have the worship committee to lead the ministry of glorifying God every Sunday. Becky Chen coordinated and assigned ushers, MC, song leaders and other helpers for our worship every Sunday. In May, we held training sessions to support leaders serving in worship. The deacons provided help in Holy Communion and advice in various areas. We finished the preaching series on Romans in April and taught in depth the doctrine of soteriology. As planned, we spent eight months preaching on Ephesians and teaching about how to apply our faith in church, family and the world. We started the last chapter in December and will conclude the series soon. The worship team committed to lead songs twice a month and practiced year-round. Their commitment set models for us how to worship God – be prepared and present the best to our Lord.

We also have a dedicated team to teach the adult Sunday School. Deacon Che-chiu Yee leads the team that includes Pastor Peter, Deborah Mok, Sarah Wong, Joseph Lee and Sharon Wei. They study the Bible - book by book, chapter by chapter, paragraph by paragraph and word by word. We appreciate their rigorous attitude towards Bible study and long-term commitment to serve in the teaching ministry. It helps to build the congregation with strong faith. Summer series on discipleship training was held from Jul 21 to Sep 22. We give thanks for the many faithful teachers and for the fruitful experience among teachers and students in Adult Sunday School.

The summer retreat was held on Aug 10 and 17. The first day was a great outdoor event. We went to the seaside in Tiburon and Museum of the American Indian to learn about God’s creation and human history. We gave thanks for the good weather, good food and good attendance for the event. It was also a good opportunity to foster the relationships among church people. We all enjoyed the gathering. The second retreat day we invited Rev. Johann Lai to lead us for two seminars. He preached on the Book of Haggai to encourage us to serve the Lord from our heart. The summer retreat always draws people closer to our Lord as well as one another. It helps to build a good foundation in our spiritual life.

We joined all fellowship groups unless there was time conflict, provided guidance and support to group leaders and participants. We serve different age groups and people with diverse backgrounds. Newcomers are invited to join appropriate groups to learn from each other. All participants encounter joy and sad time that helps their growth in faith.

We work with the Christian Education Board and committees to initiate and develop programs for new immigrant ministries as required in the pastor’s job descriptions. The outreach minister fosters and implements the ministries with great achievement shown in her report while we got support from the church leaders. We thank God and have confidence to keep the legacy to serve our Lord in unity.

After our church approved to sponsor Lydia’s ordination, we were involved in the growth process provided by the Region of Growing Healthy Churches. The process helped the candidates and their spouses to grow as a result of deep evaluation, study and review through surveys, tests, counseling and interviews. Rev. Dr. David Rose is an experienced licensed psychologist and associate professor of Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. He went through the process with us that lasted for several months. It was a meaningful continuing education as we reviewed our call to ministries and vowed to stand strong and firm in faith to face the challenges nowadays. We spent time to respond to
surveys, read books and materials, went through tests and participated in interviews that helped us to grow in our ministries.

This was really a fruitful year. We have confidence to serve our Lord together with faith and love in the coming year.

**Associate Pastor**  
Rev. Chris Otani

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples’”  
*John 15:8*

“ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” *John 15:4*

I can’t believe that this year has passed so quickly. Honestly, I feel like I just started! Since rejoining the staff in March 2019, I jumped in with both feet to the rushing rivers of ministry at FCBC.

It is always a joy to be at the Women’s Retreat every March and if you haven’t been yet, I encourage you to give it a try. It is a wonderfully warm place to fellowship with the ladies at FCBC and learn and grow together. March is also the time that Day Camp planning goes into full force.

It is a privilege and joy to work with the Day Camp directors, Curtis Ung and Eryn Lum and so thankful for Eva Ung’s full participation as well. This year was a bit different as many of the counselors (including the whole Ung family) left to go to Thailand on missions with 2 weeks of Day Camp left. But God provided and everyone stepped up to help Day Camp finished strong.

Then it was on to Youth Camp and it was great working with Jon and Joyce Ng and Linda Park. We had approximately 15 youth make first time commitments to Christ and at least 4 youth recently got baptized after making a commitment to it at Youth Camp. Thank you for supporting and praying for this fruit-bearing ministry!

Last but not least, Camp Ohana rounded out the busy summer and I was glad to give the chapel message there and amazed to see so many families, some of which I hadn’t met until that weekend.

Besides all of the retreats and camps, it has been my passion to create Bible studies for the college and young adults as well as a women’s study that meets over the internet. We also started a college Sunday school class and I enjoy teaching at the adult Gathering Sunday school on occasion.

I am so thankful for the many faithful youth leaders (junior high and senior high) we have at FCBC and I have been endeavoring to provide them support. We expanded our Friday Youthtalks ministry to weekly and with the help of people like John Tom and Michelle Ong and various fellowship groups, dinner has been provided. Aaron Tom has been doing a tremendous job with the youth and his team has been working with the youth for many years with great results.

One of the aspects of my new job title, Associate Pastor, that I have most enjoyed is being a bigger part of the English worship service. I have much appreciation for the many musicians and accompanists and worship leaders that serve every week. My passion is to preach God’s word clearly and grateful for the opportunity to speak on a consistent basis.

So yes this has been a busy year and I am thankful for the Spirit bearing fruit in all the various ways and ministries and pray that this brings glory to God. But I also quote John 15:4 to remind myself that we can only bear fruit, not by working harder, but by remaining in Christ.

I am excited to celebrate 140 years of God’s faithfulness to FCBC and looking forward to a fruitful 2020 as we strive to remain in Christ together!
Community Outreach Minister
Pastor Lydia Yeung

We are so blessed to have Friday Night School Core Group retreat on Jan 11-12. It was a great time of training, planning, fellowshipping and fostering the spirit of teamwork. We worked with church leaders to train people to serve our Lord and their performance was excellent.

We shared with both congregations in February about the need for outreach ministries and recruited people to join our ministries to serve our Lord together. We were pleased that people from different congregations committed to serve in Friday Night School as teachers, teaching aids, guest speakers, program organizers and kitchen crews. The ministry has kept our church strong and united.

Reception ministry happened every month to reach out to people in the community. We not only open our church to visitors, but also went into the community to meet people in playgrounds, streets and their homes. We also visit our students who attended the Night School. Though we are squeezed in the small rooms, we felt the warm of knowing more about each other and keeping close relationship to share faith with them.

Grace Point was held every other Wednesday for Bible study and praise dancing with new believers. It is good follow-up work for our outreach ministries. People’s faith was confirmed and strengthened by this ministry.

We brought Friday night school students to Brentwood for fruit picking and recreational activities on Jun 1. All tickets were sold out a month before and the participants were very pleased that our church had provided and planned this outdoor program well. We also partnered with Christian Circle to provide training for community visitation and the opportunity for the visitation of SRO families.

The local mission event “Jesus Loves Chinatown” was held from Jul 29 to Aug 3. More than ten churches joined the ministry to share faith in the community. We also sponsored a gospel gathering in the morning on Aug 3 to provide opportunities for the participants to practice what they learnt in the event. More than 50 newcomers joined the gathering and they expressed interest in the faith. Several attended our Worship Service on the following Sunday as they committed their faith in Christ. There is a great need for the Gospel in the community. We need more leaders to know the community members, to care for and share our faith with them.

In the beginning of the fall semester in Friday Night School, we provided workshops in Joshua fellowship to encourage more people to join. There were four workshops on health issues and people appreciated our efforts to share our faith in the community:

October 4 Precaution for Stroke
October 11 Chinese medicine update
October 18 Eyes protection
October 25 Common drugs in daily life

We held a successful health event on Oct 13 with the help of our guest speaker Rev. Dr. Tim Tin. Many people joined the seminar and learned about the Word of God via health exercises. The queue for consultation lasted for hours and we did not finish all the program until 7 PM. We have sponsored the event in the past few years and helped the participants to learn faith through health exercises and seminars. We are pleased that our church people invited their families and friends to join the event together.
There was a Christmas celebration held on Dec 20 for Night School students and our neighbors. People around us were invited to join the dinner and celebration together. We shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with them in the event. People filled the whole sanctuary and fellowship hall. Children and seniors joined the joyful celebration together. We are pleased to get the support from both congregations to help for dinner and programs, especially the involvement of our youth to serve together.

We went into the community to share the love of Christ in the afternoon on Dec 22. The caroling lasted 4 hours and involved five buildings. Christmas songs were shared as we visited the people in our neighborhood. Caroling was more than singing songs. Their rooms were filled with warm love from our church members. Gifts were donated to support the outreach caroling event. We are grateful that some people committed to faith in the event and they are invited to join our church. The caroling event has been run for years and our neighbors appreciate the caring work.

We thank God for guiding our ministries and pray we serve together with love in the coming year.

**Board of Deacons**

Lori Lam & Jon Ng

Entering 2019, the incumbent members of the Board of Deacons strongly desired to continue serving with the conviction as summarized by our ex-deacon chair, Andrew Ko, in his 2018 annual report: “to respect whatever differences we may have while at the same time affirming the central truths of the Gospel message we all adhere to.” Taking this attitude one step further, we recognized that if we were called by God to serve in this capacity, we would do so, by honoring God in our actions and efforts.

With the new Deacon Board, Pastor Sebastian arranged a Deacons Retreat early in the year. As the facilitator, he led us in bible scripture study and various exercises that allowed us to learn more about one another—our backgrounds on how we came to FCBC, how we approach and process ideas and thoughts—these exercises enabled us to recognize our different personalities, a better appreciation and respect of one another, to grow spiritually closer and enabling us to work more effectively as a Board throughout the year. Your 2019 Board of committed brothers and sisters in Christ were: Butch Chan, Charlene Fong, Lori Lam, Ben Man, Jonathan Ng, Warren Tai, Nelson Wong, Che-Chiu Yee, Charles Yong.

In addition to church topics and issues needing to be addressed, some of the highlights from the year included:

- Welcomed Associate Pastor Chris Otani, executed her installation service and providing support to our Pastoral staff as they continue to develop a strong team that will be a model of unity for our 10am and 11:20am congregations.
- Supported Pastor Lydia’s ordination process with our ABC region, Growing Healthy Churches (GHC), and culminating in her successful completion of the requirements and approval in November!
- Supported the following new events:
  - A Hospitality Training Workshop led by Mr. Edward Litwin on how the English-speaking branch of the church can show hospitality to one another and particularly newcomers
  - A successful all church Community Health Event
- Adopted an 18-month plan to have our Pastoral staff evaluate our ABC regional affiliation with GHC
Applauded the Emergency Preparedness committee comprised of members of our major boards (Nelson Wong - chair, Charlene Fong, Bill Chin, Bonnie Lim, Shirlene Nakano, Anita Yong) for putting together the comprehensive emergency procedure manual for our church. Thank you!

Blessed to have welcomed new members to our church family through baptism or transfer: Riki Kwan, Marybeth Ong, Richard Tom, Kelvin Lee, Dave Chisessi, Madison Chou, Lily Dong, Andy Yao, Eryn Lum, Megan Lum and excited to support them as they continue their faith journey with us. Saddened by the loss of two of our long-time church members - James Chan and David Wong, and while they will be deeply missed, we draw comfort that James and David are in the presence of our Lord.

As we move into 2020, our prayers are that God will continue to show favor on FCBC, and we, our entire church staff and congregations will truly embrace the 2020 theme of “unity in Christ”. We are grateful for the privilege to have served as your Co-Chairs on the Board for 2019.

### Board of Christian Education
Anita Yong & Christine Ko

The focus of the Board of Christian Education, borrowing from the words of Reverend Chris Otani:

> “Jesus’ mission statement to the disciples:
> ‘Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ Matthew 28:19-20

What are we doing?

**We are striving to make disciples who:**

1) Know God deeply - become believers, grow as believers through Bible study, prayer, worship
2) Love one another genuinely - fellowship, events/activities; experience supportive community (time, experiences, transparency)
3) Serve the community faithfully - service projects; being equipped for ministry, opportunities to serve; stewardship
4) Share the gospel joyfully - evangelism, missions

On our board this year were Jasmine Erikson, Betty Jin, Christine Ko, Diana Lee, Rebecca Lee, Shirlene Nakano, Alvina Tai, and myself. It was a great joy and fun to serve together. We learned a lot about what it means to serve Christian Education and were in awe of the commitment of all the people who have made Sunday Schools and Fellowships so great. While the efforts of board are always ongoing and developing. The following are some of the items we focused on:

Digital accessibility for CE Binder
Sunday School Liaisons – Sunday school survey
Fellowship Liaisons -Fellowship survey
Storage cleanup & reorganization in conjunction with Trustees
Revised and Updated Transportation Policy
Created Emergency Response Committee
Two Fire drills
Document Scope and Sequence for Sunday Schools
   - Elementary
   - Junior High
   - Senior High
Create Jr High/Sr High Scope and sequence subcommittee

Nursery & Pre-K – Diana Lee, Becky Lessler

Nursery and Pre-K teachers are honored to provide childcare on the mezzanine level for the worshipping congregations.

We have every age except “the terrible two’s” and true Pre-K children. Ada’s younger sibling is due in June. Baby Livia is the youngest, with four supervising older brothers. The “pack” of Zoelle, Ada, and Kate are still ignoring Peter, who is starting to crawl and coming up fast! Rhys and Faith form the “intelligentsia” but don’t laud it over the others. Visitors add to the ranks every now and then, so it gets pretty busy up there!

We play Jesus music and paint Jesus pictures and start Jesus books but that attention span is still pretty short. Know that love and protection prevail; we are honored by the trust of parents and know God’s assurances for us all.

Blueberries are the fruit of choice. Thank you, Uncle Chris.

The young children take great comfort seeing their parents at worship through the big picture windows. We are sure they are learning as much about Jesus from the love of teachers, and sensing the importance of worship to their parents, than any Bible story.

We are thankful, Trustees, for repairs to the walls and installation of a door stop. We appreciate the fire evacuation drills and attention to our physical safety. We can’t wait for playground construction to be over; a view through dirty brown windows of giant dirt holes and portable toilets can only get more beautiful.

Debbie Chong, Maddie Dong, Chris Jensen, John Tom, Rosalie Jing, and friends Lea Wong, Jasmine Erickson, Marian Hom, your hearts we treasure for your love and ministry. Thank you.

K-1 – Carol Jensen

Our class is made up of a core group of children who come faithfully each Sunday - Joshua, Zoe, Dylan, Maddox and Isaac - children of our church members. We are also joined by visiting grandchildren of church members, community kids, and friends and cousins of our students. This is one of the most welcoming group of children - kind and encouraging, inclusive, and appreciative of each other. They wouldn't be here without the faithfulness of their families who bring them each Sunday to learn about the love of Jesus. We enjoy Auntie Becky's sticker art, Auntie Jennifer and Auntie Jasmine's unique craft projects, reading picture books (Mo Willem's books about Elephant and Piggie are our favorites), and cooking with Auntie Melanie and Auntie Sophia - macaroni and spam and peas in chicken broth, cutting apples for applesauce, snowman pancakes, and resurrection bread. In addition to food for our tummies, we get food for our souls. The David C. Cook curriculum emphasizes scripture lessons through Bible stories, and weaves in values like faith, discipleship, and prayerfulness. Auntie Alvina is an all-star Bible storyteller and uses her deep knowledge of the Bible and her energy to bring the stories to life, often supplementing with gems from her iPad; kids earn surprises by actively participating in the learning time. We are fortunate to have Auntie Christine lead us in song while playing the guitar, regular visits from our pastors, and enjoy joining the worship service on occasion to hear choir anthems and see baptisms. One special activity this year was helping to decorate for the Thanksgiving Luncheon. We're so grateful for our faithful teachers and helpers. Special thanks to Kyle Lessler and Chris Chin for taking the kids last March so teachers could attend the Women's Retreat!

Children’s Ministries – Charlene Fong

Joel 1:3: “Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.” We are blessed to have about 14 school age children, several are children of
parents and grandparents of members of our church. The Children’s ministry continues to provide Christian education to children in grades 2 through 5 on the fourth floor of the church. The children are growing and learning, maybe not so much from memorizing Bible verses, but more so from the experiences of learning to love one another in the midst of conflict and learning that God is always loving them no matter what.

We are grateful for our teachers, including Betty Jin, Rebecca Lee, Ben Chau, Mei Wong, and Charlene Fong. The teachers are grateful for the opportunity to serve and for the parents who bring the children to us. After a time of crafts, games, videos, puzzles and play, the children learn Bible lessons in creative ways to make the lessons relevant and meaningful to their lives. Special thanks to Joe Chan and Elaine Tom who prepare waffle snacks and to Betty for having fresh fruit for the children every week.

This year we miss going out to recess due to the on-going renovation of the Chinese Playground, but we’ve learned that we can still have fun fellowship together indoors.

**Jr. High** – Christine Ko

Our Jr High Ministry is in its third year with Jackie Chou, Josh Chou, Joyce Ng, Anita Yong, Andrew Ko and Christine Ko leading the way with teaching, worship, crafts, cooking and snacks! At the beginning of 2019, we explored who Jesus in a study through the gospels. We followed that up with the What’s Up Curriculum, which covered basic Christian faith, including who God is, who we are, idolatry, repentance, and forgiveness. We did a short study on the book of Esther and completed the year with several advent studies. We look forward to going through a Navpress book titled Respectable Sins in the next few months.

We had two junior high retreats/sleepovers in 2019 - a Winter Retreat in Sacramento in February and a pool party sleepover at the Ngs in July. During the holiday months, the Jr Highers also baked cookies for the Christmas workshop. We are also thrilled that one of our 8th graders, Madison Chou, was baptized in December!

If you are ever looking for food or snacks, pop your head into our class and you might find us doing a tea tasting, frying up spam, or making sushi hand rolls. We are planning a retreat on January 18-19 and look forward to a year of learning, sharing, growing and eating!

**Sr. High** – Mel Ng

This year, YouthTalks and Senior Highs aimed to walk through life together a little more intentionally. In order to do that, we celebrated life events together, such as graduations and birthdays, and supported each other’s performances, such as choir concerts, plays, and musicals! We reached out to our recent graduates who were away at college by making gift boxes filled with words of encouragement, snacks from home, and carefully made crafts. During the holiday season, we helped serve food at the Thanksgiving luncheon, as well as Friday Night School’s Christmas dinner, and made popcorn chicken for the Christmas Workshop! Lastly, we closed out our calendar year with our very first outreach lock-in event. Our youth were asked to invite friends who have never attended our church before to hang out, have fun, and sleep over. We had a successful Disneyland simulation, an adapted message from C.S. Lewis’ Mere Christianity, and topped off our night with a homemade boba bar complete with another round of popcorn chicken! We look forward to what 2020 will bring and can’t wait for more adventures together!

**Day Camp** – Curtis Ung!

Although Day Camp changes every year, some things tend to stay the same. The love and relationships that form between our staff, counselors, and campers are what draw our brothers and
sisters to come back the following summer. What inevitably changes are the gathering of campers and counselors who make up the day camp program as students graduate from one grade to the next. Our counselors gave their all to their campers and were committed to caring for them with a Christ-like mindset. Throughout the six weeks of camp, counselors taught VBS lessons, carried out lunch duties, helped lead field trips and daily camp games for the children to enjoy. Although there were challenges at various points concerning government lunch delivery, the staff were always on their toes to ensure that the children were healthy and happy. All in all, the 2019 FCBC Day Camp program continued to be a loving community that has left an impact of love on both campers and staff alike, showing that Jesus's love is clearly evident and truly proven.

Youth Camp – Joyce Ng

Once again we thank the church for their continued and vibrant support of this most important summer youth ministry. We were privileged to have had both Pastors Chris Otani and Sebastian Ong ministering to 87 campers that week where 16 kids accepted Christ! Praise be to God!

Youth Camp 2019, "Reckless Love," was directed by Jonathan and Joyce Ng and Linda Park. Our hope was to bring focus to the kids, their community, and how God connects us all together through the generations. Subtle, yet thoughtful changes were made to the morning schedule to focus on the campers' testimonies during Chapel and the guest speaker's messages during morning learning everyday. Instead of afternoon small groups, the campers attended seminars which included hiking and body worship, cooking, bible study, pastoral conversation and encouragement baskets for those who can no longer physically attend church.

Youth Camp was a successful outreach. We welcomed 20 rookies (first time attendees). This represented 23% of the camp! 10 different churches were represented at camp this year; these friends of FCBC made up 50% of camp.

Camp was fully equipped this year with 35 staff + support staff in total. Many thanks to all who spent countless hours preparing for their cabins or programs. Camp could not happen in the creative, thoughtful, and spiritual spaces without their generosity to this ministry.

Wendy Lew Toda, an artist and life coach from San Jose, was our guest speaker focusing on the Parable of the Lost Sheep from Luke 15:4-6 where the Shepherd leaves his 99 sheep to find his single lost sheep. She talked about what it means to be lost and found in Christ and that these conditions can exist even when we know Christ. Yet the Shepherd loves and desires our company during every season of our lives.

It has been an honor serve God and the church through camp this past year, and we look forward to Youth Camp 2020!

THE GATHERING, - Barbara Lym thegatheringfcbc.blogspot.com

The Sunday Gathering meet weekly, 10am -11am @ The YMCA

Our class is devoted to all adults from the English-Speaking Congregation but not limited to and continues to encourage any interested participants to join our class.

2019 brought a wonderful opportunity to share our faith and to grow closer to God. The Gathering originated as a time to spend together growing closer to God through song, scripture and testimony. From January through Summer our leadership was based on Scripture, personal testimony and a variety of guest speakers outside our Church.

Alex Lee opened 2019 and shared her personal experience at Urbana (2018 Mission Conference) and what mission involvement really meant to her.
Rick Wong joined us a couple weeks after to share his past experiences in Thailand and voiced his confusion, love and frustration. Although God called him to be there, he often wondered what his true purpose and meaning was while he was there. In the end, he felt he was ready to go back again, which he did this past summer (2019) and plan to invite him back with an update.

Charles Yong from the Chinese speaking congregation also recently returned from Ecuador and shared how he was rejected early in the application process but persevered. In the end his final message was that the relationship between you and God and the people you meet are the utmost importance in life.

Aaron Tom and Melanie Ng led our group in a two-part series, “Are You Enough?” a wonderful “back in time” experience. We were asked to participate in a number of activities that forced us to feel either happy, accomplished, discouraged, left out or humiliated as a young person might feel as they struggle through youth hood. This session allowed us to dig deep into who we were and how we handled uncomfortable experiences. As a youth or even an adult, we are constantly doubting ourselves or people in our lives may instill doubt. Learning to overcome doubt with God by our side proved to be an exercise that was quite meaningful.

Don Lam took a moment to share his spiritual routine which helps him to manage his crazy life as the leader of his very established architectural firm. Morning prayer, yoga/meditation, light stretching, balance exercises help him to start his day. As a group he invited us to experience his routine and we all had an opportunity to share our own.

Jackie Ma, Rodney Tom and Chris Chin joined us for two consecutive Sundays sharing excerpts from “Letters to the Church” written by well-known pastor and author, Francis Chan. A more in-depth summary of their findings can be seen on our blog.

Victor Low opened with John 20:24-29; “…do not doubt but believe…blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Victor talked about creative discipline. He brought us back to the days of the YMCA and the challenges of growing up in Chinatown.

At the beginning of Summer, Don Ng talked about every day alters and reflections on a disciplined life. Don, Senior Pastor of FCBC, also served as past president/VP of the American Baptist Churches knows a little bit about faith and discipline. More details/video from his presentation on our blog.

As we approach the final weeks of 2019, we have begun a structured Bible teaching curriculum that will flow through June 2020. Pastors Ong and Otani toggle weeks with alternating remaining weeks with one of the members of The Gathering lead our discussion. Expect insightful and enjoyable group discussion married with powerful lessons from the Bible.

Last, but certainly not least is our legendary FCBC teacher, George Lai. We feel a tremendous amount of gratitude towards George’s dedication to the Bible as we have all learned tidbits here and there, and continues to joyfully share Bible stories and carefully inserts his wit and wonder. George will share a full session every 1st Sunday and will tell us a Bible story and maybe even introduce a song/verse! Weekly, be sure not to miss, “5 minutes with George” at 10am SHARP.

As we close out 2019, we welcome 2020 anew and all pray to grow closer to God through our experiences together.
Over the last two years, it has been our honor and pleasure to chair the Board of Trustees, working cooperatively with a group of hard-working and faithful people, duly elected to the board or not, who have been dedicated to maintaining the church home. Our mission was to provide a safe, secure, pleasant and comfortable environment for the members and friends of the church and community.

Our projects this year ranged from dealing with the very large to very small. The large project was the installation of a new Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) system at a cost of $73,818.00 funded by the David and Julia Lu Memorial Fund. Steve Lessler was the lead on this project.

The small projects were attempts to outsmart the rodents and ants in the building by calling an exterminator, placing traps and bait throughout the building and developing awareness in everyone to store food in thick plastic containers or cans and keep their work areas clean.

Other projects included the following in no particular order and is an incomplete listing:

Replacing ceiling fixtures in the Fellowship Hall (Harry Lin*); upgrading electrical service on the 4th floor to provide adequate power (Harry Lin*); building a storage cart in the 3rd floor Sunday School room (Arlen Ung*); upgrading the Wifi service throughout the building (Guy Takahashi*); replacing mini blinds when necessary (Laura Pang, the blind specialist); replacing batteries for all of the emergency lights in the building (Mike Wong*); maintaining the sanctuary projector (Mike Wong); replacing kitchen faucets (Joe Chan*); re-lighting the kitchen pilot light (Joe Chan*, Nelson Wong*); refinishing and staining the front door (Norman Chin*), monitoring toilet issues and getting professional assistance if necessary (Bill Chin); building shelves in Wendi’s office (Norman Chin*).

* not a member of the Board of Trustees

Special credit goes to three people, Bill Chin, Steve Lessler and Wendi Lin. To Bill, special thanks for his invaluable knowledge and insight about almost everything in the building and what to do about any problem. We’re glad that he is back on the board. To Steve, who didn’t want to chair the board but dreams big and is always willing to be there with his toolbox to fix things. To Wendi, for her administrative skills in dealing with vendors, contractors and knowing when to make phone calls to PGE and/or any other city departments.

At the end of last year, the Board of Trustees contracted with City Alarm to install a monitoring system and surveillance camera on the perimeter of the building. It gives us great comfort to know that this was a good decision, because with the detection of the security cameras, the SFPD was able to apprehend the person who set two fires in front of our building in the middle of the night. Smoke entered through the current grate and permeated the building when staff arrived in the morning.

Nearing completion in early 2020 is the Fire Escape project which includes repair work to the current fire escape for safety and security and building a cage around the ladder from the third floor to the roof on Sacramento Street side of the building. In addition, because of the fires, we will include a better grate to cover the open space under the building. This project will be covered by the Building Sinking Fund.

Kudos to Debbie Chong and Bonnie Lim for taking the lead on the Church Clean-up Days in the spring and the fall, respectively. Approximately 40 to 50 members gathered each time to help get the building in sparkling condition supplementing the regularly contracted work of the professional janitorial service.
For future consideration:

- Replacing the moveable partitions on the fourth floor. Frequent repairs bills may justify replacement in the near future.
- Professional cleaning of the sanctuary ceiling due to safety concerns for our own members trying to reach the high ceiling and light fixtures.
- Painting the building interior.

In saying thanks to some, one always risks leaving out others. If your name was not mentioned when it should have been, know that you were appreciated. The work of the board depends on many. We also need the sight and vision of our members who see work that needs to be done and bring it to the attention of the trustees. Again, it has been our honor to serve God through the Board of Trustees.

**Missions Committee**

Alan Fong

The Missions Committee continues to support our church theme in 2019 to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations” by presenting the gospel both locally and abroad. To this end, we have provided financial and spiritual support to Marcus Dong and Andrew Yong, who went on medical and evangelical trips to the Middle East and Albania. This year also featured the Thailand Water Project, which sent 19 members of our church and friends to Thailand to help build a water tank and to assist in vacation church school.

We continue our commitment to the local community by partnering with the Chinatown Community Development Center to provide gifts for children living in SRO’s. This year we received 100 gift tags which members of our congregation took and returned with brand new toys and clothes.

In addition, we also worked with the YMCA to provide gift bags for SRO families. Bonnie Lim, Nancy Guan, and Magdalene Lee of the Missions Committee took it upon themselves to purchase gift bags, gift cards, socks, noodles and other items and assembled these for distribution at the YMCA. The gifts for both the CCDC and YMCA were distributed at holiday celebrations (Dec 15 and 21 respectively) during which pastoral staff led carol singing and FCBC volunteers assisted where needed.

The Missions Committee is committed to supporting our members as they seek ways to serve the global community by spreading the gospel. Ideas for future mission trips abroad as well as continuing to have an impact locally remains a critical part of our mission in Chinatown.

**Serving Coffee That Makes A Difference—The Lanna Coffee Project**

Shirlene Leong Nakano

A QUIZ

What do the following have in common?

1. Kim Brown and Kit Ripley
2. Kim Brown, the Juanes Family and International Ministries
4. Shirlene Nakano, Debbie Chong, Wallace Choy, Carolyn Hee, Howard Lee, Bonnie Lim and Tommy Lim

Answers:

1. *Kim Brown is the Director of The House of Love (HOL), a home for women and children who are HIV positive or are afflicted with AIDS.*
Kit Riple is the Director of The New Life Centre (NLC), a place where women can learn new skills while recovering from the effects of labor exploitation. Both homes are beneficiaries from the sales profits of as well as direct donations to the Lanna Coffee Project.

2. In 2020, Kim Brown will be retiring from the House of Love after many years as American Baptist Convention’s International Ministries’ missionary. The Juanes Family--Alise, Mark and children, Sydney, Gavin, and Kolin--will be the new missionaries to replace Kim.

3. The House of Love, The New Life Center and the Juanes Family are all line items on the FCBC 2020 Budget.

4. All are members of the Lanna Coffee Project of FCBC. During 2019, we sold approximately 200 bags of coffee grown by northern Thai farmers and received $4,506 in donations, which will go directly to HOL and NLC. We periodically donate coffee to FCBC events and to Joe’s Café. We are passionate about our work of spreading the love of Jesus Christ to the people of Thailand.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Lanna Coffee Project!

Join us in our mission! EVERY SIP SAVES LIVES!

Music & Performing Arts Committee
Andrew Ko

The worship experience at Sunday morning services continued to be enhanced over the past year by a variety of both stirring and reflective choir performances under the dedicated direction of our talented choir directors Wendy Quan and Victor Low. Additionally, the men’s choir sang at a celebration of life for a friend of FCBC, Henry Lee, and a special choir performed at both the Good Friday and Christmas Eve services. We also periodically enjoyed the beautiful handbell choir performances directed by Lawrence Pang, as well as additional special music provided at times by some of our congregation’s younger members.

In the coming year, our committee hopes to encourage and train more of our church members to help lead, play, and accompany for worship (we know the talent is there!); incorporate additional special music into service; and think about ways to integrate other performing arts into the worship experience.

Finally, we want to extend our deepest appreciation to Joyce Moy, who has faithfully served as accompanist for both worship services and for the choir for so many years. While she is semi-retiring from her duties, we still expect to see her back behind the piano from time to time during this coming year!

Pastoral Relations Committee
Joel Jang

An “Ambassador” for the Pastor

Since a PRC member nor the committee has the capacity to initiate or make church policies, we function primarily for the wishes and benefits of our pastors. We invite church members to channel their concerns and suggestions to the respective PRC members. When permission has been clearly obtained from the concerned person after a conversation, the PRC member may share the new information with the pastor or, if deemed appropriate, further to the Deacon chairperson. As if holding an “ambassadorial role,” the PRC person must always uphold the highest integrity and personal trust to
preserve the dignity of the pastor and the responsibility of the membership. After all, we are all members of the same body.

**Role of a PRC Member**

Listed below are some of the primary tasks we should practice as a PRC member:

- Pray regularly for the personal well-being of our pastor and his / her family.
- Maintain an open-door posture for church members to approach you for a conversation.
- Act as a confidant to the pastor, especially in helping to resolve personal and pastoral difficulties.
- Develop a sense of trust and a safe place between the PRC member and the pastor.
- Listen alertly for church members’ concerns and follow up appropriately.
- Encourage the pastor to take time for study, vacation time, and time to spend with associates.

**2020 PRC Members**

With thanks to all who have agreed to serve in this capacity, our pastors had carefully secured the commitments of the following PRC members. We are all honored to have been called to serve.

Pastor Sebastian Ong: Becky Lessler, Milton Dong, Joyce Ng
Pastor Peter Lee: Howard Lee, Joel Jang
Pastor Chris Otani: Diana Lee, Anita Yong
Pastor Lydia Yeung: Victor Low, Alvina Tai

**Sr. Pastor-Scheduled Committee Meetings**

There was no committee meeting conducted in 2019. However, individual conversations with the respective pastors and their PRC contacts did occur. PRC members are urged to continue meeting with their pastors regularly. The first committee meeting for 2020 has been scheduled for February 2, 2020.

**Invitation to Share**

Church members are encouraged to share their suggestions and comments with the PRC members. Share with us with your heart felt concerns to improve our mutual ministry. Glory to God!

**Sports Ministry**

John Tom

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 would find the love and grace of God through these activities and fellowship time. This year, we sponsored the golf tournament.

Butch Chan and Joel Jang organized the golf tournament in which 20 men and women played golf at the Metropolitan Golf Links in Oakland on July 12. Afterwards, the tournament coordinators, Butch and Joel, delivered a check for $3,863 to support FCBC Day Camp and Youth Camp scholarships.

Unfortunately, we were unable to sponsor any teams for the CCU summer basketball or volleyball this year.

We want to thank the golfers and donors who supported the golf tournament and FCBC ministries.
**Agape Cell Group**  
Anita & Charles Yong

We had a great year of working and serving together as couples and families. Our highlight this year was to serve in Friday Night School ministry together, cooking, leading songs, and playing games. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to share the gospel and love of Christ with many night school students and their families. Seeing the joy and smile on their faces was an encouragement for us all as servants. We also built church unity through various joint fellowships, including with Semanon, Sojourners, Young Couples, and Christian Circle. It was great to fellowship with them in the big family of FCBC. Lastly, we had our annual holidays celebration during Thanksgiving and Christmas, counting many blessings from our Lord in 2019!

**Ainesis Cell Group**  
Nancy Guan

It has been a blessed year in 2019. With God’s grace, we have peace to face whatever situation in our life. We tried to keep our cell group meeting at least once a month. We have lunch, sharing and prayer together. We keep in touch with each other by sending out updates and prayers in our group message, so that we can pray for each other.

In August, our group participated in “Jesus Loves Chinatown” extend evangelism and health event at our church. We shared God’s love and gospel with the Chinatown neighbors. In December, our group participated in the Christmas celebration with Friday Night School students, and their family and friends. We all gain faith in God and grow in Christ as we serve together.

Praise to our Lord! God continues to bless each sister in our group in their careers! They work to serve different groups with God’s love.

We all want to share gospel with our family members. We pray for God to open their hearts and accept Christ in the right time.

Thanks to our Pastor Lydia! She always encourages us to read the Bible and to be close with God. She always prays for us and walks with us when we have difficult time. And she is always there for us and reminds the God’s grace is sufficient to every single one of us! Let’s hold hand in hand to follow the steps of Christ in the coming year!

**Emmanuel Family Group**  
Michael Wong

My name is Michael Wong. I was asked to be chairman of the Emanuel Family Group (EFG). I accepted the job. Bill Chin did most of the emailing. Anna Q Wong was my advisor. Warren Lee is the Treasurer. Joel Jang coordinates the Devotions.

I first came to the EFG when Dick and Anna Wong asked me to supply full audio and video to EFG’s 50th Anniversary at the Basque Cultural Center Restaurant in South S.F.

The highlight of our 2019 EFG Meeting

1. In March 2019 Meeting. Our guest speaker was Judy Ung – Immigration officer. Judy spoke on the early years of Chinese Immigration at 330 Samson St.
2. In July 2019, EFG donated $300 to the FCBC Thailand Mission Group.
3. In September 2019, EFG held its 57th Anniversary Luncheon at the Garden Restaurant. Pastor Chris Otani spoke on her experience at the SF Evangelical Free Church.
4. In December 2019, Danny and Mary Lee hosted EFG Christmas luncheon at their home in Pacifica. Alan Fong was our guest speaker. Alan gave us a video tour of Chinatown. 32 people attended.
Joshua Fellowship & Friday Night School
Wallace Chu

We are always thankful for the opportunity to serve in the Friday Night School and Joshua Fellowship, and we continue to experience His blessing for the ministry. The ministry has been growing steadily in 2019. There are always new people coming to the Friday Night School classes. Many of them stayed after class for dinner and Joshua Fellowship Program. We keep building relationship with the students and convey the message of bible faith through activities such as games, Bible study, worship. Many non-believers are progressively getting interest to find out more about Christian faith. During 2019, we are so encouraged that some of the students accepted Christ, became baptized or switched the membership to FCBC during the year.

As for outreaching to community, we continue to host workshops with the topics related to health in October. These have drawn quite many people to attend including some people outside our church. In December, as usual we have a Christmas celebration which we encouraged students to invite friends to join. We also sent invitation to the neighbor of our church. We have very good time with the people attended. There was an opportunity for some people that have never gone to church. Hopefully they have experienced the love of Christ from it and will continue to come to our church in future.

While the ministry has been running well, challenges is inevitable. Sometimes we are in desperate need of teachers and helpers when they can no longer committed due to personal reason such health and conflict of schedule for family issues. But God is always faithful, and He brings us the help in the right time. It also strengthened our faith on Him.

In 2020, we will keep outreaching to the unbeliever in the community. Meanwhile, we will also put more effort of building up the spiritual growth of the believers in the fellowship. Internally, we will work together to build a strong team for us who serve in the ministry. The Friday Night School and Joshua Fellowship is one of the key ministries for FCBC. It's a ministry for all members to work together and build a solid foundation in Christ. Pray that it can continue this role in the coming years. We know that cannot be done without God’s guidance and blessing. Your prayers and supports are also essential for the ministry. Let’s work together and may our Lord’s name be glorified.

Koinonia Fellowship
Mamie Zhu

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ peace with you, thank the Lord for His love and disciplined. As we look back 2019 and how we can renew our hearts and minds. I can described 2019 as a year in the wilderness. Most brothers and sisters have gone through different trials, whether in family, work, relationship, and spiritual life. When we face the wilderness, God most desires that we come to Him and listen to Him speak to us, and we pour out time with Him. In 2019, I learned that I no longer depend on myself and rely on the Lord and obedience.

Fellowship in 2019: Because most brothers and sisters are not able to participate in fellowship as usual, the fellowship is suspended for a period of time around the middle of the year. A small number of us gathered together purpose of praying. Begin on December, the fellowship will meet once every third Saturday. Please pray for us.

Bless brothers and sisters in the new year with new breakthroughs and new anointing.

Men’s Fellowship
John Tom and Dave Chiessi

The Men’s Fellowship was co-chaired by John Tom and Dave Chiessi. Our goals are to encourage fellowship among the men of FCBC, participate in service projects, and nurture our spiritual growth.
In February, we had a hearty breakfast at a local restaurant followed by a planning meeting, at the home of Alan Fong, to schedule events and activities for the year.

In March, we organized 9 members to volunteer to distribute food at the Sunset Ministry Food Pantry followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

In April, Alan Fong led 10 of the group on a 2-hour Chinatown tour, infusing his personal experiences from growing up in Chinatown. Afterwards, we had lunch in Chinatown.

In May, we had a group hike at Shoreline Park in Mountain View, followed by a lakeside luncheon.

In July, we had a group to help clean up the shed area at Redwood Glen Camp, dumping tables, chairs, picnic tables, pallets, sheet rock and even a golf cart into a large dumpster.

In September, we helped clean up Ocean beach as part of the annual California coastal cleanup followed by a hardy lunch.

In November, we had a one-day retreat at San Mateo Community Baptist Church where we discussed how to reach our Christian summit here on earth as well as heard about Don Ng’s Japan hiking trip.

The highlight of the year was to witness the baptism of Dave Chisessi, who committed his life to following Jesus Christ. Praise God for all his blessings.

The Co-chairs would like to thank all of the individuals mentioned above, as well as all the men who participated in the various activities and ministries.

The Men’s Fellowship looks forward to another fulfilling year in 2020. Come join us at our next event.

Mary Cell Group & Basic Truth Sunday School Class
Mei Ng Cheng, translated by Wendi Lin

We learn the Word of God in Sunday school of Rev. Lee on Sundays. On the third Sunday of each month, after Sunday school, we participate in Christian Circle fellowship. We have lunch together, sing hymns and praise songs, share daily life, share devotions, pot-luck lunch, and participating in FNS Friday English School cooking, etc.

In December 2019, Lily Dong was baptized and joint our church, she is a student of FNS, been here for 2 year. We all see her change. At first she cared for her own feelings, did what she likes to do, later she cares for others, and help setting up for FNS dinner. We see her every Friday and Sunday, she loves the Word of God, loves learning. We thank God for her.

Amy Tam is resting at home because of cancer. She has been through the third chemo. Thanks to God’s care and protection that gives her faith to rely on the Lord. We continue to pray for her recovery so she can come back to us and praise God together soon.

For myself, because Daniel had a stroke and needs dialysis treatment, he is now in nursing home. He can stand up, walk a few steps. Thanks to God he is holding up and stay praying replying on God. Thank God for giving me strength. Although busy with my own life, I can still serve in FNS.

God is faithful, He leads us through every crisis. All we need is to rely on Him.

OYYA (Older Youth/Young Adults)
Butch & Gayle Chan

We may look older, but we have hearts of the young, and we are strengthened by the Lord.

Some highlights of our past year:
Meeting with the Xplorers and Semanons concerning parenting was a great way of communicating and getting to know other fellowships and its members. We hope to have more opportunities to share, to support, and to get to know each other better.

In service to the church, we have participated in the two spring and fall clean-up days, cooked a Friday night school meal each quarter, prepare and serve at Joe’s Café/Sunday morning breakfast, serve as members of the church’s choir, served on some of the church’s boards and committees, continue to serve as part of the Sunday school’s teaching staff, and participated in the church picnic, family camp, adult-English retreat.

One of the OYYA projects was to form a charitable fund from direct donations of the OYYA members in celebration of its 60th year together. The following were recipients of the funds raised in the last two years: Nate Lee, seminary expenses, Lana coffee, Indian Christian university, Thailand project/scholarships for all, day camp scholarships, Nancy guan/Sandra Siu wheelchair project/china, New Life Christian church, Charles Yong medical mission, and Eva Ung college students outreach program.

Also, Joe’s Café continues to operate frugally, and has donated back any overage above the cost of the breakfasts to the social committee in furtherance of sidewalk teas, annual church picnic, food and tea before membership meetings, etc.

Thanks to Joe and his dedicated staff (past and present) volunteers — Gil Quong, Georg/Billy Lai, Minling Yu, Charcoal, Emily Chan, Walt and Elaine Tom, Sheu Au, and Marybeth Ong. As a matter of fact, Joe’s café has been operating since 2000 to the present (with a small break from May 2015 – Sept, 2016) … Quite an accomplishment!

We are thankful and grateful that the congregation supports all its members young and old alike, but, most of all, we are thankful that the Lord has given us the opportunity to continue to serve in whatever capacities he has chosen for us. As our late advisors, James and Marie Chuck taught us, we continue to listen and answer our Lord’s call to serve.

**Semanon  Feeling joy through our 50’s and 60’s**
Kathy Mar & Barbara Lym

**Who we are and our fellowship for 2019:**
Semanon (NONAMES spelled backwards) fellowship began 48 years ago. The majority of Semanon are charter members! We have about 30+ active members who partake in fellowship and service projects. For 2019 Semanon are also represented in a few roles at FCBC; Board of Trustees, Board of Christian Education, Board of Deacons and Pastoral Relations.

2019 was filled with community service and FOOD and fellowship.

Our faithful leaders Maxine and Paul Fong hosted at the first of the year our Annual Reflections Meeting with a delicious Chinese meal and plenty of laughs offering in depth conversation about the current status of our lives and journey with God.

We finally had a chance to meet with Agape (Chinese Speaking fellowship group) for a memorable potluck dinner at Barb and Albe Wong’s. Such a delightful time to get to know each other a little bit better. It seems that each Sunday that passes we rarely have time to chat and this evening provided wonderful fellowship around the table.

Becky Lessler led the program on Global Immigration at Deb Chong’s home. Steve Lessler’s traditional BBQ tri-tips and potluck shared by all.

**When things start to look grim:**
We came close to cancelling our fellowship with Sojourners. Semanon had suffered a host of injuries or were ill. With only 2 weeks away we had 5 rsvp but with God’s faith, Diana Lee suggested we keep the fellowship. Low and behold 18+ joined and we had a lovely day together. Friday Night Cooking has been a vital service project led mostly by Becky and Steve Lessler, Charlene and Alan Fong and Kathy Mar. Michelle Ong,
Rosalie Jing, Paul Chuck and others have helped join this wonderful effort as well. Semanon have had their share of health challenges with the Lord by our side; Paul Chuck had a couple of falls and is doing well. Barb Chan underwent surgery and is healing. Audrey Chin also is healing from a recent surgery. Robert Mah continues to get stronger after cancer treatments and his fall. Beckey Lessler appears to be nearly pain-free and Rosalie Jing and Charlene Fong are now grieving the loss of their moms. Prayers continue for Norman Chin and Deb Chong. God is within us and asks us to be the best Christians we can be and remain thankful in all circumstances. Life’s challenges will always be, as our life with God will always be.

### Senior Adult/Young Folks Fellowship

George Lai

FCBC’s Senior Adult/Young folks Fellowship has some of the oldest in age and in years of church membership. Some were baptized in FCBC in the 1940s. We still meet regularly on the third Friday morning on most months.

We have six yearly programs: planning, working at the Food Bank, our Seafarers project, decorating for FCBC Thanksgiving luncheon, participating in the Adult Retreat, and the Christmas program. This year we had only one other program.

In February we met at Shirlene’s for our Lunar New Year program. In March we met with Rev Otani and Rev Ong at Carol and Chris Jensen’s newly renovated house where they shared with our group their visions for FCBC. We did our usual project in April at the Food Bank where we weighed and bagged over 300 lbs. of rice into one-pound packages. In September, filling 24 hand-made cloth bags with personal items, we sent them off to the Seafarer’s Mission (after having to make sure we had 24 bags of identical items). Dr. John Chuck and Rev. Ong were the main speakers at the Senior Retreat. Dr. Chuck shared with us the legacy of James Chuck’s wisdom on managing difficult questions of life. Rev. Ong inspired us with what and how to deal with the “second chapter” of our life. Our November meeting was special; we met to upgrade FCBC’s thanksgiving luncheon centerpieces. The highlights of our annual Christmas party at Carolyn’s were the food, our best singing of Mary’s Boy Child and the Twelve Days of Dim Sum, and our gift exchange.

We thank God for His grace and love for 2019, and we pray that He will help us continue to serve Him in the coming year.

### Senior Center

Alan Fong

The Senior Center continues to be a place where once a month, senior members of our church and friends are welcome to gather for food, fellowship, and outreach. It has become a place where one could celebrate birthdays, catch up with friends, and listen to speakers who spoke on a wide range of topics. Speakers included members of the local community such as Charles Vella from Kaiser Permanente, who spoke on Alzheimer's, Dementia and Stroke Prevention and church members. We enjoyed having Angela DiMartino come with her dogs from Muttville, Becky Lessler with Global Decisions, and Bible study with Pastor Chris Otani and Harry Fong. The Senior Center is considering changes to our meeting format in 2020 due to the loss of some members and transportation issues for some of our other members. Many thanks to the efforts of Jimmy and Nancy Yee, who take care of the food and provide many photo memories, and to Susana Szeto and Linda Yee for their invaluable services in making the Senior Center run smoothly.

### Sojourners

Diana Lee & Wendy Quan

During 2019, Sojourners have monthly meetings to participate in a program, share a meal, and have Christian fellowship. The year’s highlights include hearing about global migration with the Agape Fellowship group, hiking with the Semanon, and learning about senior living options with the OYYAs and members of Sunset Ministry. We also shared highlights regarding travels to Spain and Portugal and participated in a retreat led by
Pastor Sebastian at Bishop Ranch in Healdsburg. Service projects included cooking for Friday Night School in November and helping prepare Thanksgiving meals for SF City Impact. We are blessed by the willing hearts and hands of the Sojourners and look forward to more opportunities to gather and serve under the leadership of Tommy and Bonnie Lim in 2020.

**Women & Brothers’ Society**

Helen Poon, translated by Wendi Lin

2019 went by, throughout the year, the Women & Brothers Society had peace under the care of our Father. Thanks be to God.

Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have fellowship together to sing songs, pray for each other, share devotions and Scripture, and catch up. On the other Sundays of the month, we have Sunday School led by Sharon Wei. We are at Philippians in December. The Attendance is lower, but God’s grace is enough.

May God our Father continue to lead our way to the Lord. Do you want to follow Lord Jesus Christ with us? Come and join us every Sunday at 11:30 in the library. Let’s serve God together, follow our Lord’s steps.

Every year we offer financial support for gospel ministries.

Our dearest brother David Wong returned to our Lord on August 7, 2019. He loved God and served God all his life. He was our advisor too. We will miss him forever.

**Women’s Fellowship**

Lea Wong & Becky Lessler

The Women’s Fellowship ministry is an outreach to women from all age groups. Active participation in setting the yearly agenda is encouraged. We met on several occasions in 2019 to learn, fellowship and share with one another. We customarily share a potluck of a delicious brunch before the program.

- Liane Wong led the **2019 Women’s Retreat**, held at San Damiano March 8-10, on the theme “Be Christ’s Disciple.” 52 women from both congregations learned that we are not called to work on our Fruits of the Spirit; we are called to be filled with the Holy Spirit for our fruits to flourish. Special thanks to Clarence Chan, Anita Yong and Laura Pang who helped us build our own song flutes. Pastor Chris led worship and helped us understand what it was to be filled with the Holy Spirit; Wendy Quan, Carol Jensen, Christine Ko, and the 10:00 worship team of Anita, Sandra Siu, Alvina Tai and Lisa Chau lifted praise worship to the heavens.

- On Jun 8, we met at Jackie Chou’s home to share **How Does Your Cookie Crumble?** It was a lighthearted event where participants brought their home baked goods, a copy of their recipe and a story about the recipe. Why was it a favorite? Who inspired the interest in baking? Stories were shared with humor and a bit of reminiscence.

- Later in the year on October 5, Tiffany Lessler opened her home for guest speaker Eva Ung on her family’s mission trip - **Road to Thailand**. Eva shared how her family made the decision to embark on a journey unlike anything they have ever done before. Their journey included a mountain of paperwork, gathering first aid and medical supplies, learning to pack light, and preparing their hearts and minds to spread God’s love to strangers in a faraway land while supporting the Thailand Water project. Happily, each family member found their own strengths and made lasting memories with the villagers.

- Our final event of the year took place at Maureen Wong’s home on December 7 with Pastor Chris Otani as our guest speaker. She spoke on **The Purpose of Christmas**. Our small groups were challenged to answer questions about giving and receiving gifts followed by a devotional by Pastor Chris.

With God’s guidance, we continue to seek ways to bring the women of FCBC together for fellowship, and to provide transformative moments for women of all ages.
**XO Fellowship**  
Mel Ng

Our young-adult/college-aged fellowship, XO, had a fun and eventful year! With the guidance of Pastor Chris O., our bi-weekly bible study transitioned to a weekly Sunday school bible study group and we held a couple worship and prayer nights, hosted by our talented Elizabeth Chen. We had a handful of collaborative events in which we paired with other fellowships, such as a dinner and game night with Xplorers, and learning how to cook delicious meals from our “aunties” Lea Wong and Carol Jensen, and our “uncles” Nelson Wong, Paul Chuck, and Albe Wong! We also took time to enjoy the outdoors with our annual picnic in Foster City and our first try at the world’s famous Dixon corn maze. Luckily, we successfully made it out in one piece and caught eye of some stunning views throughout our journey! Lastly, we welcomed new co-chairs for the year 2020...Caitlin Ung, Benjamin Scales, and Kristen Wan! We hope that God will continue to bring new things and more fellowship in the coming year!

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**Xplorers**  
Jackie Chou & Leslie Chin

The 2019 year has been a great mix of fellowship, food, fun, and everything in between!

Some highlights include:

* Sharing by guest speakers David Li (Caring for aging parents) and Charles Yong (Ecuador missions trip)
* Joint gathering and parenting Q&A with OYYA Fellowship
* Fruit picking in Brentwood
* Helping distribute food at Sunset Ministry’s Food Pantry
* Second annual Joint Game Night with the XO Fellowship
* An exciting day trip to Apple Hill with apples, apples and more apples!
* Our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners with lots of food and fellowship catching up with old friends and making new friends

Members from our group also helped at the church’s Fall and Spring clean ups, as well as cook a meal at Friday Night School.

It’s been wonderful to see God continue to strengthen the relationships among the adults and children through our shared experiences and where the kids outnumber the adults. Most of our events are loud, noisy and very fun. We look forward to all the ways God will use each of us to bless one another and our community in 2020.

All Glory be to Him!
Membership Statistics

Receiving the Right Hand of Fellowship

Three (3) new members on April 14, 2019:

Riki Kwan (Baptism)  Marybeth Ong (Baptism)
Richard Tom (Baptism)

One (1) new member on August 18, 2019:

Kelvin Lee (Baptism)

Four (4) new members on December 15, 2019:

Dave Chisessi (Baptism)  Madison Chou (Baptism)
Lily Dong (Baptism)  Andy Yao (Transfer)

Two (2) new members on December 29, 2019:

Eryn Lum (Baptism)  Megan Lum (Baptism)

Returning to the Lord

Two (2) members rested in peace:

James Chan  David Wong

The 2020 Church Directory lists:

575 Baptized Members
131 Friends
706 Church Family Members and Friends