

FIRST CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH
Annual Report 2021



RENEWAL by the Holy Spirit

He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. -Titus 3:5

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RENEWAL BY THE HOLY SPIRIT — 2021

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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FIRST CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORTS



Young Couples & Agape outings 年輕伉儷及愛家團契郊遊



In-person moon festival gathering celebrated Christmas and shared the gospel 實體的中秋節、聖誕福音聚會



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Senior Pastor

Rev. Sebastian Ong

We cannot take for granted what we accomplished in 2021! It was an extremely challenging year, and yet we pulled through with flying colors. Credit must go, first and foremost, to our tremendously dedicated staff: Pastors Chris O, Peter and Lydia; Church Administrator Wendi; and Bookkeeper Marian. They have worked tirelessly, resourcefully, and expediently. We were all blessed to have them serve God and us. I have been also full of praise for the Body of Christ at FCBC. After several GHC pastors revealed that they were struggling with abandonment by their congregations—even those whom they were counting on have quit—I realized how privileged I am. At FCBC, the sense of community has been so strong that we feel guilty for letting others down when we do not show up. How can we, then, not whole-heartedly give thanks?

As I reflected on the past year, I thought first about how tenacious we were. We responded to what the Apostle Paul wrote to an early church in Galatia, “So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9) When it was safe for indoor gatherings to take place, we immediately went full steam. We adjusted worship times, procured audiovisual equipment, and researched the best methods for cleaning; we trained and recruited young and old to usher, lead, sing and play musical instruments. The deacons, CE board, the trustees, gifted individuals, and groups worked in concert to make online and in-person worship and Sunday school classes a reality. All these would not have been possible had we not been buoyed by the generosity by the financial gifts of members and friends during the pandemic years. Not once did we have to be concerned with decline in giving.

Ingenuity also comes to mind when I considered how we got things done last year. It was like God did for us what he had done for the Israelites of old: “filled [us] with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linens, and weavers—all of [us] skilled workers and designers.” (Exodus 35:35) For most of the year, our fellowship groups met online. But on more than a few occasions, we got together in person. Whether in small or large groups, one day or overnight retreats, we found ways to encourage and support one another. The Growing Young project, initiated and led by Pastor Chris O, is one undertaking that will encourage us to think outside the box. Undergirded by solid research, I am convinced FCBC will march on into the future if we are patient and bold to change our attitudes, values, and behavior. Spear-headed by Pastors Lydia and Peter, Friday Night School outreach ministries strove to maintain connections with students and friends in the Chinatown community by meeting online or by having them come to church to receive food, gifts and to listen to the message of the Good News. Undeterred by the “strongest storm in a quarter century” in the Bay Area on October 24th, our inaugural Harvest Festival saw members of both congregations working hand in hand to set up, meet family members of the community and cleanup after the event.

Lastly, I can totally identify with the preacher in Ecclesiastes. Just as he “saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness,” (Ecclesiastes 2:13) God enabled us to see light at the end of the tunnel. After more than a decade of discernment, we were able to finally reaffirm our association with the Growing Healthy Churches region. It was a difficult decision as the wounds suffered in the past were deep, but we concluded that there was evidence of reform and reckoned that our presence would ensure the voice of the minority will still be heard. Responding to the waves of violence against ethnic groups in America in the past two years, we resolved to learn more about the plight of those we do not understand by sponsoring online conferences and talks led by Black and Asian community leaders and

culminating in our first prayer walk in Bayview Hunters Point during which we learned about African American migration stories and prayed for the increasingly diverse community.

It is apt, therefore, as we venture forth into yet another year, that we set our church theme to be “Give Thanks in All Circumstances.” It is simply a natural progression given how richly God has prospered us in this time of adversity!

Chinese-Speaking Ministries (Pictures on P1)

Rev. Dr. Peter Lee

It is time to celebrate how God guided us to live by the 2021 church theme “Renewal by the Holy Spirit” according to Titus 3:3-11. Scriptures reminded us that Jesus saved us through rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and not by the righteous things we had done; quarrels were unprofitable and useless. We learned and experienced a lot in the year. It is time to focus on the teaching in the Bible to carry out the Great Commission to win souls and build disciples for God’s Kingdom.

Though there were many challenges, we kept serving our Lord in all opportunities. Though the church was shut down for many months, we had our service, Sunday School classes and fellowship groups online to maintain our ministries. We kept contact with people via phone calls, video calls, virtual zoom visits, curbside visits and greeting people outdoors especially around Lunar New Year and Moon Festival. We kept the tradition of blessings even though we couldn’t have many in-person home visits during the pandemic. We also used Zoom to meet people interested in the faith and shared the gospel with them.

Adult Sunday School classes included studying characters and books in the Old & New Testaments; Basic Truths; and Bible Study for Women and Brothers. Summer series started on July 4th and ended on August 29th. Based on the church theme 2021, we picked the topic “Holy Spirit’s Guidance in our Life”. We were blessed that the whole congregation was involved as teachers and participants and were pleased to know that 100% of students experienced guidance from the Holy Spirit in their daily lives. There were also classes to prepare believers for baptism and transfer of membership in September and December. We received 10 new members into our congregation this year. We were blessed to have such faithful teachers as Sharon Wei, Sarah Wong, Deborah Mok, Che-Chiu Yee, and Joseph Lee. We met regularly to evaluate the situation and planned for the ministries throughout the year. They also sponsored an Adult Sunday School leaders gathering to launch the Sunday School reopening on September 11th. We celebrated what we had experienced and prepared well for the new challenges. It was a good opportunity to call people to focus on God’s Words.

Our sermons were based on the Book of Numbers to learn how God taught people through struggles and difficulties. It echoed well our situation this year. People liked to learn from preaching based on the Scriptures, and that the Holy Spirit guided them to apply the truth in daily life. We also provided seasonal topics including New Year, Lent, Easter, and Christmas. We had a Christmas series to preach about the Magnificat, Benedictus, and Nunc Dimittis in December. Those were famous and classical songs to celebrate Christmas, and we learned how to follow our Lord through the life of Mary, Zechariah, and Simeon.

We had many opportunities to join online conferences around the world with experienced ministers who updated our ministries in different areas. They enriched our knowledge, skills, and networks.

There was an online Mothers’ Day celebration on May 9th to share the gospel with our families. We invited Pastor Wai Ling Leung from San Francisco Bay Area Short Term Mission be our guest

speaker. She shared how Jesus Christ cares for us when there are challenges. People learned the faith from the sermon and songs in the celebration. Alvina Sze led games, and we invited our family members to join. Ben Man produced a slideshow of family pictures, and there were over 50 families included. Sandra Siu took the lead to prepare souvenirs for ladies and arranged for our leaders to send them out before Mothers' Day. People were impressed by the love and care especially while we were still in the pandemic.

We were excited to prepare for our church reopening in May. Starting on May 23, song leaders, MC's, Scripture's readers, preachers, and sound room technicians worked together in the church building to prepare for the streaming of our church service with excellent results. They spent time testing all equipment and familiarizing themselves with the technical aspects of streaming from church. We also worked with our leaders to arrange for those with limited internet access to attend our in-person service starting June 20. Safety was our top priority, and we followed all guidelines to protect the participants.

There was a retreat day on June 13th, and the retreat committee worked well with our guest speaker Pastor Dori Yuen on the program. The theme was "Victorious Life" based on the Scripture in John 16:33 – "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." We also prepared hand-made souvenirs for the participants. There were also small group gatherings to let participants meet for fellowship time on June 12. Many of them had not met for over a year, and it was a good opportunity for them to chat and share what they learned during the pandemic.

The church reopening ran smoothly in July. Leaders came early to church to stream the service. Song leaders, MC, Scripture's readers, preachers, ushers, and sound room technicians worked together to run the hybrid service with people in church and from home. They shared prayer requests and gave thanks to our Lord. It was joyous to draw people from different areas through Zoom. Some joined us even when they are out of town. We understood that we may need to keep this style for a period. However, we prayed that people would keep coming back to church not only for worship. We would like to include them in serving the community. God called us to be the light for Him in Chinatown, to witness and to share faith with people around.

Church leaders participated in GHC's annual celebration on Oct 2. It was a good opportunity to meet new and old friends from various churches from different areas. We spent too much time deciding on regional affiliation in the past decades that we finally settled this year. We expect to build and foster the relationship with GHC and work together in mission, training, church growth and more.

We were committed to helping new immigrants receive the faith. In the job descriptions of the pastor of Chinese speaking ministries, it clearly states that the pastor's responsibility is "being involved in leadership, recruiting, training and initiating and developing programs for new immigrants". We worked closely with Wallace Chu and Pastor Lydia to plan and implement all related programs for the community. We worked with the core-group members to complete excellent ministries throughout the year. We had weekly prayer and planning meetings together for the ministries. Please refer to details in their reports that we worked and contributed together.

We set up various committees to coordinate the ministries together, including Worship Committee, Sunday School Committee, Outreach core-group Committee, Summer Retreat Committee and Reopening Committee. We had also ad hoc committees to run special events when necessary. There was a monthly Bible study with our deacons. We studied the Book of I Corinthians to learn more about church problems and how to solve them. It was very helpful especially we suffered from many bad experiences in the year.

Though we couldn't have in-person meeting with PRCs, we had zoom meetings to share together. They shared how they faced attacks from their bosses when they were employed. They relied on our Lord in the challenges and found that God's protection was the best. While they developed well in their careers, they committed to contribute to the community, especially for the minorities. Their examples were so good for us to follow.

We protected our faith throughout the year. We worked with our leaders to tackle inappropriate use of a facility, a book and church logo. We don't have any matter neither with other faith nor interfaith. There is no way to get religions mixed. "You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything." (Ex 20:3-4) We appreciated our leaders' actions to keep purity in the faith.

We were excited to have a baby dedication on Dec 12th for Victoria & Gloria Cheung who were born during the pandemic. Their parents, Mary & Paul Cheung, experienced how God blessed their family though there were challenges especially living in Chinatown. Paul Cheung is our new member, and he is active in Service, Sunday School, fellowship groups and night school. Though quite a lot of members passed away in the year, the newborn babies and Christians bring hope to us.

There were happiness and sufferings in 2021 through which God guided us. We have learned to "give thanks for all circumstances". Yes, we are prepared to work together following the church theme for 2022 and expecting a thankful experience in the coming year.

Associate Pastor

Rev. Chris Otani

"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:29-31

The above verse in Isaiah is a fitting summary of my feelings as we close out 2021. With the COVID pandemic still raging throughout the year, there were incredible glimmers of hope - the arrival of vaccines for most ages and new medical treatments. For a brief moment, mask requirements were loosened and there seemed to be light at the end of the tunnel.

We were able to have 4 weeks of in-person Day Camp (please make sure and read that article by Hailey Ung and Annie Ma) as well as a full in-person Youth Camp (again make sure you read the article written by Melanie Ng). We didn't have any outbreaks at all and everyone had an incredible time building relationships with each other and God.

One of the highlights of the year for me was being able to return to in-person worship in August, along with in-person youth Sunday school. I'm thankful for the technology of Zoom and that we were also able to continue (and will continue) to have worship service online. However, there is something about seeing people in person that is valuable and life-giving.

Navigating both online and in-person worship wasn't easy and I want to give many thanks to our faithful worship leaders (led by Nelson Wong, Joy Ng, and Andrew Ko) and AV team (led by Jonathan Ng and Nancy Guan) who help ensure a blessed Sunday worship experience every Sunday.

I also want to thank and appreciate our many youth leaders and Sunday school teachers who also returned to continue to help our younger people learn the Bible and experience God on Sundays and Friday YouthTalks Fellowship. I am especially thankful for the 7 youth leaders-in-training who have

stepped up to help shepherd our in-person Senior High Sunday School. Please be sure to read their reports on the year!

Another ministry highlight for me was the Monday Bible study which began in 2020 with Wendy Quan. I am happy to say that our group not only has grown both in knowledge but also in demonstrating love for one another and in their generous giving to various causes. Almost every day of the week FCBC has a Bible study or small group available and I pray that you would seriously consider joining a group in the coming year.

2021 was another year many of our faithful FCBC members passed and I am thankful for Brianne Fong who developed and continued to lead our FCBC Grief Support Monthly meeting. Brianne led the group with compassion and wonderful content to help people through the difficult journey of grief. The group concluded in November 2021.

FCBC also continued to participate in the Fuller Theological Seminary's cohort project called Growing Young. This is a project to help churches grow in involving and retaining young people and building a strategy to help young people feel included, valued, and represented. We have 2 groups of FCBC members who are working through the cohort and you will hear much more about this project in 2022!

I was also privileged to officiate in three weddings this year and celebrate good things in the midst of a difficult year.

The close of 2021 was a bit of a downer with the resurgence of the omicron variant of COVID19 and back to more restrictive safety measures. However, we know that GOD IS FAITHFUL. We will get through this and we pray for God's word to continue to go forth and accomplish His purpose in 2022 through the amazing people and ministries FCBC has to offer.

Take care and stay well! Be filled with the Holy Spirit -

Community Outreach Ministry (Pictures on P1)

Rev. Lydia Yeung

We started the year of 2021 with the church building kept closed. However, our hearts were still opened to the community, and we kept our ministries active throughout the year.

There was a New Year's celebration with night school students and friends outside our church building on January 1st. We kept 6 feet apart when we greeted them at the church door. We provided some gifts and shared faith with them. They hesitated to leave and scattered in groups to chat along the street. Our leaders joined them and listened to their concerns. Many of them wore gloves, 2 masks and eye/face protection glasses when we met them. Even though there was a pandemic, it did not hinder the love among people.

There was a Lunar New Year celebration outside our church on Feb 13th. We prepared 100 gifts and delivered them to night school students and low-income residents in Chinatown. We also included gospel *Fai Chun* as blessings for them in the New Year. They were very happy to come and chat with us during the celebration and were very grateful for the caring from our church. They felt love and hope through our persistent ministries in Chinatown. Some of them brought new year cakes and even *Lai See* to our volunteers. The volunteers donated all the *Lai See* to our church. Many residents felt lonely while they stayed inside their small SRO's during the pandemic. Our care and love were very supportive to them.

There was an online medical workshop for the community on March 19. Dr. Abraham Law gave an update on covid-19 and taught how people can protect themselves from the virus. People were

interested and raised many questions and concerns. Dr. Law provided answers in detail that helped them reduce their fear and taught them how to face the challenges.

We worked with Agape Fellowship to prepare gifts and messages for people on Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day. It was not only a caring ministry but also a way of keeping long term relationships alive when there was no opportunity to have in-person gatherings at our church. The community appreciated the efforts and commitment to Chinatown and did not feel neglected during the pandemic

Rev. Dr. Timothy Tin led a Chinese Medical Online Seminar on May 7th. He talked about how to keep in good health through exercises, Chinese medicine, and soups. People in the community liked the seminar and shared what they learned with their friends. Rev. Tin has joined us several times for health events and led seminars for the Joshua Fellowship, for night school students and for residents in the community.

The "Jesus loves Bay Area" training and faith sharing event was held on June 14-27. More than 200 people from 20 churches worked together to equip Christians to follow the great commission of our Lord. We also worked with Bay Area Christian Short Term Mission Training Center to run follow-up classes for new Christians this year.

The night school core-group and outreach ministries leaders met in my backyard on July 5th for a retreat day. We spent time praying, reviewing and planning for these ministries. One of the challenges of the night school ministry is that people were afraid of going out in the evenings. We prayed that the crime rate will be reduced providing safety in Chinatown.

There was an in-person moon festival gathering for the community on September 19. We could only invite 40 students in order to maintain social distancing. They were delighted to meet each other after 19 months and took the opportunity to learn more about the faith.

It was a pleasure to have Dr. Richard Ho lead a seminar for the Joshua Fellowship on Oct 1. People learned how to protect their eyes through his vivid teaching and a Q&A. It was a good way to share our faith via a health topic that concerns one's life.

There was an online Thanksgiving Celebration on 11/19. We invited some students to share testimonies and gave thanks to God in the event. We also arranged Thanksgiving Lunch boxes on 11/20 to celebrate with students and families. About 10 leaders were recruited to prepare 120 lunch boxes for the community on that day.

We celebrated Christmas and shared the gospel with the community on Dec 17th. Over eighty Night School students and their friends signed up for the online celebration. There was also caroling for the community outside our church on Dec 18th. We presented more than 120 Christmas gifts to the community to share God's love with people in the neighborhood. There were also visitations to those interested in faith throughout the weeks. It was a good time for evangelism during that period as people like to celebrate Christmas with friends and church people.

We have kept night school online with 30-40 people joining every week. Most of them came on time for classes. They longed for the opportunity to learn every week. We were blessed to get support from brothers and sisters who served as teachers. The teachers were talented, and the students were eager to learn. There was always a Bible verse in their lessons related to the topic in their teaching. It was a good channel for us to share faith with them through learning English. There were a variety of fellowship programs following the lesson every week. We always had questions for review at the end of our program. They always took notes and therefore can answer the questions easily. It was a very good learning process to build knowledge of language and faith in their life. We missed many students as they didn't have devices and cannot get on the internet to join our online lessons and programs. They wished that in-person gathering will be available, and they will be able to join as usual.

We arranged small in-person groups which met at church, parks, or restaurants. They like the idea as they long to meet their friends. We assigned core-group members to follow up on students. They made phone calls to keep in contact and arranged group activities for them. We formed a study group and asked Victor Lee to teach them English every Sunday afternoon. They liked the small group learning experience as they can speak more in the class. We kept the group small and included only 5-6 persons; they wear masks during lessons.

We have taken various opportunities to keep in contact with people via phone calls, video calls, virtual zoom visits, curbside visits and at outdoor places instead of in-person visits. Though there were limitations, we have been sharing faith and making disciples during the pandemic. Several night school students have been baptized this year. Let's keep on to glorifying our Lord.

Board of Deacons

Nelson Wong

Our 2021 church theme "Renewal by the Holy Spirit" guided the work of the church throughout the year. The Holy Spirit was with us and in us as we do the work that was entrusted to us. While the work was at times challenging and arduous, it was always done in the spirit of what's good for the church as a whole and not what we as individuals want. The Deacons are proud of our accomplishments which are highlighted below.

First and foremost, we are most heartened by the seventeen brothers and sisters who were baptized (B) this year or transferred (T) their memberships to FCBC. They are Lilian Chen (B), Paul Cheung (T), Gina Chew (T), Gerry Fong (T), David Huang (B), Sylvia Lam (T), Connie Le (B), Alex Lee (B), May Lee (T), Jacob Lum (B), Evan Poon (B), Ben Scales (B), Anni Wen (B), Man Chiu Wong (B), Karen Yuen(T), Tammy Yeung (B), and Sophia Zhao (B). The Deacons and pastors conducted classes to prepare them for membership and interviewed them to assess their readiness. We were most impressed with their spiritual maturity and rejoiced in their decision to choose FCBC as their spiritual home.

The issue of FCBC changing affiliation to another American Baptist region was finally put to rest when the Deacons recommended, and the congregation voted to remain in the Growing Healthy Churches region. Our church had been wrestling with this issue for well over a decade and resolving it allows us to focus our energies in other more urgent areas of ministries and programs. While not everyone agreed with the outcome, the decision did help us overcome the impasse that at times had been contentious.

COVID-19 caused FCBC to cease in-person worship for nearly 16 months. When pandemic conditions improved mid-year, the Deacons and pastors worked diligently to set up procedures and protocols to enable us to safely return to in-person worship while continuing to live-stream our worship services for those who are unable to return to church. We are grateful for God's protection during our services even as the pandemic rages again.

Finally, the deacons worked diligently on seemingly mundane administrative matters like culling the church membership roster, managing personnel matters, and writing policies and procedures to guide the work of the current board as well as to provide a template for future boards to operate efficiently and effectively. These efforts demonstrated good working relationships and cooperation among the Deacons across congregational lines.

We give thanks to the Lord for His guidance throughout the year. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we have been able to accomplish all that we did, not just in deeds but also in human qualities. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness. Galatians 5:22

Board of Christian Education

Rebecca Lee

Coming into the year 2021 with nine months of lockdown in 2020, many were ready for renewal by the Holy Spirit. With the vaccine being available to adults at the beginning of the year, there was a possibility of seeing everyone again in person.

During the summer months, Day Camp and Youth Camp returned to in-person activities! Much discussion happened around the format and while online activities were still an option, directors were eager to meet with the campers in person. This hybrid model allowed inclusion for all campers. This could not have happened without the faithfulness and dedication of all the directors and leaders.

In July, services started again in-person and with that came the discussion for the reopening of Sunday School classes. As more in-person activities continued to run smoothly, the re-opening of Sunday School became possible. To start, Promotion Sunday was held both virtually and in person at both services to include all students. With the help of the YMCA, all Sunday School classes had the space to meet safely. While all classes have resumed in-person classes, the Chinese Adult Sunday School teachers decided to provide a hybrid model to include brothers and sisters who cannot attend physically. Many thanks to our teachers and leaders for supporting the re-opening of Sunday School in September!

In October, fellowship group leaders met on Zoom to inspire and pray for each other during a difficult year of gathering together. While there was still much uncertainty, what was certain was that brothers and sisters wanted to meet whether it was online or in person when it is safe. Also in October, the Mission Committee along with the support from the CE Board held a Harvest Festival on Waverly Place. Despite her heavy downpour, brothers and sisters stayed strong in setting up booths for children. We look forward to these activities in the year of 2022!

Friday Night School continued to run virtually and have creatively connected with students during the holidays. For Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Friday Night School leaders passed out hot meal boxes and gifts to the students and community members. Their faithfulness is truly the backbone of the outreach ministries at FCBC!

Many thanks to our CE Board members Lisa Chau, Leslie Chin, Becky Lessler, Melanie Low, Wendy Quan, Sharon Wei, and Mamie Zhu for their encouragement and support of the CE programs!

Nursery and Pre-K– Becky Lessler (Pictures on P2)

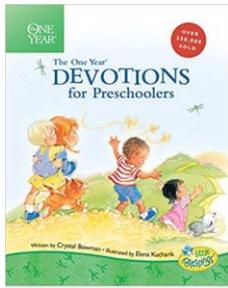
Nursery and Pre-K children did not meet for Sunday School during COVID sheltering. Teachers continue to be in touch with families, and there were a few in-person visits in late 2021.

As featured in the PreK-K Annual Report, **LIVIA** is the reigning Princess in the Jason and Tracy Louie family, **KENZIE** the reigning Princess in the Tony and Michelle Yu family, and **ISAAC** the reigning Prince in the Jimmy and Erica Yung family. **ADA** and **HAZEL** in the Keegan and Shannon Doung family, **ZOELLE** in the Kyle and Tiffany Lessler family, **PETER** in the Patrick and Elaine Huey family, and **KATHERINE** and **KAI** in the Ken and Linda Park family welcomed **GLORIA** and **VICTORIA** in the Paul and Mary Cheung family in late 2021!

When the young unvaccinated children can safely gather again, we will truly rejoice! In the meantime, we pray over them, that they grow in wisdom, stature, and favor with God.

With thanks to Debbie Chong, Chris Jensen, John Tom, Rosalie Jing, Jasmine Erickson, Maddie Dong and Lea Wong for their special attention to these young children and their families.

FALL 2021: Pre-K – Carol Jensen



After saying goodbye to our graduates, we welcomed our 2016 cohort - Rhys Louie, Jaxyn Yu, and Faith Yung. Since our families continued to worship from home, we sent Devotion Books so that families could have home devotions.

Meet our class:

Rhys (son of Tracy Jann and Jason Louie) started Kindergarten last Fall (center row, second from left). He appears frequently on Sunday Worship Zooms. With his three older brothers and little sister, they have enough to field a basketball team :) →



Jaxyn (son of Michelle Tran and Tony Yu) turned 5 in September. At the beginning of 2021, he welcomed a new baby sister to the family, Kenzie. ←

Faith (daughter of Erica Chun and Jimmy Yung) is 5 years old. Her family spent the first half of 2021 in Hawaii; last Fall, she started Transitional Kindergarten, moved to a new home, and welcomed baby brother Isaac.



We continue to be thankful for the opportunity to share God's love with these children. We're grateful that parents took over during the pandemic as the in-home Sunday School teachers. We look forward to in-person classes resuming when our families feel ready to return. Until then, know that we are praying for our students and their families.

Melanie Low, Jennifer and Jasmine Erickson, and Carol Jensen

Spring 2021 K-1 – Carol Jensen



Before FCBC reopened this summer, we mailed weekly packets of David C. Cook materials to our children; in addition, weekly short teacher-led videos of bible stories, storybooks, and lessons were emailed.

PROMOTION

At the August promotion, we sent Maddox Louie and Dylan Yeh upstairs to join the older children.

Meet our graduates ::

Maddox (son of Tracy Jann and Jason Louie) is in 2nd grade at Olinda Elementary in El Sobrante. He likes to go to Disneyland and would like to work there as Jiminy Cricket (his favorite character) or work at the Nemo ride. He would love to own a horse one day!

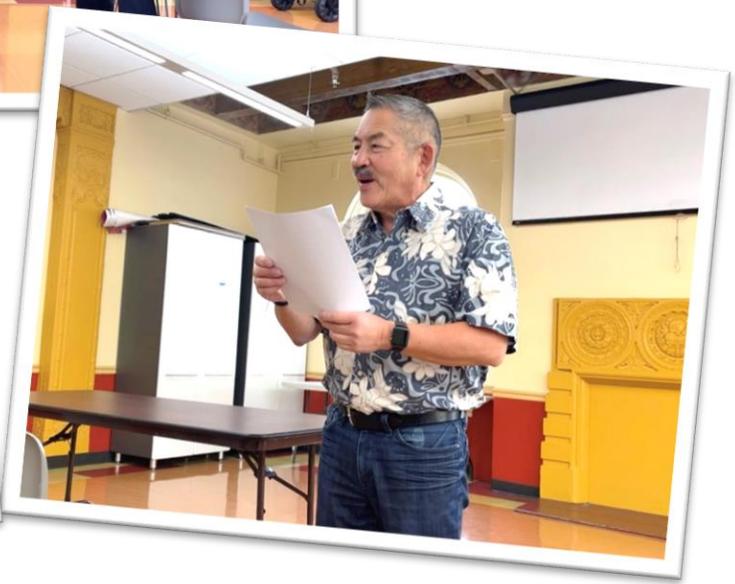


Dylan (son of Bernice and Erwin Yeh) is in 1st Grade. Favorite foods are dark chocolate and pepperoni pizza. The highlight of his summer was attending FCBC's Day Camp. He ice skates and plays soccer and baseball.



**THE GATHERING, It's about the people
We gather, learn and build together**

Barbara Lym



The Gathering began about 7 years ago under the leadership of Dr. James Chuck. Many who continue to support the Gathering then, are still engaged and leading our classes today. We are thankful for all who participate and want to thank those who began this journey in 2015:

Wes Chan, Wallace Choy, Shirlene Nakano, Don and Lori Lam, Robert Mah, George Lai, Clarence Chan, and Sharon Fong.

James Chuck's mission was to include 3 elements: 1. Singing the Faith 2. Building Community 3. Nurturing Discipleship

Today we have evolved into a self-led Sunday School. We hope to achieve what the Gathering initially was meant to be. We may not sing but we are building community and nurturing discipleship.

Many thanks to our faithful leaders over Zoom and in person 2020/2021:

Gina Chew, Wendy Quan, Becky Lessler, Steve Lessler, Barbara Chan, Tommy Lim, Wes Chan, Sheryl Chan, Don Ng, Joy Shih, Shirlene Nakano, Diana Lee, Nelson Wong, Robert Mah, Pastor Sebastian and George Lai.

We also give Thanks to The Bible Project. Their thoughtful lessons brought our class to life via zoom and are forever grateful. Pastor Sebastian launched our first "in person" September 12th, 2021 at the YMCA, hallelujah! We are blessed and thankful for vaccination and mask policies to keep us safe. Thanks to Victor Lee for his years of dedication providing us coffee weekly! Gratitude extends to our special guests as well and all that join and serve to keep our faith strong.

Blessings to 2022!

2-5th grades – Charlene Fong

God is good. God is great! After a year of remote classes, we are thrilled to be able to have on site Sunday School classes and continue to have remote lessons for those who can't come in person. After not seeing the children in person for so long, they have grown, not only in height but in so many ways. Yes, they seem more mature now. It's good to see that they continue to be nourished by God's love and care. We have an average on site attendance of 5 children each week. In class, we study the lessons from the "Go" curriculum both in person and remote. This year, the children enjoy playing in the newly renovated Willie Woo Woo Wong playground. It's been great for the children to be able to interact and play with each other. The classes are made possible with the support of our dedicated teachers, Rebecca Lee, Mei Wong, Ben Chau, Betty Jin and Charlene Fong and guest craft teachers Jennifer and Jasmine Erickson.

Jr. High – Christine Ko

Our Jr. High Sunday School soldiered on on Zoom at the beginning of 2021 using the Grow Curriculum with lessons about goals, freedom, waiting, identity, and seeing and sharing Jesus. We welcomed a few guest speakers over the summer including FCBC's very own Wes and Sheryl Chan sharing about their lifelong faith journeys, Eric Ding (a friend of Christine's from MIT whose family just returned from China with SIL International), and Chris and Emily Cheng (other college friends of Christine's who are waiting to go to Japan with OMF). At the end of August, we were able to send off our beloved 8th graders to high school with an in-person celebration, and then welcomed 4-5 newly minted 6th graders to in-person Sunday School at FCBC this fall, along with our returning 8th graders (yup, no 7th graders this year!). We wrapped up the year with a Cookie Bake Sale at the Christmas Workshop and an Advent study on the main characters of Christmas. We look forward to starting a series on the fundamentals of faith and our identity in Christ in the new year.

It has been a pleasure to be able to spend time with our Jr Highers in person every week. We have enjoyed getting to know them through icebreakers, learning about God, and prayer requests. We

are ecstatic to finally be able to do crafts, to cook, and to enjoy snacks together again. If you smell something delicious in the 3rd floor hallway, whether it be spam musubi, homemade spring rolls, or crepes, swing by, say hello, and have a taste!

Sr. High – Pastor Chris O

Prior to August 2021, the senior high SS class was led by me with support from Melanie Ng on Zoom. We had about 5-6 youth attend consistently online. From January to May we studied the Sermon on the Mount.

In the summer we continued on zoom and studied Old Testament characters like Adam and Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

After Youth Camp 2021, I am thrilled to say that we returned to in-person Sunday school classes! We also expanded our teaching staff with Jackie Ma, Caitlin Ung, and Melanie Ng as well as Kevin Cheng, Isaac Man, Riki Kwan, and Brian Lu as our youth leaders in training.

We have had 7-10 youth attending consistently since we returned to the church building. I have been doing the majority of the teaching and we've been going through the gospel of John. However, we are also doing an Advent study based on the book "Incarnation" by Adam Hamilton.

The senior high class attends worship service 2-3 times a month, and at other times spends an extended time during Sunday school for activities and deeper connection time with their small groups.

We pray for our senior high youth to continue to grow and develop their faith and to know how deeply they are loved and how much of an impact they can make in the world.

Day Camp – Hailey Ung & Annie Ma

This past summer for six weeks, our Day Camp staff and counselors worked hard to ensure that Day Camp 2021 -- "He is Risen" -- was a fun and safe experience for everybody who spent time with us. By making our camp a hybrid program, we were able to see so many more smiling faces (or eyes, in some cases) of both campers and counselors as they joined us either in person or over from their homes. We made lots of crafts, played games, sang many songs, and enjoyed our amazing new playground and athletic courts for awesome outdoor activities. This summer we planned for many different activities but also learned to roll with the punches (or pool noodle whacks) as our uncertain situation constantly kept us on our toes. But, with God's grace, we were led through our six-week program safely with smiles and laughter to spare. With the help of our guest speakers, our campers and counselors learned about the life and miracles of Jesus and that He is Risen! We are so thankful to have been able to spend our summer with so many in our community who continually showed us the beauty and creativity of God's creation through their actions and constant love for one another. Thank you for all of the support and prayers that you lifted up for the campers, counselors, staff, and directors this summer!

Youth Camp – Melanie Ng

This year, Youth Camp turned 50 years old and proved that the finest things get better with age! The journey to camp was an uphill climb (both literally and figuratively), but we are happy it was one we endured! With all the uncertainties presented to us throughout this past year and a half, we weren't sure we could have camp. But God provided in so many ways, and we were able to return to our beloved retreat site at Redwood Glen which many of us consider our home away from home. With all of the safety measures put into place, we anticipated that camp would be a little different. Our fantastic crew of program staff and counselors staff put in a crazy amount of work and creativity into making a program that would serve our youth and keep us healthy, and we couldn't have asked for anything more! Our week was filled with fun games, awesome performances, unapologetic dancing, heartfelt messages and testimonies, smashing plates (safely) and restoring them in the Japanese art style of Kintsugi, and what

many have longed for and missed during the pandemic- singing praises with their friends and family. Being with each other in-person reminded us of just how important community is, and we cherished every single second of it. We're thankful to the Redwood Glen staff for their hospitality, FCBC's pastoral staff for their endless support, and all of you for the helpful hands and prayers that were lifted up on our behalf! God is good!

Board of Trustees

Steve Lessler

Hallelujah, we got to re-enter the church for worship service this year and the Trustees have done their part to make it as safe as possible.

We have two Covid rated ionizers at work in the sanctuary and they run all day Sunday to do what they can keeping service participants safe. So far we have heard of no problems with Covid from our in person membership.

The stained glass windows on Waverly Place have been redone. This included the removal of all three windows, complete disassembly, replacement of all lead between panes and bracing to combat the sagging that gravity causes over time. They were reinstalled and the frames repainted to match the wood. They look terrific and we hope you all agree as these are a major part of our historic identity in Chinatown.

Now that the rains have finally returned we have leaks! Thank you to Trustee Norman Chin who went to the roof and resealed around the HVAC system entry point to the fourth floor, hopefully preventing future problems.

Ok, we now have five TV's and counting! A new very large screen TV was installed over the piano on the fourth floor so those of us with "old eyes" can see clearly. And groups can also use this screen for committee presentations.

Planning ahead for 2022 we have two major projects. First are the Sanctuary lights. These will be retrofitted with new LED fixtures and tubes, fully cleaned and when finished, won't need to be touched for some years. Second, and this is a large undertaking, we will get quotes to replace/retrofit all exterior windows in the Church building! You can imagine that this will take time and money but we will start. The goal is that by the end of 2022 we will have a company vetted and approved for the work and a plan for payment. Not sure exactly when it will be completed but with luck, planning and God's good graces, by the end of 2023.

Thank you to all Trustee members going forward for your hard work for FCBC. You are appreciated. We all know you have busy lives but also recognize you love and are loved by God who gives us the ability to get the work done!

IT Taskforce – Anita Yong

2020 and 2021 may have seen the closure of our physical church while many services and ministries moved online, BUT, many things happened in the background to facilitate those sudden changes. This is a short update and call out for all those individuals who helped make the transition smooth.

In 2020, Guy Takahashi and Jonathan Ng worked to upgrade our wireless network and set up the backbone of what would be a prescient move to support our online ministries. When the church closed, Jonathan Ng, Chris Otani, and Anita Yong worked on upgrading our sound room equipment. This included buying a new sound board, a new computer, as well as wireless earpieces and headset microphones which work with our masks. New smart TVs were also bought and set up in the classrooms on the third

floor and fourth floor. Anita Yong and Wendi Lin worked on updating our website as well as porting over all the various group aliases to Google Workspace. Don Fong, who was our church specialist is especially missed during this endeavor.

Thank you to all who worked behind the scenes, in the sound room, on Zoom breakout rooms, facilitating and leading online ministries.

Missions Committee

Sheryl Chan & Alan Fong, Co-Chairs

In the past, the Missions Committee's focus was primarily supporting and funding Short-term Missions trips to Thailand, as well as, funding members and friends of the church who have a heart for serving on other short-term missions abroad. The Covid-19 pandemic has prevented us from serving in this way but has not kept us from continuing to monetarily support Ivy and Emerson Wu in Hong Kong, as well as, Alise and Mark Juanes in Thailand.

Because of the Covid-19 safety concerns, the committee continued to meet by Zoom about every 6 weeks in 2021. God led the committee to focus on outreach ministries inside and outside of Chinatown. In February 2021, Missions Committee member, Chris Chin chaired the committee to plan and organize a Fall Harvest Festival on Waverly Place on October 24, 2021. The entire alley between Sacramento and Clay Streets was closed. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and it rained that day, but God was merciful and our first festival took place successfully. Caitlin Ung organized some amazing games for each of the 7 canvas-covered booths, as well as, designed the flyer for the event!! Sheu Au distributed them to the nearby schools and libraries. FCBC members were again very generous with their financial support and/or donating prizes for the games, programs, and logistical support. We had great participation from the youth, young adults, and adults of the English and Chinese-speaking congregation.

The wildfires in 2020, as well as, the Covid pandemic of the last two years, have presented tremendous challenges at Redwood Glen Christian Camp, Loma Mar. By God's grace, generous donations helped to financially keep the camp open, even though there were fewer conferences scheduled, and volunteers, including many from FCBC, helped to clear vegetation to make the camp more fire safe. The Missions Committee through Wes Chan had scheduled workdays in January and May of 2021.

The Missions Committee had discussed trying to encourage more Outreach Ministry outside of Chinatown by possibly partnering or establishing a relationship with a church of a different ethnic group. Through Pastor Sebastian's effort, the committee sponsored its first Prayer Walk in the Bayview-Hunters Point area of San Francisco with Pastor Kirk Davis, whose church is located in this area. Many of the 20 participants expressed pre-conceived negative opinions about this area of San Francisco and were grateful to have had the opportunity to change their perspective and to walk in the neighborhood with Pastors Davis and Sebastian and meet some of the residents. God is good.

FCBC had another opportunity to "Be Christmas Angels for Others" for CCDC and SRO children in December 2021. Under the coordination of the Missions Committee, and co-chairs Barbara and Sheryl Chan, the Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many FCBC members who showed their generosity by funding, purchasing, and wrapping 120 gifts for children aged 3-12 years. It was gratifying to realize that these children will know that they are not forgotten.

As Co-Chairpersons of the Missions Committee, Sheryl Chan and Alan Fong would like to express our gratitude for the participation and contributions made by the members of the committee, including, Barbara Chan, Wes Chan, Chris Chin, Charlene Fong(Deacons Representative), Bonnie Lim, and Caitlin Ung.

Serving Coffee That Makes a Difference—The Lanna Coffee Project (pictures on P2)

Shirlene Leong Nakano

The Lanna Coffee Project and its committee members experienced a hopeful year filled with gratitude for our faithful supporters and donors. We met on a quarterly basis to keep in touch and to fellowship with each other. Our first in-person coffee sale took place in September soon after FCBC resumed in-person worship in August. We held a very successful Christmas sale which began on November 28 at the church's Christmas Fair and extended to Christmas Sunday.

Among the joys of the Lanna Coffee Project is how it affects the lives of so many people in northern Thailand. We are grateful that farmers there are becoming more economically stable and can protect their daughters from having to seek employment in the big cities where labor exploitation continues to be a serious concern. In Chiangmai, at the House of Love, Kim Brown, American Baptist Missionary, retired and has turned many of her responsibilities to over to missionaries Alise and Mark Juanes. This home cares for women and children who are HIV positive and/or are afflicted with AIDS. The New Life Center, with missionary Kit Ripley as the Senior Administrator, helps women recovering from labor exploitation to develop new skills for gainful employment.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all of you who supported the Lanna Coffee Project in 2021 by buying Lanna Coffee and for making generous donations totaling more than \$6,000 so that the two homes in Chiangmai can thrive!

Every Sip Saves Lives!

Lanna Coffee Project Members—Shirlene Leong Nakano--Chairperson, Debbie Chong, Wallace Choy, Carolyn Hee, Howard Lee, Bonnie Lim, Tommy Lim, and Pastor Sebastian Ong

Music & Performing Arts Committee

Andrew Ko

For the first half of 2021, the Music and Performing Arts committee continued to rely on the wonderful talents and dedication of so many of our worship leaders, musicians, and vocalists to lead the congregation remotely by Zoom during Sunday worship. In many ways, assembling, recording, and putting together these musical arrangements -- worship sets, small choir ensembles, and hymns -- in advance each week for virtual church service proved to be as or more technically challenging and time-consuming than leading worship live in real-time! But we were, and remain, so deeply thankful for everyone's efforts, musical abilities, and audiovisual expertise to make these weekly worship experiences a deeply meaningful time for all, even when everyone had to do so from their own homes.

We were only too happy, along with the rest of the church, to finally come back together in person in August and be able to hear one another live and singing in unison and harmony. This required a lot of planning, preparation, and deliberation to ensure optimal safety. A special shout-out to folks like Joy Ng, Wendy Quan, and Nelson Wong for their leadership and finding creative ways to bring our beloved choirs back together safely and in smaller numbers; to Jon Ng and a growing number of volunteers who have been so critical behind the scenes to allow both in-person and remote worship to happen simultaneously (no easy feat!) to accommodate the varying needs of our congregation; as well as to so many FCBC members both young and old whose vocal and instrumental talents now fill our sanctuary again with beautiful music and songs of praise to God. We hope to recruit even more members in the upcoming year who might like to serve in this music ministry and share their talents with others!

Pastoral Relations Committee

Joel Jang

Another year in dealing with Covid-19

We want to be optimistic and as church people, we are always hopeful. Some things are easier to treat or eradicate than others. But burdened with the current political, social, and personal choices, the ongoing virus we are still dealing with turns its ugly head with more urgent togetherness for us to move forward. This once in a 100-year pandemic occurrence is testing our human resolve to look personally, nationally, and globally in relating to all people everywhere. No one person is in control. We must turn upward for help.

Adjusting and living out the new normal

Thanks to our pastoral staff and church leaders, life goes on at 15 Waverly Place, either in person or online. For some, it's more work to learn how to use new technology to serve our membership. Others are stepping up to serve in other ways. For others, such as our seniors or members who are home-bound, using Zoom is a blessing in disguise. What we do miss, however, is the in-person chats during breakfast at Joe's Café, in a nearby restaurant, or at home with one of our pastors. Those were the moments we cherish.

Pray, encourage, and chat with our pastoral staff

Thanks to the faithful service of ministry extended by our pastors Sebastian, Chris, Peter, and Lydia, life goes on in our Chinatown institution. During the year the PRC members were able to hold meetings with our staff serving as a sounding board so both the congregation and the pastors could be made more aware of how their needs could be met.

2021 PRC members

As PRC members, we are all honored to be asked by his/her respective pastors to serve. Among its top tasks, the PRC member is to pray for, encourage the minister, and support his/her ministry, personal growth, and family well-being. (We are not an "evaluation committee.")

Current PRC members serving our respective pastors:

Pastor Sebastian Ong: Becky Lessler, Milton Dong, Joyce Ng

Pastor Peter Lee: Howard Lee, Che-Chiu Yee, Joel Jang

Pastor Chris Otani: Diana Lee, Anita Yong

Pastor Lydia Yeung: Alvina Tai, Deborah Mok

Social Committee

Joyce Ng

Returning to the church building in person this Fall has been a joyous occasion every week. Yet there have been some notable events that the Social Committee has had the privilege to serve. December in particular was a busy month! We served *baos* and tea at the Membership meeting and cookies and tea at the Baptism and Christmas Eve services. Many thanks to the committee members who dedicated their mornings to prepare and serve. We look forward to another year of serving our church community!

With gratitude,

Agape Fellowship (Pictures on P2)

Ben & Cynthia Man

This past year has been both challenging and encouraging for Agape fellowship. Our lives were still under the cloud of COVID, but we never stopped gathering, sharing, and supporting each other as a fellowship. We started out the year by mainly meeting on Zoom. As more of us got vaccinated, we slowly started in-person meeting in the summer. In 2021, we had finished a 4-session Bible Study, led by different brothers and sisters. We had 2 outdoor activities this year, one as joint fellowship with the Young couples, including Kayaking, picnic, hiking and backyard BBQ. We have worked together in making crafts for FNS on Mother's Day and Father's Day events. We met in-person for our Thanksgivings. We gathered at the end of the year to celebrate Christmas, exchanged gifts, and planned for our new year. All these were done by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Although we have started our new year with new challenges and new variety, we are looking forward to meeting in person when the situation gets better. We are thankful for the good health of our members and their flexibility with our meeting schedules.

Ainesis Cell Group (Pictures on P2)

Nancy Guan

The year of 2021 is continuously challenged by the pandemic. With God's grace, we have peace and strength to face whatever circumstances in our life. Our cell group kept the monthly gathering on zoom to share our updates, sing praise songs, and pray together. We also kept in touch with each other by sending updates in our group messages, so that we can pray for each other. We encouraged each other to attend Sunday school, the online Bible study (Words of Life), read the Bible and grow closer to God. Thankfully, Cantonese worship started in-person worship in July 2021 and some of our sisters were able to worship at the church. This year, we were so blessed to witness sister Lilian Chen's baptism in December. May she continue to grow in the love of Christ. As the Bible says, "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5)

The pandemic has not stopped us from serving in the community. Sister Linda and Nancy join the outreach event with Pastor Lydia to serve Thanksgiving lunch boxes for Friday School students and the community. 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 a difficult time. And she is always there for us and reminds us that God's grace is sufficient for every single one of us! Let us continue to encourage and support each other to follow the steps of Christ! God is faithful! "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 love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

May God continue to bless and give us strength to face obstacles!

We are so thankful that one of our sisters, Sherry shared her thoughts below:

"In 2021, on top of getting used to this Pandemic life like everyone else, I have specific duties and responsibilities as a nurse. I work with my team to serve our Chinese community and get through many difficult situations safely. I don't know when we can win this battle, but God has been there with me every step of the way. Thanks and praise to our Almighty Lord! In 2022, I want to have more time to study your word, be closer to you and listen to you more carefully. Please help me, dear Lord!" ~Sherry Zhang

Emmanuel Family Group (Picture on P3)

Danny n Mary Lee

2021 has been a challenging year, what with the pandemic mandate of wearing masks, social distancing, and somewhat self-imposed isolation, but we got through it all with God's guidance, and blessings.

In lieu of in person meetings, Emmanuel Family Group had its monthly meetings on Zoom with good member participation. It was actually good to see members who normally would not attend the meetings in

person, but they participated via Zoom. The Zoom meetings provided us with plenty of sharing in our personal lives and recent activities.

Mary Lee led the December meeting with a show and tell, each one sharing his/her happy Christmas moments and gifts received or given. Notable ones were when Danny and David Louie both showed their original wooden tennis rackets with wooden presses which they got as Christmas gifts in their younger days.

We miss the participation in meetings and other activities by members who passed on to be with God in heaven: Warren Lee, Gary Eng, Ken Jay, Clarence Chan, Arnold Mew, David Wong, James Wong, George Chen, Bill Chin, Florence Chin, Gordon Chan, Ed Chan, Richard Tom, Gilbert Jing, Sandra Mar Yee, James and Marie Chuck, and our founder Miss Astrid Petersen.

However, we are comforted knowing that they are with God in heaven and at peace.

We pray for God to grant us a joyous and productive 2022.

Joshua Fellowship & Friday Night School

Wallace Chu

After an unprecedented year, we were hopeful that things might get back to normal in 2021, but, we are still in a tough environment as the pandemic is not over yet. Although we are in a challenging time, it did not stop The Friday Night School and Joshua Fellowship ministry from growing with blessings of the God

We are so thankful to have such faithful brothers and sisters serving together. They are so committed to help in teaching and leading programs. Although the church has reopened in 2021, we continue to hold online classes and fellowship through Zoom as there are still concerns over the health and crime situations in Chinatown. In addition to the English class and fellowship programs, we have online medical workshops by medical doctors and specialists. Many people other than current students were invited and joined. Hopefully we may continue to follow up with them.

There is always limitation by merely contacting the students online. We tried to reach out to the community by in-person events. We planned gift distribution events on special occasions such as Chinese New Year, Easter, Mother's day, Father's day. We also have lunch boxes event during the Thanksgiving season like last year. In December, we gave Christmas gift bags in person to the students and have simple caroling on the sidewalk. We also hosted Christmas celebration online with students and their friends. We shared the true meaning of Christmas and the Gospel to them. Hopefully the Holy Spirit continues to work on them.

During the Mid-Autumn Festival, we hosted an in-person celebration with the students. This was the first in-person gathering since the outbreak of Covid-19. Due to health concerns, we limited the number of attendees to 40. Priority was given to those with difficulty to join the class online. They all enjoyed the time together. Hopefully we may have more of these in the future.

It always involves much effort and resources to organize in person events. To get more in person contact with the students, we started some small group gatherings. These also help to build closer relationship and have deeper sharing.

Although the pandemic impacted our ministry, we experienced the greatness of our Lord. He not only helped us overcome all the challenges, but He also created many opportunities to reach out to people through the online setting. It is amazing that so many of the students have accepted Christ and got baptized during the pandemic time.

With so many uncertainties lying ahead and the pandemic now showing any signs of going away soon, it is hard to plan for 2022. We firmly believe our God will show us His guidance no matter the circumstances. We will likely keep the online approach for a period of time, but we will proactively use different ways to keep reaching out to the community and bringing more people to Christ.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. “

Men's Fellowship (Pictures on P3)

Alan Fong

The Men's Fellowship was chaired by Alan Fong, assisted by a planning team of Wes Chan, John Tom and Nelson Wong. Our goals are to encourage fellowship among the men of FCBC, participate in service projects, and nurture our spiritual growth. We participated in a work day at Redwood Glen in January, and John Chuck and Pastor Don Ng were speakers at an overnight retreat held at Redwood Glen in September. John shared with us some of his experiences in writing his book, Pearls from the Practice of Life. Pastor Don shared his experience of traveling to Spain with his daughter Lauren to participate in the Camino de Santiago, a 9 day walking adventure leading to the shrine of the apostle St. James in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. We finished our year's activity with a family activity for the food distribution at Sunset Ministry in October. We look forward to 2022 with optimism and the opportunity to serve the church and our community.

Mary Cell Group, Christian Circle & Basic Truth Sunday School Class

Mei Ng Cheng, translated by Wendi Lin

Two years have gone by unnoticed since the pandemic. Thank God we can still meet on Zoom. Mary Cell and Christian Circle Fellowships have joined one another for more than two years. We participated in online worship, Sunday School, Friday Night School, Joshua fellowship and caroling.

The basic truth class led by Pastor Lee meets once a month to pray and share our life testimonies. The Christian Circle Fellowship also conducted online Bible Study and sharing once a month.

Let us know God better and be happy to serve.

May the pandemic pass soon. May the Lord grant us peace and health! Amen!

OYYA (Older Youth /Young Adults)

Paul Fong

The year 2021 has been especially challenging to an elderly group like the OYYAs because of the dangerous virus.

Most of us did not attend in-person church service and our programs were mainly by Zoom or at someone's home with a large outdoor yard. We enjoyed several outdoor events at Joe and Emily Chan's house, and we attended the book reading event led by Dr. John Chuck at the San Mateo Park. We attended a program at the Asian Art Museum, but many dropped out because the virus was peaking

For the Zoom events, we had social justice issues. One led by George Lai and another by Rev. Jerry Mann.

Some of us went to a Stop Asian Hate Rally held on Sloat St. and another Asian -Black Coalition Rally held at Portsmouth Plaza. We wore Black Lives Matter Tee Shirts to demonstrate solidarity with the Blacks.

Some of us participated in a Growing Young Zoom meeting with the youngsters in our church and I believe that they were surprised that we are not senile, and they actually enjoyed our company.

Gayle set up a zoom program dealing with nutrition, and we discovered that Chinese food is not only delicious but it's good for you. We participate by zoom the Young Women Chorus and Marybeth Ong did an outstanding job as a soloist.

Maxine went thru the church directory and phoned everyone to wish them a happy birthday and by this report, we wish all of you a Happy New Year. Reports by a number of experts seem to suggest that the Omicron virus may be the beginning of the end of the Pandemic and may be treated like a common cold...drink chicken soup and rest.

Semanon - Laugh, Give, Serve, Love (Pictures on P4)

Kathy Mar & Barbara Lym

Semanon is mostly composed of 60+-year-olds, many of whom literally grew up in the church their entire lives with a few weaving in and out through the years. The stability of our group stems from the leadership of Paul and Maxine Fong who has championed this group to its 50th anniversary, 2020. With the pandemic front and center, we have endured and have had each other to depend on. We are blessed in so many ways, too many to count. Below is a brief summary of our “laugh, give, serve, love” in 2021.

- January reflections are a time of reflection. Finishing 2020, we thought the pandemic would soon be behind us. As we complete 2021, we now realize the way we have been living may be a new way of living. Masks are part of us. Distance is part of how we behave. Technology is our crutch to the human touch. But having said that we have found ways to grow and go deeper by giving, loving, and sharing.
- In February our fellow member, Dr. Andrew Ko, from Xplorers, UCSF Oncologist spoke to our group about Cancer.
- March fellowship was our Part 2 with Pastor Chris O who spent time leading us in how to improve our communication with key relationships.
- April was spent with another member from Young Folks, George Lai who spoke about his annual Seafarer project. Many of our talented knitters contributed their time and beautiful scarves and hats to this project later in 2021.
- For the month of May, Semanon sponsored this all-church event with Andre Chapman who spoke via zoom regarding systemic racism.
- We gathered in June at the SF/Marin Foodbank and hustled quickly through a 2 hour run with many joining for lunch at mission bay food trucks after.
- Liane Chuck hosted a Church at home Zoom inviting Semanon to watch, eat and knit!
- Mid-July, Paul Fong had a knee replacement and is healing every day, and is thinking about fishing every day too :-)
- August was the men’s retreat, and we did not have a formal get-together this month.
- September we gathered at 7 am Sunset Ministry Food Pantry with coffee and breakfast after at Devils Teeth.
- October, Many endured the pouring rain by helping set up and take down the First Annual Harvest Festival!
- Albe Wong and Barb Lym hosted a book signing with John Chuck, loaded with fun, food, and fellowship!
- November we spent time via zoom, planning our calendar for 2022!
- December, Covid, Delta, Omicron, etc has hindered our plans, and hope we can meet again soon!

God bless 2021 and prayers for everyone’s health and safety for 2022.

Cheers.

Senior Adult/Young Folks Fellowship

George Lai

It goes without saying, we, as with the entire world, have undergone difficult and trying experiences during this time of pandemic. Nevertheless, we have attempted to maintain some degree of normalcy and made adjustments to our program of fellowship and service. We have kept the faith in the hope that God’s grace and presence will continue to provide what we need to follow God’s lead in all of our circumstances.

In lieu of meeting in-person, we have relied on zoom not only for our meetings but also for joint meetings with other fellowship groups, attendance at church worship services and activities, and Bible studies. In particular, we had zoom meetings with the OYYAs and with some of our stay-at-home members. We made an on-going activity to make phone calls and/or send greeting cards to several homebound members.

We took advantage of opportunities to meet in-person. We attended the Senior picnic which highlighted Dr. John Chuck's presentation of his book, attended a BLM rally in Portsmouth Square, participated in a Chinatown community for social justice gathering, and went on a Bayview District tour guided by a church pastor. Susan Lee hosted a lunch at Hong Kong Restaurant where she related how she received a largesse and wanted to share it with us. We paid a visit to Jimmy and Nancy Yee.

We maintained our annual Seafarer's Project of filling Christmas ditty bags for seamen docked in San Francisco and Oakland. We met at Evan Lessler's place to gather, sort out and organize the items. We thank the many FCBC members who contributed to this project in knitted caps and donations of supplies and materials. Our traditional Christmas party at Carolyn's home, which lasted for hours, consisted of a sumptuous meal, carols, a message, and a quick gift exchange.

Thank God from whom all blessings flow.

Sojourners (Pictures on P4)

Gina Chew & Maureen Wong

The Sojourners, like some of the other fellowship groups, felt the zoom fatigue going into the second year of the CORONA virus epidemic. We were however blessed with interesting and thought provoking talks throughout the whole year. We saw beautiful pictures of the landscape and animals of Africa, a world completely different from our own. The travelers felt blessed to have had these life changing experiences.

In April, we saw a video called "Gold Mountain, Big City". It was about a map of San Francisco Chinatown with captions and images. The explanations of these images reflected Chinatown's history during 1939-1955. We explored the triumphs and struggles of the community at those times.

The joint meeting with the OYYAS and the Emmanuel Family on the Senior Nutrition Talk reminded us that it is never too late to eat healthy. Not only the portion size mattered but the variety of the food colors on our plates help us to eat healthy. Our two hikes to Rancho San Antonio and Stevens Creek Reservoir truly lifted our spirits up. We were able to be in the company of each other for the first time in months. Both hikes were blessed by God with perfect sunny weather. One hike was even in the midst of the atmospheric river days.

We joined the Semanon to hear an eye-opening presentation by Andre Chapman on the American sin and the stereotyping of the black man. His talk of unity and the understanding of each other was thought provoking and warranted action from each one of us.

In August and September, we had two speakers who shared their passions. Kevin O'Rourke talked about the disaffection of Catholics away from the church. His concern for their search for a meaningful spiritual life is shared and is relevant to all Christians. Our fundamental yearning to seek God ties us all together. Pastor Lauren Ng took us on a journey of her thoughtful expressions through her poems. We had an opportunity to read them and share our personal reflections. All this reminds us of our personal relationship with God which is also unique.

In November we had our planning meeting which was led by the 2022 co-chairs, Laura Pang and John Tom. The planning is steadily progressing and we are all praying for some safe in person meetings in the new year.

We ended the year with the help of our in-house creative genius, Joy Shih, leading us in a fun filled game. The countdown of who is naughty during Christmas was quickly lost by some. The evening's theme was an indescribable gift of God. 2 Corinthians 9:15. Has anyone given you an indescribable gift? We thank God for Jesus Christ, the indescribable gift that was given to us. How can you be an indescribable gift to someone?

Women & Brothers' Society

Helen Poon, translated by Wendi Lin

The year is almost over, yet the pandemic is still here.

2021 is a year of helplessness.

Only a few can attend the Women & Brothers' Society.

I hope that next year 2022 will be a good year.

Since the beginning of the in-person worship at church, Sister Sharon Chen has been leading Women & Brothers' bible class to continue the study of the Bible. We are thankful.

Although there are only a few sisters attending the monthly meeting, I am also thankful.

Thank you, Pastor Lydia, for taking the time to share the Bible with us.

It is so good to be together during the pandemic.

Let God lead us in the way ahead and do what God sees as good.

I am very happy that the Women & Brothers' Society will be 100 years old in 2022. It is not easy, but thankfully God has been watching over us the past 100 years. I am thankful for the four sisters who started the Women & Brothers' Society in 1922. They did what pleased God.

In addition to relying on the Almighty God, we need the support of brothers and sisters for getting through a hundred years.

God is the lamp at our feet. It is full of joy to follow Him every day. I hope that all kinds of viruses will subside next year, and everyone will be healthy and safe.

Our beloved Sister Yuk Hing Leung rested in the Lord's arms on June 7, 2021, we will miss her with all our heart.

The Women & Brothers' Bible Class is held at 11:30 am in the library on the third floor of the church every Sunday morning.

The Women & Brothers' Society is held in the library at 11:30 am on the second Sunday of every month.

We welcome everyone to learn the Word of God in the Bible. Because God is rich in wisdom, following Him is the beginning of wisdom.

Let us continue to grow and do what God sees as good.

I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

Women's Fellowship

Lea Wong & Becky Lessler

The Women's Fellowship ministry is an outreach to women of all age groups. Active participation in setting the yearly agenda is encouraged. Unfortunately, our activities continue to be shaped by safety precautions dictated by the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. Once again, the 2021 Women's Fellowship Retreat was cancelled due to San Damiano's safety parameters concerning the gathering of large groups.

However, we were able to gather in the Sanctuary for a very special event. Joy Shih Ng invited filmmaker Felicia Lowe for a special screening of *Chinese Couplets* on September 18 in the FCBC Sanctuary. Masked and socially distanced, over 30 women came to view her moving documentary of four generations of women in America, and the impact America's Chinese exclusion era upon her family. With today's urgent focus on the Chinese in America, her documentary touched on the Chinese experience viewed from her own family's history. Many women in the audience were touched by the film as revealed during the Q & A session that followed. It unmasked repressed feelings and fostered new insights into long misunderstood family histories.

XO Fellowship

Caitlin Ung

Our young adult/college-age fellowship had an eventful year! We started our year connecting online monthly for game nights, movies, and a special cooking lesson from our own Isaac Man who taught us to make the Korean dish, Tteokbokki (Spicy rice cake)! Chris O led us through a Bible study series where we were able to reflect on our individual faith journeys and explore how these journeys came together. As the coming of summer marked the end of our Bible study, we were able to gain perspective on how God was working in our lives in these strange and difficult times. We were blessed to be able to meet in person starting in the summer months, meeting for socially distanced hikes and paint nights. Finally, for the coming year of 2022, we welcome Anderson Yu as the new chair of the XO Fellowship!

Xplorers

Jackie Chou & Leslie Chin

The 2021 year was a great one for the group! We continued the first half with our virtual meetings, including two game nights, spring wreath making, and check-ins with each other as we continued to navigate living through the pandemic. Even though we kept to Zoom, we found ways to support one another through ice breakers/activities, prayer and laughter.

Thankfully, once people started receiving the vaccination, many of us felt a lot more comfortable with holding in-person meetings the last half of the year, which included:

- *Backyard picnic
- *Olympic-themed games in the park
- *Apple Hill
- *Helped at FCBC's Harvest Festival
- *Annual Tri-Tip dinner
- *Annual Christmas Celebration

It's been wonderful to see how far God has brought this group through what has been a very long year for everyone. He has kept us healthy, growing, and strong in the midst of many challenges and changes. What a testament to Him and His faithfulness! We are indescribably grateful, and look forward to all the ways God will use each of us to bless one another and our community in 2022.

All Glory be to Him!

YouthTalks

Mel Ng & Chris O

For 2021, much of YouthTalks continued to meet consistently every Friday night on zoom. The dedicated volunteer staff of Melanie Ng, Aaron Tom, Jackie Ma, and Rick Wong spent time with the youth, prepared heartfelt and biblical messages, and enjoyed playing and hanging out with a group of 8-10 youth every Friday night.

They continue to use the Orange Curriculum series and prepared lessons regarding Personal Faith, Family Matters, Spiritual Habits, True Faith, and concluding with a series on Advent. There were also numerous movie nights as well!

As people felt more comfortable in-person, YouthTalks started holding in person events in October, starting with a bowling night at Bel Mateo Bowl in San Mateo. In November there was a joint event with Community Baptist Church and in December there was a Christmas Hot Pot at FCBC.

We love the fact that the YouthTalks fellowship spans from junior high as well as to those who are in college now.

We are so thankful for the dedicated YouthTalk leaders and looking forward to seeing how God will grow this ministry in 2022!

Membership Statistics

Receiving the Right Hand of Fellowship

Five (5) new members on August 22, 2021:

By Baptism: Alex Lee, Jacob Lum, Ben Scales

By Transfer: Gina Chew, Sylvia Lam

Four (4) new members on September 5, 2021:

By Baptism: Connie Le, Evan Poon, Sophia Zhao

By Transfer: Paul Cheung

Six (6) new members on December 12, 2021:

By Baptism: Lilian Chen, Annie Wen & Tammy Yeung

By Transfer: Gerry Fong, May Lee, and Karen Yuen

Two (2) new members waiting for baptism:

David Huang, Man Chiu Wong



Returning to the Lord

Eight (8) members rested in peace:

Clarence Chan
Katherine Kwan
Art Yee

Gary Chong
Warren Lee
Kak Wah Zhang

Nancy Fong
Yuk Hing Leung



The 2021 Church Directory lists:

572 Baptized Members

129 Friends

701 Church Family Members and Friends