



From Our Senior Pastor:

Churchwide Theme for the Coming Year: Journey Ahead



by Pastor Daniel Chan

The pandemic that started at the beginning of 2020 has disrupted our way of life. It affected the way we work, the way we learn, and the way we congregate. However, the pandemic has also provided business opportunities for online merchants, online meeting platforms, and personal protection equipment. A new era has quietly arrived.

In a similar way, church operations have experienced many disruptions. Since March 15,



2020, BCEC has moved all worship services and ministries online. Many people, especially our older members, are having a difficult time adjusting to this “new normal.” However, this new normal has reminded us of the strategic value of the Internet and media. We are also reminded of the importance of engaging our members even in the absence of face-to-face interactions.

Besides the pandemic, we have to vacate the 249 Harrison Ave. building and return it to the city by the end of June 2021. This will result in many changes in the use of our church facilities.

With such challenges in mind, the pastoral staff and elders have chosen “Journey Ahead” as the churchwide theme for the coming year. Going forward, many of our cherished ways of doing ministry will have to change. Instead of viewing this as a loss, let us journey boldly ahead by God’s grace. We shall make use of the media and technology to strengthen our teaching, caring, prayer, and outreach ministries. In a time like this, let us move ahead with creativity, mobility, and flexibility to make more disciples for Christ.

My Ordination



by Pastor Calvin Chu,
Chinatown English

Being a part of BCEC for over two decades, I have been in the 249 Harrison Ave. sanctuary countless times. From sitting in services, meetings, baptisms, falling asleep in the pews after a long day at Project Destiny, or waiting for students to be picked up after Winter Teen Conference, it goes without saying that I’ve had many experiences in that space. Yet, God had yet another one for me, sitting in a nearly empty sanctuary with masks on at my own installation service. It felt fitting, considering I got my first glimpses of ministry in that space. Being in that space again filled me with gratitude for His constancy in my life.

If you told me when I was a kid that one day I could become a pastor, I would not have believed you. Apart from God, I would have lived recklessly and selfishly. However, he carefully sanded the jagged edges of my character to prepare me for this chapter of my life. Undoubtedly, He will continue to refine me.

The service is over, but the impact of that moment continues. I’m still grateful for the people who were there and for those who signed on to watch it. I’m still grateful for Pastor Daniel’s roses and the message behind them. I’m still grateful for Pastor Jack’s exposé on my baggy pants era, but also his charge and words of encouragement.

Being called “pastor” feels about as out-of-place as me wearing my new robe, I still expect someone else’s name to follow that word, but I suppose I need to get used to the fact that my name belongs there now. I’ll grow accustomed to it, but only after a time of God-honoring and character-honoring experiences, exactly as I’d expect our Lord to act.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
ONE HOUR AHEAD

19-21, 26-28 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
CONFERENCE

APRIL

2 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
4 EASTER SUNDAY

MAY

6 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

9 MOTHER’S DAY

31 MEMORIAL DAY
OFFICE CLOSED

JUNE

13 60TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

20 FATHER’S DAY

Table of Contents

Churchwide Theme for the Coming Year:

Journey Ahead 1

My Ordination 1

In Loving Memory: Pastor Emeritus

Jacob Fung 2

Reflecting on Our Global Needs 4

Operation Christmas Child 4

Stephen Minister Confirmation 5

Finding Joy through Painting 6

In Loving Memory: Pastor Emeritus Jacob Fung

by the Fung Family

On Friday, January 22, 2021, Jacob Fung — devoted husband, loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather — went home to be with the Lord at the age of 88.

Reverend Fung was born August 13, 1932, in Hong Kong, to Pun Kuen and Po Sek (Wong) Fung. Growing up in a Christian home, Reverend Fung came to faith at a young age. After high school, he attended Bethel Bible Seminary and began ministry work immediately thereafter. He answered the call to missionary work by moving to Singapore in 1957. He started teaching at Singapore Bible College, where he met his wife, Lois Lee, whom he married on July 15, 1959. Together, they raised two children, Timothy and Alice.

Reverend Fung's life was marked by his spiritual leadership of several congregations in Asia and America. After his early ministries involving church planting in Singapore, Jacob stepped into the role of Senior Pastor to three churches over the next 35 years: Grace (Singapore Chinese Christian) Church in Singapore, Chinese Gospel Mission in Sacramento, CA, and Boston Chinese Evangelical Church (BCEC) in Boston, MA. Reverend Fung shepherded each of these churches with a marked focus on world mission, encouraging strong support for missionaries among his congregants, and emphasizing leadership development and discipleship in local churches. He remained Pastor Emeritus at BCEC from his retirement in 2000 until his death.

Reverend Fung was known to be a kind, generous, and humorous man who devoted his entire life to caring for people. He loved spending time with friends over meals, opening his home to guests, and regularly inviting overseas students to spend holiday meals with the family. He enjoyed Asian meals (especially sushi) and found deep delight in music and reading.



Reverend Fung was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Lois; granddaughter, Charis Fung; and his younger brother John. He is survived by his son Timothy (Christine), daughter Alice (Anthony, Ph.D.) Lee, grandchildren Nathan (Ashlee), Daniel, Jeremy, and Davina Lee, and great-grandchildren, Ava and Zachary Lee, and beloved nieces Joyce, Grace (Francis Ho), and Julia Fung (Chris Kwok).



Pastor Fung arrived in Boston to attend the dedication worship and banquet of 249 Harrison Ave. church building on June 30, 1979 (photo 1). He then began shepherding BCEC as the church's second Senior Pastor faithfully until his retirement in 2000. He was preceded by Pastor James Tan, who was the first Senior Pastor from 1961 to 1979, and succeeded by Pastor Steven Chin, who was the third Senior Pastor from 2000 to 2019. They together attended the church's 25th-anniversary banquet in 1986 (photo 2) and 40th-anniversary worship and banquet in 2001 (photos 3 and 4).



Pastor Jacob Fung and Mrs. Lois Fung came to Boston from California in 1979. Throughout Pastor Fung's serving as the Senior Pastor and Pastor Emeritus, he oversaw many milestones of BCEC. 2) Ordination of Pastor Steven Chin as the first BCEC Associate Pastor in 1984. 3) 25th-Anniversary Worship in 1986. 4) Dedication and groundbreaking ceremony of 237 Harrison Ave in 1992. 5) Passing the baton to Pastor Steven Chin at Pastor Steve's installation ceremony in 2000. 6) Installation of the first Board of Elders in 2002.



Pastor Fung remained active in BCEC after his retirement. He was often seen at church events, sharing food and laughters with everyone across the generations.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CORNER

Reflecting on Our Global Needs



by Jay Leung,
Chinatown Cantonese
3rd Service

The City of Boston has started a project called “Imagine Boston 2030.” It is the first citywide plan in 50 years to determine a roadmap to further develop and strengthen the city. This framework to “preserve and enhance Boston” comes from comprehensively surveying more than 15,000 residents. If you have a chance to read it, you will see climate change frequently cited. Among the five main goals, one of them is to “promote a healthy environment and prepare for climate change.” The report detailing climate change focused on extreme fluctuations with the weather and temperature, as well as rising sea levels that can adversely affect the city plus countering mechanisms that are currently under consideration. The report noted that based on current projections to 2070, annually, there will be 33 days where the temperature will reach at least 100°F, and Boston will have 18% of its confines experiencing flooding due to more frequent and powerful storms along with rising sea levels.

We are currently living in a country with the biggest economy, most abundant manpower and resources, as well as possessing the most advanced technology in the world. We are well equipped with these assets to undertake the challenge of climate

change and reduce the harms that it can bring. However, not every country has the resources we have, when they have to take on the same challenge. The decrease in crops and harvest production because of climate change has already threatened the people in poor regions. In a 2017 United Nations report entitled “Climate Change and Social Inequality,” the data showed how climate change is causing economic harm to poorer people; those who are poor may suffer economic loss that are twenty times higher in proportion than those with higher income. Climate change has already gone from an environmental problem into a societal one, and it is a matter that would concern the God who cares about the orphans and widows. How are Christians facing these challenges, and are we actively working with others to address this crisis?

This year’s Social Responsibility Conference is focused on the topic of climate change, with our theme being “Green Grace: Christian Love through Environmental Stewardship.” We hope that God will speak to us during the conference, leading us to action to respond to this global need, so that we can be good Christian witnesses in actively addressing this crisis, and that through our actions people can see the love of Christ.

We are pleased to welcome three amazing speakers to our conference. They are Reverend Ben Lowe, Dr. Amos Tai and Dr. Derek Yam.

Ben Lowe is one of the founders of Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, where he is currently a senior advisor. He has also served in various capacities with other environmentally-focused Christian organizations. A graduate of Wheaton College (IL), Lowe has authored various

books such as *Green Revolution: Coming Together to Care for Creation* and *Doing Good Without Giving Up: Sustaining Social Action in a World That’s Hard to Change*. He is ordained in the Christian and Missionary Alliance and is currently pursuing graduate studies at the University of Florida.

Dr. Tai is an Associate Professor of Earth System Science at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His research addresses the pressing issues of air pollution, climate change, and ecosystem degradation by better understanding the complex interactions between atmospheric chemistry, climate, and biospheric processes. Tai earned his bachelor’s degree in environmental engineering science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his doctorate in environmental science and engineering at Harvard University.

Dr. Yam is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Divinity School of Chung Chi College of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, as well as the chief editor of the “Christian Times,” a Christian publication based in Hong Kong. He is also an associate researcher at the Christian Research Centre of the Chinese University and a member of the Ecological Care Advisory Group of the Hong Kong Christian Council. His academic research includes the religious and theological implications of media culture, social and political context, and the theology of food. He received his Philosophy Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, and his Master of Theology from Gordon Conway Theological Seminary.

Our conference is taking place over two weekends in March (19th to 21st and 26th to 28th), and we hope that you will take the time to attend.

Operation Christmas Child



by Amy Lin,
Chinatown English

Rebecca Chin remembers a time when she and her family gathered with others from the English Family Fellowship at Newton Campus to assemble Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Sweet Christmas music and warm holiday spirit filled the room, as people took turns sharing what they had brought. From every box assembled and from all who participated, there was a sense of hope that children receiving these gifts would hear the Good News and see that there is a God who loves them.

Operation Christmas Child is a yearly project by

Samaritan’s Purse to show God’s love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, as well as letting local church communities partner with them in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. For over 15 years, Samaritan’s Purse has sent out shoebox gifts to over 178 million children in more than 150 countries. This year BCEC had the opportunity to participate in this meaningful project.

Despite the obstacles of a global pandemic, our small group found a solution to participate in this year’s Operation Christmas Child. Thank goodness

for technology; we took it to Zoom! The same excitement and holiday spirit was felt through our Zoom hangout, as our small group packed the shoeboxes together. Feeling nostalgic, we

chose 5 to 9-year-old girls as our target audience, and tried to remember what each of us were excited to receive at that age. Our boxes included a wide assortment from stuffed animals to cartoon puzzles to floss picks to notebooks. We also prayed, wrote cards, and decorated the box in hopes that the receiving children and family will truly feel the reality of God’s love for them. We’re thankful for the opportunity to serve others this Christmas holiday season!



Stephen Minister Confirmation



by Frank Tin,
Chinatown Cantonese 2nd Service

Since 2011 when I retired, my life took a different path. I started doing visitation at homes for the elderly, centers for children affected by AIDS, and other facilities. I thought I was doing a good job and felt a sense of accomplishment, but I was actually unaware of the needs of the people I thought I was helping.

One morning in late 2019, as I was doing devotions, I was deeply moved by Romans 12:15 (ESV): “*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*” I could sense my calling by the Lord

Jesus to join Stephen Ministry. He said “Follow Me, and I will help you understand those who are suffering.” These words filled my heart.

I started training for Stephen Ministry in a 50-hour, 20-class course beginning in January 2020, was forced to pause in mid-March due to the pandemic, resumed in early September, and completed the course in early November. There were two male and two female trainees, perfect for the role plays in the curriculum, which were quite useful for doing the future caring work. Praise God! I appreciated my two instructors for their wisdom and enlightenment in the areas of emotions, listening, and caring.

Then, things happened that I never expected: the pandemic changed the definition of what is normal for daily life, work, family, health, and mood. All people have been affected to various degrees, many feeling lonely or depressed. For me, who had an easy life, I thought I would finish my

training by my 70th birthday. I ended up finishing after I turned 70 because of the pandemic; it took so long.

God would test me further when I received news last October 8 that my mother was hospitalized in Hong Kong for a stroke, and the prognosis was not good. I was worried for her health and could not sleep well, yet it was not feasible for me to travel to visit her. Prayer became my only option. I learned through Isaiah 49:9 that the more dire our circumstances, the more we are able to know God. My faith was deepened and my commitment to Stephen Ministry was strengthened.

I am thankful for the valuable opportunity given to me by BCEC and look forward to following the Lord’s leading. Along with the brothers and sisters on the team, we will be able to share God’s love with the individuals we serve, because He loves us.



Stephen Minister Training in session during pandemic. The trainer and trainees wore masks and maintained six feet of social distancing.



By God’s grace, Stephen Minister Training Course was completed on November 7, 2020. The trainers and trainees were filled with joy! (Too bad you can’t see the smiles under the masks!) After their commissioning in a ceremony on November 14, 2020, four trainees are now Stephen Ministers.

Member Spotlight:
**Finding Joy through
 Painting**



by Pasang Drolma,
 Newton Mandarin

Two and a half years ago, I was under a lot of stress and pressure, and I lost my sense of

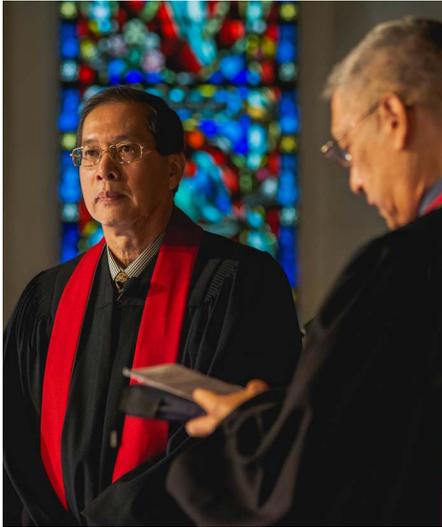
peace and joy one day. I started to pray and Psalm 43:5 (NIV) came to my mind, *“Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”*

I suddenly started to draw a little cute smiley face on my planner. Since that day, our Lord developed my passion to draw and paint. I never knew I had a God-given gift for art, and I did not take any drawing or painting classes in my life. I am so excited and thankful that God granted me a self-taught skill.

Some of my paintings were inspired by the Holy Spirit. I was so amazed to see my own paintings and could not believe that I did them, since I never thought I could. This good habit brings peace, joy, and fulfillment to me, and I know this is God’s amazing grace and my heart is filled with Thanksgivings to our almighty and merciful God who is able, faithful, and powerful.

Praise the Lord for He is the way, light, and truth.





Senior Pastor Installation (10/18): Pastor Daniel Chan was installed as the fourth Senior Pastor of BCEC at Newton Campus. The ceremony was held at Newton Campus and live streamed for all to attend virtually.



BCEC Connections is a quarterly publication of Boston Chinese Evangelical Church. We would love to hear from you!

If you would like to help with this publication (writing, translation, or editing), please contact Ling-Mei Wong at lingmeiwong@gmail.com.

Do you have a story you think would be a blessing to other BCEC members? Do you have a great photo of a recent church or ministry event you'd like to share? Please send your submissions, questions, or comments. *We reserve the right to edit the submissions, as we deem appropriate without notice.*

Visit us on the web at www.bcec.net

Managing Editor
Ling-Mei Wong

English Editor Joshua Chin
Translation Staff Ming Ho, Wanda Lam, Jay Leung, John Wong, Angela Yuen

Chinese Editor Kelvin Li

Layout Designer Charlotte Lai



Baptisms: 1-3) Mandarin (9/19), 4-7) Cantonese (9/20), 8-10) English (9/20)