

2017-2018 | Annual Report

# Following Jesus Together: Celebrating our Unity in Diversity

eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3 (ESV)

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Newton Campus: 218 Walnut Street, Newton, MA 02460 (617) 243-0100  
<http://www.bcec.net>



## MISSION STATEMENT

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The Boston Chinese Evangelical Church is a Bible-believing, non-denominational, local body of believers whose purpose is to glorify God through worshipping God, edifying believers, and sharing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by word and deed to the Greater Boston Chinese community and the world, as guided by the Bible and the Holy Spirit.

## VISION

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Because God has blessed us, we strive to be a blessing to the Chinatown community, the Chinese-Asian community, and our neighbors, by sharing the love of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are compelled by a passion for God and a compassion for people, all for the glory of God.

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## WORDS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF ELDERS

PASTOR STEVEN CHIN

The Board of Elders (BOE) is the highest ruling body in BCEC. It is “responsible for carrying out the purpose of BCEC by overseeing the spiritual growth of BCEC through articulating and teaching Biblical doctrines; providing discipleship training and discipline; developing vision, philosophy of ministry, and strategic long-term plans for the ministry of BCEC; and determining the staffing needs.” The BOE generally meets on the first and third Thursday nights of each month.

The BOE is currently composed of 11 members: 7 elders who are pastors and 4 lay elders. The pastors are Pastors Steven Chin, Daniel Chan, Kenneth Kwong, Enoch Liao, Andy Su, Barry Lam, and Ken Liu. The lay elders are Brian Hui, Chuk-lam Yuen, Jack Lee, and Bak Fun Wong.

The BOE spent time this past year dealing with a number of issues, including the following:

- **MINISTRY PLANNING**, including developing the annual churchwide theme and reviewing the ministries for each of



seven congregations through an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

- **PERSONNEL**, including hiring and installation of the Newton English Pastor, the hiring of a Newton Student Ministries Director, and the hiring of an interim Newton Mandarin minister, the continued development of a short-term and long-term plan for staffing, and continued succession planning, as we anticipate the

eventual retirement of the senior pastor and lay elders.

- **EXPANSION PLANNING**, especially for our facilities needs in Chinatown where five different building are currently used. Aspects of Chinatown facilities planning include strategizing for spiritual and numerical growth for our three language groups, the programming and financial feasibility of any physical expansion and consolidation, and projecting the future of

the community surrounding our church and considering the needs in other communities.

- CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES with regards to working with the Board of Deacons to consider improvements to our congregational meetings and voting, in light of the complex nature of our church, and to consider adding a probation period for new pastors.
- TEAM BUILDING and self-evaluation by studying and discussing together *Five Dysfunctions of a Team*

Please continue to pray for the Board of Elders that it will, with unity, discern the Lord's leading in some important decisions in the coming days.

## WORDS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

ANTHONY LAI

This past ministry year has been marked by God's great faithfulness. We sing praise and give thanks to God for His amazing plan for our church and His provision for all our needs.

2018 has been especially meaningful for the Board of Deacons (BOD). For the first time, we have deacons and deaconesses from all of our different congregations. This helps give us a holistic understanding of the church and its various ministries. As God raises up a new generation of leaders, He brings us new perspectives and sharpens us as we strive to support our staff and congregations. Here are all the members of BOD for this year:

- Anthony Lai — Chairperson
- Andy Te — Vice Chairperson
- Andy Lui — Secretary
- Joyce Lin — Accountant
- Albert Chan — Accountant
- Siu Yu — Treasurer
- Billy Ng — Treasurer
- Katarina Ng — Personnel
- Edward Lau — IT

- Samuel Lok — Facilities
- David Cheng — Chinatown General Affairs
- Tierry Tzau — Newton General Affairs
- Pasang Drolma — Communications

We are thankful for the generosity of all those who have supported BCEC, regardless if it was a service in love, a prayer behind the scene, or a financial offering. We continue to be encouraged by the sacrificial dedication of our fellow brothers and sisters in their giving. Whenever the BOD felt concerned about meeting our financial needs, we experienced God being Jehovah-Jireh in the giving. Even though the General Fund giving did not meet the budget goal, the annual giving in this fiscal year was more than 9% above 2017 giving, and we did not run a deficit at the end of the fiscal year.



Newton Campus continues to go through a phrase of transition, but we are grateful that God has brought three new pastoral staff members to serve His church. Pastor Ken Liu (English Pastor), Saul Lee (Student Ministries Director), and Patrick Lin (Interim Assistant to the Pastor) were all hired during this past ministry year. Our maintenance technician at Newton Campus, Kan Li, left us earlier this year, so we are hoping to hire a new technician to fill his absence. Let us continue

to pray that, through all the changes, Newton Campus will continue to flourish by God's grace and serve the community at Newton.

We have also formed a taskforce to evaluate our Annual Meeting procedures and study how to better mobilize and engage all of our members to participate. This year, we will be using simulcast to host the Annual Meeting at both the Chinatown and Newton campuses. It is our prayer that more people will come together as one body in Christ, understand our church's growing needs, and help build God's kingdom.

As we look ahead to our next ministry year, we see many challenges and opportunities ahead. One of them concerns our Chinatown campus and how we foresee its growth in the future. We have worked closely with the expansion taskforce and Board of Elders on the application of Planned Development Area, which, thanks to God, was approved by the City in October. The PDA gives us flexibility in developing 120 Shawmut Ave. to make

room for our current ministries and beyond, opening the door to dreams and possibilities of new ministries. We will also continue the discussion with the City concerning the possible acquisition of 249 Harrison Ave. for the future high school location. All these are at a preliminary stage, but they can potentially have significant impact to our church, its ministries, and our financial responsibilities. May God give us guidance as we study all the information and keep us close to Him through the process.

I encourage everyone to continue to pray for BCEC, as we work together to offer the hope and peace of the gospel to our neighbors. May we live out our new church theme, "Seek the Peace of the City," and be His witness in the community God has placed us.

## REPORT FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

### PASTOR STEVEN CHIN

As I write this report, I am actually on sabbatical. I want to start by thanking the church for this sabbatical. I was so busy that I realized how much I needed to rest and to be renewed. The sabbatical has been a much needed blessing to slow down me down and to hear God's voice. I also want to thank all of the pastoral staff and other leaders, especially Pastor Daniel Chan, who have had to pick up additional duties during my sabbatical.

This past year our theme was "Following Jesus Together: Celebrating our Unity in Diversity." We had our first churchwide picnic in years. But true unity comes when we can work together in building up the church despite our language and cultural barriers. The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 133:1 (ESV) "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" This requires patience, perseverance, and appreciation of the valuable differences that others bring. Although there will always be challenges, I am

glad to see the different parts of our church working to build up the church.

We may not all be in one place doing the same thing, but, for instance, I see a core of our English-speaking members sacrificing their time and energy to work with middle school students for most of the summer in Project Destiny. (In fact, people have been serving in this ministry for 25 years now. We thank the Lord for the many lives that have been touched). I also see many Chinese-speaking members at the August Moon Festivals in Chinatown and in Quincy and other evangelistic outreaches, engaging people in conversations about the gospel. The target groups may differ, and the methods may vary, but all are trying to share the love of Christ.

In terms of numbers, our adult worship attendance is still at a plateau. We are down about 100 people from our all time high of 1,159 in average attendance in 2011-12 to 1,050 in this past year. Certainly, this

reflects national trends in our changing spiritual environment. Also, there have been a number of new churches started in the area in the past ten years. Some of our former members have gone to serve there, and we bless them. Other factors include more travel by members, more competing activities for children on Sunday morning, and the availability of online sermons. As result some of our members are coming to church services less frequently. We must make worshipping together a priority. As we are reminded in Hebrews 10:25 (NIV), "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching." We also hope that the addition of new staff at Newton Campus will give all our staff more time and help lift us off the current plateau. Of course, we need to all to pray and work towards building up His church.

We thank the Lord for providing and leading our church in terms of our facilities in Chinatown. We have been using five different buildings on a typical Sunday in Chinatown. The school rental agreements are short term and subject to change. Over the years, I have seen God's hand of provision as doors closed. The land swap proposal involving Parcel A behind 249 Harrison Ave. was stalled for many years. Then God opened the door for us to purchase 120 Shawmut Ave. We also tried to buy the Holy Trinity Church property next door as it became available, but a developer outbid us. But later the property on the other side was sold also, and the developer invited us to participate in a Planned Development Area (PDA) that allowed special zoning for our properties that includes allowing greater height. After a lengthy process, the PDA was granted this past summer. We thank the Lord and all those who helped and prayed. In addition, the city of Boston has expressed interest in purchasing our 249 Harrison Ave.

property for a new school. At this point, we do not know exactly what the Lord wants us to do. But we can trust that He will provide for us and guide us. Let us all keep this important matter in prayer as it will affect our church's future for generations.

Finally, our theme for the new year is "Seek the Peace of the City." The theme is based on Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV) "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." This command from the Lord was given to the Jewish people, as they were carried away to Babylon in captivity. Instead of showing hostility to their captors, He tells them to be a blessing. As we live in a culture more hostile to Christianity, our tendency is to withdraw from the society we live in or to fight against it. But God wants us to be a positive influence, not just to be against the sin we see. There are many ways we can do this by being good neighbors and good citizens. Of course, the

greatest blessing would be to share the life-giving gospel of Christ. As we explore this theme in the coming year, I hope that our church will be an instrument of the Lord to bless our neighbors and our community, so that they will receive the Shalom that comes from the Prince of Peace.

## REPORT FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

PASTOR DANIEL CHAN

This year, the Chinese congregations strived towards living out BCEC's theme of the 2018 year, namely "Following Jesus Together: Celebrating Our Unity in Diversity." Each church member devoted greater effort in getting more familiar with other congregations' characters and needs. In particular, through activities such as the Ping Pong Tournament, the churchwide picnic, and various joint fellowship gatherings, a deeper level of collaborations and conversations were fostered.

Regarding our church personnel, since the departure of Minister Peter Wong last year, we had a difficult time looking for an appropriate replacement to shepherd the Newton Mandarin congregation. Thanks to God's provision, in the middle of this year, we came across Minister Patrick Lin. Beginning in August, he joined our team as a part-time minister, and plans on converting to full time

towards the end of next year. Minister Lin has accumulated much experience in life, and is certain of God's calling for him. We look forward to witnessing God's work through him in promoting our church's ministry and shepherding the Newton Campus alongside with Pastors Ken Liu and Barry Lam, and Minister Saul Lee (who also joined our team in August).

Brother Ben Wong served as a part-time seminary student intern in the Chinese congregation this past year. As he graduated from the seminary in May, upon BECE's invitation, Ben will continue to serve as in the full-time capacity of pastoral resident for a year.

With Pastor Steve Chin being on sabbatical leave from June 15th to October 15th, I have been wearing three hats all at the same time — as Deputy Senior Pastor, as a Chinese congregation Pastor, and as a

substitute pastor for the Newton Mandarin congregation. Praise God! Our coworkers shared the additional workload together and helped me on various fronts to maintain seamless operations at BCEC.

There was a significant decline in the attendance throughout all services in the Chinese congregation, and I find the statistics stunningly alarming. Over the past winter season, there were four snowy Sundays. Though none of the services were cancelled, it affected the average general attendance. However, in the prior year, the general attendance had not been influenced when we faced similar snowy and cold weather that led to two cancelled Sunday services. On another note, the congregation size has been shrinking as well, upon which we must reflect carefully. The pertinent numbers are tabulated below on the next page:

## OVERVIEW

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	8/1/2017 to 7/31/2018	8/1/2016 to 7/31/2017	8/1/2015 to 7/31/2016
Chinatown 2nd Service	222	237	247
Chinatown 3rd Service	150	161	157
Chinatown Mandarin	126	135	148
Newton Cantonese	134	140	123
Newton Mandarin	65	64	64
Total	697	737	739

Up till September, 23 people from the Chinese congregation were baptized (compared to 27 people last year). Approximately 6 people were baptized during hospital visitations.

## REPORT FROM THE EXPANSION TASKFORCE

MARK HO

Praise God for His guidance through the Planned Development Area (PDA) submission process over the past two years. The PDA is a zoning application that enhances our property at 120 Shawmut Ave. Thank you for your prayers, participation in meetings, and for some, publicly sharing your testimonies of God's grace and blessing to you, our church, and our community. On July 12, 2018, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) approved the PDA proposal that our church is part of.

"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. (Prov. 19:21)." Since the Chinatown Expansion effort started 20+ years ago, God has continued to show us that He has a purpose for BCEC. The acquisition of 120 Shawmut Ave. came after challenges with the land swapping plan, the loss of the bid for the former Holy Trinity Church next to 120 Shawmut Ave., and the long wait and uncertainty of the PDA approval. We continue

to see God leading us forward, and along the way, showing us His people in the midst of where He has placed our church.

The approved PDA will enable the possibility of consolidating all of our Chinatown ministries, currently in five different buildings on Sunday, onto one site, as well as to provide more opportunities for us to serve the community. The PDA approval enables us to redevelop 120 Shawmut Ave. and construct a new 12-story building, containing approximately 161,516 square feet of gross floor area, with approximately 84 residential units, two sanctuaries, a gymnasium, fitness rooms, offices, classrooms, meeting space for Christian education, recreational, and social services uses, approximately 2,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space, and a single level underground garage with approximately 30 parking spaces. The residential units are intended to help fund the development of the church and community service space.

Independently, the City of Boston has approached us about the potential acquisition of our original church building at 249 Harrison Ave. These discussions are ongoing. According to the preliminary communications, the City will compensate us for the property based on current real estate prices, cover our relocation costs, as well as provide us with temporary space in the area while we vacate 249 Harrison Ave. and construct the new building at 120 Shawmut Ave., if we proceed in rebuilding. These financial compensations are structured based on the current market rate. We are still waiting for the official offer. We will share when appropriate.

Of all the plans we made, never did we imagine the PDA and the timing of the City's interest of 249 Harrison Ave. For many years, God has provided 249 Harrison Ave. to us as a home to serve and worship Him, and many lives have been changed through the ministries there. Many have been baptized or married there, and countless ministry

meetings have been held there. Today, a majority of the ministries have moved to other more suitable spaces, with the exception of two Sunday services and a few ministry groups. We have outgrown that space for many years. Although space is a critical element of how we run our ministries and community services, it is the ministry plans that drive the usage. Our Elders have been discussing ministry plans in conjunction with how we should proceed in the planning of potentially rebuilding 120 Shawmut Ave. as well as the sales of 249 Harrison Ave. At the same time, we are also researching the financial feasibility of rebuilding.

Any future expansion activities will be voted on by the leadership (BOE and BOD), as well as the congregation. Please continue to pray for our leaders, as we study the different options for future expansion. Pray that God will make clear to us His purpose for BCEC, our ministries, and how to care for His people.

## STAFF LIST (AS OF 9/30/2018)

### Senior Pastor: Steven Chin

#### English Ministry Staff:

Steven Chin	Senior Pastor
Enoch Liao	Assistant Pastor
Ken Liu	Assistant Pastor
Calvin Chu	Student Ministries Director
Lorraine Ho	Children's Ministries Director
Steve Liu	Director of Project Destiny Ministries
Saul Lee	Student Ministries Director
Ryan So	Pastoral Resident
Sam Ng	English Intern



#### Chinese Ministry Staff:

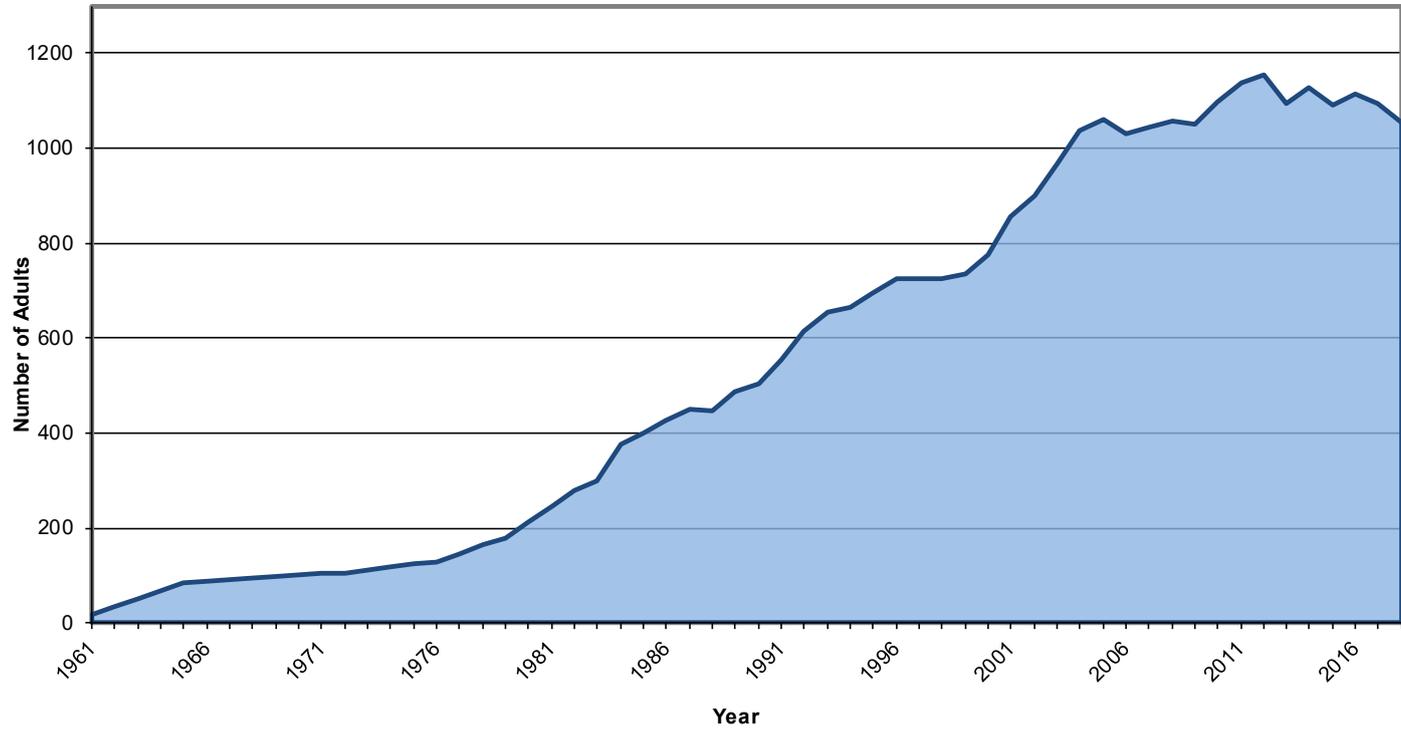
Daniel Chan	Associate Pastor
Kenneth Kwong	Assistant Pastor
Andy Su	Assistant Pastor
Barry Lam	Assistant Pastor
Dora Lam	Assistant to the Pastor
Patrick Lin	Interim Assistant to the Pastor
Jacob Fung	Pastor Emeritus
Ben Wong	Pastoral Resident



#### Support Staff:

Helena Fong	Office Manager
Dennis Chin	Operations Manager
Kwok Wah Wong	Maintenance Technician
Connie Ho	Secretary (Chinatown Campus)
See Yee Morante	Secretary (Newton Campus)
Lilian Te	Secretary (Newton Campus)

**Average Weekly Worship Attendance**  
**1961 — 2018**  
**(as of 9/30/18)**



## CHINATOWN CANTONESE 2<sup>ND</sup> CONGREGATION PASTOR DANIEL CHAN

Since the choir came to an end a few years ago, a group of brothers and sisters from the Cantonese 2nd service who love singing hymns have come together to coordinate music offerings from individuals or groups every Sunday. Their tireless efforts and faithfulness are admirable. I am especially touched by those who volunteered during the summer. Many fellowships, including Women's Fellowship, Song of Songs Fellowship, and Ruth Fellowship, were willing to sing. Besides their diligent rehearsals, they also put in detailed attention, such as wearing the same uniforms. Their dedication in service is much appreciated.

A few months ago, leaders from the Cantonese 3rd service proposed the idea of merging the 2nd and 3rd services. This received a positive response by ministry leaders from both services. However, the plan for expansion at Chinatown Campus remains unclear at the moment, and its various options will sig-

nificantly impact the possibility of the merger. Therefore, the idea is still in the stage of exploration.





## CHINATOWN CANTONESE 3<sup>RD</sup> CONGREGATION

PASTOR KENNETH KWONG

Thanks be to God for raising up leaders and co-workers from the Cantonese 3rd service to serve in our church. Personally, I am very grateful for their sacrifice. They have contributed much to all areas of our church's ministry, including serving on the board of deacons, on worship teams, in fellowships, small groups, Bible teaching, Bible study, retreats, youth ministry, children's ministry, social responsibility, local evangelism and visitations. They have played an important role towards the operation and growth of our church. Some of them served within their own fellowships, while some of them served alongside other brothers and sisters from our church and together they have supported our ministries at both the Chinatown Campus and Newton Campus. They have done their part and responded with action to this year's theme of "Following Jesus Together — Celebrating Our Unity in Diversity."

What were some of the things that we want to highlight for this congregation over this past

year? The attendance was stable, but that did not mean that there were no challenges. We experienced some difficulty in spreading the gospel due to differences in culture. Many of us also encountered a bottleneck period, as we pursued spiritual growth in our lives. These external and internal challenges were not new to us, and we were prepared for them. However, for some, there was the new and unexpected challenge of taking care of our elderly parents or dealing with a sudden serious illness in the family.

Many of our brothers and sisters are in the prime of their lives, with some already starting their own families. As they serve in our church, they need the understanding and the support of their families. However, elderly parents may make it difficult for them to do so. As their parents age, frequent visits to hospitals are inevitable. Even for those whose parents live in nursing homes while being cared for by professionals, they still need to take time to visit them. Some

of our congregation faced the difficulty of having a family member come down with an unexpected serious illness. With no advance warning, life suddenly became chaotic.

We have more and more brothers and sisters facing these problems, but we also witnessed how they relied on God for His help. His grace is sufficient for us. Their faith in God and their courage are admirable. They also demonstrated the following of the command of God in 1 Timothy 5:8 for each to provide for their own household. I hope that each one of us will continue to pray for one another and support one another. One day, we will overcome all these hardships because our God was the one who began the good work in us and He will carry it on to completion. May God grant us the strength.

Worship Committee Members:

Tommy Choy, Shirley Chui, Winnie Lam, Ida Kwong, Sammy Zheng, Pastor Kenneth Kwong

# CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS



## CHINATOWN ENGLISH CONGREGATION

### PASTOR ENOCH LIAO

#### **Life in Christ, Life in the Spirit**

Preaching is one of the ways our congregation shares a common experience. This past year we preached part of the gospel of Mark to reflect on the life of Christ. After Mark and our annual emphases on missions, Advent, and culture, we then focused on Life in the Spirit by studying the latter chapters of Romans.

#### **Raising up leaders**

A constant theme for the past few years has been the Lord raising up new leaders, including small group leaders, Sunday School teachers, counselors, or pastoral staff. We thank God for raising up workers for the harvest. We especially thank God for our pastoral interns and pastoral residents who are not only preparing for future pastoral positions, but also taking on significant responsibilities. Our pastoral resident this past year was Rockey Chan. He has completed his service and is waiting upon the Lord for his next calling. Our pastoral interns this past year were Ryan So and Sam Ng.

#### **The Lord has carried us through faithfully**

Hard to imagine that 12 months ago we were eagerly seeking the Lord for a pastor for one of our English congregations. Brothers and sisters had stepped up to take on additional responsibilities due to recent pastoral transitions. Chinatown folks graciously released me from various responsibilities, so I could extend to partner more with our Newton folks. And many of our ministries adjusted their plans to better partner and support our Newton English ministries during the transition.

Praise the Lord that He has provided both wonderful shepherds for Newton English in the person of Pastor Kenneth Liu, and He also provided Saul Lee to join our Newton staff as Student Ministries Director. Going forward, I will continue to devote some time to supporting Pastor Ken and Saul at Newton, and I am able to devote some more time back into Chinatown.

#### **Relying on Christ alone**

Pastor Steve took a four-month sabbatical this year, which provided opportunity for me to work closer with Pastor Daniel Chan — what a joy! And because of that opportunity, we've been able to spend more time collaborating across Chinese and English ministries regarding a churchwide theme and future church vision. This change was also a reminder that no matter which leaders come and go, we can trust in our Lord Jesus to guide and provide. And provide He will, not just for our present needs, but also for our future.



# CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS



## CHINATOWN MANDARIN CONGREGATION

### PASTOR ANDY SU

This past year, we collectively experienced God's unifying grace throughout different congregations and throughout BCEC.

First, it was through the third annual Staff Appreciation dinner held at the end of last year. Besides inviting the staff and elders, we were able to invite all the deacons of the church who had been left out in prior years. We thanked God for using our church leaders to shepherd us and transform us culturally. One member of our congregation shared at the dinner, "We as a congregation could not be where we are today without all of you. We want to thank you for not just doing these acts of service, but doing them in a Christ-like way. By serving us with kindness and patience, with diligence and faithfulness, and as humble servant-leaders. Over the years, we think your example of leadership has also gradually helped to change the culture of the Mandarin congregation. Thank God for your generosity and sacrifice that we may be built up. May God continue to use us to help one another grow in Christ."

Secondly, this summer we participated in the Chinese Joint Retreat. It was the first time

for the Chinatown Mandarin congregation to join in the Chinese Joint Retreat. Three generations of old, middle, and young participated. We especially thank the Cantonese co-workers who diligently labored and shouldered the many administrative responsibilities in preparation for the retreat. The retreat theme this year was "How to follow the Lord in the 21st Century." One young member from our congregation shared, "At the time, I thought this is exactly what we as young adults need to learn. In the two days of the retreat, I was able to join with lively brothers and sisters of all ages in preparing our hearts to grow in the Lord. This was something I had never experienced before. It truly felt like we all belonged to one warm family — we ate together, lived together, and hiked in the woods together. Together, we learned how to make a straight path for the Lord."

Furthermore, we attended the first churchwide picnic in 25 years. It brought together all seven congregations and led brothers and sisters from the Mandarin congregation to experience a "taste" of unity.

When we played together — everything from volleyball to shuttlecock to frisbee — we realized that interacting with brothers and sisters who spoke another language was not that scary. On the contrary, it was very fun. The feeling that everyone belonged to one family was wonderful. Even though there were many people we had never met before, we did not feel any barriers among us.

Recently, we had a chance to make preparations for engaging with an American church in Quincy — to collectively respond to God's call to join hands in reviving the gospel together. Through this American church, God reminded us of the urgency in sharing the gospel and making disciples. An elderly sister from that American church joined our Chinese Bible study that was held there. She shared with us, "This American church really has a heart for God's kingdom. They eagerly hoped for us to join them, so that the gospel can be shared with the Chinese-speaking neighbors in their vicinity. May the Lord touch the hearts of our brothers and sisters, that we may with hearts of thanksgiving and in unity advance the gospel." Timothy Fellowship

## CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS

and Sucai Fellowship, two groups that meet during the weekday, visited an American church in Quincy. They earnestly prayed for God's commission, so that the Lord's will may be revealed and accomplished. "We see in the Bible that although Isaac experienced in his youth the sacrificial event by his father Abraham and witnessed with his own eyes his father's fear and reverence for the Lord, he still faltered in his old age and did not revere God. Faith may be lost in just one generation. May the Lord have mercy on us, that we may be vigilant."

Over the past year, God led the Chinatown Mandarin congregation to dive deeper into His Word and to grow together in unity. May He continue to lead us to be renewed culturally and grow together to have a vision for His Kingdom.



## NEWTON CANTONESE CONGREGATION

### PASTOR BARRY LAM

Looking back on the past ministry year, I am struck by God's faithfulness in the Newton Cantonese congregation. Indeed, God watched over us, poured out his grace, and listened to our prayers. One of the prayer items I shared last year, which was for providing a Newton English youth minister and a Newton Mandarin minister, was answered shortly before I wrote this reflection. I am very grateful that God has brought two new staff to the Newton Campus. Another prayer item was to ask God to encourage and refresh all the volunteers and help them experience God's abundant grace. I have truly witnessed the faithfulness and dedication in their service. Some of them have served in the same roles for many years, while some have changed as they discover more of their spiritual gifts from God. It is a joy to see everyone coming together to serve the Lord, testifying to this year's theme, "Following Jesus Together: Celebrating our Unity in Diversity."

I also give thanks to God for He has given much love among all brothers and

sisters. During a welcome luncheon at our congregation, many newcomers shared how they were touched by the love and warmth in our church. One elderly person shared that he had been to many churches, but he felt that our church is different. The gracious welcome extended to him was hard to come by, and it kept him coming back to our church. When I heard their praises, I could not help but be encouraged. It feels like God has given us a transcript, acknowledging and praising all of us. I hope that everyone will continue to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit in the practice

of loving others. Then we can let people see the love of Christ among us and give glory to our Heavenly Father.

In the new ministry year, I hope to follow our new theme, "Seek the Peace of the City." God has put us at Newton, and our attendees comes from various towns and cities. May we all start with prayer, seek God's guidance, and know our communities better, so that we can bring the gospel into our neighborhoods and witness the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.



## CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS

Prayer items:

1. Please pray for the pastoral staff at Newton Campus. We hope to explore a holistic developmental direction for ministries at Newton in the upcoming ministry year. Pray that God will grant us faith and wisdom to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
2. We finished an Evangelism Explosion training, and a team rose to the call of evangelism and outreach. However, we lack people whom we can talk to. Please pray that God will show us the door and lead us to find His lost sheep.
3. Pray that God will give us a heart that hunger and thirst for righteousness, as well as to raise up more brothers and sisters to be trained and used by God.



## NEW COMMUNITY CONGREGATION (NEWTON ENGLISH)

PASTOR KEN LIU

As I reflect upon this past year, it has been exciting to see God at work in the Newton English (New Community) congregation. My previous role as the interim pastor was to assist Pastor Enoch in providing pastoral presence, care, and direction. As I am settling into my new role as the congregational pastor at Newton English campus, it has allowed me to spend more time with people and discern together what God is doing in our midst and to take steps to see our congregation, our campus, and our church flourish.

One of those steps was to assess the health of our adult small groups. Through surveys and personal interaction, we began to explore new possibilities and pathways for discipleship. After much conversations and work, we are relaunching our small groups this fall and experimenting with sermon-based discussion groups. We would appreciate your prayers, as we take steps in this direction.

In addition to assessing the health of our ministries, we are also trying to help each ministry grow and develop. I am encouraged to see some of our key ministries take some steps in that direction. The worship team is one example. With fewer musicians to work with, they have utilized the iSing and have

done an admirable job in leading us in a worshipful experience through this tool. The worship team also held a one-day training to further their growth both spiritually and musically. Special thanks to Anna Man for leading the team through many changes.

The TIOB counselors have also taken steps to grow as leaders. Andy, Phil, and Vince attended a youth workers' training event entitled "Nurturing the Soul of Today's Youth" at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Whether the training is internal or external, my hope is that all our leaders can be resourced, encouraged, and supported.

During the summer, it was wonderful to have our college students come back. I was encouraged to see them take the initiative to meet weekly before Sunday worship service for encouragement and accountability. As usual, they were also active in leading worship, as well as helping out with the TIOB field day. Let's pray for our college students, as they continue in their studies and for God to continue to work in their lives.

One benefit of becoming full time is more time spent with Pastor Barry! We have been meeting regularly and thinking about the long-term needs of the Newton Campus. We

saw the potential for a vibrant youth ministry and sensed that our next hire should be a youth minister. After consulting with TIOB and Awana counselors, parents, and the BOE, we moved ahead to begin the search process. After receiving several very qualified applicants, we are thankful that Saul Lee has responded to our offer to become the Student Ministries Director. We are thrilled for Saul and his wife, Susan, to become part of the BCEC family, and we ask for your prayers as they transition.

Looking ahead, our campus hopes to be more engaged with our city. With the help of the Social Responsibility Committee, we were connected to the Social Services department at Newton City Hall and began preliminary conversations on how the church could serve the city. One immediate need we were able to help with was translation work for their Food Pantry. Another way we were able to help was to coordinate a food drive, since supplies are lean during the summer months. We are excited about the potential for more opportunities for us to bless and seek the peace of the city of Newton. Pray for us, as we discern God's leading.

# CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS



## NEWTON MANDARIN CONGREGATION

CHAOMIN LI

It was a very special and very blessed year for our congregation. Our dear Minister Peter Wong responded to God's calling and retired from his position as Assistant to the Pastor at our church in order to be able to spend more time on missionary work. We were thankful for Peter's service, but with his departure, the Mandarin service became in need of a leader.

We prayed for several months to seek God's guidance. After examining and interviewing several candidates, we finally decided to hire Patrick Lin in July. We gave thanks to the Lord who listened to our prayers, and provided us with a good shepherd who loves God and His people.

We were also very thankful that during this interim period, our co-workers helped out, so our small group committee, prayer meeting, Friday fellowship and Sunday school all functioned as usual without interruption. Because of the persistence of our brothers and sisters, and because of God's blessing, we had seekers and those in need come to join

us. The number of people attending worship service on Sunday remained at about 70-80.

Last summer, our church had four brothers and sisters who joined the East Asia short-term mission team led by Peter Wong. The team experienced deeply the wonderful work of God in East Asia. They had the opportunity to lead many local children to the Lord, and they also increased their faith in God.

God has shown us His love and has provided much more than what we asked for. Pray that we will continue to experience God's love in the coming year and that we may respond to His love in action.



# CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS



## LIFE COMMUNITY GROUPS AND FELLOWSHIPS



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



## CHILDREN'S, YOUTH, AND STUDENT MINISTRIES



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



## JOINT EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS



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