

English Version

英文版

2016-2017 | 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)

Chinatown Campus: 249 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02111 (617) 426-5711
Newton Campus: 218 Walnut Street, Newton, MA 02460 (617) 243-0100
<http://www.bcec.net>





MISSION STATEMENT

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

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 is currently composed of 10 members: 6 elders who are pastors and 4 lay elders. The pastors are Pastors Steven Chin, Daniel Chan, Kenneth Kwong, Enoch Liao, Andy Su, and Barry Lam. The lay elders are Brian Hui, Chuk-Lam Yuen, Jack Lee, and Bak Fun Wong.

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

- Ministry planning, including developing the annual churchwide theme, reviewing the ministries for all seven congregations, considering ways to increase the efficiency of ministries, and considering different models for our Newton English congregation before setting the job description
- Personnel, including the hiring of an interim pastor, approving the job description for the Newton English Pastor and Newton Mandarin Pastor positions, development of a short-term and long-term plan for staffing, and continued succession planning for the eventual retirement of the senior pastor
- Expansion, especially the feasibility of consolidating all our Chinatown ministries into 120 Shawmut Ave. and the consideration of potential collaboration with our neighbors on building projects
- Outside Rental of BCEC Facilities Policy (approved)
- Use of credit cards for donations and for fees (approved)
- Security at our various facilities
- Team building and self-evaluation by participating in a church-wide leadership retreat and studying together the 5 Dysfunctions of a Team
- Theology, including transgender issues and the involvement of the church in affecting public policy and involvement in ecumenical unity events

Please continue to pray for the Board of Elders. Despite appearances, it is a diverse group with different perspectives. Pray for wisdom and discernment to know the Lord’s leading for our church into the future, especially as our church grows in complexity. Pray for continued unity in making decisions for the church.

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Anthony Lai

On behalf of the Board of Deacons, I give thanks to our God for His provision and guidance during the past year. Thank you brothers and sisters for your continual prayers, support, and encouragement.

Also, I would like to thank all the deacons for their hard work and dedication. Even with their busy daily lives, they work humbly and faithfully to support the various ministries of our church.



- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Anthony Lai — Chairman | Andy Te — Vice Chairman |
| Andy Lui — Secretary | |
| Joyce Lin — Accountants | Albert Chan — Accountants |
| Siu Yu — Treasurers | Jason Cheung — Treasurers |
| Charlotte Lai — Personnel | Rich Su — Personnel |
| Edward Lau — IT | Samuel Lok — Facilities |
| Daniel Fong — Chinatown General Affairs | |
| Nelson Wong — Newton General Affair | |

Our mission is to support and provide the best environment and tools for our leadership, as well as brothers and sisters to actualize God's purpose in BCEC. Every year, we initiate many improvement projects. This year, in response to the feedback from our congregations, we worked on few additional improvements. I would like to share with you what we did in the past year in the following areas: operational efficiency, support for staff, church security, cost saving, and hiring and expansion in Chinatown.

Operational Efficiency

As the structure of our church is becoming more complex (4 buildings, 7 congregations, and 3 languages), we are encountering challenges with our existing resources. As a result, we need to provide more

efficient processes for our ministries. Some of the projects we worked on include the following:

- Simplified tax receipt distribution
- Online Giving
- Revived communication/presentation method for our monthly financial report
- Electronic Room Reservation system (Phase 1 for 120 Shawmut Ave. and rolling out for Newton Campus and Chinatown Campus' 237/249 buildings)
- Automatic Sermon Recording upload for Mandarin and Cantonese 2nd Service

Support for staff

- Converted regular land phone line to IP phone system
- All Chinatown Campus pastoral staff members have been relocated to the 3rd floor at 120 Shawmut Ave. This marks the first time all staff are working under the same roof for better support and communication.
- Compensation/benefit analysis to ensure our staff are sufficiently supported.

Security

- Electronic check in/check out system for children ministry
- Install/improve security camera system at Newton Campus and our 249 Harrison Ave. main building (Chinatown Campus)
- Improve internet connection and security

Cost Saving

- Replaced older fluorescent lighting with energy-saving LED lights.
- Replaced older thermostats with Wi-Fi control programmable thermostats instead.

Hiring

- With two positions to be filled (English pastor for Newton Campus and Mandarin Pastor for Newton Campus), our personnel deacons and the searching committee are working diligently to seek God's guidance. Please continue to pray for them and the prospective candidates.

Expansion of Chinatown Campus

- PDA application with our 120 Shawmut Ave. neighbor developers.
- Completion of 120 Shawmut Ave. 2nd floor East wings renovation

In the upcoming year, Board of Deacons will continue to support our ministries for God's glory. We do ask for your continual prayers and support, as we will encounter various challenges. As a body of Christ, we are here to facilitate the fulfillment of BCEC role's in expanding God's Kingdom according to His plan.

REPORT FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Steven Chin



Our personal perception of our church is certainly influenced by when we first came to the church. Our church was started in 1961 with 18 people meeting in a home. For the founders of BCEC, they never dreamed that, in their lifetime, the church would grow to over 1000 people, spread over 7 congregations, using three languages.

I have been blessed to serve on the pastoral staff since 1977. As I look back at what God has done in the past 40 years, I am in awe of the power and grace of God, as He has grown and guided the church using imperfect people, myself included.

When I started serving on the paid staff of the church, I joined founding pastor, James Tan. We had no building of our own to worship in. We worshipped in a rented part of the Pine Street Inn. It was not a hotel, but a homeless shelter. There was just one worship service comprised of about 120 people. The worship was in Cantonese, translated into English. There was no adequate space for children's ministries. Many of the young people dropped out because their needs were not being met. There was a constant concern of having enough money to keep the church afloat. The church just struggled to survive.

As I look at our church today, I certainly see lots of needs. There are a lot of concerns and lots of things that need improvement. Nevertheless, I also have a sense of gratefulness for how the Lord has blessed our church. I also have faith in an all-powerful God in whom we can depend upon for all our needs.

As I reflect on the past year of the church, numerically, some congregations have experienced declines, while others have grown. Overall, the average Sunday adult worship attendance for the whole church (1096 people) has been about the same for the past several years. We have fluctuated around 1100 people since 2004. Certainly, the spiritual climate in the nation and in the Boston area has been increasingly challenging for churches that adhere to God's unchanging Word.

Yes, some of us need to get involved in serving. Yes, some of us can work harder and some more efficiently. Yes, some of us need to be better stewards of the materialistic blessings God has given us.

But most importantly, we need to pray. If we want spiritual breakthrough, we need to get on our knees.

Paul reminded us we are in a spiritual battle in Ephesians 6:12 (ESV), "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

We have also recently lost key pastoral staff (Pastor Tom Lee, Vivian Cheung, and Minister Peter Wong) without any replacements at this time. This has put increased strain on our remaining pastoral staff and our lay workers. Even if our individual congregation is not directly affected, there is an effect on all the congregations and on the church

at large. We need to pray together that the Lord will provide the right people to join our leadership team according to His timing.

Besides our desire to grow in number, we want to grow spiritually as well. Our theme for the new year is “Following Jesus Together: Celebrating our Unity in Diversity.” Despite what people on the outside may think because most look alike, we are a diverse church. We have different language and cultures, different perspectives, different values, different styles, different emphases, and different ways of doing things. Yet we are united in Christ. He is the one we seek to glorify. Satan will want to use our differences to divide us. There will always be issues coming up that can potentially divide us. We must not allow internal disagreements to distract us from our common goal of making disciples for God’s glory. Therefore, we need to pray for unity for the church as Jesus did (John 17).

In terms of facilities, we thank the Lord that the renovations to 120 Shawmut Ave. has given us better space to minister. However, it is still lacking in a large worship space. The leadership has been working to put the church in position to have more options in the future. The development of the Ink Block area is both an opportunity and a challenge. We need wisdom to navigate through the new changes.

Finally, I am grateful for all who serve, who give, and who pray for the ministries of BCEC. Many of you have served for years and years. Thank you! Let me encourage you from God’s Word.

Galatians 6:9 (ESV): “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

Paul uses a farming analogy. We may work hard in planting seeds, but we may not see the spiritual fruit right away. Do not give up. We are promised that in due season, we will reap. Our hope is in the Lord.

REPORT FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Pastor Daniel Chan



BCEC is a church with 7 congregations using 3 languages. Some people see this as a burden on church administration and management of resources. But looking at it positively, each congregation has its special characters and strengths. The congregations can enrich and support each other. From this perspective, the Board of Elders came up with this year's churchwide theme: "Following Christ Together: Celebrating Our Unity in Diversity." Our goal is to promote mutual appreciation and cooperation among our congregations on the all-important base of following Christ.

Regarding the Chinese Staff, Pastor Barry Lam took his first sabbatical leave from June to August this year. During that time, he went to Asia for a short-term missions trip to visit our long-term missionaries. After serving over 3 years at BCEC, Minister Peter Wong felt God's calling to focus on overseas missions and stepped down from his ministry with the Newton Mandarin congregation back in September. We are going to miss him. But we are sure that God will use him mightily in another area of His Kingdom. Please pray for our recruitment of a new Mandarin minister. Meanwhile, I will be covering Peter's job with help from Pastor Andy and Pastor Barry.

The total number of attendees in the Chinese congregations decreased by 2 people last year. Below are some statistics:

	8/1/2016 to 7/31/2017	8/1/2015 to 7/31/2016	8/1/2014 to 7/31/2015
Chinatown 2nd Service	237	247	257
Chinatown 3rd Service	161	157	158
Chinatown Mandarin Service	135	148	144
Newton Cantonese Service	140	123	123
Newton Mandarin Service	64	64	50
Total	737	739	732

Including the September 2017 baptism, a total of 27 brothers and sisters from the Chinese congregations were baptized this past year, compared with 31 the year before.

STAFF LIST (as of 9/30/2017)

Senior Pastor: Steven Chin

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
Jacob Fung	Pastor Emeritus
Ben Wong	Chinese Ministry Intern

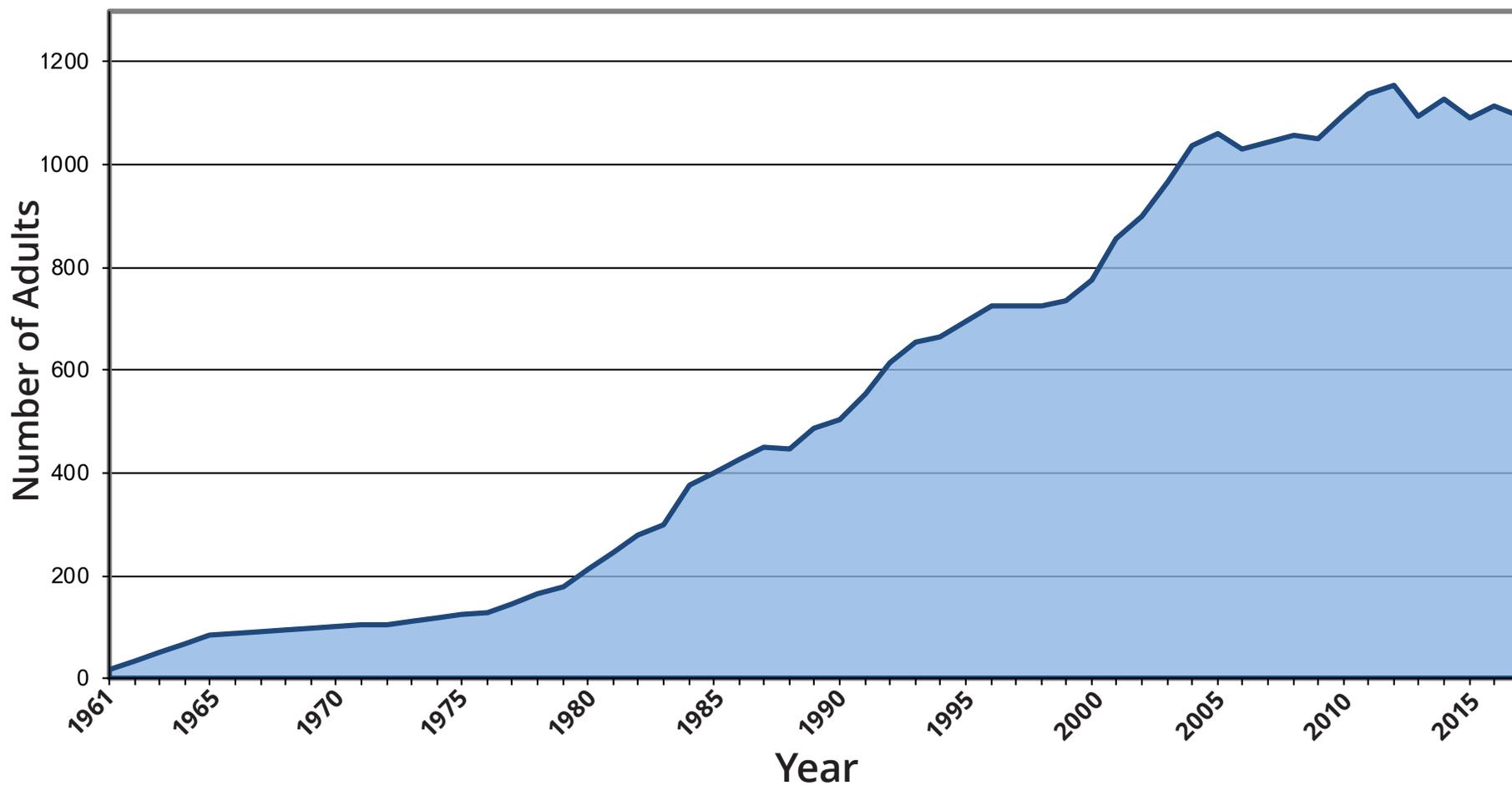
English Ministry Staff:

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

Support Staff:

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

Average Weekly Worship Attendance 1961-2017 (as of 9/30/2017)



CHINATOWN CANTONESE 2ND CONGREGATION

Pastor Daniel Chan

A large portion of the 2nd service is comprised of elderly members. As they age, they are quite sensitive to the weather. Therefore, their attendance during the winter months fluctuates. However, our elderly members love the church. Besides waking up early and praying for the

church and pastoral staff, they also give musical offerings as a group during worship service. They put in a lot of time to practice and rehearse. Younger members can certainly learn from their devotion to God.



CHINATOWN CANTONESE 3RD CONGREGATION

Pastor Kenneth Kwong

Praise God for not only maintaining the attendance at Cantonese 3rd service, but also for raising up leaders from the congregation to serve the whole church. I greatly appreciate the brothers and sisters from 3rd service who have willingly served as church deacons over the many years past. Although they were already very busy in both their personal lives and serving at church, they still willingly readjusted their schedules to dedicate additional time to serve as deacons. Their willing hearts reflect a commitment and passion towards the church and serve as great examples for all. May God bless their service to the church as well as their personal lives.

God also raised up more brothers and sisters with a servant heart for everyone. Our younger generation has taken on many important roles in the congregation. Every week's service — from worship leading to sound control, from manning the projector to presiding, from welcoming newcomers to ushering, and even in clean up — is filled with these brothers and sisters' hard work and sweat. Sunday service continues to be held week after week because of their dedication and faithful service. At the same time, these brothers and sisters have also participated in and taken on important roles in other ministries and major church events such as the Mid-Autumn Festival, local missions, Stephen Ministry, visitations, Adult Sunday School, Local Evangelism Department (LED), Social Responsibility Committee (SRC), and the service teams of various fellowships. These ministries not only benefit the Cantonese 3rd service but other congregations as well. I believe that their service is a fragrant offering in God's sight, pleasing to the Him, as it is written in Romans 12:1: "...to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship."

As everyone is hard at work in serving the church, the biggest challenge is for these brothers and sisters to maintain a close relationship

with the Lord — to gain strength from Him as they confront the fatigue in body, mind, and spirit that comes from continuous service. The Lord Jesus promised that rivers of living water would flow from within us. This "living water" refers to the Holy Spirit who lives in us and continuously nourishes us for growth (John 7:38-39). In his journey of serving the Lord, the prophet Elijah at one point became discouraged to the point of wishing for death. Before that, he had strong hopes of making great strides in his service by leading the Israelites back to God. However, when his defeat of the prophets of Baal merely brought forth a death threat upon himself, he became greatly discouraged and lost his will to fight. How did God restore him? God revealed His presence and command to Elijah through a vision. Although it was only in a whisper, it allowed Elijah to experience God's might and glory. No matter how grand a man's plan and ambition are, they alone will not bring God's presence. Only work and commands that come from God can bring hope and power in Him. We need to grow within the course of His will for us in order to strengthen in spirit. Only then will we be able to meet the challenges that come from serving.

Finally, we also need to strengthen our outreach ministry and invite new friends to attend fellowship and service. Our attendance numbers have stayed the same for quite a few years now, and it will require effort from everyone to increase in number. It is neither God's will nor ours if we stand by and do not make any progress. May we come together in prayer for God to add to us the salvation of more people, so that our invitations will not be in vain.

Current Cantonese Service Committee Members:

Tommy Choy, Winnie Lam, Ida Kwong, Jeff Liu, Sammy Zheng, Pastor Kenneth Kwong

CHINATOWN ENGLISH CONGREGATION

Pastor Enoch Liao

As we look back upon this past ministry year, I am struck by how faithful God continues to be. Surely, God demonstrates that He is perfectly trustworthy every year, no matter the ups and downs in life.

Steadying the Ship

Much of the past ministry was marked by the call for our English congregations and staff to support one another, especially as we seek the Lord for a permanent Newton English pastor for New Community, the Newton English congregation. Thank God for the many brothers and sisters who stepped up to serve, especially the pastoral staff who helped cover both campuses.

Deeper Into Discipleship - Year 2

I wrote last year that we had just completed year 1 of an initiative we call "Deeper Into Discipleship." That initiative allowed for Calvin Chu, our Director of Student Ministries, to focus his pastoral efforts upon the youth ministry for a season. It also called for our Steve Liu, our Director of Project Destiny Ministries, to extend himself to oversee our college ministry. I'm grateful to report that, as I can tell, God has allowed those ministries to grow stronger in the past year.

Lorraine Chung, our Director of Children's Ministries, has also been busy. This past year marked the start of two new children's outreach ministries: a choir and a music ensemble. I thank God for such capable, dedicated, and selfless pastoral team members.

We continue to be blessed by the contributions of our pastoral interns, Ryan So and Sam Ng. And our pastoral resident, Rocky Chan, continues to lead our adult Sunday School program.

New Ministry Home

One of the biggest changes was many ministries moving into our space at 120 Shawmut Ave. We thank God for all the brothers and sisters who have helped to ready the building. It is exciting to see so many ministries utilize the space.

Highlights

Other praises to God include our second installment of our Race and Culture Emphasis in MLK weekend in January. We also saw our Adult Large Group evolve into The Table, which features a meal and discussion around a testimony. By God's grace, we have 10 official adult small groups this year. Moreover, we continue to see non-Christians and new believers engaged in our various ministries.

This year we also sent off our first home-grown pastoral resident into full-time ministry. We bid farewell to Vernon Cheung, as he followed the Lord's call to become youth pastor at Chinese Evangel Mission Church in New York City Chinatown.

Appreciation

On a more personal note, I thank God daily for the privilege to be a part of our BCEC family. I especially appreciate our Boards of Elders and Deacons, staff, and our Senior Pastor Steven Chin and Associate Pastor Daniel Chan. This past year has been more busy with my trying to spend time at both English congregations. I thank God for the understanding and graciousness of our members, as I miss greeting them every Sunday after service since I'm usually at Newton by then. But if this year reveals anything, it reminds us that God is in control and is faithful and good.

CHINATOWN MANDARIN CONGREGATION

Pastor Andy Su



“O Lord, we know that in their daily work, the BCEC staff has many responsibilities and often cannot even sit down to take a rest or enjoy a meal. Lord, when our staff is battling in the teeth of the storm, they also need our care and support. Lord, we thank you that today you have provided your servants with an opportunity to take a break and gather together to enjoy the lunch you have given us.” During a Church Staff Appreciation Lunch prepared and supported by several Mandarin fellowships, a fellowship leader offered up this prayer of gratitude.

Our church has experienced many changes this past year and fellowship coworkers wanted to again show their appreciation and care for our church staff through preparing a staff appreciation lunch, as they had done the previous year. Several fellowships chipped in and prepared the lunch together. Over the past 18 years, Chinatown Mandarin has received abundant grace in our church. Al-

though what we could offer through the lunch was very limited, the church staff still felt our sincere appreciation and many of them expressed gratitude in response. This simple lunch was served as an expression of the deeply undeserved grace we have received from the Lord.

One individual from our church staff said the following in response to our appreciation lunch: “We want to give our heartfelt thanks for your love and care and for preparing this abundant feast. May God personally reward and bless your labor.”

Some staff members were inspired by this joyful sharing and suggested the idea of a churchwide ping-pong tournament to encourage more fellowship and engagement among the different congregations. Paul Family Fellowship had many brothers and sisters join in the competition and there was collective rejoicing and excitement for those who performed well.

During the tournament, we were deeply touched and inspired by the humble and joyful attitude of Cantonese brothers and sisters under the high stress of the competition. Just like the apostle Paul, they were content in winning or losing and manifested gentleness and resilience through the One who gives strength. The Cantonese brothers and sisters demonstrated for Mandarin brothers and sisters vivid, living testimonies of the richness and depth of their lives cultivated by the Lord over the past decades. Our Lord is wonderful. He rewarded the little we were able to offer through this event with rich testimonies seen in the Cantonese body of Christ.



NEWTON CANTONESE CONGREGATION

Pastor Barry Lam

At the beginning of each church year, we always see a lot of challenges that Newton Campus has to face. But by the end of the same year, we can only see the endless grace of God.

Just as the psalmist wrote in Psalm 65:11 (NIV):

“You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.”

When you follow and serve God, you will experience all the richness of His grace.

One of the blessings for this year is how we saw God lead us to start the Evangelism Explosion Leadership Training. God had not only led a very experienced training instructor to the Newton Cantonese congregation, He also gathered a class of enthusiastic students. We pray that God will continue to raise up more believers to be equipped to spread the gospel of Christ through this ministry. Apart from this, we also started the first family Christmas Worship Service where parents and children worshipped the Lord together. During the prayer time in the worship service, we fold origami birds and write on them the names of the people we are going to pray for. This implementation ensures that the entire

congregation participates in the worship service. I am also very grateful to all the brothers and sisters who served the Lord faithfully over the past year.

We want to give special thanks to the elders and all the co-workers who supported the Newton Campus during this period of time when we were short on staff.

Looking forward, Newton Campus has several challenges that we have to face. Please remember us in your prayers.

1. Pray that God will lead suitable co-workers to serve with us, so that we may make use of the unique feature of each of the congregations and work together to do evangelism and develop the youth and children ministry.

2. Church building renovation and maintenance

The Newton Campus building was constructed over 100 years ago. It was built according to the needs at that time. Today, Newton Campus has close to 350 adults and children sharing this site. Sunday's flow control is no longer the same as that of the past. In addition, the layout of the building is not suitable for our needs. In



several places, the paint is peeling off and requires repairs. In the coming days, we need to examine how we are going to renovate the building step by step. When we manage well the House of the Lord it will help the participants in their worship, their fellowship and their learning.

3. Plan and develop effective discipleship training

The life of a healthy disciple should be able to reproduce other disciples. The life of Christ in us will grow through the work of the Holy Spirit and in our sanctification so that our life may manifest the glory of God and influence others to become more like Christ. May the theme of the coming year, “Following Jesus Together: Celebrating Our Unity in Diversity” be helpful to us in focusing on the importance of discipleship training and together we will expand God's kingdom.

NEW COMMUNITY CONGREGATION (NEWTON ENGLISH)

Pastor Ken Liu and Pastor Enoch Liao

God's Faithfulness

As I (Pastor Ken) look back on the past several months, I am reminded that in every season, God is faithful. It has been a privilege to journey with you during this season of transition for New Community. I am especially thankful that we have the opportunity to stay longer than originally planned.

Looking back, it's been a joy to work together with Pastor Enoch as your interim pastor to provide pastoral presence, care, and direction for New Community. It's been great getting to know many of you and the various ministries throughout the Newton Campus.

First Introduction

My first introduction to the Newton Campus was the Night in Bethlehem Christmas program. It was amazing to see all the congregations come together to put together an incredible event for the community. As a new family attending, we felt your warmth, love, and hospitality. I trust that other new families felt the same way. In every detail, Jesus was lifted up as our good God and King. Special thanks to Terri Mock for spearheading this event.

Ministry Highlights

Many ministries in New Community experienced transitions, including some key leadership changes. We are so thankful for these servant leaders and wish them God's best. Please continue to be in prayer for Junior Worship, TIOB, and the worship team. We are thankful for those who have stepped up, but we are still in need of more servant leaders.

In May, Junior Worship went through a few changes including in leadership, format, and curriculum. We piloted the Gospel Project, which is the same curriculum used by the Chinatown Campus. Overall, this change was



a positive development not only for the children, but for the teachers and teacher assistants as well. We will continue with the Gospel Project this fall. We praise God for His faithfulness through the piloting process.

Looking towards the future, I will let Pastor Enoch comment further.

God’s Continuing Faithfulness

I (Pastor Enoch) remember when we started Newton Campus all those years ago. God has been faithful throughout this journey. It is fitting that we take time each year to reflect and give thanks to God for what He has done.

God has provided spiritual leaders for our family. Only the Lord could work out the timing, so that even as we had a need for interim pastoral leadership, I learned that a brother was entering a new season in which he was open to serving in an interim capacity. The Lord provided Pastor Kenneth Liu, Monique, and their four children, Matthew, Justin, Alisa, and Toby, to join our New Community family for the next season. Pastor Steven Chin and his wife, Nancy, also have spent this past year worshipping in our congregation. Moreover, I’m grateful to have also shared in that journey.

Pastor Ken has been so involved in our journey that he has written most of this article and captured well many of the highlights of this past year! As we continue to seek the Lord as a church family, we continue to entrust BCEC to the Lord’s leadership. Indeed, this is not our church, but the Lord’s church, bought with the precious blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



NEWTON MANDARIN CONGREGATION

Peter Wong

This year was another year of God's grace upon our newly established congregation. God led us into our fourth year of ministry at BCEC. He continues to move the hearts of mature Christians in the congregation to serve Him, especially as I respond to God's call to spend more time in world missions from September onward. The discipleship-building ministries have been strengthened through one-on-one discipleship training, Sunday School classes, small group gatherings, and weekly prayer meetings. The Newton Mandarin congregation has been demonstrating strength and compassion, bearing fruit not only in members, but in newcomers as well. Recently, a woman, who came to the Boston area from mainland China in order to treat an illness, was baptized, after experiencing the persistent love and care from members in our congregation. In addition, we thank God that most of our congregational members have been actively serving in the church. To God be the Glory!

This year, some brothers and sisters from the congregation left us to work in other territories or to return to their home country. We were very blessed to partner with them while they were in the Greater Boston area. The Sunday Service attendance has been numbered at around 63. Despite limited resources, the congregation is still focusing on pursuing the Lord's Great Commission. We ran two evangelistic meetings in the fall and spring and held a seekers' Bible study group every Friday during fellowship. Minister Wong led the East Asia short-term missions team to bring children and teens in that country to Christ. Like many newly starting churches, it is always a challenge to keep newcomers committed to the congregation. Please pray that God will give us wisdom to guide seekers and newcomers to His Word. Please also pray that our Lord would provide a suitable new pastor to shepherd the congregation after I step down from my existing role.





1) Joshua 1 Fellowship: Celebrated Bak Fun and Mei Kee's wedding anniversary **2) Song of Songs Fellowship:** Iron Chefs
3) Chinatown English Women Summer Playgroup: Weekly child and caretaker playgroup at Castle Island **4) Web of Women (Chinatown English Women):** Group photo for first women's retreat at Camp Brookwoods in NH **5-7) Chinatown English College Ministry:** marshmallow relay at College Retreat; College Ministry cook-off; ramen dinner after Good Friday service



1-3) Caleb Fellowship (Chinatown Senior): Serving each other at luncheons and celebrations **4) Daniel Fellowship:** Fall foliage trip **5) "The Table" (Chinatown English Adult):** "The Table" is a ministry led by Calvin Chu which gathered adults to share a meal, hear a person's story of faith and life, and then discuss their own stories at each of their tables. **6) Chinatown English Adult Small Group:** Prayer Meeting where Adult Small Group leaders gathered monthly at Pastor Enoch's home for prayer, training, and mutual encouragement.



1-3) Chinese Caring Ministry: District prayer meeting and Stephen Ministry

4) United! Bible Study (New Community Adult): We have been blessed this year with fruitful Bible study and fellowship time. We spent the year studying from Kyle Idleman's *Not a Fan*, eating many meals together, and worshipping the Lord during worship practice.

5) Teen with a Reason "TWR" and Teen Fellowship (Chinatown English Youth): Summer Teen Conference



1) Joshua Couple Fellowship: Hiking at the Blue Hill Reservation **2) Peter Fellowship (Cantonese Men):** Annual retreat
3-5) Chinese Women Fellowship: Chinese New Year celebration; Exchanging gifts at Christmas meeting; Musical offering at Sunday worship
6-8) Together In One Bucket "TIOB" (Newton Youth): Kickoff meeting at the new school year; Field day; Annual retreat



1) Daniel Fellowship: Thanksgiving and sharing night **2) Enoch Fellowship (Newton Cantonese Senior):** Birthday celebration **3) Sucai Fellowship (Chinatown Mandarin Adult):** SuCai Fellowship has about 15 members meeting on Tuesday mornings. Some members went to fruit picking together. **4-5) Teen with a Reason "TWR" (Chinatown English Youth):** Christmas party; Group game at Summer Teen Conference **6) Teen Fellowship (Chinatown English Youth):** Small group night playing connect four **7-9) Paul Fellowship (Chinatown Mandarin Adult):** Christmas celebration



1-3) Teen Fellowship (Chinatown English Youth): Winter Teen Conference for high school teens **4) Joshua 2 Fellowship (Chinatown Cantonese College):** Committee meeting **5) United! Bible Study (New Community Adult):** Sharing a meal together **6-7) Enoch Fellowship (Newton Cantonese Senior):** Workshop and Bible study **8) Newton Mandarin Fellowship:** Singing hymns at Thanksgiving dinner celebration



1) Newton Mandarin Fellowship: Chinese New Year celebration **2) Sucai Fellowship (Chinatown Mandarin Adult):** Chinese New Year celebration **3) Joshua 2 Fellowship (Chinatown Cantonese College):** Minicamp **4) Peter Fellowship (Cantonese Men):** Deep sea fishing trip **5) College Ministry (Chinatown English):** Getting together after Easter service for dim sum in Chinatown



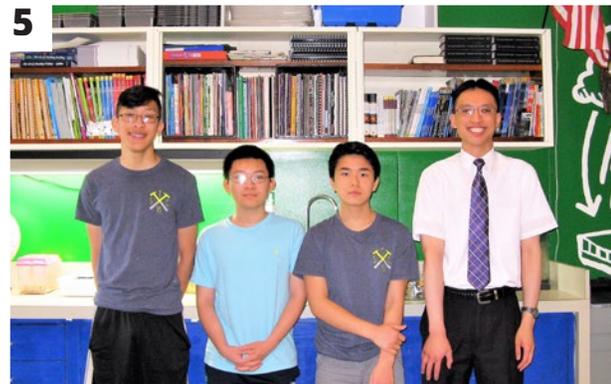
1) Emmanuel Fellowship (Chinatown Mandarin College and Young Adult): Cooking Contest **2-3) Song of Songs Fellowship:** Enjoying an outdoor exercise together at an outing; Song offering at Chinatown Cantonese 2nd worship service **4) United! Bible Study (New Community Adult):** Worshipping the Lord during worship practice **5) Timothy Fellowship (Chinatown Mandarin Adult):** Outing at Ogunquit, Maine **6) Peter Fellowship (Cantonese Men):** Workshop and discussion during a fellowship meeting



1-4) Ruth Fellowship (Cantonese Women): Celebration at baptism; Music offering at Chinatown Cantonese 2nd Worship Service; Small group Bible study; Monthly prayer meeting **5) Elim Fellowship (Cantonese Family):** Outing; Cooking class for husbands



1) New Community Worship Team (Newton English): Easter Sunday music team **2-5) Joint Chinese Retreat:** Children's program helpers; 245 people attended the retreat at Stonehill College; Morning prayer meeting; Mandarin message



1-3) Newton Junior Worship: This past year, we went through a few changes including in leadership, format, and curriculum. We transitioned to the Gospel Project, which is a chronological, Christ-centered curriculum that examines how all scripture points to Jesus. We have 5 rotating faithful volunteers for preschool and 9 for elementary serving approximately 55 children total.

4-6) Chinatown English Youth Sunday School: Students from the 9th-grade and 10th-grade Youth Sunday School classes are excited to learn about how to be more loving, compassionate, and godly friends. They also celebrated the end of their Fall 2016 quarter with fellowship, food, and games.



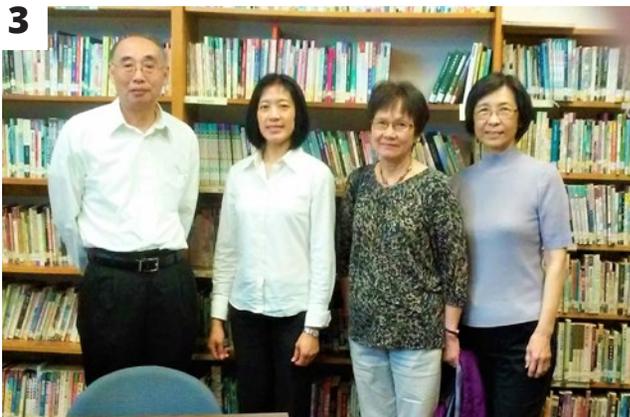
1-3) Chinatown Cantonese Adult Sunday School 4-6) Chinatown Vacation Bible School: Loads of fun at Maker Fun Factory. Children learned that we are all created by a creative God for a purpose. They engaged in hands-on activities and experiential learning. In addition to interactive bible lessons, they enjoyed games, competed to build the sturdiest tower with scrap materials, made Chinese and Japanese art, launched rockets, built simple robots, and created web pages.



1-2) Newton Cantonese Choir: Song offering at Christmas and Easter **3-5) Newton Nursery:** God has used the volunteers to bless the toddlers at the nursery. It is a joy to be able to serve them. **6-7) Chinatown Kids Worship and Children’s Sunday School:** Elementary Sunday School students put what they learned into action. They blessed others by assembling school supplies kits that were given to a local schools in need and to refugee families. The younger children are learning what it means to worship God through the loving leadership of our teachers every week.



1-2) Newton Cantonese Adult Sunday School: Students learned about the Bible and missions work. Dominican Republic short-term missions team came to share about their work during the summer. **3-5) Newton Children’s Sunday School:** Children learnt about the Lord and His Word through studying, playing, and fellowship time. **6-7) Newton Mandarin Adult Sunday School:** Students learned about the Bible from their teachers.

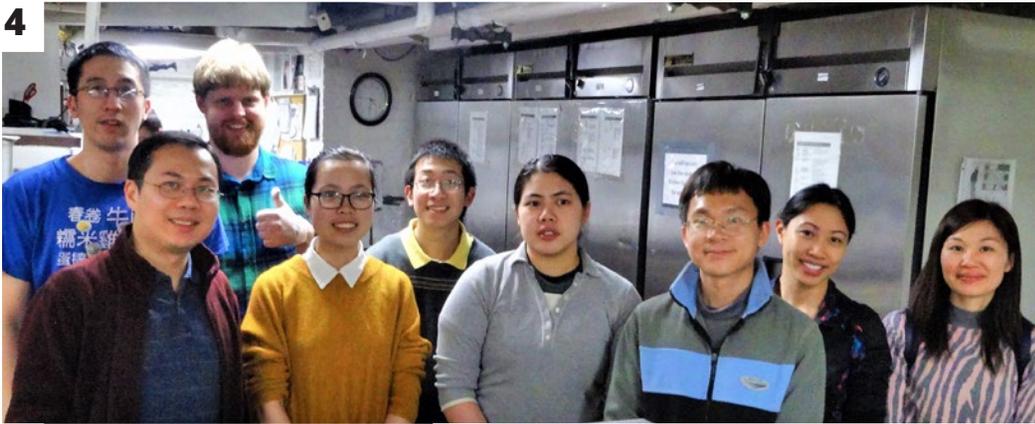
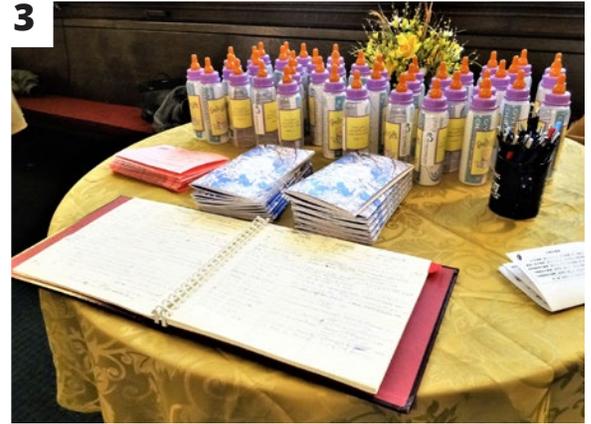


1-2) Newton Church Library: We have volunteers attending to our book carts in the fellowship hall to make the operation more convenient for our congregation. We also have our main library with many other books on the second floor.

3-4) Chinatown Church Library: Library committee members and volunteers who serve faithfully at the Chinatown church library this year. The library is opened every Sunday, 10:30–11:00 a.m. and 12:15–1:15 p.m.



1-5) Missions Conference: There were different meetings and home gatherings during the Missions Conference weekend, such as the message from our speakers on Friday evening, vision sharing, and prayer meetings. **6-7) Chinatown Ensemble and Newsong Children Choir:** We had a wonderful first year of giving musical offerings and leading others in worship.



1-5) Social Responsibility Committee: We have hosted many events this year to raise awareness and mobilize people to live out their faith. A few highlights include Open House to encourage conversations on social issues, baby bottle campaign to raise funds for Boston Center for Pregnancy Choices, partnering with Boston Rescue Mission to serve the homeless, and partnering with World Vision in Boston Hope Program. **6-8) Awana:** Boston Hope Program at Awana; Many parents attended our first Awana night; Teachers serving in Awana.



1-3) Short-Term missions teams: Dominican Republic team; East Asia team; United Kingdom Team.

4-8) Local Evangelism Department: Annual August Moon Festival Booth at Chinatown Boston; Knitting Group, which gathers people who loves knitting, but have yet to know about our church and the love of Christ; Knee Exercise Group, which welcomes people in the community into our church; Singing Christmas carols from our visitation team at South Cove Manor.



1-5) Project Destiny: We continue to serve many middle schoolers through many interesting summer programs, such as Community service at South Cove Manor, lab classes where campers learn about anatomy, or field trip to Southwick's Zoo.

6-7) Project Destiny Autumn to Spring "PDAS": The first PDAS field trip for the school year was bowling! The kids bowled with candlepins and then played in the arcade; Family Night is always a great time to not only serve PDAS students, but their parents, too! Kam Ho Lau is leading the Chinatown trivia game.

WORDS FROM THE EXPANSION COMMITTEE

Mark Ho

Praise God for His faithfulness and provision for BCEC. Thanks to all the ministry leaders for their flexibility in meeting in different locations while focusing on ministries. Despite all of these challenges, we are able to continue growing our ministries and expanding our service to our community.

With the new facility at 120 Shawmut Ave., we are continuing to renovate and update as more existing church and community ministries are moving in. We are also blessed with new ministries starting in this new building. Groups like Love Knitting Group, which is organized the Local Evangelism Department, the children's music program, and Listening and Inner Healing Prayer Pioneer Group have all been established and regularly meet there. We are also partnering with the Chinatown Respite Care (CRC) to host their activities for the special needs children in the community. In the fall, the Chinatown Campus Children's ministry has moved the preschool and elementary Kids Worship and Children's Sunday School to 120 Shawmut Ave. Many thanks to all who helped prepare the space for these transitions, allowing us to use the space God has provided to be a blessing to the community.

BCEC's programs are spanning over five buildings in Chinatown. To consolidate all our Chinatown ministries into one facility would reduce costs, as well as to more efficiently use our resources. Such consolidation would involve adding multiple large worship spaces, a dedicated Christian education space, a community outreach space, and other improvements to 120 Shawmut Ave. Previously, the church leadership put the project on hold due to the high cost of construction.

Throughout our journey in addressing our facility needs, God has opened and closed doors. Just over a year ago, our neighbors at 112 Shawmut Ave. invited us and Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) to jointly file a Planned Development Area (PDA) application with the City of Boston involving their properties as well as 120 Shawmut Ave. The PDA is a zoning change application, allowing for two

or more parties with adjacent properties to file for potential projects on their individual sites. The benefits of participating in the PDA are to ensure development potential for the site and help protect against changes that could affect our future expansion. These benefits will provide flexibility in creating more ministries and outreach programs in the future while addressing the consolidation of our Chinatown facilities. Submission and successful approval of the PDA does not mean we must start a building project immediately, but it does mean that we will be able to retain the benefit of zoning changes for the future. Before BCEC actually starts a new building project, the church will still have to go through many steps, including leadership and congregation approval and fundraising.

On September 14, 2017, the Board of Elders and the Board of Deacon voted unanimously to approve the application for the PDA on 120 Shawmut Ave.

Please continue to pray for the leaders, as they proceed with submitting this application. Please also pray for our neighbors, as we discuss how we can help the community and be a blessing to the people around us as part of the PDA process.

Separate from the PDA process, we have been contacted recently by the city regarding its potential interest in building a new Josiah Quincy High School on the whole city block of which 249 Harrison Ave. is a part. Since this is a new topic, much more needs to be done before BCEC can evaluate this situation.

We will continue to update you on the progress of any expansion activities or opportunities through bulletin updates and town hall meetings. If you have any questions or thoughts, please reach out to our church's elders, deacons, or pastors. Most importantly, please continue to pray for these matters.

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