

Got Ideas? Want More Church Life?

VISIONING DIALOGUES
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HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE
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DECEMBER 12



SOME GOOD READS
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SPECIAL CHRISTMAS
NEWSLETTER
COMING IN
NOVEMBER

GOOD NEWS



Hundreds of pounds of clothing donated for the homeless make their way to Christ Chapel MCC in Santa Ana with a little help from some friends...

Harvesting, Giving Thanks, Being Gifts...

A season of exploring our faith, giving thanks and becoming the love of Jesus is upon us.

The humidity and heat of summer is giving way to crisp evenings and the scent of apples, pumpkins and spice. And so too at RBMCC we are entering a new season... one of preparing our hearts for the spiritual harvest to come; reflecting on all that God has done and in turn give thanks to God for the abundance we have received in our lives, our relationships, our community, our church.

The coming fall season is packed with events, fellowship time, powerful worship, and two very important holidays in which we will come together as a congregation. We will observe World AIDS Day, Advent and daily recognize that God's grace and abundant, unfailing love is here.

In this issue, we will share the life of our church and highlight opportunities for you to be involved as we come together this season to become the gift God intended us to be in, to and for the world.

New Faces, New Voices, How will the Holy Spirit move?

In our pulpit, we have reason to rejoice!

Ron Littlejohn will be with us monthly, sharing his Holy Spirit-driven message. Ron brings his rural Texan upbringing and mixes it with his life experiences, a dash of camp and a lot of laughs and humor to bring home the point that God loves us and wants us to be better human beings. If you haven't heard him, some of his sermons are available to listen to online or download at:

www.rbmcc.org/goodnews.html

Two new speakers have completed our new speakers training program. As a result, Jon Beam and Sharon Ballard will be making appearances in October and November. In addition, Cathy Scheer who is a minister, will be bringing the message as well. Three new voices are a tremendous blessing to our congregation.

This blessing helps RBMCC grow spiritually and adds to our leadership by having more voices, more interpretations of Scripture, more teachings and more inspiration from the Holy Spirit for all of us to experience and be challenged in our walk with God.

RBMCC Calls For Random Acts of Kindness at OC Pride

At Orange County Pride August 1, the Outreach and Communication team represented RBMCC with a message, a photo booth and a unique challenge for OC's LGBT community: giving a random act of kindness for someone they had never met.



The team acquired pieces of poster board and markers and called over anyone walking by, asking them if they would share some encouragement for a random person.

The posters were themed for an accomplishment or a person needing kind words to overcome an obstacle. The posters have been given to Congregational Care, who will deliver them to their respective congregant.

Preaching Schedule

October Theme:

“Preparing for the Harvest”

Oct 4: Andy V

Oct 11: Ron L

Oct 18: Jon B

Oct 25: Sharon B

November Theme:

“Giving thanks for all God has done and will do”

Nov 1: Rev. Onetta Brooks

Nov 8: Ron L

Nov 15: Dale B
Congregational Meeting

Nov 22: Cathy Scheer

Nov 29: Sharon B

December Theme:

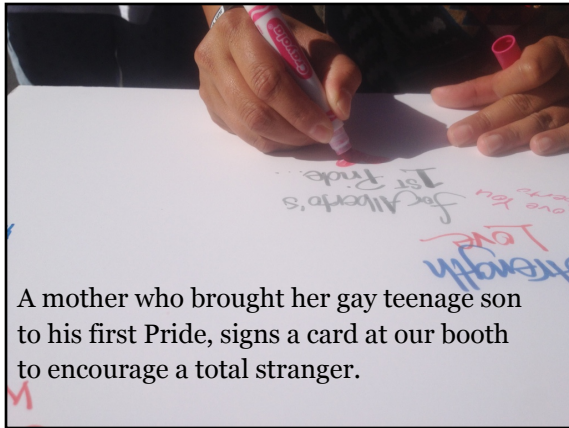
“Be the gift God intended you to be”

Dec 6: Andy V

Dec 13: Ron L

Dec 20: Dale B

Dec 27: Rev. Barbara Haynes



A mother who brought her gay teenage son to his first Pride, signs a card at our booth to encourage a total stranger.

In total, 8 poster boards were made and signed by many people who stopped to speak with us. Visitors were also given information about our church and the hope that there were churches that were accepting and welcoming to the community.

The PRIDE visitors were overwhelmingly willing to participate in this activity and the love they poured out is now being circulated amongst our members and friends in need of a random act of kindness.

Strength For The Journey gets a Mountain of Love from RBMCC

The day after OC Pride, RBMCC sent members of its congregation up to Sky Meadows in Angelus Oaks to serve on staff for the spiritual and uplifting camp Strength for the Journey. This was the church's 6th year partnering in ministry with the United Methodist Church in ministering with those living with HIV/AIDS. The year's theme was based around Dr. Seuss books, a theme that resounded highly with everyone.

RBMCC sent Jason W, Zach C, Jon B, Juno, Randy J, Cynthia T, Freda H, Louise L, Karen B, Jan H, Susan Rose, Scott S and Ty B to serve and bond with the campers.

This was the largest RBMCC staff contingent ever!!!

Camp consisted of three daily meals of healthy gourmet food from the kitchen staff, small groups to foster community and spiritual learning, workshops to create souvenirs, campfires to entertain and enjoy the camp's beautiful forest setting and other activities to give campers a space to leave the world briefly and find love and appreciation for their lives and those around them.

Camp is practically free to those living with HIV / AIDS and who haven't attended another SFTJ camp. Interested in going next year or being a part of our staff? Speak to someone listed above or email us at info@rbmcc.org.



Another Season of Bonfires Lights Up Summer...

Summer is always a special time of the year for RBMCC as the Fourth Friday fires returned. Starting in June and going through September, the congregation gathered for an evening of worship, food and fellowship next to a roaring fire, the ocean and the stars. See you next summer at the beach!!!



Pre-Service Candlelight Worship 5:20 - 5:50 pm

Are you looking for extra time with God? Perhaps some Holy Spirit peace? A place to meditate and pray? We've started something new that might be for you.

Sunday afternoons before service we are offering a half an hour of unstructured worship time by candlelight. Reminiscent of our Friday Night By Candlelight service, this is a time to center, pray, just wait upon the Lord, to sing, to praise, to worship.



Church Visioning Dialogue Second Sundays at 4 pm

Way back in the day, circa 2007, 8 and 9, RBMCC held regular Vision Meetings where we brainstormed ideas and discussed the direction of the church. Some of our best ideas came out of those sessions, such as Fourth Friday Fellowship / Fires. Well, we're bringing them back!

The Council of Ministries will be hosting a Visioning Dialogue the 2nd Sunday of the month at 4 pm in the sanctuary. Each month's topic will be listed on the website calendar, with the goal of focusing the conversation on specific topics to solicit the congregation for ideas, leadership and growth opportunities for the church.

Beginning in October, the Visioning Dialogue will look at worship styles and what can our church do to ensure that each person's style of worship is present and accepted and celebrated at RBMCC.

Then in November we're going to look at our Christian Education program, starting with the proposed Book Club, but also our Bible Studies. What can we do as a church to meet the needs of our community which thirsts for Biblical and Spiritual knowledge? How can we create a safe space in which different ideas and beliefs under God's tent can be discussed and explored in a non-threatening way?

Southwest MCC Cluster Meeting Provides Tools

Andy V represented RBMCC at the annual MCC Southwest Cluster Meeting held at Founder's MCC in Los Angeles, and virtually with churches in northern California and Hawaii. The meeting discussed church programming in detail and focused on how churches can better equip congregations if the programming is not only relevant and refreshed but also appropriate to the size of the church. We will be discussing some of what was covered at this Cluster Meeting at the first Visioning Dialogue the 2nd Sunday of October.



Dale speaks Sign Language and interpreted worship services for his churches back East.

An Evening of Prayer, Worship and Healing - Sat. October 17 th 7- 9 pm

Join us from 7 - 9pm on Saturday, October 17th for an evening of prayer, healing and worship. This special service will be free-form and unstructured. We will have plenty of worship music and a chance for all those who attend to come into the presence of the Lord in their own way. We will also be praying over those who seek the comfort of communal, healing prayer.

Arise! Revival a Success

Andy V hosted a revival on Labor Day weekend at his house in Santa Ana. After a pot-luck meal, those in attendance were divided into teams and asked to build a puzzle in less than 10 minutes - a timeframe that all thought was not enough time but which was more than enough for each group to finish. They then identified the best puzzle makers from the top 2 teams and sent them to build a puzzle alone while the rest of the teams continued to work together. The spiritual lesson that came forth was that no matter how good you are, it's easier, faster and better to work with a team, in community.

The group of nearly 30 people from RBMCC, Christ Chapel of Long Beach and Andy's roommate's family, all enjoyed an evening under the stars. As it got dark, they enjoyed a film "Pride" which tells the true story of how a group of LGBT activists fought to help striking coal miners and in turn changed the perception of the miners of LGBT people.



Day of the Dead themed Fundraiser for the Corbin Center on Halloween 5-9 pm



A traditional Dia de los Muertos altar in Santa Ana.

Andy V once again opens his home, this time for a fundraiser to raise funds to support RBMCC's Christmas gifts for abused women and children at the Corbin Center.

The focus of the night will be Loteria, which is Mexico's version of Bingo, except we will be playing a special "Day of the Dead" version.

We will be hosting a pot-luck dinner. Bring a dish, get a raffle ticket. Come in a Halloween costume, get a raffle ticket. Win at Loteria, win more tickets. Donate money, get lots more tickets.

Special prizes will be raffled including authentic textiles from Guatemala, Dunkin' Donuts Coffee, and the Grand Prize: 25,000 American Airlines frequent flyer miles, good for 1 off-season round trip within North America.

In addition, we will be observing traditional Mexican culture by decorating an "altar" for our ancestors. Bring a copy of a

photo of a loved one you've lost as well as an item that they loved in life and leave it at the altar. At the end of the night, we will say a blessing over all of the loved ones present and give God thanks for their lives on Earth and their souls in heaven.

Consider yourself invited! See website for more details.

Harvest Dinner - Nov. 21, 4 pm

An RBMCC tradition returns to Freda & Louise's home in Corona as we celebrate Thanksgiving a week early as a church family. This will be a pot-luck event and those that wish to attend need to RSVP with contact information so that our lovely hosts can assign you a dish to bring. (This way we will be certain to have a full dinner and not just dessert LOL)

Dinner will be followed by an evening of games, which is always a raucous and fun affair!!! Who knows... Freda or Louise might even let you win at Mexican Train.

Mark Your Calendar

Holiday Boutique
Oct 17th

Prayer / Healing Service
Oct 17th

Day of the Dead
Fundraiser Oct 31st

Holiday Boutique
Nov 14th

Congregational Meeting
Nov 15th

Harvest Dinner Nov 21st

World AIDS Day Service
Dec 6th

Holiday Boutique
Dec 12th

3 Holiday Boutiques to Choose From This Season!!!

Our very own Jason did an amazing job hosting a fundraiser last Fall which brought in around \$1000 to the church and gave a lot of us a chance to get some early Christmas shopping finished.

This year we're getting a head start and offering a third Holiday Boutique in October.

The dates are: October 17th, November 14th and December 12th. Doors open at 10 am and the last customer will purchase something at 2:59 pm.

Come and participate, shop and even buy something handmade with love.

Ways to Give this Season...

All of our traditional Christmas Season charities will continue to benefit from RBMCC this Season. More to come on those ministries in November.

Yet in this time we have a number of areas that need your help on an on-going basis:

Our Church facility needs some TLC, especially someone who can come in early and clean the bathroom and vacuum the floors. Please volunteer for this... we don't have enough resources to buy a genie to do it for us, so any time that you can donate to this effort is much appreciated.

Our continued efforts to support Christ Chapel MCC in Santa Ana are blessing hundreds of people every month. We need volunteers to help us cook, hand out clothes, clean up at the end of the BBQ. This ministry is one of our most important and is one way that we continue to support and connect with our sister church in Santa Ana

There is another Christ Chapel that needs our help this season... Christ Chapel Long Beach. They run an AIDS Food Store to support people with HIV / AIDS who are food insecure. They need canned goods, soups, cereal, pasta sauce, tuna, peanut butter and jelly. You can deliver these goods any Sunday and we will make sure that these items find their way to those who need them!

More details about ATM, CHOC and our efforts to support Corbin Center will be forthcoming.



Coming This Winter...

DECEMBER:

You may have noticed that we're missing a lot of information on Advent and Christmas... We've intentionally left that out of this newsletter as we're going to be sending you another special Christmas Edition of "Good News" in early November. So stay tuned for that!

JANUARY:

We're going to be launching a book club that will meet once or twice a month to discuss the book we will be reading together. The first book will be "Love Wins" by Rob Bell, which takes a fresh look at the Biblical evidence on Heaven, Hell, Salvation and God's unconditional love through Christ Jesus. His view may be controversial to some and doesn't necessarily represent the views of everyone in church or in church leadership. However, our book club will be a safe space to discuss different ideas and our beliefs and why we believe them. Future books will be listed in future newsletters as well as on our website. We'll be taking a look at topics ranging from theology, LGBT spirituality, comparative religion and life application of our faith.

FEBRUARY:

Since February is for lovers, why not go all the way and have a night where we explore the crazy side of love? Yes, we will be hosting our first ever Murder Mystery Night in February. Was it a crime of passion? Was it Professor Plum with the candlestick in the Billiard Room? OR was it Jason in the kitchen with the plunger? More details to come...

Congregational Meeting - Nov. 15, 6:45 pm

It's that time of year again and this is perhaps one of our most important Congregational Meetings to be held in recent times. You've read this newsletter. You've been a part of our community. You know by now that this little church gives way beyond it's means.

We've dreamt big together. We've had our ups and downs. We've seen things and people come and go. And yet we are still here. God still has a purpose for us and a mission for RBMCC in the community. There's a lot for us to do but in order to accomplish those things that God has in store for us, we need your participation.

This church has been through worse times and survived. We are called Resurrection Beach for a reason. Join us in November to help chart the course ahead. Come experience how we are growing together spiritually by being present at a time when your church needs you most.

