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GOOD NEWS



Starting Over with Jesus in 2016

What are God's Resolutions for You in the New Year?

A new year is often a chance for many people to make promises to themselves to do things in a better way. But by February or March, most of us have stopped trying and have pushed our goals aside. We look at our waistlines, our wallets, our bucket lists, our friends with whom we promised to stay in touch, and for many of us these promises turn into stones that weigh down our spirits just a little bit more; just another example of why we are not good enough; that we failed again in meeting our goals.

Jesus reminds us that we get to start over in a different way. By God's grace and unfailing love, we receive the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love that translate into mercy, forgiveness and the release of our self-made chains. God sets a high standard for us yet removes the bar so that when we fail, when we fall short of expectations, God is there to catch us and help us back on our feet. God helps us realize that God's promises are not empty; God's faithfulness unending; God's goals are achievable.

If your goal in 2016 is to become a better person (to be healthier, happier, more giving and more loving) there is an easier way. Give your list to Jesus. Pray that God would show you what's on God's list of New Year's wishes for you. Ask for Holy Spirit to guide you throughout this year and that God would empower you with the tools that you need and surround you with the people you need to help you on your way. Because God knows your needs, if you live for what's on God's list, you always win.

February Sermons to be on 1 Corinthians 13:4-13

We're trying something new in the pulpit. We're going to take an entire month and walk through a familiar passage from the New Testament. And since February is the month of love, we thought what better verse than the famous one from I Corinthians 13.

In Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians he famously tells us that "Love is patient; love is kind..." But he also tells us that prophecies will come to an end but love will endure. He talks about seeing the world as a child versus as an adult and likens his own transformation in his faith from being a child growing into adulthood. This small passage is packed with spiritual nuance.

So we've asked Andy, Dale, Ron and Rev. Barbara to give us their take on the passage. Andy will preach on verses 4 & 5; Dale on 6 & 7, Ron on 8-10, and Rev. Barbara on 11-13. Enjoy this tour of love!

Worship Team Grows to 5

If you've been to church in the past 2 months you may have noticed something pretty dramatic. There is a Worship Team again at RBMCC.

We have a bass player, Valerie, who faithfully drives from Upland to participate. She's a self-described "Rocker" and cites The Beatles as one of her inspirations. We've been praying for ages for a bass player and with Valerie's sound we're hoping to livin' up the music a bit.

We have a female vocalist, Heather, who came to us through her friendship with Jon Beam. Heather has a lot of experience in building ministries, having helped found Rock Harbor church as an off-shoot of Mariner's in Newport Beach. She is also a yoga instructor and may be teaching a class or two for us in the not-so-

Speakers Schedule

January

"Starting Over With Jesus"

1/3 - Andy Verostek

1/10 - Ron Littlejohn

1/17 - Sharon Ballard

1/24 - Jason Warden

1/31 - Pastor Ted
Moore

February

"Love is..."

2/7 - Andy Verostek

2/14 - Dale Brown

2/21 - Ron Littlejohn

2/28 - Rev. Barbara
Haynes

March

"A New Faith,
Not a New Religion"

3/6 - Rev. Roi Hudson-
Anaya

3/13 - Ron Littlejohn
Palm Sunday:

2/20 - Sharon Ballard

Easter Sunday:

2/27 - Dale Brown &
Andy Verostek



Our Worship Team at Christ Chapel Santa Ana for the Christmas Eve Service

distant future. She is excited to be a part of the Worship Team.

We have a male vocalist, Harry, who comes to us all the way from Sylmar with his partner Michael. Harry has a beautiful tenor voice and we are blessed to have him join us. He is also a nurse, so if you get sick, expect some tips on how to get better.

Keep praying people because it's working!!! Pray for a drummer / percussionist, a keyboard player, another female vocalist and a lead guitarist. Then we'll really have a full sound and be able to give people breaks / take turns leading worship.

Recycling Nets RBMCC Nearly \$4,000 in '15

With special thanks to Ed and Zack for handling the recycling in 2015, and to all the folks who brought in items with CRV (beverage aluminum cans and plastic / glass bottles) The church was able to cover a half of a month's rent as well as set up the ATM & CHOC ministries for success. In 2016, all recycling revenue will go to the general fund until we've balanced the budget, at which point the Board will consider a motion to restore funding to these ministries.

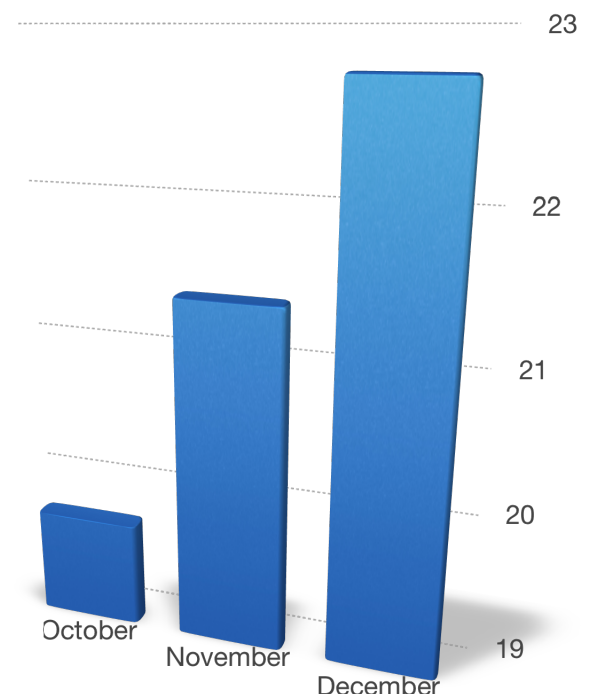
Attendance is on the rise

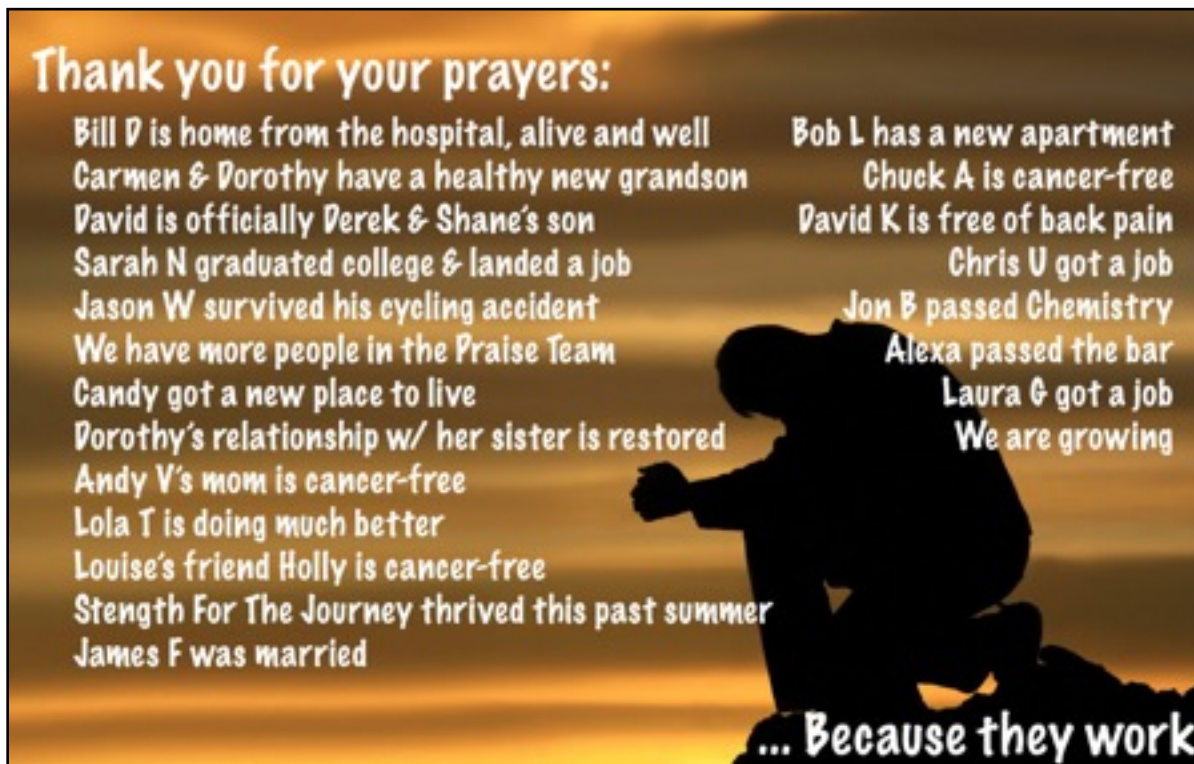
Not everyone can make it to church every week. So it's hard to notice little changes like the one happening now: More people are coming and more frequently. 3-4 people per week more since October. We're focused on ministry, not numbers, but numbers help us to know if we're healthy. And let's face it, no one likes to worship in an empty church! We think this little news is good news!!!



Attendance has been beary good lately!

■ Avg Weekly Attendance





A Deeper Prayer Life... Sunday, March 13th 4pm

Who we are spiritually depends in large part on how we communicate with God one-on-one. How we center ourselves, prepare our hearts to receive God's Wisdom and how we intercede for others all stem from how we pray. How can we deepen our prayer life? How can we be a church that prays more and works to spiritually connect with and intercede for others in need?

A church that prays together, stays together. So let us come together to pray, learn from one another about how each of us prays, and spend time in the Spirit developing our prayer skills.

Saying Goodbye to Michael Meagher

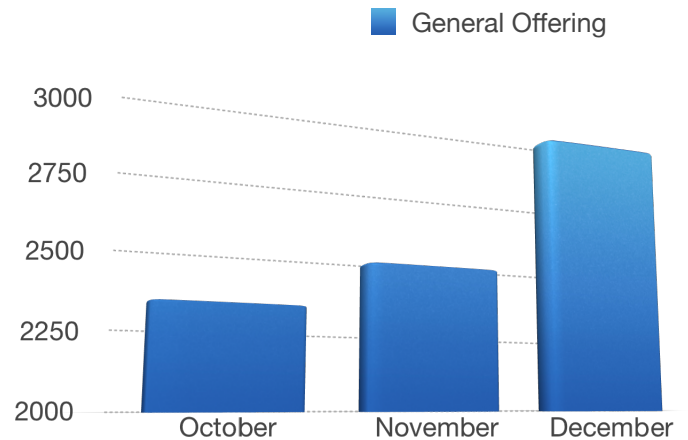
Resurrection Beach sent an angel into heaven in November, as we lost one of our dear members and friends, Michael Leslie Meagher. Michael was very active in church and in various ministries such as Strength For The Journey. Michael took it upon himself to make sure the pie raffle happened every month to help raise scholarships for that spiritual summer retreat. Michael was also very involved in theater and in recovery groups where he found strength and community from kindred spirits. On December 20th, RBMCC hosted a memorial service for him.

Sadly, Michael's death was so sudden that his end-of-life plans were not yet fully in place. As a result, RBMCC took the responsibility of covering his cremation expenses of \$895, and will coordinate with Strength For The Journey to bring his ashes to the mountain this summer for his final resting place. If you would like to contribute to Michael's cremation expenses, please donate to RBMCC's "Benevolence Fund" which is where we set aside money for events such as this.



Giving Is Up

We've noticed another trend over the past few months: giving to the general fund is up. It's from this fund that we pay all of the primary church expenses like rent and utilities. In November we paid \$3,991.86 for rent and grounds and we paid \$279.09 for utilities, telephone and internet fees. So while we're still not quite able to cover these expenses from the general offering, our fundraising efforts and special one-time gifts are helping cover that gap while we build our finances.



Book Club Starts This Month



Take a look at the amazing set of books we will read together as a group. The way Book Club will work is that we are to read the first half of the book by the date of the first book club meeting noted on the far right of the chart below. We will meet for an hour in the Fellowship Hall to discuss the book and our thoughts. The following month we'll finish the book and meet to discuss the second half. So pick up a copy of **Love Wins** and start reading. The chart below indicates if there are Kindle versions of the book available as well as audio versions for download on iTunes. Most of these books should be available at your local Public Library. Also, used copies can be bought online.

Theme	Book Title	Author	Kindle	Audio Book	1st Book Club Mtg
Theology	Love Wins	Rob Bell	yes	yes	Feb 7 - 4:15 pm
Life Application	Battlefield of the Mind	Joyce Meyer	yes	yes	Apr 3 - 4:15 pm
LGBT Voices / MCC Authors	The Lord is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay	Rev. Troy Perry	no	no	Jun 5 - 4:15 pm
Summer Novel	The Shack	William P. Young	yes	yes	Aug 7 - 4:15 pm
Interfaith Understanding	Living Buddha, Living Christ	Thich Nhat Hanh	yes	yes	Oct 2 - 4:15 pm
Biography / Memoir	Mother Teresa: In My Own Words	Mother Teresa	yes	no	Dec 4 - 4:15 pm

“Deep-Dish” Cleaning Day / Pizza Party

JOIN US ON SAT, FEBRUARY 6TH FROM 9 AM - 2 PM FOR A DAY OF CLEANING OUR CHURCH & OUR PLATES

There’s a lot of little and not-so-little messes, some unfinished projects, some decorating ideas and a whole lotta old-fashioned elbow (de-)greasing that needs to be done around church. Join us on Saturday, February 6th for a few hours to spruce up our church facility and then join us for pizza as we celebrate the accomplishments of a job well-done.

An Evening of “Whodunnit?” Murder Mystery

Join us from 7 - 10pm on Saturday, February 27th for an event like we’ve never had before. We’ll be turning our fellowship hall, sanctuary, office, hallways, bathrooms and closets into a venue that will host the most unspeakable crime and the murderer will be amongst the crowd. It will be up to you to use your crime-fighting skills to solve the mystery. Prizes will be given. This event will require an RSVP (as we have to assign characters) and you can invite friends from elsewhere to join in on the fun. More details to come on this event.

Game Night

Dave, Kenny and crew will be hosting a game night at their house on the evening of Saturday, March 26th, at 7 pm. Board games, card games, that funky marble game Jon introduced us to at the Harvest Dinner, will all be in full effect providing for a fun night of fellowship. 3364 Nevada Ave., Costa Mesa

LGBT People & The Bible

A DEEP-DIVE INTO SCRIPTURE AND THE TACTICS USED BY RELIGIOUS LEGALISTS TO SINGLE-OUT THE LGBT COMMUNITY

It’s been two and a half years since RBMCC hosted this in-depth Bible Study and it’s long-since overdue. We’re going to open our church to the public for a four-hour workshop / seminar on the “clobber” passages and the tactics used by legalists to single-out the LGBT community and spiritually ostracize us from the Fold.

If you’ve not had a chance to study these scriptures in context, or it’s been a while and you would like a refresher, then come out and support this event.

Saturday, March 12th, 1 pm - 5 pm.

Mark Your Calendar

Speakers Training
Jan 10th 3 pm

Membership Class
Jan 31st 2 pm

“Deep Dish” Cleaning /
Pizza Party Feb 6th 9 am

1st Meeting of the Book
Club Feb 7th 4:15 pm

Murder Mystery Night
Feb 27th 7 pm

2nd Meeting of the Book
Club Mar 6th 4:15 pm

LGBT People & The Bible
Mar 12th 1:00 pm

Healing Worship Service
Mar 12th 6:00 pm

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
Mar 13th 2:00 am

A Deeper Prayer Life
Mar 13th 4:30 pm

Game Night
Mar 26th 7:00 pm

Healing Worship by Candlelight - Mar. 12, 6 pm

After the LGBT Bible Study, we'll gather for a time of worship by candlelight with a focus on healing our spirits and our souls. We'll spend time in prayer, receiving God's Wisdom. We'll spend time in worship and adoration. We'll take time to lift one another up and lift up our church and our community. Food will be provided for those that have spent the day at church. Come for half a day. Spend time in the word and then take that knowledge into an attitude of worship and release.

RBMCC Receives \$20,500 in special gifts in the 4th Quarter from several anonymous donors

Great is Thy Faithfulness RBMCC... It is no secret that money has been tight the past 2 years. We've seen a steady decline in our bank balances and we've been faithfully fundraising, doing what we can to make ends meet. Members and friends have been faithfully giving but with attendance at roughly 50% of where it peaked in 2013, a lot is resting on a small group of people to turn this ship around.

We have one more year on our lease at our current location and a great deal of our leadership's energy in 2016 will be spent on the question: do we stay or do we go somewhere else and if so, to where. With our rent, insurance, taxes and utilities topping \$4,000 per month, we've made it this far! The biggest question we will be faced to answer is: *"Can we afford to stay?"*

While these gifts will not answer that question, they collectively represent about 35% of our 2016 budget, or a little more than 4 months' rent and expenses. If the rest of us continue to give as we have in 2015, we should make it through this year OK.

These large gifts did not happen in a vacuum. They came at a time when all of us have been giving our time, our talents, our testimony and our treasure. Even faithfully coming to church has an effect, as its harder to grow when there are lots of empty seats. People are getting involved and it shows.

Had the church been lazy with the stewardship of what God has entrusted to us, we would not have seen these gifts. They came because whomever donated them has witnessed the positive changes taking place in our church and they chose to place their tithes and treasures in our ministry just like the rest of us have been doing all along. Large, one-time offerings only come after a lot of other gifts have already been made. Such large gifts are an affirmation that the work everyone is doing is bearing good fruit; they are proof that everyone's gift, no matter how big or small, will multiply themselves.

One contribution came with a memo "for back tithes 2013-14-15" as if to say, *'I couldn't give then and I am now because God has blessed me and I believe in the principle of giving a portion of my income to bless God's ministry.'* But this person would not have given if others had not already been giving. And thus regardless of the amount, in these gifts they are saying what all of you say when you give even \$1: *'I give to RBMCC because this is my church, these are our ministries, and I don't want to see them stop.'* *'I give because I believe God will multiply what I give and bless many more.'*

We rarely talk about money at church. Many of our members live on very tight fixed incomes and we don't feel that it is appropriate to constantly be begging for money. We debated whether or not to even mention these gifts in this newsletter. But we in leadership know that many of you are worried about our church. You are afraid that we might close. You are worried that, without a Pastor, we're just not going to make it. For those of us who cannot contribute such a large sum, know that whatever you do contribute is received as a blessing. Your attendance is a blessing. Your volunteer time is a blessing. Your testimony to others about the ministries of this church are a blessing.

Together we are accomplishing a great deal. And what we do, God multiplies. What we give, God enlarges. And when we do these things out of our faith, because we believe in what God is going to do, God literally takes even the smallest contribution and turns it into abundance.