

Quick Calendar Planner

EVENTS FOR THE 1ST QUARTER
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FOURTH FRIDAY FIRES ARE BACK
STARTING JUNE 24



MURDER MYSTERY A HUGE SUCCESS!
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RBMCC GETS A NEW PARTNER IN MINISTRY
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GOOD NEWS



Candy poses in front of the new curtains in the Fellowship Hall

RBMCC Gets a Makeover

Church is community, not a building.

Still, it's nice to worship in a space that reflects the personality of our community.

We've been in our space on Harbor for over 4 years. After we tore down a wall, put on a coat of fresh paint, bought a bunch of chairs and sound equipment, we considered ourselves moved in. And from that point forward, except for some great shelving that Ed built in our storage areas, we've left our space alone.

In the Fall of last year, the Council of Ministries spent time visioning about our worship and fellowship space. We asked the questions, "Why?" and "What?" Why hadn't we done anything else over the years to continue the momentum we had when we first moved in? And, if we did anything to our space, what could we do to take pride of ownership?

That conversation led to 4 outcomes, three of which we have completed: 1) Church clean-up day, 2) curtains in the fellowship hall and 3) a photo wall celebrating our church community.

In this issue, not only will you find out about the exciting changes happening in our venue on Harbor, but some of the important decisions coming up in which we will need your participation to help us map out a path for the next several years.



Janet power cleans the donated chairs in the fellowship hall.

All Cleaned up!!!

More than a dozen members and friends showed up to help “Spring” clean the church on February 6. Not only did

we clean out our closets but we also steam cleaned the carpets. Janet single-handedly steam cleaned all the maroon chairs that were donated to us through Anna’s connection to the Downey Women’s Club. This effort was a fantastic way to build community and help our church facility. We followed this up with some pizza, trying not to make a mess of course.

It’s Curtains for Fellowship

The cover of this issue features a photo of Candy posing in front of the curtains that she designed for the Fellowship Hall. For less than \$150 in materials and her donated time, Candy transformed what was a bland, hot room into a colorfully shaded space.

The rainbow spectrum in the windows represent various colors used in the Liturgical Calendar while paying homage to the Pride flag of the LGBT community.



Church Family Photo Wall on Display

Take a walk through the hallway from the sanctuary to the bathroom and you will see a new installation of photos from various activities in our church community over there past 4 years.

Speakers Schedule

April

“Fruits of the Spirit”

4/3 - Jason Warden

4/10 - Ron Littlejohn

4/17 - Sharon Ballard

4/24 - Dale Brown

Congregational Forum on the building

May

“Fruits of the Spirit”

5/1 - Rev. Tory Topjian

5/8 - Ron Littlejohn

5/15 - Sharon Ballard

5/22 - Dale & Andy

5/29 - Hymn Sing

June

“Four Prophet Ministries”

6/5 - “Ezekiel”

Jon Beam

6/12 - “Isaiah”

Ron Littlejohn

2/20 - “Esther”

Sharon Ballard

2/26 - “Amos”

Rev. Barbara Haynes

Meant to celebrate the life and vibrancy of our church, this wall will be ever evolving as we grow . The wall also features Biblical Scriptures that have played an important role in the lives of people in our church. To add a Scripture to the wall, write down the book, chapter and verse that you want displayed and drop it in the offering plate. Have a photo that you want to put on display? Email your photos to council_of_ministries@rbmcc.org .



Freda, Rosie and Bob get into the Easter spirit.

100 Easter Baskets Assembled and Delivered to Children at the Corbin Center

In continued efforts to minister to battered women and children, RBMCC donated 100 Easter baskets to the Corbin Center for its Easter celebration. Each year, we are pleasantly surprised with how God multiplies what is donated. The Corbin Center was and is always grateful for the love and support that flows from this church.

RBMCC Welcomed 3 New Members in January

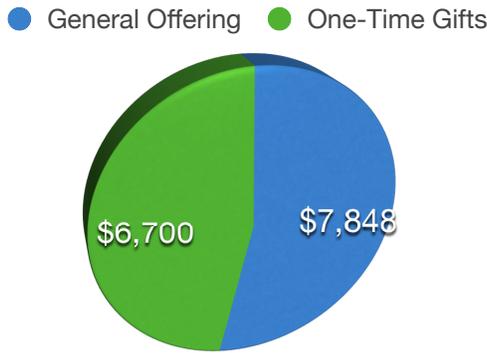
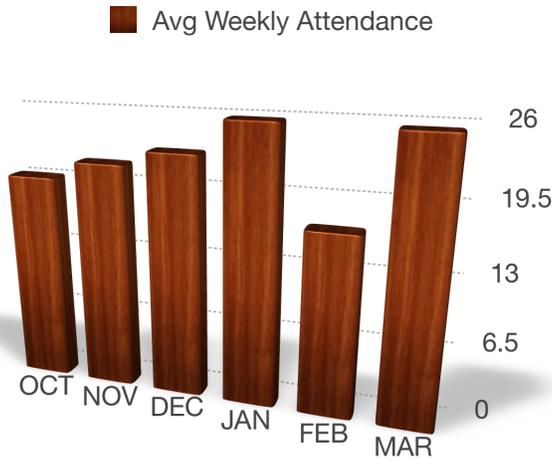
RBMCC welcomed three new members on January 31: Laura Blair, Harry Canlobo, and Michael Southerland. We are thankful for their faithfulness and their commitment to our church and to the service ministries we do together to make this world a better place.



Our 3 newest members: Laura, Harry & Michael

Book Club Switches to 3rd Sunday of the Month.

To accommodate holiday weekends, General Conference, and people's schedules, we will be hosting the Book Club discussions on the 3rd Sunday of the month, starting in April. Based on our experience the past few months, we are just not able to do 2 meetings a month and as a result we will stay with one meeting per month and take as long as we need to get through each book. If you haven't read the book and still want to participate, show up and listen to and participate in the discussion.



Attendance / Giving Continue to Rise

We shared at the beginning of the year some of the attendance and financial results for the church. We continued to receive one-time gifts in the 1st Quarter of 2016 totaling \$6,700. While February was a tough month with people sick and out of town, both January and March saw a continuance of the trends in giving and attendance that we saw in the last half of 2015.

Our general offering and special one-time gifts combined to a total of \$14,548 for the 1st Quarter of 2016. And while that is much lower than the combined giving in the final quarter of 2015 which totaled \$28,270, if you look at giving to the general offering alone and compare the last quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016, we're up \$78! And while that may not seem like a lot, up is up!

Special Congregational Forum on Our Building

On Sunday, April 24th, RBMCC will have an abridged service in order to accommodate a special Congregational informational dialogue on the state of our lease and the choices that will be put before the Congregation at a special congregational meeting in June. A non-binding poll will be taken to inform the Board of Directors as to the general intent of the Congregation on the question of do we stay or do we start the search for a new facility in which to call home.

The question comes at a time of great momentum for our congregation and the only reason the Board of Directors has raised the question is because of the state of our finances the past 2 years has brought us to a point where we need to ask some tough questions. We either need to seek new revenue or reduce expenses. With our current lease expiring on December 31st 2016, we need to seek the guidance of the Congregation in order to know how we are to proceed. A formal vote on this will take place in June. This special forum is meant to provide the congregation with the research that has been done thus far and give our members a chance to pray over this information ahead of our meeting in June.

On page 8 of this Newsletter, we introduce you to a new partner in ministry that is sharing our space with us Sunday mornings. They are contributing financially to our building. Those figures are not included in the financial /attendance report above. See page 8 for more details

Murder Mystery Night a Hoot!!!

RBMCC hosted its first Murder Mystery event on February 27 to rave reviews. Created by Andy and hosted by Dale, Louise, Jason, Freda and the rest of the Council of Ministries, and our fantastic volunteers TJ, Rosie and Harry, RBMCC was treated to a three-course meal, hors d'oeuvres, a mystery that needed solving, and a lottery-worthy Valentine's gift basket donated by Carmen and Dorothy. Those in attendance had to search for clues and make conversation with the other guests, most of which were playing precast roles. Guests gave the event 5 stars and were pleased with how the event came together.



Best Mystery Night Staff Ever!!!

Lots of Fun and Games at Dave & Kenny's

On March 26, RBMCC hosted its second game night at David and Ken's home. Jason prepared brownies and loaded chicken nachos while other guests brought snacks to share. Freda and Louise brought their game Mexican Train which always brings us together.

NEXT GAME NIGHT IS FRIDAY, MAY 27



Pondering Whodunnit over Italian fare.

Pride Season is Here

As part of the upcoming Long Beach Pride in May, RBMCC has been invited to participate with The Connection to offer live worship during its annual parade. The churches hope to bring the light of Christ to everyone in attendance and counter-balance any in protest over LGBT pride.

Also, officials for OC Pride decided to move its annual celebration to June 25th this year and will have a parade! RBMCC and The Connection will be hosting a Prayer Lounge as well as some live acoustic worship every hour on the hour. If you'd like to participate, see Jon or Andy for information.



Anna gets ready to show Dale how to really play!

Movie Night: Friday, April 22nd

Join us at church on Friday, April 22nd for a movie and a potluck. We'll be watching ***Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil***, starring Kevin Spacey, about a closeted Southern socialite who gets put on trial for the murder of his lover.

General Conference in Victoria BC in July

It's hard to believe three years have passed since the last conference, but this year is an important year. We will be choosing a new moderator for our denomination. Conference will be hosted in Victoria, British Columbia. You won't want to miss this opportunity to bond with your church family, worship with 1,500 other believers, and learn more valuable skills to help our church develop and grow. For more information, see Andy or Dale.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 12th

The Board of Directors has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held after church on Sunday, June 12th. The purpose is twofold: 1) to authorize our Lay Delegate, Louise Lucky, to vote for a specific candidate for Moderator of the UFMCC and 2) to authorize the Board of Directors to execute a lease with our existing landlord or with a new landlord of a different location by the end of the year.

We need as many members to attend this meeting as possible to ensure that our vote on our lease and on our new Moderator reflects the will of the congregation as a whole.

4th Friday Fires Start June 24th

From June through September, RBMCC will be hosting our annual summer tradition. Our bonfires are potluck events that also feature live acoustic worship music. We provide the hot dogs and the music, you bring yourself and any guests you like. If you can, bring a snack, beverage or side dish to share.

We meet at Huntington Beach State Park near the Brookhurst entrance. Sometimes you must enter at Magnolia however. We always get a spot along the concrete walkway to the beach near the bathrooms just east of the Brookhurst entrance.

Mark Your Calendar

Book Club

April 17th 4 pm

Movie Night @ Church

April 22nd 7 pm

Building Forum

April 24th after church

LB Pride Parade

May 22nd 5:30 am

Book Club

May 22nd 4 pm

Game Night @ Church

May 27th 7 pm

Congregational Meeting

June 12th, after church

Book Club

June 19th 4 pm

Fourth Friday Fire

June 24th 5 -10 pm

OC Pride

June 25th 8 am - 8 pm

General Conference

July 4th - 8th

Victoria BC, Canada

RBMCC is joined by The Connection, Sharing Our Space and Sharing the Gospel Here in OC

RBMCC has had several renters in the past, however this may be the first time that RBMCC has had the opportunity to not only share our space with another church but to share our mission and our ministry with another community of faith.

The Connection officially opened its doors for 9:30 am worship on February 7th with Pastor Ted Moore at the helm. Another LGBT-focused ministry sharing the same space may seem like we might water down our niche in Christian ministry here in Orange County. However the leadership of both churches see a lot of potential in creating a synergy between us.

First and foremost, having a viable church using our space in the traditional Sunday morning time slot will bring in revenue that will help defray the cost of renting our sanctuary, fellowship hall, storage and office space.

Second, having an alternative to our evening service helps people in our congregation who may need a morning service from time to time and may help those in The Connection who are looking for an evening worship experience once in a while.

Third, sharing our outreach efforts could yield benefits to both churches and lower costs as well. We are already benefitting from this. Both our Long Beach and OC Pride efforts will be conducted jointly.

Lastly, we have the chance to share each other's resources in ways we hadn't quite imagined. Starting sometime in May, the Connection OC and RBMCC will share a hybrid worship team, whereby we will be contributing talent from our congregation and they will be contributing talent from there's to form an even more profound and passionate worship experience for both churches.

The Connection has (no pun intended) connections with immigration attorneys, mental healthcare professionals, and a non-profit helping the homeless, all of which may be hosting activities in which members and friends of RBMCC could participate.

The opportunity to do more, reach more and worship more is one opportunity both of our churches will no doubt want to take advantage of as we grow in Christ.