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GOOD NEWS



A Season of Giving... And Did We Ever!!

How does a church with an average attendance of 27, touch nearly 200 lives in 1 week?

The heart of Resurrection Beach is sharing God’s love. Nothing shows that more than what was accomplished the week of Christmas. From Dec. 17 - 25th, RBMCC was a nerve-center of giving:

We received and wrapped dozens and dozens of gifts for 5 Corbin Center families with 31 people. Presents included a guitar, a bike, art supplies, landscaping tools, clothes, dolls, games, skateboards, LEGOS, gift cards to Target, Walmart and grocery stores, virtually anything a child or parent could want, we wrapped and delivered. This year, we were joined by Ruby from the Corbin Center who helped us wrap gifts and shared stories of how blessed these families have been from the outpouring of love coming from RBMCC.



Early Christmas morning we delivered 24 bags filled with love to Hagen Place, an apartment community in downtown Laguna Beach for people living with HIV. An additional 16 bags were distributed to 2 Laguna Shanti clients, our senior members of RBMCC, shut-ins, and additional people identified as needing some Christmas blessings. We heard back that for some, this was the only Christmas present they received!



Then a crew of 12 members and friends descended upon Christ Chapel MCC in Santa Ana to help feed the homeless and hungry. But we couldn't just show up with hands to help pour drinks, cook burgers and set up canopies.

This little church organized the making of scarves, hats and sleeping mats to keep people warm and dry this season. *(More on this on Page 5)* Shaving kits, socks, blankets, and hygiene kits were donated and an 8-person tent was raffled. These gifts were warmly received by those in need.

There is no doubt that God is pouring blessings upon those who've received these gifts of love and it is certain that God will multiply what we've done.



God truly works through this church and it is exciting to see what God will do for us and with us in the coming year. To those who are faithful in the little things, God rewards with the big things.

And so, to this mighty body of believers we say thank you!

Thank you for your faithfulness! Thank you for your stewardship! Thank you for attending, week after week! Thank you for praying, day after day! Thank you for worshipping with us and for blessing us with your gifts, your talents and most of all, your hearts!!!

Happy New Year Resurrection Beach! Let's make 2017 a year in which we glorify God by lifting one another up and by serving the least of these as Jesus would have us serve!

Speakers & Events Schedule

January

- 1/1 - Testimony Sunday
- 1/8 - Dale & Andy
- 1/14 - Loteria
- 1/15 - Dale & Andy
- 1/22 - Rev. Barbara
- 1/28 - Sat. Shenanigans
- 1/29 - Worship Night

February

- 2/4 - Cleaning Day
- 2/5 - Sharon Ballard
- 2/11 - Loteria
- 2/12 - Bobby Jo Valentine
- 2/19 - Dr. Damien Calmett
- 2/25 - Sat Shenanigans
- 2/26 - Ref. Barbara

March

- 3/5 - Sharon Ballard
- 3/11 - Loteria
- 3/12 - Dr. Juan Carlos Mendez
- 3/19 - Rick Tutt
- 3/25 - Sat Shenanigans
- 3/26 - Rev. Barbara

Beyond

- 4/22 - Queer-E-Oke
- 5/6 - Wild West Murder Mystery Night

Queer Cultural Center Loteria Nights

Sat. Jan. 14th, Feb. 11th & Mar. 11th at 7 pm



QCC launched a fun new community-building event in August. **LGBTQ and Friends Loteria** celebrates the contributions of important LGBTQ persons and Straight Allies to our culture and the equality of humanity. This is a 50/50 game in which 50% of the cash raised is kept for the QCC and 50% of the cash is split with winners. All players are entered to win a raffle set for March for 50,000 American Airlines frequent flyer miles which could purchase 2 round trip tickets in the US. QCC Loteria nights are also being supported by a Facebook advertising campaign that has generated over 200 page likes. QCC is a community service of RBMCC and aims to provide healthy entertainment with the LGBTQ & Allied community in celebrating equality.

Fun Fall Events Build Community



Costume Fundraiser, Harvest Dinner, Food, Food and More Food!

We celebrated in so many ways during the Fall. We gathered together in Andy V's back yard to raise money for the Corbin Center Christmas ministry. The theme was Dia de los Muertos as a way to honor Mexican heritage. Lots of fun, too much food and great laughter was had by all and Freda walked away with 25,000 Frequent Flyer Miles.

Then a month later, in November, over 50 people gathered at Freda and Louise's backyard to celebrate Thanksgiving a few days early. This event is always a wonderful time of great conversation, fun games and yes, too much food. (But then, does this church ever do anything without a lot of food?)

World AIDS Day Service

First dedicated service held on World AIDS Day, December 1st

On Thursday, December 1st, RBMCC gathered in the sanctuary to honor and remember those who have passed on because of HIV / AIDS and to celebrate those who, by the Grace of God and the miracle of modern medicine, are still alive in spite of this epidemic. It was a celebration in its own right, as we lit candles, heard testimonies, sang songs and prayed together to remember and to continue loving a community that was once decimated and has now been restored to vibrancy. We hope to make this an annual tradition in those years in which December 1st does not fall on a Sunday. Special thanks to Michael S for organizing this event.



Nicavangelists' Visit to RBMCC Touched Hearts and May Launch a Missions Program

RBMCC is 1st LGBT Congregation to Host Group; RBMCC to Visit Nicaragua in June; Nicavangelists to Return to RBMCC in September



An acrobatic troupe of boys from Managua, Nicaragua, and their fearless Australian leader came to our church in November. They performed street acrobatics, danced, sang songs and gave testimonies about how God has changed their lives in a production that highlights the choices many young people face as a fight of good vs. evil.



Nicaragua is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere; even poorer than Haiti. Half the population lives on less than \$1 per day. Even government workers' minimum monthly salary of \$148 per month is low by Latin American standards. For example, in Colombia, the minimum retail wage is about \$200 per month and in Panama, it's about \$2 per hour. So in a country with so much poverty, it is very common for families to just abandon children, especially those who suffer from mental illness or who act out and are difficult to raise.

Troubled youth in Nicaragua, as well as those who are simply kicked out of their homes for economic reasons, often end up in street gangs or turn to prostitution to survive. Enter the Nicavangelists whose compound is home to over 35 youths from the streets of Nicaragua's poorest neighborhoods. These youth are given an education and an opportunity to escape drugs, alcohol and sexual abuse.

When the Nicavangelists contacted us via Facebook back in June of 2016, we didn't know what to expect. Their agenda, it turned out, was to spread the unflinching, unconditional love of God with all people. Having just come from a church that criticized their clothing as unworthy for church, they entered a church whose people have been called unworthy for church for generations. Their message of God's love connected with ours, and these youth warmed their way into our hearts in a big way.

The Nicavangelists need your help. Their ministry runs on a shoestring. Everything they raise provides for the livelihood of the young people in this program. Each of the youth earns a salary, much of which they give to their families if they are still on OK terms with them. This salary teaches the youth the value of working for a wage and it helps keep them out of a life of crime. Funds raised also buy food (much of which is beans, rice and dehydrated foods), pays the rent for their compound, utilities, education and health care costs, in addition to travel expenses for their tours. In order to travel to the US, youth must first prove themselves on tours within Nicaragua and Central America.

RBMCC raised over \$500 for the Nicavangelists and sent them off with generous goodie bags. In June, Andy V will travel with a small group to Nicaragua, assess the program, teach worship songs and lead their vacation Bible School. Our Summer Edition of *Good News* will report on that trip.

Bags to Bed-mats Ministry Brings Warmth to the Homeless, Weaves Community at Church

New Ministry Creates Beds Out of Plastic Grocery Bags and Tarps; Join Us Friday Nights at 6

For over 6 years, RBMCC has been involved with Christ Chapel MCC in Santa Ana in their efforts to serve the homeless and hungry on the last Sunday of each month. Little did we know back then that a huge ministry of giving and serving the homeless community would develop from this small act of volunteering.



Our persistent heart for serving the homeless and hungry has brought us new people interested in doing the same; with them has come new ideas and initiatives. Dodi and Meg introduced the church to a YouTube video on how to weave bed-mats from plastic grocery bags. Meg brought in her loom and we were “hooked”.



We started small and then put out the call for more bags. One thing is for sure, if you ask this church to provide something, we do it in a big way. We soon had thousands upon thousands of bags, which required a



small army of volunteers to sort, flatten and cut the bags into strips to prepare for weaving or crocheting.



Once woven into a 6-foot tall bed-mat made up of over 500 plastic bags, the mats are then placed inside a folded tarp which has been glued and sealed to create a waterproof sleeping bag. A blanket is then inserted to create extra warmth and a rope is tied to the outside of the bag to create a carrying strap.

The design is modeled after the US Military’s field bivouac kit, which costs over \$100 each. Ours comes in at about \$10 and that is due to the cost of the tarp and the blanket. The woven bed-mat provides much needed cushion and insulation from the cold ground and the person sleeping in the bag just slides into the blanket and tarp.



So far we have produced over 30 of these kits, supported with a \$300 grant from Long Beach Pride for our social justice work.

Saturday Shenanigans

Our Monthly Fellowship Events Move to Last Saturday of the Month

January 28th

Chinese New Year
Themed
Game Night

February 25th

Grilled Cheese n
Tomato Soup
Movie Night

March 25th

Game & Puzzles Night

The January and February events will be held at church. The March event is looking for a home willing to open its doors to the church family. Please see a member of the Council of Ministries if you would like to host this event.

Bobby Jo Valentine

In Concert, Sunday, February 12 at 6 pm

Gay, Christian, singer-songwriter Bobby Jo Valentine, who performed at MCC's General Conference in Victoria, BC last summer, will perform live at RBMCC. This is a great opportunity to invite friends who don't normally go to church. While Bobby Jo is a self-professed Christian, his music focus on more secular topics that are infused with positive, uplifting and certainly God-inspired messages. Service will be modified for this event

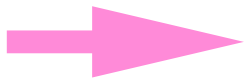


Mark Your Calendars...

Four Events Worth Attending in the Spring & Fall



Saturday, April 22, 7:30 PM - Queer-E-Oke Earth Day Celebration
Featuring '90s music sung to tracks and live instruments. FREE



Saturday, May 6, 6:00 PM - Wild-West Murder Mystery Night. RSVP no later than April 16, with \$15 to reserve your character. Characters will be handed out Sunday April 23 to give players ample time to secure a costume. You may request a certain type of character by speaking with Andy V.



Saturday, June 17, 10 AM - 4 PM - RBMMC's 1st Annual Vision Day. All leaders and anyone else interested in shaping the future of RBMCC please attend this workshop and dialogue on our collective vision for our church.



Friday, September 22 - Sunday, September 24 - Camping Weekend
Location info & details TBA

★ **NOTE:** All activities are available to people regardless of ability to pay. Please see a church leader for a confidential scholarship to any event that has a fee.

New Ways to Contact Leadership

Did you know? RBMCC has special emails you can use to contact the leadership team.

Because people change in and out of leadership positions, we wanted there to be a consistent and transparent way for the congregation to communicate with leadership. When you email the Council of Ministries or Board of Directors address, an email is automatically forwarded to the entire group. If you need to send confidential information to individual officers of the Board, you can simply use the email address for that office.

Board of Directors:

Board_of_Directors@rbmcc.org
ViceModerator@rbmcc.org
Treasurer@rbmcc.org
Clerk@rbmcc.org

Council of Ministries:

Council_of_Ministries@rbmcc.org

New Ways to Tithe

RBMCC is Keeping Up with the Times

In the Fall, RBMCC launched a PayPal account. You can now give online, from our website, using this new account. You can send us a memo through PayPal or you can email the Treasurer to tell us how you want your tithe to be used in the ministry of the church. Note that financial information and giving is kept confidential.

We also understand that not everyone carries a checkbook with them or don't have time to go to an ATM to withdraw cash to give their offering. We've been asked on a number of occasions about accepting cards and we just have not been able to do that... until now. In the winter of 2017, RBMCC will have an iPad with a Square payment system which will be chip enabled for you to swap or insert a debit or credit card. This system was donated to the church and will help

New Ways to Serve

RBMCC needs volunteers before and during service

We are seeking a handful of volunteers who can help us once a month:

- 1) Greeter Team - We need people to assist with welcoming visitors
- 2) Audio / Visual Team - We need people to help with the sound system, the slide projection and our new lighting system, to ensure a smooth service. Hats off to Anna, Juno, Laura & Karen for really helping out in this area.

Church Cleaning Day
Sat. Feb 4. 10 AM



New Ways to Worship

The Worship Team has Resurrected Our Monthly Healing / Prayer / Praise Service: 1st Saturdays at 7 PM, Beginning March 4

This will be an all music, 90-minute service, dedicated to deep worship and powerful praise.