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YOUR STEWARDSHIP:
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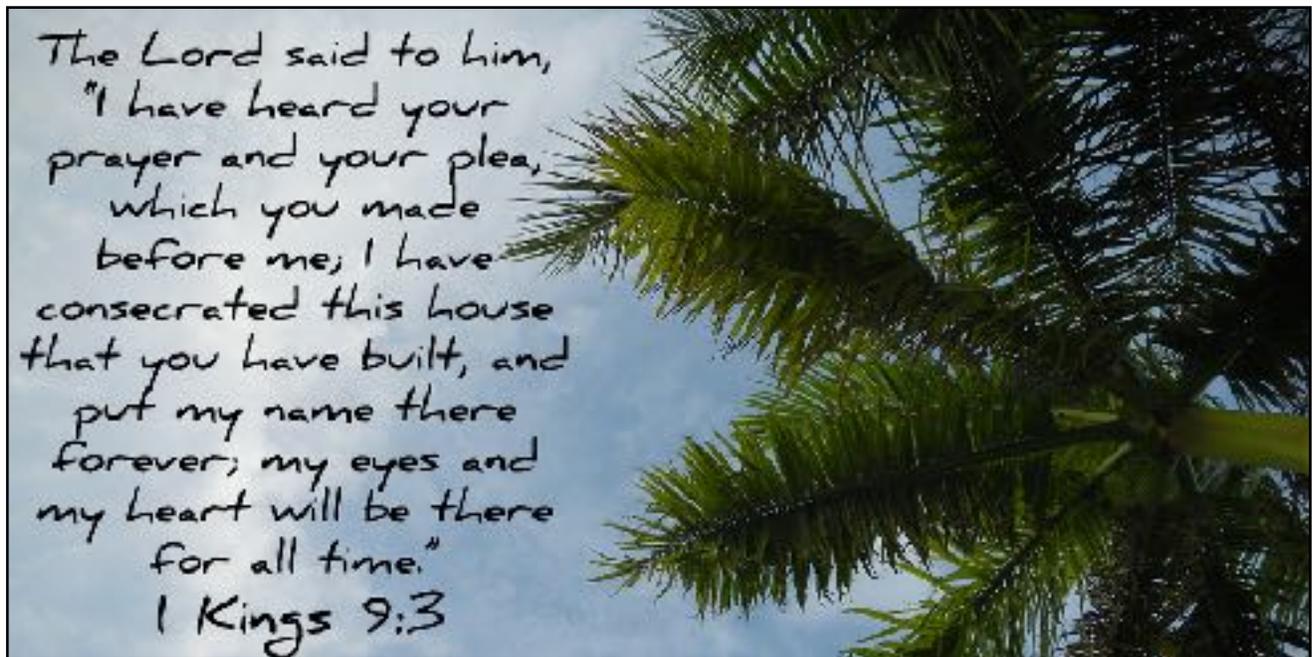


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GOOD NEWS



A Time To Pray

RBMcC Hosts Day-Long Prayer Retreat February 26th

2018 will be a year in which RBMcC will devote a lot of time and attention to improving our personal and our church's prayer life. To kick-off this time of intentional growth, we will be hosting a day-long spiritual retreat that is free and open to anyone. The day will begin at 9:00 am with a period of silent meditation and centering. Rev. Eric Buter and our own Freda Hellerstein will be teaching segments on how to pray and be open to hearing God's voice as well as the different types of prayer styles. Andy Verostek will lead an hour-long prayer round table session in which we will pray in waves from covering individuals in our community all the way to covering our human family. Much of our activities this day will be spent in small groups so that we can get to know one another and focus our

energies on learning from and guiding each other through the day's events. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided. We will close the day at 6:00 pm to allow for people to continue in



fellowship if they so choose or to head out into the world feeling revitalized and renewed.

Please come prepared to share in one another's faith journeys as we commit to deepening our prayer connections with one another.

2017 Financial Review

It's no secret we have some steep bills to pay. Last year, our annual rent totaled \$51,798.74. Our electric bill was \$1,120.46 for the year and our gas bill was \$201.53. Our annual phone and internet charges were \$2,275.68, keeping in mind we are charged commercial, not residential, rates for these services. And none of those funds account for the various ministries we support and the numerous in-kind donations that happen humbly behind the scenes to ensure our church functions. Our total expenses in 2017: \$71,228.69

Yet amidst all of these financial hurdles we have a reason to celebrate: RBMCC ended the year with a deficit of only -\$600.46 versus our total annual income of \$70,628.23. That is in and of itself an answer to many prayers. You see, our budget that we set at the 2016 Congregational Meeting forecasted a deficit of -\$19,683.44, which means there was over \$19,000 in additional giving that was not anticipated the year prior. Putting it more bluntly, in 2016, our congregation was heading into a year in which we had no idea how we were going to make ends meet, yet God provided through your stewardship.

This means that each person, whether they gave \$5 or a large one-time offering, has contributed to closing the gap. Your faithfulness to this church and to the vision and ministry here at RBMCC is exemplified in the faithfulness to which each of us has committed to the stewardship of what God has entrusted to us.

In 2018 we will need to make a decision about staying in or leaving our space. Please be in prayer over this decision that God will continue to provide for our needs, whether here or elsewhere.

Speakers & Events Schedule

January

- 1/7 - Michael Sutherland
- 1/14 - Rev. Eric Buter
- 1/21 - Dale Brown
- 10/28 - Rev. Barbara

February

- 2/3 - Spring Cleaning
9 am
- 2/4 - Andy Verostek
- 2/10 - Potluck & Movie Night 6:30 pm
- 2/11 - Rev. Pat Langlois
- 2/14 - Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
- 2/18 - Dodi Freel
- 2/24 - Prayer Retreat
- 2/25 - Rev. Barbara

March

- 3/4 - Michael Sutherland
- 3/10 - Corned Beef & Cabbage Potluck 6:30 pm
- 3/11 - Dale Brown
- 3/18 - Faith Fortuno
- 3/25 - PALM SUNDAY
Rev. Barbara
- 3/30 - GOOD FRIDAY
service. 7 pm

April

- 4/1 - EASTER SUNDAY
Rev. Barbara

Worship Team Changes

Music at RBMCC is one of the most important aspects of worship. In order to help grow this ministry, Andy Verostek stepped down from his weekly involvement in the music ministry and Marti Sellers has stepped up to fill the vacancy.

Born blind and through God's miracles now learning to see, Marti has been singing for decades and has recorded her songs and performed for many audiences. RBMCC is blessed to have her join the worship team and share her gift of song.

Andy will be working behind the scenes to help with multimedia support and will be focusing on helping RBMCC begin live video streaming of its services in the coming months. In keeping with RBMCC's tradition of variety, he will lead worship once or twice a quarter to help provide the team a chance to rest.

Meg will be switching her leading worship from the third to the fourth Sunday of the month starting January 2018.

Spring Cleaning

RBMCC's annual clean-up day will be held Saturday, February 3 from 9 am - 4 pm. Lunch will be provided to all that come and help. We will be steam-cleaning the chairs and carpets and deep cleaning the bathrooms, kitchen and other nooks and crannies of the church.

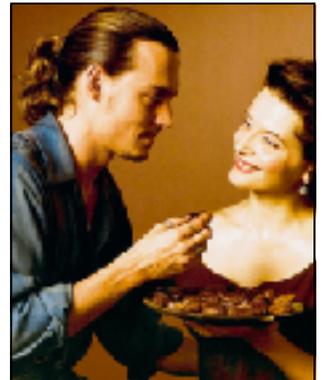
Got Chocolate?

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, February's Saturday Shenanigans will feature a pot-luck dinner and lots of chocolate sweets to go along with a film screening of *Chocolat* starring Johnny Depp, Juliette Binoche, Judy Dench and Al Molina.

When a nomadic woman and her daughter open up a chocolate shop in a small French village, her candies tempt the villagers to changes they never saw coming.

The film will be preceded by a short action-comedy film *D.E.B.S.* that gave birth to the feature film of the same name.

Dinner begins at 6:30 pm, Saturday, February 10th.



2017 Recycling Raised \$6,627.41

A huge thanks goes to Ed Knapp who is largely responsible for collecting the recycling brought into church and turning those cans and bottles into more than a month's operating expenses. It should be noted that the amount raised in 2017 is nearly 50% higher than in 2016 and was more than \$1400 above what was projected at the beginning of the year. Way to go church!!!!!!

Ash Wednesday Service & Lenten Study Groups

This year will mark the first time in a while that RBMCC has hosted an Ash Wednesday Service which will take place Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm. Come gather together for a time of reflection as we look at the events that led to Jesus's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Our service will lead into a new study group series that will last 5-6 weeks during the time of Lent. It will focus on how we, as modern Christians, can prepare our hearts for the events that took place nearly 2,000 years ago on Maundy Thursday, Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday and ultimately his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Irish Shenanigans March 10th

It doesn't matter if you have Irish blood in you or not, St. Patrick's Day is a good excuse to gather, eat and celebrate. And since the people at RBMCC are very good at both cooking and eating, one can expect that our March Saturday Shenanigans on the 10th at 6:30 pm will be no exception. We'll be hosting an Irish themed corned-beef and cabbage dinner along with a traditional pot luck as well as non-drinking games (we know, not-so-Irish but hey, it's church.) that should keep us laughing in good company.

Christmas is All Wrapped Up!

Every Christmas Season at RBMCC has a lot of activity. We start with a Harvest Dinner at Freda and Louise's house in November and we end with a New Year. In between we collect hundreds of gifts from people who attend and who don't attend our church, and we distribute those gifts to people in need. Much of our attention is focused on the Corbin Center in Santa Ana where we provide Christmas to low income families who have suffered physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

It's not just a tradition at our church but it's a spirit of generosity and love that pours out. It's an opportunity for us all to gather and share the blessings of Jesus Christ with total strangers who may feel alone and abandoned during the Holiday Season.

This Season over 90 people were blessed with gifts, which is 3 times the crowd on any given Sunday. Merry Christmas indeed!

