



# Fourth Quarter Newsletter

Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston

Also available on [www.cbcbg.org](http://www.cbcbg.org)

## Priest, Offering and Worship

Pastor Henry Mak

Prologue: This church has been officially registered for 19 years. We have just celebrated the 19th anniversary. With the blink of an eye, Thanksgiving, Christmas fly by and before we know it, this is already the end of year. A new year is about to begin. "It is another year".

Based on chronological age, we should be in our prime years, young and vigorous. A nineteen-year-old guy is in his stormy years, driven by audacity. Though he was just a kid, within two to three years, he saved up some money, decided to buy his own home. Putting down 20% as down payment, borrowed 80% of the home price through mortgage, he purchased the property. Most of the remaining savings and funding from interest free loans from his family were spent on renovation of the house.

We all know that church building is for the glory of God, based on God's commission for the church, and not for our enjoyment. All the high quality sound system and audiovisual equipments should be used for the ministry of God, not for individual entertainment. We are grateful to God for the church premises and the comprehensive facilities.

We should thank God for the past year:

1. New church building: Since last December, we have moved from Central

Baptist Church premises into the current building for almost a year. Since then, we have baptized five believers and accepted two members transferred from other churches. These are worthy of thanks and celebration. In addition, many of our youth group have committed to Christ. Prodigal son has returned home. The lost souls have repented. Our brothers and sisters collaborate closely in service and our congregation has grown spiritually and in number.

2. The sacrifice of our members: Thanks be to God for the sacrifice of brothers and sisters who gave financial offerings in support of church building. Many of them contributed both money and effort for the completion of church renovation, with no grievances and no regrets. We are grateful.

3. Faithful service of Rev. Raymond Yeung: Our church has gains, but also losses. The loss is not exactly a deficit or dropping things on the road, but missing. You all know that I am talking about Rev. Yeung. We really miss him as he left us to be with the Lord. We give thanks for Rev. Yeung, who loved God in his entire life, kept on serving till the last day. He has never officially declared retirement. He is well blessed in Christ. We give thanks for him.

4. The service of deacons and church council: I thank God for the deacons and council members. Their faithful service facilitates the worship service, Sunday school, fellowships, adult and youth, Chinese and English ministries. Through their diligent effort, the church is well managed and things



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are in proper order, members are edified. For these I give thanks to God.

5. All the serving bodies in the house of God: Every Sunday, close to 30 people diligently serve as worship leader, choir, ushers, pianist, provide transportation, cleaning, audiovisual operations, produce the worship program and childcare...etc. May God continue to bless and use them in a great way.

6. The hardworking church building committee: This consists of Brother Tony Wong, Deacon Derek Chow, Sister Irene Ho, Deaconess Donna Mok, Brother David Lee, Sister Wendy Lee, Brother Harris Wong and Rev. Henry Mak. They participated in the entire church building project, picked the list of construction items, solicited price quotes from contractors and followed the progress of renovation. I am especially grateful to Brother Tony Wong.

7. Church maintenance committee: They are Brother Tony Wong, Deacon Derek Chow, Brother Harris Wong and Brother Edward Ha. After completion of church renovation, they undertake to maintain the building, such as sealing the leaks in the roof and exterior wall, maintenance of parking lot, installation of security and surveillance systems, audiovisual systems. Sealing of water leak is the most exigent project. Since moving in, the newly added windows on both floors show water sipping. We ask God to provide us with a competent contractor to solve this lingering issue permanently.

Preview for the new year:

For this pastoral ministry, I give thanks to God. A whole year has passed since my ordination as church pastor on October 10, 2010. My identity has changed from minister to pastor. Even though there is no significant change in position and duty, the workload has inevitably increased. This is my calling from God, to respond to the needs of His church. Remarkably, I officiated the first wedding this year and the newlywed are both members of this congregation.

In summary, unless it is through God who gives me strength, I can do nothing. Being ordained as pastor is not the goal of my life. My goal is that depicted by Apostle Paul, "12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12-14). Let us keep on encouraging each other.

In the upcoming year, we hope for a breakthrough in the ministry of God's kingdom:

1. Be in one accord, emphasize peaceful relationship, set aside personal attitude, be of the same attitude as Christ, and treat each other with love.



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9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:9-18).

2. Repent from our trespasses, rectify our lack of love, insensitivity to the others' need of salvation, tardiness in preaching the gospel, ignorance of God's will for us the spread the good news to all nations. We must repent from the lack of care about our neighbors... etc.

14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can

cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. (Revelation 3:14-19).

Amen.



### Church Anniversary Evangelical Concert

Donna Mok

The evangelical concert on October 15 entitled "Who is Jesus" was actually a moving love story presented by the church choir, interweaved with the message preached by Rev. Mak.

Prelude was the song "Everybody should know" performed by the choir. The following hymn "For God so love the world" brought the audience through time and space to envision how God saved mankind from sin. The birth of Jesus, the son of God, was depicted by the song "The humble stable". "He" was proclaimed to be the way, the truth and the life. "Once Jesus came", diseases were healed, demons were driven out, the entanglement of Satan was broken free, and pain was turned into sweetness. Jesus was the good shepherd and "He fed the little lambs". We enjoyed His protection and care. All who are heavy-laden can find rest in Him. Jesus became the lamb of sin offering "All because of our sin". He sacrificed himself on the cross, demonstrated His great love, and was raised from the dead on the third day. We can face tomorrow without fear, all because "He lives" and walks the narrow path of life with us. Lord



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Jesus is our everlasting hope. "Glory in heaven fills my heart". The savior on the cross makes us perfect. He turns darkness into light. Lord Jesus will return and judge the world. He is the God, "The pioneer and perfecter". He promised to give the spring of life freely to the thirsty. He is our God and we are His children.

It is my wish that every audience can hear the call of love from our Lord in this night, so that the seed of gospel could be sown and flourish in their heart. My friend, do you know "Who is Jesus"?



### Youth Group at the Anniversary Dinner

Emily Chow

This year for our church's anniversary the youth made a video that consisted of two fake commercials. The first one was called "Abreadcrumb and Fish", symbolizing the story in the Bible about Jesus feeding the 5,000 with only some bread and fish. We called it "Abreadcrumb and Fish" because it was a twist on the popular clothing store Abercrombie and Fitch. At the anniversary party at China Pearl where the video was shown, I don't think any of the adults there understood it very well. However, there was a lot of laughing nevertheless because of the hilarious antics done in the video. We had made our own version of Jesus feeding the five thousand, involving Eva Chow playing a little girl giving Jesus only one fish and a couple crumbs of bread. Ryan Wong, who played Jesus, raised the food and somehow made many other fish

and a whole loaf of bread flew through the air. (We actually just threw it at him from behind the camera.)

The second commercial was called "King of Kings", which was a twist on the popular fast food chain Burger King. Burger King's slogan is "Have It Your Way," but we made a fake logo that said "King of Kings. Have it God's Way". Many more adults understood this commercial than the first one. Amenda Wong plays a girl that is eating chicken nuggets and fries (on a table also played by Ryan Wong), but then Wilson Wong knocks her food off the "table" with a Bible and tells her that God will feed her spiritual hunger. The video ends with Amenda taking a "bite" of the Bible and saying "Have It God's Way!" The youth group had a lot of fun making both commercials.

**HAVE IT GOD'S WAY**



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## Youth Group at Boston Metro

Samantha Lee

Our trip to Boston Metro was very different from our usual Friday night gathering. When we arrived, we stepped into a large, dark room. The only sources of light were the many candles and two TVs. We sat down in a group in the corner of the room. When the gathering started, we were presented with the news that we were now in the year 2024. Christianity was now illegal and if we were caught, we'd be in lots of trouble. We went through the night talking about missionaries trying to spread the word of God in foreign countries where there is no religious freedom. We had been set into different groups and prayed for missionaries in different countries. Our night ended with a prayer together and we all went home.



## Christmas Celebrations

Yvonne Chan

This year's Christmas happened to be on a Sunday, thanks be to God for allowing us to put down complicated affairs on this Sabbath and come to the temple of God and focus on worshipping God, to praise and celebrate together the birth of Lord Jesus. As many as 120 people came to worship on this day, the church hall full of festive atmosphere. The beautiful Christmas tree up on the podium flashing bright lights, sets off the red Christmas flowers on both sides of the aisles, letting

people feel particularly warm. This is a wonderful day, the joyful day when God became flesh and came into this world.

That evening the church had a banquet at China Pearl restaurant set for 15 tables, a total of 150 people participated in the celebrations. Everybody gathered together, in addition to sumptuous food and wonderful hymns, there were brilliant performances by the various Fellowships. The performance by the sisters from Women Fellowship was especially impressive, they spread the Gospel to the audience through a self-directed, self-acted play, "The Story of the Lost Son". God is faithful, as long as the world is willing to repent, God will give them goodness and love, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. After the performances, immediately followed was the long-awaited gift drawings, a lot of lucky families received gifts which were caring contributions from the members of the church council. We all went home elated and happy. Thanks be to God who had given us such a beautiful day.



## Christmas Party at Katelyn's House

Wilson Wong

On December 17th the youth group went to Katelyn's house for a Christmas party. When we arrived at the house there was a wonderful, magnificent, delicious, delectable, fantastic, amazing, marvelous, incredible, outstanding, unbelievable, spread of food waiting for us. There was salad, ham, cheesy potatoes, stuffed shells, éclairs, crème puffs, cupcakes, cookies, and pie. After we had eaten,



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we went in groups to decorate ginger bread cookies and a ginger bread house. The cookies and the house were all decorated very nicely. While some people were decorating, the others were hanging out and having a good time together. After everyone got to decorate their cookies, we gathered around and played Yankee Swap. The game was very fun and when we left everyone had a present to take home. The Christmas party was astounding and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to it next year.



### The Birth of Our Savior

Yau Kwan Sung Lo

Bright sunshine penetrates the highest sky,  
sending through radiant in all directions.  
Waves of ripples show up in the sea, decorated  
by dazzling blooming flowers.  
Bees swarm around the flowers dancing freely.  
The birds are chirping as they hop happily up  
and down.

The wind spread the good news to all nations.  
All living things in the sky and on the earth  
sing joyfully in one accord.  
Our savior was born in Bethlehem.  
"For God so loved the world that he gave his  
one and only Son, that whoever believes in him  
shall not perish but have eternal life. For God  
did not send his Son into the world to condemn  
the world, but to save the world through him."  
(John 3:16, 17)  
Vibrant heavenly hosts and angels respond by  
singing praises.

Senior leaders from all four corners present  
their offerings.

Angels and shepherds alike praise the blessings  
bestowed by God.

People all over the world join together to  
acclaim the mighty power of the Lord.



### Adventure of My Mother

George Chan

I am grateful to have this opportunity to  
reflect on the incident about my mother's  
illness that almost killed her and the grace and  
miracle of God that saved her.

It all began in March of this year when  
she was attacked by a very contagious diarrhea  
virus that sent her to the emergency room 4  
times in less than 10 days. She was so  
weakened that she could no longer return to her  
apartment. Long term nursing home was her  
only option, which she dreaded and abhorred.  
But God changed her mind and she accepted  
the fact. God provided a bed in one of the best  
nursing homes in Chinatown where language  
and culture were not an issue. Miraculously,  
we were able to transfer her there within 24  
hours, which was unheard of. We broke all  
protocol but it was a good thing.

Mom was happy to live there. But five  
days later, she was sent to the emergency room  
again for shortness of breath due to water in her  
lungs and maybe even a heart problem. While  
in the ICU, the decision to intubate her caused  
a lot of confusion due to misinformation by the



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medical team. Luckily, with the help and advice of mom's godson, a chief of nephrology from PA who flew in for this matter, we decided to intubate her. Mom's condition, in the meantime, was rapidly deteriorating and came very close to dying. The thing that struck me most was the courage she put up and the calmness and the fearlessness in her, while she uttered these words, "There is no reason to prolong life. I want to go to my Heavenly Father."

There were many times when prayers were said by her bedside inside the ICU. At the most critical time, I made a promise to God that if mom pulled through, I would return to church which I have left since I was a teenager.

Miraculously, mom was able to breathe on her own 2 days later, and she was extubated. The whole ordeal lasted 1 week and was able to return to the nursing home. She began telling everyone there that her God had saved her. I too started to tell all my friends that her recovery was an absolute miracle. I kept my promise and went to church on Easter Sunday and have been going ever since. I am back and now this 'lost sheep' is found.

As I reflect back of the whole experience, I have learned that our Lord is sovereign and good and that He listens to our prayers. But even if He chose not to hear, we believe He is still God and rule according to His will. This experience also witnessed that behind all the pain, grief, and despair, we can always find God's caring love and blessing --- Blessings in disguise.



## Finance

### October

Income	Expense	Surplus
26,692	16,101	10,591

### November

Income	Expense	Deficit
15,255	15,882	(628)

### December

Income	Expense	Surplus
36,388	32,080	4,308



## Sunday Service Attendance

(Weekly average attendance)

	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chinese Sunday Service	79	81	90
English Sunday Service	20	21	22
Combined Service	97	120	116
Children Service	5	6	6
Sunday School	60	59	66



## Church News

Our events during the fourth quarter:

1. On October 15, 2011 when we hosted the 19th church anniversary evangelical concert.



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2. On October 16, 2011, we enjoyed a scrumptious church anniversary banquet at China Pearl Restaurant, with Central Baptist Church delegates and Minister Henry Wan as our invited guests.

3. In November, the 2012 church council members were elected by general assembly.

4. On December 17, 2011, we have a successful caroling and evangelical pamphlet distribution at Kam Man supermarket, reaching out to the Chinese community.

5. On December 24, 2011, we have a Christmas Eve worship service filled with sharing of messages and hymns by various groups and family.

6. On December 25, 2011, we have our Christmas worship service and well participated evening celebration dinner at China Pearl Restaurant.

Upcoming events in the next quarter:

1. We shall hold the 2012 annual general assembly meeting on January 22, 2012.

2. On February 4, 2012, we will have the first Mandarin evangelical training workshop led by Rev. Paul Lin, with Cantonese translation.

3. On March 11, 2012, we will honor the Women's day by having a special Sunday worship service.

4. There is provisional plan for a care group day in March, 2012.

Keep up with the mission of supplication:

1. The main theme of the church for the year 2012 is "Extend the blessings of God to all nations". Let us encourage each other in spiritual growth.

2. The goal of church building fund raising for 2012 is \$50,000. Ask God to motivate brothers and sisters to make generous offerings.

3. Persevere in fervent petition for God's provision of the local missionary position by International Mission Board for Rev. Paul Lin so that he can stay and minister to our Mandarin congregation.



### Prayer Requests

1. Ask God to motivate brothers and sisters in keeping up with daily Bible reading and prayers, fervently pursue spiritual growth.

2. Intercede for Reverend Henry Mak. Ask God to fill him with the Holy Spirit, empower him to lead brothers and sisters in unity to build up the congregation and spread the gospel.

3. Pray that the love of the Lord compels brothers and sisters to keep on offering for church building, to enable timely paying off of church debts and mortgage.

4. Pray for God's continuous provision of suitable preachers in the English worship service, to enable our youth group to worship in unison. Remember Katelyn Saylor, our youth instructor in your prayer. Ask the Lord to equip her with love, wisdom and patience to lead the youth fellowship, to edify their spiritual life.

5. Intercede for the Mandarin fellowship. Ask God to provide the resources to keep Rev. Paul Lin ministering to our Mandarin group. Pray for revival in the Mandarin Sunday school, fellowship and bible studies, enable the brothers and sisters to love, care for and serve



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one another, and invite more Mandarin speaking friends and relatives to join the fellowship.

6. Intercede for our church members:

- i. Mrs. Grace Yuen has to continue regular hemodialysis. Ask God to grant her peace and ease during the procedure.
- ii. Intercede for Deaconess Irene Chow Kan Chan, currently residing in the South Cove Manor Nursing Home, so that she could maintain or gain mobility and strength.
- iii. Pray that the arthritic pain of Sister Koon Wan Chow Wong will not progress.
- iv. Pray for God's healing of Sister Sheung Or Au (Aunty) from attacks of constipation and diarrhea and dizziness; her joyous and healthy stay in Hong Kong and a safe trip back to the U.S.
- v. Intercede for the heart condition of Sister Yin Ping Au. Ask God to stabilize her health.
- vi. Intercede for the unemployed brothers and sisters in their job search. Ask God to provide their daily needs and employment opportunity.