CBCVentura December 29, 2019

# YEAR IN REVIEW

### CHALLENGES | HIGHLIGHTS | OPPORTUNITIES

#### **AGIFT FOR YOU!**

In early September, the CBC Staff made a decision to subscribe to **RightNow Media**. This resulted in a free gift for all our CBC members and attendees to over 40,000 Christian resources, ranging from sermons/ teaching on parenting, marriage, finances, small groups, children's ministry, youth ministry, worship & much more. This has been a wonderful aid for small groups and midweek Bible studies!

#### **NEW COURTYARD**

Late August, Ron & Karrie Cole helped us renovate our front courtyard into a beautiful, usable space. Everyone loves the transformation! And, it gets constant use: from our homeschool students on Tuesdays, to our staff & college community. We've received lots of compliments from neighborhood residents; and, everyone agrees that our courtyard is much more inviting and welcoming.

#### FAMILY CAMPING TRIP

We had our first annual church camping trip up at Sage Hill. 20 of our families played in the river, mountain biked, hiked, ate together, and fellowshipped around the campfire. We are excited to do it again in 2020 and looking forward to more families joining in the fun!

#### FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Food Pantry will serve almost 600 families this year!



2019 had many challenges & changes for our church and staff. Beginning in January of this year, Amanda Lawrence moved to Texas after serving as my administrative assistant for 11 years. Subsequently, the Elders decided to divide Amanda's responsibilities into 3 separate staff positions yielding three wonderful new additions to our team: Sally Andrew, Administrative Assistant; Sue Diehl, Bookkeeper; & Marin Stuve, Volunteer Coordinator.

In March, we began the last phase of renovation for our Christian Education building - the first floor! We are excited as we anticipate this event room being complete soon and being used for meals, meetings, and gatherings without having to tear down & set up the sanctuary for each event.

In the middle of July, we accommodated Matt Clinton, Director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) for Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties, with space for an office at CBC. This was the beginning of a wonderful partnership that has opened doors to on-campus access & ministry at a number of our local schools. Matt has also filled our pulpit a few times and has done a tremendous job. He has become a great friend and trusted advisor for me as well!

As many of you are aware, it has been a challenging financial year at CBC. We've had a few families move and our giving has been down. But, God is faithful and we are praying that He will provide year end giving that will help us meet our budget.

Thank you for the blessing of serving you! Denise and I love you all, and are thankful that God brought us to CBC. And, we are excited about what God still has in store for us as a church as we continue to follow His lead!

Pastor Bob

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#### **RETREATS!**

Another year of wonderful retreats at Hume Lake. The April women's retreat was amazingly well attended with 50 women from our church & community coming together for teaching laughter & worship. They've also enjoyed a number of bonding events throughout the year: crafting with Heidi Shorts & celebrating new babies were a couple of the highlights.

The men had a wonderful time of fellowship and bonding with the Lord in October at their retreat. Along with a number of other great events including a bbq at the Sponseller's, first annual Men's Golf Day, and a huge turnout for Ranch Day at the Dilbeck's that included shooting, disc golf, and lots of food.

#### ARTISAN FAIR

We had a hugely successful craft fair in spite of high winds, fires, and the newness of the event, we had 21 vendors from our church and the community, as well as a great turnout of shoppers.

2019 began with prayers for growth and hope for new life in the Lord in the hearts of our kids. We are so grateful for the good works God has done among the CBC Kids community! In Sunday School, we've learned about the importance of the Church, the Armor of God, finding Jesus in our everyday lives, reflected on Jesus' birth through a Jesse Tree Advent ornament exchange, and foundational Bible stories, including David & Goliath, the birth of Baby Jesus, and Paul on the Road to Damascus. Our amazing volunteers selflessly serve our kids each and every week and help make CBC Kids a joyful, noisy, happy place to be.

We invited our kids and families to pray about baptism earlier this spring. After prayer, conversation, and a four-week class overviewing the significance of baptism, we were thrilled to celebrate the baptism of seven kids and youth in 2019. Blessings to (left to right) Tyson Pierce, Elliot Sage, Miriam Ortega, Lillie Sage, Ellie Dilbeck, Simon Ortega, and Knox Goodwin.



We took an adventure to Planet Hope this summer! Nearly 60 kids from CBC and the surrounding community joined us at Vacation Bible School. We learned about the power of the Light of the World through Bible stories and songs - all while building rocket ships and eating out-of-this-world tasty treats. The number of participants and volunteers is almost double the attendance of 2018. Thank you for your support as we further God's kingdom in the hearts of children.

## Katherine, Kelsey, & Marisa









This was our first year doing two nights of our Noël Christmas concert and it was a huge success! Over 400 people flooded through our doors, many of whom have never been to CBC before. We had two excellent nights of music where the wonder of Christmas was put on display with a string quartet, guest singers and our in house CBC band. So many of our CBC members stepped up to help out with hospitality, delicious treats, parking, media, set up, clean up and more. It was truly great to see our entire church rally around this outreach event to our community and I am grateful to all of you who stepped out of your comfort zones to invite your friends, neighbors and family!