



FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH

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W I N D S O R

2016

Ministry Reports



### **PASTOR/TEACHER** – Lance Wallace

2016 was a year I would describe as “change”. In January, the church affirmed Pastor Rick Oliver as our new Pastor Emeritus and Pastor Forrest Haskins as our new Children’s and Family Pastor. We had a staff retreat to San Rafael to map out how best to use their gifts and abilities for the benefit of the church. Rick’s desire was to start a Bible Institute and Forrest’s was to reintroduce an AWANA children’s program. That was the beginning of what became our “Family Faith Night” on Wednesday nights. It is a great blessing to see so many people here on Wednesday nights studying the Bible and growing in fellowship together. Another change that occurred this past year was the changing of guard in the office staff. After many faithful years of service from Gretchan McBurney and Thelma Freeburg, they graciously handed the baton to Leslie Stadum and Jill Wallace. I thank God for the seamless transition in all these staff positions which required maturity and grace of all involved.

Probably my favorite thing the church did last year was hosting a 9/11 service to honor those who protect and serve us locally and to honor Larry Freeburg for his many years of volunteer work at the church and school. The special service was spawned by my trip to Washington DC with my 8<sup>th</sup> grade child, Gabe. I was overwhelmed by our Nation’s history and the patriotism and the honoring of God that is somewhat devalued in California. Since 9/11 fell on a Sunday I began to pray how our church might do something special to bring those same qualities in DC to Windsor, California. By the help of many volunteers it turned out to be a real blessing for our community and Lord willing it will be something we continue to do every year. Another great blessing from the church was you sending me to Chile to visit our missionaries there. I had no expectations, but God had great plans. Thank you. Another area I feel very blessed in is the many years of faithfulness the leadership at the school and church have attained by the grace of God. I believe that the consistency of good leadership is foundational to a healthy organization of any type and Lord willing this will continue at our church and school for many more years to come.

Looking forward to 2017, I think some key words in my life and hopefully the church will be peace and rest (Not rest in peace). Now that we have some key pieces in place that will allow us to grow in exalting, equipping and evangelizing, the dust of change should settle. Also, the elders of the church have decided I should take a Sabbatical this year for my and my family’s physical, emotional and spiritual health. During my three months away from the ministry I hope to get some theological training and also some travel with my wife and four children. We are planning to be gone June through August and hope to travel to the Canadian Rockies and down through Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. Steve Kerr, coach of the Warriors, recently said that a successful work life is when you can work at what you like, with the people you like and where you like. If he is right, I am a blessed man.

### **CHURCH ADMINISTRATION** – Jeff Marshall

Every year seems to be an important year in the history of the church, as we position ourselves to further the mission of the church to exalt Christ, equip believers, and evangelize the world. We continue to be in a period of God’s blessing on our church, and we praise God for this time at FBC Windsor.

Spiritual Needs – The most important things I do continue to involve spiritual growth and ministry. As a teacher for the Redwood Bible Institute, I have had the privilege of teaching a Biblical History of Israel (an Old Testament survey course) and Apologetics (Defense of the Christian Faith). I have had the honor of teaching and preaching in numerous settings this past year. I am incredibly thankful to have a job that allows me, and even pays me, to go to people in need and pray for/with them.

Windsor Christian Academy – We continue to be blessed with an outstanding staff that both love the Lord and love children. As Chairman of the WCA School Board, I have opportunity to work with Tad Theiss (K-8 Administrator) and Dawn O’Malley (Preschool Director) on an almost daily basis. Our programs are spiritually and academically strong, thanks to the faithful efforts of our administration, teachers, and staff.

Finance/Accounting – Both the church and the school have been blessed financially in the calendar year. Our independent auditor was once again extremely complimentary of our processes and personnel (Carol Ann Misson), which was a validation (and a relief). Thanks also to Pat Nowlin, who enters contribution information for year-end reporting.

Human Resources – We are continuing the process of incorporating a Human Resource Information System (HRIS) into our HR procedures. In addition, I am training Carol Ann Misson to take more responsibility in this essential area of our organization.

Technology – Thanks to the WCA K-8 Boosters, we have been able to add flat-panel televisions, iPads (for teacher use), and AppleTV devices to the K-8 classrooms. This allows the teachers to engage students with more modes of learning, and allows them to incorporate videos, documentaries, etc. into the class curriculum. In late 2016, we opted to renew with CSBS for our copier/printers. In early 2017, we received the copier/printers, giving us more functionality and better reliability on these devices throughout the organization. Unfortunately, we have experienced things on campus, including vandalism, which require better security. We are in the process of installing security cameras in the preschool area, and are looking at options for the larger facility. We are looking at technology solutions for student use in the classroom for 2017, as well as improving our wireless infrastructure.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the body of FBC Windsor as Administrative Pastor. I am enjoying this season of God's blessing on the church, which isn't easy for a "glass is half-empty" person. Thanks to all for your support of FBC, and of me and my family.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Erik Strom

FBC was truly blessed financially in 2016. We thank all of you for your faithfulness in giving and trust that God has been faithful to you as well. In 2016, funds were available to bring on a full time family/children's Pastor, replace an old and worn out sound system, and to perform necessary major roof repairs to a couple of the buildings on the property. In addition, the school was in a position to be able to install a new playground.

In 2017, the focus will be on ministry and providing the staff with the resources to meet the needs in their areas of service. We look forward to God's provision once again and trust you will partner with us in this way. May God bless each of you for your faithfulness.

#### **DEACONS** – Jim Theiss

As deacons we have the privilege to support the many ministries of the church. Each deacon has a ministry of the church that they are participating with or listening for needs we can trust to the Lord. This year has been a joy to see all that the Lord is blessing as a church. Here are some of the praises we are rejoicing:

Children's and Youth programs are growing and God continues to work through teachers, sponsors and leaders. Awana and the basketball league bring opportunities to encourage children and families in the Lord. The school remains strong. Iglesias Vida continues to grow in maturity and attendance. It is a pleasure to continue hosting a night of Celebrate Recovery monthly. Men's ministry and a renewed effort toward the monthly men's breakfast is encouraging. Our service to the homeless continues to grow, including a baptism during one of our Nomadic Shelter nights. The support to the benevolent fund is amazing, and many needs have been met. The helps program and availability to assist widows has been a privilege.

In addition to personal and spiritual needs we attempt to be the best stewards of the physical facilities God has blessed us with that in some cases are beginning to show wear of age. God has provided resources and the efforts of many to attend to the facilities. Please join us in prayer and support all those that are responding to those needs.

The deacons want to be of any help we can to assist our body of Christ. Probably the most important time we spend together as a group is to hear prayer requests and bring those to God together, desiring to be used as He leads. Please let us know if you are aware of anything we could assist with. We want to walk with you and see what God has to reveal to us as we walk together dependent upon Him.

## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES – Forrest Haskins

### 2016

#### **Praise God for our FBC Kids!!!**

Our **Sunday School** ministry continues going strong with Bob and Gretchen Carlson leading our team of some 20 plus adult teachers and assistants who weekly rotate responsibilities. Josh Sinnott, our Children's Ministry deacon joined in this past year to help lead as well. Altogether, some 50 children preschool age through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are ministered to each Sunday by 20 adults teaching on a rotational basis. And then there are the faithful few who run our nursery. Shout out to Gail Starling and her team! In June of last year we ran a **Sports Camp** with over 30 kids. With a variety of athletic options: cheer, basketball, soccer, and even ultimate frisbee kids swarmed to our campus where they sang, danced, played, and listened to Bible stories for 5 days. We're running it again this year, from **June 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. We will need many volunteers to make it even better than last year.

It's been said that, **"God's plan is for families to lead in the provision of spiritual development for their children."** We wholeheartedly believe that here at FBC Windsor. Which is why in the fall of 2016, as part of our Redwood Bible Institute, Pastor Lance led a 12-week video series class: *"Shepherding a Child's Heart"* to assist families in the sacred, noble charge from God to rear their kids in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Some 22 people attended gaining valuable, timely, Biblical tools to bring up their children.

**AWANA** kicked off in August for kids age 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Thanks to superb volunteer team directed by Melissa Fountain (Cubbies director); Fred Wetzel (Sparks); and Janine Faloni (T&T) each Wednesday we have on average 45 clubbers come. Complete with playing some creative, sweaty, competitive games; learning a lesson from the Bible; a bit of singing; and showing what they know individually with a leader during their Handbook time (verse memorization and concept reinforcement) our clubbers get it all. **Awana clubs will continue until the end of May, 2017**. We do need some more help in ministering to these young hearts. Come check out AWANA on a Wednesday and see if God might be lead you to join in!

### 2017

As I look out to 2017 for us here at FBC Windsor I think of two words: **Character and Circumstances**. What kind of character development do we, as the guardians of our children, long to see in them over the next year? And secondly, how do we as families navigate the circumstances of life that await us in the next 12 months?

First, Character. I think it is true that **"Spiritual development is not so much about what your children know but who they are."** For us adults, too. Character is what endures. As we're told in 1 Cor. 8:1, "knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." As we follow Christ and his example of self-giving love we fashion our inner character. People see that. People want that. And ultimately people want Jesus. Second, Circumstances. Circumstances change, sometimes too quickly for our liking, but character carries on. The inner character and convictions of our heart is what truly charts the course for our lives. Sometimes the shifting sands and surf swells of current life circumstances seem to knock us into a state of reactionary living. There are days that the waves smash us silly and we start spinning in the surf seeking to grasp onto some solid anchor to see us through. That anchor is (and has always been) none other than God's glorious Son. Let's all make sure we are Rock Solid on the Lord Jesus Christ, falling in love with Him more and more each day of our lives. If we do that personally first then our kiddos will benefit by having the most solid example and Christian modeling they could ever ask for right in front of them: in their parents.

Ultimately our joy as followers of the Lord Jesus doesn't depend on our current circumstances. It's not **where** we are in the spectrum of life events that matters, but **whose** we are. We are Christ's beloved. You were bought with a price. A life's blood price. That is your ultimate identity marker. Not your current job, or sport/hobby interest, or political persuasion. Or circumstance. You are a son/daughter of the Most High God, the Creator of all that there is. WOW!

In his book, Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions: Why Children Should Be Your Church's #1 Priority, author George Barna states, **"Our children will define the future, which makes them our**

**most significant and enduring legacy.”** In this vein of thought let me challenge you in 2017 to use your **past** (experiences and maturity as a Christian) to shape the **present** (children of today) as an investment in the **future** (the global expansion of God’s church and the kingdom of Christ Jesus).

### **WORSHIP MINISTRY** – Jason Luders

The Lord continues to be faithful in this ministry!

I’m thankful for the servants who continue to help make this ministry happen. The Lord continues to provide singers, band members, sound people, computer people, mentors, coordinators, and other folks who help make the Sunday morning service go smoothly. Thank you, team!

This year, we had the opportunity to make substantial improvements to the church sound and multimedia systems. This included the purchase of a digital sound board, new wiring (both audio and electrical), new computer, new presentation software, additional speakers, and a box that allows presenters to more easily connect their laptops to the projector. Thank you all who assisted with and contributed to this effort.

Worship leader Holly Star visited us again this year during Christmas time. She led worship during Sunday service and held an evening Christmas concert.

In addition to leading worship on Sunday mornings, we continue to lead worship once a month at Celebrate Recovery, north of Healdsburg. The men there love to sing and it has been a great opportunity to minister to and share God’s Word with individuals who are struggling with addiction. Please pray for these men, that the Lord would continue to change their hearts and transform their lives through the power of the Gospel.

My prayer is that God would grant us guidance and wisdom as we continue to seek His direction for this ministry.

### **UNASHAMED YOUTH MINISTRY** – Aragon Wyatt

Last year I began the annual report by saying, “My prayer for our youth ministry this year is that we may ‘Not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of *our* minds, that by testing we may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect’ (Romans 12:2).” I can confidently say that although there were changes & testings, the will of God was discerned.

#### **WHAT HAPPENED IN 2016?**

In the Jr. High ministry we averaged around 30 students during our Wednesday night program. We finished our exposition through the book Mark. Since then I have been teaching “topical” messages, though believe me they are expository. We have struggled this year to find adequate leadership help in this ministry, but praise God through the prayers of many we have some help on the way. James 1:3, “The testing of your faith produces endurance,” would be a good way to describe the year our leadership team had. That mostly was due to a growing number of students and decreasing number of leaders. At this age the harvest is plentiful. Many students are figuring out their beliefs and how they affect their lives. I had the privilege of hearing from several students who really grew in their walk with the Lord this year. Also we had four students from the ministry who were baptized.

In the High School ministry we averaged around 25 students during our Sunday night program. We have been blessed to have a gifted team of leaders on Sunday night pouring truth into the lives of the students. This usually takes place after the message in our discussion groups. Our youth ministry band “Shoes Optional” is amazing. The students & leaders are so gifted, and so giving of their time. We had two students from the ministry get baptized this year.

Lastly, we had a lot of events including but not limited to; Wintercamp, Superbowl Party, Bible Conference, Overnights at the church, Planet Wisdom Christian Teen Conference, Week of Welcome, Youth Led Sunday Service, Backpacking in the Trinity Alps, Youth Family Camp at Lake Mendocino, Slip n Slide Kickball, Concerts, Jr. High Family Camp on the Rubicon, Game Nights, Pool Parties, Broomball at Snoopy’s, Leadership Trainings, Rebounderz, New Year’s Party, Visiting Shut Ins Last Man Standing,

Holiday Themed Parties, Christmas Caroling, and much more. We have a lot of fun, but our goal in these activities is always to accomplish one of the missions of our church: exalt, equip, and evangelize.

#### **WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2017**

1. The most exciting news is that we were given a donation allowing us to bring on Sean Bennett as a part time paid intern to the Jr. High Ministry. Sean, along with a few other adults, will be joining the Jr. High Ministry team filling the great need we had for leadership.
2. This year I plan on implementing more "Small Groups" (discipleship based bible studies) starting with Elaine Ganino leading a 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl's group that is set to start at the end of January. We currently have an 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls group led by Yvonne Brady, and are looking at doing a High School girls group. Yes, I want to get some guys groups together too!
3. We hope to complete the renovations in the youth ministries room to create a more welcoming and pleasing atmosphere.
4. Our first Youth Ministry Summer Camp.
5. Improved communication tools.

#### **THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Sean Bennett- Jr. High Intern & High School Leader/Sound Tech  
Savannah Bennett- High School Leader & potential Jr. High Leader  
Yvonne Brady- Small Group Leader  
Joe Dolan- High School Leader & Leader of the Shoe's Optional Band  
Susan Freeberg- High School Leader  
Elaine Ganino- Small Group Leader  
Holly Sanneman- High School Leader  
Isaac Schneider- Jr. High Leader/Sound Tech & High School Student Leader  
Greg Tillotson- Deacon to Youth Ministries  
Chad Tolson- High School Leader  
Aragon Wyatt- Pastor of Youth Ministries 393-7275  
Anne Wyatt- Jr. High Leader & Awesome Mother

**PRAY-** that our youth would find their identity in Christ, and be able to withstand the ever increasing pressures they face in this wicked and perverse generation. Pray for our leaders for joy and endurance. Pray for those students who will come who have not heard that gospel & for those who have heard but not believed. Pray for new steps of spiritual growth. Pray for our guidance and reliance on the Spirit. We are also hoping for some funds for a new vehicle for transportation. The van has been great since we purchased it, but it does have 302,000 miles. That's 15,000 miles of youth trips we put on it!

#### **ADULT EDUCATION – Rick Oliver**

The adult education ministry of the First Baptist Church of Windsor is organized in the general form of a bible institute. Presented in three repetitive, parallel tracks of (1) Bible survey, (2) theology, and (3) life application, the goal is to raise up biblical knowledge and practice in the local church by offering a cycle of basic, twelve-week long courses during the fall, winter, and spring seasons of the year.

Still in its inaugural year, the bible survey track involves both Old and New Testament Review. The theology track offers Bible study methods, church history and systematic theology. The life application track offers classes on child rearing, defending the faith, and how to live the crucified life. Taught by skilled instructors, tracks one and two comprise core teachings of the Christian faith and remain the same each year. Track three incorporates a changing variety of practical teachings pertinent to Christian living.

Our focus this 2016-17 year is inward. God willing, however, the summer will provide an opportunity to extend an invitation to other evangelical churches in our region to participate in these mid-week, evening courses that begin again in the fall of 2017. Enrollment is free, and there are no exams. The sole intent is to provide basic biblical knowledge in order to strengthen Christian faith.

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – Ben Kor

Men of the church completed the study of two books of the Bible in 2016, Luke and Ecclesiastes. Our classes varied in size, peaking at 25.

Luke teaches how Christ came to earth as a man, lived a perfect life and then died to pay for our sins but rose again defeating death once for all. Luke taught us that Jesus is God, our perfect Savior, who offers forgiveness to everyone who accepts Him as Lord and believes what He says is true.

Ecclesiastes describes the life and experiences of King Solomon to whom God gave both wisdom and wealth. God said to Solomon, "I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be." [1Kings 3:12] Ultimately, Solomon concluded, "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." [Ecc. 12:13] Solomon's message is that life is meaningless without God.

We are now addressing how to combat and defeat sin in our lives through a 13-week study of "The Enemy Within." Our goal for 2017 is to continue to provide a forum for men of the church to gain a better knowledge of Scripture, experience invaluable fellowship, and grow in faith and godly behavior.

### **MEN'S HELPS MINISTRY** – Mike Brookfield

Helps is for those in the Church body who don't have family or friends to help them with small jobs around the house such as light yard work plumbing, some electrical, etc, all on a short term basis. It has been a blessing to me to help those in need. My prayer is to be able to meet the needs of those in need.

### **EVERY WOMAN SMALL GROUP MINISTRY** – Leslie Stadum & Jill Wallace

Midway into 2016, God was directing the leadership of the church that women's ministry should go in a new direction. God brought a steering committee together who, through much prayer, thought, and discussion with the pastors, became excited about starting a small group ministry. The pastors asked a group of women to go through a training that would establish the model of "older" women teaching "younger" women. The group spent the rest of 2016 examining God's word and surrendering our hearts to God's perfect and amazing design for us as women. We became excited about this opportunity to grow in knowledge of Jesus Christ and His Word, and in wisdom as we come alongside one another and apply it to our lives. God says we need each other [Titus 2:3-5]; so we want to do what He says, growing a culture of women discipling women through the joy and the grit of daily life.

As we go into 2017, we have launched our small groups which will be beginning in the next few weeks. Sign-ups for the groups are available through the website. Our prayer is that women here at FBC truly understand the divine design God used in creating us, and that God will receive glory upon glory as we walk in that understanding.

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY SPECIAL EVENTS** – Tess Jardine & Sarah Luders

The biggest praise for the women's events committee in 2016 was the increase in the committee size. The committee went from two hard working women to a group of six women. The newly formed committee met in early fall and started brainstorming about the year ahead. Our goal for the women of the church is to organize quarterly events where women can have a fun time, enjoy godly fellowship, and meet new women. Our first event was "Sweets and Swaps", a jewelry exchange party. In early December women came to the church for a "Homemade Christmas" and made four craft items to give to friends.

We are so pleased that the events are increasing in attendance and that women from high school and up are joining in. With the creation of "Every Woman" small group studies, we hope our quarterly events will bring all the women together in "one accord". We look forward to planning our next event for spring.

### **WOMEN'S HELPS** – Bonnie Riley

Jana Millerick – Events, Darla Sowash – Meals (Windsor), Myra DalColletto – Meals (Healdsburg), Janice Walters – Care Ministry, Meredith Strom – Baptisms, Rhonda Ray – New Baby Rose Buds, Serena Rupert- Weddings/Anniversaries, Gretchan McBurney – Card Ministry, Jan MacInnis – Library, Bonnie Riley – Kings Kup/Committee Chair

Each of these ladies has been called by God to their area of service. “Find out what you like to do and do it for God.” It has been a blessing for me to work with them in 2016, and I look forward to 2017.

### **USHERS** – Tim Fellbaum

I believe that God has been working to bring families together in our Church. It seems that the grown children are coming back to our Church with their young children in tow. It's pretty obvious to the ushers as we find seats and spots for carseats, etc. This has been the case with my daughter and her family and there are plenty of others who tend to fill up the back row seats with their young families. Watching our Church grow is very encouraging to me. My goal and prayer is that we continue this growth. I have two sons that are engaged to be married this fall and look forward to them coming back around, both physically and spiritually! What I really love about the ministry at FBC Windsor is that we are all inclusive. Come young and old and everyone in between, we the ushers will find a seat for you. I'm sure that Lance will continue in his pointed biblical teaching and they will be coming back for more! Kim and I love our Church and we look forward to attending and serving for years to come...

### **NURSERY** – Gail Starling

This past year went well in the nursery as God provided in all ways. The population in the nursery does vary, of course, but the goal is to always have the necessary number of helpers. Thankfully, that was the case this year even as new bible study options and Awana were added. Consequently, there was a need for additional childcare for those children up to 3 years old. Niki Wyatt has stepped up to oversee Wednesday evenings.

With the inception of new women's small groups, we need to prepare for additional helpers as more children will need care. My goal and prayer is for God to move the hearts of individuals to serve in this ministry. This includes week day events and Sundays. We could use prayer for this.

There is some upgrading that would be a blessing in the nursery in regards to items functionality; for example, the blinds could use replacing.

### **WINDSOR CHRISTIAN ACADEMY** – Tad Theis

The kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade program at WCA has been blessed by God to serve 190 students this school year. Two of these students enrolled just this past month. The staff and I truly enjoy the opportunity to help train these students in the ways of the Lord, so that they might be effective instruments of our Heavenly Father.

Beginning in the fall, we had our recently established Booster Club run a very profitable Jog-A-Thon. From this event alone, we raised approximately double the funds we raised last year. With these funds, we were able to provide our classroom teachers with I pads and large screen Apple TVs in order to enhance their instruction with multi-media.

In the spring, we are having our largest 8<sup>th</sup> grade group ever going to Washington, D.C. Sixty-seven students and adults will be attending. Mrs. Kiff will lead this trip with assistance from Mrs. Mohle and Ms. Brady. Please pray that this group will follow instructions well, so that all scheduled appointments are made.

Finally, registration has opened for the 2017/2018 school year. We would appreciate your prayers as families consider the benefits of enrolling their children in a school that magnifies the Lord Jesus Christ.

**WINDSOR CHRISTIAN ACADEMY PRESCHOOL** – Dawn O'Malley

Windsor Christian Academy Preschool has 91 students currently attending. I feel blessed every day to be working with a very supportive staff who works really well together. We could use prayer for the health of the staff, families, and students. We have had several opportunities to share Christ's love to our families due to illness and other situations. Please pray for two new teachers for next year.

**YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM** – Jim Lago

The basketball program is back up and running after some time off for the holidays. I feel the youth groups are a success, but it is hard to maintain interest at the 6-8 grade level, and I am considering eliminating those grades (7th-8th) for the 2017-18 season.

Our program has been an excellent outreach to our community, and so far we have maintained our goal of leading each team with Christian coaches. Group prayer before games is a reminder to all why we are there and excellent behavior and character from coaches is also one of the strong attributes of our league. This program does glorify God, and is an outreach that our church and school can be very proud of.

Again, I am so thankful that God has led good men and women to be a part of the program as coaches, refs and scorekeepers. It is those selfless volunteers that make this program possible and I am very grateful for all of them. The end of the season and playoffs are February 18th.

**HOMELESS OUTREACH MINISTRY** – Jerry Hayes

The Homeless Outreach Ministry is overseen by Jerry and Becky Hayes at God's leading, and is supported by a small team of volunteers from First Baptist Church. Our mission is to glorify our Lord by simple acts of kindness to our invisible neighbors in the Sonoma County area with the support of the Redwood Gospel Mission.

2016 was a blessed year for everyone involved in this outreach, the givers as well as the receivers. We have been visiting the Redwood Gospel Mission on a monthly basis, the third Saturday of the month, serving coffee, hot chocolate and tea during the colder months, lemonade and fruit punch during the warmer months. Rudy and Joan Harrich continue to bake fresh home goodies for everyone at the Mission, a real treat and true blessing. We plan to continue serving in this capacity throughout 2017, Lord willing. We pray that God will continue to use us and allow His light to shine brightly at the Redwood Gospel Mission.

On September 17th, 2016 our Outreach team held the second "Barbecue at the Mission" event at the Redwood Gospel Mission. We were able to offer dinner to program members at 5:00pm and the homeless crowd following the Gospel service at 7:00pm. Volunteers came and served barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad and brownies. God blessed us with serving approximately 110 meals. Several people came back through the serving line two or three times, praise God, they were hungry. It was so good to see smiling appreciative faces pass by those of us serving, and the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Our team supports the Nomadic Shelter Ministry as well. This program operated by the Redwood Gospel Mission supports 30 churches throughout Sonoma County who offer an overnight stay for homeless people. Up to 40 screened people are transported to a program church and offered a meal, some type of devotion, and a place to sleep. The Nomadic Shelter program is currently seasonal and is operating for seven months during this term. It began October 15th, 2016 and will run thru May 15th, 2017. First Baptist Church is currently signed up for the 4th Friday of the month. This outreach seems to get better and better. Volunteers have provided lots of food, lots of help and lots of support. Thank you to everyone. One notable event during the October 2016 event was, Glenda, one of the guests requested Baptism, and Pastor Lance was able to honor that request, a first for the Nomadic Shelter program.

With 2017 ahead of us, we plan to continue serving our homeless friends throughout this coming year in the same fashion, God willing, continue an outreach at the Redwood Gospel Mission with warm beverages and baked goods on the 3rd Saturday, our "Summer BBQ at the Mission" in September, and provide our facilities for the Nomadic Shelter program during the winter months of the year on the 4th Friday. Please pray that God's love is present and that we are faithful to share His love, and that each event is special, meaningful, and to God's glory.

Thank you God for your love, for your word, for your Son, for salvation... Amen.

Current team members: Jerry & Becky Hayes, Jim & Gayle Theiss, Larry Freeburg, Aaron Gernhardt, Lucy Adams, Rudy & Joan Harrich, along with everyone who volunteers for our events. Deep appreciation to First Baptist Church and everyone involved, but most of all to God because He is in control...

### **CELEBRATE RECOVERY** – John Breckinridge

Our church held eleven services in 2016 at the Salvation Army men's rehabilitation facility in Healdsburg for an average of 40 men. Each service consisted of worship, a message, and group share time. From the share group discussions many were blessed by the messages our pastors and elders presented to them and from our being there for them.

My prayer for this year is that all men who attend our Celebrate Recovery services will confess Jesus as their savior as they work through their rehabilitation efforts. The Salvation Army facility in Healdsburg has been sold and the Salvation Army will be moving away sometime in the future. My other prayer would be for their Christian rehabilitation work to continue after they leave so that lost and hurting men might continue to be saved and turn their lives around.

### **SPANISH MINISTRY**- Kevin Clark

The Spanish ministry congregation wants to express our deepest gratitude to the Lord for the vision and ministry of First Baptist Church of Windsor to reach their Spanish speaking neighbors with the Gospel. We so appreciate the many years of support and commitment you have given to see a Spanish speaking community of believers worshiping God, growing in their walk with the Lord and reaching others with the Gospel of Christ. Be encouraged. God is at work. He is building His church. Thank you for being faithful to what the Lord has lead you to do by establishing this ministry.

At the beginning of year 2016 we began to see how God was answering going to answer our prayers for a new pastor for our Spanish ministry. After many months of praying and seeking a pastor for Spanish ministries who was already living in the U.S., a pastor friend of a Spanish speaking church in San Francisco put us in contact with his brother, Rolando Arana, in Guatemala. We first thought we would invite him for several months to help us to train leadership for our ministry as we continued to look for a pastor. In the few short months that Rolando was with us (Jan - Mar) he began to train leaders by establishing a leadership training school. Besides that we saw the Lord do some great things to cause growth in our members and an excitement to serve the Lord with greater commitment. Several people made first time professions of faith. He also helped us to develop a plan for growing the ministry. After seeing how the Lord used him and how the people connected with him we thought this might be the man the Lord is calling to serve full time with us. So, before returning to Guatemala we formally interviewed him and asked him to consider returning as pastor of the Spanish congregation. The Lord confirmed the call on Rolando to return through several ways, one being approval of his Religious Workers Visa. Once he had that in hand we knew that He will continue to provide all that is needed for Him to come and serve full-time. We praise God that on January 12, 2017, Rolando arrived with his wife, Rosali, and son Samuel. We will be installing him as pastor on February 13 at 1pm in a special service.

Here are a few more highlights from 2016

- 15 people finished 2 of the 3 leadership modules of our leadership training school. Spiritual growth is seen in Godly decisions made and their dedication and service to the Lord.

- 11 people recently went through church membership classes. These will be added to the first 6 that were received as members over a year ago.
- 6 believers were recently baptized
- One year ago, 5 people committed themselves to learn to play instruments in order to lead worship along with 5 others who serve by leading with their voices. They began leading worship just 6 months ago.
- One couple exchanged marriage vows. Another couple was recently engaged to be married.
- One family dedicated their newborn son to the Lord
- Juan Manuel Acevedo and Leonel Flores were confirmed as deacons in the Spanish ministry and serve together with John Breckenridge (deacon) and Kevin Clark (elder).
- We currently have 3 home bible studies; one each in Santa Rosa, Windsor and in Cloverdale
- Our prayer ministry team has met every Tuesday night for the past 2 years

En servicio al Rey de reyes,

Kevin Clark, Elder to Spanish Ministries

John Breckenridge, Juan Manuel Acevedo, Leonel Flores, Deacons to Spanish Ministries