

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRST CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH

FROM THE YEARS 1901 - 2010



228 PRITCHARD ROAD, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23452

HISTORY OF THE FIRST CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH

Serving Hampton Roads, VA

Humble Beginnings

There must have been great interest in Chinese missions during the late 1800's as news of missionaries to China such as J. Hudson Taylor and Lottie Moon reached home to Christians in America. With foresight and vision, some of the faithful Christians in the Hampton Roads community, organized Christian evangelism and ministry to the small Chinese community in the local area. With these thoughts in mind and with a grateful appreciation for the early missionaries who had a heart for the Chinese people, the beginnings of the First Chinese Baptist church was formed.

Romans 10

¹⁴How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

¹⁵And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, *"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

The following article, found in the files of Norfolk Baptist Association, is believed to have been written by Rev. Quong in the early 1950's, and it provides a rare glimpse of the early history of this church in some detail.

"On May 5, 1901, the First Chinese Sunday School of Norfolk was founded in a prayer room in the lower Church Street and called "The Union Chinese Mission School". The Meeting was one of great and deep interest to those who were present, and were so enthusiastically to have such work in order to bring the Chinese of Norfolk under the soul-saving knowledge and influence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was strictly interdenominational in character. Those at the meeting were Rev. Bombay Edwards, a returned missionary from India, A.B. Walker, A.G. Adhley, A. McAlister, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Evans and Willie Chin Sing. The services were held in the Union Mission each Sunday afternoon. In June 1902, Rev. B. D. Tucker of St. Paul Episcopal Church invited the School to meet in his church chapel. Later the workers united in prayers and believed that Mrs. William H. Evans, a pioneer full of faith, was the one whom God called to do this work. Therefore, they encouraged her to carry on and under her leadership the School became affiliated with the Baptist denomination in 1916. Then she took the Mission School to her church – Park Avenue Baptist on Brambleton Avenue.

1920 - Chinese Christian Home, Norfolk, VA

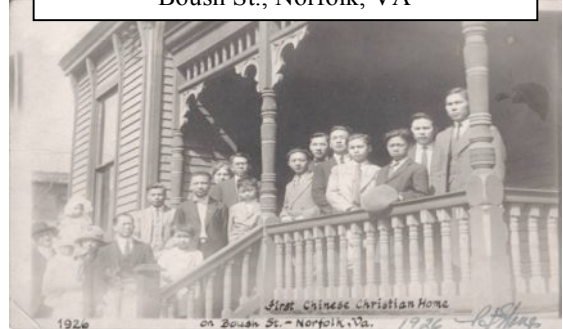


In March 1919, Mrs. Evans carried a special request to the Baptist Minister's Union (Norfolk-Portsmouth) to open a home for the Chinese. After a careful deliberation and painstaking search, the Baptist Union leased a home at 252 Boush Street. The Home was called "Chinese Christian Home" and was supported by the Baptist Council. Mrs. Evans was superintendent of the Home for 19 long years. Under her guidance, teachings and Christian influences and services in the Home, many Chinese found Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This Home was the only one of

its kind in the United States and its Christian influences and ethics affected not only the Chinese in Norfolk, but other people of the City as well. The most outstanding influence of bearing good fruitage through her love and care were young Chinese entered into the Christian ministry. They are Rev. Sidney W. Quong and Rev. Thomas Woo (both are University of Richmond alumni) and Mr. Lee Shing and Miss Margaret Jung who gave their lives to Christ in the Christian service in China. Besides, Miss Ruth Walden had caught the vision to be a missionary to Africa through the Chinese Sunday School work.

During the years from 1919 to 1926, the Sunday School meeting had moved from Park Avenue to Freemason Street Baptist Church. In 1926, after the Christian Home was suspended because Mrs. Evans resigned as superintendent and the Council refused to consider anyone else for that position. Then the meeting place again changed to 200 block Bank Street. In 1928, the Baptist Council bought a building at 306 E. Freemason Street for the Chinese there. The First Chinese Baptist Church was then organized so that the Word of God might be preached in the Chinese language. We have about 350 Chinese both young and old in both Norfolk and Portsmouth combined area and 42 families included. There are 60 children within these families.”

1926 - First Chinese Christian Home, on Boush St., Norfolk, VA



The Early Years

Historical accounts of the church especially during the early years are scarce. However, there are some historical church photos that may be enlightening. These are shown below:

1931 – Chinese Baptist Church on Bank Street





Rev. Sidney W. Quong had been the pastor since 1938. Before Rev. Quong became the pastor, Mr. Yuet-Lan Chu, Chi-Yim Ngai, Hung-Ah Ng and Sheu-Yen Lee had served as the pastors or the preachers of this church.



The Fifties

After World War II and into the early 1950's, there was a small influx of immigrants to this area as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1880 was finally repealed in 1943. From the pictures taken in the early days and from the stories retold by some senior church members, there were about 70 people in our church in the 1950's. In addition to preaching the Gospel, the church seemed to also serve as a place where Chinese could meet socially in a somewhat closed society at that time. During this time of small growth, the Norfolk Baptist Association acted to minister to this group and encouraged helpers from various churches within the association. One such faithful friend



1955 – Congregation at First Chinese Baptist Church on Bank Street

was Mrs. Martha McCormick, who in the 1950's heeded the call to serve God at her home church, Bayview Baptist, and came to the Chinese church to help on Sunday afternoons. Her dedication to help the Chinese people lasted well into the 1980's, and her Christian witness has remained a strong influence among Chinese Christians in this area to the 2nd and 3rd generations.

The Sixties

During the early sixties, the Norfolk downtown was in the process of urban renewal. Therefore, with the exception of a couple historical buildings, all structures including the FCBC building were torn down. With appreciation to the Freemason Street Baptist Church, and its pastor at the time, Dr. William Lumpkin, our church continued to hold services in the afternoon in the men's chapel building of that church. During this period of the 1960's and early 1970's, the church began to decline in the number of attendees. This decline was perhaps a result of the loss of our own church building as well as the limitation in church activities. In the late sixties, it was not unusual for the Sunday worship service attendance to drop to less than a dozen people.

Also, in the late 1960's, due to changes in immigration laws, there was a small influx of immigrants from Hong Kong and Taiwan. With the new influx of Chinese immigrants, there was a need to meet the spiritual needs of the new immigrants. This need became the basis for church revival, which occurred in the 1970's.

The Seventies

During the early seventies, God brought to the church several young brothers and sisters who had the burden to offer themselves to the Lord to reach the Chinese in the area. Through their hard work and by the grace of the Lord, the church began to revive and attract the attention of the new Chinese immigrants.

The growing Chinese community, also interested in combining their social functions with the church functions, wanted to help the church by purchasing a building for combined worship and social purposes as part of a new Chinese community center. However, most of the Chinese Christians leaders strongly felt that the church needed be set apart for the Lord in worship and Christian ministry.

Around 1975, the church co-workers established, maybe for the first time in church history, a church constitution and church by-laws. A five-member Executive Committee was organized to be in charge of the management of the church. In addition to Sunday worship services and Sunday school classes, there were two Bible study groups; one was conducted in English and the other one in Chinese.

In July 1976, Rev. Quong retired and concluded his pastorship in the First Chinese Baptist Church, which he was called to serve faithfully and diligently for almost 40 years. His faith in God and his perseverance in doing His work are exemplary to all Christians.

Later that year, Rev. Joseph Young, who was semi-retired in the U.S. at the time, was invited to serve as a part-time interim pastor until the arrival of a full time pastor. Rev. Young had served the Lord in many large churches for more than 20 years in the Chinese churches in the Philippines and was a gifted preacher. During his 16 months tenure in the Chinese church here, the adult attendance in the Sunday worship services increased to 80 to 90 people regularly. The church then moved its worship services to the chapel of Talbot Park Baptist Church on Granby Street, Norfolk, to help accommodate future growth. However, many church leaders became quite concerned about the rapid growth but weak spiritual foundation in the church.

1977 – Worship service in the afternoon at Talbot Park Baptist Church, Norfolk, VA



Unfortunately, Rev. Young left in March 1978. He became very ill and returned to his family in the Philippines. In July 1979, he went to be with the Lord. In April 1978, Rev. Yen-shin Chen was called to be the pastor of the church. He had served the Lord for some 20 years in several churches in Taiwan and the Chinese Evangel Mission in New York. He stayed for only nine short months before he returned to his former church in New York in December 1978. During this period of time, under his pastorship, he helped bring the coworkers together and restored stability to the church. He was respected and loved by many people. Beginning January 1979, the church co-workers again assumed the difficult tasks of arranging weekly worship speakers while searching for a new pastor. The church revised its constitution in February 1979 and established the Board of Deacons to replace the Executive Committee.

The Lord continued to be gracious to this church as He brought many faithful brothers and sisters from various parts of the country to serve and build up the church. Bible study and prayer groups spread throughout the Peninsula and South Hampton Roads. These groups became branches of the Chinese church at that time.

The Eighties

In September 1979, while waiting patiently, God brought Rev. Leon T. Chow to Norfolk to assume the pastorship, and the First Chinese Baptist Church turned to a new page in its history. Rev. and Mrs. Chow came to Norfolk when he was 27, right after they completed their graduate studies at the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in the Boston area. He was then baptized and ordained in the Baptist tradition by the pastors from the Norfolk Baptist Association. During his pastorship in our church, due to his emphasis on visitation and outreach, about 10 people on average each year accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. In spite of the increased high mobility of people during this time period, the church continued to maintain growth. As part of the outreach strategy, a church newsletter with various items to share the Gospel was sent to all the known Chinese living in the Hampton Roads area. Under the leadership of Rev. Chow, the church made significant improvement in the Sunday School teaching, church procedures, and its organization.

In 1982, a vision to acquire our own church building developed and was actively planned and pursued. Rev. Chow worked very hard on the matter of searching and requesting the funds that was left in trust by the Virginia Baptist Board when the old building was torn down in 1959. General guidelines in purchasing a church building were approved by the membership in 1982. During the search for a church building, one building in Norfolk was seriously considered, but it was not pursued due to insufficient funds to cover the costs even with a gracious grant of \$25,000 from the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Therefore, the plan for purchasing a church building was temporarily set aside.

In December 1983, Rev. Chow resigned as he was called to serve as pastor of a Chinese church in Detroit. Once again, the brothers and sisters in the church experienced church life without a pastor. However, the leaders and the congregation continued to work together to keep the church ministries moving and growing. During this time, the church was blessed to have pastors from other churches helping out on a periodic basis. In particular, Rev. Barnabas Cheung, Rev. Kennard Brackney and Rev. David Hoh began assisting us not only in spiritual matters, but also in the daily management of the church.

In October 1984, the church called Rev. David Hoh to be the interim pastor. Rev. Hoh had served in a church in Hong Kong for several decades. He came to the U.S. to retire, and therefore, did not want a full-time pastorate. However, his messages from the pulpit and his daily Christian testimony encouraged and edified many brothers and sisters over the next 20 months. In 1986, Rev. Hoh moved to California and continued to serve the Lord even in retirement.

During this time period, the Board of Deacons worked hard to find a new pastor and to continue the vision set forward by Rev. Chow to acquire a church building. The Board of Deacons and the coworkers continued to pursue this goal, and finally, in February 1985, the church building on Pritchard Road in

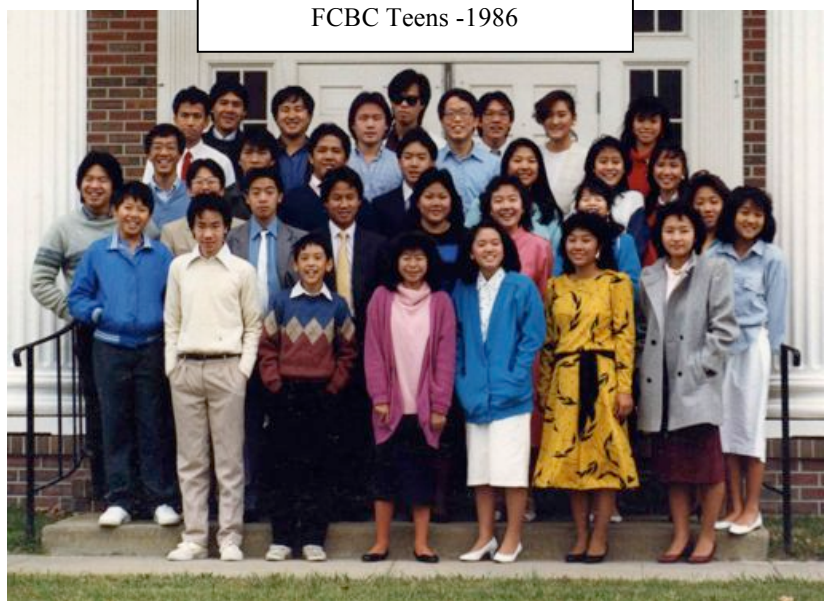
Virginia Beach was purchased at a cost of \$88,000. The first worship service at the new church was held on June 2, 1985. After 25 years of using buildings belonging to other congregations, the First Chinese Baptist Church once again had its own building. Because the church building had only a sanctuary and one classroom, the Playhouse Nursery at the corner of Pritchard Road and South Lynnhaven Road was rented for children Sunday School classes until more classrooms could be added.



1985 – Church Dedication (Rev. David Hoh and Deacon chair, George Wong) at the new location on Pritchard Road, Virginia Beach, VA.

As we planned the move into the new building, the church leaders also had the forward vision to start up an English Worship Service (EWS) to serve mainly the growing American Born Chinese (ABC) population. Ministry to this group had been neglected for the most part throughout the Chinese churches in North America and was a growing issue as most ABC'ers, after growing up to be adults, did not come back to worship at the Chinese church they grew up in because the

typical Chinese language church and its associated activities did not minister to them. The Board of Deacons authorized brothers and sisters to actively plan for an English Sunday worship service. Thus the first EWS organizational meeting was held in the home of Betty and Gabriel Louie. Bon and Tse-Ying Wong were asked to return to this area (leaving their job and ministry in Florida) to help start up this ministry. Rev. Ken Brackney was also asked to help lead this ministry. In addition, Long and Linda Yip participated at this organizational meeting and were



willing to serve in this capacity. Much of the discussion during this organizational meeting focused on the formation of the worship service. After several months of planning, an English Sunday service was formally started in October 1985. It is believed that this was one of the first separate EWS among the North American Chinese churches – certainly along the East Coast. The number of young people in our congregation increased significantly. Rev. Kennard Brackney was called to be the consulting pastor responsible for the pulpit of the English service. The attendance of the service was about forty people.

In July 1986, through the recommendation of Rev. Fred Cheung, Brother James Yu-Por Ip came to our church. In September 1986, the church ordained Brother Ip through the help of Norfolk Baptist Association. During Rev. Ip's time at FCBC, church fellowship and visitation became a focus for his ministry, and this was also a time of growth in the church facilities.

With a growing church population, there was a need for church expansion to provide parking and a fellowship hall for church activities as well as Sunday School classes. Shortly following the acquisition of this building, the church actively pursued an expansion program to include more classrooms, a fellowship hall, and paved parking area. Due to the lack of knowledge and experience in construction (including the application process for various permits), progress was slow. Construction finally began in April 1987. The new addition has an area of 3264 sq ft and the construction costs were about \$135,000. The work was completed in November 1987. In addition, a new parking lot was also completed in June 1989.

In July 1989, Rev. Ip resigned and moved to Texas to serve as the pastor of a Chinese church in Houston. During his tenure of three years and one month here, the new church building and the new parking lot were completed. He established a church visitation program, the Cantonese Evergreen Fellowship, and had a strong personal ministry among many individuals. He helped to form the Women's Bible Study Group, which was later renamed to the current Wednesday Mandarin Bible Study Group.

Once again, the church experienced a time period without a full-time pastor. Therefore, the church studied the Biblical concept of having elders for the church with the idea that elders would help provide stability for the church especially during time periods where the church was without a pastor. The church leaders recommended a change in the church constitution to include a Board of Elders. The congregation, at its annual membership meeting in 1989, approved this change, and the Board of Elders was created.

The Nineties

In January 1990, Rev. Peter Ning was invited to serve as a local missionary in the Peninsula area after he retired from the Chinese Christian Church in Raleigh, N.C. Rev. and Mrs. Ning resided in Poquoson and worked with the Peninsula Bible Study Group, a cell group from our church, to minister to the Chinese in the Peninsula cities. The cell group was initially started in the late 1970's, and with the help of Peter Lam, Peter Sun, Glenn Yue, and Tan Hou and their families, this ministry developed into a core resource for the Chinese who lived in the Peninsula. In September 1990, as more people were led to Christ and more coworkers were recruited, a formal Sunday worship service was established using the facility at the First Friends Church in Hampton. In September 1992, this Sunday worship service was organized as an independent church and named Peninsula Chinese Baptist Church. We praise the Lord for his blessings and the hard work of many brothers and sisters there. A small Bible study group that started with only three

Christian families initially, turned into a fully functional church, the Peninsula Chinese Baptist Church.

After serving almost seven years officially at FCBC, Rev. Ken Brackney resigned from the Consulting Pastorship in December 1991. Following this, Rev. Brackney pursued and completed his doctorate degree in education in 1994, which after teaching and working as a dean at the Washington Bible College, co-founded the Faith Bible College in 1995 to serve Christians in the



Hampton Roads area. Under Rev. Brackney's leadership, the English congregation grew considerably, and many young people accepted the Lord during this period. In addition, Rev. Brackney provided strong spiritual and administrative guidance for the church leaders serving on the Board of Deacons and the Board of Elders. Rev. Brackney provided a strong vision for missions and challenged the church to build up a budget that provided a significant portion for world

missions. During this time, the church was exposed to many missionaries that served other parts of the world as well as those focused on China and Southeast Asia. Rev. Brackney helped maintain the stability we needed in the church during a time when the full time pastor position was vacant. Rev. Brackney, although not on the FCBC staff, continued to encourage and support FCBC up until his death in 2006.

Beginning in January 1992, FCBC did not have a pastor for either congregation. The responsibility of maintaining church missions and operations fell upon the shoulders of the elders and deacons. By God's mercy and grace, the church remained stable. During this period, Rev. Eugene Hill of Richmond became a close friend of both congregations. Rev. Hill was a retired missionary who served in China during the 1930's through the early 1950's, and experienced many of the hardships associated with the Japanese invasion during World War II (late 1930's to 1945) and Communist rule after the takeover in 1949. Rev. Hill was fluent in Chinese language, taught in a seminary in China, and even wrote Christian books in Chinese! He was quite a blessing for the church. He and his wife, Louise, traveled from Richmond to preach once a month until his death in December 1992. They are deeply missed.

While we were still searching for a pastor, God's work in our church had not ceased. In December 1992, the church formally sent off the families of Bon and Tse-Ying Wong, Gabriel and Betty Louie, and Lung and Kay Cheng to start a ministry for the un-churched American-Born Chinese at the Chinese Community Center in Virginia Beach. It was later named Family Bible Church, and operated as a cell group under FCBC. The ministry took root gradually and about 30 people began worshipping there on Sundays regularly. The Family Bible Church continued to grow, and by Spring 1995, it became an independent church financially and administratively. It is a tremendous blessing to have our daughter church now an equal partner in our work for the Lord.

In July 1993, the church called Rev. Brian McDonald to be the Interim Pastor. Pastor McDonald had been an American missionary in Taiwan for seven and a half years and spoke fluent Mandarin. Some of church leaders met Rev. McDonald in Lynchburg during the annual retreat of regional Chinese churches. At the time, Pastor McDonald was pursuing an advanced degree at Liberty University and waiting for the Lord's direction on his future. We are grateful that the Lord brought the McDonalds to our church. On February 27, 1994, Rev. McDonald accepted the responsibility to be the Pastor of FCBC and started a new era in the church history. He became

the first pastor at FCBC to assume full-time responsibility of shepherding both the English and Chinese congregations. In the Spring 1995, under his leadership and with the support of many brothers and sisters, we successfully purchased the wooded lot next to the church to provide for much needed parking. The lot was about a half an acre and was purchased for \$28,000. We obtained the city's permission to build and thank the Lord for His many blessings.

Groundbreaking for church parking lot, May 1997



Additional church parking lot, Sep 1997



Under the leadership of Pastor McDonald, the church grew in many areas. Pastor McDonald emphasized a strong music program and formed a church choir during his time at the church. He also tried to reach many in the community since he was fluent in Mandarin and could read and write Chinese as well. In October 2000, after about 7 years of ministry at FCBC, Pastor McDonald resigned to accept a pastor position in a Chinese church in Northern Virginia.

Community Service in Norfolk, VA, c.1998



Again, our church, with two congregations, experienced another period without a pastor.

2000 – The New Millennium

The elders and deacons worked hard together to keep the church going. Out of town speakers were frequently invited to preach in the congregations. Before the search of a new pastor began, the church leaders went through a period of soul searching seeking God's guidance in finding pastors for the church. In March 2001, the Joint Board of Elders and Deacons appointed a Pastor Search Committee (PSC). The PSC prepared itself for this task by first reviewing the church purpose, the church needs, and pastor selection criteria, sought input of the church via a survey, and looked at the process for calling a pastor to the church. And the search began in late 2001.

While the church continued to search for new pastors, the church moved forward with some significant church events including:

Norfolk Chinese Baptist Church

With the approval from the Joint Board and leadership of James Kung, a FCBC Student Fellowship Sunday worship service was established on January 7, 2001. The service was held in the Larchmont Baptist Church building with the intent to serve over 300 Chinese students and their families from Taiwan and China living in the ODU neighborhood in Norfolk. The coworkers included James and Wendy Kung, CY and Susan Lin, Gene and May Hou, Jack and Bing Nguy and Yau Ping Wong. In the beginning, they served as the missionaries from the mother church and operated as a student fellowship with a small congregation of around 30 in attendance. God continued to bless the ministry and many believers were drawn to this fellowship. Gradually this ministry grew to be like a church. In January 2006, the ministry was renamed the Norfolk Chinese Baptist Fellowship and still under the guidance of the Joint Board at FCBC. In 2008, it was formally established as an independent church and renamed as the Norfolk Chinese Baptist Church. We praise the Lord as this became the third independent church that has branched out from FCBC, the mother church in Virginia Beach.

Church building renovations

In 2002, the Joint Board authorized major renovations of the church building, which was the first renovation since we bought the property in 1985. The Sanctuary, restrooms, and the Pastor's office were renovated. In addition, a new office was added, the heating and cooling system was replaced, the corridor connecting the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall was made wider and straighter, and a leaking roof was replaced with a new one. During the renovations some adjustments were made, such as worship services in the Fellowship Hall and renting the neighborhood Playhouse Nursery facilities for children Sunday school classes. Thanks be to God that the renovations were completed on time, and everyone was pleased with the quality of the renovations. To complement the renovations, new chairs were bought for the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall.



Church event in the renovated sanctuary, c2007

Commissioning of FCBC Missionaries

In 2002, the church commissioned two of our own members, Maggie Cho and Grace Shen, to the mission field full time. Because of our emphasis on missions and the vision that Rev. Brackney had for our church to bring up missionaries of our own, we felt a special sense of pride to claim these missionaries and to support them through our finances and prayers. We thank God for this special privilege and blessing.



Commissioning ceremony for Grace Shen

Two New Pastors

In 2005, after more than four years of waiting, praying, and searching, God finally answered our prayers to provide us with a full-time pastor. He provided not only one but two fulltime pastors.

The first is Pastor Amos Wong, who was introduced and recommended to us by our long time church friend, Rev. Hap Struthers. Pastor Wong was born and raised in Malaysia while his wife, Srithorn, was born and raised in Thailand. They received their theological training in Singapore. While in the seminary, Pastor Wong started a Chinese worship service with another pastor in one of the local churches in Singapore. After completing his theological training in 1995, he and Srithorn served as missionaries to Saipan Island in the Pacific Ocean and later in other ministries in Singapore and Taiwan. Prior to coming to our church, he served as a pastor in the local church of Overseas Chinese Church in South Korea. They arrived in Virginia Beach in late February 2005. Pastor Wong officially assumed the pastorship for the Chinese Congregation on July 1, 2005.



Pastor Amos Wong Ordination - 2008

The second pastor we called is Pastor Timothy Liu. Pastor Liu was born in 1979 in Norfolk and grew up in this church. After earning a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia, Pastor Tim worked in the local area for an engineering firm. However, after only a short period of time, he felt called to pursue his Master of Divinity degree full time at Regent University. During his years of study, he served as a pastoral intern in our church in the summers of 2003 and 2004. On September 1, 2005, Pastor Tim Liu was officially appointed the full-time pastor of the English Congregation. This was the first time FCBC had a fulltime pastor solely for the English Congregation since it was established in 1985. Pastor Tim married Judy Ma the following year. FCBC is very proud to have one of its own as a pastor of our church – having grown up in the church and having a good understanding of the unique issues and challenges of English ministry in Chinese churches in North America.



Pastor Timothy Liu Ordination - 2008

In October 2008, the church with the support of the Norfolk Baptist Association and other pastors with close ties to our church including Rev. Hap Struthers and Rev. Bon Wong ordained both Pastor Amos Wong and Pastor Tim Liu. In addition to the ordination service, the church held a festive ceremony to celebrate this occasion with all its members and along with other church friends.



Under the new leadership and guidance of two pastors, the church has experienced a new spiritual growth in a number of ministries with respect to church life in the last few years. Many new programs include late night services for restaurant workers, cell groups, Vacation Bible School, church retreats, short-term missions, young adults fellowship, youth and children's programs. Again, the church is changing with the passing of time. The church is now experiencing more young people and children that it had not seen in some time.



Looking back over the history of this church, we see God's hands on blessing His people through the use of this small, local Chinese church in Hampton Roads, VA. Even with the differences in the main languages spoken in this church (Cantonese, Mandarin, and English), the church remains unified in its love for the Lord. The Lord has provided and blessed the people of this church in so many ways, but of special note are the many individuals associated with this church whom He is now using in full-time ministry including the following:

- Peter Sun (孫世英): formerly an engineer, a key church co-worker and deacon in late 1970's, now a pastor in a Chinese church in San Diego, California.
- Isaac Huang (黃一哲): formerly an ODU student, computer engineer, church co-worker and choir director in early 1980's, now a pastor in a Chinese church in Northern Virginia.
- Hai-Lin Keng (耿海霖): formerly an ODU student, engineer, church co-worker in early 1980's, later a pastor in a Chinese church near Los Angeles, California. He went to be with the Lord in 2009.
- Ke-Gong Shih (施克剛): formerly a Norfolk State University professor, church elder in early 1990's, now a pastor in the Chicago area.
- Bon Wong (黃本偉): formerly an elder at FCBC and now pastor of the Family Bible Church in Norfolk.
- James Kung (龔慕良): formerly a Norfolk State University professor, our church deacon, now a full-time missionary with Campus Evangelical Fellowship in California.
- Grace Shen (沈麗文): formerly an engineer, church member and now a full-time missionary with Overseas Mission Fellowship International.
- Maggie Cho (卓 郁): formerly a schoolteacher, church member and now a full-time missionary with Overseas Mission Fellowship International.
- Timothy Liu (劉 成): formerly an engineer, church co-worker, and now FCBC English Pastor.

Even though the church has been in existence over 100 years, there are still great opportunities to reach the many in the community for the Lord. In the Chinese congregation, there are new opportunities to reach more from China, as there is an increasing number of immigrants from that part of the world in this area. In the English Congregation, there are new opportunities to reach not only the American-Born Chinese population, but also those whose native language is English, whether they have strong Chinese relationships or just feel comfortable worshipping Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior with this congregation. We pray for God's wisdom as to how we can serve this community and bring more to Christ in the future for His Glory. Amen!

FCBC, Virginia Beach, c2005



Note: This church history was updated by Albert Liu and Long Yip, and this document was approved by the Joint Board of Elders and Deacons in December 2009. The early church photos prior to the 1980's came from the late Park F. Wong, who previously donated a photo collection to the church.

