



**PRIDE**  
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**FIGHTING TERROR  
WITH LOVE & PRAYER**  
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**OUR NEW  
INTERFAITH**  
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**MORE TO COME IN  
THE 2ND HALF OF  
THIS NEWSLETTER**  
LATE JULY

# GOOD NEWS



A group of 7 folks from RBMCC marched in the first ever OC Pride Parade down Main Street in Santa Ana, in participation with Kaleidoscope Interfaith.

## A Spirit of Oneness Descends Upon Us

**RBMCC begins a 3-month series on how Holy Spirit moves as we broaden our reach in the community and deepen our commitment to ministry with a near unanimous vote to renew our lease at 3303 Harbor Blvd.**

There is a Spirit of unity in the air at RBMCC. We're growing. We're recommitting to our presence on Harbor Blvd, trusting in God to deliver the people and the finances to ensure our ministry will flourish in the days to come. We did so at our Spring congregational Meeting with an attitude of respect and in an atmosphere in which the Spirit was clearly guiding the conversation in such a manner that new, unforeseen outcomes were created. This is a church that is embracing the spirit of "one body in Christ."

June's nearly unanimous vote was to empower RBMCC's leadership to seek the best terms possible from our landlord and from our renter. At the same time there is an understanding among our leadership and among our membership that 'business as usual' will not be our focus. In order to meet the challenges ahead, we need an intentional effort focused on outreach.

When we say 'Outreach' we're not talking about what we've traditionally done which falls more under the header of community service. And while we will always be a church with a servant's heart, the time has come for us to step out in faith and do new things in order to build God's Kingdom here.

Whatever may come, it is clear that God's voice was heard in June and that the people of RBMCC want to remain in our space and build a ministry worthy of Jesus Christ.

## Holy Sprit Reign Down!!!

With the focus on building ministry here in Costa Mesa and our intentional efforts to expand our outreach and community service efforts, it comes as no surprise, then, that we would seek guidance from God through Holy Spirit. And so we begin a 3-month series on the many ways Holy Spirit moves in our lives.

We start in July on how Holy Spirit first makes contact with us. How Holy Spirit whispers in our ear or taps on our shoulder to get our attention.

In August we will look at the ways in which Holy Spirit convicts our hearts and converts our beliefs to those of God; how Holy Spirit takes hold of us and transforms us.

September will bring a mini-series on how Holy Spirit moves through us and causes us to take action, to be bold and to work with others of kindred spirit to build God's Kingdom.

## Who's Got Pride!!!

RBMCC participated in Long Beach Pride with The Connection and played worship music on a float down Ocean Blvd. In Orange County we shared a booth that created condolence cards to the community of Orlando, Florida in the aftermath of the attack there. Both events were successful in building energy and awareness of our two churches. RBMCC also marched in the OC Pride Parade which was an emotional experience for us all!



Michael Southerland shows off his Pride at our booth in Santa Ana

## Speakers & Events Schedule

### July

"Touched by the Spirit"

7/3 - Andy Verostek

7/10 - Jason Warden

7/17 - Dale & Louise

A recap of MCC General Conference

7/24 - Rev. Barbara H.

7/31 - Hymn Sing

### August

"Conviction and Conversion by the Spirit"

8/7 - Rev. Susan Deterick

(Retired Pastor of Oceans of Life MCC)

8/14 - Ron Littlejohn

8/21 - TBD

8/28 - Rev. Barbara H.

### KEY JULY EVENTS:

Sat. July 16:  
Empowerment Workshop:  
LGBT Life and the Bible  
10 am - 2 pm

Sun. July 17:  
Book Club - 4 pm

Fri. July 22:  
4th Friday Fires - 5 pm

## Our Response to Orlando

The attack in Orlando came as a shock to us all. Many of us watched in horror and disbelief as we woke up to the news on a Sunday morning.

We at RBMCC decided to do a couple of things to help comfort those in our congregation as well as people here in Orange County who have also been equally distraught with grief.

Carmen and Dorothy organized a candlelight vigil the Sunday evening the attacks took place. A number of members and friends came and took part in this time of reflection and prayer.

With OC Pride just a week away, it was decided that the original activity be scrapped and a more appropriate activity that involved the community be put in it's place. At the suggestion of Cynthia Thompson, a greeting card station was created at Pride. We supplied markers, crayons, water colors and cards on which hundreds of people poured out their hearts.

Dale connected with MCC Orlando and these cards will be shipped to their church to be distributed in the community there, with an emphasis on first responders, the hospital, the LGBT Center and clubs as well as the local Muslim community, and of course family and friends of those who passed.

Meanwhile, Andy Verostek attended a community candlelight vigil that was hosted at VLVT Lounge and presented by Kaleidoscope, a new Interfaith Organization of leaders in the OC faith community that are from open and affirming churches, synagogues, and other houses of worship.



Chris reflects on the tragedy in Orlando at RBMCC's vigil



The Interfaith vigil at VLVT Lounge

## RBMCC Welcomed 3 New Members in June

RBMCC welcomed three new members in June: Laura Gossett, Isabel Lee and Aaron Werner, with Aaron renewing his membership after he became a friend of the church several years ago after moving away. We are thankful for their faithfulness and their commitment to our church and to the service ministries we do together to make this world a better place

## Fourth Friday Fires Now In Season!!!

2016 marks our 10th Anniversary of hosting monthly bonfires at the beach in the summer months. We meet on the 4th Friday of June, July, August and September at Huntington Beach State Park near the entrance at Brookhurst. Parking is \$15 per car. This is a pot luck event. Please bring a chair and a dish to share.



Bob, Jon, Laura, Andy and Juno showed up to congratulate Jason

## RBMCC Congratulates Jason Warden for his Commitment to AIDS Life Cycle

Jason trained incredibly hard to complete a 545-mile bicycle journey from San Francisco to Los Angeles this June.

Unfortunately, three weeks before the ride, Jason sustained injuries that prevented him from even starting that journey.

That didn't stop Jason from fulfilling his commitment though.

Jason decided to volunteer as a 'Roadie' and travel with the cyclists to assist them in their journey.

It was in his efforts of being a Roadie that Jason had his chance to minister to people. On the first day, Jason connected with a man who had been in an accident only 17 miles into the ride. Ironically, the year before, Jason had an accident 17 miles from the finish line. Upon hearing Jason's story, the man said to him, "I finished the ride for you!"

## LGBT Life and the Bible Workshop

In response to a lot of confusion stemming from hate speech by some pastors on what the Bible says about homosexuality, RBMCC is hosting a life empowerment workshop on the subject, Saturday, July 16th from 10am - 2 pm. The event is free and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP via email.

## RBMCC Begins a New Chapter in Interfaith Sends 2 Groups to attend Iftar Dinner during Ramadan at Islamic Society of Orange County

In an effort to build bridges during a period of seemingly growing misunderstanding and hate, Andy Verostek, Co-Lay Leader at RBMCC, decided to reach out to the Muslim Community which was equally horrified at the massacre in Orlando. Having met with leaders from the Islamic Society of Orange County (OC's oldest Muslim congregation) at the candlelight vigil held at VLVT Lounge in Santa Ana, Andy arranged

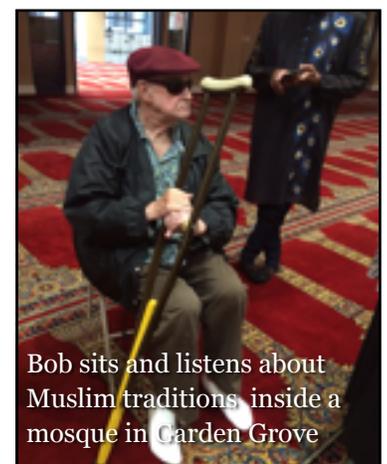
for 2 groups to attend the breaking of the fast and prayers at sundown at a local Mosque in Garden Grove.



Andy with his former colleague Muna at ISOC's Iftar Dinner

Bob, Juno and Aimee (who responded to Andy's Facebook post on the subject) attended the first tour, while Cynthia, Lola and Kelley

(whom also respond to the Facebook post) attended the second. A delegation from ISOC will be attending RBMCC this summer in what hopes to be a new effort in peace-building here in OC.



Bob sits and listens about Muslim traditions, inside a mosque in Garden Grove

# Sending Love to Orlando - Some of the many cards created at OC Pride:

