

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS



Published by **The First Baptist Church of Los Angeles**
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OCTOBER 26, 2015

An American Baptist Congregation Making God's Love Known in Los Angeles Since 1874
International • Intercultural • Ecumenical

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S PEN

PROCESSION OF NATIONS



Dear Church Family and Friends,

First Baptist Church is known for its cultural diversity. As we continue in this transition, with a goal of unity and fellowship, there will be opportunities provided for celebrating our cultural diversity including African American, Asian Pacific American, Hispanic and Latino American, and American Indian cultures. Members of the Ebenezer organized the Procession of Nations in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15) during Morning Worship on Sunday, October 11. Members of First Baptist participated in the Procession of the Nations carrying flags of their native countries. It was a wonderful and joyous experience which witnesses the diversity of the ethnicity and culture at First Baptist Church. Participants included:

Jose Herrera – Christian
Angie Loasiga, Zuleima Argumedeo along with children and youth of First Baptist:
Nina, Nicholas and Nichole Bullock, Gisselle Artola, Britney Chacon – United States
Maria Barajas – Mexico
Lidia Grande – El Salvador
Etna Morales – Honduras
Eva Artola – Nicaragua
Christina Arazola – Guatemala
Marta Torres – Colombia
Antonio Barajas – Venezuela
Cora Marte - Philippines
Josh Kim – South Korea



DIACONATE MINISTRY

On Sunday, October 11th, 10 members of our congregation met to discuss the Diaconate's role at First Baptist. There is a need to revitalize our Diaconate Ministry via Congregational Care, an important function of the spiritual body of the church. Deacons are consecrated to assist our pastor in his ministry of shepherding us.

We identified our functions as servants caring for and reaching out to our members and visitors alike, visiting sick and shut-in members in homes, hospitals and rehabilitation facilities to pray with them and encourage them.

I am appealing for members to join our Diaconate Ministry. God has great rewards for us to be the spiritual body that our congregation needs. Training will be scheduled in the very near

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CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator, **Shirley Parsley**
Church Clerk, **David McFadden**
Treasurer, **Ann Brodie**

Council of Ministries – At Large

Gerald Gubatan
Alma Pineda
Richard Rogers
Marta Torres
Linda Zaretsky

Spiritual Gifts Ministry

John Sturm, Coordinator
Maria Juarez
Ben Marte
Kenneth Mercier
Santiago Morales

Note: *The Council of Ministries (Board of Trustees) is made up of those in **bold print**. The Council meets the 3rd Sunday of every month at 12:30 p.m.; all members are welcome to attend.*

NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **November 9, 2015**. Material and articles for the November 9th issue should arrive in the church office two weeks before publication, or **no later than 9:00 a.m. October 26**.

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STAFF: Norman Bullock, *Interim Pastor*; Esther Sanchez, *Administration and Building Coordinator*; James Johnson, *Josue Guevara*, *Odos Nabors*, *Custodians*; Kyle Irwin, *Organist/Choirmaster*; Sandra Rogers, *Communications Coordinator*.

CHURCH PHONE: (213) 384-2151

FAX: (213) 382-9669

VISTA TOWER: (213) 386-2786

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

www.FBCofLA.org

email addresses:

General: fbcla@FBCofLA.org

Norman Bullock: NBullock@FBCofLA.org

James Johnson: JJohnson@FBCofLA.org

Sandra Rogers: SandraBR@FBCofLA.org

Esther Sanchez: ESanchez@FBCofLA.org

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S PEN *(continued)*

future. If you feel led to serve, please contact: Ann Brodie 323-734-2942. See upcoming bulletins for our next meeting.

– *Ann Brodie*,
Diaconate Ministry Coordinator

BECOMING A CHURCH THAT PRAYS

As we journey through the last quarter of the year, I invite you to continue to join me in prayer for our spiritual renewal as a congregation of committed believers in Jesus Christ. Paul prayed in Ephesians 3 that the church at Ephesus would be strengthened internally. He prayed for might in their spirit. He asked God that Christ would so settle down in their hearts and lives that their hearts and lives would be settled down. He begged God that the young believers would put their roots downward and bear fruit upwards. He wanted the church to be grounded in love, for to be established in love is the Christian life. This love requires renewal in our hearts. If the heart or the inner man is starved, the outer man will show it. If we ourselves are malnourished, we will be lethargic, self absorbed, and disinterested in anyone else's misfortunes. But as we make Christ at home in our hearts, He will constantly shed abroad His love, supplying us with the ability to love the "whole family" (Eph.3:15).

We live in times that are exciting, challenging, and sometimes frightening. Many days have unknown elements, but each moment is cemented with our Heavenly Father. It is comforting to know that like David, we can seek God to renew our spirits, to give us the courage to face our day head on and to trust that He will get us through. When our lives are filled with uncertainty and when we have to learn to go with the flow of our limits, we should remember to celebrate the strength that God has placed within us. The Lord will never fail to uphold us and help us. Amen!

Here are some suggestions as we continue to prayer seek God's direction for the life and future ministry of FBCLA:

- We are called to pray, seeking to praise God for His glory and majesty, and to thank Him for His overflowing grace, mercy, and providential care.

- We are invited to pray, seeking to align our personal and congregation lives with the will of God.

- We are instructed to pray, seeking God's blessings upon His people, and thanking God for gifting us with one another in the Body of Christ.

- We all need to pray, seeking stronger unity and deepened fellowship in our congregation.

- We are urged to pray, seeking God's forgiveness for our personal and corporate failings.

- We are summoned to pray, seeking divine direction and discernment of God's vision.

- We are encouraged to pray, seeking renewed commitment and empowerment to carry out God's mission.

- We are challenged to pray, seeking God's direction for us and in particular the Pastoral Search Committee in calling the next Pastor of FBCLA

Join us in the following Corporate Prayer Opportunities

- ❖ Sunday at 9:15 a.m. – Moore Chapel
- ❖ Wednesday at 6:00 a.m. – via conference call – dial in 323-645-9525 (no code needed)
- ❖ Midweek Afternoon Prayer Meeting (coming soon)

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Let's continue to prayer for the Pastoral Search Committee for the task that lies ahead for them in selecting the next pastor of First Baptist for the church's consideration. They will meet this week for training and orientation which will be provided by the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii (ABCOFLASH). The Search Committee includes:

Zuleima Argumedo
Daniel Choi
Gerald Gubatan, Chair
David McFadden
Shirley Parsley

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S PEN *(continued)*

Alma Pineda
Richard Rogers
Marta Torres

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN

As the Pastoral Search Committee begins its work, there are many things that we can do to help them. The first thing that we can do for them is to pray for them that they will identify "God's choice" for the next Senior Minister of First Baptist. Another thing that we can do is to give to the work of ministry and serve in ministry. As a follow up to the preaching and teaching series on "BUILDING AND REBUILDING GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY" that just concluded in September, I invite you to join me in praying for, giving to, and participating in an initiative that will provide the foundation for our future spiritual growth and development as a congregation. The campaign, which runs through December 2015, is two-fold. The first portion relates to our giving in a tangible way.

Each year, we collect a special offering at Homecoming for our church's continuing ministry. This year, leading up to Homecoming Sunday, I requested your support to give at least \$141 toward the "Homecoming Offering" to reduce and eliminate our 2015 operating deficit so we can have a clean slate as we move closer to the calling of the next pastor of First Baptist while continuing to invest in the core ministries of the church including Christian Education, our Children and Youth, Diaconate, and Evangelism. We are also endeavoring to complete upgrades to the audio system and purchase translation equipment.

I am requesting that the offering that you gave at Homecoming Sunday be a deposit, or first fruit offering, if you will, toward a pledge of \$500 towards the continuing ministry of FBCLA. Our goal is \$15,000 for this Campaign. As of September 30, we are one-third of the way there.

The second phase of the campaign concerns our building for the future with an emphasis on the further

development of our ministries and the addition of new ministries as the needs arise. During the month of October as we focus on Stewardship, members will be given the opportunity to build for the future by serving in one of the many ministries of First Baptist Church.

On Sunday, October 25, which is Stewardship Commitment Sunday, you had the opportunity to complete a pledge card delineating your time, talent and monies for the upcoming year. During our Coffee Time/Fellowship Hour, we gathered in round table discussions and focus groups to explore how we can renew our commitment to serve and find out about the many ministry opportunities at First Baptist.

I appreciate your continuing faithfulness in giving. You may use the Homecoming envelope or regular tithe/offering envelope for your contribution. Please be sure to reference "Building for the Future" on the envelope. God has so much in store for FBCLA.

ABHMS SPACE FOR GRACE CONFERENCE – November 4-7 at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton



A national gathering inviting God's healing grace on the journey to justice

Race, religion, culture and class still divide our world. We are all too familiar with the repercussions of the resulting alienation and polarization —protests such as the "die-in" at the Philadelphia Museum of Art following last year's Ferguson and Staten Island grand jury decisions.

Space for Grace, sponsored by American Baptist Home Mission

Societies, seeks to restore the human connection among all people by gathering intentionally diverse voices committed to exploring different perspectives about contemporary issues that affect congregations and communities across the United States today.

For more information, please visit the website of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (<http://nationalministries.org>) or call the church office. Volunteers are also needed for the Space for Grace Conference. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pastor Bullock at bullock@fbcofla.org.

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS HONORED

On Homecoming, Pastor Bullock presented certificates of appreciation to members who have volunteered their time and energy in various church ministries (some shown below).



Photos by Gerald Gubatan

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005



COMMUNION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“YOU’VE BEEN CALLED, PART I”

(Please read Matthew 28:19-20 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“YOU’VE BEEN CALLED, PART II”

(Please read I Peter 2:9-10 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching