

# THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS



Published by **The First Baptist Church of Los Angeles**

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FEBRUARY 15, 2016

**An American Baptist Congregation Making God's Love Known in Los Angeles Since 1874**

**International • Intercultural • Ecumenical**

## MINISTRY PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

The following reports are excerpt reports shared with the congregation at the 2016 Annual Meeting: held on January 24, 2016.

### Moderator's Report

In 2015, under the leadership of our Interim Pastor Dr. Norman Bullock we were led through his sermons to help identify who we are as Christians, who we are as a church community and that God has a definite plan for our future. Dr. Bullock and his family are a blessing to our church and through God's grace he continues to serve faithfully.

Through member Conversations and workshops lead by Dr. Bullock and our region ABCOFLASH we have studied our past, present and future. We have spent much time on self-reflection and prayer. Through this process we developed...

### Our Call as a Congregation:

*We are called to be a community of faith, a welcome table, that celebrates the rich diversity of its membership as it serves and honors the diverse cultural and ethnic nature of Los Angeles and surrounding communities. We are called to be deeply grounded in the Word and Witness through the power of the Holy Spirit, being a prophetic voice for justice, healing and transformation. We are called to manifest the love of Christ as we share our various sources of capital with the community as well as being a witness to God's reign through celebrative worship and care for one another.*

### Nuestro llamado como una congregación

Estamos llamados a ser una comunidad de fe, una mesa de recepción, que celebra la diversidad de sus miembros como sirve y celebra la diversidad cultural y étnica de Los Ángeles y las comunidades circundantes. Estamos llamados a ser profundamente basada en la palabra y el testimonio a través del poder del Espíritu Santo, ser una voz profética para la justicia, sanación y transformación. Estamos llamados a manifestar el amor de Cristo como compartimos nuestras varias fuentes de recursos con las comunidades de fe, como un testigo al Reino de Dios a través del culto de adoración y al cuidarnos el uno al otro.

### 헬스트 뵤티스트 교회의 회중으로서의 소명

우리는 LA 와 주변 지역 사회의 다양한 문화와 여러 소수 인종들을 섬김으로서 그들의 다양성을 존중하며 지역사회의 신앙체로서 또한 모든 다양한 사람들을 환대하는 처소가 되도록 부름받았습니다

우리는하나님의 말씀에 깊이 뿌리 내려 지며 정의에 대한 선지자적 소리를 내며 치유하며 변화시키는성령의 권능을 증거하기위해 부름 받았습니다.

우리는 예배를 통해 그리고 서로 서로를 사랑하는 것을 통해 하나님의 통치하심을 증거하며 우리가 가지고 있는 여러가지 자산을 믿음의 공동체들과 나눔으로서 하나님의 사랑을 나타내기 위한 소명을 받았습니다.

Following through this process, September led us to forming the Pastoral Search Committee. This is just the beginning as our faith leads us forward. May we continue to pray for the call of a Senior Minister.

I, as a sister of faith, believe that God has many great things in store for us! As we continue our journey, may we be mindful, intentional, prayerful and supportive of one another. We are a community of faith led through Jesus Christ.

Here is a bible verse that I read daily: Romans 12:2 *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

– Shirley Parsley, Moderator

### PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

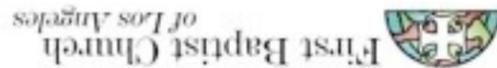
The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) has diligently been meeting to formulate a draft "Minister's Profile," answering the question, "What do we want in our next Pastor?" At today's Annual Meeting, the PSC is asking members to verify that the profile is on point, or if not, to offer feedback and suggested edits.

The PSC created the profile after reflecting upon the congregational "First Conversations" which many members participated in through 2014 and 2015; reviewing the "Call Statement" which grew from those sessions; and considering the results of the member survey administered earlier this year.

The PSC will be working closely with the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, the Southwest and Hawaii (ABCOFLASH) to input information from the FBCLA Minister's Profile into the American Baptist Personnel System (ABPS), a nationwide database of active American Baptist ordained ministers. This process will result in generating a pool of potential candidates based on matching "what we want in our next Pastor" with ministers who have placed their resumes with the ABPS.

(Continued on Page 2)

Los Angeles, CA 90005  
760 South Westmoreland Avenue



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Classes for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“JOURNEY TO THE CROSS: REMEMBERING JESUS”**

**LENTEN PREACHING SERIES**

**“GRACE FOR THE JOURNEY”**

(Please read II Corinthians 12:1-10 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK**, Preaching



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2016

**In Celebration of Black History Month**

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Classes for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM  
THE ‘BLACK LIVES MATTER’ MOVEMENT”**

(Please read Mark 8:34-36 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK**, Preaching

**12:30 p.m.**

All-Church Luncheon in Robbins Dining Hall

PERIODICAL

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### NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, shall be held at 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California on Sunday, **February 21, 2016 at 12:30 p.m.** for the purpose of **considering the 2016 annual budget.**

— David McFadden,  
Church Clerk and  
Shirley Parsley, Moderator

### IN MEMORIAM

The Church Family extends its deepest Christian Sympathy to the family of

#### DAVID NAVARRO

Deceased February 3, 2016  
Church Member 1992-2016

### NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **February 29, 2016.** Material and articles for the February 29<sup>th</sup> issue should arrive in the church office two weeks before publication, or **no later than 9:00 a.m. Feb. 15.**

### THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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All copy for the NEWS should be typed or written plainly and reach the Church Office no later than 9:00 a.m. **MONDAY, two weeks prior** to publication.

**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*.

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### MINISTRY PROGRESS REPORTS (continued)

Another key task which the PSC is currently working on is to create a Church and Community Profile. We need to describe who we are, where we came from, and who we envision ourselves to become as a community of faith in the future. It will describe today's urban multicultural context in which our church ministries operate. It will support the PSC in its proactive outreach and marketing efforts, as well as assist a prospective candidate in evaluating whether First Baptist Church of Los Angeles is a good match for him or her and his or her family.

We invite your ongoing prayers as the PSC continues the search process into 2016. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any PSC Member if you have questions, concerns or suggestions. The PSC includes the following members: Zuleima Argumedo, Daniel Choi, Gerald Gubatan, David McFadden, Shirley Parsley, Alma Pineda, Richard Rogers, and Marta Torres.

— Gerald G. Gubatan, PSC Chair

### CHURCH MINISTRY REPORTS

#### Diaconate

In September 2015 at our Homecoming meeting, a report from Congregational Care ministry informed us we have visitors coming to our church by looking at our website. We had good follow up with our visitors. Visitors continue to find their way through our doors. The Almeida family from Louisiana, Rev. Lon and Roberta with their children worshiped with us from October through December. Roberta joined us under "watch Care" for spiritual support. We prayed for hospitalized daughter Sonia throughout the months.

We continue to promote fellowship among us as we sit around tables in Robbins Dining Hall every Sunday enjoying our coffee time with delicious snacks. Thank you to the **donors** of good food.

There were several well attended affairs held in Robbins Dining Hall – a High Tea in May; a traditional Thanksgiving luncheon in November; a Christmas luncheon ended our year with joy in December. Thank you for your service to **all** who participated last year in Congregational Care.

We are in the first month of the 2016 Church year. Our ministry needs to grow and become stronger in nurturing the cares of our Church. We have to increase our outreach with one another, and let it flow to visitors.

Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, there is going to be a Diaconate meeting, plan to attend and become a member to enhance nurturing and hospitality to others as part of Congregation Care Ministry.

— Ann Brodie

#### Christian Education

The Christian Education Department has made some very strong strides this past year and looks forward to a new year of growth and expansion of our programs. This can only happen with support from our members whether it be in volunteering for teaching and/or assisting in Sunday school classes or contributing to VBS and youth programs.

In our Sunday school classes, we hope to expand to prepare for growth in all age groups. We are especially in need of a college/young adult class for those of our millennials that have grown up in our church to nourish their walk with Christ.

This past year our youth really were spiritually blessed in the Youth Winter Retreat and we will send a great group next month to FBCLA Winter Camp, Feb. 12-14th.

There are plans to partner more closely with the Play More Saturday Program to establish more ties with our neighborhood children and families.

This in conjunction with our wonderful VBS and Block Party, July 9<sup>th</sup>, will continue to strengthen our relationships with families in our area. These can be great ways of community outreach.

We are planning more weekend outings and service work with our children and youth group. I am personally committed to reignite our Big Sisters program that brings our young adult women and girls together for community service, mentoring and strong bonds with one another.

Our kids have done a great job through music and participation in the service as well as the plays and dramas. Again we will led a Palm Sunday service and Christmas play for the congregation.

### MINISTRY PROGRESS REPORTS (continued)

There has been a private donation for CE that we are planning to use to hire a youth leader.

Our church needs to continue to support the CE department as one of the most important branches of our church family. I would like to give special thanks to all the teachers, helpers, and wonderful members who tirelessly give their time, love, and energy to Christian Ed.

— Linda Zaretsky, CE Coordinator

#### Missions Ministry

Through the faithful leadership of John and Denie Sturm, this ministry continues to keep before the congregation the importance of supporting our World Mission Offering. During October, while our World Mission Offering did not meet our goal of \$1,000, we are thankful, nevertheless, for the members who gave liberally to this offering.

During Christmas, this ministry also assisted Aurora Martinez in her annual effort in making bags to be distributed at the ABCOFLASH Christmas Festival. These bags were filled with toiletries such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, and school supplies such as pencils, notebooks, erasers, etc. The bags were distributed to Rainbow Acres, Deborah's House and to Centro Khese'd in Mexico.

#### Ebenezer Fellowship

As the Ebenezer Fellowship continues the process of reorganization, the leadership team continues to meet periodically with Pastor Bullock. We continue to meet every Sunday during the Sunday School hour. We were blessed to have Pastor Lon Almeida to lead teach our class during the month of December. The leaders continue to work with the Interim Pastor to develop opportunities for growing, fellowship and service through this ministry.

#### Spiritual Gifts Ministry

The Spiritual Gifts Ministry led by John Sturm assisted the Pastor in facilitating the church wide learning opportunity on Spiritual Gifts and

have been working since then with members in assisting them in their Spiritual Gift Assessments. Our goal is to provide more opportunities for members to discover and develop their spiritual gifts. The Spiritual Gifts Ministry has two main responsibilities: to assess gifts of members and to assist the various ministries in recruiting members to participate and serve. The other is to serve in a nominating role for the annual election of leaders in September. Later this spring, the Spiritual Gifts Ministry will facilitate a Church wide learning opportunity on Discovering, Developing and Deploying Spiritual Gifts.

#### Community Outreach: Food Pantry Ministry

We open our Food Pantry every Friday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 50 weeks a year. The program is designed to provide a bag of groceries for needy families who are hungry with no questions asked. We are able to serve all nationalities including Latinos, Caucasians, Asians, African Americans and others reflecting the neighborhood's diverse population. Each Friday, we order the next week's food from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. The food is delivered the following Monday.

Each month, we send a report back to the Los Angeles Food Bank with the results. Over the last year, we gave out 2,000 bags of groceries (1 per family) that provided food for more than 5,000 family members! Many of our neighbors want fresh food, like vegetables and fruit. We are working with our partners to develop a plan so that our community can have access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Special thanks to Lee Strand, Teresa Negrete, and Vance Smith for their faithfulness to this ministry. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please see Lee Strand.

### FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S PEN

As we enter the second full week of Lent, the season of reflection leading up to Easter, it provides an excellent opportunity to embark on your own devotional journey. Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. The season of Lent began Ash Wednesday, February 10 and continues for 40 days (Sundays are not included in the count) through Easter. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, and spiritual renewal and discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ – his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection. Our theme during this season will be "*Journey To The Cross: Remembering Jesus.*" Join us on this 40 day journey of prayer, reflection and renewal. If you would like to receive a daily devotional via email during Lent, please contact the church office by calling (213) 384-2151 or emailing the church at [fbcla@fbcofla.org](mailto:fbcla@fbcofla.org).

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month each February is a time set aside to honor African Americans who have made contributions in the United States and around the world. Harvard-educated historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson implemented a time of year to recognize the achievements of blacks because the history books of his era largely ignored the contributions African Americans made to U.S. Society. The decision to celebrate African-American history in February was not an attempt to shortchange blacks, but arrived at because one week in that month encompasses the birthdays of both Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln, which fell on the 14th and the 12th, respectively. On Sunday, February 28, during our Morning Worship Experience at 11:00 a.m., we will celebrate and accent African American History Month. After worship, a luncheon will be provided featuring soul food, in Robbins Dining Hall.