

# THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

Published by **The First Baptist Church of Los Angeles**  
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**An American Baptist Congregation Making God's Love Known in Los Angeles Since 1874**  
*International • Intercultural • Ecumenical*

## SUMMER WORSHIP WILL BE HELD IN THE FRANCIS CHAPEL

The Francis Chapel, which seats 225, is named in honor of Dr. James A. Francis, the minister of this church at the time the present building was completed. It was originally built without a center aisle or stained glass windows. In 1951, it was renovated to its current state.

The Chapel was refashioned with many "living memorials" – that is, the erection of something beautiful and useful which can be enjoyed and used by the living. Since we will be worshipping in the Francis Chapel for the summer, it is appropriate to acknowledge those memorials.

One of the windows in the narthex is named for Rev. Clarence D. Boone, a Baptist minister and a faithful member of this church. A second narthex window was named for Albert Kemp, the son of a fine church family. The windows inside the room are all memorialized but one. The twin windows at the front are marked in memory of Rebecca S. Haldeman and Harry Haldeman. Mr. Haldeman was for many years a Baptist evangelist. The fourth window from the front is named for Dr. Eugene Lawson Armstrong who for many years was a trusted and beloved physician in Los Angeles. The next twin windows are named for David Kitzmiller Edwards and Ebenezer Franklin Pinkham. These two men for many years were staunch pillars in the Baptist work in Los Angeles. The next window is in memory of Miss Leta French, who served a long time as head of First Baptist's White Cross work, as registrar for the Church School, and the one who sat at the Information Desk in the narthex of the sanctuary. The window next to the door was named for Burton B. Wilcox, who served as a volunteer counselor.

The altar is named for Rev. Walter Irving Fowle, the father of Margaret Rogers and grandfather of current member Richard Rogers. For many years Mr. Fowle was one of the most substantial and helpful pastors of our American Baptist Convention and served also as a State Secretary. We were privileged to have him on our staff as our visiting minister in which capacity he was serving when he passed away suddenly in 1946. The

pulpit is named for Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Dunham, who were devoted members. The lovely carving on the pulpit was done by their daughter, Mrs. Stephen Crosby. The pews are named for three faithful and generous members of the church: Mrs. H. K. Avery, William Cullen Spalding, M.D. and Katie Viola Soule. The cross is in memory of Mrs. Leona Watts, another devoted member. The candlesticks were named in memory of Martha A. Stephenson, and the kneeling bench was made possible by Ruth Garner Posey and Lafroy Posey, and the Bible was given by Joanne Fagerburg Vail and Evan Vail, in appreciation of their marriages.

In 1970, the 17-rank organ was dedicated in memory of two members, Miss Sue Barnwell and Miss Helen Babson. The life-size carving of "The Christ" seen at the front of the Chapel, depicting the message of Matthew 11:28, "*Come unto me, all ye who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest*" is dedicated to the glory of God in memory of Milton R. Mackaig. This work by artist Miriam Shelton Dean was completed and installed in 1984.

The primary purpose of this room, as stated in Dr. Fagerburg's dedicatory message, is to exalt and to serve Christ. All of the symbolism is directed to Him. At the point where horizontal and vertical pieces of the cross join there is the ancient symbol which stands for Him, the first three Greek letters of the word **Jesus**. On the front of the pulpit in the center is the symbol containing the first two letters of the Greek word meaning **Christ**. On either side of this symbol are Alpha and Omega, the reference taken from the book of Revelation, "*I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*" (22:13). Above the chancel is the beautiful Huguenot Cross used so extensively by the Protestants of France. The pendant dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The primary motif in all the carving is reminiscent of John 15, "*I am the vine, ye are the branches.*" It also reminds us of the fruit of the vine from which came the wine for the chalice which was used that night at the Last Supper.



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### THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

All of the outside locks into the building have been changed. **Keys will NOT BE ISSUED TO ANY MEMBER OR BOARD MEMBER**, only to paid staff. If you need to enter the building other than regular hours, you must call the church office at (213) 384-2151 and make **arrangements in advance** to have a custodian on duty to open and close. Off hour visits are strongly discouraged, as the church has to pay a custodian to be on duty.



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

*Deceased May 15, 2013*  
Church Member 1933-2013

– and –

to the family of  
**CARLOS ALBERTO QUEZADA**

*Deceased May 19, 2013*  
Church Member 1987-2013

### NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **June 24, 2013**. Material and articles for the June 24<sup>th</sup> issue should **arrive** in the church office two weeks before publication, or no later than **9:00 a.m. on June 10<sup>th</sup>**.

### COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR, MAY 18

On Saturday, May 18, 2013, First Baptist Church opened its "front porch" and co-sponsored a Community Resource Fair in partnership with the Office of L.A. City Council Member Ed Reyes (see photos on the next page).

Westmoreland Avenue was closed to traffic and several local community-based non-profit organizations set-up informational tables, including:

- Aztecs Rising (Gang Prevention and Intervention Services)
- Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) (Immigration Education)
- Central City Neighborhood Partners (Westlake / Pico-Union Family Source Center)
- St. Barnabas Senior Services (Adult Day Services)
- L.A. Community Legal and Educational Center (Tenant Rights)

The City of Los Angeles had representatives provide information on city services:

- City Bureau of Sanitation (Recycling, Bulky Item Pick-Up)
- Los Angeles Fire Department (local Fire Station #13)
- Mayor's Million Trees Initiative (Free Fruit and Shade Trees to L.A. Residents organized by the City's contractor, the Koreatown Youth and Community Center).

The free fruit and shade trees were extremely popular and were given away faster than anticipated. Free tomato plants were also available. On the church plaza, one of the most popular attractions was a children's activity area. "Silva the Genie" held court with children's readings and lessons on anti-bullying while church volunteers oversaw neighborhood children participating in sidewalk chalk art

## COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR, MAY 18, 2013

and face-painting. Ben Marte gave free health screenings, taking people's blood pressure. Raul Cabral served as a disc jockey and provided music.

Council Member Ed Reyes visited to greet participants and was given a tour of the church's historic building. The Fire Captain on duty at Fire Station No. 13 (a brand new fire station which opened in 2009 at Pico Blvd. and Westmoreland Avenue) dropped by with his crew before being called away on an emergency call. Before the community fair started, a group of local volunteers recruited by the Council Office literally cleaned-up Leeward Avenue from Vermont Avenue to Hoover Street – picking-up trash and debris and cutting weeds and overgrown grass. Two young men, Community Intervention Workers from Aztecs Rising, volunteered to enter the "pit" below the sidewalk in front of Francis Chapel and cleaned and removed a large amount of trash and debris.

The Community Resource Fair attracted many local neighborhood residents – young, old, families with children. Our goal was to show our neighbors that First Baptist Church cares by sharing the caring Christ. Special thanks to our members who volunteered to help First Baptist serve as a host to the neighborhood: Annette Daniels, Shirley Parsley, Ben Marte, Lily Tzul, Raul Cabral, John and Denie Sturm. By all accounts, the Community Resource Fair was a great success.

– Gerald Gubatan,  
Moderator



760 South Westmoreland Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90005



**SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2013**

*10:00 a.m.*

Worship in the **Francis Chapel:**

**“TOGETHER WE CAN”**

*Sermon Series on the Book of Nehemiah*

**#3: “A PLAN AND A PRAYER”**

(Please read Nehemiah 2:4-8 in preparation)

**REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN**, Preaching

*11:30 a.m.*

Church School Classes for All Ages



**SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2013**

*10:00 a.m.*

Worship in the **Francis Chapel:**

**“TOGETHER WE CAN”**

*Sermon Series on the Book of Nehemiah*

**#4: “WORK PAST THE OPPOSITION”**

(Please read Nehemiah 2:19-20 in preparation)

**REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN**, Preaching

*– Honoring our Graduates –*

*11:30 a.m.*

Church School Classes for All Ages