

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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JULY 30, 2012

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: *BABYLON, DANIEL'S COURAGE IN CAPTIVITY*



Five Tribes of Ancient Israel made up the setting for the 2012 Vacation Bible School. The tribes (Asher, Benjamin, Judah, Naphtali and Simeon) settled in Babylon on land outside King Nebuchadnezzar's palace. Daniel was in captivity and the tribes followed his stories each day; interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream, witnessing Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in a fiery furnace, and being rescued from lions.

God's sightings – God is active in our everyday lives; we just have to look. Every day we looked for clues where God was present, passionate and powerful. We saw God in scripture, in people, in circumstances and in nature. We wrote our sightings on tiles and tacked them on Palace's wall.

Registration – We had 35 attendees, which included eight adults. This was the second year we used the tribal intergeneration format, which allowed parents the opportunity to participate with their children. Several parents provided positive feedback especially after they heard their child(ren) sing and perform songs at the closing ceremony.

Each year dedicated volunteers give their time and talent of music, teaching, storytelling, and food preparation. Thank you and blessings to people who made VBS possible.

- **Decorations:** Zuleima Argumendo spearheaded decorating Robbins Dining Hall to move us back to ancient Babylon.
- **Tribal leaders/assistants:** Zuleima Argumendo, Annette Daniels, Angie Hernandez, Ben Marte, Cora Marte, Kenneth Mercier, Alma Pineda, Linda Pineda and Pat Yeomans
- **Celebration Leaders:** Nalis Mercier, John Polite
- **Daniel's Food Preparers:** Vu Dastile, Haydee Gutierrez, Hector Mancillas, Maxine McFarland and Etna Morales
- **Translation:** Wendy Aquilar, Jackie Garay
- **Toys:** Hector and Ana Mancillas
- **Daniel:** Rev. Carlton Rhoden

God always provides for us. VBS had monetary donations from church members and major food donation from Haydee Gutierrez.

I pray First Baptist Church will be a God's sighting to many of our neighbors, and we will grow spiritually and be God's faithful servants.

– Ann Brodie, Coordinator, Christian Education



DR. CHETTI OF ABCLA VISITS FBCLA

On July 15, Dr. Samuel Chetti, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, served as guest preacher on the topic, "The Road to Peace: Recovering Our First Love" – encouraging diverse people of faith to reclaim their love of Christ and unify around doing God's good works in today's world.

Dr. Chetti (5th from the left) later joined a special Sunday School class on racial reconciliation to share his experiences involved in an interracial marriage, growing up as a young Christian in India immersed in Hindu and Muslim cultures, and an encounter with Nelson Mandela.

Dr. Chetti spoke about his personal memories of the late Dr. Pauline Roberts with whom he became friends in the 1960s. Dr. Roberts was a prominent African American medical doctor educated at the University of Massachusetts, former Director of the L.A. County Public Health Department and an American Baptist missionary in India, who sought membership at FBCLA in 1952 but was rejected by the congregation. She later joined FBC of Pasadena.

Following his presentation, the group reflected upon Ephesians 2: "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone."

– Gerald Gubatan, Moderator



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HOPE-NET FUNDRAISER "TASTE OF LARCHMONT"

Dear Friends:

We want to invite you to the Annual **Taste of Larchmont** on **Monday, August 20 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm**. This fun, end-of summer event is an evening of good tasting and friendship along Larchmont Blvd. (between Beverly Blvd. and First Street).

By purchasing a ticket(s), you are welcome to visit the participating restaurants and "taste" each restaurant's cuisine, and a great dessert pavilion. You can also purchase tickets for the Taste of Larchmont raffle, which features great prizes. All for a good cause!

Sponsored by the *Larchmont Chronicle* and local businesses, the Taste of Larchmont supports HOPE-NET, an organization that works to alleviate hunger and homelessness in Metro Los Angeles (mid-Wilshire, Hollywood, Koreatown). HOPE-NET's food pantries [which includes one at First Baptist] provide over 500,000 meals to over 140,000 low-income and homeless persons annually. HOPE-NET also operates Hope West Apartments, offering affordable housing for low-income families.

Tickets to the Taste of Larchmont are \$40 each. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. For additional information or to order tickets, contact HOPE-NET at 213.389.9949 or visit www.hopenetla.org.

Thank you for your kind and generous support.

–Douglas Ferraro, Hope-Net Executive Director

NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **August 13, 2012**. Material and articles for the August 13th issue should arrive in the church office **two weeks** before publication, or **no later than 9:00 a.m. July 30**.

MORE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PICTURES



NEIGHBORHOOD COOK-OUT ON JULY 8, 2012

On July 8th, the Christian Education Core Ministry sponsored a Cookout on the Plaza to kick off Vacation Bible School week. It was well attended by our congregation and neighbors, and introduced our neighbors to the church and our ministry here at the corner of Leeward and Westmoreland Avenues.



760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005



COMMUNION SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2012

10:00 a.m. Worship in the *Francis Chapel*

“HOLY GROUND”

(Please read Matthew 17:1-8 in preparation)

DR. ROBERT B. WALLACE, Preaching

11:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages



SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2012

10:00 a.m. Worship in the *Francis Chapel*

“THE END”

(Please read Mark 14:53-65 in preparation)

MR. HECTOR MANCILLAS, Preaching

11:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages