

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS



1874 - 2014

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

760 South Westmoreland Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90005 • (213) 384-2151 • fbcla@fbcofla.org

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No. 18

SEPTEMBER 1, 2014

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

HOMECOMING / 140th ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14



HOMECOMING

and

140th ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, September 14

"Making Christ's Love Known in Los Angeles:

Honoring Our Past.

Embracing Our Present.

Building Our Future"

10:00 a.m.

Worship

Homecoming Offering will be received

11:30 a.m.

Luncheon & Program

Kick-Off Year-Round

140th Anniversary Celebration

Good Food • Fellowship • Election of Officers

Presentation of the Cummings

"Man of the Year" Award

Please join us!

Please call the church office to make your lunch reservations (213) 384-2151

You receive the *First Baptist NEWS* because at some time in your life the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles played a part in your spiritual journey. You may have just become a member or have been a member for more years than you care to count. Or you may have been a part of First Baptist at some point in your life and it holds fond memories for you. We thank God for the part that you have played in the life of First Baptist, Los Angeles and the part that First Baptist has played in your life.

Our Homecoming/Anniversary Sunday will be September 14 this year, and this is the perfect time to celebrate what First Baptist has meant to you over the years. As we celebrate our 140th anniversary of ministry in Los Angeles, we invite you to be present with us. Worship will be at 10:00 a.m., followed by our Homecoming Meeting and Anniversary Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the Robbins Dining Hall. It will be a great day of fellowship, worship, and celebration. We hope that you will join us.

We also invite you to participate in our Homecoming Offering, which will be received during worship on the 14th – another way in which you can express what First Baptist has meant to you. An envelope is attached for your use; please bring it with you on the 14th or mail it to the church office.

We look forward to this day when together we lift our voices in praise, prayer and worship. . .celebrating what God has done and is doing in our lives and in the life of the church.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: **Shirley Parsley**

Church Clerk: **Gerald Gubatan**

Treasurer: **Alma Pineda**

At Large Members:

Christian Education:

Linda Zaretsky

Congregational Care:

Annette Daniels

Missions/Evangelism: **Lee Strand**

Stewardship: **Norman Bullock**

Worship: **Vance Smith**

Spiritual Gifts Ministry

Coordinator: **John Sturm**

Members: Ann Brodie, David McFadden, Marta Torres, and James Johnson (*non-voting*)

Note: *Council of Ministries (Board of Trustees) is made up of those in **bold print**. The Council meets the **3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.**; all members are welcome to attend.*



HOMECOMING MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

The Homecoming 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, **September 14, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.** for the purpose of hearing reports, election of officers, and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before such meeting.

—Gerald Gubatan, *Church Clerk*
and
Shirley Parsley, *Moderator*



82 YEARS AGO IN THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

From the March 31, 1932 issue (the issue after Easter):

Last Sunday was a great and inspiring day at First Baptist. Two large congregations gathered at 9:30 and 11:15; 1,441 in the first and 1,467 in the second.

The Pastor Desires to Express thanks to our members who responded so loyally in attending the earlier service. If it had not been so, many would have been turned away at the second service, and it permitted each service to be carried on quietly without the crowding which has often been the case on Easter.

Thanks Are Also in Order to our choir who attended so loyally the three choir services. They are a devoted group and we all appreciate it.

**140 YEARS OF
MAKING GOD'S LOVE
KNOWN IN LOS ANGELES**

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Urban Partners Los Angeles, housed at our neighbor church, the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, is offering programs for the community and you and your children are invited to participate in any of the following:

CLASSES & TUTORING

English classes: Saturday mornings 10:-11:30 a.m. (Emerson Room, 3rd floor)

Math and Study: Saturdays 10 a.m.–noon; Sundays 9-11 a.m. Math tutoring for students of all ages. Math games, exercises, worksheets. One-on-one attention and small group work. (Basement)

Joy of Reading – for children. Saturday mornings. (Basement classroom).

Computer Workshop: every other Saturday 10 a.m. – noon.

ZUMBA & AEROBICS: \$2/session (basement gym)

Aerobics: Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Zumba: Fridays 6:15-7:15 p.m.

All programs are held at the First Unitarian Church, 2936 W. 8th St., Los Angeles (across 8th Street and west a half block toward Vermont). All programs are free unless otherwise noted. For more information, call First Unitarian Church at (213) 389-1356.



NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **September 15, 2014**. Material and articles for the September 15th issue should **arrive** in the church office two weeks before publication, or no later than **9:00 a.m. on September 1st**.

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: Esther Sanchez, *Receptionist*. James Johnson, Josue Guevara, *Custodians*. John Polite, *Director of Worship Arts*. Kyle Irwin, *Organist/Choirmaster*. Sandra Rogers, *Sunday Bulletin and First Baptist NEWS Editor*. **MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS:** Norman Bullock, Richard S. Rogers, *Ministers*.

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MISSION UPDATE, FROM OUR MISSIONARY PARTNERS, CHUCK AND RAMONA SHAWVER

Summer is underway and we pray that your long days are filled with good things and all that you do results in blessing for you and all those whom your life and ministry touch. We are grateful for your friendship and your love and generosity for the work here in Mexico.

In our last letter [reprinted in the May 12th issue of the *NEWS*] we shared with you the news of the sale of Baptist Seminary properties in Mexico City which resulted in both the loss of our facilities as well as rental income from the apartments the seminary managed for many years. We are in the process of discerning God's will for our collective future as an important training institution for the church here in Mexico. For this process we covet your prayers.

It would be easy if we simply decided to close the seminary and help our staff move on with their lives. To do so would, however, betray the students and churches that have come to see the Baptist Seminary as a friend and resource for the formation of future generations of church leaders. We are, therefore, committed to finding "the silver lining;" to reorganizing and moving the seminary to a new and better place.

We have several things going for us. Our partners at the Theological Community of Mexico have graciously offered the continued use of office space in their shared facilities for the coming months. They have also suspended our regular dues for a similar grace period. Foreseeing the possibility of the problems that we are now facing, we have been winding down our residency program, thus allowing time to find and finance alternative dormitory facilities. Our staff has agreed to radical salary reductions. There is a great willingness to sacrifice in order to keep the seminary viable during this time of transition. As we look to the fall semester, our residence students will finish their current programs as commuter students. Our large extension program (200 plus students), will continue with a minimum of interruption.

Our biggest challenge is finding the financing to maintain our legal status, keeping up employee benefits and funding our minimal accounting requirements and tax liabilities as an employer; avoiding the extremely harsh results of bankruptcy which would strip us of every asset. As of this month, June, the seminary's income has fallen by 80%. Our small reserve is being quickly diminished. A promised share of future investment proceeds from the building's sale will be slow in coming and inadequate to support the seminary in the future. We are asking the churches and people we

serve to sacrifice as never before for the seminary's future.

Many years ago, the Baptist Seminary made a strategic decision to be the seminary for the poor in Mexico; serving churches and accepting students no other seminary would serve. Even as our local constituency digs deep, its donations will not be adequate. The seminary needs to build a support network among the churches and people in the U.S. who share its dream and value its ongoing ministry. The seminary needs small gifts and large gifts, one-time gifts for the immediate crisis and ongoing gifts to support its future.

Now you know the need. Ramona and I along with our colleagues here in Mexico City, ask you to pray for and about this ministry. Please consider a personal gift and also share this need with your friends and church. We know that you are already sacrificing to support ministry in Mexico and trust that you will be guided and blessed by the Spirit in your response. Gifts should be sent to International Ministries as SPECIFICS DONATIONS FOR THE SEMINARIO BAUTISTA DE MEXICO. These words are important and will assure that 100% of your tax deductible donation will reach the seminary. If you send a gift, please let Ramona and I know that it is on the way so that we can track it and keep you informed. In advance, thank you for your kindness and generosity.

In Christ, *Chuck and Ramona Shawver*

140 YEARS AGO, SEPTEMBER 6, 1874

Three protestant churches were organized in Los Angeles during the year of 1874: First Baptist, a Methodist church, and a Presbyterian church. A history of First Baptist Church reveals that a total of eight persons constituted the organizing personnel: Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Shirley (from Los Nietos, CA), Mr. J. W. Peterson (Los Nietos), Mrs. Annie E. Rose (Los Nietos), Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Hancock (from Clinton, Missouri) and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Cooper (from Pleasanton, Texas). A number of others were in attendance at the meeting, but as guests only.

Following the organizational part of the meeting, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Hobbs were received into membership and Mr. Hobbs was called as pastor.

It is noteworthy, from the standpoint of the interracial character of today's church, that the Minutes conclude with this statement: "After services in the Chinese language by Brother Lee Key, the Church adjourned."

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005



COMMUNION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“DEAD ENDS AND NEW BEGINNINGS”

(Please read Acts 2:1-11 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching

11:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages



140th ANNIVERSARY and HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary:

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching

– Homecoming Offering –

11:30 a.m.

HOMECOMING MEETING & 140th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

in the Robbins Dining Hall