THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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

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

Volume LXXXIII **No. 15** **JULY 20, 2015**

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

International • Intercultural • Ecumenical

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S PEN

The Interim Journey of First Baptist, Los Angeles:
Trusting God in the Transition

Dear Church Family and Friends,

As we continue our transitional journey in the midst of enjoying the summer months, I encourage you to stay engaged and connected with God and your church family. We have two opportunities for prayer on Wednesday morning at 6:00 a.m. and on Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. With all that is going on around us, we need to connect with God and allow God's transforming power to direct us like never before. At the conclusion of our Church wide learning opportunity on "Discovering, Developing and Deploying Our Spiritual Gifts," we will offer Spiritual Gifts Small Group opportunities in August and September for members to continue to connect, engage, study and learn more about God's transforming Spirit.

We are nearing the phase in our transitional journey toward the selection of a pastoral search committee that will be tasked with recommending a pastoral candidate to be considered by the congregation to be called as the next pastor of First Baptist Church. Our journey to this place has involved three distinct phases of preparation:

Phase One: Congregational Assessment– During this phase, there was extensive gathering of data from the congregation about its identity, awareness of its traditions, history and current challenges were highlighted and reviewed through a series of "First Conversations."

Phase Two: Missional Awareness and Focus – During this phase, the congregation entered a time of reflection on their reason for existence and sharpening of a focus for the future in terms of mission and ministry

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June 28 "First Conversations"

Dr. Samuel Chetti

IN MEMORIAM

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

ALICE NULAND

Deceased June 27, 2015

Church Member 2007-2015

CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: **Shirley Parsley**

Church Clerk: **Gerald Gubatan**

Treasurer: **David McFadden**

Members At Large: **Ann Brodie, Richard Rogers, Vance Smith, Lee Strand, Linda Zaretsky**

Spiritual Gifts Ministry

Coordinator: **John Sturm**

Members: Kenneth Mercier, Santiago Morales, Penny Pilkenton & Denie Sturm.

***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.*

NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **August 3, 2015**.

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(USPS 194-440)
Annual Subscription Rate:
$10.00 per year

Published biweekly by First Baptist Church, 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90005. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Baptist Church *NEWS*, 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California, 90005.

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, *Receptionist.* James Johnson, Josue Guevara, Odos Nabors, *Custodians.* John Polite, *Director of Worship Arts.* Kyle Irwin, *Organist/Choirmaster.* Sandra Rogers, *Sunday Bulletin and "First Baptist News" Editor.*

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FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S PEN (continued)

essentials. This phase, facilitated by Dr. Bob Wallace culminated in a draft statement crafted through multiple conversations and led to "Our Call as a Congregation." The draft was developed by Dr. Bob Wallace and Dr. Norman Bullock. The crafting of this statement was based on comments, input, and observations compiled in our "First Conversation" on March 7.

Phase Three: The Relationship between Pastor and Congregation– During this phase an emphasis was placed on the importance of allowing the draft "Our Call as a Congregation" be foundational in our approach to selecting of a pastor. During this "First Conversation" which was facilitated by Rev. Charles Updike, the focus was to build on the assessments and call draft to illumine and bring to surface importance foundational values in calling a pastor. The attendees were led to discover that indeed, the strong pastor/congregation relationship begins not with the pastor, but with the congregation. The pastor that "turns you on" is the one who most embodies the mission statement that "turns you on!"

The next phase includes the completion of questionnaires that were distributed on July 12. The next "First Conversation" will be held on Sunday, August 30, following morning worship.

On Homecoming Sunday, September 13, 2015, following the Morning Worship, the congregation will gather for its Homecoming Meeting which will include selecting members of the Pastoral Search Committee members.

I close with the benediction at the conclusion of the prayer that Paul gave to the church at Ephesus as an encouragement to them to grow spiritually:

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

With Hope, *Norman Bullock*

Rev. Dr. William Thurmond, Our Guest Speaker, Sunday, July 26, 2015

Rev. Dr. William Thurmond will be our guest speaker on Sunday, July 26. He will also represent the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles Southwest and Hawaii and assist Dr. Samuel Chetti, Executive Minister in providing training to the Pastoral Search Committee and provide consulting assistance to the Pastoral Search Committee.

The ministry of Dr. Thurmond has embraced both religious and civic enterprises. Dr. Thurmond views his ministry as a call to serve both church and community; therefore, since 1956, he has served several religious, community, and civic organizations. He retired from the pastoral ministry in 2010, after fifty-four years; however, he still is active in teaching and consulting. He has served congregations in Canada and California including: Shiloh Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta Canada; Sunnyside Baptist Church, and Park Windsor Baptist Church both in Los Angeles. He has served as Director of Urban Ministries for ABC of Los Angeles and as a board member for various ministries with the ABC-USA denomination. He received his Bachelor of Arts from University of Alberta, Canada and Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees both from the American Baptist Seminary of the West. He is married to the former Lena Thomas (60 years); the parents of four children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grand children.

"BROADWAY COMES TO LARCHMONT"
SAVE THE DATE FOR HOPE-NET's TASTE OF LARCHMONT: AUGUST 24, 2015

For more than 20 years, the Taste of Larchmont has featured delicious food tasting from exceptional Larchmont Village-area restaurants, featuring live music and a raffle of great prizes. The Taste of Larchmont is Hope-Net's primary fundraising event each year, and will be held this year on **Monday, August 24 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Event Tickets are $40; Raffle tickets, $5.**

HOPE-NET was founded in 1988 by First Baptist and several other area congregations to serve the poor in the Wilshire Center area. It's service area now extends throughout metropolitan L.A. – Wilshire Center, Koreatown, Pico-Union, Hollywood, Los Feliz, Silverlake, Adams-Figueroa. Hope-Net operates 13 area food pantries, all located at area congregations (Christian, Jewish, Catholic, Muslim). For more information on Hope-Net and to purchase your Taste of Larchmont tickets, visit it's website at www.hopenetla.org .

JULY 5 ALL-CHURCH COFFEE AND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Enjoying the sounds of the mariachi musicians, church members enjoyed chicken, beans and salad while celebrating the July birthday of longtime member Etna Morales.

First Baptist Church
of Los Angeles
760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005

PERIODICAL

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Francis Chapel

DR. WILLIAM THURMOND, Preaching

COMMUNION SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Francis Chapel

"THERE'S MORE"

(Please read Ephesians 1:15-23 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching