

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

HOMECOMING PHOTO ALBUM



*Dr. Ben Marte, 2015
Oliver deWolf Cummings
Awardee*

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S PEN

141st Anniversary and Homecoming Edition

**"Making Christ's Love Known in Los Angeles:
Building God's House, Building God's People,
Building Our Future"**

Dear Church Family and Friends,

On Sunday, September 13, 2015, we celebrated our 141st Anniversary and Homecoming Sunday. It was a wonderful day filled with celebration, worship, praise, fellowship and food. In this edition of the First Baptist News, we wanted to share some of the reports from the Officers and Ministry Leaders that we presented at the Homecoming Meeting.

Moderator's Report

2015 marked a year of self-reflection, spiritual renewal and transition as together, we participated in a series of "First Conversations" focused on who we are and where we are going as a community of faith.

Special thanks to Dr. Sam Chetti, Executive Minister and CEO of the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii (ABCOFLASH). This year, Dr. Chetti and regional staff and consultants led the congregation in active discussions about our future in preparation for calling a Senior Minister.

We crafted a Congregational Statement of Faith which reaffirmed the church's calling to "Make God's Love Known in Los Angeles."

We are also especially grateful to Dr. Norman Bullock, his wife Maria, and the family. Dr. Bullock has truly served us well as Interim Pastor, preaching from the pulpit, leading Bible studies, visiting our sick and shut-ins, supporting the work of the Church Council and fulfilling all the duties required in church administration. We have been blessed by Pastor Bullock's pastoral leadership and watchcare. I wish to thank our longtime church staff as well.

Above all, thank you to our dedicated members for your ongoing commitment to sustain the work of our ministries in Missions and Evangelism, Worship and Music, Christian Education, Congregational Care, and Spiritual Gifts.

(Continued on Page 2)



Pen and Ink drawing, done in 1977, by Hyke Winston, then a member of the Good Neighbor program for senior adults

NEWS SCHEDULE

The next issue of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **October 12, 2015**. Material and articles for the October 12th issue should arrive in the church office two weeks before publication, or **no later than 9:00 a.m. September 28**.

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*. John Polite, *Director of Worship Arts*. Kyle Irwin, *Organist/Choirmaster*. Sandra Rogers, *Communications Coordinator*.

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FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S PEN *(continued)*

I look forward to a bright future at First Baptist Church as together we "Build God's House, Build God's People and Build Our Future!"

– Shirley Parsley, Moderator

MINISTRY REPORTS

Missions and Evangelism Ministry

It is a blessing to serve our neighbors in our church community. (Proverbs 22:9). We open our Food Pantry every Friday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 52 weeks a year. The program is designed to provide a bag of groceries for needy families who are hungry with no questions asked. We serve all races and nationalities including Mexicans, Koreans, Caucasians, Filipino and African Americans that reflect our neighborhood population.

Each Friday, we order the next week's order from the Los Angeles Food Bank. The food is delivered the following Monday. Each month we send a report back to the Food Bank with the results. From January 2015 to July 2015, we gave out 1287 bags of groceries (1 bag per family) that provided food for 3985 family members.

Over the years, I have come to know many of the people as friends. Several of them have attended our church. Most of them are just happy to receive extra food each week. We also assist our community outreach in other ways. These activities include our Monthly Movie Night, the Community Block Party, Vacation Bible School and distributing Christmas Gifts for young children in our community.

I would like to thank the following people who have helped us serve this year: Vance Smith, Teresa Negrete, Santiago Morales, Josue Guevara, James Johnson and Esther Sanchez.

In Christ, *Paul Strand*

Congregational Care Ministry

Our Congregational Care Ministry provides support and caring of members and newcomers and visitors.

In 2015, a variety of visitors found us through FBCLA's website. These included people from France, England,

Florida, northern California and other places. They were met by warm and gracious members of our congregation. Maxine McFarland followed their visit with a note from our church. Mrs. McFarland also leads our hospitality ministry, coordinating our coffee fellowship after worship service every Sunday and organizing the many delicious potluck and luncheon events throughout the year.

Following our longtime tradition, Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettia flowers were distributed to our sick and shut-ins. A special thank you to Denie and John Sturm, faithful members, who supervised this effort.

Throughout the year, we send greeting cards, make phone calls and visitations to those members in need of care and support. The annual church picnic in Griffith Park in August was a day of fellowship enjoyed by all in attendance.

– Ann Brodie

Christian Education Ministry

The Christian Education Ministry continues to strive to enlarge our youth group and is always in need of more volunteers. We are pleased to see that some of our young adults who have grown up in the church have returned to help with teaching duties, especially during this year's Vacation Bible School and Sunday School throughout the year.

In February, a group of young adults participated in the Winter Retreat sponsored by the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Hawaii and the Southwest (ABC OF LASH). The young people experienced deep spiritual transformation as a result of this experience.

On Easter Sunday, our youth hosted the breakfast. June brought us Christian Education Youth Sunday during which the worship service was completely led by the Christian Education children's and youth department.

In July, we organized an exceptional week-long Vacation Bible School, ending with a fun Saturday block party open to the entire the neighborhood.

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S PEN *(continued)*

The Christian Education Ministry plans on presenting a Christmas musical program this year for all age groups.

We are pleased to have forged a partnership with the non-profit organization called "Play More" with a Saturday youth and children's program activating our church building. Play More was founded by the Rosenberger Family. Our own youth volunteer every Saturday in collaboration with Play More.

- Linda Zaretsky

Worship and Music Ministry

This was another good year for the FBCLA music department. Through the combined efforts of our Organist/Choirmaster and Director of Worship Arts, every Sunday was provided with beautiful music to lead and inspire the worship service. The augmented choir at both Christmas and Easter allowed us to provide the congregation with a varied selection of great music. We look forward to providing continued service in the coming year.

*- Kyle B. Irwin,
Organist / Choirmaster*

Spiritual Gifts Ministry

This year, the Spiritual Gifts Ministry conducted a spiritual gifts inventory of all members and is in the process of assessing the inventory - a "Spiritual Gifts Discovery Assessment." This Homecoming Sunday, we presented a slate of officers, voting members of the Church Council and leaders in various church ministries for the new year. Special Thanks to Pastor Bullock for leading a series studying the topic of spiritual gifts and giving members insights on the biblical basis and how each member may discover, develop and deploy his or her spiritual gifts in advancement of building the body of Christ.

- John Sturm

2015-16 Church Officers

During the Homecoming Meeting on September 13, the following officers and spiritual gifts ministry members were elected:

- Moderator, Shirley Parsley
- Church Clerk, David McFadden
- Treasurer, Ann Brodie
- Council of Ministries - At Large
 - Gerald Gubatan
 - Alma Pineda
 - Richard Rogers
 - Marta Torres
 - Linda Zaretsky

Spiritual Gifts Ministry

- John Sturm, Coordinator
- Maria Juarez
- Ben Marte
- Kenneth Mercier
- Santiago Morales



Happy birthday, Kenneth Mercier!



Newly elected officers and ministry leaders are commissioned by Pastor Bullock at the 2015 Homecoming Meeting to carry out their duties in Christian service for the coming year.

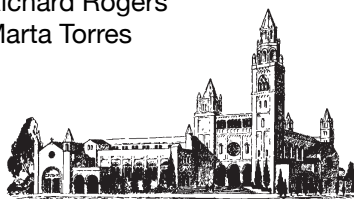
Pastoral Search Committee

After a year of prayer, planning, assessment and "First Conversations," the church during the Homecoming Meeting, unanimously received and approved the recommendations by the Council of Ministries of members to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee which include:

- Zuleima Argumedo
- Daniel Choi
- Gerald Gubatan
- David McFadden
- Shirley Parsley
- Alma Pineda
- Richard Rogers
- Marta Torres



Birthday cake being served by birthday boy's mom, Nalis Mercier.



760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005



**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 4, 2015**

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“A CHARGE TO KEEP: SERVING GOD THROUGH STEWARDSHIP”

(Please read I Peter 4:8-11 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching

– World Mission Offering –



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching