

# 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*

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S PEN

### First Baptist Church Town Hall

On Sunday, March 13, following Morning Worship in Robbins Hall, we gathered as a corporate body to review and debrief from the recent FIRST Talks held on three consecutive Sundays – January 24, 31 and February 7 in a town hall forum as a way to engage with each other in further discussion and understanding of “Our Call Statement as a Congregation.”

#### Our Call Statement

*We are called to be a community of faith, a welcome table, that celebrates the rich diversity of its membership as it serves and honors the diverse cultural and ethnic nature of Los Angeles and surrounding communities. We are called to be deeply grounded in the Word and Witness through the power of the Holy Spirit, being a prophetic voice for justice, healing and transformation. We are called to manifest the love of Christ as we share our various sources of capital with the community as well as being a witness to God's reign through celebrative worship and care for one another.*

We had a very engaging conversation which dealt with the responses shared during the previously held FIRST Talks. In addition to the questions and responses shared in the February 29 *First Baptist NEWS*, the members present also addressed the following questions and responses:

1) *What does the statement that has been used across the years to identify First Baptist Church “Making God's love known” mean to you?*

That the believers/members in their church have strived to make its presence in the local community surrounding its location as a visible reminder that God is still Alive & Well and on the throne as the Supreme Controller of human history & specially on this local church.

Showing your fruits of joy so people around you can see & believe.

Invite, reach out to others to join your fellowship.  
Hospitality

Help the economic needs of others when capable.

Visit the sick

Prayers

Sending cards to the sick when not able to visit them.

We also try to reach out to the community and inviting people to come to church, showing smiles and have an attitude of service.

2) *How do you respond to the message from today that reminds us that we are loved by God and that God is for us? How can we personify this love to transform our community?*

By walking the talk, living our lives as reflection of the teachings that Jesus Christ has taught us in the bible.

That means no matter how bad your day is going, someone, “GOD,” is always on your side. Don't worry, keep faith.

Whatever project we decide to do for the community we can be able to do it. Because if God is with us we can accomplish anything we want for our community.

It is truly understandable that we at times believe we are alone in this journey of life but we have to continue believing that God loves us and will provide us with all that we need and we can share this love with the community.

God wants to be in our lives and he wants to have fellowship with us although we may put it off, it's never too late until we reach the end of our lives.

3) *What does it mean to be “deeply grounded in the Word and Witness? How is First Baptist living out that statement today?*

That the church is still a visible landmark where believers/members continuously display & act out Christian love & concern to the surrounding communities by extending invitations to church activities that are designed to serve their interest.

It means to live in the word & be a witness and watch God's love manifest.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## CHURCH OFFICERS

**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

**Note:** *The Council of Ministries (Board of Trustees) is made up of those in **bold print**. The Council meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at 12:30 p.m.; all members are welcome to attend.*

## THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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

Find strategies to read and allow us to witness beyond the point of meeting us.

Being relatively new to the church, I would say that FBCLA is very grounded in the word of God and is doing an excellent job of witnessing to those in need of having the Lord in their lives. Of course, there is always room for improvement.

To be deeply grounded means to know and show the way of God. Witnessing by sharing God's love to others, how much he cares for them and also by living a good life style.

To be a true believer and follower. We offer comprehensive bible study class and a telephone prayer service on Wednesdays.

4) Describe a "what if" gift/idea that First Baptist can develop that will authenticate our call statement?

What if we all come together & put aside negative activities & stop saying "hurtful things"

We must empower ourselves with faith and to go and do whatever we must to witness the love of God.

Perhaps getting out into the community Saturday evenings to invite community members to the church or to church sponsored events. Allow our actions toward the community to demonstrate our call statement.

What if we allowed the homeless to sleep in the church at night?

We also talked about ways to engage more of our members in ministry here at First Baptist. We will have a follow up Forum on **Sunday, April 17 at 12:30 in Robbins Hall.**



### dlw Community Chorale, Special Guest Choir for Sunday, April 10

On Sunday, April 10, during our Morning Worship Experience at 11:00 a.m., our guest choir will be the dlw Community Chorale, under the direction of Dr. James Calhoun. This choral organization is made up of people of all ages, ethnic and religious affiliations who unite in a common effort to present the cultural diverse musical art form of choral singing. The dlw Community Chorale has performed at the Mormon Tabernacle in Utah and twice for the Korean multi-ethnic Messiah performance. The Chorale is dedicated to the performances of music by minority composers and their extended compositions that are not usually performed by church choirs during worship services (Oratorios, Cantatas, Anthems, traditional Gospel Music). Please invite a friend to join us as we are ministered to by this wonderful choir.

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

### Women's Ministry Luncheon and Kickoff

Women of all ages are invited to join us on Sunday, April 10 for a Women's Luncheon in Robbins Hall at 12:30 p.m. The purpose of this luncheon is to engage with the women at First Baptist in developing a ministry to and for women. Please contact Ann Brodie to RSVP and for further information.

### A Prayer Conditioned Church

Prayer is pivotal and essential. Prayer is meant to line us up to God's will. Prayer is our key to God's door. It is our foundation to the exercising of and growth in the faith, and essential in our witnessing. It is the work of Christ through the work of the Spirit that saves. Prayer lines us up to God's will and grows us in maturity and understanding. It is the power behind, in the midst of, and in front of the faith. To be effective in our growth in Christ, we have to be a church and a people who pray – and pray regularly.

*Do not attempt to do anything without prayer. God's Word tells us "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).*

The Bible instructs us that prayer is an important ingredient to our lives. We have three corporate opportunities for prayer at First Baptist. On Sundays at 9:15, we gather in the Moore Chapel for prayer and on Wednesdays, we gather for prayer with the Wednesday Prayer Call In from 6:00 a.m. to 6:21 a.m. Phone: (323) 645-9525 (there is no access code needed). We also gather on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the Moore Prayer Chapel. Come and join us! Your life will never be the same.

### Pastoral Search Committee Update:

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) met twice in March and has a work session scheduled in April. The PSC is currently finalizing the Senior Minister's Profile (answering the question, "What do we want in our next Pastor?"); a compensation and benefits package; and church marketing literature (describing the church's history, the neighborhood context, a community demographic profile and a description of our congregation).

The PSC has targeted April 15th as the deadline to complete these items. At that point, the PSC will initiate the process of soliciting names of potential candidates primarily from three sources: American Baptist Personnel Services (known as "ABPS") data base of ordained ministers nationwide; ABC's network of Executive Ministers; and ABC-USA's nationwide media outlets.

The PSC anticipates that from mid-April through the month of May, those names that are generated will be reviewed and vetted to assess whether there is a potential match between the individual, his or her educational and professional background and experience, and our vision as First Baptist Church of Los Angeles.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the PSC if you have any questions or input. I will provide ongoing regular updates of the Committee's work. Special thanks to our Interim Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Norman Bullock, who has continued to fulfill pastoral duties as we proceed with this important work. We invite your prayerful support as we enter this phase going forward.

In Christ, *Gerald G. Gubatan*  
PSC Chairman

### Car Donations

First Baptist Church has partnered with CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services) to accept car donations as a way to support the ministries and programs of our church. We are grateful to an anonymous member who made the first car donation last month. Please consider donating that unused car to First Baptist. Your support helps us fulfill our mission. Your donation today will support our programs. Each dollar we receive from your donation enables us to further our cause. Please visit the website below to make your car donation or for further information

<http://www.cardonatingiseasy.org/donate/?CharityID=3957> .

You call also call 855-500-7433.

### WHO IS LIKE YOU, JESUS?

Who is like You, Jesus, sweet Jesus?  
You are the light of those who are spiritually lost.  
You are the life of those who are spiritually dead.  
You are the liberation of those who are imprisoned by guilt.  
You are the glory of those who hate themselves.  
You are the guardian of those who are paralyzed by fear.  
You are the guide of those who are bewildered by falsehood.  
You are the peace of those who are in turmoil.  
You are the prince of those who yearn to be led.  
You are the priest of those who seek the truth.

– Johann Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

### NEWS SCHEDULE

The next issue of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **April 11, 2016**. Material and articles for the April 11<sup>th</sup> issue should arrive in the church office two weeks before publication, or **no later than 9:00 a.m. March 28**.

760 South Westmoreland Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90005



**SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016**

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Classes for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“FOOD AND FAITH”**

(Please read John 6:51-58 in preparation)

**REV. RICHARD S. ROGERS**, Preaching



**SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2016**

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Classes for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“A CONVERSATION ABOUT COMMITMENT  
AND A DIALOGUE ABOUT DEVOTION”**

(Please read John 21:15-19 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK**, Preaching

– dlw Community Chorale, Guest Choir –