

# 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](mailto:fbcla@fbcofla.org)

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

## FROM THE HEART OF THE INTERIM PASTOR The Interim Journey of First Baptist, Los Angeles: *Trusting God in the Transition*

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Here we are, in June. It seems like the year just began yesterday. The summer months are upon us. Summer is an opportunity for rest and relaxation. Many families use this time to take vacations. The summer is also a time to connect with family and friends and prepare for what lies ahead. There will be several opportunities for First Baptist to connect and engage during the summer. Small Groups will be formed during the summer to further prepare us for the selection of our new Pastor, plus activities including our Annual Community Block Party, Vacation Bible School and Friday Night at the Movies are just some of the activities that will capture our attention over the summer months.

For about a month, concluding on Sunday, May 29, the Pastor's Adult Bible Study Class engaged in dialogue and study about the role of the church, specifically First Baptist in the ministry of evangelism. Given the church's current place in our transitional journey, it is important not to forget one of the primary roles of the church in evangelization. We started our discussion looking at the definition that our denomination, American Baptist Churches, USA (ABC-USA) has developed:

*Evangelism is the joyous witness of the People of God to the redeeming love of God urging all to repent and to be reconciled to God and each other through faith in Jesus Christ who lived, died, and was raised from the dead, so that being made new and empowered by the Holy Spirit believers are incorporated as disciples into the church for worship, fellowship, nurture and engagement in God's mission of evangelization and liberation within society and creation, signifying the Kingdom which is present and yet to come.*

From this standpoint our discussion turned to scripture to better understand our role as a church in this awesome task and responsibility of sharing our faith with others. One of the scriptures that inspired us in our dialogue was Matthew 28:19-20 – what many of us refer to as the Great Commission:

*19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

We are comforted in the fact in knowing that God is with us! God is always present to us in all of life's changes scenes, especially when we are sharing our faith and the Good News – the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Through our discussion, we gain some insights:

- We must understand ourselves and find a way to intersect our stories with theirs. To accomplish this, we must pray and listen to the Holy Spirit.
- Evangelism is relational, involves friendships, we must see Jesus in others.
- Church structures can get in the way of evangelism.
- Evangelism is a relational experience
- We have to try to get each person to understand that they have a story to tell
- Don't assume that people come to Jesus because of the sin in their lives as much as they are attracted to the message of the Kingdom
- Evangelism is the foundation of everything we do, bringing people into relationship with Jesus Christ

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

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

### NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **June 20, 2016**. Material and articles for the June 20<sup>th</sup> issue should arrive in the church office two weeks before publication, or **no later than 9:00 a.m. June. 6**.

### THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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**STAFF:** Norman Bullock, *Interim Pastor*; Esther Sanchez, *Administration and Building Coordinator*. James Johnson, Josue Guevara, Odos Nabors, *Custodians*. Kyle Irwin, *Organist/Choirmaster*. Sandra Rogers, *Communications Coordinator*, Lisa Thomas, *Interim Building Facilitator*.

**CHURCH PHONE: (213) 384-2151**

**FAX : (213) 382-9669**

VISTA TOWER: (213) 386-2786

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

[www.FBCofLA.org](http://www.FBCofLA.org)

**email addresses:**

General: [fbcla@FBCofLA.org](mailto:fbcla@FBCofLA.org)

Norman Bullock: [NBullock@FBCofLA.org](mailto:NBullock@FBCofLA.org)

James Johnson: [JJohnson@FBCofLA.org](mailto:JJohnson@FBCofLA.org)

Sandra Rogers: [SandraBR@FBCofLA.org](mailto:SandraBR@FBCofLA.org)

Esther Sanchez: [ESanchez@FBCofLA.org](mailto:ESanchez@FBCofLA.org)

## FROM THE HEART OF THE INTERIM PASTOR (*continued*)

- The importance of both personal evangelism and group evangelism as a church as people join the body.
- Do we listen to statistics telling us church attendance is declining and become discouraged or do we continue to work to bring people into relationship with Jesus Christ? Do we view this challenge from David or Goliath's perspective?
- We need to evangelize our church to get out into the community

During the summer months, further small group discussion will help us to engage in the challenges and opportunities that come our way in the process and ministry of evangelization. Come share the transitional and transformational journey with us!

Your Servant Leader in the Faith,



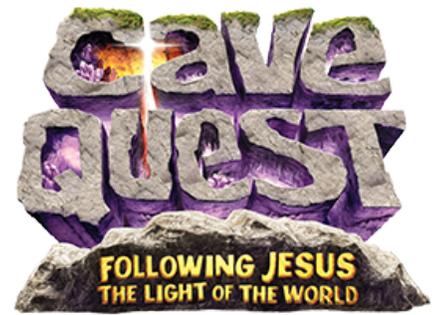
Norman Bullock

### 2016 GRADUATES

Another sign that summer is here is graduation. Congratulations to all those who have completed their course of study. Let us know if you have a graduate in your family so we can make others aware of this happy occasion in their lives. We will recognize all graduates on Christian Education Sunday, June 12. Our Children and Youth will be leading us in worship on that day.



Please contact the church office at (213) 384-2151 if you or your child will be graduating this year. We want to celebrate and recognize you!



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

The week that will change your life takes place **July 11-15, 2016** at First Baptist Church, Los Angeles from 4:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Join us as we follow Jesus, the Light of the World. *Cave Quest* includes dramatic and interactive programs, sports and games, Bible Quests, and Imagination Stations which allows the children to wiggle and move to explore the Bible in active ways. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Linda Zaretsky or contact the church office during the week for further information. Come and join us!

Preceding VBS, we will hold our **Annual Community Block Party** on **Saturday, July 9** from 10 :00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be fun, food, and festivities for the entire family. Don't miss out on all the fun!

### FROM OUR MAILBAG

Dear Friends at First Baptist:

Thank you, thank you. The last big lily finally decided enough was enough. This plant will join the other Easter and Christmas plants which are growing under the overhang of our bougainvillea plant – they are getting along just fine.

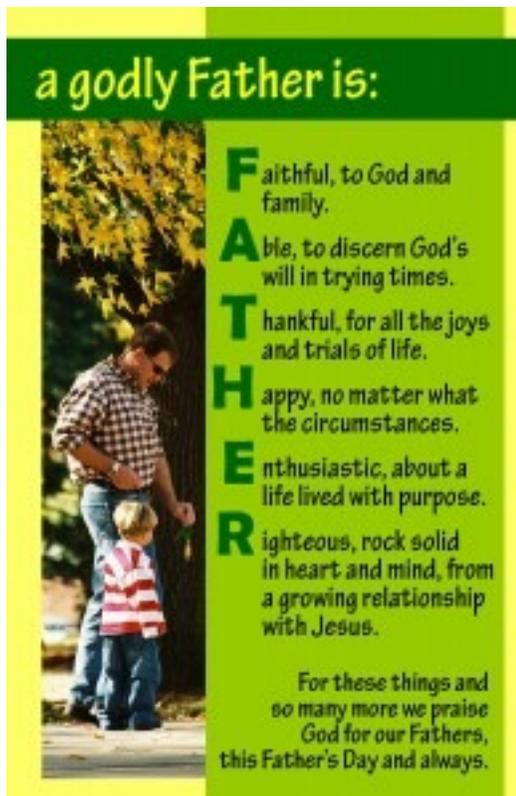
We have many good memories of our years among you.

– Penny & Fred Essex

## FROM THE HEART OF THE INTERIM PASTOR *(continued)*

### FATHER'S DAY – JUNE 19

One of God's greatest blessings is God's gift of special people, Fathers – the ones who touch our days with joy, fill our hearts with gratitude, and bring God's love to life. We will celebrate Fathers and the gift of fatherhood during our Worship experience on June 19. All fathers present will receive a special gift.



### FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS

**Friday, June 24 at 7:00 p.m.**

*What If...*

Wallace (Daniel Radcliffe) is a medical school dropout who's been repeatedly burned by bad relationships while everyone around him seems to be finding the perfect partner, including his friend Allan (Adam Driver) in girlfriend Nicole (Mackenzie Davis). Wallace decides to put his love life on hold. It is then that he meets Chantry (Zoe Kazan), an animator who lives with her longtime boyfriend Ben (Rafe Spall). Wallace and Chantry form an instant connection, striking up a close friendship. There is no denying the chemistry between them, leading the pair to wonder, what if the love of your life is actually your best friend?

**Friday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m.**

*The Moment After*

In the twinkling of an eye, a mass disappearance has occurred. Moments after the turmoil and confusion, the FBI is called in to investigate and locate the missing persons. For Agent Adam Riley (David White), it is personal. For Agent Charles Baker (Kevin Downes), it doesn't matter, it's just a job. Before long the investigation turns toward a mysterious man (Brad Heller) who seems to be raising up a para-military organization. Does this man hold the key to the truth that the world is searching for?

**Friday, August 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

*The Moment After 2*

After a dramatic escape from death row, former FBI agent Adam Riley (David White) reunites with his friend and mentor, Jacob Krause (Brad Heller), leader of The Way, and his small remnant of Christians. Little do they know the forces out for their destruction. Global Alliance leader Commander Fredericks (Monte Perlin) has forced Adam's former partner Charles Baker (Kevin Downes) to hunt them down while ragtag militia, led by "Captain" Jackson (Lonnie Colon), spy on them for their own gain. As events lead to an explosive confrontation, all will be forced to an awakening of the real struggle...for their very souls.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)

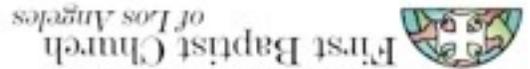
When you take a global view of our world, natural disasters occur every week. If you include disasters of human origin—especially in the past year—the opportunity to respond to people in need is even more frequent. The larger disasters are captured by our news media, and word of these tragedies is brought into our homes. It is difficult to imagine the suffering of those whose lives are forever changed. But many needs of our world—whether in a neighboring state or half the world away—remain uncovered by our news media. However, with our extensive network of international and domestic partners, American Baptists are able to make a difference wherever and whenever disaster strikes.

2015 was a year punctuated by many man-made disasters—think Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, Nigeria and South Sudan. These situations have uprooted millions of people. In fact, according to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), at the end of 2014 there were over 60 million people who were refugees, displaced in their own country or seeking asylum. That's the highest number since the end of World War II! Yes, your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing brought relief in many of these situations.

Please give as generously as you are able as receive OGHS during the month of June.

**One Great  
HOUR  
OF SHARING**

760 South Westmoreland Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90005



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Classes for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“PURSUING THE RIGHT KIND OF WISDOM”**

(Please read Proverbs 3:13-18 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK**, Preaching



## FATHER’S DAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2016

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Classes for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“THE MODEL FATHER”**

(Please read Luke 15:11-32 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK**, Preaching