

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Summer is truly here. With the arrival of summer, many thoughts turn to vacations. Summer is a time to delight in the wonders of God's Creation. We can hardly wait for the warm summer days to spend time at parks, beaches, and any place that takes us into the beauty and wonder that is a Southern California summer. Summer will also be a time of connecting and fellowship as we continue to pray, plan and prepare for the transformation that is already at work at First Baptist. With events like Vacation Bible School, Community Block Club, Play More Summer Activities, Spiritual Gift Small Groups happening in July and the church picnic happening in August, there will be a busy summer at First Baptist. The tendency is for some members to take a "stay-cation" from church during the summer months. I encourage you to prove them wrong and join your First Baptist Family in prayer, praise, worship, study and fellowship.

A wonderful day of worship, fellowship and recognition was had during Christian Education Sunday recently. It was a day to celebrate the Sunday School, our Youth Small Groups and other Christian Education focused ministries within the church; recognize teachers, leaders, volunteers and lift up the importance of Christian Education. Our Children and Youth led us in worship. We recognized all graduates (kindergarten, elementary, middle school, high school, and college) at a reception following the morning worship service in Robbins Hall.

Also, as we continue to pray and prepare as the pastoral search committee continues its work, our sermon focus for the months of July and August will be on the book of Joshua with specific focus on how the Israelites transitioned from their wilderness experience to the crossing of the Jordan River and the preparation that this transformation involved. Every change, however big or small, is a test. Every change is a trial that God allows to see how we'll respond.

Today is no different. As I was thinking about this situation we're all in, the one book in the Bible that kept tugging at me was the book of Joshua. Why? The book of Joshua is about change. It marks the end of one period of Israel's history and the beginning of a new period.

The book begins with the death of Moses. Moses had led the people out of slavery in Egypt. He led them in the wilderness. But now Moses is gone. And so the question is, "Who will lead the people now, as they go forth to conquer the land?" The people have left Egypt, but the exodus is really only half complete. They still haven't entered the new Eden of the promised land, the land flowing with milk and honey. In the midst of transition, you may have many questions and moments of uncertainty. Please join us throughout the months of July and August where we will learn from the wisdom expressed in the book of Joshua about transitions.

With Hope,

Norman Bullock

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!



USHERS AND GREETERS NEEDED!

Are you looking for a way to get involved at First Baptist? We are seeking a few willing people to join our team of ushers and greeters. As an usher you'll welcome members and visitors to worship, and collect the offering. Please contact the Esther in the church office if you are interested!



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PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

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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 **July 18, 2016**. Material and articles for the July 18th issue should arrive in the church office two weeks before publication, or **no later than 9:00 a.m. July 5**.

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR (*continued*)



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WOMEN'S RE-LAUNCH MINISTRY

The women of First Baptist have held three meetings: April 10th, June 5th and June 26th with an average attendance of 15 women. As women, we voiced our enthusiasm to be faithful, spiritual and a working ministry of our church.

Ministry Name: Sisters of Faith

Mission Statement: Women coming together for change in support of the ministries of First Baptist Church.

At our June 26th gathering, we selected a Leadership Council consisting of: Etna Morales, Linda Pineda, Kelsey Mobley, Anika Morton, Denie Sturm, and Ann Brodie to provide the leadership in further developing this ministry.

Some of the Programs and activities discussed include:

- Women's Chorus to provide music during the worship service quarterly
- Book Club
- Women's' Day followed by a luncheon
- Monthly Bible Studies studying the women of the Bible
- Prayer circles
- Adopt a Missionary Project (for example, Christmas time "Make a Wish")
- Distribute toys to our neighborhood children
- Participate in December boutique sponsored by Ebenezer Ministry

– Ann Brodie,

Women's Ministry Facilitator

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you a photographer? Do you have photos of events that have happened recently at First Baptist? Are you gifted in visual arts and creativity? If so, we need you! Over the summer, we will be sprucing up our hallways and the bulletin boards throughout the ground level of the church. Please see Pastor Bullock, if you are interested.

UP-DATING CHURCH RECORDS

Due to the limited number of respondents last month, we continue this month requesting all members to assist us in updating our membership records for the upgrade of our computer membership database. Please complete the insert from the Weekly Sunday Bulletin. You may also request a form from Esther Sanchez in the church office.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Church Picnic on Sunday, August 21, 2016 following the Sunday Worship Service from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Griffith Park – Crystal Springs. There will be food, fun and fellowship. More info to come.

Community Block Party and Open House on Saturday, August 27 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!

IN MEMORIAN

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

CÉSAR MASCAREÑAS

Deceased June 12, 2016
Church Member 1995-2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR
(continued)

FIRST BAPTIST MEN GATHER FOR FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The men of First Baptist gathered for breakfast on Saturday, June 11 in Robbins Dining Hall to fellowship and hear from one another about the possibility of forming a connection group in strengthening the bond of fellowship among the men at First Baptist. There were 16 males present at the fellowship breakfast. After opening remarks and the statement of purpose by Pastor Bullock, the men gathered spoke about the need to connect with other men as we embrace our future and adopt to change. The men present embraced the need for a ministry to fellowship, pray, discuss men’s issues and support the church.

Pastor Bullock mentioned the following statistics about failure of the church to disciple men effectively:

Studies show that for every ten men in the average church:

- 9 will have kids who leave the church
- 8 will not find their jobs satisfying
- 6 will pay monthly minimum on credit cards
- 5 have a major problem with pornography
- 4 will get divorced affecting 1,000,000 children each year
- Only 1 will have a biblical worldview
- All 10 will struggle to balance family & work

Jesus built the church by first discipling men. Jesus was radical in his day because he treated women and children with great dignity. But he built the foundation of the church by investing heavily in 11 men.

In our fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20), we recognize that men have different life struggles than women, young teens, or even seniors. We face different hurdles, carry different responsibilities, and respond differently to the challenges laid before us. So, we purposefully create a safe environment for men to fellowship, establish relationships with each other, share our experiences, and grow spiritually as we strengthen our walk as disciples.

The next gathering for the Men’s Fellowship will be Saturday, August 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Robbins Dining Hall. Please join us! Special thanks are extended to Maxine McFarland, James Johnson and Santiago Morales for preparing the breakfast.

IN APPRECIATION

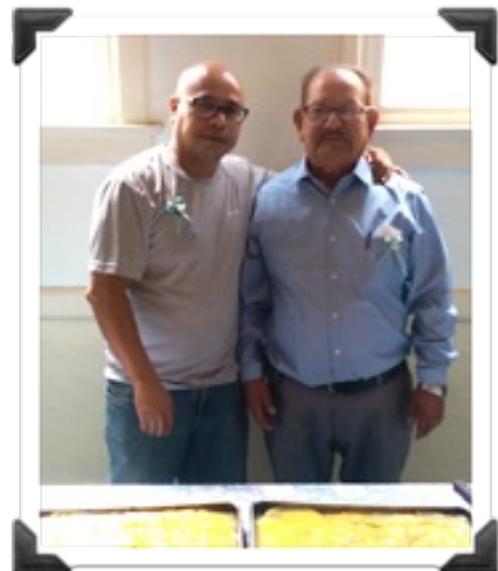
Dear Church Family:

We both thank you for the honor of choosing us for this year’s Arlo Reichter Award in Christian Education. It has been our privilege to serve in any way that we can.

– Etna and Santiago Morales

FATHER’S DAY

On Father’s Day, June 19, Antonio and Maria Barajas hosted coffee and light lunch honoring all of the father’s in the congregation.





SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“FAITH IN UNEXPECTED PLACES”

(Please read Joshua 2:1-14 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching



SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“CROSSING JORDAN”

(Please read Joshua 3:1-17 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching