

# THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS



Published by **The First Baptist Church of Los Angeles**  
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AUGUST 15, 2016

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

## ALL-CHURCH PICNIC



SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 21, 2016

*JOIN IN THE FUN!*



from **1:00 to 4:00 pm.**

at **Griffith Park,**  
**Crystal Springs**

**\$5 per person**

*Fun, Fellowship,*  
*Games, Food*



## HOPE-NET'S ANNUAL TASTE OF LARCHMONT

Hope-Net's Annual Fundraiser, **A Taste of Larchmont**, will be held on Monday, **August 29** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Larchmont Blvd. featuring over 20 great restaurants. Theme: **"Kick Off on Larchmont"** celebrating the return of professional football to Los Angeles. Tickets are **\$40 per person**.

Raffle tickets are also available for \$5 each or 5 for \$20 featuring great prizes and gift baskets.

Go to <http://hopenetla.org/tol/> for more details or to purchase your event tickets and raffle tickets.

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 event is highly anticipated by the community and is very family-friendly. The Taste of Larchmont is Hope-Net's primary fund-raising event each year.

Hope-Net, created in 1988 by First Baptist and other Mid-Wilshire congregations, is an interfaith community organization committed to eliminating hunger and homelessness by providing food, shelter and self-help assistance to families and individuals. Last year, Hope-Net provided food for over 300,000 persons locally.

Community **Block Party** and **Open House** on Saturday, **August 27** from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** There will be fun, food, and festivities for the entire family. Don't miss out on all the fun!

### NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **August 29, 2016**. Material and articles for the August 29<sup>th</sup> issue should arrive in the church office two weeks before publication, or **no later than 9:00 a.m. August 15**.

### 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.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

Dear Friends:

August marks a time of transition. Summer is fading. Fall is near. If you have not had a chance to take your vacation, it'll have to be rushed because school starts shortly. There are back to school sales by retailers. Churches are preparing for the return of its parishioners after a summer break. Pastors are sneaking in last minute retreats and vacations. Our nation is in the home stretch of a presidential election season.

We are a nation and a people in flux. Although we may be in flux, God is not in flux, even if we are. God is the same, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). God longs for our worship. God is clear that the kind of worship that brings joy to God leads to a life that demonstrates God's peace and restoration.

As we continue our various transitions, we'll need faith to help us to navigate our way. We have been learning this valuable trait and gift during our sermon series in the book of Joshua, a book that chronicles the transformation of the children of Israel as they transitioned from the wilderness to the promised land. In the third installment on July 17, we were encouraged by the faith of Rahab, a harlot, a lady of the night in how she trusted God for her salvation and was used by God to save others.

Another important lesson concerning faith came during the sermon on "Crossing Jordan" taken from Joshua 3. We each have our Jordans to cross. The Jordan River represents a place of transition and transformation. The Jordan River experience also requires another level of faith because it is at the banks of the Jordan where we run the risk of being embarrassed and drowned. Crossing the Jordan requires consecration and trusting God, and our participation.

God invites us to partner with God in the transforming journey that will prepare us for the next phase of her ministry. However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"— the things God has prepared for those who love him. (I Cor 2:9).

With Hope,

Norman Bullock

### HOMEcoming and 142<sup>nd</sup> CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We are planning a special worship celebration for Homecoming Sunday, **September 18, 2016**. Special Music and reflections will be shared about our historic journey as a congregation of committed believers. We are inviting all of our members (past, present and future), families and friends to join us. It will be an unforgettable day of worship, fellowship and inspiration.

The Homecoming Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, shall be held at 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California on Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for the purpose of hearing reports, election of officers, and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before such meeting.

— David McFadden, *Church Clerk* and Shirley Parsley, *Moderator*

**A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR *(continued)***

**EBENEZER DAY and REUNION SUNDAY**

National Hispanic Heritage Month is the period from September 15 to October 15 in the United States, when people recognize the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate the group's heritage and culture. During this time, First Baptist Church will recognize the many accomplishments of Hispanic and Latino Americans to this congregation. **September 25 will be Ebenezer Emphasis Sunday.** Members of the Ebenezer Ministry will lead us in worship. There will be a celebration luncheon at 12:30 in Robbins Dining Hall. All former and present members of Ebenezer are invited to join us. We are planning an Ebenezer Reunion Choir to share during the Morning Worship on that day.

**CAR DONATIONS**

Summertime is almost gone! And that means... the long adventurous road trips with air conditioners running full blast are coming to an end – both, of which, can take a toll on any car. With the high cost of car repairs, and the new 2017 models rolling out in the fall, *now* is the perfect time to remember the First Baptist Church Car Donation program in partnership with CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services) that accept car donations as a way to support the ministries and programs of our church.

The end of year will be upon us before we know it. So...you should start thinking about donating that unused car or truck to First Baptist Church with the proceeds used to enhance the ministries of First Baptist. Please visit the website below to make your car donation or for further information <http://www.cardonatingeasy.org/donate/?CharityID=3957> . You call also call 855-500-7433.

**CHURCH OFFICERS**

- Moderator:** Shirley Parsley
- Church Clerk:** David McFadden
- Treasurer:** Ann Brodie
- Council of Ministries – At Large**
  - Gerald Gubatan      Marta Torres
  - Alma Pineda          Linda Zaretsky
  - Richard Rogers
- Spiritual Gifts Ministry**
  - John Sturm, Coordinator
  - Maria Juarez          Kenneth Mercier
  - Ben Marte              Santiago Morales

**FROM OUR PHOTO ALBUM**



*More photos from 2016 VBS, July 11-15.*



*Below: On July 24, Nalis Mercier told a Children's Story.*



**PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

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

760 South Westmoreland Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90005



## SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2016

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Classes for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“FACING THE CHALLENGE”**

(Please read Joshua 6:1-21 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK**, Preaching

**1:00 p.m.**

All-Church **Picnic** at Griffith Park



## SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2016

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Classes for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“STARTING OVER...AGAIN”**

(Please read Joshua 8:1-8 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK**, Preaching