

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

Volume LXXXV

No. 3

FEBRUARY 13, 2017

An American Baptist Congregation Making God's Love Known in Los Angeles Since 1874

International • Intercultural • Ecumenical

FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

First Baptist Church is known for its cultural diversity. As we continue in this transition, with a goal of unity and fellowship, we will continue to offer opportunities to celebrate our cultural diversity including African American, Asian Pacific American, Hispanic and Latino American, and American Indian cultures. During the month of February, we will celebrate Black History Month with a special worship celebration on Sunday, February 26 during our Morning Worship Experience at 11am followed by a Soul Food Luncheon immediately following in Robbins Hall.

Black History Month each February is a time set aside to honor African Americans who have made contributions in the United States and around the world. Harvard-educated historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson implemented a time of year to recognize the achievements of blacks because the history books of his era largely ignored the contributions African Americans made to U.S. Society.

I also want to take this opportunity to encourage our members to support and attend the opportunities for learning and growing through our Sunday School on Sundays at 9:30am. There are classes for all ages. In this space over the next few issues, I want to highlight some of the Christian Education/Small Group experiences that take place on Sunday mornings. The Pastor's Adult Bible Class is currently in a series called "Experiencing God" with major focus and attention on the 12-week study "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God" by Henry and Richard Blackaby. The goal of this experience is to lead our members into a deeper relationship with God.

The structure of the series is centered on what Blackaby calls the "Seven Realities of Experiencing God." They are:

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.

It is my prayer that you will commit during 2017 to becoming more active in opportunities for Christian Education such as Sunday School. See you in Sunday School!

With Hope,

Norman Bullock

FROM OUR PHOTO ALBUM



Boys and Girls in the Saturday PlayMore program



New art work displayed on the hallway bulletin board and organized by the Sisters of Faith.



Esther Trinh, daughter of Carolina and John Trinh, celebrates her fourth birthday with cake during the coffee fellowship hour on February 5, 2017

CHURCH OFFICERS 2016-2017

Moderator: Ann Brodie
Church Clerk: Alma Pineda
Treasurer: Shirley Parsley

Council Members-at-large:
Gerald Gubatan
Nalis Mercier
John Sturm
Marta Torres
Linda Zaretsky

Spiritual Gifts Ministry:
David McFadden, Coordinator
James Johnson
Kenneth Mercier
Santiago Morales
Lee Strand

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

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

USPS 194-440)
Annual Subscription Rate:
\$10.00 per year

Published biweekly by First Baptist Church, 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90005. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Baptist Church NEWS, 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California, 90005.

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*. Kyle Irwin, *Organist/Choirmaster*. Sandra Rogers, *Communications Coordinator*. Lisa Thomas, *Interim Building Manager*. Cynthia Felton, *Interim Worship Arts Director*.

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

email addresses:

General: FBCLA@FBCofLA.org

Norman Bullock: NBullock@FBCofLA.org

Cynthia Felton: CFelton@FBCofLA.org

James Johnson: JJohnson@FBCofLA.org

Sandra Rogers: SandraBR@FBCofLA.org

Esther Sanchez: ESanchez@FBCofLA.org

Lisa Thomas: LThomas@FBCofLA.org

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH: RUTH McKINNEY

The American Baptist Churches USA has a rich history concerning its diversity, ranging from gender leadership to minority leadership. Ruth McKinney (1900- 1966) is a proud representation of both as she is perhaps one of the most prominent names in ABC history. An influential speaker and leader, McKinney is the first Black woman to hold a top office in the American Baptist Convention.

McKinney's roots were an early indication of her Baptist leadership. The daughter of a reverend, Annie Ruth Berry was born in Birmingham, Alabama to Reverend Samuel and Ada Virginia Berry. She was educated at both Spelman College and Columbia University. Ruth was working as a college teacher when she married her husband, Wade, in 1924.

Wade Hampton McKinney was born in Cleveland, Georgia, in 1892. He attended Atlanta Baptist College Academy, Morehouse College, and Colgate Rochester Theological Seminary. Furthermore, he served in the U.S. Army during World War I. Ruth and Wade McKinney can be revered as one of the many Black power couples of their time.

With the migration of African Americans to northern cities in the 1920s and 1930s in search of industrial work, many flooded into the Cedar-Central neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio. This added to the congregational numbers of neighborhood churches. Most recognizable was Antioch Baptist Church because of its leadership role in the community. Antioch provided financial support for other neighborhood churches, and supported the NAACP.

Reverend Wade McKinney was called upon to lead Antioch Baptist



Church in 1928. He is revered as one of the most important and influential leaders in Antioch's history, serving the Church for 28 years. During that period, Ruth worked as a teacher at

the Church School and also served as the youth choir director for 33 years.

Ruth and Wade were pivotal figures not only in the Christian Church community, but also within the African American community as civic leaders. In 1947, Reverend Wade worked to establish a credit union to aid returning African American veterans as well as local residents in securing loans. In addition, he served as a spokesman for the community, leading many voter registration campaigns and serving on the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury.

As the wife of an esteemed minister, and as an achieved and educated woman, Ruth became active in the affairs of religious organizations across the nation. She was in great demand as a speaker. Beginning in 1952, she began broadcasting 1-minute radio "Thot-O-Grams" which included brief, inspirational messages under the supports of the United Church Women of Cleveland.

In addition, McKinney was also a member of the vice presidents board in the National Council of American Baptist Women in the Division of Christian Service during the mid-50s. Independently, McKinney saw the importance of the woman's presence in the church.

*by Shabria Caldwell
American Baptist Historical Society*

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) has made progress in the process to find a Senior Minister. A church profile describing First Baptist Church - who we are and what is our vision for ministry - and defining the qualifications and experience we are seeking in our next Senior Minister has been posted on the ABC-USA Ministry Opportunities Listing and the website of the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii, our denominational regional office. The PSC has also been reviewing the names of potential candidates provided through the denomination's American Baptist Personnel Services.

On behalf of the PSC, I would like to thank all members for their ongoing prayers, support, patience and understanding. I am reminded that First Baptist Church is over 142 years young: in God's time, the congregation shall find our next Shepherd to lead us in our next phase of church life. Special heartfelt thanks is extended to our Interim Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Norman Bullock, and his family, who have provided important pastoral leadership during this transitional period.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any PSC Member if you have questions or wish to share comments: Zuleima Argumedo, Rev. Daniel Choi, David McFadden, Shirley Parsley, Alma Pineda, Richard Rogers and Marta Torres.

In Christ, *Gerald G. Gubatan*,
PSC Chairman



Guest violinist Chelsea Sharpe performs "Soon Ah Will be Done," an African American spiritual, accompanied by Kyle Irwin on the piano during the morning worship service on February 5, 2017, as part of the church's commemoration of African American History Month.

ABCOFLASH EQUIP 2017 "REFRESH AND RENEW" – MARCH 4 AT GLENDALE FIRST BAPTIST

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

at First Baptist Church of Glendale/Regional Resource Center
209 N. Louise Street, Glendale

\$20 per person

Church leaders are invited to come for a day of training to refresh your vision for ministry and renew our commitment to serving. Bring a team of leaders from your church to be equipped in their area of ministry! Let God rekindle your flame for serving Him!

Ephesians 4:11-12 "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

For more information: <http://abcoflash.org/event/equip>



First Baptist Church
of Los Angeles

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005

PERIODICAL

FEBRUARY 13, 2017

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

REV. CHARLES SHAWVER, Guest Preacher



THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017 – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“YOUR DESTINY IS CALLING YOU OUT OF THAT PIT”

(Please read Genesis 41:1-7; 14-16; 39-45 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching

12:30 p.m.

All-Church Luncheon in the Robbins Dining Hall

PAGE 4