

# THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS



Published by **The First Baptist Church of Los Angeles**

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MARCH 13, 2017

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

**International • Intercultural • Ecumenical**

## FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

As we enter the third week of Lent, which is a 40 day period of fasting, prayer and reflection in preparation for the day Christians celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are reminded about the practice of spiritual disciplines as a key component in strengthening and deepening our relationship with God and one another.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the very heart of Christianity. The good news of the gospel is that God has acted in history to conquer evil and reconcile sinners to himself through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. For those who have been united with this Jesus – who have submitted to Him as savior and Lord – have been united with Him in the likeness of His death and will one day be united with Him in the likeness of His resurrection (Rom. 6:5). Lent, therefore, is about living out of our union with, and identity in, Christ. Lent is first and foremost about the gospel making its way deeper into our lives.

The number forty carries great biblical significance based on: the forty days of rain Noah and his family endured in the flood, the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness, Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness, the forty days Jesus spent on the earth before his resurrection, and so much more. Forty days has been used by God to represent a period of trial, testing, and preparation.



During Lent, we encourage your journey with us by:

1. Walking with us daily through the scriptures highlighting the disciplines Jesus practiced (you will receive a bulletin insert each week delineating those scriptures).
2. Selecting a food item, drink or practice you will abstain from.
3. Selecting a spiritual practice or activity you will adopt.
4. Accept the Weekly Incremental Prayer Challenge of spending at least five minutes a day in prayer/devotion. Each week that time is increased by 5 minutes – for example, the week of March 20, our goal should be to spend 15 minutes per day in prayer and devotion.

The goal is to join together corporately, on one accord as we prepare our hearts, minds and spirits to experience anew the power of the resurrection not just on Easter Sunday but everyday as we live as witnesses to that power in the world.

With Hope,

Norman Bullock

## 2017 ABC-USA BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT: JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2017 IN PORTLAND, OR

Individual registration is open for the Biennial Mission Summit, June 30-July 2, 2017, to be held in Portland, Oregon at the Oregon Convention Center. There are two important dates to be aware of: Early Registration closes on March 15, 2017, and Individual Registration closes on June 15, 2017. When individuals register before March 15, 2017, they will pay a lower rate at registration. Individuals may learn more or register online.



2017 BIENNIAL

MISSION   
SUMMIT

AN AMERICAN BAPTIST GATHERING  
PORTLAND, OREGON • JUNE 30-JULY 2

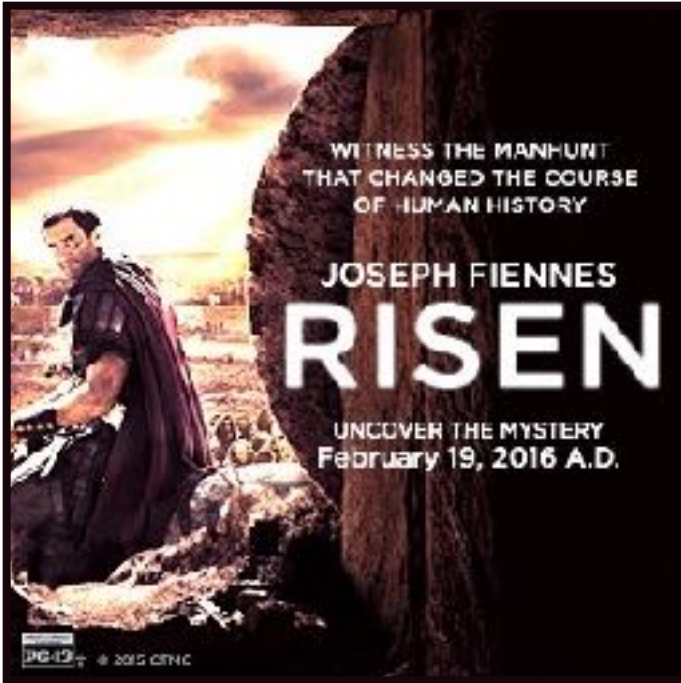
The theme of the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit is "Connect!" This is an invitation for all American Baptists to connect with one another at the event. The Biennial Mission Summit begins with worship Friday night, June 30, 2017,

Complete details can be found on the event website at



[www.americanbaptists2017.com](http://www.americanbaptists2017.com)

**MARCH 31 FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: RISEN**



*Risen* is the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection, as told through the eyes of a non-believer. Clavius (Joseph Fiennes), a powerful Roman military tribune, and his aide, Lucius (Tom Felton), are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the weeks following the crucifixion, in order to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem.

Join us on Friday evening, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. to view this film, in the Robbins Dining Hall.

**ABCOFLASH EVENTS**

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES DODGER NIGHT: APRIL 28**

Dodgers vs. Phillies  
Enjoy a night of baseball followed by fireworks!  
Sign-up **deadline is March 26** for FBCLA members to sign-up.

**YOUTH WORSHIP NIGHT: MAY 6**

Join with youth from our region for a night of fellowship and worship!

**YOUNG ADULT MISSION TRIP: SEPTEMBER 2-5, 2016**

Just south of the US border in Tijuana, Mexico is Deborah's House, a haven for abused women and children, victims of domestic violence.

\$250 per person (includes meals, stay at Deborah's House, and transportation)

\$100 Deposit due July 26

*Mandatory Pre-Meeting: June 27, 7:00 p.m. at the Regional Resource Center, Glendale, CA*  
Must have a valid U.S. Passport

**LENTEN PRAYER**

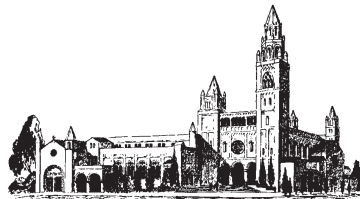
O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.

*– Ephrem the Syrian, (4th century)*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR MARCH EVENTS**



**March 18 - Diaconate Meeting,**  
Robbins Dining Hall

**March 19 - Church Council Meeting** in the Babcock Room

**March 26 - Understanding & Embracing Our Culture** in Robbins Dining Hall

**March 31 – Apr 1 - CTMA Impact Convention** at the Pasadena Convention Center

**March 31 - Family Movie night,** 7 p.m. in Robbins Dining Hall (“Risen”)

**NEWS DEADLINE**

The next issue of *The First Baptist NEWS* will be published on **March 27, 2017**. Material and articles for the March 27<sup>th</sup> issue should arrive in the church office two weeks before publication.

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# 2017 WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

We want to thank the congregation for making possible that our youth participated in the Winter Youth Retreat this past February 18–20.. Youth participants were **Sophia Aguilar, Saul Martinez, Lendy Martinez, Angie Loaisiga, Sofia Herrera and Matias Herrera.**

Each of our youth participated in small groups with other youth from Los Angeles area Baptist churches, making them reflect on the love of God and forgiveness, then concluding with a re-commitment in their relationship with God.

Thank you again for your support and prayers.

– Jose Herrera



**The Winter Youth Retreat** is attended by over 200 youth every winter. The goal is to provide a “spiritual marker” event that builds the community within youth groups and among youth from different churches. There is dynamic worship and a speaker that connects with young people – many make first time commitments to Christ and commitments to following Christ.





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of Los Angeles

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PERIODICAL

MARCH 13, 2017

## SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Class for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS AT THE WELL”**

(Please read John 4:1-13; 19-24 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK**, Preaching



## SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Class for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“JESUS, THE BLIND MAN AND YOU”**

(Please read John 9:1-11; 38 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK**, Preaching

**12:30 p.m.**

“Understand and Embracing our Culture” in the Robbins Dining Hall

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