

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. 15

JULY 17, 2017

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

July 6, 2017

Dear Church Members:

The Pastoral Search Committee recently narrowed its search to one person. Our candidate decided to accept an offer from another church.

The Committee has been working diligently to fulfill its task to identify and recommend a candidate to the congregation. The Committee recently identified a highly qualified candidate, one with both a Masters in Divinity and Social Work and experience in urban ministry and missionary work. After completing a full interview process and observing the candidate preach from a neutral pulpit, the Committee agreed the candidate would be our final recommendation. The candidate had multiple offers and ultimately accepted a position with a church in Connecticut.

While we view this most recent action as a momentary setback, the Committee is committed to the serious work of finding a Shepard who will help lead First Baptist Church into its future. There are other candidates to be considered, and we will be redirecting our time and energy to vetting other candidates.

In the meantime, we cannot say enough how grateful we are for your faith, continued support, patience and understanding. First Baptist Church has come a long way over the last 141 years, growing and changing as the City has evolved yet continuing to make God's Love known in Jesus Christ to the people of Los Angeles. We appreciate your ongoing prayers and support.

If you have questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at gxgg@att.net or (213) 590-9992, or see me at church!

With Hope,



Gerald Gubatan
Chairman
Pastoral Search Committee

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Over the past few Sundays, I have been sharing sermons with you about the importance of the body of Christ, which is a wonderful image of the church. We are the hands, eyes, feet, and mouth of Christ. This discussion is important in light of our context at this time in our transition. The fellowship of the believers within the church is a self giving, sacrificial and binding love. There is no touch and go fellowship! We are truly a family! How can we attend a church week after week without even knowing most of our fellow Christians? The early church in Acts 2 was all about

personal, intimate loving fellowship with each other. This text in Acts 2 greatly helps us to understand what it means to have an intimate fellowship of love. Acts 2:41-47 describes the church's first love and thus it describes the deeds that one who has lost his first love must once again do. The early church in Jerusalem may not be the perfect pattern for all that we do as a church today, but it is an excellent example of a church that is marked by love – love for God and love for others. We pray that our church would not only do the right things, but that it would do them as acts of genuine love, for God and for others. May we be characterized by the devotion, awe, generosity, and joy that we find in the early church, to the glory of God.

As we look throughout the New Testament, we continuously become aware of the importance of the fellowship of love. The Greek word translated “fellowship” is *koinonia*, and it occurs in some very pivotal verses. Like many other Greek words, it has several meanings that overlap to some extent. *Koinonia* can refer to intimate participation and full sharing with others, such as in the verses that speak of our “fellowship” with Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:9; 10:16). It can refer to the sharing of our lives with one another (Gal. 2:9). The word “intimate” in this definition is important, because it brings in an aspect of personal openness that might otherwise be missed. Someone once defined “intimacy” as “in to me see,” which is accurate and clear. It is amazing the extent to which we can be with others and never let them see into us. Many people can talk for hours without ever letting the listener “see” into them. That may be wise to do “on the street,” but it is certainly not how fellowship, *koinonia*, is supposed to work among Christians.

There is great profit and growth when we get to share with other Christians, who we are, what we believe, and what we plan to do for the Lord. Therefore, if we are not part of a group that allows us to actually “fellowship,” engage in intimate joint-participation, we should seek one out and become a part of it. Thankfully, Jesus told us that such a group does not have to be large. “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:20).

God knows that when Christians are deeply connected with Him and with other Christians on a heart level it is healing, rewarding, and empowering, so He made intimate joint-participation with Him and other Christians a foundational part of the Christian faith. Now each Christian has the joy and privilege of learning to tone down the influences of the flesh and to experience true fellowship with God and with Christ. When it comes to our relationships with other Christians, we have the blessing and freedom to seek out other Christians with whom we can truly “fellowship,” that is, enter into intimate joint-participation that will enrich each of our lives, help our walk, and contribute to our walking before the Lord at our full potential. As we continue to intentionally create opportunities for fellowship for this community of faith, let's not just “meet,” let's “fellowship in love.”

With Hope,



Norman Bullock

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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. TUESDAY, two weeks prior** to publication.

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NEWS DEADLINE

The next issue of *The First Baptist NEWS* will be published on **JULY 31, 2017**. Material and articles for the July 31ST issue should arrive in the church office by **July 18**.

SAVE THE DATE

Community BLOCK PARTY on Saturday, **August 26** 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!



Annual CHURCH PICNIC on Sunday, **September 10** 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.



HOUSING NEEDED

A recent college graduate, a member of Lakeshore Ave. Baptist Church in Oakland where Jim Hopkins is senior minister, is looking for housing beginning in August, while she attends graduate school at USC. Jim Hopkins is asking if anyone from First Baptist, has or knows of housing for this young woman. If you are interested in exploring this possibility, contact the church office, or you can contact Jim Hopkins directly at jim@labcoakland.org for more information.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



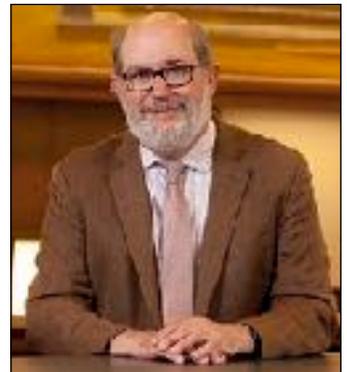
On July 3, we welcomed our newest members with a luncheon. Each member received a church membership certificate. From left: Amy Shellmire, Diane Carroll, Lisa Thomas, Tomi Thompson, Greg Spruell, Joy Kim and Josh Kim.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID McFADDEN

David McFadden was recently honored as the California Library Association's Member of the Year. The prestigious CLA Member of the Year Award recognizes an individual member of the California Library Association for her or his outstanding contributions, leadership and achievements in service to California libraries.

David has been Senior Reference Librarian at Leigh H. Taylor Law Library of Southwestern Law School since 1984, and been with many other law libraries throughout his career.

Congratulations, David! An honor well-deserved!



JULY MOVIE: *HILLSONG – LET HOPE RISE*



FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017

at 7:00 p.m.

The 11 members of popular, faith-based Australian band Hillsong UNITED started as a small youth band. They now sell out concerts worldwide and have sold 16 million albums with songs in 60 languages.

Viewers of this film will go on tour with the band, getting a glimpse behind the scenes as well as access to front-seat concert footage.



First Baptist Church
of Los Angeles

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PERIODICAL

JULY 17, 2017

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“LIVING IN THE IN BETWEEN TIMES OF NOW AND NOT YET”

(Please read I Samuel 9 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching

12:30 p.m.

Quarterly Ministry Update in the Robbins Dining Hall



FRIENDS & FAMILY SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“SURRENDER”

(Please read Romans 12:1-2 in preparation)

DR. JOHN LEE, Guest Preacher

12:30 p.m.

Friends & Family Luncheon

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