

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 leading to the call of the next pastor at First Baptist and as equally important a renewed commitment to service, fellowship and witness for the members of First Baptist.

With events like Vacation Bible School, Community Block Party, Play More Summer Activities, and other affinity small group activities happening, 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, 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 Dining Hall.

On Sunday, June 25, we began a series of messages from I Corinthians 12. The church at Corinth for whom Paul was writing was dysfunctional with many issues including: resentment, jealousy, arrogance and a sense of superiority. And somewhere, somehow, something important is getting lost.

So Paul writes this letter. And the letter is far-reaching and comprehensive. Like a good doctor with a holistic

outlook, Paul diagnoses the situation of the people of Corinth, and recommends, not just a pill, or a quick fix, but an entire change of heart. He takes the Corinthians back to basics. He asks and answers the question, "Why is God giving out spiritual gifts anyway?" Further, Paul writes to this church and reminds them that while there are different gifts – there is but one Spirit. There are different ministries, but the same Lord; different activities, but the same God. Every gift comes to the church from God as an expression of grace and they're intended to be used for the common good.

This brings me to the thought that I want to convey to you in this missive. Every member of First Baptist has been gifted by God for service. And, in this passage, Paul reminds us that while we differ in our gifts, abilities and our position in the body of Christ, we are nonetheless vital and important in the body of Christ.

Did you realize that you are the body of Christ and you have a place in the body? First of all, the body is a wonderful metaphor used to describe the church. Paul uses the picture of a body in this passage and it's hard to think of a better, more up-to-date metaphor for the church. Have you ever experienced the frustration of putting together a puzzle, only to discover in the end that a piece was missing? Even though that piece is just a tiny portion of the puzzle, its absence leaves a very noticeable flaw in the whole picture. The same is true about our place as believers in the body of Christ.

The body of Christ – the church NEEDS every part, every gift, which means the church needs you, and your gift. Which means there is a place for you in the church. There is a place for you in THIS church. Join us over the next few Sundays in July to find out how you can become fully engaged in what the body of Christ is doing.

With Hope,

Norman Bullock

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



The week that will change your life takes place **July 10-14, 2017** at First Baptist Church, Los Angeles from **4:00 to 7:00 p.m.** Our theme this year is "*Hero Central – Discover Your Strength in God!*" Join us for a fun-filled week of activities, adventures, games, interactive study of the Bible, food, and fellowship.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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 Esther in the church office if you are interested!



CREATIVE-TYPES 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.

FAMILY CARE MINISTRY PLAN

The purpose of the Family Care Ministry Plan is to engage, encourage and enhance the fellowship, care and discipleship of our membership. The core responsibilities are:

- a. **Visitation:** The Family Care Diaconate Leader will take the initiative to become acquainted with the members of his Care Group. An initial contact with each member (or family) of the group should be made within one month of the assignment by letter. Subsequent visitation can be either by telephone or in-home visitation, with the latter being the preferred method. The Family Care Leader should make an attempt to contact members of his Care Group on a regular basis in order to establish a relationship that can serve as the basis for the trust needed for effective ministry.
- b. **Relational evangelism:** As a means of enhancing a member's spiritual walk with Christ and helping them to understand about God's concern for all and God's saving grace provided through Jesus Christ.
- c. **Rejoicing with members and families within your Care Group:** To share in their joy when they celebrate important events or accomplishments.
- d. **Give support in times of crisis:** To be of help to members by listening and giving support. Depending upon the situation or circumstance, you may be able to refer the members to someone else or to a community agency for assistance.
- e. **Answering questions regarding the church or our denomination:** To provide information to members about the life of our church and denomination.
- f. **Fellowship and Nurturing:** Helping members in your Care Group know and have fellowship with other members and families in the church; to encourage participation in events in the life of the church.
- g. **Encourage ministry and service:** Collaborating with the Spiritual Gifts Ministry (SGM) in helping members in your Care Group find ways to serve in the church and through church sponsored activities
- h. **Praying for you and with you:** Believing that the members of your Care Group are important and believing in the power of prayer, the Family Care Ministry will join with the pastor and other members in praying for the members and their family.

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2016-2017 CHURCH OFFICERS

- Moderator:** Ann Brodie
Church Clerk: Alma Pineda
Treasurer: Shirley Parsley
Council Members-at-large:
 Gerald Gubatan
 Nalis Mercier
 John Sturm
 Marta Torres
- 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

FAMILY CARE MINISTRY PLAN (continued)

- i. **Discipleship:** To engage members in your Care Group in Bible Study and other nurturing and discipleship opportunities through small group Bible Studies and in collaboration with the Christian Education Ministry in “equipping the saints for ministry.”
- j. **Encouragement in attending worship service and other church events**

NEWS DEADLINE

The next issue of *The First Baptist NEWS* will be published on **JULY 17, 2017**. Material and articles for the July 17th issue should arrive in the church office two weeks before publication, by **July 3**.

BAPTISM OF MATIAS HERRERA ON JUNE 25, 2017



Dear First Baptist Church Family,
 I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your love and support expressed to my family through the years. Last Sunday was no different. As a father, I feel very proud that Matias made his own decision to be baptized. He felt that it was the right time to make that important commitment in his Christian life. He took that decision very seriously, and you as a congregation received the news with much love and support. For that, I am very thankful.

Also, I want to express my gratitude and my Christian love to Dr. Bullock and Maxine McFarland for their support, guidance and love in the transition of Matias’ baptism.

With Love and Appreciation,
 Jose Herrera (Pipo)



JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 10-14 Vacation Bible School, 4-7 pm
- July 15 Diaconate meeting
- July 16 Church Council meeting
- July 22 Quarterly Ministry Update
- July 28 Family Movie Night, 7:00 p.m.:
Let Hope Rise
- July 30 Friends and Family Sunday / Luncheon



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.



First Baptist Church
of Los Angeles

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005

PERIODICAL

JULY 3, 2017

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“WHY ARE YOU HERE? - PART II”

(Please read I Corinthians 12:12-27 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching



SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“FROM HERE TO THERE”

(Please read Mark 5:35-41 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching

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