

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. 16

JULY 31, 2017

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – July 10-14, 2017

Hero Central helped us to discover our strength in God. On July 10th, we started an awesome adventure of discovering biblical heroes and their strength in God. God had five heroes: *Samuel* – heart; *Abigail* – courage; *Jesus* – wisdom; and hope; and *Holy Spirit* – power to perform any tasks assigned to them.

Music and storytelling enhanced each day's biblical hero and code under the leadership of Nalis Mercier. All of the students could tell you about the snack served each day. From preschool to adults, excitement filled Robbins Dining Hall during class time. The classes were the Knights, Super Stars, and Light Bearers, Victors, Champions and Guardians. Our enrollment was 42 students including adults mostly from our surrounding neighborhood. The week ended with a beautiful closing ceremony on Friday.

Gratitude for *Hero Central* goes to all of the volunteers: Zuleima Argumedo, Diane Carroll, Jennifer Corona, Angie Loaisiga, Rev. Woun Kim, Ben Marte, Lendy Martinez, Nalis Mercier, Kenneth Mercier Jr, Maxine McFarland, Etna Morales, Santiago Morales, Denie Sturm, Shirley Parsley, Lisa Thomas, Noah Thomas, Tomi Thompson and Carolina Williams. We also developed a great partnership with Koinonia Church that worships in our building; three of their young adults volunteered for five day: Nancy Arco, Axel Medina and Kim Medina. Rev Norman Bullock was also in attendance.

– Ann Brodie, VBS Director



A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

As we continue our transitional journey together, I am reminded that God's love continues to sustain us as we trust God's timing. Speaking of love, as we prepare to celebrate 143 years of making God's love known in our community and in anticipation of our Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, September 17, I am challenging you to 40 Days of Love. We will commence on August 13 with a series of learning opportunities during the Sunday School in the Pastor's Bible Class with a study on 40 Days of Love. The number forty in the Bible usually has to do with testing in the Bible. There are dozens of examples to show this. From Jesus to the children of Israel in the Wilderness, the number forty shows that testing and trials are sometimes associated with this number and so we read in the Scriptures that the number forty generally symbolized a period of testing, trial or probation. As has been said, a faith that is not tested cannot be trusted. We cannot be true followers of Jesus unless we demonstrate love for God and for one another.

I would love to see you during this six-session study on 40 Days of Love commencing on August 13 where we will share practical, Christ-centered advice on how to authentically love God

and love your neighbor as a normal way of life. With a focus on the spiritual truths of patience, kindness, truth, and forgiveness, we will learn to make love your dominant life value.

"Let love be your greatest aim." 1 Cor. 14:1 (LB).

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength... love your neighbor as yourself. There are no commands more important than these." Mark 12:30-31 (NCV).

First Love (Aug. 13th-Aug 23rd) (Matthew 22:36-38)

For the first 10 days of the 40 Days we are encouraging everyone to set this time apart as a season to seek the Lord. In the Jewish calendar this is the season between Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur. It is a time of repentance and returning to our "First Love," Jesus Christ.

A. Prayer, Care and share God's love

B. Please join in one of the four corporate times of united prayer at First Baptist.

God is preparing us for a great future, but in the meantime God is preparing us, God is testing us, God is challenging us to love God and love one another. We have the assurance of God's love in these undeniable facts

about God's love for us:

- It Is Unspeakable - I can't understand it, or why, but I know I have experienced it and I can never be separated from it - Rom. 8:38-39
- It Is Unending - Jer. 31:3...I have loved you with an everlasting love! God's love is eternal!
- It Is Unselfish - Ill. It asks for nothing in return! However, it leads man to repent and turn to God in love - Rom. 2:4; 1 John 4:19- We love him because He first loved us!
- It Is Unmerited - Cannot be earned or deserved!. (Ill. His love is based in His grace!) (Ill. Jesus and Jerusalem - Matt. 23:37.)
- It Is Unconditional - It is not based on what we can or cannot produce, it comes from the heart of God. Man can never reach a place when he will not be loved by God! God loved us first, He loved us anyway and He loves us eternally!
- God's love is Supernatural, it is Sacrificing, it is Satisfying!
- to God in love - Rom. 2:4; 1 John 4:19- We love him because He first loved us!
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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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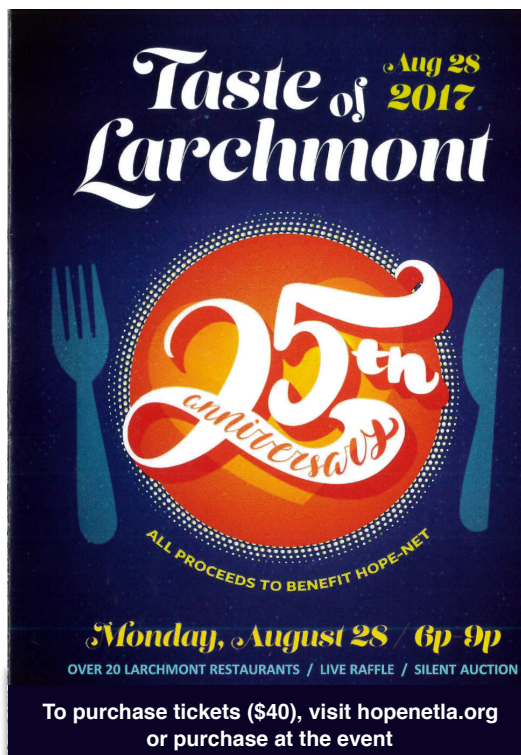
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Taste of Larchmont Aug 28 2017

25th Anniversary

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT HOPE-NET

Monday, August 28 / 6p-9p

OVER 20 LARCHMONT RESTAURANTS / LIVE RAFFLE / SILENT AUCTION

To purchase tickets (\$40), visit hopenetla.org or purchase at the event

SAVE THE DATE!

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



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.

QUARTERLY MINISTRY UPDATE, JULY 23, 2017

On July 23, 2017, following the close of the morning worship service, members gathered in the Robbins Dining Hall to hear updates from various Church Council and ministry leaders. Pastor Bullock and Ann Brodie, Moderator, led the presentation highlighting recent successful activities, including the 2017 Vacation Bible School. Progress reports were given on the following ministries and activities: Council of Ministries (Ann Brodie), Pastoral Search Committee (Gerald Gubatan), Diaconate (Ann Brodie), Christian Education (Rev. Woun Kim), Worship Arts (Cynthia Felton), Evangelism (Gerald Gubatan), an New Members (David McFadden). The session closed with reflections shared by Diane Carroll on our First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, "Call Statement."



ANOTHER GLORIOUS BAPTISM



On July 23, 2017, Ms. Hilda Sisimit was baptized by Pastor Bullock. Pictured are Hilda, center, with her father, Pascual Sisimit on the left and her mother, Marilena Sisimit on the right.

Hilda is 15-years-old and attends RFK High School in Los Angeles. Pastor Bullock shared that Hilda's decision was made at the recent Summer 2017 Vacation Bible School.

Only one month ago, on June 25, 2017, another young person, Matias Herrera, was baptized. May the church family extend its ongoing support and mentorship to these young people in their journey of faith.





First Baptist Church
of Los Angeles

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005

PERIODICAL

JULY 31, 2017

COMMUNION SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

REV. CHUCK SHAWVER, Guest Preacher



SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“DO YOU HAVE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?”

(Please read Galatians 5:22-25 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching

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