

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS



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AUGUST 14, 2017

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

August marks a time of transition. Summer is fading. Fall is near. If you have not had a chance to take your vacation, it'll have to be rushed because school starts shortly. There are back to school sales by retailers. Churches are preparing for the return of its parishioners after a summer break. Pastors are sneaking in last minute retreats and vacations. Our nation is in the home stretch of a presidential election season.

We are a nation and a people in flux. Although we may be in flux, God is not in flux, even if we are. God is the same, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). God longs for our worship. God is clear that the kind of worship that brings joy to God leads to a life that demonstrates God's peace and restoration.

As we continue our various transitions, we'll need the fruit of the spirit to help up us to navigate our way. The Fruit of the Spirit sum up the nine visible attributes of a true Christian life. The fruit of the Spirit, found in Galatians 5:22-23, include these attributes: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. We'll deal more on the fruit of the Spirit over the next several weeks leading up to our 143rd Anniversary and Homecoming.

As we approach the 143rd year of serving this community, First Baptist continues to serve many persons in our community. Notwithstanding those who attend our weekly worship services and the ministries that are offered by First Baptist throughout the week, through our partnership with other mission driven non-profits through our facility rental ministry, First Baptist extends our reach and ministry to many in the community. Over the next two issues we will highlight some of those organizations who share our facilities:



LA Voice believes that all people have power and voice. Every day, LA Voice amplifies that power by uniting diverse faith voices and equipping leaders to change conditions and make systems changes that lead to racial equity and abundant life for all Angelenos. LA Voice is an interfaith, multi-racial community organization that awakens people to their own power, training them to speak, act and work together to transform LA County so it reflects the dignity of all people.

LA Voice transforms Los Angeles County by building relationships across race, faith and class that fuel powerful community organizing campaigns. Our central change tool is the development and formation of spirit-led people and teams who expand their leadership, relationships and understanding of why things are the way they are, then act together to push for change. LA Voice gives congregations the training and tools to improve their communities and connect to systemic change efforts across the county and state.

Through their network of 53 churches, synagogues, and mosques across LA County, they reach 50,000 families and directly engage more than 4,000 people in action each year. Congregational "local organizing teams" meet monthly to identify the most important issues for their community, connect to local, county, and state strategies, and get leadership training that develops the skills they need to make an impact. LA Voice is an independent organization and a member of PICO National Network and participates in and leads collective state and national campaigns alongside 55 sister organizations. The geographic area served by LA Voice spans LA County with congregations in Hollywood, West Adams, South LA, Compton, Inglewood, Pasadena, East LA, West LA, and portions of the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valley. 70% of our volunteer leaders are immigrant, 90% are very low to moderate income, and approximately 75% are women.

Recent victories include:

- \$500 million from LA County for affordable housing construction
- Accountability by major financial institutions for reinvestment through the LA City "Responsible Banking Ordinance"
- Saved millions of dollars per year for immigrant drivers by ending inequitable 30-day impounds of cars by LAPD
- Removing obstacles for formerly incarcerated through the "Fair Chance Initiative"
- Significant voter contributions to passage of Propositions 30, 47, 55, 56, 57, HHH, JJJ, and Measures M and H; all led primarily by formerly incarcerated Angelenos

(Continued on Page 3)



On July 30, 2017, the Rev. Dr. John Lee served as our guest preacher speaking on the topic, "Humble Service" (Romans 12:3-8). Pictured is Rev. Lee with his wife, Charlotte, and three children. He is the son of Rev. Jung Bam Lee, former Associate Minister at First Baptist Church, and Hyun Soo Lee.

NEWS DEADLINE

The next issue of *The First Baptist NEWS* will be published on **AUGUST 28, 2017**. Material and articles for the August 28th issue should arrive in the church office by **August 15**.

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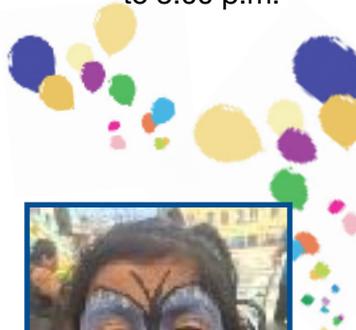
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COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY COMING

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, such as a water slide, dunk tank, face painting, and hot dogs.

We also need volunteers to help out that day. If you are able to help, please talk to Pastor Woun Kim.



The **Annual CHURCH PICNIC** will be held 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.
SAVE THE DATE: More info to come.



25th ANNIVERSARY OF HOPE-NET'S ANNUAL TASTE OF LARCHMONT, AUGUST 28

You are invited to the Annual **Taste of Larchmont** on **Monday, August 28 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** This fun, end-of summer event unites neighborhood restaurants, business supporters and the local community for an evening of good tasting and friendship along Larchmont Blvd. (between Beverly Blvd. and First Street).

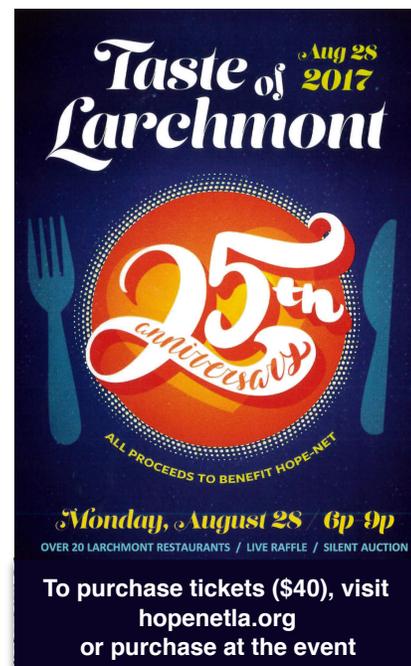
By purchasing a ticket(s), you are welcome to visit the participating restaurants and "taste" each restaurant's cuisine. You can also purchase tickets for the Taste of Larchmont raffle, which features great prizes, such as a dinner for two at twelve local restaurants and others. All for a good cause!

The Taste of Larchmont supports HOPE-NET, an organization that works to alleviate hunger and homelessness in Metro Los Angeles (mid-Wilshire, Hollywood, Koreatown).

- HOPE-NET operates 13 food pantries, serving over 115,000 households and over 275,000 local people annually.
- Hope-Net food pantries provide over 2.5 million pounds of food annually.
- Each Hope-Net food pantry is managed and operated by dedicated volunteers.
- The value of the food distributed by Hope-Net each year is more than \$1.7 million.
- Hope-Net piggy banks have contributed over \$10,000 to purchase pantry food.
- Hope-Net built and operates Hope West Apartments, offering affordable housing for low-income families.
- Hope-Net was founded by local congregations, including First Baptist, and its offices are housed in First Baptist's building on the 3rd floor.

Tickets to the Taste of Larchmont are \$40 each. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. To get your tickets, visit www.hopenetla.org or purchase them at the event.

First Baptist, Los Angeles is a founding member of **HOPE-NET**, which has it's offices on the 3rd floor of our building.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR (continued)

- Audit that found \$13 million in county savings due to Prop 47, reinvestment of those savings into community based services and the public defender

KOINONIA CHURCH, an American Baptist Hispanic congregation

Our Mission: To take the divine presence of God to the people of our city, the world and to demonstrate the character of the Holy Spirit, through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our History: Pastor Armando and Sandra Osorio were sent by Iglesia Bautista Hispana in Los Angeles, to start a church in the same county, which started at the patio of a house 27 years ago; Koinonia now is a Non-Profit Organization of the State of California, and has a membership of approximately 800 members; with churches planted in Moreno Valley, Riverside County; nationwide in Phoenix, AZ, Miami, FL; worldwide: 15 churches in El Salvador, 5 churches in Nicaragua and 1 church in Mexico.

Short Term goals: To develop new leaders through discipleship teachings to promote cell groups growth in our community.

Long term goals: Planning to travel to South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Cuba and Brazil) and start working to raise generations of men and woman who will come into their inheritance to fulfill God's dream, to reach their local communities and the nations of the world.

Koinonia ministers weekly to approximately 800 people through their Sunday Celebration Service, Wednesday Leaders Service, and their cell groups held on different days of the week, in different host houses. Pastor Armando also ministers about 40 pastors of the Central America, and Mexico churches, through a monthly video conference.

They would like to share with the greater community of Los Angeles that they love them and it is a great honor to have been assigned by God to serve them all these years, and many more to come. For more information, you may visit their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ministerioskoinonia.

Armando Bullock



First Baptist Church
of Los Angeles

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005

PERIODICAL

AUGUST 14, 2017

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“THE STRENGTH TO LOVE”

(Please read I John 4:7-8; 16 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching



SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

HYMN SING

– With background information to the hymns
provided by Dr. Bullock highlighting
their scriptural and spiritual foundation –

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