

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

ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORTS TO THE CONGREGATION (continued)

INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear Church Family and Friends:

As I reflect on my three years as an Interim Pastor of First Baptist, I am grateful for the opportunity that you have given me to be your Shepherd in the Interim as you contemplate your future as a congregation and embrace what lies ahead. My goal since my call by the church during the 2014 Annual Homecoming Meeting, has been three fold:

- 1) Develop relationships with all of the stakeholders of the church – staff, leaders, members, and friends
- 2) Provide pastoral care as a Shepherd to the flock – leading, loving, preaching, teaching, praying, counseling, and equipping the saints for ministry.
- 3) Come along side of you in this critical time by providing intentional visioning and direction in the prayer, planning and preparation for the pastoral and leadership transformation -, transition and change, regrouping, reassessment and setting of new directions, or reaffirming past mission emphasis

Below are some highlights of ministry milestones and activities that I have initiated since I reported to you last in the Annual Meeting in January 2017:

The purpose of the First Baptist Church is to make God's love, as revealed in Jesus Christ known in all that we say and do. Our call statement lays out our purpose and mission as a community of believers in Christ

We are called to be a community of faith, a welcome table, that celebrates the rich diversity of its membership as it serves and honors the diverse cultural and ethnic nature of Los Angeles and surrounding communities. We are called to be deeply grounded in the Word and Witness through the power of the Holy Spirit, being a prophetic voice for justice, healing and transformation. We are called to manifest the love of Christ as we share our various sources of capital with the community as well as being a witness to God's reign through celebrative worship and care for one another.

We carry out our calling through various ministries. Some of which are:

Core Ministries

- Christian Education
 - Sunday Church School
 - Vacation Bible School
 - Youth Activities
- Diaconate Family Care
- Worship Arts
- Prayer
- Evangelism
- Missions
- Communications & Media
- Hospitality
- Ushers & Greeters

Affinity Groups

- Sisters of Faith Women's Ministry
- Men's Breakfast Fellowship Ministry
- Ebenezer Fellowship (for our Spanish speaking members of the church)
- Filipino Fellowship (for our Filipino American members of the church)
- Korean Fellowship (for our Korean American members of the church)

Outreach to the Community

- Hope-Net (offering food to the community)
- Community Block Party (during the Summer)
- Play More (Saturdays and Summer Youth Enrichment Programs and Activities)
- Friday Night Movies (the last Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m.)

Over the last six months, I have been engaged with the Council of Ministries and other ministry leaders in continuing to evaluate the effectiveness of our ministries in light of the changing context in which we find ourselves.

Simultaneously, I have been intentional about developing opportunities for learning and growing, specifically with our adult members. To this end, during our Sunday Morning Bible Study, we engaged in "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God" by Henry and Richard Blackaby which ended in early July. The goal of this experience was to lead our members into a deeper relationship with God.

(Continued on Page 2)

2017-2018 CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator – Ann Brodie

Vice-Moderator – David McFadden

Church Clerk – Amy Shellmire

Treasurer - Shirley Parsley

Members-at-Large, Church Council:

Zuleima Argumedo

Gerald Gubatan

Ben Marte

Nalis Mercier

Marta Torres

NEWS DEADLINE

The next issue of *The First Baptist NEWS* will be published on **NOVEMBER 6, 2017**. Material and articles for the November 6th issue should arrive in the church office by **October 24**.



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INTERIM PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

The structure of the series is centered on what Blackaby calls the “Seven Realities of Experiencing God.” They are:

1. God is always at work around you.

2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.

3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.

4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

5. God’s invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.

6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.

7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.

Further Development of the Diaconate Family Care Ministry Plan

This ministry officially launched on Homecoming Sunday in September 2016 where the Pastor in collaboration with Diaconate Ministry serve to strengthen congregational care, fellowship and undergird the spiritual development of members of the church. Further, it is a plan by which the diaconate joins with the Pastor in ministering to the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of each church member and family. Church family members have been assigned a diaconate leader who will minister to them as needed.

This ministry is needed because we care for you and your family. We are committed to assuring that every member—individually and collectively—in our church experiences the love and support of the entire congregation.

Selection of Interim Christian Education/Youth Minister

Starting this process in Fall of 2016, I held several meetings with

potential candidates. As we got closer to a finalist, the Personnel Committee met with the candidate before engaging in small focus groups with key leaders, our youth and members of the Christian Education Ministry. During a special meeting following the Christian Education Emphasis Sunday on June 11, the church called Rev. Woun Kim as its Interim Christian Education/Youth Minister. Rev. Kim started the position effective June 15. The primary responsibilities of this role are as follows:

- Develop, oversee, coordinate, and actively participate in programming involving children, youth, and their families—including Sunday Christian Education, Summer V.B.S., youth groups, summer mission trips, retreats, and fellowship activities.

- Recruit and/or coordinate recruitment of lay leaders and volunteers lay leaders involved in programming for Christian Education and youth.

- Provide training, support, and resources for lay leaders and volunteers involved in programming for Christian Education and youth.

- In collaboration with the Pastor and Christian Education Coordinator develop curriculum and plan special events for Christian Education across all age groups pre-K-12 and integration into the life of the whole church.

- Communicate effectively with children, youth, volunteers and the wider congregation to promote intergenerational awareness and visibility among the congregation and community.

New Member Luncheon

On Sunday, July 2 following Morning Worship at 12:30 pm in Robbins Dining Hall, we held a luncheon welcoming and recognizing members who have joined First Baptist over the last year. Each member received a church membership certificate. Their names are: Amy Shellmire, Diane Carroll, Lisa Thomas, Odos Nabors, Tomi Thompson. Greg Spruell, Joy Kim,

ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORTS (continued)

Josh Kim, Mattias Herrera, and Hilda Sisimit.

Let's continue on this road toward transformation as we seek God's direction for what lies ahead for First Baptist Church.

With Hope,
Norman Bullock, Interim pastor

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

This year, a group of volunteer members convened to lay-out a framework for advancing an Evangelism Ministry at First Baptist Church. We discussed the scriptural basis for evangelism, focused on the question, "Who Are Our Neighbors?" and engaged in a dialogue about what it truly means to be a good neighbor as a community of faith in an ever-changing city.

First Baptist Church has actively offered ministries in community outreach and service, particularly to the youth, children and their families and the hungry in the neighborhood. Our Youth, Children and Family Ministry, in partnership with the non-profit organization, Play More, founded by the Rosenberger family, has organized activities targeting local youth, children and their families, utilizing the church's gymnasium space for sports, and arts and craft activities. Our Food Ministry in partnership with Hope-Net, a collaboration of 16 area congregations to address hunger and homeless needs, has operated the Food Pantry with dedicated volunteers. "Movie Night" continues to be a popular activity held monthly showcasing faith-based films for free to neighborhood families.

The Evangelism Ministry is focused on understanding who are our neighbors, assessing community needs and cultivating our home-grown brand, the "Good Neighbor Center," so that we can effectively reach out to share the caring Christ with the world.

If you are interested in supporting this ministry, we meet every second Sunday in Room 10 after the close of the morning worship service.

– Gerald Gubatan

WORSHIP ARTS

Through the leadership of our interim Worship Arts Director, Dr. Cynthia Felton, we continue to explore ways to diversify our music and worship experience to reflect the diversity of our congregation. As we continue through 2017 and plan for 2018, we will continue to accent the high caliber of traditional music through anthems and other traditional music coupled with contemporary praise & worship and other expressions of worship.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Breakfast Fellowship which launched in June 2016 and meets bi-monthly on the second Saturday of the month for breakfast, fellowship and discussion of relevant issues, has been busy since the Annual Meeting in January with its Homeless and Community Outreach Ministry project. We are doing this to have a greater impact in the lives of the people in our community, to win the lost, to simply help people and to point people to Christ. We have given out care packages to those persons in the Hoover and Wilshire Place area who are homeless. These packages include hygiene products and other useful items. We are in the process of assembling at least 50 more care packages. Your prayers and support are encouraged and needed.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY – SISTERS OF FAITH

After some inactivity with the Sisters of Faith, we are reigniting our Sisters of Faith Ministry with an impromptu kick-off on September 17, 2017 during the Homecoming Luncheon. We will be holding a bake sale to raise funds to help support any future initiatives by Sisters of Faith and also to help partner with other ministries to provide support and encouragement. Please look forward to various fundraising activities throughout the next year as we strive to grow our ministry.

– Women's Leadership Council

EBENEZER FELLOWSHIP

As the Ebenezer Fellowship continues the process of reorganization, the leadership team continues to meet periodically with Pastor Bullock. We continue to meet every Sunday during the Sunday School hour. In December, Pastor Bullock sponsored a break-fast for the Ebenezer Fellowship, where he shared his vision for this ministry and engaged with us in meaningful dialogue about issues and concerns from the members. The leaders continue to work with him to develop opportunities for growing, fellowship and service through this ministry.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Food Pantry Ministry

First Baptist Church is a co-founder of Hope-Net, a collaboration of 16 Los Angeles area congregations to address hunger and homeless needs. The Food Pantry operates each Friday morning (from 8:00 to 9:30 am.) to provide a bag of groceries to needy families who are hungry with no questions asked. In collaboration with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, we continued to serve families representing many nationalities, including Mexicans, Koreans, Caucasians, Filipinos and African Americans. Dedicated volunteers include Paul Strand, Teresa Negrete, William Vance Smith and many others.

Play More

Play More, our partnering non-profit organization which operates a community center program to keep children safe, off the streets and engaged in sports, crafts and special projects, operates from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the church gym on Saturdays.

IN MEMORIAM

The Church Family extends its deepest Christian Sympathy to the family of

DAVID BARTLETT

(son of our Pastor, Gene Bartlett)

Deceased October 12, 2017

Church Member 1953-1961



FAMILY & FRIENDS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

*Beginning a Sermon Series on the Messages from Jesus
to the Seven Churches in Asia Minor
and what we can learn from them
in light of our context and transitional journey*

“FROM A TOLERANT CHURCH TO A TRIUMPHANT CHURCH”

(Please read Revelation 2:18-29 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching



COMMUNION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

*Sermon Series on the Messages from Jesus
to the Seven Churches in Asia Minor*

“CALLING A DEAD CHURCH BACK TO LIFE”

(Please read Revelation 3:1-6 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching