

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

MODERATOR'S REPORT

This has been a very challenging year for the moderator of First Baptist Church. However, with God leading me every day, I made it. I am so grateful we have the leadership of our interim pastor, Norman Bullock. He has been the glue to hold us together. We owe him praise and gratitude.

From time to time, I gave an update on the Council's support to each ministry. It was my goal to keep the membership informed on ministry activities. The following activities were successful:

- Our Friends and Family Days were always rewarding, good food and singing, and fellowship.
- Easter Eggstravaganza is an outreach project that touched the lives of over 100 people in our neighborhood. It was our way of sharing the joy of the Easter season.
- Rev. Woun Kim was hired in June as interim Youth/Christian Education minister. He came on board with vigor that helped Vacation Bible School be planned with ease. *Hero Central*, Vacation Bible School's theme, was a wonderful success. Each day, we had 38-40 students including adults. The week ended with a closing program allowing parents to attend and witness the spirit of our week.

Angie Hernandez was selected to receive the Arlo Reichter Award for distinguished service in Christian Education. She is the youngest ever recipient because she has worked diligently in Christian Education from a very early age.

My first sentence stated that my year was challenging at times. My biggest challenge is our finances. Every month it is a hardship to have enough funds to support ministries and the church building. The Council will have to work on stewardship and a capital funds campaign for us to survive. Over the next two months, we will engage ourselves to concentrate on these two issues. Keep your ears open for updates.

Overall, each member of the Council has been very supportive. God is good.

– Ann Brodie, Moderator

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

This year the Pastoral Search Committee has continued to work diligently to fulfill its mandate to identify a qualified candidate to recommend to the congregation to call as our next Senior Minister. This summer the Committee narrowed its search to one person, a highly qualified candidate with both a Masters in Divinity and Social Work and experience in urban ministry and missionary work. Our candidate decided to accept an offer from another church.

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

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 143 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.

– Gerald Gubatan, Chairman

SPIRITUAL GIFTS MINISTRY REPORT

Members: David McFadden, (Coordinator), James Johnson (non-voting), Kenneth Mercier, Santiago Morales, and Lee Strand

The Spiritual Gifts Ministry has two main responsibilities. One is to assess gifts of members and assist the various ministries in finding members to participate. The other is a nominating committee role.

The Spiritual Gifts Ministry has begun the process of assigning its members to one or more of the ministries to act as a liaison. The Spiritual Gifts Ministry did not complete the work on re-surveying the congregation. There have been some members and non-members who have used the Spiritual Gifts Discovery survey on the website.

The Spiritual Gifts Ministry has been working on the slate of officers for the Homecoming Meeting in September.

(Continued on Page 3)

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 **OCTOBER 23, 2017**. Material and articles for the October 9th issue should arrive in the church office by **October 10**.

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STAFF: Norman Bullock, *Interim Pastor*; Esther Sanchez, *Administration and Building Coordinator*. James Johnson, *Josue Guevara, Custodians*. Kyle Irwin, *Organist/Choirmaster*. Sandra Rogers, *Communications Coordinator*. Lisa Thomas, *Interim Building Manager*. Cynthia Felton, *Interim Worship Arts Director*. Woun Kim, *Interim Youth/CE Minister*.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Beginning on August 13 and concluding on September 21, as a church, we journeyed through 40 days of Love to prepare our hearts and minds for the traditional launch of our church program/ministry year on Homecoming Sunday, September 17. I am grateful for the members who participated with me in this journey. It was a life changing experience for me in that I grew deeper in my appreciation for what God has done, is doing and will continue to do through me. Sometimes we take the love and the by-products of God's love for granted. God's love is so amazing. Further, the church is an extension of God's love. In the wake of all that is going on in our country today, God is counting on us to be the extension of God's love so that we might be transformed and in doing so be instruments of God's transforming power in our world. For those of you who were not able to partner with us during our forty days of praying, seeking, waiting and loving, I have included the daily themes and scriptures. I invite those of you who did participate in the 40 days of Love – daily challenges, weekly Sunday School lessons, Prayer vigil – to repeat the daily devotionals. We can never experience and show enough love.

Day 1: Love is patient – Ephesians 4:2

Day 2: Love is kind – Ephesians 4:32

Day 3: Love is not selfish - Romans 12:10

Day 4: Love is thoughtful - Psalm 139:17-18

Day 5: Love is not rude - Proverbs 27:14

Day 6: Love is not irritable - Proverbs 16:32

Day 7: Love believes the best - 1 Corinthians 13:7

Day 8: Love is not jealous - Song of Solomon 8:6

Day 9: Love Makes Good Impressions - 1 Corinthians 13:5

Day 10: Love is unconditional - Romans 5:8

Day 11: Love always protects - 1

Corinthians 13:7

Day 12: Love lets the other win - Philippians 2:4

Day 13: Love Always Trusts - 1 Corinthians 13:7

Day 14: Love takes delight - Ecclesiastes 9:9

Day 15: Love is responsible - Romans 2:1

Day 16: Love intercedes - 3 John 2

Day 17: Love seeks to understand - Proverbs 3:13

Day 18: Love is impossible - 1 John 4:7

Day 19: Love is Jesus Christ - Romans 5:6

Day 20: Love is satisfied in God - Isaiah 58:11

Day 21: Love is faithful - Hosea 2:20

Day 22: Love is faithful - Hosea 2:20

Day 23: Love always protects - 1 Corinthians 13:7

Day 24: Love forgives - 2 Corinthians 2:10

Day 25: Love encourages - Psalm 25:20

Day 26: Love makes sacrifices - 1 John 3:16

Day 27: Love's motivation - Ephesians 6:7

Day 28: Love brings unity - John 17:11

Day 29: Love's motivation - Ephesians 6:7 HCSB

Day 30: Love brings unity - John 17:11

Day 31: Love celebrates godliness - 1 Corinthians 13:6

Day 32: Love is accountable - Proverbs 15:22 NIV

Day 33: Love is God's Word - Psalm 119:105

Day 34: Love agrees in prayer - Matthew 18:19

Day 35: Love fulfills dreams - Psalm 37:4

Day 36: Love is God's Word - Psalm 119:105

Day 37: Love agrees in prayer - Matthew 18:19

Day 38: Love fulfills dreams - Psalm 37:4

Day 39: Love endures - 1 Corinthians 13:8

Day 40: Love is a covenant - Ruth 1:16

With Hope,



Norman Bullock

ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORTS (continued)

It has been proposed to remove the Spiritual Gifts Ministry from the Bylaws and transfer the nominating role to a Nominating Committee. The Spiritual Gifts assessment role could be covered by the Diaconate's Family Care Ministry or some other group within the church.

– David McFadden, Coordinator

DIACONATE

This has been an exciting year for the Diaconate/Family Care Ministry. Our congregation acknowledged our efforts in assisting Pastor Bullock in ministering to the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of each church member, family and regular attendee. We are that extended hand to be held in time of need. Visitors were made to feel us as one welcoming family preaching the Word.

We established Family Care leaders as focal points to give support in times of crisis. A telephone tree was established allowing us to disseminate information of a crisis in a timely manner. Our ministry leaders went into quick action on each crisis.

Luncheons were successful events. Friends and Family Day held every 5th Sunday of the month generated spiritual fellowship, eating good food and singing hymns. A special luncheon was held to recognize seven new members who received the right hand of fellowship.

Our ministry prayed to be a friend, gave support in times of crisis, visited sick and shut-ins, welcomed visitors, and helped members to find ways to serve in the ministry of the Church.

The Diaconate's prayers are keeping First Baptist alive. We pray more people will join this ministry next year.

– Ann Brodie

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am Pastor Woun Kim and I came on board the First Baptist Church staff as an Interim Youth Minister in June of 2017. I want to say thank you to the congregation regarding the love and welcome I have received since I started serving here. The last three months have been wonderful as I was given the opportunity to serve both the church and the community for the glory of God.

Under the guidance of Dr. Norman Bullock, my first order of business was to reorganize the Sunday School program. The vision was to offer multiple Sunday School classes with different levels. This required that we find more teachers and aids. By the grace of God, we were able to find many volunteers who were willing to serve and love the children of our church. We now offer nursery, lower elementary, upper elementary and youth classes at the 9:30 hour on Sunday mornings. The following are the names of the teachers: Zuleima Argumedo, Jose Herrera, Teresa Negrete, Hilda Sisimit, Linda Pineda, and Joy Kim.

The youth class went through some changes as well. There was a need for the youth to incorporate a more contemporary aspect of worship so that they can relate to the teachings of the church. We now include modern praise as part of the youth class on Sundays. The vision is to disciple the youth so that they may become a better follower of Jesus. Please continue to pray for the youth in our church.

The Christian Education leaders meet once a month, on the first Saturday, to have breakfast and prayer. We do this because we believe that fellowship between teachers and leaders is very important. We also believe being a spiritually healthy person is paramount

to becoming a successful Christian teacher. We accomplish this by having breakfast together, and coming to church to intercede for one another. The last two months we have been tremendously blessed by the fellowship and prayer time. We will continue to meet to intercede for the ministry of the church.

During the summer, the church has been intentional about having more events. My vision is that through these fun events, people will build relationships with one another. Friendship is very important to church members. So, the church attempted to create events to provide a connection point for the participants. In July, we had a bowling event for the young adults. And in August we had a trip to Magic Mountain, and the Block Party. It's too early to say what level of impact these events have had, but I am sure that level of commitment and involvement to the church has increased among the youth and the young adults in the church.

The church also planned and ran Vacation Bible School for the kids in July. We had great participation from the kids from our Saturday program, Play More. We had some children come from the community as well. The lesson was about discovering our strength in God, and the kids were taught about various heroes from the Bible. It was a time of blessing for both the volunteers and the children who participated in our VBS.

May God continue to bless the children in the community, and help the church to be an effective witness for the Gospel.

Running With You,
Rev. Woun Kim



(Reports continued in next issue)



OCTOBER 15, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“THE COMPROMISING CHURCH”

(Please read Revelation 2:12-17 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017

Filipino Emphasis Sunday

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“A CUP FULL OF WATER”

(Please read Genesis 21:8-21 in preparation)

REV. KENNETH Y. KHO, Preaching