

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. 20

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

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

FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP AT THE 2017 ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

On September 10, 2017, more than two dozen members and friends trekked from First Baptist Church after the close of the morning worship service to Crystal Springs Picnic Grounds in Griffith Park. Members gathered in beautiful sunny but temperate weather under the shade of mature trees to partake of burgers, hot dogs, pasta salad, watermelon and even chocolate birthday cake.

After lunch, Rev. Woun Kim led an "ice breaker" game, requiring everyone to go about and find others who fit the description in a series of questions, such as finding others who have read the entire bible or recently saw the same movie you saw. One requirement was to request another to sing "Amazing Grace!" Josh Kim sang "Amazing Grace!" in his native Korean language while Penny Pilkenton delivered the song multiple times in perfect pitch by popular demand. Raffle prizes were awarded to those who successfully completed the exercise.

Jose Herrera set-up teams to play "tug of war" and ring toss. The game playing culminated in both children and adults attempting to bust a colorful piñata made to look like a huge ice cream cone. Congratulations to Eva Artola who skillfully swung the stick to successfully strike the piñata, busting open its contents to the ground...what else? Candy.

Special thanks to the picnic committee and volunteers for organizing yet another successful picnic filled with fun, food and fellowship: Ann Brodie, James Johnson, Maxine McFarland, Nalis Mercier, Woun Kim, Jose Herrera and Santiago Morales.



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OLIVER deW. CUMMINGS AWARD

Today, we award the Oliver de Wolf Cummings Award – Man of the Year. This award is given to a man for distinguished service and faithful Christian discipleship in our Church.

Our recipient today has been a member over 25 years. He started attending with his father. He is always around to serve in any position needed for this church to operate smoothly. He has a wonderful demeanor and kind spirit. There is always a smile, never a frown.

He has one son. He is very close to his parents and siblings.

Faithfully, he is head usher, serves communion and has been a member of the Spiritual Gifts Ministry and Diaconate, taught martial arts at Church. He provides leadership for monthly family movie night and helps with the Friday food pantry ministry. When a cook is needed to prepare meals for our luncheons, he is here with his Chef's hat and apron in the kitchen. Not only does he cook for luncheons, he cooks the meats for our Church picnics. (Last Sunday's was Yummy).

It is my pleasure to present **James Johnson** with the 2017 Oliver deW. Cummings award.

–Presented Homecoming Sunday, September 17 by Moderator, Ann Brodie



A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

On Sunday, September 17, we celebrated the 143rd Anniversary and Homecoming Celebration. The theme, "Sustained by the Faithfulness of God Toward Us," came out of I Corinthians 1:1-9 which illustrates the faithfulness of God. Virtually every one of the nine verses in today's text is intended to help us know who we are in relation to God. He looks back to the past to define where these Christians came from. He looks at the present to see what their experience is as Christians. And he looks to the future to see what they can be sure of as Christians. What does it mean to be faithful? When I think of faithfulness, the following words come to mind: constant, trustworthy,

dependable, loyal, reliable, and consistent. Those are all descriptions of the character of God. Faithfulness hinges upon what we value as important combined with commitment. As humans, we have a powerful tendency to be faithful to what they think is truly important, be it a family name, spouse, friendship, employer, school, athletic team or even certain things like a make of automobile. This tendency was an issue when the disciples decided to follow Peter's lead and return to their fishing trade after Jesus' death and resurrection. In John 21:15-17, Jesus pointedly asks Peter three times whether he loved Him. The first time He asks whether he loved Him "more than these," referring either to his fellow apostles or the tools of his fishing trade. The inference is inescapable: Jesus wanted Peter to hold Him of greater importance than anything on earth. Considering Peter's weighty responsibility, he could not be faithful to Jesus without the staunchest commitment to Him as most important of all in his life. That's what God wants for us. God has promised to always be there for us. God will never ever change His mind in regard to us, never write us off, never leave us or forsake us. How great is the faithfulness of our God! Because God called us, God's not going to abandon what God started. God will bring it across the finish line because God is faithful.

Norm 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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NEWS DEADLINE

The next issue of *The First Baptist NEWS* will be published on **OCTOBER 9, 2017**. Material and articles for the October 9th issue should arrive in the church office by **September 26**.

ANNUAL PICNIC PHOTO ALBUM (continued)



FROM OUR MAILBAG

Dear Dr. Bullock,

Greetings from the American Baptist Seminary of the West. On behalf of all of us at ABSW, we wish you and all our sisters and brothers in Christ at The First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, Happy 143rd Anniver-sary! We trust it will be a great day of celebrating the gift FBC of LA has been to the world, to one another, and, above, to the kingdom of God. May you be strengthened in your worship and work as you reflect on all that God has done in and through you these 143 years.

Though I have just started as the new president of ABSW in the last few weeks, I look forward to visiting you and your congregation and getting to know you better. I only wish I could be there ... to join in the festivities.



With warm regards,
Jim Brenneman, President
American Baptist Seminary of the West



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“REGAINING THE LOST LOVE...FOR THE CHURCH”

(Please read Revelation 2:1-7 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching

– *World Mission Offering received* –



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017

Ebenezer Fellowship Sunday

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“A LOVE LETTER FROM JESUS TO THE CHURCH”

(Please read Revelation 2:8-11 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching