

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

FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

November 12 is Stewardship Commitment Sunday. At the heart of stewardship is generosity, which is at the heart of Christian discipleship. Stewardship/Generosity is more than just being financially gracious, it is a way of life, a spirit, a grace. Stewardship/Generosity is the way in which Jesus called his followers into the world, pouring out compassion, hospitality, companioning presence, and courageous justice. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

Every day, most of us spend more time than we realize thinking about or making decisions about money. How will we pay the rent or mortgage? Should I look for a new job for more money? Can I buy these sneakers now or do I wait for a sale? Do I need to buy this new cell phone or tablet? Will we get the right price for this harvest? Will the loan come through for another year of college?

As followers of Jesus Christ, we would like to say we consult the Lord about these thoughts and decisions. What if we realize Jesus is the last person we consider when we worry and wonder about that investment, job, vacation, new (or pre-owned) device, gadget, truck, house, etc? Even if we tithe, could it be that cultural expectations, advertisements, the latest travel and home improvement shows or our peers and preferences are driving financial decisions more than our faith?

Sometimes we say, "I give my 10%, so I should get to do what I want with the rest." But, what we do with all is also a reflection of our faith.

In John 6:8-9, we read the story of the boy who gave all that he had. The child gave his lunch to Jesus. He gave his whole lunch, not just part of it. The child and so many others were fed. Did this child know that if he trusted Jesus with all he had for himself, something miraculous would happen? When we give to God, God will take care of us and so many others. I challenge you to take one week during November to pray over every penny you have to spend. Ask the question of how God would have you use these pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars, and so on. And as we pay the bills and make purchases, may we dedicate everything to God's purposes. Jesus calls each of us to let go of the prevailing messages of our culture and become generous disciples.

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Sunday, November 19 is Thanksgiving Sunday. This is a special Sunday where we come together in corporate worship in giving thanks to God for who he is and what he has done for us! A special Thanksgiving offering will be received on that day. I encourage you to give a liberal offering in appreciation for the many blessings that God continues to bestow upon us.



We have so much to be thankful for. In fact, every day should be a day of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a word that appears before the word Thanksgiving Day and after thanksgiver in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary online. One of the definitions of the word is "a prayer expressing gratitude". The first use of the word dates all the way back to 1533

One of the things I like about Thanksgiving is that it gives us a specific day to reflect on the goodness of God and all of the wonderful blessings that God has given us. While we may not have as many things as other people have, we can all be thankful for our family, church and friends who love us and the life God has given us.

Help Me Thanksgiving Day Prayer

O God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home,
help me to remember those who have no home at all;
When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer,
And remembering,
help me to destroy my complacency;
bestir my compassion,
and be concerned enough to help;
By word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.
Amen.

-Samuel F. Pugh

2017-2018 CHURCH OFFICERS

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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

Pastoral Search Committee

Gerald Gubatan, chair; Zuleima Argumedo, Daniel Choi, David McFadden, Shirley Parsley, Alma Pineda, Richard Rogers and Marta Torres.



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STEWARDSHIP NUGGETS

- ❖ What is stewardship? Simply stated, stewardship is using the gifts God has given us, to do the things God asks (calls!) us to do.
- ❖ Did you know...
The Bible deals with our possessions in:
 - Over 2,100 verses
 - 1/6 of New Testament
 - 2/3 of Jesus' parables
 - OR
 - Two-thirds of Jesus' parables have to do with our possessions. There are 500 verses on prayer, 500 on faith and 2,000 on things we accumulate. In the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), 1 out of 7 verses deal with giving or sharing with the world.
- ❖ Stewardship is discipleship. How much is yours? How much is God's? Actually, all we have, all we are, belongs to God. Everything!
- ❖ The 4 D's of stewardship: Desire -> Decision -> Discipline -> Delight - Rev. Henry Wildeboer
- ❖ Christ's standard for giving is not how much we give, but how much we hold back for Stewardship of Time: The secret to time management is not learning how to save time or to get more of it; the secret is knowing how to use it.
- ❖ Trusting comes before giving. It teaches a reliance on God that is fundamental to our relationship with Him.
- ❖ Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have.
- ❖ Christian giving is the normal, steady, increasing outflow of the Christian life.
- ❖ Christ's standard for giving is not how much we give, but how much we hold back for ourselves. – T.A. Kantonen
- ❖ Stewardship is not a destination, it is a process.
- ❖ Stewardship is not how much we give, it is how we live.

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

We open our Food Pantry every Friday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 50 weeks a year. The program is designed to provide a bag of groceries for needy families who are hungry with no questions asked. We are able to serve all nationalities including Latinos, Caucasians, Asians, African Americans and others reflecting the neighbor-hood's diverse population. Each Friday, we order the next week's food from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. The food is delivered the following Monday. Each month, we send a report back to the Los Angeles Food Bank with the results. Over the last year, we gave out 2,000 bags of groceries (1 bag per family) that provided food for more than 5,000 family members! Many of our neighbors want fresh food, like vegetables and fruit. We are working our partners to develop a plan so that our community can have access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Special thanks to Lee Strand, Teresa Negrete, and Vance Smith for their faithfulness to this ministry. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please see Lee Strand.



LEADERSHIP RETREAT, OCTOBER 14, 2017

On Saturday, October 14, the church leadership and staff met at Mt. St. Mary's College. Gerald Gubatan said that the "gathering was expertly facilitated in a beautiful setting, bringing together a diverse mix of long-time and new members, volunteer lay leaders and paid staff. The session was a bold effort to build team work and address critical concerns." Michael Mata served as the day's facilitator.



FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP EMPHASIS SUNDAY



Rev. Kenneth Kho was our guest preacher on Filipino Fellowship Emphasis Sunday, October 22, 2017, preaching on the topic, "A Cup Full of Water" (Genesis 21:18-21).

Rev. Kho previously served as Associate Minister at First Baptist Church (1996-2001) and led our Filipino Fellowship.

After the morning worship service, members enjoyed the mini-reunion over Filipino noodles and bread.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to all of those with birthdays this month, including:
 November 2 – Santiago Morales & Marta Torres
 November 4 – Joy Cho
 November 9 - Norman Bullock
 November 25 – Lee Strand

IN MEMORIAM
 The Church Family extends its deepest Christian Sympathy to the family of
BARBARA HIGGINSON
 Deceased October 22, 2017
 Church Member 1990-2017

NOVEMBER MOVIE

Attending his sister's annual Christmas party, Kirk Cameron discovers there is nothing worse than being around a "Scrooge!" But Kirk won't let his brother-in-law's negative take on the season dampen his Christmas spirit. Join Kirk and dive headfirst into all of the joy, celebration, feasting, ima-gination, and traditions that glorify Jesus as the true "reason for the season."

Starring Kirk Cameron and his real-life sister Bridgette Ridenour, *Saving Christmas* is an engaging movie that provides your family with a biblical basis for our time-honored traditions and celebrations—including Christmas trees, Saint Nicholas, and the Nativity!

If you want your family's Christmas celebration to be all about Jesus, then it's time to start a new tradition with *Saving Christmas*! Make the most of the Christmas season: let the *Saving Christmas* tradition begin!

Join us on **November 17 at 7:00** p.m. in the Robbins Dining Hall.

NEWS DEADLINE
 The next issue of *The First Baptist NEWS* will be published on **NOVEMBER 20, 2017.**



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“BECOMING A FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS CHURCH”

(Please read Revelation 3:7-13 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“GIVING THANKS WITH AN EXCLAMATION POINT!”

(Please read Psalm 100 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching

– Thank You Offering –

12:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Luncheon

– Presentation of the Townsend Award –