

# 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](mailto:fbcla@fbcofla.org)

Volume LXXXVI

No. 1

JANUARY 1, 2018

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

## CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, AT FIRST BAPTIST



*Christian Education Christmas program*



*Christmas luncheon*



*2017 Townsend Award presented to Jung Nam and Soo Lee; also present were son John and his family.*



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, shall be held at 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California on Sunday, **January 21, 2018 at 12:30 p.m.** for the purpose of adopting a budget and hearing the financial report for 2017 and progress reports from the various Ministries.

— Ann Brodie, Moderator and  
Amy Shellmire, Church Clerk



### NEWS SCHEDULE

The next issue of *The First Baptist NEWS* will be dated **JANUARY 15, 2018.**

### THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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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## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

Happy New Year! As we enter 2018, we continue to trust God in the transition. Most of us look forward to Christmas with joy and anticipation. Then, almost too quickly, the New Year abruptly arrives only a week later. How do you view the coming year? Do you look forward to fresh possibilities and renewed potential? Or do you cling to the familiarity of the waning year?

Whether we like it or not, time hurls us forward. The New Year stretches before us like a blank white piece of paper. Why not take advantage of the clean slate the New Year provides and set some goals to work toward? During the new year, we set spiritual, mental, emotional/relational and physical goals. As you set goals, be willing to take steps out of your comfort zone.

In other churches where I have served, the month of January has been marked by a time of fasting and prayer. In that same spirit, I invite you to join me on a 21-day fast beginning January 7, 2018 and continue through Sunday, January 28, 2018 to seek and honor God for the New Year. *"I beseech you therefore; brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service"* (Romans 12:1). By starting the year with a corporate fast, God meets with us in very unique and special ways. His presence grows greater and greater with each day of the fast. Without fail, He always shows up!

Corporately fasting in January is much the same precept as praying in the morning to establish the will of God for the entire day. I believe that, if we will pray and seek God and give Him our best at the first of the year, He will bless our ENTIRE year! *"But seek ye first*

*the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"* (Matthew 6:33).

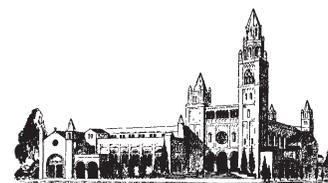
Fasting is a principle that God intended for everyone to be able to enjoy. It's not a punishment; it's a privilege! By making fasting a way of life, we can get closer to God and grow in our spiritual walk like never before. Building and sustaining our relationship with God and one another will be a key theme during the sermon series for the month of January.

Another reward of fasting has to do with your future. God has given you a vision, a divine dream and purpose for your life. When you fast, you open up the blessings and opportunities. During the month of January, learning opportunities and resources will be made available to provide direction, inspiration and information about Fasting, the different types of Fasts and reasons for fasting. If you are unable to participate in the full 21-day fast, please consider a one day, three day, or a seven day fast.

Ask the Lord to show you areas to target during your time of fasting and prayer. Start with a clear goal and make a commitment to stick to your fast. Be ready to grow in your walk like never before as you seek the Lord through the Biblical principles of prayer and fasting. Remember, *"He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him!"* (Hebrews 11:6)

With Hope,

Norman Bullock



## 2017 TOWNSEND AWARD

In 1997, First Baptist Church awarded its first John H. Townsend Award, in recognition of church members whose service to First Baptist spans 30 years or more. It is named in honor of the Rev. Dr. John Townsend who served as our Senior Minister for over 35 years.



The recipients of the 2017 John Townsend award are good people of moral character, kind and gentle souls, always gracious, humble Christian servants, and two individuals who have spent a significant part of their church life in service here at First Baptist.

Over 45 years ago, our honorees came to America from distant shores, arriving in California. The husband shortly entered the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley. Upon graduation from the seminary, the husband joined the staff at First Baptist and he became a member in 1975. His wife, fully embracing the role of a pastor's wife, became an integral part of their congregation and supported the ministry. In 1977, our church ordained the husband, as we built a staff of clergy fulfilling our vision of being international and intercultural in multicultural Los Angeles. A decade later, the husband became the pastor of the Valley Park Korean Baptist Church in the San Fernando Valley, but the couple retained their membership at First Baptist.

Upon the husband's retirement a decade ago, the couple returned to First Baptist Church to participate in church life on a regular basis – for which we are truly grateful. They now live in an Orange County retirement community in Seal Beach, but visit FBCLA from time to time.

They have three sons. The eldest, Chris, is a pharmacist who is in the middle of medical school in Phoenix. Chris and his wife Kathy have one son, Matthew. James, the elder twin, is a professor of mathematics at a community college in Nevada, and he and his wife Jin-Hee have two children, Joseph and Jianne. John, the younger twin, is a psychologist in the San Fernando Valley, and he and his wife Susan have three children, Charlotte, Noah, and Grace. As a testament to his witness as an inspiring man of God, John, chose the path of ministry and is an ordained minister who has graced our pulpit on several occasions.

By now, you have no doubt guessed that our 2017 John Townsend Award is given to our beloved **Reverend and Mrs. Jung Nam and Hyun Soo Lee.**

– Presented December 17, 2017

## RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING (RMMO)

Each year in January, we collect the RMMO offering. The offering supports those who have dedicated their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in times of need with a thank you check at the end of each year. The theme of this year's offering is *Generous Congregations*. The verse is taken from Isaiah 32:8, "But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity." Generosity is central to our faith. As Christians, we are called to serve and care for others, and RMMO aligns with the collective spirit of love that inspires us all to honor the devotion of ministers and their families for their service to the church.

Please join us in honoring God's committed servants by donating to RMMO during the month of January. Thank you for your support.

## WINTER YOUTH RETREAT FUNDRAISER

The First Baptist Church Youth needs to raise money for the upcoming Winter Youth Retreat. We will be holding two fundraiser events in January to meet the financial cost of the retreat:

- There will be a Bake Sale on Sunday, January 21, 2018. The children will bring baked goods for sale to the church for you to enjoy. Please come and buy high quality sweets for you and your family.
- The second fundraiser is a Spaghetti Movie Night. This will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2018. The youth will be showing a movie and providing a delicious dinner to all who attend.

Please be prayerful and consider giving generously to these worthwhile events. The young people of the church need your support. Thank you First Baptist!

## 2017-2018 CHURCH OFFICERS

**Moderator** – Ann Brodie

**Vice-Moderator** – David McFadden

**Church Clerk** – Amy Shellmire

**Treasurer** - Shirley Parsley

**Church Council Members-at-Large:**

Zuleima Argumedo, Gerald Gubatan, Ben Marte, Nalis Mercier, and Marta Torres

**Pastoral Search Committee:**

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



## COMMUNION SUNDAY. JANUARY 7, 2018

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Class for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“A S.M.A.R.T. PLAN TO START THE NEW YEAR”**

(Please read II Chronicles 7:14; and II Corinthians 4:17-18 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK**, Preaching

– *Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering (RMMO)* –



## SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018

*Social Justice Sunday in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday*

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Class for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**“WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF US?”**

(Please read Micah 6:6-8 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK**, Preaching