

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS



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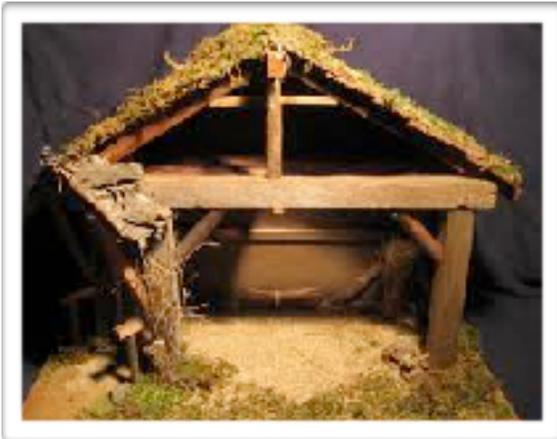
Volume LXXXVI

No. 2

JANUARY 15, 2018

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

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS



When the song of the angels is
stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are
home,
When the shepherds are back with
the flocks,
Then the work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal those broken in spirit,
To feed the hungry,
To release the oppressed,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all peoples,
To make a little music with the
heart...
And to radiate the Light of Christ,
Every day, in every way, in all that we
do and in all that we say.
Then the work of Christmas begins.

– Howard Thurman (adapted)

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

As we start the third week of the new year, I invite you to continue to join me in prayer for our spiritual renewal as a congregation of committed believers in Jesus Christ. We all are in constant need of continuing spiritual renewal. Spiritual renewal comes through commitment and cleansing, and expresses itself in celebration. I like how David illustrated this in his prayer, “*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*” (Psalm 51:10) The Psalms are great to read for prayer and spiritual renewal. David asks God to renew a steadfast spirit within him. This is a spirit that isn’t easily shaken; a spirit that allows only God’s truth to guide it; a spirit that can’t be moved, regardless of what is going on around it. It is a confident spirit that allows God’s Word to be the final authority. This scripture is a reminder to trust God no matter what we face.

Here are some suggestions as we continue to pray, seeking God’s face and God’s direction for the life and future ministry of FBCLA:

- We are called to pray, seeking to praise God for His glory and majesty, and to thank Him for His overflowing grace, mercy, and providential care.
- We are invited to pray, seeking to align our personal and congregation lives with the will of God.
- We are instructed to pray, seeking God's blessings upon His people, and thanking God for gifting us with one another in the Body of Christ.
- We all need to pray, seeking stronger unity and deepened fellowship in our congregation.
- We are urged to pray, seeking God's forgiveness for our personal and corporate failings.
- We are summoned to pray, seeking divine direction and discernment of God's vision.
- We are encouraged to pray, seeking renewed commitment and empowerment to carry out God's mission.
- We are challenged to pray, seeking God's direction in calling the next Pastor of FBCLA

During the month of January, we also celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 15. On this holiday, we have a unique opportunity to understand and appreciate the relationship between the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an American Baptist ordained

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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

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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*.

CHURCH PHONE: (213) 384-2151

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9:00 am-4:30 pm

www.FBCofLA.org

email addresses:

General: FBCLA@FBCofLA.org

Norman Bullock:

NBullock@FBCofLA.org

Cynthia Felton: CFelton@FBCofLA.org

James Johnson:

JJohnson@FBCofLA.org

Woun Kim: WKim@FBCofLA.org

Sandra Rogers:

SandraBR@FBCofLA.org

Esther Sanchez:

ESanchez@FBCofLA.org

Lisa Thomas: LThomas@FBCofLA.org

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR (*continued*)

minister and the missional church. There is a need for us to live out what it means to be an authentic community of faith that addresses the social ills in our society that continue to divide us. I have been following with some interest and involvement the Repairers of the Breach, a nonpartisan not-for-profit organization headed by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, that seeks to build a moral agenda rooted in a framework that uplifts our deepest moral and constitutional values to redeem the heart and soul of our country. The revival of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival by this organization is urgently and morally mandated during this time of unprecedented inequities and economic repression. This year marks both the 91st birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as well as the 50th year of his death by an assassin's bullet commissioned by a brutal system of opposition to freedom and justice for all. Rev. Dr. King was a prophet to our nation and the world. He lived and died championing the cause of justice for all and striving to bring good news of a brighter day for the poor and vulnerable people of the world.

As a church, we have been called to be socially engaged. In fact, our own mission statement bears light to that in the statement "***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.***" How missional is First Baptist? King would challenge us to think first about the welfare of our community rather than the size of our congregation the next time someone asks how our church is doing.

With Hope,



Norman Bullock



IN APPRECIATION

Dear First Baptist Church family,

Thank you so much for the honor that you have given us. We are so humbled that your wonderful church family would remember us for this very meaningful award. Dr. John Townsend was a very important mentor in our lives.

May God continue to bless FBCLA in the coming year. This beautiful church family will always be in our prayers.

With love,

Jung Nam and Soo Lee



FROM OUR MODERATOR

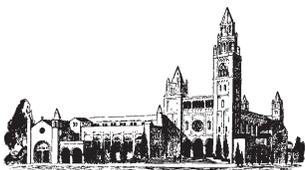
Happy New Year!!!

"Grace be unto you, and peace from God, our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 1:3). This scripture expresses my greetings to you as we begin our journey in 2018. God's grace will allow us to achieve ministry through planned projects; receive and nurture new members, and be good stewards in giving financially on regular bases.

Church leaders attended the second retreat on January 13th to discuss issues, review scriptures that relate to our CALL statement. Through prayer, God will grant us grace and peace.

A special thank you is extended to Dr. Norman Bullock for his leadership as interim pastor for three years. Thanks also goes to the church leadership. We are inspired to be more productive in 2018. I pray for God's grace to lead us.

Blessings and Peace,
Ann Brodie, Moderator



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JANUARY BABIES

Happy Birthday to all celebrating birthdays in January, including:

- Gladys Escorcia (1)
- Josue Guevara (1)
- Alma Marie Campos (6)
- Richard Rogers (16)
- Betty Licuanan (19)
- Eunice McGee (21)

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American Baptist preacher and social activist, who is generally identified as the leading figure in the American Civil Rights movement during the 1960's. Since he was an American Baptist, it is appropriate for us as a church to make special note of his contributions to society at the time of his birthday (January 15).

The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change website says:

"During the less than 13 years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December, 1955 until April 4, 1968, African Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality than the previous 350 years had produced. Dr. King is widely regarded as America's preeminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history.

"Drawing inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King led a nonviolent movement in the late 1950's and '60s to achieve legal equality for African-Americans in the United States. While others were advocating for freedom by 'any means necessary,' including violence, Martin Luther King, Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests and grassroots organizing, to achieve seemingly-impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family. ➡

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!



NEWS SCHEDULE

The next issue of *The First Baptist NEWS* will be dated **JANUARY 29, 2018**.

"Dr. King's *I Have a Dream* speech, Nobel Peace Prize lecture and *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* are among the most revered orations and writings in the English language. His accomplishments are now taught to American children of all races, and his teachings are studied by scholars and students worldwide. He is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor, and is the only non-president memorialized on the Great Mall in the nation's capitol. He is memorialized in statues, parks, streets, squares, churches and other public facilities around the world as a leader whose teachings are increasingly-relevant to the welfare of humankind."



SUNDAY. JANUARY 21, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“THE VALUE OF RELATIONSHIPS”

(Please read Matthew 22:34-40 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching

12:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Church School Class for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

REV. WOUN KIM, Preaching