



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

## QUARTERLY MINISTRY UPDATE SUMMARY- APRIL 22

### Quarterly Ministry Update

Last year, in order to keep the church apprised of the ministry during our transition, we added two gatherings (April and July) to the regular Annual Meeting (January) and Homecoming Meeting (September) as a way of creating a forum where the leaders and members could dialogue about the life of the church. At our April gathering on April 22, we received updates from some of our ministry leaders and were led in a discussion about upcoming initiatives from the Interim Pastor Norman Bullock.

The Ministry will help members carry out "Servant Evangelism", a focus to be introduced by Pastor Bullock. The Ministry further anticipates its participation in planning and executing the upcoming Summer Block Party, which is a culmination of the Vacation Bible School. We plan on developing creative activities to promote community and church engagement and outreach as we seek to be Good Neighbors.

Gerald G. Gubatan, Coordinator

### Diaconate Ministry

This ministry is determined to caring and nurturing of members.

We are dedicated Family Care Leaders to all members. We are available to comfort in time of sorrow. We always assist members in illness.

This quarter Congregational Care is greeting all visitors and members that return on special occasions. We hosted Jane Wilson's repast for the region. We participated in a prayer walk, along with the Evangelism Ministry, to support our Easter Eggstravaganza.

It is our goal to strive forward in meeting the needs of our members.

Ann Brodie, Coordinator

### Evangelism Ministry

The Evangelism Ministry is called on behalf of First Baptist Church to extend the invitation to others to become followers of Jesus Christ. We have embraced our homegrown brand "The Good Neighbor Center" and have asked ourselves in 2018: Who Are Our Neighbors? How Can We Be Good Neighbors?

On March 31, 2018, the Evangelism Ministry and Christian Education Ministry coordinated the 4th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza. Roughly, 100 local neighborhood residents participated, including mothers, fathers and their children, a few seniors. Close to 20 free blood pressure screenings conducted. Popular activities included two egg hunts, a mobile interactive video game truck and bouncer.

### Media and Communications Ministry

During the last quarter, after far too long of a wait, we released the updated website! Our Social Media presence is increasing with more people liking and commenting on posts that have been shared.

We are moving into the maintenance phase of the website. This includes making sure timely updates are provided to the website administrator, as well as content for the Blog section. My hope is to reach out to the Leads of each ministry to help share in this responsibility.

Alternatively, we could highlight various ministries and members as a way to allow potential visitors to get to know First Baptist Church of Los Angeles.

Amy Shellmire, Coordinator

### New Members Ministry Report

There are currently seven people in the process to become members. Four are by confession of faith and seeking baptism. Two are by Christian experience. One is by transfer of letter. All need to attend a New Members' class prior to congregational vote.

David McFadden, Chair

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## MOTHER'S DAY - SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Class for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**"WHERE IS THE LOVE?"**

(Please read I Corinthians 13:1-7 in preparation)

**MRS. MARIA N. BULLOCK, ESQ., Guest Speaker**



## SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018 - PENTECOST SUNDAY

**9:30 a.m.**

Church School Class for All Ages

**11:00 a.m.**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**"The Holy Spirit Breathes Life into Dry Bones"**

(Please read Ezekiel 37:1-14 in preparation)

**DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching**

## MAY BIRTHDAY WISHES

We celebrate the birthdays of our members:

May 1 - Gerald Gubatan

May 14 - Nalis Mercier

May 16 - Winifred Anderson Morgan

May 27 - Maxine McFarland



## THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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## QUARTERLY MINISTRY UPDATE (continued)

**Pastoral Search Committee**

During the first quarter of 2018, the Pastoral Search Committee met biweekly and continued to review and vet names of potential candidates. The Committee has considered interested candidates who have submitted completed applications for the position of Senior Minister. In some cases, the Committee learned applicants have pursued other opportunities with multiple churches and later they opted to accept offers from other churches.

The Committee nonetheless is committed to continue its work with the end goal in mind: to recommend a qualified Senior Minister to the Church Council and congregation. We thank the congregation for its ongoing patience and understanding. I appreciate the commitment of our Committee Members: Zuleima Armugedo, Rev. Daniel Choi, David McFadden, Shirley Parsley, Richard Rogers, and Marta Torres.

Gerald Gubatan, Chairman

**Sisters of Faith – Women’s Ministry**

Sisters of Faith recently sponsored a chili cook-off that was a great success! Etna Morales was the “big” winner, and received a \$15 Ralph’s gift card. We did intend to also sell raffle tickets to win two tickets to Six Flags, but unfortunately, we haven’t done this and will be raffling the tickets off at another time.

With the success of the chili cook-off, we are looking forward to hosting a “baby shower” the Sunday before Mother’s Day. With the support of the Men’s Fellowship (who will be providing party food), we hope to collect essential supplies for new mothers. This includes diapers, wipes and hygiene supplies. A flyer will be created to explain the needs and donated goods will be donated to The Avenues.

Amy Shellmire, Leader

**Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July and planning is well underway.

VBS Books have been ordered as of Monday, April 16, 2018. VBS invitation letters have been distributed to VBS Team. On May 5, 2018 from 9 am – 12 pm, there will be an Orientation/Training meeting. Curriculum will be provided. There are plans for large outdoor banners to announce VBS.

Zuleima Argumedo, Coordinator

## VBS 2018 - SAVE THE DATE - JULY 9-13



## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR’S PEN

During the Quarterly Ministry Update on April 22, I shared information with those present on three important initiatives for the second quarter (April - June 2018):

**1) Birth Month Connection Group**

This small group ministry is being formed as a means of inspiring and promoting fellowship within the church and engagement of new members. We would like to improve in our efforts in connecting with newcomers when they visit and unite with our church. Authentic community is designed by God to be the environment where people grow and make an impact in the world. God desires for us to live in real relationships. As members join the church they will become members of their birth month small group:

- January/February
- March/April
- May/June
- July/August
- September/October
- November/December

As each of the groups grow and develop, we will expand and create single month small groups.

**2) Servant Evangelism**

Through our Evangelism Ministry, we will be intentional about creating opportunities for Servant Evangelism, which is sharing the love and message of Jesus Christ through practical acts of service and kindness. Servant Evangelism is a biblical, fun, simple, and intentional way to make sharing Jesus a lifestyle.

**3) Becoming a Welcoming Church**

Every church sends a message through how they welcome and treat guests. Those with no strategy send the loudest message: “What we believe has not impacted how we treat you.” Not to be hospitable is to prove the message of God’s grace hasn’t impacted the totality of the church.

Hospitality is the combination of two words: stranger and love. It literally means to show love to strangers and it is very biblical. God’s hospitality toward us is the foundation and motivation for our hospitality toward others. God loved us while we were still strangers. While we were His enemies, He pursued us. And now we are to accept others the way Christ has accepted us. Being hospitable is even a qualification for being a leader in the church (1 Timothy 3:2). Churches must have a plan for how they show love to those who are their guests.

Our learning opportunity will be aided with the book entitled, **Becoming A Welcoming Church** by Thom Rainer who bases his thesis in the book on interviews of over 1,000 churches/pastors.

At First Baptist, we want to promote, enhance and in some areas promote our fellowship of believers as a welcoming church. We will engage in a Six Week Church-Wide Learning Opportunity on Pentecost Sunday, May 20 during the Sunday Church School hour from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in Room 12. Light Refreshments will be served

## FBCLA LIFESTYLE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We successfully launched the Lifestyle Stewardship Capital Campaign on Sunday, April 15, with First Fruits Sunday. All members are encouraged to give toward this campaign. Our goal is \$100,000, which is over and beyond your normal giving to tithes and offerings. You may give your offering via the special envelopes or with the regular offering envelopes under other and identifying your gift as Lifestyle Stewardship Capital Campaign. The spiritual goals of the Lifestyle Stewardship Campaign are:

- To forge a deeper relationship with Jesus as we seek God’s guidance in making a commitment to support God’s vision for First Baptist Church•

- To expand God’s influence and share His love through assessing our lifestyle, re-ordering our priorities and re-allocating our financial re-sources. In offering our best to God, we will be able to carry out God’s vision to reach others for Jesus and have the resources necessary to address critical areas of our facilities so that we can have the space needed to serve our stakeholders

Through your giving, we will be able to make the changes needed in our facilities including:

- Security System
- Seismic Work
- Phase II of our Audio/Video System
- Improvements in Boiler Room