

# THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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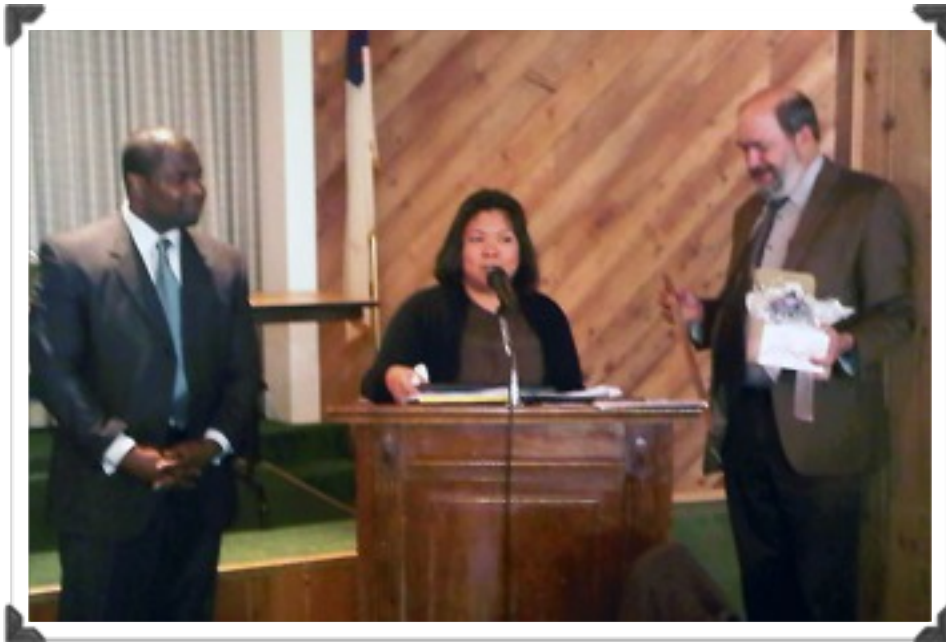
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FEBRUARY 15, 2010

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

## 2010 HOLLINGER AWARD PRESENTED TO VIVIAN SILLA AT THE ANNUAL MEETING



Senior Minister Carlton Rhoden, Vivian Silla, & Moderator David McFadden  
(Photo by Gerald Gubatan)

Our 2010 Hollinger Award recipient, Vivian Silla, joined First Baptist in 1985 and was baptized here. Very soon, she became active in the Christian Education department and was involved in the many activities there including Vacation Bible School, Sunday School teaching, and the House Party. She served as Church School Superintendent, chair of the Board of Christian Education, and most recently, coordinator of the Christian Education Core Ministry. She received the Arlo Reichter Award for all of her work in Christian Education in 2002.

But, Vivian has also given of herself in many other areas of the church, including having completed the Evangelism program a couple of years ago, and serving on the Nominating Committee and on the Pastoral Search Committee. She served as the Church librarian back in the days of the Gibson Memorial Library. She is an active member of the Filipino Fellowship. She worked in the Church office from 1987-1994 and was the editor of the *First Baptist NEWS* at that time.

In January of 2003, she spoke as part of the Wednesday evening program and told of her journey

to First Baptist, Los Angeles. I would like to quote from some of her talk:

*"My journey to First Baptist, Los Angeles began in 1984. I arrived in this country at 10:30 p.m. on a Saturday night. The following morning, I was awakened and told to get dressed for church, and then whisked off to First Baptist, L.A. I was introduced around to everybody in the Filipino Fellowship and was expected to remember all the names, how they were related to me, and what year they were in CPU. This, of course, was after about four hours of sleep after a 16-hour flight from the Philippines, which is only approximately on the other side of the world and in a time zone about 21 hours ahead of California time.*

*"My journey to First Baptist was uneventful. It was expected that I come here, my Aunt came here. . . and I was an obedient girl, doing what was expected. Well, thank goodness for obedient little girls...*

*"But, it's not important how I got here, what is important is why I stayed. I stayed because I was shown that there is something I can do to make this world a better place. I stayed because I was shown that in doing the little things, big things come to pass. I stayed because I was shown that despite all my shortcomings and naiveté, I could make a difference. I continue my life at this church holding on to these teachings, and I continue to believe."*

We, too, are glad that she was an obedient girl, because we are all the richer for having her with us. Our 2010 Woman of the Year, **VIVIAN SILLA**.

– Presented by  
David McFadden, Moderator

**WELCOME!****CHARLOTTE SEUNG-HYE LEE**

Born January 25, 2010

**Parents**

Susan and John Lee

**Proud Grandparents**

Hyun Soo and Jung Nam Lee

**NEWS SCHEDULE**

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **March 1, 2010** and will cover services and events through March 14, 2010. Material and articles for the March 1<sup>st</sup> issue should arrive in the church office **no later than February 17.**

**THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS**

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**MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

The New Testament speaks a great deal about serving others. I Peter 4:10 tells us, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." Serving others is something that is central to the Christian faith. Now, service can be defined in a variety of ways. The simple point is that we are challenged to show our faith through our actions.

On Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have our first Sunday Service Day. On this day, we are partnering with Hope-Net to feed 300 people in our neighborhood. Hope-Net will provide the majority of food and additional items so that there is no cost to First Baptist. Let us thank them for that. What I am asking us to do is to come and serve. Come and make sandwiches, distribute sandwiches, or help set up and clean up. This will not be our normal "worship service" but we will "worshiply" serve our Lord by serving others. If you feel that you are unable to serve, you can donate lunch meat. We will begin collecting lunch meat on March 7. I believe that we are in a wonderful position to show our community how much we care for them; that we, the First Baptist Church, feel committed and called to serve Jesus Christ. Sign up sheets will be available starting Sunday, February 21 in the narthex and Newman Lounge.

On the Sunday of Service (March 21), we will gather in the Robbins Dining Hall at 9:30 a.m. for an abbreviated worship service of song, of inspiration and of offering up our service to the glory of God. Then at 10:00 a.m., we will make the sandwiches and put together the bag lunches. We will serve them from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

Please look for the announcement and sign up list around the church.

–Carlton A. Rhoden

**WHY SHOULD WE GIVE?**

The easy answer to the above question is that it is a Biblical mandate. There are countless scriptures, both in the Old and the New Testament, that make our obligation clear.

However, as with many Biblical mandates, the benefits to the obedient follower go well beyond simply following the rules. As Don Campbell writes in *Taking the Stew Out of Stewardship*, many givers experience "the life change experienced by godly commitment to sacrificial giving or the sense of joy in giving and being part of something exciting and growing." To give to a church usually increases the sense of community felt by the giver, and his/her sense of belonging grows. As with many of God's commands, this one benefits the doer at least as much as anyone else.

Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

– reprinted from  
*American Baptist*

*Stewardship Resources website*

**COMMUNITY TRAFFIC MESSAGE**

The Los Angeles Police Department – West Traffic Division would like to keep you safe.....  
 Safety Tips for Pedestrians

- Walk on the sidewalk and not in the roadway
- Cross at corners and inside crosswalks
- Enter the crosswalk when the "white pedestrian figure" is lit
- Don't cross when the "red hand" is flashing or solid during number sequence
- Make eye contact with drivers
- Wear bright colors during the night time for better visibility

## CORE MINISTRY COORDINATORS' MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORTS: BUILDING & FINANCE, CONGREGATIONAL CARE, and CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Building and Finance

The following are highlights of this ministry from September to December, 2009:

- Kitchen cleaned and prepped for Homecoming and other events.
- Homecoming luncheon was an international buffet.
- Koinonia requested a reduction in rent – granted.
- Ann Meitner estate in probate. FBC is a beneficiary.
- FBC's historic status may face stricter regulations in the future.
- There is interest in a "Wall of Memory" by some members.
- Festival of Lights dinner served 220 meals; a guest chef was hired.
- 2010 budget in progress.

*David Ho, Coordinator*

### Congregational Care

During the fall of 2009, the Congregational Care Core Ministry continued to provide expressions of pastoral care and support for our church members, fostering a community of faith in service of Christ. Our dedicated volunteers selflessly gave their time, energy and resources as together we celebrated the Homecoming, Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Key activities included:

- Sponsoring the FBCLA Café every Sunday morning
- Providing hospitality and a time of fellowship with coffee and refreshments following Sunday worship services
- Offering prayerful support and making personal contacts with members and friends experiencing illness, surgery or other personal concerns
- Distributing Christmas poinsettia flowers to members on the "shut-in" list
- Assisting with organizing church receptions following the memorial services for our beloved Paul Rotcher and Lynda Strand

As we begin a new year, the Congregation Care Core Ministry reaffirms its commitment to Christian service, and the well-being and nurturing of the community of faith we call First Baptist Church of Los Angeles. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the many members who continue to quietly and humbly perform their acts of devotion and compassion each and every week. If you are seeking opportunities to serve your church in 2010, I invite you to actively participate in our Ministry. Indeed, in faithful service, God promises an inheritance filled with a richer experience of life in the millennium. May you have a blessed New Year!

*Gerald G. Gubatan, Coordinator*

### Christian Education

September marks the beginning of most local schools' calendars in Los Angeles, and so does it for our Children's Sunday School. Christian Education Sunday this year was markedly different. It was the debut of our newly formed Youth band, "That One Band." Under the tutelage of our Minister of Music, René Rowland, our Youth brought out their musical talents and shared with us their music. Victor Martinez, Jr. drew the front cover of the program this year depicting the flow of water through land, bringing about hope and change – the theme of this year's program. Jennifer Corona delivered the Message of hope and change by bringing it down to the level of each and every person's struggles as she relates to her own personal struggles of juggling school, work and personal commitments. It was a wonderful service and the children and youth worked long hours rehearsing.

October marked the start of rehearsals for the Christmas play. In November, the youth had their Progressive Dinner, hosted by three families of our congregation. December was a hectic month for

our children as rehearsals intensified. This year's Christmas presentation, *The Year Before Christmas*, was led primarily by the Children's Division from Kindergarten to Fifth Grade. It was a musical combining a lot of rehearsal with singing and speaking parts. The Pre-School children looked adorable with their Drummer Boy number. All these rehearsals could not have been possible without the parents who brought their children every Sunday and during the Saturday rehearsal, as well.

December also marked a big change in the lives of a few members of our youth. They were actively participating in the Festival of Lights in roles that were quite significant and showcased their talents, commitment, and consistency. They were in the background helping with props, set-up, as well as recruiting other youth for candlelighting. They also played various musical instruments during the program such as the tambourines, flute and hand bells. This year, Kudzo Ahegbebu, another member of our youth, was the narrator. They also assisted with take-down of most of the props after the Festival.

It is remarkable how fast 2009 came and went. It is wonderful to see our Youth Group grow and mature into young men and women, demonstrating commitment and reliability when given the opportunities to do so. It is wonderful to see the younger children step up to bigger roles, also when given the opportunity. This year has been a wonderful year for the Children's Sunday School, a year when the children and youth have been expected to do, and be more than they've ever been. It was a year when they have outdone themselves and stepped up to the plate and said, "Of course we can – just give us the chance!" This has been a year of Hope and Change.

*Vivian D. Silla, Coordinator*

760 South Westmoreland Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90005



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010**

*9:30 a.m.*

Church School Classes for All Ages

*11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:*

**“LOVE IN SEVEN MINUTES”**

(Please read Romans 13:8-14 in preparation)

**REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching**



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010**

*9:30 a.m.*

Church School Classes for All Ages

*11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:*

**“MARRIAGE IN THE NOW”**

(Please read Luke 20:27-38 in preparation)

**REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching**