

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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July 5, 2010

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

UP-DATE from the CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

Special thanks to all members who donated "healthy" foods and favorite dishes at our all-church potluck on June 13. Following table fellowship and recognizing our children and youth, we heard our own Rev. Pat Cosman, a hospital chaplain, share her perspectives on approaching the end of life. We ended with a celebration of the 46th wedding anniversary of John and Denie Sturm, who were joined by Norm and Denise Dilley, and Lee Strand and Teresa Negrete, dancing to the "Anniversary Waltz."

I would like to especially thank those volunteers who quietly "behind the scenes" contributed their time and energy to make our potluck a success, including Bernice Thomas, Elda Thomas, Matilde Albeño and Nelly Ruiz.

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming all-church activities:

Summer Picnic: Sunday, August 29 at Griffith Park; and

136th Anniversary/ Homecoming Meeting: Sunday, September 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the Robbins Dining Hall.

Blessings,
Gerald G. Gubatan,
Coordinator
Congregational Care Ministry



2008 Block Party



BLOCK PARTY
Sunday, July 11, 2010
12:00 to 3:00 p.m.



Join us for a fun filled afternoon
Register for Vacation Bible School

Food • Fun
• Games



2009 Block Party



2009 Block Party

BEST FATHERS IN THE WORLD

On Father's Day, June 20th, the Ebenezer Fellowship honored **Manuel Ayala, Roberto Menjivar, Gilberto Saravia and Vance Smith** with "The Best Father in the World" Award in recognition of meeting the challenges of single parenthood and raising beautiful children.

First Baptist extends special thanks to all fathers, uncles, mentors and men who have served as positive role models for children and youth. As we remember our Father in heaven, may God's blessings be upon the men in our congregation and community.

– *Gerald Gubatan*, Coordinator
Congregational Care Ministry

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ABCUSA AND IMMIGRATION REFORM

On May 6, 2010, a meeting was held at the Mission Center in Valley Forge to discuss how American Baptists might engage the issue of immigration and immigration reform. A letter was written and endorsed by many denominational leaders, most of whom attended the meeting.

The letter is an open message promoting a view of immigration reform focused on mercy and justice, mirroring God's love for all of humankind. The letter is available on the American Baptist Churches USA website, at: <http://www.abc-usa.org>. Click [here](#) for a direct link.

American Baptists have been in the forefront of welcoming immigrants into our country and churches for over 100 years. There is no one racial or ethnic group holding majority membership in the American Baptist Churches, USA.

General Secretary Roy Medley has noted, "There is broad agreement among Protestant leaders (including those represented in the National Association of Evangelicals, the National Council of Churches, Sojourners and Church World Service) that immigration reform in our country must reflect mercy and justice rooted in God's love through 'immigration reform legislation that is consistent with humanitarian values, supports families, provides a pathway to citizenship for immigrant workers already in the U.S., expands legal avenues for workers to enter the U.S. with their rights and due process fully protected, and examines solutions to address the root causes of migration.'" (quoted by Evangelicals for Social Action from Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform-Sojourners) This moral framework is shared by Roman Catholic and Orthodox faith leaders as well."

"And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I

say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Matt 25:38-40).

"We do not claim any superior understanding of the issue or what the Gospel demands of us. We know there are differing perspectives in our denominational family," the letter states. "One of our purposes in writing you, in fact, is to encourage brothers and sisters in the faith to share those different perspectives so that our conversation and our responses in word and deed can be richer and more representative."

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24).

American Baptist Churches is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with 5,500 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members, across the United States and Puerto Rico, all engaged in God's mission around the world.

Hope-Net's 18th Annual

TASTE OF LARCHMONT

Monday, August 23

6-9 p.m.

On Larchmont Boulevard

Cost: \$40 per person

Raffle Tickets: \$5 ea or 5 for \$20

Raffle prizes include: \$1,000 cash, and Dine out for two (12 dinners)

Participating Restaurants:

Avocado Grill, California Roll & Sushi, Chan Dara, El Cholo, Kiku Sushi, La Bottega Marino, Larchmont Deli, Larchmont Grill, Le Petit Greek, Louise's Trattoria, Prado, Village Pizzeria, Z Pizza, Larchmont Village Wine & Spirits.

Dessert Participants include:

Baskin Robbins, Bricks & Scones, Callendar's Wilshire, Canters, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Crumbs, El Coyote, House of Pies, Larchmont Larder.

More Info: www.hopenetla.org

AROUND THE CHURCH

On June 26, the youth enjoyed an outing to play laser tag and on June 27, they held a lunch fundraiser to raise funds for summer activities, under the direction of new youth minister, **Curt Thomas**. Mr. Thomas began his work with the youth in April. In addition to his work at First Baptist, Mr. Thomas is a Behavior Intervention Specialist with high school students through the Los Angeles Unified School District. We welcome Mr. Thomas to the church staff on a part-time basis.

The **mission team going to Somoto, Nicaragua** will leave September 1 and return September 10. They will participate in the dedication of the new church building which our church has helped to make possible. They will also help in some additional construction. If you can join the team, please register and make a \$600 deposit immediately (was due July 1) so that air travel can be secured. The total cost is \$1,000. Please register with the pastor or Ron Tigerino, rtigerino@aol.com.

A group of young people from the First Baptist Church of Portland, Oregon, where David Wheeler is serving as senior minister, will be staying in the Underground this month, **July 8-15**. They are in Los Angeles doing summer work projects with Habitat for Humanity. Under the leadership of Associate Minister Suzie Gilmore, they will share in worship on July 11th with music.

Then, **in August**, ABC/LA will again hold their "Serve the City" program. Young people coming for this project will be housed in the Underground while doing work and mission projects throughout Los Angeles. Under the leadership of Regional Minister Doug Hubbard, young people in this program have utilized First Baptist building for the past several years and we welcome them again this year!

John and Denie Sturm celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary on June 13; and **John and Carol Townsend** their 45th on June 19. Congratulations to both couples.

SAVE THE DATE!
AUGUST 29
ALL-CHURCH PICNIC
 at
 Griffith Park

ONLINE GIVING

To use your VISA, MasterCard and Discover Card for offerings and donations online, go to www.fbcofla.org and click on "giving" in the menu on the left. You can also set up a regular donation for your monthly pledge on your credit card.

As always, thank you for your donations to First Baptist.

A NOTE FROM THE SHAWVERS, OUR MISSIONARY PARTNERS IN MEXICO



Dear First Baptist Church:

Thank you for all you do for missions and missionaries. We appreciate your faithful support of our ministry here in southern Mexico.

God's word is being preached and taught and received with enthusiasm. We have had medical and dental clinics in impoverished areas. We are preparing for Vacation Bible Schools.

In Christ,
Ramona & Chuck

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Once again, Christian Education is sponsoring Vacation Bible School from **July 12th through July 16th – hours: 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.** We are appealing to the congregation to assist us with "some needs." We need scotch tape, masking tape, electrical tape, new watercolor paint, fine tip paint brushes (for water color paint), and construction paper. To help de-fray the cost of afternoon snacks, we need cookies, chips, punch, paper goods, plates, forks, spoons, knives, 8 oz. paper cups and napkins.

Thank you in advance for any donation you can give us; we are working with a reduced budget. Please bring your contributions to Sunday school office on Sundays or the Church office during the week.

Many blessings to you,
 Ann Brodie, CE Coordinator

COMMUNITY TRAFFIC MESSAGE

The Los Angeles Police Department – West Traffic Division would like to keep you safe.....Safety tips for Children Safety Seats

- Any child under the age of six weighing less than 60 pounds must be secured in a federally approved child passenger restraint system and ride in the back seat of a vehicle.
- Proper car seat installation can be checked by West Traffic Division, CHP or the fire department, who may provide this service or refer you to a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician.

NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **July 19, 2010** and will cover services and events through August 1, 2010. Material and articles for the July 19th issue should arrive in the church office **no later than July 7.**

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005



SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

“THE DANGER OF STALE WORSHIP”

(Please read Isaiah 1:11-16 in preparation)

REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching

12:30 p.m.

BLOCK PARTY on the Plaza



MONDAY through FRIDAY, JULY 12-16, 2010

4:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Vacation Bible School



SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

“WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH”

(Please read John 4:19-26 in preparation)

REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching