

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

Published by **The First Baptist Church of Los Angeles**
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Volume LXXX

No. 15

July 19, 2010

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

HOPE-NET'S 18th ANNUAL TASTE OF LARCHMONT

Monday, August 23, 2010
6-9 p.m.



"Hats off to Larchmont!"

The 18th annual Taste of Larchmont will be held on Monday, August 23, 2010 from 6pm to 9pm on Larchmont Boulevard between 1st Street and Beverly Blvd. This is sure to be a wonderful community event bringing together the spirit of our neighborhood to support Hope-Net's ongoing mission to fight hunger and food insecurity in metro Los Angeles. Join us for a fun filled event and support Hope-Net "because none of our neighbors should go hungry."

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)*

More Info and to purchase your tickets:

www.hopenetla.org

MINISTER'S MESSAGE: An Update about Haiti

On July 7th a magnitude 5.4 earthquake hit southern California. During all the media coverage my mind started to think about our neighbors in the Caribbean Sea. About six months ago all of us were shaken by the images we saw of Haiti. This tiny, poor country shaken to its very roots by a massive 7.0 earthquake stunned the world. I think all of us understood that Haiti was unstable, torn apart by different political rule throughout the years, but none of us were prepared to see building upon building collapsed on top of each another. Schools, hospitals, government buildings, small and large businesses were crushed in the earthquake, as were hundreds of thousands of homes.

In April, the United Nations' head of mission offered revised casualty figures that put the number of dead between 250,000 and 300,000. According to the BBC, one in every 15 Haitians affected by the earthquake perished. Some 300,000 people were injured and more than a million left homeless.

Aftershocks continue to shake the tiny nation, adding to survivors' emotional and spiritual stress. The US Geological Survey says the aftershocks are likely to continue throughout 2010 and may cause additional damage.

And then, there is hurricane season. It is raining now in Haiti—a daily, short, tropical rain. Yet at any time over the next five months that rain could become a fierce storm like the four that tore through the country less than a year and a half before the earthquake, causing flooding and killing hundreds.

We need to continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti and not forget about them. There is still great need, and support is needed, not just following the reconstruction after the earthquake, but also for the reconstruction of the political infrastructure and economy. Let's not forget about them.

— Pastor Carlton

GUEST TEACHER FOR THE PARTNERS CLASS

During the summer vacation absence of John Sturm, the faithful long time teacher of the Partners Class, a recently ordained Ph.D. American Baptist young woman is serving as substitute.

Dr. Fontella White was the special speaker at Woman's Day of the Annual Meeting of ABCLA and ABCOSH in May. She is new to Los Angeles, having come from the east coast. Currently, her church affiliation is at Trinity Baptist, Los Angeles.

Everyone is invited to attend the Partners Class during July and August. The class meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in room 311 on the 3rd floor.

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STAFF: Carlton A. Rhoden, *Senior Minister*. Sandra Rogers, *Administrative Assistant and NEWS Editor*. Esther Sanchez, *Receptionist*. René Rowland, *Minister of Music*. Curt Thomas, *Youth Minister*. Gilberto Saravia, Orlando Serpas, *Custodians*.

Ministry Team Volunteers: John H. Townsend, *Pastor Emeritus*. Ruth S. Morales, Richard S. Rogers, Robert B. Wallace, *Ministers*. David McFadden, *Moderator*.

CHURCH PHONE: (213) 384-2151

FAX: (213) 382-9669

VISTA TOWER: (213) 386-2786

www.FBCofLA.org

e-mail addresses:

General Inquiries: fbcla@FBCofLA.org
 Carlton Rhoden: crhoden@FBCofLA.org
 Sandra Rogers: srogers@FBCofLA.org
 René Rowland: rrowland@FBCofLA.org
 Esther Sanchez: esanchez@FBCofLA.org
 Gilberto Saravia: gsaravia@FBCofLA.org
 Curt Thomas: cthomas@FBCofLA.org
 Robert Wallace: rwallace@FBCofLA.org

NATIONAL MINISTRIES CHANGES NAME

In an exciting, event-filled day at the end of April, National Ministries lifted up its 19th century founders and missionaries, and affirmed the streams of mission that have led to the river of our current work and witness: Baptist General Tract Society (Publication Society); The American Baptist Home Mission Society; Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society; and The American Baptist Education Society.

The occasion was the anniversary of the founding of The American Baptist Home Mission Society in 1832, and we celebrated by worshipping at Mariner's Temple Baptist Church in New York City, which is where the idea for a home mission society was birthed.

As we reclaimed our historic identity that day, we also reclaimed our historic name: We are now carrying out ministry as American Baptist Home Mission Societies, using the plural "Societies" to affirm our rootedness in those historic mission streams that form our foundation.

I want you to know why we made this change: We often found we had to explain who we were because "National Ministries" included no identifying words. With the name American Baptist Home Mission Societies, we immediately communicate our American Baptist identity, our commitment to mission and our focus on mission "at home" in the United States and Puerto Rico. This change lifts up and boldly proclaims our strong, historic connection to American Baptist Churches USA and all our American Baptist partners in Christ's work.

I also want you to know that our ministry and mission have not changed. Our mission is Christ-centered, evangelical and ecumenical: our commitment to refugee resettlement, immigration issues, Children in Poverty, intercultural ministries, Christian centers, volunteerism, congregational transformation, Christian publishing and

Judson Press, as well as American Baptist Personnel Services and American Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors remains the same.

We carry out this mission as "the caring heart, serving hands, going feet and prophetic voice of Jesus Christ," using the words Discipleship, Community and Justice to sum up and reinforce all of this work. So important is this continuing commitment to mission at home that we pledged anew our covenant to answer God's call in the coming years in a consecration service that was part of our day in New York. For more information, please visit our Web site—www.abhms.org—where you'll find more information.

I am so excited about the journey we are making together as American Baptist Jesus followers. I look forward to partnering with your church to bring the Good News of transformation through Christ to your neighborhood and community.

With hope, I am—

Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III,

Executive Director
 American Baptist Home
 Mission Societies

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.

Historical Notes: OUR EARLY PASTORS

The First in an Occasional Series

WILLIAM AND ANNA HOBBS

Both William and Anna Hobbs were born in Nova Scotia where Dr Hobbs also began his ministry. Early in his chosen career, he and his wife, Anna, felt the call to go to the foreign field as missionaries. In order to make his ministry more effective, Dr. Hobbs equipped himself with, what was for that time, a very good knowledge of medicine, surgery and dentistry. Although he was an ordained minister, his doctorate was in medicine. The Hobbs first went to Hawaii but remained there only a short time before going on to Australia. In Australia, they ministered mostly to the people living in the southern and eastern areas.

Some time later, they came to Los Angeles and lost no time in making their influence felt in the community. Mrs. Hobbs, then 39 was a bundle of energy and enthusiasm. Within a short time she opened a private kindergarten where for several years she taught the children of many of the prominent families of that day.

The idea of starting a church was initiated with Dr. Hobbs. Some time earlier, when the Hobbs family arrived in Los Angeles, and failing to find a Baptist church, had drawn together a group of a dozen or so who met regularly in each other's homes. Not long thereafter, inspired by the enthusiasm of the Hobbs, the group decided to take the daring step of organizing a church. Eight of the number sent for their church letters and the date was set for the organizational meeting.

After the organizational requirements were completed, Dr. Hobbs was unanimously called to be the Pastor. Thus, on September 6, 1874, the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles came into being with a total of 11 members and Dr. Williams Hobs as its first pastor.

It became necessary for Dr. Hobbs to resign after serving as pastor for less than a year, but he still filled the pulpit upon occasion and both he and his wife continued active service as members. (Twenty-five years later, Mrs. Hobbs was still a member of the church.)

After his resignation was accepted, a committee of six was appointed to secure "a lot of which to build a Chapel and also to secure a pastor." The committee had its problems, for it was a decade before a church building was acquired, and for 15 months the Church remained pastorless, making little progress either spiritually or numerically.

—from

*Our Heritage and Our Hope,
The History of
First Baptist Church of
Los Angeles, California*
by Herbert L. Sutton

THANK YOU

Dear First Baptist family:

Thank you to everyone for your many cards, prayers, and thoughts of concern for Esteban, during his recent illness. We know that your prayers and concern have helped and they have meant much to Esteban and the family.

Your prayers are still needed as they continue to try to discover what is causing the problem.

—Aurora Martinez and family

NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **August 2, 2010** and will cover services and events through August 15, 2010. Material and articles for the August 2nd issue should arrive in the church office **no later than July 21.**

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

MUMMIES OF THE WORLD

In the fall, the Wednesday Bible Study Fellowship will walk through the book of Exodus. In preparation, we are going to explore life in Egypt as well as view the ***Mummies of the World*** exhibit at the California Science Center. You will want to put this weekly bible study on your calendar: Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in the trip to the ***Mummies of the World*** exhibit, we will go on **Thursday, September 2nd**. The price will be between \$25 and \$30 per person, including parking and the Imax movie, depending on how many people choose to go.

If you would like to go on this trip, we must have your reservation in order to confirm tickets, so please call the church office or e-mail fbcla@fbcofla.org to reserve by August 23rd.

The California Science Center's website describes the exhibit as follows:

Mummies of the World, the largest traveling exhibition of mummies ever assembled, presents a never-before-seen collection of both accidental and intentionally preserved mummies, presented with reverence and dignity. The collection includes ancient mummies and important artifacts from Asia, Oceania, South America and Europe as well as ancient Egypt, dating as far back as 6,500 years.

Through engaging interactive exhibits, *Mummies of the World* illustrates how current science tools enable us to study mummies in new and non-invasive ways, allowing unprecedented insights to past cultures and civilizations. The exhibit will reveal how the scientific study of mummies provides a window into the lives of ancient peoples from every region of the world.

Call the church office to make your reservation, no later than August 23rd.

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005



SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

“I WILL SING”

(Please read Exodus 15:1-21 in preparation)

REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching



COMMUNION SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

“THE PRESSURE OF PERFECTION”

(Please read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 and
Matthew 5:43-48 in preparation)

DR. ROBERT B. WALLACE, Preaching

