

# THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

Published by **The First Baptist Church of Los Angeles**  
760 South Westmoreland Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90005 • (213) 384-2151 • [fbcla@fbcofla.org](mailto:fbcla@fbcofla.org)



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

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

In the month of May, I, along with members of the Council of Ministries, took time to discuss the direction and future of our ministry. There were several small group meetings around the Los Angeles area, and every member was invited to attend. In those meetings, I presented information about areas of "strategic enhancement" to our ministry. Then in June, there was a special gathering to affirm what was heard and lift up areas to move forward. There were four areas: Fellowship, Stewardship, Worship, and Mission/Outreach.

We have already begun the process of moving in some of these areas. However, the major area of focus was worship. It was affirmed that we start to implement a blended worship style. This means we will incorporate contemporary music and liturgical offerings along with our traditional elements. So, under the leadership of René Rowland, Denise Dilley and the Worship Core Ministry, please begin to look for the enhancements starting in September.

This is a major step for us and I invite you to view some of these new elements of our ministry as fluid. What that means is that, if something seems to not fit our congregational DNA, we can change it until we find the right match for us. Some things will fit seamlessly, while others may feel forced. We will work to find worship enhancements that fit us.

Thank you for your affirmation of this strategic enhancement and let us look toward a bright future.

Also, there will be another round of small group meetings in October to discuss Stewardship. Look for the information coming soon.

—Carlton A. Rhoden



## This is Your Invitation to the 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Taste of Larchmont Village

*A Benefit for Hope-Net*

**Monday August 23, 2010 • 6 to 9 p.m.**

**For tickets and information**

**go to [hopenetla.org](http://hopenetla.org) or call 213-389-9949**

On Larchmont Boulevard between First and Beverly

### PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Avocado Grill • California Roll & Sushi • Chan Dara  
El Cholo (at Coldwell Banker North) • Kiku Sushi • La Bottega Marino  
Larchmont Deli • Larchmont Grill (at Coldwell Banker South) • Le Pain Quotidien  
Le Petit Greek • Louise's Trattoria • Prado • Village Pizzeria • Z Pizza  
Wine tasting at Larchmont Village Wine & Spirits

*Desserts courtesy of:*

Baskin Robbins • El Coyote • Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf  
• Crumbs • House of Pies • Larchmont Larder

## NEWS FROM YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Youth hosted a "movie night" for the entire church on Friday, August 13. In September, we plan to visit Pat Yeomans to share a meal and hear some of her stories about the church.

The Youth are looking for members that can be interviewed for a video documentary for Homecoming Sunday. If you are interested and/or know of a member who should be interviewed, please speak with me and/or email your suggestions to me at [cthomas@fbcofla.org](mailto:cthomas@fbcofla.org).

– Curt Thomas,  
Youth Minister

### THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

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## SUMMER COOK-OUT

**Sunday, August 29**  
**1-5 pm • \$5 per person**  
**Crystal Springs, Griffith Park**



Whether you're new to FBCLA or you've been around forever, join us for an afternoon of fun, games, conversation with old and new friends, and food!

For more information and to **sign-up for a carpool**, please see the information table in the narthex on Sundays after worship, or contact Gerald Gubatan, Congregational Care Ministry.



**Join us for a great afternoon!**

## NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **August 30, 2010** and will cover services and events through September 12, 2010. Material and articles for the August 30<sup>th</sup> issue should arrive in the church office **no later than August 18**.

## THANK YOU

On behalf of my family, I want to thank my First Baptist Family for your thoughts and prayers in the loss of my brother, Nick. Your support has been very comforting during these difficult days.

– Nellie Ho



There are times when we need to express our gratitude to those who have touched our lives in special ways. Times when we can return some of the joys invested in us. Times when we can honor and ask God's blessings on those who give so much.

August 1<sup>st</sup> was the time to celebrate Rev. Ruth Morales' 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. And I am pleased to communicate that the event was a total success. All attendees enjoyed the afternoon, especially our honoree.

Now is the time when I ask God's blessings on all those who lent a helping hand. I'd like to thank everyone who helped with the cost of the event. I especially would like to thank all the volunteers who worked long hours in the kitchen: our food servers, tables setters and anyone that contributed in one way or another.

*Thank you all! I could have not done it without all of you! Thank you for all the hard work and effort. We definitely had great fellowship!*

– Maritza Osorio



A BIG thank you to Maritza and the Ebenezer Fellowship for the lovely birthday party you gave me on August 1, and to the whole church family for your attendance and birthday wishes. It was wonderful to celebrate with everyone. Thank you so much.

– Ruth Morales

## Up-Date from Our Missionary Partners CHUCK AND RAMONA SHAWVER, IN MEXICO

Mission expresses itself in many forms but at its core it is always about helping others come to know the One who can change their lives forever. That happened to me forty years ago this month and continues to be the driving force in all that we do. (I met Ramona a year after I met God and tomorrow we celebrate our 38th anniversary!) Back to Jesus who is more than doctrine, so much more than religion. We heard it over and over again a few weeks ago when we sat with a group of students at the Baptist Seminary and shared how each of us came to know Him. The stories were different, yet all of us knew that when we stumbled into the Kingdom it was the real deal. We found something that changed us and changed our outlook and perspective. Like Ramona and I, these young men and women are compelled to serve the church and the world, wanting to make a difference while at the same time knowing that the greatest difference comes when people find the faith to believe in and come to know a loving God and experience the redeeming work of his only Son.

David remembers that his mother carried him as a young child for blocks through muddy streets to church. "I knew it was important," he says but then one day he found out why and now he is doing the carrying. Miriam grew up in the church, played the game, went away and then came back when she learned it wasn't a game after all. Alex came to faith through the friendly encouragement of a youth leader and Nati, born into the church, was born again as a pre-teen. Ismael rebelled against the church and his family's faith but hard times in the world brought him to his knees and now he serves with a heart that is whole and full.

Last Sunday I attended the



Baptist Church in Iguala, Guerrero where one of our Seminary graduates serves as pastor. It was filled with people of all ages but especially youth, lively worship, good teaching, lots of love, lots of enthusiasm. The

kind of place you want to be, even when Mexico's soccer team is playing in the world cup! It was the kind of place where people can come to know God. The kind of ministry we want for all of our graduates.

At the seminary we want our students to be good theologians and we want them to be good pastors, preachers and teachers; committed to justice and to the poor and to the planet's well being. We are less concerned with Jesus' second coming than we are with what we should be doing till he comes. There is a lot to do. But in all that we do, we know that if people don't see our relationship with Christ and if people don't hear the message, then we are cheaters, doing nice things but leaving out the single most important piece.

Thank you for supporting us in our work at the Baptist Seminary and with the churches of CICEM. Your generosity month after month is amazing. Your prayers for us and for the churches of Mexico make all the difference.

Have a blessed summer,  
– Ramona & Chuck

### ONLINE GIVING

To use your VISA, MasterCard and Discover Card for offerings and donations online, go to [www.fbcofla.org](http://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.

## BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

### MUMMIES OF THE WORLD

In the fall, the Wednesday Bible Study Fellowship will walk through the book of Exodus. You will want to put this weekly bible study on your calendar: Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

In preparation, we are going to explore life in Egypt. To enhance our study, we will take an outing to view the *Mummies of the World* exhibit at the California Science Center on **Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**. 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 [fbccla@fbcofla.org](mailto:fbccla@fbcofla.org) to reserve by **August 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

## COMMUNITY TRAFFIC MESSAGE



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

You must yield the right of way to any police vehicle, fire engine, ambulance, or other emergency vehicle using a siren and red lights.

- Drive as close to the right edge of the road as possible and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed
- Never stop in an intersection.
- You must obey any traffic direction, order, or signal by a traffic or police officer or a fire fighter even if it conflicts with existing signs, signals or laws
- Following within 300 feet of any emergency vehicle which is answering a emergency call is illegal.

760 South Westmoreland Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90005



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2010**

*9:30 a.m.*

Church School Classes for All Ages

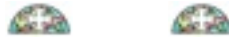
*11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:*

**“NO EXCLUSIONS”**

*How may the coming to faith of the first African  
speak to the inclusiveness of our Christian family today?*

(Please read Acts 8:26-39 in preparation)

**DR. WESLEY A. BROWN**, Preaching



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2010**

*9:30 a.m.*

Church School Classes for All Ages

*11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:*

**“WILL YOU VISIT ME IN PRISON?”**

(Please read Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 in preparation)

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

*1:00 p.m.*



at Griffith Park, Crystal Springs