

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



Volume LXXX

No. 18

AUGUST 30, 2010

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

86th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR RUTH MORALES ON AUGUST 1

Sponsored by the Ebenezer Fellowship; Coordinated by Maritza Osorio; Photos by Frank Picard



HOMECOMING SUNDAY 136th ANNIVERSARY September 19

“TELLING OUR STORIES: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow”

- International Luncheon
- 136th Church Anniversary
- 40th Anniversary of the
Oliver deWolf Cummings
Award

\$10 per person

Luncheon Reservations required:

(Call 213-384-2151 or e-mail
fbcla@fbcofla.org by
Sept. 16)

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

(USPS 194-440)

Annual Subscription Rate: \$10.00 per year

Editor: Sandra B. Rogers

Published biweekly by First Baptist Church, 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90005. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Baptist Church News, 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California, 90005.

All copy for the NEWS should be typed or written plainly and reach the Church Office no later than 3:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, twelve days prior to publication.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In the First Baptist family, we encourage our children as we teach the Bible to them that God helps us to achieve our goals. On June 27th, the C.E. Ministry recognized students who achieved a milestone in education, completing high school or college:

- Abigail Artola, daughter of Eva and Donald Artola, graduated from Mohave High School on May 27th. She plans to continue her education this fall at Loma Lima University, in nursing. Her goal is to become ICU Pediatric nurse.
- Randy Caton is the son of Alvera Gubatan Caton (grandson of Alice Gubatan). He graduated from L.A. Trade Tech College with an associate of arts degree in Culinary Arts and will be transferring to Cal Poly Pomona, majoring in restaurant management.

In July, our annual Block Party occurred on a beautiful day for our neighborhood people and church congregation. There were three hours of carnival activities for all ages. We also had registration for Vacation Bible School, which began on Monday, July 14th.

For Vacation Bible School, we converted Robbins Dining Hall into an Egyptian palace, which is where Joseph ended his journey from prison to the palace. Pastor Rhoden portrayed Joseph, setting the theme for each day's lesson. 35 students registered and, each day, we had an average of 26 in attendance. As a result of VBS, there are seven new students attending our Sunday Church School. A special "thank you" to all of the volunteers.

Kudos goes out to our Youth, now under the leadership of Curt Thomas. They held several fundraisers to earn money to support their outings. Our youth also participated in "Feed the Neighborhood" Sunday, and gave leadership in VBS and at the Block Party.

On September 27th, we will celebrate Christian Education Sunday. Please come out to support our Christian Education ministry.

— Ann Brodie, Coordinator,
CE Core Ministry

CELEBRATE! 2011 ¡CELEBRAD!

You are invited!

In June 2011, the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico will open its arms to American Baptists everywhere to celebrate our common mission and ministry for Jesus Christ in all the rich diversity that makes the American Baptist Churches USA unique in the worldwide Baptist family.

The last time the American Baptist Biennial was held in Puerto Rico was 1981. Those who attended still talk about the dynamic way God's Spirit was present in the music, the messages and the ministry they experienced there. Joyfully, we all have the opportunity to once again join hands and voices in San Juan with sisters and brothers in Christ as we celebrate together in 2011.

Some highlights will include: missional experiences, both before and after the Biennial; MMBB celebration of its 100th anniversary of ministry; the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico marking their 50th anniversary as a region within ABC/USA; Sunday morning worship in local churches; inspirational music from around the island; and great speakers with powerful messages. Once again, God will lead American Baptists into the future.

Make plans now to be present. Mark your calendar and look for updates at www.celebrate2011.com.

With you in the spirit of Christ,
Brad Berglund,
Biennial Manager/Consultant

NEWS SCHEDULE

The **next issue** of the *First Baptist NEWS* will be published **September 13, 2010** and will cover services and events through September 26, 2010. Material and articles for the September 13th issue should arrive in the church office **no later than September 1.**

Historical Notes: OUR EARLY PASTORS

The Second in an Occasional Series

P. W. and SUSAN DORSEY, 1881-1887

During the first seven years of its life, the Church survived only by the grace of God, but the next seven brought it to a state of strength and health that would augur its future as a great Church.

The city of Los Angeles was prospering and spreading in every direction. The people who came were more stable than those who had arrived earlier and they came because they were attracted to Southern California – not to get away from a painful past. They came with money – not looking for it.

The Dorseys provided exactly the type of leadership to enable the church to take full advantage of the situation. P. W. Dorsey was just graduating from the Rochester Seminary when he was invited by the church to supply the pulpit for three months. In that era, very few preachers were seminary trained, and in Southern California they were a rarity.

When Dorsey and his wife, Susan, arrived in Los Angeles, the members promptly fell in love with them. Everyone was impressed with the graciousness, enthusiasm and energy of both Dorseys.

On August 4, 1881, three months before he was ordained, he was called to be Pastor by a unanimous vote on the first ballot. Mr. Dorsey was ordained on November 6th. The salary paid him certainly was not commensurate with his value to the church. During the first five years he was paid \$100 per month, with assistance from the Home Mission Society for the first two years. After the fifth year, his pay was raised to \$125 monthly. Small though this may seem, no Baptist minister in the Southwest was paid more.

Susan Dorsey graduated from Vassar in 1877, having earned the honor of Phi Beta Kappa. Her career was in education. She began as a teacher; then she served as Assistant Superintendent of Los Angeles Schools for seven years

and Superintendent for nine. Dorsey High School is named in her honor – the only high school to have been named for a living person.

Probably the most important accomplishment of the Dorseys was the transformation they effected in the spirit of the Church. They quickly eliminated the lethargic attitude, and talk was replaced by action. Then the Dorseys' own generosity brought some members to follow their example and others were shamed into liberality. The Minutes report an instance of "reasoning" with a member to give financial support, and on other occasions the amounts of gifts and the names of non-givers were publicized!

The most spectacular achievement during Dorsey's ministry was the building of a house of worship on the northeast corner of Sixth and Fort Streets (now Broadway). The total cost was \$25,000 which was just twice the amount subscribed for the purpose a year and a half earlier. Yet, on April 12, 1884, the new building was dedicated, completely free of debt! The building provided the largest seating capacity of any Protestant church in Southern California or of any Baptist church on the Pacific Coast. And, in 1887, the church was presented with the first 3-manual pipe organ in Southern California by a church member, Alonzo Potter.

On the last Sunday in August in 1887, Dorsey shocked the congregation at the conclusion of his sermon by announcing, "The last year has been especially trying to soul and body. As a result of all this, my nervous system shows signs of disease. I am suffering from an affliction of the right arm which I fear may terminate in paralysis." So after six significant years, the Dorseys left.

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

NOTICE OF HOMECOMING MEETING

The Homecoming Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, shall be held at 760 South Westmoreland Ave., Los Angeles, California on Sunday, September 19 at 12:30 p.m. for the purpose of hearing reports, election of officers, and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before such meeting.

– Richard Rogers, Church Clerk
and David McFadden, Moderator



HAITI EARTHQUAKE CRISIS REPORT

From American Baptist International Ministries

THE CHURCHES HAVE GIVEN \$2.5 MILLION!!

These financial resources make possible a three-year comprehensive relief, recovery, and rebuilding effort in Haiti. This holistic plan, guided by our missionaries and partners, is restoring life and livelihoods in Haiti.

• Basic Needs \$950,000

Food, water, shelter, and health care

• Rebuilding \$750,000

"Bricks and mortar" for rebuilding homes, schools, clinics and churches

• Recovery of life and livelihoods \$800,000

Training for new jobs. Tuition assistance for students relocating in northern Haiti. Spiritual, pastoral and psychological care for healing trauma.

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005



**COMMUNION SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 5, 2010**

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

“OUT OF CHAOS”

(Please read Genesis 1:1-5 in preparation)

REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP:

“MOTION SICKNESS”

(Please read Genesis 12:1-9 in preparation)

REV. CARLTON A. RHODEN, Preaching