

# The Trumpeter

First Baptist Church

SW 12th and Taylor

Portland, Oregon

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August 12, 2009

## Change and Continuity



Change is all around us, all the time. Summer's heat gives way to autumn's cool. Sunny days give way to winter rains. Yesterday's youth group members are today's college students, or they are two states away starting careers. Members of the Christian Home Makers class who camped out together with their swirling clusters of children are now wrestling with medical issues and limited mobility.

When I became your senior pastor two and a half years ago, the church was struggling to put to rest several years of unsettling changes in leadership and the attendant discomfort. For some, the long, stable pastorate of Ron Johnson seemed a distant memory (yet there were challenges then, too); for others, whose long memories encompassed the eras of other leaders – Harnish, Wilson, Nastari –

it seemed like only yesterday. Even in my short tenure, there have been a number of deaths of beloved members, whose surviving spouses, children and grandchildren have had to adjust to new realities in their lives going forward. Some active members have found job realities pushing them to other places. Staff members have made transitions – Kenny Schroeder, Grace Kim, John Kendall, Ricardo Perez, and now Abraham Bates (see accompanying article).

Yet in the sometimes disorienting flow of our life events, there are some sustaining continuities. First Baptist Church of Portland has continued to praise, represent and serve its Lord for 154 years – across the generations through depressions, recessions, wars and cold wars – longer than Oregon statehood. But our faith is not in an institution. We worship a sovereign Creator God, who brings us into being and sustains us through this earthly life and beyond, and who works for good through our best intentions, our most noble acts and our worst blunders (*Romans 8:28*). We live our lives chastened by the awesome reality of Calvary's Cross and bathed in the light that shines forth from an empty tomb.

Jesus lives, and He is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (*Hebrews 13:8*). He is our fixed reference point when change and uncertainty swirl around us. But Christ is not an inert reference point like a stone geological marker placed in a field. He is alive and present and speaks to us through His Spirit, with words of comfort and counsel for right now. Lord, give us grace to listen and to hear You.

Dr. David L. Wheeler



**Pastor  
Abraham  
Bates  
Resigns**

Pastor Abraham Bates, who has filled the newly configured position of

Minister of Christian Education and Discipleship at First Baptist Church since January, 2008, has announced his resignation, effective August 20, 2009.

In this position he worked to improve our Christian Education ministry for children and youth, redesigning and rearranging our teaching spaces, recruiting and deploying new volunteers, and engaging directly with our youth in a ministry of teaching and discipleship.

### **Pastor Abraham Bates Resigns** (From the Front Page)

Most recently he organized and directed an experience of hands-on ministry in the city for our youth, in conjunction with the leaders and members of two other youth groups. Our young people have responded eagerly to his leadership.

Abraham and Nancy are responding to God's call on their lives for a ministry of church planting. We wish God's richest blessings for them and for Abigail and Ethan as they follow His leading.

### **"The Calling" Youth Mission Trip**

The youth mission trip was incredible! We rock climbed at *Horse Thief Butte*, rafted the *Deschutes*, worked at the *FBC Drop-in Ministry* and the *Union Gospel Mission Thrift Store* in Tigard, toured *Chinatown/Old Town's* organizations to help alleviate homelessness, and finished with 3 days camping on the beach at *Cape Lookout*.

We wanted to see our youth meet Jesus and learn to love our city. During our last campfire on the beach, we had a time where youth shared their experiences of working with the homeless, learning to see people as Jesus sees people. It was inspiring to see our youth mature and grow.

–Pastor Abraham Bates–

### **Pictorial Directory**

It has been several years since First Baptist Church offered a pictorial directory to its members. We have asked Lifetouch to create our next pictorial directory.

**Coming soon**, we will offer sign up dates for their upcoming photography event from Tuesday, September 15-Saturday, September 19.

Lifetouch asks that you allow up to an hour from the time of your appointment for check-in, photography and portrait selection. You will receive a free portrait and have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits should you desire.

–Membership Committee–



### **Beaver Baseball on August 30 at PGE Park**

Another fellowship event has been planned by the Membership Committee. See Dick Smith to purchase tickets. The game is right after church on the 30th, so come to church dressed for the game. It's always a fun time at the old ball game!

**Remember: No More Free Street Parking on Sundays after 1:00 pm**



**August 16, 2009**

**Pastor David Preaching**

1 Kings 3:3-14

Matthew 7:24-27

**"Wisdom"**

**August 23, 2009**

**Pastor David Preaching**

Psalms 84:1-7

Ephesians 6:10-18

**"The Struggle"**

**August 30, 2009**

**Pastor Ed Stelle Preaching**

Luke 15:11-22

**"A Tough Assignment"**

Worship Services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am

11:00 worship also in Spanish and Cambodian languages.

"Time for Children" during the 11:00 service

Children's Church for ages 3 through Second Grade follows the Time for Children at 11:00am.

Worship and Praise Event at 5:30pm in the Candlelight Chapel

Sunday school for all ages at 9:55am.

### **New Worship on Sunday Evening**

5:30pm - 7:30pm  
Candlelight Chapel

There will be prayer, new worship and praise songs, and a time for testimonials. Enter through the door which is mid-block on Taylor Street.

This group will meet each Sunday *except* the first Sunday of every month.

Contact person is Toni Pfau at 503-358-5359.



### **"It's Magic!" Insight thru Illusion**

On Sunday, September 13, at our first congregational luncheon of the new program year, First Baptist Church presents Dr. Dan Lockwood and his entertaining and thought-provoking program, "Insight thru Illusion."

Dr. Lockwood, president of Multnomah University here in Portland, presents perspectives on life and Christian faith through amazing illusions and visual effects, in a way that is accessible to children and adults alike.

Educator, musician, outdoorsman and martial arts black belt, Dr. Lockwood is a man of many talents. He has been performing his programs of illusions for more than thirty years.

Don't miss "Insight thru Illusion," **Sunday, September 13, 12:30 PM.**



I think everyone involved agrees that the 2009 FBC Outdoor Service was a huge success and it would not have been possible without the hard work of many individuals and families who volunteered their time Sunday, August 2nd. They came early to close off Taylor Street to traffic; stayed late to help clear the roadway in the afternoon or served in some way during the service itself. They cooked hot dogs, served food and drinks, staffed the Welcome Table, ran the sound board, inflated balloons, acted as church or street hosts or contributed in many other ways to the success of the service.

#### **Thanks To:**

- Abraham Bates
- Dan, Chris, Jonas and Zoe Beard
- Robert Bookmeier
- Bob Boughner

- Bruce Bridgess
- Sandy and Chris Carter
- Greg Dale
- Ashley DeShawn
- Karin Edgington
- Charlene Fischer
- Eric Goranson
- Travis Hatton
- Andrew and Sarah Im
- Mandy Johnson
- Rob and Karen Knauerhase
- Alice Long
- Alan Martin
- Sara Mejias
- Paul and Monterey Mitchell
- Patty Marella
- Mike Morton
- Paul Newman
- Christophe Nussbaumer
- Don Parham
- Santiago and Eva Pena
- Keith, Nancy, Annie Ponce
- Antoinette Preston
- Steve, Connie, Grant, Lily and Claire Shearer
- Ron and Charlotte Shepherd
- Bev Simmons
- Dan, Lynette and Gabe Valesquez
- Salisa Williams
- Mike Woolwine
- Julie Wray
- Tommie Young
- Chris Beard-

## August

### Birthdays



- Aug 16 – Janice Chellis  
Jami Bagley
  - Aug 17 - Nissa Wheelock
  - Aug 18 - Dee Wright  
Becky Mosley
  - Aug 19 - Warren Westgarth
  - Aug 20 - Clarissa Benfield  
Ruhama Organ  
Lucille Luchs
  - Aug 21 - Ron Ferguson  
Janet Lawson  
Tonya Thomas
  - Aug 22 - Bettie Jones
  - Aug 23 - Irismae Pettit
  - Aug 24 - Roy Kruger
  - Aug 25 - Dawn Lofland  
Rosaline Hudnut
  - Aug 26 - Glenn Camper
  - Aug 27 - Hobart Bird  
Brian Lessler  
Jacqueline Lydston  
Ruth Pasley
  - Aug 30 - Jim Shadduck  
Aylee Talley
  - Aug 31 - Mabbeskal Man
- We do not wish to leave anyone out. If you have a birthday in the last two weeks of August and it is not listed here, please call Genie at 503-228-7465.



Next Food Barrel  
Sunday  
September 13



Sermons on CD are now available. You can order your CD's at the Welcome Center for \$2.50 cash or by check to First Baptist Church.

***Time Dated Material***

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
909 SW 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205-2099

Address Service Requested

The next Trumpeter deadline is August 20, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.  
Please send articles to Genie Bridwell at [gbridwell@fbc-portland.org](mailto:gbridwell@fbc-portland.org)  
or 503/228-7465, ext. 114. Please remember, all articles are subject to  
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Miriam Mendez - Hispanic Ministries  
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**Programs Starting Up for  
the Fall and Winter.**

- ◆Wednesday, September 2  
First Choir Rehearsal
- ◆Wednesday, September 9  
First Wednesday Night  
Dinner and Bible Study at  
5:45pm
- ◆Sunday, September 13  
First Sunday Fellowship  
dinner and Program
- ◆September 15 - 19  
Photographs of you and your  
family for the FBC pictorial  
directory by Lifetouch
- ◆Thursday, September 17  
First Downtown Fellowship  
program
- ◆September 18, 19, 20  
Women and Men's Retreat  
at Camp Arrah Wanna

***Downtown Fellowship***  
**Third Thursday of  
each month**

Beginning September, Down-  
town Fellowship will be meet-  
ing once each month only.  
This was the consensus after  
meeting with the Fellowship  
staff and Pastor David.

We will meet the third (3rd)  
Thursday since this works bet-  
ter with the special holidays.

Be sure we will do our very  
best to continue bringing  
exciting and great Fellowship  
programs to you.

—Pastor Ed and Crew—

**First Meeting will be September 17  
at 10:30am.**