



the Spire

The Monthly Newsletter of Seattle First Baptist Church



From
the
Pastor's
Desk

On Sunday, July 3, we will welcome our Interim Pastor, Rev. Mario Seth Morales. His appointment will be with SFBC until we find a permanent co-pastor (the search for the settled position is well underway!) I give thanks for the work of the interim pastor search committee (Aaron Burkhalter, Sara Tollefson, David Delgado, Jim Thompson, Katie Van Koeuvering and Joyce Phillips), who gave of their time, energy and wisdom to help the church find someone to join the pastoral team in this in-between time. Both Pastor Patricia and I have found conversation with Rev. Morales meaningful, and we look forward to working with him as part of the pastoral team.

Here is an introduction of Rev. Morales:

Pastor Mario Seth Morales was born and raised in Guatemala and immigrated to the United States to join his parents when he was 21. Consequently, he has first-hand experience and interest in the poor and immigrants. Pastor Mario also appreciates the educational and occupational opportunities the United



Rev. Mario-Seth Morales

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States has afforded him. He holds a BS in Philosophy and Religion from the University of La Verne, a Master of Arts and Theology from Fuller Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Carey Theological College in Vancouver, Canada.

These educational experiences prepared him to minister among South Central LA's Hispanic and African American communities. Rev. Morales has also served as Associate Director of the Parent's Institute in Orange County, helping train teachers and immigrant parents to forge a better education for their children. He was Pastor of the JY Baptist Church from 1989 to 1999. At the turn of the century, he responded to the call to serve as a missionary in Latin America with ABC-USA International Ministries. During his time as a missionary, he taught seminary courses on death and bereave-

ment, crisis intervention and the spirituality of creativity.

Since his return to the USA in 2015, he spent much of his career as Hospice Chaplain and, for several years, held an Adjunct Professor position in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at La Verne University in the ABTC program in Pasadena. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Rev. Morales served as interim Pastor at Cambridge Drive Community Church in Goleta, one of the Evergreen Association churches. He presently serves as a community organizer at Making Housing and Community Happen with the North Fair Oaks Initiative in Pasadena. Rev. Morales is a strong advocate for people living in poverty and experiencing homelessness, is a thoughtful scholar and a compassionate listener and leader.

You may be wondering what Rev. Morales' role will be at SFBC—and thank you for asking! Rev. Morales will join Pastor Patricia and myself in providing worship organization and leadership and pastoral care to this congregation. He will also be intentionally observing the life of our congregation and ministering to us as we continue to discern the way forward in this time in SFBC's life. Rev. Morales will have a goal of meeting with each family in the congregation, with particular care given to those who are more vulnerable. Rev. Morales will reflect back to the congregation about the heart of our ministries and mission in our community, as well as areas in which we can intentionally grow and learn as we respond to our surroundings.

Please join the staff in welcoming Rev. Morales on Sunday, July 3. We look forward to ministry with him, and as always, with you. Let's extend the hospitality and love of this congregation to our interim minister as he serves among us.

--Pastor Anita

Growing Together

Yearning to Belong?

The Small Group Ministry Is Thinking of You!

Are you new to SFBC within the past couple of decades? Did you (or do you still) find it hard to find a place of belonging here? Do you find Coffee Hour uncomfortable? Do you feel like you know way too few names? You're not alone. This is the experience of many people. The SMALL GROUP MINISTRY Advisory Group is hoping that the new small groups starting this Fall, added to some solid ones already in existence, will help create a greater sense of community for all. WE NEED YOUR INPUT as we plan ... and here are three ways you can give it:

- 1) On the first two Sundays in July there will be an insert in the Sunday bulletin which you can fill out and put in a repository in the narthex as you leave. On this, you will be able to **list groups you would like to participate in, should they become available** (educational, support, spiritual growth, social, social justice study and action). You will also be able to indicate your willingness to be trained as a group leader (no experience necessary and NOT a lifetime commitment).
- 2) There will be a **Small Group Ministry Zoom Open House:**
Wednesday July 6th from 6:30-8pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87165910505>

Join members of the ministry's Advisory Group to learn more about this ministry, to give suggestions for groups you would like to see happen, and to find out what leading a group would look like. Stay for 9 minutes or 90.

- 3) Email Smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org with your ideas or questions or interest in involvement.



Senior Retreat SAGES AND SCAREDY CATS

July 13-15 at Rainbow Lodge

Registration for the Senior Retreat (July 13-15) at Rainbow Lodge is open -- but the registration deadline (July 5) is drawing near! Read about the retreat and register on [our website](#).

*REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 5th...
FAST APPROACHING!*



The Nursery is Open!

Welcome to our New nursery caregiver, Jessica Stott (she/her)! Jessica joined the SFBC team on June 19 as the main coordinator in our nursery. Jessica has a BA in Early Childhood Development from Texas A&M and recently graduated from Seattle University with an MA in Nonprofit Leadership.

Jessica will be assisted by a rotating team of Nursery Assistants.

The nursery will be open each Sunday 9:30-12:30 for children aged birth through pre-school. Older children are still welcome to worship in the sanctuary or, with an adult caregiver, in the Wiggle Room.

All children who participate in nursery care must have a medical form on file with Pastor Anita. Please contact Pastor Anita or find one in the nursery when you drop your child off.

Faith Journey Series

Sundays at 9:30 am

Come support our members and friends as they share their spiritual journeys with us. Coffee and refreshments available at 9:15.

Faith Journey Presenters

- ♦ **July 3:** Marv Kvamme and Alex
- ♦ **July 10:** Val Thomas Matson
- ♦ **July 17:** Daryl de la Cruz

Baptist Peace Fellowship Summer Conference

Saturday August 27: Virtual International Peace Conference

Disease and sickness are constant in the world. No matter where we look, it seems like there is too much pain and suffering, and it is not just COVID 19. Wounds we carry that no one can see with their eyes gets deeper with time or with present harsh realities. And it seems that everywhere the feeling of frustration, pain, and disconnection are intensified, growing inside and around us.

In this precise time, the Divine Spirit reaches out to nurture, support and push towards a health-giving community in spirit, mind and body. It is time to plant (seeds of peace), time to build (bridges not walls), time to dance (hope), time to laugh, time to embrace, time to seek (Act), time to speak (raise our voice), time to hope, time to love, time to build peace with justice, a time to heal.

Henna Baclagon will be the featured speaker. Henna was born in a Baptist family in a small village in the Southern part of Negros Occidental (Philippines). Henna studied BA Psychology at Central Philippine University. In the early 90's she worked with the Australian Baptist World Aid-Support an Orphan. In 1996, when Henna volunteered with the CPBC (Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches)



Development Ministries, she was challenged in this work where she was exposed to the areas within the scope of the DM in organizing cooperatives, livelihood associations, adult literacy and empowerment for the indigenous people in the mountains of Central Pannay, advocacy works on social, environmental and health issues, provided trainings on sustainable agriculture, peace and conflict transformation, disaster risk and reduction management, disaster response-- considering that her country is visited by a minimum of 20 typhoons a year, 3-4 of which are disastrous, affecting always the marginalized sectors.

She moved on to become Project Assistant of CPBC-DM (Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches Development Ministries) in 2000 & Director in 2011. The CPBC-DM work covers the areas where the more than 900 CPBC churches are located, and it stretched from Luzon to Mindanao. "The Development Ministries plays a major role in translating our message of love and concern into concrete expressions, thereby strengthening the faith of our people in the One who has come so that all may have life in its fullness."

Register now for the Virtual International Peace Conference:

<https://www.bpfna.org/summerconference2022details>

Choir Retreat August 27

Save the date! The choir retreat will take place Saturday, August 27th with food, singing, and friends. Our choir is open to all and everyone is welcome to join the choir at any time. Contact Ben@seattlefirstbaptist.org for more info.

Learning Together

Godly Play Training

Saturday, July 23 , 8:30-5:30 in Federal Way

Are YOU interested in Godly Play? We are looking for Storytellers to spend time with our fabulous church kids as they engage the stories of the Bible and wonder about what it means to live with justice and peace in this world. There is a Godly Play training in Federal Way on Saturday, July 23 from 8:30-5:30. This will be fun and informative—and prepare you to help our children with faith formation! Please contact Pastor Anita for more info, or visit [this website](#) to register.

Our Lives Together

Evergreen Association Night at the Ballpark

Saturday Aug. 27, 7:10 pm

You are invited to join the Evergreen family on August 27th, 2022 at 7:10 pm in the stands of T-Mobile Park to watch the Seattle Mariners play the Cleveland Guardians. This is the night Ichiro Suzuki is being inducted into the Mariners Hall of Fame, and the first 20,000 fans will get an Ichiro T-Shirt. Guaranteed to be a night to remember, as we celebrate a man who is a baseball legend in two countries! Let's get a big Evergreen crowd going to celebrate the return of Baseball, and an Evergreen tradition. Tickets are only \$8.00 and are going to go quickly! Pastor Anita has reserved 10 tickets for SFBC, so please [contact her](#) to sign up to join this fun event!



Pastors at the Pub

Wednesday, July 13 from 4-5 at Optimism Brewing

Join the pastors at Optimism Brewing company (Harvard and Broadway) for a time of informal fellowship. Alcoholic beverages will be available for individual purchase, and bringing in outside non-alcoholic beverages and snacks is acceptable, too! We hope to see you there!

Celebration Lunch for Kellie Whitlock on July 17

For over 20 years, Kellie Whitlock has shared her graphic design and videography skills with our congregation, as well as Jazz Vespers, Bet Alef, and other events taking place in our building. Kellie co-designed the quatrefoil logo with Greg Lyle-Newton, as well as many posters for events. She has sole credit for designing the Pride version of the quatrefoil logo.

Please join us for lunch after worship on Sunday, July 17, as we honor Kellie's work among us and give thanks for all she has done during the pandemic – keeping our worship recordings and livestream alive so that we can worship online! Kellie, we love you and we are grateful for you. Let's celebrate!



Intergenerational Movie Night: "Encanto"

*Saturday, July 23 at 6pm in
the Fellowship Hall*

Bring your lawn chairs, sleeping bags and pillows to get cozy for a movie night with our church family! Snacks will be provided. ALL AGES welcome and encouraged to join.

Movie synopsis: *The Madrigals are an extraordinary family who live hidden in the mountains of Colombia in a charmed place called the Encanto. The magic of the Encanto has blessed every child in the family with a unique gift -- every child except Mirabel. However, she soon may be the Madrigals' last hope when she discovers that the magic surrounding the Encanto is now in danger. This is a multilingual musical celebration of the beloved uniqueness of every person and how individuals can use their gifts and talents to benefit their whole community.*

From Floor to Rafters - All are Welcome in this Place

An update from the Facilities Task Force

An engineering firm (RAFN) has been engaged to generate a realistic cost estimate for the needed seismic renovations to the sanctuary. Fully understanding the cost of this renovation will play a critical role in the decisions the congregation will face as the church moves into realizing its long range plans. RAFN is a well-established engineering firm that has a serious passion around their legacy of the renovation of historic buildings in the Pacific Northwest.

- Work is in progress to schedule a series of congregational conversations, projected to start in late July or early August, in which the congregation will be engaged in visioning the key missions of SFBC and the renovations/upgrades the facility might require to make our visions a reality. The task force is being driven by the concept: 'Function should drive Form'.
- A 'Talking Wall' will be constructed in Fellowship Hall which will allow members and friends of SFBC to post ideas they may have for the future of the SFBC facilities - more about that later.
- Be on the lookout for a short survey/questionnaire that will be mailed to all members and friends as an additional way of seeking input from the congregation.

~ Gary Davis, FTF co-chair

Worshiping Together

SFBC's Letters Make a Difference

On Sunday, May 26, SFBC wrote about 200 letters about gun violence to our Washington state senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell. I wrote a pastoral letter and sent the envelope to our senators the following week. On June 14, I received a phone call from Senator Murray thanking Seattle First Baptist Church for our package of letters. Senator Murray said our letters arrived just as she was despairing about what Congress may accomplish to limit gun violence. She said that our church caring enough to write to her, recognize her for the work she's already done regarding gun responsibility, and urge her to keep fighting for gun control made a difference. I urged Senator Murray to keep going in her work, and particularly to make it known that her Baptist constituents were calling for gun control to protect the most vulnerable among us. Friends, let us not let this issue fade from our emphasis. Not one more child—not one more person—should be lost to gun violence.

--Pastor Anita

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SFBC at Capitol Hill PrideFest
June 25, 2022