

# **Church Profile:**

## **Introduction**

Our church is a very special small group of believers, family-like, lively and culturally oriented. We are a cohesive group of individuals focused on doing our best for the good of all.

We believe that God still has much to teach us, and we have a lot to learn. Those who attend our fellowship are optimistic and there is a real sense of excitement about the future.

## **History**

First Baptist Church of Pacific Grove is the oldest African American church in Monterey County, on the Central Coast and beyond. The church was officially founded one hundred seven years (107) ago on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1909 by a small band of believers who saw a need for a place for African Americans to worship.

Among these were a core of believers from diverse backgrounds such as workers at canneries, railroads, hotels, hotel restaurants and private homes as well as military personnel, the earliest being the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9<sup>th</sup> Calvary.

In 1966 the present edifice was built, spearheaded by then Pastor Richard Nance, Jr. The final addition was completed in 1987.

## **Denominational Cooperation**

It is the purpose of this church to cooperate with the American Baptist Churches, USA, the Central Pacific Region headquartered in Oregon and the Association of Northern California American Baptist Convention.

## **Our Local Community**

Pacific Grove is a coastal city in Monterey County, California. The United States Census Bureau estimated its 2013 population at 15,504. Pacific Grove is located between Point Pinos and Monterey.

Nicknamed “America’s Last Hometown”, Pacific Grove is known for its Victorian homes, Asilomar State Beach, its artistic legacy, and is also known as the “Butterfly Town, USA” for the annual migration of the Monarch butterflies. The city is endowed with more Victorian houses per capita than anywhere else in the US; some of them have been turned into bed and breakfasts.

The racial makeup of the city was 88.04% Caucasian, 7.14% Hispanic, 4.50% Asian, 1.14% African American, 0.55% Native American, 0.26% Pacific Islander, 1.78% from other races, and 3.73% from two or more races.

## **Church Membership**

Our church is a small group of some 34 members at present. There are slightly more women than men and about 99.9% of the fellowship are from ethnic minority groups.

Regardless of an individual’s background, all are welcome at First Baptist Church of Pacific Grove.

During the interim the leadership team is formally responsible for the pastoral care of the members, the oversight and direction of ministry, worship, teaching, membership, fellowship, evangelism, finance, premises, all organizations and matters of policy program and leadership.

## **Our Purpose**

The purpose of this church shall be the advancement of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. It shall seek to attain this through the public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavors, and Christian education.

## **Key Challenges**

We see the greatest need as connecting our church members with the local community, so that effective evangelism can bring new people to faith. This will involve growth in personal discipleship and in small group activities to encourage it.

The age profile of the church is mostly mature adults. There must be fresh growth among younger people in order to plan for the future of the church. We need to attract families from the community and surrounding areas.

## **Recent History**

Interim Pastor Cedric Stubblefield served for approximately one and one half (1 ½) years. Being an active duty officer in the United States Air Force, he was reassigned to Omaha, NE. During his tenure Rev. R.J. Moye was ordained.

A pastoral search committee was formed and called Rev. Ray Montgomery. He resigned after approximately two years.

For a time Rev. Moye served as spiritual leader.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 a pastoral search committee was formed and has been going through the educational process needed to call a pastor.

We have invited guest preachers to fill in until the search committee has completed the process and until a pastor has been called.

First Baptist Church of Pacific Grove is debt free and is prayerfully looking forward to selecting a new pastor in the near future.