

1849 – 2009

THE EDIFICES

*The Places San Francisco's
First Baptist Church Has Met*

And now you are living stones that are
being used to build a spiritual house.
1 Peter 2:5 (*CEV*)

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Credits

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The Treasure Trove

First Baptist Church began in the hectic days of the Gold Rush. In those 150 years since her beginning, we have been fortunate to have records of her growth. When I was asked to write about this rich legacy, two publications Miriam Peterson shared of the congregation's history were especially helpful: Dr. Sanford Fleming's *95 Years Beside the Golden Gate* and Dr. Lewis Julianel's *100 year history*.



In March 1999, Miriam decided to celebrate the church's beginnings by displaying some of the material in the church vault. No one really knew what it contained though it had laid there since the Market Street building was occupied in 1910. Uncovered was a virtual gold mine of church history. As boxes were carried from the vault, the

wealth that had been stored away for decades was revealed. Leather bound volumes of original business minutes from the founding of the church in 1849 were among the treasures. Other volumes contained minutes of the San Francisco Baptist Association formed in the 1850's. Minutes, bulletins, correspondence covering decades of church history were seeing the light of day after being hidden for at least two decades.

Other historical accounts were uncovered such as John Pope's 25-year history of the church printed in 1874 and Dr. George Burlingame's *Prospectus* printed in 1910 that recalled

more than 50 years of history leading up to the Great Earthquake and the construction of the Market Street building.

A photo album of church members dating back to 1880's was discovered. Original photos of the interior and exterior of the Eddy Street building before the fire of 1899 and the 1909 groundbreaking and laying of the cornerstone of the Market Street church were found. But most amazing was an original Tabor photo of Rev. Osgood C. Wheeler, the first pastor of the church. This type photo, unique to San Francisco, dates within a couple of years after he and his wife arrived on the West Coast in 1849.

Artifacts, meeting minutes, photos, newspaper clippings, financial records and worship bulletins are being unveiled as the material is cataloged. Stories behind the records are being mined from the rich ore of the material. Stories such as the time Rev. Dwight L. Moody visited First Baptist for a series of services in the 1890's. After the meetings, he gave his preaching Bible to Pastor William Kincaid. Somewhere along the way, the Bible ended up in a private home. In 1965 Pastor John Streater received the Bible in the mail with a note attached that it had been found in the San Jose city dump!

History is contained in the documents and artifacts we keep. But history is the people who have left a record of their lives among the artifacts. First Baptist Church possesses a rich treasury that has recorded the lives that have been changed by God's power. FBC history is defined by the thousands who have entered the Kingdom through their profession of faith and the exercise of that saving faith. Through that which has been uncovered from the vault, there is a testimony of a great church which has, over the years, held her candle high above the City by the Bay. Through this wonderful treasury is found the real gold of San Francisco - the witness of Jesus Christ from a church founded on the principles and practices of a Lord whose presence continues through the work of His Spirit in the lives of people.

Rev. Michael R. Johnston

The Places We Have Met:

The Edifices of First Baptist Church of San Francisco

For over 150 years the First Baptist Church of San Francisco has gathered in the name of Jesus to worship our God, celebrate His presence and mobilize our efforts to go and make disciples. From an unfinished boom-town house to a spacious ornate monument, First Baptist has enjoyed the fellowship of the saints in various places within the City. Except for a brief time after the 1906 earthquake, the Church has met in four locations through the span of her 150 years of existence. Each place has been very near the center of this world-class City.

In March 1849 upon Rev. Wheeler's arrival, Mr. Charles Ross, a local Baptist businessman who had arrived in San Francisco two years earlier, invited Rev. Wheeler to begin meetings immediately in his unfinished home. By July, within days of formally organizing as a church, a one-room frame building was erected at 878 Washington Street just a few feet uphill from Portsmouth Square where the flag of the United States had been hoisted only three years before.



The "Baptist Chapel" at 878 Washington St. (ca. 1853)

Eight years later, after San Francisco recovered from her boom-town experience and had become a metropolitan city in her own right, the frame building was replaced by an ornate building known as the Washington Street Baptist Church. For 19 years the church remained in the midst of the growing City until "Chinese immigration forced the Church to seek a new location, and on January 23, 1876 the new edifice was occupied."¹

That new edifice was located at 322 Eddy Street. A fire destroyed the building in 1899. Insurance coverage allowed a single story building to be rebuilt on the same spot. But in April 1906 the Great Earthquake and the ensuing fires utterly destroyed the Eddy Street building and caused the church to look for another location. After two years of searching for finances and a place to continue the work, the corner of Market and Octavia Streets was purchased in exchange for two-thirds of the Eddy Street lot and \$8,500 cash. The cornerstone was laid November 1909. Once again, the church was strategically located. "The new edifice stands at one of the most important transportation centers where three sections of the city meet. Near by are notable public buildings such as the Normal School, the Public Library and the City Hall, all within a few blocks. Theaters, hospitals, and fraternal order buildings are being located within a radius of four blocks"

One hundred years later the Church still meets at the center of the City. With the Castro to the West, The Mission to the South, Downtown to the East and Pacific Heights to the North - all within a few minutes walk - all may benefit from the witness of San Francisco's First Baptist. Hundreds of thousands of people pass by each year to look upon the domed building with the cross boldly standing tall. The following vignettes offer a brief look at each location.

¹ From Dr. George E. Burlingame's book *Prospectus*, printed 1910. Dr. Burlingame was Pastor of FBC from 1906 - 1914.

878 Washington Street – The Baptist Church

THE BEGINNINGS

REV. OSGOOD C. WHEELER arrived in San Francisco in the spring of 1849, under appointment by the American Baptist Home Mission Society, after a ninety day voyage from New York. The immediate issue of his labors is chronicled by the historian as follows:

*"On Friday evening, July 6th, the following individuals met at the house of Charles L. Ross, and after reading the Articles of Faith and Covenant, all joined in prayer, and each taking part in the exercises, then entered into covenant relations as members the First Baptist Church of San Francisco. A brief address from the pastor, and the right hand of fellowship given, the church entered upon its existence with a constitutional membership of O. C. Wheeler, Jersey City Church; Elizabeth H. Wheeler, Jersey City Church; Charles L. Ross, Laight Street Church, New York; Emily Ross, Laight Street Church, New York; Lemuel I. Crane, Galway, New York; William Lailie, Columbia, South Carolina."*²



Rev. O.C. Wheeler
First Pastor 1849-1851



The first Baptist church built in 1849

Four days later, on a lot costing \$10,000, construction of the first house erected in California for Protestant worship was begun. Made of "Oregon scantling, rough siding, roof of ship's sails, walls and ceiling of cotton cloth,"³ it cost \$6,000,

and was completed in twenty days. Work in the heart of the new city had begun for the First Baptist Church of California. In 1851 Pastor Wheeler moved on to other mission fields and was succeeded by Rev. Benjamin Brierly.

² Ibid. p. 3

³ ibid, p. 3

878 Washington Street – The Washington Street Church

A NEW FOUNDATION FOR SERVICE

"THE OLD WASHINGTON STREET CHURCH was begun in 1853, on the site of the former structure, but for several years only the basement was available. On May 11, 1857, the cornerstone was laid, and the completed building was dedicated September 27 of the same year. The edifice was 52 x 85 feet, and the entire property was valued at \$35,000. with a debt of \$13,000. The Church occupied this home for upwards of twenty years, during which period its pastors included

Benjamin Brierly (1852-1858).

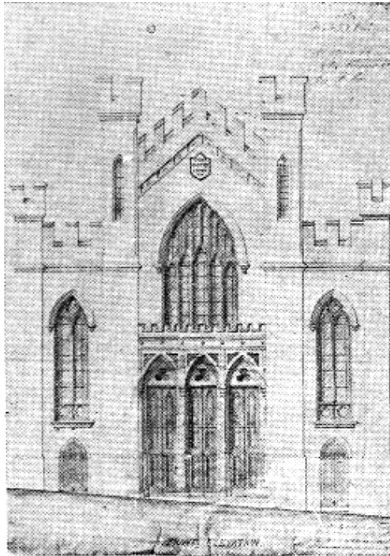
David R. Cheney (1859-1867)

J. B. Thomas (1868).

A.R. Medbury (1870-1872)

M. Mulcahy (1873*)

Eri B. Hulbert (1874-1877)



"DAVID BATCHELDER

CHENEY, D.D. was a worthy successor of the energetic pioneer, Wheeler, who had with diligent effort laid the foundations of Baptist work in California. Dr. Cheney's ministry of eight years profoundly and permanently affected the Church and greatly enlarged its influence in the community. When he assumed the pastorate, the Church had 75 resident members, debts of \$17,000, and an interest account of \$3,100 annually. He left the Church free of debt, and its membership trebled, while 136 had taken letters to form new churches.⁴

*Rev. Mulcahy took sick while in the office of pastor and died as a result of his illness.

⁴ Ibid, p. 5

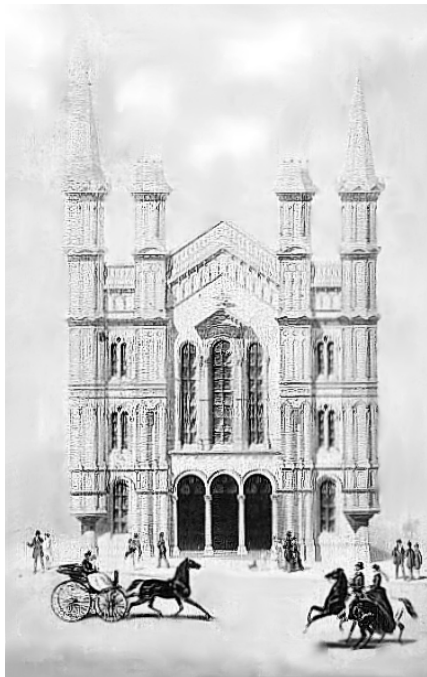
THE FIRST MIGRATION



"THE EDDY STREET CHURCH property was the home of the First Church from 1876 to 1906. Shortly after Rev. Eri B. Hulbert (late Dean of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago) became Pastor in 1874 ... the Church sought a new location, and on January 23, 1876 the new edifice was occupied. It was a two-story frame structure on an inside lot of 75 feet front. 'The entire property, including furnishing, cost \$62,500; and an indebtedness of \$30,000 was incurred in its acquisition, which was secured by mortgage on the lot and building, with

interest at 10 per cent per annum.' This enormous debt was a crushing burden upon the Church for a score of years."⁵

But the move marked a pattern for the church's location. San Francisco's population was moving. Washington Street was no longer at the hub of the City. By 1876 the center of the City had moved. This new place restored the church's presence to the heart of the City.



⁵ *ibid* p. 6'

322 Eddy Street – The First Baptist Church

THE JUBILEE --- AND AFTER

"In 1899 the May anniversaries [when the whole City celebrated 50 years since the Gold Rush] met with the church to celebrate its Jubilee. A few weeks later the edifice was destroyed by fire. The insurance paid the debts, and the lower floor of the building was restored and served as a place of worship until the Great Fire of 1906. This building was hardly more than a chapel, and not at all adequate to the uses of a metropolitan church.

"During this period, following Dr. Hulbert, the Church was served by Pastors

G. S. Abbott	(1877-1878)
E. H. Gray	(1879-1880)
W. M. Kincaid	(1881-1889)
J. Q. A. Henry	(1890-1895)
Melbourne P. Boynton	(1895-1897)
E. A. Woods	(1897-1902) ⁶



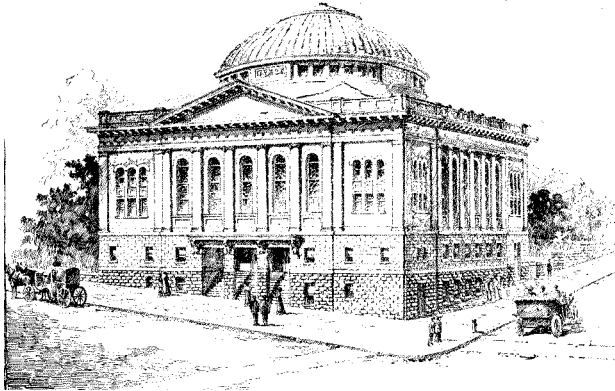
The Church Sanctuary - Eddy Street - ca. 1903

⁶ *ibid*, p. 7

THE FIRM FOUNDATION

"The Great fire of April 18-20, 1906, which swept over four square miles of the business district and destroyed upwards of \$400,000,000 in property, consumed utterly the home of the First Church. Through the failure of the insurance company, only \$2,900 insurance on the building was received.

FBC, 1910



"After more than two years of delay, a splendid new site almost exactly in the center of the city has been secured in exchange for two-thirds of the old lot and the payment of \$8,500 cash. The new edifice stands at one of the most important transportation centers where three sections of the city meet."⁷

THE BUILDING ENTERPRISE.

"We have, therefore, undertaken to erect an edifice of brick and stone, with 1,200 sittings, to cost complete, \$80,000, with the lower floor improved for temporary use for Sunday School work, and intended for use ultimately for work for men and boys.

"With half the population Catholic, with only 15,000 members in all the Protestant churches, with a total Baptist Church membership of a bare thousand, both the importance and the immensity of the task are evident."⁸

⁷ *ibid*, p. 8

⁸ *ibid*, p. 10

INTO THE NEW MILLENIUM

In June 1999 First Baptist extended a call to her 21st pastor, Rev. Phil Busbee. "Pastor Phil" accepted the role of Pastor under the commitment and call that only God may substantiate. The tasks that lay ahead are ever growing.

FBC has four buildings totaling more than 50,000 square feet of worship, education and ministry space. The Lord has richly blessed the church with enough resources to bring our facilities up to today's rigid standards of safety for public buildings. In 1994 the first building was retrofitted to withstand a major earthquake. In 1996 earlier plans to remodel the worship center and fellowship hall were resumed.

Pastor Busbee and the church look ahead to envision First Baptist Church as the congregation who continues to fulfill the vision of earlier congregations - to be "one large church edifice which will command the respect of the community and which will be truly representative of the denomination; that we should have one monumental structure providing a large auditorium for denominational gatherings and for general public uses; that we should have an adequate and modern Sunday School equipment, and that we should have facilities for other forms of educational, social and institutional work, in order to reach the people far more numerously and effectively than in the past."⁹

Michael Johnston



⁹ ibid.



Edwin F. Joy, the pioneer who laid the cornerstone of the First Baptist church, handing the trowel to Rev. Dr. George E. Burlingame, pastor of the church, at the conclusion of the ceremony, and portrait of Rev. C.A. Woody, who made the principal address.

BAPTISTS LAY CORNERSTONE WITH IMPOSING CEREMONIES

Hardy Argonaut Trowel Wielder

*Transition from Wooden Shed to Stately
Edifice Graphically Told by Pioneer
Portland Divine Who Secured*

Rebuilding Gift

Declares Need of Church

The cornerstone of the new First Baptist church, bearing on its granite face the legend, "Christ Jesus himself the chief cornerstone,"

was laid with song and prayer yesterday at Octavia and Market streets. Edwin F. Joy, a gray haired pioneer, wielded the trowel and recalled the small, wooden sided, canvas roofed house of worship erected in Washington street by the six hardy Argonauts of '49 that in the rush for gold had carried the religious teachings of their fathers with them.

Rev. C. A. Woody of Portland, superintendent of the American Baptist home mission society for the Pacific coast, through whose efforts the \$150,000 church rehabilitation fund was secured from John D. Rockefeller, was the principal speaker.

Church a Necessity

He devoted his address to answering the question, "Is the Church a Necessity or Merely a Supernumerary?" "Certain needs," said Doctor Woody, not only exist but persist. We have need of the altruistic message. The common selfishness of men has wrecked or made unsuccessful every organization that has sought to spread the doctrine of the brotherhood of man without Christ. Christ is necessary, and the church is therefore not a side issue, but a vital factor in our lives."

The service was presided over by the church's pastor, Rev. Dr. George E. Burlingame, who lowered into the cornerstone a metal box containing letters of congratulation from 43 editors of Baptist journals and presidents of Baptist seminaries and colleges, the current issue of 34 Baptist periodicals from 21 states; the bible, covenant of the church; list of church members and societies; directory of San Francisco Baptist churches; address of President Eliot on "The Religion of the Future"; photograph of Mrs. Malvina Pope, who joined the church in 1849 and is still a member; story of earthquake and fire and reconstruction of city, and various weekly and daily periodicals and newspapers.

Following the impressive ceremony Edwin Joy, layer of the cornerstone, presented the silver and steel trowel to Doctor Burlingame.

“A JOYOUS DAY FOR SAN FRANCISCO BAPTISTS”



November 13, 1909 Laying of Cornerstone

FROM MONUMENT TO MOVEMENT

The history recorded in this booklet bears witness to the fact that First Baptist Church of San Francisco never has been limited by its building or location. Our identity has not been constrained by the boundaries of our buildings but rather by the distance of our vision. Facilities only serve to house and make possible the dream that God has placed within the hearts of his people.

God in His sovereign mercy has chosen to locate this fellowship of believers in the City of San Francisco, not only within the city limits but virtually at the center of the activity of the city. Our current location is critical because of its strategic relationship to the rest of the city. Ninety-one years after the foundation of our building was laid, we remain just as strategically located. In many ways our historic location defines what our future ministry will be.

Thousands of people walk or drive past our building each day. Some sleep inside our doorstep, many don't understand who we are, and others openly resist the love of Jesus that we share. These are the people to whom God has assigned us. We cannot let them pass by without being transformed. We must be more than our building to those who unknowingly fall beneath its shadow.

God is always faithful. We have never been orphaned or stranded. What the Lord Jesus has done in the past can only be multiplied in the future. As we reflect on what has been, let us seek a vision for what will be. May the day come when our current facilities are no longer adequate to contain the move of God within its walls. What shifts in our identity must occur for this to happen?

BROAD SHOULDERS TO STAND ON

Our church and building hold an historic place in our city. Our dome is a landmark that remains a visible reminder of our presence. We must possess the same spiritual life that gave us such a rich history. It was not the goal of our founders to build a monument to Jesus; they sought to start a movement that would impact



*Phil Busbee
21st called Pastor*

our city and the world. It is this movement we must continue. Sitting atop the broad shoulders of the past, we are able to see the massive challenge of the future. Our building has been a significant spiritual landmark in our city. Some would even say that the blessing of God lingers in a location. In the Old Testament God's people were quick to build upon the land where God had made His presence known. Our building sits on a spot where the dwelling presence of God has been made known in the city of San Francisco. We are to recapture those blessed moments of the past and make them the pattern of the present and the future. It should fill us with faith and expectation that God has moved here before: therefore, He will move here again. He has not changed. We must change to become a ready container and a responsive channel for the Glory of God to fill San Francisco and the whole earth.

A STRONG FOUNDATION TO GO FROM

When Jesus defined the calling of the disciples he told them GO! He did not tell them to wait for the world to come to them. We must define our calling beyond the confines of our building while continuing to honor the history, security and ministry our facilities provide. What happens outside the walls of our building is, in many ways, more important than the activity within. As we prayer walk our neighborhoods, the Spirit of God will arrange divine appointments with people that would never walk through the doors of our building. One day they will joyfully worship the living God in the beauty of our building because they met someone on the streets of the city. Our small groups spread throughout the city will become the side door to God's church. Some who pass through the front door of your home will not realize they are on a journey to our Lord and eventually the front door of our church building. Remember we are called to shepherd the flock of our city not just the fold that gathers in our building. Your block, your home, your school, your office is where our flock is.

May these past foundations help us build a powerful future to the glory of God. Our buildings are a blessing given by our Lord-through faithful believers of decades past. May we be good managers of such a resource in order to bless what is yet to come.

Note: After ten years of dedicated work, Pastor Phil died in office on June 27, 2009.

First Baptist Church Celebrates Milestone It has been in San Francisco 150 years

Don Lattin, Chronicle Religion Writer
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Miriam Peterson can do more than just talk about the history of First Baptist Church, the last of seven Gold Rush congregations to celebrate their 150th anniversary this year in San Francisco. Peterson has lived a good part of that history. After joining the congregation in 1946, she worked on the church's 100th anniversary program.

On Tuesday, Peterson sat in the church library, leafing through a now-faded centennial booklet. She stopped to point to a picture of the church nursery, to an infant in one of the cribs. It's her son, who is now 50 years old and still sings in the church choir. Peterson joined the church when she married her husband, Art, who died just last week at the age of 86.

"Young people ask me what it was like in the old days, and I tell them, 'It was crowded,' " she quipped. "The church held 1,500 people and used to be filled to capacity. I remember having to sit on folding chairs in the stairway."

First Baptist Church is that imposing stone edifice on the corner of Octavia and Waller streets, just north of Market. Countless motorists have pondered its golden dome while stuck in traffic on the soon-to-be-raised Central Freeway, which has been crammed up against the church since the late 1950s.

Freeways have come and gone since Peterson joined the church. Located on the edge of the Castro district, the conservative evangelical congregation has seen many changes in its neighborhood. The latest is the construction of a new four-story Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center, right across the street on the site of the 105-year-old Fallon Building. That battered Victorian -- built by the rebellious daughter of General Joaquin Castro, the former governor of Mexican California -- was the only building in this part of town when First Baptist built its church in 1909.

The current building is the fifth church the congregation has constructed since its first sanctuary was completed on Aug. 5, 1849. The first one was a simple wooden structure, on the north side of Wash-

ington Street, near Stockton Street, and opened for worship with the sail of a ship for its roof. Its founding pastor was Osgood C. Wheeler, a young preacher from New Jersey who set sail for the Barbary Coast in December 1848, on assignment from the Baptist Home Mission Society.

After a difficult three-month journey through the Caribbean, across the Isthmus of Panama on horseback and up the Pacific coast on a second steamer, Wheeler and his wife, Elizabeth, arrived on Feb. 28, 1849. His Baptist brethren back East warned that he was heading for a place of lawlessness and lust, "the darkest spot on Earth." Wheeler soon agreed. After only a few weeks in San Francisco, he reported that drunkenness, gambling and every kind of immorality were found "in unblushing boldness at every corner."

"The destruction of morals," he declared, "is beyond description." Wheeler was 32 years old when he arrived in California, and he labored here for 40 years. His middle name was "Church," which was something of a prophesy, for Wheeler helped found 100 Baptist churches in the Golden State.

First Baptist built a brick chapel on Washington Street in 1858, then moved out to a new site on Eddy Street, between Jones and Leavenworth, in 1876. The congregation built two churches on that property, the last of which burned the ground in the great earthquake and fire of 1906, prompting the move to Octavia and Waller.

Today, the church has about 450 members and opens its doors to about 325 worshipers on the typical Sunday. It is affiliated with both the American Baptist Churches and the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We feel it is no accident that God put us on this location 90 years ago," said the Rev. Phil Busbee, who was called to pastor the church just three months ago, replacing the Rev. James Higgs, who led the flock since 1980.

In a history of the church prepared for its 150th anniversary, church member Michael Johnston says, in many ways, little has changed since Osgood Church Wheeler founded the congregation 150 years ago. "People are still living in tents. Disease continues to take its toll. The destruction of morals is still beyond description. Every day people die alone and uncared for," Johnston writes. "Today, San Francisco has one evangelical church for every 10,000 residents -- not unlike San Francisco 150 years ago."

The Edifices Time line

Aug. 5, 1849	FBC occupies the first Protestant church building in California
May 11, 1857	The cornerstone was laid for the Washington Street Baptist Church (a.k.a. First Baptist) which is to be erected on the original building site.
Sep. 27, 1857	Dedication of Washington Street Baptist Church
Jan. 23, 1876	FBC relocates to 322 Eddy Street
June 1899	Fire destroys Eddy Street upper floors – basement is restored and used as place of worship.
Apr. 18, 1906	Fires from the Great Earthquake destroy the Eddy Street building. The church begins search for a new location.
Oct. 23, 1908	Site is acquired at Market & Octavia Street at a cost of 2/3 of the Eddy Street lot and \$8,500.
Aug. 30, 1909	Groundbreaking for the new building
Nov. 13, 1909	Cornerstone laid for the new edifice on Octavia Street
July 31, 1910	First service is held in the new building
Sep. 4, 1910	Dedication morning for the new edifice
Mar. 17, 1912	Austin Organ custom-designed for FBC is installed.
Nov. 10, 1940	Dedication service for the Education Building (cost \$30,000)
Aug. 23, 1942	Dedication service of the first nine of 20 stained glass windows in the main church building.

- Sep. 27, 1944 Church approves the acquisition of the victorian house at 42 Waller Street for \$3,000.
- Feb. 3, 1945 Arrangements are made to purchase the five story building at 121 Haight Street.
- Ca 1955 Victoria House at 42 Waller torn down and replaced by the current Julianel Hall (Named for Lewis J. Julianel, Pastor, 1936-1959).
- 1958 Lighted cross is added to top of dome outside the church
- Building at 121 Haight is demolished. Play-ground area is on the lot nearest to the school. The larger area is paved over for the upper parking lot.
- Ca. 1975 Old firehouse at 50 Waller Street is renovated and renamed as Streater Hall. (Named for John B. Streater, Pastor, 1964-1977)
- Feb. 6, 1979 An arson fire destroys the lower [Fellowship] hall and NE corner of main sanctuary – ¼ million dollars damage.
- Oct. 21, 1979 Dedication services of the church building held after repairs from the fire.
- Oct. 19, 1989 6.9 Earthquake at 5:04 p.m. Only a small amount of damage to the stained glass windows was sustained in the quake.
- Nov. 1994 Seismic retrofit is of the main church building is completed (cost \$879,000). The first San Francisco church to retrofit the building under the Seismic Retrofit law passed in 1992.

- Oct. 1995 The Church kitchen is completely renovated providing the church membership with the latest in culinary advancements.
- Nov. 1997 Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary are completely renovated and new pews were installed.
- July 1999 Church and School offices are relocated to the renovated 22 Waller Street locale.
- Nov. 12, 2000 FBC History Room Opens.

Ongoing research by the FBC Historical Commission continues. As other significant events in the life of FBC are discovered, this time line will grow. Artifacts such as 19th and early 20th century minutes, photos and publications are on display in the FBC Historical Walk of Faith located on the north side of the main church building.

DEDICATION DECLARATION

Led by George Elston Burlingame, Pastor of the Church.

September 4, 1910

O Jehovah, the God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath;

**Who keepest covenant and loving-kindness with thy servants,
that walk before thee with all their heart.**

But will God in very deed dwell on the earth?

**Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee;
now much less this house that I have builded!**

Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Jehovah my God,

**To hearken unto the cry and unto the prayer which thy servant
prayeth before thee this day;**

That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day,

**Even toward the place whereof thou hast said, my name shall be
there.**

O Jehovah, the God of Israel, that sittest above the cherubim, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth;

Thou hast made heaven and earth.

Moreover concerning the foreigner, that is not of thy people Israel, when he shall come out of a far country for thy name's sake;

**Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place, and do according to all
that the foreigner calleth to thee for;**

That all the peoples of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as doth thy people Israel,

**And that they may know that this house which I have built is
called by thy name.**

But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort?

For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things:

**And blessed be his glorious name forever; and let the whole earth
be filled with his glory.** (I Kings 8, 19; I Chronicles 29)

With grateful praise unto him who hath called us to this high and holy task,

**We do now solemnly and joyfully consecrate this house of wor-
ship.**

To the glory of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit,

We dedicate this House.

To the praise of the glory of his grace, (Ephesians 1:6)

We dedicate this House.

To preaching good tidings of peace by Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all),

(Acts 10:36)

We dedicate this House.

To seeking the kingdom of God which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, (Rom. 14:17)

We dedicate this House.

To learning and obeying the word of God which liveth and abideth, (I Peter 1:23)

We dedicate this House.

To the increase and perfecting of the Church which is the body of Christ, (Ephesians 1:23; Colossians 2:19)

We dedicate this House.

To the fulfillment of the traditions delivered unto us in the sacred writings, (I Corinthians 11:2; II Tim. 3:15)

We dedicate this House.

To the symbolic remembrance of Our Lord Jesus Christ who was delivered up for our trespasses, and was raised for our justification, (Romans 4:25, 6:2; I Corinthians 11:26)

We dedicate this House.

To the defense of the faith once for all delivered unto the saints, that the truth of the gospel may continue, (Jude 3, Galatians 2:4)

We dedicate this House.

To the preaching unto the nations of the unsearchable riches of Christ, (Ephesians 3:8)

We dedicate this House.

To the ministry of grace for the sinning, and comfort for the sorrowing, and hope for the despairing, and love for the desolate,

We dedicate this House.

To the protection of the tempted and the oppressed and the helpless,

We dedicate this House.

To the revelation of the mind and spirit and character of Jesus Christ Our Lord through the living temples of our redeemed and consecrated bodies, (Romans 12:1)

We dedicate this House.

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that it hath pleased thee to put it into the hearts of thy servants to appropriate and devote this House to thy honor and worship; and grant that all who shall enjoy the benefit of this pious work may show forth their thankfulness, by making a right use of it, to the glory of thy blessed name.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Now unto him that is able to guard you from stumbling, and to set you before the presence of his glory without blemish in exceeding joy,

**To the only wise God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion and power, before all time, and now,
and forevermore, Amen. ..** (Jude 25)

The Called Pastors of the First Baptist Church of California

Osgood C. WheelerMarch 1849 - November 1851
Benjamin BrierlyMay 1852 - May 1858
David B. Cheney.....June 1859 - July 1867
Jesse B. Thomas..... February 1868 - November 1868
A. R. Medbury September 1870 - July 1872
M. Mulcahy September 1873 - December 1873
Eri B. Hulbert..... August 1874 - November 1877
Granville S. Abbott.....December 1877 - December 1878
E. H. Gray April 1879 - July 1880
William M. Kincaid.....September 1881 - November 1889
John Quincy Adams HenryFebruary 1890 - December 1895
Melbourne P. Boynton January 1896 - August 1897
E. A. WoodsMarch 1898 - November 1902
George E. Burlingame..... April 1906 - January 1917
James S. WestNovember 1922 - July 1933
David M. Dawson.....February 1934 - October 1936
Lewis J. Julianel.....November 1936 - September 1959
Curtis Nims August 1959 - January 1962
John B. Streater..... January 1964 - January 1977
James L. Higgs..... January 1980 - January 1998
Phil Busbee June 1999 – June 2009

First Baptist Church of San Francisco

Located at Market & Octavia Streets
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San Francisco, California 94102

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www.FBCSF.org

Affiliated:
American Baptist Church since 1849
Southern Baptist Convention since 1985