

News Release

From The First Baptist Church of Santa Cruz, 411 Roxas S., Santa Cruz, CA 95062 831-1080; fbsantacruzca@cs.com

For Release: October 2, 2003

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PIPE ORGAN CONCERT TO MARK CHURCH'S 145th BIRTHDAY

In October of 1858 several Christians met in Santa Cruz to form a church. It was only a few years since the war with Mexico and the Gold Rush of 1849. At the time there were only three churches in Santa Cruz: the Catholic church of old Mission Santa Cruz, a Methodist church and a recently organized Congregational church. After their first worship service on Oct. 24, 1858, the eleven charter members of the new church went to the San Lorenzo River where Mr. Stutz was baptized.

To mark this event, First Baptist Church of Santa Cruz, 411 Roxas St. is hosting: "Let the Heavens Rejoice! Pipe Organ Concert" on Saturday, October 25 at 4 p.m. This memorial concert will feature well known church musician Dave Talbot of Mt. Hermon Christian Conference Center, Vlada Volkova Moran, and the First Baptist Church organist Ms. Stephanie Zabitz. The musicians will be performing classical, gospel and contemporary pieces on the recently renovated Rhoades Pipe Organ. A reception will be held following the concert.

The church organized in 1858 adopted the New Hampshire Confession of Faith, which is known for its emphasis on Biblical inspiration and its positive, evangelistic spirit. For 145 years, First Baptist Church has remained true to its mission of sharing the gospel of Christ. With the theme, "Dedicated to Making Christ Known," First Baptist Church has been the home of recovery programs, sheltered the homeless, participated in every city wide evangelistic program, cooperated with other churches, provided an early home of a Christian School, ministered to its East Santa Cruz neighborhood, and provided space for a public community school dedicated in helping young people achieve an education. More importantly, First Baptist Church has touched many lives evidenced by people following God's call into the Christian ministry, the mission field and countless youth, children and adults taking steps of faith. In a time in which several congregations in Santa Cruz County have had to close their doors, disband or merge, First Baptist Church invites the community to help them celebrate 145 years of continuous Christian ministry. For more information, call [831-423-1080](tel:831-423-1080) or e-mail fbsantacruzca@cs.com.

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