



The Way

April 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOMESTEAD, FL

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

An author named Raymond McHenry says that a lot has changed in America since the last time we experienced what we often call a “great awakening” in our land. Leaders were making plans to connect our country, east to west, by railway. The first flight would not occur for another half century. The light bulb was still just an idea in the mind of a child named Thomas Edison. The civil war had not yet been fought. Needless to say, it’s been some time since we have seen a true great awakening in America.

We talk a lot about revival in our churches, as we should. And there have been pockets of revival in individual churches and regions from time to time. We have seen what might be called tremors of revival that never materialized. But the real

thing? Unless you have traveled the world, none of us have ever seen it. We can read about it in the Bible. We can read about it in church history...times when the hearts of people were turned to the Lord on a mass level...times when an entire culture was transformed by the effects of unusually large numbers of people being converted in a short time period...times when sudden decreases in sin and a sudden increase in righteous living brought about forcible changes in society. We can speak of this as in the past. We can speak of this among others. But we cannot speak of this in the here and now. We cannot use the first person.

All of that being said, we are still to pray for revival. Psalm 85:6 says “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?” We should pray for revival in our churches, our nation and in our own lives as well.

Many say that the word “revival” is outdated. However, as long as the word “revive” appears in the Word of God, it will never be outdated. (And for the record, it does, five times to be exact. This does not include the many biblical examples of revival in which the word is not technically used.) Some say that new church growth methodologies have rendered all concepts of revival as useless. However, our human efforts and strategies will never be able to do what God can and will do with a revived church full of holy people.

Unfortunately, it’s been so long since most Christians have seen revival that I’m convinced many Christians wouldn’t even pray for it if they knew what it involved. In fact, I agree with Voddie Baucham, that true revival would initially result in a decline in our churches, followed by long term, sustained growth. If revival were to take

place in every Bible believing church in America, holiness would be emphasized and sin would be addressed, leading many carnal Christians and nonbelievers to stay at home. But in the long run, our homes would experience God's presence and blessings. Our pulpits would be filled with renewed power. Our witness would be renewed and there would be drastic increases in genuine conversions and baptisms. The world would look at the church and see the difference that is all too often missing today. Few churches would have problems meeting their budget and the number of missionaries accepting the call to serve, as well as the dollars contributed to support them, would surge. Teenagers would not "graduate from God" when they get to college because they would have been trained by godly moms and dads. We would stop losing the next generation to the world. No church growth methodology can produce these kinds of results. And that is why we must never stop talking about, praying for and planning for revival.

God makes it abundantly clear what the prerequisites for revival are. Second Chronicles 7:14 tells us that we must do four things. First we are to humble ourselves. That means asking God to help us see ourselves as we truly are. That

means confessing and forsaking our pride. There is a chorus we sing at First Baptist from time to time that says "This is what I ask, Lord, this is what I need. A fresh new look at You and an honest look at me." Second, we are to pray. I am not aware of a single revival that has taken place in the Bible or church history that did not involve God's people praying fervently. On the other hand, I am aware of one revival that took place in which there was very little preaching. But prayer is indispensable! Third, we are to seek God's face. That means that we pursue the knowledge of Him. We devote ourselves to knowing His Word. We ask God to reveal Himself to us in a fresh, new way. Finally, we must turn from our wicked ways. Just as revival never occurs apart from prayer, it is also true that it never occurs apart from repentance.

There's a reason why I share these words at this time. We are in a season in which we are bombarded with the message that the solution to our nation's problems is political. This will only intensify as we enter the summer and fall. It's tempting to buy into the hype that says if we will just elect the right people and pass the right laws, everything will be fixed. Yes, it is important for us to have godly leaders. Yes, there are biblical

criteria to guide us in the voting booth. And yet, our dilemma today stems from the lack of a revived church. So let this serve as a reminder: While everyone in America has their eyes on who will occupy the White House, God is concerned about who will occupy His house. He is concerned that there be a church full of holy Christ-followers who love Jesus, hate sin, passionately worship, speak truth, boldly witness, defend the innocent, respect authority, keep promises, honor the family, teach their children and serve the least of these. When that happens, revival will occur and our land will experience the overflow of God's blessings upon His church.

As always, it's an honor to serve as your pastor. Thank you for being better to me than I deserve.

Pastor Howard



Happy Birthday!

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4/01 - Daniella Knott | 4/08 - Ricardo Barrera | 4/16 - John Messenger | 4/25 - CJ Ramos |
| 4/01 - Stephanie Torres | 4/08 - Michael Canady | 4/17 - Hailey Zaldivar | 4/26 - Brunilda Nieves |
| 4/01 - Kevin Zelman | 4/08 - James Holland | 4/18 - Kayla DeLeon | 4/27 - Donna Bell |
| 4/02 - Billy Ader | 4/08 - Hilda Patterson | 4/18 - Lyla Irizarry | 4/27 - Korey Cayford |
| 4/02 - Steven Breivogel | 4/08 - Jessica Porco | 4/18 - Elisha Kinkade | 4/27 - Margaret Clason |
| 4/02 - Tyan Lott | 4/08 - Melissa Pound | 4/18 - Raphael Pagan | 4/29 - Austin Diehl |
| 4/02 - Jasmine Martine | 4/08 - Julianna Rendon | 4/18 - Peter Quinones | 4/29 - Angel Lopez |
| 4/02 - Brian Wade | 4/08 - Alex Toirac | 4/18 - Terrance Walker | 4/29 - Kevin Orosa |
| 4/03 - Isaiah Cornelius | 4/10 - Fabian Hernandez | 4/19 - Adam Marquez | 4/29 - Maria Perez |
| 4/03 - Theresa Garcia | 4/10 - Stefanie Lugo | 4/19 - Emilee Vasquez | 4/29 - Alejandro Morell |
| 4/03 - Levi Harden | 4/11 - Ryan Accursio | 4/20 - Mayra Bladford | 4/30 - Neftali Guzman |
| 4/03 - Hannah Mills | 4/11 - Ileana Dickson | 4/21 - Giselle Lucio | 4/30 - Devin McGuire |
| 4/03 - Erick Rojas | 4/11 - Rose Harmon | 4/21 - Marilyn Padron | |
| 4/03 - Karina Toirac | 4/12 - Michelle Cordova | 4/22 - Steven Diehl | |
| 4/04 - Joshua Jordan | 4/12 - Susy Lugo | 4/22 - Joel Guilfoyle | |
| 4/06 - Patricia Avalos | 4/12 - Ella Fox | 4/23 - Curt Schmidt | |
| 4/07 - Jim Polles | 4/14 - Danielle Lamb | 4/25 - Monica Alvarez | |



Music Ministry



Greetings Church Family!

What a wonderful Easter Sunday service, fellowship breakfast, music, choir, worship, and sermon! Thank you Morning Glory, Sanctuary Choir, Youth Choir, and Little Melodies for sharing your talents during this special season. No doubt, Easter should be celebrated year round, as well as Christmas! Praise God we serve a risen Savior.

I am excited to announce our Young Musicians spring program “The Kingdom Connection” where the Bible

comes to life, May 1st, during our 6:30 p.m. evening service. Mrs. Lori and her crew have been extremely busy practicing to present their very best. An added touch is an ice cream social to follow in our fellowship hall. Mark your calendar now and invite your family and friends.

Here are popular dates around summer time, Vacation Bible School! June 20—24!!! We are going to be “Submerged” this year. What fantastic fun, missions, music, crafts, and games. You may fill out your registration in person or on line at fbchomestead.org. Our children

will submerge themselves in God’s Word, and discover Jesus in many different Bible stories. “Search me God and know my heart, test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.” Psalm 139:23-24.

Singing for Him,
Pam



Stewardship

March 2016

Contributions for March 2016:	\$ 45,435.22
Monthly budget requirements:	\$ 46,658.00
YTD Contributions:	\$ 327,307.83
YTD Budget:	\$ 344,639.10

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



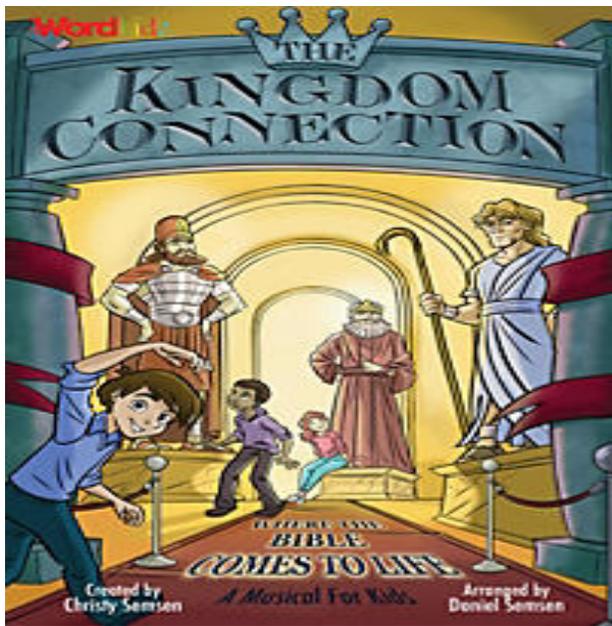
28205 SW 125th Ave, Homestead, FL 33030

Join us Thursday, April 28, 11:30 a.m., as we serve meals and distribute Bibles to the homeless.

Senior Adult Luncheon
Thursday, April 14, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



Please make reservations with FBCH
305-247-1662.
\$7.00 Per person.



Young musician spring musical
Sunday, May 1, at 6:30 p.m.



Ice Cream Social



May 1, following the Spring musical

Women on Mission
All ladies are invited to our Mother's Day Tea
May 7th 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Wear your favorite hat!



ONLINE:
WWW.FBCHOMESTEAD.ORG

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF
HOMESTEAD, FL



Primary Business Address
Your Address Line 2
Your Address Line 3
Your Address Line 4

Your business tag line here.



Wow! Can you believe it's April already?! It hardly seems possible that we could already be a quarter of the way through this year! My prayer is that you are making the most of *every* day that God has given you! Here's a look at the opportunities in our Student Ministry that are coming up in April.

First, on Wednesday nights at **ENCOUNTER** we're going to begin a new message series called **Cultivate**. In this series, we'll be taking a look at a few of the spiritual disciplines that we can practice in an effort to cultivate an intimate relationship with God. I'd love to encourage all of our students to join us on Wednesdays through this series.

Second, April means it's time for **re-NEW Weekend!** Students will gather the weekend of April 8-10 and will spend the weekend

studying God's Word, worshipping the Lord, playing games, and enjoying times of fellowship with other students and adult volunteers. The theme this year is **Echoes** and our students will be learning what the Bible has to say about learning to listen and respond to God's voice. Please be in prayer for our students as well as all of our adult volunteers! Pray that God moves in a mighty way during **re-NEW Weekend**.

Third, I realize that it's not until next month, but we have two pretty special events planned that I want to go ahead and put on your radar. The first is a **Mystery Dinner Theater** on Friday, May 6. Students who sign up to participate will be assigned a part to play in the dinner theater. On May 6, they will come to the church and enjoy dinner and play their role in an interactive Clue-style game. Students that are interested need to sign up by Wednesday, April 27. The other event coming up next month is a **Memorial Day Picnic**. On Monday, May 30, we are inviting all of our students and

their families to join us at the church. We're grilling hamburgers and hot dogs and will have several different games for all ages to play. In order to help us adequately prepare, we're asking families to RSVP by Wednesday, May 25.

Finally, this month I'm highlighting the core value of **Lifestyle Worship**. This core value highlights the truth that all of our life is an act of worship! In fact, the only thing we can't do as an act of worship is sin! Our ministry strives to teach students **how** to live a life of worship in addition to giving them opportunities to worship with other believers on a regular basis.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve you and to serve with you for the glory of God!

For His Glory,

Joe

