



The Way

February 2015

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOMESTEAD, FL

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This past Saturday, we had a work day for the new building. Over twenty men spent a good part of their Saturday installing the outer doors. I am grateful for all the hard work and for the joyful spirit in which it was done. Furthermore, the roof is going up as I write. The windows are waiting. The stucco and painting contracts are signed. By God's grace, we are making progress. The structure that now stands is 21,700 square feet. That includes 9,000 square feet of pavilion space with 11,700 enclosed. The ministry that we'll be able to do from this building is absolutely enormous. I hope you are as excited as I am. Let me take this time and update you as to where we are and where we are go-

ing. To some of you this is "old hat." But I'd rather repeat myself and have everyone on board than have some of you not know what is happening.

First, a word about the new building finances. With our 2014-2015 budget, FBCH once again has a wind storm insurance policy. Previously, FBCH was self insured. The costs of wind storm insurance rose rapidly following Hurricane Katrina. Wind storm insurance alone on our current building rose from about \$16,000 per year to over \$60,000 per year. This was almost a four-fold increase in just one year. At that time the church decided it was wise to self insure rather than allocate about ten percent of all budget receipts to insurance, while still having a tremendous deductible in the case of another catas-

trophic storm. For the next several years, the money we would have given for wind storm insurance went into a fund in which we basically paid ourselves. We were also able to allocate more money for the building fund this way.

When the costs of the building rose dramatically, it became necessary to use self insurance funds in order to "close in" the new building. Insurance costs have fallen close to their pre-Katrina levels, so wind storm insurance became affordable again. By adding the self insurance funds to the amount in our building fund, we now have enough for doors, windows, a roof, stucco and paint. Soon, the building will look complete from the outside. From a financial point of view, however, we will be at least \$1,000,000 away from com-

pletion.

Since the money being spent on insurance is money that - in the previous budget - went to the building fund, we now have a significantly smaller portion of the budget which goes to pay for the new building. This means we are increasingly dependent upon giving above the regular tithe. Put it this way: if you take the current rate at which we are contributing to the building fund (including both tithes and additional offerings), it would take about ten years to "pay as you go" at our current rate. I doubt there are any who want to see a beautiful educational building sit vacant for the next decade.

So where does that leave us? It leaves us dependent on God, which is a good place to be! God loves to keep us at a place where we are totally dependent on Him so that everyone knows He alone gets the glory. It also leaves us in need of prayer. James 1:5 says, "Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him." We will need wisdom to know how to go about finishing the task. On the one hand,

there is a building that needs to be used. On the other hand, it is vitally important we not step out of God's will. I am praying God's will would be made so abundantly clear, the body of Christ would be in one accord.

About this time a year ago, we distributed a manual on fasting. Now would be a good time to pull it out and give it a re-read, if needed. If you don't have a copy, we can provide one to you. Right now, we need to fast *and* pray. Pray for God to supply what we need according to His riches in glory. Pray for God to guide the building committee. Pray for your pastor to adequately lead. Pray for those who are doing the work, that the building will be built well. Pray for the ministries to be hosted and for the Lord to send forth the laborers those ministries will require.

I would also encourage you to make an effort to be present for our monthly business meetings. We meet the third Sunday night of every month after the evening service. Currently, I am preaching through the book of Daniel on Sunday nights. If you are not there, you are

missing out on what could be a significant boost to your spiritual development. I remember how much I benefited as a new Christian by having the opportunity to be fed God's Word on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights.

I hope to report back in an upcoming edition of the Way with more details regarding the building needs. Until then, keep praying. Keep giving. If you joined FBCH since our last capital campaign, go to our web site and click on the scrolling banner called "Building for the Future." This was the name of the original three-year campaign. The brochure is uploaded to the website. You can read all about it.

How are those New Year's resolutions coming? Be sure to read through the Word of God in 2015!

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor.

Pastor Howard



Happy Birthday!

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 02/01 - Riley Krepcho | 02/10 - A.J. West | 02/16 - Yvonne Orosa | 02/22 - Christine Orosa |
| 02/01 - Jesse Mendheim | 02/11 - Frankie Farias | 02/16 - Samantha Sourber | 02/23 - Kayla Davis |
| 02/01 - Michael Velez | 02/11 - Quirino Cruz | 02/18 - Gabbie Del Toro | 02/24 - Amanda Bridwell |
| 02/02 - Marie Eduard | 02/11 - Damian DeVary | 02/18 - Mary Johnson | 02/24 - Bart Davis |
| 02/02 - Danielle Martinez | 02/11 - Jay Shellhouse | 02/18 - Yamaira Lopez | 02/25 - Ronald Mercedes |
| 02/03 - Kayden Fox | 02/12 - Don Fox | 02/19 - Lili Godinez | 02/25 - Dylan Powell |
| 02/03 - Deanna Melton | 02/12 - Matthew Mullings | 02/19 - Matt Krepcho | 02/25 - Fred Rhodes |
| 02/04 - Verina Blaylock | 02/12 - Joseph Rodriguez | 02/20 - Raquel Davis | 02/25 - Larissa Vazquez |
| 02/04 - Debbie Hall | 02/12 - Safirre Soto | 02/20 - Lucy Serna | 02/26 - Woodrow Brown |
| 02/04 - Bryson Orosa | 02/13 - Gaeldesh Demosthene | 02/21 - Carrie Fernandez | 02/26 - Karla De La Cruz |
| 02/05 - Manda Jarrin | 02/13 - Caleb Blaedow | 02/21 - Clifton Gardner | 02/26 - Ethan Martin |
| 02/05 - Morgan Wells | 02/14 - Hailey Crawford | 02/21 - Samantha Perez | 02/26 - Ruth Peebles |
| 02/06 - Winona Nutter | 02/14 - Savannah Drury | 02/21 - Alma Santos | 02/28 - Audrey Carter |
| 02/07 - Lesley Arrieta | 02/14 - Randi Heisterman | 02/21 - Ti Santos | 02/28 - Samantha Santos |
| 02/07 - James Easom | 02/14 - Kayla Main | 02/22 - George Gonzalez | 02/29 - Geneva Byars |
| 02/08 - Joyce Baxley | 02/15 - Anjanette Diaz | 02/22 - Brittany Lee | 02/29 - Vickie Clayton |
| 02/08 - Lisagay Khan | 02/15 - Brittney Eichler | 02/22 - Emily Leonard | |
| 02/08 - Paul McBeth | 02/15 - Rachel Harden | 02/22 - Emilia Lugo | |
| 02/09 - Ivette Roldan | 02/16 - Julius Mora | 02/22 - Joe Maldonado | |



Music Ministry



“Kingdom, Power, Glory Praising the Risen Christ” by Vader, Rouse, and Adpinall is the title of our Easter cantata. Yes, you read it correctly, Easter. Easter is April 5th. We are in the beginning stages of learning this new cantata so now would be the perfect time to join us in celebrating as we worship in song. You are welcome to join us for practice on Sunday

evenings following the worship service.

We are staying busy around FBC; our handbell choir is practicing on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Anyone who would liked to join us is welcome to. Hats off to our youth choir! It is so lovely to hear the young ladies lift their voices. I praise God for the youth who want to sing praises to

his name. We can't forget our Young Musicians choir as they are practicing their spring musical, “Back at the Cross”. You can join them on Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM.

We have many opportunities to share our talents, don't get left behind. Join a choir!

Singing for HIM,
Pam



Stewardship

January 2015

Contributions for January 2015:	\$ 43,634.84
Monthly budget requirements:	\$ 46,491.16
YTD Contributions:	\$ 207,157.57
YTD Budget:	\$ 197,587.43

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Fill a bottle, save a life!





Baby Bottle DRIVE
FILL A BOTTLE, CHANGE A LIFE



BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Us



Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

- *College and Career - How to develop a Powerful Prayer Life*
- *Men's Bible Study - The Quest for Authentic Manhood*
- *Ladies Bible Study - Gideon*

CHAPMAN PARTNERSHIP

28205 SW 125th Ave, Homestead, FL 33030



Feeding the homeless

Join us February 10, 11:30 p.m. as we serve meals and distribute Bibles to the homeless.



February 20, 21 and 22
7:00 p.m.

Sunday School

Join us and grow in God's word!
9:45 a.m. classes for all ages!
We have a class for YOU!



Mommy & Me

Baby Shower

February 22, 5:00 p.m.

All Ladies are invited

Sponsored by Women on Mission

Caring for Miami Crisis Pregnancy Center

Items for Baby

Diaper, Size 3, 4, 5
Onesies, Pajamas, Gowns
Booties, Socks, Caps
Diaper Bags, Baby Monitor
Blankets, Crib sheets
Gently used Clothes and Furniture

Items for Mommy

Nightgown, robe, slippers
Toiletries
Bibles, Women's Devotional
Uplifting magazines & books
Wal-Mart gift cards

ONLINE:
WWW.FBCHOMESTEAD.ORG

NEWSLETTER OF THE
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CHURCH OF
HOMESTEAD, FL

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**Building bridges...empowering
people...changing lives!**



It's February—the month where much of society turns their attention to the topic of love. My prayer is that God's people are living as tangible demonstrations of the love of Christ so that the people they come into contact with every day will come to know the Author of love.

Here's a look at what's taking place in our Student Ministry during February:

First, on Wednesday nights at **ENCOUNTER** we're going to begin a new message series called **By God's Design**. We'll be talking about biblical principles for relationships and how our students can navigate relationships with wisdom and discernment. With the current cultural climate of relationships among teenagers today, I hope **ALL** of our students will take advantage of hearing what God's Word has to say here.

Second, on February 20, our Student Ministry will be attending the Love Ran Red Tour with Chris Tomlin, Tenth Avenue North, and Rend Collective. Those attending will meet at the church and leave at 4:30 pm. Please pray for safety traveling to the concert and that those attending will have a great time and enjoy worshipping the Lord together.

Third, I want to put an event on your radar. This year, Renew Weekend will be taking place on April 10-12. This is one of those events that is a highlight for the year for many students! I love to see how God moves and works in the hearts and lives of both students and adults. Informational brochures for Renew Weekend will be available soon and there will be an incentive for getting registrations turned in sooner. Please keep your eyes open for more information about Renew Weekend and go ahead and mark those dates on your calendar so you don't forget!

Finally, let me just remind you that one of the core values of our Student Ministry is **Diverse Fellowship**. This core value highlights the truth that Christ has destroyed the walls that once separated us and has made us into a family. Our ministry is a ministry to and for **ALL** students and their family regardless of any characteristics that this world insists must divide us. We believe that diversity in the membership of our student ministry is a reflection of the diversity we will see in heaven and we welcome and celebrate any and all students that have surrendered to the Lordship of Christ no matter what their background.

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

For His Glory,

Joe

