



The Way

June 2014

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOMESTEAD, FL

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." ² Timothy 2:1-2

There was probably not another person for whom Paul had more affection than Timothy. Timothy was his student, his disciple, his "son" in the Lord. Timothy grew so much in the faith that Paul could actually say to the Philippians, "I have no one else like-minded." He told the Corinthians, "He is doing the Lord's work, just as I am" and "he will remind you of what I teach." Paul knew that when he sent Timothy to a church, he might as well be sending

himself.

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul urged him to do for others what Paul had done for him. Paul encouraged him to invest his life in other believers and then allow those faithful men to pay it forward by passing along what they had been taught. This is also the heart of the Great Commission. We are to make "disciples" and not just "converts." All of this involves investing our lives in other people. This includes lost people who need the gospel and saved people who need to learn how to apply the gospel to everyday life.

I have seen some beautiful examples of that in our church lately. This past weekend, I was privileged to baptize sixteen people. They range in age

from eight to eighty. Some of these new believers know Christ today because of other "almost-new" believers who have been disciplined and have witnessed to them. For example, I baptized one twenty-eight year old woman who knows Christ because she heard the gospel from a man I baptized about five years ago. Another woman was baptized after being ministered to by someone who was baptized last September. Three of those who were baptized were recently saved because we reached their mother in the past year. The eighty year old, a former Venezuelan lieutenant colonel, was saved at a block party we did last summer in which many of those who served were new believers. I baptized a ten year old girl who we led to Christ after my oldest daughter, whom I

baptized last year, invited her to church. In each case, there is a domino effect taking place. This is what Paul is saying should take place in Timothy's life and in ours.

The majority of those we saw baptized were won to the Lord by relatively new believers. This amazes me because so many times, we buy into the lie that says we need to "know more" in order to lead someone else to Christ or teach someone what we know. Nothing could be farther from the truth. If you have a testimony, you have something to share. If you know Christ, you can make Him known. Some of you want to wait until you "have it all figured out." The truth is, you know way more than you need to in order for God to use you. You need to serve and share more than you need another Bible study.

I tell you this because there is really no program that can capture what Paul is describing to Timothy and what I am seeing here. In my opinion, this best occurs naturally. It happens when the members of the body of Christ choose to invest their lives in others. I know one

member who regularly invites new believers to a coffee shop so that he can get to know them and establish a basis for encouraging them to continue in the faith and in their spiritual growth. At any given moment, he has a list of text messages he has sent just to build them up and check on them. No one asked him to do this. But he understands 2 Timothy 2.

So who has God placed around you in whom He is calling you to invest? Who are the new believers who need someone to take them under their wings? When was the last time you shared the plan of salvation? When was the last time you sat down with a new believer just to see how they are progressing and dealing with the trials that come with being a follower of Christ? Let's remember that the ministry of discipling others is one that belongs to every member of the body of Christ. Let's all do our part and trust God for the results.

Please be in prayer for Vacation Bible School. Every year we seem to cram more children into our facility. Normally, a third of the kids we get are completely unchurched. This

is the only time they will hear the gospel in a given year. Our youth will also be traveling to New Orleans and New York this summer. They have been working very hard to prepare themselves for the ministry they will be performing. Lift them up in prayer and be proud of the fact that we have young people on mission for the Lord.

If you haven't already done so, mark your calendars for August 31. This is the Sunday before our 105th anniversary and we will be celebrating on that day. It is Labor Day weekend. I know a lot of you travel at that time. This year, don't! We want to have it then in order to help those who will be coming TO us from out of town. Monday being Labor Day should make it easier for folks to come in from afar who might not otherwise come.

Thank you again for the privilege of being your pastor.

Pastor Howard



Happy Birthday!

06/01 - David Silverman	06/09 - Clevon McCalla	06/15 - Ray Santiago	06/26 - Luisa Colorado
06/01 - Nevaeh Miles	06/10 - Arturo Borrero	06/15 - Deborah Veras	06/26 - Lori Diehl
06/02 - Hector Morales	06/10 - Jaime Gomez	06/17 - Alexandra Kaercher	06/26 - Nicole Melley
06/03 - Lauren Garner	06/10 - Jesse Morgan	06/17 - Alex Koury	06/26 - Sylvan Pile
06/04 - Crystal Ferreira	06/10 - Isabella Oeriba	06/17 - Kadie Lopez	06/27 - Ruth Campbell
06/04 - Jamie Garner	06/11 - Lucille Allen	06/18 - Elise Stutz	06/28 - Nichole Sincore
06/05 - Luis Lohuis	06/11 - Benjamin Baxley	06/19 - Jacob True	06/30 - Ariel Castro
06/05 - Joshua McMillan	06/11 - Jesse Dickson	06/20 - Jesse Drenthe	06/30 - Nathalie Norestin
06/05 - Daniel Santana	06/12 - Michael Madera	06/20 - Howard Harden	
06/06 - Era James	06/12 - Tarra Young	06/20 - Summer Munoz	
06/07 - Olga Cedano	06/13 - Leonardo Garcia	06/22 - Pascale Louise	
06/07 - Maleaha Hill	06/14 - Dean Sourber	06/22 - Fred Oliveira	
06/07 - Ali Jones	06/14 - Jelani Wells	06/23 - Gustavo Alvarado	
06/07 - Greg Wells	06/15 - Nila Castro-Headley	06/24 - Rosie Morales	
06/07 - Edward Zdancewicz	06/15 - Monica Goedhart	06/24 - Carlos Perez	
06/08 - Esmeralda Nieves	06/15 - Rebekah Goodwin	06/24 - Tatiana Rodriguez	
06/09 - Yolanda Biichle	06/15 - Evan Jones	06/24 - Kyle Sweeney	



Music Ministry



As the song is sung "Summer time. Summer time. Sum, sum, summer time!" Many children and teachers live for this time. Yet, if you ask me, the song is sung, "Gonna say Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes to V, V, VBS!" Summer does not truly begin until VBS is over. So pack your gear June 23 - 27, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, Agency D 3. Come experience the fun, games, music, stories, missions, but most of all Jesus!!

This summer our choir may experience a few changes. Ladies and/or men ensembles,

and possibly a bell choir. As long as I am concerned, we will *always* have an adult choir. I understand people may need a break or a vacation, but know we *never* take a vacation from God, nor does He take one from us. I am so thankful for our faithful choir members who want to continue participating in worship as we sing new and known songs of lifting praise. Look for more exciting music with great worshipful changes this summer.

Thank you Young musicians, Ms. Lori and crew for a fantastic performance in Agape League.

How precious it is to hear young ones sing the Word of God sharing the message to us, yet placing those words in their lives to recall when needed. Words to live by! I am sure Ms. Lori is busy checking out Christmas music that we will love and enjoy! Thanks again crew. We know you sing for an audience of one, but thanks for letting us in on it too.

Singing for Him!
Pam



Stewardship

May 2014

Contributions for May 2014:	\$ 43,913.23
Monthly budget requirements:	\$ 46,227.68
YTD Contributions:	\$ 404,382.94
YTD Budget:	\$ 392,935.28

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



June 23 -27
8:30am - 12:30pm
Pre-K - Grade 6
 Register online
www.fbchomestead.org
 or call **305-247-1662**



Tuesday, June 10, 11:30-1:00 p.m.
 South Miami-Dade Center
 28205 SW 124th Ave

First Things First Men's Prayer Breakfast

Men of all ages are welcome to join us for our monthly prayer breakfast on Saturday June 7, 8:00 a.m.

Deacon Nominations

If you would like to nominate someone as a prospective deacon you can do so by contacting the church office or e-mail your request to fbchoffice@bellsouth.net A prospective deacon must have been a member of FBCH for one year and meet the requirements of 1 Timothy 3:8-13.



First Baptist Church of Homestead

105th Anniversary

Mark your calendars August 31, 2014

2014 Graduates

Join us Sunday, June 8th at 11:00 a.m. as we honor our graduates.

ONLINE:
WWW.FBCHOMESTEAD.ORG

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



It's SUMMERTIME! That means warm weather, long days, no school, family vacations, and a host of other things as well! For our Student Ministry, summer is an *incredibly* active season of ministry! Don't blink or you might just miss something! Here's a look at what's taking place this month.

We're excited to announce something new for Wednesday nights during the summer this year! **E3 (Epic ENCOUNTER Excursions)** will begin on June 18 and continue through August 13. Each Wednesday night, ENCOUNTER will be held at a different location. Each family will receive a finalized printout and details about transportation options on Wednesday, June 11. We'll also make the schedule available on our website so no student gets left wondering when and where to be each week.

Summertime means no more school! On Sunday, June 8th, during our 11 o'clock service, we'll be honoring all of our graduates. They have worked hard to achieve this milestone and I hope you'll join us as we honor and celebrate their accomplishments. We're also going to

kick summer off right with our School's Out Bash on Friday, June 6th. We'll celebrate from 2 – 10 pm at the home of Gene and Judy Mendheim. The Student Ministry will supply hamburgers and hot dogs and we're asking each student to bring a 2 Liter drink and a bag of chips. We'll play games and have fun hanging out and kicking off summer in style!

Summertime also means that it's time for Vacation Bible School! Each year we have an unbelievable opportunity to share the gospel with numerous children from all across our community! Each year, our students play a vital part in helping us accomplish just that. I anticipate this year being no different in that respect. Students who are interested in volunteering to help with VBS need to register online (www.fbchomestead.org) and must attend training on Thursday, June 12th at 2:00 pm or make an appointment with Pastor Joe for an alternate training date.

Summertime also means Summer Mission Trips! We'll wrap up training for our New Orleans mission trip on Saturday, June 7 with a hands-on mission project. We'll be serving with an organization that works with special-needs children. We'll meet at the

church at 8 am and will return around 2 pm. Lunch will be provided. Any student not able to attend needs to schedule a make-up service project with Pastor Joe in order to fulfill the requirements for their mission trip. Training for the New York mission trip will continue throughout the summer as well. Please continue to pray for both trips and the students and volunteers who will be taking them.

Finally, let me just remind you that one of the core values of our Student Ministry is that we aim to be *Family Focused*. What that means is that we understand that God designed the family to be the primary teachers of spiritual instruction and it is the responsibility of the church to assist families in that endeavor. If there is anything that I, or our ministry, can do to help you as you seek to lead your teenagers spiritually, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

For His Glory,

Joe