



# The Way

September 2014

## NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOMESTEAD, FL

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I love "side trips." Perhaps you have been on a journey and you decided to take one. A side trip is an excursion you take while in the process of making a greater journey. Last month, I preached at a camp in Pennsylvania. On the way back, my wife suggested we take a side trip to Amish country. Having been to an Amish restaurant, I did not argue with her! So off we went to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Our first stop was an Amish farm. We followed the GPS to get there, but as we were nearing our destination, I couldn't help but think, "It doesn't LOOK like this is where one would find an Amish farm. Far from a rural setting, it was right in the middle of town! Eventually, we found it, right next to a *Target store!* In fact, we literally had to pull into the Target parking lot to

get to the Amish farm!

We enjoyed the tour. Afterwards we made our way to a local Amish restaurant. Of course, the food was wonderful. The Amish people certainly value separation from the world. They avoid many of the modern conveniences we enjoy in the name of being separate. They make their own clothes in the name of being separate. But it doesn't take long to realize there is a difference between separation and isolationism. We ARE called to be separate from this world. We are in the world but not of the world. This world is not our home. We are NOT called to ISOLATE ourselves from the world.

Jesus said that we are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Just as you do not put a candle under a bushel, but on a candlestick, our lives are to

be on display so that the glory of the gospel of Jesus Christ shines through us. Part of being salt and light is serving. If you are saved, you were saved to serve.

An "unserving Christian" is close to being an oxymoron. It's a contradiction in terms! Jesus said in Matthew twenty-five that true sheep can be known by the fact that they feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take in the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick and visit the prisons (Matthew 25:35-36). All of these things require that we go outside of the walls of our churches and serve people by meeting needs. And while none of these things are a substitute for the *vocal* proclamation of the gospel, we do proclaim the gospel by these deeds. Many of those who are hesitant to hear us share the gospel might be willing to listen if they first found us living the gospel by serving others.

We will be emphasizing service in the month of September. The first two Sunday morning messages will be on the topic of serving. On Sunday evening, September 14, we will be having a "Ministry Fair." We will clear the pews from the sanctuary and turn it into a learning center where you can learn about all of the ministries that happen on a regular basis at First Baptist Church. I have a feeling that most of you are not aware of everything that is going on. You probably have no idea how many mouths are fed, miles are traveled, hours are given and skills used. Do you know how many people we have baptized as a result of our migrant ministry this year? Do you know how many verses of Scripture our children learned in AWANA? Do you know how many meals we served to the homeless? Do you know how many miles our bus ministry has traveled? Do you know how many doors we have knocked on or how many people heard the gospel as a result? Do you know about the mission trips that are taking place, the many classes being taught, or the people who are being disciplined? Do you know how many servants it takes to pull off First Impressions ministry, Women on Mission or a single evangelistic block party? I haven't even begun to mention those who serve on the various committees who

do an invaluable job keeping everything moving forward. None of these things happen without servants. Without the host of volunteers who serve by giving of their time, energies and gifts, the ministry of First Baptist Church would come to a screeching halt.

Since I am talking about serving, one ministry that is just getting started is prison ministry. Dr. Alex Jones has been meeting with the staff at the South Dade Penitentiary to see how we can make an eternal impact on the inmates there. If you are interested in volunteering, please come by the office and pick up the paperwork to be turned in to the county.

Some of you reading this are already faithfully serving in the ministry to which God has called you. Let me say "Thank you!" I truly am grateful to God for you. Some of you reading know that now is the time to *start* serving. Are you currently in a ministry? Has the Holy Spirit been nudging you to start serving but you don't know how to get started? Then you **MUST** attend the ministry fair on September 14! I guarantee you, you will leave asking, "To which of these many places is God calling me?" and not, "How can I serve God here?"

A few other significant things will be happening in

September. The deacons will be bringing nominees for the upcoming year. I trust you will prayerfully consider those who have been nominated. We will schedule ordination for early next month. You will also notice that the new trusses for the new building will be installed starting this week. Let's PRAY for this project on a daily basis. Pray for the workers, that their work would be sound. Pray for the funds that are necessary to complete it. Pray for the ministries that will be based out of this facility. Pray for the building committee to have the needed wisdom.

I look forward to finishing the series on Revelation starting September 21. We will be in chapter nineteen which, for obvious reasons, is a favorite chapter of many. Pray for me as I bring these messages from the Word of God.

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor.

Pastor Howard



## Happy Birthday!

9/01 - Kelsee King	9/11 - Jason Quammie	9/20 - Samantha Davis	9/29 - Paula Arrieta
9/02 - Brandon Ader	9/11 - Joanna Blaedow	9/20 - Morgan Hodge	9/29 - Megan Daivs
9/03 - Laurie Connor	9/13 - Diamond Robinson	9/20 - Natalie Sizemore	9/29 - Christopher Franco
9/03- Arturo De Leon	9/13 - Megan Williams	9/21 - Andrew Headley	9/29 - Robbin Poteet
9/04 - Eric Bryant	9/14 - Mark Silverman	9/21 - Sarah Kinkade	9/29 - Carlos Vasquez
9/04 - Sarah Soto	0/15 - Carlos Cruz	9/21 - Angelina Sanchez	9/30 - Angeline Hawkins
9/05 - Barbara Speers	9/15 - Abigail Lugo	9/22 - Raymond Caves	9/30 - Scott Karanicas
9/07 - Vanessa Plasencio	9/15 - Rosalie Symonette	9/22 - Celia Lopez	9/30 - Jimmy Quick
9/08 - Kathryn Davis	9/16 - Wesley Fox	9/22 - Monica Ornelas	
9/08 - Kaycee Davis	9/16 - Lynda Melton	9/23 - Tony Sanchez	
9/08 - Cindy Krepcho	9/17 - Frank Aguayo	9/24 - Bryce Morris	
9/08 - Cielomar Marin	9/17 - Helen Altman	9/25 - Alex Losner	
9/09 - Colby Lopez	9/17 - Mike Biichle	9/26 - Kathleen Quick	
9/10 - Debbie West	9/18 - Stephanie Ortiz	9/27 - Robert Clower	
9/11 - James Boone	9/18 - Michael Padron	9/28 - Frandeline Codio	
9/11 - Thomas Boone	9/18 - Linda Smith	9/28 - Jo Pekel	
9/11 - Anthony Hall	9/19 - Lucas Guilfoyle	9/29 - Morgan Albury	



## Music Ministry



I heard one of our members say recently, "I love the beginning of our fall programs! The laughter and children's feet in the hallways!" I have to agree with her, and what a wonderful beginning we have had as well. All choirs are off to a get start with room to grow. I am especially excited with our youth choir; we have nine talented young ladies, and one gentleman. So, if you know any other young men who would like to join us, send him our way! I know Jamie would appreciate it greatly! Although

he is holding strong for the men's section.

As you know we are having a Ministry Fair, September 14th. This is a time where you and others will see in person, what our church has to offer for YOU to get involved. Our music programs will be highlighted of course, and we are always an open invitation for willing volunteers. The Ministry Fair will take place in the sanctuary during our evening service. You may be surprised how many ministries we have to offer, but use this time wisely being in

prayer how God can use you at First Baptist. You could get too busy and burn yourself out; then you are missing the purpose of the fair. Come with a prayerful, servant's heart, and bring another church member with you for an eye opening grand time.

Singing for HIM,  
*Pam*



## Stewardship

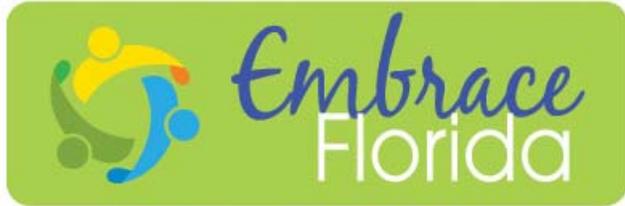
August 2014

<b>Contributions for August 2014:</b>	<b>\$ 53,468.43</b>
<b>Monthly budget requirements:</b>	<b>\$ 57,784.60</b>
<b>YTD Contributions:</b>	<b>\$ 547,823.10</b>
<b>YTD Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 554,732.16</b>



# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

2014 Maguire State Mission Offering



God's Compassionate People

Goal: \$3,500.00



All men are invited to join us Saturday, September 6, at 8:00 a.m.



September 14, 6:30 p.m.

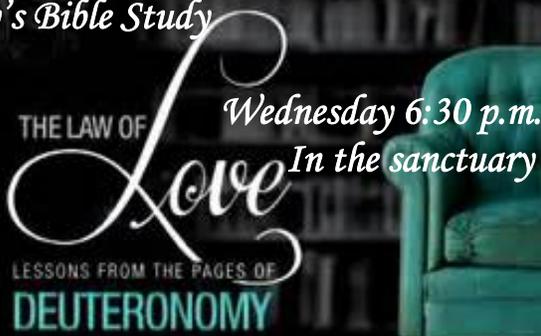
CHAPMAN PARTNERSHIP FOR THE HOMELESS

28205 SW 124th Ave



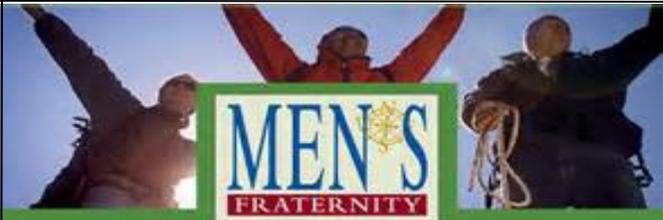
Tuesday, September 9, 11:30-1:00 p.m.

Lady's Bible Study



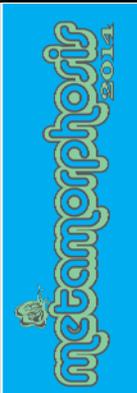
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. In the sanctuary

LESSONS FROM THE PAGES OF DEUTERONOMY



THE QUEST For Authentic Manhood

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. in the library



Word of Life Youth Camp

October 23 -26, 2014

Early Bird registration

9/10/14 \$125.00

Deadline to register

10/8/14 \$150.00

If you are able to sponsor a student, please contact Joe.



PRAYER meeting Make an Impact with Prayer

6:30 p.m. in the prayer room

ONLINE:  
WWW.FBCHOMESTEAD.ORG

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF  
HOMESTEAD, FL

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



Fall is in full swing. That means a return to a normal routine for most families—school, sports, extracurricular activities, etc. I hope that you are doing everything possible to make sure that Christ is the priority of your life and your home. Here's a look at what's going on in our Student Ministry this month.

At ENCOUNTER this month we're studying the book of Jonah. We'll be talking about the Great Commission and how students can live "on mission" with Christ this school year. If your student hasn't gotten plugged back into ENCOUNTER, this would be a *great* time to encourage them to come worship with us!

This past summer we had two separate mission trips—one to New Orleans, LA and one to Queens, NY. Coming in the summer of 2015, we will once again have two mission trip options available to our students. On Sunday, September 7, we will hold

an informational meeting with the purpose of revealing the details of those two trips. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the 11 AM Worship Service. Lunch will be served and while we want EVERY student and their family to attend, you ***MUST*** RSVP to the church office by Thursday, September 4 in order to attend. I'm *very* excited about our mission trip opportunities for next year and I hope you and your family will make plans to attend this meeting!

On Friday, September 12, we're bringing back a fun event we have done in the past called **FRIDAY NITE LIVE**. FNL is a time for our students to enjoy hanging out, eat a meal, and play games with other students and adult volunteers. This month's theme will be *Nerf Wars* and we'll have tons of fun games planned for our students! There's a sign-up sheet in the Student Ministry room. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, September 10.

Wednesday, September 27 is the date for this year's See You At The Pole (SYATP) event. This is the

event each year where students gather around their school flagpole 30 minutes before school begins to pray for the students, teachers, faculty, and administration. I would like to encourage all of our students to participate at their school!

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*

