



The Way

September 2015

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOMESTEAD, FL

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Fog is not fun. Have you ever had to drive through thick fog in which visibility was extremely limited? Every year, there are numerous fog related causalities on our roadways. In fog, we can only see what is near. We cannot see what lies ahead. We would much rather drive on a clear day when we can see everything up close and far away.

Sometimes, life can be like that blanket of fog. We want God to show us everything. We want to see what is down the road. We want to make "long range plans." God, however, has other plans. He wants us to walk by faith, one day at a time, trusting Him for whatever the future holds. God does not always give us

the whole picture. He tells us what we need to know in the present and waits for us to obey.

As a pastor, ministry can feel like that fog. We are expected to cast a vision for the church. Besides, where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18). But I have found that God's vision for the church comes in parts, not the whole. Normally, it works like this: As pastor, I experience an unusual burden for a future reality. That reality may be a ministry I am praying will exist. I begin to express that burden to God in prayer. Inevitably, I find myself talking about that burden with members at FBCH. I discover that God has also been placing the same burden on the hearts of others. We begin to pray for the fulfillment of the vision. Eventu-

ally, God answers the prayer.

Over the years, I have prayed for God to do certain things in our church. I remember when we did not have a bus ministry (or a bus for that matter), but I prayed that we would. Now, about 25 people come to church every Sunday because we have a bus that takes them. Our students can go to camps and on mission trips in that bus. What a blessing it has been. I remember this time a year ago, I prayed for a prison ministry. I had prayed about this burden for several years, but last September, a number of people stepped up and said, "Pastor, we believe God is calling us to start this ministry." We spent several months in training and early in 2015, this ministry became a reality. Now about seventy men are a part of our weekly Sunday morning service at DCI.

There are other ministries I can point to which began as a burden, turned into a prayer only to later become a reality.

There are some burdens God has placed on my heart which I believe will come to fruition. Some of them are attached to the new building on the west side of our campus. I dream of the day when it will be complete. The Sunday School classrooms will be filled, the youth center will be utilized, the pavilion will host church fellowships, and mission teams will come from all over the country to spread the gospel in Miami Dade County.

One burden God has placed on my heart is having a Spanish service. Notice I did not say a Spanish *mission*, but a Spanish *service*. In other words, a service that is 100% a part of First Baptist Church of Homestead. I envision the day when the gospel is proclaimed and men and women are won for Christ who would never hear the gospel in an English only service.

Earlier this year, you, the church, voted to form an exploratory committee to investigate the feasibility of starting such a service. This com-

mittee has met since then and is now ready to bring a report back to the church. I know you will be impressed by the research they have done and the work they have put into this task. Please come to the September business meeting and listen prayerfully to the recommendations they will make.

Another big event in September is our annual ministry fair. On the evening of September 27, in place of our evening service, we will move the pews aside in the sanctuary and open up the room. In their place will be booths representing every ministry that exists at FBCH, as well as a few we are hoping to start in the near future. This is a time to come and see the many ways in which you can serve. You will find out what each ministry does and exactly how you can get involved. Every Christian is saved to serve. Spiritual growth is attached to service. As the old saying goes, "If you wanna grow, you gotta serve." I cannot stress enough just how important it is for every member to be a part of this event.

I would like to also add that if you are praying about in-

volvement in the LLC for the purpose of funding the new building, know that we are short of our goal, but getting closer. At the time of this newsletter, we need an additional \$350,000 in commitments to be able to finish what will be a two million dollar building. So we have come a long way. And yet, we are praying God will place upon the hearts of members the willingness to bridge this gap. You can pick up a packet this Sunday explaining the LLC and what membership means. Members of the committee are also making personal visits for those who prefer a one on one presentation.

If you traveled this summer and got behind on your tithes and offerings, remember, God deserves the first fruits, not the leftovers.

Thank you, as always, for the privilege of being your pastor.

Pastor Howard



Happy Birthday!

9/01 - Kelsee King	9/11 - James Boone	9/16 - Lynda Melton	9/23 - Sebastian Estevez
9/01 - Rebecca Regalado	9/11 - Thomas Boone	9/16 - Aiden Sandoval	9/23 - Christopher Hurtado
9/02 - Brandon Ader	9/11 - Mariana Haddock	9/17 - Frank Aguayo	9/23 - Tony Sanchez
9/03 - Laurie Connor	9/11 - Anthony Hall	9/17 - Helen Altman	9/24 - Bryce Morris
9/03 - Arturo DeLeon	9/11 - Islande Jean Philippe	9/17 - Mike Biichle	9/24 - Erick Pagan
9/04 - Sarah Soto	9/11 - Jason Quammie	9/18 - Tiffany Eason	9/25 - Alex Losner
9/05 - Caroline Columbro	9/12 - Joanna Blaedow	9/18 - Stephanie Ortiz	9/26 - Kathleen Quick
9/05 - Barbara Speers	9/12 - David Giraldo	9/18 - Michael Padron	9/27 - Robert Clower
9/07 - Marilyn Byrd	9/12 - Oscar Giraldo	9/18 - David Pelanco	9/28 - Frandeline Codio
9/07 - Becky Gardner	9/13 - Ulysses Fernandez	9/18 - Linda Smith	9/28 - Jo Pekel
9/07 - Racquel Meury	9/13 - Diamond Robinson	9/19 - Lucas Guilfoyle	9/29 - Morgan Albury
9/07 - Vanessa Plasencio	9/13 - Megan Williams	9/20 - Deborah Cade-Boynton	9/29 - Paula Arrieta
9/08 - Kathryn Davis	9/14 - Amarilys Carrillo	9/20 - Dela Caridad Cruz	9/29 - Megan Davis
9/08 - Kaycee Davis	9/14 - Mark Silverman	9/20 - Samantha Davis	9/29 - Christopher Franco
9/08 - Cindy Krepcho	9/15 - Carlos Cruz	9/20 - Natalie Sizemore	9/29 - Robbin Poteet
9/08 - Briana Lagas	9/15 - Abigail Lugo	9/21 - Andrew Headley	9/30 - Angeline Hawkins
9/08 - Cassie Phillips	9/15 - Steven Mendheim	9/21 - Sarah Kinkade	9/30 - Scott Karanicas
9/08 - Cielomar Puccio-Marin	9/15 - Rosalie Symonette	9/22 - Raymond Caves	9/30 - Tristan Knott
9/09 - Colby Lopez	9/16 - Hyda Flores	9/22 - Celia Lopez	9/30 - Jimmy Quick
9/10 - Debbie West	9/16 - Wesley Fox	9/22 - Monica Ornelas	



Music Ministry



If you didn't know, I love watching birds on a wire. Not necessarily the black bird or the pigeons, but the smaller sized birds. As they perch and balance on the wire other birds may fly in to squeeze, or land beside them. Nevertheless, they keep their balance or fly away. Some birds fly off to land two feet away on the same wire. That is the fun part of watching, when the birds begin to start "line dancing." Dancing, as in side stepping on the wire pushing the other birds continuing stepping sideways. As they move, they are working with one another, not against. That is when I sing

the song, "All Gods Critters Got a Place in the Choir." The lyrics continue, "some sing low, some sing higher, some sing out loud on a telephone wire. Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now." If you know that song, I'm sure you were singing it with me. If not, I will teach it to you if you like.

Summer is over, school has started and it's time our choirs are flying back in gear. Praise God for our fearless choir directors Doris Philpot, Lori Diehl, along with myself. We are ready for all types of birds to land and tweet God's sweet words, Sunday evenings at

5:30 PM. Don't feel left out adults! We have a place on our wire for you as well. We are always ready for new members in our nest. In fact we *need* new members in our sanctuary choir. We will be starting Christmas soon. "That's Where the Story Begins" is the name of our cantata. Come fly in and get involved on Wednesday evenings following the Bible study groups.

"Tweeting" for HIM,
Pam



Stewardship August 2015

Contributions for August 2015:	\$ 43,568.90
Monthly budget requirements:	\$ 46,491.16
YTD Contributions:	\$ 545,059.95
YTD Budget:	\$ 557,893.92

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



CHAPMAN
partnership
Empowering the Homeless

28205 SW 125th Ave
Homestead, FL 33030

Join us September 15, 11:30 a.m., as we serve meals and distribute Bibles to the homeless.

Women On Mission

All ladies age 18-99 are invited to join us Sunday, September 27, at 5:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting.

MINISTRY FAIR

Opportunities to serve & grow

Come find your place in ministry.
Sunday, September 27, 6:30 p.m.

Ladies Brunch!

Sponsored by Women on Mission
Saturday-September 19th, 10:30 a.m.
Join us for food and fellowship

Grace UNIMAGINABLE



2015
MAGUIRE STATE
MISSION
OFFERING
Goal \$3,000.00



Authentic Manhood: Winning at Work & Home

WHAT IS MEN'S FRATERNITY?

Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
In the library



Ladies Bible Study
Sunday 5:30 p.m. & Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Meet in the sanctuary

ONLINE:
WWW.FBCHOMESTEAD.ORG

NEWSLETTER OF THE
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**Building bridges...empowering
people...changing lives!**



September means that school is back in full swing. I've really challenged our students to view this school year as a "9 month mission trip." No matter where they attend school, I've challenged them to be "on mission" for Christ. My prayer is that we would see them engage those around them with the powerful gospel of Jesus! Please join me in praying for our students and their families. Here's a look at what's going on in our Student Ministry this month.

First, on Wednesday nights, we'll be continuing our message series called **BRANDED** where we've been exploring what the Bible says should characterize the life of a genuine believer. I'd love to encourage all of our students to join us on Wednesday nights from 6:33 – 8:00 pm as we meet to-

gether to worship.

Second, on Friday, September 18, we'll have our next **Friday Nite Live** from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. This month's theme for **FNL** will be *Nerf Wars* and we'll have tons of fun games planned for our students! If students have their own Nerf guns, they are encouraged to bring them, but we will have a few Nerf guns available for students who do not have their own. Dinner will be provided at 6:00 and games will begin around 7:00. There is a sign-up sheet in the Student Ministry room and the deadline for students to sign up is Wednesday, September 16.

Third, our annual fall retreat, **Metamorphosis**, will be held next month from October 29 through November 1 and we are currently in the process of receiving student registrations. Informational brochures are available in the youth room or online

at www.633students.org. There is a \$25 price break for students who turn in their registration by September 16.

Finally, this month I'm highlighting the core value of *Life-style 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

