




The Way

April 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
HOMESTEAD, FL



Easter

Sunrise Service

6:45 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

8:30 a.m.

Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m.

He is Risen!

No evening service

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Many of you will remember the movie "Field of Dreams." Kevin Costner plays a struggling farmer who is barely getting by. One day he hears a conspicuous whisper saying "If you build it, they will come." He sees a vision of a baseball field and takes it as a sign that he is supposed to build one. He plows down his corn and against all financial common sense, puts a baseball field in its place. By the movie's end, a line of cars are somehow drawn to this field, a place where baseball players of ages past come back to play.

What most people remember from the movie is that famous line: "If you build it, they will come." Churches have had that same attitude towards facilities. If there is a facility ("If you build it") the people will just somehow come. While many thriving churches do have grand buildings, we also know that no building, by itself, is a guarantee of future growth. Churches in our own area – I doubt you need me to name names – have built incredible structures, only to see them sit empty after a few years... sanctuaries with thousands of seats housing merely dozens in worship each Sunday.

Buildings are no guarantee of growth, but buildings are helpful and needed tools in the culture in which we live. House church movements prosper in countries where there is no alterna-

tive, but I am not personally aware of any church here that is seeing significant growth without the use of a building, be it by renting or owning. (There are three hundred plus churches in the Miami Baptist Association and we are among only one third that are blessed to have any property at all.)

We know that great care was put into the construction of the tabernacle and later on the temple. An entire book in the bible is devoted to the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls (Nehemiah) and the temple (Ezra) after the exile. In the book of Haggai, God chastised his people for living in beautiful homes while neglecting the construction of the Lord's house. Hear the rebuke in these words...

"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'These people say, The time has not yet come for the LORD's house to be built.'

Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 'Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?'

Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways.'" Haggai 1:2-5

It is time for us, at First Baptist Church of Homestead, to "give careful thought to *our* ways." For some time now, the big stumbling block for our church has been space. While there is occasionally a lack of worship space, there is continually a lack of education

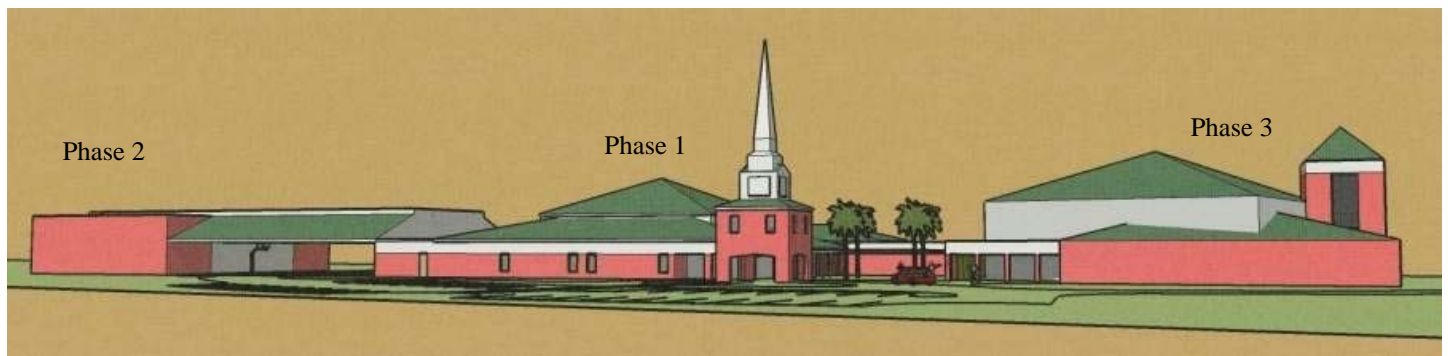
space.

This need shows its ugly head in several areas, first of all in our Sunday School. Most classes are at or above capacity and most importantly, we lack the space to create new classrooms. Time has proven that new classes tend to grow and multiply faster than classes that have been established for a long time. The creation of new Sunday School classes is critical if we are to disciple believers and "teach them all things" that Christ has commanded (Matthew 28:20). To create those classes, we need a place to put them.

Some will argue that classrooms are not needed to disciple believers. While I will admit that you can disciple a new believer virtually anywhere, healthy Sunday School classes need a central location. There are many benefits to discipling through the Sunday School. Sunday School provides the opportunity for the entire family to participate with each member getting age appropriate training. Sunday School strengthens worship by creating a venue where visitors can easily make the transition to a worship service. Sunday School provides a great way to train the teachers who will do the discipling. Almost every church in our area has done away with Sunday School. I do not recommend that we follow suit.

Sunday School is not the only reason we need additional space. Our youth and AWANA ministries are limited by space as well. The current

Continued on page 5



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 04/01 - Ted Williams | 04/09 - Alex Toirac | 04/21 - Marilyn Padron |
| 04/01 - Kevin Zelman | 04/10 - Stefanie Lugo | 04/22 - Steven Diehl |
| 04/02 - Billy Ader | 04/10 - Frederick Milton | 04/22 - Melissa Dobbs |
| 04/02 - Steven Breivogel | 04/11 - Ryan Fleischfresser | 04/22 - Joel Guilfoyle |
| 04/03 - Justin Fleitas | 04/12 - Susana Lugo | 04/23 - John Pitre |
| 04/03 - Levi Harden | 04/14 - Stephanie Hill | 04/23 - Jeremy Quiles |
| 04/03 - Hannah Mills | 04/15 - Melissa McDonnough | 04/26 - Victor Cribbs |
| 04/03 - Karina Toirac | 04/17 - Shari Breivogel | 04/28 - Alex Arcia |
| 04/04 - Jacob Mohammed | 04/17 - Jesse Ochoa | 04/29 - Austin Diehl |
| 04/05 - Mayra Turcios | 04/17 - Dayna Perez | 04/29 - Kevin Orosa |
| 04/05 - Shannon Woods | 04/18 - Kayla DeLeon | 04/30 - Neftali Guzman |
| 04/07 - James Polles | 04/18 - Peter Quinones | 04/30 - Debbie Pate |
| 04/08 - Ricardo Barrera | 04/19 - Robert Carnell | 04/30 - Cassandra Trujillo |
| 04/08 - James Holland | 04/19 - Danielle Lamb | |
| 04/08 - Hilda Patterson | 04/20 - Mayra Bladford | |
| 04/08 - Denise Vecin | 04/20 - Bailee Whitehouse | |



Music Ministry



Celebrate the RISEN SAVIOR! “He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay” Matthew 28:6.

Our lovely sanctuary choir presented a powerful message in song Sunday night, March 28th, and I concur with everyone, “this has to be the best our choir has performed for our Lord.” Many uplifting comments were stated as: “I could hear this musical all over again.” “I am truly

thankful for God blessing us with such an inspiring experience.” “You need to sing this cantata next year!” “I have heard other churches this Easter season and I appreciate FBC music even more.” Comments are stirring, but we must never forget that we sing for an audience of One, and to Whom the music comes from. As the pastor remarked Sunday night, “Just think what heaven will be like!” My comments, “Awesome, just awesome! I will be proud to be apart of the heavenly

choir.”

“Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers! I will sing to the Lord, I will sing; I will make music to the Lord, the God of Israel” Judges 5:3.

Interested in playing with our bell choir? See Linda Smith.

Singing for HIM,
Pam



**Stewardship
March 2010**

Contributions for March 2010:	\$	46,120.74
Monthly budget requirements:	\$	44,258.00
Contributions Year to date:	\$	281,523.41
Year to date budget requirement: (Through 26 Sundays)	\$	287,677.00

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Good Friday Service



April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

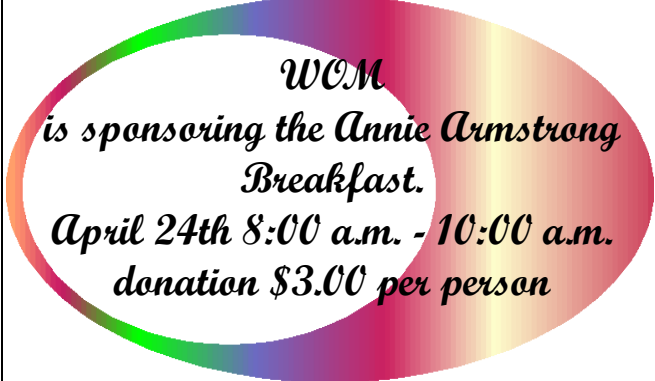
Mother's Day

Love Grams

Choose from four different styles.
\$1.00 donation. Sponsored by WCM
Proceed will go to North American Missions



WCM
is sponsoring the Annie Armstrong
Breakfast.
April 24th 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
donation \$3.00 per person



The Hunt for The Easter Story



Saturday, April 3rd at 10:00 a.m. Ages 0-6th Grade

APRIL



04/10 - First Things First
04/11 - Stewardship
04/14 - Business Meeting
04/25 - Women on Mission



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
H O M E S T E A D

Membership Information Class
April 18th at 4:00 p.m.
Please RSVP to the church.

6th Annual



Saturday, April 17th
Clubbers Division: Inspection/
registration at 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Race 10:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Adult & Teen Division:
Inspection/registration 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Race 1:00 p.m.
Join the fun and get your car now!!!



First things First

Men's Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, April 10th at 8:00 a.m.
in the fellowship hall.

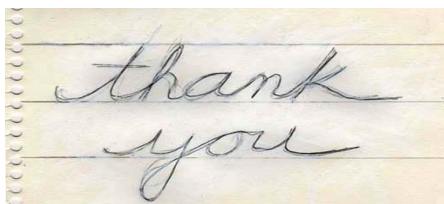
M I S S I O N S



(Above) That black box is a solar powered device that reads the New Testament in Creole! Twenty were delivered and strategically spread out by FBCH member John Howell.

(Upper Right) John Howell speaking to a congregation in Haiti.

(Right) Gabriel Demosthene preaching



The imperative task of meeting the welfare and health needs of the Haitian people cannot be performed by the Haitian people only. It requires the assistance of peoples around the world. It demands special skills, services, and support of compassionate persons.

In this context, I value so much the partnership and con-

tribution of First Baptist Church, Homestead. Also, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge with thanks the donation of 1,277.00 that will be used to buy equipments and construction materials to help the people of God in Bois-Leger, Haiti. May I tell you all once again how grateful we are for your unselfish help and the faithful and loyal way you are aiding the Haitian Community through me.

Pastor Gabriel Demosthene



CUBA MISSION TRIP



Want to join Pastor Howard in an upcoming mission trip to Cuba? The next trip is May 3-9. The total cost is approximately \$1,000. Contact the church office for details.

ONLINE:
WWW.FBCHOMESTEAD.ORG

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF
HOMESTEAD, FL

PO Box 900428
29050 SW 177 Ave
Homestead, FL 33090
Office: (305) 247-1662
Fax: (305) 247-0117
E-mail: fbchoffice@bellsouth.net
Web: www.fbchomestead.org

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

youth room severely limits what can be planned in the way of our youth "Encounter" service. The AWANA ministry has also reached capacity. Recreation time frequently gets shut down when the weather is detrimental, for example. Also, if you've been to one of our Vacation Bible Schools, you know that it's a minor miracle for us to accommodate the children we get.

I tell you all of this because the Long Range Planning Committee and I would like to request your presence at our April business meeting, to be held April 14 at 6:30 PM. We'll be discussing how to move forward with the next phase of our building plan. Our current building is phase one. The next phase is the educational and youth building we so desperately need. The final phase would be a new sanctuary. I don't know if it would be possible for us to have too many in attendance that night. If you are a member of First

Baptist Church of Homestead and you love your church and you are able to come, you need to be there. This is not only a time for us to make a presentation, it is also a time to listen. We want your input. We believe that the church is the body of Christ and every member is therefore important.

I am excited about what the future holds. I look forward to the day when this building is no longer a dream, but a reality. I long to see the ministry that could be taking place with the proper space to perform it.

On another note, the mission trip to Cuba was moved to May 3-9. If you would like to join me, please respond no later than April 10. Also, this Sunday is Easter and we expect to be at capacity. Would those of you who are to do so please consider parking in the back five acres? Even if you are here for

one of the early services, your parking in the back will make it much easier for our older members and our visitors as well. God bless you!

Pastor Howard



*Special Meeting
April 14, 2010
6:30 p.m.
FBCH Sanctuary*