



The Way

February 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOMESTEAD, FL

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As I type these words, my heart is full of gratitude. Over the past few months, I have seen our church come together in a great way. Building for the Future has been introduced and I believe that we now understand where we are and the vision to move forward from here. Many teams have worked hard to bring this about. Our banquet last Sunday was wonderful and I want to especially thank all of those who helped us pull it off. I also want to thank you, the church, for a superb showing. The banquet hall was full and an additional 60-70 children were at the simultaneous children's party at our church campus.

This Sunday is a very big day for us. The overwhelming

majority of our folks will be turning in commitment cards for the campaign. Let me remind you that this Sunday is not the time to necessarily make contributions, although that is fine. What we are asking you to do is to pray diligently about what God would have you to commit over a three year period of time. You should have received a commitment card in the mail already. If we somehow missed yours, or if you lost your card, cards will be available this Sunday. We simply ask that you fill out the card, seal it in the accompanying envelope and place it in the chest of Joash at the designated time at the end of the service.

**“Not equal giving, but
equal sacrifice”**

At this time, I would like to remind you of a saying you've heard a few times: Not equal

giving, but equal sacrifice. I realize that the unemployment rate in Miami Dade County is significantly above the national average. For some of you, the only thing you can honestly commit is prayer. Please do not hesitate to fill out your card and write “I will diligently pray for this campaign.” Place your card in the envelope, seal it and turn it in along with all the others. For some, it would be a sin to commit thousands of dollars to the campaign. For others, it would be a sin not to. All we ask of anyone is that you seek the Lord and be obedient. I will not be looking at the commitments. Only our financial secretary will see them.

Some of the leaders decided not to wait until next Sunday to make their Building for the Future pledge. This group includes the steering team and staff and a handful of others, totaling about twenty persons.

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The amount pledged by this group is over \$210,000. That's a wonderful start. If the rest of the church responds with a similar level of commitment, I believe that we'll not only meet our goal, but be able to break ground sooner rather than later.

Since the majority of you who get this electronically will be reading it on Tuesday or Wednesday, let me encourage you to do something this week. Really spend extra time praying for our church. Come by the prayer room and spend some time there this week if you can. There is something about buildings that brings out both the best and worst in folks. I have noticed that nothing has the potential to cause "cracks in the spiritual walls" like a building project. For whatever reason, building projects can increase stress, tension and conflict within a church. I have not seen anything resembling conflict in our campaign so far, but I have seen an increase in the kinds of tedious distractions that have the ability to get us off course if we let them. The enemy does not want our church to grow and he will do anything to stop the Lord's work in our church.

On another note, most of you know that Pastor Joe just returned from a weeklong trip to Cuba. Jason Eldridge accompanied him and performed photo shoots for our missionaries

there, simply to be a blessing to them. You really need to see the pictures Jason took. He'll be sharing them with us during the evening service February 6th.

We also have a need for another mission team to travel in the spring or summer. About thirty of our members have participated in a previous trip. If you haven't been, or if you haven't been in awhile, let me share with you several reasons why you should pray about going. First of all, every Bible you are able to bring with you into the country represents an entire family that will have a copy of the Word of God that would not have one otherwise. Only once in seven years of going have Bibles been confiscated by customs, so it's well worth the effort. Most of us have multiple copies of multiple translations of the Bible sitting on our shelves, some that haven't been touched in years. We take for granted the absolute blessings of having even a single copy of the Bible. If all you were to do is travel to Cuba, bringing Bibles with you, your trip is automatically successful.

It is also difficult to express the appreciation our brothers and sisters in Christ to the south have when we come. House church meetings sometimes double in attendance when they know that a guest from our church is present. This often results in opportunities to share

the gospel that our missionaries might not have otherwise. And by simply accompanying a missionary as they visit, you open doors that they could not open by themselves. Please call the office if you'd like more information about being a part of a Cuba mission team. The total cost is approximately \$1,000.

This Sunday night I'll be beginning a new series through the book of 2 Corinthians. I encourage you to make Sunday night church a part of your Lord's day. The added exposure to God's Word that you will get over the years will strengthen your faith and your effectiveness for God's work tremendously. I am still grateful for all of those Sunday night messages I was fed as a new believer in Oklahoma. There are missions classes for our children so bring the whole family.

As always, it's an honor to serve as your pastor.

Pastor Howard



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

02/01 - Michael Velez	02/10 - Leonardo Bravo	02/15 - Ethan Campbell	02/22 - Joe Maldonado
02/02 - Marie Edouard	02/10 - Frankie Farias	02/15 - Anjanette Diaz	02/22 - Christine Orosa
02/02 - Grace Hobden	02/11 - Susan Breen	02/15 - Brittney Eichler	02/23 - Karen Martinez
02/02 - Marta Rodriguez	02/11 - Damian DeVary	02/15 - Rachel Harden	02/25 - Dylan Powell
02/03 - Deanna Melton	02/11 - Susan Sanchez	02/15 - Chad Jarrin	02/25 - Fred Rhodes
02/04 - Verina Blaylock	02/11 - Jay Shellhouse	02/16 - Yvonne Orosa	02/26 - Karla Ayala
02/04 - Debbie Hall	02/12 - Don Fox	02/16 - Samantha Sourber	02/26 - Ethan Martin
02/05 - Manda Jarrin	02/12 - Matthew Mullings	02/18 - Gabbie Del Toro	02/26 - Ruth Peebles
02/05 - Morgan Wells	02/12 - Joseph Rodriguez	02/18 - Mary Johnson	02/26 - Ray Zamora
02/06 - Winona Nutter	02/12 - Safirre Soto	02/20 - Raquel Davis	02/28 - Kameron Acree
02/07 - Matthew Creech	02/13 - Dolly Francis	02/20 - Lucy Serna	02/28 - Angel Brown
02/07 - Melissa Sincore	02/13 - Kaitlin Harrell	02/21 - Samantha Perez	02/28 - Audrey Carter
02/08 - Lisagay Khan	02/14 - Hailey Crawford	02/21 - Ti Santos	02/28 - Samantha Santos
02/08 - Paul McBeth	02/14 - Savannah Drury	02/22 - George Gonzalez	02/29 - Geneva Byars
02/09 - Sharon Martino	02/14 - Randi Heisterman	02/22 - Brittany Lee	
02/09 - A.J. West	02/14 - Dylan Perez	02/22 - Emilia Lugo	



Music Ministry



Have you noticed we have room in the choir for you? It doesn't matter what age or what choir, we always have room! From age 4 to 104, but we could forever use more men! Our choir sings just about every week, and yet our attendance goes up and down. Whether it be a long weekend, getting late out of Sunday school, or sitting with a family member in the sanctuary. I'm not making excuses for the men and I do praise them for their faithfulness and dedication to

our sanctuary choir. There are times when some members leave after the choir anthem has been sung. Sometimes they have nursery duty, or have already attended the 8:30 am service. Our choir members are very devoted and share many hats. I understand where the commitment comes from and to whom we are serving. If you would like to help us serve Him through sharing your talents **please do!** As I shared earlier there is *always* room for you! We have begun practicing for Easter and

it isn't too late to jump in on Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm. I'll be looking for you!

Choir Valentine's banquet is set for Friday, Feb. 18th, 6:30 pm, fellowship hall, pot luck.

Singing for HIM,
Pam



Stewardship January 2011

Contributions for January 2011:	\$ 57,368.31
Monthly budget requirements:	\$ 57,116.55
Contributions Year to date:	\$ 197,338.31
Year to date budget requirement: (Through 18 Sundays)	\$ 205,619.58

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

FBCH Softball League



Starting Monday night,
February 28th

Contact Steve Diehl for
details 786-208-7782

Dates to Remember

- 02/05 - First Things First 8:00 a.m.
- 02/10 - Church Council 6:30 p.m.
- 02/13 - Stewardship Meeting 5:00 p.m.
- 02/14 - Committee on Committees 10:00 a.m.
- 02/14 - Deacon Meeting 7:00 pm
- 02/20 - Sunday School Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- 02/27 - Women On Mission 5:00 p.m.

First Things First
MEN'S PRAYER
BREAKFAST
February 5th at 8:00 a.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Thursday, February 10th

Pot-luck dinner 6:30 p.m.

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

In the fellowship hall



Spring Semester Faith Evangelism

Learn to share your faith.
Be a part of our
Spring semester evangelism.



Prayer Room

Intercessors needed.
A brief (15 minutes)
orientation will be
provided on February
13th after all Sunday
services.

*The end of the year statements
are ready for pickup in the front
foyer.*

Nursery committee meeting

Sunday, February
13th at 4:30 p.m.
in the fellowship hall.



ONLINE:
WWW.FBCHOMESTEAD.ORG

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF
HOMESTEAD, FL

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



These are exciting days in the life of our church and I'm **THRILLED** at the privilege God has given each of us to participate in what He is doing to build His kingdom! I hope you'll join me in praying that we will do only that which reflects the glory of the God we serve!

There are several events for students that are currently in the planning stages for the spring. We have Renew Weekend; Backyard Airsoft Battle; Girls' Tacky Pageant; The

Amazing Race and others. Our Student Ministry Council will be meeting this Sunday to finalize plans for the upcoming events so stay tuned for details.

In our Encounter services this month we're beginning a new message series called **True Lies**. We'll be examining the false messages the world sends to our students about love, dating, and sex and presenting a Biblical response to each one. If you are interested in discussion guides to continue the con-

versation in your home, you can pick them up in the youth room or on our Student Ministry website (www.633students.org)—I will be posting them weekly so check frequently for each week's discussion guide. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

For His Glory,

Joe

