



# The Way

January 2011

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

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It's hard to believe but January 2011 is here. For some time we have been preparing for this month's "Building for the Future" campaign. It began with a vote of the church last April, followed by training for various team leaders in the summer and fall. In November we focused on the "spiritual house" with our spiritual renewal conference. We have since been engaged in a call to prayer with most of you having either participated in a small group prayer gathering or a prayer contact was made in your home. In the month of January, there will be weekly Building for the Future testimonies from various members and I will be preaching on stewardship January 9, 16, 23 and 30.

On January 30, two special events will take place. First of all, we will participate in the "Chest of Joash" during the 8:30 and 11:00 am services. This is based on the story of King Joash from 2 Chronicles 24. Joash became King at the age of seven. (Now that my oldest child is approaching the age of seven, I am baffled all the more!) Shortly after he became king, he became aware of the fact that the temple in Jerusalem was in bad need of repair. So the king simply instructed the people of Israel to bring an offering of their possessions in

order to gain sufficient money so that the house of the Lord could be repaired. It says in verse two of II Chronicles 24 that *"Joash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord"*. It says in verse eight, *"at the king's commandment they made a chest and they set it outside of the gate of the house of the Lord."* Verse nine indicates that they made a proclamation to bring a collection to place in the chest. In verse ten, the people rejoiced and brought their offerings and placed the offerings in the chest. Verse eleven indicates that *"there was much money"* that had been placed in the chest. And then it says in the last part of verse eleven that they *"gathered money in abundance!"* The remainder of the story indicates that the work was done to repair the house of the Lord. And verse thirteen indicates that the house of the Lord was put in order and strengthened.

Our Chest of Joash will be on display and we are asking FBCH members to prayerfully consider what they will be willing to commit to give over a three year period of time, over and above their regular tithes. At the end of the service on January 30th, we will march to the Chest of Joash and place our commitment cards in it. A copy of the commitment card can be seen on page 2. Obviously, this is almost identical to what we do every year come Lottie Moon time with our March to the Manger, only in this case, we are submitting commit-

ments, not necessarily contributions (although initial contributions can be made at this time as well).

On the evening of January 30<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Building for the Future banquet. This will be a time to celebrate what God is doing in the life of our church as well as enjoy a good meal and fellowship with the church body. I cannot overemphasize how important it is that everyone be present at the banquet. In fact, if you are an FBCH member, we're assuming you'll be there! There is NO COST to attend and it will be held at the Redland Country Club at 24451 Krome Ave at 6:30 p.m.

I would like to take this time and answer a few of what I believe are the fundamental questions that you may have about "Building for the Future." (See elevations, page 3.)

#### **What is our current educational capacity?**

There are standard "Rules of Thumb" that are generally accepted when it comes to educational space. For adults, it is 12 square feet per person. For youth it is 15 square feet per person. For children it is 25 square feet per person. Using the classrooms we currently have, our capacity would be around 200 in Sunday School. This num-

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ber, however, assumes that every class is running at full capacity on a given Sunday. We know that on any given Sunday, certain classes will be running more strongly than others. In spite of that fact, our Sunday School attendance *has* repeatedly “butt heads” with this barrier over the years. Last year, for example, our high attendance was 236 with a February average of *exactly* 200. A simple stroll around our facility during the Sunday School hour will demonstrate that numerous classes are beyond what should be the capacity for their given room.

**Why are new classes so important?**

The bigger issue in terms of educational capacity is not classroom size, but the number of classrooms altogether. We currently have more classes than we have classrooms. This results in many classes meeting in less than ideal places (for example, both the youth pastor and I have classes meeting in our offices). Thus, we are currently unable to plant new small group classes. This is where our growth becomes handicapped. The creation of new classes is critical for church growth, because new classes represent new opportunities for more people to connect relationally with brothers and sisters in Christ.

**What will our educational capacity be with the proposed facility?**

The proposed facility will provide for an additional 18 classes, or more than double our current capacity.

**How big is the proposed facility?**

The proposed facility has an enclosed space of 11,700 square feet with an additional 9,000 square feet of pavilion space.

**How will our student ministry benefit from the proposed facility?**

Youth worship/discipleship space will be more than double our current capacity. An enlarged room for the

Wednesday night “Encounter” service will allow for more interactive activities. Additional youth Sunday School classes will enable the youth to break down into more age appropriate classes. Space will be available for youth fellowships that help students build relationships.

**What other ministries will benefit?**

Church-wide fellowships will be possible with the pavilion that will be adjacent to the facility. The same pavilion could also be used for various recreational activities. Other ministries such as AWANA will be able to make use of the additional space during the week. Additional storage space will make ministries such as a food pantry possible. Vacation Bible School will naturally stand to benefit as well.

**What is the timeline?**

The timeline will be determined by the level of participation and commitment to the “Building for the Future” campaign. The commitments are to be spread over a three year period of time.

**Why are shower facilities needed?**

One goal of the proposed facility is to host summer mission teams. Showers and ample space for cots make our church an inexpensive destination for churches across the country desiring to go on a mission trip. Mission teams spread throughout the summer (doing prayer evangelism, for example) could literally put us in contact with thousands of people in southern Miami-Dade county every year at very little cost to FBCH.

**What is the estimated cost?**

The total estimated cost (pending variables such as permit fees, etc.) is \$1.4 million.

*Pastor Howard*



**Commitment Card**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Understanding that all I/we possess is a gift from God, and in response to His love and blessings, I/we rejoice in the opportunity to participate in *Building for the Future*.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly x 156 weeks or,

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly x 36 months or,

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ As follows: \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE COMPLETED BY PERSONS MAKING COMMITMENTS OTHER THAN CASH.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate value of gift and description of gift:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

I/We will begin my/our gifts on \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*This is a statement of intent and may be altered as circumstances warrant.*

**Typical commitments you can make over a 156 week period.**

Weekly	Monthly	Annually	3-Yr. Total
2,000	8,666.67	104,000	312,000
1,000	4,333.33	52,000	156,000
500	2,166.67	26,000	78,000
300	1,300.00	15,600	46,800
100	433.33	5,200	15,600
75	325.00	3,900	11,700
50	216.67	2,600	7,800
40	173.33	2,080	6,240
30	130.00	1,560	4,680
25	108.33	1,300	3,900
20	86.67	1,040	3,120
15	65.00	780	2,340
10	43.33	520	1,560
7	30.31	364	1,092
5	21.67	260	780
2	8.66	104	312

**“Not Equal Giving, But Equal Sacrifice”**

*And God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- |                           |                           |                          |                          |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01/01 - Laycon Castro     | 01/12 - Doris Johnson     | 01/21 - Jaime Lopez      | 01/27 - Jeri Martinez    |
| 01/02 - Jesus Fabian, Sr. | 01/12 - Sandra Jones      | 01/21 - Louise Butcher   | 01/27 - Terry Tompkins   |
| 01/02 - Victor Martinez   | 01/12 - Tera Vidal        | 01/22 - George Suarez    | 01/28 - Phyllis Bridges  |
| 01/02 - Irma Perales      | 01/14 - Jacob Drinkhahn   | 01/23 - Luke Varnadore   | 01/29 - Destiny Gray     |
| 01/04 - J.D. Van Ryn      | 01/14 - Joshua Drinkhahn  | 01/25 - Margaret Edwards | 01/29 - Paula Santo      |
| 01/06 - Lazaro Acosta     | 01/14 - Valera Rickard    | 01/25 - Omar Lugo, Sr.   | 01/29 - Michael Sincore  |
| 01/06 - Philip Altimus    | 01/15 - Randy Olvera      | 01/25 - Tom Patterson    | 01/30 - Grace Beacham    |
| 01/06 - Geraldine Davis   | 01/15 - Tamara Pupo       | 01/25 - Judith Santos    | 01/30 - Jonathan Combast |
| 01/06 - Morgan McDonnough | 01/15 - Madison Bosserman | 01/26 - Lavinia Anspach  | 01/30 - Susie Ebersole   |
| 01/07 - Kelly Davis       | 01/15 - Rose Marie Nazon  | 01/26 - Steve Breivogel  | 01/31 - Anthony Arcia    |
| 01/07 - Rachel Jones      | 01/17 - Donna Ingram      | 01/26 - Laura Holland    | 01/31 - Rebecca Rose     |
| 01/07 - Doug Smith        | 01/17 - Sandra McBeth     | 01/26 - Cathy Lamb       |                          |
| 01/07 - Toni Tabuso       | 01/19 - Ruben Toirac      | 01/26 - Shannon Rogers   |                          |
| 01/09 - Kaylee Canisle    | 01/20 - Connie Everett    | 01/26 - Elizabeth Toirac |                          |
| 01/09 - Michael Mann      | 01/20 - Casey Grennan     | 01/27 - Betsy Byars      |                          |
| 01/11 - Seth Porch        | 01/21 - Omar Lugo, Jr.    | 01/27 - Ruth Garner      |                          |

# Building For The Future

**South Elevation**  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

**North Elevation**  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

**West Elevation**  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

**East Elevation**  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

**ron dorris architects a.i.a. p.a.**  
ARCHITECTURE PLANNING INTERIORS

new educational facility for:  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of HOMESTEAD**  
29050 S.W. 177th Avenue, Miami-Dade County, Florida

10-007 A-1/3



## Stewardship December 2010

Contributions for December 2010:	\$ 49,113.73
Monthly budget requirements:	\$ 45,693.24
Contributions Year to date:	\$ 139,970.66
Year to date budget requirement: ( Through 15 Sundays)	\$ 148,503.03

# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



## Mission Trip to Cuba

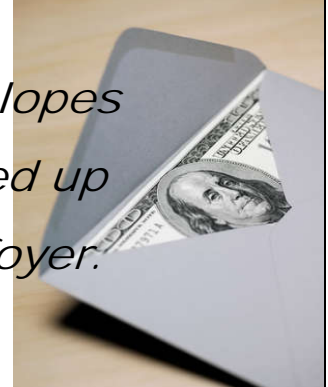
We are in need of fever and cold medicine. Items will be collected through January 12th.

*If you have a family member or friend serving in the military and you would like us to pray for them, please provide a picture and address for the prayer board in the front foyer.*



**Saturday,  
January 8th  
at 8:00 a.m.  
in the  
fellowship hall.**

*Offering envelopes may be picked up in the front foyer.*



*Banquet*

**JANUARY 30TH AT 6:30 P.M.  
REDLAND COUNTRY CLUB.  
PLEASE RSVP TO  
THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

## Resuming 01/05

- AWANA CLUB
- YOUTH ENCOUNTER
- CHOIR PRACTICE
- RA'S
- FELLOWSHIP DINNER
- CHILDREN'S CHOIRS (1/09/11)

**We are now scheduling flowers arrangement for the 2011 calendar. You may dedicate flowers on a particular Sunday for that special someone or in memory of a loved one. Please contact the church office to reserve your date. Thank you for adding the beauty of fresh flowers to our Sanctuary and sharing your special moments with us.**

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HOMESTEAD, FL



There's something about putting a new calendar up on the wall that causes you to stop and reflect. I imagine that on January 1 that pause will probably take place in the hearts and minds of many people. I pray that as you stop and reflect you would be fascinated by God's activity in your life and that you would be encouraged to continue to grow closer to Him.

Speaking of growing; our ministry is growing and we are in need of volunteers to help us serve students. Have you ever considered serving as a volunteer in our Student Ministry? I recall a conversation I had once with someone whom most people would not consider a "typical" Student Ministry volunteer—meaning they weren't under the age of 35; didn't have a "cool" hairstyle or clothes; and probably went

to bed before 80% of our students do. Their comment to me was that I couldn't possibly use them as a volunteer. I want to share with you what I shared with them: I have only 3 requirements for serving as a volunteer in our ministry (other than a clean criminal background check!!!). First: I ask that you love Jesus with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength. Second: I ask that you have a genuine love for people. Third: I ask that you have a teachable spirit. If you meet those 3 requirements, you can work with students! As I shared with this person, I am personally convinced that there is no greater reward than working with students! I love it and wouldn't trade my "job" for any other job in this world! If you have ever thought about (or haven't ever thought about but would pray about) serving in our minis-

try—please let me know. I'd love to talk with you about how God has uniquely gifted you to serve Him by serving students—regardless of your age or experience with it!

As we close the door on 2010 and open the one to 2011, I pray that you would "*seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.*" I look forward to another **GREAT** year of ministry here and seeing what God is going to do in and through us here at FBC. As always, it is a joy to serve you and to serve with you!

For His Glory,

*Joe*

