



The Way

May 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
HOMESTEAD, FL

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

During my freshman year in college, I drove a yellow, 1979 Datsun 210, fondly known as "Mr. Mustard." In case you don't remember, this import was a tin can if ever there was one. I was getting ready to pay the first of many tuition checks to an expensive private university, so it was the only car I could afford. Amazingly, everything I owned at that point fit in this car. I can still recall driving up the mountains in Tennessee with the gas pedal pushed all the way down and being thankful that I was barely able to do the minimum speed limit! So you can imagine how non-surprised I was when I put

the key in the ignition one day and nothing happened. "That figures," I said to myself. Mr. Mustard had exhaled its last. Wishful thinking.

A friend of mind with the spiritual gift of auto mechanics was visiting me later that day and one look under the hood exposed the problem a single wire from the distributor cap was faulty. A single wire worth probably no more than a buck. That wire was probably the smallest and seemingly most insignificant part of the entire car. Yet without it, everything came to a halt! After a brief trip to AutoZone, Mr. Mustard was dragging itself around for another six months, before he gave up the ghost for good!

Many of you are like that wire. Perhaps you feel like you are the most insignificant part of First Baptist Church of Homestead. You may even say from time to time, "If I only had the gifts of BLANK (insert of name of some super gifted saint here), I'd really serve the Lord." Yet little do you know, but without you, the ministry of our church would come to a halt.

If you are a child of God, you have received at least one spiritual gift. If you are a member of this church, God expects you to use that gift, in some way, in the ministry of this church. In First Corinthians twelve, Paul spoke about the importance of spiritual gifts. In verse twenty-two he said, "On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be

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weaker are indispensable.” That means that no matter who you are, if you are part of the Body of Christ, YOU are indispensable! Remember, God does not give you spiritual gifts for your enjoyment, but for His employment. Are you using your spiritual gift right now? Do you need help finding a ministry in which to put it to work? If so, contact your deacon, the church office or yours truly. We’d love to help you discover how to put that gift to work. I was recently approached by a member who wanted to serve, but was not physically able to do some of the things she had done in the past. Together, the Lord helped us discover an exciting new ministry that fits her giftedness and I believe that God is going to use her greatly.

On another note, I want to thank you for the sweet, sweet spirit in which the last business meeting was conducted. Not that you don’t always do a great job in this area, but I was impressed by the manner in which you handled a very large and significant issue: the building of the future educational and youth building. We discussed

a project that will cost \$1.5 million and yet I did not hear a single comment along the lines of “We can’t do it.” What I did hear was people who believe that if it is God’s will, He can do it so let’s move forward! I am also pleased that we were able to vote unanimously on this item.

I want to remind you of something I said at that meeting. There are two votes that are part of this process. The vote to proceed with plans and permits, in which we commit ourselves to spend the first \$100,000 is the first vote. But that is minor compared to the next. The next vote is when we vote with our wallets.

I know it may seem that there is always an offering being received. Between Lottie, Annie, State and children’s home offerings, plus the miscellaneous ones that come, there is always a need. However, for the next three years, this one need will be at the forefront. If you vote yes to approve a building but then no with your checkbook, you simply voted no.

Along those lines, the money previously given to the building fund was \$65,000. This was money given before there was even a vote. The costs of getting the blueprints and permits will be at least \$35,000 more than that. So while our capital campaign will not begin until the fall, it is imperative that we give starting now so that we’ll be ready when it’s time for the foundation to start.

By the way, as most of you read this letter (assuming you get it via email), I’ll be preaching in Cuba. Please pray for me Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 7. I look forward to kicking off the new church at Peñalver, as well as some new locations where our missionaries have been at work. I look forward to being with you on Mother’s Day as we remember the fifth commandment!

It’s an honor to serve as your pastor.

Pastor Howard



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 05/01 - Jewel Holley | 05/08 - Dianne Quiles | 05/18 - Susan Curtis | 05/27 - Jimmi Neubauer |
| 05/01 - Tommy Milner | 05/08 - Talitha Quiles | 05/18 - Naomi Harry | 05/27 - Tori Rose |
| 05/02 - Shirley Caves | 05/08 - Miranda Santana | 05/18 - Alexander Perez | 05/27 - Beatriz Vasquez |
| 05/02 - Glenda Kimmons | 05/09 - Breshion Benn | 05/20 - Kristy Alonso | 05/28 - Libia Magdalena Fabian |
| 05/02 - Ernest Rodriguez | 05/19 - Paige Poteet | 05/20 - Britton Hall | 05/28 - Stephanie Smith |
| 05/02 - Johnny rose | 05/10 - Zachary Graves | 05/21 - Nathaniel Kidwell | 05/29 - Marie Anderson Sprufera |
| 05/03 - John Ader | 05/10 - Anthony Soto | 05/22 - Caleb Easom | 05/29 - Hannah Benn |
| 05/03 - Doyle Losner | 05/11 - Chris Johnson | 05/22 - Sharon Gottlieb-Hart | 05/29 - John Campbell |
| 05/03 - Mallory Melton | 05/11 - Roy Nelson | 05/23 - Jeanette Freer | 05/29 - Melissa Force |
| 05/03 - Frances Thompson | 05/12 - Andrew Benjamin | 05/23 - Meghan Gonzalez | 05/29 - Dave Murray |
| 05/04 - Richard Collazo | 05/12 - Michael Short | 05/23 - Will Kurver | 05/29 - Michael Tonge |
| 05/04 - Donald Huston | 05/13 - Adam Black | 05/23 - Abigail Lopez | 05/29 - Adriana Anguiano |
| 05/04 - Kim Rodriguez | 05/14 - Henry Maguire | 05/23 - Martin Sherry | 05/30 - Fallon Martin |
| 05/04 - Nicholas Sincore | 05/14 - Susan Schildgen | 05/24 - Michael Baker | 05/30 - Jorge Orosa |
| 05/05 - Mary Beehler | 05/15 - Joseph Hall | 05/24 - Jessica Boone | 05/30 - Jormin Vilorio |
| 05/05 - Linda Santos | 05/16 - Betty Breen | 05/24 - Jada Hayes | 05/31 - Frank Arcia |
| 05/06 - Chris Ball | 05/16 - Gabriela Murphy | 05/25 - Wilman Gallagher | 05/31 - Michael Breen |
| 05/07 - Elda Aguayo | 05/16 - Vanessa Smith | 05/25 - Shannon Lopes | 05/31 - Monica Franceschi |
| 05/07 - Tiffany Biichle | 05/17 - Bridgett Arcia | 05/25 - Kenneil Luke | 05/31 - Jason Garner |
| 05/07 - Rebecca Hall | 05/17 - Sarah Hoback | 05/25 - David Peyton | |
| 05/07 - Wayne Rimmer | 05/17 - Betty Morris | 05/25 - Chrischelle Polles | |
| 05/07 - Savannah Sizemore | 05/17 - Rachel Orr | 05/25 - Kelley Poteet | |
| 05/08 - Sebastian Mitchell | 05/17 - Patricia Richmond | 05/26 - Benny Helms | |



Music Ministry



Is it too early to publicize for our July 4th cantata? NO, not at all!

We are trying to drum up business to sing for this fabulous fourth.

Come join us on Sunday night rehearsals for “We Hold These Truths” by Dave Clark a congregation participation musical, with “From Sea to Shining Sea” created by Camp Kirkland. The two musicals are very deserving of our patriotic faith and honoring the sacrifices of men and women who served and are serving our country today. Nevertheless, we want to celebrate the free-

dom that can only come through the shed blood of our crucified Christ.

“Father Knows Best” a blessed musical by our children’s choir, May 23 at 6:30 pm. Lori Diehl and the children are ready to present God’s word put to music. You most certainly won’t want to miss this one!

Mark your calendar now for Vacation Bible School, “Saddle Ridge Ranch.” June 21—25, 8:30 am—12:30 pm. If you would like to participate by teaching or leading a class around from room to room,

please see Lynda Melton or myself or call the church office and we’ll sign you up! What a whopping wonderful week you will have. We are “rounding up” for the best year ever! Watch for more details to come.

Bring a friend to choir practice on Wednesday and/or Sunday. We promise you a great time in worship and fellowship!

Singing for HIM,

Pam



Stewardship April 2010

Contributions for April 2010:	\$ 48,116.00
Monthly budget requirements:	\$ 44,258.00
Contributions Year to date:	\$ 329,639.41
Year to date budget requirement: (Through 30 Sundays)	\$ 335,935.00

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



GOT AN OLD BICYCLE?

A visiting summer mission team will be repairing and donating bicycles as part of an evangelistic effort. Let us know if you have an old bike to donate.



Cuba Mission Trip

Pray for Pastor Howard as he preaches in Cuba
May 3rd - May 7th.

The Southern Baptist Convention will be in Orlando
June 15 - 16, 2010

If you would like to attend with FBCH contact the church office.

Mothers Day Tea May 8th

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
in the fellowship hall.

All ladies are invited



Vacation Bible School June 21 - 25

We are now accepting registration forms for children in grade k4-6th. Forms are available on the table in the front vestibule or call the church office at 305-247-1662
(Helper needed for Craft & Recreation Classes)

ONLINE:
WWW.FBCHOMESTEAD.ORG

NEWSLETTER OF
THE
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CHURCH OF

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



May is here and summer is right around the corner! That signals many things for our Student Ministry.

First, it means that our graduating seniors are in the death throws of "senioritis." Ask any of them as you pass in the halls how many days until graduation—I'm almost *certain* they can tell you! We're going to be honoring our graduating seniors on Sunday, June 6 at the 11 am service. If you are a graduating senior and have not received a letter from the church office regarding Graduate Recognition Sunday, please contact me and let me know ASAP. I want to make sure *all* of our graduates are recognized for their accomplishment!

Second, it means that our upcoming seventh graders are getting ready to enter our Student Ministry for the very first time! We allow any student that has completed the sixth grade to begin participating in Student Ministry activities as soon as school gets out. So, if you are completing the sixth grade, consider this the signal for your official countdown!

Third, it means that plans for summer are kicking into high gear! First up: Vacation Bible School from June 21-25. Any student interested in helping with VBS this year needs to see either Lynda Melton, Pam Helms, or myself to sign up.

Immediately following VBS is our annual Summer Mission Camp from June 27—July 3. This year we are going to be conducting our own Summer Camp. We're going to be

heading to Baldwin County, Alabama and will be working with the Baldwin Baptist Association. We'll be doing things like Backyard Bible Clubs for Kids; working in a resource center; and outreach events in RV Campgrounds and on the beach. We'll also have plenty of time for worship, Bible Study, and recreation. Cost for this year's trip is \$150. If you'd like more information, please see me. Also, if you'd like to help make it possible for a student with financial difficulties to go to camp this year, please let me know. Any amount you can give will help send a student to camp!

As always, it is a pleasure and a joy to serve and to serve with you!

Joe

