



The Way

November 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
HOMESTEAD, FL

Spiritual Renewal Conference

Friday, November 19th 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 20th 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 21st 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

With Dr. Gregory Frizzell

Dr. Gregory Frizzell



**Director of Prayer and Spiritual
Awakening, Baptist General
Convention of Oklahoma**

Dr. Gregory Frizzell has served as the prayer & Spiritual Awakening Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma for the past nine years. He has served as a pastor for over 20 years, is a well-know author and conference leader all across the nation and in other countries and has hosted numerous radio programs. He has written over 25 books and resources on prayer, church renewal, evangelism and spiritual awakening. His book Returning to Holiness has been translated into thirty-nine languages and is approaching two million copies.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

If you're like me, you'd be lying if you didn't admit that you're a little bit glad the election cycle is behind us. Regardless of your party affiliation, your phone will now stop ringing at all hours and your mailbox will no longer be full of campaign ads, most of which slander someone you do not know.

I need to talk to you about another type of vote, however, and it is near and dear to my heart. Last spring, our church voted to enter a building program to provide additional space for education and youth. At the time, I told you that there would be more than one vote. The first vote is easy. That's the vote where we meet at a business meeting and either say "Aye" or check "yes" on a ballot. Thanks be to God, that vote was unanimous. But I'm sure you've noticed, the building didn't magically appear just because we voted for it to happen! There is another vote that must follow.

The vote I am referring to does not take place at a business meeting. It is the vote we take with our feet and with our wallets. Currently, our steering team for the "Building for the Future" campaign is being trained. In exactly three months from now, on January 30, 2011, we will have a special emphasis Sunday in which we make commitments to give

over a three year period as God leads us. There will be a church-wide banquet that Sunday evening in lieu of our normal evening service. We will be challenged at this banquet by a vision of what God would have us to do. Both before and after that banquet, there will be testimonies, Sunday School lessons, prayer gatherings, etc. All of the above is to point us in one direction as a church so that we might seek God together in this matter.

Obviously, no building campaign can be accomplished without the participation of a great number of people. Our steering team will be seeking volunteers to help with many areas, including: spiritual emphasis, promotion, the banquet and follow-up, to name a few. Odds are, you will be approached by someone asking you to help with their team. At that moment, you are being asked to vote...with your actions. If we vote in a business meeting to provide much needed educational space for Sunday School and youth, but do not provide our time, we have essentially voted "no." We are all busy. But keep in mind that the various teams that will lead our "Building for the Future" campaign are temporary in nature. There is a job to be done, and once it is done, the team is disbanded. Furthermore, let me assure you of something: No one will be asked to do anything that they will not be trained to do. If you agree to help with promotion, you'll be trained to promote. If you agree to help with spiritual emphasis, you'll be

trained to "spiritually emphasize." We are pleased to have Wayne Goff from the Florida Baptist Convention working with us in this campaign. You'll be getting to know and love Wayne as those of us on the team already do. He has led dozens of churches through this process and is an "expert" if ever there was one. He'll be training the various teams.

"We would be amiss to begin talking about our physical buildings at First Baptist without first dealing with the spiritual house."

Not only will we be voting with our actions and time, but we'll be voting with our resources. It is not too early to begin to pray about what God would have you to give over a three year period. The key is "equal sacrifice, not equal giving." Just as the widow who gave two mites gave more than all in Jesus' eyes, it could be that those who give the most, according to God, can only give a minimal amount. Do not let that stop you. And I especially want to encourage you to pray about a goal that will require you to step out in faith. I am all for planning and budgeting. You should budget what you believe God would have you to give. You should go above that budgeted amount, however, in making your pledge, trusting that God will provide in a way that you cannot currently see.

Needless to say, any campaign of this magnitude must be bathed in prayer. For that reason, we'd like to ask everyone to do two things. First, someone will be contacting you about a brief prayer visit. The purpose of the visit is to pray over every home in our church family. When someone calls and asks if they can drop by to pray, please go out of your way to accommodate them. The visit is not intended to be long and a doorstep prayer is just fine if you're not prepared to have guests in your home. We want to pray for you and your family, our church, for unity, this campaign, and most of all, for spiritual renewal among our members. The second thing we're asking you to do is to be a part of at least one small group prayer meeting that will occur in the month of January. More details on that to come later.

Along those lines, our spiritual renewal conference will be in a few weeks. It is no accident that we are emphasizing spiritual renewal before "Building for the Future." The Bible says, "Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1) We would be amiss to begin talking about our physical buildings at First Baptist without first dealing with the spiritual house. If you have not already received one, please pick up your free copy of *Returning to Holiness*, by Gregory Frizzell. Dr. Frizzell's book has been translated into 39 languages and sold about two million copies. It is a dynamic spiritual cleansing manual. Dr. Frizzell identifies seven categories of sin and assists believers in evaluating their

lives in light of these seven areas. Warning: *Returning to Holiness* is both powerful and painful. The end result, however, is a life that is more closely aligned with that of Jesus Christ. Read pages 15-73 in preparation for this revival. God will work powerfully in your life through it. Of course, do whatever you need to do to make sure that you are here November 19-21. On Friday and Saturday nights, we'll meet at 7:00 pm. On Sunday we'll meet at our normal times.

The purpose of these meetings is not to target the lost, i.e. a "crusade." The emphasis is on the saved being revived. Therefore, our meetings with Dr. Frizzell will be intentionally planned with that goal in mind. Our final meeting will probably be unlike any service most of you have ever attended. You will also be given promotional cards to distribute to friends and neighbors. It is our desire that not only First Baptist Church would be revived, but that there would be a spiritual awakening that extends to Homestead, Florida and our entire nation.

These are exciting times in the life of our church. I pray that you're as ready as I am to see First Baptist Church take the next step to reaching our goal of being a great commission church!

It's an honor to be your pastor.

Pastor Howard



From our Haitian Mission

Dear Pastor Howard Harden and Congregation,

It is my delight to write a thank you letter for the hospitality which you show us in sharing your beautiful sanctuary. More than six months ago we began with 15 members. This is below what we anticipated whereas a key lay leader fell morally and was not a part of our opening. In spite of the setback, we continue to organize the assembly and are seeing progress made little by little. Our worship service attendance on Sundays is increasing. Sometimes, we even worship with 44 persons and more. We hope to keep on working hard as our God allows us on a daily basis.

Our biggest challenge, however, is that 75 percent of our members are currently unemployed. Thus, they do not tithe or give offerings regularly. Please pray for our finances. We pray that God opens doors for the people to find employment. In addition, please pray for the church and the school in Haiti.

We are truly grateful, indeed, for the high measure of understanding and support which has been given us. God bless you all and please know that your hospitality will contribute immeasurably to the success of this ministry.

In His Service,
Pastor Gabriel Demosthene



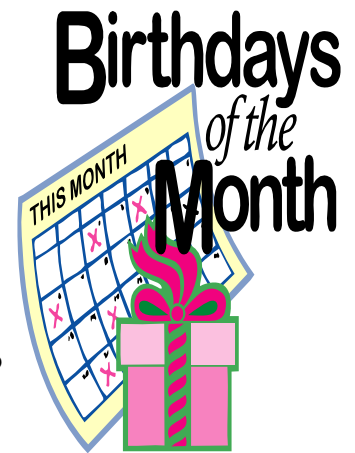
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

11/01 - Elizabeth Perez
 11/02 - Ronald Byars
 11/02 - Taylor Curry
 11/02 - Lisa Rice
 11/02 - Kayla Wilson
 11/03 - Jonathon Garner
 11/03 - Steven Sanchez
 11/03 - Sheila Johnson
 11/04 - David Jones
 11/04 - GenNai Milner
 11/04 - Alina Ortiz
 11/05 - Joan Maydak
 11/05 - Chiante Sears
 11/06 - Kimberly Biichle
 11/06 - David Stockment
 11/07 - Raymond Bridges

11/07 - Regina Cimino
 11/07 - Vishema Francis
 11/07 - Carolina Thorn
 11/08 - Clara Mitchell
 11/09 - Isaac Brown II
 11/09 - Joe Friman
 11/09 - Ingrid Tower
 11/10 - Tyler Fox
 11/10 - Amanda Pupo
 11/11 - Steve Biondo
 11/11 - Daniel Rivera
 11/14 - Marianela Salado
 11/16 - R.T. Bosserman
 11/16 - Victor Rodriguez
 11/17 - Thomas Catlin
 11/17 - Alexandria Sears

11/18 - Casey Diehl
 11/18 - Kensley Diehl
 11/18 - Carolyn Jarret
 11/19 - Dean Holland
 11/20 - Gilbert Castro
 11/20 - Daniela Triolo
 11/21 - Carla Blalock
 11/21 - Alex Jones
 11/22 - Brittany Farias
 11/22 - Joyce Rivers
 11/23 - Ann Rewis
 11/24 - Luis Martinez
 11/26 - Tina Dispenza
 11/27 - Chrischelle Alejandro
 11/27 - Rebekah Wright
 11/28 - Doris Philpot

11/30 - Wallace Rivers
 11/30 - Ray Steele



Music Ministry



Come one, come all, as we invite you to sing and join in our Revival Choir November 19th - 21st. The choir will meet thirty minutes before each service in the sanctuary. Come fill an empty chair and contribute what the Lord has given you.

Mark your calendars for Friday, December 3rd, 7:00 P.M. and Sunday, December 5th at 6:30 P.M. as our sanctuary choir present "One Small Child". The choir has practiced numerous hours to offer their best to our Lord.

It's is a Christmas musical you are sure to enjoy as you sing along with the favorite and familiar Christmas tunes.

Mrs. Lori's choir, "The Young Musicians" are doing a smash up job with "How the Grouch Stole Christmas". They will put forth their best singing voices on December 12th at 6:30 P.M. Come hear how they help Marty find the right attitude with the real meaning of Christmas. Starting Sunday, November 7th the Young Musicians will start choir practice at 5:00 P.M. Moms and dads

please get them to rehearsal on time, every minute is precious.

After Christmas the giving spirit continues, on January 23rd in our 6:30 evening service "The Journeymen" will be in concert. It has been awhile since we have had a southern gospel group and I'm sure you are anxiously waiting for them. Bring a friend and share the excitement.

Singing for HIM,
 Pam-e-la, la, la



Stewardship October 2010

Contributions for October 2010:	\$ 47,749.89
Monthly budget requirements:	\$ 55,116.55
Contributions Year to date:	\$ 47,749.89
Year to date budget requirement: (Through 5 Sundays)	\$ 55,116.55

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Dates to remember

- 11/14 - Stewardship meeting 5:00 p.m.
- 11/15 - Deacon meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 11/17 - Business meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 11/28 - WOM meeting 5:00 p.m.

**Special called
business meeting**

**November 7th after the
6:30 p.m. service to vote on
Alberto Guzman as Deacon.**



*Church -Wide
Thanksgiving luncheon
November 21st after the 11:00 a.m. service
Please bring two large side dishes .*

Thanksgiving Baskets

Items needed for the baskets.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ... Canned sweet potatoes | ... Canned pumpkin |
| ... Canned corn | ... Evaporated milk |
| ... Chicken Broth | ... Instant mashed potatoes |
| ... Cream of mushroom soup | ... Pie crust (boxed) |
| ... Cranberry sauce | ... Stuffing mix |
| ... Dry Beans | ... Rice |
| ... Green beans | |

*“Gift cards or cash are
needed to
purchase the meat and
perishable items.”*




First Steps

*class for new believers
Sunday 9:45 a.m.
In the pastor's office*



Daylight Savings

Sunday, November 7,
The time falls back one hour.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST
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HOMESTEAD, FL

Six^{ty}3 Student Ministry

I am writing this article the day after returning for our Student Ministry's annual fall retreat called *Metamorphosis*. I have already spent several hours "debriefing" the weekend in my mind. Since many of you who are reading this article were not able to go with us to Lake Yale, I'd like to share with you some of what I saw happen this weekend: (1) I saw students engage and wrestle with the truths of Scripture. (2) I saw students love, encourage, and support one another. (3) I saw students learn to *listen* to God. (4) I saw students face some of their fears and learn to depend on God and others to help overcome those fears. (5) I saw students applying truths of Scripture that they learned throughout the weekend. (6) I saw/heard students pour out their heart to God in prayer and in song. (7) I saw students excited about sharing what God had opened their eyes to see with others.

That is what I saw...and that excites me! But I have to admit that what excites

me even more is what I *can't* see! I know that there were many seeds that were planted this weekend that I am praying will be watered and nurtured and will produce *MUCH* fruit in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead! God is doing *AMAZING* things in the hearts and lives of our students and I am humbled and grateful to be allowed to be a part of that!

Metamorphosis would never be possible without the support of the entire congregation! I know that *many* of you were praying for us this past weekend. Your prayer covering was a crucial piece of the success of the retreat. Many of you gave financially to make it possible for a student to be able to go. Your financial gift allowed a student to be a part of what was a *life-changing* weekend! Then there are those who gave of their time and energy to make it possible. I am grateful for Cindy Castro who helped me administratively get all of the workbooks and nametags finished and

organized. I am grateful for Benny and Pam Helms, Lou and Jeri Martinez, and Kelly Friman who served as more than merely "chaperones" but who served as mentors and leaders. They endured nights with little sleep along with sometimes hyperactive students and were still able to smile, love, and give of themselves. I am tremendously blessed to serve with them and I am grateful for the contributions they make in the lives of our students. Finally, I am grateful for our pastor who recognizes the value of pouring into the lives of students through a weekend like this and supports this retreat. Whether you contributed through prayer, finances, or time; I want to say "Thank You." You have been a part of kingdom work and I pray that God would bless you for it.

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

Joe

