



The Way

September 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
HOMESTEAD, FL

Ministry Fair!

Sunday,
September 4,
6:30 p.m.

"Each one should
use whatever gift
he has received
to serve others..."

1 Peter 4:10a



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

There's a phrase you may have heard recently at FBCH. It goes like this: "If you wanna grow, you've gotta serve." It's nothing new, actually. It first came to me in 2007. I'm determined, however, that those of you who are new to FBCH will soon know it well enough to recite this statement in your sleep! Simply put, you cannot separate spiritual growth from service. If you fill your time with endless Bible studies but never get involved in serving others, you will not experience true spiritual growth. You may become a Pharisee, but you will not become a servant. And Jesus said that being a servant is the key to becoming great.

In order to help you to find a place of service, this Sunday night we are having a Ministry Fair. When you show up in the sanctuary Sunday evening, it will look quite different than Sunday morning. The pews will be gone and in their place will be booths promoting different ways in which you can serve. Also included will be information on what that ministry involves and how to get trained and/or started. Many of the ministries displayed are ministries that have been in place at FBCH for some time. Others are new ministries that simply need volunteers to get off the ground.

Speaking of ministries, a new member asked me an interesting question last week. "Where is the greatest need for volunteers at your church?" That was a no-brainer. We need more ministries that take our church beyond our walls and into the community. In Matthew 25, immediately after the parable of the talents, Jesus gave us a

description of what ministry looks like when he said, "For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you took care of Me; I was in prison and you visited Me." (Matthew 25:35-36) While programs are very good and appropriate, Jesus did not say, "I was looking for a children's program and you had a good one." Or "I was looking for a choir and yours sang SATB." It was all about serving people with real needs, like the need for food, clothing, company or health.

As a pastor, I am convicted by this passage. I realize that Jesus was speaking to us as individuals, but I cannot help but believe that these words should apply to our churches as well. Would Jesus say to First Baptist Church of Homestead, "I was in prison, but you made no room to reach out to me in the midst of your many programs?" Would He say, "I was naked, but you provided no ministry that would clothe me?"

Don't get me wrong. We always seem to need more children's workers, nursery workers, youth workers, choir members, greeters, etc. But that's like the time Jesus said, "The poor you have with you always." (Mark 14:7) These needs aren't going anywhere. There will never be a time when we don't need volunteers in all of the above. That's because the better we do at all of the above, the more people we'll have to minister to. The more people we have to minister to, the more volunteers we'll need. It's like a dog chasing its tail...we'll never really catch it. But our need for volunteers in these other areas must not replace outreach. We must never be so busy ministering to ourselves and to our visitors that we fail to reach out to

those who have never stepped onto our property.

I'm also not saying that our church does not minister outside of our walls. F.A.I.T.H. teams take the gospel to our neighbors. Prayer canvassing has us knocking on doors. Our benevolence ministry does provide food for many who might go without. But there is so much more that we should be doing and would be doing if every member would heed 1 Peter 3:10 which says, "Based on the gift they have received, everyone should use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God."

If you are not serving in a ministry at FBCH and you are looking for a place to start, prayerfully consider a ministry that helps us reach beyond our campus. There is a homeless shelter in town where our church could make a greater impact. There's a penitentiary in town where inmates need evangelization and discipleship. There are immigrants in town who need to learn English to function in our society. There are schools in town where tutors could help and be a witness for Christ in the process. There is a crisis pregnancy center in town where abortion-minded women need options, but most of all, the gospel. See what I mean?

Please make it a priority to be present this Sunday night. Even if you are already in your place of service, the Ministry Fair will also serve as a celebration of the many wonderful things that are taking place at FBCH. You may be surprised to see just how much happens around here!

Pastor Howard



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 09/01-Chris Boyett | 09/11-Anthony Hall | 09/20-Natalie helms | 09/25-Alex Losner |
| 09/01-Ricardo Vidal | 09/13-Franky Aguayo | 09/20-Morgan Hodge | 09/25-Jade Sanchez |
| 09/02-Brandon Ader | 09/13-Ulysses Fernandez | 09/20-Edwin Lawrence | 09/26-Kathleen Quick |
| 09/02-Kevin Vasquez | 09/15-Rosalie Symonette | 09/21-Andrew Headley | 09/27-Robert Clower |
| 09/03-Mary Wysong | 09/16-Wesly Fox | 09/21-Tristen Lopez | 09/27-Abbey George |
| 09/04-Gilda Howes | 09/16-Lynda Melton | 09/21-Angellina Sanchez | 09/27-Genesis Vilorio |
| 09/04-Sarah Soto | 09/16-Aiden Sandolval | 09/22-Raymond Caves | 09/28-Mabel Horner |
| 09/05-Curt Ivy | 09/17-Frank Aguayo | 09/22-Celia Lopez | 09/28-Jo Pekel |
| 09/05-Barbara Speers | 09/17-Helen Altman | 09/23-Antenia Boynton | 09/29-Morgan Albury |
| 09/06-Emily Campbell | 09/17-Mike Biichle | 09/23-Juan Cordero | 09/29-Megan Davis |
| 09/06-Andrew Stterfield | 09/17-Kaelyn Spencer | 09/23-Sebastian Estevez | 09/29-Christopher Franco |
| 09/08-Kathryn Davis | 09/18-Tifany Eason | 09/23-Christopher Hurtado | 09/29-Robbin Poteet |
| 09/08-Kaycee Davis | 09/18-Stephanie Ortiz | 09/23-Tony Sanchez | 09/29-Carlos Vasquez |
| 09/09-Colby Lopez | 09/18-Michael Padron | 09/24-Margaret Boyett | 09/30-Scott Karanicas |
| 09/11-James Boone | 09/18-Linda Smith | 09/24-Heather Montes | 09/30-Marty Oliphant |
| 09/11-Thomas Boone | 09/19-Lucas Guilfoyle | 09/24-Bryce Morris | 09/30-Jimmy Quick |



Music Ministry



Special appreciation to our “computer team” (if I start naming names, I know I would leave someone out) so thank you 8:30 am service team, 11:00 am service team, and the 6:30 pm service team. We love having our songs and sermon notes on the screen and you help make this possible. Thank you!

School has started and students should be geared up for a wonderful new

church year. Kids geared up for a new year of AWANAS, preschool, children’s, and youth choir. Great leadership for a fun filled schedule of learning fresh songs, scriptures with grand excitement. New music has been chosen especially with Christmas not too far in the distance. Our adult choir will soon be working on Christmas, “The Name, Jesus.”

Chose a choir and join

us! We always have room for more, although I am sure you have heard this before and yet so fitting, “the more, the merrier!” See you at practice!

Singing for HIM,
Pam



Stewardship	
August 2011	
Contributions for August 2011:	\$ 50,593.86
Monthly budget requirements:	\$ 45,693.24
Contributions Year to date:	\$ 554,875.30
Year to date budget requirement: (Through 48 Sundays)	\$ 548,318.88

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



**First Things First
Men's Prayer Breakfast**

September 3rd, 8:00 a.m.
In the fellowship hall.

Get Connected



Happy
LABOR DAY

Church office will be closed September 5th.



**Wednesday
Night
Meal**

Begins September 7th
5:00-6:15 p.m.



**Ministry
Fair**

Plug into the Kingdom

September 4th, 6:30 p.m.



**COMPELLED BY
CHRIST'S
compassion**

Goal \$2,000

2011 Season of Prayer MAJOR STATE MISSION OFFERING

Dates to Remember 

- 9/3-First Things First 8:00 a.m.
- 9/4-Mission Fair 6:30 p.m.
- 9/11- Stewardship 5:00 p.m.
- 9/12- Deacon Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 9/18-Business Meeting
- 9/15-Sunday School Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- 9/25-Women on Mission Meeting 5:00 p.m.



Join us as we commemorate
September 11th,
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. services

Guest speaker
Lt. Col. Randy Marshall
SOUTHCOM



Cuba Mission Trip

Interested in an upcoming mission trip to
Cuba? Call (305) 247-1662 for details.

ONLINE:
WWW.FBCHOMESTEAD.ORG

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



Well, school is back in full swing and, for many families, life has returned back to a sense of routine. My prayer for our students has been that they would embrace this year as missionaries to the various campuses where God has placed them. I eagerly wait to see how God is going to use our teenagers this school year!

On Wednesday nights we've been examining **ESSENTIAL** truths that we can hold on to when life gets difficult. Here are the six truths that we'll be covering during this series: God is God; God is Good; God has a Plan; You are Unique; You are Loved; You have a Purpose. I'd like to encourage all of our students to join us on Wednesday nights as we come together as a ministry for cor-

porate worship. Parents, please let me know if you are interested in "Continuing the Conversation" in your home. I would **LOVE** to provide you with a list of questions you could use to discuss what we have been covering in our **encounter** services.

This month we have a group of students and volunteers heading to Orlando from September 9-11 to participate in Rock the Universe 2011. Would you join me in praying that this would be a time of worship and of relationship building? Would you pray that God would use this weekend as an avenue for helping us disciple our students?

While you're at it, would you begin praying now for our fall retreat—Metamorphosis2011? Dates for this year's retreat are October

27-30. Informational brochures are available in the Student Ministry room or on our Student Ministry website: www.633students.org. If you are interested in receiving a list of prayer needs to pray over, please call me at the church office or send me an email at 633students@bellsouth.net. Also, if you are able to help a student out financially, please contact me as well. We have students who are willing to **work** to earn money to help pay for their trip so contact me if you have any opportunities for them.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve you and to serve with you for the glory of God!

For His Glory,

Joe

