

HOW CAN WE HELP?

PRAYER

We will pray for these requests for two weeks unless notified or updated. Feel free to leave requests on our 24-hour prayer line at 713.335.6456 or HoustonsFirst.org.

( ) Add this request to the church's public prayer database.

PASTORAL CARE

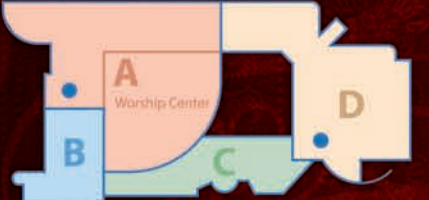
Are you experiencing grief, loneliness, illness, job loss or other life difficulties? The Pastoral Care Ministry provides free and confidential help through the Stephen Ministry. Call 713.957.6762 for assistance, or indicate your interests below:

( ) I would like a Stephen Minister to call me.  
( ) I am interested in serving as a Stephen Minister.

Don't forget the "Get Connected" section on the other side!

GET CONNECTED (turn over)

campus directory & parking map



- A**
  - 1 Bookstore
  - 1 Chapel
  - 1 Connection Center
  - 1 Library
  - 1 Main Foyer
  - 1 Reception Room
- 2 Rehearsal Hall
  - 1 Rms 143 & 145
  - 3 Rms 330-336
  - 1 Welcome Center
  - 1 Worship Center
  - 2 Worship Ministry

- B**
  - 3 The Clubhouse
  - 6 Counseling Center
  - 1 FBA Primary School
  - 1 Pastoral Care
  - 2 Preschool Ministry
- 1 Rms 100-123
  - 2 Rms 200-221
  - 3 Rms 301-329
  - 4 Children's Ministry
  - 5 Children's Ministry

- C**
  - 1 First Baptist Academy
  - 1 FBA Library
- 1 Oasis Rm

- D**
  - 1 Café
  - 1 Christian Life Center
  - 2 Crafts Rm
  - 1 Fellowship Center
  - 2 Fitness Center
  - 1 Garden Rm
- 2 Rms 249-265
  - 3 Rms 362-366
  - 3 Student Ministry
  - 1 Harbor Rm
  - 1 Welcome Center

● Welcome Centers \*Numbers next to location indicate floor



YEAR-END GIVING

As 2009 draws to a close, prayerfully consider how God may lead you to give to Houston's First Baptist Church.

The church business office will be open until 4:30 pm on Thu, Dec 31, 2009, to receive contributions that will qualify as a 2009 donation. Any donations received via mail will be treated as a 2009 donation if the post-mark date on the envelope is before Fri, Jan 1, 2010. In addition, any donations made via the church's website at HoustonsFirst.org/OnlineGiving before midnight on Thu, Dec 31, 2009, will qualify as a 2009 donation. Please contact Kerry Hunter in the Financial Services Office at 713.957.5806 or at kerry.hunter@HoustonsFirst.org should you desire additional information.

GIFTS OF STOCK

The gifting of stock to the church is a "win-win" situation for both the donor and the church. Since the church is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, the gift will qualify as a charitable contribution and is tax deductible. This is a very simple and easy process that can be coordinated through the Financial Services Office of the church.

**HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG**  
Open 24/7/365  
Ministry info, news, events & more!

**SERMONS ON CD**  
Available before & after services in Corner Books.

IRA DISTRIBUTIONS

As a result of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, individuals aged 70 ½ or older are eligible to make a donation to a charity from their IRA. This provision will expire on December 31, 2009. Because this distribution is not included in an individual's taxable income, individuals will not be able to claim a deduction for their charitable contribution.

On all tax questions, it is advisable to consult with your tax advisor or CPA.

If you donate a gift of stock, make an IRA distribution, or desire additional information, please contact Amber Willet in the Financial Services Office at 713.957.5807 or at amber.willet@HoustonsFirst.org.



- Sunday**8 am–12:30 pm & 5–8 pm
- Monday**Closed
- Tuesday**9 am–4 pm
- Wednesday**9 am–4 pm
- Thursday**9 am–4 pm
- Friday & Saturday**Closed

**Corner Books gift cards now available just in time for the holiday season.**

DECISIONS DEC 6, 2009

**FOR BAPTISM**  
Kenneth Grubb  
**FROM OTHER FELLOWSHIPS**  
Ryan Herrera Dawn Spiller  
**BY STATEMENT**  
Clinton Duncan

BIRTHS

Evan and Annalee McCord in the birth of their son, Graham James McCord  
Grandparents: Jim and Karen McCord  
Uncle/Aunt: Austan and Melanie Luper  
Cousin: Witt Luper

WEEKLY SUMMARY

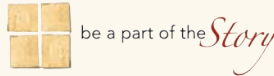
ATTENDANCE, DEC 6, 2009

Sunday Bible Study	3,497
Mission Bible Study	1,122
Weekday Bible Study	1,273
<b>Total Bible Study</b>	<b>5,892</b>
Wednesday Night	538

GIVING, WEEK ENDING DEC 6, 2009

Tithes & Offering	\$401,560
Weekly Requirements	\$293,142
Over/(Under)	\$108,418
Designated Gifts	\$50,194
Over/(Under) for Dec	\$108,418
Over/(Under) Fiscal YTD	(\$212,171)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



<b>WEEK ENDING DEC 6, 2009</b>	
Total Pledged	\$24,457,310
Donations Received	\$199,449
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$14,308,608</b>



Dec 13, 2009

sundays

9:30 am  
11 am  
6:30 pm

sunday

Bible study

8:20 am  
9:30 am  
10:45 am  
5:15 pm

sunday

kids' worship

9:30 am  
11 am  
6:30 pm



HOUSTON'S FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH

HoustonsFirst.org • 713.681.8000 • 7401 katy freeway • houston tx 77024



meet the pastor



pastor gregg matte

Worship Ministry.

In the weeks ahead, we invite you to continue celebrating Christmas here at Houston's First. Kids will have a great time on Candy Cane Lane this Saturday, and the entire church family will gather for candle light services on Christmas Eve. Between now and then, Sunday Bible studies will gather for Christmas parties of their own. Stop by the Welcome Center to discover a Sunday Bible study that's right for you!

Finally, I invite you to come forward at the conclusion of the worship service, especially if you're a first time guest. Staff members are available to talk with you about becoming a Christian, being baptized, or joining our church – a relevant biblical community!

In Him,

*Pastor Gregg Matte*

NEED TO CONTACT US?

To contact HFBC staff, call the church at 713.681.8000 (Mon-Fri 8-4:30 pm) or email [firstname.lastname@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@HoustonFirst.org).

**Creating a worshipful environment.** Worship requires our full attention. We ask that you: >> not bring food or drinks in the Worship Center >> silence cell phones >> use the restroom before the service (take your children, too!) >> remain seated once our time of Bible study begins. If you must leave during the service, you may either: reenter through the rear doors and find a new seat in the back or watch the remainder of the service on a monitor in the Main Foyer. At the end of the worship service, people will be invited to accept Christ or join the church. Please remain in the Worship Center during this time. Pastor Gregg and other worshipers will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

a relevant biblical community • [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org)



Houston's First Baptist Church is a relevant biblical community where we gather our hearts, grow our souls, and give our lives as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

GATHER our hearts >

SUMMIT MINISTRIES

"CATCH ME IF YOU CAN"

Thu, Dec 31 @ 9 pm-1 am – The Plaza Club (downtown)

For young single adults, the New Year's Eve event is one of the most popular traditions of the year – and it's a great way to introduce friends to Summit! The evening includes incredible views of the city, food, dessert, live band and DJ, karaoke, game room, raffle, and of course, a midnight count-down and sparkling cider toast. **COST** \$54 thru Dec 20, \$59 Dec 21-29, \$69 at the door. **REGISTER** and learn more at [HoustonFirst.org/Summit](http://HoustonFirst.org/Summit). **CONTACT** Ryan McPhetridge at [ryanmcpetridge@mac.com](mailto:ryanmcpetridge@mac.com).

FUSION MINISTRIES

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Fri, Dec 18 @ 6-10 pm

Thanks to the winter storm and snow, PNO was cancelled on Dec 4. If you were registered for that night and want your children to attend on Dec 18, you MUST re-register online by tomorrow, Dec 14! Let the Preschool and Recreation Ministries take care of the kids while you enjoy an evening on your own! **COST** 1 child \$10, 2 children \$15, 3 children \$20, 4+ children \$25. **REGISTER** by Dec 14 at [HoustonFirst.org/ParentsNightOut](http://HoustonFirst.org/ParentsNightOut). **CONTACT** christen.barrios@HoustonFirst.org, 713.957.7681

GROW our souls >>

CHURCHWIDE

HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

Wed, Dec 16

The church's weekly downtown Bible study is not meeting during the Christmas season. Look forward to a new year at HighPoint beginning in January! **CONTACT** [diane.bagby@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:diane.bagby@HoustonFirst.org), 713.957.6781.

FORUM GARAGE NOW AVAILABLE

The parking garage behind The Forum is now open for church parking on Sunday mornings. Look for the "Off-Site Parking" signage at the entrance to the garage. Park only on the 2nd or 3rd floor, take the stairs or elevator down then walk across the South Lot to the church. Courtesy Carts are available by the sidewalk leading to the Lafayette Garage.

CHRISTMAS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

DONATE A POINSETTIA

Donate a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special in your life and help decorate the Main Foyer throughout December. A list of people being honored or remembered will be published so others can see your expression of love and gratitude. To donate a poinsettia for \$10, visit [HoustonFirst.org/PoinsettiaDonations](http://HoustonFirst.org/PoinsettiaDonations) or call the Worship Office at 713.957.5881. Donations must be made by Tue, Dec 15.

CANDY CANE LANE

Sat, Dec 19 @ 10 am-1 pm

Kids will have a blast as they celebrate Christmas on Candy Cane Lane! With games and rides, food and candy, and much more, there's something for children of all ages! Admission is free!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thu, Dec 24 @ 5 pm & 11 pm

Spend the night before Christmas with the Houston's First family at one of two candle light worship services with Pastor Gregg Matte delivering a special message at both gatherings.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Share your requests the following ways and we'll add them to our online prayer database!

- Click "Find Help" at [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org)
- Text "PRAYFIRST [your name and requests]" to 41411
- Call our Prayerline at 713.335.6456
- Complete the attached "How Can We Help?" card
- Visit the Prayer, Missions & Connection Center

LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

2010 CHURCHWIDE DEVOTIONAL

Pastor Gregg has chosen the beloved *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers as the 2010 church-wide devotional. Stop by Corner Books for an updated version written in today's language including helpful Scripture and topical indexes. Each copy is \$15. The leather cover may be imitation, but the Truth inside is genuine!



CHRISTMAS CD "BLOCK BLOCKS"

Houston's First recently mailed CDs to over 15,000 residences in the 77024 ZIP code. Featuring 3 songs from "Celebration" and a Gospel presentation by Pastor Gregg, the CD is our gift to our neighbors. Stop by Corner Books to purchase a "Block Block" – a block of CDs you can pass out to your own block, co-workers, classmates, or anybody who needs to receive The Gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. (Each "Block Block" contains 10 CDs and costs \$20.)

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSING EARLY DEC 15

Church offices will be closed the afternoon of Tue, Dec 15, as staff members attend their Christmas party. If you have an emergency, contact the Receptionist at 713.681.8000 for assistance. Otherwise, leave a message with any staff members you need to reach and they'll contact you soon!



ISRAEL JOURNEY 2010

Apr 5-15, 2010

Take a journey with Worship Ministry leaders in the place where our worship began! Join Stephen Smith, Roger Cullins and John Bolin along with tour guides Jim & Wanda Jean Hickey on this "journey of a lifetime." **COST** \$3,425 per person. Space is limited. **VISIT** [HoustonFirst.org/IsraelJourney2010](http://HoustonFirst.org/IsraelJourney2010) for detailed itinerary. **CONTACT** Jim & Wanda Jean Hickey, [jhickey3@comcast.net](mailto:jhickey3@comcast.net), 281.496.1525 or 713.817.8157.

GIVE our lives >>>

CHURCHWIDE

WORLD MISSION OFFERING

Nov 2009-Jan 2010

This annual offering supports 5,000 missionaries around the world serving with the Southern Baptist Convention. These funds given above our tithes are dispersed to the IMB (85%), NAMB (10%), and Southern Baptists of Texas State Missions (5%). Look for WMO envelopes in Worship Center and Chapel seatbacks. **CONTACT** [frank.blackwood@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:frank.blackwood@HoustonFirst.org), 713.957.5862.



2009/2010 MISSIONS CALENDAR

Pick up a free calendar courtesy of the Missions Office! Calendars are located in the Main Foyer, the Connection Center and throughout the building. Keep up with what God is doing around the world throughout the year ahead!

MISSIONS

2010 MISSION TRIPS

Houston's First is sending teams on more than 40 mission trips in 2010 – from Houston to Hawaii, Mexico to Massachusetts, Cuba to China, Scotland to Sudan and many other places around the world. Registration is open so visit [HoustonFirst.org/MissionTrips](http://HoustonFirst.org/MissionTrips) to explore where we're going and see where God may be leading you to go! **CONTACT** [frank.blackwood@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:frank.blackwood@HoustonFirst.org), 713.957.5862.



SPRING 2010 MISSIONARY U

Registration is now open for the Spring 2010 Missionary U classes! Visit [HoustonFirst.org/MissionaryU](http://HoustonFirst.org/MissionaryU) for a listing of classes and to register. Choose from Perspectives On The World Christian Movement, Spanish, Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts and more. **CONTACT** [frank.blackwood@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:frank.blackwood@HoustonFirst.org), 713.957.5862.

VOLUNTEER

Visit [HoustonFirst.org/Volunteer](http://HoustonFirst.org/Volunteer) for details about the following opportunities and other ways you can serve.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE WORLD CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT Missions

**CONTACT** Peggy Meeks; [meeksph@aol.com](mailto:meeksph@aol.com); 713.926.5920

OFFICE AIDE - Young Single Adults

**CONTACT** [holly.crain@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:holly.crain@HoustonFirst.org); 713.957.7671

GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT - Pastoral Care

**CONTACT** [rick.jones@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:rick.jones@HoustonFirst.org); 713.957.6760

FITNESS & RECREATION VOLUNTEERS - Recreation

**CONTACT** [debbie.brown@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:debbie.brown@HoustonFirst.org); 713.957.6701

FOOD PANTRY TEAM - The Faith Center

**CONTACT** [claudia.reyes@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:claudia.reyes@HoustonFirst.org); 713.554.8800

GET CONNECTED

Complete this card and place in the offering plate or in a collection box by a Worship Center exit.

( ) I would like to speak to a minister about salvation, baptism, membership, ministries or \_\_\_\_\_.

( ) I would like to receive information about Sunday Bible Study opportunities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

( ) Check if this is a change of address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Single ( ) Married (date) \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Engaged ( ) Widowed

( ) Children living at home (ages) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOW CAN WE HELP? (turn over)



Remember to pray for the thousands of names written on the floor of the Worship Center. Share and read stories of God's faithfulness at [HoustonFirst.org/Prayer](http://HoustonFirst.org/Prayer).