

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

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

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

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

● 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.

HoustonsFirst.org • 713.681.8000 • 7401 Katy Freeway • Houston, TX 77024

DECISIONS DEC 13, 2009

FROM OTHER FELLOWSHIPS

Brittany Colley	Paul Culbertson
Lee Colley	Amy Gilbert
Lindsey Colley	Brandon Sproles
Lisa Colley	Anna Williams

BY STATEMENT

Weldon Bishop	Katherine Gryka
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SYMPATHIES

Joyce Flott in the death of her husband, Robert "Bob" Flott (Deacon)

WEEKLY SUMMARY

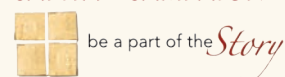
ATTENDANCE, DEC 13, 2009

Sunday Bible Study	3,353
Mission Bible Study	1,072
Weekday Bible Study	456
Total Bible Study	4,881
Wednesday Night	137

GIVING, WEEK ENDING DEC 13, 2009

Tithes & Offering	\$286,310
Weekly Requirements	\$293,142
Over/(Under)	(\$6,832)
Designated Gifts	\$12,409
Over/(Under) for Dec	\$101,586
Over/(Under) Fiscal YTD	(\$219,103)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



WEEK ENDING DEC 13, 2009

Total Pledged	\$24,457,310
Donations Received	\$162,134
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$14,470,742



Photograph by Jack Ports

THE STAFF AT HOUSTON'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH!



pastor gregg matte

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY & GUESTS, Merry Christmas and welcome to Houston's First Baptist Church!

As we enter the final week leading up to Christmas Day, I hope you find time to reflect upon the miraculous birth in Bethlehem. While shopping online or standing in line, wrapping presents or baking cookies, think about that silent night more than 2,000 years ago. Prepare your hearts this week just as you are preparing for family and friends - if not more.

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

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 HoustonsFirst.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

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@HoustonsFirst.org.

LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND SCHEDULE The church building will be closed on Thu, Dec 24, and Fri, Dec 25 (except for Christmas Eve services). In addition, the Christian Life Center will be closed on Sat, Dec 26. On Sun, Dec 27, Houston's First will have worship services at 9:30 am, 11 am and 6:30 pm. However, Sunday Bible studies, Kids' Worship and Heartland will not meet. Childcare will be available for birth through PreK. Have a safe and merry Christmas weekend!

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 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. The 5 pm service is ideal for families with little ones who need to go to bed early before the big day! Sorry, childcare is not available at either service.



TAKE THE MUSIC FROM Celebration HOME WITH YOU ON THE "JESUS SAVES" CD!

"JESUS SAVES" CD Featuring 11 songs from this year's production performed by the Choir and Orchestra at Houston's First, the CD is a beautiful addition to your Christmas music collection - and it makes a great gift for others, too! Stop by Corner Books to get your CDs today!

GATHER our hearts >

SUMMIT MINISTRIES

2010 "CATCH ME IF YOU CAN" New Year's Celebration Thu, Dec 31 @ 9 pm-1 am - The Plaza Club (downtown) For young single adults, this 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 HoustonsFirst.org/NYE2010. CONTACT Ryan McPhetridge at ryanmcphetridge@mac.com.

ADULT ENRICHMENT

SENIOR ADULT BANQUET Sat, Jan 30 @ 4 pm - Oasis Rm Adults age 60 and above are asked to save the date for this banquet where we will "remember our past and focus on our future" as we prepare for the Senior Adult Revival on Feb 8-10. Registration will begin in January! CONTACT tracie.bowman@HoustonsFirst.org, 713.957.7661.

GROW our souls >>

CHURCHWIDE HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY No Gathering on Wed, Dec 23 The church's weekly downtown Bible study will not be held during the Christmas season. Look forward to a new year at HighPoint beginning in January! CONTACT diane.bagby@HoustonsFirst.org, 713.957.6781.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS Fri, Jan 8 @ 5:30-11:30 pm Whether you currently serve in a Sunday Bible Study (SBS) or are interested in exploring more about serving, this leadership-equipping event is for you! Receive training in the areas of transformational teaching, building community through small groups, identifying and developing leadership in others, increasing relational intelligence, building an impactful men's ministry, and many other topics. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Center and sessions start at 6:45 pm in the Worship Center. The event is free and pre-registration is required. REGISTER at HoustonsFirst.org/MidnightMadness by Jan 4. CONTACT jessica.villalpando@HoustonsFirst.org, 713.957.7642.

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 HoustonsFirst.org/IsraelJourney2010 for detailed itinerary. CONTACT Jim & Wanda Jean Hickey, jhickey3@comcast.net, 281.496.1525 or 713.817.8157.



SPRING 2010 MISSIONARY U Registration is now open for the Spring 2010 Missionary U classes! Visit HoustonsFirst.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@HoustonsFirst.org, 713.957.5862.

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@HoustonsFirst.org, 713.957.5862.

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 HoustonsFirst.org/MissionTrips to explore where we're going and see where God may be leading you to go! CONTACT frank.blackwood@HoustonsFirst.org, 713.957.5862.

PASTORAL CARE STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING Applications Due Sun, Jan 17 Stephen Ministers are church members trained to minister to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge, or simply going through a tough time. If you're interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, applications are due by Sun, Jan 17, to attend training in the Spring. Contact the Pastoral Care Office for an application. CONTACT kelly.laughlin@HoustonsFirst.org, 713.957.6762.

VOLUNTEER Visit HoustonsFirst.org/Volunteer for details about the following opportunities and other ways you can serve. CONTACT & REVIVE - College Ministry CONTACT don.munton@HoustonsFirst.org, 713.957.7670 KINGDOM BIBLE GROWTH TEAM - Children's Ministry CONTACT rae.edwards@HoustonsFirst.org, 713.957.7622 WELCOME CENTER TEAM - Communication/Ministries CONTACT Becky Murphy, 2talltexans@sbcglobal.net, 281.859.9098

VIDEO PRODUCTION, FLASH ANIMATION, DESIGN, WEBSITE MAINTENANCE, BANNER/POSTER TRIMMING, & PHOTOGRAPHY - Creative Services CONTACT matt.arnold@HoustonsFirst.org, 713.335.6420 THE DOTTED LINE REGISTRATION TEAM Women's Ministry CONTACT carolyn.oneal@HoustonsFirst.org, 713.957.7640

HEALTHY HELPERS - First Place 4 Health CONTACT lisa.lewis@FirstPlace4Health.com, 713.335.6403

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)

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.



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 HoustonsFirst.org/Prayer.