



Nov 2011 - Jan 2012

As of November 2011, there are 7 billion people on planet Earth—and an estimated 1.7 billion have little or no access to the Gospel. Collected each year, the World Mission Offering (WMO) supports missionaries serving with the Southern Baptist Convention around the world to share the Gospel.

Our church's goal this year is to raise \$500,000. These funds, given in addition to our regular tithes, will support missionary-sending organizations and are dispersed as follows by Houston's First:

- International Mission Board – 85%
- North American Mission Board – 10%
- Southern Baptists of Texas State Missions – 5%

To give, you can:

- Use a WMO envelope and place it in the offering plate, or
- Visit HoustonsFirst.org/WorldMissionOffering

All donations to the WMO are tax-deductible.

- HoustonsFirst.org/WorldMissionOffering
- Rochelle.Tucker@HoustonsFirst.org



Dec 8-11

Join the "behind the scenes" Celebration team! Volunteer opportunities are available with our church's annual Christmas musical. Teams with openings include:

- Greeters/Ushers
- Make-Up
- Sales (CDs and other items)
- Production (lighting/sound/camera)

- TheFirstChristmas.org to sign up
- TheFirstChristmas@HoustonsFirst.org

TIMES, LOCATIONS & CONNECTIONS



SUNDAYS AT THE LOOP

Worship 9:30a - 11a - 5:30p
 Life Bible Study 8a - 9:30a - 10:45a - 1:15p - 6:45p
 Kids' Worship 9:30a - 11a - 5:30p

SUNDAYS DOWNTOWN

Worship 11a
 Life Bible Study 9:30a



FIRST THOUGHT WITH PASTOR GREGG



NOV 20 2011

With Thanksgiving just days away, final plans are being made for gathering with friends and family. (I can almost taste the pumpkin pie already, can't you?) As a church family, we have much to be grateful for as we look back over the past year. Personally, whether you find yourself in a season of setbacks or successes, remember to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Besides, when you accept His gift of eternal life, you can never say "thank you" enough.

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

NOW



WORLD MISSION OFFERING

Nov 2011 - Jan 2012

Support missionaries and share the Gospel around the world! See back of Weekly Guide for details.

- HoustonsFirst.org/WorldMissionOffering
- Rochelle.Tucker@HoustonsFirst.org





NEWS + UPDATES

TWEET OF THE WEEK: @GreggMatte: Just finished "Out Live Your Life" by @MaxLucado. Great read!

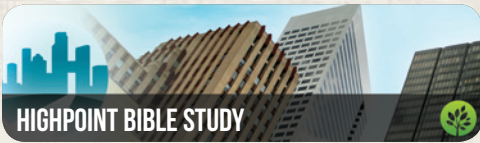
Houston's First Baptist Church is a relevant, biblical community where we gather our hearts, grow our souls and give our lives as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission.



LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Visit the Welcome Center for help finding a Life Bible Study, or visit HoustonsFirst.org/BibleStudies. Here are some to consider:

- **CrossTalk** @ 8:20a, Rm 259, adults 50-65
- **Opening the Bible** @ 8:20a, Rm 258, adults 60+
- **Logos** @ 9:30a, Rm 330, couples married 4-8 years
- **Roots** @ 6:45p, Gym (SW Corner), single adults 25-32

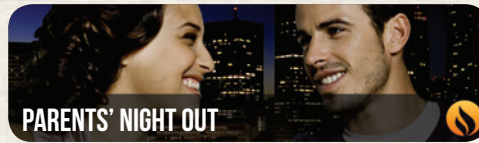


HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

Wed, Nov 23

HighPoint will not meet this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Dr. David Self will speak on Wed, Nov 30, and Pastor Gregg Matte will speak on Wed, Dec 7. We'll see you then!

- HoustonsFirst.org/HighPoint
- Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Fri, Dec 2 @ 6-10p – Houston's First

Let Houston's First take care of the kids while you enjoy a romantic date, an activity with your Life Bible Study—or get in some shopping without the kids! Cost is \$10 for 1 child, \$15 for 2, \$20 for 3 and \$25 for 4 or more.

- HoustonsFirst.org/ParentsNightOut
- Jan.Butterfras@HoustonsFirst.org



THE CHRISTMAS STORE

Sat, Dec 3 @ 10a-4:30p – Faith Center (8009 Long Point)

The Christmas Store provides over 3,000 gifts for families in need, with a team of 500 volunteers making this annual ministry happen. Help set up, sort, decorate, evangelize, pray and more! Sign up online to volunteer.

- HoustonsFirst.org/VolunteerChristmasStore
- Matthew.Creath@HoustonsFirst.org



WACKY TACKY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sun, Dec 4 @ 5:30-7:30p – Chapel & Reception Rm

Calling all 6th-12th graders! Put on your wackiest and tackiest Christmas clothes and bring your friends as we celebrate Christmas together. Also, bring new socks to donate to the Faith Center Clothes Closet. Cost is \$10.

- HoustonsFirst.org/WackyTackyChristmas
- Susan.Newman@HoustonsFirst.org



CELEBRATION TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Dec 8-11 @ Various Times – Worship Center (At the Loop)

Experience the spirit, songs, and story of Christmas at this spectacular musical event! Tickets available at TheFirstChristmas.org, in Corner Books, at the self-serve kiosk in the Main Foyer, and at 1.888.695.0888.

- TheFirstChristmas.org
- TheFirstChristmas@HoustonsFirst.org



SENIOR ADULTS CHRISTMAS TRIP

Fri, Dec 9 @ 6p – Sam Houston Park

Senior adults will take in the sights and sounds of Christmas at the 49th Annual Candlelight Tour in Sam Houston Park, presented by the Heritage Society. Call to register. Cost is \$5. Bus transportation provided from church.

- HoustonsFirst.org/Adults60Plus
- 713.957.7661



CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY

Sat, Dec 10 @ 11a-4p – Hunt Retreat Center

Single parent families will celebrate "A Treasure In Time" in Brookshire through a Christmas story, sing-a-long, family devotional—and even a camel ride! Each family will receive a special gift, too.

- HoustonsFirst.org/SingleParentFamilies
- Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org



CANDY CANE LANE

Sat, Dec 17 @ 10a-1p – Gym, South Parking Lot, Oasis Rm

Kids birth-5th grade will have a blast celebrating Christmas on Candy Cane Lane, featuring *One Starry Night*—an interactive experience through Bethlehem! Contact Angie to join the Candy Cane Lane Volunteer Team.

- HoustonsFirst.org/CandyCaneLane
- Angie.Savage@HoustonsFirst.org

COMING UP

NOV 27 Thanksgiving Weekend
Regular Worship Services – Both campuses
No Life Bible Studies | No 9:30a Chapel

DEC 01 Women's Christmas Banquet
6:30-9p – Fellowship Center
HoustonsFirst.org/ChristmasBanquet

DEC 04 Food Pantry Collections
Bring non-perishable food items
HoustonsFirst.org/FaithCenter

DEC 17 Candy Cane Lane
10a-1p
HoustonsFirst.org/CandyCaneLane

DEC 24 Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services
2p, 4p & 6p – At the Loop

DEC 25 Christmas Day Worship Service
10:30a – At the Loop, 11a – Downtown
No Life Bible Studies

DEC 31 Summit New Year's Eve Party
8p-1a – Lucky Strike
SummitYoungSingles.org

JAN 01 New Year's Day Worship Service
10:30a – At the Loop, 11a – Downtown
No Life Bible Studies

THANKSGIVING CLOSINGS

The church offices and the Fitness & Recreation Center will be closed on Nov 24 & 25 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Need more info? Call 713.681.8000 to get in touch with us. Connect with us online anytime at HoustonsFirst.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Snapchat](#)

CREATING A WORSHIPFUL ENVIRONMENT. Worship requires our full attention. We ask that you: >> silence cell phones >> use the restroom before the service (take your children, too!) >> remain seated once our time of Bible study begins. At the end of the worship service, people will be invited to accept Christ or join the church. Please remain in the service during this time. Pastor Gregg and other worshipers will appreciate your thoughtfulness.