



Here are some ways you can give your life away in Houston and around the world:

## World Mission Offering

Now Through Jan 2012

Support missionaries who are sharing the Gospel in Texas, across the USA and around the world! Our church's goal is to raise \$500,000. Use a WMO envelope and place it in the offering plate, or make your donation online at [HoustonsFirst.org/WorldMissionOffering](http://HoustonsFirst.org/WorldMissionOffering)

## Giving Life Away Expo

Jan 15-22 – Main Foyer (At the Loop)

Come discover opportunities to give your life away! Learn about missions, volunteering, prayer, evangelism and much more—and talk to people who are already doing it!

## 2012 Spring Break Mission Trips

Spend your Spring Break at exciting locations while sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

- San Jose, Costa Rica (Rookie Trip)
- East Asia
- Jeremie, Haiti
- Grenoble & Lille, France



[HoustonsFirst.org/Missions](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Missions) to register and learn more

[Rochelle.Tucker@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Rochelle.Tucker@HoustonsFirst.org)

## TIMES, LOCATIONS & CONNECTIONS



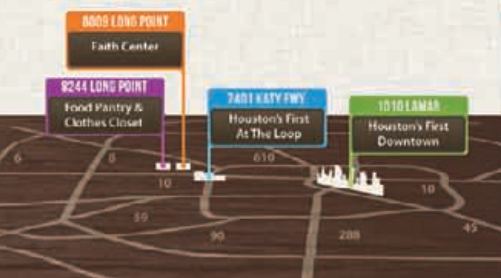
## YEAR-END GIVING

The church business office will be open until 4:30p on Sat, Dec 31, 2011, to receive contributions that will qualify as a 2011 donation. Any donations received via mail will be treated as a 2011 donation if the postmark date on the envelope is before Jan 1, 2012. In addition, any donations made via the church's website at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) before midnight on Dec 31, 2011, will qualify as a 2011 donation.

Tithes and offerings towards the Great Commission Budget, the World Mission Offering, Local Missions and the *Be A Part Of The Story* capital campaign all qualify as charitable contributions and are tax deductible. Please contact Kerry Hunter at 713.957.5806 or at [Kerry.Hunter@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto: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. On all tax questions, it is advisable to consult with your tax advisor or CPA. If you donate a gift of stock, or desire additional information, please contact Amber Willet at 713.957.5807 or at [Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org).

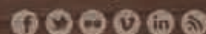


## SUNDAYS AT THE LOOP

Worship 9:30a - 11a - 5:30p  
Life Bible Study 8a - 9:30a - 10:45a - 4:15p - 6:45p  
Kids' Worship 9:30a - 11a - 5:30p

## SUNDAYS DOWNTOWN

Worship 11a  
Life Bible Study 9:30a



HOUSTON'S FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH

WEEKLY GUIDE

# FIRST THOUGHT

WITH PASTOR GREGG



DEC  
04  
2011

Would you join me in praying for *Celebration*? Sure, you can ask God for singers to hit their notes and for props to cooperate—but let's not forget more eternal matters. Pray that God would be the one in the spotlight as nearly 18,000 people come on our campus. The last thing we need is for them to be impressed by what we can do. Instead, we long for people to be impacted by what He did. Through the spirit, the songs and the story of Christmas, ask God to change lives forever. *That* would be a reason to celebrate!

In Him,

*Pastor Gregg*

COMING



## CELEBRATION

Dec 8-11

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

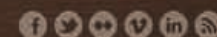


[TheFirstChristmas.org](http://TheFirstChristmas.org)

[TheFirstChristmas@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:TheFirstChristmas@HoustonsFirst.org)

HoustonsFirst.org • 713.681.8000

CONNECT WITH US







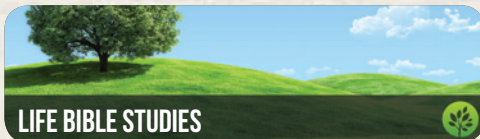
# NEWS + UPDATES



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.



**TWEET OF THE WEEK:** @freckletown: Attending church from home today via @HoustonsFirst live webcast:  
[www.HoustonsFirst.org/Webcast](http://www.HoustonsFirst.org/Webcast)



## LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Life Bible Studies are not meeting today, but will gather next week. Visit the Welcome Center for help finding one, or visit [HoustonsFirst.org/BibleStudies](http://HoustonsFirst.org/BibleStudies). Here are some to consider:

- **Peace Makers** @ 8:20a, Rm 143, adults ages 80+
- **Newlywed or Close AM** @ 9:30a, Fellowship Ctr C/D, couples engaged/married 1 yr or less
- **Covenant** @ 9:30a, Rm 252, adults 36-44
- **The Race** @ 9:30a, University Rm A/B, single adults 28-39



## 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](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Adults60Plus)  
 713.957.7661



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sat, Dec 24 @ 2p, 4p, & 6p – At the Loop**

Gather on Christmas Eve as we prepare our hearts for Christ's birth with worship through song and a message from Pastor Gregg. Choose from 3 identical candlelight services. Sorry, childcare not available.

[HoustonsFirst.org/ChristmasSchedule](http://HoustonsFirst.org/ChristmasSchedule)  
 713.681.8000



## WACKY TACKY CHRISTMAS PARTY

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

Calling all 6th-12th graders! Put on your most 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](http://HoustonsFirst.org/WackyTackyChristmas)  
 [Susan.Newman@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Susan.Newman@HoustonsFirst.org)



## 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](http://HoustonsFirst.org/SingleParentFamilies)  
 [Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org)

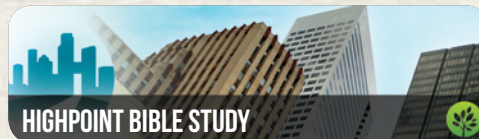


## CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sun, Dec 25 @ 10:30a – At the Loop, 11a – Downtown**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Celebrate the birth of our Savior Christmas morning with special services At the Loop and Downtown. Life Bible Studies will not meet that day. Childcare available through age 2.

[HoustonsFirst.org/ChristmasSchedule](http://HoustonsFirst.org/ChristmasSchedule)  
 713.681.8000

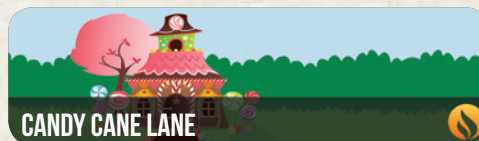


## HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

**Wed, Dec 7 @ 11:30a – 1010 Lamar (tunnel level)**

Pastor Gregg Matte speaks at this week's Downtown Bible study at the location of our Downtown Campus. Lunch begins at 11:30a for \$8, and Bible study takes place from 12:10-12:40p.

[HoustonsFirst.org/HighPoint](http://HoustonsFirst.org/HighPoint)  
 [Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org)

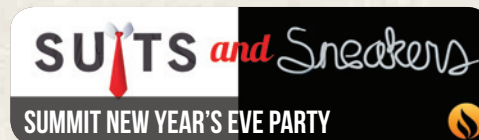


## CANDY CANE LANE

**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](http://HoustonsFirst.org/CandyCaneLane)  
 [Angie.Savage@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Angie.Savage@HoustonsFirst.org)



## SUMMIT NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

**Sat, Dec 31 @ 8p-1a – Lucky Strike Lanes, Downtown**

Young single adults are invited to ring in the New Year with music, bowling, karaoke, food, games, and more! Cost is \$39 thru Dec 12; \$44 thru Dec 30; and \$49 at the door. Purchase tickets online.

[SummitYoungSingles.org](http://SummitYoungSingles.org)  
 [Ryan.McPhetridge@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Ryan.McPhetridge@HoustonsFirst.org)

# COMING UP

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

**JAN 04** **HUB Family Night**  
6:30-8:30p – Fellowship Ctr  
[HoustonsFirst.org/Students](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Students)

**JAN 05 & 08** **First Place 4 Health Orientations**  
Jan 5 @ 6:30p & Jan 8 @ 3p – At the Loop  
[Lisa.Cramer@FP4H.com](mailto:Lisa.Cramer@FP4H.com)

**JAN 06** **Parents' Night Out**  
6-10p – At the Loop  
[HoustonsFirst.org/ParentsNightOut](http://HoustonsFirst.org/ParentsNightOut)

**JAN 08** **Fitness Expo**  
Noon – Fitness & Recreation Ctr  
[HoustonsFirst.org/Recreation](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Recreation)

**JAN 11** **MidLink Spring Semester begins**  
Wednesday Evenings  
[HoustonsFirst.org/MidLink](http://HoustonsFirst.org/MidLink)

**JAN 13** **Summit Celebrates**  
7p – Oasis Rm  
[SummitYoungSingles.org](http://SummitYoungSingles.org)

**JAN 13-14** **AsWeGo Conference**  
For Students 7th-12th Grade  
[HoustonsFirst.org/HUBMissions](http://HoustonsFirst.org/HUBMissions)

# FOUNDATION OF prayer

Remember to pray for the thousands of names written on the foundations of the Worship Center and children's building.

Need more info? Call 713.681.8000 to get in touch with us. Connect with us online anytime at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) or follow us on

**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.