



MISSIONS

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.

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



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 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 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.



FIRST THOUGHT



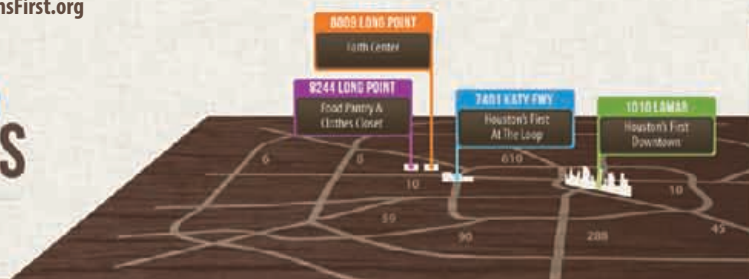
DEC
11
2011

While the curtain closes on Celebration today, the story of Christmas has just begun in the lives of guests who heard the Gospel during performances this weekend. Each year, we hear stories of how God used Celebration to revive believers, return prodigals, and rescue souls. It's our church's prayer that this musical presentation would not just entertain, but convey the truth and power of God's Word. So, continue to pray for the seeds planted during Celebration this year. May those who encountered Him grow in their faith and abide in Him—and come to experience real life.

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

TIMES, LOCATIONS & CONNECTIONS



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



COMING



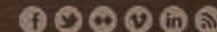
CANDY CANE LANE

Sat, Dec 17 @ 10a-1p – Gym, South Parking Lot, Oasis Rm
Featuring *One Starry Night*—an interactive experience through Bethlehem! See inside for more details.

HoustonsFirst.org/CandyCaneLane
Angie.Savage@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: @GreggMatte: Watching my wife's hometown of 1200 people Christmas parade. Most floats are pulled by F-150s. Ain't that America?!



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. Here are some to consider:

- **His Word** @ 8:20a, Rm 145, adults ages 65-75
- **Kingdom Service** @ 9:30a, Rm 335, adults ages 50-60
- **Inside Out** @ 10:45a, Rm 404, couples married 1-6 years
- **Wellspring** @ 4:15p, Garden Rm, single moms



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
- 713.681.8000



NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Sun, Jan 1 @ 10:30a – At the Loop, 11a – Downtown

Begin the new year by gathering for worship At the Loop (message by Jerrell Altic) or Downtown (message by Lee Hsia)! Life Bible Studies will not meet that day. Childcare is available through age 2 (At the Loop only).

- HoustonsFirst.org/ChristmasSchedule
- 713.681.8000



HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays @ 11:30a – 1010 Lamar (Tunnel Level)

HighPoint Downtown Bible study will not meet Dec 14, 21 & 28 due to the Christmas holiday. Join us again on Wed, Jan 4!

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

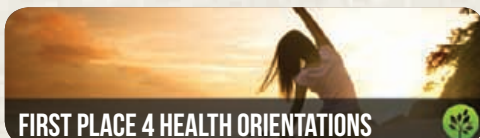


CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICES

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
- 713.681.8000



FIRST PLACE 4 HEALTH ORIENTATIONS

Thu, Jan 5 @ 6:30p & Sun, Jan 8 @ 4p – At the Loop

Attend one of these orientations and see how First Place 4 Health can help you discover a new way to healthy living! Attendance is required for new members to join a class.

- FirstPlace4Health.com
- Lisa.Cramer@FP4H.com

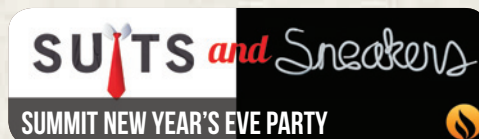


CANDY CANE LANE

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

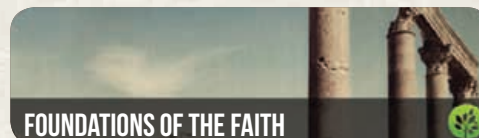


SUMMIT NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

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
- Ryan.McPhetridge@HoustonsFirst.org



FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH

Every Sun, Jan 8-29 @ All Life Bible Study Hours

Each January, our Adult Life Bible Studies focus on a subject that is foundational to our faith. Our focus this January will be on prayer. Go online or visit the Welcome Center to find a Life Bible Study that's right for you!

- HoustonsFirst.org/FoundationsOfTheFaith
- Jeanene.Andrus@HoustonsFirst.org

COMING UP

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

JAN 06 **Parents' Night Out**
6-10p – At the Loop
HoustonsFirst.org/ParentsNightOut

JAN 08 **Fitness Expo**
Noon – Fitness & Recreation Ctr
HoustonsFirst.org/Recreation

JAN 11 **MidLink Spring Semester begins**
Wednesday Evenings
HoustonsFirst.org/MidLink

JAN 13 **Summit Celebrates**
7p – Oasis Rm
SummitYoungSingles.org

JAN 13-14 **AsWeGo Conference**
For Students 7th-12th Grade
HoustonsFirst.org/HUBMissions.org

FEB 10 **Date Night Houston with Tim Hawkins**
7p – Worship Ctr
HoustonsFirst.org/DateNightHouston

FEB 24 **Girls' Night Out with Abby Rike**
6:30-9p – Fellowship Ctr
HoustonsFirst.org/Women



Real Life message series CD Gift Sets are available for purchase in Corner Books, including today's message!

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](#) [YouTube](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Pinterest](#)

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.