

THE CYPRESS CAMPUS

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

MAR 31, 2013

The Cypress Campus launched on Easter Sunday at Smith Middle School with more than 300 Houston's First family members "stepping out" to make a difference in the Cypress area.



MAY 19, 2013

The Cypress Campus celebrates their first baptisms, welcoming six new members of the church.



APR 10, 2016

The groundbreaking for the Cypress Campus took place on 32.4 acres off of the Grand Parkway next to Cy-Fair ISD's newest educational village. The date was exactly 175 years after the first official gathering of Houston's First on Apr 10, 1841.



SEP 14, 2016

Houston's First and Tellepsen representatives gathered with the construction crew to celebrate the "topping out" of the new building – signifying that the last beam had been placed atop the structure.



NOV 6, 2016

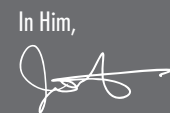
The "Foundation of Prayer" was held – a time when our church family could write on the foundation of the building the names of people they are praying for to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior.



MAY 28, 2017

The Cypress Campus gathered for the last time at Smith Middle School – our home since the campus launched in March 2013. That evening, we came together at our new home to light the cross tower for the first time.

After years of praying for this day to come, we are grateful to open our NEW doors to the Cypress community. God has been so faithful over the past four years, providing for our campus and raising up people to serve Him and our neighbors. Even greater things are yet to come now that we have a permanent home, and I'm excited to see how God will continue to move through our church to impact our side of town – and the world – through the Cypress Campus!

In Him,


Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor



OUR TEAM

Cypress Campus Pastor Jason Swiggart and Pastor Gregg Matte (front row, center) and the Cypress Campus staff are ready to continue welcoming and serving the Cypress community!

SUNDAYS AT CYPRESS

- Life Bible Studies at 8a (Adults only), 9:30a and 11a
- Worship services at 9:30a and 11a

ABOUT OUR BUILDING

- Approximately 100,000 square feet
- Worship Center with seating for about 1,300
- Life Bible Study space for infants through adults
- Dedicated rooms for Heartland and Kids' Worship
- CornerBooks space for coffee and resources
- Expansive Main Foyer with sitting areas and a fireplace
- Offices for Counseling Center appointments
- Two brightly illuminated crosses reaching 39 feet high

GETTING THERE

As of this publication, the Cypress Campus can be reached by navigating through Bridgeland. There is no access directly from the Grand Parkway, but there will be before school begins in August. For now, follow these directions from Fry Road:

- Take Bridgeland Creek Parkway headed west
- Turn left at Creekside Bend Blvd
- Turn right at Parkland View Drive
- Turn left at Blue Gill Drive
- Turn right at Summit Point Crossing
- Turn left at Mason Road

Find a detailed map to the Cypress Campus at HoustonFirst.org

NEWS / UPDATES

ALL CAMPUSES

HighPoint Bible Study

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

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone! Downtown Campus Pastor Lee Hsia is teaching this Wednesday at 12:10p. Bring your lunch or purchase one there for \$8. Visit HoustonFirst.org to learn more.

CONTACT Diane.Bagby@HoustonFirst.org

NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

Rush Week

July 21-27 – Panama City Beach, FL

Students entering 7th-12th grades are invited to this unique experience! Rush Week is 50% camp and 50% missions. Students partner with local churches in Panama City, FL, to assist in ministry, service projects, and evangelism each morning. In the afternoon we play, compete, laugh, relax, worship and learn more about God. We want YOU there! Register at HoustonFirst.org by June 21.

CONTACT Tony.Bianco@HoustonFirst.org

SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES

Oasis Conference for Single Moms

Sat, July 15 @ 8:30a-4p – The Loop

The desert of life can be vast and overwhelming. We all need oases to refresh us! Spend a day being refreshed and focused on the One who will walk with you through the desert. Hear from Natalie Mott, be led in worship with Lisa Pierre, and learn from those who have gone before you as single mothers. Visit HoustonFirst.org to learn about extras, activities for kids, and to register.

CONTACT Holly.Crain@HoustonFirst.org

MEN

Men: Serve

Sat, June 24 @ 8a-1p – The Loop

Men will gather at The Loop Campus then head out in teams around the city to serve the widows in our church family. Yard work, home repairs, car maintenance and other tasks – there is a place for you to serve! Register by Fri, June 16, at HoustonFirst.org. If you are a widow in need of assistance contact Sherry Oradat at 713.957.6764.

CONTACT Heather.Kuehler@HoustonFirst.org

THE LOOP

SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES

Father's Day Luncheon

Sun, June 18 @ 12:30p – The Loop (Oasis Rm)

Dads – we want to celebrate YOU! The "My Dad, My Hero" Father's Day luncheon is for single dads to let your children honor you. After lunch together, dads will receive a gift and hear a word of encouragement from Minister to Men Eric Reed. Register for free at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT Holly.Crain@HoustonFirst.org

WOMEN

A Beautiful Inheritance

Wed, June 14 @ 6:30-8p – The Loop (Chapel)

Join Shannon Owen as she teaches what Scripture means when it tells us that we have an inheritance. The idea of inheritance, by definition, starts with the idea of family, so we will explore not only the gift itself but what it means to be adopted as daughters of God. Childcare is available with registration at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT Heather.Connolly@HoustonFirst.org

Choosing Joy in Life's Challenges

Thursdays, through June 22 @ 10a-12p

The Loop (Fellowship Ctr)

Life can be tough, and finding the way to consider challenges "all joy" (James 1:2) can seem completely impossible; however, when we can understand what Godly joy is, we can stand firm in any trial. Join Marsha Taylor for this three-week series in finding joy and security, no matter what circumstances come our way.

CONTACT Heather.Connolly@HoustonFirst.org

MEN

Fight: Winning the Battles that Matter Most

Wednesdays, through July 5 @ 6:45-8:15p

The Loop (Garden Rm)

Please join us this summer for this five week series. In this video-based small group Bible study, pastor and bestselling author Craig Groeschel explores the life of Samson, helping you uncover who you really are—a man created with a warrior's heart in the image of God—and how to stand up and fight for what's right. Find out more at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT Heather.Kuehler@HoustonFirst.org

CYPRESS WOMEN

Gifted

Tuesdays, June 13-27 @ 9:30-11:30a or 6:30-8:30p

11011 Mason Rd, Cypress

God has uniquely and perfectly made and gifted each of us with different abilities and talents. Join us as we learn how three women have used their distinctive gifts for the glory of God! "Gifted" is a three-week event, offered in the morning or evening, with small group discussions for women of every generation. Childcare, for the morning class only, is available with registration at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT Andi.Farrell@HoustonFirst.org

DOWNTOWN MARRIED YOUNG ADULTS

Parents' Afternoon Out

Sat, June 24 @ 11a-1p – 1730 Jefferson St.

Drop off your kiddos and enjoy some uninterrupted time to run errands, do some shopping, or enjoy a coffee date with your spouse. Our FirstFriends ministry will provide lunch and care for your kids (ages 4 & under). Register online at HoustonFirst.org by Tue, June 20.

CONTACT: Kristin.Fowles@HoustonFirst.org

ESPAÑOL

Family Celebration

Sat, July 29 @ 12p – Hunt Retreat

Join the Español Campus familia for a day at Hunt Retreat! Bring your whole family for fun, games, food and fellowship.

CONTACT: Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonFirst.org

SIENNA

Summer Night of Family Worship

Wed, June 28 @ 6:30-8p – Sienna Worship Center

You'll likely be playing together as a family this summer; make sure you worship together, too! Join the Sienna Campus family as we gather for a time of praise and worship and a word from Campus Pastor Malcolm Marshall.

CONTACT Kelli.Boylan@HoustonFirst.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Mon, June 26–Thu, June 29 @ 9a–12:30p – The Loop

Discover the God of the universe as a Galactic StarVoyor! Kids will search the skies and God's Word to uncover His truth etched in His handiwork. VBS is for kids entering kindergarten through sixth grade in Fall 2017, plus Little Dippers (kids born by Dec 31, 2012). Registration is open at HoustonFirst.org!

VBS for Women

June 26-29 @ 9:30-11:30a – The Loop (Garden Rm)

Discover the wonder among wonders – that the God who created everything there is – the visible and invisible longs to rescue you, have a relationship with you and restore your hope. Join Nancy Taylor as she teaches and encourages you during the week of VBS.

Family Night

Wed, June 28 @ 6-7:30p – The Loop (Worship Ctr)

Kids and their families will get to experience VBS together with an evening designed with the whole family in mind! Dinner available @ 4:45-6:15p

HOUSTON 1:8

July 10-13 – A MISSION TRIP TO OUR CITY

Houston 1:8 turns 20 this year! Be a missionary right here at home as we share the love and truth of Jesus throughout the greater Houston area. Visit HoustonFirst.org to discover where your campus is serving, then register by Sun, June 25.



Looking for a place to serve this summer?

Come give life away at the Faith Center's Food Pantry & Clothes Closet – a ministry that serves over 1,500 people each month. Volunteers help sort donations, guide people as they shop, share the Gospel, and more!

Faith Center – Spring Branch

Mon-Thu & Sat @ 10a-1p – 8244 Long Point Rd

CONTACT Claudia.Reyes@HoustonFirst.org

Faith Center – Harwin

Tue, Thu & Sat @ 10a-1p – 5860 Ranchester Dr #833

CONTACT Justin.Seale@HoustonFirst.org

Visit HoustonFirst.org to learn more about the Faith Centers.

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. For information, call 713.681.8000, or visit HoustonFirst.org.



SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

The Loop Campus

7401 Katy Fwy • Houston, TX 77024

Worship 9:30a • 11a • 5p

Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:15a • 10:45a • 6:30p

Cypress Campus

11011 Mason Rd • Cypress, TX 77433

Worship 9:30a • 11a

Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:30a • 11a

Downtown Campus

1730 Jefferson St • Houston, TX 77003

Worship 5p

Life Bible Studies 9:30a

Español Campus

7401 Katy Fwy • Houston, TX 77024

Worship 5p

Life Bible Studies 6:30p

Sienna Campus

4309 Sienna Pkwy • Missouri City, TX 77459

Worship 9:30a • 11a

Life Bible Studies 9:30a • 11a

THE CYPRESS CAMPUS SAYS

welcome.



HOUSTON'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



June 11, 2017

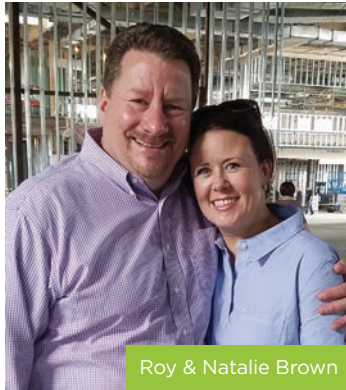
PASTOR GREGG MATTE

WHEN GOD OPENS DOORS

Ministry only happens where people are present, and when the Cypress Campus of Houston’s First was launched in 2013, more than 330 church members from the Cypress area were already commuting to The Loop on Sundays and midweek. Cypress and neighborhoods out west have developed rapidly over the past four years and the completion of the Grand Parkway between I-10 and US 290 has opened the door to a whole new corridor of ministry opportunities on that side of the city.

Today, as Houston’s First celebrates the opening of the beautiful new Cypress Campus and as we look ahead to all God will do in this new season, we take a look back at what took place in its original home at Smith Middle School. That is where the foundation of godly community was laid and where God prepared this body of believers for what lies ahead as they enlarge the site of their tent and get ready to welcome others with open doors.

WEEKLY TRANSFORMATION



Roy & Natalie Brown

When God calls a person out of one place of ministry into another, it’s difficult to know what to expect. Roy and Natalie Brown were longtime Houston’s First members, attending The Loop Campus since 1997, when God led them to be one of the first families to relocate to the Cypress Campus at Smith Middle School on Easter Sunday in 2013. They didn’t know their calling would include helping transform a school into a church — every Sunday.

“More than 30 people were part of the Set-Up Team,” said Roy. “Some got up at 4:30a or 5a to get there before the team to deliver six trailers full of equipment. I became used to arguing with God and the snooze button about getting up so early. But when Natalie and I were ever forced to miss, I felt all out of sorts.”

Transforming a school into a church each week was not easy, but it became a mission of love for the Set-Up Team. Each week’s set up included placing wayfinding signs inside and outside; setting up Welcome Team tables in hallways and putting out informative materials; setting up tables, chairs and staging in two gyms to accommodate Life Bible Studies for all ages; and perhaps most challenging, preparing the cafeteria for worship. Preparation for worship included hanging lights and sound equipment, mixing audio, and ensuring the successful presentation of Pastor Gregg’s messages.

“Trying to get everything done was nerve wracking in the beginning,” said Roy. “But we became a well-oiled machine after a while. Everyone had their particular job to do. It was hard, but fun.”

The Set-Up Team wasn’t Roy’s only responsibility. He works with middle schoolers in The HUB Student Ministry and Natalie works in Heartland with the Preschool Ministry. She’s also on the Welcome Team and works with students on Wednesday nights. In



The Set Up Team of the Cypress Campus

fact, many Set-Up Team members took on additional volunteer responsibilities. The weekly undertaking of completely transforming the school caused the team to grow into an especially close-knit community.

“We really became brothers and sisters on this team,” said Roy. “We all got to see God at work before people showed up for church.”

Now that the Cypress Campus building is complete, Roy says he will miss the great fun and community they had being part of the Set-Up Team. The assignment may have ended, but he says there will always be ways to plug in, find friendship, and discover a special role in ministry. With the new building located next to Bridgeland High School, he expects the Student Ministry to swell.

“We’re so excited, and we anticipate God has big things in store for the future,” said Roy. “We’re thrilled — and a little scared — about being next to the high school. We’re praying God sends a lot of volunteers, and especially those with a heart for students. May we all be willing to do the next thing God has for us to do.”

THE CYPRESS CAMPUS: DURING OUR FOUR YEARS AT SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL



† 126
DECISIONS FOR CHRIST



105
BAPTISMS



+ 25
MISSION TRIPS



\$ 108,410.78
DONATED
TO 8 CYPRESS-AREA
PARTNERSHIPS

THE MANSIONS AT HASTINGS GREEN
BOYS AND GIRLS COUNTRY
SPORTS QUEST
WE CARE CY-FAIR
CY-FAIR HELPING HANDS
CY-HOPE
CARE NET PREGNANCY CENTER
REDEEMED MINISTRIES



816 HOURS TO SET UP/TEAR DOWN

16,320 CRANKS TO LIFT AND LOWER THE TRUSS

ROLLED AND UNROLLED THE GYM FLOORS 6,528 TIMES

SET UP 25,500 PANELS IN THE GYM

4 HOSPITAL VISITS RELATED TO SET UP AND TEAR DOWN

1,224 TRAILERS PULLED

FINDING HIDDEN TREASURE

Only God truly knows the potential for godly excellence hidden inside us all. Special indeed are the people who make it their business to discover and foster those gifts in others. One Cypress Campus member has poured love, time and God’s Word into students’ lives for decades to develop godly excellence that is changing the world for Christ.



Pastor Gregg and Dennis Perry in 1988

Pastor Gregg and Dennis Perry in 2017

Armed with a degree in Church Music and Youth Ministry from Houston Baptist University, Dennis Perry joined the staff of Wilcrest Baptist Church in southwest Houston full-time in 1977 as minister of music and youth. Already a part-timer there two years, he married his girlfriend, Patricia, and they welcomed their two little girls during his 12 ½-year tenure at Wilcrest Baptist. Dennis has a natural gift for connecting with students; his wisdom, kindness and sense of humor make him easy to talk to and his advice easy to accept.

After more than a decade at Wilcrest Baptist, a student in Dennis’ youth group introduced him to a young man who was questioning the wisdom of trusting Christ and what it might mean to his reputation. “He said he was afraid he would turn into a real freak,” said Dennis. The young man was Gregg Matte, then a junior at Alief Elsik High School. Gregg went to Dennis’ house one night and questioned him for more than two hours.

“I finally told Gregg, ‘You know you need to be a Christian, and I know you need to be a Christian. Just accept Christ — or go home,’” said Dennis, only half-joking. “Gregg asked Christ into his life that night.”

Youth camp at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center the following summer was a pivotal point in Gregg’s life. He began his senior year on fire for Christ. “Gregg was living radically for Christ and was well-respected,” said Dennis. At one point, Dennis told Gregg he believed God was moving him into ministry. “Gregg told me, ‘As long as I don’t have to speak in front of anyone,’” recalls Dennis.

Dennis mentored Gregg through high school and into college and beyond. Gregg was a youth intern for three years at Hampton Road Baptist Church in DeSoto, Texas, during Dennis’ tenure there as Youth Pastor. “Dennis became a friend, a buddy, to me,” said Gregg. “He has always given me wise counsel. His influence changed my life.”

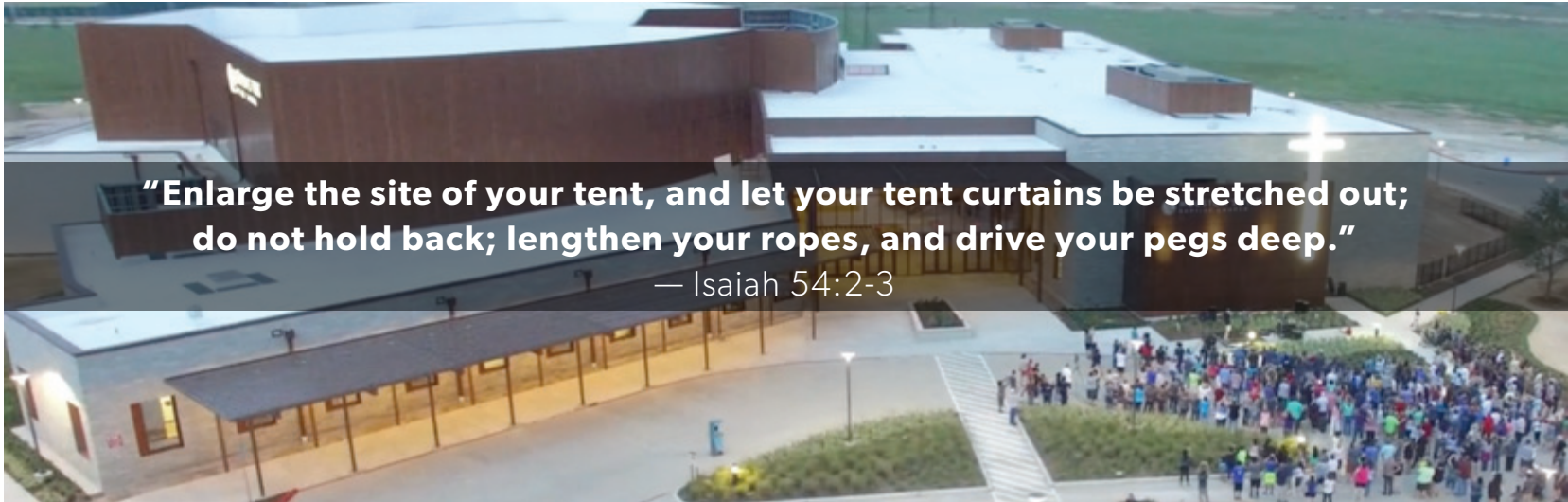
“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

— 2 Timothy 2:2

Health concerns brought Dennis and Patricia back to the Houston area from Dallas and in 2013 she noticed Houston’s First had started another campus not far from their home. The couple visited the Cypress Campus and knew immediately that’s where they were supposed to plant their lives. “We wanted to go to a church where we could volunteer and help it grow,” said Dennis.

Patricia found her place of ministry in the Preschool Ministry. Dennis plugged in as a greeter and began volunteering with college-age students, an age group he has volunteered with for decades. “I love college students. When we started the class in 2015 there was virtually no one, but last month we had 16 in the class,” he said. “It is my biggest joy that God has allowed me to connect with these students for so many years.”

Having a former student and someone he has been so close to for many years as his pastor is a blessing to Dennis. “I’m honored to have had the privilege of being part of Pastor Gregg’s life,” said Dennis. “I respect him so much. He studies God’s word and has a passion for all of us to do the same. We look forward to Sundays with a passion; it’s the highlight of our week!”



“Enlarge the site of your tent, and let your tent curtains be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your ropes, and drive your pegs deep.”

— Isaiah 54:2-3

YOUR NEXT STEP

No matter what campus you attend, where could you step up and serve? You just might make friends and find community as you serve side-by-side with others. Visit HoustonsFirst.org and search “STEPUP” or text “STEPUP” to 41411 to learn about available opportunities to serve!