

# welcome.

A MONTHLY SNAPSHOT • HOUSTON'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH • PASTOR GREGG MATTE

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**2017**

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# our campuses

## THE LOOP CAMPUS 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



Gregg Matte, Pastor

[f HoustonsFirst](#) [t @HoustonsFirst](#) [i @HoustonsFirst](#)

## CYPRESS CAMPUS 11011 Mason Rd, Cypress, TX 77433 (Next to Bridgeland High School)



Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor

[f HoustonsFirstCypress](#) [t @HFBCcypress](#) [i @HFBCcypress](#)

## DOWNTOWN CAMPUS 1730 Jefferson, Houston, TX 77003



Lee Hsia, Campus Pastor

[f HFBCDowntown](#) [t @HFBCDowntown](#) [i @HFBCDowntown](#)

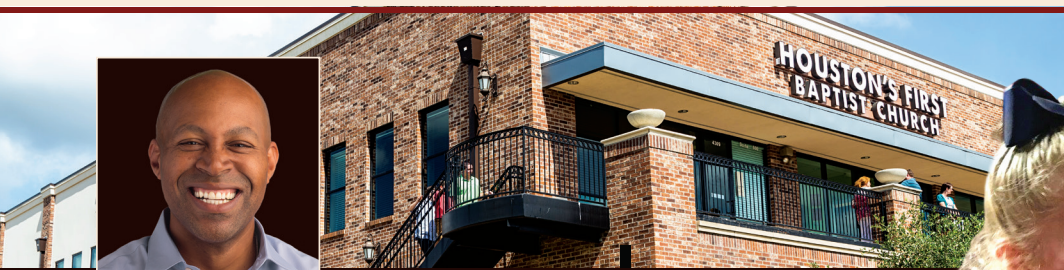
## ESPAÑOL CAMPUS 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



Juan Alaniz, Campus Pastor

[f HoustonsFirstEspanol](#) [t @HFBCespanol](#) [i @HoustonsFirst](#)

## SIENNA CAMPUS 4309 Sienna Parkway, Missouri City, TX 77459



Malcolm Marshall, Campus Pastor

[f HoustonsFirstSienna](#) [t @HFBCSienna](#) [i @HFBCSienna](#)

## welcome TO HOUSTON'S FIRST!

This has been an amazing season filled with setbacks and victories. Along the way, the team rallied to face the next challenge—and it was a joy to be a part of the journey. Sure, this applies to the Houston Astros—but I'm really talking about the Houston's First family.

This fall, they have risen to the opportunities before them—from supporting Hurricane Harvey relief efforts starting in August to boldly reaching their neighbors during Light The Night on Oct 31. There are countless others ways the Lord has worked through our members to make a difference in their homes, offices, schools, and neighborhoods.

So, if you're new to our church, you're in great company. Whether life feels like you hit a grand slam or like you struck out swinging, Jesus is always there calling you home—and with five campuses, Houston's First has several places where you can make yourself at home.

At the end of the worship service, come forward when invited or visit the Connection Center if you want to know more about joining the church, the Christian faith, or what it means to follow Jesus. Thank you for visiting and welcome to Houston's First—a relevant biblical community.

In Him,

*Pastor Gregg*

Pastor Gregg Matte

*Pastor Gregg, Kelly,  
Valerie and Greyson  
were root, root, rooting  
for the Astros all season!*



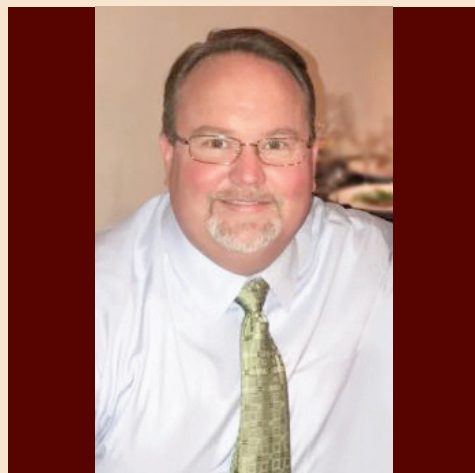
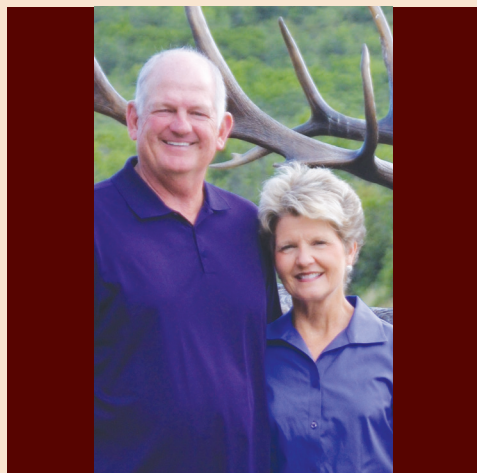


# THREE thankful motivation

November turns our attention to thanksgiving. However, being thankful is not limited to a Thursday when Americans gather for turkey, football, and an extra slice of pumpkin pie. Regarding gratitude, the Bible says to “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

For many believers, their contributions to God’s kingdom are not only acts of obedience but also expressions of thankfulness for what He has done. They give of their attention, resources, and time in order to bless others because they are grateful for the blessings they’ve received themselves.

## THESE HOUSTON’S FIRST MEMBERS SHARE HOW THIS THANKFUL MOTIVATION HAS PLAYED OUT IN THEIR LIVES.



“I am thankful for how The Porch for young adults radically impacted my faith and moved me from being a cultural Christian to living a life fully surrendered to Christ. That’s why I serve on The Porch’s “Welcome Mat” team now on Tuesday nights at The Loop Campus, helping other young adults encounter, experience, and express the compelling love of Jesus Christ.”

HEATHER CONNOLLY

“In our twenties, we experienced several job losses but God always provided for us. Later in our marriage, we went to Vietnam on our first mission trip and the Lord changed us as a result. We came home and decided to start a mission fund, putting aside money specifically so we could support missions opportunities. We’re grateful for God’s faithfulness and provision in our lives, and we look forward each year to discovering where He’ll lead us to provide financially for kingdom-building endeavors.”

LONNIE & CONNIE HAMILTON

“Back when I was a teenager, my teachers in the student ministry lived out their faith seven days a week. They truly cared about me and took time to speak into my life outside of Sunday mornings and Wednesday night programming. I’m grateful for the example they set for me as a young believer and for all that I learned from them. That’s one reason why I serve in The HUB Student Ministry today. I want the Lord to use me in the same way.”

ALLEN O’NEAL

## WHAT ABOUT YOU?

“I’m thankful for \_\_\_\_\_. That’s why I \_\_\_\_\_.”

Share your story on social media with the hashtag [#ThankfulMotivation](#) or tell us at [HoustonsFirst.org](#) or on the Houston’s First Baptist Church app.



## A NIGHT OF MISSIONS, WORSHIP & PRAYER

**Thu, Nov 9 @ 7-9p – The Loop Campus (Chapel)**

Living in the most diverse city in the nation, members of Houston's First can reach the world with the Gospel and never leave town. But, with a heart for missions, our church family does both – sharing Jesus here at home and around the nation and world. Our mission trip destinations for 2018 will be revealed at A Night of Missions, Worship & Prayer and made available that night on [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) and the official Houston's First Baptist Church app. We'll also hear from missionary David Weston (Germany) and be led in worship by Nikko Ochieng and the Nairobi Chapel Worship Band from Kenya.

## IN 2018, HOUSTON'S FIRST IS SENDING OUT

**23** mission teams to **15** countries on **5** continents.

## WHERE WILL YOU GO?

## THE ART OF NEIGHBORING

**Not all mission trips require crossing the globe. Some only require us to cross the street. Minister of Mobilization Jerrell Altic shares this about reaching our neighbors.**

There is one thing that we all have in common in the world – neighbors. Regardless if you live in the heart of the urban center or off the gravel road in the country, you have a neighbor. Granted, they could be three feet away or three miles away, but someone carries the definition “my neighbor.” One of the great blessings in life is when your neighbor is no longer defined by the distance away from you but by the opportunity for them to be near you. This change of proximity is truly a heart issue. Jesus explained this well in Luke 10:29 when asked by an attorney, “Who is my neighbor?”

*The Art of Neighboring* is a simple, quick read that will engage each member of Houston's First to start the process of moving towards their neighbor. This process was fast-forwarded for us all through Hurricane Harvey. Let's have the same urgency for loving our neighbor just like the many rescues made during the storm. It is time to re-engage about the deeper meaning of life that supersedes sheetrock and memorabilia. Pick up *The Art of Neighboring* and be led by the Lord to reach your neighbor with the undying love of Jesus.

Jerrell Altic  
Minister of Mobilization



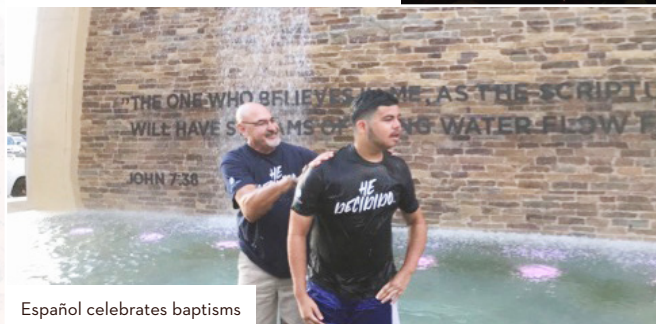
Available from  
CornerBooks



## OCTOBER MOMENTS



Choir & Orchestra from The Loop visit Cypress



Español celebrates baptisms



Downtown women at a prayer and worship night



Young singles from The Loop celebrate a flag football victory



Cypress adopts Bridgeland High School and Wells Elementary



Sienna students lead worship



# what's happening at HOUSTON'S FIRST?



*make it your*  
**church**  
ORIENTATION

**DISCOVER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER OF  
HOUSTON'S FIRST AT THIS FREE SESSION  
OVER LUNCH OR DINNER AT YOUR CAMPUS.**

**THE LOOP** — SUN, NOV 5 @ 12:30P • **CYPRESS** — COMING EARLY 2018  
**DOWNTOWN** — SUN, NOV 12 @ 12:30P • **ESPAÑOL** — SUN, NOV 5 @ 6:30P  
**SIENNA** - SUN, FEB 11 @ 12:30P

RSVP AT [HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG](http://HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG)



**THE GIFT  
OF  
CHRISTMAS**  
A WOMEN'S GATHERING

**Thu, Nov 30 @ 6:30p — The Loop Campus (Worship Center)**  
Guest speakers Melanie Shankle (Big Mama) and Sophie Hudson (Boo Mama)  
Worship led by Lisa Pierre

Details and \$5 tickets at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org)

## ALL CAMPUSES

### FIRST H.O.P.E. JOB MINISTRY

**Sat, Nov 11 @ 9a-12p — The Loop Campus (Rm 257/258)**

Are you a job seeker wanting to build your professional network? Join First H.O.P.E. Job Ministry guest speaker Doug Thorpe as he trains job seekers on the networking site LinkedIn. The session is free and registration is at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org). Please bring a laptop if you have one.

CONTACT: [Bob.Stroud@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Bob.Stroud@HoustonsFirst.org)

### "UNDER THE TEXAS SKY" HOEDOWN

**Sat, Nov 11 @ 6-10p — George Ranch Historical Park**

Our Summit Young Singles' 20th annual Hoedown will be a boot stompin' good time with Texas-style dining, dancing, and all-around fun! The night also includes a BBQ dinner, baking contest, games, the Texas A&M football game projected on a screen, and more. Tickets are \$39 in advance at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) or \$49 at the door.

CONTACT: [Joshua.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Joshua.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org)

### IMPACT BARN DANCE

**Sat, Nov 18 @ 6-10p — Clay's (17717 Clay Road)**

Saddle up, put on your boots, and mosey on over! Impact Singles (late 30s, 40s, 50s) are rounding up for their 1st Annual Barn Dance with live music by the Band Peterbilt. Dance lessons and games begin at 6p, dinner is from 6:30-8:30p, and the dance starts at 7p. Tickets at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) are \$25 until Sun, Nov 12, \$35 after Sun, Nov 12, and \$45 at the door.

CONTACT: [Chris.Heitman@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Chris.Heitman@HoustonsFirst.org)

## THE LOOP

### THE HUB TURKEY BOWL

**Sun, Nov 19 @ 12:30p — Warrior Field**

Middle school and high school families — enjoy a tailgate of the Texans game with The HUB along with food, flag football, games, and eating competitions! Every HUB Student that comes gets a Turkey Bowl T-shirt, and they can register for Rushmore 2018 and pre-register for Lift Tour (Feb) and Rush Week 2018 (July)! Turkey Bowl is FREE, but find details about what to bring at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org). CONTACT: [Tony.Bianco@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Tony.Bianco@HoustonsFirst.org)

### THE CHRISTMAS STORE COLLECTION DAY

**Sun, Dec 3**

Bring new, unwrapped gifts to stock The Christmas Store later in December! Families from mission churches we support and other organizations are invited to come and "shop" for gifts for their family members — and we provide all of the gifts. Find gift ideas at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) or ask your Life Bible Study leaders what your class is asked to donate.

CONTACT: [Claudia.Reyes@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Claudia.Reyes@HoustonsFirst.org)

### CHRISTMASPALOOZA

**Sun, Dec 3 @ 12:30-6p — Hunt Retreat**

Hey 6th-12th graders — make Christmaspalooza your first Christmas Party of 2017! Join The HUB Student Ministry for an amazing afternoon of fun, food,

and funtivities. We'll meet at The Loop then head to Hunt Retreat. Who could you invite to come with you? Register for all the fun at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

The \$25 charge includes the famous HUB "Ugly Christmas Sweater" T-shirt!  
CONTACT: [Tony.Bianco@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Tony.Bianco@HoustonsFirst.org)

## CYPRESS

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS: SWEET ESCAPE

**Tue, Nov 28 @ 9:30-11:30a — Cypress Campus**

This holiday season, take a break and enjoy a Sweet Escape! Laugh while Pastor Jason and Paige Swiggart reflect on holidays past when things didn't go quite as planned, and enjoy fellowship while Bethany Bechtold walks us through decorating homemade gingerbread houses. Registration at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) is required to reserve materials, and childcare is available, too. CONTACT: [Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org)

### PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAR-TAY!

**Fri, Dec 1 @ 6-9p — Cypress Campus**

Kids ages birth-5th grade will enjoy an evening of wacky Christmas fun, games, prizes, treats and more! The attire is Crazy Christmas, so be creative! Please bring a donation of at least one small stocking stuffer to benefit Small Steps Nurturing Center, a children's center in 5th Ward. Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org). CONTACT: [Cindy.Wineman@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Cindy.Wineman@HoustonsFirst.org)

## DOWNTOWN

### BE ALL-IN AT DOWNTOWN!

Ever wanted to be on the ground floor of something new — helping build it then seeing it through to fruition and beyond? The Downtown Campus has been at 1730 Jefferson for months, but we are just starting our chapter here. Renovations are underway and our NextGen, College, and Adult ministries are thriving. Anyone and everyone can make a difference here, so come be all-in for what God is doing Downtown! CONTACT: [Lee.Hsia@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Lee.Hsia@HoustonsFirst.org)

## ESPAÑOL

### THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

**SUN, Nov 19 @ 6:30p — The Loop Campus (Oasis Rm)**

At this campus family celebration, we will have a time of giving thanks to God for everything He has done in our lives and in our homes this year! The church will provide the turkey and ham, and we are asking each family attending to bring a side or a dessert.

CONTACT: [Karina.Bazaldua@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Karina.Bazaldua@HoustonsFirst.org)

### THE CHRISTMAS STORE

**Wed, Dec 13 @ 6:30-8:30p — The Loop Campus (Chapel & Reception Rm)**

Come serve at this special community outreach event as people come to "shop" for Christmas gifts. It will be a night full of hospitality welcoming people to our Español Campus family for the first time. Be sure to bring a new, unwrapped gift on Collection Day (Sun, Dec 3) and be a blessing to a family this Christmas! CONTACT: [Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonsFirst.org)

## SIENNA

### THANKSGIVING FEAST — UNMASKED

**Sun, Nov 19 @ 4-7p — Baines Middle School**

Join us as we UNMASK the Volunteer Superheroes of the Sienna Campus of Houston's First! The church will provide the turkey and gravy, and our Life Bible Studies will provide side dishes. No registration required.

CONTACT: [Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org)

### 3-DAY MARRIAGE CLINIC

**Dec 1-3 — Sienna Campus**

This unique clinic provides the equivalent of 18 weeks of counseling in just three days — Fri @ 1-7p, Sat @ 8:30a-2:30p, and Sun @ 1-7p. Though couples experience different symptoms, the root problem is usually the same: violating one or more of 25 Essential Marriage Skills found in the Bible. Skills are taught in a group environment, but projects are done alone with your partner. Register for \$75 per couple at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Greg.Curnutte@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Greg.Curnutte@HoustonsFirst.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

### CHRISTMAS EVE

**Sun, Dec 24**

Gather with the Houston's First family at your campus at these candlelight services on Christmas Eve. Our regular Sunday worship services and Life Bible Studies will not take place that day.

The Loop @ 2p • 4p • 6p  
Cypress @ 4p • 6p  
Downtown @ 4p • 6p  
Español @ 2p  
Sienna @ 2p • 4p • 6p

### THE TABLE: A WORSHIP GATHERING FOR WOMEN

**Tuesdays, Jan 23-Feb 27 @ 6:30-8p — The Loop (Chapel)**

Citywide gathering for women with speakers Kay Altic, Star Smith, and Shannon Owen with worship led by Dora Bolin

### MIDNIGHT MADNESS

**Fri, Jan 26 — The Loop Campus**

Training for current and prospective Life Bible Study leaders from every age group and every campus of Houston's First



Download the  
Houston's First Baptist Church app!

GET IT ON  
Google Play

Download on the  
App Store

Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) or the Houston's First Baptist Church app for details about these and other upcoming opportunities!





# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

WITH NATALIE GRANT AND DANNY GOKEY

SAT, DEC 9 @ 3p & 7:30p — THE LOOP CAMPUS

Reserved seats \$10 • \$12 • \$15

Tickets available at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org)

## OUR CAMPUSES

### The Loop

7401 Katy Freeway  
Houston, TX 77024

### Cypress

11011 Mason Road  
Cypress, TX 77433  
(Next to Bridgeland High School)

### Downtown

1730 Jefferson  
Houston, TX 77003

### Español

7401 Katy Freeway  
Houston, TX 77024

### Sienna

4309 Sienna Parkway  
Missouri City, TX 77459

Gregg Matte, Pastor

 GreggMatte


 @GreggMatte

 @PastorGregg

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

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 @HoustonsFirst

## OUR SIGNATURE STATEMENT

Houston's First Baptist Church is a relevant biblical community where people gather their hearts, grow their souls and give their lives as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20).

### Relevant

Having the passion, desire and ability to build necessary bridges to move people from culture to Christ.

### Biblical

Fully embracing the beliefs and values revealed in the Bible as true, eternal and life-changing.

### Community

Providing a place to be authentic, involved, impacted and impactful.

## JOINING HOUSTON'S FIRST

Membership at Houston's First is open to anyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins and has been baptized by immersion at our church or by a body of believers of like faith and practice. If you have not already done so, we can assist you with these decisions. At the end of the worship service, come forward to speak with a minister or volunteer, or make your way to the Connection Center at your campus. They will walk you through the process of making Houston's First your church!

## LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Life Bible Studies are the primary method for connecting with others in smaller settings and growing together at Houston's First. Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) to explore the many options, or ask a Guest Experience Team member at your campus for assistance in finding one that's right for you.