

welcome.

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

feb 2018

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follower



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

“follow me as I follow Christ.” — 1 corinthians 11:1

What does it mean to follow Jesus? A lifetime could be spent seeking an answer to that question. Each new challenge or opportunity we face deepens our understanding of Him and how we are to live out our faith.

In the “Follower” message series, we’re looking at moments from Jesus’ ministry on earth and finding answers to that question — “What does it mean to follow Jesus?” — played out in the lives of those who literally walked with Him. In January, we looked at fasting and praying, trusting instead of worrying, and having courage in the storms of life. We’ll continue this journey through Easter as we follow Him to the cross and on to the empty tomb.

Look again at that verse above from 1 Corinthians. Let’s remember that as we follow Jesus, others are following us, as well. We can lead people to Him — and what better honor could there be than to introduce someone to Jesus?

In Him,

Pastor Arnes



follow the “follower” series with on-demand messages

- HoustonFirst.org
- Houston’s First Baptist Church app
- iTunes

- » PART 1 — “How to Fast and Pray”
- » PART 2 — “How to Trust Instead of Worry”
- » PART 3 — “Courage in the Storm”



coming soon in the “follower” series

- » “Jesus & Key Relationships”
- » “Jesus Walks the Road to the Cross”
- » “Jesus as Perfect Substitute”
- » “Jesus Gives Us Our Mission”

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).

FEB 25, 2018 WORLD MISSION OFFERING



SUPPORTING THOSE WHO ARE CALLED TO GO!

Missionaries from the United States of America headed west in the mid-19th century to the sovereign Republic of Texas. In 1841, these foreign representatives of the Gospel founded our church — the first Baptist church in Houston. For generations since, Houston's First has been sending and supporting missionaries like those who got us started — men and women who responded to God's call by saying, "Here I am. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8). Right now, just with the International Mission Board (IMB), Houston's First has 20 missionaries on the field around the globe.

In recent years, thanks to the generosity of the Houston's First family, our church has been the number one-ranked church in the United States in terms of giving to the IMB. Out of more than 47,000 Southern Baptist Churches, Houston's First gave more than any of them in 2015 and 2016. And, last year, we ranked among the top five givers to the North American Mission Board (4th) and to Southern Baptists of Texas Convention missions (3rd).

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO SUPPORT A MISSIONARY?

Global averages for the 3,506 IMB missionaries:

- \$59,500 a year
- \$1,144 a week
- \$4,958 a month
- \$163 a day

LET'S CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2018!

Our mission goal for this year's World Mission Offering is \$1,150,000, to be distributed as follows:

- International Mission Board — \$1,000,000
- North American Mission Board — \$100,000
- Southern Baptists of Texas Convention — \$50,000

WHEN IS THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING?

In every worship service at every campus on Sun, Feb 25, the Houston's First family will submit their contributions to the World Mission Offering. Until then, pray about what God would have you give to support missionaries and the furthering of the Gospel—and what He might have you sacrifice to make that possible.

HOW CAN I GIVE?

On Sun, Feb 25, we'll bring our contributions forward in each worship service. If you're unable to be at church that day, you can give online at HoustonsFirst.org or via the official Houston's First Baptist Church app.

WHAT IF WE RAISE MORE THAN OUR GOAL?

Every dollar given in the World Missions Offering will go directly to missions in our state, nation and world—including some of IMB's special projects like:

- Caring for Children Living in a Women's Prison (Central Asia)
- Shelter for Beggar Girls (Bangladesh)
- Syrian Refugee Support (Eurasia)

MEET MISSIONARIES FROM HOUSTON'S FIRST



ROBERT & DIANA CLARK

Robert and Diana Clark served as missionaries in the Philippines and Southeast Asia for 30 years with the International Mission Board. Working closely with nationals, they shared the Gospel, discipled people, planted churches, and developed leaders. They also served with relief and recovery efforts, combined with church planting, after flooding, typhoons, and volcanoes. For the last 15 years, they worked with churches and organizations to help them prepare their own cross-cultural missionaries who are going out around the world.

"With the support of churches like Houston's First, the IMB provided us with preparation for cross-cultural living and accountability for effective ministry. They provided the opportunity and expectation for us to learn the Tagalog language and a good living environment and schooling for our three children as they grew up abroad. Giving to the IMB is a great way to invest in four thousand-plus missionaries extending the Kingdom of God around the world."



SHANE & LINDSAY MIKESKA

Shane and Lindsay Mikeska have served with the IMB for the past 10 years. For two and a half years, they directed a farm and training center in Indonesia while making disciples and planting churches. From there, they moved to Manchester, England, where they focused on disciple-making with university students, community engagement, and working with national churches. For the past year and a half, the Mikeskas and their four boys have been in London engaging universities and millennials with the Gospel. In addition to

planting a church, they sponsor an international society where they meet people from all over the world and share their faith.

"By supporting and giving to the IMB, you are supporting us as missionaries so that we can proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, and see churches planted. Through London, we are able to engage all nations with the Gospel which impacts not only London but the world."

WHERE WILL YOU GO?

Each year, Houston's First members go on short-term mission trips to locations around the globe. In 2018, we're sharing the Gospel on more than 20 trips to locations on five continents. Visit HoustonsFirst.org to learn about the following then complete an Interest Form to start the process of joining a Houston's First mission team!

Brazil • Budapest • Cambodia • Costa Rica • Dominican Republic • East Asia • Germany • Guatemala • Kenya • Mexico • Middle East
Montana • New York City • Norway • Oakland, CA • Houston, TX • Switzerland • Xàtiva, Spain

EASTER WEEKEND

Who will you invite to celebrate Jesus' resurrection—and maybe hear the Good News for the very first time?

THE LOOP CAMPUS

Sat, Mar 31 @ 5p
Sun, Apr 1 @ 8a, 9:30a, 11a & 5p

CYPRESS CAMPUS

Sun, Apr 1 @ 9:30a & 11a

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Sun, Apr 1 @ 9:30a & 11a

ESPAÑOL CAMPUS

Sun, Apr 1 @ 9:30a

SIENNA CAMPUS

Sun, Apr 1 @ 8a, 9:30a & 11a

summer save the date. 2018

Daycation (day camp)

May 29–Aug 10 — The Loop Campus
Kids entering 1st–5th grades
Registration opens Mon, Mar 19

Dunamai (day camp)

May 29–Aug 10 — The Loop Campus
Kids entering 6th–9th grades
Registration opens Mon, Mar 19

Family Night at Typhoon Texas

Fri, June 1 — Typhoon Texas (Katy)
Families with kids (birth–12th grade)
Tickets on sale Sun, Apr 1

Camp Intersect

June 10–13 — Carolina Creek Christian Camp
Kids entering 4th–7th grades
Registration opens Fri, Feb 9

Vacation Bible School

June 2–28 — The Loop Campus
Kids entering K–6th grade
(plus other kids born by Dec 31, 2013)
Registration opens Sun, Apr 8

Houston 1:8

July 9–12 — various locations
All ages
Registration opens in May

Rush Week

July 20–26 — Panama City Beach, FL
Kids entering 7th–Recent Grads
Registration opens Fri, Feb 9

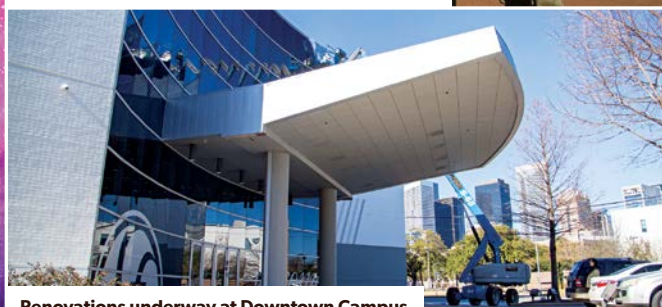
Discover252 (T-Bar-M Day Camp)

Aug 6–10 — Cypress Campus
Kids entering 1st–4th grades
Registration opens Thu, Mar 1

dec & jan snapshots



Leadership Team with Astros President Reid Ryan



Renovations underway at Downtown Campus



Español Campus volunteer training



Christmas pageant at Sienna Campus



First Christmas Eve at new Cypress Campus



Married Young Adult ministry at Bridal Extravaganza

what's happening at houston's first?

The Table
A CITYWIDE WORSHIP
GATHERING FOR WOMEN



LAURA SEIFERT



DORA BOLIN



SHANNON OWEN



STAR SMITH

Tuesdays through Feb 27
@ 6:30-8p — The Loop Campus

make it your
church
ORIENTATION

DISCOVER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE
A MEMBER OF HOUSTON'S FIRST

RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org for the
next session at your campus:

The Loop (Sun, Feb 11) • Cypress (Sun, Apr 8)
Downtown (Sun, Feb 18) • Español (Sun, Feb 18)
Sienna (Sun, Feb 11)



PASSION
/ WORSHIP NIGHTS

JOIN US!
FRI, APR 20 @ 7P
THE LOOP CAMPUS



HOSTED BY **PASSION • LOUIE GIGLIO**
WITH **LEVI LUSKO**

TICKETS AT TICKETSERVANT.COM

all campuses

THE PORCH HOUSTON

Tuesdays @ 7:30-9p — The Loop Campus

The Porch Houston is a weekly gathering seeking to help young adults encounter, experience, and express the compelling love of Jesus Christ. People in their 20s and 30s from throughout the city gather for live worship, great teaching, and fellowship. Come and see what The Porch Houston is all about—and invite your friends, too!

CONTACT: Joshua.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays @ 11:30a-12:40p — 1010 Lamar (Suite 1250)

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone! Speakers in February include Gabriel Ianculovici (Feb 7), Dr. David Self (Feb 14 & 28), and Derek Nease (Feb 21). Feel free to bring your lunch, too! Visit HoustonsFirst.org to learn more.

CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

IF: GATHERING

Fri, Feb 9 & Sat, Feb 10 — The Loop Campus

Women — what IF we followed God with perseverance instead of insecurity? We want to give God away in the very places He's put us, and the Houston's First IF: Local gathering will be a time of teaching, worship, and fellowship as we explore why following God and making disciples matters. We'll come together Fri @ 7-9:30p and Sat @ 9a-5p. RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org, and bring \$5 to pay at the door.

CONTACT: Heather.Connolly@HoustonsFirst.org

FIRST H.O.P.E. JOB MINISTRY

First H.O.P.E. invites job seekers and those wishing to improve their employment to the following free events. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Bob.Stroud@HoustonsFirst.org

- Training — Sat, Feb 10 @ 9a-Noon — The Loop Campus (Rm 249)
Career development training features guest speaker Fred Lowe as he discusses "attitude."
- Career Search Seminar — Sat, Feb 24 @ 9a-4p — The Loop Campus (Rm 253)
Guest speaker John Yambao discusses fundamentals of the career search process.

MULTISITE NIGHT OUT

Fri, Feb 23 @ 5:30-10p — Toyota Center

Attend the Cypress, Downtown, Español, or Sienna Campus? Come to Multisite Night Out with other Houston's First family members as the Houston Rockets take on the Minnesota Timberwolves! We'll be there for the pre-game shootaround at 5:30p before the game starts at 7p. Get your tickets before Sun, Feb 11, at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org

INTERSECTIONS

Sat, Mar 3 @ 8:30a-2p — The Loop Campus

Hosted by Houston's First, this citywide conference seeks to inspire and equip people from every stage of life with a compelling vision and strategy for mentoring and discipling others—for courageously stepping into the life of another. The day includes keynote presentations, TED-style talks, and content designed to teach, motivate, and train potential mentors. Register for \$10 at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Heather.Kuehler@HoustonsFirst.org

the loop

MARRIAGE MATTERS

Fri, Feb 16 @ 6:30-8:30p

The Loop Campus (Fellowship Ctr)

The Married Young Adults Ministry invites you to enjoy dinner and an evening of marriage encouragement from guest speakers Ron & Rosemary P'Pool. The cost is \$25 per couple, with childcare included. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Kristin.Hawkinson@HoustonsFirst.org

MEN: SERVE

Sat, Feb 24 @ 8a-1p — The Loop Campus

Men will go out in teams across Houston to serve the widows of our church family through yard work, home repairs, car maintenance, and other tasks. Spend a few hours of your Saturday blessing these women with your time and attention! Register at HoustonsFirst.org by Fri, Feb 16.

CONTACT: Suzan.Mayoli@HoustonsFirst.org

cypress

GRIEF SHARE

Wednesdays @ 6-8p — Cypress Campus

Grief Share is a grief recovery support group designed to help people as they grieve the death of a loved one. This weekly group provides a place where healing can occur and grieving individuals will find others who understand the struggles they face. Facilitated by Emil Haddad, the group follows a 13-week repeating workbook and video series to help members move from mourning to joy!

CONTACT: Susan.Newman@HoustonsFirst.org

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Fri, Feb 9 @ 6-10p — Cypress Campus

Parents can enjoy a night out on the town while kiddos ages birth-5th grade have good old-fashioned drive-in movie fun with friends! Registration at \$5 per child (dinner provided) is required at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Cindy.Wineman@HoustonsFirst.org

downtown

THE STORY OF GOD THROUGH CHINESE WRITING

Wed, Feb 7 @ 6-8p — Downtown Campus (Rm 217)

Take a journey through the first several chapters of Genesis as well as the development of the Chinese written script. In this class taught by Lee Hsia, you will discover the amazing biblical origins of the Chinese language and be given a lens to see the story of God within. RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Lee.Hsia@HoustonsFirst.org

español

THE HEART'S TRUTH

Sat, Feb 10 @ 6p — Sheraton Houston Brookhollow Hotel

Save the date for this special event for couples! Enjoy a nice dinner with your loved one and a word of encouragement to grow in your marriage or relationship. The cost is \$60 per couple, and you can register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Karina.Bazaldua@HoustonsFirst.org

sienna

ENTRUSTED BY BETH MOORE

A STUDY OF 2 TIMOTHY

Tuesdays, Feb 13-Apr 10 @ 10a-Noon

Sienna Campus (Worship Center)

In this six-session Bible study for women, be encouraged to guard what God has entrusted to you, further His kingdom by sharing Christ with others, and pour into future generations just as Paul once mentored Timothy. Because, in this journey of joy and hardship, we need each other to stay the course and live lives of faithfulness. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Dana.McCarrel@earthlink.net

find more about these and
other opportunities online
or on our app.



HoustonsFirst.org

Download the
Houston's First Baptist Church app!

GET IT ON
Google Play

Download on the
App Store

where you'll find us

Houston's First Baptist Church has numerous locations around town. But with members from all across the greater Houston area living out their faith and making a difference in their homes, schools and offices, the church's ministry extends far beyond the addresses listed below!



Downtown Campus



Faith Center-Harwin



Cypress Campus



Faith Center-Timbergrove-Heights



Sienna Campus



Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church



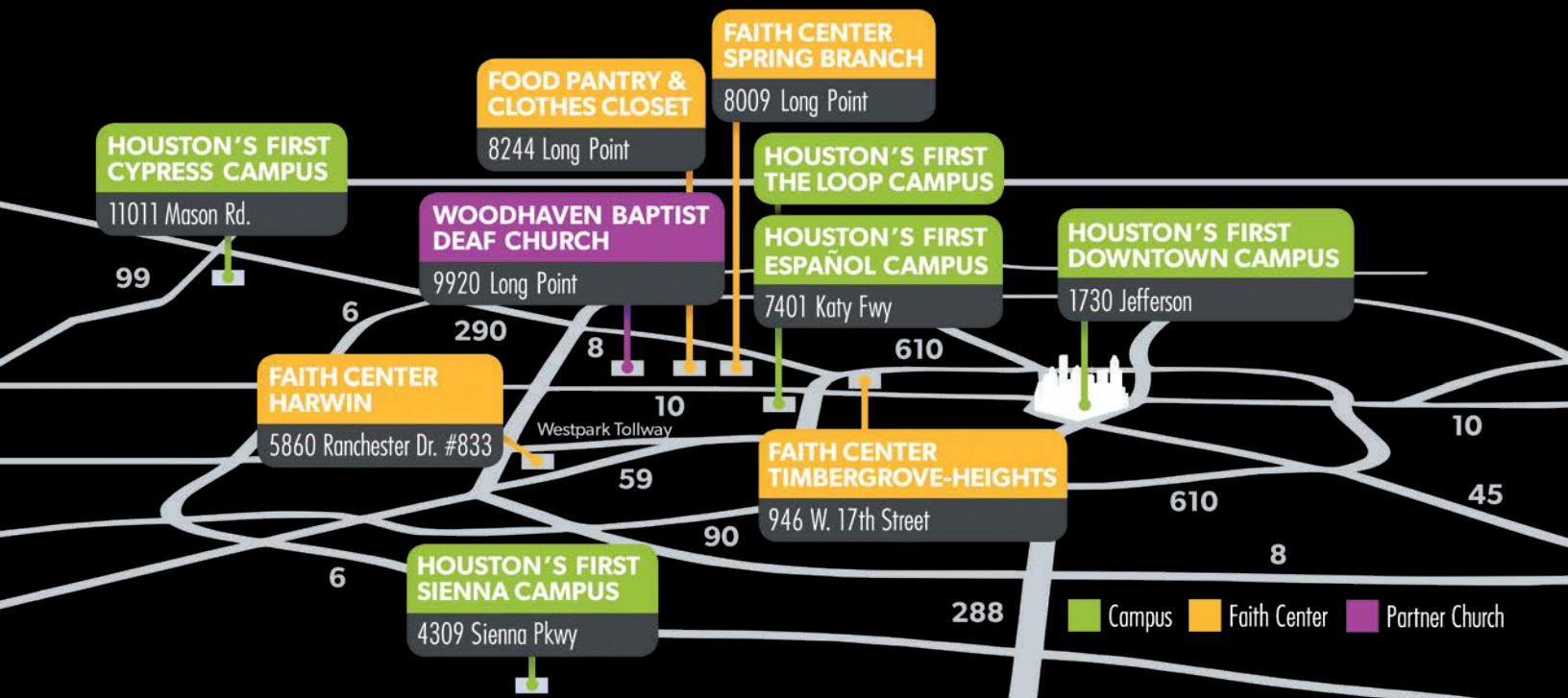
Faith Center-Spring Branch



The Loop & Español Campuses



Food Pantry & Clothes Closet



For more information about Houston's First, call 713.681.8000 or visit HoustonFirst.org.



our campuses

The Loop Campus
7401 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77024

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

Downtown Campus
1730 Jefferson
Houston, TX 77003

Español Campus
7401 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77024

Sienna Campus
4309 Sienna Parkway
Missouri City, TX 77459

Gregg Matte, Pastor
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