

JUNE
2018

welcome.

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

2 Welcome to Houston's First! | Summer Speakers 3 A New Start Downtown 4 Ministry Impact
5 What's Happening? 6 Where You'll Find Us



HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG

WELCOME!

June is a time of transitions and new beginnings. Families adjust to summer routines. Graduates prepare for what's ahead. Single adults become husband and wife as wedding bells ring across the city. Gulf Coast residents pay increased attention to weather forecasts as hurricane season gets underway.

At Houston's First, June means kids in our NextGen Ministries move up to their new Life Bible Studies for the coming school year. Special summer programming gets underway—camps, Bible studies, mission trips and more. On May 20, our Downtown Campus got a head start on this season of change with the unveiling of their renovated facility.

June is also a time of renewal for me. Our church family graciously allows me to take an annual sabbatical—a time to rest and have fun with Kelly and our two kids, study and pray for the year ahead. My sabbatical begins on June 4 and I'll return on July 8. I am thankful for the campus pastors, staff members and guest speakers who will deliver the message at each of our campuses while I am away.

So, what change or renewal are you looking for this June? Whatever it is, Houston's First is a great place to get started. Connect with a Life Bible Study, get to know people, share your story. Let the Houston's First family support and encourage you as you do the same for others. That's what being a relevant biblical community is all about.

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

Pastor Gregg Matte

Kelly & Pastor Gregg Matte



SUMMER SPEAKERS

Houston's First will hear from a variety of speakers on Sundays while Pastor Gregg is on his sabbatical until Sun, July 8. Consider visiting another campus one week to experience Houston's First in a different setting—and to meet more members of our church family! Visit HoustonsFirst.org for a full schedule of speakers and worship service times at each of our campuses.

Jason Swiggart • Lee Hsia • Malcolm Marshall • Juan Alaniz • David Self • Doug Bischoff
Derek Nease • Timothy Ateek • Jeremiah Johnston • Stephen Mackey • Warren Samuels



STAY CONNECTED



Heading out of town this summer? Stay connected with Houston's First through our official app! You'll find messages, news, events and the ability to give to the church, too. To download the app to your mobile device, text **HFBCAPP** to **41411** for convenient links to the App Store and Google Play.



Cross coming July 2018



We launched our Downtown Campus in October 2011, and now — over six years later — we're experiencing a new start in the heart of our city! On May 20, we hosted an unveiling of our renovated home at 1730 Jefferson four blocks from the Toyota Center. The building was purchased in March 2017, first services were held there the next month and renovations began later that year — all thanks to the generosity of over 2,770 donors from the Houston's First family.

At the May 20 celebration, special guests included City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Bob Eury, executive director of the Houston Downtown Management District. Mayor Turner brought a proclamation declaring that Sunday “Houston’s First Baptist Church — Downtown Campus Day” in Houston. “At City Hall, we can pass ordinances every single day, but that will not make our city better,” the mayor said. “The very fact that this church is downtown will serve to undergird us and give us what we need to build and transform our city.”

Downtown Campus Pastor Lee Hsia looks forward to how God will use the renovated facility to impact Houston for His kingdom. “At our Downtown Campus, we look for intersections in our lives—moments when our paths cross the paths of others,” he said. “The intersecting lines in the new design of our facility remind us of how interconnected we are as a community of believers—and how God brings people into our lives so we can demonstrate His love and share the Gospel with them. It’s in those moments when people often find a new start.”



Bob Eury, Pastor Gregg Matte, Campus Pastor Lee Hsia, Mayor Sylvester Turner



God was prompting Donn Kizzee to go back to church when he discovered Houston's First while walking Downtown one Sunday morning. Homeless for 10 years at that point, he decided to check us out — and he's been attending the Downtown Campus ever since.

Donn found a supportive community in the Day By Day Life Bible Study, and says teacher Ross Stephenson “talked me off the ledge more than once.” Now, as the Downtown Campus is undergoing a new start, so is Donn. He recently moved into an apartment and was asked to serve on the Board of Directors on Harris Health’s Homeless Outreach Efforts.

God has also restored Donn's hunger to learn. "You can go to any street corner or shelter and find somebody who can quote scripture — but they often misrepresent it," Donn said. "There's a teaching component at Houston's First that I really enjoy. Coming out of school, I never wanted to take another note as long as I lived. But now, I look forward to it!"



Noah Kang grew up in South Korea, New Jersey and Vietnam until he came to Texas for college in 2009. He accepted Christ as a young child, but despite having a diverse cultural background, he was raised only in Korean churches. Noah decided to come to Houston's First in 2017 when God gave him a desire to reach out to the Houston community and become more comfortable in sharing the Gospel beyond the boundary of Korean culture.

"The more time I spent with Houston's First," Noah said, "I realized how much God had blessed me with the community and spiritual leadership I found here." At the Downtown Campus, he was immediately connected with Cody Nicholson, a second-year student in the Rice MBA program where Noah was also enrolled. Cody became his mentor, and Downtown Campus staff member George Tagli introduced Noah to a Life Bible Study and the significance of baptism by immersion.

"I went through 'confirmation' in 2007, but in a message video that George shared with me," Noah recalls, "Pastor Gregg taught that baptism by immersion is what was used in the Bible, and I wanted to go by the Word."

Among the Downtown Campus family:

- 31 nations are represented
- 80% are not from Houston
- 25% are immigrants or visiting students

The Downtown Campus actively partners with:

- A 2nd Cup (a2ndcup.com)
- Open Door Mission (opendoorhouston.org)
- Apartment Life (apartmentlife.org)

In the last two years at the Downtown Campus:

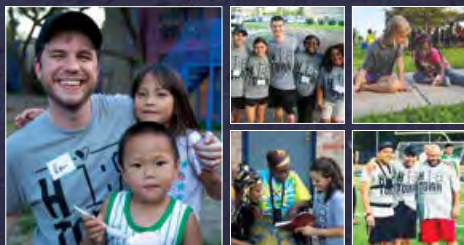
- First Friends (Preschool) grew 486% — from 7 to 41 kids
- First Kids (Children) grew 1,100% — from 4 to 48 kids



HOUSTON 1:8

One Church. Multiple Campuses. Many Ways To Reach Our City.

The Houston's First family has a big heart for sharing the Gospel and going on mission trips. But instead of hopping on a plane to a distant land, missionaries from our church simply hop in their cars and go across town (or across their street) to share the love and truth of Jesus during Houston 1:8 — our mission trip to our city.



"Houston 1:8 is a really good picture of what it looks like when the whole church comes around one thing," says Skyler Womack, Missions Associate and Houston 1:8 Coordinator. "Last fall, our LOVEFIRST Hurricane Harvey relief efforts were so powerful for the Houston's First family. Everyone was on one common mission to love our city. That's what Houston 1:8 aims to do on an annual basis."

So, let's rally as a church family to love our city during Houston 1:8!

ABOUT HOUSTON 1:8

- Evenings of July 9-12
- Activities vary by campus
- All ages can serve
- Training is provided

JOIN THE TEAM!

Three ways to become a Houston 1:8 missionary:

- 1 Visit HoustonsFirst.org
- 2 Visit the Houston's First app
- 3 Text **HOUSTON18** to **41411**

Mon, June 25 is the absolute last day to join!

MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2017–MAY 20, 2018

DECISIONS

649 New Church Members

127 Joined by Baptism



**of New Members
were Baptized**

ATTENDANCE

220,500 in Life Bible Studies

(**5,011** weekly average)

253,609 in Worship Services

(**5,513** weekly average)

48,094 on Webcast

(**1,046** weekly average)

MISSIONS

24 Mission Trips with

1,653 Team Members



GENEROSITY

7,240 Givers to

Great Commission Fund

1,653 First-Time Givers



**of Givers gave
for the first time**

MAY MOMENTS



Single Parent Family Mother's Day Lunch at The Loop Campus



Summit Young Singles enjoy their retreat



First Grade Bible presentation at The Loop Campus



The Loop, Cypress and Downtown members tour the Holy Land



Mother & Son Date Night at Sienna

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOUSTON'S FIRST?

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



GAME ON! GEARING UP FOR LIFE'S BIG GAME
JUNE 25-28 @ 9A-12:30P — THE LOOP CAMPUS
 Kids entering K-6th grades
 (plus other kids born by Dec 31, 2013)

REGISTER AT HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG



JULY 20-26
 Kids entering 7th grade-Recent Grads
 Register at HoustonFirst.org



(T Bar M Day Camp)
Aug 6-10 @ 8:30a-4:30p
Cypress Campus
 Kids entering 1st-5th grades
 Register at HoustonFirst.org



ReFuel
 PARENTING WITH PURPOSE

Presented by **axis**

SAT, AUG 25 @ 9A-NOON
THE LOOP CAMPUS
 For those who lead, influence and love
 kids high school and younger

REGISTER AT HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG

ALL CAMPUSES

HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

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

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone! This month, speakers are Sienna Campus Pastor Malcolm Marshall (June 6) and Executive Pastor David Self (June 13, 20, 27). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.
 CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonFirst.org

THE LIFE OF A SINGLE MOM CONFERENCE

June 8-9 — The Loop Campus

This national event takes place at The Loop this year, and all women are invited to attend—single moms and single mom supporters, too. You will gain insight on parenting, finances, growing in Christ, letting the past go and more. Find speakers, childcare info and registration at HoustonFirst.org.
 CONTACT: Holly.Crain@HoustonFirst.org

FIRST H.O.P.E. TRAINING

Sat, June 9 @ 9a-Noon — The Loop Campus (Rm 501)
 First H.O.P.E. helps people find jobs or improve their current employment. At this month's gathering, guest speaker Richard Prather with Workforce Solutions will talk about networking. The session is free and registration is at HoustonFirst.org. Please bring a laptop if you have one. Seating is limited so register early!
 CONTACT: Bob.Stroud@HoustonFirst.org

CANHOPE

Mon, June 11 @ 6-8p
The Loop Campus (Reception Rm)

CanHope ministers to people touched by cancer and those who love and care for them. Our guest speakers this month are Steve & Mary Klein. We share a meal together with the entrée provided, and attendees are asked to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert dish to feed about 6-8 people. RSVP to 713.957.6764.
 CONTACT: Sherry.Oradat@HoustonFirst.org

MEN: SERVE

Sat, June 23 @ 8a-1p
The Loop Campus and Cypress Campus

Men from The Loop and Cypress Campus will gather at their campuses then go out in teams throughout our city to serve the widows of our church. Whether it's yard work, home maintenance, car repairs—or simply having a conversation—there is a role for you to play! Register by Fri, June 15, at HoustonFirst.org.
 CONTACT: Heather.Kuehler@HoustonFirst.org (The Loop Campus),
Lyndle.Jackson@HoustonFirst.org (Cypress Campus)

THE LOOP CAMPUS

A HEART AFTER GOD

Thursdays, June 7-21 @ 10a-Noon
The Loop Campus (Fellowship Ctr)

What does it mean to be a woman after God's own heart? God is not looking for magnificent specimens of humanity, but deeply spiritual, genuinely humble, honest-to-the-core servants who have integrity. Marsha Taylor teaches this three-week class for women looking at what we can learn from the lives of Hannah, Ruth and Mary (Jesus' mother).
 CONTACT: Heather.Connolly@HoustonFirst.org

FATHER'S DAY LUNCH

Sun, June 17 @ 12:15-2p — Dave & Buster's

The Single Parent Family Ministry invites single dads (and their children) to celebrate Father's Day at Dave & Buster's at the Marq*E Entertainment Center across I-10 from The Loop Campus. Our private party includes lunch, a guest speaker, a gift from your children and so much more! The event is free, but be sure to register at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Holly.Crain@HoustonFirst.org

CYPRESS CAMPUS

RE - FRAMED WOMEN'S SUMMER SERIES

Tuesdays, June 5-19 @ 9:30-11:30a & 6:30-8:30p
Cypress Campus

Women are inundated by messages from the world. Come discover how to reframe what we see, hear and think in the manner that God intended. Hear from Stacey Marshall, Leigh Kohler and Elizabeth Elliott at either the morning or the evening session. Childcare is available with registration at HoustonFirst.org only during the morning sessions.

CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonFirst.org

SPORTS QUEST SUMMER SOCCER CAMP

June 18-22 @ 8:30-11:30a — Cypress Campus

The Cypress Campus is partnering with Sports Quest to offer boys and girls (5-12 years) a chance to learn soccer and have fun with friends! The camp is open to all kids regardless of previous playing experience and will be grouped according to age and ability. Kids will learn individual and group techniques and each day will include a devotional time. Register at SQSoccer.com for \$180 per child.
 CONTACT: Cindy.Wineman@HoustonFirst.org

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

WOMEN'S MINISTRY — LIVING FREE:

A STUDY OF ROMANS 6

Mondays, June 4-25 @ 7-8:30p
Downtown Campus (Rm 213)

In the world today, there are so many things we can cling to that put us in bondage and move our hearts further away from God and His love. In this four-week study, we will look at Romans 6 and discuss how, in Christ, we can truly live in freedom from the reign of sin and bondage in our lives.

CONTACT: Erin.Krafft@HoustonFirst.org

MAKE IT YOUR CHURCH ORIENTATION

Sun, June 24 @ 12:30p — Downtown Campus (Rm 213)

Discover what it means to be a member of Houston's First at the Downtown Campus! Visit with staff members and other new/prospective members over a free lunch. RSVP at HoustonFirst.org.
 CONTACT: Peter.Lee@HoustonFirst.org

ESPAÑOL CAMPUS

LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Sundays @ 10:45a

Life Bible Studies are where church members connect in smaller groups, build community and explore God's Word together. Choose from Dunamis (empty nesters, Rm 407), Esperanza Vida (singles 21+, Rm 403), or Transformando Me Vida (adults of all ages, Rm 408).

CONTACT: Karina.Bazaldua@HoustonFirst.org

SIENNA CAMPUS

SUMMER NIGHTS OF FAMILY WORSHIP

Wednesdays, June 20 & July 18 @ 6:30-8p
Sienna Campus (Worship Ctr)

The Sienna Campus family will gather on these two Wednesday evenings to worship together and hear a word from Campus Pastor Malcolm Marshall. Childcare is available for 3 years and under, and all other ages are welcome to attend the worship service!

CONTACT: Kelli.Boylan@HoustonFirst.org

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!

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](#) HFBCTDowntown [t](#) @HFBCTDowntown [i](#) @HFBCTDowntown

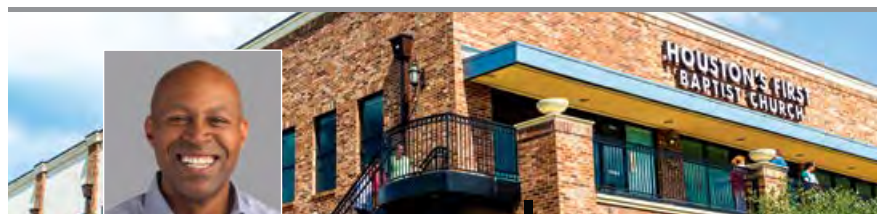
ESPAÑOL CAMPUS 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



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

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 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.

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

SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

The Loop Campus

Worship 9:15a • 11a • 5p
Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:15a • 10:45a • 6:30p

Cypress Campus

Worship 9:30a • 11a
Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:30a • 11a

Downtown Campus

Worship 11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a

Español Campus

Worship 9:15a
Life Bible Studies 10:45a

Sienna Campus

Worship 9:30a • 11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a • 11a

Gregg Matte, Pastor

[f](#) GreggMatte
[t](#) @GreggMatte
[i](#) @PastorGregg

HoustonsFirst.org

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