

JULY 2018

# welcome.

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

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# 10<sup>th</sup>

## ANNIVERSARY



HOUSTON'S FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH

HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG

# WELCOME

## GREETING FROM PASTOR GREGG

*"The LORD God is a sun and shield ..."*  
— Psalm 84:11

Houstonians are especially aware of the sun and its impacts on our everyday lives. During these summer months, we check the forecast to see if it's going to be hot or *ridiculously* hot. We might not adjust our plans or attire accordingly, but at least we'll be mentally prepared for what's going to hit us when we step outside!

Of course, the sun is more than just the source of our notorious temperatures. This nearest star helps us mark the passing of time and provides us with gorgeous sunrises and sunsets. Our solar system revolves around the sun and life on Earth would cease to exist without it.

The same sun that brightens our days today is the one found in metaphors, prophecies, and miraculous moments in the Bible. In "The Sun" message series through mid-August, we'll look at several of these references found

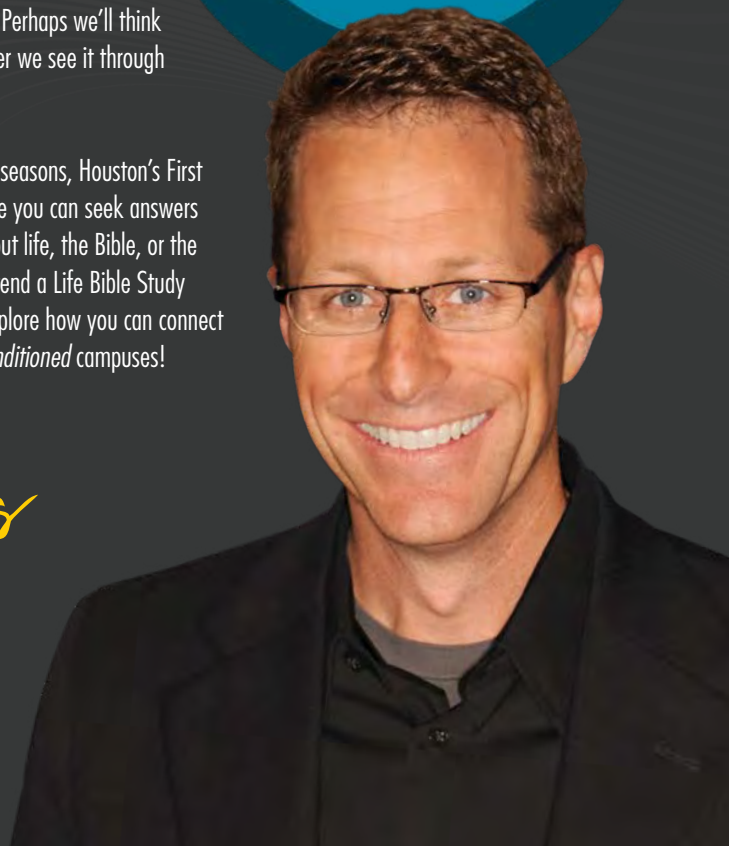
in the Old and New Testaments. Perhaps we'll think of the sun in a different way after we see it through God's Word.

In the hot summer and in cooler seasons, Houston's First is a welcoming community where you can seek answers to questions you might have about life, the Bible, or the Christian faith. I invite you to attend a Life Bible Study and a worship service, and to explore how you can connect with others at each of our *air-conditioned* campuses!

In Him,

*Pastor Gregg*

Pastor Gregg Matte



## 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.



## MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2017–JUNE 24, 2018

### DECISIONS

**740** New Church Members  
**143** Joined by Baptism

**19%** of New Members  
were Baptized

### ATTENDANCE

**244,400** in Life Bible Studies  
(**4,988** weekly average)  
**277,155** in Worship Services  
(**5,434** weekly average)  
**52,579** on Webcast  
(**1,031** weekly average)

### MISSIONS

**27** Mission Trips with  
**1,686** Team Members



### GENEROSITY

**7,380** Givers to  
Great Commission Fund  
**1,691** First-Time Givers

**23%** of Givers Gave  
for the First Time



# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF *Legacy*

“A FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS, A DEFENDER OF WIDOWS IS GOD IN HIS HOLY DWELLING. GOD SETS THE LONELY IN FAMILIES...”

**PSALM 68:5-6A**

Since 2008, Legacy 685, the adoption, foster, and orphan care ministry at Houston's First, has been connecting, equipping and sustaining families who are making the compassionate choice to adopt and foster children from Houston and around the world. Being led by committed volunteers, the ministry celebrates ten years in 2018 by expanding its presence into surrounding communities in two new ministry locations — our Cypress and Sienna Campuses.

“What began as a small, Sunday gathering and a desire to offset the financial cost of adoption has grown into a holistic ministry to adoptive and foster families across the globe, as well as to orphanages and children's homes,” said Toni Steere, Director of Legacy 685 at Houston's First. “Through our Adoption Assistance Fund, over 162 children from 19 different countries have come into forever families — many of those right here in our own community!”

The hope of seeing children emotionally restored and connected with families makes Legacy 685 a unique ministry, as resources flow beyond the walls of the church to provide counseling, mentoring and community for families. Toni and a dedicated team of volunteers have spent years walking with families, pre- and post-placement, providing connection, equipping and the sustaining tools needed to journey with children toward deep healing connections in the context of family.

One of Legacy 685's core values is capacity-building discipleship. As Legacy 685 comes to additional campuses, ministry staff will remain centrally-located at The Loop Campus while providing well-equipped, trauma-informed leaders — Colin and Katy Sproule and Tyler and Courtney Scott — to carry out all initiatives related to adoption, foster and orphan care at their respective campuses.

## KICK-OFF LUNCHEONS

RSVP at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) for the Kick-Off at your campus!

- Sun, Aug 19 — Sienna Campus
- Sun, Sep 9 — Cypress Campus

Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) and search “Legacy 685” for all upcoming Legacy 685 events, classes and other opportunities.

## LEGACY 685 ADOPTION ASSISTANCE FUND

Administered by Lifesong for Orphans, this Houston's First fund has had a profound impact over the past 10 years:

- 162 children placed in adoptive homes, with children coming from 19 countries
- \$1,051,581 given by 834 donors to Houston's First for the assistance fund
- \$996,700 more raised by individuals/couples seeking to adopt
- Therefore, \$2,048,281 has been mobilized to support adoption journeys

## GLOBAL IMPACT

Legacy 685's impact extends beyond Houston as we partner on a continual basis with ministries, orphanages, and other organizations in China, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Romania, Russia and Ukraine, and one that serves multiple nations.



Colin & Katy Sproule with Abigail (1), Anthony (5), and Elliana (7)

Five years ago, three-time adoptive parents Colin and Katy Sproule took a parenting class called “Empowered to Connect” from Steve and Mary Klein, Houston's First members and the founders of Legacy 685. The couple was later called on to be trainers of the class. “Our heart was to help other families the way the Kleins helped us,” said Katy. “It changed our life — and our family.” The training they received is helping them to parent Elliana, whom they adopted in 2010; Anthony, adopted in 2012; and baby Abigail, 1, who came home with them the day before Mother's Day last year.

Katy and Colin have also served as “mentor parents,” taking into their home two young women who were pregnant or had recently birthed babies whom they had courageously made adoption plans for. Training and helping hands from church members made all the difference in the home they provided for the young mothers as well as for their adoptive family. Their efforts in teaching classes in the Cypress area to pre-adoptive, adoptive and foster parents will be their own version of paying it forward.

“We are excited to bring Legacy 685 to Cypress, but feeling a little intimidated. We have about 15 couples currently involved in the ministry,” said Katy. “We trust that the Lord has put us here, and given us the education to make a difference.”



Tyler & Courtney Scott with Judah (5), Elijah (9), Isaac (7), and Haddie (2)

Six years ago, Tyler and Courtney Scott spent four years as house parents at a residential treatment home called Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska, where they parented nine high school boys, mentoring and modeling a stable home life along with two young boys of their own. “All kids deserve a chance to have a loving adult in their lives,” said Courtney.

Now with four children at home, Courtney and Tyler, who serves as the director of Children's Ministry at the Sienna Campus, are gearing up to launch Legacy 685 at the church to serve families in Fort Bend. In April, the first Sienna Legacy 685 event, Life In Limbo, an interactive, role-playing class, attracted nearly 50 people. “The turnout was awesome,” said Courtney.

The Sienna Campus currently has one family fostering, one family that adopted through foster care, and two families in the process of adopting. “Those who are involved want the new ministry to reach out not just to church members, but to the community as well,” said Courtney. In addition to quarterly events beginning in the fall, Courtney will teach “The Trauma-Competent Caregiver” on Wednesday nights during MidLink at the Sienna Campus.

**WANT TO LEARN MORE OR BE A PART OF LEGACY685?  
TEXT LEGACY685 TO 41411!**



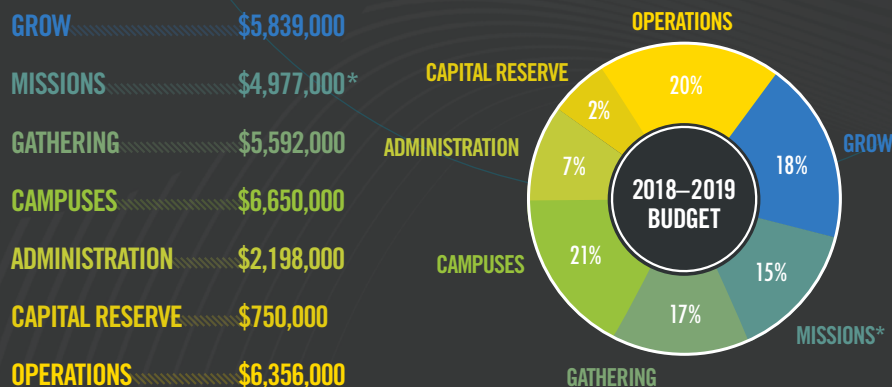
# OUR GREAT COMMISSION FUND

Thanks to the generosity of the Houston's First family, the Great Commission Fund (or operating budget) for the church for 2018–19 is \$32,362,000.

To develop the budget each year, ministry directors submit any requested changes to their budget for the Leadership Team to review, discuss, and approve. The proposed budget is then presented to the Finance Committee for discussion and a vote and, if approved, is then submitted to the deacons for discussion and a vote.

Once the deacons approve, the budget is presented at the monthly Church Conference where members vote to accept the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This year, the Great Commission Fund was approved by church members at the Church Conference on Wed, June 6. It provides funding for the church from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019.

Visit [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org) and search "Financial Reports" for monthly church financial reports as well as details behind each of the Great Commission Fund categories.



**TOTAL GREAT COMMISSION FUND \$32,362,000**

## MISSIONS\*

This is the operating budget given to Missions. In addition to these funds, Missions also receives, on average, more than \$5 million annually in designated giving from contributors (an amount not included in the operating budget numbers shown here). The Missions-designated funds support missional causes throughout our city, nation and world.

## SHARE YOUR GENEROSITY WITH HOUSTON'S FIRST

- 1) ON SITE**  
Collection plates and boxes
- 2) ONLINE**  
Visit "Giving" page at [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org)
- 3) ON MOBILE**  
Use Houston's First Baptist Church app (Text HFBCAPP to 41411 for links to download)

# SUMMER Mission Trips

Teams from Houston's First have already been to Cambodia, Spain, Guatemala, and the Middle East this summer. Pray for people they met and for the impact our teams will have on the following trips!

## JULY

SWITZERLAND – July 4–13  
HOUSTON 1:8 – July 9–12  
KENYA – July 13–25  
COSTA RICA – July 20–29  
PANAMA CITY BEACH (RUSH WEEK) – July 20–26  
NORWAY – July 21–29  
NEW YORK CITY – July 22–27

## AUG

GERMANY – Aug 3–12  
MONTANA – Aug 8–14  
BRAZIL – Aug 11–18

# JUNE MOMENTS



Sienna Campus observes Parent Commitment during a worship service



Single Parent Family Ministry hosts Father's Day party at Dave & Buster's



Men spend a Saturday morning helping widows during Men: Serve



Español Campus celebrates life change during baptisms at the cross tower



Cypress Campus celebrates 5 years as a campus and 1 year in their facility



Kids in 4th–7th grades from each campus have a blast at Camp Intersect



Over 1,000 kids attend Vacation Bible School at The Loop Campus



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOUSTON'S FIRST?



**(T Bar M Day Camp)**

**Aug 6–10**  
**@ 8:30a–4:30p**  
**Cypress Campus**

Kids entering 1st–5th grades | Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.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 age and younger

**REGISTER AT [HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG](http://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! Speakers in coming weeks include Downtown Campus Pastor Lee Hsia (July 11) and Executive Pastor David Self (July 18 & 25, Aug 1–15). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you. CONTACT: [Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org)

### STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

**Wednesdays, Aug 29–Nov 14 @ 6:30–9p**

**The Loop Campus (Rm 145)**

Stephen Ministry training equips our members through 50 hours of classes to come alongside an individual who is experiencing loneliness, relationship difficulties, loss, divorce, grief or spiritual crisis in their lives. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, fill out an application by Sun, Aug 26, at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) or by texting STEPHEN to 41411 for a link. CONTACT: [Denise.Munton@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Denise.Munton@HoustonsFirst.org)

## THE LOOP CAMPUS

### SEASONED WITH FIRE

**Mondays, July 16–30 @ 6:30–8p**

**The Loop Campus (Reception Rm)**

There are times in life when we know we are in the refining fire. Just what is the Lord trying to refine? Our minds. Led by Betsy Assad, women will look at Mark 9:49 and Romans 12:1–2 and learn how God calls us to be living sacrifices transformed by the renewing of our minds. CONTACT: [Heather.Connolly@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Heather.Connolly@HoustonsFirst.org)

### WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE SEMINAR

**Sat, July 21 @ 10a–Noon — The Loop Campus (Gym)**

Designed for women, teens and girls ages 5 and up, this free seminar teaches self-awareness, assertiveness, safety strategies, physical techniques and more that enable you to successfully prevent, escape and overcome assaults. No experience is needed! Mr. Evan Reynolds is a 3rd Degree Black Belt instructor and has 10 years of experience. Registration is not required for this free seminar.

CONTACT: [Brittany.Johnson@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Brittany.Johnson@HoustonsFirst.org)

### BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF ESTATE PLANNING

**Sun, Aug 12 @ 12:30–2:30p**

**The Loop Campus (Oasis Rm)**

Adults of all ages and stages of life are invited to this free seminar led by Robert Kuck of PhilanthroCorp. Houston's First partners with PhilanthroCorp, a nonprofit organization, to provide free estate planning for our congregation. Registration is required at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org). A light lunch is provided, and childcare is available for birth through 5th grade. CONTACT: [Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org)

### MILESTONES & MIDLINK PREVIEW NIGHT WITH JUSTIN FLOM

**Wed, Aug 22 @ 5:45–8p — The Loop Campus**

Magician Justin Flom is coming to Milestones & MidLink Preview Night as we kick-off another semester at The Loop Campus! We'll begin the new semester with food, fun and a look at what's available through Milestones this fall. So, come early for dinner and the Milestones Expo and stay for a fun and free show by magician Justin Flom at 6:45p! Find the full schedule at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Jenny.Sheets@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Jenny.Sheets@HoustonsFirst.org)

## CYPRESS CAMPUS

### FAMILY POOL PARTY

**Mon, July 16 @ 6–8p**

**Bridgeland Community Pool**

Make a splash at the Cypress Campus family pool party! Bring your own picnic, play games, win a contest and have family water fun for all ages! Frozen treats are provided, too.

The pool is located at the Lakeland Activity Center at 16902 Bridgeland Landing Dr. Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Cindy.Wineman@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Cindy.Wineman@HoustonsFirst.org)

### GROW@HOME: SUMMER NIGHTS

**Wed, July 25 @ 6–8p — Cypress Campus**

The First Kids Ministry will explore relevant issues for families and equip you to grow together. Bring the entire family, enjoy dinner, have faith conversations and share how you can be a Grow@Home family! Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Cindy.Wineman@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Cindy.Wineman@HoustonsFirst.org)

## DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

### MAKE IT YOUR CHURCH ORIENTATION

**Sun, July 22 @ 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 others over a free lunch as you learn about the mission, vision and ministries of our church—and how you can make it your church! RSVP at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org). CONTACT: [Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org)

### FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY

**Sun, July 29 @ 11a**

**Downtown Campus (Worship Ctr)**

The entire Downtown Campus family will gather for a special worship service tailored to all ages. Who could you invite to join with us on this Family Worship Sunday?

CONTACT: [Derek.Nease@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Derek.Nease@HoustonsFirst.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 Mi Vida (adults of all ages, Rm 408).

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

## SIENNA CAMPUS

### SIENNA SUMMER SPLASHFEST

**Sun, July 15 @ 6p — Sienna Campus (Lawn)**

This free community event will benefit the Pregnancy Resource Medical Center of Fort Bend County. Bring new disposable diapers (size 5 & 6) to stock their shelves! You can look forward to food trucks, water games, inflatables and more at this event for kids and adults of all ages.

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

### SUMMER NIGHT OF FAMILY WORSHIP

**Wed, July 18 @ 6:30–8p**

**Sienna Campus (Worship Ctr)**

The Sienna Campus family will gather 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@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.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](#) HFBCDowntown [t](#) @HFBCDowntown [i](#) @HFBCDowntown

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



Juan Alaniz, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirstEspañol [t](#) @HFBCEspañol [i](#) @HFBCEspañol

## 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](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.

For more information about Houston's First, call 713.681.8000 or visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://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](http://HoustonsFirst.org)

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