

welcome.

sep 2019

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

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HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

HoustonsFirst.org

welcome to HOUSTON'S FIRST!



The fall semester at Houston's First is off to a strong start following several exciting moments at the end of August, including Kick-Off Sundays at every campus. With summer vacations behind us and schools back in session, it's great to have the Houston's First family back together again in full force!

Adding to the anticipation of the fall semester is the "Who's Your One?" initiative calling each of us to focus our hearts and our attention on one person with whom we can share our faith. We knew this movement would be embraced by our church because it's consistent with the heart of our congregation.

When the Worship Center at The Loop Campus was renovated in 2008, before the carpet was installed, we invited our church family to write on the foundation the names of people for whom they were praying to accept Jesus as their Savior. We continued this "Foundation of Prayer" tradition at the Cypress, Downtown, and Sienna Campuses, and in the Chapel at The Loop where Houston's First en Español gathers. We have literally been praying over these names—these "ones"—for more than a decade and we've heard countless stories of people who have since given their lives to Christ.

As you continue to pray for your one, look forward to our "#life" series beginning in late September. The Houston's First family has members representing at least five different generations, and God's Word speaks to each one. We'll see how God meets us where we are in life and provides the wisdom, encouragement, and direction we need—and what your one needs, too.

Let's pray that the fall semester is filled with new life, spiritual growth, and strengthened community as we lean into our faith and live it out boldly in our daily lives—seeking to make a difference in Jesus' name!

Pastor Gregg

In Him,
Pastor Gregg Matte

*THE HARVEST IS abundant
THEREFORE, pray to the*

who's your 1ONE?

resources

As you pray for and reach out to your one with the Gospel, Houston's First wants to equip you as you go. Visit HoustonsFirst.org or the church's app for helpful resources, including:

- Evangelism tools
- List of related Milestones classes at each campus
- Prayer Guide (PDF)
- 40-Day Devotional (PDF)
- Original song by Malcolm Marshall and Demetri Stafford from our Sienna Campus

#life

No matter what your stage of life might be, God's Word is relevant to anything you're facing. In this message series from Sep 22–Nov 17, Pastor Gregg Matte will look at what the Bible has to say for students, singles, married couples, and more. What you'll learn will also help you reach your "one" as you share how God's truth applies to his or her particular season of life.





First Snapshot

SURVEY

THE PICTURE IS IN!

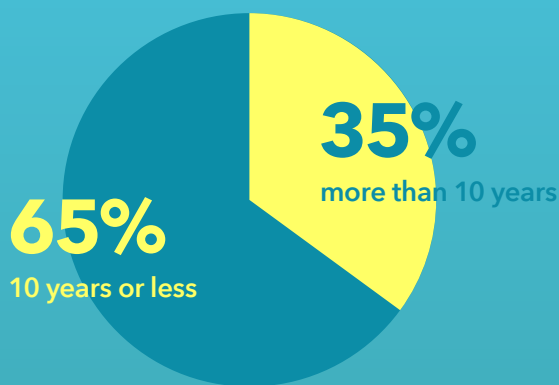
What does the Houston's First family look like? That's what the First Snapshot Survey sought to capture in May of this year. This wide-ranging survey was custom-crafted by Docent Research Group to gather data about our church involvement, Christian beliefs and practices, and much more.

The goal was to take a "picture" of our church now so we can come back later and compare how we've grown and changed over the years. The response rate was 37% of our average weekly adult attendance across all campuses – and the goal was 25%! With that high response, we have confidence that the findings reflect the full adult population at Houston's First.

Leaders from the church and representatives from Docent gathered at the church's Hunt Retreat to review the findings in mid-August. From there, campuses and ministries will continue to look at what the report says about who we are, what our strengths are that we can best leverage, and where we have opportunities to further grow and minister to the people God has brought to Houston's First.

The final report was over 100 pages long, but here are a few results that reveal who we are as a church at this moment in our 178-year history of making a difference for the Gospel.

How long have you been a part of Houston's First?



73% say they are strong in their personal Christian faith right now
24% I'm somewhat strong
3% I'm not doing well

83% are currently involved in a Life Bible Study

CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

76% read the Bible a few times a week or more often

80% pray once a day or more often

36% volunteer at Houston's First once a week or more often
13% 2 or 3 times a month
11% Once a month
25% 1 to 10 times a year
15% Never

53% have invited 1 to 4 people to Houston's First over the past 12 months
22% 5 to 10 people
10% More than 10 people
15% I didn't invite anyone

50% have shared the Gospel with 1 to 4 people over the past 12 months
14% 5 to 10 people
13% More than 10 people
23% I didn't share the Gospel with anyone

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

95% agree or strongly agree that the Bible is the highest authority for what they believe

90% agree or strongly agree that it is very important to personally encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior

98% agree or strongly agree that Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of their sin

97% agree or strongly agree that only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

who's your ONE?

THE SONG & VIDEO

A song can help drive home a message, allowing it to sink in and connect with our hearts. With that in mind, and with a passion for reaching others with the Gospel, Sienna Campus Pastor Malcolm Marshall (aka, Excelsius) and Ministry Intern Demetri Stafford (aka, Duel Melee) wrote and recorded an original song called "Who's Your One?" to support the evangelism movement by the same name.

"We wrote this song as a free giveaway with the aim of providing another way to remind us that there's someone God has prepared to hear the Gospel directly from our mouths," said Malcolm. The song is getting attention beyond Houston's First, too. A recent message from an employee at the North American Mission Board – the group who launched the "Who's Your One?" movement – said, "Just had to tell you that the 'Who's Your One?' song is making the rounds here at NAMB headquarters in Atlanta!"

Visit HoustonFirst.org to watch the related video and to listen to and download the song.

I JUST GOTTA TELL SOMEONE ABOUT HIS MERCY AND HIS LOVE
 ALL I NEED IS JUST FOR ONE PERSON TO HEAR THIS
 I JUST GOTTA TELL SOMEONE ALL ABOUT HIM. WHAT HE'S DONE
 ANOTHER SOUL THAT'S BEING WON. THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT
 - "WHO'S YOUR ONE?" BY EXCELSIUS AND DUEL MELEE

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



The Fitness & Recreation Center at Houston's First is about more than getting into better physical condition. The fully-stocked gym with basketball courts, latest workout equipment, weights, and more, are tools for building and sculpting healthy bodies and lifestyles — with spiritual

support and encouragement along the way from the FRC team. Although located at The Loop Campus, the FRC is open to people from any campus and from outside our church. In fact, about 50% of the FRC's members do not attend Houston's First!



JOIN IN SEPTEMBER AND PAY NO ENROLLMENT FEE (SAVINGS OF \$50) AND RECEIVE COMPLIMENTARY SMART START PROGRAM TO SET YOUR FITNESS GOALS

- No monthly contract
- \$25 per month (individuals)
- Includes access to equipment, amenities, and classes

Visit HoustonsFirst.org or text **HFBCFITNESS** to **41411** to join and learn more



TICKETS AVAILABLE
BEGINNING
SAT, OCT 12

On Dec 12–15, Houston's First will celebrate the 10th production of *Celebration*—our Christmas musical presentation at The Loop Campus. Hundreds of volunteers make *Celebration* happen, so what role will you play behind the scenes, during the show, or on stage? Find opportunities and join the cast and crew at TheFirstChristmas.org or text **CELEBRATION** to **41411**.



MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1–AUG 25, 2019

DECISIONS

154 New Church Members
39 Joined by Baptism



25% of New Members
were Baptized

ATTENDANCE

41,596 in Life Bible Studies
(5,200 weekly average)
42,846 in Worship Services
(5,356 weekly average)
7,827 on Webcast
(978 weekly average)

MISSIONS

8 Mission Trips with
1,608 Team Members



GENEROSITY

3,109 Givers to
Great Commission Fund
130 First-Time Givers



4% of Givers gave
for the first time

august MOMENTS



Sienna Campus celebrates the opening of a new First Friends playground



Houston's First en Español celebrates new life with the observance of baptisms



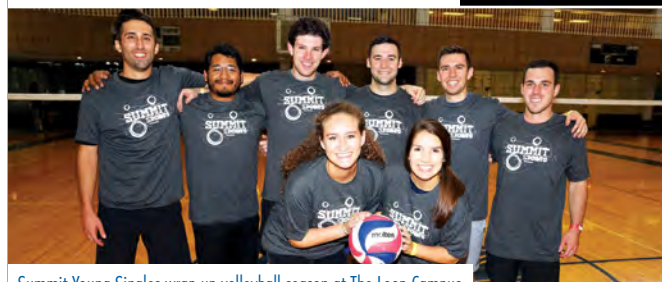
Cypress Campus family enjoys lunch, games, and more on Kick-Off Sunday



Families gather for movie night and games at the Downtown Campus



The Loop Campus kicks off MidLink with Houston's First's Got Talent



Summit Young Singles wrap up volleyball season at The Loop Campus

make it your church ORIENTATION™

Discover what it means to be a member of Houston's First! Meet staff members and hear about the vision, mission, and strategy of our church. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for details about the session at your campus and to RSVP, too.

The Loop — Sun, Sep 15 • Cypress — Sun, Sep 29 • Downtown — Sun, Sep 22
Sienna — Sun, Sep 15 • en Español — Sun, Sep 15

ALL CAMPUSES

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

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone — including your “one” you’ve been praying for! Speaking this month is Minister of Missionary Care & Projects Skyler Womack (Sep 4, Oct 2) and Executive Pastor David Self (Sep 11, 18, 25). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.
CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

SINGLE PARENT FAMILY CAMP Sep 13-15 — Pineywoods Camp

Single parents and their kids will escape from the everyday with more fun than we can list here! We’ll play hard, but also dive deep into God’s Word with camp pastor Malcolm Marshall. Visit HoustonsFirst.org or text SPFAMILY to 41411 for details, cost, transportation, and to sign up soon!
CONTACT: Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

MEN: SERVE

Sat, Sep 21 @ 8a-1p — The Loop & Cypress Campuses
The Bible calls on us to care for the widows — and we love to do so! Men — we’ll gather at The Loop and Cypress Campuses then go out in teams to serve these women through yard work, home repairs, car maintenance, and other tasks. You’ll walk away equally as blessed by having served these ladies in our church! RSVP by Fri, Sep 13, at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Julianne.Kho@HoustonsFirst.org (The Loop),
Lyndle.Jackson@HoustonsFirst.org (Cypress)

LEGACY 685 BIG EVENT Sat, Oct 5 @ 4-7p — Lanier Property (14130 Hargrave Rd, Houston, TX 77070)

The Big Event is our annual gathering where all Legacy 685 families from every campus come together for an evening of food, fun, and games. This is a great opportunity to connect with other adoptive and foster families. Trust us, you do not want to miss this! The cost is \$20 per family and dinner is included. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Jolie.Garcia@HoustonsFirst.org

THE LOOP CAMPUS

FLOURISH: A MENTORING JOURNEY Sundays, Sep 8 & 28 @ 2-3p The Loop Campus (Rm 143)

Women are invited to one of two informational meetings about a new mentoring program launching at Houston’s First born out of Passion City Church. Attendance at one of the meetings is highly encouraged for prospective mentors and mentees. Learn more about FLOURISH and RSVP for either meeting at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Heather.Henson@HoustonsFirst.org

CANHOPE

Mon, Sep 9 @ 6-9p — The Loop Campus (Reception Rm)
Ministering to families and friends touched by cancer, CanHope gathers on the second Monday of each month for dinner and prayer. This month’s speaker is cancer survivor Chloe Shie Pollock with special music by Lisa Pierre. Bring a salad, vegetable, or fruit to share and we’ll provide the entree. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to 713.957.6764.
CONTACT: Sherry.Oradat@HoustonsFirst.org

NIGHT OF PRAYER & WORSHIP

Mon, Sep 16 @ 6-8p — The Loop Campus (Chapel)

On every third Monday of the month, gather with others for this time of worship and prayer. We believe revival starts with prayer, so the aim of the night is to simply give a space for God to move. All are welcome, so bring your family and your kids! Childcare is available for birth through kindergarten.
CONTACT: Gabriel.Ianculovici@HoustonsFirst.org

NEXTGEN LBS LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

Sun, Sep 22 @ 12:15-1:30p The Loop Campus (Fellowship Ctr)

Are you a Life Bible Study leader in our NextGen Ministry (preschool—12th grade) at The Loop? If so, don’t miss this lunch for all NextGen LBS Leaders! We’ll have great food, lots of fun, and a surprise before you leave. Childcare is available for all kids through High School age. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Geniffer.Roach@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS CAMPUS

LEGACY 685 NIGHT OUT

Fri, Sep 13 @ 6p — Cypress Campus (Rm 110)

Legacy 685 at the Cypress Campus invites all parents by adoption or foster care to come together for dinner, games, and giveaways. Don’t miss this opportunity to gather with other parents! Register at HoustonsFirst.org. Childcare is available.
CONTACT: Legacy685Cypress@HoustonsFirst.org

GIRLS’ NIGHT

Fri, Sep 20 @ 6p-Midnight — Cypress Campus

Hey, Cypress HUB girls in 6th thru 12th grade! We’re coming together for a time of worship, learning, and community. This is a great opportunity to invite your “one” and introduce them to friends, our church, and Jesus! The cost is \$15 and dinner is included. Register before Sun, Sep 15 at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Karen.Willingham@HoustonsFirst.org

THE BRIDGE — WOMEN’S NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Thu, Sep 26 @ 6:30-8:30p Cypress Campus (Worship Center)

What if we were willing to release our struggles and disappointments to God and receive His strength to live out our days with peace and confidence? Join the women of Cypress and guest speaker Star Smith as we rediscover that our God is FOR us. Women of all ages and stages of life are welcome, including your “one” you’ve been praying for. Register at HoustonsFirst.org, but walk-ins are welcome, too! (Childcare is not available.)
CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

COLLEGE MINISTRY: THE GATHERING

Wed, Sep 4 @ 7:30p Downtown Campus (Worship Center)

The College Ministry is launching a brand new weekly night of worship and teaching as we desire to gather college students to grow and go with Jesus! This is a great way to stay connected to community throughout the week so be sure to invite a friend — including your “one” you’ve been praying for!
CONTACT: Jarret.Garber@HoustonsFirst.org

2019
**IGNITE
THE FIRE**
—MEN'S RETREAT—
ADVENTURE × INSPIRATION × CONNECTION

Oct 4-5
Pineywoods Camp (Woodlake, TX)

Men from every campus are invited to a time of adventure, inspiration, and connection with speaker Kenny Luck and worship leader Ryan Langford.

Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

BAND OF BROTHERS
MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN'S MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Mon, Sep 9 @ 6:30p — Downtown Campus

Are you ready for some football? Come watch the season opener on large screen projectors and enjoy a man-sized BBQ plate, indoor yard games, and pool tables, and compete for football-themed prizes! This event is FREE and for men only. Could you bring your “one” with you? Register online at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA CAMPUS

SIENNA MEN'S TAILGATE

Mon, Sep 9 @ 5-9p — Sienna Campus

Calling all men! You're invited to our annual tailgate and chili cook-off party — and you're encouraged to bring your “one” with you! Come watch the Houston Texans battle the New Orleans Saints on the BIG screen. Competition events begin at 5p, chili judging and dinner begin at 5:45p, and kickoff is at 6:10p. The event is free to attend but registration is required at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Ron.Barkley@HoustonsFirst.org

DISCERNING THE VOICE OF GOD

Tuesdays beginning Sep 10 @ 10a-Noon Sienna Campus (Worship Center)

Women — become acquainted with the Voice that has spoken from a fire and a cloud, with visible signs and an invisible Spirit, through a burning bush and burning hearts. Priscilla Shirer's *Discerning the Voice of God* contains insights that will aid you in your desire to hear Him speak. Discover the treasure of recognizing how God keeps in touch with His beloved people. The \$20 cost includes a workbook. Childcare for preschoolers is available. Register online at HoustonsFirst.org. Is this something your “one” would be encouraged to hear?
CONTACT: Dana.McCarrel, dana.mccarrel@earthlink.net

MOMS OF THE HEART (MOTH)

Sun, Sep 15 @ 7-9p — Bean Here Coffee

MOTH is a part of the ministry of Legacy 685, seeking to equip, empower, and encourage foster and adoptive moms on their unique parenting journey. Moms are invited to gather each month (Sep 15, Oct 20, Nov 10) for teaching, fellowship, and connection! RSVP to Legacy685Sienna@HoustonsFirst.org. Walk-ins are welcome, too!
CONTACT: Legacy685Sienna@HoustonsFirst.org

Visit HoustonsFirst.org or the Houston's First Baptist Church app for details about these and other upcoming opportunities!

**Text HFBCAPP
to 41411**

for links to download the
Houston's First Baptist Church
app for iOS or Android

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, neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools, the church's ministry extends far beyond the addresses listed below!

THE LOOP CAMPUS 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



Gregg Matte, Pastor



HoustonsFirst



@HoustonsFirst



@HoustonsFirst

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



Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor



HoustonsFirstCypress



@HFBCcypress



@HFBCcypress

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS 1730 Jefferson, Houston, TX 77003



Lee Hsia, Campus Pastor



HFBCDowntown

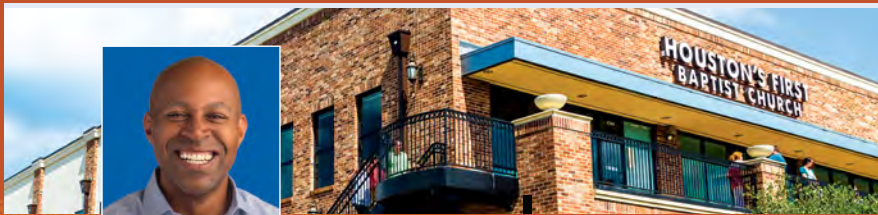


@HFBCDowntown



@HFBCDowntown

SIENNA CAMPUS 4309 Sienna Parkway, Missouri City, TX 77459



Malcolm Marshall, Campus Pastor



HoustonsFirstSienna



@HFBCSienna



@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 or text LIFE BIBLE STUDY to 41411 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 | en Español 9:15a

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

CYPRESS CAMPUS

Worship 9:30a • 11a

Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:30a • 11a

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Worship 11a

Life Bible Studies 9:30a

SIENNA CAMPUS

Worship 8:30a • 9:45a • 11:15a

Life Bible Studies 8:30a • 9:45a • 11:15a