



The Sharpstown Baptist Church

Encourager

Touching Heaven.... Changing Earth

7000 Bellaire Boulevard, Houston, TX 77074 | 713-774-9673

www.sharpchurch.org

April
2009

In This Issue:

- Spanish Language Bible Study
- Report from the Admin Chair of Church Council
- Building & Grounds Report
- Fast Club News
- Coming this Summer: "Good News in the New Testament"
- Media Center Report
- Update from the Pastor Search Committee
- Boomerang Express is Coming!
- Calendar of Coming Events
- Ministries at Sharpstown
- How To Become a Christian

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
- 6:00 p.m. Evening Service

Tuesday

- 6:30 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday

- 6:30 p.m. Youth Program
- 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Practice

**Estudio Biblico
Para Adultos
Domingo 9:30**

Spanish Language Bible Study Now Offered



The Spanish Sunday School Class is taught by Ken Ortiz (kneeling) - L-R:

Would you like a place that is peaceful?

A place where you're loved?

A place where you're not just a face in the crowd?

A place where you matter, no matter who you are?

We are Sharpstown Baptist Church - a church by the community, for the community and of the community. We have served the Sharpstown neighborhood for over 50 years and continue to serve those around us. We have ministered "GOD's word in a unique and simple way, TRUTHFULLY, out of the book that he inspired the prophets to write.

We would love for you to join us and others from the community to fellowship together. We provide daycare for infants (3 months +) and children. Our Spanish Sunday School class is at 9:30 am and our church service is at 10:45 am every Sunday. Children's church is also provided so that they may learn about "GOD" in a matter they're able to understand.

"A Church of the Community"

Escuela Dominical para adultos todos los Domingo a las 9:30 am

- Guardería Infantil • Mesa para niños
- Y mucho más.**

Ven a compartir con nosotros de Dios
Servicio 10:45 am



**MESSAGE FROM
THE COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE
CHAIR:**

During the next several months as our Pastor Search Committee is searching for our anointed leader, our Church will be

challenged. Some will fall away. Some will step up. Some will gripe and complain. Some will encourage. It is easy to be negative as our Church looks for a new leader; but I look forward to the future with a sense of anticipation. I truly believe that His purpose for Sharpstown Baptist Church has yet to be realized; but will be revealed to us in the coming weeks and months. As I said from the pulpit a few weeks ago, if you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem.

I want to express my appreciation with your letting me serve this wonderful church. I especially appreciate your patience with my stumbling attempts to fill the pulpit on an occasional basis. Something I never realized was how much the congregation can influence one in the pulpit. When I hear the "amens" from the congregation it gets me fired up. I'm sure others feel the same way. And at the time of invitation, when the preacher is standing up there all alone, come up and give him a hug and tell him "well done."

In Him, Tom Graves

**Buildings & Grounds
- Current Projects**

Wow! Time is flying past! Seems we just got the Christmas decorations down and the Easter season is upon us. We are planning a pancake breakfast after our Easter Sunrise Service. That means we will need to be sure our griddle is in good working order and we have at least one working refrigerator. We have both a refrigerator and freezer out of order in the kitchen, and now is the time to replace or repair. Then there is the after church Easter Egg Hunt. We can't do that unless we get rid of the fire ants. We need to start the ant treatment soon.

Ongoing projects include installing programable thermostats throughout the buildings and adding one more keypad for the alarm system. The additional keypad will be at the rear door to the Chapel Building. Additional lighting over the choir entrance door of the Worship Center should go in this week.

Watch for information on a Health and Information Fair that is in the planning stages for May. "Health Yes" will be on campus offering a battery of heart health tests and we hope to provide some less sophisticated screening at no charge. We also expect to have representatives from CCSC, Neighborhood Centers, and, possibly, Texas Children's Hospital Child Safety Division on campus providing information about their services.

Coming This Summer:

**"Good News in the New
Testament"!**

Several of our adult Sunday School classes will be doing a "pilot" of new Sunday School literature in the summer quarter beginning June 1. We will be studying "Good News in the New Testament", an overview of the New Testament that focuses on understanding Jesus' ministry and its meaning for our lives. The literature is prepared by BaptistWay Press, the publication arm of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The remaining classes will continue in the Explore the Bible series provided by Lifeway. Their lessons are on the books of Galatians and James.

If you have never attended Sunday School or haven't gone for a while, consider joining us this summer. We have excellent teachers in all areas, and two choices for study starting in June.

FAST Club

The FAST Club met on the 3rd of March. We had an interesting program learning about the Jewish celebration of Purim which took place this year on Tuesday, March 10. Our two guests, Rabbi Tom and Sylvia, told how the remembrance of the bravery of Queen Esther is celebrated today by Jewish people with retelling her story as recorded in the Book of Esther, accompanied by noisemakers and feasting.

The Club was scheduled to take a trip to the Cypress Outlet Mall on March 31 (too late to be able report for this month's newsletter). We trust that all who participated had a fun day of shopping.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 7: 9:30 a.m.—Regular Meeting

Snacks, Games, Fellowship

Program: Learning How to Assemble a Dish Garden

Tuesday, April 30 - Travel Day

Wildflower Hunt and Trip to Columbus to visit the home of Merrill and Elaine Luman..

THE NAME "FAST CLUB" STANDS FOR:

"F" Fellowship, "A" Activities, "S" Study; "T" Travel

**ALL SENIORS (50+) ARE WELCOME TO BE A PART OF
THIS FRIENDLY AND FUN FELLOWSHIP.**

Update from the Pastor Search Committee

The nine members of your Pastor Search Committee are hard at work on their duties of locating the interim pastor and senior pastor that God has already chosen for us. We have a good committee with a cross-section of members from many different areas of the church. We meet each Sunday night at 6:00 p.m. – please remember us in your prayers, especially while we are meeting.

At this time, we have developed a profile of the qualities that we believe the next senior pastor of Sharpstown Baptist Church should have:

- Relate to our multiethnic membership and the surrounding community in which we serve
- Grounded in Southern Baptist beliefs and practices and have an advanced degree from an accredited Baptist or like faith and practice institution
- Proven leadership abilities and strong administrative skills
- Several years experience as a pastor (not necessarily a senior pastor) with a stable work record

Please know that we are working diligently but are working in God's timing, not ours. The process of calling a new pastor is quite different from the secular world, where multiple candidates are interviewed and a decision is made within a few weeks.

If you know of someone that meets the above criteria and might be interested in being our new pastor, please ask that person to submit a resume to search@sharpchurch.org, or pass the resume to any search committee member.

In Christ,
 Brian White
 Chairman, Pastor Search Committee



MEDIA CENTER REPORT - MAR 2009

1 Video/CD cassettes used	1 DVD/CD added during the month
8 Hours media center kept open during the month	0 VHS added this month
-0- Fines collected	35 Books circulated during the month
11 Books added during the month	

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Owens, Director of Library Services

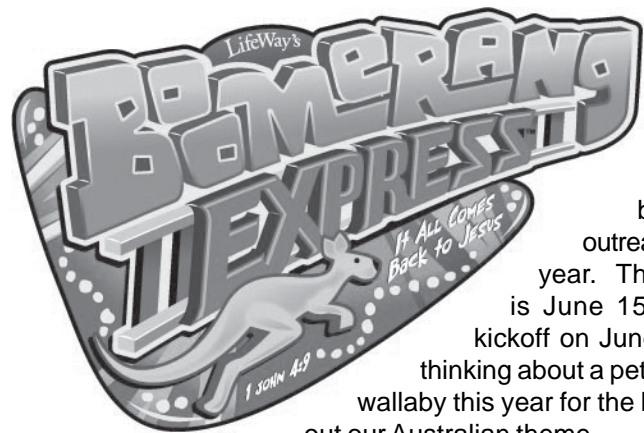
MARCH 2009 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Receipts - Actual vs Budget and Last Year

	March	YTD
Actual	29,405.27	90,149.83
Budget	30,523.08	91,569.23
Surplus (Deficit)	(1,117.81)	(1,419.40)

	Budget Receipts
March 2009 YTD	90,149.83
March 2008 YTD	88,291.03
Over (Under)	1,858.80

Get Onboard the Boomerang Express!



Plans are underway for VBS 2009. This is our church's biggest outreach effort every year. This year's VBS is June 15-19, with the kickoff on June 14. We are thinking about a petting zoo with a wallaby this year for the kickoff to carry out our Australian theme.

If you've been thinking about working in Vacation Bible School this year but thought it was too late to sign up, think again! Although our department directors are in place, we still need workers for children ages preschool through 6th grade.

Perhaps you'd like to work, but don't want to work directly with the children. There's a place of service for you, also. We need help in the kitchen, registration, security, clean up, etc. We also have several bilingual workers already signed up, but could always use more.

If you think that you would like to serve in Vacation Bible School this year, please contact Cheryl or Brian White at 713-777-2471 or briancherylwhite@hotmail.com.



Sharpstown Baptist Church
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Sharpstown Baptist Church Staff

Interim Music Minister Joe Glass
Youth Director Jon Hickey
Children’s Director Debbie Fitzhugh
Preschool Director Ember Concepcion
Instrumental Music Assistant David McAllister
Maintenance Coordinator Oscar Carrillo
Financial Secretary Kathy Gross
Membership Secretary Marge Lafferty
Choir Music Librarian Merle Greene
Special Projects Linda Nordquist

How to Become a Christian:

A - Admit that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself (Romans 3:23; Eph 2:9)

B - Believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins and rose again to promise us eternal life. (Romans 10:9-10)

C - Confess your sins and **Call** on Jesus to save you (Romans 10:13)

Call upon Jesus in repentance and faith, using the prayer below or words of your own, and Jesus will become your Savior and Lord!

“Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and I do not deserve eternal life. But, I believe You died and rose from the grave to purchase a place in Heaven for me. Jesus, come into my life, take control of my life, forgive my sins and save me. I am now placing my trust in You alone for my salvation and I accept your free gift of eternal life.”

If you have trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, please let us know. We want to rejoice in what God has done in your life and help you to grow spiritually.