

THE HERALD

New Holland Baptist Church
7 Quarry St.
Gainesville, GA 30501

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A MESSAGE FROM BRIAN *Brian Stephens, Lead Pastor*

It's the most wonderful time of the year. I'm not sure the last sentence was original to me. I may have heard it somewhere else before. It may be there are millions of people like me who just love this season where we celebrate the arrival of the King of Kings to our humble abode here on earth.

I personally am filled with the joy of Jesus in my life and still have not gotten over the fact of the only Son of God leaving Heaven to be my Savior and Lord. Jesus knew what it would cost Him, but He came anyway. What wondrous love is this, O my soul. What wondrous love is this that caused the King of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul. Those words may not have been original to me either.

I look forward to the times we can get together as a church family and worship our Lord. I will be sharing from Luke 1-2 for my messages. I can't wait to see all of you dressed up in your Christmas outfits and singing carols together. The choir will be singing "A Brand New Hallelujah," our orchestra will be making a joyful noise unto the Lord, the children will be sharing the laughter of a heart overflowing, and we adults will have one continuous smile which will last throughout the month and into the new year.

Oh, how I love Christmas. I'm so thankful for Mary being willing to be used as a servant of our Lord. Imagine the one who carried our Lord in her womb, then wrapped the little child with strips of cloth and held Him close to her heart. I'm thankful Joseph accepted the role the Lord had for him in loving our Savior and providing for their family. I'm encouraged by the shepherds who were willing to do the unthinkable and leave their flocks and travel that special night to welcome God's blessed Gift. I love how the angels could not hold back their excitement and filled the sky with the utmost joy as they celebrated His advent. I know all the world does not know they are highlighting our Savior's birth, but I pray the Christmas Light shines into many more needy hearts this Christmas.

And lastly, I wish you a Merry Christmas, I wish you a Merry Christmas, I wish you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! OH GOODNESS, there I go again.

God Bless, *Pastor Brian*



**We're glad
you're here!**

Charlotte Ash
Cheryl Hendricks
Al & Carolyn Sims
Jared Stephens
Lisa Turner

A MESSAGE FROM MARK *R. Mark Russell, Associate Pastor*

I hope you've marked your calendar for A BRAND NEW HALLELUJAH on **Sunday, December 10, at 2:00 p.m. and (NOTE TIME CHANGE) 4:30 p.m.** We ran into a couple of conflicts time wise. This is going to be a meaningful presentation. The orchestra and choir are doing well in their preparation even though we got a later start than usual.

There is a lot of work that goes into these programs, and I believe they are worth that effort. This year there seems to be a particular interest in spiritual things as we see a craving for peace in a world of turmoil. Christmas is the time of the year that shouts out the Angelic pronouncement in Luke 2:14, "*Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*" I truly believe the reason folks this year have begun to decorate and shop early is that they are looking for peace and goodwill – they may not even be aware of it. The message of peace and goodwill toward men must be bold in these times. Many will struggle and look for peace and goodwill in other places – usually involving sin. But, we know where to look. We should show them. The door is open and people are receptive!

Youth, we're doing the lock-in on Friday, December 29th! Make your plans now to attend.

In Christ, *Mark*

Celebration Choir & Orchestra Christmas Concert

BRAND NEW
Hallelujah
A CHRISTMAS WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

December 10
2:00 & 4:30 PM

A MESSAGE FROM RICK
Rick Taylor, Ministry Pastor

I am hoping and praying that everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. Even though we are thankful and rejoice this time of year, we should always be thankful for the things God provides for His children. Like we sang at our church service at the Civic Center---“Count Your Blessings, Name Them One By One.”

The month of December will see a lull in the action. Our small groups finished up the study on “Spiritual Gifts.” Through testing, people were able to determine what their spiritual gift was and how best to use that gift in the life of the church. We will be taking a break until January and then will begin a new study by David Jeremiah entitled, “The Great Disappearance,” dealing with the rapture of the church. This promises to be an excellent study, and hopefully many questions will be answered.

Our Senior Adults did an excellent job working on Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. NHBC filled a total of 626 shoeboxes this year. Also, for the first time this year, NHBC was a drop off center and transported over 1,700 shoeboxes in a total of 191 big cardboard boxes. A special thanks to Lynne Stephens, Bill and Laura White, Kirby and Sheila Lomax, and all of our Senior Adults who made this project a success.

At this time, I’m still looking for a place to do a quick get-away lunch in December. The Varsity may be a possibility since it is a short distance away. Looking at a variety of dates at this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Be Blessed, *Rick*



DEACONS MEETING
DEC. 3 AT 3:00 PM

**YOUTH
LOCK-IN**

DECEMBER 29
7:30 PM

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

All monetary gifts received by Thursday, Dec. 28th, will be credited to your 2023 giving report. Donations may be brought by the church office up until 12:00 p.m. on December 28th.

**christmas eve
SERVICES**

Sunday, December 24

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Worship Service

*Congratulations to
Scot & Elaina Mabrey on the
birth of their son,
Damian Anthony Mabrey
born on November 23!*



LOTTIE MOON | OFFERING
give generously this christmas season

Bring your Christmas cards for our church family, give to the Lottie Moon offering whatever you would have spent on postage, and the card will be delivered at church!

Received to Date: \$220

For the month of December, if you would like to help New Holland’s Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child ministry get things organized and sorted throughout the year, we could use clear storage bins like the ones pictured. These are all located at Walmart! All sizes are needed—just make sure the bins are clear. Monetary donations are welcome too. Thank you! Please see Sheila or Lynne for more info.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/02 Mark Russell
12/04 Kristen Dale Thompson
Harrison Elrod, Steve Parry
12/05 Kevin Baker
12/06 Bill Dale
12/08 Lauri Dale, Anthony McCune
12/09 Larry Gee
12/14 Jackson Price
12/19 Jean Crowe
12/21 Shirley Collins
12/23 Pam Dean
12/27 Susan Abercrombie, Lyla Brewer
12/28 Jimmy Carter

Happy Anniversary

Gary & Cheryl Wigley Dec. 06
Clinton & Gracelyn Howard Dec. 20

November Offerings & Info.

Nov. 5..... \$4,628.63
Nov. 12..... \$6,935.85
Nov. 19..... \$3,311.46
Nov. 26..... \$6,624.89

Dream Fund \$398,825.61
Generosity Fund \$5,942.20
Average Attendance in Nov. 115

A MESSAGE FROM LANCE
Children’s Ministry

Infinite Love

As we enter this season of joy and reflection, my heart is compelled to share with you the profound beauty of the unmeasurable love of Christ—a love that is not only a historical event but a living, breathing reality that continues to shape our lives and our world. In the midst of twinkling lights, festive melodies, and the warmth of shared moments, it becomes even more apparent how this divine love is mirrored in the hearts and actions of His people.

The story of Christmas is, at its core, a celebration of the greatest love story ever told—the story of God who so loved the world that He gave His only Son. The infant in the manger, surrounded by adoring shepherds and majestic kings, is the embodiment of this immeasurable love. It is a love that defies logic, transcends time, and reaches out to all humanity, regardless of our flaws and imperfections.

In this season, the love of Christ is not merely a distant echo from the past; it is a vibrant and transformative force that we witness in the lives of those who seek to follow Him. The love that was born in Bethlehem continues to be born anew in the hearts of believers, manifesting itself in acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion.

As we exchange gifts and gather with loved ones, let us remember that the true essence of Christmas lies not in the material presents we give and receive but in the presence of Christ’s love dwelling within us. The unmeasurable love that motivated God to become incarnate is the same love that beckons us to love one another.

In this season of giving, may we be inspired by the selfless giving of our Savior. Just as Christ’s birth brought joy to the world, let our lives be a source of joy and hope to those around us. May our words be filled with encouragement, our actions reflect grace, and our hearts overflow with a love that knows no bounds.

In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, let us pause and reflect on the miracle of God’s love—both the love that was born in a humble stable and the love that continues to be born anew in the hearts of His people. May the unmeasurable love of Christ be the guiding star that leads us through this season and into the promise of a new year filled with hope, peace, and love.

Wishing you a Christmas season filled with the boundless love of Christ,

Lance

Heroes of New Holland
Wednesdays at 5:30 pm