



love God...grow disciples...serve others

January 2026
Volume 49 Issue 1

A Word from Pastor Larry

The late evangelist Billy Graham once stated, "even when life may be difficult, we should thank God for all He does for us—which we do not deserve." Reflecting on these words, I sit here collecting my thoughts, these words come to mind: "God is good." We often toss that phrase around without really exploring its truth. Why? Perhaps our culture has muffled the deep appreciation for God's blessings and fails to offer thanksgiving. Maybe the struggle with human nature lends to our "self-sufficient" mindset.

My heart is filled with the words, "God is good." I have repeatedly seen the Lord bind His church together and keep them safe and secure. Church history has demonstrated a loving God who protects and preserves His people.

As I reflect on the words, "God is good," the Words of the apostle Paul come to mind. Paul wrote these words to the church at Corinth, *Php 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things* The word "finally" indicates that Paul is giving his benediction to the church. With this encouragement, at least six thoughts are needed to keep one busy. Think of things that are good and gospel-centered.

Paul's goal and vision for the church was the gospel. In fact, Paul writes in the next verse, *Php 4:9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.* Paul was not being arrogant or boastful. Instead, his hope and confidence were in the gospel he learned and passed on to others. According to these verses, the crux of disciple-making is to think on the goodness of the gospel and pass it on to others.

In short, what sustains us through any adversity or times of trial is the person of Jesus. I often am perplexed as to how those with hardships cope without the Lord. I sit here and think of the song "Ain't God good," and try to recollect the words. As I sift through the lyrics, I know these words probably are not hanging on the walls of those with PhD's or advanced college degrees. I know world renowned ethicists or philanthropist probably will not espouse these words, but they are good to my ears. There is a portion of the songs that reads, "Ain't god good to give us so many blessings undeserving, that's what we are, we ought to thank him, Love and praise him, A little more today and a whole lot more tomorrow." Underscore the word... undeserving.

Pastor Larry G. Stephens

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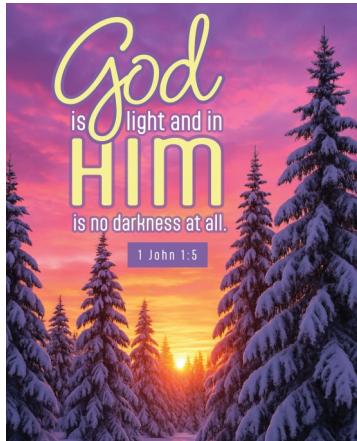
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 6 PM: Game Night	3 8:30 AM: YAH Breakfast
4 9 AM: Bible Study 10:30 AM: Worship 11:30 AM: Called Conf	5 CEC Teacher Workday 10 AM: Kards Ministry	6 GSCC Homeschool 6:30 PM: Deacon Meeting	7 GSCC Homeschool 6pm: Foundations	8	9	10
11 9 AM: Bible Study 10:30 AM: Worship	12	13 GSCC Homeschool 7pm: Leadership Team Meeting	14	15 5:30 PM: COH 7:30 PM: Missions Meeting	16 6 PM: Game Night	17
18 9 AM: Bible Study 10:30 AM: Worship	19 CEC No School	20 GSCC Homeschool	21 12 PM: YAH Soup & Sandwich Lunch	22	23	24
25 9 AM: Bible Study 10:30 AM: Worship 5 pm: Regular Church Conference	26	27 GSCC Homeschool	28	29	30	31

2026 Bible Reading Challenge

Join Highland as we read through the bible in a year. The reading plan is available on our website.



2026!
HELLO



O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
be to **follow you**
more closely
and to
trust in your
loving guidance.

- ★ Youth Valentines Fundraiser: February 13
- ★ BBQ Cookoff: March 21
- ★ Easter Cantata: March 29
- ★ VBS: June 11-14



8524 Crowder Road
Raleigh NC 27603
919.779.8778

info@highlandbaptistchurch.org
www.highlandbaptistchurch.org



Larry Stephens Senior Pastor
Shelley Snapp Minister of Music
Eric Hudson Minister to Students
Candace McCall Minister to Children and Families
Jordan Inscore Administrative Assistant
Max Miller Treasurer
Kim Payne Child Enrichment Center Director