



Northlake Baptist Church

December 2023 Newsletter

www.nbcbgarland.org

Lottie Moon Offering

Each year, we receive gifts throughout the month of December for the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions. This year, our church goal is \$8,500. Our Week of Prayer is Dec 3—10. One way you can help raise funds is to send Christmas cards to your Northlake friends at the Lottie Moon Post Office located near the stairs. Cards can be sent for a suggested donation of 20¢ per card. Donations can be turned in online, in the offering boxes, or in the collection box by the Post Office.

Music of the Season

Carols, Cookies & Cocoa

Sun, Dec 3 at 6 pm, Worship Center

Join us for music of the season featuring Brookside Quartet, followed by a time of fellowship to enjoy cookies & cocoa!

Adult Choir presents *This Is Christmas*

Sun, Dec 10 at 10:45 pm, Worship Center

Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for our annual Northlake Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 pm on Sun, Dec 24.

Christmas Shop

Wed, Dec 13, 5:30 pm, Multi-Purpose Center

This year, we will be helping families that we have met through our ESL Ministry by providing new children's gifts made available to them for purchase at 75%-80% off retail prices. You can help by donating money or Walmart gift cards or by purchasing items from the Walmart registry using the QR code below. The Christmas Shop event itself will be on Wed, Dec 13.

Volunteers are needed to help shop, take payments, and wrap gifts.

There will be no regular Wednesday night activities for adults or youth to allow participants to volunteer.



Neighborhood Outreach

Please help us canvas the neighborhood streets near our church to invite our neighbors to our Gingerbread House Contest and the Christmas Eve Service. We will meet at 1:30 pm on Sun, Dec 10 to blitz the neighborhood. We hope you will join us as we seek to connect with the people who live right in our own backyard.



Yet another year is drawing to a close—one with both highs and lows, blessings and hardships. As you begin your preparations for Christmas, from decorating the tree to putting up lights to buying gifts and making travel plans... ***I pray that you take some time to remind yourself ANEW what matters most.*** It's not how many gifts are beneath your tree or the size of your guest list; it's much more than just parties, carols, decorations and family gatherings. What matters most is the root from which that word derives: **CHRISTmas**. We've added a lot to the simplicity of the manger over the years—many of which are wonderful traditions. But in the midst of all that has been brought IN, let's focus on where it all BEGAN. *Joy to the world, the Lord has come!* Make room in your heart for the Christmas Child who is our Coming King.

Be sure to mark your calendar and lace up your walking shoes! We'll soon be hitting the streets once more, for the second installment of our renewed vision of COMMUNITY CONNECTION. **Sunday, December 10** (1:30 pm), we're looking for teams of at least two Northlake members to "adopt" a street; packets will be prepared with maps for all participants. Our goal is to form *connections* and have *conversations*—getting to know our neighbors, and looking for those "people of peace" with whom God may lead you to build relational bridges. We'll also hand out flyers inviting folks to our GINGERBREAD HOUSE BUILDING CONTEST (registration required) the following weekend (**Saturday, December 16**), along with our annual Christmas Eve service. To cover as many streets as possible, we'll need a **large group** of volunteers to help. You fulfill His vision by embracing your mission—engaging one house, one family, one conversation at a time! My prayer is that there's a group for EACH street—folks willing to make a long-term investment in reaching out, through scheduled outreach events and individual follow up efforts (e.g., notes, calls, visits). ***Will you COMMIT to community CONNECTION?***

On December 3 and 10 (one per week), you'll hear a brief testimony from the men who've been asked and agreed to join our deacon ministry this nomination cycle: **Tom Johnson** (wife, Jill) and **Jim Thompson** (wife, Ronda). We'll share information about each man when they speak, providing a basic introduction for our church members; look for an insert in your bulletin. Then, we'll share a service of commitment (deacon ordination) for **Sunday, January 7**. Keep praying for these families as they begin serving with NORTHLAKE'S DEACON MINISTRY. And remember: No matter what your specific role may be, we're all called to be servants in the body of Christ through the local church. Every member, every gift, every opportunity!

As always, know that it's a privilege to be your pastor...

Bro. John

Recent Giving

Oct 29—\$15,070.13

Nov 5—\$13,984.50

Nov 12—\$10,942.11

Nov 19—\$10,741.50

Nov 26—\$16,377.47

Weekly Need: \$14,151.00

Recent Bible Study Attendance

Oct 29—167

Nov 5—153

Nov 12—168

Nov 19—127

Nov 26—130





December 2023 Calendar

Sat, Dec 2—Senior Adult Outing to Denison Christmas Lights (3:45 pm)

Sun, Dec 3—Sun, Dec 10—Lottie Moon Week of Prayer

Sun, Dec 3—Guest/New Member Lunch (12:00 pm)

Carols, Cookies & Cocoa (6:00 pm)

Wed, Dec 6—Deacons Meeting (6:00 pm)

Thurs, Dec 7—Food Pantry/Clothes Closet (1:00 pm)

Sat, Dec 9—Adult Choir Rehearsal (9:00 am)

Sat, Dec 10—Adult Choir Presents *This Is Christmas* (10:45 am)

Neighborhood Outreach Event (1:30 pm)

Wed, Dec 13—Christmas Shop (5:30 pm)

ESL Banquet (6:30 pm)

Finance Committee Meeting (6:00 pm)

Sat, Dec 16—Gingerbread House Building Contest (6:00 pm)

Sun, Dec 24—Christmas Eve Service (5:00 pm)

Mon, Dec 25—Fri, Dec 29—Church Office Closed for Christmas Break

Thurs, Dec 28—"Undeck" the Gathering Hall





Holiday Schedule

Fri, Dec 24, 5 pm—Christmas Eve Service

No Sunday School on Dec 24 or 31
(10:45 am service only)

No Wed night activities on Dec 20 or 27

Church office closed Dec 25-29 & Jan 1

December Bible Reading Plan

December reading plans are available at the Welcome Desk. Each reading will help us focus on Jesus by reading prophecies about Jesus or about his birth.

New Members

Welcome to Northlake's newest members, Rosalva Garcia and Billie Rogers. Both joined on November 5 by statement.

"Undeck" the Gathering Hall

Thurs, Dec 28, 67 pm

We need help putting away the Christmas decorations! If you can spare an hour, please help us take down decorations to store for next year.

Gingerbread House Building Contest

Sat, Dec 16, 6 pm, MPC Kitchen

Families or friends groups are invited to join us for a fun Northlake tradition. All basic supplies are provided, but you are encouraged to bring your own edible "secret ingredients" to make your creation special. We are inviting our neighbors to attend, so consider joining us for opportunities to make connections with them.

Senior Adult Events

Huck's Catfish & Grayson County Lights

Sat, Dec 2, meet at 3:45 in Parking Lot
Join us for dinner and a drive-through Christmas display. We will return to the church around 8 pm.

Senior Adult Christmas Party

Sat, Dec 16, 1-4 pm, Fellowship Hall
Join us for food, fun, and holiday cheer!

2024 Flower Calendar

Beginning Dec 3, you can sign up on the church office doors to provide altar flowers for the Sunday of your choice in honor or in memory of a loved one. Arrangements are \$40 each (payable in advance).

Merry Christmas with love from your Northlake Staff!

Bro. John, Sarah, Andrew,
David, Tracy, Cindy & Cathie