

# THE BEST *is yet to come*

## Weekly Schedule

Sunday: Opening Assembly 9:30am • Bible Study Classes 10:00am • Worship Service 11:00am  
Wednesday: Bible Studies 7:00pm  
Friday: Youth Night 7:00pm

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF NORTH HIALEAH BAPTIST CHURCH NOVEMBER 2017 – VOLUME 1

## Shepherd's and Kings

*A dramatic presentation for the Christmas season.*

Christmas is a time of joy and celebration, a time to be spent with family and friends...a festive, happy time. But for others, the same holiday season only serves to underscore the loneliness, pain, and hopelessness of their own lives. In the story of this musical, Susanna King's bright spirit and love for life overrides her circumstances; you see, Susanna has been recently diagnosed with cancer. But in spite of bad news and challenging times, she lives with the joy of Christmas in her heart.

This message is near to my heart as we are celebrating one year of my mother being cancer free! And I'm sure it's near to the hearts of many others in our church who have also battled cancer or are facing other life struggles. God is good and there is beauty to be found in the midst of our difficult circumstances. Join us in sharing the hope and good news of Christmas with our church and community this year, through the presentation of Shepherds and Kings on Sunday, December 10th at 7:00pm.

- Adalis De La Nuez

## Christmas Lights Drive

Every year Pastor talks about how he loves the lights of Christmas. This year we'd like to make it a reality. We are asking for church members to donate white outdoor Christmas lights and join together on Saturday, November 18th to hang them and have our church shine in the community this season. There will be a donation box in the church foyer.

## Connect with us...

- Pastor Dan: [dramos@northhialeahbaptist.com](mailto:dramos@northhialeahbaptist.com)
- Pastor Joey: [jkent@northhialeahbaptist.com](mailto:jkent@northhialeahbaptist.com)
- Pastor Pete: [poliva@northhialeahbaptist.com](mailto:poliva@northhialeahbaptist.com)
- Music & Women's Ministry: [adalis@northhialeahbaptist.com](mailto:adalis@northhialeahbaptist.com)
- Youth Ministry: [fuge412@northhialeahbaptist.com](mailto:fuge412@northhialeahbaptist.com)
- Young Adults Ministry: [whoyoufollow@northhialeahbaptist.com](mailto:whoyoufollow@northhialeahbaptist.com)

Church Website: [northhialeahbaptist.com](http://northhialeahbaptist.com)

## Church Events

- **3-4th: The Haunting Reality 7-10pm**
- **4th: Prayer Meeting 7am**
- **13th: Men's Meeting 6:30pm**
- **18th: Church Christmas Decorating 9:30am**
- **18th: Ladies Meeting 6:30pm**
- **23rd: Happy Thanksgiving! Church Family Breakfast 8am**





# Pastor's Notes

*I believe this article that was placed in my hands will be beneficial to your lives. Here are "Four ways to Prepare to Meet God".*

## **1. Go to a Church Where Truth Is Honored**

First, you should prepare to meet God in worship by going to a church where truth is honored as a very high premium. The Israelites were a religious people. They came to Bethel and came gladly. But they had lost touch with the God of truth and they were not worshipping in truth. If I were looking for a place to worship God today, my top priority would be, a people and leadership that loves God's truth, and that means loves the Bible—manifestly loves the Bible. I would look for a church that loves clear, straightforward, biblically based doctrines about God and his work, and about his will for all of life. The first preparation for worship is to find a body of believers where truth about God is top priority.

## **2. Renounce All Known Sin in Our Lives**

The second preparation for worship is that we renounce all known sin in our lives before coming to worship God. The wealthy people of Israel tried to worship God while concealing sin in their lives. They oppressed the poor, and crushed the needy, while living in wealth and luxury. Worship will inevitably become a weak, empty form and ritual if we try to keep on with it while our hearts are running after other gods. God will gladly take the dirtiest sinner into his arms on Sunday morning who comes with a broken and contrite heart intent on forsaking all known sin and trusting in Jesus for cleansing. But God will not be mocked by those who make like they love him and willfully break his law during the week. So the second act of preparation is

to confess and renounce all known sin and come to worship cleansed by the blood of Jesus and resting in his forgiveness and hope.

## **3. Take Note of What God Is Doing in Our Lives**

The third preparation for worship is that we take note of how God has been trying to get our attention. Five times in Amos 4 God says that he had done specific things in the lives of his people to turn them back to himself. And five times it says, "Yet you did not return to me." Each of these things God had done to get their attention could be explained as natural events with no divine cause. But God holds Israel accountable to listen and respond. That's the meaning of "Yet you did not return to me." In not hearing the voice of God, or seeing the hand of God, Israel failed to prepare to meet him. That is what we must not do. We must wake up and stop looking at our lives like secular, scientific, western naturalists. God is doing things in your life which are gracious providential messages to return to him and trust him. That is the third way we prepare to meet him in worship. Take note of what he has been saying to us in our lives to draw us to himself.

## **4. Draw Near to God in Our Hearts**

Finally, we prepare for worship by drawing near to God in our hearts. When God said five times, "You did not return to me," he did not mean that they should have come more often to the place of worship. The returning was not a physical movement. Returning to God was a movement of the heart, not a movement of the body. There is a heart preparation to be done in order to meet God. Jesus said, "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:8). When this is the case, the preparation needed is a movement of the heart from far to near.