

The Rocky Hock Anchor



**The Mission of Rocky Hock Baptist Church is
to magnify Christ and make disciples of all people.**

A Thanksgiving Devotion

by Mike Bergman, SBC Voices, Contributing Writer

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

~ 1 Thess. 5:18

The Thanksgiving season is quickly upon us, at least when we speak of the holiday with turkey and all the trimmings. Yet, for followers of Jesus, *giving thanks* is never out of season. As Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, we are to give thanks (that is to God) *in all circumstances*.

I will be the first to admit that this is not a natural inclination, which is part of the reason why Paul said it again in Ephesians 5:20: “...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” We tend to want to grumble about things we don’t like and sulk when we don’t get our way. Yet the command still remains: give thanks in all circumstances.

When it comes to understanding and applying this command, we have to understand that *all circumstances* means all circumstances and *always and for everything* means always and for everything. When things are going well, it is easier for us to give thanks, but giving thanks to God is something we must do even when our day is just so-so or when we feel like everything is just going wrong or when we feel like nothing could get worse. How is this so?

First, God’s grace is enough. It is by grace we have been saved through faith, Paul says in Ephesians 2:8, and when Paul faced weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, calamities, and a “thorn in his flesh”—whatever he meant by that—he still wrote of his hope in the promise of God, “My grace is sufficient for you” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). In saving us and sustaining us by his grace, God has given goodness to us when we deserved his wrath due our sin. If that is all we had, it is sufficient reason to be eternally grateful each and every moment of each and every day. Far too often when we are thankless, bitter, or grumpy, it is because we have taken our eyes off of Jesus.

Second, God will turn all things to the good of his people. Romans 8:28 reminds us that God works all things for good for those who love God—and ultimately that good is to be glorified as he conforms us to the image of Jesus (8:29-30). So whatever is the good, bad, and ugly that we face each day, God will use it for the good of transforming us and other followers of Jesus around us. Which goes with...

Third, God uses trials to build our faith in him. James 1:2-4 talks about how we are to face various trials with joy, because such testing of our faith brings about our perfection and completion as God’s people. At the very core of this, God uses such trials to deepen our dependence upon him, his word, and his grace. I saw this in a friend of mine who called recently and told me some of the trials his family is facing, to which he said, “All I’ve been able to do is really depend on God and I’ve felt a spiritual wind at my back and a strength I know doesn’t come from me.”

Finally, giving thanks helps us to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit within us. I mentioned Ephesians 5:20 above; in its context Paul tells us to give thanks always as part of what it means to be “filled with the Spirit” (5:18). Though the Spirit always dwells within followers of Jesus, there are times we can grieve him (4:30) and be less in tune with his work, power, and presence in our lives. Giving thanks always helps to keep our minds and hearts focused on Christ and not our sins and temptations, and thus is a way to walk continuously in the power of the Spirit.



Senior Adults Shopping Trip

The Senior Adult Committee has planned a shopping trip to Hamrick’s in Raleigh on **Monday, December 8th**. We will leave the church at 7 AM, stop on the way for breakfast, and stop on the way back for lunch. We will only shop at Hamrick’s. Sign-up sheets are in the usual locations. **Anyone** is welcome to go!



“A Mind to Work”

The Power of a Church That Stands, Serves,
and Strives as One

*“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.”
~ Nehemiah 4:6*

In July of 2023, Julianna and I had the opportunity to join a group of folks on a mission trip to Browning, Montana. If you’ve ever been up that way before, you know it’s a beautiful place — framed by the jagged peaks of Glacier National Park, and flanked by wide plains full of grazing bison and prairie dogs.

But as beautiful as it is... it takes some real “doing” to get there! Our original flight plan zig-zagged across the map — Atlanta to Detroit, Detroit to Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City to Great Falls — and then a long van-ride north towards the Canadian border! Thankfully, the Lord showed us a little mercy and allowed us to bypass Detroit — but even then... it was an all-day odyssey just to get where we were going!

This wasn’t my first venture to Browning. The year before, I had traveled there with several other local pastors on a “vision trip” — meeting the community, listening to their needs, and discerning how we might be able to come alongside a small, faithful church planted right in the heart of the Blackfeet Nation.

Turns out, that little congregation was the only “non-Catholic” church within 60 miles! People from all walks of life passed through their doors on a daily basis — seeking help, prayer, counsel, and clothing. And while the Missionary Pastor and his wife were doing as much as they could — they still needed some extra hands!

After much prayer, it became clear that God was calling us to unite with this ministry. So we committed ourselves to return the following summer and bring a whole crew of mission-minded “church people” with us!

When we arrived in 2023, we launched nightly revival services, hosted Vacation Bible Schools for the local children, and committed to repainting the entire church property — every building, every shed, and even the parsonage.

What we *didn’t know* was that all those buildings were wrapped in a type of metal siding that resisted paint. In addition to this, after years of fierce Montana winters, the coating had started peeling off in long strips — like bark falling off a tree! It was rough. *And even though we weren’t sure if we could even finish the job that week...* we were eager to give the place new life! So we got to work!

Here’s the good news — not only did we finish... but we finished in record time! Through blistering heat, scraping paint, and long days on our feet, we got it done! It was a beautiful thing to see our team come together around a common goal for the glory of Christ. We were a family on that trip... and if you’ve ever been on a good mission trip, you probably know exactly what I’m talking about! Listen — when God’s people share a vision and come together with willing hearts to serve and work... *great things can and will happen!*

Every time I think about that week in Montana, I’m drawn to a story from the Book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah hears that the city of Jerusalem is in real trouble; the people are “in great affliction and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire” (v. 3). So he returns home with ambitions of rebuilding the walls and restoring the people. And when he gets into town, he rallies the people to pick up their tools, and start the process! Brick by brick, they begin to rebuild the city walls... and the Bible says something remarkable happened.

Each family rebuilt the section of the wall that was directly in front of their home. No one got overwhelmed and there wasn’t any confusion. Everybody found their place. Everybody did their part. And you know what happened? A massive construction project — one that should’ve taken a long, long time — was accomplished in just **52 days!** How did this happen, you might ask? Scripture gives us the reason in Nehemiah 4:6 - “And the wall was joined together... *for the people had a mind to work.*” The people caught the vision, were empowered by God, and were determined to meet the challenge!

My friends, when God’s people determine to work together... big things can happen! We saw it in Montana. We see it in Nehemiah. *And we can see it here at Rocky Hock, too!*

As we step into a new season as a church family, this is the time for us to lean in, lock arms, and refocus our hearts on what God wants to do through our church. I truly believe — deep in my bones — that God has a great work ahead for us. Great things can be done when we work together! **So let’s get to work!**

Pastor Trey Rogers
Associate Pastor of Youth & Children

Baptist Women



Every Nativity Tells His Story

From Missions Mosaic, Winter 2025-26

By Cindy Lewis Dake, Contributing Writer

Every year after Thanksgiving, I carefully unwrap the nativity sets I oh-so-carefully wrapped just ten months before. Every nativity I pull out of the box comes with its own collection of memories. (Pieces with glued-on heads or appendages resonate with my son's childhood.) Though the memories may differ, the story is always the same.

Every nativity tells a story — Jesus' story — the big story of the little baby born in an obscure Bethlehem manger. This story, recounted in Matthew 1 & 2 and Luke 1 & 2, will be read around Christmas trees and fireplaces, in churches, and in homes around the world this month. Telling Jesus' story at this time of year is a natural and integral part of our Christmas traditions. For some, this season will be the first time they have heard it. Let's pray His story would be read and received with joy by all who hear it, whether they are just down the street or on another continent.

Just as the shepherds and wise men were the first to spread the good news of Jesus, pray the gospel would go forth to all people and all lands by any possible means, technology, and word of mouth to all the world. Recall Jesus' words 33 years after His birth in Bethlehem as He prepared to ascend to His true home: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28: 19 - 20).

BIOGRAPHY OF LOTTIE MOON

From The Southern Baptist Historical Library

In 1873, Lottie Moon was appointed as a missionary to China. She spent nearly 40 years sharing the gospel with a bold spirit and heart full of love for the Lord. She dedicated her life to sharing the gospel with the people of China, faithfully serving until her passing on December 24, 1912.

Growing up, as a young child, Lottie was known by her "spirited attitude" and being outspoken. Her family had strong Christian values. Lottie knew about Jesus but rebelled. She did not like to go to church. A friend invited her to a Missionary Meeting. At that meeting, God showed her how ugly her spirit was. She confessed her bad behavior to God and others. It was there Lottie decided to become a missionary herself.

When she arrived in China, the people did not respond well to her at first. She knew she had to find a way to earn the trust of the Chinese people. She began making tea cakes for the children in the village. She would then be invited into their homes where she would share the gospel with their mothers. The children began calling Lottie "The Cookie Lady."

Lottie soon discovered her passion: Direct Evangelism. She took advantage of every opportunity to reach out and share the gospel. She wrote letters home, expressing the need for more missionaries and finances to support those serving. She challenged the Southern Baptist Women to form their own Missionary Organization for support and promotion of foreign missions.

In 1888, the Annual Christmas Offering was initiated to support foreign missions. Later, the offering was named in her honor.

When Lottie was in her seventies, China suffered severe famine. She would not eat because her people had nothing to eat. She became ill and was put on a boat with a caregiver to return to America. Lottie died of starvation before getting home. She gave her life loving and serving her Chinese people.

The National Goal for the 2025 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$210 million. This offering will be collected at RHBC on Sunday, December 21st.



The **Baptist Men's Breakfast** this month will be on **Sunday, December 21st at 7:30 AM** in the Special Function Room. Gentlemen, please join us for food, fellowship, and a devotion!





Deacon Team of the Week

11/30/25 - 12/6/25

Ted Peele, Oscar White, Adam Bunch

12/7/25 - 12/13/25

Chris Turner, Steve Evans, Bill Smith

12/14/25 - 12/20/25

Sam Tynch, Donald Bass, Allen Peele

12/21/25 - 12/27/25

Ruston Howell, Danny Lewis, Carroll Evans

12/28/25 - 1/3/26

Allen Nixon, Ellis Tynch, Lee Bass

December Deacon Greeters

Senior Adult Building: Mike Evans

Sanctuary Main Entrance: Scott Noble

Connecting Corridor: Carroll Evans

Multi-Purpose Main Entrance: Oscar White

LOVE GROW SERVE



December Ushers:

Lee Jordan, Ellis Tynch,
Paul Ward, Aundra Harrell,
Jay Parrish, Butch Byrum

December Offering Team:

Allen Nixon (Chair), J. C. Forehand,
Ruston Howell, Keith Rollins,
Chris Turner, Ellis Tynch

December Counting Committee:

Aundra Harrell, Mary Louise Phelps,
Phil & Rene` Smith, Ellis Tynch

<u>Sunday Attendance:</u>		<u>SS</u>	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
	10/26/25:	157	234	71
	11/2/25:	162	221	78
	11/9/25:	168	231	110 (Revival)
Mon.	11/10/25:			73 (Revival)
Tues.	11/11/25:			78 (Revival)
	11/16/25:	176	273	151

Wednesday Evening Attendance:

10/22/25:	67
10/29/25:	104 (Church Conference)
11/5/25:	58
11/12/25:	79 (Revival)
11/19/25:	80 (OCC Packing Party)



The request from RHBC this month is:

Peanut Butter



Children's Page

For children
of all ages!

Basketball Practice Schedule

Week of December 1st

Monday, 6 - 7 PM	K - 2nd Grade Co-ed
7 - 8 PM	3rd - 5th Grade Co-ed
Tuesday, 6 - 8 PM	Middle School Boys
Wednesday, 8 - 9 PM	6th - 12th Grade Girls
Thursday, 7 - 8 PM	High School Boys

Week of December 8th

Monday, 6 - 7 PM	K - 2nd Grade Co-ed
7 - 8 PM	3rd - 5th Grade Co-ed
Tuesday, 6 - 8 PM	Middle School Boys
Wednesday, 8 - 9 PM	6th - 12th Grade Girls
Thursday, 7 - 8 PM	High School Boys

Week of December 15th

Monday, 6 - 7 PM	K - 2nd Grade Co-ed
7 - 8 PM	3rd - 5th Grade Co-ed
Tuesday, 6 - 8 PM	Middle School Boys
No Wednesday Practice due to Live Nativity	
No Thursday Practice due to Scheduled Event	

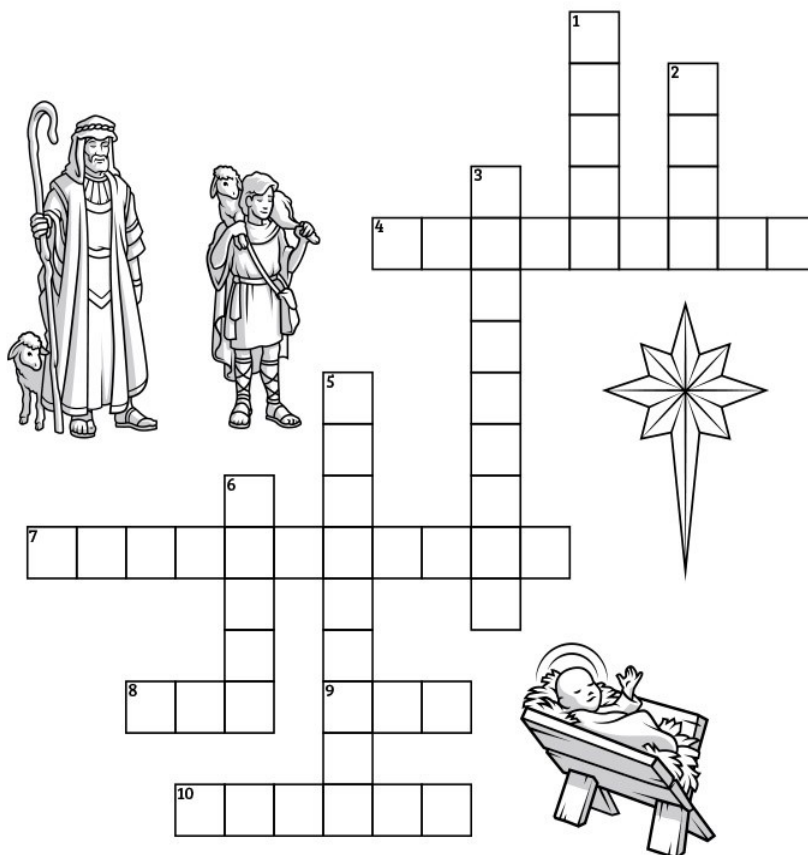
No Practices the Week of December 22nd!

Week of December 29th

Monday, 6 - 7 PM	K - 2nd Grade Co-ed
7 - 8 PM	3rd - 5th Grade Co-ed
Tuesday, 6 - 8 PM	Middle School Boys
Wednesday, 8 - 9 PM	6th - 12th Grade Girls
Thursday, 7 - 8 PM	High School Boys



CHRISTMAS NATIVITY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

4. _____ watched their flocks by night.
7. Mary and Joseph brought _____ as a sacrifice to the temple.
8. Angels brought good tidings of great _____.
9. There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the _____.
10. Jesus lay in a _____.

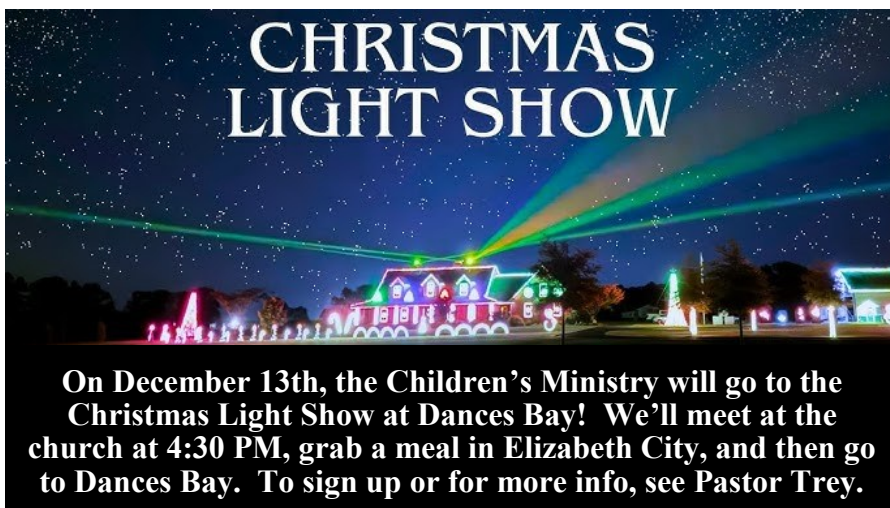
DOWN

1. The wisemen brought gold, frankincense, and _____.
2. The _____ appeared in the East.
3. Mary and Joseph traveled to _____ to be taxed.
5. Jesus was wrapped in _____ clothing.
6. The _____ of the Lord shone down on the shepherds.

**G.A's & R.A's Christmas
Caroling - Wednesday,
December 10th @ 6 PM**



CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW



On December 13th, the Children's Ministry will go to the Christmas Light Show at Dances Bay! We'll meet at the church at 4:30 PM, grab a meal in Elizabeth City, and then go to Dances Bay. To sign up or for more info, see Pastor Trey.

The Life of an Active Mission-Minded Church

We had an extremely active day at Rocky Hock on Tuesday, November 18th. It began with our Food Drive for Seniors in coordination with the Food Bank of the Albemarle. Our Partners in Christ Sunday School Class participates in this every month. This Food Drive was from 12:00 - 1:00 PM. Seniors with food insecurity from the region were waiting in their cars 1-2 hours before the truck arrived. On a normal day, 38 - 40 seniors are served. Seniors were warmly greeted and given their food, and also Christian magazines.

Our Chase Bateman Memorial Blood Drive began at 1:00 and lasted until 6:00 PM. Many of our Partners in Christ Class went straight from the Food Drive to donate blood, volunteer, or both! We had 15 - 20 volunteers from all over our church participating. Two of our volunteers, Emma Nixon and Maci Kate Nixon, are students at John A. Holmes High School who are in the Health Careers Program. They plan to have a Blood Drive at the new school next semester. We had 43 potential donors from multiple counties and we were blessed with 38 units of blood. This Drive highlighted the emergent need for blood during trauma. Our Blood Drive team wants to thank everyone who participated by donating, volunteering, or making food. We had balloons given to us by Sawyer's Designs. We had a gift certificate given by Nixon's Hardware that went to Donald Slaughter. We also had a beautiful gift basket by Natalie Phelps that went to Beth Evans. Congratulations to our winners! But a special thanks and lots of love goes to Natalie and family who yearly sponsors this Blood Drive in memory of Chase. Please put on your calendar that our next blood drive is March 17, 2026.

The day of our church extended well into the evening. As soon as our Blood Drive ended, the gym was transformed into Operation Christmas Child. Volunteers began to set up for the church-wide event that took place the following Wednesday night. And that's not all! As I was leaving, another group of volunteers (the Creative Ministries Team) were decorating our beautiful church on the exterior with white lights for the Christmas season.

As we go into Thanksgiving and Christmas, we as a church have a lot to be thankful for. We are a God-loving church who serve a mighty God. We are a mission-minded church who serve those here in our area and far away to countries worldwide. Let's be thankful for the many blessings He has given us and in turn, give back to those in need and who may not know Christ.

Thank you!

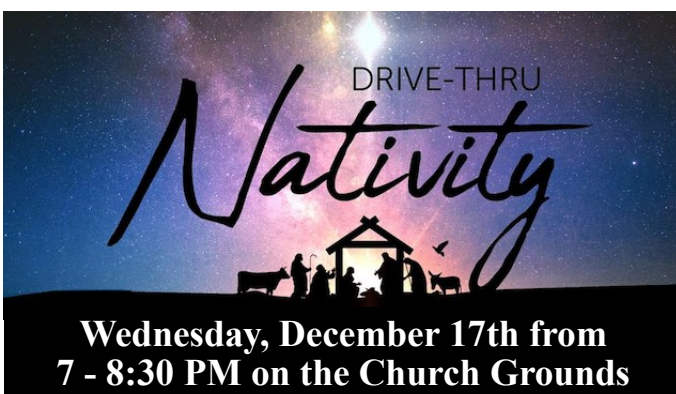
Rhonda Bass

Christmas Programs & Services:

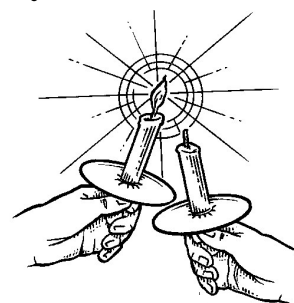
November 30th - "Hanging of the Greens" @ 6 PM
December 14th - Hand Bell Choir @ 6 PM

December 7th - Children's Choirs @ 6 PM
December 21st - Sanctuary Choir @ 6 PM

The Lottie Moon Post Office is open December 7th through the 21st. Simply place Christmas cards to your church family, along with your donation of 50 cents per card, in the mailbox in the Connecting Corridor. The GA's will deliver them to the appropriate Sunday School Class (please indicate on the card which class the person attends, if you know). Thanks for your support of our GA's and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday, December 24th @ 5 PM**



Rocky Hock Baptist Church
113 Rocky Hock Church Road
Edenton, North Carolina 27932
Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
EDENTON, NC
PERMIT NO. 127



Check us out on the web at www.rhbce.org

Weekly Schedule:

Sundays: 9:45 AM - Sunday School for all ages
11:00 AM - Morning Worship (Nursery & Children's Church available for 3 year olds up to 5th Grade);
Worship Online at www.rhbce.org, our Facebook page, vimeo, and YouTube
6:00 PM - Evening Worship ("Sundays @ SIX") - Adults in Sanctuary, Youth in Youth Suite, Children in Gym

Wednesdays: 6:45 PM - Vertical Student Ministries (VSM) - Middle & High School Youth - Youth Suite
7:00 PM - Prayer Meeting/Adult Bible Study - Sanctuary; Mission Friends (3 & 4 year olds) - 2 year olds
Room; GA's (K-5th Grade Girls) - GA's Room, beside foyer; RA's (K-5th Grade Boys) - RA's Room, upstairs

Rev. Trey Rogers, Associate Pastor of Youth & Children
trogers@rhbce.org

Mr. Steve Evans, Acting Music Director

Mr. Carroll Evans, Chair of Deacons

Mrs. Linda B. Bunch, Administrative Assistant
lbunch@rhbce.org

Mrs. Donna Peele, Pianist
Mrs. Mary Jo Bass, Treasurer
Ms. Deborah Long, Custodian

252-687-2086 (Office)
706-994-2652 (Cell)

252-333-8567 (Cell)

252-370-2358 (Cell)

252-221-4133 (Office)

Mr. Trey Bass, Security
Mrs. Doris Tynch, Custodian



Rocky Hock
BAPTIST CHURCH-EDENTON