

APRIL 2011

The Messenger

NATIONAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
103 Old Norton Road
Fayetteville, GA 30215
(770) 461-1704

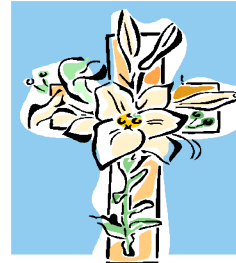
E-mail address: nationalheights@yahoo.com

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Pastor: J. Barrett Owen

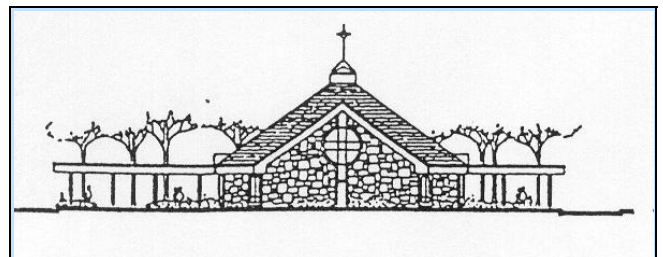
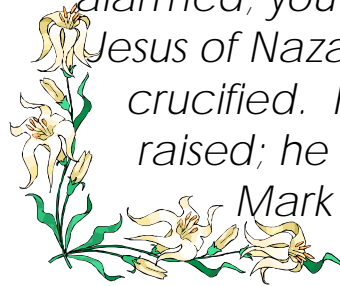
Minister of Music: James Allen

National Heights Baptist Church
103 Old Norton Road
Fayetteville, GA 30215



*As they entered the tomb,
they saw a young man,
dressed in a white robe,
sitting on the right side; and
they were alarmed. But he
said to them, "Do not be
alarmed; you are looking for
Jesus of Nazareth, who was
crucified. He has been
raised; he is not here."*

Mark 16:5-6



The Pastor's Page



Rocky Balboa told his son, "Life is not about how many times you get hit. It is rather about how many times you get back up to keep moving forward. But be aware, no one hits harder than life."

The boy in me can't help but fall in love with this statement. There is something unbelievably inspiring about watching a Rocky movie. It makes me want to work out to 'Eye of the Tiger' or sprint a set of stairs just to jump up and down when I get to the top. But do you sense a deeper question to this statement? Is Rocky saying something about who we are as humans or even how we experience life?

Would it be the same to say Rocky is implying that life hits all of us harder than we want it to, and it is fiercer than we anticipated? Is Rocky saying that sooner or later we all wrestle our disillusionment?

Regardless of your thoughts about Sylvester Stallone's ability to produce movies, there is something strikingly accurate about this quote. Life is hard. Life interrupts our illusion for the reality of our perfect dreams. For Christians, we blame this happenstance on God. God promised us at birth that if we were faithful he would take care of us. And here we stand. Single. Alone. Poor. Miserable. Broken. Empty. Lonely. Jealous. Divorced. Bankrupt. Disenfranchised. Sick. Forgotten. Mediocre. Abandoned. Used. Abused.

We are hurting and God seems absent. Our prayers go unanswered and our beliefs go unrewarded.

At some point or another we all reach this level of disillusionment. God is not what we thought God should be.

Barbara Brown Taylor says,

But down in the darkness below those dreams—in the place where all our notions about God have come to naught—there is still reason to hope, because disillusionment is not so bad. Disillusionment is the loss of illusion—about ourselves, about the world, about God—and while it is almost always painful, it is not a bad thing to lose the lies we have mistaken for the truth.

In other words, God does not fit into our preconceived boxes. God is above it. Our thoughts on who God is, for obvious reasons, are purely fictional. The God we used to believe in was a God of parameters—foundations that orbit around our personal righteousness and individual successes.

God used to exist for our pleasure. But now our disillusionment has set in and we see that God is not here to serve humanity—humanity is here to serve God.

But who is God?

Sadly, most disillusioned people get to this question and stop. The pain of arriving here causes them to abandon the process altogether. Anger becomes their best defense. "How could we be so gullible?"

My response to this—if this is you—is for you to keep on trucking. Don't be afraid of your disillusionment but rather own it. Probe it. Listen to it. Question it. Wrestle it. Disillusionment is not half as bad when you're walking through it, "...because the real danger is not the territory itself but getting stuck in it." (Taylor)

For those who dare to keep leaping after the Light, I submit you will find that what you have lost is not nearly as important as to what is to be found. You will find a God who is alive and moving in this world. God just doesn't look and act the way you imagined. God is above your imagination. It takes faith to see and hope to feel it.

"For life is not about how many times you get hit, but how many times you get back up to keep moving forward."

God doesn't stop you from getting hit. God is in your corner and is preparing you for each round. You have to have faith enough to believe that when you go back out into the ring—God is really with you and you have the strength to wrestle your disillusionments. For every time you do, another idol is uncovered and more truth about God is revealed.

Your Pastor, Rev. J. Barrett Owen



Music Notes:

March has really moved by quickly, and apparently Barrett was so right when he asked the question regarding Lent, “when do we really have time to reflect on this important season of the year, and more importantly, to change our attitudes and actions to be more in God’s will.” Of course, we still have time to slow down some before Easter and actually reflect upon God’s goodness and his will for our lives. I am going to make a strong effort and hopefully you will also.

The worship music leading up to Easter will focus primarily on the passion of Christ. Without the passion emphasis, Easter would be difficult to understand or even explain to others. The Palm Sunday Music, that will begin Holy Week on the 17th

of April at 7:00 p.m. with a reception following, will focus in on the passion of Christ. Selections from Handel’s MESSIAH will be sung along with Joseph Martin’s WHISPERS OF THE PASSION. The four elements that are emphasized in this work are the palms, chalice, robe and the cross to help give better understanding to the suffering and death of Christ.

I hope that all of our church members will join the choir for this special service and also invite others who need a church home. What a great time to share with others the special fellowship we have at National Heights.

See you each Sunday in April.....James

Save the date of
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia’s
Senior Celebration
April 5, 2011

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta
Registration fee: \$15 per person

Join us for worship, food, fellowship, and fun!
More information is posted on the bulletin board
in the church lobby. Please put your name on the
sign-up sheet.

EASTER LILIES

On Easter Sunday, the sanctuary
will be decorated with lilies given
in honor of and in memory of
loved ones. Easter Lily order
forms should be turned in to the
church office by April 10, 2011.
Price: \$8.00 each.



SATURDAY, APRIL 23



NHBC Easter Egg Hunt
9:30–10:30 A.M.

The Children/Youth Committee needs various
items to fill baskets for children participating in
the Egg Hunt. If you can help, please bring items
to the church foyer no later than April 20.

Suggestions:

Individually wrapped candies (no hard candy or
peanut butter treats). Activity items like small
paper pads, crayons, stickers, etc., small stuffed
animals or toys.

Antique Car Show

11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Classic Cars, Hot Dogs, Candy, and Great Fun!

HOLY WEEK EVENTS AT NATIONAL HEIGHTS:

Palm Sunday, April 17

10:55 AM Morning Worship including procession
with palms

7:00 PM “*Whispers of the Passion*” presented by
Sanctuary Choir followed by
Reception in Fellowship Hall

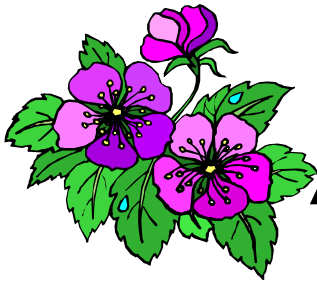
Maundy Thursday, April 21

7:00 PM Tenebrae Service and Communion

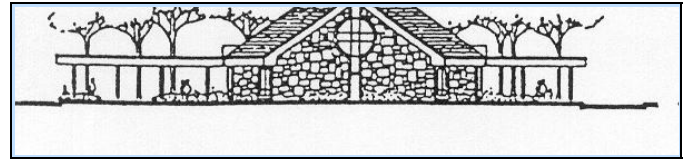
Easter Sunday, April 24

A Day of Celebration!

Remember to bring flowers for the wooden cross!



April 2011



Church office: 770-461-1704
E-mail: NationalHeights@yahoo.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Regular Wednesday Night Activities</u> 6:00 p.m.—Supper 6:45 p.m.—Prayer/Praise 7:00 p.m.—Adult Class/Children & Youth Activities		<u>Regular Sunday Activities</u> 9:00 a.m.—Choir Rehearsal 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School 10:55 a.m.—Worship Service			1	2
3 Regular Activities 12:15 Deacon's Mtg Deacon: Helen Odom 770-461-5693	4	5 CBF OF GA'S SENIOR CELEBRATION	6 Regular Activities	7	8	9
10 Regular Activities 12:15 Finance Committee Meeting Choir Lunch/Rehearsal Deacon: Connie King 770-461-6795	11	12	13 Regular Activities 10:30 AM Widow's Support Group	14 Choir Dress Rehearsal	15	16
17 Regular Activities PALM SUNDAY Deacon: Ann Marchbanks 770-898-7158	18	19	20 NO ACTIVITIES	21 7 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	22 GOOD FRIDAY	23 9:30 AM EASTER EGG HUNT 11 AM—3 PM ANTIQUE CAR SHOW
24 Regular Activities EASTER SUNDAY Deacon: Larry Price 770-461-2878	25	26	27 Regular Activities Church Conference	28	29	30

Supper Teams Schedule for Wednesday Evenings

- 1st Wed: Helen Odom, Robin North, Charlotte Adamson
- 2nd Wed: Connie King, Joann Turner
- 3rd Wed: Audrey Allen, Wilma Treadwell, Jenny Woodruff
- 4th Wed: Suzanne & Bill Scarbrough, Jerry Bramblett
- 5th Wed: Covered-Dish Supper

Working with Preschoolers During Worship

(If you will be away on your scheduled Sunday, please swap with someone else on the list.)

Infants/Toddlers Class

- April 3 Wilma Treadwell & Jenny Woodruff
- April 10 Jackie Landers
- April 17 Amanda & Franklin Scarbrough
- April 24 Bill & Suzanne Scarbrough
- May 1 Connie King & Ann Marchbanks

April Missions

McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University