



Our vision at New Hope Baptist Church is:
to be a multiethnic family of faith,
united by God's grace,
remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ,
growing in obedience to God's Word,
and
sharing the Gospel with a distinctive witness in word and deed.

July 2020... the Contact ... Vol. XLII Issue 7

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor... pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

This beatitude may be difficult for us to appreciate. If we miss lunch, we might say, “I’m so hungry, I could eat a horse.” We search the kitchen cabinets and pantry then pathetically declare, “There’s nothing to eat!” In most cases, food is available but none that we desire to eat or take the time to cook. However, in the days of Jesus, those who hunger, and thirst were in dire need. Death was imminent unless their need for food and water were met. Few of us have experienced this type of hunger and thirst, the painful craving of the body for food and water, leading to an overwhelming and all-consuming desire to eat and drink to sustain life.

With this imagery, the fourth beatitude teaches that the believer who intensely desire for righteousness, as if all of life depended on it, is blessed by God. The word “righteousness” includes “justice.” In this case, the fourth beatitude takes the form of a prayer where God’s people cry out to God for him to intervene in this sin-torn world and to deliver his people from all sufferings and injustices. Considering all the calamities reported recently in the news, does your heart long for when the Lord Jesus returns and declares, “Behold, I am making all things news”? The final prayer of the Bible should always be in our hearts and minds, “Come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20). The promise of the return of Jesus is a constant and faithful source of hope for every believer, even in the darkest days.

In addition, the word “righteousness” refers to right conduct before Holy God. In this case, the fourth beatitude takes the form of a strong conviction and strength. It reflects the spiritual yearning and continual desire for doing what is right in God’s sight. Of course, every believer continues to struggle with the sin nature, but still, there should be an underlying determination in every believer to obey God and to honor Him in all things. Do you have a strong desire to grow in spiritual maturity? Is that desire reflected clearly in how you live?

This beatitude contains a beautiful promise, total satisfaction, which only comes from God. It is his blessing to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. The blessing is finding that God is always more than sufficient every spiritual need. This is important because living righteously before God and seeking righteousness in this sin-torn world cannot be self-willed. It only comes by looking upwards. Just as a small baby will hunger and thirst but is incapable of satisfying those longings, a believer can never satisfy his hunger and thirst for righteousness. Only a gracious God who has the power to transform the mind, heart, character, and behavior of his people can provide true satisfaction. The holy life described by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount is never the product of human effort but is only the product of the transforming grace of God. Ultimately, this total satisfaction is experienced in eternity when we are finally freed from the curse of sin and can fully enjoy the beauty of the Lord Jesus without restriction and limitation.

Pastor Jason



Calendar of Events

Standing Weekly Schedule
Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Join us on Face Book

1st and 3rd Saturday 10:00 a.m.
H₄F

Schedule for July

July 3 ~ 5
Main Sanctuary and Family Life Center
Reserved by Charlotte Zotung

July 11 and July 18
Clothes Closet and Food Pantry
10:00 AM



A question was posed to Rev. Billy Graham

Q:
I'm from another country and am visiting some of my relatives here who are in graduate school. I asked them what your festival on July 4 means, but they were not sure. Does it have something to do with your Christian religion?

A:
July 4th commemorates the day in 1776 that our nation declared itself to be an independent nation, and no longer a colony of England. On that date, a number of our leading citizens signed what is known as the Declaration of Independence, stating our determination to become a free country.

Our independence did not come easily; only after several difficult years of war would it finally be won. Nor were our first years as a nation free from problems and controversies (as is still true). But our forefathers were determined to establish a free and democratic system of government, and the Declaration of Independence (together with our Constitution and the Bill of Rights) became the foundation for this. They have stood the test of time, and on July 4th we give thanks for the wisdom and faith and courage of those leaders.

Although it is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter, for many Americans July 4th is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia (which proclaimed our independence) are these words from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10, KJV). Our legal system reflects our Judeo-Christian roots.

While we look with gratitude to the past on this July 4th, may we also look in faith to the future, and commit it and our lives to God and His will. The ancient words of the Psalmist are still true: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

Nursery Volunteers

Nursery	Date	Deacons
Christine Smith Hannah Smith	7/5	Jim Hartis
Erin Black Jack Smith	7/12	Laney Emanuel
Leah Jordan Hannah Smith	7/19	Jeff Smith
Becky Hubbard Jack Smith	7/26	Gerald Freeman

Birthdays for July

July 20 Diane Black
 Hillary Ryan
July 25 Carolyn Davis

Congratulations

to

Our Graduates

I am sure you have heard this bit of information, but I would like to mention it again.

Our graduates this year have experienced a most unusual ending of their particular school year. They had to finish their year studying from home online. They did not get to enjoy their special senior day, their awards day, their prom but hopefully at some point will be able to walk for graduation.

These students began their life with a grieving country during the 9/11 World Trade Center's collapsing in 2001 and are now graduating during a pandemic of 2020. These young people have under their belts the memories that they have heard from their families to the personal experiences they have had with this virus.

To our graduates, please see how the Lord has carried us during both of these events. Sadly, but thankfully 2001 caused us to want to spend time in prayer, not knowing what was ahead for us and this pandemic has caused us to reflect on our lives in every area. Are we using our lives to serve the Lord and sharing the meaning of His salvation with everyone?

Graduates, as you move forward in your special studies and serving people with your talents, let God lead you each day and give Him the honor and praise He deserves. Share Him with everyone you meet.

Pray for our Graduates



Erin Lindsey Black

Daughter of Thane and Diane Black

Granddaughter of Annette McCarver

Erin graduated from

Wingate University

on

May 9, 2020

Erin's accomplishments...

Graduated with a 4-year degree in 3 years with Summer Classes

Thayer School of Education

Bachelor of Science, majoring in Elementary Education

Classified as Highly Qualified First Year Teacher in North Carolina

Graduated with Magna Cum Laude Honors

K-6 Certified Teacher (anticipating official Licensure in NC)

Student Teacher at Stallings Elementary School

Erin is currently interviewing at various schools in Union County and Charlotte Mecklenburg. She plans to teach the lower grade levels. Her plan for the future is to get the National Boards Certification.





Janell Hart

Granddaughter of Debra Hart

Janell graduated on February 6th, 2020

from

Independence High School

She will be attending

Fayetteville State University

Majoring in Criminal Justice/Criminology

Her dream is becoming a Private/Crime Scene Investigator



Kelly Elise James

Daughter of Charles & Gina James

Granddaughter of

Gene and Carolyn Davis

LC and Lenora James

Kelly graduated from

Union County Early College

with a

High School Diploma on May 13, 2020

and an Associate of Arts Degree on May 14, 2020

She will be attending

Western Carolina University

She will be majoring in Forensic Science

Her dream is to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation



Pray for our Pastor Jason

Pray for each member of
NHBC

Pray for the lost people starting
right around our church



God 'save' America

Pray that we become **BOLD**
witnesses for Christ

Pray that our hearts will have
a true burden for the lost

Pray that you will hear 'Well
done my good and faithful
servant'