



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 2019... the Contact ... Vol. XLI Issue 7

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you."

Matthew 7:11 "if you then, who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

In Matthew 7:7, Jesus teaches his followers to "ask, knock, and seek" in prayer. Each command is present, implying continuous action. You could translate it "keep on asking, keep on knocking, and keep on seeking." Jesus is calling us to be persistent in prayer. The implications of Jesus' instructions are stunning. It means that the Heavenly Father is always available. Pastor Timothy Keller writes, "The only person who dares wake up a king at 3:00 AM for a glass of water is a child. We have that kind of access." As a father, I want my children to know that I will always be available for them. Even when I do not grant their requests, whether because it is beyond my control or because I feel it is not in their best interest, I still want them to have the freedom to approach me and to ask me. In a far greater way, the child of God, by faith in the Lord Jesus, can freely go before the Heavenly Father in prayer at any time and under any circumstance.

Another beautiful implication of Jesus' teaching is that the Heavenly Father is a generous provider. In Matthew 7, Jesus is teaching us to be prayer beggars. That is not to say that we should treat prayer like a magic formula where if we say the right words or right amount of words it guarantees a positive answer from God in the manner that we desire. Earlier in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches, "When you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words" (Matt. 6:7). Afterwards, he establishes the model prayer, the Lord's Prayer where he teaches to pray for daily bread, not for worldly wealth. Back in Matthew 7, in the illustration Jesus provides in Matthew 7:9-11 points to how the Heavenly Father provides the basic necessities of life, such as daily food (bread/fish). The "good gifts" that the Heavenly Father gives to those who ask refers to everything that pertains to seeking first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness (Matt. 6:33). The Heavenly Father is so generous that he is willing to give us all that we need to live faithfully before the Lord Jesus.

The proper response to a good and gracious God is to be in continuous prayer. Here at New Hope, I pray that we will be faithful in our prayers for our families, church and community. We know that apart from Christ we can do nothing. Prayerlessness removes us from abiding in Christ.

In Him, Pastor Jason

NHBC on mission for the Lord....**Jody Watson – Evangelist & Recording Artist**
Guest Speaker (filling in for Pastor Jason while on vacation)**Sunday, July 28, 2019**

Jody Watson is an Evangelist, Contemporary Christian Recording Artist. He wrote all the music and lyrics on his debut album, entitled “Thank You God for My Momma”, which is based on his life experiences. Jody Watson is a self-taught guitar player and began playing when he was moved to write a tribute song to his mom for all she endured and sacrificed raising and caring for him and his younger brother.

Jody Watson and his brother were raised by a single mother who worked two and three jobs to feed, clothe and keep them together because their father was never around. Jody’s mother saw that all attended a small church every Sunday and he became a member of the Children’s Choir, which he loved. At age 12, Jody Watson accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior in that church. The hard work and dedication of his mother and the hardships that his family faced are the inspiration for his title track – “Thank You God for My Momma”.

The first instrument Jody Watson learned to play, by ear, was the drums. Jody received a drum set along with a guitar for Christmas at age five. This began his life-long dream of becoming a professional musician. Jody began performing for family and friends at age 12 and by the time he was 15, Watson had written his first song. At age 21, Jody Watson recorded that song and still has the copy of it today.

God has always been a profound influence in Jody’s life, but as a young man, he struggled to find his place in the world. He had a big dream, that he felt he could achieve, but was still working to make it a reality when one evening, as he sat on his bed, a bright light engulfed him and a warm sensation came over his body. Jody Watson knew in his heart that God was boldly speaking to him, an experience that changed his life. This event and Divine inspiration from the Holy Spirit given through revelation, prompted him to write “I Thought I Was Alone”.

Jody Watson has a special love for the beach and feels it is the closet to heaven he will get in his life. It is there that he can breathe and gets his greater sense of peace.

Clothing Closet News

The Clothing Closet will be closed to the public for the month of July. They are working very hard to get the two processing rooms completely set up and operational. The summer room is almost finished and now they are headed to the winter room. In order to use every inch of space possible they are asking for some help from you. They have found that vacuum sealing the clothes gives them more room to store clothes until they are needed on the floor. If you would be willing to provide a box (or 2) of the bags, they would be so thankful. The sample to your right is what they are using. You will be able to find these at the Walmart Stores located near the ironing boards and irons. Please come by the closet and see what is happening. Come and encourage the ones that work so hard to serve the Lord through the giving of clothes.



Nursery Volunteers

Nursery	Date	Deacons
Erin Black Keegan Bates	7/7	Laney Emanuel
Leah Jordan Hannah Smith	7/14	Don Jordan
Becky Hubbard Jack Smith	7/21	Gerald Freeman
Christine Smith Diane Yandle	7/28	Jeff Smith

Nursery News

I'm afraid that someone missed this plea so I will run it one more time. If you are willing to give just one Sunday a month (should we have enough to volunteer - then one Sunday every other month) please contact Leah Jordan or the church office at 704.537.6340. These little ones are our future.

Monthly Schedule

7/6 H₄F-Pantry only 10:00 a.m.
 7/7 Deacons Mtg. 4:00 p.m.
 7/20 H₄F-Pantry only 10:00 a.m.
 7/27 JOY Old Fashion Cook Out
 4:00 p.m.
 7/28-8/3 Pastor on Vacation
 Speaker: Jody Watson 7/28



Birthdays for July

7/6 Trae Hill
 7/20 Diane Black
 Hillary Ryan
 7/24 Frances Lilly
 7/25 CRDavis

Calendar of Events

Standing Weekly Schedule

Sunday

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

Tuesday

H4K (Children's' Ministry) 6:30 p.m.
 On summer break

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Friday

Open Gym 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Please send a card....

Most of you remember Trae Hill - he is having medical issues due from a school bus accident several years ago. His family are members here. July 6th is his 15th birthday. Please send him a card to encourage him on his special day. Let's fill that mailbox.

Trae Hill
 7607 Monogram Lane
 Mint Hill, NC 28227

Prevent 'truth' decay - 'brush' up on your Bible! How is your daily Bible reading coming along? This is a good 'check up' month.

News from the New Hope Library

How easy it is to forget that we are here because God willed it to be. It is a distraction of the evil one to keep us so busy that we make no time for God.

I have been blessed with overseeing the New Hope Library. It is so easy because I don't get many visitors. I would prefer it to become busy but not busy in the sense that you might think. I want our church members to use it to glorify God. It is more than a gift to have access to books that teach us more about Christ. We should not take it for granted so next time you are on the church grounds make a point of stopping in.

We belong to the Lord. I recently helped a man in Kenya write a manuscript on Jesus to share with his political adversaries. We should give thanks for all the blessings that we receive here in Charlotte where so many others in the world have so few.

Drop by and check out the books. Feel free to drop off some for me to shelve. Have a Happy July 4 and a blessed summer! I look forward to seeing you soon!

In Christ's love,

Elaine

July Family Fellowship
Sunday, July 14th

The main course will be provided by
Laney and Pam Emanuel -
Lumberton BBQ w/slaw.

Listed below are items for you to
consider. The signup sheet will be
located on the vestibule table on
Sunday, July 7th.

1. Hamburger Buns
2. Baked Beans
3. Potato Salad
4. Dessert
5. Tea/Lemonade/Soft Drinks/
Water

Our first fellowship was a lot of fun
and time to talk to each other with no
strings attached.

Come one - Come all!

JOY Ole Fashion Cook out
Saturday, July 27th
4:00 PM

*This will be our final activity for the
2018-2019 church year. We are
planning special activities along with
food cooked on the grill. Plan on some
of those good ole slices of watermelons,
too.*

*If you have activities that you would
like to suggest for the 2019-2020
church year, please bring those with
you.*

*Please be sure to sign up by Sunday,
July 14th.*

Your JOY Team Members

Diane Black

Erin Black

Carolyn Davis

Gracie Frank

Mary Usher