



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.

August 2019... the Contact ... Vol. XLI Issue 8

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor

2 Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

What is the greatest blessing of the Gospel? Is it forgiveness of sin? Assurance of Heaven? These are precious blessings of the Gospel that we hold close to heart, but the highest good and greatest blessing of the Gospel is the Lord Jesus himself, to know Him and enjoy Him above all else. The goal of the Gospel is not to bail us out from our guilt of sin or to offer a ticket to heaven. There is a greater aim, which is to open our eyes to see the beauty of Jesus. There is nothing more beautiful and nothing greater than knowing the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Despite all the struggles, frustrations and disappointments of life, we can remain strong, not losing heart, by experiencing God's glory through faith in Jesus.

In spite of all of our differences, every true Christian shares the same testimony as described in 2 Corinthians 4:6. Praise God, just as He spoke light into the darkness of the physical universe at creation, through Jesus' atoning sacrifice on the cross, affirmed in His resurrection from the dead, as an act of a new creation of a redeemed people, God shines His light into our hearts so that we may know His glory.

The knowledge of the glory of God is not a mere intellectual knowledge. It certainly involves believing in Jesus Christ as revealed in God's Holy Word. Sound doctrine is important. Yet, saving faith is more than passing a theology exam. Saving faith also involves experiencing God through faith in the Lord Jesus. Reflecting 2 Corinthians 4, Jonathan Edwards used the illustration of honey. A person can make a rational judgment that honey is sweet because it is widely known that honey is sweet. But this is far different than knowing the honey is sweet by tasting it and having a sense of its sweetness. Edwards points out that there is a difference between having the view that God is holy and gracious and having a sense of the loveliness and beauty of God's holiness and grace. The good news of the Gospel is that we can enjoy the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. We can know personally the sweetness of the Lord Jesus Christ. The invitation of the gospel is the invitation to taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8).

In Him, Pastor Jason

The New Website

The website will hopefully be up and running by the end of August. Becky Hubbard is working with AT&T as our hosting team to re-vamp our website and it will have more information for folks to check us out with. Please note that we have 3 new emails that you may use to contact the church. They are:

pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org

carolynndavis@newhopecharlotte.org

clothescloset@newhopecharlotte.org

NHBC on mission for the Lord....

I have just read the book, *When Your Rope Breaks*, by Stephen Brown. The reality of life is not that we get what we want or deserve but that despite the challenges and loss we have a holy God.

In the midst of struggles seeing Jesus is challenging. It's not that Jesus isn't there but we are overwhelmed and find it difficult to recognize his grace and mercy during the trial or recognize that He is actually at work. I believe Christian friends who encourage and pray for us and with us during those trials is the only way past the suffering we encounter until we get to the other side of it. We must look for God's outcome because despite what we want His love is greater and His response is best.

When things go south, we either lean on God or walk away from Him. There really is no middle ground. Not all of us have the good fortune of looking back on times when God not only heard our prayers but delivered a response in line with what we longed to happen. Some of us have no history with God and use our own ingenuity and capability to move forward in life. Good things do happen to people who don't know God. The wicked do prosper but that is only on this side of life. They have received their reward as they have abandoned their one true love. Ignoring God means you do not wish or long to know Him and He will respond in kind when it is the end of your life.

I am not a theological scholar. I have no college degree. I have no husband and I have no children. I am not an authority on life. There is one thing I know without a doubt and that requires none of the above accommodations or platitudes. I was created to love the creator. I was born and saved because of His grace. I live because He lives in me. I have no need to defend this position. My life is a testament to His holiness and unfailing love. My past when summed up is a series of trials and errors and yet, today I have a joy that no one can ever take from me. It is the joy that God loves me and fills me daily with hope and love. It is not because I deserve it or earn it. It is because of His grace and His abiding love.

Elaine M Isaacson

Volunteer/Library Coordinator

Mr. Alzheimer's news....

Well, we have experienced the stroke and the kidney disease. We praise the Lord that the stroke left no side effects. Then we find that Gene's kidneys are at a stage 4 in kidney disease. The next step is stage 5 that requires dialysis but Gene will not qualify because his body would not be able to handle it. WOW! What's next - I ask myself. As our nephrologist put it at his last appointment - the kidneys have remained stable at stage 4 and that Mr. Alzheimer's has a bigger hold than anything else. This is another indication that we just take one day at a time and live it to the fullest. I will share - if you remember his PCP told me I needed to find the humor in all of this - well here is a funny. I had gone to the car to get something out and when I came back Gene was eating again (his favorite past time). I ask "Okay bud what are you eating now," "I don't know but it is kinda tuff". I told him to look at the bag he got that out of and he said, "It just has a dogs picture on it." "Gene, what you are eating is a dog bone treat." "Huh?" It seems he will eat whatever you put before him or if you happen to be eating beside him, he will take yours too. So, our challenge right now is keeping the fridge zip tied and keep Nitzi's treats hidden. Funny, huh? He has to have 3 iron IV's beginning July 29th - he is anemic and his iron is low. Please pray for him - he has a real challenge with needles. Thank you for your continued prayers. I am trying to locate someone to sit with him so that I can get out for a few Friday nights to attend my grandson's football games. Pray for us - God will provide!

Love to all, Gene and Carolyn

Nursery Volunteers

Nursery	Date	Deacons
Erin Black Keegan Bates	8/4	Laney Emanuel
Leah Jordan Hannah Smith	8/11	Don Jordan
Becky Hubbard Jack Smith	8/18	Gerald Freeman
Christine Smith Diane Yandle	8/25	Jeff Smith

Monthly Schedule

August 3	
H ₄ F	10:00 a.m.
August 11	
Church Fellowship	
Church Council	2:00 p.m.
Deacons Mtg.	4:00 p.m.
August 17	
H ₄ F	10:00 a.m.
August 20	
H ₄ K begins	6:30 p.m.

Don't forget those school supplies!!!!

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.
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Wednesday

Adult Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
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Friday

Open Gym	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
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Birthdays for August

8/16	Elaine Isaacson
8/20	Richard Davis

August Family Fellowship Sunday, August 11th

Provided by
Gene & Carolyn Davis

Main Dish
Homemade chicken pot pie

Needed
Beverage-bread-salad materials-
and desserts

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON
THIS WILL BE FOR THE NEW OFFICER/TEACHERS TEAMS FOR 2019-2020. MAKE SURE YOU MEET AND PLAN YOUR EVENTS TO GO ON THE CALENDAR FOR THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER. EVERYONE ON EACH TEAM IS INVITED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

Clothing Closet News

Dear New Hope Baptist Church

Thank you for your generous gift of clothes for the Islington Jamaica Mission Trip 2019!

What a joy it was to see bag after bag of clothing, all folded and sized! I can tell you that last year, the team and I spent an entire day sorting the sizes!

Please know that the Gospel of Christ goes with those clothes. It is shared at a week long VBS. During the week, attendees and others in the community come and receive these gifts. They are needed! Aside from the tourist resorts, Jamaica is a 3rd world country.

God always makes a way to provide for his people.

Thank you so much!

Amy Crump

Idlewild Baptist Church

We have been so blessed with groups that have come from Baltimore, MD – Richmond, VA – Columbus, Ohio to help in our clothing closet. They were truly hard workers for the past two weeks and we were able to make a big step in getting the two processing rooms up and running. We still have tagging that we need to finish. If you are willing to come and tag clothes for the winter processing room, please see Becky Hubbard or Jan Ryan. Folks, it is so wonderful to be so close and caught up with the processing of incoming clothes. We hope that when we reach that point, we will then be able to keep all incoming clothes processed immediately. We have a few ladies that come from Idlewild Baptist Church and University Hills Baptist Church every week to help with the processing. A few more ladies for a few more weeks would make the work go so quickly. Please consider to come and help.

FOOD PANTRY

We are serving up to 36 families each 1st and 3rd Saturday. We are always in need of can green beans, can vegetables, fruit, corn and tomatoes. IF you need a blessing, come help as we help out our neighbors in need. Thank you, New Hope, for your support.

We had a lady visit our food pantry and she wanted to thank New Hope for what it does for the people in the community. She was so thankful that she left a monetary donation to the church just to say 'thank you'.

God is good! All the time!