



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.

February 2020... *the Contact* ... Vol. XLII Issue 2

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

Philippians 3:1 "Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you."

It is remarkable that Scripture calls believers to express joy. It seems that joy cannot be commanded. But that is likely because we associate joy with favorable external circumstances and comforts rather than associating joy with Jesus Christ. However, in Philippians 3:1, Paul indeed commands believers to rejoice in the Lord. He writes that it is no trouble for him to do so since it is a safe command for a church. The command to rejoice in the Lord is good for the church.

Later in Philippians 4:4, Paul repeats the encouragement, "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice." Joy is so central to the Christian life that it was no problem and no trouble for Paul to write the same thing over and over again. In the best days, rejoice in the Lord. In the worst days, rejoice in the Lord. The reason why Christians should be joyful is we have the most reason to be. We know the Lord Jesus. We have assurance of forgiveness of sin. We have the hope of eternity in the beauty of His presence. We have the blessing of fellowship with the Lord's people.

In John 15, Jesus uses the analogy of the vine and branches to describe his relationship with his children. Jesus calls us to abide in Him and in His love, in obedience to His Word that we may bear much fruit. Then in John 15:11, Jesus affirms that if you do, His joy will be in you and your joy will be full and complete.

Each believer should frequently examine their own life and ask, "Am I living in the full joy of the Christian faith? Joy is always a clear indication that God is working in your heart. After all, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Experiencing the joy of the Lord should be the way of life for believers. J.C. Ryle once wrote, "It is a real misfortune to Christianity when a Christian cannot smile." Charles Spurgeon considered the joy of the Lord as a taste of heaven on earth. The joy of the Lord is no optional experience of the Christian life that is only experienced by the "really mature" Christians. Joy is not the icing on the cake, as if joy can simply be considered some add-on feature of the Christian faith. Not at all, joy is an essential ingredient of the cake itself. Experience the joy of the Lord! Know the empowering joy of the Lord and always be on guard against those temptations to seek ultimate joy in other sources than Jesus!

In Him

Pastor Jason



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.

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Friday

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

1st and 3rd Saturday 10:00 a.m.

H₄F (Clothes Closet/Food Pantry)

Monthly Schedule

February 9th

Montgomery Family Singers

11:00 AM Service

Valentine's Banquet

(Immediately following the morning service)

February 12th

Choir Practice 6:30 PM

Special Note

The Clothing Closet will be closed the first Saturday, Feb. 1st, due to the completion of the bathrooms and processing room.

Birthdays for February

2/10 Pam Emanuel
2/16 Mary Rorie
2/18 Dan Crawford
2/27 Wayne McCarver
2/28 Gary Brown

Nursery Volunteers

Nursery	Date	Deacons
Becky Hubbard Jack Smith	2/2	Jim Hartis
Christine Smith Hannah Smith	2/9	Laney Emanuel
Erin Black Jack Smith	2/16	Don Jordan
Leah Jordan Hannah Smith	2/23	Jeff Smith



**THE MONTGOMERY
FAMILY
AT
NEW HOPE BAPTIST
2/9/2020
11:00 AM**

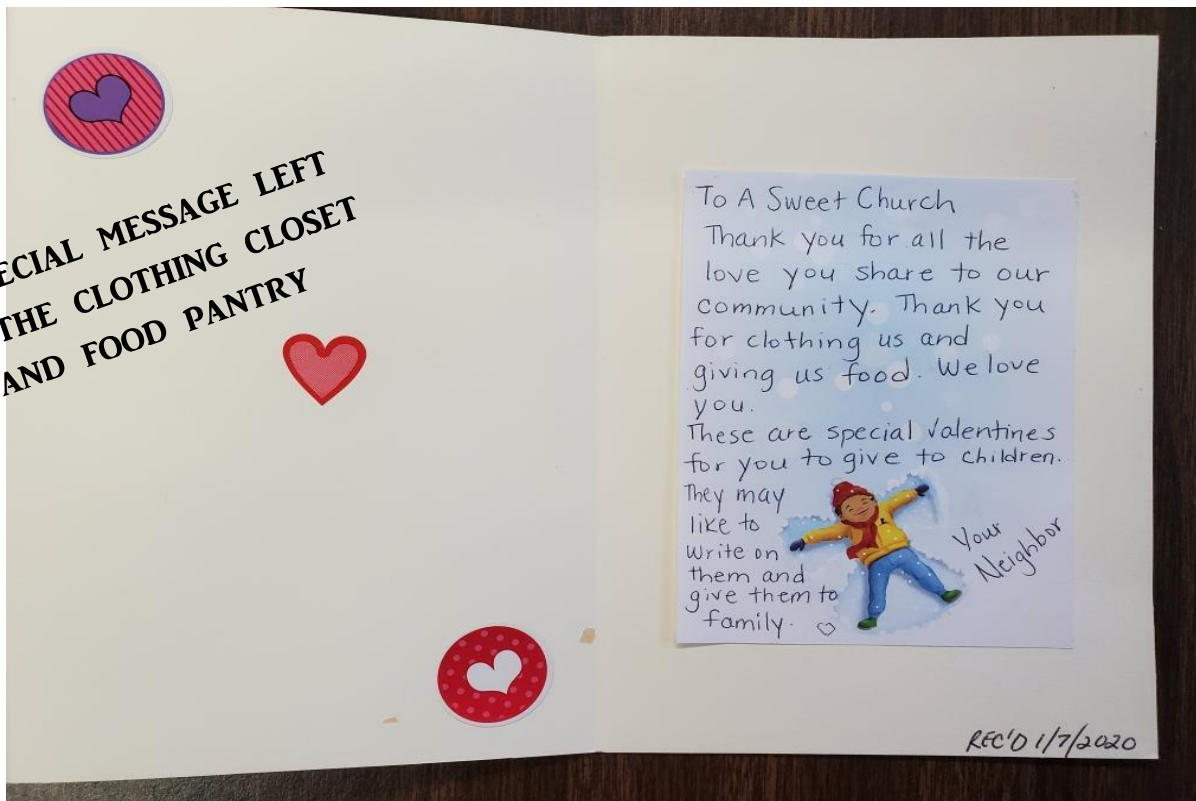
NHBC on mission for the Lord....

Valentine's Luncheon



A luncheon just for you will be prepared on Sunday, February 9th immediately following the morning service. For this luncheon, you will not have to bring anything - everything will be provided. The Montgomery Family will join us - so please, invite everyone you meet to join us for their concert and the luncheon. And - Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

Sponsored by your IOU group.



This was a note that was received from someone that visited our clothing closet with clothing donations. I remember the ladies calling the office to see if it was okay to bring some clothes by. They had just been to lunch and wanted to bring them by. These clothes were newly dry cleaned and on hangers and some with price tags still on them. "To a sweet church, thank you for all the love you share to our community. Thank you for clothing us and giving us food. We love you." Thank you, for showing such great encouragement to all the women and men that give their time to serve you! And thank you for kind words that someone took the time to write. The clothing closet and food pantry is touching our community in a huge way.

A different take on Love in February.....

From the heart of a caregiver!

I hope that the sharing of times as a caregiver are okay – I pray that they will take meaning with someone that reads this.

I shared with you about the little notes that my granddaughter – Kelly – leaves for me at times when you least expect them but in perfect timing. She knows her MawMaw and can tell when my stress level is climbing. I want to share this one that hangs on my mirror in the bathroom. I see it every morning as I rise and every night as I lay my head to rest.

'The disease he has might hide the person underneath, but there is still a person in there who needs your love and attention.'

That message brings me back down from the highs of stress and lifts me from the times that I may feel down knowing what shape my dear love one – spouse – friend and buddy is in. When it seems that I just can't bathroom, mop one more accident from the floor, give simple directions to where his bed is or where the bathroom is – then I just remember what that statement says to me. This gentle man that saw enough in me to ask me to marry him – the husband that he has been for 51 years – the father he has been to his children – to his employees and to his friends – what an example he has been for all of us.

Being a caregiver takes into account all of these things – going to the grocery store all by yourself and trying to please the patient with food or snacks to eat every day with no suggestions of what he would like. You can ask what he would like and all he will say 'you know what I eat – just pick anything'. And if he goes to the grocery store with you then you have to watch that he is not eating from the produce or stopping every few steps and just looking at the shelves. What use to take an hour to do now takes 2 to 3 hours. Maintaining the upkeep of your vehicle – putting gas in it. Making sure the bills are paid. Maintaining the insurance for the home and the car. Knowing who to call when things break. Doing the yardwork all by yourself. Missing the knowledge that Gene had in electronics – finances – repairing whatever needed it at the house – going on trips together – having someone to share your thoughts with and the wisdom that the Lord so bountifully bestowed on him. And on the personal side – getting his hair cut - showing him how to shave – take a shower – dressing him – keeping his feet dry and medicated due to diabetes – making sure he gets his meds – keeping meds in stock – helping him get ready for bed – taking him to 3 different doctors and remembering the instructions from each one. Keeping the house clean in case social services or the nurse comes in and it doesn't meet their standards and they threaten to remove him. These are just a part of the things that a caregiver has to deal with each day.

It is very important, folks that we not only pray for the patient (which is VERY important) but we must remember the caregivers. A lot of them are also maintaining a job outside of the home because they have to. In this area I am so blessed to have a job that is not only one that you deal mostly with Christian people – so very little stress – but also for a church that allows me to work from home part of the week.

I must also add that now as Gene is sitting in his recliner enjoying the gospel music that he so loves; I catch him crying during the ones that speak more of our Savior and what He has done for him. "Supper Time" It is so precious and yet so sad.

Yes, being a caregiver is a huge position to have and yet a very rewarding one. I don't know how other caregivers feel but for me I feel that my Gene deserves so much more than he gets from me. But I think the Lord everyday to be able to wake up and start a new day – yesterday is gone – ask for the forgiveness of what a "not so good of a job" I did and don't worry about tomorrow. We live for today.

As I finish this article my buddy is snapping those fingers "I believe, I believe in the old-time way, I believe He will take me home to stay." We are still making our memories! Please pray for us as we promise to pray for you.

Love,

Gene and Carolyn