



**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.

*December 2017... the Contact ... Vol XXXIX Issue 12*

*Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor*

*It must have been dark in the night....*

...as they traveled far only to find no place to rest their heads. There weren't any street lights to guide them - only the stars in the sky. It must have been a hard journey - everyone hungry and tired. As the evening went on and everyone began to rest, there was Mary, who was about to give birth. Such a glorious birth! Such a wonderful little boy. I could imagine this little fellow grew just as our children did. He ran, He played, He studied, He learned a trade, He worshipped, He told parables, He healed the sick, He raised the dead, He washed sins away. We know this but sometimes because Jesus lived years okay it is hard to imagine it all. Even with all the good that He did He was still hated. Can you imagine Jesus saying 'Go ahead and drive the nails in my hands, laugh at me. You go ahead and say it isn't me, but one day you will see. Go ahead and mock my name but I will love you the same. Go ahead and bury me, but just wait and you will see. Go ahead and say I'm dead and gone but you will see just how wrong you were. Go ahead and try to hide me but then you'll see that I am the one. You want to know why? Because 'I will rise again - there is NO power that can hold me down and death can not keep me in the ground.' We know all this because as we read the Bible it was revealed to us. Can we believe that He is coming back again? He said it, so that really settles it! Just think, if it had not been for Christmas and the birth of our Savior and if He had not experienced life here - just as you and I have and He had not left the guidelines for us to live by then there would be no eternal future for you and me. But He did, we have read it and we strive to live by it. Merry Christmas and YES, He is coming back!

*Thank you for your sympathy...  
 ...your sympathy and kindness will always be remembered. Thank you for the beautiful flower that was sent during the time of Bud's sisters passing. It was appreciated so much.  
 Love Bud & Bonnie*



*Dear Church Family, I want to express my gratitude to each one for such a wonderful honor in recognizing past and present pastor wives. The Sunday service was so nice, the songs sung by Karen Boger were beautiful and your Pastor brought a good message. You also honored us with a delicious meal, a vase of beautiful flowers, which I'm still enjoying, and a very nice plaque. Thank you for such a perfect way of expressing to me your love. May God bless each of you as you go forward serving Him daily. You are in our prayers.  
 Thank you, Betty Saylor*

**Congratulation's to Wanda Hartis....Our soup cookoff winner**

What a wonderful time was had by all and with 10 different pots of soup! Yum! Yum! The folks voted and Ms. Wanda came in first place. We are going to include the recipe for you - give it a try!

**Cheddar Chicken Chowder** You will love it! Promise!

**Ingredients**

- 2 Bacon slices
- 1 lb skinless, boneless chicken breasts cut into bite size pieces
- 1 cup of chopped onions
- 1 cup diced red bell pepper
- 2 garlic cloves (minced)
- 4 ½ cups fat-free chicken broth
- 1 ¾ cups peeled and diced red potatoes
- 2 ¼ cups frozen whole kernel corn
- ½ cup all -purpose flour
- 2 cups of milk
- ¾ cup (3 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper

**Cooking Directions**

- 1) Cook bacon until crisp. Crumble and set aside. Add the chicken, onions, bell pepper and garlic to bacon drippings in pan, sauté 5 min and add broth & potatoes, bring to boil. Cover, reduce heat & simmer 20 min until potatoes are tender. Add corn, stir well.
- 2) Lightly spoon flour into a dry measuring cup and level with a knife. Place flour in a bowl. Gradually add milk, stirring with a whisk until blended & add to soup. Bring to a boil over medium heat, simmer 15 min or until thick, stirring frequently. Top with crumbled bacon. It will yield 7 servings (size 1 ½ cups)

**A very Merry Christmas from your church office**



*As I reflect back over this year of 2017, my heart is so grateful to be able to serve the Lord by serving you. You are such a blessing to me and my family. Your prayers for Gene and I have been so appreciated and truly needed. The Lord has been with us each day.*

*Thank you for allowing me to work at home three days a week because it has truly made a difference for Gene. As I look forward to 2018, I pray that my service to you and the Lord will be "well done as a good and faithful servant". Please continue to lift us up each day. May God richly bless each of you? Love, Carolyn Davis*

**May GOD's blessings come to you a Thousand fold; May the Love in your Heart never get old; and may you find treasures more precious than gold.**

**Have a and a Blessed Christmas Happy New Year to You and Your Family.**

*NHBC on mission...**Merry Christmas from Mr. Wiggles*

Can it be December *ALREADY*? We are about to celebrate the birth of our Savior and the joy that is now in our world. It is easy to forget that God came to us as a child and lived among us as our example of how our life is meant to be lived. Those years He spent as a carpenter to earn his wages and assist his family show a side of his humanity we often forget. For me, I am reminded that God's timing is everything. There is a time and a season for everything.

The Book Study in the evenings during the fall and winter months has posed a problem because it is dark so early and difficult for many of us to drive. **We are moving the day and time to Sundays at 3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.** Let's see if that works for us. I believe we are greatly benefiting by our study of *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas A Kempis and I would like to continue to share it with all of you.

Blessings and Joy for a Wonderful Christmas! May God's light and life shine on you and your family! Welcome 2018!

*Flaine*

**Christmas Luncheon**

The Sunday School Classes of Nancy Aldridge and Jim Hartis will be gathering at Jimmies in Mint Hill on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M. for their annual Christmas luncheon.



Sunday  
December 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 p.m.

**Re:MEMBER Directories**

You ask why? It has been 4 years and people have changed. We wish for a new directory with our pastor and his family included. This is just a few reasons. Now, what are the other benefits? The dates for the pictures will be December 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> and hopefully your entire family would like to have a family portrait made. You may include anyone or your special little animal. Having pictures done during this time gives us 20% off portrait prices - a printed directory for every family photographed, a free 8x10 photograph for every family photographed and a free PDF for the church with no cost to the church. The special layout that I have chosen, you will love. You will receive a call from the company (it takes all the work off of us) to schedule your appointment. The more we have photographed - the more activity pages we can have. The bottom line is we can have a new directory with the layout called "the Community Builder" and under each family picture you will find the following:

Name  
Birth Dates  
Anniversary Dates  
Email addresses  
Mailing addresses  
Phone number

I call it 'One stop look up'. I am so excited for you with just this feature that it will be worth it all. Watch for more details in the bulletin.

If you know of a family that would love to have a family portrait - they don't have to be members here to do so and yet it will give us more specials. So spread the word.

Get in touch with me if you have any questions.

Thanks, Carolyn Davis

*Calendar of Events***Weekly Schedule****Sunday**

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Book Club Study	3:45 p.m.
Choir Practice	5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday**

H4K (Children's Ministry)	6:30 p.m.
---------------------------	-----------

**Wednesday**

Prayer Mtg./Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
-------------------------	-----------

**Thursday**

Remodeling	5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
------------	-------------------

**Friday**

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

**Monthly Schedule**

<b>12/2</b>	<b>Clothing Closet/ Food Pantry</b>	10 to 1 p.m.
	<b>JOY Christmas</b>	2:30 p.m.
<b>12/9</b>	<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	8:00 a.m.
	<b>Adult Christmas Luncheon @ Jimmies</b>	1:00 p.m.
<b>12/10</b>	<b>Christmas Cantata Deacons Meeting</b>	4:00 p.m.
<b>12/16</b>	<b>Clothing Closet/ Food Pantry</b>	10 to 1 p.m.
<b>12/24</b>	<b>Candlelight Service</b>	4:00 p.m.
<b>12/28-29-30</b>	<b>Re:Member Photos</b>	
<b>12/31</b>	<b>Communion</b>	

*Birthdays for December*

<b>12/14</b>	Linda Norton
<b>12/16</b>	Jane Allen
<b>12/21</b>	Grace Battle
<b>12/28</b>	Wanda Hartis Erin Black
<b>12/29</b>	Frank Norton

*Volunteers*

Nursery	Date	Deacons
Teresa Smith Jack Smith	12/3	Jim Hartis Laney Emanuel
Leah Jordan Erin Black	12/10	Don Jordan Jeff Smith
Linda Norton Carolyn Davis	12/17	Jim Hartis Laney Emanuel
Christine Smith Teresa Dixon	12/24	Gerald Freeman Dan Crawford
Pam Emanuel Teresa Dixon	12/31	Don Jordan Jeff Smith