



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 2018... *the Contact* ... Vol XL Issue 2

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor

Ephesians 6:18 ***“Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.”***

Praying consistently is difficult and does not come easy. We see this in Ephesians 6:18 where Paul calls believers to pray with “all perseverance.” Similarly, in Colossians 4:2, he writes, “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” Paul is calling believers to work hard to pray, by remaining steadfast, not falling asleep. Even when we have to wrestle to pray, not feeling like doing so, finding our eyes drifting off, and distracted by other concerns, we must continue to faithfully seek God in prayer.

These instructions for prayer from Paul has had a significant influence on my walk with Christ because I struggle to pray at times and I know there has been times where I have fallen asleep during prayer. But I know that I am not alone. Indeed, there is the story in the Gospels of the disciples falling asleep when they were supposed to be praying for Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, which provides a powerful illustration for why prayer is so central for the Christian life. In Matthew 26:37-38, with the suffering of the cross on his mind, Jesus is sorrowful and deeply distressed to the point of death. He asks Peter, James and John to watch and pray with him. Three times Jesus went away to pray for strength to obey the Father's will and three times he returns to find his disciples sleeping. After the first time, he tells them “watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Yet twice more he catches them sleeping and after the third time, he awakes them with the news that he was about to be arrested. In Matthew 26:56, as Jesus was being arrested, the disciples forsook him and fled. One gets the impression that their failure to pray led to their abandonment of Christ. If we are going to serve Christ faithfully, we must be committed to spending time in prayer. We must be focused in our prayers.

Yet, on the other hand, Jesus entered the Garden sorrowful and deeply distressed to the point of death, but he was faithful in prayer to His Heavenly Father, seeking His will to be accomplished. Luke 22:43 tells us that as he prayed, an angel from Heaven appeared to strengthen him. Notice that nothing changed of Jesus' circumstances. He entered the Garden with the suffering of the cross ahead of him and after his prayer, the suffering of the cross was ahead of him, but one gets the impression that Jesus' faithfulness to pray gave him the strength to endure the cross. Spiritually speaking, we will never rise above our devotion to prayer.

Struggling to pray is not a sign of spiritual immaturity, rather, failing to pray is a sign of spiritual immaturity. Struggling to pray reveals spiritual maturity since it is expressing faith in Christ even when it is difficult to do so. Sometimes while praying, we feel the same tension as the father of the boy with the unclean spirit in Mark 9:24, ***“I believe, help my unbelief.”*** The good news, Jesus responded to the father with compassion demonstrating his power by healing his son. Jesus will respond to us with compassion when we honestly confess our struggle to pray, looking to Jesus for the strength to endure.

In Him

Pastor Jason



Motto
Gear up!
Get ready!
Game On!

Day 1: Jesus Cares About Me
Day 2: Jesus Gives Me Hope
Day 3: Jesus Helps Me Believe
Day 4: Jesus Loves Me
Day 5: Jesus Gives Me Joy



In Bible study, in crafts, in music, in recreation, in the kitchen, helping with moving the children from site to site



NHBC on mission....

jesus
loves
you*Love is in the air....*

Sunday, February 11th, the JOY Group will be having a luncheon following the AM service and they are inviting the entire church to join them for a little fun and a lot of food and fellowship. Please sign up (signup sheet is located on the vestibule table)! A note reminder to the seniors 55& over, (you don't have to be a member of the JOY Group to participate) please bring a wedding picture of you and your lovely spouse by next Sunday – February 4th (or anytime in-between). It doesn't matter if your spouse is here with you or enjoying life with our Lord. Please give your photo to Carolyn, Gracie, Mary, Diane or Erin. We will return your photo on the 11th. There will be no evening service on the 11th.

Church Council

Thank you so much to everyone that attended the church council meeting in January. We still have a few schedules that we need to complete so let's come together on Sunday, February 25th at 4:00 p.m.



Just a reminder to bring your filled bottles back by Sunday, February 11th.

True Understanding Found.....

Sometimes during your lifetime struggles come. I have shared with you before about how Alzheimer's entered our home in 2010. The last 7 1/2 years have been tough, interesting, memorable, funny and sad. I wanted my Gene back and at times it seemed like there was a light at the end of the tunnel and things were beginning to turn around. But that was not happening. I found myself in a situation that I just could not figure out how to handle it. I got mad, I lost my temper, I was lonely and yet I cried to the Lord – I don't want to be this way to the man I love. Why was this happening to a compassionate man who walked and loved the Lord, looked forward to retirement and taking his RV and joining the NC Baptist Men doing mission work all over NC. Then I found myself saying 'why'. About a month ago we were on our way to church for Sunday service and I started having a panic attack. I just couldn't do this anymore. I needed the Lord so much and felt all alone. Many of our family members at NHBC will take over the care for Gene when we get to church and may the Lord so truly bless you. But you know the Lord heard my cry and this is the events that opened my eyes. Right after Christmas I received a call from Christian Brothers Automotive Care in Indian Trail thanking me for allowing them to service my van. They ask about Gene and how he was doing and then they ask if they could have prayer with me. I said of course. That same week I had an appointment with the c-pap doctor. He always asks about Gene and that day he ask if he could have a prayer with me before I left. And then the event that brought it all together was the funeral of Ms. Polly Allen. I would like to share a little of what her daughter shared during the service.

Donna shared how she had two mothers. Two different people but with the same name. I am going to change the story a bit. I have two husbands that I love. They are very different but they carry the same name. The first one I married on December 7, 1968. We had two precious children –worked with each other for over 20 years. We traveled together – did everything together. Then a new day started but things were different. It was not the Gene I married but another Gene took over. My financial advisor was gone – my driver was gone – the person I traveled with was gone and I found myself having to do all the driving. Yes, he looked like Gene – dressed like Gene – sounded like Gene – smelled like Gene but he didn't act like Gene. I now had a new husband – one to train all over again (that's a ha-ha folks). I had never looked at this being a new person in my life and yet the same from years ago. I finally found peace – understanding – a new love with thankfulness that we can make new memories together. There are still struggles but I don't think the panic attacks will be there. See how prayer works?

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

2/3	Clothing Closet/ Food Pantry	10 to 1 p.m.
2/4	Chosen Life Min. AM Ser. Book Study	3:45 p.m.
2/10	Men's Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
2/11	Churchwide Valentine Luncheon Deacons Mtg	4:00 p.m.
2/17	Clothing Closet/ Food Pantry	10 to 1 p.m.
2/18	Book Study	3:45 p.m.
2/25	Church Council Mtg	4:00 p.m.

Birthdays for February

2/4	Lynette Battle
2/10	Pam Emanuel
2/12	Janet Sweetser
2/16	Mary Rorie
2/18	Dan Crawford
2/28	Gary Brown

Volunteers

Nursery	Date	Deacons
Pam Emanuel Teresa Dixon	2/4	Jim Hartis Laney Emanuel
Teresa Smith Jack Smith	2/11	Don Jordan Jeff Smith
Leah Jordan Erin Black	2/18	Gerald Freeman Dan Crawford
Linda Norton Carolyn Davis	2/25	Jim Hartis Laney Emanuel