



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 2018... the Contact ... Vol. XL Issue 8

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor

In Colossians 1:10, Paul prays that believers walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. I have always found this prayer interesting because in many ways it is a paradox. On one hand, no one is worthy of the Gospel. Every individual falls short of God's holiness and righteousness (Rom. 3:23). Every individual lacks spiritual goodness before God. Paul writes in Romans 8:8 that **"those who are in the flesh cannot please God."** Apart from the righteousness of Christ, we are in a constant state of bondage to sin. The doctrine of the depravity of human nature is so strong that John describes the unredeemed individuals as the **"children of the devil"** (1 Jn. 3:10). While politically incorrect in our culture, the doctrine of the depravity of human nature is a significant part of Christian theology. If neglected the core of the faith crumbles. There is a reason why Paul provides a comprehensive argument in the first section of Romans explaining how all individuals deserve the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18-3:20) before he shares the glorious doctrine of justification by faith (Rom. 3:21-4:5). Unless we understand the serious consequences of offending the holiness of God, we cannot appreciate the gift of salvation found in Jesus Christ. Rejecting the doctrine of depravity means that we will continue to accept the false teaching that we can earn God's acceptance by our works. Indeed, in our own strength and ability, it is impossible to live a life "worthy of the Gospel."

Yet, on the other hand, genuine saving faith is more than a shallow confession. Unfortunately, many have turned the notion of having faith into nothing more than a mental assent of certain facts about Jesus Christ, effectively turning faith into mere head knowledge. This has led to a massive deception where a person can vocally claim to be a Christian, but show no true evidence, or spiritual fruit, of being a Christian. Yet they continue to believe they are eternally saved, heading to heaven, when in reality they remain spiritually dead, heading to eternal divine judgment.

In the field of psychiatry, there are times when a psychiatrist needs to address problems where a person cannot tell the difference between what is real and what is imagined. For example, a patient may sincerely believe he can fly, but regardless of how strong his conviction may be, there is always superior evidence to the contrary. His "belief" is not based in reality. When addressing these types of problematic "beliefs," a psychiatrist does not refer to it as a "belief," but as a "delusion." Similarly, there are many who have a delusional "faith" in Christ, but not a faith that saves in any Biblical sense of the term. In Luke 6:46, Jesus says, **"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"** James echoes this point in 2:14, **"What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?"** There is no reason to have confidence in a "faith" that does not transform the way we live. The good news is that the Gospel does not just change a sinner's eternal destination, but it also transforms the sinner's heart. The New Testament often describes the transforming results of saving faith in Christ. Believers were once dead in their sins, but in Christ they are made alive (Eph. 2:1-5). So, in this sense, Paul's directive to live lives worthy of the Gospel is possible, not because of our own ability but because of the new life we have experienced in Christ.

Perhaps the question we should ask is: Is my life worthy of the Gospel? In Colossians 1, Paul's prayer continues, revealing what this looks like, **"fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God"** (Col. 1:10). A life worthy of the Gospel is revealed in a willful obedience to God's Word, righteous behavior, and increasing hunger to know God. Is there observable fruit produced by the Gospel in your life?

In Him

Pastor Jason

Back



Charlotte – Mecklenburg

and

Union County Public Schools

First Day of School is August 27th.

H4K Back to School Celebration is Tuesday, August 21st. We are in need of school supplies. Please bring items to the church by Sunday August 19th.



Piedmont Singing Men
 Sunday, August 19th...5:00 pm
 Invite your friends & neighbors

BOOK STUDY NEWS

Thank you to my wonderful group, Barbara Barnes, Becky Hubbard, Christine Smith, Diane Yandle, Karen Davis and Ms. Annette. We have spent the past twelve weeks studying "What Happens When Women Pray" and how far we have come in our endeavor to seek God's face in prayer. Evelyn Christensen in 1968 took on the endeavor of learning and teaching how prayer is effective and gave us easy steps to get us to embrace God each day and show us daily how He answers our prayers. Have a great summer hiatus! We will resume with a new book on Monday, August 20th – The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges.

God bless you for your faithfulness and willingness to come closer to Jesus Christ our Savior.

Elaine

*NHBC on mission for the Lord....***JOY 'End of Year' Celebration**

Join us for a final wrap up celebration at 12pm in the Family Life Center on August 11th. This celebration will include lunch and special entertainment in your honor. Please start thinking of things you would love to do for the next year and prepare to present these at this meeting. Please find sign up sheet on vestibule table.

The Library

We have had more activity in the New Hope Library. I am going to spend some time in the next couple weeks looking for new titles. If you have any suggestions or would like some different authors than what we already have either see me after church or put a suggestion in the red box in the library. The Library is open every day that the office is open. Feel free to sit in the overstuffed chair and pick out a good book to read!

Blessings to all and greetings from Mr. Wiggles!

Elaine

NEW CHURCH CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Beginning in August, we will have only one choir practice a month with an extended time schedule for each session. Listed below are the practices for the remainder of the year, each practice will begin at 4:30 p.m.

August 26th
September 16th
October 14th

November 11th
December 9th

Additional practices will be called if needed by Karen Davis.

What's the story of Mr. Alzheimer's this month.....

Well, it has been a most unusual month at the Davis household. There has been a couple of medical issues that have popped up with Gene and has added to our regular schedule. But Mr. Alzheimer doesn't seem to mind. I have been so lucky that our oldest granddaughter, Kelly, chose to stay with her Poppop – to take care of his needs and give me a break- instead of working a public job this summer.

There have been times that people have asked, "What is it that folks could help with in your situation?"

Our Kelly showed me just that. She comes and allows me to get away for a few hours to work at my job or to work in the clothing closet. She will play cards with him, she will take a walk with him, she may take him to the movies or just go for a good ole milkshake and one of the simplest of all is just sit and watch Andy with him. Even a trip to Krispy Kreme Donuts would be a fun trip (even if they aren't supposed to have sugar, just a little won't hurt.) Some of the smallest things can give the caregiver a quiet sense of peace and a breather from the day to day activities.

Have you ever thought that the patient would love a different face to look at sometimes? Have you ever thought that the patient still loves company but due to his illness company is afraid to come? It is true that his thinking skills are slower than they use to be, but they still work. It is true that you have to say the same thing more than once but that is okay, they don't remember the times before.

It is true that it takes up maybe a couple of your hours in a months' time but you will be truly blessed.

So, if you have a friend who is a caregiver of any type of situation, offer a little time of separation for the patient and the caregiver that they may be able to clear their minds-look at a different face - not have to think for a few hours and come back ready to go again with their loved one. It's such a blessing!

BUT, always call before you go to make sure that the patient is feeling up to having someone else to sit with them.

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

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Choir Practice	5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Monday

Book Study (begins again August 20th)

Tuesday

H4K (Children's Ministry) 6:30 p.m.
Begins again August 21st.

Wednesday

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

Friday

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

Monthly Schedule

8/4	Clothes Closet/Food Pantry	10 a.m.
8/5	Deacon's Meeting	4 p.m.
8/11	Men's Breakfast JOY Luncheon	8 a.m. 12 p.m.
8/12	Church Council	4 p.m.
8/18	Clothes Closet/Food Pantry	10 a.m.
8/19	Piedmont Singing Men	5 p.m.
8/20	Book Study Begins	
8/21	H4K Begins	
8/26	Choir Practice	4:30 p.m.
8/27	First Day of School	

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Birthdays for August

8/16	Elaine Isaacson
8/20	Richard Davis

Volunteers

Nursery	Date	Deacons
Teresa Dixon Jack Smith	8/5	Don Jordan Jeff Smith
Leah Jordan Erin Black	8/12	Gerald Freeman Dan Crawford
Diane Yandle Christine Smith	8/19	Jim Hartis Laney Emanuel
Linda Norton Carolyn Davis	8/26	Don Jordan Jeff Smith

Church Council Meeting
Sunday, August 12th
4:00 PM

We will focus on schedules for September through December