



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.

October 2018... the Contact ... Vol. XL Issue 10

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor

Romans 8:26 *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."*

There is a common misconception among Christians that prayer should come easy. After all, praying is just talking to God, right? In the most basic sense, this is true, but Scripture does not simply call believers to pray, but teaches us how to pray. As it turns out, prayer takes hard work. In Ephesians 6, prayer is the context in which we put on the spiritual armor to stand strong in the Christian faith. When you pursue a deeper devotion to prayer, immediately it takes you to the frontline of spiritual warfare. We should not expect prayer to come easy. This is why Paul commands believers to "keep alert" in prayer (Eph. 6:18) and to "continue steadfastly in prayer, being watch in it" (Col. 4:2). A faithful prayer life takes intentional effort while we depend on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Do you ever struggle to pray? Have you ever prayed wanting to express worship to God, but could not clearly communicate it? Have you ever felt a concern for another believer who is hurting, but did not know how best to pray for them? Have you ever had a burden to pray for an unbeliever, desiring to see them trust in Jesus, but felt inadequate pouring out your heart to God? Have you ever longed to see the power of the Spirit at work in our church, but had a difficult time asking for it? Believers are often weak in prayer. We are limited in our knowledge and perspective. But this is not a sign of spiritual immaturity. It would do us good to tremble in prayer more often. It is far better to struggle in prayer than it is to neglect prayer all together.

Because of the difficulty of prayer, Romans 8:26 has become a great encouragement to me. In this passage, Paul writes about the hope that believers have in God's gift of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. One of the ways that the Holy Spirit provides us with hope in this dark and sin-torn world is His constant intercession for us. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words and He knows the will of God.

I believe that the "groanings of the Holy Spirit" refers to groanings He produces in us as we seek to pray. If so, I cannot express how amazing this is. Apart from Christ, we are selfish sinners who do not desire God's will. **Romans 3:11** says, *"No one is righteous and no one seeks God."* But, the good news of the Gospel is that while we are unrighteous in the sight of God, the Lord Jesus offers His righteousness to us when trust in His provision of salvation. When we experience new birth in Christ, we receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and He helps us pray by giving us inexpressible desires to know God, to love Him and to obey His will.

Please understand the implication here: that deep burden you have for a lost family member, that troubling concern you have about all the injustices and conflicts in our world, that burden you have for the sick, that desire you have to do good, that motivation to show the love of Christ to other, that brokenness and conviction over sin and desperation to receive forgiveness from God, all of this does not arise naturally from the human heart, which only rebels against God. Rather, these good desires are part of the groanings that the Holy Spirit produces in your heart. When there is praise in your heart for the Lord; when there is humility, love, joy and sorrows for the benefit of others, this is evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in your heart. This provides great hope. Keep struggling to pray, struggle more to pray, it provides us hope because in such times of struggling to pray we experience the Holy Spirit at work in us.

In Him

Pastor Jason

*NHBC on mission for the Lord....***Apple Picking Time**

Our JOY group is off to the orchard at Justus Farms in Hendersonville, NC. We will leave on Saturday, October 13th at 8:30 AM – stop for a breakfast biscuit and hit the orchards a running (well, maybe not running but I can assure you it will laughter and fellowship). Please be sure to sign up on the sheet located on the table in the vestibule. We want to make sure we have adequate transportation for everyone. We will have an early dinner on our return home. Go to Justus Orchard on your computer and see what the farm is all about. You will love it!

The Yard Sale

Saturday, October 27th... 8AM to 1 PM

*Proceeds to go to Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes
Please bring all your items to the Family Life Center before
Wednesday, October 24th. Should you have any questions, please
see Mackenzie Cooperwood.*

Women's Prison Ministry Red Boxes

This year the Women's Missionary Union will be collecting Ladies' Knit Gloves (one size fits all) ~ any color ~
Place on the vestibule table before or by October 7th.

I packed a**shoe box!**

It's time to start gathering your items for your boxes... here are a few ways you can be involved in sending a box to a very special child.

1. Get your shoebox (a shoe box of your own, an OCC box (see Terry) or purchase a plastic container (shoe box size) from the store.
2. Get an instruction form from Terry that will give you a list of the items you may place in your box along with a label to place on your box if it is for a girl or boy.
3. Place all your items in the box and return to the church by the first Sunday in November. The boxes will be delivered to the next drop off point.
4. Another way is you may make a donation to the church (mark your envelope 'OCC') and one of the OCC team members will shop for you – fill your box – place your name in the box and have it ready to move to the next drop off. -or-
5. Visit the yard sale – make a purchase and the proceeds will go to the OCC boxes. So, pack a box in your own special way and watch the smiles come.

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

Sunday	
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Monday	
Book Study	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	
H4K (Children's' Ministry)	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	
Prayer Mtg./Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Friday	
Open Gym	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Monthly Schedule

10/6	Clothes Closet/Food Pantry	10 a.m.
10/7	Deacon's Meeting	4 p.m.
10/13	JOY to Apple Orchard	8:30 p.m.
10/14	Choir Practice	5 p.m.
10/20	Clothes Closet/Food Pantry	10 a.m.
10/27	OCC Yard Sale	8 to 1
10/31	No Wednesday evening service	

Birthdays for October

10/4	Terry Lacy
10/5	Karen Davis Hannah Smith
10/12	Gerald Freeman Doug Sweetser
10/15	Christine Smith
10/28	Vickie Pollock

Can you imagine... 'a praise' from Mr. Alzheimer? Mr. A has been on the move again and things are changing but I have to share a praise. Some folks will say to you "Oh, that was nothing" but to a family where Mr. A is pretty active – it is the world. My deacon, Gary Brown, leaned forward from the pew behind me and said "I would love to come and spend some time with Mr. Gene and give you a break". I turned to look at him and with great humbleness I said that would be wonderful. I haven't had a chance to do that yet BUT one day working at the clothing closet our newly retired Mr. Laney Emanuel came over and helped some in the closet. He had to run an errand and ask if Gene could ride with him. He would be gone about 3 hours. I said that would be wonderful. I was able to concentrate on my work at the closet and didn't need to worry where Gene was. I thanked Laney and he said it was nothing and that they both enjoyed it. Folk's, it meant the world to me. Nothing to one but relief to another.

Volunteers

<i>Nursery</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Deacons</i>
Leah Jordan Erin Black	10/7	Jim Hartis Laney Emanuel
Diane Yandle Christine Smith	10/14	Don Jordan Jeff Smith
Linda Norton Carolyn Davis	10/21	Gerald Freeman Dan Crawford
Teresa Dixon Jack Smith	10/28	Jim Hartis Laney Emanuel