



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.

November 2018... the Contact ... Vol. XL Issue 11

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor

Ephesians 1:3 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."*

The word "Blessing" literally means "well-spoken of." In Scripture, "blessing" is associated with both God's grace in how He has been generous in providing for and protecting his people, and with the gratitude and praise of his people. So, as you read through the Bible, you will notice verses declaring how God has blessed his people and verses that calls for believers to bless the Lord. In the case of Ephesians 1:3, Paul calls believers to bless the Heavenly Father of our Lord Jesus Christ since He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. As Thanksgiving approaches, we should remember the proper order. It is because God has blessed us that we can bless him in return.

This is important to remember because in our sin nature, apart from the transforming work of the Gospel, we are naturally selfish. We think only about ourselves. We often assume that everyone should think the way we think. We require that others meet our needs. When circumstances do not go our way, we complain and we accuse. If we are not careful, we can even approach God this way, treating prayer as nothing more than ordering God to do as we please. Unfortunately, we often fail to recognize the thousands of ways that we are served by people around us and how we are blessed by the Lord.

May we never be so forgetful of how gloriously blessed we are in Christ Jesus. In Ephesians 1, Paul tells us that the Heavenly Father has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In Christ, we have all that we need to live a life pleasing to God and to experience the fullness of God's gift of salvation. It is unfortunate that when many Christians hear the word "blessing" they immediately think in terms of material prosperity. In Scripture, wealth is not often viewed as a blessing, but as a rival to our devotion to the Lord. This is why Jesus said you cannot serve both God and money (Matt. 6:24). But worse, when we view "blessing" primarily in terms of material prosperity, it reveals misplaced values, preventing us from seeing God's greater blessings. In the rest of Ephesians 1, Paul describes God's blessings as how God has chosen us to be holy and blameless before him, how He has adopted us as sons through Jesus Christ, how we have redemption through the blood of Jesus, how He gives us wisdom in knowing the mystery of His will, how He has given us the promise of an eternal inheritance and how He has sealed us with Holy Spirit as a guarantee that we will acquire that eternal inheritance. How much do we cheapen God's blessings when our first thoughts concerning His blessings on our lives focus on our comfort, possessions, and bank accounts?

I pray that God's glorious blessings in Christ Jesus will lead us to expressing gratitude. As we grow in Christ, our gratitude becomes a way of life, as we are overwhelmed by the abundant and all-sufficient grace of God in all that He is for us and all that He has done, is doing and promises to do for us. Gratitude is an expression of worship in response to the goodness of God. Since God is good always, believers need to show gratitude always. God is worthy of our praise. He is worthy of our thanksgiving and our heartfelt desire should be to bring Him glory.

In Him

Pastor Jason

Thanksgiving...

noun: **thanksgiving**; plural noun: **thanksgivings**; noun: **Thanksgiving**; noun: **Thanksgiving Day** 1.the expression of gratitude, especially to God. "he offered prayers **in thanksgiving** for his safe arrival"

If we would stop for a moment – what can we be thankful for in this time of the life of American and our personal lives? What a loaded question!

*If you are reading this then the Lord allowed you to wake up this morning. **Give thanks!** Well, between that thanks the power went off and back on. Do we need to be reminded of hurricanes Florence and Michael? **Give thanks!** Some folks are having to sleep outside in this weather. **Give thanks!** Some folks are eating just crumbs of food while we will be enjoying turkey and ham. **BUT**, New Hope is doing what it can to meet the needs of others through our food pantry. **Give thanks!** Some people have very little clothes on their back and wonder if they will be able to find affordable warm clothes for the winter. **BUT**, New Hope is doing what it can to meet those needs. **Give thanks!** Some folks are in desperate need to get a hurting tooth fixed but can't afford a dentist. **BUT**, Agape Dental Ministry through NHBC calms the hurt! **Give thanks! Give thanks, with a grateful heart!***

*The winds are blowing! **Give thanks!***

*NHBC on mission for the Lord....***Don't forget...****Nov. 4th****Turn those clock's
back one hour!****Deacon Sponsored Thanksgiving Dinner**Sunday, November 18th

Put this event on your calendar – a wonderful time to fellowship and reflect on all the blessings we have experienced in 2018. Everyone bring two vegetable dishes and one dessert. The Deacons will provide the turkey and ham, along with rolls and beverage. We will eat immediately following the morning service and please note there will not be an evening service.

Church Council Meeting**Sunday, November 25th at 4:00 p.m.**

In order to have an effective and workable calendar then we need every ministry team attend this meeting. We will be looking at the activities and events for January, February, March and April 2019. Please get with your teams before this meeting and get your schedules made.

WHAT IF???

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH IS THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. WHAT IF THE WORLD WOULD TAKE THAT TIME TO PRAY TO THE LIVING SON OF GOD – JESUS CHRIST – WHAT WOULD HAPPEN? THIS HAPPENS TO BE THE DAY BEFORE ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN AMERICA. THIS HAPPENS TO BE THE DAY BEFORE THE CHILDREN COME FOR H4K HERE AT NEW HOPE. THIS HAPPENS TO BE THE DAY THAT THE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA BEGINS THEIR ANNUAL MEETING. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE TOOK THIS SPECIAL DAY AND JUST PRAYED FOR THESE EVENTS? YOU CAN WATCH THE LORD AT WORK!!!! SO, WILL YOU????? PRAY?????

Thank you

Dear Friends at New Hope – thank you for your recent gift. We are honored by your generous donation and your heart for vulnerable children. Your support allows us to place more of these children with Christian families. Thank you for partnering with us in our mission. Blessings, Sonia Livingston – Director of Development Christian Adoption Services - Matthews

Dear New Hope Baptist Church

Each week at Matthews United Methodist Church we pray for an area community of faith. This week we are praying for you and our friends at New Hope Baptist Church.

May you accomplish God's mission. May you be faithful and fruitful. May you love God, love people, and live sent.

What an honor it is to share in the work of God's Kingdom in our Matthews community with you.

With great joy,

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Wilson, II

Matthews United Methodist Church

Another example of churches working together!! *Give thanks!*

*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

11/3 Clothes Closet/Food Pantry 10 a.m.
 11/4 Daylight Savings Time Ends
 11/5 World Day of Prayer
 BSCNC-Greensboro
 11/10 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
 11/11 Deacon's Meeting 4:00 p.m.
 Choir Practice 5:00 p.m.
 11/17 Clothes Closet/Food Pantry 10 a.m.
 11/18 Deacon Thanksgiving Luncheon
 No Evening Service
 11/22 Thanksgiving Day
 11/25 Church Council Mtg 4:00 p.m.

Birthdays for November

11/3 Bud Edwards
 11/4 Bonnie Edwards
 Hannah Smith
 11/18 Loretta Dickens
 11/21 Robert Dickens
 11/25 Leah Jordan
 11/30 Pastor Jason Smith

Volunteers

<i>Nursery</i>	11/4	<i>Deacons</i>
Leah Jordan		Don Jordan
Erin Black	11/11	Jeff Smith
Diane Yandle		Gerald Freeman
Christine Smith	11/18	Dan Crawford
Linda Norton		Jim Hartis
Carolyn Davis	11/25	Laney Emanuel
Teresa Dixon		Don Jordan
Jack Smith		Jeff Smith