

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 2019... *the Contact* ... Vol. XLI Issue 2

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

“To the end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Recently, on Sunday mornings, we have considered the perseverance of saving faith in our study of James. When considering the promises and encouragements of James 1:2-12, it becomes clear that our Heavenly Father provides all that we need to remain strong in the Lord. Indeed, our Heavenly Father cares more about our spiritual wellbeing than we care about it. In 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 above, Paul's prayer reminds us of this truth. It is by God's power that we can live worthy of the Gospel, fulfilling the good work of faith. It is by God's power that our lives can point others beyond ourselves and beyond the circumstances of this life to the glory of the name of Jesus. Each believer has a responsibility to live out his or her faith in the Lord Jesus, but we can only do so because God wills and works in us for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

The implications of these scriptural truths are astonishing and I pray that they will encourage you to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus. Commenting on Paul's prayer in 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12, D.A. Carson writes, “To think that rebellious, self-centered mortals become children of God, increasingly mirroring his character, and one day enjoying the unclouded bliss of perfect existence in the presence of the Triune God- this could not possibly be the fruit of our own endeavors. Rather, Christ is glorified; he receives the praise that is his due, as we are glorified, as we are conformed to his likeness by his grace.” My prayer for New Hope is that our congregation continues to grow in the Lord Jesus, in obedience to His Word, in consistency in prayer, in greater love for one another and in a greater awareness of the work of God in our midst and in our surrounding community, so that we will remain strong, faithful and steadfast in the Lord in the days to come, no matter what circumstances we may face.

In Him

Pastor Jason

Mr. Alzheimer's is on the move....

I hope that the messages we have shared with you in the advancements of Alzheimer's in our family has helped you to understand what people go through and experience with this illness. I made the statement the other day that when the Lord calls me home then all my questions will have been answered or not important but I have to say I have asked many times “What is the Lord trying to teach us through this disease?” Well, I don't know that we will ever know the answer to that so we have to take each day and sometimes hour as it unfolds.

This week we had a meeting with Council on Aging. I know they do a lot of great things for seniors using fellowships for those that spend so much time alone, day care for seniors when their caregiver needs a break, etc. I heard a lot of encouraging comments about how organized I have our home or what a great job I am doing for Gene. Oh, it was great to hear but my mind was focused only on Gene.

I'm sure you have noticed that his functions, walking and his quiet expressions have changed. The doctor wants him on a walker all the time, his walking is much slower and unstable and his quiet expressions are now talking loudly and with a little 'come back' attitude, especially if we are out at a restaurant. I am now reducing those outings because I don't know what he might say and if those in hearing distance will understand. You know how our earthly thinking is to condemn before we even have the facts. You don't believe that statement? Let's try this example – someone goes flying by you and you immediately complain and you may make the statement – where is the police when you need them – sound familiar? Maybe they are headed to the hospital – to an accident involving a family member - who knows? Now, please, don't think I am innocent in this thinking – I am just as guilty. But within this disease it has made my thinking a little more compassionate and now I find that saying a prayer for that speeding person comes to mind first. (Maybe that is one of the lessons to be learned.) We use to visit Johnny K's for breakfast and always sat at Ms. Vickie's table. There is a waitress there that is pretty small. Gene got to where he would say 'there goes twiggy'. I explained to Ms. Vickie and to please let the waitresses know to please ignore what they may hear. Even with that, we have stopped going to Johnny K's so that no one will be hurt.

Things now have progressed that medical situations may occur without any warning. It has affected my being able to volunteer like I use to. I find that determining if I am able to volunteer – the decision has to be made at the last moment. I do believe this is another lesson I have learned. Before this I may have been a little judgmental on why people would say 'I will be there' and then they had to back out the very last moment. It is hard folks! So, if you see things have changed in our attendance during any function, please know that we truly want to be here but Mr. Alzheimer's is making it impossible. In any situation, with any person, we need to find understanding and compassion. What can we do to help in those situations?

We love you all Gene & Carolyn Davis

*NHBC on mission for the Lord....***'Soup'er Bowl Challenge**

Sunday, February 3rd, the challenge has been made between the Deacons and Church Trustees versus the congregation in filling their container with the most soup. All the cans of soup collected will go to our Food Pantry.

Let's GO for the GOAL!!!!

We all know that February is the shortest month. Wonder how it got such a bad deal? Somehow the Romans didn't believe the winter was all that important. You see the harvest was done in the warm weather. Also, they thought it was bad luck if the months all ended in even numbers. February was sort of the forgotten month. It doesn't have to be!

When you think that the new year 2019 has just begun there are wonderful things you can do and celebrate in February. My Aunt comes to my mind as she was born in February but why not make a decision to do something special in February! I know there is Valentine's Day but have you visited our Church Library? Who doesn't want to cuddle up with a good book when the weather is frightfully cold outside? What about the Clothes Closet? How about the Food Pantry? Even better bring a friend or two!!

Certainly, these are tremendous ministries and if you drop by and find out what we're doing you might find a way to either participate or drop off some items...Either way: Let's Make February a Month to Remember!

Elaine Isaacson
Library Coordinator/Women's Book Study

*Churchwide Valentine's Luncheon*

Sunday, February 10th, immediately following the morning service. The entire meal will be provided. All you need to do is sign the form located on the vestibule table.

WORK DAY

Saturday, February 9th - 8:30 AM

Folks, mark your calendars, the Building & Grounds has scheduled a work day to take care of a few odd jobs. Don't worry if you feel you are not capable of helping because there will be 'something' you can do - from pushing a broom to using a rake and everything in between.

**WOULD YOU BE INVOLVED???**

ON THE 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH OUR CHURCH IS VERY BUSY SHARING WITH WHAT GOD HAS PROVIDED WITH FOLKS IN OUR COMMUNITY. HELP IS GREATLY NEEDED IN THE CLOTHING CLOSET. JUST AS I WAS WRITING THIS ARTICLE, A KNOCK ON THE DOOR CAME AND A HOME-SCHOOLING GROUP CAME TO HELP IN THE PROCESSING OF THE CLOTHES. PRAISE THE LORD! FOLKS ARE LINING UP BY 8:30 ON THE SATURDAY'S WE ARE OPEN JUST TO GET FOOD AND WE DON'T OPEN UNTIL 10:00 AM. THIS MINISTRY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE COMMUNITY. COME AND BE A PART AND GET THAT SPECIAL FEELING THAT YOU GET KNOWING YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS. IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE SEE JEFF SMITH OR BECKY HUBBARD, AND LET THEM KNOW YOU WANT TO BE A PART. YOU WILL BE SO RICHLY BLESSED.

H₄F - HELP FOR FAMILIES. WILL YOU????

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

Sunday
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Monday
Book Study 6:30 p.m.

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

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

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

Monthly Schedule

2/2 H4K (Hope for Families) 10 a.m.
2/3 'Soup'er Sunday
2/9 Work Day 8:30 a.m.
2/16 H4K (Hope for Families) 10 a.m.

Birthdays for February

2/10 Pam Emanuel
2/12 Janet Sweetser
2/16 Mary Rorie
2/18 Dan Crawford
2/26 Jamar Ryan
2/28 Gary Brown

Volunteers

Nursery	Date	Deacons
Diane Yandle Christine Smith	2/3	Don Jordan Jeff Smith
Linda Norton Erin Black	2/10	Gerald Freeman Dan Crawford
Teresa Dixon Jack Smith	2/17	Jim Hartis Laney Emanuel
Leah Jordan Hannah Smith	2/24	Don Jordan Jeff Smith



**Christian
Adoption
Agency
Matthews, NC
Thanks you!**

**Don't forget to
return your baby
bottles filled with
change/bills/checks
on Sunday,
February 10th**