



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.



December 2022... the Contact ... Vol. XLIV Issue 12

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor...pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org

Luke 10:41-42 "But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.'"

When I was a teenager, Pastor Mike Campbell preached a sermon on Luke 10:38-42. In this passage, Martha is busy serving Jesus and His disciples, and she becomes frustrated that her sister Mary was not helping, but instead, she was sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to His teaching. Pastor Mike preached on this passage during the Christmas season, and he asked a thoughtful question, "Are you going to have a Mary Christmas, or a Martha Christmas?" It must have been a good and effective sermon if I remember it after so many years.

Pastor Mike challenged our congregation to not allow the busyness of Christmas to distract us from the real purpose of it. Could it be that we become so fixated with all the enjoyable, yet secondary, elements of Christmas that we fail to truly celebrate God's most precious and beautiful gift to us of His Son Jesus?

To be clear, Martha is not wrong for serving Jesus and His disciples. We are not to view Martha in a negative light. In Scripture, acts of service and generosity are viewed as the fruit of true saving faith (see James 2:14-26). In fact, in the immediate context, Luke had just recorded Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan to show that all true believers will actively reach out to show compassion and mercy to others in need (Lk, 10:25-37). The problem is that Martha became distracted with much serving to the point that her priorities were misplaced.

The message of Luke 10:38-42 is clear. Serving Jesus is good; indeed, it is expected, but sitting at the feet of Jesus, treasuring who He is, is far better. This explains why Jesus tells Martha, "Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." It is likely that Jesus' response reflects Psalm 16:4, "The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup." Our service and good deeds must flow from our love of the Lord Jesus.

This Christmas, find your greatest joy and satisfaction in Jesus. Feed on Him. He is the Bread of Life and the Living Water. You will not be disappointed.

Pastor Jason

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Deacons on Call

December 4th
Jeff Smith

December 11th
Gerald Freeman

December 18th
Don Jordan

December 25th
Jim Hartis

Calendar of Events Standing Weekly Schedule Sunday

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

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

1st and 3rd Saturday 10:00 a.m.
H₄F
(Hope for Families-cloths & food)

Birthdays for December

Linda Norton Dec 14th

Jane Allen Dec 16th

Wanda Hartis Dec 28th
Erin Price

Frank Norton Dec 29th



Message from the office...

Please be sure to pick up your 2023 offering envelopes. They will be on the vestibule table by Sunday, December 18th. If you do not find your box, please contact me at 704.537.6340.

Carolyn Davis

Let's just praise the Lord...you folks, along with the help of Joyce Privett, sent 129 to the warehouse for processing at Samaritan Purse. Operation Christmas Child will be able to bring smiles to that many children. Thank you NHBC family!



In God's Sight, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas whenever we rediscover the simplicity of His love and bow down in thankfulness and worship, where we are or whatever our circumstances.

David Jeremiah

Dear New Hope Family

This has been a very difficult year for my household and myself. With the passing of my dear husband - Gene -, to 3 surgeries to clear the stones from my kidney to now waiting for the operating room to become available for back surgery. With the prayers of my church family and the fantastic support, the Lord carried us through. At this Christmas season, may I say thank you for your continued love and support. A huge thank you to Terry Lacy for doing the bulletins for me during the very rough times and to Jeff Smith for taking over the financial portion of my job. It is a joy to be able to continue to serve you through the church office. I wish a very merry Christmas to each of you and many many blessings from the Lord for the 2023 year.

Love to you all, Carolyn

