

NHBC  
704.537.6340

**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.

You can reach us at any of the  
avenues listed here  
nhbcchar@att.net  
Like us on Facebook  
newhopecharlotte.org

*July 2023... the Contact ... Vol. XLV Issue 7*  
*Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor... pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org*

**Philippians 3:1 “Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.”**

Some people find it strange that Scripture commands believers to express joy. It seems that joy cannot be forced. But that is likely because we associate joy with favorable external circumstances and comforts rather than associating it with our relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior. When you know Jesus, you always have reason to be joyful. Thus, it should not be surprising that, in Philippians 3:1, Paul commands believers to rejoice in the Lord.

Indeed, Paul writes that it is no trouble for him to do so since it is a safe command. Some commands in Scripture sound challenging and difficult, but who would find a command to express joy as a negative? Rejoicing in the Lord is good for the church. It is good for the soul of every believer.

Later in Philippians 4:4, Paul repeats the encouragement, “Rejoice in the lord always and again I say rejoice.” Joy is so central to the Christian life that Paul wrote the same thing repeatedly. In the best days, we are to rejoice in the Lord. In the worst days, we are to rejoice in the Lord. As Christians, we have the most reasons to be joyful. We know Jesus. We have assurance of forgiveness of sin. We have the hope of eternity in the beauty of his presence. We have the blessing of fellowship with the Lord's people.

In John 15, Jesus uses the analogy of the vine and branches to describe his relationship with his children. Jesus calls us to abide in Him and in his love, and He calls us to obey His Word so that we bear much fruit. Then in John 15:11, Jesus says that if you do, His joy will be in you and your joy will be full and complete.

Each believer should frequently examine their own life and ask, “Am I living in the full joy of the Christian faith? Joy is always a clear indication that God is working in your heart. After all, joy is a fruit of the Spirit. \

Expressing joy in Christ should be the way of life for believers. J.C. Ryle once wrote, “It is a real misfortune to Christianity when a Christian cannot smile.” Charles Spurgeon considered the joy of the Lord as a taste of heaven on earth. The joy of the Lord is no optional experience of the Christian life that is only experienced by the “really mature” Christians. Joy is not the icing on the cake, as if joy can simply be considered some add-on feature of the Christian faith. Not at all, joy is an essential ingredient of the cake itself. Experience the joy of the Lord! Know the empowering joy of the Lord and always be on guard against those temptations to seek ultimate joy in other sources than Jesus!

In Hm

Pastor Jason

## Deacons on Call

July 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Jim Hartis

July 9<sup>th</sup>  
Dan Crawford

July 16<sup>th</sup>  
Don Jordan

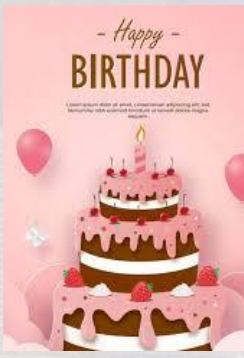
July 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Jim Hartis

July 30<sup>th</sup>  
Dan Crawford

## Birthdays for July

July 20<sup>th</sup>  
Diane Black

July 25<sup>th</sup>  
Carolyn Davis



## Calendar of Events Weekly Schedule

Sunday  
9:30 am  
Sunday School

11:00 am  
Morning Worship

Wednesday  
6:30 pm  
Adult Bible Study

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
H.F  
(Hope for Families-  
clothes & food)

## JOY News

Great News!! The Just Older Youth are on the move again. There is a special event planned for you on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Family Life Center. You will be blessed with a BBQ luncheon and a special surprise activity. Please find the signup sheet located on the vestibule table or call the church office at 704.537.6340

## 2023-2024 People Search Team Meeting

IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN!  
THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR IS COMING. ON SUNDAY, JULY 23<sup>RD</sup>, THE TEAM WILL MEET IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MORNING SERVICE WITH A CATERED LUNCHEON. THOSE INVOLVED ARE:

NANCY ALDRIDGE – THANE BLACK – DAN CRAWFORD - CAROLYN DAVIS – WANDA HARTIS – TERRY LACY

**TEAM – IF THIS TIME IS NOT SUITABLE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 704.537.6340**

### *"I thought you ask Me for help?"*

A lot of you remember Wendy Bagwell and the Sun lighters (gospel singing group). When Wendy would tell one of his stories he would always say "that's a fact with my hand up!" Well, I have a message to share and THIS IS a fact with my hand up.

Please let me start with saying a HUGE thank you for the prayers you lifted for me during my recent surgery to remove my left kidney and the food. Things went well with a few hiccups along the way but the Lord is good all the time - all the time the Lord is good. Cancer was self-contained and the enlarged lymph knob was okay. It took a little longer after getting home to start turning around and heading towards full recovery. (Still working on it but this is when the healing started.) Gina and Kelly had moved in to help me (so totally grateful). The surgery healing was going pretty good but due to so much pain meds, my body did not react very well. I found myself in tremendous pain for several days. While I was waiting for the girls to get up for the morning, I was hurting pretty bad. I thought, I can't get up by myself so I waited. In the meantime, the pain was so bad that I literally cried out to the Lord "You can take this pain away - I KNOW You can!" Well, I continued to wait for the girls to get up and the voice inside of me was as real as if Gene were standing right beside me - *"I thought you ask Me for help?"* I did! I began to slowly turn over and noticed no pain. I continued and was able to get up - get dressed and was sitting in the chair when they got up. He did what I ask Him to do! Shame on me for not remembering my request or acting on that request. When you ask something of the Lord and you put it into His hands, do you leave it there and trust Him to handle it or do you put it back into your hands and move forward wondering why He has not answered your prayers. Believe me, He can fix it better than any of us. Hope to see you soon! Love, Carolyn