



**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.

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**MATTHEW 5:10-12**

***"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN OTHERS REVILE YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND UTTER ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY ON MY ACCOUNT. REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD IS GREAT IN HEAVEN, FOR SO THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU."***

IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE LAST BEATITUDE IS THE ONE THAT IS MOST DEVELOPED, AND IT FOCUSES ON BEING PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST. IT IS COUNTERCULTURAL. JESUS IS TEACHING THAT YOU ARE BLESSED BY GOD WHEN YOU SUFFER BECAUSE OF THE RIGHTEOUS LIFE YOU LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY. YOU ARE BLESSED WHEN THE WORLD REVILES YOU. YOU ARE BLESSED WHEN THE WORLD EXCLUDES YOU. YOU ARE BLESSED WHEN THE WORLD INSULTS YOU AND CONSIDERS YOU AS EVIL. JESUS EVEN CLAIMS THAT EXPERIENCING OPPOSITION FROM THE WORLD PROVIDES SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR HIS DISCIPLES TO REJOICE AND BE GLAD. IT PROVIDES HIS FOLLOWERS ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL REWARDS FROM THE HEAVENLY FATHER.

A TRUE DISCIPLE WILL BE REJECTED BY THE WORLD. IN JOHN 15, AFTER COMMANDING HIS DISCIPLES TO LOVE EACH OTHER, JESUS INFORMS THEM THAT THEY WILL LIKELY NOT BE LOVED BY THE WORLD. IN JOHN 15:18-19, JESUS SAID, "IF THE WORLD HATES YOU, KEEP IN MIND THAT IT HATED ME FIRST. IF YOU BELONGED TO THE WORLD, IT WOULD LOVE YOU AS ITS OWN. AS IT IS, YOU DO NOT BELONG TO THE WORLD, BUT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU OUT OF THE WORLD. THIS IS WHY THE WORLD HATES YOU."

WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED WHEN THE WORLD OPPOSES OUR CHRISTIAN CONVICTIONS AND VALUES. THE CHRISTIAN FAITH WILL NEVER BE MAINSTREAM; AT LEAST BEFORE THE LORD JESUS RETURNS AND ESTABLISHES HIS PERFECT KINGDOM. AS JESUS SAID, THE WORLD FIRST HATED HIM. IF WE REMAIN STRONG IN OUR FAITH BY REFUSING TO COMPROMISE IN OUR BELIEF IN GOD'S WORD AND IN OUR DEVOTION TO LIVE FAITHFULLY BEFORE THE LORD, WE WILL EXPERIENCE REJECTION. HERE IN THE U.S., WE MAY NOT EXPERIENCE THE SAME DEGREE OF HOSTILITY AND PERSECUTION AS CHRISTIANS DO IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, BUT IF WE REMAIN FAITHFUL TO JESUS, WE WILL EXPERIENCE SOME DEGREE OF REJECTION. WE SHOULD BE PRAYING EACH DAY FOR THOSE CHRISTIANS WHO FACE SEVERE PERSECUTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT WE SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARING OURSELVES, BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO WITHSTAND WHATEVER OPPOSITION COMES OUR WAY.

OF COURSE, WE ARE NOT TO SEEK TO BE HATED. SADLY, SOME CHRISTIANS LOOK FOR CONFLICT AND ARE NEEDLESSLY OFFENSIVE. WE ARE TO BE PEACEMAKERS (MATT. 5:9). WE ARE TO BUILD A GOOD REPUTATION WITH OUTSIDERS (1 THESS. 4:12, COL. 4:5-6). BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT THE GOSPEL IS FOLLY TO THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING (1 COR. 1:18). SO, ABOVE ALL, WE MUST LIVE FAITHFULLY BEFORE THE LORD.

*Pastor Jason*

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## Deacons on Call

Dec 6  
Don Jordan

Dec 13  
Jim Hartis

Dec 20  
Jeff Smith

Dec 27  
Gerald Freeman



## Calendar of Events

### Standing Weekly Schedule Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

### Wednesday

Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Join us on Face Book

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 10:00 a.m.

H4F

## Birthdays for December

12/14 Linda Norton

12/16 Jane Allen

12/28 Erin Black  
Wanda Hartis

12/29 Frank Norton



## In Remembrance



*Robert Farrell Dickens*

November 21, 1935

October 24, 2020

Member of NHBC since 1966



*Gracie Lee Kiker Frank*

April 11, 1937

October 27, 2020

Member of NHBC since 1962



*Wade Douglas Crawford*

December 6, 1943 ~ October 28, 2020

Brother of Dan Crawford



## Operation Christmas Child

### 400 boxes

*Thank you to Mackenzie, Nancy and all of the helpers that took care of the Yard Sale, purchased items for the boxes - \$639.06 -and those that came and filled all the boxes and of course Terry Lacy for delivering the boxes. They are on their way to their special destination.*

*Thank you!*

*Thank you so much for the beautiful plant in remembering my brother.*

*Dan Crawford*

*Thank you!*

*Dear Carolyn and New Hope Baptist  
Thank you for the cards, flowers, food and most of all the prayers during Robert's sickness. For the love and kindness that everyone showed during this time. May God bless.*

*Love, The Dickens Family*