

**NHBC**  
704.537.6340  
newhopecharlotte.org

**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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**January 2024... the Contact ...Vol. XLVI Issue 1  
Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor...pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org**

**1 Peter 2:2-3 "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."**

Every New Year provides a sense of hope. It offers a refreshing opportunity to make improvements in our lives. The spirit of the New Year is summarized well by Mother Teresa, who once said, "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." As we enter 2024, I pray that we will renew our devotion to God's Word and learn what Jesus meant by, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

In 1 Peter 2:2, believers are called to desire God's Word like a newborn baby desires milk. It must be the pure spiritual milk of the Word. We cannot settle for a counterfeit or a water-downed version, which can cause sickness or death. A water-downed Gospel does not save and will not produce holy living. The word "desire" is a strong term that describes an intense personal craving. Just as a little baby emerges from his or her mother's womb crying for her milk, so too should the believer hunger for God's Word. Do you hunger for God's Word?

Unfortunately, study after study indicates a growing biblical illiteracy among Americans, even among self-identifying "Christians." How can we claim to love God if we show little concern and desire for His Holy Word? In 1 Peter 2:2, we need the milk of God's Word for sanctification; to grow up into salvation. Just as a baby needs the nourishment of milk to grow physically, a Christian needs the nourishment of God's word to grow spiritually. There is no lasting obedience, abundant joy and confident faith without a growing love of God's Word.

Reading, studying and obeying God's Word is not burdensome. It is no heavy toll on the journey of Christian life. Indeed, it is a pathway of the abundant joy that Jesus offers. When calling believers to desire God's Word, Peter adds an interesting conditional statement in v. 3, "if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good." God's Word provides the continuous blessing of knowing the Lord's goodness. To drink the milk of the Word is to taste again and again what the Lord is like and to experience again and again the joy of personal fellowship with the Lord. We forfeit so much of the joy of our relationship with Christ when we forsake our duty to know His Word. I pray that will never be the case at New Hope in 2024.

*In Him*

*Pastor Jason*

## Deacons on Call

1/7

Don Jordan

1/14

Jim Hartis

1/21

Dan Crawford

1/28

Don Jordan

## Birthdays for January

January 28<sup>th</sup>

Barbara Barnes  
John Hubbard

Wishing you  
a beautiful day  
and a delightful  
year ahead!  
**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

## Calendar of Events

### Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:30 am

Sunday School

11:00 am

Morning Worship

Wednesday

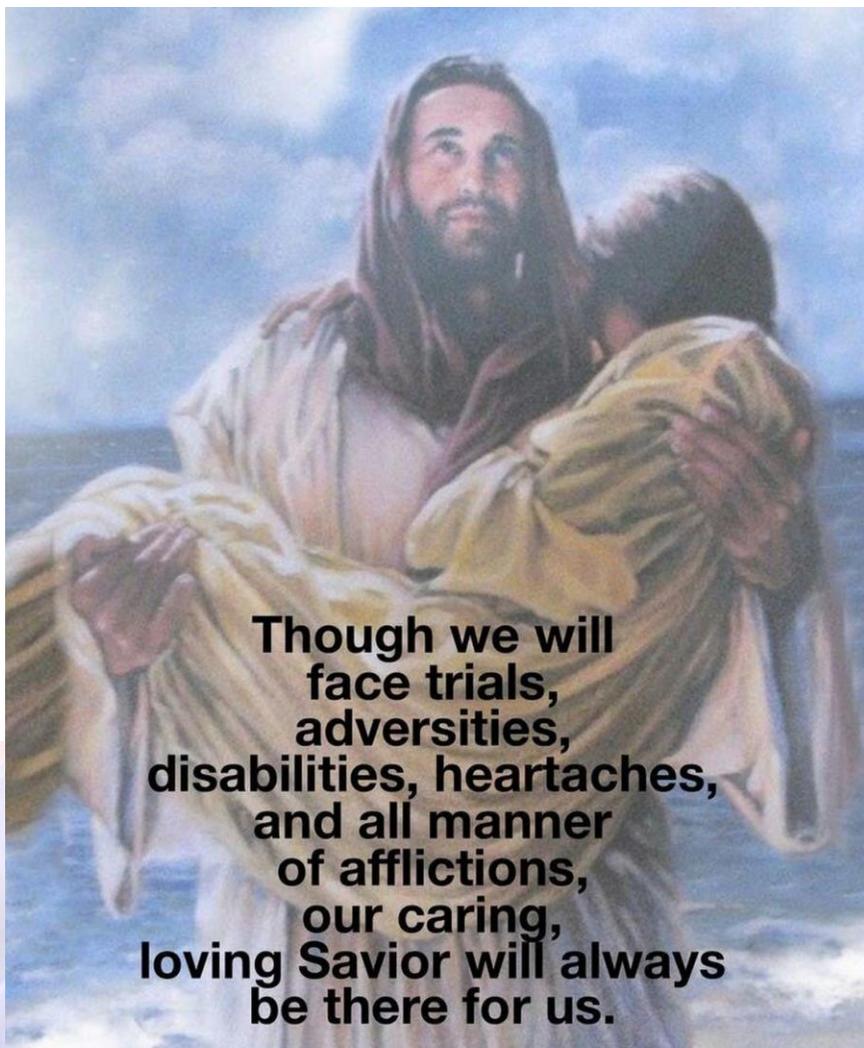
6:30 pm

Adult Bible Study

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday

HF

(Hope for Families-  
clothes & food)



Though we will  
face trials,  
adversities,  
disabilities, heartaches,  
and all manner  
of afflictions,  
our caring,  
loving Savior will always  
be there for us.

Folks, no matter what the world gives us in the new year of 2024, **NOTHING** can harm us, nothing should worry us, because our Lord has the control in His hands.

Do you believe it?

**Praises to our heavenly Father!**

As we look towards 2024 and the future of our family, would you consider being a part of a prayer team? Beginning on January 1, would you commit to taking one hour, 2 half hours or 4 quarters of an hour every day to pray for each other and the future that the Lord would have us to do here at New Hope Baptist Church. You may choose your time that works for you and you can do it in your private place. All you have to do is sign up on the **PRAYER SHEET** located on the vestibule table. We want to fill each time

In order for us to make ourselves accountable for this special time, let's mark our calendars for March 15<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> to share something that the Lord has shown each of us and we place the results in this very space of our Contact.

**Pray for our Pastor Jason Smith**

**Pray for our secretary Carolyn Davis**

**Pray for our Clothing Closet/Food Pantry praying for the workers, the volunteers and the folks that come in need of clothes & food.**

**Pray for everyone that attends New Hope – just close your eyes and think of the areas of the church where certain people sit. The Lord will bring them to mind.**

**When we come to the end of 2024, let's reflect on the many blessings that the Lord has given us and Praise Him for the guidance He will show us. It is sure to be the most unusual year that we will ever experience. Encourage each other in this new adventure.**