

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.



July 2022... the Contact ... Vol. XLIV Issue 7
Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor... pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org

Colossians 4:2 “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

Presently, there are many challenges facing the local church, including New Hope, but I am convinced that the greatest challenge is for believers to grow deeper in their devotion to prayer. All faithful church members recognize the importance of prayer, but sadly, we often do not pray as we should.

Over the last couple of months, on Sunday mornings, we have studied Jesus' Farewell discourse in John 13-17 and several times, Jesus promised his disciples a fruitful prayer life (see Jn. 14:13-14, 15:7, 16; 16:23). Of all the ways Jesus could describe what a close relationship with God would look like in daily life, He focused on a believer's constant communion with the Heavenly Father in prayer.

In the scripture above, Colossians 4:2, Paul calls believers to develop a greater devotion to prayer. To “continue steadfastly” means giving adequate and consistent time to prayer. It also speaks of being persistent in prayer. In Luke 18, before giving the Parable of the Persistent Widow, Jesus instructs his disciples to “always pray and not lose heart.” Do we pray with confidence, bringing everything to God in prayer, never giving up? Or does our devotion to prayer consist of isolated short prayer here and there with little expectation of God responding?

Paul also calls us to be watchful in prayer. This could be translated as “being alert.” When praying, we should be alive in the fullest sense. We are talking with the eternal God, Creator of the universe. This access to God in prayer was secured by the shed blood of Christ, which through Him, we are reconciled to God. Prayer should never be dull or boring. May God grant us an increasing awareness of His presence in our lives so that we will be always watchful in prayer and ready to bring all things to Him in prayer.

Finally, Paul calls us to pray with gratitude. We ought to express thanksgiving to God for all that He has done for us in the past, all that He continues to do for us, and all that He will do for us in the future. Praying with gratitude keeps us humble, requiring that we recognize how good God has been to us.

Charles Spurgeon once said, “Nine times out of ten, falling away from God begins in the neglect of private prayer.” If that is true, then the reverse is also true. If we truly want to grow closer to the Lord, and to honor Him by how we live, we will spend greater energy and time in prayer.

Pastor Jason

**Deacons on Call**

July 3

Don Jordan

July 10

Jim Hartis

July 17

Jeff Smith

July 24

Gerald Freeman

July 31

Don Jordan

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 Facebook

1st and 3rd Saturday 10:00 a.m.H₄F (Hope for Families-cloths & food)**Birthdays for July**July 20th

Diane Black

July 25th

Carolyn Davis


*With Deepest Sympathy***Glynn Eugene 'Gene' Davis***April 12, 1943 ~ June 8, 2022**To our New Hope Family,**We would like to thank all of you for your wonderful support over the past 13 years. It was a hard journey at times and a long one. Gene put up a good fight and he won the race.**Words of encouragement, adjustments to my work schedule, the cards, the phone calls, the visits, the food and those many prayers that were lifted for us made this journey one that will be remembered forever and one that was made easier because of you. Gene loved his music and the moment the Lord called him home, 'When we all get to heaven' was playing on our Alexa. Sweet confirmation! We love you all!**Carolyn, Gina & Charles and Randy***In Memory of
Gene Davis**

New Hope Baptist Church has received donations from:

Mrs. Shirley Howell

10205 Brief Road
Charlotte, NC 28227

Mr. & Mrs. Rob Tawse

1575 John Knox Drive Apt P303
Colfax, NC 27235

Thank you for the beautiful service for Gene Davis and for providing a nourishing meal for the family at the Davis home.

Teresa was especially kind and friendly to every one of us!

God continue to bless your church.

Sincerely,

Nelda Tawse (Carolyns cousin)

Special words from the Clothing Closet..

On the last Saturday in June, the closet was honored to be able to help 26 families with clothes. What a wonderful ministry NHBC has for local families. If you would like to volunteer in this area, please see Debra Hart.

The Closet and the Food Pantry (for the month of July only) will be open the 9th and 23rd. They will resume their regular 1st and 3rd Saturday schedule in August.**Something needed – Something new***It is 2:44pm on Saturday, and I am sitting here working on the Contact, and the birds are simply talking their heads off. I feel the Lord is speaking, saying, we need to pray!**I want to open my home for a night of talking with the Lord!**So, **Monday night, July 25th at 6:30 pm** you are invited to come and let us raise our voices to the Lord in prayer**This will be a defining moment in each of our lives to see if we can commit to one night of thanking and asking God for whatever is on our heart. Do you love and trust the Lord enough to give Him that much of yourself?**He gave His Life for you!*

Carolyn Davis

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