

**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.**

**May 2024... the Contact ...Vol. XLVI Issue 5
Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor...pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org**

“Therefore, I appeal to you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”

Romans 12:1-2

After attending a revival service where Billy Graham preached, the notorious Mafia gangster Mickey Cohen was interested in becoming a Christian. In a 1957 article in Times discussing his encounter with Graham, Cohen states, “I am very high on the Christian way of life.”

Apparently, Cohen even claimed to have invited Jesus into his heart, however, his life continued to show no evidence of repentance of sin. Edwin Orr writes that some Christian associates confronted Cohen about his lifestyle and allegedly, Cohen responded, “You did not tell me that I would have to give up my work,” meaning his criminal activity, and “you did not tell me that I would have to give up my friends,” meaning his criminals associates. Then Cohen allegedly said, “Christian football players; Christian cowboys; Christian politicians; why not a Christian gangster?”

Most people would see how foolish this was. The Christian life and the mafia life are incompatible in most every way. However, sadly, this is how people treat Christianity today. Many embrace the concepts of grace and forgiveness yet continue to live in sin while maintaining a certain hope of heaven to come.

But what we see in Scripture is that saving faith in Christ transforms the sinner. One inevitable fruit of true saving faith in Christ is spiritual growth where a believer will increasingly reflect the values of God rather than the values of the world, which are in active and constant opposition to God's Word. As we go through the process of sanctification, by God's power and wisdom, our lives, including our thoughts, the words we speak, and the things we do, will reflect more the new life in Christ as described in Scripture. This involves an active presenting of ourselves to God as living sacrifices.

Of course, this does not mean that Christian hope of salvation is based on one's performance. In Romans 12:1, “the mercies of God” refers to the Gospel message declared by Paul up until this point. In other words, it refers to everything that God has gone for us in Christ Jesus his Son.

To give a small sample of the mercies of God in Romans 3-11, in Christ Jesus, we are declared righteous, we are sanctified, we are promised glorification, we have peace with God, we have been reconciled to God, we have hope that does not disappoint, our hearts have been filled by God's love, we no longer stand in condemnation, we are given the Holy Spirit, we are made heirs with Christ, we are secure knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

It is all by God's grace. Still, it is important to note that at heart of faithful Christian living is true worship in response to God's goodness in Christ Jesus our Lord. When you obey God's Word and serve Him each day, keep His grace in Christ in mind and let that grace transform the way you live. If so, Christianity will never be a burden. Christianity will provide the greatest joy.

In Him

Pastor Jason

Deacons on Call

May 5th

Dan Crawford

May 12th

Don Jordan

May 19th

Jim Hartis

May 26th

Dan Crawford

Birthdays for May

May 11th

Joyce Perry

5623 Seacroft Road

Charlotte, NC 28210

704.527.3943

May 20th

Wilma Freeman

425 Valhalla Drive

Harrisburg, NC 28075

980.258.8357

May 21st

Linda McCarver

14221 Thompson Road

Charlotte, NC 28227

704.847.4230

Send them a card, give them a call. Make their day so very special!



Happy Mother's Day

May 12th

When you think over the years, imagine a walk through the gardens with your mom busy hoeing, watering, picking, canning/freezing, and then preparing a wonderful meal and putting it on the table, just for you. Imagine the look and feel on your mother's face as each of her children were born. Remember all the things your mom did for you over the years - laughing with you, crying with you and making sure you had everything you needed. Remember her proud look on her face as you started your first day of school and the proud look as you walked across the stage or field to receive your diploma. Remember the joy in her eyes when you made her a grandmother. And never forget the way that your mom (or maybe even your grandmother) taught you about the Lord. These are just a few things through our lives that we could mention but look at these few things and remember how they molded you into the most wonderful son or daughter you are today.

And remember the heartaches that many mothers endured through life like the one mentioned below. Look at how God made mothers with soft and compassionate hearts but a mind like steel that plowed the way through life with such great love and wisdom.

Call your mom and tell her how much you love her or thank the Lord for your heavenly Mother that He blessed you with!

Memorial Day – A Face on the Wall

Let us reflect on all of the men and women that have given their lives for the freedom of this country. Below is one of those young men. He had no intentions of joining the armed forces but since his best friend was signing up then he would too. He was only in Vietnam for 2 weeks when driving a tank down the road, someone threw a hand grenade in the open door of the tank. He immediately was gone. I remember going to the store that night to get milk for my mother. Two Army officers came into the store looking for a certain P.O. Box #. Not knowing where that mailbox number was, they ask for Trinity Baptist Church. After a short time, our phone rang and there was a father, mother and 3 sisters that found out their son and brother would not be coming home at all. Dad and I (along with an uncle) traveled that night to Washington DC to tell his sister, who was in college, the sad news. Those are images that you will never forget. The only thing that made it back to the states in his coffin were his boots – hat and gun. His best friend always checked the MIA listing each day after breakfast and he saw his name. Only 6 miles from each other but he died alone. He gave his life for your freedom. If you get to visit Washington DC, make it a point to go by and see 'The Wall' at section 41E/line 14 and you will see his name. Folks, this is not just another name on the wall because his sister married my brother. We were best friends for a long time. The last day before he left for service, he came to my school and we walked the halls and talked almost the entire day. The school allowed this to happen but now you look back and I never thought that would be the last time we would see each other. We were in youth together; we were just great friends. It took me a while before I could come to grips with this but I did. This Memorial Day, remember the folks on "The Wall".



Thank You
Alfred
and all the other's on
"The Wall"



Calendar of Events Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:30 am

11:00 am

Sunday School

Morning Worship

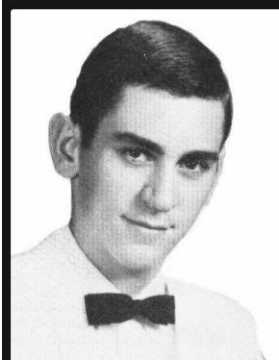
1st and 3rd Saturday

H&F

(Hope for Families—clothes & food)

THE WALL OF FACES

ADVANCED SEARCH



VIEW ALL PHOTOS (1)

HONORED ON PANEL 41E, LINE 14 OF THE WALL

MORRIS ALFRED WHITEHEAD

WALL NAME MORRIS A WHITEHEAD RANK SGT

PANEL / LINE 41E/14

DATE OF BIRTH 08/14/1947

CASUALTY PROVINCE GIA DINH

DATE OF CASUALTY 02/24/1968

HOME OF RECORD MARTINSVILLE

COUNTY OF RECORD City Of Martinsville

STATE VA

BRANCH OF SERVICE ARMY