



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.

February 2021... the Contact ... Vol. XLIII Issue 2

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor... pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org

2 Timothy 1:5 “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice”

When looking for the most significant factors for raising successful children, research points to factors, such as a stable home life, a higher socioeconomic status, a close relationship with parents. Indeed, growing up in a loving home where parents are attentive and available, always meeting their child's needs and instilling in them life values, is a tremendous blessing. Yet, the research is incomplete. Generally, a “successful child” is defined as staying out of trouble, doing well in school, and preparing to become a responsible young adult. Again, we want these things for our children and grandchildren, but these things are not sufficient. As Christians, we live with an eternal perspective. Cultural success cannot be all that we desire. It is possible to raise our children and grandchildren so well that they become wildly successful and wealthy adults, yet, tragically, they are found guilty of the very thing Jesus warned about, **“gaining the whole world, but forfeiting their soul” (Matt. 16:26).**

There is one factor in raising a family that should never be neglected, providing spiritual influence. If you grew up in a strong Christian home where Jesus was loved and adored, where God's Word was taught and respected and where a local church was attended and supported, you are blessed beyond measure.

In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul thanks God for the sincere faith of Timothy. This is a remarkable commendation. Timothy is a true Christian. His faith in Jesus is genuine, the real deal, without hypocrisy. As Christians, what more could we want to be said about our faith in Jesus?

But Paul also observes that this real faith in Jesus first dwelt in Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice. It seems that Paul could not acknowledge Timothy's faith without acknowledging the faith of Timothy's grandmother and mother as well. The Lord opened the eyes of Lois and Eunice to the beauty of Jesus before He opened the eyes of Timothy. It is a wonderful testimony of how God can use the family to bring a sinner to saving faith in His Son. Later in 2 Timothy 3:14-15, Paul reminds Timothy of how he learned the sacred writings (the Old Testament) from childhood, which made him wise for salvation through faith in Christ. Lois and Eunice taught Scripture to Timothy as a child and it prepared him to believe in Jesus when he first heard the Gospel. We must acknowledge the spiritual influences in our lives. Express gratitude to the Lord for everyone who has encouraged you to seek God, to believe in Jesus for eternal life, to obey God's Word, to pray earnestly, to love and serve others, and to devote yourself to the church.

On January 15th, my maternal grandmother passed away at age 89. Sadly, one of the worse parts of the sin nature is that we are prone to ungratefulness (see Rom. 1:21). I must confess. I have not appreciated my spiritual heritage as I should. All four of my grandparents are strong Christians. Their faith in the Lord Jesus shaped their lives. Like every family, they experienced their share of sorrows, but that did not lessen their devotion to Jesus, it only made their devotion stronger.

My grandparents have attended the same church for many years (Union Grove Baptist). They did not just attend church; they were as active in the church as you can be. I am sure they had their occasional disagreement and discouragement at church, but they never got up and left. They remained committed to their church to the end. As long as I can remember, my grandparents respected God's Word. My paternal grandmother's bookshelves are filled with commentaries on books of the Bible. I can talk to her about different Bible scholars that most church members have never heard of. My grandparents' Bibles were never closed. They were always opened to their daily scripture reading, or to the passage of the previous Sunday's sermon, or to their upcoming Sunday school lesson. In my maternal grandmother's last years, as her eyesight began to fail, she had bright lights and a strong magnifying glass to read her large print Bible.

2 Timothy 1:5 is true in my situation. Long before I trusted in the Lord Jesus as Savior, faith first dwelt in my grandparents. Before I ever obeyed God's Word, my grandparents did. Before I was ever devoted to a church family, my grandparents were. Before I ever experienced joy and peace in prayer, my grandparents did. Their testimony of faithfulness to the Lord has been a significant part of my own spiritual development. Whether I acknowledge it or not, I am tremendously blessed.

Pastor Jason

**Deacons on Call**

Feb 7
Jim Hartis

Feb 14
Jeff Smith

Feb 21
Gerald Freeman

Feb 28
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 Face Book

1st and 3rd Saturday 10:00 a.m.
H₄F

**Birthdays for
February**

2/10 Pam Emanuel

2/12 Janet Sweetser

2/16 Mary Rorie

2/18 Dan Crawford

2/27 Wayne McCarver

2/28 Gary Brown

In Remembrance

A young life that left us too soon. Please remember Herbie, Stephanie, and Trey Hill in your prayers during this difficult time.

Carol Lynn Hill

January 24, 2001 - December 31, 2020



New Hope always had a special place in Mom's heart. Thanks for the calls, texts, cards, flowers, kind words, and the meals prepared for the family. We are thankful for our church family and how special you helped make Mom's homegoing.

In Christ's Love,

Diane and Karen

Month of 'Love'

*As we move into the 2nd month of 2021, we can say that this year is speeding along. We have experienced many things through 2020 that has left us wondering and worried what the future holds. As Luke 12:25 **Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?** Instead of worrying – can we think of love?*

I found myself not thinking about today or tomorrow but remembering the past. One of the things that I always cherished (and saved) were the many cards that my hubby gave me over the years. He could give the most thoughtful and compassionate cards that I ever read. My memories have given me very warm feelings that over the past few years have been missed. When is the last time that you heard or received loving words from someone?..or heard encouraging words from our leaders?..or shared a kind, encouraging, loving word to someone. Let's take this month of February and tell our family members that you love them, call a church family member and let them know they are loved, a first responder, medical personnel how much they are appreciated OR when was the last time you told your Heavenly Father how much you love Him. I'm sure that happens many times a day. What peace, what joy, what love there is for each of His children -there is NO Greater Love!