

NHBC
704.537.6340

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.

You can reach us at any of the
avenues listed here
nhbcchar@att.net
Like us on Facebook
newhopecharlotte.org

May 2023... the Contact ... Vol. XLV Issue 5
Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor... pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org

Philippians 3:1 *"Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you"*

It is remarkable that God's Word, such as in Philippians 3:1, commands believers to always express joy. It seems unreasonable to command someone to be joyful and happy, especially when there are many circumstances for despair in this dark world. But, perhaps, any concerns that we have about commanded to be joyful and happy is due to us associating joy and happiness with favorable external circumstances and comforts instead of associating joy and happiness with knowing Jesus Christ, our Savior.

In Philippians 3:1, Paul commands believers to rejoice in the Lord. He is the source of a constant stream of joy. He himself is our joy. Indeed, Paul writes that it is no trouble for him to call believers to rejoice since it is a safe command for a church. Rejoicing in the Lord is good for the church. Looking to Jesus for joy is always good for the child of God.

Later in Philippians 4:4, Paul repeats the encouragement, "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice." Joy is so central to the Christian life that it was no trouble for Paul to write the same thing over and over again. In the best days, rejoice in the Lord. In the worst days, rejoice in the Lord. The reason why Christians should be joyful is we have most reason be joyful. We know the Lord Jesus. We have assurance of forgiveness of sin. We have the hope of eternity in the beauty of his presence. We have the blessing of fellowship with the Lord's people.

In John 15, Jesus uses the analogy of the vine and branches to describe his relationship with his children. Jesus calls us to abide in Him and in his love. He also calls us to obey His Word so that we would bear much fruit for the glory of the Heavenly Father. Then in John 15:11, Jesus affirms that if we do abide in Him, His joy will be in us, and that our joy would be full and complete.

Each believer should frequently examine their own life and ask, "Am I living in the full joy of the Christian faith? Joy is always a clear indication that God is working in your heart. After all, joy is a fruit of the Spirit. For the Christian, experiencing the joy of the Lord should be the way of life. J.C. Ryle once wrote, "It is a real misfortune to Christianity when a Christian cannot smile." Charles Spurgeon considered the joy of the Lord as a taste of heaven on earth. The joy of the Lord is no optional experience of the Christian life that is only experienced by the "really mature" Christians. Joy is not the icing on the cake, as if joy can simply be considered some add-on feature of the Christian faith. Not at all, joy is an essential ingredient of the cake itself. Experience the joy of the Lord! Know the empowering joy of the Lord and always be on guard against those temptations to seek ultimate joy in other sources than Jesus!

In Him

Pastor Jason

Deacons on Call

May 7th
Dan Crawford

May 14th
Don Jordan

May 21st
Jim Hartis

May 28th
Dan Crawford

Honoring our Graduates



We want to honor our graduates. If you have a child, grandchild or great-grandchild that is graduating from high school or college or special tech school, please send their name, where they are graduating from and what their plans are after graduation. It would be great to have a picture of them also. Send your information to nhbcchar@att.net – or mail to NHBC 7841 Idlewild Road, Charlotte NC 28212 or bring the information to the church by May 14th. If you have any questions, please call the office at 704.537.6340

HONORING OUR SENIOR ADULTS

MAY IS THE MONTH THAT WE HONOR THE SENIOR ADULTS OF OUR CHURCH. AS WE REFLECT BACK OVER THE YEARS, SO MANY OF OUR PRECIOUS FOLKS ARE NOW WITH THE LORD. BUT, WE ARE SO BLESSED TO HAVE SO MANY HERE TODAY THAT ARE SERVING THE LORD IN A MIGHTY WAY AT NHBC. MAY WE TAKE TIME TO TELL EACH OTHER JUST HOW MUCH THE LORD LOVES US AND AS SENIOR ADULTS, WE WILL KEEP ON SERVING AND PRAISING HIM UNTIL HE RETURNS TO TAKE US ALL HOME.

MAY HE FIND US ALL FAITHFUL!

PSALM 71:18

AND EVEN WHEN I AM OLD AND GRAY, OH GOD, DO NOT FORSAKE ME,
UNTIL I DECLARE YOUR STRENGTH TO THIS GENERATION, YOUR POWER TO ALL WHO ARE TO COME.

Birthdays for May

May 11th
Joyce Perry

May 20th
Wilma Freeman

May 21st
Linda McCarver



Honoring our Mother's

There is a child out there that is struggling in life. He/She may know the love of the Lord and has given Him their heart. As their life goes on each day, Satan is trying to steal and destroy. As a mother watches them as they grow up to be young adults, she prays Lord please guide their steps each day and keep them safe. As they enter into adult life and are now on their own, Satan may be throwing darts all around them.

What's a mother to do?

A Mother's love is unconditional – no matter what happens

A Mother's heart breaks when her child's heart is breaking

A Mother stays on her knees in prayer for her child

A Mother meets the needs (not wants) of her child when at all possible

A Mother speaks soft, kind and loving words to her child to encourage and yet strong words to guide them in the right way.

A Mother always has open arms to wrap around her child in love

A Mother's love is the extension of the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Only a mother can wear the shoes that are required to train and teach a child his/her entire life, how to speak with love and compassion and live the life that will not only speak the Love of Jesus but live the life of Jesus.

Please pray for that child that is struggling today!

Calendar of Events

Weekly Schedule

Sunday
9:30 am
Sunday School

11:00 am
Morning Worship

Wednesday
6:30 pm
Adult Bible Study

1st and 3rd Saturday
H&F
(Hope for Families-
clothes & food)