



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.

January 2021... the Contact ... Vol. XLIII Issue 1

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

Ephesians 6:18 "At all times, pray in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints"

If 2020 taught us anything, it is how vulnerable we are. Covid-19 has forced us to put on hold many of our daily activities. To protect ourselves, we have had to avoid close social contact with our families, friends, and church. If there was ever a time to acknowledge our need for God and to cry out for his help and provision, it is now. With 2021 at hand, I want to encourage us to pray and pray more. The good news is that there is no social distancing requirement with God. Covid-19 may shut down businesses and cancel events, but it can never prevent us from approaching the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace in times of need (Heb. 4:16).

Ephesians 6:18 is part of the well-known Spiritual Armor of God passage (Eph. 6:10-20). It is interesting that prayer is not included as one of the pieces of the armor. But prayer is not missing. In v. 18, Paul gives the spiritual discipline of prayer great significance by making it the very context by which we put on the armor of God. The implication is that if we are going to stand strong in the Lord Jesus by putting on the armor (belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, etc.), we must pray. But Paul does not simply command, "Pray!" In one verse, he provides a detailed description of the prayer life of a believer who is standing strong in the Lord Jesus.

First, we need to be in constant prayer (praying at all times). Prayer must be a top priority in our lives. There is never a moment or circumstance that we cannot run to our Heavenly Father in prayer.

Second, we need to pray every kind and type of prayer (with all prayer and supplication). Scripture is filled with different types of prayers: prayers of praise, prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of repentance, prayers of burden, prayers of sorrows, prayers of trust, prayers of rejoicing, prayers of intercession and prayers of petition. Having a diverse prayer life means that every area of our lives will be bathed in prayer, seeking God's guidance, blessing, and glory.

Third, we need to determine to pray (To that end keep alert with perseverance). Prayer is hard work. We should not consider it as an easy devotion. Many days we will not feel like praying. At times, we might be distracted while praying. But with the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we must be focused and intentional in our prayer life, knowing how important and vital it is.

No matter what happens in 2021, it will be a good year if New Hope Baptist Church grows in our devotion to pray.

Pastor Jason

nhbcchar@att.net



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Deacons on Call

Jan 3
Don Jordan

Jan 10
Jim Hartis

Jan 17
Jeff Smith

Jan 24
Gerald Freeman

Jan 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 Face Book

2nd and 4th Saturday 10:00 a.m.
H₄F

Birthdays for January

1/28 John Hubbard
Barbara Barnes

1/29 Jeff Smith

*For we are God's
handiwork, created in
Christ Jesus to do good
works, which God
prepared in advance for
us to do. Eph 2:10*

In Remembrance

Our last Charter Member of New Hope Baptist Church is now celebrating with her Lord. A very faithful member to New Hope in every area you can mention from teaching- singing - contacting members - to as far as custodian of the church. She will truly be missed



*Annette Williams McCarver
May 23, 1936 - December 7, 2020*

And

One of our most faithful prayer warriors is celebrating with her Lord. She not only was a Sunday School teacher - serving on many team groups - very active in keeping the missionaries in front of our church through the WMCU organization but one she will be remembered for most was her dedication to our church prayer chain. Up till 2 days before she went home to be with the Lord, she was praying and sending prayer concerns out over her computer.

*Betty Brady Simmons
January 29, 1932 - December 6, 2020*



New Hope Baptist Church Prayer Chain

Ms. Betty was wonderful at keeping us informed as to the prayer needs of our church and around the world. Prayer is such an important part of our lives (or it should be). If you would be willing to fill Ms. Betty's shoes and keep us all informed of prayer needs, would you please call the church office so that we could get you set up to fill those shoes. Call 704.537.6340