

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 2022... the Contact ... Vol. XLIV Issue 2

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

Matthew 9:36 "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

"The Bible exhorts us to weep with those who weep. It doesn't tell us to judge whether they should be weeping." H.B. Charles Jr.

As Christians, we are called to be witnesses of Christ in both word and deed. Both of these areas are crucial to the evangelistic mission of the church. Believers should recognize the individual responsibility to share the Gospel. While inviting people to church is good, and I pray that you will invite people to New Hope, that does not fulfill our responsibility as witnesses of Christ. Based on His authority, Jesus commissioned every believer to make disciples (Matt. 28:16-20). New Hope needs bold believers who are willing to share the Gospel with words, saying, "You need to be saved! You need to trust in Jesus!"

Sharing the Gospel in deed requires compassion. It requires being sensitive to needs around us, without immediate questioning of motives. It requires being available for people, being willing to be inconvenienced. It requires being open, even if it means being taken advantage of. This mindset does not fit in well in a culture demanding that one's preferences are met and one's right are honored. Yet, such radical compassion was first demonstrated by Jesus himself.

In Luke 17:11-19, ten lepers come to Jesus seeking healing. Leprosy was a terrible disease. The lepers were living death. Everything that that brings life value was compromised by their disease, such as their family, respect among peers, the ability to make a living, good health, and a clear conscience before God. Jesus was their only hope. With the increasing hostility that Jesus faced from the Jewish religious leaders and the crowds, one could reasonably wonder whether Jesus would continue to heal. But in a wonderful display of compassion, Jesus cleanses all 10 lepers knowing that only one would return to thank him and to give God's praise.

However, the greatest display of compassion was the cross of Calvary when Jesus died the humiliating painful death of crucifixion to provide atonement for our sins. Without Jesus, we are all hopeless. Having experienced the compassion of Christ, how could we possibly refuse to show compassion to others?

Let us give thanks to God for His wonderful blessings, especially the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. True gratitude to God is expressed in service. Let us pray that God gives us compassionate hearts, asking for opportunities to share Christ, both in word and in deed.

In Him Pastor Jason

**Deacons on Call**

February 6

Don Jordan

February 13

Jim Hartis

February 20

Jeff Smith

February 27

Gerald Freeman

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	

1 st and 3 rd Saturday	10:00 a.m.
H ₄ F (Hope for Families-cloths & food)	

**Birthdays for
February**

2/12

Janet Sweetser

2/16

Marie Rorie

2/18

Dan Crawford

2/27

Wayne McCarver

2/28

Gary Brown

Dear Folks,

It has been a while since I have given you a report on "What's going on at the Davis'." Gene has been going to Blessed Assurance Adult Daycare on Idlewild Road and I have to tell you the folks there - from CEO - CCO - nurses - caregivers and the many volunteers are such wonderful and compassionate people. They start their day with breakfast and go into devotions (where he sings for them) to exercises, visiting groups from local churches to share crafts, games and/or singing. Then it is lunch time. After that, they will play Bingo - Catch up on local news - Karaoke - afternoon movie or TV time - snack time and other things. They have a computer room where they can play games, etc. They have a huge fish tank in one room with recliners where you can go and listen to the calm sounds of the water and look at the beautiful fish. They also have an area with exercise equipment and a big back porch with rockers where they go and sing together. Gene truly loves it. In the past month, his abilities to walk and function have declined greatly. It's so sad to see his body giving out on him. He went to the doctor this week and she told me he will probably become combative and fearful. I told her I don't see him becoming combative but every time he falls, his poor eyes look at you saying 'HELP ME' and then he will not let you go - it's called fear! Technology is a wonderful thing and at the same time a big headache but Gina was on FaceTime with him a few days ago and he was so happy. She said "Mom, he is going to walk into heaven laughing." She is right, he is truly enjoying his life. May I share what a fantastic job all you have done for him? Your phone calls, your cards but the most important and most helpful are the prayers you lift each day. Please continue lifting us both up to the Lord.

Now you have heard all the good stuff but may I share the other parts also. This is what your prayers do for us. The trying times when he doesn't even know who I am along with his kids, siblings and friends but maybe the next day - here we are. The trying times when you may mop the floor 4 times a day due to accidents before getting to the potty. The trying times of doing his bath and he can't even stand up in order to be dried and dressed for bed. The trying times when more food gets on the floor than in his mouth. The times that he stares at you and you ask - 'what are you thinking about babe?' and he looks at you with those blue eyes and says 'I don't know!' And we can't forget about the loads of clothes to wash. Your prayers cover them all. We love you!

Gene & Carolyn