



New Hope Christian Church of Monroe

Our Mission Is To Receive God's Love Freely That We Might Give His Love Graciously



Church Newsletter

newhopechristianchurchofmonroe.org

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A Vision for the Future & A Mission For Today

For the past few months I've been asking the Lord to give us new insight into His mandate for our church. More than anything, God's guidance must define our goals for the future. Every church has a distinctive calling to fulfill, conferred on them by God. This mandate extends beyond being a place to gather Sunday mornings for the Bible study and sermon. It is more than getting together to pray for needs in our church family, our community and beyond. It is also more than to support missions here in Monroe and in other countries, even though all these things are part of the whole design. Developing and communicating a vision that is grounded in the Scriptures will help us understand, and reach for the calling of New Hope Christian Church.

New Hope was born when several families desired to continue worshipping together after they had experienced painful changes in their previous church. Since that time, a number of friends who first joined with us have moved on to other fellowships closer to their homes, and others have come more recently to worship with us. We were created to enjoy relationships, and these should never be taken for granted. But now, as our congregation looks to the future, we have the task of discerning the Lord's design for NHCC. The Lord Jesus Christ will help us combine the pieces together, much like assembling the puzzle pieces, to find and create the picture that matches the puzzle box.

"WRITE THE VISION AND MAKE IT CLEAR" (Hbakkuk 2:2)

A good foundation is written in the scripture passages describing the early church in Acts 2: 42-47, and Acts 1:8. Like these early believers, we are called to exemplify the following:

Devote ourselves to following the teachings of Jesus and His apostles, build loving relationships, break bread, share communion, pray together and build community. Additionally, we can give to those in need, and expand the Kingdom of God locally and globally.

Using these passages as the foundation for our vision statement, it would read like this:

"Our vision is to be a people devoted to the Apostles' teachings, to fellowship, to breaking of bread, and to prayer, calling all to salvation through Jesus Christ."

THIS IS POWERFUL BECAUSE

- **IT IS SCRIPTURE.** It is God's word directing us into the actions and lifestyle of the first century church. It is the word of God itself saying ***this is our vision.***

A vision is a compelling picture of the future; it provides a goal, and gives motivation. For us, the description of the early believers' lives in Acts, chapter 2, demonstrates the way the church is to be, not only for that time, but this is the example of how the church lives and serves from now until Jesus returns.

- **IT HELPS US REMEMBER:** "We are a people devoted to the Apostles' teachings, to fellowship, to breaking of bread, and to prayer, calling all to salvation through Jesus Christ."
Looking up Acts 2:42-47 keeps it fresh your mind.

This is what we are all about as a church. This is what a Spirit-led church and Spirit-filled believers look like.

When I use the term ***Spirit-filled life***, I'm not referring to some terminology that "Pentecostal churches" talk about, or some strange or unfamiliar doctrine we may have heard about. Spirit-filled church life is lived out in conscious awareness and dependence upon the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit empowering the lives of each believer, drawing them closer to the heart and will of Jesus, and into Christ-like service to the body of Christ and the world.

SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH LIFE IS

- Where Christianity is not lived on the edges, but is lived out in the very center of our lives and our world.
- Where the work of the Holy Spirit is demonstrated by the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us.
- Where the church isn't condemning the world, but is showing the world a new and living way forward.
- Where God's sovereignty and our responsibility are not

in tension with each other but in harmony.

- Where there is a wholehearted devotion to the Lord and a total freedom in each person's life.
- Where I am taught the perfect ways of God and yet live in a setting where I can fall short, and still be accepted.
- Where corporate prayer and private devotion are both a part of everyday life.
- Where the Lord adds to our numbers, and yet, we also lay down our lives to see people saved.
- Where mercy and truth are lived out.
- It is being a part of something bigger than ourselves.
- It is a lifestyle of generous giving and grateful receiving.
- It is gathering together corporately and in homes, not one or the other, but both.

VISION expresses the place we are going to, where we want to end up. **MISSION** is the means to get us to our vision. It is why we exist together and what we are called to do daily.

***"Our Mission Is To Receive God's Love Freely
That We Might Give His Love Graciously."***

We can only walk in the vision of Acts 2, if we are continually in the posture of receiving.

- Receiving God's love to us.
- Receiving His unconditional acceptance because of what Jesus has done.
- Receiving God's blessings through worship.
- Receiving Christ's love through prayer.
- Receiving His love through one another.

Matthew 10:8 tells us ***"Freely you have received, freely give."***

We cannot give what we have not received, BUT:

- When we receive forgiveness, we can give forgiveness.
- When we experience being loved by God, we can give love.
- When we are assured of acceptance, we can accept others.
- When we are continually receiving mercy, we can give mercy.

Acts 3:6 ***"Then Peter said, "Silver and gold, I do not have. But what I do have, I give to you. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"***

I am excited to think that if we as individual Christians, and as a community of believers, devote ourselves to pursue the mission "to receive God's love freely that we might give His love graciously," we will see the vision God has for our church become fulfilled in our midst.

Pastor Mike

FATHERS DAY

Father's Day is a day of commemoration and celebration of Dad -the special man in our life. We often forget the sacrifice of our fathers and the roles they have played in shaping our lives. Father's Day gives us the opportunity to show and express our love and care to this man, who deserves our honor most. Father's Day is the most appropriate platform to make us look beyond 'our own' family and honor the man who brought us joy and happiness. Father's Day is a day to honor not only your father, but all men who have acted as a father figure in your life - whether as Stepfathers, Uncles, Grandfathers, or "Big Brothers."

From: www.loveyoufather.com

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."
Billy Graham

Upcoming Events!

Echoes of Happiness will be our special guest ministers on June 21. Their ministry has always been a wonderful time for all ages. Remember to invite friends and family, and especially the grandchildren.

Men's Fellowship: Watch your bulletin for the date and time for the next men's fellowship.

Mid Week Bible Study: Thursdays at 7:PM
Steve and Jenny Bellmore host this special time of fellowship in their home. For Directions call Steve at: 734-242-1534

Congratulations Bill Welch

On Your Retirement!

May God continue to bless and guide and you and Gwen as you begin this new chapter of your lives.

If you received this church Newsletter from a friend,
we hope it was a blessing for you.

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**If you are looking for a church where people love
Jesus and love others we hope you will visit us.**