



NEW HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2020

The Envoy

VOL. 16 NO. 4

Dear NHBC Family

Who would have guessed a month ago that the world would have changed so much in 30 days? A virus, which was in the news but not overly talked about, broke free and we are now forced to change some of the things we have always done. It was even a challenge to celebrate Jennifer and Bethany's birthdays in March. We have never faced something like this before.

While you and I have never faced this before, similar things have occurred in the past. I am thankful, however, that we live in a more modern society where communication with the masses is possible and many medicines are available. We will come out on the other side of this, but it's going to take time and trust – two things that people struggle with.

Many people take time for granted. What I am doing currently is always going to be the same – seems to be the thought. Nothing will change and I can trust in things being smooth and easy - that is not the case and I think all of us realize that. The only thing that is sure to happen in the future is change – things change all the time. Each moment is passing, and I think it is a human tendency to take time for granted.

Instead, let us live our lives much more like our dear friend Sam Davis. Sam passed away last month, as some of the changes were beginning to take shape. I admired Sam for many reasons, but one of the things that stood out to me most about him was that Sam seemed to live for the moment. He was pleased to be alive and well and in his church. I don't think he had a great knowledge of what was going to happen in the future, but he was happy to be living right then and when he talked with you, it was obvious that you were his focus at that time.

Trust is not so easy to come by in our world. We ask people to trust in God, who we can't see or prove, but it is impossible to trust in the things we want to trust in because they continually fail us. I want to trust in our leaders, but just when I think I am at the point of trusting, they prove once again that they are not worthy of our trust. The most recent example is the bill that Congress is trying to pass to help Americans as we come through this unprecedented time – instead of putting something together that is aimed at the general public, the politicians are trying to slip things into this bill that has nothing to do with the current crisis.

It's hard to ask people to trust in our God, if they can't trust in their elected leaders. Yet, that is what we are called to do. Jesus told us to have faith like a child.

When we lived in Wytheville with three small children, one day Jennifer thought it would be a good idea for all five of us to go to the town pool. We spent the morning getting ready – putting on sunscreen and bathing suits – and drove just down the road to the pool. When we arrived, there were few chairs available and Jennifer and I were trying to find a place to set our stuff down. The children, we assumed, were following us,

but Bethany – seeing the blue water decided to just jump in, while we were not looking.

One of the lifeguards was standing close to her and almost jumped in with her, so there was no real danger. Bethany was ready to jump in again. While it scared us, Bethany thought it was fun. I know, in her three year old head, she knew that she was going to be fine – mom and dad were there and they would not let her get hurt, which was correct, but not true when we were not looking.

So, for us to come through this, we need to trust our God and give it the time that is needed. God can accomplish all things – trust Him to take care of this too. Keep the faith!

Blessings, *Rusty*

April Worship

**Sunday, April 5
Palm Sunday**

Live Streaming on

New Highland's Facebook Page
at 11:00am

Sermon Posted on Website by 2:00pm

VENUE/TIMES FOR BELOW ARE TBD:

**Sunday, April 12
Easter Sunday**

Sunday, April 19

Sunday, April 26

Deacons on Call—April

Bob Kossoff	804-550-1103
Ed Williams	804-514-5916

Giving Options

There are many ways to help NHBC support God's work in His kingdom during these unprecedented times:

- Online at <https://onrealm.org/NHBC/Give>
- By texting "GiveNHBC \$XX" to 73256, where XX is the \$ amount you want to give. (Standard text message rates apply. Donation is added to your phone bill.)
- Drop by the office from 10 to 11 am on Mondays to turn contributions in personally
- Give during the offertory collection once we are able to worship together

Prayer Thoughts

Sponsored by the NHBC Prayer Team

OVERVIEW

It's very comforting to know that God loves us enough to make a plan for each of our lives.

- He designed it before we were ever born.
- Nothing about our lives is an accident.
- Although God's plan is the best possible path, it's not always the easiest.
- We may have to climb a few mountains and walk through some dark valleys, but if we follow His instructions, we'll discover the rewards of living according to His will.
- That's why it's important to ask the Lord to reveal His plan to us and be ready and willing to listen for His directions.

KEY LISTENING FACTORS

Since God has a plan, we can be certain that He wants to guide us into it (Ps. 32:8).

Proverbs 3:5-6 says,

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

- To acknowledge the Lord means we consider what He says, recognize His great power, trust His guidance, and follow His instructions.
- He's continually seeking to guide us, but if we're not listening, we'll miss His instructions and go the wrong way.

When Jesus speaks, He wants us to listen.

- **Mark 4:1-3.** As He taught a large crowd, Jesus called for their attention by saying, "Listen to this!"
- **Mark 4:23-24.** Christ also announced, "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear," and cautioned them, saying, "Take care what you listen to." It's not only important to hear, but it's critical to be discerning in our listening.
- **Mark 7:14.** At another time, Jesus called out, "Listen to Me, all of you, and understand." His goal is that we comprehend what He says.
- **John 3:3.** When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, He said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." The phrase, "Truly, truly, I say to you" is used twenty-five times by Christ in the book of John. It was His way of emphasizing that what He was saying was authoritative truth that deserved full attention.

How does God speak to us today?

We know that the Lord spoke to people in the Bible, but He also wants to speak personally to each of His children today. This means we must be attentive because no one else can listen for us.

- **God's primary way of speaking to us is through His Word.** The Bible is not just an old book, but the inerrant, authoritative Word of God and the only source of truth. When we read it, we're hearing directly from the Lord. All

other methods of listening to God must be checked and compared with the Scriptures to determine if we are accurately hearing Him.

- **He also speaks to us through prayer.** Prayer is our way of communicating with God by talking to Him, but it's also a time to be still and listen for His guidance. Instead of simply running through our list of requests and moving on to the day's duties and activities, we need to learn to be still for a while to see if He has anything to say to our hearts.
- **The Lord may speak through our circumstances.** When a situation is painful, we must remember that hearing from God is more important than our comfort and pleasure. He uses difficulties and suffering to grab our attention. In every event, God has something to teach us. Instead of focusing on why the situation has happened, our first question should be, "Lord, what do you want to say to me?"
- **Sometimes God speaks to us through other people.** It may come in the form of affirmation, confirmation, encouragement, or even reproof or warning. And the Lord may use anyone He chooses to deliver His message—even someone we may not like. No matter the source, we should thoughtfully and prayerfully consider whatever is said.

How can we identify God's voice?

When we are seeking to hear from the Lord, we must make sure that it's His voice we are hearing and not our own thoughts or someone else's ideas.

- **God's voice is always consistent with His Word.** Any message must agree with what the Lord has already said in the Scriptures.
- **His voice is quiet.** God speaks to our hearts through His Holy Spirit in an inaudible but compelling way.
- **The Lord speaks clearly.** If we'll tune our hearts to Him by setting aside time to read His Word and listen for His Spirit to speak, He will give us clear guidance.

How does the Lord get our attention?

- **Sometimes He uses a sense of restlessness.** Perhaps we have already planned a course of action but then develop an uneasy feeling about it. If we'll pray and ask God for specific guidance, He might lead us in an unexpected direction.
- **At other times God may gently whisper.** Although His voice is soft and inaudible, it rings so loud and clear in our spirit that we know we're hearing from Him.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Why don't we listen to God?

- **We may not believe that the Lord speaks today.** If that's the case, we won't be listening for His voice. But those who tune in to Him every day realize that He speaks personally to our spirits if we're listening.
- **We might be afraid of what He will say.** What if God asks of us something we don't want to do? This attitude displays a lack of trust and a failure to understand that His plan for our lives is always the best option.
- **We could be angry with the Lord.** If we've blamed Him for something that happened in the past, we may not be interested in hearing anything He has to say.
- **We could have a rebellious spirit.** If we're refusing to give up a particular sin in our lives, we won't want to hear the Spirit's convicting voice.

What are the consequences of not listening to God?

The consequences are dire and personal. They affect those around us, particularly those we love. Just as He spoke in biblical times, God speaks to us when we pay attention to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

- **We won't receive His guidance** and will miss out on His plan for our lives.
- **We'll listen to the wrong voices,** be deceived, make costly decisions, and forfeit God's best.
- **Others will suffer.** An unwillingness to listen to the Lord affects not only us but our loved ones and associates.

Ask yourself the following questions:

Have you ever felt a conviction regarding a particular sin? (If so, you have heard God's voice.)

How else have you sensed Him communicating with you?

Has a Bible passage ever spoken to a situation you were facing?

- What did the Lord say to you through His Word?
- How has Scripture given you guidance, comfort, or insight regarding a circumstance in your life?
- What do you need to do to increase your sensitivity to God's voice?

Submit Your Prayer Requests Via:

1) Guest Card in Sanctuary Chair Pouch—Place in Offering Plate or give to a Deacon or Usher; 2) Main & CLC Foyer Prayer Boxes; 3) Contact Prayer Team Members (550-1562); 4) Contact Church Office Administrative Personnel or Contact Staff - Ministerial Personnel (550-9601).

Prayer Concerns

**Hospitalized at time of printing*

Audrey Atkinson	George/Shirley Linville
Claude Aylor	Dot Martin
David Barnes	Gordon Martin
Grace Barnes	David McGhee
Maddie Bonner/Family	Joyce McLauchlan
Dick Cousins	Earl Phillips
Carol Didlake	Tommy Searles
Sandra Edwards	Dylan Smith
Charlie Elliott	Van Summers
Buddy/Mary Golding	Margaret Toney
Jean Harding	Barbara Valenti
Sherwood Haskins	

Christian Sympathy To:

The Davis family and Page Marriner in the death of Sam Davis
The Brickey family in the death of Carson Brickey
Sara Blose and family in the death of her uncle, Robbie Behling



In Memoriam

Samuel Madison Davis

Deceased March 2, 2020
United with NHBC (East Highland Park)
December 18, 1949

Thank You

Dear Church Family:

Just a note to thank you for your kindness, love, prayers, flowers, cards, telephone calls, and support shown to me after Sam's passing. He was a wonderful man and loved our church dearly. He was a faithful and loyal member since 1949 and was the longest active church member of EHP/NHBC. He loved to stand in the vestibule and greet and talk to all. Sam held many positions in the church, especially while we were East Highland Park. He served on the nominating committee, pastoral search committee, committee to study the future of EHP, deacon, sang tenor in the choir, and taught the Men's Sunday School class for over 40 years. In 2006 New Highland honored and chose him as a person "of good report, full of the Spirit and of wisdom," and capable of serving well, and set him apart publicly to the office and work of Lifetime Deacon. One of the scripture verses read at his funeral service was taken from Mark 12:29-31: Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Samuel Madison Davis lived his 96 years doing this. He was authentic. He loved each of you. I want to also thank Melody Barner, Madison Whitley, Dawn Hall, Rusty Mullins, David Barnes, Charles Harper, Paul Rozecki and the many from our church family for being a part of his Celebration of Life service. Please continue to pray for Sam's family and children, Deb (Fred) and Greg (Pam).
Love to you, **Page Marriner**

News from Jennifer

N-HYM & Beyond

N-HYM & Beyond will meet in a Zoom group meeting via computer on Sundays at 7:00pm until the time that we are able to meet in person again. Jennifer will send that information out to everyone as the meetings approach.

Camps

Jennifer is in communication with the camps to make sure they are still a go. She will keep everyone posted on camp information.

Currently, kids camp at CentriKid at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg, VA is set for June 22-26. The theme is "The Discovery" based on 1 John 2:6. The cost is \$360 with a \$50 non-refundable deposit due by April 12 (Easter Sunday). Kids camp is for completed grades 3rd-6th grade.

The youth and young adult camp is at Myrtle Beach Christian Retreat in North Myrtle Beach, SC and is set for July 13-17. The theme is "Head to the Heart: Living Authentically for Christ" based on Romans 12. Cost is \$295 with a non-refundable deposit of \$50 also due by April 12 (Easter Sunday). Youth and young adult camp is for completed grades 6th-12th and ages 18-twenties. There are separate Bible groups for the youth and young adults.

We are proceeding until further notice. Any changes or updates will be sent ASAP. Please pray for these events and pass the word to any kids, teens and young adults who may be interested in going. All are invited. If all goes according to plan, the balances for each camp are due June 1st. Camp meetings will be held in June.

Thank you all for praying for these events- mainly that they will still happen!

Ninth Hour Prayer Time

LIVE stream in New Highland's Facebook group at 3:00pm- for anyone who wants to connect and share in prayer together. This will go Monday thru Friday from now until Easter.

General Notes

I am praying for everyone to stay safe and sound. Praying for everyone to focus on faith now more than ever. Let us "walk by faith and not by sight" and continue to trust God and share His love and hope intentionally during these days. Praying for our church to remain unified and strong in Christ! Praying we all give our offering consistently and generously on-line, in person on Mondays from 10 - 11 am or mail in— so that our church remains strong financially in order to keep moving the gospel forward! Praying for our faith to be renewed and strengthened and that the power of God will bring resolution to this situation and a miracle of restoration and revival!

I love you all and I am here if you need anything!

Rev. Jen

Thank You

Friends of New Highland,
Thank you for your strong prayers, cards, calls, and loving thoughts during my surgery and ongoing recovery. I am finally seeing improvement so I know my future will be brighter.
God has blessed me and I am thankful for you all.
Blessings, **Audrey Atkinson**

Birthday Greetings

Dear Church Family,

My mom will be celebrating her 95th birthday on April 6th. Our family thought it would be special for Mom to receive 95 cards to commemorate this important milestone in her life. So, I thought I would ask our church family to send her a card if you get a chance and mention your connection to me. Her address is as follows:

Mrs. Hulda Snider
1891 Happy Hollow Rd
Newport, VA 24128

I think my mom will be so excited and surprised to receive all of your special cards.

Thanks so much!
Penny Layne

Congratulations!



Eric and Nicole Sandridge welcomed a son, Boyd Carroll, to the family on March 6, 2020 at 8:21am. He was 8 lbs., 2 oz. and 20.5 inches long. Flynn and Cora are his big brother and big sister. Mike and Susan Sandridge and Willie and Marsha Bost are proud grandparents.

April Birthdays

1	Ron Rhodes	17	Helen Robinson
2	Erma Williams		Shelly Talley
4	Blake Harnden	19	Claude Aylor
	Hailey DuRocher		Artie McLaughlan
6	Mary Sue Coppedge	20	Barry Layne
7	Bubba Stanley		Shannon Chenault
8	Staci Smith	23	Katherine Winters
	Brooke Kazelskis	24	Cheryl McGhee
	Morgan Kazelskis		David Dixon
9	Daniel Smolen	26	Diane Winters
11	Caroline Bivens	27	Jim Johnson
	John Tschantre	28	Theresa Whitley
16	Mark Yates	29	Maddie Bonner
		30	Kay Shelton

April Anniversaries

8	Harold & Barbara Elliotte
9	Brett & Sara Blöse
10	Mike & Lynn Woods
15	Wayne & Julia Harrell
25	Chris & Dawn Hall

Staff Ministry Team

Rev. F. P. Rusty Mullins, Jr., Senior Pastor

Cell Phone: 804-548-3353
Email: rusjen@gmail.com

Rev. Jennifer Mullins, Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor

Cell Phone: 804-405-7187
Email: revjcm121@gmail.com

Kristi Garstang, Administrative Assistant

E-mail: admins@newhighlandbaptist.org

Page Marriner, Accompanist

E-mail: pmarriner41@comcast.net

Karen Hastings, The Day School Director

School Phone: 804-550-1557
E-mail: dayschool@newhighlandbaptist.org

Office Hours:

Mondays from 10 am to 11 am
To Accept In Person Contributions

Otherwise, Closed until Further Notice
However, Rusty & Jennifer will be in the office
from time to time. If you need something,
call to check to see if they are there.

Phone: 804-550-9601

PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

May Envoy — Apr 15 | Bulletin—Each Monday by Noon



Compassion International

April

Sponsorship of Mohamed (Tanzania)

Mike & Tammy Patterson

Sponsors needed beginning in May!

Mohamed Coronavirus Update

Compassion International wants to let you know how the situation is developing in Tanzania and how our frontline church partners and Compassion programming are being affected.

All schools, colleges and universities in Tanzania are closed and public gatherings are banned through April 15. Accordingly, group meetings and activities at all Compassion child development centers are canceled through April 15. Staff of Compassion Tanzania and frontline church partners have received instruction on virus prevention measures. Partner churches will continue to provide medical attention and child protection to beneficiaries and families as needed.

You may notice a lack of letters in the coming months, as children will not be at the Compassion centers to write or send their letters. Please rest assured that our staff in Tanzania is working hard to provide support wherever possible. While the program activities cannot happen in groups at the churches, staff will continue to keep in touch with the children and attend to health issues as they are able. The main goal during the program suspension is to keep the children safe and protected.

Can I ask you to join us in praying for the people of Tanzania? Particularly, will you pray for:

- Protection from the virus for all children registered with Compassion Tanzania and their families.
- Health and safety for all Compassion staff, frontline church staff, and child development center volunteers in Tanzania.
- God's provision for people who are unable to work during this time of quarantine in Tanzania.
- Thank you for the love and support you've shown to this beautiful child. I pray that God will bless you abundantly as you continue to minister to children in poverty.

Your brother in Christ,
Rich Van Eaton, Sponsor and Donor Relations Director
Compassion International

March Benevolence Offering

\$476.00

MCEF Donations for April

Hot and Cold Cereals

Church Council Meeting

April 13 @ 6:30 pm

ACTS II:

Feb 23, 2020

Mar 1, 2020

Mar 8, 2020

Mar 15, 2020

Mar 22, 2020

Attendance

	<u>Feb 23, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 1, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 8, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 15, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 22, 2020</u>
Early Worship	No Svc	50	46	26	Canceled
Sunday School	108	98	98	44	Canceled
Late Worship	153	98	104	52	Live Streamed

Budget

	<u>Feb 23, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 1, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 8, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 15, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 22, 2020</u>
Weekly Need	6,405.43	6,405.43	6,405.43	6,405.43	6,405.43
Weekly Receipts	2,956.75	8,508.00	7,098.00	3,196.00	3,517.50
YTD Goal	51,243.44	57,648.87	64,054.30	70,459.73	76,865.16
YTD Receipts	51,013.38	59,521.38	66,619.38	69,815.38	73,332.88

Designated Gifts

	<u>Feb 23, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 1, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 8, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 15, 2020</u>	<u>Mar 22, 2020</u>
	439.00	13,805.58	39.00	621.30	200.00