

So why does joy seem itinerant in our lives? Why is it we are not happy in Jesus more often and to such a degree that it alters our lives in a way others cannot only see but they hear in our gospel sharing? Because of sin and death. You see, it is the enemy's desire to keep us fearful, apprehensive, and angry. These things drastically affect our joy and this effects our relationship with Christ and our ability and willingness to do the things which share the gospel. On the cross Jesus not only paid for our sins, He also defeated the enemies with which sin travels. The New Testament calls it the "power of death". The power of death is in things like fear, apprehension, and anger. All emotions which steal our joy. These feelings in and of themselves are not sin, acting upon them, or in this case failing to act with joy, is the sin. So, live in the joy Jesus amply supplies for you. When doubts arise and fears dismay press on the upward way: when you feel the emotional pull, seek the Holy Spirit for His control. In a believer, the Holy Spirit is acting within us reminding of our freedom from these powers which are acting against us. Jesus' death wiped away fear, apprehension, and anger... they have no power over us. It is for freedom Jesus set us free. His incarnation and atoning death on the cross killed these things. Jesus embraced human life and death with joy set before Him because He knew the power He was unleashing in our lives. He told His disciples it was better for Him to leave than to stay! When the fear of death is gone then a person can truly live and Jesus has killed death! If the worst enemy has been defeated then death's agents like fear, apprehension, and anger are impotent. A great truth in the manger on Christmas is the joy Christ was bringing. Joy can reign in my heart and flow out into my life with freedom. My joy and your joy is indestructible because it is based in Jesus, made available by the Holy Spirit, and protected in the promises of God.

TUPOS

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Upcoming Opportunities

- Jan 5-6 Workday/Lock-in
- Jan 13-Winter Jam
- Jan 19-21 ReVerb

Jan 6th
You have chores,
we're ready to work!
We can raise money for
camp and that project
you've been putting off
can be finished.
Two birds. One stone.
Win-win!

If you're attending the
Passion Conference,
the remainder of your
balance is due.

WELCOME!
Come on in!

We are in need of four families who are willing to open their homes to our Jr/Sr High School students during the weekend of ReVerb, January 19-21, 2018.

If you would like to host these students, please see Marc for more details.

Surely there can be no greater joy than that of saving souls.

LOTIE MOON

New Hope's
Goal: \$6,500

Given to
date:
\$2,947.20

LOTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

New Hope Baptist Church
To Know Jesus & Make Him Known

WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

Morning Worship Service

- Prelude - Adult Handbell Choir
- Advent Candle of Joy
- Let the People Sing Joy!
- HIZ KIDZ MESSAGE
- The Night Before Christmas - Hailey Pollard
- # 115 What Child Is This A Christmas Hallelujah - Kasandra Gallardo
- Scripture Reading - Luke 2:1-7
- Here with Us - Lauren Dyess
- UNWRAPPED - Luke 2:8-20
- # 103 Away in a Manger

Evening Worship Service

Candlelight
LORD'S SUPPER
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
4:00pm-6:00pm

Come at your leisure to enjoy a Family Time of Candlelight Worship and Communion.

Tomorrow is the day of great joy celebrated all around this country and the world. But why is joy associated with Christmas and why does it not remain? Webster's definition of joy : "the emotion or feeling evoked by well-being, success or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires". Why so much joy at Christmas? Because we may just possess what we desire. The question is what do we desire? If we struggle with joy, then we must go the root and determine if our desires are in the right place. Christian joy is also a good feeling, it is exciting, it does give us a "pep In our step". However, the joy experience of a Christian is based upon the Word of Christ and produced by the Holy Spirit which transcends human experience. This is where the struggle enters in full force. We cannot generate joy because it is an emotion, a feeling and such things work differently. Ever been In a car accident? Had the adrenaline get going and you have the weird feeling in your gut, the uneasiness, the fear, the worry? You did not say to yourself, "self, we have been in an accident, it is time to feel apprehension and it is ok". Just like you cannot make yourself calm down on the spot. So, when we "feel an emotion" it is real and it does have a cause. Some things cannot be produced by our own ability or power. When these things occur, our outward demeanor displays what is going on inwardly. When we are joyous we may smile or cry, our eyes "light up" so our feelings have an emotional effect and a physical response. Follow me here because now we are going to apply these things to the spiritual aspects of feelings and emotions. Some things are fruits of the spirit and other things are obviously not. So certain things are done by God's Holy Spirit but not without our consent and not without our voluntary involvement. The Holy Spirit opens the door to our heart and opens our eyes to see the wonder and glory and Christ and all He is doing inside ourselves and in the world around us. We will never rejoice, experience joy without any mental consent. God will not just *poof* throw in joy so that it comes out like a reflex. God will, however, instill in us and show us things by which we can be filled with joy and can pursue joy so that we can be joyous in our actions. Sometimes joy will be in feeling and sometimes it will be in the knowledge you are In tune with the Holy Spirit and faithfully walking the road God has called you to walk.

The nursery needs volunteers for Wednesday nights. Usually there are two or three babies. Who doesn't love babies? See Julie or MaryAnn to sign up.



Thank you to the youth who came to my house caroling last weekend! It was so special and such a blessing!

Ms. Freda Robinson

Happy Anniversary to Park & Lyn Winter On December 30th

Happy Birthday!



Sunday Services

Wednesday Services

SS Enrollment	Adult Bible Study.....6
Children's Church	Students.....19
Nursery	GA/RA (elementary).....33
Morning Worship	Mission Friends (pre-s).....14
Evening Worship	Nursery.....2
	Women's Study.....7
	Leaders.....20
	Total.....101

Giving Record

Tithes & Offering.....\$7,007.00
Designated.....\$1,298.60
Budget Needs/Week.....\$7056

**1999 State Road 64 East - Wauchula, Florida 33873
(863) 773-2101 - www.newhopewauchula.com**

Rev. Christopher M. Bishop - Senior Pastor - 781-5572 (Cell)
Rev. Marc Pollard - Student Pastor - (318) 286-5032 (Cell)
Rev. David E. Radford - Minister of Music - 781-9675 (Cell)

Dec 2017/Jan 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Advent :JOY</i> Candlelight Family-led Lord's Supper Christmas Eve 4:00pm - 6:00pm	Happy Birthday Jesus! Church Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30
December 31 Evening Service New Year's Eve At the Creek Robertson's Camp	Passion Conference			4	5	Lock in RENT A YOUTH
7 Guest Speakers Shannon & Elizabeth Bradley	8 7pm Deacon's Meeting	9 House & Grounds Meeting 7PM	10	11 Meal Delivery: Linda Smith	12	2018 WINTER JAM
14	15 6pm Stewardship Meeting	16	17 Business Meeting 7p	18 Meal Delivery: Helga Shackelford	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Meal Delivery: Margaret Bennett	26	27



What an awesome worship experience!! Thank you so much to everyone who played a part in **Wonder and Glory**. Thank you to all the members of all the choirs, adult, youth and children's, and thank you to Lauren and her helpers for preparing the children's choir so well. Thank you to all the narrators and soloists! You all did a wonderful job! Thanks to Mrs. Lynn and her helpers for preparing the drama. It added so much. Thank you to Daniel and Meg for the sound and computer skills you bring to each and every pageant. Your hard work does not go unnoticed by me and many others. Thank you to everyone else who helped in some way, whether in the office, decorating the sanctuary, etc. I know I've forgotten someone because it takes so many people to make what happened Sunday happen. I love you all and Beth and I feel so blessed serving alongside you all for God's glory! Merry Christmas!!

David

COUNTING COMMITTEE - DECEMBER 2017

Johnny Trammell, Alma Durrance, Debbie Wheeler

WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Sundays

- 9:30 A.M. Media Center Open
- 9:45 A.M. Sunday School - Education Building
- 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service - Sanctuary
Kids' Church K-5
- 6:30 P.M. Evening Worship - Sanctuary

Wednesday

- 5:00 P.M. Women's Bible Study
- 6:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Live (TUPOS)
G.A.'s, R.A.'s, Mission Friends - Kids Bldg.
Women's Bible Study
Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study - Ed. Bldg.

USHERS OF THE WEEK

Kelly Durrance
Scott Farr
Corey Zeigler
Greg Shackelford

DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 24-December 30
Johnny Trammell 781-0444
December 31-January 6
Winston Smith 832-0684



If you're visiting us for the first time, we invite you to fill out a visitor packet in the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate.

We're so glad you're here!

New Year's Eve

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

Evening Service @ the Creek

Supper starts @ 5pm

***Bring a side dish & Dessert**

Please RSVP by filling out the worship guide insert and dropping it in the offering plate.