



New Hope News

May 2016



2016 WATCHWORD

Christ says, "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me."
John 15:4 (NRSV)

New Hope Moravian Church

The Fruit of True Faith: Immediate Obedience

On that very day Abraham [did]... as God told him. - Genesis 17:23

When God places an opportunity before us, He is offering to make a covenant with us. What is our part? To obey... We can rest assured God will do His part to send a special blessing our way.

Prompt obedience is the obedience God requires; *delayed* obedience shows a lack of faith. The only way to be obedient is to obey instantly - "*On that very day*," as Abraham did. I know... we often postpone doing what we need to do; then later, we struggle to over-do and try to go beyond what God calls us to do. Certainly, delayed obedience, is better than not obeying God at all! Yet, let's face it, our simple obedience at best is only a partial attempt toward instant obedience.

Clearly, postponed or delayed obedience can never bring us the full blessing God intended, had we obeyed His first request. It's a pity how we rob ourselves, as well as God and others, through our procrastination and delay of obedience to God! Remember, "*On that very day*" is the Genesis way of saying, "Do it now! Don't delay...do it right now!"

Martin Luther said, "A true believer will crucify, or put to death, the question: 'Why?' He will simply obey without questioning." Like Luther, I refuse to be one of those people who "*unless... [I] see miraculous signs and wonders... will never believe*" John 4:48. Like Luther, I choose to be faithful and obey God's calling without question; I choose to "Do it right now...without question or delay!" Alfred, Lord Tennyson wrote: "Ours not to make reply; Ours not to reason why; Ours but to do and die." For Christina Rossetti: "Obedience is the fruit of faith; patience is the early blossom on the tree of faith."

Brothers and Sisters, our obedience is not to just any God, but to the One and Only God who says, "I Am the Risen One." We obey and worship a living Deity, not some idolatrous, man-made image. Abraham obeyed God's instructions and therefore, he was given God's discernment and protection; God's peace. Genesis 15:1 states, "*After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.'*" Our relationship with God should be front and center in our lives; after all, it's a personal and intimate relationship with the great "I Am." Our life of faith and deeper relationship with Christ, is meant to trigger vibrant and challenging obedience to God's Precepts. God says, "*...do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand*" Isaiah 41:10.

Scripture states, "We are Christ's Ambassadors," 2 Corinthians 5:17-21...¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* ¹⁸ *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:* ¹⁹ *that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.* ²⁰ *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.*

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." When we cling to our old ways, we resist God's divine working relationship within us. God wants us to embrace all He has for us. God desires that we find our security in Him alone.

Where are you finding your peace and security? Are you running toward God? Or are you running away from Him? Do you find yourself running to face-book, the local chocolate store, or the nearest shopping mall to fill and sustain your life? Christ says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28.

Friends, it's easy to make an idol of our daily routine, finding security within the boundaries we build around our own personal desires and needs. Yet, each new day, God blesses us with twenty-four hours of unique circumstances in our life. And like Abraham, we are called to be faithful and obey God. Immediate obedience requires us to not delay our obedience, but do like Abraham..."*On that very day Abraham [did]... as God told him.* God has divine plan for your life and mine; His plan is the perfect plan for our life! God made each of us uniquely who we are; so embrace His blessings in your life, by responding in obedience to His calling.

Where are you today? Are you running toward God or running away from Him?" Brothers and Sisters, always remember Scripture reveals how we are to obey God. Proverbs 18:10 states, "*The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe.*" Are you embracing and obeying God's Word today? Are you obeying God and bearing fruit for His Kingdom?

In Christ Service,
Pastor Betty

Excerpted from *Streams in the Desert* by L. B. Cowman, copyright Zondervan and Faithgateway Devotions. Author and pioneer missionary L. B. Cowman worked with her husband in Japan and China from 1901 to 1917. During this time, they both worked to help establish the Oriental Missionary Society. When Mr. Cowman's poor health forced the couple to return to the United States, Mrs. Cowman turned her attention to caring for her husband until his death six years later. Mrs. Cowman's first book *Streams in the Desert* originated out of her life experiences and heartbreak; she later authored *Springs in the Valley*. During Mrs. Cowman's life, she inspired several nationwide Scripture distribution campaigns and wrote seven more books. In 1960, Easter Sunday, at the age of ninety, Mrs. Cowman met face-to-face the God she had served so faithfully for nearly a century.



Catawba County Senior Services & Day Programs



Looking For Talent



GOT TALENT? Seniors morning out supervisors are always look for programs to share with the seniors. If you have a talent or hobby that you would like to share please call Important! 828-695-5610. Thanks!



New Hope is actively involved with Senior Programming through the Meals-on-Wheels program. Please consider sharing a talent with the Seniors in our county.



For the Young at Heart...or not so young..

Hiking and picnic at Baker's Mountain Park

Saturday, May 21 at 10:00 AM

Pack your food and drink and join us for a quick walk or a longer one.

Questions...see Pam Prevatte

Reminders will be sent out.



Save the Date - Sunday, May 15th

Following our worship service Sunday, May 15th each of you are invited to a celebration & appreciation luncheon hosted by the Chicken Pie Committee. Everything will be provided at no cost to you! We have all worked so hard in preparing, selling, buying and other means of supporting of our Chicken Pie Ministry...**it is now time for us to relax and enjoy a catered meal in celebration.**

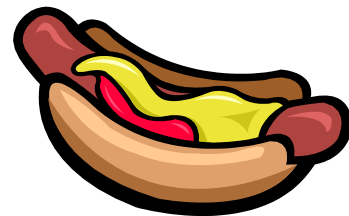
Please mark you calendar for Sunday, May 15th!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The annual **Hot Dog Cookout** at Leslie Srail's home is **Tuesday night, June 7th at 6:00 pm**. All women of the church are invited to join us as we dine outside on Leslie's great porch! This is such a fun night of fellowship and good food! Closer to the event, look for a sign up sheet on the church bulletin board for suggestions of things to bring to share with the group.

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!



Summer Camp

It's time to sign-up for Laurel Ridge summer camp. Women's Fellowship has money available to help the children of New Hope attend camp.

Please contact Nancy Miller if you are interested in a camp scholarship.



Happy Mother's Day





Service and Witness News

Service and Witness Committee would like to establish a food-of-the-month project for ECCCM. Each month the selection will be made by the food pantry director based on what is needed in their inventory.

She has asked for jelly of any size and flavor for May. As Rev. Silber, ECCCM Executive Director, stated in his Sunday remarks: ECCCM distributed 1.5 million pounds of food in 2015. Thank you for helping to meet a Catawba County need. Please put your jelly donations in the tub beside the bag basket at the back door.

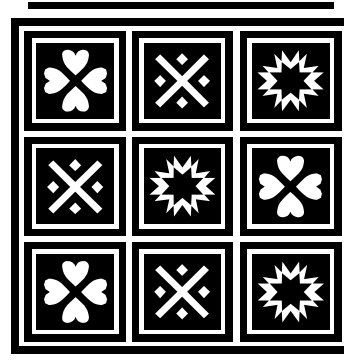
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you so much for your warm hospitality the weekend of March 4th. The MLN class thoroughly enjoyed our time there. The food was terrific, the surroundings comfortable, and the company wonderful. We so appreciated the generosity of our host homes as well.

Please share this small check with your Chicken Pie Committee as a small token of appreciation.

In Christ's Love,

Ruth & MLN!



Bearing the thought "Many Hands Make Light Work", I am asking for a volunteer to decide what 2nd & 3rd prizes will be for the raffle drawing at Candle Tea. First prize is easy. The Quilt! I have a list of things we have used in the past & your creativity is very welcome. This really is a simple job and I really could use some help.

Thanks for considering it.

Pat, 294-0404.



**New Hoppers Meeting Friday, May 27th
6:30 Covered Dish With Program Following**



**“The Scoop On Being a Senior
What To Expect As We Age”**

You might wonder if your aches and pains are normal. Why hair is growing or stops growing? Do you ask, “ What did I come into this room to get?”

New Hoppers welcomes guest speaker, Julie Packer, of Catawba Regional Hospice who will speak about what we can normally expect as we age.

Please bring a friend and come with your questions about aging as we enjoy good food and fellowship.

**Congratulations to Our
New Hope Moravian Church Graduates**

Sunday, May 15th , at our worship service we will be recognizing those who are graduating this spring.

There will be a cake in their honor to enjoy at the Appreciation Luncheon.

Our graduates are:

Amanda Sain will graduate from Appalachian State University on May 13th. She has earned two advanced degrees: Master of Arts in Psychology (MA) and Specialist in School Psychology (SSP). She anticipates working in Caldwell County Schools in the fall.

Ben Johnson graduates from St. Stephens High School. He will attend North Carolina State University .

Congratulations to our Graduates.... and congratulations to their parents. Your New Hope Family is so proud of each of you and know that we love and support you.

Pray Every Day - May 2016

1. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead. Pray for Phil & Eunice Raiford, MX.
2. He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Pray for Justin Rabbach, Dir. of Moravian Volunteer Resources.
3. I will teach transgressors your ways, & sinners will return to you. Pray for disaster relief for Nepal.
4. The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their father. Pray for Antioch Servants in Marshall, AK and other areas in summer 2016.
5. Ascension. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Pray for Joe Jarvis and the work with Cuban Moravian Church.
6. A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Pray for the Medical Clinic and the Moravian Church in Ahuas, Honduras.
7. Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven. Pray for Phil and Ashley Sineath in Campus Outreach.
8. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Pray for Unity Women's Desk.
9. I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the Lord. Pray for BWM board and staff.
10. I will save you that you may become a blessing. Pray for Annie B. Mission with Star Mountain in Palestine.
11. I, the Lord, and your Savior and your Redeemer. Pray for the Mission Area of Peru.
12. Do not fear or be dismayed! Pray for the Solar Program, the Food Program, Safiatu & Mohammed in the Sierra Leone Moravian church.
13. There is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Pray for camp directors, campers, & workers.
14. This is the will of God, that you abstain from fornication. Pray for Adopt-a-Village Program in Tanzania.
15. Pentecost. It is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace. Pray for Ruth Snyder, Claire Wilson with "Changed Choices."
16. I will say, "They are my people;" and they will say, "The Lord is our God." Pray for Dr. Louis and Susan Sutton with WEC.
17. I will remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you. Pray for K & C in the Middle East.
18. You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. Pray for Charlie & Vicki and Family with Bridges International Campus Ministry.
19. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent with Campus Crusade in Croatia.
20. Put away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors. Pray for Michael, Cecilia, and Blessing Tesh at the Ray of Hope orphanage in Kenya.
21. The Lord God is our sun and shield. Pray for Drs. Bill & Peggy Hoffman with HIV/AIDS Ministry in Tanzania.
22. Through him we have access by one Spirit to the father. Pray for Mountain Laurel Moravian Fellowship in Laurel Springs, NC
23. Outdo one another in showing honor. Pray for George Goff & Wayne Miller -Wings of Mercy, Honduras.
24. Woe to those who make unjust laws to deprive the poor of their rights. Pray for Ed Dehnert and Barb Weide Alaska Bible Seminary.
25. Paul wrote: the Lord stood by me and gave me strength. Pray for the Woo Family serving in Asia.
26. Make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim his name. Pray for Rob & Anne Thiessen, Mexico.
27. Lord, do not let the downtrodden be put to shame. Pray for Rev. Robert Wolfe & Forsyth Prison Ministry.
28. God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Pray for safe delivery of container being shipped to Sierra Leone.
29. Come to me, all that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Pray for Steve & Ann Marx with MAF.
30. Jesus says, "I am with you always to the end of the age." Pray for Brian & Heather Marx with MAF in Indonesia.