



At New Hope we like to describe ourselves as *Fun, Faithful, Family*

- We are *fun* ... we laugh, we enjoy life together
- We are *faithful* ... at our center is our passion to be faithful to Jesus in all of life
- We are *family* ... we travel the journey of faithfulness to Jesus surrounded by the New Hope family

Our mission at New Hope is *to see lives transformed through the hope of Jesus Christ.*

While the grace of Jesus is offered to us *just* as we are, His grace compels us to not *remain* as we are. His grace invites us to become more like Him. This transformative work happens as the Holy Spirit opens our hearts more and more to the hope we have in Him which tells us that life can be different-- we can be more loving, merciful, humble, courageous. Indeed, we can be more like Jesus.

We use what we call the *Six Marks of a Disciple* to guide our thinking about the transformative work of the Holy Spirit. We are followers of Jesus who have:

A Heart for Christ Alone

- We believe that *all* of life be under Christ's Lordship--our relationships, actions, work, thoughts, habits, play, words--*all* of life.
- We commit ourselves to weekly worship with the people of New Hope unless we're sick or out of town because we need the weekly reminder that we belong to Jesus and to one other.
- We are intentional about opening our hearts to the Holy Spirit's transformative work by engaging in spiritual practices like prayer, weekly worship, daily Scripture reading, Sabbath keeping and confession. Through practices like these, our heart becomes Christ's alone.

(John 14:1-6, Ephesians 2:1-10, Philippians 2:1-11)

A Mind Transformed by the Word

- We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are God's Word to us and therefore *the witness* to Jesus Christ and *our authority* for all of faith and life.
- Since the Scriptures are our authority for all of faith and life, we commit ourselves to regularly read them on our own and with others trusting that as we do the same Holy Spirit who inspired the writing of the Scriptures is teaching us, yes, even transforming us to be more like our Lord.
- We commit to engage in a daily quiet time in which Scripture reading is a primary part; a weekly small group in which a Scripture passage is discussed; and weekly worship where the message of Scripture is faithfully proclaimed.

(Psalm 119:9-16, John 15:7-11, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Arms of Love

- We believe God is at work in the world and we get to take part in that work by loving others in Jesus' name.
- We look for ways to love others just as Jesus loves us. His love is an unconditional love which is a higher form of love than what often passes for love in our world today.
- We commit to take advantage of the numerous opportunities we have each day to show unconditional love to our family, neighbors, church family and the wider world. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to notice and seize these opportunities. We practice *people eyes*-- the eyes of Jesus for others.

(Mark 2:1-12, John 15:12-17, Romans 12:9-21)

Knees for Prayer

- We believe that God hears our prayers and answers them in His timing and way.
- Since prayer is one of the spiritual practices that opens our hearts to the transformative work of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to pray which we recognize is a lifelong learning adventure.
- We are people who daily pray for ourselves, our families, our church family, our neighbors, and world.

(Psalm 13, Matthew 6:5-13, Philippians 4:4-7)

A Voice to Speak the Good News

- In the Scriptures, we discover the Gospel message that there is abundant life in Jesus Christ who died and rose again for us. *Gospel* means *good news*.
- As Jesus' followers we are bearers of this Good News in the way we speak and act because we know the world needs the Gospel message. Indeed, the Scriptures teach that we are sent by God to proclaim it.
- We commit ourselves to learning how to speak the Gospel message and seize opportunities to proclaim it that more people might be added to the Kingdom of God and the New Hope family.

(Isaiah 52:7, Matthew 28:16-20, 2 Timothy 4:1-5)

A Spirit of Servanthood and Stewardship

- We know as believers in Jesus, it is *not* all about us. We look beyond ourselves in Jesus' name.
- We serve others as Jesus has served us for He came not to be served but to serve.
- Recognizing that *all* we have is a gift from God, including our financial resources, we commit to the practices of tithing (giving 10% of our income to Christ's work), offerings (gifts given over and above our tithe) and almsgiving (gifts given in secret, normally to the poor).

(Matthew 6:19-21, John 13:1-17, 2 Corinthians 8:15)