



HamptonFalls
BAPTIST CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

*Inviting all people
to be disciples of
Jesus Christ,
by His Spirit,
for His glory.*

EXPLANATION OF THE 4 PARTS

Inviting all people...

"Inviting..."



Our mission at HFFBC begins with the Creator God's free *invitation* to be in special relationship with all of humanity. He invites us to come to Him, to know Him, and to be in relationship with Him. In response then to God's free and gracious *invitation* to us, He has commissioned His Church to join Him in His mission of *inviting*, which involves intentional going, loving, extending, witnessing, and reaching. It is the Church's task, responsibility, and joy then to be God's missionary vessel in His world. The primary verb and action of the Church universal and our local church here on the Seacoast of New Hampshire then is to "*invite*."

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28)

"Go, therefore... you will be my witnesses..." (Matthew 28:18; Acts 1:8)

"The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price." (Rev. 22:17)

"...all people..."



As God's people and as part of God's global Church, at HFFBC we are completely indiscriminate. "*All people*" are invited to HFFBC. We do not withhold an invitation from anyone because God has not withheld His Gospel, love, and grace from any person. It is the Church's mission to freely invite all people, with no exceptions. **Who** does God desire His church to be? Comprised of "*all people*."

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages..." (Rev. 7:9)

"This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time." (1 Tim. 2:3-6)

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people" (Titus 2:11)

EXPLANATION OF THE 4 PARTS

...to be disciples of Jesus Christ,

"...to be disciples..."



Making "*disciples*" is at the core of **what** the Church exists for and is the purpose of the Church. Therefore, at the core and purpose of all of our ministries at HFFBC is to invite all people to be *disciples* (followers or learners). The Doctrinal Statement of our church defines what we believe to be the core truths embraced by disciples. At HFFBC, we recognize that the process of discipleship is a lifelong process. Therefore, we summarize the process of understanding what it means to be a disciple and frame our ministry strategy by these three phrases:

I am a disciple.
("KNOW")



I am becoming a disciple.
("GROW")



I am making disciples.
("GO")



"...of Jesus Christ, ..."



The Church is only to invite people to be disciples of one person and that is Jesus Christ. To become a disciple of Jesus Christ, one must first experience His saving grace and what His resurrection provides. All the ministries of HFFBC are to begin with, be centered around, focused on, and end with Jesus Christ. **What** does the Church (and HFFBC) exist to do? Simply, solely and fully to make *disciples of Jesus Christ*.

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." (Matt. 28:18-19)*

*"And there is **salvation in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)*

*"And if you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Rom. 10:9)*

EXPLANATION OF THE 4 PARTS

...by His Spirit,

"...by..."

Making disciples of all people, or even becoming a disciple ourselves, is impossible in our own power or by our own strength. We are completely dependent on God for any component of our mission to succeed and bear fruit. **How** the Church universal and HFFBC locally is sustained, empowered, enabled, and used for Gospel ministry is dependent completely on God Himself. We are simply His vessel to be used by Him as He wishes in His sovereign goodness.



"...His Spirit,..."

But then who are we specifically dependent on, as promised by Jesus in the Scriptures? We are dependent on His promised Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son. As was first displayed in the earliest Church, the Church's mission is carried forth by the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead and who now reigns in every believer. This Spirit certainly then also reigns in His Church and its collective members, empowering each with gifts to use for the sake of making disciples of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 12).

*"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the **Spirit** of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."
(John 14:16-17)*

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing.**" (John 15:5)*

*"You will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you..." (Acts 1:8)*

EXPLANATION OF THE 4 PARTS

...for His glory.

"...for..."

All ministry has an ultimate end and purpose. The ultimate goal and **why** the Church exists at all is to glorify God. Aside from this, the Church simply has no purpose. The Church should strive towards and for no other end or aim. This is certainly the commitment of HFFBC as well.



"...His glory,..."

The goal and **why** of the Church is not for our own glory, for our own fame, or for our own success. We exist and strive for the glory of Jesus Christ and for Him to be worshipped among all peoples. We believe it is the task of the whole Church, both locally here at HFFBC and on the Seacoast of New Hampshire, and around the world to give to the Triune God what He alone is worthy to receive — "...blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might !" (Rev. 7:12). The Church exists for the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*"Be **exalted**, O God, above the heavens! Let your **glory** be over all the earth!"
(Psalm 108:5)*

*"to him be **glory in the church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."
(Ephesians 3:21)*

*"After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and **glory** and power belong to our God"
(Revelation 19:1)*

STRATEGY & MINISTRY PILLARS FOR THE MISSION

This mission then is the ultimate task of every person and certainly every believer in the church (Eph. 1:12). Therefore, here at HFFBC, since we are His people and His bride, we have four stated strategies to accomplish our mission stated above.

HFFBC is organized around four important ministries we refer to as ministry pillars. These pillars affirm the Church's identity as the **WIFE** (or "bride") of Jesus (see Revelation 21:2), and are identified in Acts 2:42-47 when the earliest believers, following the preaching on Pentecost, gathered to worship, be instructed, fellowship and evangelize. It is our plan to strengthen each ministry pillar here and involve each person in the blessing each ministry has to offer them. Notice that it begins with where our mission ends, and ends with where our mission begins!



Worship

To worship is to come into the presence of God in fullness, beholding His holiness and beauty, recognizing His truth, opening our hearts to the love of God in Christ, and devoting ourselves wholly to His purposes.



Instruction

Instruction involves becoming aware of the truths of the Bible and the relevance of those truths for daily life and godliness. This takes place consistently through the proclamation of God's Word through preaching and through intentional times of teaching.



Fellowship

Fellowship takes place whenever followers of Jesus Christ come together and care for one another. We share fellowship that is the result of our common Christian inheritance and our mutual responsibility to prepare God's people for works of service.



Evangelism

Evangelism is sharing the Gospel in word and deed. We who have received and believed the Gospel make ourselves mouthpieces of the Gospel message. This is the command of God to all who claim to have received and believe the Gospel. God accepts the responsibility to open hearts and bring sinners to repentance and faith.