

A crowd of nearly 300 gathered at the City-County building in New Albany last Thursday to participate in the 62nd annual National Day of Prayer.

Crystal clear, blue skies provided the perfect backdrop as Major Stephen Kiger of The Salvation Army and New Albany Mayor Jeff Gahan welcomed the attendees to the noon gathering just as many across the country also gathered to pray for the nation.

The theme of the 2013 National Day of Prayer was “Pray for America” and the Scripture chosen to go along with the theme comes from Matthew 12:21 “In His name the nations will put their hope.”

According to <http://nationaldayofprayer.org>. “We have an unprecedented opportunity to see the Lord’s healing and renewing power made manifest as we call on citizens to humbly come before His throne.” That is precisely what took place at the New Albany gathering.

Shouts of “Holy is the Lord” could be heard as Brian Frame of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church opened the gathering with praise and worship.

Rev. Jeff Barbour of Graceland Baptist Church gave the opening prayer citing that “the strength of a nation is found in its favor with God.”

The fifth-grade choir from Christian Academy recited Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” and gave a beautiful performance of “The Lord is my Light” as directed by Maria Smith.

Rev. George Ross of Northside Christian Church delivered the Scripture reading from 2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land” comparing it to a math equation, that if we do our part, God will surely do his.

Next came a time of prayer devoted to the many different sectors of community. Those in attendance who fell into the different groups were asked to stand and be prayed over specifically.

State Representative Ed Clare offered a prayer for government and civil servants, those in the military, policemen and women, firefighters, and first responders.

He asked in prayer that “God make integrity their watch word.”

Cindy, a representative of Southern Indiana Living Magazine prayed for the media, that they shine a positive light in the community.

Education and schools were prayed for by Dr. Brad Snyder of NAFC Public Schools. Joe Brown of Rodefer Moss & Co. offered a prayer for the business sector. Doug Drake of Personal Counseling Service prayed over non-profit organizations and all those involved with such.

And our churches throughout the community and the nation were lifted up in prayer by Rev. George Wasson of Faithpointe United Methodist Church.

After a time of prayer, the crowd rose to its feet in a resounding anthem of “God Bless America” lead by Brian Frame. And a final prayer by Major Stephen Kiger “Dear Father – always near us, as we have gathered here today to treasure and love your name and point the world to you, may your rule and reign be completed in us. May we see your will being

accomplished in us and in our world as it is in heaven. We pray for an understanding of the things we and our world today need and ask that you cleanse us, the body of believers, to be the holy hands and feet that carry your love and forgiveness to a needy world. For trials, make us enduring and committed, deliver us and bring glory to yourself through the events that are a result of a fallen world. Because we recognize today that You are the one in charge and to you belongs all the power and all the glory today and forever – which is just what we want. We commit to praying and living for your will to be accomplished today and always in the name of Jesus. Amen.”

Once the program concluded all guests were invited to stay and pray either individually or in groups, openly and freely.