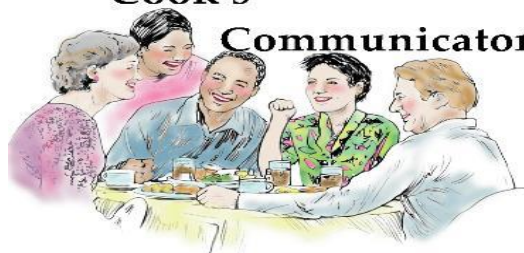


April 24, 2019



Dear Friends,

In *Seasons of Celebration*, Thomas Merton wrote: *But now the power of Easter has burst upon us with the resurrection of Christ. Now we find in ourselves a strength which is not our own, and which is freely given to us whenever we need it, raising us above the Law, giving us a new law which is hidden in Christ: the law of his merciful love for us. Now we no longer strive to be good because we have to, because it is a duty, but because our joy is to please him who has given all his love to us! Now our life is full of meaning!*

My heart is still soaring with Easter Resurrection Joy! The Choir's powerful Cantata proclaiming the story "Let's Sing To the Risen King," the Children's spirited addition of "Our God is an Awesome God," the exuberance of the Worshipping Congregation, and the spectacular sunshine all came together for a most majestic day! Around 60 people even gathered for Sunrise (7:30am) and Breakfast! Thank you, Men of the Church for the delicious hot meal!

Whether you were here to experience - or heard about the Benediction Celebration -you might appreciate an explanation. I learned in a previous congregation about a vigorous Puerto Rican Easter Tradition.



When the congregation declares: "Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen, Indeed!" all the people present pair up and break open an egg on each other's head. The eggs have been previously blown out, dyed, had confetti inserted, and the small opening covered with colored tissue paper. When friends declare "INDEED!" they are invited to burst these eggs on each other's heads! It is supposed to symbolize a burst of new life, a fresh new beginning, a joyful surprise!

After Christmas, my dear husband started blowing out eggs. He gave me nine dozen empty egg shells five weeks ago. "Bless his heart!" I have celebrated this Puerto Rican Tradition with 24 and 36 eggs, but never 108! I so appreciate the joy you shared, and your sense of surprise.

MUCH MORE than a colorful burst of joy, the love and mercy we receive from our Lord is no longer hidden. Our striving to serve Him need no longer be from a sense of obligation, duty, or dread of penalty when we make a mistake. We DO need a strength beyond our own, but one that is grounded in the love of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God when our lives are full of that meaning.



Peace,

Lynn Thompson Bryant



Sunday Mornings at 9 is an opportunity to continue to learn the lessons of The Bible and how they relate to our daily lives. There are classes for **ALL** ages! Teachers have prepared for babies, children, teens and adults to join them. **They are looking forward to seeing you next Sunday at 9am!**



**First
Sunday!**

Please be sure to join us for our next **FIRST SUNDAY Lunch & Program on June 2nd** in Fellowship Hall immediately following our 10am worship service! The theme that day will be "School Days" - more details to come.

MISSION CORNER



The Group from Cook's that goes to help serve drinks to the guests of **Urban Ministries** during their lunch would like to invite **YOU** to join them on the **1st** Tuesday of every month (**May 7th**)...meet @ church at 10am! If you have any questions, call Pede Self at 704-516-1753.

Free Community Dinner



EVERYONE is invited to join us on the **2nd Thursday of every month (MAY 9th)** in FH for the

COMMUNITY DINNER. Dinner is served from 5:30-7pm and this month's menu will be and dessert. Please join us for a delicious meal and some great {and free} fellowship!

APRIL's non-perishable food item that we are collecting for **Loaves & Fishes** is **100% FRUIT JUICE**. Collection boxes are in the Ed Bldg lobby & Narthex. {May's item will be peanut butter & jelly.}

Lily Pad Haven's April's collection item is **plastic baggies (all sizes)**. A collection basket is in the Narthex. {May's item will be socks (all sizes).}

URBAN MINISTRIES IS IN NEED OF EYE GLASSES. Please bring your old glasses and place them in the basket in the Narthex.

Please remember to save your **Campbell Soup Labels** for Barium Springs Home for Children... you can put them in the 'Soup Can' in the Ed Bldg.

Items needed for '**Leah's Love Box**' that is in front of Rowan Hall: **Soap/body soap; Cleaning supplies** (Laundry detergent; counter sprays, window/bathroom cleaner); **Kleenex; Sunscreen; Feminine hygiene products; Hats/gloves; Insect repellent; shampoo/conditioners; Lotion; Diapers; Floss/ toothpaste/toothbrushes; Deodorant**. Questions, call Heather Lyerly at 704/618-6947.

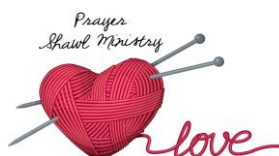
Kajiado Children's Home is **COLLECTING UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS IN MAY AND JUNE** to take to the children on the mission trip this year. We are also looking for **backpacks for the teens** to use for school. We have enough book bags for the younger children. **Please bring your donation to church or drop by the church office during the month of May and no later than June 16!** We plan to leave on June 20 and return home June 30.

Thank you for your continued support of Kajiado Children's Home. It is a privilege to represent Cook's Church in this important mission. We rescued 25 additional children this Spring and are seeking Christian sponsors for these children. To sponsor a child or find out more about KCH, contact Gaye List (704/909-9910) or Pede Self (704/516-1753). Thanks to everyone for their prayers and support!



Cook's KID'S CLUB will meet again **SUNDAY, May 5th from 1-2pm!**

We invite **ALL preschoolers** (ages 3-4) and **ALL elementary aged kids** (grades K-5) to join Graham for **snacks, games, devotion & music** in the basement of the Education Building. Note: the next Kid's Club meeting will be on Sunday, May 19th. We hope to see all of you here!



Cook's **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will meet on Sunday, **May 5th, at 9am in the parlor**. Please join us for a time of devotion, fellowship and instruction if needed. Call Audrey Brady (704-609-7931) with questions.



ALL ladies at Cook's are invited to join the **SATURDAY MORNING Circle meeting, May 4th @ 9:30am in the parlor of FH!**



time is this coming **Saturday, April 27 from 4-7pm!**

At the Rock-N-Roll event, dinner will be served in the Soda Shoppe. Don't forget to bring **CASH** or **CHECK** as no debit cards were used in the 50's.



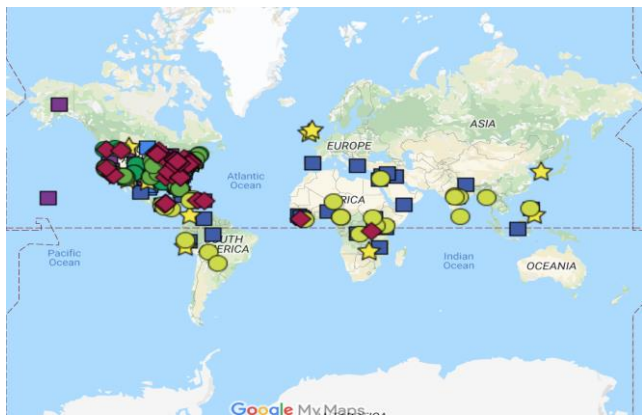
Please make a note of the following corrections/changes to your new church directory:

Debbie White's email is mawdeb6@gmail.com;

Loretta Hinson's address is **NOW**: c/o Brookdale @ Concord, Rm 2, 2452 Rock Hill Church Rd, Concord, 28027;

And we'd like to credit and thank Pattie Hale for the drawing on the cover of the directory!

If you haven't received yours yet, see Audrey Brady **this Sunday (4/28)** after worship...after that date, they will be available for you to pickup in the church office **M-F, 9-5pm** {closed for lunch}.



One Great Hour of Sharing Engagement Map (PCUSA)

You may recognize ***“You shall be called repairers of the breach”*** from Isaiah 58:12 as this year’s **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** theme. You, dear brothers and sisters of Cook’s Memorial, supported this Offering with a total of \$500 in contributions. As you see people rebuilding homes that have been washed away by hurricanes and floods, people rising out of poverty because of your empowering support, or people receiving necessary and life-saving nutrition, please hear their appreciation for your gifts. “One Great Hour” originated as time when Christians gather here and across the world to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. What a fabulous witness you portray, with your gifts, labor, and prayers as we “share the love of Christ through our ministries of justice, compassion, and joy.” Thank you!

Also, this year is the *70th Birthday of OGHS*. Both the needs and the responses have seen significant increase. Just over the last 18 years, \$150 million has been dispersed for people in crises. May God continue to multiply your love and the value of your gifts.



Dear Friends,
Many of you heard my aunt, Marcia Larson, sing for worship when she visited with us at Christmas time. She will turn **100** on **April 30th!** I write to ask you to send her a birthday

card. If you will, please identify yourself as part of Cook’s congregation. Her address is: 3585 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018. Thank you for your kindness in advance.

Peace in Christ, T.J. Thompson



COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

**For those who have reserved a garden plot for 2019, your money is due no later than June 1, 2019.

There are some 4x10’, 20” raised beds filled with dirt that are ready for planting and maintaining at a cost of \$30 a year...they are going fast so if you are interested**, contact Michael Mauney at 704-534-1400 **asap!**



2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

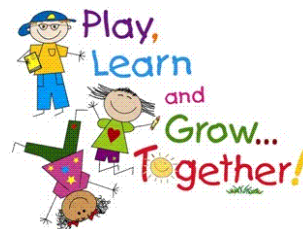
Here are the **AVAILABLE** dates that we have at this point on our 2019 Flower Calendar:

September 29; December 1. Please contact Cheryl in the church office if you'd like to honor or remember a loved one by supplying our sanctuary flowers on one of these dates...704/399-7735 or office@cookschurch.org.



HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO BE PART OF SUNDAY'S

WORSHIP SERVICE? THEN, WE NEED YOU!!!! We are currently looking for people to read God’s Word on Sundays. If you are interested, please contact Teena Ridenhour (704-516-8957 / teenaridenhour@bellsouth.net). We have slots open as soon as MAY, 2019...step right up...**YOU** are a very valued part of our service!



News from Cook's Playschool

It's hard to believe that the end of our 2018-2019 Playschool year is coming soon. March seemed to fly by with all the fun school-wide festivities we all enjoyed. We all celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday, welcomed in spring, and the children had a blast looking for that silly Leprechaun that left us a "pot" of gold coins and chocolates! Our "Fantastic Fours" participated in "Space Camp" followed by their annual trip to the moon! We ended the month on a high note as we filled the pews for Playschool Sunday. Thank you ALL for coming!!!

We began April with a "Spring Basket" auction and appreciate ALL the support! We raised almost enough to re-mulch the playground!! We were also very busy with Easter celebrations, egg hunts and a visit by the Easter Bunny himself! This week we are enjoying "Dinosaur Week" with stations for the children set up all week. We are also celebrating our teachers with "Teacher Appreciation Week" with a catered luncheon from Panera Bread funded by our parents!!! Thank you ALL!

Next week we will be celebrating all our Playschool Moms in honor of Mother's Day. Please mark your calendars for Cook's Annual Fantastic Four's Graduation Ceremony to be held on May 16, 2019, at 11:00 am in the Church Sanctuary, followed by our family picnic on the grounds.



We wish a Happy Birthday to the following:

- April 29 - Joe Thompson
May 1 - Davis Glaser, Loretta Butler
May 2 - Paige Benson
May 4 - Norman Thompson
May 9 - Stephanie Myers



- April 28:** Dolores Freeman, Mary Thompson
May 5: Audrey Brady, Toni Thompson
May 12: Sandy Birmingham, Beth Noles

{If you **cannot** keep nursery on your assigned day please find a substitute by 'swapping dates' with someone on list or call Diane at 704/398-8388.}

Greeter Schedule: April 28-Covenant SS Class; May 5-Presbyterian Women; May 12-Men of the Church

Usher Schedule: April-Christi Brafford, Gordon Stanley, Doug & Dinah Riggs; May-Lyle & Bonnie Pace, Steve Gilmore, Melinda McElhaney

Sound Tech Schedule: April-Joe Chichetti; May-Dave List

Teller Schedule: April 28-Audrey Brady, Melinda McElhaney, Dwight Black; May 5-Audrey Brady, Scott Jones, Bonnie Pace; May 12-Ginger Thompson, Sheila Black, Christi Brafford

Weekend Opener/LOCKUP: April-James Harper; May-Al Alexander



- ATTENDANCE**
4/07/19: 121
4/14/19: 309
4/21/19: 190

2019 Offerings:

Weekly offering needed for Budget YTD: \$117,952
 YTD General Fund offerings rec'd: \$123,678



During these next 2 weeks, April 28- May 11, please make a special effort to recognize **Carolyn Young and Nancy Stanley** with a visit or a card. They would love to hear from you!

Carolyn Young, 9330 Belhaven Blvd, Charlotte, 28214

Nancy Stanley, 10923 Ridge Acres Rd Charlotte, 28214

Here is a complete list of our Homebound Members: Betty Hunt, Loretta, Melva Thompson, Nancy Stanley, Annie Luckey, Mildred Alexander & Carolyn Young... *please pray for them all daily.*



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our **Catchup Campaign!** More than \$19,908 has been collected so far. We are halfway to our goal of \$40,000. Please consider how much your family can donate, and use the Catchup envelopes provided, or just write Catchup on your check. Thank you so much!



Please remember in your prayers the following people:

Members

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Nancy Stanley (Caramount/Gast) | Joyce Norris |
| Russ Sasnett (Huntersville Rehab) | Jeannie McClure |
| Debbie McCrary & family (death of brother, Brian Thompson) | |
| Carolyn Young | Steve Self |
| Hazel Dunn | Jill Griffin |
| Corky McClure | Pat Hager |
| Gerri Rhodes | Debbie White |
| Vera Smith | Mork/Weldy family |
| Cook's Pastor Search | |

Friends & Relatives

- family of Lee Stilwell* (service @ Cook's 4/27, 11am, visitation 10am/Ed Bldg lobby) Gary Carter (back surg, 4/30)
 Sam Cerio Melody Mathews
 Aliyah Thompson's grandfather Brian Zuercher
 Emalie Barnes Kevin Cook
 Ledane Poplin Marcia Larson
 Kristen & Bobby Benfield Larry Rupp
 Willi Messick (Hospice care) Richard Meyer
 Dee Peterson Ava Davis & Tate family
 Gary Shuler & son Gloria Bammel
 Cole/Davidson family Kelly Cousineau
 Cynthia & Mike Wicker Jeff & Gloria Herman
 Gloria Ricker Mary Hightower
 Susan Kenley Theo Helms
 Anita H. Bill Perrella
 Collin Dula family of Linda Smith
 Dementia patients & caregivers
 those hungry/abused/scared/depressed
 shooting victims & families throughout the world
 people going through life transitions

(Please note: we leave names on prayer list for 4 weeks unless otherwise notified/updated.)



Please remember in your prayers the following soldiers (and all veterans and their families) that are in some way associated with

Cook's Church: Triston Thompson, Austin McCrary, Turner Salm, Cecilia (Parker) Loren, Anne Ledford, Ronald J. Ransbottom, Shane Bennett, Andrew Simmerson, T.J. Sudderth, John Makahilli Jr., Jake Gibson, John Gibson, Eddy Self, Terrell Gore

****CONGREGATION****



Please notify the church office (704-399-7735 / office@cookschurch.org) or Pastor Lynn (330-701-0426 / ltb4unc@alumni.unc.edu) of any

deaths, sickness, surgeries, births, etc. that you and/or a family member may be experiencing.



Wise Words

& Quotes

- Vern McCellan

"How wonderful it is, how pleasant, when everyone lives together in harmony!" (Psalm 133:1)

"What kind of a church would my church be if all of its members were just like me?"



CHURCH CALENDAR



YOUTH @ COOK'S!

Please join Graham on **Sundays, April 28th & May 5th** at **4pm** in the youth room in the Ed. Bldg for YOUTH SUNDAY planning! Youth Sunday will be held here at Cook's on Sunday, May 12th and **all** youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate! If you have any questions, contact Graham at gkhughes31@gmail.com or 828-310-1433.

Sunday, April 28

- 9:00am – *Sunday School classes for all ages!*
- 10:00am – *Worship Service/sanctuary*
- 11:00am – *Fellowship on the Lawn* (cookies & drinks for everyone!)
- ~11:15am – **MISSION Ministry mtg/Rm 113**

Monday, April 29

- 9:30am-1pm – Playschool
- 6:00pm – Riverbend H/O mtg/FH
- 6:30pm – Cub Scouts Parent/Leader mtg/Ed Bldg

Tuesday, April 30

- 9:30am-1pm - Playschool
- 6:00pm - Aerobics/FH
- 7:00pm - Boy Scouts/Ed Bldg 3rd floor

Wednesday, May 1

- 9am-2:30pm – Quilting Bees/Rm 201
- 9:30am-1pm - Playschool
- ~5:45pm-**Youth Ensemble Rehearsal/Choir Room**
- ~ **6:00pm - String Trio Rehearsal/sanctuary**
- ~ **6:30pm - Adult Choir/Handbells Rehearsal**

Thursday, May 2

- 9:30am-1pm – Playschool
- 6:00pm – Jr Girl Scouts/bmst

Friday, May 3

Saturday, May 4

- ~ **9:30am – Saturday Morning CIRCLE mtg/parlor**

Sunday, May 5

- ~ **9:30am – Prayer Shawl Ministry/parlor**
- 9:00am – *Sunday School Classes for all ages!*
- 10:00am – *Worship Service/sanctuary*
- 11:00am – *Fellowship on the Lawn* (cookies & drinks for everyone!)
- ~ **1-2pm – KID'S CLUB/Ed Bldg bsmt**
- ~ **5:00pm – PW's BIRTHDAY Offering event/FH**

Monday, May 6 – **DEADLINE for next newsletter**

- 9:30am-1pm – Playschool
- 6:30pm – Cub Scouts/Ed Bldg
- ~ **7:00pm – SESSION meeting/FH**

Tuesday, May 7

- 9:30am-1pm - Playschool
- ~**10:00am – Group to Urban Ministries/bus**
- 6:00pm – Aerobics
- 7:00pm - Boy Scouts/Ed Bldg 3rd floor

Wednesday, May 8

- 9am-2:30pm – Quilting Bees/Rm 201
- 9:30am-1pm - Playschool
- ~5:45pm-**Youth Ensemble Rehearsal/Choir Room**
- ~ **6:00pm - String Trio Rehearsal/sanctuary**
- ~ **6:30pm - Adult Choir/Handbells Rehearsal**

Thursday, May 9

- 9:30am-1pm – Playschool
- ~ **5:30-7pm – COMMUNITY MEAL/FH**
- 6:00pm – Daisy Scouts/bsmt

Friday, May 10

- ~ **6:00pm – MOVIE NIGHT/FH**

Saturday, May 11

Please join Graham on **Sundays, April 28th & May 5th** at **4pm** in the youth room in the Ed. Bldg for YOUTH

SUNDAY planning! Youth Sunday will be held here at Cook's on Sunday, May 12th and **all** youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate! If you have any questions, contact Graham at gkhughes31@gmail.com or 828-310-1433.



If you shop at Amazon.com, link your account to Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church and we'll get 5% back from your purchases through their Amazon Smile program! After linking the church to your account, start your purchases at <http://smile.amazon.com>. If you have questions, contact Ginger Thompson at 704-562-7558.



This is Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church's new QR code. There is an "app" you can put on your phone that lets you scan the QR code and donate to the church with your credit card. For instructions to download the "app", contact Ginger at 704/562-7558.

Cook's Communicator

is a bi-weekly newsletter published by:

Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
3413 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road, Charlotte, NC 28216

"Cook's mission is to love God, love yourself, love your neighbor and go tell others about Jesus."

"We, the members of Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church, are a community on a journey of faith dedicated to spiritual growth and Christ's teachings. We are committed to be a community of God, open to all people. We pledge to be witnesses for God and to be caring Disciples of Christ."

STAFF:

Interim Pastor: Pastor Lynn Thompson Bryant
Coordinator of Youth & Children Ministries: Graham Hughes
Music Director & Organist: Rev. Charles Mathews
Office Manager: Cheryl Cole
Custodian: Susan Mundell
Playschool Directors: Kelly Carter/Bobbie Penninger
Treasurer: Ginger Thompson
Financial Secretary: Audrey Brady

RULING ELDERS: Class of 2019: Sheila Black (Education), Audrey Brady (Cong Care), Penny Love (Worship), Jerry Spurlock (Property); **Class of 2020:** Dale Luckey (Property), David Lyerly (Missions), Bonnie Pace (Finance); Johnnie Quinn (Clerk); **Class of 2021:** Joe Chichetti (Personnel), Dan Griggs (Nominating), William Savelle (Worship), Richard White (Fellowship)

DEACONS: Class of 2019: Steve Gilmore (New Members), Dave List (Special Needs), Bonnie Spurlock (Homebound), Deana Stanford (Special Needs); **Class of 2020:** Debbie Myers (Homebound), Jack McClure (Homebound), Jeannie McClure (Moderator/Special Needs); **Class of 2021:** Dwight Black (Homebound), Loretta Butler (New Members), Barbara Stevens (New Members), Sydney Thompson (New Members)

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Joe Chichetti, Laura Griggs, James Harper, Jeannie McClure, David Myers, Johnnie Quinn, Mike Stanford

Sunday Schedule: *Sunday School for ALL ages at 9:00am; Worship Service at 10:00am; Fellowship on the Lawn (Cookies & Drinks for everyone) immediately after worship.*
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am-5pm; (704) 399-7735; fax #: (704) 399-0823; E-Mail: office@cookschurch.org
Website: www.cookschurch.org/www.cmpcyouth.weebly.com
Sermons/newsletters are available on our website!
Now you can find us on **Facebook** and follow us on **Twitter!**
{Online Directory now available on www.cookschurch.org}

Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church
3413 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

Good News Inside!

God, we thank You for:



Written articles to be in Church Office by
Monday, May 6 @ 4pm for next newsletter!



PW Women's Dinner - May 5th

(5-6:30pm) - Cinco De Mayo Themed - Taco Bar, "Margaritas", Music, Fellowship, Games, Lots of Fun!!! If you have not been invited to this and would like to be a part, please contact Sandy Birmingham (704-724-1620 or lilluck23@aol.com) to be added to a table or be a table host. I would really like for all of our members to be invited (even if you can't make it).

Movie Night - May 10th @ 6pm -

Movie TBD, sodas & popcorn provided
(Connie Luckey, 704-394-8514)

Save The Date - Camp-In June 5th

(5pm - Sunday am) Bring your tent (or make one to put up out of paper or linen) and lounge chairs. We will be spending the night (if you can/want to), so pack accordingly. There will be a "campfire", stories told, smores to be made, hot dogs & hamburgers & chips, scavenger hunt, etc. We will be asking for \$20 "site fee" per family to cover food and other expenses. (Contact Sandy Birmingham to RSVP and pay 704-724-1620 or lilluck23@aol.com)

"Fun Dip" group is being created for ages 21-49 to get together and fellowship outside of church. More details and the first outing will be scheduled soon. Contact Sandy Birmingham 704-724-1620 or lilluck23@aol.com if you have ideas or would like to be involved.

Lastly, keep an eye open for an **informational class on Medicare & Medicaid** for those that are interested.