



August 28, 2019



Dear Friends,

Experiences of change, transition, and new beginnings are happening around and within the church, your homes, and yourselves. We don't get to control the pace, but we have some choices about how we manage it all. Sometimes the flurry is overwhelming; sometimes it feels like it takes forever to make any progress. Terms like "normal," a "happy medium," or "balanced approach" almost seem a little mystical. Thank goodness for some effective models and tangible direction.

One of my favorite guides as a pace-setter is Henri Nouwen. He was a prolific writer of spiritual development and social justice. He grew up in the Netherlands, and served as a priest, professor, and community servant in the States and around the world until he died in 1996. Some of his books were required reading for seminarians. Some of them are simply traditional favorites that I have collected over the years.

He included "The Hub of Life" in one of his later publications. (*Please find it on page 3.) I find it particularly helpful as we prepare for a new program year, a new pastor for you, a new church for me, and lots of new leadership. I hope his reflection gives you some peace for these hectic days as well.

Shalom,

Lynn Thompson Bryant



CELEBRATING HOMECOMING!

We enjoyed a lovely, joyful, and very fulfilling day for Homecoming. Of course, the major highlight was the Baptism of Hayden Hawk Bolz! Hopefully, whether you were present or not, everyone connected to Cook's Memorial realizes their role in providing a nurturing Christian environment for Hayden, and all God's children. We take turns supporting, and receiving support, from our church family, no matter what age we are on our faith journey. Clearly, the natural emotions that flow from responding to a very young, exuberant child put smiles on our faces and warmth in our hearts. The Cook's Family is very good at extending that support at all stages of our lives. Let yourself be on the receiving end of that comfort, as well.



Our worship music carried high inspiration, all the delicious food more than satisfied our bodies, the weather was perfect, and

renewing relationships as people return from all the summer activities gave us all a beautiful experience.

This Sunday, September 1, will be our last "Summer Sunday." We will conclude the sermon series on 'Questions People Asked Jesus' with a reading from Matthew 13:10 and *extend grateful appreciation to Graham Hughes at the First Sunday Luncheon*. Then we "kick off" a new program year with breakfast at **9:00am**, **Rally Day, September 8**. Bring a friend who would enjoy meeting Jesus at Cook's Memorial!

You're invited to join us for our last 2019 **Summer Sunday School** this coming Sunday, **September 1st** @ **9:00am**! Adults meet in Fellowship Hall or Rm #113 and our Youth & children meet in Rm #212.



On **Sunday, September 8th**, **ALL** ages will join together at **9am** for **Rally Day Breakfast and information** for this coming Sunday School year. Breakfast will be **9-9:50** in FH. However, beginning at **9:30** in **Room 213**, there will be a **meeting for parents of children and youth and ALL interested in helping with these ministries**. This will be an informational and beginning planning meeting for the 2019-2020 year.



ATTENTION PARENTS OF COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS:

PARENTS of college bound students: please send the church office their **college address and email address** as soon as you know what it is, even if it hasn't changed from last year. We want to be sure to mail them a church newsletter and our Presbyterian Women send them cards/gifts throughout the year. Please send this info to the church office (office@cookschurch.org).

MISSION CORNER

***URBAN MINISTRY** is in need of donations of these items to give to their guests who are homeless and living on the streets so that they are able to share protein rich snacks and hydrating liquids to promote good health: **protein bars, jerky, canned tuna, bottled water or sports drinks**. Please put your donations in the box in the Ed Bldg during the month of **August**. Thank you!

We are collecting **COOKIES** (any kind) for the *Prison Ministry* **NOW through September 15th**. Collection box for the cookie donations will be in the Ed Bldg entranceway. Please see Bonnie Spurlock if you have any questions.

PLEASE NOTE: the **Group that goes to Urban Ministry** on the first Tuesday of each month will **NOT** be going next week, **September 3rd**. This mission will resume on Tuesday, October 1st.

AUGUST's non-perishable food item that we are collecting for **Loaves & Fishes** is **PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY**. Collection boxes are in the Ed Bldg lobby & Narthex. {September's item will be canned fruits.}

Lily Pad Haven's AUGUST'S collection item is **DRYER SHEETS**. A collection basket is in the Narthex. {September's item will be trash bags/kitchen size.}

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

{The **Campbell Soup Labels Program** has been **DISCONTINUED** so we are no longer taking soup labels – thank you for your support the past few years!}

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: 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 (980/213-7115) or Pedo Self (704/516-1753). Thanks to everyone for their prayers and support!

We are saddened to share that Larry Rupp, founder of Kajiado Children's Home, passed away on August 5th. Shortly after being lifted up in scripture and song provided by family and friends, Larry gave up his struggle with cancer to join his eternal Savior. Gaye met Larry over 30 years ago when their families attended Plaza Presbyterian, before he began his missionary work in Africa. They reconnected in 2007 when their Sunday school class had a reunion, and Larry shared his missionary experiences in Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya. He shared the story of Kajiado Children's Home which he founded in 1997 starting with 30 young children

under twelve years old. In 2008, Cooks was looking for someone to preach when TJ was away, and he was invited to share his missionary story with us. Cook's started supporting the home through donated supplies and sent our first mission team in 2010. 2019 marked our ninth mission trip to Kajiado Children's Home, and currently 15 children at KCH are sponsored by Cook's members. We have received many blessings from our involvement and have seen God's hand at work first hand in this remote area. The charity, Hope For Kajiado, was born out of our church, and working with other churches in NC, OH, FL and PA as well as individuals from those communities, we have ensured that these children have the opportunity to break the chains of poverty and disease in their lives. The children there will tell you that "Papa Larry" always told them to "Put God first, then get a good education, and the rest will come". Over the years, he reminded us more than once that we needed to "get out of the way" so we could see the doors that God opens for us. We certainly could not do this important work without God's guidance. We are continually amazed at what has been accomplished when we FIRST put our trust in God, then act on the opportunities He provides. Over the past five years, we have cared and educated these children, built a deep water well (2015), built a multipurpose building named "Rupp Hall" (2018) and added a second greenhouse (2019). This year the home rescued 25 more children. Over seventy of KCH children have graduated college. We are thankful to Larry for the influence he had on hundreds of children at Kajiado Children's Home, and those of us at Cooks Memorial are truly blessed for the friendships developed as we work together for God's purposes. God now provides us with the charge to continue Larry's legacy at Kajiado Children's Home, and He will continue to be our guide as we work together to make our world a better place for all of His children. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Gaye List, Pedo Self and David Lyerly



Those of us that are 50+ years young, our first fall event will be on Saturday, **September 7th**. We will meet at Cook's at 9:15am to ride on the bus to Elmwood Cemetery. We will tour the historic cemetery and a designated arboretum. We will have lunch together afterwards at a nearby restaurant. Our second event will be on Friday, **October 25th**. We will meet for dinner (probably Joeys in Denver) at 5:30pm followed by a wonderful Halloween treat. We will go to Lynn and Marsha Sifford's for a scary home tour and dessert! **Please email** (mlove03@gmail.com) **or see me to let me know if you can come on either of these trips and if you can bring a dessert to the Sifford's house.** We hope you will join us for both of these events! Thanks, Penny Love



**YOU and
YOUR
FAMILY
ARE
INVITED**

to Cook's **MOVIE NIGHT** on
Friday, **September 20th**, at **6:30pm**.
Dinner will be served before the movie.
The movie will be on the church lawn and
popcorn & drinks will be available. This
event is being sponsored by Cook's
Children & Youth Ministries.



**Wise Words &
Quotes**

– Vern McCellan

"Teach us to make the most of our time, so that we may grow in wisdom." (Psalm 90:12)

"Satan doesn't care how spiritual your intentions may be as long as they're focused on tomorrow."

"THE HUB OF LIFE"



In my home country, The Netherlands, you still see many large wagon wheels, not on wagons, but as decorations at the entrances of farms or on the walls of restaurants. I have always been fascinated by these wagon wheels; with their wide rims, strong wooden spokes, and big hubs. These wheels help me to understand the importance of a life lived from the center. When I move along the rim, I can reach one spoke after the other, but when I stay at the hub, I am in touch with all the spokes at once.

To pray is to move to the center of all life and all love. The closer I come to the hub of life, the closer I come to all that receives its strength and energy from there. My tendency is to get so distracted by the diversity of the many spokes of life, that I am busy but not truly life-giving, all over the place but not focused. By directing my attention to the heart of life, I am connected with its rich variety while remaining centered. What does the hub represent? I think of it as my own heart, the heart of God, and the heart of the world. When I pray, I enter into the depth of my own heart and find there the heart of God, who speaks to me of love. And I recognize, right there, the place where all of my sisters and brothers are in communion with one another. The great paradox of the spiritual life is, indeed, that the most personal is most universal, that the most intimate is most communal, and that the most contemplative is most active.

The wagon wheel shows the hub is the center of all energy and movement, even when it often seems not to be moving at all. In God all action and all rest are one. So too prayer!

- Taken from *Here and Now: Living in the Spirit* by Henry J.M. Nouwen, Crossroads Publishing, 1994



Calling All Women

Ladies, please sign up for our fall PW retreat: "It's a WonderFull World". It will be held at the Overlook Clubhouse on **Saturday, September 14 from 9am-5pm**. Chicken Salad Chick is providing our lunch! We will be traveling around the world sharing travel stories and learning about a woman in the Bible who had a problem that left her with no friends. **Please sign up in the Narthex this Sunday!** Looking forward to seeing you in September!



COOK'S CAR SHOW 2018

will be here on **Saturday, October 12, 2019** from **8:30am-2:30pm**...rain date of October 19th. There will be Hot Rods, Street Rods, Classic Cars and Antique Cars. Admission is free and Cook's Men of the Church will be making and selling **hamburgers and hot dogs** for lunch. Our Presbyterian Women will have their **Bake Sale** with all the delicious goodies. **This is a wonderful time for fellowship with family, friends and neighbors so please join us!**



Cook's Presbyterian Women are having a **BAKE SALE** on Saturday, October 12th (rain date-

October 19) during the Car Show. Our bake sales at this event are always very successful. Proceeds will go in WOC treasury for various mission and church projects.

BAKERS: please bring your baked goods to Fellowship Hall on Friday evening (Oct. 11) between 5-7pm or to the Bake Sale table first thing Saturday morning. Cakes, pies, candy, breads, cookies, muffins, etc. Don't cut cakes and pies...whole are good sellers. Pecan pies are always in demand. *Thanks for your contributions!!*



We wish a Happy Birthday to the following:

Sept 2 - Reg King

Sept 3 - Janice Phipps, Logan Benson, Norene Newman

Sept 5 - Ronnie Ransbottom

Sept 6 - Carolyn Young, Tommy Riggs, William Savelle

Sept 11 - Dave List

Sept 13 - Jimmy McClure, Jerry McClure



Sept 1: Linda Lynn, Sydney Thompson

Sept 8: Sandy Birmingham, Beth Noles

Sept 15: Audrey Brady, Sydney Thompson

{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: Sept 1-Viewpoint SS Class; Sept. 8-Presbyterian Women; Sept 15-Men of the Church

Usher Schedule: September-Jerry Spurlock, Barbara Stevens, Melinda McElhaney, Gordon Stanley

Sound Tech Schedule: Sept. 1-Dave List

Teller Schedule: Sept 1-Audrey Brady, Sheila Black, Dwight Black; Sept 8-Ginger Thompson, Bonnie Pace, Melinda McElhaney; Sept 15-Ginger Thompson, Scott Jones, Sheila Black

Weekend Opener/Lockup: September-Mike Stanford



During these next 2 weeks, Sept. 1-14, please make a special effort to recognize **Annie Luckey and Melva Thompson** with a visit or a card. They would love to hear from you!

Annie Luckey, 9906 Harwood Ln, 28214

Melva Thompson, 8944 McClure Circle, 28216

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



We really need 3-5 more workers for our nursery during worship so if you would be willing to serve God by watching

over our youngest members, please contact the church office asap at 704-399-7735 or office@cookschurch.org.

We'll need you to complete our Child Protection Policy forms and then we'll get you on the nursery schedule. Thank you!



Please remember in your prayers the following people:

Members

Mildred Grice (Novant/Main)	Blake Benfield
Connie Stroup	Tom McClure
Allyne Gant	Jill Griffin (back surg 9/12)
Hazel Dunn	Matt Thompson
Nancy Stanley	Debbie White
Phyllis Monteith	Pat Hager
Carolyn Young (Huntersville Oaks)	Vera Smith
Gerri Rhodes	Steve Self
Corky McClure	
Cook's 2019-20 SS year	Cook's Pastor Search

Friends & Relatives

Jane Mitchell's mother & family	Gail Monteith
Al Thompson	Kevin Cook
Brian Zuercher	Pamela Zuercher (surg 9/16)
Emalie Barnes	William Savelle's uncle & family
Marcia Larson	Bill Perrella
Kristen & Bobby Benfield	Gary Shuler & son
Richard Meyer	Cole/Davidson family
Dee Peterson	Jeff & Gloria Herman
Gloria Bammel	Gloria Ricker
Kelly Cousineau	Susan Kenley
Cynthia & Mike Wicker	Theo Helms
Grier Stanford	Mary Hightower
Anita H.	Richard Meyer
Meredith Eagle	Sherry Smith
Ethan Vissers	Janet Howie
Amy	returning students/school staff
shooting victims/families throughout the world	
Natural disaster victims	dementia patients/caregiver
people going through life transitions	
those hungry/abused/scared/depressed	

(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: Austin McCrary, Triston Thompson, Terrell Gore, Turner Salm, Anne Ledford, Eddy Self, Andy Dula, Chris Dula

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.



8/18/19: 120
8/25/19: 132

2019 Offerings:

Weekly offering needed for Budget YTD: \$239,672
YTD General Fund offerings rec'd: \$236,790

Free Community Dinner



COMMUNITY MEAL
Thursday, September 12,
5:30-7pm in FH...everyone is invited including your neighbors that you invite to come with you!



CHURCH CALENDAR



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 **SEPTEMBER, 2019**. . .step
right up...**YOU** are a very valued part of our
service!

Sunday, September 1

9:00am – *Sunday School Classes for all ages!*
10:00am – *Worship Service/sanctuary*
11:00am – *FIRST LUNCH & Farewell*
Celebration with Graham Hughes/FH

Monday, September 2

****Church Office CLOSED for Holiday****

Tuesday, September 3

9:00am – Playschool/Ed Bldg
6:00pm – Aerobics/FH
7:00pm – Boy Scouts/Ed Bldg

Wednesday, September 4

9am-2:30pm – Quilting Bees/Rm 201
9:00am – Playschool/Ed Bldg
~ 6:00pm – **Strings/Youth Ensemble Rehearsal**
~ 6:30pm – **Adult Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday, September 5

9:00am – Playschool/Ed Bldg

Friday, September 6

Saturday, September 7

~ 9:00am – **TANG/Guided City Cemeteries
Tour & Lunch/bus**

Sunday, September 8

~ 9:00am – **RALLY DAY CELEBRATION
BREAKFAST for everyone!**
~ 9:30am – **ALL Parents of Youth &
Children meeting/Rm 213**
10:00am – *Worship Service/sanctuary*
11:00am – *Fellowship on the Lawn* (cookies &
drinks for everyone!)
~11:15am – **FINANCE Ministry mtg/office**
~11:15am – **MISSION Ministry mtg/Rm 113**

Monday, September 9-**DEADLINE** for next newsletter

9:00am – Playschool/Ed Bldg
6:30pm – Cub Scouts/Ed Bldg

Tuesday, September 10

****Primary Election in FH/all day**
9:00am – Playschool/Ed Bldg
~ 6:00pm – **Children/Youth Leaders
mtg/office**
7:00pm - Boy Scouts/Ed Bldg 3rd floor

Wednesday, September 11

9am-2:30pm – Quilting Bees/Rm 201
9:00am – Playschool/Ed Bldg
~ 6:00pm – **Strings/Youth Ensemble Rehearsal**
~ 6:30pm – **Adult Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday, September 12

9:00am – Playschool/Ed Bldg
~ 5:30-7pm – **COMMUNITY MEAL/FH**

Friday, September 13

Saturday, September 14

~ 9am-5pm – **PW's WOMEN'S RETREAT @**
Overlook Clubhouse
5:00pm – Boy Scouts/FH



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
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)

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), Barrbara 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, Sept 9**
@ 4pm for next newsletter!



**Saturday,
October 26,
3:00 -
6:30pm**

**Cook's FALL FESTIVAL -
EVERYONE is invited!**

**Games, Candy, Prizes, Bounce
House, Fire Truck, Hayride &
Pumpkin Patch, Costume**

**Parade/3:30pm...kids wear your best
costumes, Hot Dogs for sale,
Sno-Cones and more!**

**Be sure to invite your neighbors and
friends to come with you!**

Cook's Presbyterian Women will be
participating in the **Fall Festival** held on
October 26th. We will need lots of candy
and trinkets for the games we are doing.

**We need ALL who can to donate candy
to hand out and trinkets to give the
winners of the games we will be
sponsoring.** You can give them to Johnnie
Quinn or Pede Self. Thanks!



**COOK'S
PLAYSCHOOL
NOW
ENROLLING
2019-2020
SCHOOL YEAR**

Allow your child to grow, learn, and
socialize with peers in a warm, loving,
Christian environment at Cook's Playschool.
We now have a few openings in certain age
groups. There is availability in our Toddler
II and Toddler III classrooms where your
child attends Tuesday, Wednesday, and
Thursday from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm. There is
also availability in our Tremendous 3's
classroom where your child attends Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from
9:30 am – 1:00 pm. Tuition for our 3-day
program is \$230 per month and for our 4-
day program is \$280 per month.

Registration is a one-time payment of \$90.
There is a sibling discount of \$10 per month.

You may contact Kelly or Bobbie at
704/394-4422 or email us at
cooksplayschool@gmail.com Call to enroll
today! We would love to have you as part of
our Playschool family!