

January 8, 2020



We welcome Pastor Jason Bryant as our new minister! Below is a bio about Jason so that you can get to know his history. If you have time, please stop by the office and introduce yourself to him!

Rev. Jason Bryant was born in Columbus, Ohio, to two native North Carolinians. At the age of 5, Jason's parents returned to Charlotte where they continue to live off of Sharon Road. Raised in Southeast Charlotte, Jason attended Beverly Woods Elementary School for three years before completing middle and high school at Charlotte Country Day, graduating in 1989. From there, Jason attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Emory University before choosing to go to culinary school. Jason trained in the Culinary Arts program at Central Piedmont Community College while working at restaurants around the area. Upon completion of the culinary program, Jason worked at notable Charlotte establishments like the LampLighter and the Pewter Rose.

It was in 2001 that Jason's life moved in an altogether unexpected fashion. One day, his mother invited him to attend Sharon Presbyterian Church with her. Feeling rather depressed, Jason agreed. It was there, hearing the Declaration of Pardon shared that Sunday morning by Rev. Ron Nelson, the Holy Spirit moved powerfully. Soon thereafter, Jason began attending both Sharon Presbyterian and Forest Hills in order to learn more about the Christian faith and grow spiritually in Christ. As Providence would have it, Jason was offered a job teaching at the Community Culinary School of Charlotte. Founded by a friend, CCSoc taught basic culinary skills to folks trying to turn their lives around. Fairly quickly, Jason found himself enjoying sharing his faith just as much as teaching knife skills.

In 2002, two wonderful things happened. First, Jason met future wife, Natalie, a local veterinarian. The two dated for several years before getting married in June of 2005. Jason also felt a call to ministry in 2003, returning to college at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to complete a Bachelor of Arts in English in 2004. From there, Jason attended Duke Divinity School

graduating in the winter of 2007. Continuing his time of pastoral discernment, Jason went under the care of the Presbytery of Charlotte as an Inquirer and then Candidate as he continued his studies.

While in seminary, Jason had the opportunity to work with a social justice ministry, the Religious Coalition for a Non-Violent Durham, coordinating care and services for recently released inmates. He was also blessed to work at Moore's Chapel United Methodist Church as a summer intern and then at Myers Park as a Pastoral Resident for a year.

In May of 2008, Jason was ordained at the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Holly where he served as Head-of-Staff Pastor until 2014. From there, Jason worked as an Associate Pastor at River Hills Community Church in Lake Wylie, leaving in December of 2018 to write his first book. The book, *Three Pennies and a Rock*, focuses on developing and keeping a child-like faith through the practices of trust, forgiveness and imagination. He is hopeful to see this work published in 2020.

Jason and Natalie are blessed to have two children, Benjamin (11) and Lillian (8). Both children presently attend Mountain Island Charter School. Ben is an avid soccer player and Lillian enjoys taking dance classes.

In his spare time, Jason still loves to cook, and he continues to be a voracious reader. Jason and Natalie are frequent hosts, enjoying sharing their home and a good meal. Jason's most recent passion is in volunteering with Kairos Ministry of South Carolina. Kairos hosts three-day spiritual retreats for inmates at prisons across the world. Jason volunteers with a group that goes into Kershaw Correctional Institution in South Carolina two times per year.

One final note - although terms of honor are always deeply appreciated, Rev. Bryant prefers to be called either Pastor Jason, PJ (abbreviation of Pastor Jason) or just Jason depending on the congregation's comfort level.

Jason and Natalie are excited to be called to Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church and are looking forward to the coming years!

***Congregation – please add the following information to your church directory:**

Jason & Natalie Bryant
Benjamin, Lillian
468 Augustus Ln.
Mt. Holly, NC 28120
704-607-4162 (Jason's cell)
jaydbryant@gmail.com

MISSION CORNER



COMMUNITY DINNER

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

the **COMMUNITY DINNER**. Dinner is served from 5:30-7pm and this month's menu will be pork loin, collard greens, slaw, peas, cornbread and dessert. *Please bring your friends & neighbors with you to enjoy a delicious {and free} dinner and some great fellowship!*

JANUARY's non-perishable food item that we are collecting for **Loaves & Fishes** is **CANNED FRUITS**. Collection boxes are in the Ed Bldg lobby & Narthex.

Lily Pad Haven's JANUARY'S collection item is **toilet paper/paper towels**. A collection basket is in the Narthex.

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

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 Pede Self (704/516-1753). Thanks to everyone for their prayers and support!



ALL MEN are invited to join Cook's Men of the Church on **Sunday, January 19th** at **7:30am** for their monthly breakfast meeting – contact Dale Luckey if you have any questions (704-309-0798).



Cook's **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will meet on **Sunday, January 19th, 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 one of the following **CIRCLE** meetings*

on Tuesday, January 14th:

***MORNING** Circle @ 10:00am in FH {White Elephant Gift Exchange during meeting...call Pede at 704/516-1753 if you have questions} or the **EVENING** Circle @ 7:00pm also in FH!*

*Also, the PW Laundry Ministry will meet on **Friday, January 24** - contact Sheila Black for more details - 704/299-6147.*



Cook's **Room In The Inn** will operate on a limited schedule December, 2019 through March, 2020. We will only have guests on the 1st weekend of each of those months. The Cub Scouts handled Dec. 7/8, our Presbyterian Women & Men of the Church handled Jan. 4/5, the Boy Scouts will handle Feb. 1/2 and Cook's Session & Deacons will handle March 7/8. If you would like to help on one of these weekends, please contact Pede Self (704-516-1753) or Kelly Harper and we will put you in touch with the weekend coordinators.

****We can always use donations of new men's socks, underwear, gloves & toboggans.**



2020 FLOWER CALENDAR INFORMATION

****The following dates are AVAILABLE as of today on our 2020 Flower Calendar: February 2, April 19, May 3, May 31, August 16, October 18 and December 27** – if you'd like to supply our flowers on this date in honor and/or memory of a loved one, please let the church office know as soon as possible (704/399-7735 or office@cookschurch.org.)

Please note: we use Grace's Florist as our supplier (they have information to be able to get into our sanctuary to place any arrangements ordered) but you are not limited to them. You can make your own arrangements with flowers from your home or other flower suppliers. Please note these 2 items: we ask that arrangements be made with live flowers and you will be responsible for getting your arrangement in place in our sanctuary by 9am on your assigned Sunday. Thank you!

*My dear Cook's family,
Thank you so much
for your loving support.
The notes, cards and
phone calls have so
touched my life and help me through the past few
weeks. We did have a joyful Christmas with our
great-grandson. I miss my church family and will
keep you ever in my heart. Love you all forever!*



*Oh, by the way, I pray for a successful new year
for Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church.*

- Billie Lou {Sigmon}



News from Playschool

Happy New Year!

January is going to be a very busy month at Playschool! Several things we will all enjoy are "Puzzle Day", Show & Share/PJ Day and Feeding the Birds this month as well as learn all about "Joseph and His Coat of Many Colors". We will end the month celebrating "Ground Hog's Day" and having a school-wide "Super Bowl" Celebration complete with "Training Camp"!

Our Fantastic Fours will go on their annual Gingerbread Hunt and have a Rodeo later in the month as they celebrate "Western Week"!

We would like to WELCOME Pastor Jason Bryant to Cook's Church and look forward to getting to know him!

Playschool has several openings in various classrooms if you know of anyone interested in their child attending Cook's please have them email us at:

cooksplayschool@gmail.com or call the office at: 704-394-4422.

Again...**HAPPY NEW YEAR** from all of us at Playschool!



Wise Words & Quotes

- Vern McCellan

"We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps. Commit your work to the Lord, and then your plans will succeed. The Lord has made everything for His own purposes." (Proverbs 16:9, 3-4)

"Goals: write them down; hang them up; with God's help, watch them happen!"



Join us for YOGA/Meditation

@ 9am on Jan. 26,
Feb. 23, & March 22
in Room #210 in the

Educational Bldg. Join us for fun!

No experience necessary!

Learn to BREATHE & techniques to relax. Adults and Kids welcome.

Learn simple stretches.

Art & Scripture "Simeon with Infant Jesus" *Benjamin West (1796)*

Tom LaBonte's recent sermon (Simeon & the presentation of infant Jesus at the temple) brought to mind a favorite painting at the Flint Institute of Arts (Flint, Michigan). The painting is large and the light radiates from the infant Jesus (held by elderly Simeon). God promised Simeon he'd see the Savior before he died. His look toward Heaven is one of gratefulness and humility. Also featured are Anna the Prophetess (the elderly woman in Luke 2 -Tribe of Asher). Mary and Joseph seem in awe. Do you see the cage of doves at Mary's feet? (Commonly brought as offerings to the temple).



A NEW YEAR POEM

Another fresh new
year is here...
another year to live!
To banish worry,
doubt and fear,
to love and laugh
and give!

This bright new year is given me
to live each day with zest...
To daily grow and try to be
my highest and my best!

I have the opportunity
once more to right some wrongs,
To pray for peace, to plant a tree,
and sing more joyful songs!

- William Arthur Ward





We wish a Happy Birthday to the following:

- Jan. 13 - Tonya Mork
- Jan. 14 - Christi Brafford
- Jan. 15 - Rick Wilz
- Jan. 16 - Ellen Jackson
- Jan. 18 - Ronnie Petursson
- Jan. 20 - Cody Weldy
- Jan. 21 - Jeannie McClure
- Jan. 25 - Logan Hutson



Jan. 12: Denise Vead, Beth Noles

Jan. 19: Audrey Brady, Sandy Birmingham

Jan. 26: Dolores Freeman, Mary 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: Jan. 12-Presbyterian Women; Jan. 19-Men of the Church; Jan. 26-New Horizon SS Class

Usher Schedule: January-Johnnie Quinn, Gaye List, Melinda McElhaney, Dwight Black

Sound Tech Schedule: January-Dave List

Teller Schedule: Jan. 12-Ginger Thompson, Dwight Black, Sheila Black; Jan. 19-Audrey Brady, Melinda McElhaney, Johnnie Quinn; Jan. 26-Audrey Brady, Bonnie Pace, Gordon Stanley

Weekend Opener/Lockup: January-Dale Luckey



During these next 2 weeks, Jan. 12-25, 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 Cir, 28216

Here is a complete list of our Homebound Members: Loretta Hinson, Melva Thompson, Nancy Stanley, Annie Luckey, Mildred Alexander, Carolyn Young & Jill Griffin... *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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Frances Dean (home w/Hospice) | Debbie White |
| Jill Griffin | Connie Stroup |
| Reggie King | McKensie Thompson |
| Jerome Abernathy | Pete & Billie Sigmon |
| Carolyn Young (Huntersville Oaks) | Pat Hager |
| Mildred Grice | Blake Benfield |
| Vera Smith | Gerri Rhodes |
| Hazel Dunn | Steve Self |
| Corky McClure | |

Friends & Relatives

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Scott Troxler | Kevin Cook |
| Cole/Davidson family | Marcia Larson |
| Gary Shuler & son | Grier Stanford |
| Jeff & Gloria Herman | Sherry Smith |
| Ginger (White) Eagle | Melanie Paul |
| Melanie Iraci & family (husband in Hospice, 35 yr old) | |
| Clyde Culbreath | Mike Helms |
| Bobby Ford | Ethan V. |
| Bobby Kondrat | Tripp Wood |
| Charlie Thompson | dementia patients/caregiver |
| those affected by hurricane & other natural disasters | |
| shooting victims/families throughout the world | |
| 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, Seth Seal

CONGREGATION



Please notify the church office (704-399-7735 / office@cookschurch.org) OR Pastor Jason Bryant (704-607-4162 / jaydbryant@gmail.com) of any deaths, sickness, surgeries, births, etc. that you and/or a family member may be experiencing.



- 12/22/19: 149
- 12/24/19: 174
- 12/29/19: 71
- 01/05/20: 128

2020 Offerings:

Weekly offering needed for Budget YTD: \$6,541
YTD General Fund offerings rec'd: \$3,822

COMMUNITY NEWS

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church (7400 Mt. Holly Rd) invites you to join them this Sunday, January 11th, for their **Community Breakfast** from **8-10am**.

They will also have a **Bloodmobile** there in the parking lot from **8-11am**. Everyone is welcome!



CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 12

9:00am – *Sunday School Classes for all ages!*

10:00am – *Worship Service/sanc*

11:00am – *Fellowship on the Lawn...cookies & drinks for everyone!*

~ 7:00pm – **SESSION** meeting/Rm 113

Monday, January 13

9:30am-1pm - Playschool/Ed Bldg

6:30pm – Cub Scouts/Ed Bldg

Tuesday, January 14

9:30am-1pm - Playschool/Ed Bldg

6:00pm – Aerobics/FH

7:00pm – Boy Scouts/Ed Bldg

Wednesday, January 15

8:00am – Quilters/Rm 101

9:30am-1pm - Playschool/Ed Bldg

6:00pm – Youth Ensemble/Strings Rehearsal

6:30pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 16

9:30am-1pm - Playschool/Ed Bldg

Friday, January 17

Saturday, January 18

Sunday, January 19

~ 7:30am – **MEN'S** monthly breakfast mtg/FH

~9:00am – *Prayer Shawl Ministry/parlor*

9:00am – *Sunday School Classes for all ages!*

10:00am – *Worship Service/sanc*

11:00am – *Fellowship on the Lawn...cookies & drinks for everyone!*

Monday, January 20-**DEADLINE** for next newsletter

6:15pm – Jr Girl Scouts/bsmt

Tuesday, January 21

9:30am-1pm - Playschool/Ed Bldg

6:00pm – Aerobics/FH

7:00pm – Boy Scouts/Ed Bldg

Wednesday, January 22

8:00am – Quilters/Rm 101

9:30am-1pm - Playschool/Ed Bldg

6:00pm – Youth Ensemble/Strings Rehearsal

6:30pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 23

9:30am-1pm - Playschool/Ed Bldg

6:00pm – Daisy Scouts/bsmt

6:30pm – Brownies/bsmt

Friday, January 24

~11am-8pm – **Men's CHICKEN Supper**

Fundraiser & PW's BAKE SALE/FH

Saturday, January 25



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 **FEBRUARY, 2020**...step right up...**YOU** are a very valued part of our service!



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:

Minister: Pastor Jason 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 2020:** Dale Luckey (Property), David Lyerly (Cong Care), Bonnie Pace (Finance); Johnnie Quinn (Clerk); **Class of 2021:** Byron Beach (Fellowship), Joe Chichetti (Personnel), Dave List (Missions), William Savelle (Worship); **Class of 2022:** F.D. Hager (Fellowship), David Myers (Education), Gordon Stanley (Nominating), Ginger Thompson (Worship)

DEACONS: **Class of 2020:** Debbie Myers (Homebound), Jack McClure (Homebound), Jeannie McClure (Moderator/Special Needs); **Class of 2021:** Dwight Black (Homebound), Barbara Stevens (New Members), Sydney Thompson (New Members); **Class of 2022:** Susanna Justice (New Members), Nan McClure (Special Needs), Lucile Savelle (Homebound), Bev Weldy (New Members),

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.empcyouth.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, Jan. 20th**
@ 4pm for *next* newsletter!



Cook's Men of the Church
will be having a

CHICKEN DINNER fundraiser
on **Friday, January 24, 2020!**

Bucky Oates will be cooking the
chicken and a plate will include:
air-fried chicken, baked beans, cole
slaw & bread...cost is \$10 a plate.

Please plan to come and support
our Men & Women and
enjoy a delicious meal!



Our Presbyterian Women will be
having a **BAKE SALE** during the
Chicken Dinner!

BAKERS – we need your baked goods
please! Please bring your baked goods
to Fellowship Hall on Thursday evening
(Jan. 23) between 5-7pm or to the Bake
Sale table first thing Friday morning.
Cakes, pies, candy, breads, etc.

Proceeds will go in WOC treasury for
various mission and church projects.
Thanks for your contributions!!
