



FROM THE  
PASTOR

***Grace and peace to all of you  
from our Lord and Savior,***

***Mark 10:45:*** “*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*”

As we step into a new year, it's natural to think about fresh starts and new goals. Many of us make resolutions for personal growth—whether it's improving our health, learning something new, or spending more time with family. But have you considered making service to the Lord part of your New Year's focus? Jesus' ministry was centered on serving others. In Mark 10:45, He reminds us, “*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to*



***Prayer Requests:***

Cook's Church/Playschool, *Suzy Hager & family*, James Harper (surg <sup>1/22</sup>), Will Harper, Paige Benson, Patty Brown, Charlie & Debbie McCrary, Nancy Smith, Penny & Max Love, Jack & Jeannie McClure, Ronnie Petursson, Ellen Jackson, Steve Self, Allyne Gant, Sara Yarbrough, Debbie Abernathy, Jerome Abernathy, Ginny Dunn (*visitors welcome!* @ The Laurels, Rm #D202, 704/249-0374c), Steve (Univ Nursing, Rm 602A) & Sharon Gilmore (Residences @ Windsor, Rm 1408, 980-355-3242), Nicolas Wilson (grandson of Nancy Wilson), Betty McClure, Kurt Hollar, Michael Matrone, Judy & Richard Bogan, Lisa Roth, Colette Roberts, Gloria Ricker, Carol Calhoun, Kathy Gant, Beverly Farquhar (M. McElhaney's sister), Cherie Lowman, Audrey Bryan, Grey Frey, Angie Ross, Murray Lassiter,

serve.” As His followers, we are invited to reflect His heart by caring for those around us. Service can take many forms—from volunteering in Cook’s church ministries to participating in community outreach or even offering quiet encouragement to someone in need. Each act, no matter how small, carries the light of Christ into the world. Serving doesn’t require perfection or special skills—just a willing heart. God uses our unique gifts, experiences, and even our challenges to bless others. Whether you feel called to teach, offer hospitality, care for children, or simply lend a helping hand, there is a place for you to serve. As a church family, let’s commit to making 2025 a year of action—a year where our love for God overflows into service for others. Together, we can reflect His grace and make a lasting difference in our church and community.

Where is God leading you to serve this year? We look forward to walking this path together. In name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Pastor Jason**

*{Join us this Sunday at 10am for a message from Pastor Jason on "In the Beginning" (John 1:1-14)!}*

*{Alyssa Overcash, our new part time Social Media Coordinator, will lead our "Children’s Time" this Sunday, January 12, and also on January 26. We’re excited to have her join us!}*

\*Our ‘Cook’s Cares’ **COOKING CLASS** meets at 3pm in our Fellowship Hall kitchen **THIS coming Sunday, JANUARY 12, 2025**...*everyone* is invited to join

Steve Johnston, Branson Morris, Cam Carter, ***ALL those affected by Hurricane Helena...loss of family members/homes/income/jobs, etc.***, KCH/Kenya, Cook’s Homebound mbrs/Active Military personnel, victims of mass shootings/ nat’l disasters, those with ongoing illnesses/grieving the loss of a loved one, and the many others whose name(s) are not listed here but are in need of our intercessory prayer

**{\*Names on for 4 wks - please let the church office know if they still are in need of add’l prayer. If a name has been removed and is still in need of add’t prayer, please contact the church office and we’ll be glad to put them back on the list.}**

Homebound List: Sara Yarbrough, Steve Gilmore, Allyne Gant, Ginny Dunn

Soldier List: Austin McCrary, Clara DeFeo, Turner Salm, Anne Ledford, Eddy Self, Andy Dula, Chris Dula, Seth Seal, John Makahilli Jr., ALL Vets & families.

Please pray for all daily; to make changes to any of these lists, contact the church office @ 704/399-7735.

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**\* WE NEED YOUR HELP TO BE ABLE TO MINISTER TO YOU!**

Please don't hesitate to notify the church office (704-399-7735 / office@cookschurch.org) or Pastor Jason Bryant (704-607-4162 /

Jason@cookschurch.org or jaydbryant@gmail.com) of any deaths, sickness, surgeries, births, etc. that you and/or a family member may be experiencing so that we can let our Elders and Deacons know so that they can minister to you and/or your family.

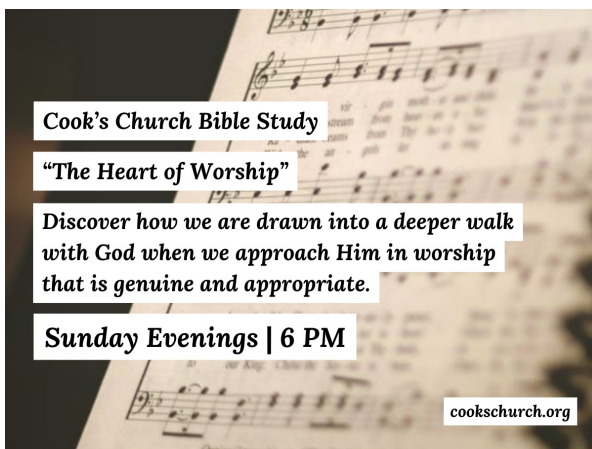
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Pastor Jason to 'learn how to whip up a delicious dish' that highlights culinary-school level cooking with affordable ingredients found at your local grocery store'.

But the concept "Cook's Cares" is far broader. \*\*To that end, **Jason would like YOU to lead a class** in which you teach to assist people... perhaps you've got some knowledge of plumbing, construction, car repairs, personal bookkeeping, etc. that could help people successfully manage life. Again, focus on techniques or things that you do or can accomplish that would offer a benefit to someone else. Just let Pastor Jason know ([jason@cookschurch.org](mailto:jason@cookschurch.org) / 704/607-4162) and we'll work from there to potentially schedule a class.

*Thank you to all that have graciously made an additional contribution to our church since the first of last year. It is very much appreciated. **Please note, our financial need remains this year.** If you have available funds, please consider making an over-and-above contribution to our general fund. Thank you for considering this request.*

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Cook's Church Bible Study  
"The Heart of Worship"  
Discover how we are drawn into a deeper walk with God when we approach Him in worship that is genuine and appropriate.  
Sunday Evenings | 6 PM  
[cookschurch.org](http://cookschurch.org)

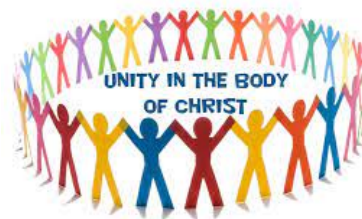
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**Looking for a class that will help you grow in your knowledge of what God's Word is saying to each of us?** You are always invited to join us at one of our Sunday School classes (for all ages!) each Sunday at 9am to study His Word and what it means for our daily living!

For more info, contact Paige Benson at 704/488-7417.

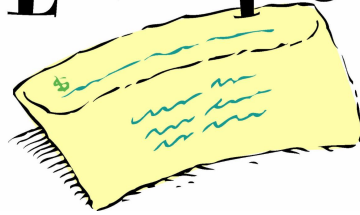
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**\*\*Please note: due to the cold/wet weather, we will NOT have 'Fellowship on the Lawn' after worship through the winter months. It will resume in April, 2025. Please be sure to greet your fellow church members inside before leaving worship each Sunday!**

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# Offering Envelopes



If you haven't done so already, please be sure to pick up your **2025 Giving Envelopes** that are in the Narthex today. **IF** you don't see a box with your name on them & would like some, or **IF** you'd like us to mail yours to you, or **IF** you don't plan to use the envelopes in 2025, let the church office know asap.

Thank you!

## Free Community Dinner



**EVERYONE** is invited to join us for our *free and delicious* **COMMUNITY MEAL TODAY, January 9**, from 5-6:30pm in Fellowship Hall! This month's menu will be pork roast, rice & gravy, veggie and dessert. Be sure to invited a friend and/or neighbor to come with you!



**Please note:** We want you to know that we have a **NEW** procedure' for the **receiving of your tithes and offerings to Cook's Church** – we have 2 offering plates available on the offertory table in front of the altar and 2 offering plates available in the Narthex every Sunday for your donations which can be put in either plate before and/or after worship each week, OR you can use our new 'QR code' that will be in our bulletin and also on the yellow card in the pew rack to make a donation, OR if you prefer, we have 'online giving' (see website: [www.cookschurch.org](http://www.cookschurch.org), 'Give Now' link, for details on that option). If you have any questions, please see Pastor Jason. *As always, we thank you for supporting Cook's Church!*



**Congratulations to Phyllis & Don Monteith on the birth of their 7th great-grandchild, and to Ron & Gale Monteith on their first grandchild! Brinley Nicole was born January 4th to Amy & Hunter Bloomer. Wishing God's blessings on her and her family!**

*I want to express my heartfelt thanks to my Cook's Church family for the many calls, cards, bag of treats, hospital visits and all the care and concern shown to Frank and me during his hospital stay and since his passing. Your prayers and support have given me much comfort during this time of sadness and I will forever be grateful to each of you for your many acts of kindness. Wishing for each of you to have a new year filled with many of God's special blessings.*  
*With love, Joyce Norris*

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### **Cook's MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

**\*ALL LADIES** are invited to join our Presbyterian Women's **CIRCLE meeting** will meet on the **second Tuesday of every month (NEXT Tuesday, January 14)** at **10:30am or 7:00pm** in Fellowship Hall. Contact Pede Self with questions at 704/516-1753.

We now have a new '**Digital/Communications Team**' that will meet monthly - **time/date tba**. If you have any questions about this Team, contact Reg King.

Cook's **SESSION** will meet on the **2nd Sunday (THIS Sunday, January 12, 7pm)** of each month in Rm #113.

Cook's **MEN OF THE CHURCH** will meet monthly (as needed) at **7:30am**

**PLEASE  
NOTE...**

\*\*Suzy & Neal Hager have a slightly used '**hospital bed**' that they would love to give it to someone in need – please contact Suzy at 704-534-2010 if you are interested.

\*\*Jason Shaw, Jill Griffin's son, has a barely used "**Jazzy Scooter (electric wheelchair)**" that he would love to give to someone in need – please contact Jason at 704-453-3606 if you are interested.

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**Congregation** – please help us to spread the word that the "**Heartbeats Women's Center Mobile Lab**" is in Cook's parking lot **most every Tuesday from 1-4pm** (depending on rain/heat). *Anyone* is invited to stop by to receive one of their (free) services. *Heartbeats* is dedicated to serving our community with quality care by offering free and confidential medical services (pregnancy testing, ultrasounds), practical assistance, and emotional support. For more details, their website is [heartbeatspcc.org](http://heartbeatspcc.org) and phone

in the lobby of the Ed. Bldg. and **ALL MEN** at Cook's are invited to attend! Contact Dale Luckey with questions at 704/309-0798.

Cook's **PROPERTY Ministry** normally meets on the **second Thursday** of each month at **6:30pm** in Rm #113 - check with Neal Hager to see when they will meet again.

Cook's **MISSION Ministry** meets on the **first Friday** of each month at **10:00am** in Rm #113...contact Fred Cox with questions at 980/288-3307.

Cook's **WORSHIP Ministry** meets on the **first Thursday** of each month at **2:00pm** via Zoom and/or in the church office...contact Denise Vead for details at 704/564-8030.

Cook's **FINANCE MINISTRY** meets on the **fourth Sunday** of each month at **11:15am** in Rm #113. Contact Joe Thompson if you have any questions at 704/399-8837.



\* At this time, we have **3** '2025 Flower Calendar' dates available: **January 26, March 2 and April 27**. If you are interested in supplying our sanctuary flowers in honor of and/or in loving memory of a loved one on any of these dates, please contact the church office as soon as possible...704-399-7735 / [office@cookschurch.org](mailto:office@cookschurch.org).

Thank you!

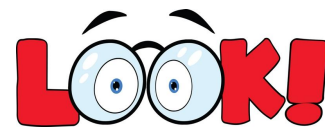
# is 704-489-0708.

**CHECK THIS OUT!**



**For more details on ALL of our upcoming church events, be sure to 'check out' our website**

**([www.cookschurch.org](http://www.cookschurch.org)) & Facebook page, as well as the Thurs eNews and weekly mailed newsletter!**



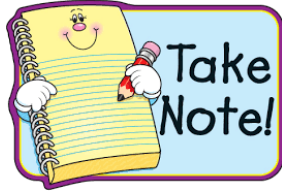
**\*Anyone who would love to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" is invited to join Cook's Adult Choir! Contact Clayton for questions at [claydeacon@gmail.com](mailto:claydeacon@gmail.com).**

**\*\*Cook's NURSERY is available each week (for SS at 9am & worship at 10am) for our youngest members, ages birth thru 4 yrs old!**



...that **IF** your picture is posted in our online church directory (to access go to [ww.cookschurch.org](http://ww.cookschurch.org) and at the very bottom

of that page you will see "Church Directory"...click on that button), you can go into your information and make changes such as address, phone #'s, if in military past or present, the different groups you have been a part of at the church, etc. If you have any problems and/or questions on how to do so, please contact Gaye List at [gayelist@gmail.com](mailto:gayelist@gmail.com). Also, if your picture (or families') is **not** currently in our directory, please send a photo to the church office ([office@cookschurch.org](mailto:office@cookschurch.org)) and we'll see about getting it and your



## **Cook's Worship Ministry needs YOUR help!!!!**

We have many people involved in each Sunday's worship service and we are currently looking for **anyone that can help with 'audio/visual tasks'** (live streaming of service, showing slides on screen, running cameras, sound system, etc. - *AV experience a plus* but not mandatory...***it's not really as hard as it sounds!***), **'Fellowship on the Lawn'** and **'nursery' workers**.

Even if you can *help once a month or once a quarter*, it would be a great help. Questions or to sign-up, contact Denise Vead (704-564-8030) or Johnnie Quinn (704-941-5464) – thank you!

**\*\*Important Note** - If you can't be here in person for worship on Sundays and would like to watch our service online, look for them on **'YouTube – Cook's Church CLT'**. And please sign up for this YouTube subscription:

**Link: Cook's Church CLT -  
YouTube**



**Cook's Playschool would love  
to have your 3-5 year old(s)  
join them!**

Cook's Playschool is held Monday thru Thursday from 9:30am-1pm

information included asap!



## **NEWS FROM FINANCE MINISTRY**

The Finance Committee would like you to know that we now have another way to donate funds to Cook's Church...you can use the QR code above, or your debit/credit card and that "app" is available to download from our website...

[www.cookschurch.org](http://www.cookschurch.org). If you have any questions, call Ginger Thompson, Treasurer @ 704/562-7558.

Cook's Church has a FACEBOOK page! Come check us out and stay connected!

[www.facebook.com/pages/Cooks-Memorial-Presbyterian-Church](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cooks-Memorial-Presbyterian-Church)



## **SERMONS:**

Did you miss worship this past Sunday? Do you ever want to listen to a recent sermon again? Recent sermons from Sunday morning worship can be found on the Cook's Church website ([www.cookschurch.org](http://www.cookschurch.org))!

**Have you read your recent church newsletter?** Recent

each day! If you'd like your 3-5 year old to be in on the 'all the fun they will have while they are learning important life skills and preparing for Kindergarten', please contact Kelly Carter and/or Bobbie Penninger in the Playschool office *immediately* at 704/394-4422 or [cooksplayschool@gmail.com!](mailto:cooksplayschool@gmail.com)

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issues of our Cook's Communicator can be found on our church website ([www.cookschurch.org](http://www.cookschurch.org))!

**Contact Us!**

**Pastor Jason Bryant**

[jason@cookschurch.org](mailto:jason@cookschurch.org)

**Church Office**

[office@cookschurch.org](mailto:office@cookschurch.org)

**Cook's Playschool**

[cooksplayschool@gmail.com](mailto:cooksplayschool@gmail.com)

**Alyssa Overcash**

[alyssa@cookschurch.org](mailto:alyssa@cookschurch.org)

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