



**FROM THE  
PASTOR**

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

***Ephesians 4:32: "Be kind and  
compassionate to one another,  
forgiving each other, just as in  
Christ God forgave you."***

Forgiveness is at the core of our Christian faith and one of the most profound ways we can live out the love of Christ. The Bible calls us to forgive others, not out of obligation, but as a response to the forgiveness we've received from God through Jesus. When we forgive, we reflect the heart of the Gospel. Jesus showed us the ultimate example of forgiveness on the cross, saying, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing*" (Luke 23:34).



***Prayer Requests:***

Cook's Church/Playschool, James Harper (surg 1/15), Paige Benson, Patty Brown, Charlie & Debbie McCrary, Nancy Smith, Max Love, Jack 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, Cherie Lowman, Audrey Bryan, Grey Frey, Angie Ross, Murray Lassiter, Steve Johnston, Branson Morris, Cam Carter, Tori (Cole) Ollis, Melio from KCH, **ALL**

Forgiving others doesn't mean ignoring the hurt or pretending it didn't happen. Instead, it is releasing the debt and trusting God to bring healing and justice in His perfect way. Forgiveness is as much about our own hearts as it is about others. Holding onto resentment weighs us down, but forgiveness frees us to live in the peace and joy of Christ. It reminds the world of the grace we've received and points them toward the hope we have in Him. Who might God be asking you to forgive today? Take that step in faith, knowing that as you forgive, you are walking in the footsteps of Christ and showing His love to a world in need.

In name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**Pastor Jason**

*{Join us this Sunday at 10am for a message from Pastor Jason on "Under the Tree" (John 1:43-50)!}*

\*Our 'Cook's Cares' **COOKING CLASS** meets at 3pm in our Fellowship Hall kitchen (next class date tbd) and *everyone* is invited to join 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

**those affected by Hurricane  
Helena and wildfires in  
CA...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 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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**Congratulations to our '3 Kings' that were crowned on 'Epiphany Sunday' – Hayden Bolz, Victoria Dennis and Sheldon Hunter!**

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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)



**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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# Congregational MEETING

We will have a 'CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING' on **Sunday, January 26, 2025**, at the end of worship to elect members to our 2025 Nominating Ministry. Also, our '2025 Budget and 2024 Mission Giving' will be presented.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE EVENTS!

Please join us for a "**Retirement Reception**" honoring Cheryl Cole on Sunday, **January 26**, after worship in Fellowship Hall!

Our quarterly '**Community-wide PRAYER VIGIL**' will be held here at Cook's in our sanctuary on **Saturday, February 1**, from **8am-noon** - everyone is urged to drop by to pray for 15 min or so for yourself and/or your family, our city / state / nation / world, and please tell your neighbors they are invited also!

**and Looking Further Ahead:**



*Thank you for supporting Cook's Church!* Offering plates are available on the communion table at the front of the sanctuary and also in the Narthex area. If you prefer to give online, we have a QR code in the bulletin and also on the yellow tab in the pew racks, or you can go to our website and click on the 'Give Now' button and it will walk you through the process.

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\*\*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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Cook's Scouts will lead us in worship on **'Scout Sunday'** -

February 2 at 10am

**'Scouting For Food'** is an ongoing annual program of the Boy Scouts of America that begun in 1985 by the Greater St. Louis Area Council. The program involves collecting for local food banks and is organized at the local level throughout the country. Cook's 'Boy & Cub Scouts Troop #51' will be collecting **'non-perishable food items'** (NO glass containers!) here at Cook's on **Sunday, February 2**. Please bring your donations that day to the Narthex & they will take them to a local food bank to help those in need of food!

**Community Daddy / Daughter Valentine's Dance – Sunday, February 23, 4-6pm** - in Cook's FH...D.J., dancing, treats, photobooth and more! *ALL fathers/grandfathers/uncles etc. are invited to join their daughters/granddaughters/nieces etc. of all ages!*

*{tentatively}* **Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper** – Tuesday, March 4

**Ash Wednesday Prayer/Ashes Service** – Wed., March 5, 11:30am-1:30pm, Cook's sanctuary

**Easter Egg Hunt** *{tentative date set for Saturday, April 12}*

**Palm Sunday** – Sunday, April 13

**Easter Sunday** – Sunday, April 20

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**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 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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**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

\* At this time, we have 2 '2025 Flower Calendar' dates available: **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!



**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** 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** of each month in Rm #113.

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

heartbeatspcc.org and phone # 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!



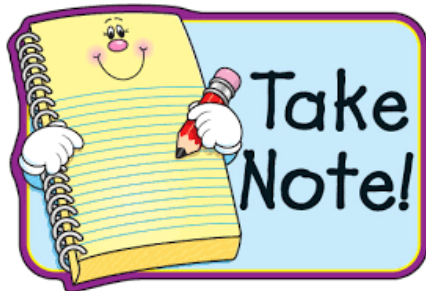
...that **IF** your picture is posted in our online church directory (to access go to [www.cookschurch.org](http://www.cookschurch.org) and at the very bottom of that page you will see "Church Directory"...click on that button), you can go into your information and make changes such as address, phone #'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

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.



### **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-

see about getting it and your 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**

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**

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**church newsletter?** Recent 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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