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 Jackson Street Baptist Church

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The High Spire

“A Going Church For A Coming Lord”

May, 2016 – 2nd Edition

# http://reallancastercounty.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/elvas-chalk-art.jpg **An Unlikely Artist**

## As a child, Elva Hurst heard art was frivolous, but she couldn’t stop sketching between chores on family farm. Today, she uses talents to deliver messages of inspiration in chalk talks. Elva will be joining us at Jackson Street, June 25th at our monthly church social at 6:00 PM. All are invited to attend this enlightening and enjoyable artistic presentation.

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 **EVERY MEMBER ENLISTMENT**

 The Annual Business Luncheon Meeting will be held following

 the morning service, Sunday, May 15th.

 The new boxed sets of offering envelopes are available.

 **Please update your address and phone numbers with the church office.**

 New tablecloths were purchased for the church social room by the family of Kenneth Davis.

 Kenneth was beloved by his family and friends and will be remembered at each dinner now

 with the beautiful new tablecloths purchased in his memory. Thank you to the Davis/West

 family for honoring Ken and blessing our church in this way.

 **Saturday Night Social**
Our Saturday night social was held on April 16.  The soup night featured 9 different and amazing soups.  Included in our lineup of crockpots were: Manhattan clam chowder, sausage & pepper soup, 2 different kinds of chili, broccoli cheddar soup, beef stew, chicken gnocchi soup, beefy tomato soup and minestrone.  French bread and some amazing side salads, (antipasto salad, tossed salad and pasta salad) were served.  Many of our attendees went back for seconds and tried several soups.  The dessert table had a nice selection. Coconut cream lush, carrot cake, apple pie, chocolate dipped pretzels, strawberry cake, muffins, brownies, coconut macaroon cookies, cream puffs and coffee cake. We also had a pineapple shaped cheddar cheese dip with crackers.  We never go hungry at our socials! We all enjoyed a game of "Name That Tune" in which Trudy had wonderfully chosen 20 different show tunes from the movies.  She really tries to stump us with her selections. It was a great time with over 40 people enjoying the evening.  We look forward to connecting for our once a month Saturday social in June, which will feature Chalk Artist Elva Hurst. We welcome new friends and meet the third Saturday of each month at 6 pm. We are always looking for new speakers or any fellowship activity. Please join us!

 We would like to thank all those who volunteer to take care of The Welcome Room in the church.

 Each Sunday morning you can walk into the welcome room and enjoy a kind word and a friendly

 face as well as well as a cup of hot coffee or tea and something tasty to enjoy before or after the

 morning worship service. Right now there are a handful of happy volunteers for helping in this

 room, but they are in need of a few more to join the schedule rotation. This is a simple outreach to

 those who come into church each week and only requires bringing in some cookies or cakes (could

 be store bought) to share in the room. Please speak to anyone in the welcome room if you would like to help. Scheduling is only once about every two months.



Our Women’s Union meets every Wednesday morning in the Social Room of the church at 9:30 AM, where the women stuff and sew bears for children in hospitals and other scary situations for children in our community as well as quilting to raise money for support of different missions. If you would like to learn to quilt please join them any Wednesday, and if you would like a quilt made just call the church office for more information.

The choir has been singing their praises to the Lord each Sunday during the morning worship service. The Easter music for the Resurrection Service with “A Touch Of Brass” and timpani enhanced the day with their wonderful gifts of musical talent given to each and every one these musicians. We truly are so blessed at Jackson Street Baptist Church to have so many people willing to share their wonderful gifts of music to praise our Lord. If you enjoy singing, please join us on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM in the annex of the church!

 Calling all children kindergarten through 6th grade. Please join us for our 2016

 VBS Adventure “Cave Quest, Following Jesus, The Light of the World”. Beginning

 Sunday, July 24th at 6:00 PM, then Monday through Thursday from 10:00 AM to

 Noon. There will be Puppets, Bible Stories, Crafts, Experiments, Games and

 Snacks. We hope you will bring your children and grandchildren to learn about

 our Lord and His love for them while having fun!





 **Springtime**

 By Lori Saar Dunham

“In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice, in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.” Psalm 5:3

It happens so fast, like a bird that launches itself high above the trees and sweeps large over the mountains. Time passes. Days slip by, unnoticed, unremarkable. Seasons change. The dark days of winter settle over us thick and heavy. The whole of the earth seems to inhale and pause during the long walk of winter. But predictably, the things that once fell dormant, hidden under fallen leaves and piles of pushed aside snow, come to life again through the patient passing of time. All of creation seems to exhale beauty as the world awakens to spring….vibrant colors burst forth out of browned out bushes; the air comes alive with the smell of lilac and fresh cut grass; the sound of crickets chase us into evening twilight. And what was once thought to be dead, is new again. Hope springs forth with the lengthening of days and joy is restored to the depths of our bones. New ideas are birthed and old commitments renewed. This walking through earth’s seasons parallels our walk through this life with our Lord. We walk through these days, some dark and cold, with barely a flicker of candlelight to guide our way, suffocating as we inhale the harsh, cold air of life. But soon the Lord offers us a fragrant breeze that restores and warms the deepest recesses of our hearts. And with the turning of the earth on its axis, the dark days of winter are but a memory, and we are tugged in to the wide open meadow of something new.

This spring is the time for something new to begin in the hearts, lives and family of Jackson Street Baptist Church. We have weathered life’s storms and believing now, spring is upon us. New birth and renewal. Hearts turned toward God in pregnant expectation of what He will do in this new season of life in our hearts, homes, and church family. Spring is a time of renewing our commitments and hearts to all things good, lovely, pure and alive. It is the perfect time to reconnect with the Lord’s purposes for your talents and testimony. A time to recommit to not just doing, but knowing Him fully and making Him known.

A season of new beginnings. He is with us, has never left us, and as we draw close to Him, He will draw close to us.

May we find Him in the awakening of spring, and may we allow Him to water our souls, talents, and days with living water that refreshes, restores, and renews all things.

So breathe deep and wait in expectation. The Lord is faithful to give.

Join the Young At Heart Group the first Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, for lunch and time of gathering together. Each month will have a different hostess to supply coffee/tea and dessert, you just bring your sandwich! Each month is something different, special speakers or games, sometimes a special recording from a well-known comedian to brighten your day! Upcoming dates are May 5th, June 2nd. During the summer months join the group for a picnic at McDade Park July 7th and bring a place setting and drink, they meet in the pavilion by the children’s play yard on the first right when you enter the park. Hot dogs will be provided, as well as dessert. August 4th will be at the same pavilion at McDade Park at 11:30 AM for a covered dish picnic lunch. Come join the group for a fun day together!

**News from the LOA Sunday School Class (John 13:35)**

Our Sunday School Class continues to meet every Sunday following our morning worship service with very faithful members who attend regularly.  During the month of April, Mike Burke presented a study on Pre-Flood conditions to our class for two Sundays.  It was a wonderful presentation and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in the class.  We highly recommend it. In the future we will have lessons, which include short videos, by various women speakers including, Priscilla Shirer, Kathryn Nielsen and Jen Allen.   Since we now can access the internet from our class room we also take advantage of lessons and studies that are presented on YouTube. Along with our offering for the Sunday School we also contribute to Compassion, Child Evangelism, N.E. Pa.  Youth For Christ and other Christian ministries. We still continue to have our monthly fellowship luncheons at some of the local restaurants, including the All Aboard Diner in South Scranton, LaCucina Restaurant in Dunmore and Terry's Diner in Moosic.  We always welcome new members or guests and are very happy that Dorothy Davis has recently joined us.

**Christian Education News**

On Palm Sunday the children participated in some cool Easter activities. Our puppets shared the events of the first Easter complete with some music. Special thanks to our puppeteers Brennan Burnside and Nick DeCandis and to our narrator Bobby Yeager. The teens enjoyed a digital scavenger hunt and were rewarded with candy filled eggs. Of course the little ones enjoyed an Easter egg hunt with over 1000 eggs donated by the congregation. A snack and good fellowship was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the awesome congregation at Jackson Street for your generosity and for making this event to share God’s love possible.

# The Fry’s in England

Many think England is a Christian nation with its quaint, picture-postcard stone churches, televised Christmas carol services and the prevalence of the red cross (from the English flag) adorning cars, clothing and even painted on faces. But those who have read the new testament know that Jesus had strong words for those who were blinded into a false security by their religious trappings – a thin, outer appearance of devotion but lacking true heart-felt thanks ascribed to one who has experienced a true life-saving rescue. Unfortunately, the hard, cold reality of the situation here is that *“in Yorkshire the percentage who go to church once a month or more is 0.9 percent … Evangelicals account for 0.4 percent and the figures of both are still falling. This is comparable to the state of affairs in say Japan.”* So, although we can't report that revival is breaking out (yet!), we can report that God is alive and active in Lichfield, England where we minister in church planting. Our three connect groups on Monday, Friday and Sunday are holding their own as we **worship**, discuss the **word** and encourage each other to **witness** to our faith (3 W's). Our youth group has grown from 9 youth to a steady 25 – 30 youth on Friday nights. The youth have also reached out into the community doing litter picks, bulb planting and fund-raising bicycle rides in the neighborhood which have involved the parents too. On Tuesday nights we periodically hold an evangelistic outreach course. One of the people who took this course is our mailman, Debbie, (actually mailwoman!). Through this outreach course she began a relationship with Jesus. Unfortunately, when she decided to follow Christ her life was full of pressing trials and difficulties from all sides. Yet despite such challenges as a divorce and other extremely difficult family situations Debbie's faith began to mature and deepen. And last month we celebrated with her as she was baptized and publically confessed her faith in Jesus.

We want to see many more Debbies come to faith. **Please pray for us and the very secular country of England – for revival and true faith to break out. Specifically, you could pray for a young lad named Mark who has started coming to our most recent outreach course. Also, pray for more and more young people to come to our youth group and that they would understand the gospel and come to faith.**

And lastly, know how grateful we are for your support of our ministry and enabling us to be here. Before embarking on his missionary journey to India, William Carey told Andrew Fuller, “I will go down into the pit, if you will hold the ropes.” Thank you for holding the ropes as we seek to shine the light of the gospel in this needy country.

With love from England,

 Jeff, Sarah, Holly (13) & Erin (11) Fry

 

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, “Lord, I hate buttermilk.” The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued on, “Lord, I hate lard.” Now the pastor was totally perplexed. As the deacon continued “Lord, I ain’t too crazy about plain flour either”, but after you mix ‘em all together and bake ‘em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits!” “Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don’t like, whenever we don’t understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it’ll probably be something even better than biscuits!

 Amen