



Jackson Street Baptist Church  
1206 Jackson Street  
Scranton, PA 18504  
Phone: 570-346-1674

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Scranton, PA  
Permit No. 55

# The High Spire

“A Going Church For A Coming Lord”

July 2017 – 6th Edition

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

## Young At Heart

Young At Heart will be having their picnics this summer on Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at McDade Park in the first pavilion of the park. Bring a drink and place setting, the rest of the food will be provided. The August picnic will be Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 am in the second pavilion by the pond. You are asked to bring your place setting, a drink and your covered dish to share. We look forward to seeing you there for a fun time!

# Light, Obscured

Dr. Jim Tartella

A number of years ago, I spent a part of the summer studying abroad in England. Oxford is a busy college town even in the July and August heat. Weekdays and nights were spent in classes and lectures at the university. On the weekend, some of us would try to see a few of the sites. London was close enough to take a train. On one such outing, we visited famous St. Paul's Cathedral in the heart of the capital city. There is a famous painting which hangs in the church sanctuary -- Holman Hunt's masterpiece, "The Light of the World". Earlier in the week, we had seen another lesser-known version of the painting elsewhere, but I was anxious to see the London one. As we walked down the massive aisle toward the picture, a professor of ours who was with us -- a brilliant woman who knows London well, stopped us at the point in the room where the light streaming in from the large windows behind us cast such a glare on the painting that we could not see the entire subject. I attempted to move my position, but our teacher held us there. With a glance full of meaning, she said, "I wanted you to take a moment to realize that the light of the street often blots out the Light of the World." What a wonderful lesson! Just through those windows was the busy, teeming thoroughfare of one of the major cities of Europe, and

the financial district was not far beyond. Our lives have become so hectic and full these days. How many people have allowed the world to dim their gaze of Christ? In John 8:12, Jesus tells us, "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life." What light is shining in such a way as to obscure your view of the Saviour?

## Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee is continuing to work diligently at the task of discovering God's man for our congregation. We have been carefully evaluating, discerning, and praying about the needs of our congregation and your expectations in a new pastor. The dedicated committee consists of Paul Asman, Don Bailey, Luann Burke, Jeannette Jenkins, Ed Mazzei, Elaine Saar and Marilou Saar, who serves as the chairperson. Over this past year the committee has met 32 times, reviewed over 100 resumes, interviewed 5 candidates via Skype, and has interviewed 7 candidates face to face. Committee members have also visited the current church of 2 candidates. This search has been long and tedious but, understandably we are being cautious. The weight of this decision weighs heavily on our minds and hearts. We have found that some of the candidates may be dynamic speakers but not necessarily the shepherd we believe our church family needs. Others may not be the most dynamic from the pulpit but appear to be a loving, caring man that will love us and disciple our congregation. At this time, we believe we may be getting close to recommending a candidate for your prayerful consideration.



Our Women's Union is still working diligently on making quilts of any size for anyone who would like to order a quilt for themselves or as a gift (all sizes are available). All proceeds from the sale of the quilts goes to helping our missionaries. Call the church office for more information at 570-346-1674.



# *Congratulations to our 2017 Graduates*



## *High School*

**Matthew Cook**

Mid Valley & Career Technology Center

**Daniel Murphy**

West Scranton & Career Technology Center

**Kendall Reinisch**

Scranton Prep

## *College*

**Alyssa Janes**

Ithaca College

**Patrick Murphy, Jr.**

Keystone College

**Alexis Williams**

Misericordia University

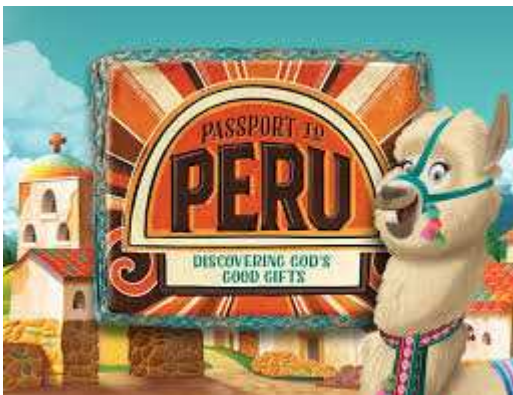
**Donald Granza, Jr.** – Wilkes University (Masters)

**Erik Saar** – Alvernia University (Doctorate)

*Congratulations to all this year's graduates and may God's blessing  
follow you all as you find new journeys to travel.*

Congratulations to John Conforti on his Ordination January 14<sup>th</sup> 2017.  
May God guide you through His will to do His work wherever He needs you.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held Monday July 24<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM til Noon. Children from Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to come and bring their friends.

At Passport to Peru, one memorable Bible Point is reinforced throughout each station, each day. Plus, all-new Bible Memory Buddies help kids remember what they learned long after VBS is over. As well as crafts, games and snacks for the children to enjoy as they learn.

# **“Pulling Weeds”**

*Written by Lori Saar Dunham*

I have a friend, who will go nameless, lest I embarrass her by pointing out her diligent and consistent hard work in the handling of her lawn.

My friend spends at least thirty minutes in her yard every day. Rain or shine, she is outside pulling weeds, fertilizing, planting, and other such tasks I don't even know the name for.

You see, I am the opposite of my dear friend. Not only do I NOT pull weeds and fertilize, I don't even notice that it needs to be done. Of course, that is until my husband suggests I might want to grab some garden gloves and head out to pull weeds while he cuts the lawn!

My response? No thank you. I'll stay in here with the air conditioning and sweet tea.

As I started to make a more deliberate effort to care for our lawn, I began to realize the time, money and sheer effort my neighbors put forth was downright impressive.

As I surveyed my moderately embarrassment of a lawn, I began to picture my relationship with the Lord. I began to realize how, if left neglected, my relationship with the Lord suffers as well. Just as our lawn needs watering, so does our soul. And there is but One, Jesus Christ, who can water our soul to the core.

So, I water daily.... spending time with the Lord in prayer and reading the Word.

And I pull weeds, confessing my offenses before the Lord, lest they continue to take root, grow and overtake the healthy bits.

And I fertilize, surrounding myself with healthy, Christian mentors who lead me back to Him. Just as our effort yields results with our lawn, so our time and effort yield results in our spiritual lives. Make time with the Lord a priority this summer. Your effort will not go unnoticed!

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,

and do not return to it without watering the earth

and making it bud and flourish,

so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

so is my word that goes out from my mouth, it will not return to me

empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55: 10-11



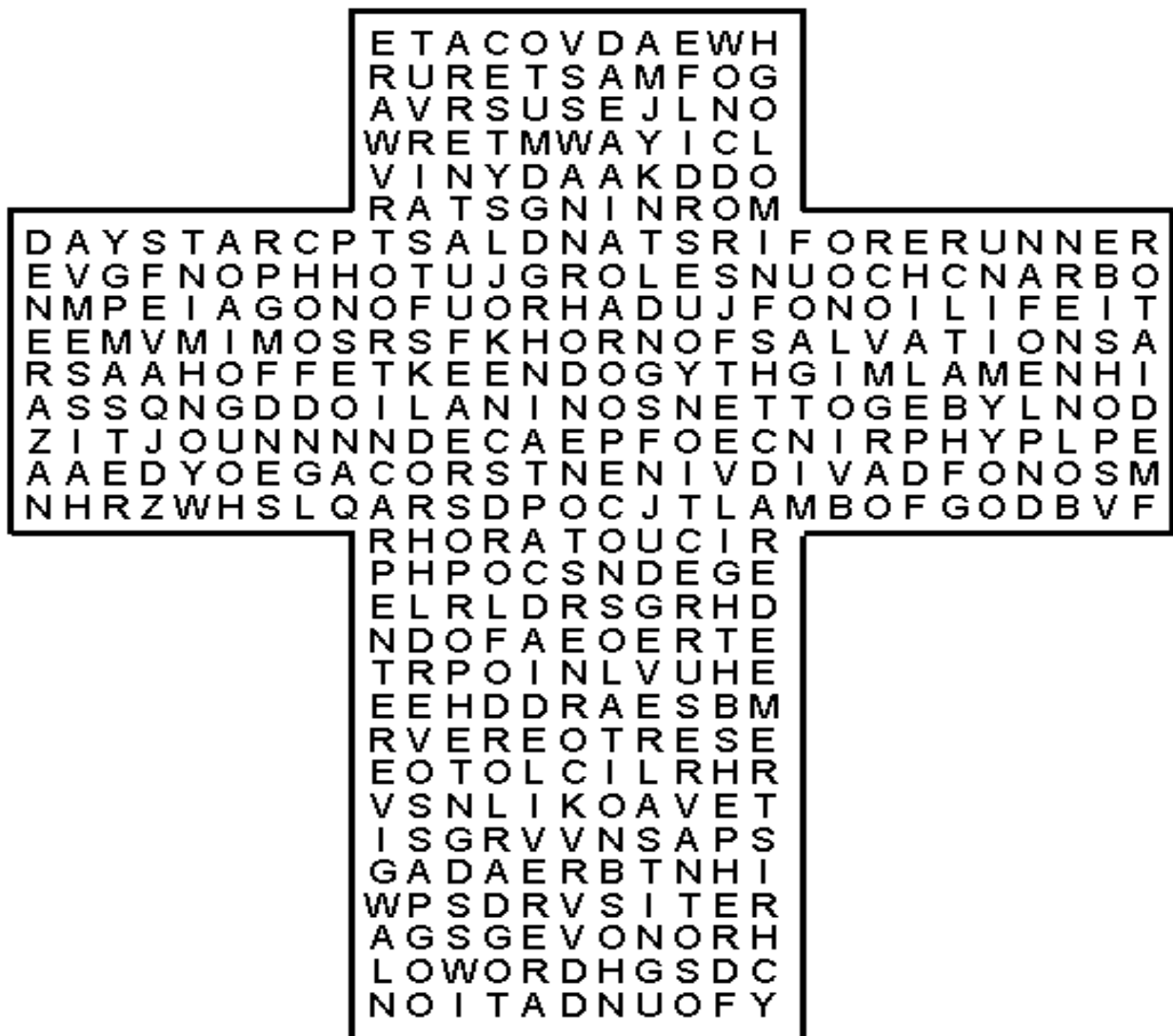
Mark your calendars and Join us for Revival 2017  
Three days of excitement and praise and worship  
Friday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> - 7 p.m. God's Desire for Individuals  
Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> – 7 p.m. – God's Desire for Churches  
Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – 3 p.m. – God's Desire for Northeast PA

Cookout Saturday evening at 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday afternoon refreshments and fellowship to follow

## **Jackson Street Baptist Church**

1206 Jackson Street, Scranton, PA

## But Whom Do You Say That I AM?



Advocate  
 Almighty  
 Alpha and Omega  
 Amen  
 Apostle  
 Beloved Son  
 Bishop  
 Branch  
 Bread  
 Captain  
 Carpenter  
 Chosen  
 Christ  
 Consolation  
 Cornerstone  
 Counselor  
 Day Star  
 Deliverer

Door  
 Emmanuel  
 Everlasting  
 Faithful and True  
 First and Last  
 Forerunner  
 Foundation  
 Governor  
 Head  
 High Priest  
 Holy and Just One  
 Horn of Salvation  
 I AM  
 Jesus  
 Judge  
 King  
 King of Kings  
 Lamb of God

Lawgiver  
 Life  
 Light  
 Lion of Judah  
 Lord  
 Lord of Lords  
 Master  
 Master  
 Mediator  
 Messiah  
 Mighty God  
 Morning Star  
 Nazarene  
 Only Begotten Son  
 Passover  
 Priest  
 Prince of Peace  
 Prophet

Redeemer  
 Resurrection  
 Rock  
 Savior  
 Servant  
 Shepherd  
 Son of David  
 Son of God  
 Son of Man  
 Vine  
 Way  
 Wonderful  
 Word