



Jackson Street Baptist Church
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The High Spire

“A Going Church For A Coming Lord”

November 2017 – 7th Edition

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



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). The ladies have a supply of Baby Quilts at this time. If you will be welcoming an addition to your family or if you need a gift for a baby shower please inquire about a quilt within the church. All proceeds from the sale of the quilts go to helping our missionaries. Call the church office for more information at 570-346-1674.

Our New Pastor



Elliott Phillip Cooke Jr. was one of many qualified candidates our search committee considered, but here are some interesting facts about the man that might give you more insight into why our search committee presented him to the church as a candidate.

Pastor Elliott was born on March 18, 1959. He lived with his older sister, Ethel, and his parents in Ashland Massachusetts until their divorce in 1965. Both of his parents remarried and thus Pastor Elliott has a blended family which included step and half siblings. He was raised in Hudson and Boston Massachusetts.

Pastor Elliott accepted Jesus as his Savior when he was 12 years old, rededicated his life to Christ at age 16, and was called into full time Christian ministry at age 18. He started in youth ministry at age 18 and spent 22 years as a youth worker, director of youth, and youth pastor. Pastor Elliott graduated Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary when he was 23 years old. He was ordained by Highland Baptist Church (Fitchburg, MA, Conservative Baptist Association) at age 26. He earned a doctorate in communication from Regent University in 2006.

Pastor Elliott played football and basketball in high school, married Lynda at age 21, became a father at age 26. Lynda and Elliott had two more children. They have two daughters (Hilaire & Crystal) and the youngest, a son (Kyle). Pastor Elliott has served as a Trustee of New England Frontier Camp, PTA President, Hot Line Counselor, Foster Parent, MAD Science teacher, softball/basketball/soccer coach, Chaplain for Herr's, Adjunct professor for Regent and Liberty Universities, camp and conference speaker, and published author (*Fatherhood Communication*, 2007).

Pastor Elliott has enjoyed long pastorates of 8 years, 8 years, and 19 years. He has led 6 short term missions' trips to Mexico and the Dominican Republic (where they built 4 chapels). God has used Pastor Elliott to win almost 1,000 people to Christ.

Lynda (Amburg) Cooke met Elliott while attending Eastern Nazarene College. Upon her graduation, she taught kindergarten, married Elliott, and became a manager at Kmart to help put him through seminary. She gave birth to three children and was a stay at home mom through their formative years. She and Elliott were foster parents to 27 teenagers. Lynda has led youth groups, children's Sunday School classes, children's choir and drama teams, been on missions' trips, went back to teaching kindergarten and currently is a teacher's aide. She enjoys reading, sewing, and listening to music.

Lynda hails from Nashua, New Hampshire. Lynda and Elliott have a six-year-old grandson, a house in Lynchburg, Virginia, and soon a home in Scranton.



Monthly Church Socials



Our Saturday night socials are held the third Saturday of each month. Every month we feature a different dinner menu. Pizza nights are popular. Pasta night and soup nights are also favorites. We also featured a baked potato bar which was very successful. There is always fun competition in trivia games or "name that tune". On October 21 our monthly social was a soup night. Lined up in the kitchen were 7 crockpots holding a variety of soups. We had chili, piggie soup, chicken noodle, potato soup, Italian stew, chicken vegetable and wonton soup. We also had a Chinese chicken salad, Amish potato salad and fruit salad. The dessert table was full of assorted pies and cakes. We enjoyed an overview video of the replica Noah's Ark which opened this year in Kentucky. A discussion followed. Many showed an interest in traveling to Kentucky to see this. We had approximately 35 in attendance. Please join us. We have some special events planned for our holiday socials listed below.



Saturday, November 18th at 5:00 PM, there will be an Organ Lecture/ Recital to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the installation of the church organ. The program will be presented by Dr. James Tartella who will speak about various aspects of the organ. Jim and Trudy Hoffman will also play different organ selections. This event will be free to the public and will then be followed by refreshments at our monthly church social at 6:00 PM.



The Harvesters are two couples who have been singing together for over 30 years. They began singing together in a church choir in Auburn, NY. About 10 years ago they felt the Lord calling them to venture out into the surrounding communities to sing Gods praises. Being that they are farmers in upstate New York, they decided that it would be fitting to name the group "The Harvesters". While they are harvesting their fields, they are also hoping to harvest souls in song for the Lord.

They are very grateful to see the fruit that God has produced from what started as four people being a part of a church choir. We pray that the music you hear is a blessing!

Join us **Saturday, December 16th** at 4:45 pm to hear The Harvester's and meet them following their performance. Our monthly church social will follow at 6:00 PM in the church social room.

Sharing the Feast

Thanksgiving Basket Project

Throughout the month of October our congregation at Jackson Street collected their donations of select food items for Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets for the Bread Basket of NEPA. Stuffing, gravy, canned fruit and vegetables and cranberry sauce was collected so that the organization receiving the food could then dispense the food to needy families in our area. Thank you to all who contributed to the food drive.

Your generosity has helped so many.



Choir and Brass Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 17th during 10:00 morning worship service

Christmas Eve Service, Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 PM

With music by the Senior Choir and Flutist Ed Wargo

Young At Heart



All are invited to the Young At Heart Christmas Party which will be Saturday, December 2nd at 12:00 PM at Cooper's Seafood Restaurant. Entertainment will be by Kathy Fisk. If you would like to attend, please call the church office at 570-346-1674. You may send a check to the church office to pay for your reservation as well and make your entire selection. Reservations are due by November 19th to Eleanor Tartella or Arline Cook.

Print Your Name:

Please make your selection of entrée and return with your \$20.00 check.

Broiled Orange Haddock _____

Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast _____

Roast Stuffed Pork _____

Moments to Savor

“Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted.” Isaiah 12:4

There are moments that stand out in one’s life. Moments when you are, without a doubt, sure of the presence of our Lord and Savior in your life, captured in a specific moment. A time of deep intimacy with God.

Of course, we know He is always there beside us, but sometimes, the veil is lifted and a moment of tangible communion with the Lord touches the deepest part of your soul. A time of pure worship and awareness of God’s presence in your life.

Perhaps it is at the bedside of a dying loved one; or hearing a hymn from your childhood that drew you into an authentic relationship with Him; perhaps it is on your knees in your bedroom, pouring out your hopes and fears to the Lord for your wayward child.

We were made for moments such as these. Moments to worship the Lord with all our heart. For God created us to be in relationship with Him, to worship Him with all of our being.

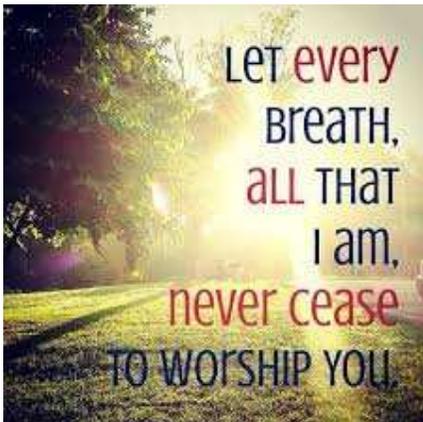
He doesn’t NEED us to accomplish anything. Is He not big enough to accomplish all on His own? He chooses to use us to draw us into a closer relationship with Him. To know God and make Him known.

From the moment God created mankind, and sin quickly followed, He has continually made a way for us to reach back to Him. In all our wandering, in all our rebellion, in all our running off ahead of Him, He waits. He waits and makes a way for our return.

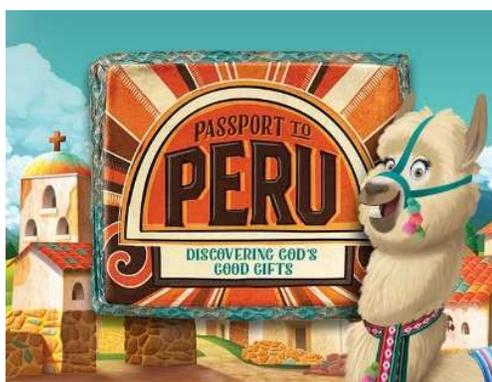
He waits for our hearts to be receptive to His call, and when we are ready, He reveals Himself uniquely to us.

So, we worship. We worship the God who lives! We worship the God who loves us beyond all measure! We worship the God who reveals Himself to each of us! All He asks of us is this: to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5 To do this is a spiritual act of worship!

In what way do you worship that draws you into a closer relationship with the Lord? Worship through song, or quiet contemplation? Worship through service, or through teaching? However God made you bent to worship, do so for His honor and glory!

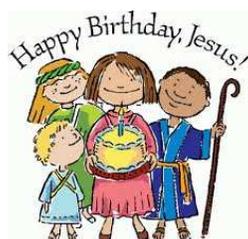


The Annual Giveaway event at our church was a great success once again. So many items were graciously donated to the church by members and friends just to help those in need in any way. An abundance of clothing and household items were ready for any of the 100+ people who came through the doors in need to make their lives a little better. Thanks to all who donated and helped with the giveaway in every way.



During the month of July at Vacation Bible School the children experienced a truly memorable Passport To Peru VBS program. They grabbed their passports for an unforgettable VBS Trek! The children learned what daily life was like from kids in Peru as they were immersed in this vibrant culture where they discovered God's good gifts for us all.

Jackson Street Baptist Church is very blessed to have so many from our congregation share their time and talents to make this ministry possible. ... In the Bible we read about grandma Lois and mom Eunice, who shared with Timothy genuine faith (2 Tim. 1:5). Their influence prepared this man to share the good news with many others. This summer during Vacation Bible School we praised God for the legacy Gail and Forest Janes have instilled in their family to share the good news and love of Jesus in children with four generations serving the Lord at VBS this year.



A Children's Christmas Activity will be taking place in December, please join us to celebrate the joy of Christmas with our children in the church.