

# Making a difference

**What Patrick Brian Jones learned at HC is helping him shepherd his flourishing flock.**

Pastor of the largest church in his denomination. Trustee of HC. Father of two talented children.

By all accounts, the Rev. Patrick Brian Jones—who graduated with an undergraduate degree in bible and religion in 1981 and then with a master’s degree in Christian ministries in 1983—has reached a level of success others only dream of.

But as Jones, who is pastor of King Street United Brethren Church in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, will be quick to tell you, the success of his church, ministry, and family has much more to do with God’s faithfulness than his human efforts.

“I don’t know why the church is growing,” he says. “I can’t always explain that.” What Jones *does* know is that God will honor his word. That’s why he focuses so much of his ministry on the Scriptures, discipleship, and prayer, stating that “growing people will make a growing church.”

And grow it has, from an average attendance of 800 people 10 years ago, to about 1,250 today. Jones describes his church as “a lot of great people doing a lot of great ministry.” While his pastoral staff plays a key role, the bulk of the ministry is carried out person-to-person, within the congregation and into the community.

That’s why King Street places such a high emphasis on Sunday morning worship and Wednesday evening activities, leaving Sunday nights and other weeknights free. “We believe in people being intentional about their families and ministry,” says Jones, “so we make sure they have time to do that.”

In many ways, this philosophy of ministry traces back to his college days at HC, when Jones took advantage of

the opportunities to experience hands-on ministry and one-on-one discipleship in addition to his work in the classroom.

While Jones values classes such as Greek and theology, which helped prepare him for a lifelong study of the Scriptures, he cites ongoing mentoring relationships with peers and professors as the key to his spiritual growth at HC. “People remember men, not lessons, and lives, not books,” Jones says.

In particular, he remembers relationships with Drs. Chaney Bergdall, Paul Michelson, and Paul Feters, as well as Kent Fischel, dean of students, as being instrumental in his spiritual walk. “Those were pretty lean years for the college,” says Jones. “I watched as Dr. Baker and the trustees struggled with meeting the operational needs of the College. I watched them develop a total commitment to God’s provision.” Their faith helped Jones believe more than ever that God is trustworthy.

In addition to this adult mentoring, Jones learned from upperclassmen as well. “Dave Rahn and Jeff Good made a big impact on freshmen,” he says. “They in turn passed on the mentoring responsibilities to others, including me.” This kind of discipleship—receiving mentoring and then offering it to others—increased Jones’ spiritual depth and caused him to grow even more.

Jones’ success with his family also traces back to HC, for it was there that he met his wife, Pam, who was an HC grad, working in the Financial Aid Office. They have shared their ministry passion together ever since.

Pat and Pam were married in

1982 and began ministry together at Prince Street Church in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, while also planting a church in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. From there, they moved on to Harrisburg, before starting ministry at King Street in August 1991.

“Learning how to lead a church of this size and this many staff has been a challenge,” Jones says—a challenge he’s been able to meet through a lot of wise mentoring and exposure to dynamic Christian leaders at HC, both during his student years and beyond.

“Huntington College is one of the brightest things happening in our denomination right now,” says Jones. “I believe that our mission is clear, and we’re fulfilling it well. God is using HC to build a center for people to impact the world for Christ.”

As vice chair of the trustee’s enrollment management committee, Jones is impressed with the academic and spiritual quality of students coming to HC. “HC students are sharp people who will make a tremendous difference spiritually as well as represent themselves well professionally.”

For Jones, that’s what life is all about. “Every person’s mission should make a difference—not just in his or her profession, but also for Christ. HC and the people being drawn to it will accomplish both.” ■

