



HORIZONS 2009

Hamilton Square Baptist Church
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Rev. Elizabeth Congdon, Interim Pastor, Nancy L. Cox, Moderator, Jackie Littleton, Vice-Moderator

From Our
Interim Pastor



Peace Be With You

Again and again Jesus used these words of greeting when joining the disciples after his resurrection. "My peace I give you." Jesus gives us his peace, now! This peace became very real to me again this lent. It has been a very difficult Lent for me. My sister Margaret died. On Ash Wednesday I officiated at her memorial service. God's peace was with me. How does it happen? What is it like?

"It is a God thing" I heard myself saying to someone. I had planned to visit my sister and we had been talking about plans for our time together. When last we spoke we talked about also visiting my cousin who lives nearby. Then, once again, my sister was hospitalized days before my arrival, but she was talking about her discharge the next day. She died that day, two days before I was to arrive. I lived in shock. God gave me peace. Arrangements had been made for pulpit supply and pastoral help. Flight arrangements and transportation had been arranged. We visited my cousin without her. It was so hard. And I knew God's peace.

I remember and believe God's promises. "I am with you always." God is holding me in the palm of God's hands. I am feeling God's peace in your prayers, and in the warm care and concern of the congregation. God's peace came with your flowers, calls, emails, notes and cards. God's peace came in your hugs, and words of condolence. It was like I was encircled and carried in love. I needed that care and you were there for me. I am ever so grateful.

*Thank you. Peace be with you.
Love, Pastor Liz*

Pastoral Care Education

Intensive education in clinical pastoral care is available for those interested. See Pastor Liz if you are interested.

"Discovery" Sessions

Three "discovery" sessions are being planned so we can explore what is involved with membership at HSBC. Participation in these sessions does not commit a person to becoming a member. It is explorative and informational. The first **exploration is into our faith**, what we believe, our polity. Second session will be to **explore our spiritual gifts** and the third will be with church leaders to **explore the work of the church** and specifically how this church works. Again, participation does not commit you to becoming a member. Please contact Pastor Liz (609-954-1450 or Lizcongdon@comcast.net) if you might be interested. These sessions are being planned for later this year.

Bible Study - "Bad Girls of the Bible"

What can we learn from Eve, Potiphar's wife, Lot's wife, the women at the well, Delilah, Sapphira, Rahab, Jezebel, Michal, and the "sinful woman." Why are they in the Bible? We will be studying the lives of these ten women using the book *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs.

**Mondays, April 20, April 27, May 4, May 11, May 18
2:00 – 3:30 in Burke Lounge**

All are invited, men as well as women.

One-In-Christ Symposium - Saturday, May 30, 2009.

The theme is "Pentecost: The City is the World." The plenary speaker will be Rev. Dr. Darrell Armstrong and other speakers include missionaries and Carlos and Mayra Bonita.

The following article was printed in the Trenton Times on Monday, March 9, 2009

Missionary tells of human trafficking horror

By KRYSTAL KNAPP

Special To The Times

HAMILTON — The young girls she meets through her missionary work in Thailand all too often share similar stories: Forced in to brothels, sold for slave labor and held against their will, they are often raped, abandoned, abused.

If they are lucky enough, they are referred to Karen Smith's shelter for girls, the New Life Center., where they will receive an education and skills that will help them earn a good living. The New Life Center, a faith-based group in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai, works to help young women, teens and girls from ethnic minority groups escape or avoid victimization and human trafficking. The group does its work with the support of American Baptist International Ministries and local congregations. Smith, who has worked at the center for 10 years and is currently on sabbatical in the U.S., spoke about that work and the girls her ministry helps at Hamilton Square Baptist Church yesterday.

"Thailand is still considered a third-world country, but it is an emerging economy," Smith said. "There is a huge demand for labor."

Desperate for money and work, people

from tribal communities in nearby Burma, China, Laos, and in Thailand often head to big cities like Bangkok responding to promises or good work and pay. Instead they find themselves working in inhumane conditions. Many girls are forced into the sex trade.

Although Thailand has progressive labor laws, the country does not have the infrastructure to enforce them, so people are easily exploited in a region with 100 million people who belong to ethnic minority groups.

Some parents sell their daughters into arranged marriages to much older men so they can put food on the table. Girls as young as 6 become addicted to methamphetamines, based on promises made to their parents by drug dealers that the girls will work faster in the rice fields with the drug.

Many of the girls who come to New Life can not read or write. At New Life, they go to school and also learn trades like cooking, sewing and cosmetology. They also take part in art therapy to help them cope with the abuse they have endured.

"If you give girls the ability to read and write in Thai," Smith said, "It ends their exploitation and leads to a sustainable job."

While the average Thai worker earns

\$6 a day and rice farmers earn about \$2 a day in Thailand, a student from New Life with a nursing degree can earn \$10 a day.

New Life houses about 150 girls at a time. The cost per month to care for each girl is about \$60, Smith said. The girls make things like silk table runners to earn pocket money and support themselves.

Although the group is Christian, church activities are voluntary and Smith said the group treats the girls' cultural and religious heritage with respect.

The group works with the Royal Thai Government, the U.S. State Department and other nonprofits to provide legal, psychological, and repatriation assistance to the victims of human trafficking.

New Life workers advocate for full human rights and legal Thai citizenship for all residents, and have led educational campaigns about trafficking, labor exploitation, and HIV/AIDS throughout Thailand, China, and Laos, with residents from the shelter warning tribal members about labor exploitation through skits and other activities.

"We don't want to keep working with victims," Smith said. "We want to end trafficking altogether so there are no more victims."



To get on Karen's prayer updates and info list go to www.internationalministries.org and click on "People Who Serve" on the top icons and find Smith, Karen.

Susan Fanella, Shirley Adams, Helen Litchfield, and Hope Burd looking over some of the wares made by the young women of The Life Center



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Youth Group

Youth group continues to meet every Sunday evening from 7:00-9:00 p.m., with a few exceptions. We have discussed a lot of exciting plans for this year.

Anyone grade 5 through post-grad are invited to join us for praise and worship, fun, and fellowship. If you know of someone who would be interested in joining our group, or have any questions, please call/email Scott Johnson, 609-888-3919, sjohn261@optonline.net, or Jackie Littleton, 609-320-5096, sixlittles@yahoo.com.

While MWA 2009 is over, planning by the MWA Steering Committee for 2010 is already underway. During the six weekends, MWA2009 ministered to over 1400 individuals. In discussions among the committee members, the decision has been made to add an additional weekend during

2010, meaning that college teams will lead seven weekends. We thank everyone for their prayers and support as we continue to be involved in God's calling to this ministry, and look forward to reporting back during next year's activities. More information about this amazing ministry can be obtained by visiting the MWA website at www.midwinteradvance.com.

After discussing our mission trip plans with the youth, and researching various possibilities and associated costs, we are looking at the option of spending time at Camp Lebanon this summer, either for day trips or for an extended time (several days or a week). We will be sure to communicate more information as it becomes available. We will continue to explore the potential for a mission trip during next summer to Appalachia or a similarly needful community. Please be in prayer for our group as we determine where God is calling us.

We enjoyed a time of fellowship when we helped serve at the Ham Dinner on March 14th. The food was delicious and we enjoyed the opportunity to serve others and enjoy good conversation.

We feel like we can't say this enough. Thank You to everyone, including parents, Pastor Liz, and our congregation, for all of their prayers and support in everything we do. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful Church family.

Thank you and may God continue to Bless all of you as you have Blessed us in so many ways!

SUNDAY SCHOOL and CHILDREN'S CHURCH



Sunday School

We always have opportunities for anyone interested in teaching, co-teaching, or substituting in a Sunday School Class. No experience necessary...just a love children and a love of our Lord. If this sounds fun and something you'd be willing to try, please contact Scott Johnson (609-888-3919 or sjohn261@optonline.net). Remember, ***God doesn't call the equipped...he equips the called.***

We'd love for you to join our classes. If you have any questions about age groups, teachers, or other topics, please see any member of the Christian Ed Committee.

We are looking forward to the **Annual Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt on April 12th**. Breakfast will begin at 9:45 a.m., followed by a craft and the Egg Hunt. As always, everyone is excited at the possibility of finding the Golden Egg, and getting that 'special prize'. Even those that don't find the Golden Egg, though, always have a wonderful time of fun and sharing.



Before we know it, June will be upon us, including **Children's Day**. The Sunday School classes and Youth Group will be busy preparing for their skit/presentation for that day, and are always excited to lead the service that day. This year, Children's Day will be **on Sunday, June 14th**. As is tradition, the service will be followed by a time of fun and fellowship at Fran and Dick Walter's home. In addition to the fellowship and food, many of us enjoy the chance to take a dip in the pool. Watch for more details in the coming week's bulletins and in next month's newsletter.

Vacation Bible School will be July 27th – 31st. Our theme this year will be *Crocodile Dock*. We are very excited about this program. Watch for more information in the near future. We are sure God will lead us and the children (both from our church and the community). Please be in prayer for this wonderful ministry.

Children's Church

We are so happy to see more Children coming to Sunday Services and want to make parents aware of a couple of things.

We schedule someone to Supervise Children's Church each Communion Sunday. Beginning immediately following the Children's Message, Children from 3 to about 8 years old are taken to our Children's Church room for Crafts, Lessons, Games and more until the Adult service has ended! In order to be able to have Children's Church more often, we will be approaching Congregation members to schedule a Sunday during the year.



For those Sundays when we don't have Children's Church, there are activity bags near the greeters with enough to keep younger children occupied for the whole service. We know that some of our regular youngsters have put them to good use!

Congratulations, Al Seaman, for the winning name for our children's choir, *The Deuteronomys*, as the name for our present boys choir. But don't let that stop any of our girls that might want to join in the future. If any girls want to sign up, Karen will change the name to Al's second suggestion, *The Square Tones*. She would then keep *The Deuteronomys* for our original boys quartet.

The Deuteronomys



So please come out and join us for children's choir if you like. We are still practicing on Monday nights from 5:00 - 5:45. **We would love to have you.**

Executive Board News

The May Business meeting will be held **May 3** immediately following the service:

The April Executive Board meeting will be moved to **Wed., April 15**

Love Your Boiler Sunday

We collected over \$2,100! Thanks to all who contributed to the boiler fund over the past several months.

Here are the final numbers:

Cost of Boiler: \$27,993

Donations: \$6,165

Money used from Verna Newman Bequest: \$21,728

Money left in Verna Newman Bequest that will go to the Stained Glass Window fund: \$1,058



APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE!

The Tyndale Memorial Scholarship and

The Calvary Baptist Memorial Scholarships are available on the narthex table.

Completed applications are due May 31, 2009

Awards will be announced the second week of June 2009



Maundy Thursday, April 9 @

7:00pm

**Communion Service at
Hamilton Square Baptist Church**

Good Friday Ecumenical Service

@ 12Noon

at United Presbyterian Church, Yardville.

Pastor Liz will be participating in this service.

Easter Sunday, April 12

9:45 Breakfast & Egg Hung

followed by

11:00 am Worship Service

JOIN US!



Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast

Join Us! Easter Sunday, April 12

Starting at 9:45 for breakfast

Followed by a craft

and then Our annual Egg Hunt.

Whoever finds the Golden Egg

will win a special prize!

Hamilton Square Baptist Church Wins Love Gift Award

Hamilton Square Baptist Church was represented by 6 attendees this year at the Annual ABW Love Gift Luncheon; where we were presented an award for being in the top ten churches in giving to Love Gift for the year 2008!

First Annual Ham Dinner a Success!

A special "Thank You" to all who helped to make the Ham Dinner such a success. The volunteers went above and beyond the call of duty.

Thanks to Jackie, Scott and The Youth Group who set tables Friday night and served on Saturday. To Nancy Cox, Cindy & Jillian Cantor for your greeting and welcome to our guests. To the cooks in the kitchen, Betty, Emma S., Jackie, Janell, Betty, Gloria, Nancy G., Elma, Rick & Dave Walter at the stove baking the hams and helping the cooks. Thank you to Emma B. & Janet for manning the Roll & Dessert table & to Joe, Don, Ray & Youth who made and served coffee. The dishwashers (as hot as it was) stuck to it. Scott, Terry, Keith, Harry, Ed A., Hutch, & Sonny were there till the end. A great job was done by Jen Snyder and her group of servers, Linda, Bev, Susan, Julie, Ashley L., Kathy, Candy, Ashley B., Danielle, Shirley, Belinda, Arlene, Becky, & Christine.. Everyone was complimented on how efficient they were.

A special touch was given to the dinner by Karen Schenck. Bless you for all the beautiful music during the dinner. It was much appreciated. Thanks to everyone, it all fell into place.

A thank you to our committee, Lois Stuller, Janell Wassum, Emma Stype, & Betty Fling for giving of a six month commitment which made it all happen.

How about Nancy Losey & Lois Stuller turning our dining room into a beautiful, magical spring event. Great Job! Again, thank you to all who attended because without you it would not have been a success.

Co-Chairs, Fran Walter & Nancy Losey

P.S. We served 180 people and raised \$1,556.00 profit!

Pictures from the Ham Dinner





News from Tulsa

Hi,

Hope things are fine in N.J. I am doing pretty good, but I am still having a little trouble walking. Manage O.K. in the house, but use the walker outside..

We just found out there will be an addition to the family. My Granddaughter is expecting. This will be #3. We hope it is a girl. Have 2 boys already.

Arleine Meyer

Thanks A Bunch

To: All at HSBC

For: Your outpouring of condolences and love and prayers are so very much appreciated. Your prayers became a stronghold for me as we remembered and as we grieve the home-going of my sister, Margaret. Pastor Liz

To: Charlotte Harrison & the Community Outreach Committee: Harry Bittner, Emma Stype, Hope Burd, Nancy Glitz, Betty Hutchinson.

For What a wonderful day it was with our ABCUSA International Missionary, Karen Smith. Thank you for all you did to make it happen!

To: Pastor Elizabeth Congdon

For: Thank you for your visits. I enjoy them. Ginny Coleman

To: Pastor Elizabeth and Rosanne

For: All the behind-the-scenes work they did in order to have missionary, Karen Smith, visit us. Community Ministry Committee

To: Fran Walter, Nancy Losey & the "Ham Dinner" committee: Jannell Wassum, Lois Stuller, Emma Stype, & Betty Fling

For: All you did to make the Ham dinner such a success!

To: Hope Burd & Carol Walker

For: Donating tickets to the Ham Dinner. That was so nice of you.

To: Susan Fanella, Charlotte Harrison, and Lois Stuller

For: All you did to make the Abraham's Table Luncheon possible. From, Pastor Liz

To: Karen Schenck

For: Enlarging our choir, beginning the children's choir, and your ministry of music with us. Our lives have been touched and inspired and we are grateful.



To activate the prayer chain,
please call Emma Bates at 587-5185
or email Anna Venettone
at bcae-1@verizon.net

Henry Drift,
Meredith Bittner,
Ron Bittner,
Irene,
Cathy Hill,
Ed Gilday,
Charlotte Everts,
Doris Rockel,
Mat (Florence Wisn's friend),
Mike Papieredin,
Barbara Harrison,
Bill & Pat Losey,
Jim Gafgen,
Sharon Zeiter (Nancy Glitz's sister),
Devon Gamble.
May we also pray for our home Baptists:
Verna Cartlidge and her sister Dorothy,
Viola Humphrey,
Betty Bretz,
Dick Swan,
Mildred Smallwood and her sister Ruth and
friend Margaret Jones,
Elizabeth Berleth,
Dot Reichard,
Arleine Meyer,
Bea Stadler.
Kyle McGonigal (Walter's grandson in the
service),
All troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan,
and those seeking employment.



*To order flowers for the pulpit
please call Gary Hogentogler at
609-838-0555 and leave your
name & phone number*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Preston Bowker
- 1 Jeanette Robinson
- 3 Elizabeth Hand
- 3 Lois Newhart
- 6 Milt Michels
- 7 Gary Hogentogler
- 9 Gail Rigley
- 11 Frances Walter
- 23 Timothy Simmons
- 25 Matthew Toudouze

Anniversaries

- 8 Jennifer & Tom Snyder
- 18 Bill and Ann Dix

Serving Us in April

April 5
Lay Leader: Lois Newhart
Greeter: Ed Niclas
Children's Church: Nancy Cox
Communion
Setup: Denise Niclas
Serve:
Denise Niclas-Emma Stype
Gary Hogentogler, Nancy Glitz

April 12
Lay Leader: Elma Scott
Greeters:
Charlotte & Armit Harrison

April 19
Lay Leader: Gary Hogentogler
Greeter: Meena Desai

April 26
Lay Leader: Keith Graser
Greeter: Dot & Fred Cox

Address Update

Todd & Mildred Stuller
2018 Kickapoo Trail
Heartland, TX. 75126
972-357-7042

Newsletter Deadline

April 20.



April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Morning Worship Schedule: 9:30 am - Adult Sunday School 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship			1 7:00pm - Evening World Circle 7:30pm - Admin.	2 6:30pm - Choir Practice	3	4
5 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Communion Sunday 7:00pm Youth Group Meeting	6 Pastor Liz In 5:00pm - Kids Choir Practice	7 3:30pm - Soup Kitchen 7:00pm - Prayer at Ed Newhart's	8	9 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:00pm - Communion Service	10 <i>Good Friday</i> 12:00noon - Ecumenical Service at United Presbyterian Church in Yardville	11
12 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 9:45am - Egg Hunt & Breakfast 11am Worship	13 Pastor Liz In 5:00pm - Kids Choir Practice 7pm - Worship Comm. Mtg. 7pm - Christian Ed Mtg.	14 7:00pm - Prayer at Ed Newhart's 7pm - Property Comm. Mtg.	15 7:00pm - Executive Board Mtg.	16 6:30pm - Choir Practice	17	18
19 7:00pm - Youth Group Mtg.	20 Pastor Liz In 2-3:30pm - Bible Study: "Bad Girls of the Bible" 5:00pm - Kids Choir Practice	21 7:00pm - Prayer at Ed Newhart's	22	23 6:30pm - Choir Practice	24	25
26 7:00pm - Youth Group Mtg.	27 Pastor Liz In 2-3:30pm - Bible Study: "Bad Girls of the Bible" 5:00pm - Kids Choir Practice	28 12Noon- BTK 7:00pm - Prayer at Ed Newhart's	29 7:00pm - Sunshine Circle .	30 6:30pm - Choir Practice		



ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

**Hamilton Square Baptist Church
3752 Nottingham Way
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690**

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