

# Horizons

Hamilton Square Baptist Church  
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Rev. Teresa S. Ely, Pastor

Jackie Littleton, Moderator

Anna Venettone, Vice-Moderator



## *Spiritual Spring Cleaning*

“The forsythia is in bloom!”

“Where?”

“Across the street!”

This was the exchange between Rosanne and me on Monday morning. I had driven in and out of the church lot several times on Sunday and had never noticed the yellow flowers right in front of me! Yet, there they were bright yellow in the midst of the cold gray rain of Monday morning. This brilliant splash of color is a reminder of spring time and the earth's renewal even as I sat at my desk remembering sleet on my windshield earlier.

I see in the contrast of gray, cold, rain and the earth's movement into spring a parallel to our Lenten journey. This season is a time of reflection as we journey ever nearer to the cross. Traditionally Lent has been marked as a time of penitence. To many this could seem like an onerous or negative task, and if we only look at penitence as punishment it can seem a very discouraging practice. However, if we see penance as a looking inward, a season of acknowledging the places in our lives where we need to forgive and be forgiven, of acknowledging that we have missed the mark in our relationships with one another and with God penitence then becomes a time of restoration and healing.

It is not always easy work, this spiritual spring cleaning. But just as a spring cleaning of the home can clear out the dust, mend and replace what has been left in disarray after the winter so too can repentance bring a refreshment and renewal to the heart and mind. Spiritual Spring cleaning is done with the aid of a loving God who desires our wholeness. God does not want to see our hearts burdened by those things that with loving hands Yahweh will take from us. The prodigal child was met by a loving parent eager to restore the child to a whole and free relationship. Not a parent who desired to burden the child with guilt or remorse.

My prayer for each of us is for our spiritual spring cleaning to bring us a new depth in our relationships, with one another and with God. May we journey to the cross and leave our burdens there that we might embrace the glory and joy of the resurrection with free and open hearts. Hearts ready to receive God's love and share it with others.

Grace & Peace,  
*Pastor Teresa*

## **PRAYERS, MIXED EMOTIONS, BLESSINGS AND JOY!!!**

### **...all rolled into One...through HIM**

*-submitted by Jackie Littleton*

In January of this year, our church was blessed to have a group of visitors join us each Sunday for worship service. While it was a wonderful opportunity for Hamilton Square Baptist Church in getting to know these people, the reason for their visit was for a much more difficult time for them.

This group of visitors was from Fellowship Baptist Church in West Windsor, New Jersey. Their former pastor, Rev. David J. Spiegel, Sr., had accepted a calling to another church, and the congregation of this sister American Baptist Church considered their options, and decided to pursue the option of closing their doors and joining with another ABC church. Thus began their journey of meeting with ABC-NJ and visiting other churches, including Hamilton Square Baptist Church. After visiting HSBC during the month of January, as well as worshipping with another congregation for part of February, the members of Fellowship Baptist Church joined together in prayer, meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> to make the decision of where to continue their time of worship, their journey with Him, and their opportunity to join with other believers. While it was an emotional journey for them, they felt led by God and have decided to join with the congregation of Hamilton Square Baptist Church as part of our family.

The members of Fellowship Baptist Church held their Farewell Service on Sunday, March 27, 2011, at their former church location in West Windsor. It was decided to cancel the worship service at HSBC that day, so that during this time that would be emotional for them, members of Hamilton Square Baptist Church could instead join with our new brothers and sisters in Christ during this farewell service, in support of them on this difficult day and to remind them that we were there with them in Christian love. We knew this day would be one of mixed emotions for all of them, and it felt right to be there with them as they said goodbye to their time of worship in West Windsor, and to remind them of the blessings we felt by Him guiding them to us and us to them. After the worship service, we all joined for a wonderful luncheon and time of fellowship together, and celebrate what God has in store for all of us together at HSBC.

Pastor Teresa and other Executive Board Committees will be meeting with them to work out the details of when and how we will have the opportunity to formally welcome them during a worship service, as members of the Hamilton Square Baptist Church congregation, but also as part of our church family. Watch for more details in the near future. We look forward to this chance to fellowship together again, and to join together as part of God's family.

In the coming months, there will be opportunities for us to get to know each other personally, to learn about each other's worship practices, styles, and church structure, as well as the chance to identify and acknowledge the strengths God has blessed each one of us with, and how we can serve Him individually and together. Watch for more details to come.

In the meantime, we welcome the members of Fellowship Baptist Church to our family at Hamilton Square Baptist Church, as we continue to be in prayer, and as we continue our journey in His Kingdom together. Praise to God for the blessings of each other.

### **AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2011**

**Sundays, April 17 & 24th,**

AFC gifts support Christ-centered ministries that touch lives and transform people across the United States and Puerto Rico - through evangelism training, church renewal and discipleship resources, volunteer disaster response plus initiatives that fight poverty and so much more.

**Touching Lives, Transforming People** -Matthew 9:35

## **ENDLESS GRACE CHRISTIAN COFFEEHOUSE**

### **Who noticed the new “swinging” sign out front?**

The weather surely cooperated with our coffeehouse event on March 18. To think the temperature on our launch date – January 21, 2011 – was 12 degrees and just two months later it was almost 70 degrees – well, Praise the Lord and come on Spring!!!

We were wonderfully entertained in February by JQ Fu, a local musician, who not only played the piano with skill, enthusiasm and grace, but he had a friend over during the week who tuned the piano! Thank you JQ and friend. We also enjoyed the banter, wit and music of Michael Maione and friend. Michael is a singer, songwriter and guitarist who hails from Helmetta, NJ. We'll definitely want these performers to visit us again in the future.

Legacy By Right entertained us in March. They are a five-person band from Ocean and Monmouth counties. The vocals were wonderful, the message was heart-

felt and the fancy finger work on the guitars was not only fun to watch, but to **feel** and hear. There was a BUZZZZ in the air and I don't think it was the coffee. The Holy Spirit was alive and well and moving through us that evening.

Our baked goods table has groaned with delectable goodies every month and nobody leaves the building hungry. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated these exceptional treats. We're not sure what is drawing the people in, but I can't help but think the thought of huge cupcakes with thick frosting isn't as much a draw as the live music! If anyone would like to donate baked goods for future coffeehouses, they may drop them off the night before at 6:30 to 7:30 PM when we are at church setting up or just leave them with Rosanne between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Of course, you can bring them with you when you come to the coffeehouse yourself Friday night.

Please be sure to mark on your calendars for the April 15 coffeehouse. We'll be entertained by Keyboard Kathy and guitarist Jim McNicholas that evening. Many people ask, “What's the target audience age group for the coffeehouse?” and I have to say, “One to one hundred – but if you're over 100, you're still welcome and if you're under 1, still welcome!” Every month brings a different type of music but it is all being delivered by believers who want to share their gifts and be that ‘spark’ that gets your fire going.

Bring a friend and tell two strangers about the good thing happening at the HSBC the third Friday every month. Their hearts will be lifted, your hearts will be lifted and the love of the Lord will spread itself far and wide.

– *The EGCCCH Team* –

Pastor Teresa, Denise Niclas, Anna Venettone, Nancy Glitz, Jackie Littleton & Scott Johnson.

## **AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN APRIL MEETINGS**

**World Circle -Wed, April 6 @ 1-3:00pm (TIME CHANGE) - Burke Lounge. - White Cross Bandages.**

**Beta Tau Kappa (BTK) - Tues, April 26 @12 Noon Program: Book Report by Nancy Ott**

**Sunshine Circle Wed., April 27 @ 7 -bandages for White Cross and Quilts for TASK.**

**PLEASE JOIN US - ALL ARE WELCOME!**



## **COUNTERS NEEDED**

Please consider volunteering **just one Sunday a month** to count the offering collection after Sunday service!

Please contact Jackie Littleton or Keith Graser today to volunteer!

## **NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT**

The choir has been practicing **Easter music** and would love to have more voices join them in the loft. **Practice is Thursday evenings at 6:30.**

Please call our Minister of Music Karen Schenck at 570-5024 if you have any questions.



## Christian Education Happenings

-submitted by Jennifer Snyder

The Christian Education Committee is busy planning **our annual Egg Hunt and breakfast on Easter Sunday**. This year we are lucky enough to have *made-to-order omelets as well as the usual bagels, munchkins and fruit salad*. The breakfast begins at 9:45 followed by the egg hunt.



**All are welcome.** If you plan to attend please sign up in the narthex so we can plan accordingly.

We also have some Easter themed jars in the narthex if anyone would like to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of Easter candy.

Our **Vacation Bible School** will be held the week of **August 8-12** in the evenings. The theme this year is **Shake It Up Café** and it looks like an exciting and wonderful program. Summer will be here before you know it!

**The Youth Group is going strong and is thrilled to welcome the new members from Fellowship Baptist Church. God is good.**

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS....

-submitted by Jackie Littleton

**Youth Group continues to meet on Sunday evenings, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** We recently discussed ideas of what we'd like to do in the coming months, in the form of fun and activities, as well as fundraiser, missions, and ministry.

**During the weekend of February 25-27**, twelve of us attended **Midwinter Advance 2011, at America's Keswick in Whiting, New Jersey**. This weekend was led by a team of Eastern University. Our group left church on Friday evening, and after arriving at Keswick, we completed the registration process, checked into our rooms, and signed up for Saturday seminars, after which we had time to explore the facilities before the evening's assembly. Throughout the weekend, youth met with various members of the Eastern Team in devotions and discussion groups, and participated in assemblies led by the team, which included singing praise and worship songs, hearing testimonies from members of the team, and messages focused on this year's MWA theme of "Attitude 2.0". After the assembly on Saturday morning, youth attended two 50-minute seminar sessions, and after lunch had a chance for free time, which included the volleyball tournament. While our group had never won a game in previous years, this weekend not only did we win our first game, but went on to win each of the following games, including the Championship Game against the Eastern University Team with a score of 21-19! At 'The Happening', which is similar to a Christian variety show, our group performed a skit entitled *Me Me Me*, for which they had practiced earlier that afternoon, and did a great job. There was an Altar Call following Saturday evening's assembly, followed by a time for us to meet as a youth group and discuss the evening and weekend's experiences. After breakfast, we attended Worship Assembly, during which time an offering was taken, which is then sent to Ranch Hope, a facility for troubled teen males. In addition to the offering, Bob Grant (a former Eastern University team member) provided a humorous but humbling story of an experience he had with boys attending Ranch Hope several years ago. By the time we left late Sunday morning, all were in agreement that it had been a very special weekend, and everyone enjoyed the new relationships developed with the Eastern Team members that weekend. God was indeed present in that very special place, and brought us closer together as a group. We're already looking forward to MWA 2012 in January or February next year.

(Continued on page 5)

*(Continued from page 4) Youth Group News...*

Looking ahead, the next activity in our group's immediate future includes a **Hoagie Sale on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**. We'll make the hoagies early Saturday afternoon, with **pick-up at the church between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.** An opportunity will also be available to pick-up hoagie orders after church on Sunday. Proceeds from the hoagie sale will benefit youth group ministries, activities, and missions. We'll have a lock-in that weekend as well, and have plans to attend a Roast beef Dinner at Pearson United Methodist Church, as well as going bowling. Everyone is looking forward to a time of fellowship and fun.



Some of us will be traveling to ***Six Flags Great Adventure in June*** for a day of fun, including food, going on different rides, and end by attending a Mercy Me concert in the evening.

Other ideas we have planned include a **car wash in the spring, a visit to Camp Lebanon, paintball, laser tag, and hopefully a mission trip this summer.** Watch for updates in the months to come.

**We thank everyone for their support, both in our fundraising efforts, and for their prayers.**

Anyone grades 5 through post-grad (college age) are welcome to join us when we meet on Sunday evenings. Please contact the church office with any questions.

## **BAPTIST CAMP LEBANON**

Summer isn't that far away! It's never too early to start planning for summer.

**Registration packets** and lots of great information is available regarding BAPTIST CAMP LEBANON. Their theme this year is "**On The Way**" and they have terrific weeks planned from **June 24<sup>th</sup> through August 11<sup>th</sup>**.

For a brochure or more information, **see Jennifer Snyder or email her at [jsnyder@ewrsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:jsnyder@ewrsd.k12.nj.us).** We'd love to see some of our youth experience all that Baptist Camp Lebanon has to offer!

## *A Letter of Thanks...*

February 24, 2011

Dear Pastor Teresa and Members of the Hamilton Square Baptist Church,

How can my brothers' families and mine begin to thank all of you for your visits to Dad in the hospital, your many cards and your phone calls of concern? Dad truly loved the church and always tried to be involved some way. Whether it was making coffee for some event, being an usher, or keeping attendance for Sunday School, he loved being a part of this church.

I have personally thanked the following people but I want to publicly thank them now; to Pastor Teresa for visiting & singing Dad's favorite song in the hospital, for cheerfully accepting my phone calls at all times & performing a lovely service in Dad's honor; to Karen Schenck for gracefully playing music at Dad's viewing and funeral; to Dee Drift for singing Dad's favorite hymn beautifully at the funeral; to Harry Bittner for stepping in as a pall bearer at the last minute so my husband could stand by me; to Nancy Losey, Fran Walter, and Betty Hutchinson for providing a delicious luncheon after the funeral; to all those church members who braved the weather to come to the viewing and/or the funeral; and to those members who had us in their thoughts and prayers at home because of the weather. Thank you! Thank you!

Dad, Lori and I are truly blessed to have a loving church family who are always there with a listening ear, a large shoulder, a friendly smile, or a kind word. Thank you one and all.

Gratefully,

THE FAMILY Y OF JOSEPH MONOPLE

Linda, John & Lori Jusiewicz Bill, Jen & Aaron Monople Bob Monople & Lenora Toth



In need of  
prayer

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

The Stadler, Monople, Preston, Black, Wal-  
ter, Sonjor, Palmer, Wright, Scott, Phillips,  
Soto, & Harrison Families,

Pat Seaman,

John Dotson,

Linda Burrows,

Carol & Stuart Reed

(Fran Walter's friends),

Jacob & Tina Shropshire,

Angelo Migliaccio,

Dean Nichols

(Janell Wassum's brother-in-law),

Al Fullman,

Hamilton Robinson Sr & Jr.

(Jeanette's Father-in-law & husband),

Cindy & Antonio Soares de Silva,

Barry Barlow,

Fran Walter's brother & his family,

Bobby Zeiter,

Kathleen Elbertson

(friend of Janet Kendall),

Marcus Sonjor,

Cheryl Glitz,

Margaret Trout,

Bill & Pat Losey,

Jim Gafgen,

Devon Gamble.

*May we also pray for our home Baptists:*

Verna Cartlidge's sister Dorothy,

Betty Bretz,

Dot Reichard,

Arleine Meyer,

Maggie Hoxie,

and Bette Dobronte.

Kyle McGonigal (Walter's grandson in Ger-  
many)

and all our service men & women overseas.

Those seeking employment



## April Pulpit Flowers

**April 3**

*In Honor of*

*Carol Walker's 92nd Birthday*

*Given By Hope Burd*

*In Honor of*

*Gloria & Don McCarty's*

*Wedding Anniversary*

**April 10**

*In Celebration of*

*Fran Walter's Birthday*

*By Cindy, Ray & Jillian Cantor*

*Rick & Belinda Walter*

**April 17 (Palm Sunday)**

**2 Open Vases**

**April 24**

*Given By*

*Our New Church Members*

*(Fellowship Baptist Church)*

To order Memorial Flowers

Call Susan Fanella at 609-586-3074

Please leave your Name & phone number.

**ABCNJ**

### **PRAYER CALENDAR**

Located on the ABCNJ website

**www.abcnj.net**

or in our weekly bulletin.

Pray for

ABCNJ Churches & Ministries.

## April Birthdays

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

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Don & Gloria McCarty
- 8 Jennifer & Tom Snyder
- 18 Bill and Ann Dix

### **Newsletter Dead- line**

### **Serving Us In April**

**April 3**

**Leader:** Hope Burd

**Greeters:**

Don & Gloria McCarty

**Communion Setup:**

Scott Johnson

**April 10**

**Leader:** Terry Wassum

**Greeter:** Bud Woodward

**April 17**

**Leader:** Linda Jusiewicz

**Greeters:**

Cindy & Jillian Cantor

**April 24**

**Leader:** Keith Graser

**Greeters:** Nancy Losey &

Frances Walter

### **UPCOMING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT AT RIVERVIEW ESTATES**

**303 Bank Ave - Riverton, NJ 08077 - Register with Donna Maratea 856-829-2274 Ext 151**

**FLOWER PLANTING DAY May 14, 2011 from 10:00 am -12:00pm**

Volunteer Teams will be needed for our Flower Planting Day. We hope to have many teams with us for this one day event to plant 100 flats of flowers. A box lunch is provided. Service hours provided.

**Sunday Schedule**

9:30 am - Adult Bible Study & Sunday School in ABCNJ

11:00 am - Worship Service

Children's Sunday school during service

# April 2011

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
|                                |   |  |  |   |  | 1<br>2 ABW Spring Rally @ FBC Mt Holly  |
| 3<br><b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b><br><b>Communion Sunday</b><br>6:30 Youth Group                                | 4<br>9am - Pastor Teresa @ River-view Estates Chapel Service<br>5pm - Children's Choir Practice | 5<br>3:30 TASK<br><b>7pm Lenten Service in Burke</b> | 6<br>1-3pm World Circle -Burke<br>7:30pm Building & Finance Comm. Mtg. | 7<br>6:30pm Choir Practice                              | 8  | 9<br><b>Youth Group Ministry Hoagie Sale Pick up 2:30-4:30</b><br>Youth Group Lock In |
| 10<br><b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b><br>NO Youth Group   | 11<br>5pm - Children's Choir Practice   | 12<br><b>7pm Lenten Service in Burke</b>             | 13<br>7pm Executive Board Mtg.   | 14<br>6:30pm Choir Practice                             | 15<br><b>8-10pm Endless Grace Christian Coffeeshouse Featuring: "Keyboard Kathy"</b>                               | 16  |
| 17<br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br>America For Christ Offering<br>6:30 Youth Group                                     | 18<br>5pm - Children's Choir Practice   | 19<br><b>7pm Lenten Service in Burke</b>             | 20   | 21<br><b>7pm Maundy Thursday Service with Communion</b> | 22<br><b>12Noon - HEF Good Friday Service @ Pearson United Methodist.</b><br><b>7pm Good Friday Service @ HSBC</b> | 23  |
| 24<br><b>EASTER SUNDAY</b><br>9:45 Breakfast, Craft & Egg Hunt<br>America For Christ Offering<br>NO Youth Group | 25<br>5pm - Children's Choir Practice   | 26<br>12Noon BTK In Burke Lounge<br>7pm - Prayer     | 27<br>7pm Sunshine Circle Mtg.   | 28  | 29   | 30  |

# JOIN US!

Tuesdays, April 5, 12, & 19 - 7:00 pm - Lenten Prayer & Worship Service

April 21 - 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service w/Communion

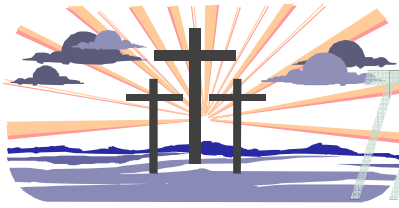
April 22 - 7:00 pm - Good Friday Service @ HSBC

April 22 - 12 Noon - Hamilton Ecumenical Fellows

Community Good Friday Service @ Person Memorial United Methodist Church

April 24 - 11:00 am - EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

9:45 am - Breakfast, Craft, & Egg Hunt



*The Lord is risen indeed*  
***The Lord is risen indeed***

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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