



HORIZONS 2009

Hamilton Square Baptist Church
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November

Rev. Teresa S. Ely, Pastor

Nancy L. Cox, Moderator

Jackie Littleton, Vice-Moderator

Pastor's Message



Eternal Value

My time in Covenant Players taught me many things, some of them good and some of them not so good. One of the not so good lessons was the belief that my worth before God was determined by what I did for God. This is often referred to as a "Works Righteousness Theology." Simply stated the more one does the more righteousness one has in the eyes of God. Faithfulness was measured by what one accomplished. Your acceptance in heaven would be determined by how much you had accomplished for the Lord during your life.

While on the one hand this philosophy ensures that folks will work hard, and some times unceasingly, for the Lord it does have some negative side effects. The first being that folks loose sight of one of the most important elements of the Christian faith; the redeeming work of God's grace is a free gift. It cannot be earned. No matter how many committee's one serves on you can't be more 'saved'.

One of the other downsides, people base their self-worth on how much they accomplish. It can be quite discouraging when you see one person, who is gifted in many areas, accomplishing great things and another individual may not have as many gifts, or their gift may not be something that people will even notice. If we encounter someone who can do more or has more, we feel as though we somehow must be of less worth.

Our worth is not based on what we can do or what we have. Our worth is based on the simple fact that God loves us. He doesn't love us because of what we do or what we own. He just loves us. And like the 'still small voice' of God which is often overwhelmed by the 'noise' of the world, the unconditional love of God may seem insignificant in a world that measures a person's worth by how much they earn or how much stuff you own.

The difference between what the secular world places value on and what is valuable in the sight of God can be summed up by these words from 2 Corinthians 4: 18; "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." All that we see will one day perish but God, and his love for us, will never rust, tarnish, decay or disappear. Its value will not fluctuate like the stock market; it is the same 'yesterday, today, and tomorrow'.

There is no need to fear that you aren't working hard enough to earn entrance into the Kingdom of God. You simply have to believe that God is totally, completely, and eternally, in love with you.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Teresa



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of **Marion Berg**, 82, who passed away on Wednesday, October 7, 2009. Marion was a faithful member of The Hamilton Square Baptist Church for over 40 years.

ABC-NJ Conference - One Person's Perception

By Susan Fanella

Nancy Cox, Nancy Losey and Elma Scott were safely driven to New Brunswick on Saturday, September 27th.

Right away, we had the pleasure of seeing our own Pastor Teresa, Rev. Dr. Donald Brash, Pastor Pam Reed, Pastor April Van Ness, Pastor Liz Congdon and the staff from ABC-NJ

The program showed the collective workers of all the different divisions for ABCNJ, their goals, their accomplishments. There was a group of young singers so talented that by their last song they sounded like the operatic quartet, Il Divo. What a round of applause they received!

In the lobby were materials for many interests, personal and professional.

When Dr. Lee Spitzer spoke, he made many relevant points. The one that stuck with me and that I want to share with you is:

SCHOLARSHIP MONIES

WENT UNCLAIMED LAST YEAR!

This disturbed him as it did us! We immediately thought of:
Edwin Sonjor, Christine Burch, Josh Desai, Ashley Littleton

I'm sure there are others who could benefit from this scholarship money.

It was an informative day and a time for reflection on all those working for and reaching out to others.

Hope Someone Can Use These:

I have 32 volumes (most unopened) of the 15th edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

They are beautiful and divided into micro and macro articles. Most of these have never been touched because the print is not as large as I needed.

I want nothing for them just for someone to use and enjoy them. There are yearbooks thru 1996.

If more than one person calls, I will put names in a hat and pull one.

Susan Fanella - 586-3074

New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Ministries Nomination

Hamilton Square Baptist Church has been nominated by member, Jason Cohen, to the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Ministries for our work with the handicapped. HSBC will be honored with an award At the NJCIM and OPEN ROAD Eighth Annual Awards Dinner on November 5. NJCIM is an interfaith network of religious groups, service and advocacy organizations, congregations, individuals, lay people, clergy, families, people with and without disabilities and special needs all committed to: *Supporting faith communities in working to fully include all people with disabilities or special needs as valuable members.*

THANKSGIVING EVE ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesday, November 25th at 7:30 pm

Pearson Memorial United Methodist Church

71 Pearson Drive, Hamilton NJ 08610

609-888-1220

Refreshments will be served after the service



*O give thanks
to the LORD,
for he is good....*

*Please bring at least one can of nonperishable food to help feed the hungry
of Hamilton Township*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School

Our new One Room Sunday School is turning out to be quite a hit. We are so happy to see all the smiling faces at the beginning of service and then back in the Sunday School room each Sunday morning! We are seeing many faces every Sunday that we had only seen once in a while and all of the youth seem as excited as we are about the new program!

For everyone's convenience, the Children's Sunday School Leaders are listed in the bulletin each week for that day and for the Coming Sunday as well. We would love to have you join our Sunday School Leader Teams! You don't need to be a teacher to join us, only a love for the Lord and for sharing his word! Remember, **God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called!**

The Adult Sunday School continues to meet on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 in the ABC-NJ Conference room. All are welcome to join this wonderful program!



Project Christmas Child, Samaritan's Purse

Look for information regarding this special mission very soon to send gifts to Children around the world in Time for Christmas!

YOUTH GROUP



Youth Group has been having lots of fun exploring the book of John for the last month or so. Through Games, activities and scripture, we been having loads of fun and enjoying a few new members this Fall!

We will be sponsoring a Lasagna and Pasta Night on Saturday, November 14th to be followed by a Lock In. Look for the youth to be in their PJs at Church on that Sunday morning!

Youth Group will be attending our **MWA event on the weekend of January 22 through 24**. That weekend will be led by the Stockton Christian Fellowship team of Richard Stockton College in Pomona, NJ.

Youth from 5th grade through Post Grad (about 10 to 18) are encouraged to come join us for a time of fun and fellowship.

For more information contact:

Scott Johnson (609-888-3919, sjohn261@optonline.net) or
Jackie Littleton (609-320-5096, sixlittles@yahoo.com).

The Season

Starting on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ending Christmas Eve, the Advent Season is about the interplay between light and dark. "Darkness covers the earth and thick darkness the peoples," the prophet Isaiah said. We see that evident in the longer nights of December, and we see that in the darkness of sin that encroaches upon our lives. "But on those living in the land of darkness, a Light has dawned," Isaiah continued. The message of Advent is that the Light of Christ is breaking through our darkness by his birth and will burn bright on Christmas with forgiveness and salvation, hope and joy, peace and love.

Advent 2009

November 29 - First Sunday in Advent
December 6 - Second Sunday
December 13 - Third Sunday
December 20 - Fourth Sunday

Shedding Light On ADVENT

The Wreath

Lighting a new candle on an Advent wreath for each of the four weeks is one way to see firsthand how light overcomes darkness. Try turning out all the lights in your home before lighting your Advent wreath each day. Notice how the light of one, two, three or four candles can really spread throughout a dark space. Say this prayer when you light your wreath: "Brighten my life with your light and salvation, dear Jesus. Amen."



Strings of Lights

During Advent we decorate our homes and Christmas trees with strings of white or multicolored bulbs. Lights like these can turn a barren fir into a twinkling wonderment. When you string up lights this Advent, remember that Christ the Light has the power to transform plain old you and me into shimmering displays of His glory and grace. Jesus even said, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl." Say this prayer while you put up your lights "Let your light shine through me to others. Amen."



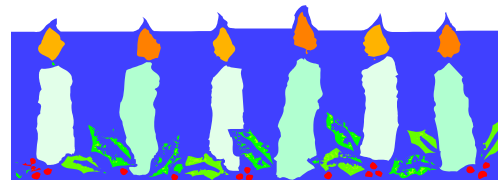
JOIN US IN DECEMBER FOR ONE OR ALL OF OUR EVENTS

December 12 Hanging of the Greens Service - The Peddie School Choir and our Sunday School children will perform. Our Christmas Stocking offering will go to the Pierson Memorial Food Pantry.

December 21 @ 7:00 pm - Blue Christmas Service

Date to be determined - 11:00 am - Christmas Cantata "One Holy Night"

December 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services - 7:00 pm & 11:00 pm





"The family of Marian Berg" would like to express their deep gratitude to all who contributed to her beautiful memorial service last week. We appreciated all who attended, those who shared memories during the service, and all who travelled far to help us honor her memory. We would like to offer particular thanks to Pastor Teresa for all of her guidance and support, and Interim Pastor Liz Congden, Susan Fanella, and Ruth Kulkarni for helping to make the service so meaningful and Jeff Shropshire for his beautiful solo. We would also like to offer a special thank you to all the members of the Hospitality Committee for providing such delicious refreshments following the service.

Our thanks and love to you all.

Karen, Caryl, Pete & Carla



*This is the robe purchased as my ordination gift. Once again thanks to everyone for all that they have done to enable me to be where I am today!
May God bless you all! April*

Hi All,

Things going fine. Having a little trouble writing. My great-granddaughter spent the weekend with her grand-mom & I. Enjoyed holding her. Our weather is crazy! It is 40-50 in the morning and 80 and over during the afternoon! Arleine

Thanks A Bunch

To: Keith Graser

For: All the time and unselfish effort in handling the church's finances

To: Fran & Dick Walter

For: All their time, talent and contributions that you give to Hamilton Square Baptist Church

To: Terri Toudouze

For: Her time and talent in taking over the Treasurer's position.

To: The Pastoral Care Committee, Susan and Julie Fanella

For: Your continuous love and care shown to me and my family. You generously contributed to help us pay hospital bills when our daughter, Grace, was sick. May God pay you back in measures beyond limits!
Thank You! Edwin for his family

Thank you for the flowers on the pulpit for my birthday! Karen Schenck

To: Nancy Losey For: the delicious 'pies' for my birthday! Karen

To: Grace Gazi & Evelyn Breece For: taking me out for lunch. Karen

To: The choir for the cake & punch. Karen

To: The Hospitality Committee especially Lois Stuller & Ruth Hampton

For: all their help and everyone who contributed food for Marion Berg's memorial service. Nancy Losey

To: Emma Bates and all the people who contributed food for the Stewardship Luncheon. Nancy L.

To: Ruth and Betty Hutchinson for all your help. God Bless You! Nancy L.



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

The Berg, Soto, Harrison, & Scott Families,
Warren Dunlap (Mark Dunlap's Dad),
Ed Newhart,
Viola Humphrey,
Bill Guest,
Karen Schenck,
Olivia (Nancy Glitz's friends daughter),
Al Fullman,
Maggie Hoxie,
Bette Dobronte,
VanArdsdale (Ruth Hampton's family),
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,
Ruth Tantum and Margaret Jones (Sister &
friend of Mildred Smallwood),
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.

**Newsletter Dead-
line**

To Pastor Teresa and the Members of HSBC,

Give Thanks This Day
For family. For friends. For good food.
For stories that get better with age.
And for the time we have to gather around a
table with the people we love.



Thanksgiving

May all of God's Blessing be yours this Thanksgiving Day!

Gratefully Your Secretary,
Rosanne.



*What a wonderful way to
remember loved ones no longer
with us or
to commemorate
a birthday, anniversary
or special occasion*

*If you would like to order
flowers for the pulpit, please call
Gary Hogentogler at 838-0555.
Please leave your name & phone
number.*

Birthdays

- 5 Vangie Sastic
- 5 Audrey Reed
- 5 Terry Wassum
- 7 Emma Stype
- 8 Brian Stype
- 11 Peter Ryan Snyder
- 13 Evelyn Breece
- 19 Gary Burch
- 19 Larry Burch
- 20 Sonny (Clarence) Losey
- 21 Arleine Meyer
- 27 Mary Buck
- 27 Jennifer Snyder
- 29 Mildred Stuller
- 30 Kathy Burch

Serving Us In November

November 1

Leader: Hope Burd
Greeter: Terri Toudouze
Communion Setup: Fran Walter
Setup: Fran & Dick Walter
Betty & Elijah Hutchinson

November 8

Leader: Linda Jusiewicz
Greeters: Connie & Harold Rockhill

November 15

Leader: Henry Drift
Greeter: Gloria & Don McCarty

November 22

Leader: Susan Fanella
Greeter: Emma Stype

November 29

Leader: Joe Monopole
Greeter: Laura McQuigg



November 2009

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sunday Schedule 9:30 am - Adult Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship						
1 Communion Sunday 7 pm - Youth Group	2 5 pm - Children's Choir Practice	3 Election Day 3:30 Soup Kitchen 7pm - Prayer at Ed Newhart's	4 7pm - Evening World Circle - Burke Lounge 7:30 - Adminis- trative Mtg.	5 6:30 - Choir Practice	6	7
8 7 pm - Youth Group	9 1pm-Pastoral Care Comm 5 pm - Kids Choir Practice 7pm Worship Comm 7pm - Christian Ed Comm.	10 7pm - Property 7pm - Prayer at Ed Newhart's	11 7pm - Execu- tive Board	12 6:30 - Choir Practice	13	14 Youth Group Lasagna / Pasta Dinner Lock-In
15 Fellowship fol- lowing Wor- ship Service 7 pm - Youth Group	16 5 pm - Children's Choir Practice	17 12noon BTK - Hymn Sing 7pm - Prayer at Ed Newhart's	18	19 6:30 - Choir Practice	20	21
22 Congrega- tional Meeting 7 pm - Youth Group	23 5 pm - Children's Choir Practice	24 7pm - Prayer at Ed Newhart's	25 7:30pm - Thanksgiving Eve Worship- Pearson Me- morial	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 First Sunday In Advent 7 pm - Youth Group	30 5 pm - Children's Choir Practice		MARK YOUR CALENDARS December 2 - Evening World Christmas Dinner (time & place to be announced) December 8 - 12 noon -BTK Christmas Lunch (place to be announced) December 29 - 5:00 - Missionary Holiday Dinner - McCabe Hall			

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 22

After Worship Service
Lunch will be provided



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Hamilton Square, NJ 08690