

HAMILTON SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH



*A Place to
Believe, Belong, & Become*

CHURCH PROFILE -- May 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click on one of the links below to view that section

[Geographic Area of Church and Maps](#)

[Brief History of HSBC](#)

[Accessibility Accommodations](#)

[Who We Are Today](#)

[Our Worship Life](#)

[Our Church Life](#)

[Church Mission Statement and Covenant](#)

[Visions for Mission and Ministry](#)

[Congregational Strengths](#)

[Capital Budgeted Church Projects](#)

Appendix

[Annual Report – Prior Year](#)

[Budget – Current Year](#)

[Building Floorplan](#)

[Congregational Style Indicator](#)

[Constitution and By-Laws](#)

[Organization Chart](#)

[Safe Sanctuary Policy](#)

[Sexual Harassment Policy](#)

[Staff Expectations](#)

[Bulletin Samples](#)

[Regular Service](#), **[Blue Christmas](#)**

[Christmas Eve, 7:00 p.m.](#), **[Christmas Eve, 11:00 p.m.](#)**

[Children's Day](#), **[Communion](#)**

[Newsletter Sample](#)

[Pastoral Search Committee Members](#)

Photos:

[Building Pictures](#) **[Special Events](#)**

[Communion](#)

(First Sunday of every month)

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF HSBC

Hamilton Square is located in Hamilton Township, a 40-square mile municipality located in Mercer County, New Jersey. Hamilton Township is located in the central part of New Jersey, and is convenient to both New York and Philadelphia. The population of Hamilton is roughly 90,000. Hamilton is proud to maintain a position as a community of neighborhoods embracing a wide array of ethnicity. It's beautifully maintained commons are steeped in the tradition of unique family and community values.

Hamilton is home to the nationally acclaimed Grounds for Sculpture, a 35-acre sculpture park, as well as Sayen Gardens, the site of an annual Azalea Festival where colors explode while offering a fresh scent to the coming of Spring. Hamilton's history dates back to 1686, when it was organized as the Town of Nottingham. Several historic sites provide an appreciation of the past while serving as a reminder of its historical significance. Other memorable sites include the classically famous Kuser Mansion, Abbott House, Civil War and Native Museum, Isaac Watson House, Isaac Pierson House, and the quaint Grafton House.

Hamilton Township has one of the top ten largest school districts in the state of New Jersey, and is home to three high schools (grades 9-12), three middle schools (grades 6-8), and seventeen elementary schools (Kindergarten through 5th grade). Additional information about the Hamilton Township School District can be obtained by visiting its website at www.hamilton.k12.nj.us. Information on surrounding school districts, and others in the State of New Jersey, can be found at the New Jersey Department of Education website, www.state.nj.us/education.

Hamilton Township maintains an informative website at www.hamiltonnj.com. For information about Mercer County, including links to most of the county's school districts, visit www.mercercounty.org.

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

MAPS

[CLICK HERE](#)

to see a map of where
Hamilton Square Baptist Church
is located.

[CLICK HERE](#)

to see a map of the
Hamilton Square area

[CLICK HERE](#)

to see a map of
New Jersey area
surrounding Hamilton Square

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

HAMILTON SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH...
A Brief History

Hamilton Square Baptist Church (HSBC) was originally known as the Baptist Church of Nottingham Square. Abraham Eldridge gave to the Baptist Society a lot from his farm acreage, which extended to Nottingham Square on which a church was built in 1785. In 1851, a parcel of land east of the Eldridge lot was bought from what was known as the Cubberly Tract, and, in 1864, a lot was purchased from the Reed property, which is now the cemetery.

The site of the original meeting house is marked by the grave of Reverend Searing Stiles. Reverend Stiles requested to be buried where the pulpit of the old church stood. This grave site is located on the west side of the church.

In 1880, plans and specifications were drawn by William Hammell for a larger and more accommodating building. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on August 10, 1880. The building was dedicated on October 19, 1881. The cost of its construction was \$13,000.

Behind the building there were stables or stalls for the horses and buggies of the early members of the church. Some of the neighbors in Hamilton Square were disturbed enough to complain about the Baptists racing buggies on Nottingham Way after Sunday services.

Baptisms were performed at two sites until the present baptistery was constructed within the church building in 1921. The first of these was the Delaware River. One cold March, the ice had to be broken for baptism to take place. Later, baptisms were done at Hutchinson Pond. With the completion of the baptistery in the church, the climate for baptism was much more comfortable. Today, the baptistery has hot and cold running water.

The windows presently in the sanctuary were installed in the 1920's. Problems with the original sashes led the congregation to replace the first colored glass windows with new stained glass, donated by families of the early members, and in their memory. Restoration of the stained glass windows continues to be a memorial mission of the current congregation.

Names of our early members are familiar on streets and roads throughout the Square: Flock, Hutchinson, Tindall, Cubberly, George Dye, Coleman, and Robbins, to name a few. All of these names are on the tombstones in the cemetery on either side of the church. Also buried in the church cemetery are Revolutionary and Civil War veterans. Buried near the church is Gersham Loveless, a Revolutionary War Veteran and Boston Tea Party participant. Civil War Veterans buried in the church cemetery include:

EAST SIDE		WEST SIDE
Samuel Nutt Simeon Hughes Hiriam McLivaine John W. Tindall William J. Bottles		Henry B. Hutchinson George W. Cubberly William Yard Garner Newcomb Thomas W. Allen

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Recent Pastoral History

Joseph Thomasburger was pastor from 1955 to 1967. Pastor Thomasburger was active in the Civil Rights in Selma, Alabama, and, under his guidance, we connected with city churches through the Greater Trenton Council of Churches.

The Christian Education wing was added in 1959, and the basement was enlarged. Also in 1959, a parking lot was constructed to replace the stables and stalls in order to accommodate automobiles. In the mid-1960's, the sanctuary was remodeled and the organ console was electrified. At that time, the choir loft was moved from front and center to the right front of the church so that the choir would be more visible during services. Recent renovations include a wheelchair ramp, an elevator, and the air-conditioning of Burke Lounge. Burke Lounge, named in honor of former pastor Ernest Burke, is used for many of our church organizations and committees as a meeting place, as well as for fellowship time following or preceding Sunday services.

The sanctuary accommodates 250 people comfortably. The cross over the pulpit was made by a member of the church, Elmer Everett, using wood from one of the original pews in the church.

The outside front of the church has been renovated and landscaped in memory of our former pastor, the late Roger H. Berg. Reverend Berg came to us in 1969 at a time when our church needed to be unified and served our church until his retirement in July 1988. During his stay here, we celebrated the church's Bicentennial and the burning of our mortgage. Roger helped to minister to the disenfranchised youth through a coffeehouse called "The Place" and he was involved with the youth at Rider University. Also under Roger's leadership, the Nottingham Recreation Center for the Physically Limited was conceived. This organization went on to be a key factor in the building of Project Freedom, a community for the physically limited.

After Reverend Berg's departure, Hamilton Square Baptist Church welcomed Dr. Donald J. Brash as its pastor in June 1989. Pastor Brash continued the tradition of what we believe to be our mission: to minister to the needs of the community and the world as good stewards "until He comes". Under Pastor Brash's leadership, the church constitution was revised, the organization of the church was re-established, and monthly healing services were instituted. The piece of land behind our church, known as "The Grove", as well as the church's parsonage were sold. Pastor Brash left in 1999 to pursue a teaching opportunity.

In June 2000, Douglas Valentine joined us at a time when church growth was a priority at Hamilton Square Baptist Church. At the time of our church calling Doug to be our next pastor, he received his ordination at First Baptist Church of Trenton. In 2002, Pastor Valentine was a key factor in members of Calvary Baptist Church in Trenton

joining the HSBC congregation which included merging significant assets. Calvary Baptist Church was approaching a time in which it would be closing its doors when they joined Hamilton Square Baptist Church. Pastor Valentine's tenure was also a time that brought young families to the church. Shortly after coming to HSBC, Pastor Valentine and his family adopted a daughter from an Asian country. The congregation lovingly supported the Valentines during the adoption process and welcomed their new daughter into its midst. The church soon returned to one with active committees that became more engaged in supporting the functioning of the church.

During Pastor Valentine's time at HSBC, he instituted several adult bible/book studies, such as *40 Days of Purpose* and *Eli*. He and his father, also an ABC (American Baptist Church) pastor, co-led a Lenten study each year. Pastor Valentine had the support and acceptance of the congregation in numerous programs and mission projects he felt led to be involved in, and was welcomed personally, along with his family, into the homes of many congregation members.

In November 2006, following a time of difficulties in communications, expectations and relationships, between the church's pastor and congregation, Pastor Valentine felt led to explore other opportunities. He subsequently accepted an offer from a fellow ABC-USA church in Kansas City, Missouri, to be its spiritual leader. The congregation was sorry to see Doug leave, but respected his decision and extended best wishes as he pursued God's calling in his new church. Following Pastor Valentine's departure, the congregation experienced a variety of emotions and, as a result, several members chose to pursue another church home. As a result of the circumstances surrounding Pastor Doug's leaving, we have recognized the need for more clearly defined expectations in the relationship between our church's pastor and the church's leadership and congregation. It is our desire that not only will the congregation support the pastor, but that his/her immediate family will support the pastor's ministry of our church.

God is good, slow to anger, merciful, and ever-faithful – and we continue to celebrate Him and His care of our lives!

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

HAMILTON SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH...
Accessibility Accommodations

Hamilton Square Baptist Church wishes to be accessible to individuals with physical disabilities. All sections of our building are accessible through ramps, lifts, etc. Click on the link below to view photos of some of these accommodations.

In addition, special earphones which amplify the service for hearing impaired individuals are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Hamilton Square Baptist Church welcomes all who desire a relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to participate in our worship service and fellowship with other believers without judgment or prejudice.

[CLICK HERE](#)
TO VIEW PICTURES OF
ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS AT
HAMILTON SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Who We Are Today

Hamilton Square Baptist Church is a neighborhood church which is home to a small congregation on the outskirts of Trenton and within driving distance of both Philadelphia and New York City.

Our congregation of just over 200 members primarily lives within ten miles of the church, with just a third living more than ten miles away.

Our church and recent pastors have been very active in ABC-NJ and area Ecumenical functions. Our Pastor normally attends the biennial of ABC-USA and several members of the congregation, along with the pastor, attend the ABC-NJ Biennial. Additionally, we are active in the Trenton Area Ecumenical Council, The Capital Cluster and participate in local Continuing Education opportunities.

Many members of our congregation have contributed significantly in the development of our church both in our past and our present. Programs they have developed include youth ministry, local, regional and international mission giving, and a Christian Education Program. Our congregation has supported one of its members during her studies in seminary.

We actively support Baptist Camp Lebanon through budgeted Camp Scholarships, and our Youth Fellowship Leaders are very active in Mid Winter Advance (MWA), a non-denominational retreat held at America's Keswick in Whiting, N.J.. This event consists of six weekend retreats in January and February of each year. Our Youth Group has attended one of the MWA weekends each winter as part of leading them to walk with our Lord. The possibility of a summer Mission Trip is currently being explored by our youth as well.

Our mission giving continues to be strong, both in ABC sponsored offerings as well as local community opportunities. Through various committees, our congregation supports such missions as making blankets, distributing food baskets, serving at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), and other fellowship projects. In addition, our congregation generously gives to our Vacation Bible School (VBS) program through donations of food for snacks, as well as supplies for crafts, volunteering, and prayer. Each year at our annual Hanging of the Greens service, we give generously to local missions through donations in stockings placed on our Christmas tree at the end of the service.

American Baptist Church of New Jersey houses its offices in our building. Other groups that utilize our building include the Grange, several AA groups, Al-Anon, and various Scouting troops.

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

WHO WE ARE

AGE BREAKDOWN

AGE GROUP	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
0-9	7	6	13
10-14	3	4	7
15-19	1	3	4
20-29	2	4	6
30-45	20	23	43
46-55	20	24	44
56-65	13	22	35
66-74	16	21	37
75-79	9	26	35
80 – above	8	17	25
TOTAL	99	150	249

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

ETHNICITY	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
African American	2	Less than 1%
Asian American	1	Less than 1%
Caucasian; European American	245	98%
Hispanic / Latino	0	0
Native American	0	0
Indian	1	Less than 1%

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

WHO WE ARE

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

CATEGORY	TOTAL
Employed full-time	40
Employed part-time	10
Homemaker full-time	7
Retired	54
Student	30

EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY

CATEGORY	TOTAL
Clergy	2
Clerical, Office, etc.	10
Craft worker, Production supervisor	2
Farmer, Farm Manager, Farm Laborer	0
Health Care	2
Household worker	0
Laborer	3
Machine operator	5
Manager, proprietor, executive	5
Military	0
Professional	10
Sales, Service	0
Teacher	6
Technical	5

ESTIMATED INCOME RANGE

CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE
\$0 - \$44,999	10%
\$45,000 - \$74,999	80%
\$75,000 – Above	10%

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

WHO WE ARE

FAMILY TYPES

Category	TOTAL
Single female parent with one or more child at home	4
Single male parent with one or more child at home	2
Married with no children at home	48
Married with one or more child at home	33
Separated / divorced with no children at home	6
Separated / divorced living alone	2
Single adult living with parent(s)	6
Single adult not living with parent(s)	9
Widowed living alone	37
Widowed with one or more child at home	4
Elderly living with children	2

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

HAMILTON SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH... *Our Worship Life*

The following are our strengths and needs within the worship life at Hamilton Square Baptist Church, in the key categories of Congregation, Music, and Pastoral Expectations.

CONGREGATION:

The following are always or regularly scheduled items within our worship experience:

- Lay leaders participate in:
 - Making announcements
 - Prayer
- The church covenant is read
- Prayer concerns come from the congregation (both verbally and written)
- Unison prayers are used
- Communion is served by the minister

The following are part of our worship experience most of the time or occasionally:

- Worship Committee plans our worship
- Children participate in worship
- Lay leaders provide Children's Message
- People greet each other as part of worship
- Responsive readings/litanies are used

We would like to try the following in our worship experience:

- Invitation is extended to make a decision to join church or make a public decision for Christ

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Our Worship Life
(continued)

MUSIC

The following are always or regularly scheduled items within our church's music program:

Vocal Music:

- ✓ Adult Choir performance during regular service
- ✓ Special Music during the summer
- ✓ Special services
- ✓ Congregation sings familiar hymns

Instrumental Music:

- ✓ Organ and Piano

The following are part of music program most of the time or occasionally:

Vocal Music:

- ✓ Praise songs/choruses
- ✓ New songs
- ✓ Gospel songs

Instrumental Music:

- ✓ Soloists
- ✓ Guitar
- ✓ Flute
- ✓ Harp
- ✓ Recorded CD's

We would like to try the following activities within our music program:

- ✓ Children/Youth choir
- ✓ A worship team leads congregational singing

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Our Worship Life
(continued)

WE WOULD LIKE THE MINISTER TO:

Always or regularly:

- Share leadership of worship with laity
- Use a variety of worship styles
- Preach sermons with a biblical focus
- Preach sermons on stewardship (annually)

Most of the time:

- Wear a robe/stole

Should occasionally:

- Mention all prayer concerns in the Pastoral Prayer
- Preach sermons on evangelism and/or social issues
- Provide the Children's Message
- Use input from the Worship Committee

Begin the following practices:

- Share leadership of worship with students in ministry

THE FOLLOWING ARE AREAS NOT EXPECTED OF OUR MINISTER:

- Be the only worship leader
- Share leadership of worship with other staff/associate pastors
- Encourage the use of charismatic gifts

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

OUR CHURCH LIFE

The items listed below reflect activities or programs our church offers, and have been identified as to how often each occurs.

Sunday School for all ages	Most of the time
Midweek children’s programs	We would like to try this someday soon
Child care for all services	Most of the time
Children’s ministry opportunities	Most of the time
Youth ministry opportunities.....	Always
Senior adult ministry opportunities	Occasionally
Single adult ministry opportunities	We would like to try this someday soon
Teacher training events	We would like to try this someday soon
Small group Bible study	Occasionally
Midweek prayer / Bible study	Most of the time
Fellowship opportunities	Occasionally
Women’s ministries.....	Always
Men’s ministries	Occasionally
Needs-based small groups	We would like to try this someday soon
Special needs groups	Never
Discipleship classes.....	We would like to try this someday soon
Membership classes	Always
Spiritual gifts assessment	Occasionally
Mission education	Most of the time
Mission involvement.....	Always
Community service opportunities.....	Most of the time
Revival/Renewal services	Never
Ecumenical worship events	Most of the time
Intergenerational activities	Occasionally
Day-Care ministry	Never
“English as a Second Language” ministry	Never
Community basic needs ministry	Never

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

HAMILTON SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH....
What We Believe

Church Mission Statement

The mission of this church is:

- To continually search for and proclaim the meaning of God's love expressed through Jesus as the Christ for the experiences of contemporary life;
- To develop a fellowship of concern for all people as the children of God;
- To provide ministries through which persons may be joined together in worship of God, in service to humanity, and in continuing reformation of society.

Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body of Christ.

We agree, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the growth of this church in knowledge and mutual support, to promote its prosperity and spirituality, to sustain its worship, ordinances, and beliefs, to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry and the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spreading of the gospel throughout the world.

We promise to maintain as far as possibly family and personal devotion, to explore the Scriptures with our children, to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances, to be careful in our conduct, to be just in our dealings, to be faithful in our commitment to set a positive example, and enthusiastic in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

When we move from this church, we will unite with another congregation where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant.

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

VISION FOR MINISTRY

1. *What are the strengths of our church?*
 - Cooperation / Teamwork
 - Faith
 - Honesty / Truthfulness
 - Mission and Community Outreach
 - Music
 - Nurturing Fellowship
 - Pastoral Care
 - Steadfast
 - Strong Leadership

2. *What are the needs of our church?*
 - ✓ Better Organization
 - ✓ Cooperation
 - ✓ Diverse Music
 - ✓ Evangelism
 - ✓ Financial giving
 - ✓ Growth (smart growth) including younger people
 - ✓ Preaching – effective
 - ✓ Spiritual leadership
 - ✓ Visitation and Prayer
 - ✓ Volunteers – more needed

3. *What do we do well?*
 - Active Committees
 - Education
 - Fellowship / Supportiveness / Working together
 - Missions giving
 - Music Program
 - Vision
 - Visiting those in need
 - Welcoming/Friendly environment
 - Worship

4. *What do our neighbors needs from us as a church?*
 - ❖ Acceptance
 - ❖ Church planting (open doors for use by other church groups)
 - ❖ Community mission
 - ❖ Community outreach
 - ❖ Community service
 - ❖ Compassion
 - ❖ Spiritual leadership/faithfulness

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

CONGREGATIONAL STRENGTHS

Budget / Financial Management

Committees

active and organized

Communication

Education

Mission Promotion

Music Directing / Performing

Planning and Management

Prayer

Stewardship

Teaching

Worship Preparation and Leading

Youth Ministry

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

**Capital Budgeted Church Projects
Voted on 2001**

Status as of 1-18-07

1.	Repair Stained Glass Window – 2 nd Floor front	Done
2.	Repair/Replace trim at top of Sanctuary outside – Masonry Exterior repair	Done
3.	Organ Repair	On Going
4.	Property Survey	Done
5.	Air Condition Sanctuary	Done
6.	Fellowship Tables – need filled with Calvary Tables	Done
7.	New Kitchen	Done
8.	New sound & recording equipment for Sanctuary	Done
9.	Lighting for Church front	Done
10.	Hearing impaired system	Done
11.	Pew Cushions	Done
12.	Repair driveway & parking lot	Done
13.	Handicapped access to Christian Ed building	Done
14.	New lighting for Christian Ed building	Done
15.	New floor for McCabe Hall	In Process
16.	New sign in front of Church	Not Completed
17.	Wall banners for Sanctuary	Done
18.	Landscaping back of property	Done
19.	Church building for Haitian help with finances	Done
20.	Fence in back of property	Done
21.	Outside audio speakers at Church front for Chime Master system	Done

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

HAMILTON SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH
3752 Nottingham Way, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690
(609) 587-8585

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON
Jeff Shropshire

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Jennifer Snyder

SECRETARY
Elma Scott

David Everett
Jackie Littleton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Keith Graser
Nancy Losey

Scott Johnson
Karen Schenk

PHOTOGRAPHY
Mark Dunlop

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)