The Lamplighter

**MARCH 2015**

**Cohansey Baptist Church**

**714 Roadstown Road**

**Bridgeton, NJ 08302**

**856 – 455 - 7787**



 Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and I trust that this message finds you well. February was a great month here at Cohansey Baptist Church and even though the chill of the weather caused us to miss two services, the warmth of our Savior comforted us throughout our time apart. The Bridgeton Area ABC Lenten services have gotten off to a great start and I thank you for your continued attendance. Also, we are gearing up for the resurrection season and I encourage all of us to support and participate as much as possible in the services and activities throughout this month.

One aspect of the Lenten journey is the need for contemplation and self-examination, as we consider our humanity in light of the sacrifice of Jesus. Across denominational lines, many Christians have decided to sacrifice something in their lives as a way of remembering the walk of Jesus on His way to Calvary. However, let us not simply resolve to give something up but let us also seek after the face of God and commit ourselves to spiritual renewal throughout this journey. Let us be mindful, friends of the words of the Psalmist, who was seeking after God and asking, praying, and pleading for renewal and cleansing.

“***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me...Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit***.” *Psalm 51:10, 12*

It is an amazing thought that only as we are cleansed in our hearts can we have the capacity to have lasting and meaningful joy and strength. In order for a steadfast spirit to be renewed, it must have been there previously and faded away. Has your steadfast spirit waned in some of the more difficult days of your life? Has your joy been zapped and you find it difficult to smile? Are you no longer willing to share a helping hand, volunteer for a committee, or provide a listening ear? If any of these things have ever crept their way into your life, I implore you to seek God in this season and ask like so many before, “...create in me a clean heart.” God I need a new start, a better way, another chance and wait with amazement and expectation as God meets you in this period of asking.

I trust that this message blesses and encourages you throughout this month and if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Peace and Blessings,

Reverend Alexander G. Houston

Pastor





Remember the next newsletter articles, announcements; pictures, etc. are due**, MARCH 15, 2015**. You can put them in the Newsletter mailbox, email them to me or call me. My email address is: nohowmom@comcast.net and my phone number is 856-455–2574. Thank you!

Thank you to all of those who faithfully give of their time and assemble the newsletter each month.

**PAINTING LESSON!**

**This has been changed to March 10th due to the last snow storm.**



Tuesday, March 10th at 6pm, there will be a painting class where you will receive instructions on painting this 16x20 picture of Spring buds. Come and bring your friends, have fun learning how to paint, snacks will be served. Tickets are on sale for $30 per person and the proceeds will go toward our 325th celebration. For tickets please see **Lara Riggins** or **Diane Crispin**

The **Mission Board** is still collecting funds to meet their goal of raising $250 to send to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Look for posters in the narthex or on the Mission bulletin boards with information on how you can help meet the daily health care needs of those in the DRC.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY MANOR SERVICE**

We would like to bring to your attention some of the things that happen here weekly or monthly at Cohansey Baptist and invite you to come out and join some of the groups. The **first Wednesday of every month**, **at 10:30 am** we go to the Cumberland Manor and sing with the patients. If you are able and would like to bring a smile to someone please come and join us. Everyone is welcome and I know how much they love to see the children.

The prayer group which meets, **every Tuesday at 9 am** in the parsonage. Would like to invite everyone to come and join them. Come for a time of prayer, sending cards and devotions.

*Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert with an attitude of thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2*



 

**CODE BLUE**

Cohansey Baptist is joining with Marlboro Baptist Church and will be helping with the City of Bridgeton’s Code Blue during the week of March 1st -7th.

If you can help with a meal or take a shift during the night, please sign the sheet in the narthex with your name and phone number.

Visit the web site for more information about code blue, and to fill out the volunteer form at **www.bethanyinbridgeton.com/** then to Code Blue Homeless Program. There you will also find how you can help in other ways, thru donations and Homeless Care Kits.



**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME LUNCHEON**

**FEBRUARY 8, 2015**

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped with the New Members Luncheon, everything was delicious. We appreciate all who came to enjoy and welcomed our new members from 2014. **Linda Gaggini, June Pompper, Dot & Terry Lewis, Kim & Seth Austin and Jim Soone.**

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*The Choir will present*

**aT THE cROSS (lOVE rAN rED)**

**sATURDAY, March 28TH AT 7PM**

**&**

**sUNDAY, march 29TH 10:30AM**

***Needed: SOCKS !***

Please consider providing new socks for the homeless or disadvantaged. They are collected during the offering along with non-perishable food donations. Thank you !!!

## WHITE CROSS

The Missions Board is always collecting used sheets (light colors preferably) to make rolled bandages.

Through White Cross gifts, church members provide urgently-needed supplies and funds that cannot be purchased with limited mission budgets



## 1 Michael Dunkelberger Megan Girock

3 Travis Turner

### 8 Andrea Levick

## 9 Jere Baker

##  John Shimp

10 Jane Nicholson

 Richie Perticari

 Arlene VanMeter

11 Penny Timberman

14 B.J. Holt

15 Emily Mayhew

 Terry Lewis

 Leroy (Sonny) Smith

16 Christina Silver Innis

17 Kyle Bayzick

18 Jennifer Riggins

 June Pompper

19 Linda Gaggini

21 Joe Wagner

 Lara Riggins

22 Betty Gaskill

 Megan West

25 Helen Rammel

26 Ryan Mauer

 Mabel Laquitara

27 Madeline Sebastian

30 Christina Holt DePatri

 Randy Marks

 Chrissy Akers Knerr

31 Sara Baker

 *\*\*\*\*If your name is not on our Birthday List or there needs to be a correction or your name has changed please let me know by calling 856-455-2574 or by email at* *nohowmom@comcast.net**. Thank you\*\*\*\**

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**Special Dates**

• Second Sunday in Lent, *March 1, 2015*
• World Day of Prayer, *March 6, 2015*
• Third Sunday in Lent, *March 8, 2015*
• Daylight-Saving Time Begins, *March 8, 2015*
• Girl Scout Sunday, *March 8, 2015*
• Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 15, 2015*
• First Day of Spring, *March 20, 2015*
• Fifth Sunday in Lent, *March 22, 2015*
• Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 29, 2015*
• Holy Week, *March 29-April 4, 2015*

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**Please keep these people in prayer That God may manifest His healing in them and He will be praised.**

Irene Vetro R.C. Holt Rose Gaggini Timothy Ross Carol Shimp Evelyn Armstrong Ed Peterson Dennis Gaggini Courtney Etherton Jessica Haasch Kelly Hilbert Heather Wolbert Helen and Marvin Rammel Frances Newkirk Scott Tobin Brenda Tobin

**Please pray for the city of Bridgeton.**

**Please pray for the well-being of our country and our leaders. May God grant them wisdom as they deal with the situations around the world and here at home.**

**Shut-Ins:** Janet Bonaldo Ashley Guntow Ruth Levick Doris Newkirk

**Nursing Homes:** Anna Dickerson Margaret McAllister

**Battling Cancer:**  Gloria Branca Lisa Haffner Emily Horton Debbie Marks Lake Jeff Mortimer Marion Nickopolous Louise Orsini Ed Peterson Ron Rouver Mike Scavelli Brenda Snyder Aaron Silver, Jr.

**Special Concerns:** Dave Borrelli Courtney Etherton

**In the Service:** Mike Dunkelberger Kyle Mihalecz Nicky Mihalecz Brian Schrier Doug Shimp Russell Shinn Shauna Sloan Andrew Tobin Lance Shestakoff Jay Perticari

**College Students:**  Tyler Davenport Amaryllis DeJesus Katelin Elwell Steve Frantz David Johnson Mindy Williams Samuel Tobin Megan West Melissa Smith Megan Smith

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| **Comforting Those Who Mourn** |
| Words aren’t always necessary — or even beneficial — when people are hurting. In *Killing Giants, Pulling Thorns* (Zondervan), Charles Swindoll tells of a girl who went to comfort the mother of a deceased playmate. “What did you say?” the girl’s parents later asked. “Nothing,” she replied. “I just climbed up on her lap and cried with her.” Joseph Bayly, who experienced the deaths of three children, shares a similar experience in *The View From a Hearse* (David C. Cook): “I was sitting, torn by grief. Someone came and talked to me of God’s dealings, of why it happened, of hope beyond the grave. He talked constantly. He said things I knew were true. I was unmoved, except to wish he’d go away. He finally did. “Another came and sat beside me. He didn’t talk. He didn’t ask me leading questions. He just sat beside me for an hour or more, listened when I said something, answered briefly, prayed simply, left. I was moved. I was comforted. I hated to see him go.”  |

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**Recipe of the Month:**

**Pineapple Casserole**

Serves: 6

Ingredients:

* 1 (20 ounce) can crushed pineapple, drained
* 1 cup sugar
* 4 eggs
* ½ cup (1 stick) butter, melted
* 9-10 cups ½” bread cubes
* cinnamon, optional

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the pineapple, sugar, eggs, and butter. Add enough bread cubes to soak up almost all the liquid. Pour into a casserole dish. Cover and set aside for 30 minutes to let the bread soak up the mixture.
2. Sprinkle mixture with cinnamon, if desired. Heat oven to 350°F and bake 1 hour.

Notes

This can be prepared a day ahead and placed in the refrigerator overnight. Before baking bring back up to room temperature, about 2 hours on the counter.

[WordPress Recipe Plugin by EasyRecipe](http://www.easyrecipeplugin.com/)

**A Potluck of People**

Many congregations enjoy gathering for potluck dinners — meals largely unplanned, when people bring food to share. Usually, the main dishes, salads and desserts balance out. The fun is the variety mixing together on a plate and the surprise factor of what’s contributed.

Churches and communities — even families — are potlucks of a sort, too. When groups assemble, each person contributes something unique and sometimes unexpected. When all is mixed together, the whole is truly greater than the sum of the parts. A beautiful balance often results: One is a good singer, the other writes well; some are strong leaders, others dependable team members; some are traditional, others innovative. Together, it’s delicious!

Potlucks are sometimes called covered-dish dinners. But don’t keep your gifts “covered”! Share them because you’re a valued part of the whole.

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| **Indulge for Lent?** |
| Rather than sacrificing something for Lent — especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, such as chocolate — Patty Kirk, in *Guideposts* magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God’s presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services. But Kirk offers these ideas: • Spend time outdoors, sensing God’s magnificence. • Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus’ promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matthew 25:31-46). • Pray for the “little things,” coming before God in childlike trust and feeling peace. • Watch attentively for God’s answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence. • Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you “sacrifice” the tendency to wallow in worry.  |



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**Memory Verse:**



**Jokes:**

Q. What did the bully have for lunch?
A. He had a knuckle sandwich!

Q. Why did the girl jump up and down before taking her medicine?
A. Because the label said: Shake well before using!

Q. What do you call a person who studies happy parrots?
A. A jollypollyoligist!

**Puzzle:**



**Bible quiz:**

When the Pharisees complained about the noisy crowd praising God as Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, what did he say would shout out if the people were silent?

A. The stones
B. The trees
C. The palm branches
D. The donkey

Answer: (See Luke 19:40.)



***2015 Bridgeton Area American Baptist Churches Lenten Schedule***

***7:00 PM***

**March 4, 2015**

Place: Cohansey Baptist

Speaker: Rev. Jerry Fortunato

Subject: Two Criminals

Special Music: Cohansey Baptist

**March 11, 2015**

Place: Central Baptist Church, Millville

Speaker: Rev. Albert Morgan, Union Baptist

Subject: Simon of Cyrene

Special Music: Central Baptist & Union Baptist

**March 18, 2015**

Place: Berean Baptist Temple

Speaker: Pastor Aleksander Saar, First Baptist

Subject: The Women

Special Music: Berean & First Baptist

**March 25, 2015**

Place: Pearl Street Baptist

Speaker: Rev. Lou Spyes, Jr., Central Baptist

Subject: Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus

Special Music: First Baptist & Central Baptist

**April 2, 2015 Maundy Thursday Communion Service**

Place: Central Baptist Church, Millville

Service: Tenebrae Service with hymns and readings

*The offerings collected throughout our Lenten Services will go to support the Bridgeton Christian School on Central Ave. in Bridgeton and the Cumberland Christian School on W. Sherman Ave. in Vineland. Their mission is to reach the minds, hearts and hands for Christ. They are dedicated to excellence in education, recognizing the authority of Scripture in all areas of life while preparing students to serve Jesus Christ. If you would like to learn more please visit the website of Bridgeton Christian School at* [*www.bridgetonchristian.org/*](http://www.bridgetonchristian.org/) *and the Cumberland Christian School at* [*www.cccrusader.org/*](http://www.cccrusader.org/)*.*





During the month of March, we will once again participate in the America for Christ Offering through American Baptist Churches USA. The focus of the AFC Offering 2015 is grace – God’s grace.

*One of the third-generation writings of the New Testament known as the Pastoral Epistles, Titus addresses problems related to transmitting the faith from generation to generation, the spiritual health of Christians, and distortions of Christian teachings—issues that are pressing today. After enumerating several “must-dos,” the letter to Titus reminds us of the foundation of those imperatives, namely God’s grace. The epitome of Christian teaching is that discipleship is grounded always in God’s action for us in Jesus:*

“Christian discipleship begins and ends with grace. The impact of any Christian witness is diminished if those efforts flow out of insecure, driven, demanding and graceless lives. The foundation of discipleship, that we are justified by Christ, means we don’t need to, and in fact cannot, justify ourselves through activity, accomplishments or acquisition”

(“Learning the Way,” Cassandra Carkuff Williams, Rowman and Littlefield).

Whenever our focus shifts from grace to “shoulds,” we cease to live the Christian gospel. Our hope lies in the promise of Jesus’ glorious return (vs. 13). Sadly, in the hands of some, that hope becomes a weapon. “Will you be ready when Jesus returns?” threaten our bumper stickers and church signs as though people can be scared into discipleship. Grace alone is the fuel that runs discipleship. This is the message that Titus had been sent to proclaim in Crete to despised and marginalized people, who had as much right as anyone to the good news of God’s grace. This is the message we are called to create space for in our hearts, our churches and our world.

*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Titus 2:11-13*

Some of the ABHMS Mission and Ministries efforts that are supported through the AFC donations:

- Children in Poverty (CIP)

– Missional Church Learning Experience

– Neighborhood Action Programs

– Chaplaincy Programs

– Volunteer Ministries

– Partnerships with ABCUSA Colleges and Seminaries

– Student Campus Ministries

– National Youth Conferences (about every 4 yrs)

– Got Style? Evangelism Training

– Intercultural Ministries, Seminars and Workshops

– Refugee Resettlement Initiatives (e.g., Burmese)

(Envelopes will be available in the pews

and can be put in the offering plate.)

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| **SUNDAY** | **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** | **SATURDAY** |
| 1***Communion Sunday***9:30 AM Adult Sunday School10:30 AM Worship | 2 CODE BLUE7 PM Choir rehearsal7:30 PM Cantata | 3 CODE BLUE9 AM Prayer Group7 PM Music Comm. | 4 CODE BLUE10:30 AM Manor Service7 PM Lenten Service @Cohansey | 5 CODE BLUE7 PM Praise Band  | 6 CODE BLUE | For use in printed publications, Right-Click on the filename below to download and choose "Save Target As" or "Save Link As"7 |
| 89:30 AM Adult Sunday School10:30 AM Worship6-7:45 PM BYF | 97 PM Choir rehearsal 7:30 PM Cantata | 109 AM Prayer Group6:30 PM Trustees7 PM Deacons7 PM Missions Brd7 PM Painting Class | 117 PM Lenten Service @ Central Baptist, Millville | 127 PM Praise Band | 13 | 14 |
| 159:30 AM Adult Sunday School10:30 AM Worship and **Baptism** 6-7:45 PM BYF | 167 PM Choir rehearsal7:15 PM Cantata Lamplighter Articles Due | 17For use in printed publications, Right-Click on the filename below to download and choose "Save Target As" or "Save Link As"9 AM Prayer Group | 187 PM Lenten Service @ Berean Baptist Temple  | 197 PM Praise Band | 20For use in printed publications, Right-Click on the filename below to download and choose "Save Target As" or "Save Link As" | 21 |
| 229:30 AM Adult Sunday School10:30 AM Morning Worship 6-7:45 BYF | 237 PM Choir rehearsalCantata | 249 AM Prayer Group7 PM Brd. Of Christian Ed andHospitality Comm. | 257 PM Lenten Service @ Pearl Street Baptist | 267 PM Praise Band | 27 | For use in printed publications, Right-Click on the filename below to download and choose "Save Target As" or "Save Link As"28 |
| 29 PALM SUNDAY9:30 AM Adult Sunday school10:30 Am Worship and **Cantata**6 PM BYF | 307 PM Choir Rehearsal | 316:30 PM Official Board Meeting |  |  |   |  |

**March 2015 Calendar of Activities & Events**