

Cohansey Baptist Church

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Interim Pastor:
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Cohansey Baptist Church

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Cohansey Baptist Church

Table of Contents

Overview.....	1
Demographics.....	2
Community.....	3
Purpose.....	9
Beliefs.....	10
Vision for Ministry & Goals.....	11
Money Matters.....	12
Cohansey's History.....	13
Role of Pastors.....	19
Licentiates.....	20
Daughter Churches.....	22
Organizational Chart.....	23
Leadership.....	24
Worship Style.....	26
Church Life.....	28
Bibliography.....	36



Overview



- Nestled in a small town (population < 5,000) with lots of open country
- Old Established church with a long history (founded in 1690) & provision to help establish other churches
- Supports The American Baptist Churches of New Jersey by attending our West Jersey Association Meetings and Conference programs
- Predominantly European American, middle-class, family-oriented, and intergenerational, weekly attendance is approximately 100, with a blend of many ages.

Demographics

Cumberland County New Jersey

(per census taken in 2010)

Population = 156,898

Caucasian = 62.7%

African American = 20.2%

American Indian = 1.1%

Hispanic or Latino = 27.1%

Land in area of square miles = 483.70

Persons per square mile = 324.4

Median Household Income = \$47,921



Surrounding Community

Cohansey Baptist Church is nestled in the historic community of Roadstown, in rural Cumberland County, New Jersey. While we enjoy the peaceful serenity of open space and small agricultural communities, we are only minutes away from larger towns, approximately 50 minutes from the city of Philadelphia, and 45 miles from Ocean City, NJ.

Our community provides an ideal environment to raise a family. The surrounding school districts have small class sizes, high teacher to student ratios, some of the highest standardized test scores in the county, and strong family involvement. Our schools not only stress the importance of high academics, but instill the value of good character.

Despite our rural setting, there is plenty to enjoy in our area. Take a walk down the historical Ye Greate Street and visit colonial homes and the Greenwich Teaburner Monument. We also have many local eateries. After a walk through historic Greenwich, stop in for a bite at Aunt Betty's Kitchen, owned and operated by our own Cliff and Betty Jones. If you love the water, our community sits near the Delaware Bay and plenty of waterways. Fishing, crabbing, boating and tubing are a few activities many of us enjoy. If you like to shop, we also have a large Amish Market that is open Thursday through Saturday.

There are plenty opportunities to serve others in our community. Recently, many churches have joined with our local government to help the homeless. The Code Blue Initiative provides food and shelter during the cold weather for those who are homeless.

Our community is a beautiful place to live, but like many small towns across America, we also have our challenges. We need a bold spirit-led leader who is willing to help share the Good News in our community.

Enjoy the view...



Rich with history...



Around town...



An hour away...



Helpful websites related to community:

Community Websites:

- www.nj.com/bridgeton-nj

For local news, weather,
and more information
about the area

- www.southjersey.com
- www.visitsouthjersey.com

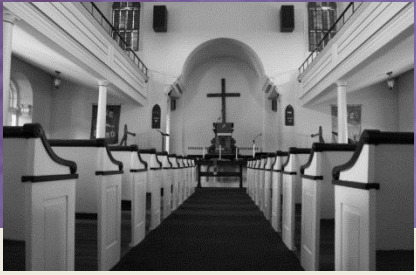
Surrounding School Districts:

- Hopewell Crest Elementary School (Hopewell Twp./Shiloh Borough): www.hopewellcrest.org
- Morris Goodwin Elementary School (Greenwich/StowCreek Twp.):
www.greenwichstowcreekpartnershipschools.org
- Stow Creek Township Middle School (Greenwich/Stow Creek Twp.):
www.greenwichstowcreekpartnershipschools.org
- Upper Deerfield Township Schools: www.udts.org
- City of Bridgeton Public Schools:
www.Bridgeton.k12.nj.us
- Cumberland Regional High School: www.crhsd.org



Our Purpose

To glorify God in worship; to invite others to respond to Jesus' love; to belong to a family of love and encouragement; to develop Christ-like maturity; and to express God's love in service to others.



Our Beliefs



We believe in the personal triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, equal in divine perfection
(Matthew 28:19)

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ
(John 10:30; John 1:1, 14; 2 Corinthians 5:19)

We believe that humanity was created in the image of God and lived in innocence until the fall took place by voluntary transgression, which resulted in all of humankind being made sinners.
(Genesis 1:26; Genesis 3: 6-24)

We believe that the suffering and death of Jesus Christ was substitutionary for all humankind and is efficacious only to those who believe.
(Isaiah 53:6; Hebrews 2:9)

We believe that salvation is available to all humankind but can only be accessed by grace and through faith.
(Ephesians 2:8)

We believe in the bodily resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ and bodily resurrection of His Saints
(Matthew 28: 1-7; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

We believe the Bible is infallible and is the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice.
(2 Timothy 3:16, 17)

We believe in two ordinances: baptism by immersion and communion

Vision for Ministry & Goals

Strengths of Cohansey:

- Christ Centered
- Biblically Focused
- Established History of Christian Witness
- Family-oriented, friendly
- Strong Mission and Benevolence Engagement
- Inspirational worship
- Community Based/Outward Reaching
- Bereavement ministry
- Care for church family

Potential Areas for Growth:

- Actively engage with & respond to the needs of our community
- Attract and mentor children/youth/young adults & their families
- Equip and develop leaders in the church and beyond
- Effectively disciple new (AND OLD!) believers
- Discover and promote the use of spiritual gifts among believers
- Encourage a sense of priority and life-long investment in the work of Christ

Vision for Ministry & Goals

We believe a pastor can help us achieve our goals for ministry with these pastoral priorities:

1. Communicate a comprehensive understanding of the Bible and Christian theology in terms relevant to person's lives. **(interpreting the faith)**
2. Support the preaching ministry with time for preparation/reflection on the Word, and commitment to listen for the Word's power and its implications for individuals, the church, the community and the world. **(preaching)**
3. Provide by word and presence and an empathetic understanding of and concern for persons in the routine and joys as well as the crises and transitions of life, giving assistance where appropriate and feasible. **(pastoral care)**
4. Seek to lead persons to make decisions for Christ encouraging their identification with and participation in the local church/community. **(evangelism)**
5. Motivate & support persons in discovering and using their gifts for ministry in their daily lives. **(ministry of the laity development)**
6. Encourage and provide opportunities for the congregation/individual to be informed and involved in Christian witness at home and abroad. **(mission promotion)**

Money Matters

Cohansey's current total budget: \$205,350.00

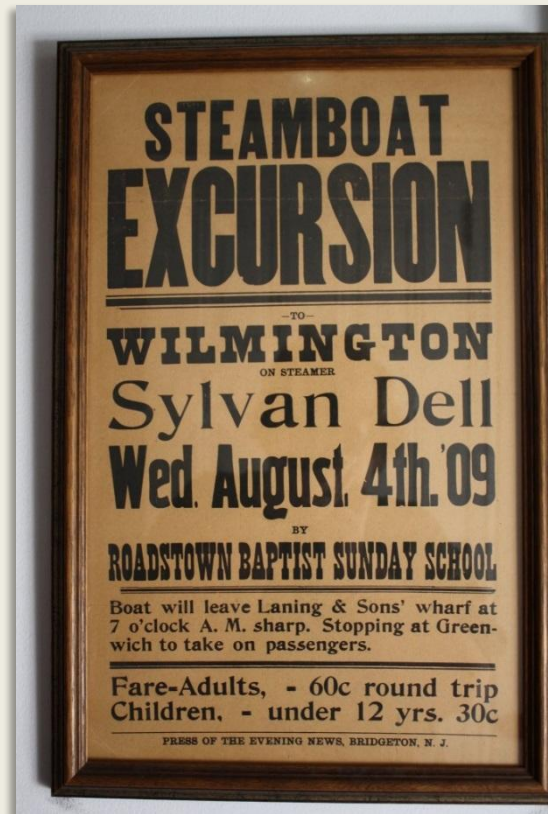
Cohansey's current total expenses: \$132,350.00

Cohansey's current annual mission giving: \$23,228.00

Benefits of being a pastor at Cohansey:

- Lower cost of living
- Compensation comparable or above other professionals with similar education in surrounding community
- Agreed upon vacation days and time off
- Written agreement regarding compensation, ministry-related expenses, and benefits
- Flexible compensation package including:
 - Salary
 - Housing offset
 - MMB pension
 - Professional expenses
 - Car/mileage expenses
 - Continuing education
 - Social Security offset
 - Health Insurance (if desired)

Over 325 Years of Baptist Ministry



Cohansey's Rich History: Yesterday...

- Circa 1683** – During the colonization of our land, Baptists from Tipperary County, Ireland, made their homes along the Cohansey Creek. Meeting in their homes, they were led by Rev. Thomas Killingsworth, who would later assist in the organization of Middletown Church in 1688 and the Piscataway Church in 1689.
- 1687** – Welsh Baptists and their pastor, Reverend Timothy Brooks, came from Massachusetts to Bowentown where they built a log meeting house.
- 1690** – Built of logs on the south side of the Cohansey Creek, Cohansey Baptist became the third oldest Baptist church in what is now NJ.
- 1707** – Cohansey united with Middletown, Piscataway, Pennepek (PA), and Welsh Tract (DE) to form the Old Philadelphia Association, believed to be the first Baptist Association in the Colonies.
- 1710** – Cohansey united with the Welsh Baptists and a church was erected at Mount's Run (Sheppard's Mill).

Cohansey's Rich History: **Yesterday** *(cont.)*...

- 1716** Reverend Brooks passed away
- 1716 – 1721** Rev. Nathaniel Jenkins, pastor of Cape May Church, supplied Cohansey
- 1721 – 1724** Reverend Butcher pastored Cohansey until his death
- 1724 – 1730** Rev. Nathaniel Jenkins supplied Cohansey, accepted pastorate in 1730, and continued to visit and preach in Cape May
- 1741** A third meeting house was erected at the site of the second one at Sheppard's Mill. The communion table used in this frame church is still used our present church. Buried at the old graveyard, transferred to the Cumberland County Historical Society, are Deborah Swinney, first white female child born in Cohansey precinct; Lieut. David Mulford of the Greenwich Militia during the Revolutionary war; and Rev. Robert Kelsay, a pastor of Cohansey for thirty-three years. Rev. Jenkins started preaching missions in Pittsgrove, Alloways Creek, and Great Egg Harbor until his death in 1754.
- 1755** First Baptist Church of Salem was constituted, along with Pastor Job Sheppard, who had been licensed to preach under Rev. Jenkins.
- 1756** Robert Kelsay became pastor of Cohansey
- 1761** Dividing Creek mission became a constituted church

Cohansey's Rich History: **Yesterday** *(cont.)*...

- 1771** Kelsay was privileged to see the Pittsgrove mission become a distinct church.
- 1790** Rev. Henry Smalley became pastor. Soon after, the present church ground was purchased and plans for erecting the fourth (and present) meeting house were started. The exact cost of the building was not recorded. The bricks were formed and fired in the field on the property.
- 1811** Cohansey joined others to form the NJ Baptist Association, which became known as the West NJ Baptist Assoc. in 1855.
- 1812** Mission church, Pearl Street Baptist, was begun—later becoming a grand-daughter church of Cohansey.
- 1818** Daughter church, Canton Church, was organized.
- 1828** First Baptist Church, daughter church of Cohansey, was organized.
- 1839** Rev. Smalley passed away after forty-nine years as pastor.
- 1851** Roadstown meeting house was remodeled.
- 1862** Large parsonage completed.
- 1864** Pulpit recess and baptistry added.
- 1876** Chapel was built.
- 1883** Raymond West ordained to preach.
- 1892** West ordained at Lehigh Baptist Church in Philadelphia

Cohansey's Rich History: **Yesterday** *(cont.)*...

- 1914 – 1919** One of Cohansey's largest baptisms, with over one hundred baptized, occurred while Rev. T. W. Evans was pastor.
- 1915** Financially supported by Cohansey, Raymond West became first Executive Secretary of the NJ Baptist Convention.
- 1922 – 1944** Rev. A. W. MacKenzie pastored with strong evangelistic meetings.
- 1944 – 1948** Rev. John E. Johnson pastored; renovation of the parsonage.
- 1949 – 1961** Rev. Martin BryNildsen pastored and helped secure funding for an education building by conducting a Loyalty Crusade.
- 1961 – 1964** Thomas L. Deal pastored – attendance grew tremendously and the debt-free education building was constructed in 1964.
- 1965 – 1967** Rev. Carl A. Spade pastored.
- 1968 – 1976** Rev. Robert McGrath served as pastor & helped the church exceed the World Mission Campaign goal of \$7500.00
- 1977 – 1986** David C. Laubach pastored, expanding youth ministries, then felt the Lord's calling to initiate an evangelical program with the American Baptist Churches

Cohansey's Rich History: **Yesterday** *(cont.)*...

- 1987 – 1990** Dean A. Davidson served as pastor, emphasized mission work, and helped celebrate Cohansey's 300th Anniversary.
- 1990 –** Dr. Stanley Nodder pastored, bringing growth in attendance and membership
- 1995 – 1996** Church renovations, including expansion of the pulpit, were completed and new land was purchased
- 1997 – 2002** R. Bruce Johnson pastored
- 2002 – 2010** Peter Ely pastored and also earned his Doctorate
- 2011 – 2015** Rev. Alexander Houston became the first African American pastor of Cohansey and brought unity, strong leadership, and the powerful gift of preaching



• Roll of Pastors •

1690-1709	Thomas Killingsworth	1871-1874	Dr. Thomas O. Lincoln	1961-1965	Thomas L. Deal
1710-1716	Timothy Brooks	1874-1884	W. F. Basten	1965-1967	Carl D. Spade
1716-1721	Nathaniel Jenkins (supply)	1884-1888	W. W. Pratt	1967-1968	Peter B. Mahon
1721-1724	William Butcher	1888-1890	Harry Pratt	1968-1977	Robert McGrath
1724-1730	Nathaniel Jenkins (supply)	1891-1896	Dr. Edward Fitz	1977-1986	David C. Laubach
1730-1754	Nathaniel Jenkins	1896	Dr. Frank Rogers Morse (supply)	1986-1987	A. C. MacKenzie
1756-1756	Job Sheppard/Robert Kelsay (supply)	1896-1897	T. C. Russell	1987-1990	Dean A. Davidson
1756-1789	Robert Kelsay	1898-1901	J. S. Teasdale	1990-1996	Dr. Stanley Nodder
1790	William Rogers (supply)	1902-1907	Eugene R. Tilton	1992-1996	Wade Abbott (Asst. to Dr. Nodder)
1790-1839	Henry Smalley	1907-1913	George M. Owen	1997-2001	Everett Dickinson (Asst. to Rev. Johnson)
1838	Peter Simonson (Asst. to Smalley)	1914-1919	Thomas W. Evans	1997	Carroll Bickley (supply)
1840-1843	Isaac Moore	1919-1921	Henry Alfke	1997-2002	R. Bruce Johnson
1843-1846	Edward D. Fendall	1921	George M. Owen	2002-2003	Peter Ely (interim)
1846-1850	Jonathan G. Collum	1922-1944	William A. MacKenzie	2003-2010	Dr. Peter Ely
1850-1852	Joseph N. Folwell	1944-1948	John E. Johnson	2011-2012	Alexander G. Houston (interim)
1852-1860	James Challiss	1949	William A. Mackenzie (supply)	2012-2015	Dr. Alexander G. Houston
1860-1871	Thomas G. Wright	1949-1961	Martin Brynildsen	2016-	Timothy Greene (interim)

• Pastors •



Cohansey's Licentiates

1743	Abraham Garrison
1743	Job Sheppard of the Mill Hollow mission (later Salem, First)
1743	Robert Kelsay of the Pittsgrove mission (later Daretown Baptist)
1786	Henry Smalley
1892	Raymond West, first Executive Secretary of the NJ Baptist Convention
1967	Peter B. Mahon
1969	Robert L. Ayers
1982	Clarence Mingin
1991	Jeffery Dilks
1994	Wade Abbott, First Baptist Church of Sussex, NJ
2004	Theresa Ely, interim pastor Central Baptist Church in Woodbury, NJ

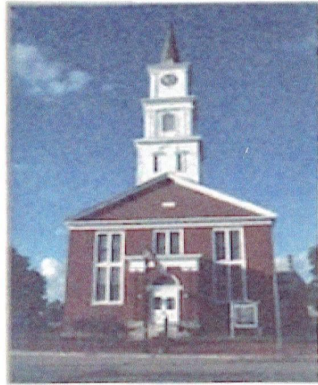
Daughter Churches

Salem, First	1755
Dividing Creek	1761
Daretown	1771
Canton	1818
Bridgeton, First	1828
Greenwich	1849

Granddaughter Churches

Woodstown, First	1822	Salem, Memorial	1869
Alloway	1830	Port Norris	1881
Cedarville	1836	Quinton	1890
Newport	1855	Bridgeton, Berean	1893
Bridgeton, Pearl Street	1866		

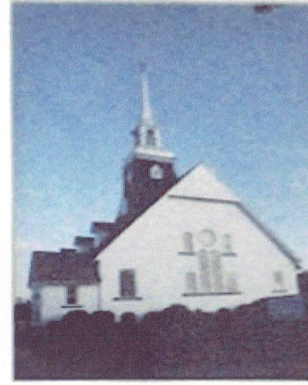
Daughter Churches of Old Cohansey



Salem, First
EST. 1755



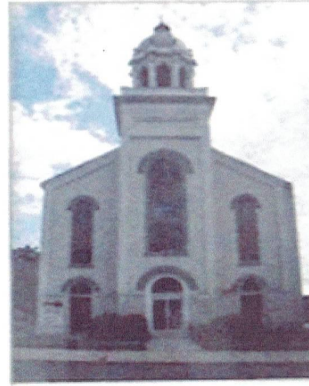
Dividing Creek
EST. 1761



Daretpwn (Pittsgrove)
EST. 1771



Canton
EST. 1818



Bridgeton, First
EST. 1828



Greenwich
EST. 1849

Granddaughter Churches of Cohansey Baptist



Woodstown, First
EST. 1822



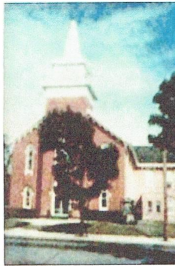
Alloway, Baptist
EST. 1830



Cedarville, Baptist
EST. 1836



Newport Baptist
EST. 1855



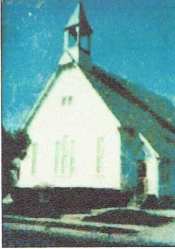
Bridgeton, Pearl Street
EST. 1866



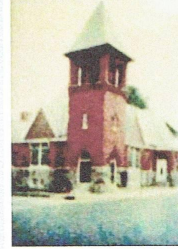
Salem Memorial
EST. 1869



Port Norris Baptist
EST. 1881

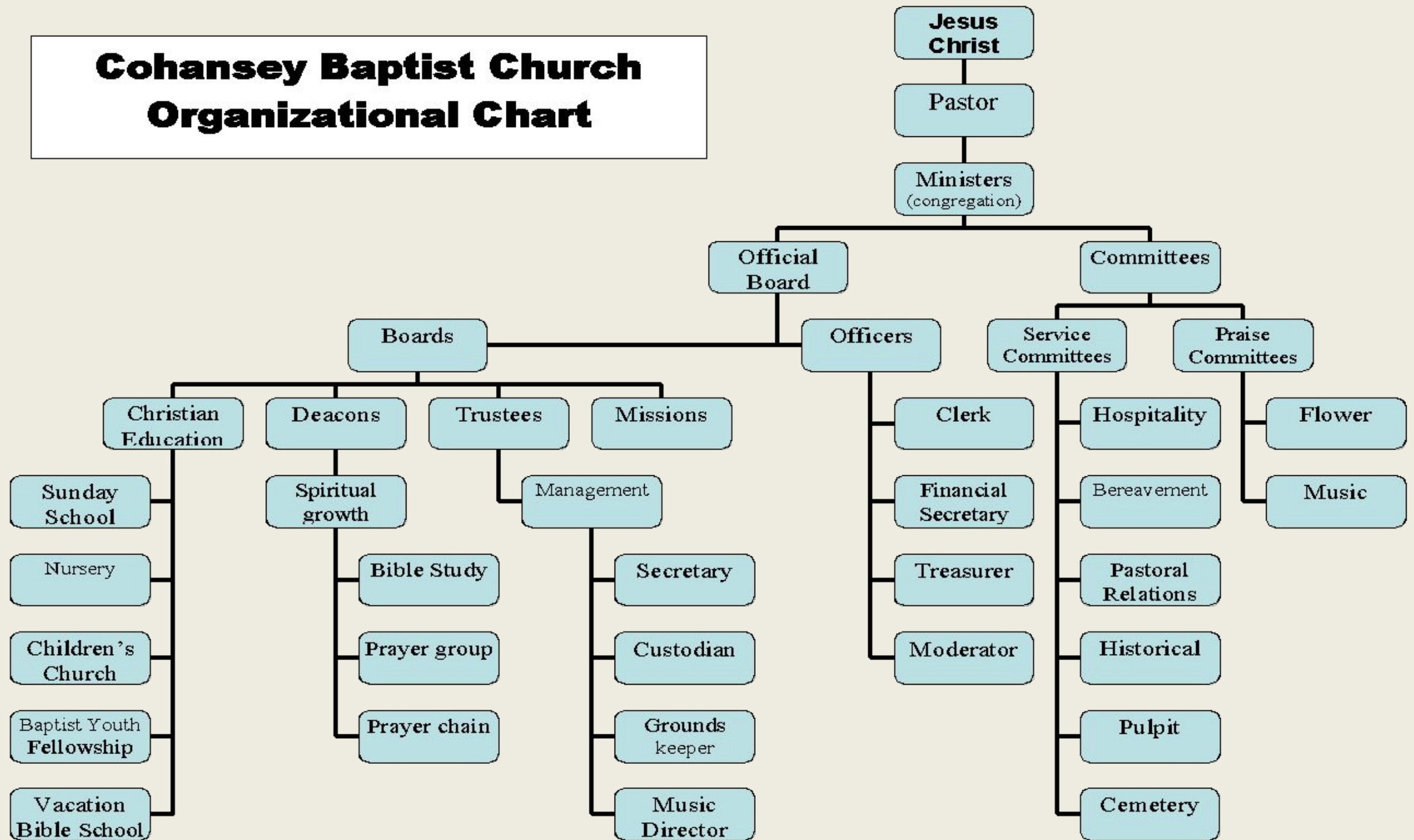


Quinton, Baptist
EST. 1890



Bridgeton, Berean
EST. 1893

Cohansey Baptist Church Organizational Chart



Leadership Boards

Mission Board

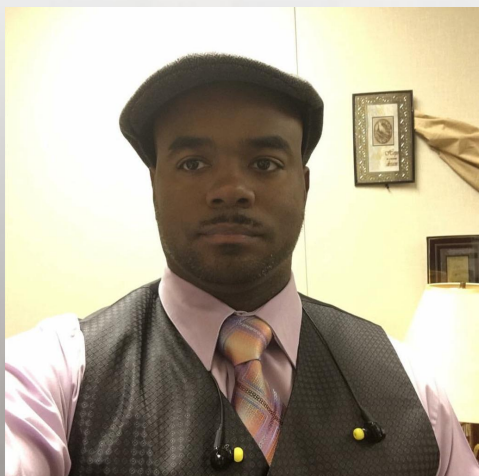
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Christian Education Board

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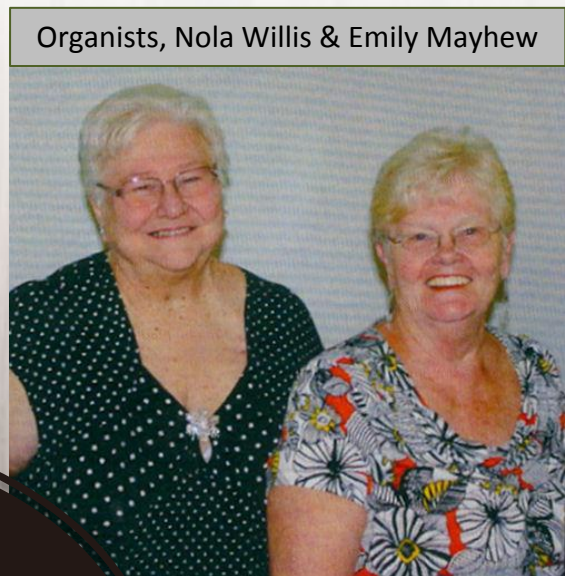




Interim Pastor, Tim Greene



Praise & Worship Team



Organists, Nola Willis & Emily Mayhew



Church Clerk, Kay Weber

The many faces of LEADERSHIP



Moderator &
Financial Sec.,
Daniel Bitters

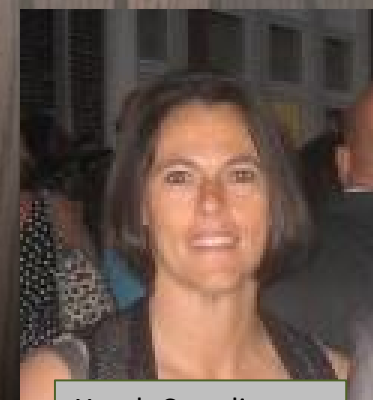
Treasurer, Donna Riggins



Music Director, Mark Willis



Senior Choir



Youth Coordinator,
Julie Fleetwood

Worship Style

- Dress includes anywhere from casual to dressy, but all are welcome!
- Blended style of worship including hymns and contemporary praise songs with accompaniment of many instruments, including: organ, piano, guitar, violin, and drums/percussion
- Includes pastoral and lay leadership
- Worship includes: Call to worship, greeting each other, announcements, Lord's prayer/Gloria Patri, singing of hymns and praise songs with congregational participation, pastoral prayer in response to concerns of church family, choir anthem, Doxology, Biblical message from the pastor
- Worship may also include: Children's messages, special performance/music, responsive readings, children's choir, special presentations, Sign Language Interpreter, Children's Church, and Communion (1st Sunday of every month)
- Nursery is always available for infant through 3 years old



Our Church Life

- Sunday school for all ages
- Nursery Services
- Midweek Bible Study
- Prayer Group
- Youth Ministry
- Baptism with Prep Classes
- Book Studies
- Combined Community Services
- Community Outreach
- Mission/Outreach Opportunities

Congregational Style Indicators

Survey Results

Our Church expects the Pastor to take leadership as well as empower the congregation to be and do more.

Our Church has not always made use of conflict and confrontation and sometimes seeks to avoid it.

Our Church definitely is influenced by history and tradition.

Our Church's approach to social issues is educational, leaving any action to individual conscience.

Our Church believes ethical decisions should be based on absolute standards.

Our Church has a relationship with ABC locally, nationally and internationally.

Our Church is sometimes involved in community affairs.

Our Church's ideas and plans are generally made by the responsible board or committee.

Our Church is mostly governed by boards when it comes to making decisions.

Decisions made are mostly communicated formally through worship, bulletins and newsletter.



Adult Sunday School



Children's Sunday School



Discipleship



Baptism



Youth Sunday School

Children's Church



Outreach

World Vision's
**30
HOUR
FAMINE**



Easter EGGstravaganza



Choir Cantatas & Prison Ministry



Good News. Great Joy.



Box City



Live Nativity

www.cityofbridgeton.com/codeblue

**Code
Blue**



 Atlantic City
Rescue Mission



Food Pantry



Spanning the Generations

Cohansey's CHILDREN



325th Anniversary Celebration



Christmas Musical



Summer Camp



Nursery



Children's Day / Youth Sunday



Oh that crazy
**YOUTH
 GROUP**
 &
 their even crazier
 leader!

Senior Bless



Creation

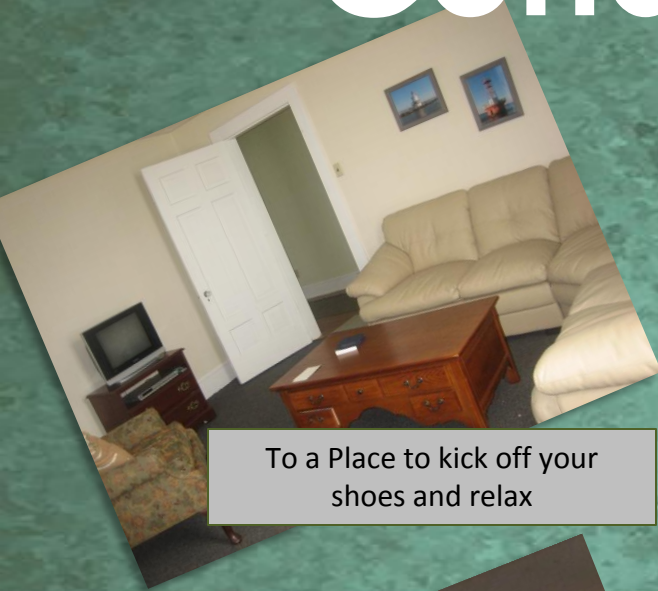


Wild Wings Challenge



- Meets weekly on Sunday evenings, along with youth from Berean Baptist Temple
- Typical group size is 10-15 teens ranging from 7th through 12th grades
- Enjoy fellowship, Retreats, Bible study, outreach, community events, and lots of FUN!

Cohansey Welcomes You...



To a Place to kick off your shoes and relax



To a Parsonage for Overnight Comfort or Short-term Stay



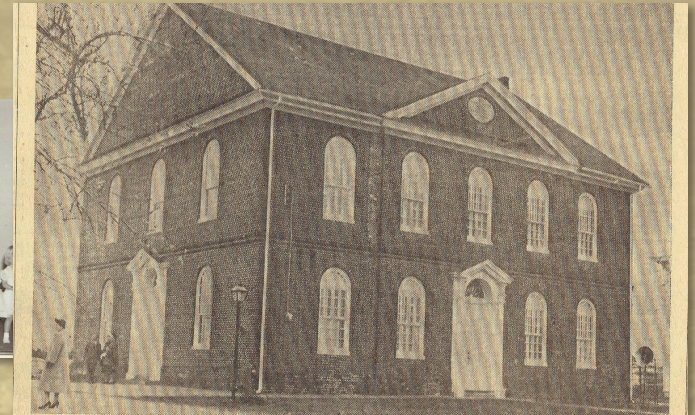
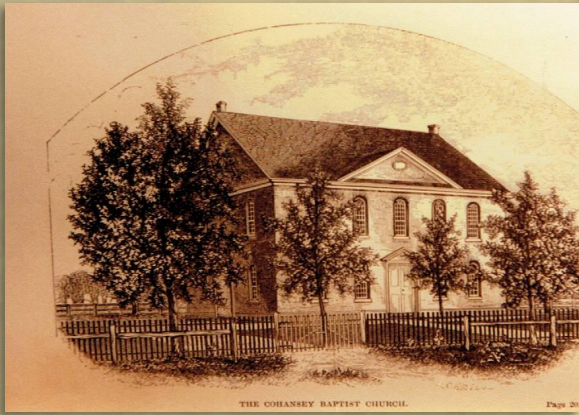
To a Place of Fellowship



To a Place to Call "Home!"



To a Place of Beauty!



HISTORIC COHANSEY BAPTIST CHURCH at Roadstown, recently restored and redecorated, was dedicated on Sunday in services commemorating the 150th anniversary of its erection in 1861. Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll dedicated the American Flag during the program. Old Cohansey, founded in 1690, is the mother church of Baptist congregations throughout Salem and Cumberland counties.

Cohansey Baptist Church

Past. Present. Forever.



Cohansey Baptist Church

Bibliography

Web Resources

<http://quickfacts.census.gov>

<http://www.nj.gov/ph>

www.samaritanspurse.org

www.30hourfamine.org

www.m25initiative.org/code-blue.html

www.abc-usa.org/natmin/ABPS



“As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

- 1 Peter 2:4-5

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.”

- Ephesians 2:19-20