



COHANSEY BAPTIST CHURCH  
**THE LAMPLIGHTER**

JANUARY, 2011

714 Roadstown Rd.

Bridgeton, NJ

08302



**A Message  
from  
God's Word**

Habakkuk 2:4, "But the righteous will live by his faith."

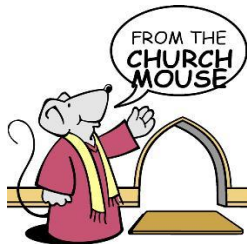
It is easy to believe that God loves us when things are going well. When God smiles upon us, it can seem like we have cushions in our shoes, or higher octane in our engine. When we know sweet times of prayer and fellowship with the Lord, it may seem that the world only passes us by unnoticed, without concern, because we are feeding on angels' food. Most of us do not experience these times as often as we wish. The normal experience of the follower of Christ is one of struggle. We struggle with our flesh, either because of sin or frailty. We struggle because our enemy is on the prowl, and he seeks to undue us. Even more, we struggle when it seems as if God's Spirit is withdrawn from us, and we only sense God's frown. It is here that we must hold on all the more to the Lord. Do not let go. We cling to Christ even more when we struggle. Many a saint will say that they have grown more in their relationship with Christ during times of hardship and suffering, than they have in those times when all seemed to be going swimmingly.

Will you give up on God because you feel you have lost His smile? If you sometimes consider cashing in your spiritual bonds because of your struggles, may I ask if maybe you based your faith on God's smile? It is not the true ground of faith. The ground of our faith is not God's smile, but His promise. It is true that sometimes it seems that the smile of God goes for a time, but His promise does not. The smile of God is His temporary sunshine, but His promise is His eternal covenant. If you believe on God's promises in Christ, then they are as true when you feel God's smile as when you feel His frown. His promises are just as true in the dark of night as they are in the light of high noon. It may seem like things are difficult, and we all have our difficult seasons, but God's promises are sure in every circumstance. What is the basis of God's promises? The basis of God's promises is His love. Even more to the point, the basis of God's promises is His love to us in Christ. Our foundation is not our enjoyment of God, but rather His promises - to which He is always faithful. We may struggle. We may be cast down, but we still look unto the Lord and say, "My God," Matthew 27:46.

We are prone to have fair-weather faith. It is the faith of slippers and easy chairs. Sometimes this is not our reality, however, and it is easy to wonder, "does God really love me? Would He allow this circumstance in my life, this pain, this sorrow, this suffering - would He - could He - and still be a loving God?" It is better that we trust a God who seems to sometimes frown, than to trust ourselves. The Lord has never forsaken us. He sends burdens gift wrapped in love, for our growth. We are thus taught to trust Him. It is not easy, but it leads to a deeper faith. Do you think the three lads who walked in Nebuchadnezzar's furnace had that as their first trial? It was a great victory, but we must know that they had been tested and tried for a long time before they underwent this one test. We all know pain, but those troubles are preparing us for something greater. They are all according to the Lord's perfect plan, and they are given us for our growth in grace. Let us trust Him. He will return His smile, and even God's frowns are really smiles - because they are all sent to us in love.

*From: [www.cfdevotionals.org](http://www.cfdevotionals.org)*

# NEWS



## **All Lamplighter items are due no later than January, 15th**

If you have any articles, poems, stories, photos, ads or articles for the Lamplighter issue please put them in my mailbox in the little room off the choir loft, call me @ 455-2574, email me @ [nohowmom@comcast.net](mailto:nohowmom@comcast.net) , send them to me @ 77 Barretts Run Rd., Bridgeton, 08302 or hand them to me before or after morning worship. Thank you!



THANK  
YOU

To all of those dedicated people who faithfully assemble our newsletter every month. We really appreciate you and the time you give in service to the Lord.

Together with the Salvation Army of Bridgeton we were able to provide Christmas gifts for a local family. A mother and her three children received gifts and will be able to buy items they need and want this holiday season. As a congregation you raised \$420.00 in gifts cards from ShopRite, Wal-Mart, Applebee's and Visa. You also contributed \$200.00 in cash. The goal of the Salvation Army was to provide 400 families with gifts and gift cards. Thank you for your help in making their goal a reality.

Thank you to Mark and all of those who participated in the Sunday School Musical, "Christmas County Spelling Bee" and the choir cantata, "God Coming Down". You all did a wonderful job and brought a beautiful Christmas message to all those who attended. We know that a lot of time and hard work went into making these events happen.



The 2011 Flower chart is now posted. If you are led to provide altar flowers for a special Sunday please sign the chart in the proper date and speak with a member of the Flower Committee. Thank you.

*Flowers*



Jr. BYF Helpers Needed

The Christian Education Board is looking for someone to help with the Jr. BYF for the rest of the year. This person(s) will be working with Pastor Don Harrington, Phyllis Harrington and Barbara Woodward from Berean Baptist. For more details or if you are interested please see Julie Fleetwood.



## January Birthdays

1 Babe McDermott  
2  
2 Lee Hitchner  
4 Margo Hitchner  
Samantha Holt  
5 Greg Dickinson  
Donna Riggins  
Heather Sloan  
6 Betty Jones  
9 Bruce VanMeter  
11 Sharon Guth  
13 Aaron Silver, Jr.  
14 Pam Peticari  
18 David Dilks  
19 Everett Dickinson  
Alan Platt  
Kim Sebastian  
21 Jay Peticari

22 Sharon Thomas  
Hoss Simpkins  
25 Gale Brown  
26 Woody Halter  
Daniel C. Williams III  
28 Danielle Crispin  
Michelle Simpkins  
29 Jennifer Eisenhardt  
30 Jim Carson

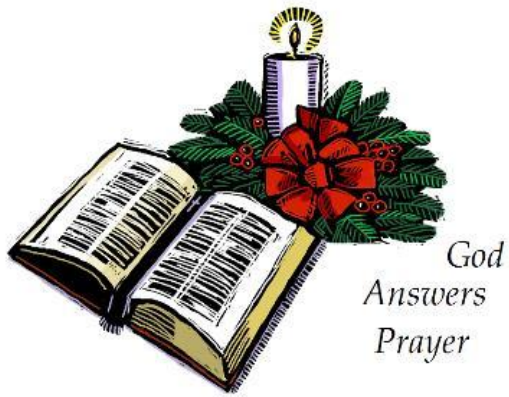
*Happy*

*Birthday*

*From your Church Family!*

**DO WE HAVE YOUR BIRTHDAY?**

If not please call the church office or email Nola Willis  
at [nohowmom@comcast.net](mailto:nohowmom@comcast.net)



Keep these people in your prayers as they deal with various health problems. Pray for wisdom for the doctors and that God's mercy will cover them and His peace will bring comfort.

**Healing and Restoration**

Donald Brammer  
 Mary Davis  
 Ronnie Dennis  
 Gale Halter Brown

**Sympathy**

The Family of Lura Elwell

**Shut Ins**

Janet Bonaldo	Jeanne Gressman
Ashley Guntow	

**Retirement Homes**

Donald Brammer

**Service**

Mike Dunkelberger	Nicky Mihalecz
Ryan Fithian	Brian Schrier
Andy Guth	Jacob Schrier
Kyle Mihalecz	Doug Shimp
Russell Shinn	Jeff Shimp
Andrew Tobin	Sauna Sloan

**Battling Cancer**

Richard Bacon, Sr.	Jose` Nieto
Gloria Branca	Louise Orsini
Annie Foster	Jerry Oswald
Martha Gandy	Ed Peterson
Dianna Hill	Denise Larro
Emily Horton	Colleen Riley
Giavana Krumaker	Ron Rouver
Jayne Bickings	John Robinson
Jonathan Lopez	Mike Scavelli
Robert Marks, Jr	Brenda Snyder
Jeff Mortimer	Charlene Clark
Marion Nickopolous	Pat Rodia
Sandy Turner	

Tony Joyner

*If you have any prayer requests or praises that you would like in the Lamplighter please email or call me with those requests. Thank you. Nola Willis*

Healed and Whole ~

One day I dug a little hole  
 And put my hurt inside  
 I thought that I could just forget  
 I'd put it there to hide.

But that little hurt began to grow  
 I covered it every day  
 I couldn't leave it and go on  
 It seemed the price I had to pay.

My joy was gone, my heart was sad  
 Pain was all I knew.  
 My wounded soul enveloped me  
 Loving seemed too hard to do.

One day, while standing by my hole  
 I cried to God above  
 And said, "If You are really there --  
 They say, You're a God of Love!"

And just like that -- He was right there  
 And just put His arms around me  
 He wiped my tears, His hurting child  
 There was no safer place to be.

I told Him all about my hurt  
 I opened up my heart  
 He listened to each and every word  
 To every sordid part.

I dug down deep and got my hurt  
 I brushed the dirt away  
 And placed it in the Master's hand  
 And healing came that day.

He took the blackness of my soul  
 And set my spirit FREE!  
 Something beautiful began to grow  
 Where the hurt used to be.

And when I look at what has grown  
 Out of my tears and pain  
 I remember every day to give my hurts to Him  
 And never bury them again.

by Carol Parrot



## Reason for Cheer

A psychologist has determined that the Monday in the last full week of January is the most depressing day of the year. This year, “Blue Monday” falls on January 24.

Cliff Arnall calculated this date based on a combination of bad weather, Christmas debts, broken New Year’s resolutions and the end of the holiday break.

But no matter how bleak things seem — regardless of the time of year — Christians always have reason for hope. Thankfully, we can look beyond our earthly circumstances to the promise of new life with God forever.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.”

## From Humble Beginnings

In 1804, William, a 21-year-old from a poor family, decided to go to New York City to find a job. He told a neighbor his plans, saying he knew how to make soap and might work in a soap factory.

The neighbor said, “Just remember to be a good man, give your heart to Christ and pay the Lord all that belongs to him. Give a dime of every dollar you make, make an honest soap and you will be a happy and wealthy man.”

Sure enough, William found a job making soap. Later, he became part owner and then sole owner of the business. His product line — and giving — expanded greatly. He gave many millions of dollars to the Lord’s work throughout the world, far more than 10 percent of his wealth.

William Colgate died in 1857 at age 74, but his legacy

and company, Colgate-Palmolive, still thrive.

## Brand new

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn’t find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good you tried for and didn’t achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn’t dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have — these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, “See, I am making all things new” (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).

—Author unknown

## The gift of humor

Gifted pianist and comedian Victor Borge once said the shortest distance between two people is laughter. He was right. Laughter does indeed quickly break down barriers.

Collect a few stories that make you laugh and have them ready when an occasion calls for more intimacy.

For example: A woman and six children were walking toward a park. An elderly man who was also headed there stopped the woman and said with a smile, “My, what a nice group of children! Are they all yours ... or is this a picnic?”

The woman’s response was immediate. “Yes! They’re all my children, and it ain’t no picnic!”





## Mission News

I come to you with a heavy but willing heart during this Christmas season. During my participation at the BWA Women's Leadership Conference this summer, I had the opportunity to get acquainted with American Baptist Missionary Kihomi Ngwemi and her ministry with the Baptist women of Haiti. We spoke at length about the situation in Haiti, especially as it pertains to the women. I told her that I would ask American Baptist women to pray for the women of Haiti and, in addition, I asked her to let me know if American Baptist women could assist them in any way.

I have received from Kihomi and the Women's Association of the Haitian Baptist Convention a proposal for a Health Education and Prevention Project on Cholera disease. We have seen the media reports about the Cholera epidemic in Haiti and how devastating it has been. The Haitian women's proposal is a plea to American Baptist women to stretch out our hearts and hands in partnership with them to make a difference in the lives of the people of Haiti. The goal is to educate women, families and communities about Cholera prevention. The project would train and send men and women in the Haitian Baptist Churches to be health agents to educate the people about conditions that bring diseases into the community, and teach changes in habits and lifestyle that will help prevent diseases.

The critical piece of this project is the timing. Because the need for this project is immediate, we're looking to raise \$30,000 by mid-February. Communicate this project to the women in your church. You can sponsor a quick and easy fundraiser, i.e., bake sales, auctions, church suppers. If each church sponsors a fundraiser that raises \$100 to \$200, together we could easily raise the \$30,000.

Thank you for giving your hearts and stretching your hands to reach out to our sisters in Haiti. I feel so blessed to be part of a ministry that cares for women and girls.

As we enter the holiday season, may God continue to richly bless you and your family and also our vital ministries with women and girls.

Blessings,

Barbara Anderson

National President

American Baptist Women's Ministries

## Focus on Azerbaijan

This republic on the Caspian Sea is home to more than nine million people — and the majority of them live in poverty, despite large oil reserves. The country has a long history of subjugation by Arabs, Mongols, Persians, Turks and Russians. Azerbaijan achieved independence from the USSR in 1991, though the decade that followed was marked with political unrest, coups, corruption and war with Armenia over areas populated largely by Armenians. Over one million of Azerbaijan's inhabitants have become refugees in their own country. There is official religious freedom, but it is tempered because Christianity is often associated with Russian imperialism and Armenian occupation. There is also fear of Islamic extremism.

Prayer concerns:

- The Caucasus people are largely Muslim and have never heard the gospel.
- The country has hundreds of thousands of unemployed refugees — mainly Armenians
- Most of Azerbaijani towns and villages have never been evangelized
- The Indo-Iranian speaking minorities are virtually unreached
- The approximately 3,000 Azeri believers have many obstacles to witnessing

*May you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. Ephesians 3:18*



### Memory Verse:

When they saw the star, they rejoiced



with exceeding great joy.

~Matthew 2:10

### Jokes:

If the red house was made out of red bricks, and the blue house was made out of blue bricks, what was the green house made out of?  
*Glass!*

What did the cowboy say when his dog left?  
*Doggone*

Why couldn't they play cards on the ark?  
*Noah was sitting on the deck.*

Teacher: James, where is your homework?  
*James: I ate it.*  
 Teacher: Why?  
*James: You said it was a piece of cake!*

### Puzzle:

## From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

1. Good	Righteousness
2. Death	Children
3. Go	Life
4. Evil	Come
5. Adults	Bad

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are \_\_\_\_\_, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV  
 (1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of \_\_\_\_\_." John 8:12, NIV  
 (2)

"I have \_\_\_\_\_ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV  
 (3)

"For what do \_\_\_\_\_ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV  
 (4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as \_\_\_\_\_ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV  
 (5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children

### Quiz:

A New Testament book says God designated Jesus as a "high priest" and that Jesus was the most perfect mediator between God and humans.





Choose the name of the book below:

- A. Romans
- B. Hebrews
- C. Matthew
- D. Revelation

Answer:(See chapter 5:1-10 and chapter 9:11-15.)

# January 2011

# Church Meetings, Activities & Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1. <i>New Year's Day</i>
2. <b>Communion Sunday</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Worship 11:30 a.m. – Sunday School 12:30 p.m. – Shut In Communion 2 p.m. – West District B-Ball Youth Fellowship Rally 6 p.m. – Jr./Sr. BYF @ Cohansey	3. 7 p.m. – Choir	4. 9 a.m. – Prayer Group 5:30 p.m. – Cantata @ Fed. Prison 7 p.m. – Mission Bd. Mtg. 7 p.m. – Music Com. Mtg.	5.	6. 	7.	8.
9. 10 a.m. – Morning Worship 11:30 a.m. – Sunday School 6 p.m. – Jr./Sr. BYF @ Cohansey	10. 10 a.m. – Manor Service 7 p.m. – Choir	11. 9 a.m. – Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. – Trustee Mtg. 7 p.m. – Deacon Mtg.	12. 	13.	14.	15. Lamplighter Articles Due
16. 10 a.m. – Morning Worship 11:30 a.m. – Sunday School 6 p.m. – Jr./Sr. BYF @ Cohansey 7 p.m. – United P&W <i>rehearsal</i> @ Berean	17. <b><i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i></b> 7 p.m. – Choir	18. 9 a.m. – Prayer Group 7 p.m. – Christian Ed. Bd.	19.	20.	21. 	22.
23. 10 a.m. – Morning Worship 11:30 a.m. – Sunday School 6 p.m. – Jr./Sr. BYF @ Cohansey	24. 7 p.m. – Choir	25. 9 a.m. – Prayer Group	26.	27.	28.	29. 
30. 10 a.m. – Morning Worship 11:30 a.m. – Sunday School 6 p.m. – Jr./Sr. BYF @ Cohansey	31. 7 p.m. – Choir					