



COHANSEY BAPTIST CHURCH
THE LAMPLIGHTER

DECEMBER, 2010

714 Roadstown Rd.

Bridgeton, NJ

08302



**Thoughts
at Christmas**

A Sunday School class was asked to share a favorite Christmas story, Carrie Fuller said, "Our family has one we call 'A Brown Bag Christmas.'"

It was the early 1930s during the Dust Bowl days of Kansas, in the heart of the Depression ... The Canaday family, Mom, Dad, and seven children, were having a tough time existing, so there would be no luxuries at Christmas that year. Mom told the children to go outside and find a Christmas tree and decorate it. After a lengthy search, they returned with a dead branch, the only thing they had been able to find. They stood it up in a bucket of sand and decorated it with pieces of paper tied with string. Little Judy, almost four, did not know how a Christmas tree was supposed to look, but somehow she knew it was not like that!

As Christmas approached, the Canaday children, like children everywhere, pestered Mom and Dad about what presents they might get under their "tree." Dad pointed out that the pantry was bare, that they did not have enough to live on, and there certainly would be no money for gifts. But Mom was a woman of faith and told her children, "Say your prayers. Ask God to send us what He wants us to have." Dad said, "Now, Mother, don't be getting the children's hopes up. You're just setting them up for a disappointment." Mom said, "Pray, children. Tell Jesus." And pray they did.

On Christmas Eve, the children watched out the window for visitors, but no one came. "Blow out the lamp and go to bed", Dad said. "Nobody is going to come. No one even knows we're out here." The children turned out the lamp and got in bed, but they were too excited to sleep. Was this not Christmas? Had they not asked God to send them the presents He wanted them to have? Did Mom not say God answers prayer?

Late that night, when one of the children spotted headlights coming down the dirt road, everyone jumped out of bed and ran to the window. The commotion woke up Mom and Dad. "Don't get excited, children," Dad said. "They're probably not coming here. It's just someone who got lost." The children kept hoping and the car kept coming. Then, Dad lit a lamp. They all wanted to rush to the door at the same time, but Mr. Canaday said, "Stay back. I'll go."

Someone got out of the car and called, "I was wondering if someone here can help me unload these bags." The children dashed out the door to lend a hand. Mom said to her youngest, "Stay here, Judy, and help Mom open the bags and put up the gifts."

A deacon from the church in town had gone to bed that Christmas Eve, and lay there tossing and turning, unable to get the Canaday family off his mind. Later, he said, "I didn't know what kind of shape you folks were in, but I knew you had all those kids." He had gotten up, dressed and went around town, rousing people from their sleep to ask for a contribution for the Canaday family. He filled his car with bags of groceries, canned goods, toys, and clothing. Little Judy got a rag doll which remained her favorite for years.

With so much food, Dad wanted to have a Christmas feast, to spread it all out and eat as they had never eaten before. Mom, ever the caretaker, said, "No, we need to make this last." And it did last, for weeks!

The next Sunday, Mrs. Canaday stood in church and told what the members, and one deacon in particular, had done for her family. There was not a dry eye in the house.

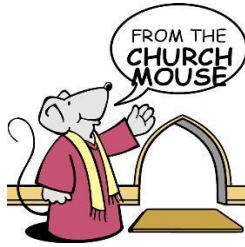
Years later, the oldest sister Eva wrote up this story about her family for a school project. Eva said, "We were so thrilled by all the wonderful things in the bags, for a while we lost sight of the most special gift. The best gift that Christmas was not in brown bags at all. It was Mom's faith, as she taught her children to bring their needs to Jesus and trust Him to meet them and a Dad's love that wanted only to protect his children from hurt and disappointment."

When Carrie finished telling her story, she added, "Little Judy is my wonderful grandmother." Today, Judy Canaday Dryden lives in Sanger, Texas. As she relived this event from seventy years ago over the phone, one could hear the tear in her voice and feel her pride in being the recipient of such a precious heritage from her mother and father.

At Christmas, we celebrate praying mothers and caring fathers and believing children. We give thanks for sensitive deacons, generous friends and sleepless nights. And we Praise God for the hard times that teach unforgettable lessons, stories of faithfulness that get told and retold through the years inspiring each new generation to place their faith in a loving Savior.

This was found on www.our.homewithgod.com

NEWS



All Lamplighter items are due no later than December, 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, send them to me @ 77 Barretts Run Rd., Bridgeton, 08302 or hand them to me before or after morning worship. 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.

To the congregation: Thank you for your thoughtful gift that you gave me at the Farewell Luncheon and for the delicious luncheon too. The potlucks, brunches and dinners at Cohansey have always been great. You all are good cooks! Thanks for the Visa gift card. It will come in handy during the upcoming holiday season. May God bless you with His care and presence during this time of transition for you. Pastor Pete



God Coming Down rehearsals are in full swing. Anyone who would like to sing with us is still welcome. See Mark for a book and a CD. Rehearsals are on Monday night in the sanctuary. We start the cantata around 7:15 PM. There will also be 2 Saturday rehearsals, December 11th at 1 PM and December 18th at 10 AM. If you don't consider yourself a singer, but love music come out to hear this wonderful Christmas message on Saturday evening, December 18th at 7 PM or Sunday morning, December 19th at 10 AM.



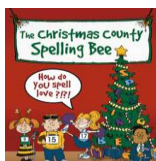
The BYF will meet at Berean on December 5th and 26th from 6-7:30 PM and on December 12th we will meet at Cohansey for Christmas caroling. Be at the church by 4 PM. We will return by 6 PM for the Sunday School Christmas Musical after which we will enjoy refreshments in the fellowship hall. On December 19th we will meet at Berean at 5 PM to go Christmas caroling with them. Be sure to join us on both caroling dates and bring Christmas cheer to the shut-ins.

* Great job with BOX CITY-- Between the 2 churches, donations totaled almost \$400!!

* Thanks to everyone who helped with and donated towards "Operation Christmas Child" boxes. We totaled close to 60 boxes!!!

* Thanks to everyone who helped out in any way to supply needy families with Thanksgiving dinners.

* ABOUTFACE meetings will be kicking off in January. If you are interested in being involved. Keep your ears posted!



How do you spell love? J.E.S.U.S.! Come out to Christmas County Spelling Bee on Sunday evening, December 12th at 6 PM and hear songs that tell about names commonly associated with Christmas by focusing on those mentioned in Isaiah 9:6. Hear the children and adults (who are really children at heart) sing Michael W. Smith's "Emmanuel" or is that "Immanuel"?!?! We'll get to the bottom of that in our Spelling Bee. See you at the "BEE"!



December Birthdays

1	Linda Dickinson
6	R.C. Holt Steve Levick
7	Ken Perry April Sloan
8	Dorothy Turner
9	Kelsey Bayzick Jean Gressman
12	Joshua LaTourette
13	Mary Hemple
14	Kim Patchell
16	Matthew Hill
17	Thomas Sloan Donald Sloan, Jr Stefani Hewitt
19	Mary Stretch
20	William Lister
23	Alice Moore
25	Jesus Christ Dan Evans
26	Diane Crispin
28	Robert Mayhew
29	Carol Shimp Connor Bonham Harry Lodge
30	Emily S. Ayars Stacy Ichinaga

• How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, his precepts!
Oh! 'tis easier to keep holidays than commandments.
—Benjamin Franklin

DO WE HAVE YOUR BIRTHDAY?

If not please call the church office or email Nola Willis at nohowmom@comcast.net



Other Special Days In December

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 5, 2010
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 12, 2010
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, 2010
 - First day of winter, December 21, 2010
 - Christmas Eve, December 24, 2010
 - Christmas Day, December 25, 2010
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2010



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

Mary Stretch	Rhonda Shafer
Pat Bullock	Howard Willis
Tony (Ed Guth's Friend)	Shirley Willis
Denise Bradway	
Ken Newkirk (from Pole Tavern Equip.)	

Sympathy

The Family of Ralph Peck
The Family of Diana Leslie

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



Quiet Peace

I begin and end each day with God
What pleasure it does bring.
My heart is filled with happiness
Lord, I have everything.

I love the quiet peace of prayer
God gives me through the day,
And in everything I do
I want this peace to stay.

God is peace and love and hope,
I feel these everywhere.
I walk with God's hand in mine,
And never know a care.

Isabel Smith

The Best Gift

A king sat on his throne on Christmas Day as many of his subjects presented him with gifts: jewels, gold, artwork, handmade treasures and food galore.

One man stayed back until everyone had given their gifts. Eventually, the king asked if the man had a gift he wished to give. The man said he had only one thing to present. He had nothing of material or financial value, just a friendly heart that was free of malice and full of best wishes for the ruler.

The king told the man he'd brought him the best gift of all: friendship and goodwill. How can you present those to someone this season?



Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations, extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six-year-old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant."

I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats.

As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as Christmas, I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment - songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. When my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in their best for the show. The children in the front row center stage held up signs with large letters, to spell out the title of the song.

As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down! She was totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W."

The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W."

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, and why we celebrated the holiday in the first place. Why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

When the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRISTWASLOVE"

And, I believe, He still is.
Amazed in His presence,
Humbled by His love.

May each of you have a Merry Christmas as you reflect on His Amazing Love for us.





Mission News

This request is from ABWomen.

IMMEDIATE PRAYER REQUEST: Please pray for the people of Haiti today. We received word from American Baptist missionaries in Haiti that there was rioting and random shooting in Haiti yesterday. Kihomi is in Limbe and her husband Nzunga is in Cap Haitian. It is unsafe for them to venture outside. Kihomi and Nzunga are distressed that the unrest are delaying their immediate ministry of installing water purifiers for the people who have cholera and are dying. The cholera death toll has reached 1,000. Kihoma writes: "Nzunga and I send our love to you all. We ask for prayers for the Haitian/Dominican people. One note--I have been inoculated for cholera and am safe from this dreaded disease."

An initial contribution of \$15,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Haiti Relief funds has been sent to IMA World Health, a longtime American Baptist International Ministries (IM) partner, and Dr. Steve and Nancy James, IM medical missionaries in Haiti. The funds will be used to purchase life-saving medical supplies to slow the spread of cholera in Haiti, including: antibiotic bottles, oral rehydration salts, water purification tablets, latex gloves for health care workers and antibacterial soap.

The supplies sent via IMA were already delivered to a local hospital in Saint Marc where they report that tents are set up in a courtyard to handle the overflow of infected patients.

According to a report from the United Press International (UPI), cholera is increasing in Haiti amid fears of flooding from last week's Hurricane Tomas. This will mean even more cases from drinking contaminated water, officials say. Haiti's health ministry said the cholera death toll stood at 583 on Tuesday, and 9,123 Haitians have been hospitalized. Cholera is a highly contagious, deadly bacterial infection that can be fatal within hours.

Haitian and international health officials admit that the epidemic is growing and has not peaked. "We are on a

rise," Christian Lindmeier, spokesman for the World Health Organization in Haiti, said. "The figures will climb."

An urgent call went out yesterday from IM for volunteer nurses to serve in North Haiti with Dr. Steve and Nancy James as they are overwhelmed with people in need of treatment, according to Angela Sudermann, IM coordinator of Volunteers in Global Missions. Angela urges nurses, who can quickly modify their work schedules, to inquire about this need by calling 1-800-222-3872, ext. 2304.

The situation gets worse every day, according to IM missionary in Haiti, Nzunga Mabudiga. "On Monday, one of the small community health centers (where the Jameses serve) had 25 cases of cholera. On Tuesday, we had 60 cases. We thank God that we have not lost a patient, however our stock of serums is running low."

"We have been working with Rev. Joel Dorsainville, Coordinator of Disaster Relief Services for the Haitian Baptist Convention, updating and coordinating efforts within the churches of Haiti," commented Steve.

Donations are being sought to purchase emergency medical supplies and can be made through the IM website: www.internationalministries.org/items/80, Or donors can donate by check to "OGHS – Haiti Relief" and mail to: International Ministries, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851. Support can also be given by American Baptists through their church by making checks payable to the church with "One Great Hour of Sharing – Haiti Relief" written in the memo section. These gifts will be sent from the church through the American Baptist region and then to International Ministries.

One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the World Relief Committee of the General Board. The Committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work, and development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing distribution of the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

American Baptist International Ministries, organized in 1814, is the first Baptist Mission organization formed in North America. We serve more than 1,800 short-term missionaries annually, bringing U.S. and Puerto Rico churches together with partners in more than 70 countries to tell the good news of Jesus Christ while meeting human needs.



Memory Verse:

And she shall bring forth a son, and you



shall call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.

~Matthew 1:21

Jokes:

Q. What do you get if you cross mistletoe and a duck?
A. A Christmas Quacker.

Q. What Christmas carol is a favorite of parents?
A. Silent Night.

Knock, Knock
Who's there?
Irish
Irish who?
Irish you a Merry Christmas!

Q. What do you get when you eat Christmas decorations?
A. Tinsilitis!

Puzzle:

The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.

1 - k

2 - (t) e

3 afr + - m

4 g + - h

5 - paper

6 j + - b

7 - b

8 t + - d

9 b + - h

"Do _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3. I bring you _____ 4 _____ 5 of great _____ 6 that will be for _____ 7 the people. Today in the _____ 8 of David a Savior has been _____ 9 to you; **he is Christ the Lord.**" Luke 2:10-11, NIV

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee-(t)e=be; 3. afr+maid-m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born

Quiz:

The gospel of Luke tells about Joseph and Mary taking the baby Jesus to the temple "to present him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22, NRSV). An old man approached and said the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he saw the Messiah. Seeing Jesus and being moved by the Holy Spirit, this man proclaimed that the baby was indeed the Messiah.

What was the man's name?

- A. Simeon
- B. Simon
- C. Phanuel
- D. Zechariah

Answer: (See Luke 2:25.)

December 2010

Church Meetings, Activities & Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it is in the heart of man." —Anonymous</p>			1.	2.	3.	4. 
<p>5. Communion Sunday 2nd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>10 a.m. – Morning Worship 11:30 a.m. – Sunday School & Christmas Musical Reh. 6 p.m. – Jr./Sr. BYF decorate @ Berean</p>	<p>6.</p> <p>7 p.m. – Choir Cantata Reh.</p>	<p>7.</p> <p>Pearl Harbor Day</p> <p>9 a.m. – Prayer Group 7 p.m. – Music Com. Mtg.</p>	8. 	9.	10.	11. 1 p.m. – Cantata Reh.
<p>12. 3rd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>10 a.m. – Morning Worship 11:30 a.m. – Sunday School & Christmas Musical Reh. 4 p.m. – Christmas Caroling w/Cohansey 6 p.m. – Christmas Musical</p>	<p>13.</p> <p>9 a.m. – Manor Service 7 p.m. – Choir Cantata Reh.</p>	<p>14.</p> <p>9 a.m. – Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. – Trustee Mtg. 7 p.m. – Deacon Mtg.</p>	15.	16. 	17.	18. 10 a.m. – Cantata Reh. 7 p.m. – Christmas Cantata
<p>19. 4th Sunday of Advent</p> <p>10 a.m. – Morning Worship Christmas Cantata 11:30 a.m. – Sunday School 5 p.m. – Christmas Caroling w/Berean</p>	20.	<p>21.</p> <p>Winter Begins</p> <p>9 a.m. – Prayer Group 7 p.m. – C.E. Bd.Mtg.</p>	22.	23.	24. 7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service	25. 
<p>26.</p> <p>10 a.m. – Morning Worship 11:30 a.m. – Sunday School 6 p.m. – Jr./Sr. BYF @ Berean</p>	27. 7 p.m. – Choir	28. 9 a.m. – Prayer Group	29.	30.	31.  New Year's Eve	<p>As the year ends, help us leave our sins behind and begin life anew with pure hearts and steadfast faith.</p>