Dear Church Family:

The prophet Isaiah told us these words: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (7:14)

When Matthew the gospel writer quotes that very same verse, he says, "And they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." (1:23) In this season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Christ and the overwhelming truth that no matter what we face in our lives, God is with us.

I admit that in times like these, it is truly difficult to always feel like God is with us. When we see the injustices of our day and feel the pain of systemic racism, it is difficult to feel as if God is with us. In fact, the disillusionment of our time has caused many to ask, "Where is God?" The Garner family wants to know. The Brown family is asking down in Jefferson. The Martin Family is asking in Florida. Countless families are asking the same question all across America, and yes, the world. These questions are being asked because so often we error by thinking that God is with us when life is good. When we are on the up side of things, God is good!

However, when we read scripture, God is not just with us in our good days, but He is forever present in our difficulty. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in the time of trouble. The birth of Christ is a story of God entering into the viciousness of this life with a perfect presence in order to give hope, joy, and life to those who were without hope, without joy, and without life. In this season of unrest, there is still rest. In this season of pain and suffering, there is healing. In this season of hype and commercialism, there is the truth of God's words: "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!"

Jesus came that we might have life! There is life in His name. He is the Light of the world and in Him there is no darkness at all. With this knowledge, there is no way that you and I can walk alone! Emmanuel is with us! The Savior is with us! God is with us! Joy to the world the LORD IS COME!

MINISTRY MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Today is Communion Sunday. Baptism and the Right Hand of Fellowship will take place at the 11:00am service.

MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Prayer and Bible Study

Prayer and Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, December 9th. Prayer will begin at 7:00pm followed by Bible Study at 8:00pm.

Strength at Noon will be held on Wednesday, December 10th at 11:30am.

IMPACT Men’s Ministry Bible Study will be held on Saturday, December 13th at 9:00am.

COMMUNITY SAINTS 2050

A.D. MINISTRY

Today is the final day to order the Community Saints 2050 A.D. Rites of Passage Ministry T-Shirt featuring the scripture Romans 10:9. Proceeds from T-shirt sales will be used to help fund the youth component of the future CBC Family Life Center. T-shirts ordered for the previous two Sundays will also be available for pick up.

ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

2014 marks the 18th year that CBC has participated in the Angel Tree, a prison fellowship program that connects parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts. If you selected an Angel, please drop off your gift in the Fellowship Hall following both services. Gifts are due by Sunday, December 14th.
**Solid Rock Baptist Church Dedication**

Today, CBC will fellowship with the Solid Rock Baptist Church for the dedication of their newly renovated church. The church is located at 644 Chancellor Avenue, Irvington, NJ where Rev. Reginald Pitts is the Pastor. Service begins at 3:30pm; buses will leave CBC at 2:30pm. Please sign up at the Hospitality desk in the lobby.

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**New Life Women’s Ministry Closing Session**

The New Life Women’s Ministry will have its closing session on Monday, December 8th at 7:30pm. The focus for the evening is on the word FAITH and Rev. Oglesia Gowder is the guest speaker for the evening. We hope to see you there!

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**Attention All Leaders:**

Please mark your calendars for a leadership meeting on Monday, December 15th at 7:30pm. If you are unable to attend, please email Ministryliaison@cbcofe.org. With the exception of Deacons, Deaconesses, Trustees, Associate Ministers and Office Staff, leaders of CBC Ministries are the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of a ministry. Chaplains are not required to attend meetings but may do so if the President of the ministry desires.

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**Christmas Eve Concert**

Our annual CBC Christmas Eve Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 24th at 8:00pm.

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**Watch Night 2015!**

Watch Night service will be held on Wednesday, December 31st at 7:00pm and 10:30pm. A fellowship meal will be provided from 5:00pm – 6:30pm prior to the first service, and a fellowship meal will be provided after the second service. Please plan on concluding this year and bringing in the New Year with a spirit of worship and praise.

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**Married & Engaged Couples – Save the Date**

CBC will be a host church on February 13 & 14, 2015 for XO: A Global Marriage Simulcast, designed to equip, inspire and bless marriages in our church & community. This simulcast is presented by Jimmy & Karen Evans of Marriage Today. Please visit their website at www.xomarriageconference.com for more information. Stay tuned!

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**Christmas Fellowship Senior Luncheon**

Tickets are available today following both services on a first come, first served basis for the Sarah M. Clark Mothers Ministry Christmas Fellowship Senior Luncheon on Saturday, December 20th from 2:00pm – 6:00pm.

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**Community Announcements**

**Holiday with the Animals at the Bergen County Zoo**

On Sunday December 14th, 12:00 noon – 3:00pm, Bergen County is sponsoring “Holiday with the Animals at the Bergen County Zoo”. There will be free refreshments, complimentary train rides and costumed characters. See flyers in the lobby bins for more information.

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The luncheon will be held in the Clarence E. Kenner Fellowship Hall. Please note the luncheon is for CBC members, ages 65 and up.

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**Volunteers Needed**

The CBC Culinary Ministry is in need of volunteers for the Christmas Fellowship Senior Luncheon on December 20th from 2:00pm – 6:00pm.

Servers, greeters and break-down volunteers are needed. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall at the Christmas Fellowship Senior Luncheon table following both services, and plan to attend a volunteer meeting on Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00pm.
AKA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Iota Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated of Bergen County, New Jersey is introducing a program called ASCEND, designed to motivate, engage and assist high school students in reaching their maximum potential. Please see material and applications in the lobby bins for more information. The deadline to apply is December 15th.

DEACONS MINISTRY

A Resident Deacon will be in the office daily to assist the membership with dire needs and can be reached at 201-500-6001-Monday-Paul Thomas; Tuesday-Reginald Walker; Wednesday-Samuel Williams; Thursday-Paul Thomas; Friday-Lorene Frasier. Also, Deacons William Jones-201-805-2248 and Ryan Davis-201-805-2249 will be on hand for the week to make or receive phone calls and visitations.

TABLES IN FELLOWSHIP HALL A TODAY

*Christmas Fellowship Senior Luncheon
*Volunteers for Christmas Fellowship Senior Luncheon
*Community Saints 2050 A.D. T-Shirt Sales
*Angel Tree Program Gift Drop-Off