



The Barnesville Lantern

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Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalms 119:105



The Pastors' Spotlight:

In This Edition:

A very Happy Holiday Greeting to all from your Pastors! There is no way to enter this special holiday season without a deep abiding sense of joy for the goodness of God. We pray that in the activities of Christmas each of you will take time to ponder the incredible event that took place those many years ago. Motivated by love beyond description the Divine entered the human world to set in motion His great plan of redemption. *"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins". All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel", which is translated, "God with us". Matthew 1:21-23*

We also want you to hear clearly a very heartfelt "Thank you" to the many faithful people who make Barnesville Baptist Church a warm, welcoming fellowship where the Lord is honored in a spirit of unity and love. This is a miracle of God's Spirit and needs to be nurtured and protected through prayer. In our unity there is a spirit of hope and anticipation and excitement to see what the Lord has in store for us in the year 2003.

As you consider your own priorities for the coming year, we encourage you to pray about seeing that your definition of the abundant life agrees with the Lord's *"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly". John 10:10*

God Bless,

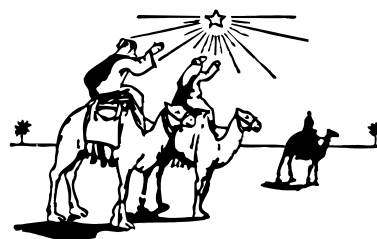
Pastor Joe



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Upcoming Events

- Dec. 4:** Fellowship dinner & business meeting.
- Dec. 13:** Lunch with friends from Watkins Cabinet.
- Dec. 13:** Parents' Night Out, 6:30 - 10:30 pm.
- Dec. 15:** Hymn Sing, 6:00 pm.
- Dec. 18:** Dress rehearsal for Christmas Cantata
- Dec. 22:** Christmas Cantata during the morning service
- Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary.
- Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve Celebration, with pizza, prayer and bell-ringing, 10:30 pm-12:30 am.



Now after Jesus was born...wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:1-2



B. God the Holy Spirit

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. Luke 2:1

The phrase “and it came to pass” occurs throughout Scripture 69 times. It is used when God fulfilled some promise or moved in some exciting way. For example, the following Biblical stories begin with the phrase “and it came to pass”: Noah’s flood, the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah, the death of the firstborn of Egypt, the end of the Hebrews’ slavery, and the reception of the Ten Commandments. In the New Testament, the phrase is used four times, one of which is the *Luke* passage describing the Roman census that compelled Joseph and Mary to return to the city of their fathers, Bethlehem, birthplace of King David.

What an exciting story that came to pass in the subsequent chapters of *Luke* and the other Gospels. The plot focuses on a Baby born of a virgin, announced by the heavenly host, worshiped by shepherds abiding in their fields, visited by wise men from the East, and illuminated by a westward-leading star.

Jesus, in the act of His birth, fulfilled numerous prophecies about the place and time of His birth, His lineage, and His purpose. The angel Gabriel told Mary to name her child Immanuel, meaning “God with us.” Ever since the first prophecy of a Messiah found in *Genesis 3:15*, the Jewish people had expected a Savior to come to them and save them, especially after the Roman occupation of Judea. However, when Jesus entered a world that was a “low land of sin and sorrow”, He came to rescue the Jewish people (and the rest of humanity) from spiritual darkness and bondage to sin. Jesus could have chosen to come as a conquering king and military hero. But instead, His arrival was modest and humble. Sure, there were the angels and shepherds on the first night, but the socially disreputable pregnancy of Mary, the indignity of the manger, the murderous hostility of King Herod, and the midnight flight to Egypt were not the most glamorous circumstances to greet Jesus.

The Christmas story is only important because it initiates the life of Jesus, which culminated in the Easter story. The line from the carol, “Hark the Herald Angel Sing”, reminds us that Jesus was, “Born that man no more may die.” In the upcoming months, let us remember, “that it came to pass” that the Christmas babe grew up to be the Passover Lamb for our sins and transgressions. What a wonderful story.

The staff of the *Barnesville Lantern* wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2003.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

BFM Reflection: “God the Holy Spirit”
Pastor Randy Gilliam

I’m not sure why this is so but it seems that we tend to acknowledge the ‘fact’ of the Holy Spirit but frequently fail to enjoy the everyday, in your world, in your circumstance ‘reality’ of His wonderful presence in our lives. In John 14:16 Jesus said “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever”. Then in John 14:17b-18 “...you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

The boundless love and presence of Jesus can be experienced first hand through the power of the Holy Spirit. We twentieth century Christians haven’t had the opportunity to walk with the physical Jesus like the early disciples were privileged to do. But, His indwelling Spirit teaches us the Truth of Christ and works to glorify Jesus in our lives. He is truly our comforter, teacher, friend,

December Birthdays

- 2 Tina Williams
- 16 Teresa Tuttle
- 17 Mary Winfield
- 19 Lisa Cooley
- 23 Samantha Cole
- 28 Ralph Cooley
- 29 Ollie Baumbaugh
- 31 Larry Michael

(Let us know if we missed anyone.)

Prayer Concerns

Kaitlynn Langstaff, 8 year old very ill in California
Junior Collins
Pat Elam
Linda Gilliam
Ryan Zobro, struggling new Christian
Angela Myers, recovering from back surgery
The Joe Williams Family
Annie Cooley
Pastor Joe and his December eye surgery
Our Nation and its Leaders

Now it came to pass in those days that He (Jesus) went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. Luke 6:12



"A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing."



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Annual Business Meeting in November

- The order & rules of the Business Meeting were reestablished.
- The Church instructed the Committees to prepare their 2003 budget requests

Expected Motions at the December Business Meeting

- Approve the 2003 Budget
- Amend the membership of two Standing Committees
- Adopt a by-law to determine how the quorum needed to ratify a constitutional amendment would be determined
- Instruct the Committees to define job descriptions for Church offices

Choir Director's Report

The Choir is now practicing music for the Christmas season. Please come & join us on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm!



BFM Reflection: "God the Holy Spirit", Continued

helper in prayer, and the ever-present wisdom and power of God in our lives. The Apostle Paul understood this so well when he prayed for the Christians at Ephesus (Eph. 3:16-19) *"I pray that out of His glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."*

Being aware day-by-day of this unlimited love and power of God in us should radically change our lives! The Holy Spirit will enable us to grow more and more into Christ likeness; He will drive away fear; He will enable us to rejoice in His love even when things go badly; He will help us to love others; He will help us discern God's will for our lives; He will empower the ministry of service He gives us; and He will never, never leave us alone! Praise God! Praise God!

Business Meeting Briefs, Continued

Highlights of Members' Services

Paul Meissner, in addition to his other areas of service, faithfully plans and leads the 3rd Sunday night hymn sing for the church and helps Pastor Joe every 2nd Sunday with the ministry at Sunrise Retirement Center.

Virginia Magaha has been a blessing in the ministry to our friends at Watkins Cabinet Company. She prepares some wonderful food for the monthly luncheons and gives 'a woman's touch' to the men's lunch. In November she prepared turkey, dressing and gravy! (Flora Gilliam and Sandy Gilliam are also wonderful helpers in this ministry.) Thank you all!

David Bennett serves BBC in a selfless and efficient way as treasurer without any fanfare. He also is serving as Chairman of the Deacon Body this church year.



News You Can Use

The Christmas Story: Luke 2

biblegateway.com

Plan to be in worship service on Sunday December 22 when the BBC Choir will present "HARK! THE ANGELS SING", A Dramatic Christmas Musical. For anyone who cannot attend on Sunday the 22nd, there will be a full dress rehearsal on Wednesday evening, Dec. 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This performance is open to the public!

Shuttle Service now available. Pastor Joe has made his Honda van available for transportation for anyone in our area to the Sunday and Wednesday services at Barnesville Baptist Church. If you know someone who would like to attend but transportation is a problem, please call the church office with the name and address. We will arrange to pick them up.

National Christian Choir Christmas Concert "The Birthday of a KING" Dec. 7, 2002 at Immanuel's Church, 16819 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905. Ticket information: 1-800-599-4710 or www.NationalChristianChoir.org. If you haven't heard this choir, this is a must.

The Adult Class will survey the books of the Bible in Sunday School during 2003. One way to get ready for the upcoming survey of the Old Testament is to memorize the names of the books. Many of you probably knew these by heart as a child in Sunday School. One great benefit of knowing them in order is that it is much easier to find a book when someone unexpectedly asks you to look up a scripture. (Find Obadiah verse 15 or Esther 4:14.) Pastor Joe will begin the Old Testament survey during the 9:30 Bible Study time on January 12.

A thought on Christmas by Charles Swindoll, *Growing Strong*, pp. 400-401.: "Some gifts you can give this Christmas are beyond monetary value: Mend a quarrel, dismiss suspicion, tell someone, "I love you." Give something away--anonymously. Forgive someone who has treated you wrong. Turn away wrath with a soft answer. Visit someone in a nursing home. Apologize if you were wrong. Be especially kind to someone with whom you work. Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation, or announcement, or reservation, or hypocrisy."

¹ And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

¹⁵So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.