



# The Barnesville Lantern

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

## The Pastors' Spotlight:

Let me take some of this space to express my deepest gratitude and thankfulness to all of you who demonstrated your love and support before, during and after my recent eye surgery. I have been humbled and tremendously moved by your thoughtfulness and care for me and for June. The outpouring of your concern and affection through your prayers, phone calls and cards is to say the very least overwhelming! Thank you. What a great joy it is to belong to a Christian community of faith. (The healing process is progressing slowly but as expected. God is good and is giving me patience.)

During February, much of our nation, especially in the schools, celebrates diversity by focusing on the courage and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is good to remember what Peter discovered about God, *"I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him."* (Acts 10:34-35 NASB) Jesus, by his life and teaching, smashed the barriers that once separated people. Neither culture, nationality, race, gender, wealth, social standing, or language should separate Christians in fellowship *"...for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* (Galatians 3:29b)

I thank God that our church is, and pray that it will remain, a place of peace and rest for all people who seek to learn about and worship our God and King, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God Bless,

Pastor Joe

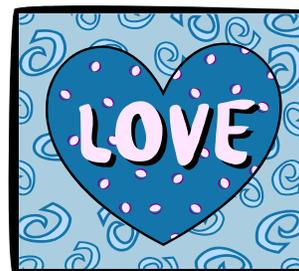


## In This Edition:

The Pastors' Spotlight, Page 1  
Upcoming Events, Page 1  
The Pew Perspective, Page 2  
Baptist Faith & Message, Part V, Page 2  
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 2  
February Birthdays, Page 3  
Prayer Concerns, Page 3  
BFM Reflection: "Grace", Page 3  
"White As Snow", Page 3  
News You Can Use, Page 4  
National Sanctity of Human Life Day 2003, Page 4  
February 2003 Calendar, Page 5

## Upcoming Events

**Feb. 5:** Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting  
**Feb. 8:** Valentine's Day Dinner (all are welcome)  
**Feb. 9:** Jim & Gale Cole in Concert during Morning Worship  
**Feb. 14:** Parents' Night Out  
**Feb. 16:** Hymn Sing, 6:00 pm  
**Feb. 21:** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends



*Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...*

*I Corinthians 13: 4-8a*

The issue of war with Iraq, for both supporters and opponents, has been of deep concern to many Christians, as evidenced by the article in the Saturday, January 25, 2003 *Washington Post* entitled "Evangelicals' Voices Speak Softly About Iraq" (Metro, B9).

I too, as a Christian, want to make sure that my positions on war, or any other issue of public concern, are informed by Christian values found in Scripture. According to Dr. Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, a just war requires the presence of seven criteria: (1) just cause, (2) just intent, (3) use of force as a last resort, (4) authorization by legitimate authority, (5) limited goals and reasonable expectation of success, (6) non-combatant immunity, and (7) proportionality.<sup>1</sup> These criteria and the idea of just war originated with Saint Augustine in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries.

As I have understood the ramifications for going to war with Iraq, the only area where I have pause is the third category of last resort. In the other areas, I am confident that (1) Saddam Hussein is a dangerous tyrant who has/would destabilize the Middle East, possibly with weapons of mass destruction, if he found it in his interest, (2) the United States' goal is to bring peace to the region and liberty to the Iraqi people, (4) Congress has constitutionally authorized the use of force against Iraq, (5) we only wish to dismantle Saddam Hussein's regime, not harm the Iraqi people, (6) our weapons, such as precision-guided missiles and our tactics of attacking only military targets demonstrates respect and concern for innocent life, and (7) the number of lives that would be lost in a war against Iraq pale against the numbers that would be killed and have already been killed if Saddam Hussein remains in power, a dictator whose willingness to kill his own family and subjects, and to attack countries, such as Iran, Kuwait, and Israel is well-known and documented.

On the third point, I am open to arguments that we should allow United Nations weapons inspectors more time to search for the weapons of mass destruction Iraq claims to have destroyed in the five years since the weapons inspectors were first forced out of Iraq. However, has our patience been tested only for a few weeks, or did the clock begin ticking at the end of the 1991 Gulf War, more than 12 years ago?

Wrestling with issues of morality can be difficult. We as Christians are reminded that "*blessed are the peacemakers*" (*Matthew 5:9*) and also "*abhor evil*" (*Romans 12:9*). As each person seeks God's will in this issue, as we should do in all aspects of our personal lives and public affairs, let us be reminded, "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...*" (*Psalms 46:1-3*). Regardless of what our path our nation takes in the upcoming weeks and months, remember that God was, is, and will be in control.

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<sup>1</sup>"Christian Leaders Support President Bush in 'Just War' Against Iraq." [www.erlcm.com/pr\\_2002/SprtforBushinJustWar.htm](http://www.erlcm.com/pr_2002/SprtforBushinJustWar.htm). October 4, 2002.

### V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.*

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### Business Meeting Briefs

#### *Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in January*

- A motion from the Deacons to study the issue of moving the Nursery upstairs was referred to the Education Committee
- A motion from the Deacons to study the possibility of constructing a "crying room" was referred to the Internal Administration Committee
- The Church had a budget deficit of \$17,937.00 in the year 2002 due mainly to unforeseen repairs required for the parsonage and the Church building

#### *Expected Motions at the February Business Meeting to:*

- Define the rules of standing committee operations

#### *Select Committee on Auditing*

Per the Church Constitution, the Pastor will soon appoint an Auditing Committee to audit the Treasurer's books and report back at the March Business Meeting

## February Birthdays

3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Cooley  
Cynthia Westland  
7<sup>th</sup> Maggie Cole  
Michelle Vasko  
9<sup>th</sup> Trudy Meissner  
10<sup>th</sup> Carole Shreve  
12<sup>th</sup> Luke Fedders  
21<sup>st</sup> David Gilliam  
22<sup>nd</sup> Joshua Holcomb  
25<sup>th</sup> Paiten Cole  
26<sup>th</sup> Joe Williams



## BFM Reflection: “Grace”

‘Grace’ is God’s indescribable love and favor freely given to those (all of us) who do not deserve it. The words of one of Christianity’s favorite hymns, written by John Newton, reflect the powerful, personal acknowledgement of God’s “Amazing Grace”.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Thro’ many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
‘Tis grace hath bro’t me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
Than when we first begun.

### “White As Snow”

Paul Meissner submitted the following poem. It was written by Garrett Carpenter, and appeared in the January 1999 *Poolesville Bulletin*.

Snow is sifting, snow is drifting, snow is falling ev’rywhere;  
Snow is flying, snow is fleeing, snow is falling in the air;  
Snow is flashing, snow is dashing, snow is falling to the ground;  
Snow is sifting, snow is drifting, snow is falling all around.

Jesus saved me. He forgave me, I am His where e’er I go;  
Though my sins were red as scarlet, He has made me white as snow;  
Since I gave my heart to Jesus, I’ve been born to life anew;  
He desires that none should perish; He will do the same for you.

Hallelujah, Jesus loves me, and His truth has set me free;  
Jesus died for my salvation on the cross of Calvary;  
I will follow where He leads me, to the final victory.  
Jesus is my sure foundation: on the Solid rock I stand;  
Till at last I shall behold Him, when I reach the Promised Land.

(Let us know if we missed anyone.)

## Prayer Concerns

Laura Bennett  
Pat Elam  
Angela Myers, recovering from back surgery  
Charles Fowler  
Cindi, friend of Leslie Foster  
Belle Strube, Carole Shreve’s mother  
Larissa White  
Janice Cole, new baby due in June  
The Joe Williams Family  
Annie Cooley  
Bob Lillard  
Pastor Joe, recovering from eye surgery  
Tiffany Gamble, friend of the Gilliams in Ohio  
The Ed Adams Family, friends of Pat Elam  
Our Nation and wisdom for its Leaders  
Peaceful settlement to the Iraqi situation by God’s intervention

*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.”*



*Baptist Men's Day.* It was a great blessing for everyone to see the Men of Barnesville participate in all parts of the service on January 26. Beginning with the breakfast, the men simply set a new standard of culinary skill and hospitality as they prepared and served an outstanding meal. The food was excellent, the fellowship was warm and it kicked off a Spirit-filled Lord's Day. During the morning worship service the men led in every part. (Pastor Joe and Randy were observers and worshippers.) The Men's Choir, the MOB, sang the special music "The Old Rugged Cross". A new friend, lay preacher Don Hollifield, brought the morning message on prayer. We feel the Lord used all parts of this service to create an atmosphere of worship and praise at BBC. Thank you, men.

*Special Thanks to our Friends at Watkins Cabinet.* On Tuesday, Jan. 28, our friend Rick at Watkins Cabinet called the church office and asked if anyone would be in that afternoon. The church was open and Pastor Randy was there. At about 1:00, Clyde and Mark arrived and began to install new shelving they had built for the Church Library! We had mentioned in the August 2002 *Lantern* that there was a need for more (higher) shelf space. We never dreamed that these men would make this sacrifice of time and material. When you have a chance, stop by and look at the new shelves. You might expect that Laura Bennett, our Librarian, is excited. She hopes to develop a true ministry through the library and make library news a regular part of the *Lantern*. Thank you Watkins friends for your kindness to us and for this service you have offered to the Lord.

*Children's Choir off to a good start.* Ann Carroll began Wednesday night Children's Choir practice in January and already has her hands full. Thank you, parents, for bringing your children out to begin learning to worship and praise through singing. Please keep Ann and the children in your prayers. Some Sunday morning when you see them and hear them sing, you will be glad you did!!

*Jim and Gale Cole in concert February 9.* Our church is very blessed to have the gifts and talents of Jim and Gale as part of our music worship. They truly love the Lord and love our church and want to honor Him with their music. They will be in concert during the morning worship service on Feb. 9. Please plan to be there and invite a friend. This will be a God-ordained, spiritual, musical worship experience that you will enjoy.

*Valentine's Day Dinner.* This will be a special evening of fellowship that celebrates love. Mary Yates is coordinating it so it will not only be a delicious meal but will be festive as well. Please try to keep Saturday, Feb. 8 at 5:00 pm, open if possible. We would 'love' to see you there.



Randy Gilliam

In his proclamation setting January 19, 2003, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day, President Bush included these statements: "We reaffirm the value of human life and renew our dedication to ensuring that every American has access to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness . . . . I call upon all Americans to . . . rededicate ourselves to compassionate service, and to reaffirm our commitment to respecting the life and dignity of every human being."

This proclamation came near the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark 1973 case *Roe v. Wade*, wherein the Supreme Court made abortion on demand a protected right in the United States. Although 30 years have passed, the abortion rights issue is still unsettling and is perhaps the most divisive moral issue in our country. The debate and passionate contentions between both sides of the issue will not go away. Even Christians have widely different convictions about this issue and many are found on each side of the debate. Incredibly, women who identify themselves as Protestants (43 percent) and Catholics (27 percent) obtain the majority of abortions.<sup>1</sup>

I would call you to prayer around this issue to ask the Lord to reveal His wisdom in the legislatures and courts at the state and federal levels. Also, please pray that those debating abortion rights publicly will be candid and honest. The rancor and abusive rhetoric must be replaced with compassion and civility.

I would like to share some of my own views about this subject. I believe that abortion is wrong in most cases because an unborn child is still a human child. The logic is simple. Two human beings produce human offspring. At conception, everything a child needs to mature into a grown person is there except for nutrition. This belief was strongly held in the first centuries of the Christian faith. Tertullian (c. 160-240) linked abortion to the Sixth Commandment (thou shalt not murder), writing, "We may not destroy even the fetus in the womb...That is a man which is going to be one. You have the fruit already in the seed". Also in the Scripture the principle to "love your neighbor as yourself" (*Mark 12:31*) precludes doing harm or violence to any person born or unborn. An important Old Testament Scripture is *Jeremiah 1:5*, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart". This Scripture gives evidence that the God of the Judeo-Christian faith knows and is concerned about the person of the unborn child. To all of this I would suggest to you that there is a natural law regarding the value of life that informs people, universally, that life is to be valued and protected. Humans at times through power and might set aside this natural law. But it seems to be, nonetheless, a law. God bless you as you pray.

*For you formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.*  
(*Psalms 139:13-14*)

<sup>1</sup> Land, Richard. "First-Person: Our endangered species." <http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?ID=15072>, January 22, 2003.