



# 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:

By the time you receive this newsletter February will be behind us and Spring will be just around the corner. It is comfortable to think about trees budding, crocuses and daffodils beginning to sprout up, and to see green grass after this wintry blanket of snow has been around for so long. I really do like snow, but, "Enough is enough". I am also quite certain that if we don't have to shovel any more snow this winter, I will not be disappointed!

Beginning on March 9, I will be bringing a series of messages on the Fruit of the Spirit. I think this series will inspire you and challenge you as we look at how the Holy Spirit equips each one of us in unique ways in order to minister to the Body of Christ and through the Body of Christ. We will also touch on gifts of the Spirit and recognize that each one of us is equipped with some gift that we are to exercise in ministry. This gets to be really exciting when we realize that the sovereign God of the universe has not only gifted us through His Spirit, but has a plan for us that will honor Him and bring joy to our lives.

Please be in prayer for me and for our Church family as we continue to learn how to represent Christ in our community.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."  
(Galatians 5:22-23)*

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 VI, Page 2  
BFM Reflection: "The Church", Page 2  
March Birthdays, Page 3  
Prayer Concerns, Page 3  
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3  
About St. Patrick, Page 3  
News You Can Use, Page 4  
Who Is Annie Armstrong?, Page 4  
March 2003 Calendar, Page 5

## Upcoming Events

**Mar. 2-9:** Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
**Mar. 5:** Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting  
**Mar. 8:** VBS Directors' Meeting in Rockville  
**Mar. 12:** Planning Committee Meeting  
**Mar. 14:** Parents' Night Out  
**Mar. 16:** Hymn Sing, 6:00 pm  
**Mar. 15:** Memorial Service for Mack Cole  
**Mar. 17:** St. Patrick's Day  
**Mar. 21:** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends



*"God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend. For He says to the snow, "Fall on the earth"; Likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength." (Job 37:6)*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

As I begin to write this column, it is **still** snowing. As they say, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. So I thought I would write about the only local newsmaker for most of this month, and indeed, this entire winter: snow. So far this season, the Barnesville metropolitan area has received 30-60 inches of the white stuff. The highest totals were found closer in to town, while our outer suburbs, such as Washington, DC, had total snowfall closer to the 30" mark. The storm of February 14-17 was recently ranked as #5 in snowfall totals since records have been kept in our area, almost edging the Blizzard of 1996, which I personally remember as closing down Montgomery County Public Schools for an entire week, and creating 6 foot snow drifts outside my bedroom window. I also heard on the news that Jerusalem and the West Bank also received their most significant snowfall in 50 years, which led me to wonder, exactly what does the Bible say about snow?

It turns out that snow is mentioned 25 times in the Bible, with 22 of the references found in the Old Testament. The word "snow" is mentioned to describe the pallidness of leprosy and other skin diseases, the cleanliness of garments, the whiteness of a winter landscape, and the purity and holiness of God. Let me share with you two verses from Isaiah that typify the symbolism of snow in the Bible. In *Isaiah 1:18*, we read, "*Come now, and let us reason together, Says the LORD, Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.*" Snow and wool were the whitest things with which the Israelites would have been familiar. Indeed, white is not a color normally found in nature. A change in color from the rich red of scarlet to the clean crispness of white is as dramatic as the transformation in a person's life when they repent of their sins and reconcile with God. This word picture is a Christian favorite, finding its way into hymns and everyday conversation. As sheep in our Father's flock, we should remember that our inward cleanliness in God's sight should be consistent with our outward behavior in the world. Who ever heard of a sheep with scarlet wool?

The second verse remind us that, "*For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater...*" (*Isaiah 55:10*). The snow and ice of winter will eventually melt away, soaking the ground and recharging the aquifers. In its place, this winter's snow will set the stage for a vibrant spring full of growth and life in the natural world and in our gardens. Again, we find God's provision for us; preparing the world for a new season of life and promise.

So, as we continue to plow and trudge through the snow on our way to work and the mailbox, stop for a minute and consider the blessings of snow: a reminder of the inner and outer purity we can have in our relationship with God and in our walk in the world, as well as a promise of fairer skies and warmer weather ahead.

Even now, as I complete this month's column, it is **still** snowing. Perhaps a few more inches won't hurt.

## Baptist Faith and Message, Part VI

### VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

*Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

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### BFM Reflection: "The Church"

*The Church's One Foundation (Hymn #277)  
By Samuel Stone, 1866*

The church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation By water and the word:  
From Heav'n He came and sought her To be his Holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, With ev'ry grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation Of peace for evermore;  
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest, And the  
great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union With God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and holy, On high may dwell with Thee.

## March Birthdays

5<sup>th</sup> Stape Shields  
18<sup>th</sup> Steve Bennett  
Charles Fowler  
24<sup>th</sup> Janice Cole  
25<sup>th</sup> Virginia Shreve  
27<sup>th</sup> Sharon Davidson  
28<sup>th</sup> Jack Hough



(Let us know if we missed anyone.)

## Prayer Concerns

Laura Bennett  
Pat Elam  
Gale Cole, recovering from concussion  
Jim Cole, recovering from broken bone in his leg  
Angela Myers, recovering from back surgery  
Charles Fowler, recovering from surgery  
Lindsey Baumbaugh  
Cindi, friend of Leslie Foster  
Belle Strube, Carole Shreve's mother  
Janice Cole, new baby due in June  
Annie Cooley  
Bob Lillard  
Pastor Joe, recovering from eye surgery  
Leif Hammarlund, the Baumbaugh's son-in-law  
Linda Gilliam  
Rob Dufflemeyer, nephew of Flora Gilliam's son-in-law  
Jim McKamey, waiting for heart transplant in Ohio  
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."*



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in February:*

No new business was presented, and no progress on old business was reported.

*Expected at the March Business Meeting:*

- A motion to define the rules of standing committee operations
- The standing committees are scheduled to report back at the March business meeting on the motion to create job descriptions for positions not defined by the Church Constitution.
- An Auditing Committee has not been appointed yet. It is expected that the audit of the Church's finances due at the March business meeting will be given in April.

## About St. Patrick

Saint Patrick would certainly rank high in a Missionary Hall of Fame. Living from approximately 390 AD to 461 AD, Patrick was probably born in ... "southwestern Britain; his British name was Succat. At 16 years of age he was carried off by Irish marauders and passed his captivity as a herdsman near the mountain Slemish in county Antrim (according to tradition) or in county Connacht. The young herdsman saw visions in which he was urged to escape, and after six years of slavery he did so, to the northern coast of Gaul. Ordained a priest, possibly by Saint Germanus, at Auxerre, he returned to Ireland. Sometime after 431, Patrick was appointed successor to St. Palladius, first bishop of Ireland. Patrick concentrated on the west and north of Ireland, establishing his see at Armagh.<sup>1</sup> In spite of many perils he was very successful and the inhabitants were baptized in droves. Patrick is said to have founded more than 300 churches and baptized more than 120,000 people.<sup>2</sup>

"Patrick was perhaps the first missionary to barbarians beyond the reach of Roman law. The step he took was in its way as bold as Columbus', and a thousand times more humane. Patrick went to Ireland knowing the dangers and late in his life made this confession, 'The Gospel has been preached beyond which there is no one...every day I am ready to be murdered, betrayed, enslaved – whatever may come my way. But I am not afraid of any of these things, because of the promises of heaven; for I have put myself in the hands of God Almighty'".<sup>3</sup> Baptists, like most Protestants, do not pay a lot of attention to saints and martyrs, but as a dedicated missionary, Saint Patrick deserves our respect & admiration.

<sup>1</sup>"Patrick, Saint," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

<sup>2</sup> World Book Encyclopedia 1993, Vol. 15, p. 197.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Cahill, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*.



## News You Can Use

Randy Gilliam

*Weather-related updates now available.* We will try to keep the message on the answering machine at Church up to date with news in the event of cancellations, other emergencies or other notable events.

*March is a good time to send cards and notes.* With the February blahs almost behind us, take a moment and send a “happy” card to family or friends. I know that a “flurry” of cards to those listed in the “Prayer Concerns” featured on Page 3 of the *Lantern* would bring smiles and glad feelings to many who are struggling with health or injury problems. Contact the Church office if you need someone’s address.

*Calling for email addresses.* A new branch is going to be grafted onto the Church Phone Tree. In order to get information out to the Church family as quickly as possible, we would like to put together an email list. If you would provide your e-mail address to Pastor Randy or to the Church Webmaster, Lee Michael, or send an email to the Church, we will begin to use this as another way to stay in touch. The Church’s email address is [barnesvillebaptist@msn.com](mailto:barnesvillebaptist@msn.com). The email list will be used only for official Church news approved by the Pastor and/or the Webmaster.

*Women’s Ministries plan seminar.* There has been lively response to the Women’s Ministries planned book study/seminar. Please contact Joyce Dunn if you have not yet received a book. You will enjoy reading and discussing this insightful work by Billy Graham, entitled *Angels, God’s Secret Agents*.

*Old Testament survey begun in Sunday School.* Pastor Joe has begun a survey of the Old Testament books of the Bible in the Adult Sunday School class. This lesson begins at 9:30 on Sunday morning and is held in the sanctuary. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to get to know the Christian “textbook” better. This study provides a brief overview of the Who? When? Why? for each of the 39 Old Testament books. It will also help you appreciate the major themes of each book, how each book fits into the whole canon of Scripture, and how each relates to the New Testament (which will be the next topic for a multi-week survey in the Adult Sunday School class.)



*“But He answered and said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”. (Matthew 4:4)*

## Who Is Annie Armstrong?

Few Southern Baptists alive today would have known Miss Annie. Annie Armstrong, who lived from 1850 until 1933, dedicated her life to missions awareness and service. Helping to found Woman’s Missionary Union, she served as first corresponding secretary of the organization and is well known for her “corresponding”. In 1893 alone, she wrote 17,719 letters. Each one was carefully written and conveyed then what still must be conveyed today – share the Gospel at all costs and support those who do. Her strong advocacy for missionaries and her example of making Christ known makes her worthy of the honor of having the annual North American missions offering named after her.

During the third week of March 1895, Annie Armstrong along with other WMU leaders responded to a request to help the then Home Mission Board out of a financial crisis. They prayed, gave, and exceeded their goal. Since that year, Southern Baptists have observed an annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions and collected a special offering, which was named in honor of Annie in 1934. Since its inception, the offering has raised more than \$900 million for mission efforts in the United States and Canada. Every dollar –100 percent—supports missionaries and their work. In partnership with 42 state conventions, the North American Mission Board uses the gifts to pay missionary salaries and benefits, start new Southern Baptist churches, and support special evangelism projects.

We at BBC are privileged to hear a “Missions Moment” every Sunday morning that lets us in on work being done by missionaries supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Cooperative Program.

Watch and listen for information from the WMU at Barnesville about this year’s offering. We have a unique opportunity to participate in ministry here in Barnesville, in our state, across our nation and Canada, and throughout the world!

“On Mission Together: Partners in Purpose”

*“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest’.”*  
(Matthew 9:36-38)