



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

"Bless the Lord, O, my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!" It is appropriate to praise God in all times, circumstances, and seasons. One of the greatest comforts in this world is that God never changes. His love and concern for us will never end. Annie Johnson Flint expressed the magnitude of God's love in the refrain of a hymn she wrote, "He Giveth More Grace",

*His love has no limit, His grace has no measure;
His pow'r has no boundary known unto men.
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!*

Let me encourage each one of you to become students of the Word. Whether or not you have heard the messages on the "Fruit of the Spirit", I challenge you to read and study *Galatians 5: 22-23*. The quality of the fruit mentioned in these verses is such that only the Holy Spirit of God can produce them in a believer's life. The last of the nine fruits, temperance or self-control, will be the subject of the message on June 8. The ultimate revelation of these gifts in "full bloom" will only be revealed in Heaven. You will find it a great joy to experience them in the here and now, however.

Another opportunity for meaningful Bible study is in the Adult Bible class on Sunday mornings at 9:30. I am teaching a survey of the Old Testament. We have completed the books of the law and will start *I Samuel* on Sunday, June 8.

Beginning July 6, I will start a series of messages on the great "I AM" declarations of Jesus in the *Gospel of John*, which is to many Christians their very favorite book in the whole Bible. I pray that as you read and study the Scriptures and hear the messages, you will see a clearer portrait of our Savior, who He is, and why He is worthy of our praise.

"They [the Bereans] received the Word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17: 11b).

God Bless,

Pastor Joe



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Upcoming Events

- June 14** *Rushing Wind* in concert
Flag Day
- June 15** Fathers' Day
- June 17-18** SBC Convention
- June 21** First Day of Summer
- June 27** Chosen People Ministries



*"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven"
(Matthew 9: 14).*

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Barnesville Baptist is beginning its buildup toward a week of high intensity activity for our annual Vacation Bible School, which is our Church's most significant community outreach and evangelism effort every year. I have attended VBS as a student, helper, or teacher every summer since kindergarten, and it has been a formative experience in my life. Even today, I can still not get a VBS song out of my head that I learned at least 15 years ago... "Come on along on a Son-Seeker safari! Come on a long and safari with me! The adventure's just beginning, we're having lots of fun...". Don't ask me to sing it for you, but my point is that the seeds we plant during VBS can bear fruit throughout a young person's life. The multiple experiences I had at VBS set the stage for my own profession of faith. VBS attendance has had a similar effect on many other youth. The Southern Baptist Convention recorded 109,045 professions of faith, as well as 289,679 prospects, and 50,000 new Sunday School members for VBS 2001 (Truth Trackers), the most recent year available. Even if a week of VBS goes by without a single response to the Gospel message or visit to Sunday school the week after by the students, do not be discouraged. As Jesus told his disciples, the harvest will come in its own time.

"...Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty" (Matthew 13:3-8).

So, invite your friends and neighbors to join us this July as we try and "crack the character code". Despite the hazy, hot, and humid weather we have every summer, you will be blessed for working in the Master's garden.

As you can tell from the "Volume 2" on the newsletter masthead, this month marks the one year anniversary of the *Barnesville Lantern*. I have enjoyed serving as Editor for the last 12 issues, and look forward to many more issues to report on the activities of Barnesville Baptist Church. I have also enjoyed working with Publisher Randy Gilliam, and thank Sandy Gilliam and Nancy Cooley for their roles as press operators and deliverymen. The kind comments and encouragements I received about various articles and features give me reason to look forward to the writing and publication of each month's newsletter. Thank you.

Baptist Faith and Message, Part IX

IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

BFM Reflection: "The Kingdom"

As creator, God is absolute ruler over His universe. In much of the Bible, however, God's "kingdom" does not refer so much to a place as it does to a rule – God's dominion over the lives of individuals. It is not a worldly kingdom (*John 18:36*). Hence, for Matthew the terms "kingdom of Heaven" and "kingdom of God" are synonymous.

The rule of God in people's lives was a favorite theme of Jesus' teaching. He taught that it is near – as near as the individual's response to his message. He emphasized how it was "within" the hearts of individuals and the community of disciples who embraced God's rule over their lives (*Luke 17: 20-21*).

A good activity for the summer would be to use your Bible and a good Bible commentary on the book of *Matthew* and study the 13th chapter, verses 1-52. Read the parables of Jesus concerning the "kingdom of Heaven". As you read the Scripture and study ask the Holy Spirit to help you get a new and deeper understanding of God's Kingdom.

"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 5:10).

June Birthdays

The Barnesville Lantern

8 Lisa Fedders
9 David Bennett
Gary Burdette
10 Sharon Engle
11 Jan Lillard
16 Edith J. Luhn
17 Matt Yates
Donna Elgin
23 June Ivey
27 Sandra Oden



Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley
Laura Bennett
Pat Elam
Gale Cole, God is blessing her recovery
Charles Fowler
Lindsey Baumbaugh
Greg Scoggins, recovering from surgery
Marva Cole
Belle Strube, Carole Shreve's mother
Janice Cole, new baby due any day!
Sherri Marsh, new baby due in October
Todd Marsh, recovering from back injury
Harold Marsh, recovering from back surgery
Bob Lillard
Pastor Joe, recovering from eye surgery
Linda Gilliam
Ronnie Weddle
Tommy Wilson, Mary Yates' nephew
Vacation Bible School, all workers, teachers, students
Mike and Debbie Dennis, called to Guatemala
Godly wisdom for the leaders of our nation's leaders

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4: 6-7).



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



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in May:

- A motion to define the rules of standing committee procedure was introduced and referred to the Internal Administration Committee.
- The Church approved the payment of \$175 lawn care treatments of the Church grounds to control dandelions.
- The Groundsmen have received several differing diagnoses and estimates to repair the belfry.

Expected at the June Business Meeting:

- The standing committees have not reported back yet on the motion to create job descriptions for positions not defined by the Church Constitution, which was due at the March business meeting.
- An Auditing Committee has not been appointed yet to perform the audit of the Church's finances, which was due at the March business meeting.

Special Visitors Coming to BBC

Invite your friends and family to the following special events:

The Rushing Wind gospel quartet will be in concert on Saturday, June 14 at 7:00 pm, and on Sunday, June 15 at 10:45 am.

Rushing Wind fans have anticipated their return to Barnesville. For those who do not know *Rushing Wind*, treat yourself to an evening of first-class Gospel singing. In their own words: "The *Rushing Wind* ministry was founded in 1984 by lead singer Jimmy Hartley... The mission of the *Rushing Wind* is to lift the spirits of the saints and deliver the Gospel message to the lost in a manner pleasing to the ear.

In July 2002, *Rushing Wind* was named "Male group of the year" by the *Gospel Post*, which wrote, "The quartet travels extensively in an area stretching from Ft. Worth, Texas, to southern Maryland, to Key West. A recent release of a song entitled "Sho' Do Need Him Now" is receiving significant radio play in the Southeast". See the *Rushing Wind* website at rushingwindgospelquartet.com.

We are very pleased to host Mr. Bruce Elman, a missionary for Chosen People Ministries who will share his personal testimony on Friday, June 27, at 6:00 pm.

Chosen People Ministries is at the forefront of Jewish evangelism. The ministry began in 1894 when Rabbi Leopold Cohn came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah of Israel. Beginning in Brooklyn, Rabbi Cohn shared the Good News with his own people. Since that time, hundreds of Chosen People workers have shared the gospel message of salvation in Jesus with Jewish people around the world.

This meeting is open to the public and we would like to invite the Christian and Jewish community to attend.

News You Can Use

Randy Gilliam

Call for flowers. If you have an abundance of flowers blooming in your yard, or you receive flowers for a special occasion, why not share them and beautify the Church on Sunday morning? Contact Kitty Cooley at (301) 349-5119 to arrange for flowers to be placed in the Church in honor or in memory of a loved one.

SBC Convention June 17-18 in Phoenix, AZ. Pastor Randy and wife Sandy will be attending the SBC Convention this year. This will be a first for them and they are excited about seeing something of how this huge Christian denomination functions. Randy and Sandy have read a very good book by Jerry Sutton, *The Baptist Reformation*, which documents the shift towards a conservative, i.e. traditional, theology since 1979 in the SBC. Many of the key figures in this movement will be at the convention. Pastor Randy and Sandy will share news and information about the convention with the BBC later this summer.

Library News. The book, *The Baptist Reformation*, will be in the BBC library and available for loan beginning in July.

Milestone Reached for Rufus and Flora Gilliam. On June 5, 2003, Rufus and Flora Gilliam will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. Congratulations from all their friends at BBC and the Barnesville and Boyds communities! Give them a call or send a card to let them know what special people they are and that their church family loves them.

Baptist Press Cartoon



New Missionaries Need Prayer

Pastor Mike and Debbie Dennis, friends and former pastor of Randy and Sandy Gilliam in Xenia, Ohio are answering God's call to minister in Guatemala. Pastor Mike will be a Field director supporting some 500 churches (60,000 members) in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. This is a wonderful and courageous family with huge challenges facing them. Please remember them in your prayers as they transition into a new language and culture with the timeless and unchanging message of the Gospel. Mike is a gifted preacher and teacher, and the Lord has given him a great burden to work with Spanish speaking peoples of South America. Debbie is Pastor Mike's partner in the ministry. She is a strong, warm, compassionate woman of prayer. Pray for her in this transition especially since she is leaving their three children and one grandchild here in the United States.

In spite of the changes and challenges that come with this call to minister and since they are in God's will, effectual victory is already theirs. They can exclaim with the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". Amen and Amen.

Please pray also for the church they are leaving in Xenia, Ohio, Xenia First Church of the Nazarene, as they begin their search for a new pastor to build upon the work done by Mike and Debbie and others who served before them.

Vacation Bible School 2003 News Update

The excitement is already starting to build for Vacation Bible School 2003 at Barnesville Baptist Church, which will be held July 7-11.

The Kickoff Dinner and Registration starts on Monday, July 7 at 5:00 pm. Besides the good food, Mrs. Nancy Wells will present "The Wonder of the Horse". She will have miniature horses for cart rides and pony rides plus a lot of information about these unique animals.

Transportation will be provided for anyone who needs to be picked up for VBS. Call the church office 301-407-0500 if you know someone who would benefit from this service.

The theme for VBS 2003 is "*The Great Kingdom Caper, Cracking the Character Code*". Classes and activities are built around the message found in *Colossians 3: 12-13*, "*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord for gave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity*".