



# 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

August greetings to our Church family and our community of friends wherever *The Lantern* is read. It is my prayer that each of you discover day by day like we have in Barnesville that the Lord is good and He is always faithful. *"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I hope in Him!'" (Lamentations 3:22-24).*

Our visitation ministry was launched in July and beginning this month will be scheduled on Thursday evenings. Those who are able can meet in the Pastors' office at 6:45 pm for prayer and then go out in teams to make pre-arranged visits. The intent of this outreach ministry is to find and befriend any unchurched family and begin building bridges of concern and love to them. We are convinced that no matter what circumstance a person or family is in, there is a human need to address the person and claims of God. The scriptures say that *"He has put eternity in their hearts" (Ecclesiastes 3:11a)*. This is an innate awareness that there is One existent beyond ourselves. This has been described by some as a God-shaped place in our hearts that cannot be filled by any other thing or person, only God.

Please be in prayer for all who participate in this ministry and for all the families that receive them. If you know of someone in your community who does not have a church home and want us to visit them, please give us their name, address, and phone number. If you attend our worship service you are invited during the closing hymn to come forward to pray for that person or family and leave the information in the basket by the prayer rail.

God Bless,

Pastor Joe



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## Upcoming Events

**August 6** Business Meeting  
**August 10** Baptism Sunday  
**August 23** Father-Son Banquet at Dutch's Daughter



*"Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born".*

*John W. Work II*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

For those of you who have read the *Lantern* for a while now, you have noticed that most of our monthly content deals with the life and times of our congregation—light, non-controversial fare. But from time to time, we cover issues of importance that extend beyond the immediate range of our rural hilltop community. Thus we have previously written on the war in Iraq and abortion. In the last few months, the issue of homosexuality and its acceptance in society has become a prominent item in the news. Since June, the US Supreme Court has ruled in *Lawrence v. Texas* that sodomy is a protected right under the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause. Courts in Canada have interpreted that country's constitution to allow same-sex marriages, which the provinces of Ontario and British Columbia now officially recognize. Also, the (US) Episcopal Church is meeting in Minneapolis to consider approving the call of an openly gay cleric to be a bishop, and to consider writing an official blessing for same-sex couples. These developments lead me to write about homosexuality this month.

The Bible is clear and consistent on God's rejection of homosexuality as a legitimate behavior and/or lifestyle. In the Old Testament, verses found in *Genesis 19; Leviticus 18:22, 29; 20:13* declare God's opposition to not only homosexuality, but all forms of sexual immorality. These spiritual principles of sexual purity are repeated in the New Testament in *Romans 1:26; I Corinthians 6:9; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-5, I Timothy 1:10; Jude 7*. Although we as Christians under the New Covenant are no longer under Levitical law, the penalty of spiritual death and separation from God are just as present and even more serious than the Old Testament penalties.

Homosexuality, as a sin, is no different from any other sin in God's eyes, be it covetousness, anger, or bearing false witness. We as Christians, with our own past faults and sins, would stand equally condemned before God were it not for Jesus' substitutionary death on the Cross that allows us to stand justified by faith through grace (*Romans 1:17; Romans 3:10-18*).

Therefore, to reject homosexuality as incompatible with God's design for marital and familial relations is not to hate homosexuals or to condone violence against them. Instead, Scripture teaches that is natural, normal and necessary for children to be raised by a father and mother inside the institution of marriage. To argue otherwise is to reduce fathers and mothers to optional child-rearing preferences, rather than God-ordained roles.

We members of Barnesville Baptist are, unfortunately, part of a culture and society that must now confront the issue of homosexuality. We cannot retreat behind the walls of our Church and say that we should not engage in public affairs, or imagine that this issue does not have spiritual importance. This is an issue where church and state are indelibly intertwined. We must be "salt and light" to a lost and dying world (*Matthew 5:13-16*).

## Baptist Faith and Message, Part XI

### XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.*

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### **BFM Reflection: "Evangelism & Missions"**

Excerpts from BP News Aug. 29, 2002 by Thom Rainer

The major change in Article XI of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message is in the final sentence of the article: "it is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ."

The words "verbal witness" were added to the 2000 statement. These two words were absolutely needed, and they added a component to the mandate of missions and evangelism that was conspicuously absent in previous statements.

Lifestyle witness alone is insufficient. The Apostle Paul was clear on this issue when he wrote the church at Rome: "*How then will they believe in Him whom they have not heard?*" (*Romans 10:14a*). As Paul admonished Timothy, we are to do the work of an evangelist, clearly speaking the good news of Christ.

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age'"*  
(*Matthew 28:18-20*).

## August Birthdays

3 John Michael Williams  
12 Madison Marsh  
19 Kyle Marsh  
21 Edith Fowler  
26 Lee Michael  
    Shayna Campbell  
28 Ann Carroll  
    Robert Normoyle  
29 Paul Meissner  
30 Matthew Cole



## Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley  
Laura and Ben Bennett  
Pat Elam  
Gale Cole  
Charles and Dot Fowler  
Belle Strube  
Sherri Marsh, new baby due in October  
Virginia Shreve, recovering from a fall  
Linda Gilliam  
Mike Dennis coming to BBC in November  
Walt Rohwer, friend of the Michael family

*“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.”*



## Praises (as reported by various individuals)

-Praise God for how He has blessed my friend's life with success and peace and a new opportunity for happiness.  
-Thank God for His protection and His mercy to our family during times of traveling, vacationing and fellowshiping this summer.  
-Praise the Lord for my father not having to have surgery.  
-Praise God for my cousin's recovery following a heart attack.  
-Praise God for answered prayer.  
-Praise God for my elderly father's health and happiness.

(If you have a praise you would like to share with readers of *The Lantern*, please contact Pastor Randy or drop a note into the offering tray during worship service.)

## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in July:*

- The Church approved job descriptions for various Church offices not described by the Constitution.
- The Church adopted a bylaw to define the rules of standing committee procedure.
- A motion to install a hose spigot was adopted.
- The following people were approved as new members of Barnesville Baptist: Janet Magruder (by letter from Tricounty Baptist); Bill and Nevada Pleasants (by statement); Todd, Sherri, and Harold Marsh (by profession of faith).

*Expected at the August Business Meeting:*

- A motion to increase the budget allocation for Outreach Ministry by an amount to cover the Father-Son Banquet in August and the Watkins Cabinet lunches through the end of the year.
- A motion to add a middle school teacher to the Education Committee will be introduced for action by the Select Committee on Nominations.

## The Pendulum

Dwight Lyman (D.L.) Moody

There was once a pendulum waiting to be fixed on a new clock. It began to calculate how long it would be before the big wheels were worn out and its work was done. It would be expected to tick night and day, so many times a minute, sixty times that every hour, and twenty-four times that every day and three hundred and sixty-five times that every year. It was awful! Quite a row of figures, enough to stagger you! Millions of ticks! “I can never do it,” said the poor pendulum. But the clockmaster encouraged it. “You can do one tick at a time?” he said. “Oh, yes,” the pendulum could do that. “Well,” he said, “that is all that will be required of you.” So the pendulum went to work, steadily ticking, one tick at a time, and it is ticking yet, quite cheerfully.

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11: 28-30).*

## News You Can Use

Randy Gilliam

*Welcome new members.* Barnesville Baptist welcomes the following new faces in our congregation: Janet Magruder (by letter from Tricounty Baptist). Bill and Nevada Pleasants (by statement). They have a young son, Will. Todd, Sherri, and Harold Marsh (by profession of faith). Sherri is Janice Cole's sister and wife of Todd, whose brother is Harold. Take a minute to greet these new members and make them feel welcome.

*Baptism service August 10.* There will be a baptism as part of the morning worship service on August 10. Baptism is one of the two ordinances of the Church. It is a public expression of an inward reality of having been unified with Christ. What a great blessing it is for the Church to witness the baptism and what a privilege it is for any person to stand in the waters of baptism and proclaim with the angels that "Jesus Christ is Lord." Amen!!

*New Middle School Sunday School class beginning.* A new class, specifically for students in grades 7 to 9, will "lift off" on Sept. 7. If you know anyone who is not attending Sunday School now and would be interested in giving us a try, please contact Pastor Randy. Transportation can be provided if necessary. Also, if anyone would be interested in helping with this class, let Randy know.

*Thank you, thank you.* Thank you to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School 2003 a success. We had great kids and adults and the consensus is that everyone enjoyed the week!! The total enrollment for VBS this year was 94 (including children, adults, and workers) and the average attendance was 77. An offering of \$212.00 was given and will be sent directly to a missionary. We are already looking forward to VBS 2004!

*Bill Bright passes away.* Bill Bright, the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, passed away in July. Within evangelical circles he is paired with Billy Graham as the two most influential Christian leaders of the last 50 years. His booklet "The Four Spiritual Laws" is the most widely distributed religious pamphlet in history. It has been printed in at least 200 languages and read by an estimated 2.5 billion people. He was the producer of the "JESUS" film, a feature-length documentary on the life of Christ which has been viewed by more than 5.1 billion people speaking 800 different languages in 234 countries. Rick Warren, Bill's pastor at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., asked him "Why do you think God has used and blessed your life so much?" Bill told him the story he has told over and over around the world: "When I was a young man, I made a contract with God. I literally wrote it out and signed my name at the bottom. It said, 'From this day forward, I am a slave of Jesus Christ.'"

## Thoughts About Faith

Randy Gilliam

The essence of faith is that we act on "more than meets the eye." Dag Hammarskjold puts it this way: "We act in faith – and miracles occur. In consequence, we are tempted to make the miracles the ground of our faith. The cost of such weakness is that we lose the confidence of faith. Faith is, faith creates, faith carries. It is not derived from, nor created, nor carried by anything except its own reality."

Dag Hammarskjold, *Markings*, 1964

A remarkable 99 percent of family physicians think religious faith helps patients respond to treatment.

Clark Maphew, May 3, 1999

Prayer is, fundamentally, an exercise in trust. Dale A. Matthews, associate professor of medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine and senior fellow at the National Institute for Healthcare Research, writes in his latest book, *The Faith Factor*, "Our prayers of course, may not be answered in the ways we would prefer. Theologians have written volumes on how to understand this reality, and I will not attempt to understand their findings. For me it is helpful to remember what C.S. Lewis wrote about unanswered prayer in a letter to a friend: 'If God had granted all the silly prayers I have made in my life, where would I be now?'"

"Spiritual maturity involves trusting that God will answer our prayers according to our real needs as He sees them, and not as we with limited vision, see them...After all, the ultimate goal of prayer is not to get our needs met or to get what we want, it is to draw us nearer to God."

Dale A. Matthews, *The Faith Factor*, 1998

*"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).*

Since this is true, it is good to remember that the Word does not change and is eternal, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (*Matthew 24:35*).