



# 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

We have to express our gratitude to all at BBC for supporting the Father-Son Banquet on August 23. This was a unique and powerful experience for everyone who attended. Several of our men spoke eloquently about family life, experiences and memories regarding their sons, and how important God has been to them in their good times and bad times. We believe that God's love to fathers and sons was communicated in this time of fellowship by the power of the Holy Spirit. Praise God!

It is interesting that the first BBC Father-Son banquet occurred in the same year that the emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention is "Building Kingdom Families". In the material being prepared by the SBC, seven pillars of family life are identified. These biblical principles are: honoring God's authority, respecting human life, exercising moral purity, serving my church, using time wisely, practicing biblical stewardship, and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The pillars are based on Proverbs 9:1, "*Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars*" (NKJV).

Tom Elliff, chairman of the SBC Council on Family Life, said at a conference this summer, "Someone told me recently that he thought God could bring revival to this country through this family emphasis. That would be my fondest hope and deepest prayer". It is not unlikely that God would do a very "God-like thing" and begin the rumblings of revival at Barnesville by already working in families to strengthen and renew family commitment to each other, to God, and to His Church. We are praying now for revival as we look forward to Mike Dennis coming to preach in November. Is it possible that God has already begun His revival among us through the fathers and sons?

*"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" Psalm 127:1.*

God Bless,

Your Pastors



## In This Edition:

- The Pastors' Spotlight, Page 1
- Upcoming Events, Page 1
- The Pew Perspective, Page 2
- Baptist Faith & Message, Part XII, Page 2
- BFM Reflection: "Education", Page 2
- September Birthdays, Page 3
- Prayer Concerns, Page 3
- Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
- Baptist Press Cartoon, Page 3
- News You Can Use, Page 4
- State Missions Offering, Page 4
- Praises, Page 4
- September 2003 Calendar, Page 5

## Upcoming Events

- September 3** Business Meeting
- September 12** Parents' Night Out
- September 19** Lunch with Watkins Friends
- September 22** Trip to Harbor Ministry in Baltimore
- September 23** Autumn Begins



*"For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day" Luke 17:24.*

*“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”*

--The First Amendment to the United States Constitution (1791).

Another matter of religion in public life has emerged, this time in the guise of a federal judge ordering the removal of a Ten Commandments statue from the rotunda of the Alabama state supreme court building. Although the stone monument was removed without incident, Chief Justice Roy Moore and his supporters have not given up their fight. My comments this month will not focus on the chief justice's refusal to remove the stone, or his supporters' civil disobedience. Rather, I would like to discuss the heart of the matter—does the public display of the Ten Commandments violate the First Amendment's ban on establishing religion?

I assume that only the first four commandments are in question, as the last six can easily be converted into totally secular precepts, as all 50 states and the federal government have laws that forbid murder, stealing, perjury, violating contracts, or disturbing the peace. Space does not permit me to recount 200 years of constitutional history on the First Amendment's interpretation. However, I hope that you will trust (and agree with) me when I quote the liberal Justice William Douglas when he wrote for the US Supreme Court that when it comes to interpreting the First Amendment, “...we find no constitutional requirement makes it necessary for government to be hostile to religion and to throw its weight against [it]...” *Zorach v. Clauson*, 343 US 313 (1967). Instead, the First Amendment ban against establishing a religion forbids the creation of a national church, or having the IRS collect tithes for churches, or preferring one denomination over another. It is impossible for government to be strictly neutral when it comes to religion—any decision that favors religion will necessarily displease atheists and the non-religious, and vice versa. The “wall of separation between church and state” is really intended to be more like a chain-link fence, keeping the government from preaching and the church from governing, but allowing a substantial amount of air and sunlight to pass through.

Having read a copy of the inscriptions on Roy Moore's statue, I can state that it is more than just a religious icon, but rather a monument linking the role of Judeo-Christian religion to the development of Alabama's state law, as well as our nation's founding charters, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and the historical use of prayer and acknowledging God in our national institutions. None of the inscriptions individually or together creates a national religion, diverts public funds to religious bodies, or shows favoritism to one religious group at others' expense. No one is required to agree with, worship at, or even read the words on the statue. Simply put, I believe a celebration of the religious heritage of our legal system does not establish a national religion. Questions about whether such a monument is appropriate or necessary in the first place can be handled through democratic processes by the state of Alabama, rather than basing it on the opinion of a judge.

*“...Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's” (Mark 12:17).*

### XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

*Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.*

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### **BFM Reflection: “Education”**

The object of Christian education is no more nor less than helping believers become disciples of the risen Lord. Throughout the Old Testament and New Testaments, the admonition is given over and over to learn, to teach, to study, to memorize and to obey. *“Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you” Psalm 119:11* Jesus Himself established the mission for the disciples of His time, for our time, and for future learners when he said, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” Matthew 28:18-20.*

Believers must be equipped for Christian service. Also, developing a biblical worldview will assist believers in making God-honoring choices in every aspect of life. The great news in Christian education is that in addition to parents, the church and Christian friends, The Holy Spirit Himself is our teacher! Thanks be to God! Amen.

## September Birthdays

3 Megan Fedders  
4 Kristina Cole  
7 Scott Bennett  
10 Carroll "Ben" Bennett  
11 Shirley Yates  
11 Eric Engle  
13 Michael Oden Jr.  
14 Duane Yates  
25 Gale Cole  
28 Laura Bennett  
28 Pam Holcomb  
30 Jordan Leibrand



## Prayer Concerns

Ben Bennett, recovering from surgery  
Pat Elam  
Annie Cooley  
Rufus Gilliam  
Charles Fowler, recovering from surgery/chemo  
Lindsey Baumbaugh, back and stomach pain  
Virginia Shreve, recovering from fall  
Belle Strube, Carole Shreve's mother  
Dale Willis, blood clot  
Phyllis Collier, Joe Yate's cousin, cancer  
Lois Carroll, studying in Denmark  
Jennifer Mays, Leslie Foster's niece, kidney transplant  
Linda Gilliam, Rufus & Flora's daughter-in-law  
Meri Murray, friend of Jim & Linda Gilliam  
recovering from surgery/on going treatment  
Todd & Sherri Marsh and soon-to-be-born Logan  
Walt Rohwer, friend of the Michael family  
Julia Michael and Steve Cole, wedding Sept. 20  
Mike Dennis coming to BBC Nov. 1 and 2

*"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 August:*

- The Church approved a supplemental budget request in the amount of \$900 to cover the cost of the August Father-Son Banquet and other expenses.
- A motion to add a middle school teacher to the Education Committee was introduced for action by the Select Committee on Nominations.
- A motion to study the issue of repairing the bell tower was referred to the Internal Administration Committee.

*Expected at the September Business Meeting:*

- The Select Committee on Nominations recommends Randy Gilliam as its nominee to fill the seat for a middle school teacher on the Education Committee.
- The Select Committee on Auditing, having met on August 25, will give its report on fiscal year 2002.
- The Church will select up to five messengers to represent Barnesville at the Montgomery Baptist Association Meeting on October 25.
- The Internal Administration Committee will report on the motion to study the issue of repairing the bell tower.
- A motion from the Deacons to approve membership for TJ Marsh, who was baptized on August 10.

## Baptist Press Cartoon



**IN A MOVE TO SILENCE THE MURMURING, BRO. BLOOPER CALLS IN THE DEACONS FOR A SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION ON HOSPITAL ETIQUETTE**

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*"A merry heart does good like a medicine" Proverbs 17:22.*

## News You Can Use

*Three baptisms held in August.* The baptistry was put to good use on August 10, as Todd Marsh, Sherri Marsh, and TJ Marsh were obedient to the Lord's call to be baptized. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the wonderful luncheon.

*Father-Son banquet a success.* A wonderful time of fellowship was held on August 23 at Dutch's Daughter restaurant in Frederick. Thirty-two fathers and sons gathered for a delicious meal, and shared in a time of discussing the importance of father-son relationships. David Bennett was the keynote speaker. The Deacons also spoke and shared testimonies, as did many other fathers and sons in attendance. Appreciation is expressed to Lee and Larry Michael for organizing this event.

*Lois Carroll to spend semester abroad.* Lois Carroll will be spending the fall semester in Denmark and Norway. Lois arrived in Denmark safely. She has settled into her new "digs" and has made friends. School has started so she will combine studying, sight-seeing, learning about this new culture, and enjoying her new international "family".

*Church open for prayer on Sept. 11.* The Church will be open on Thursday, Sept. 11 from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm for those in our congregation and community who wish to pray on this second anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York City, Washington, DC, and Shanksville, PA.

*Cole-Michael wedding on Sept. 20.* Julia Michael, daughter of Larry & Anna Michael, will be wed to Steven Cole on September 20 in Joppa, MD at Chesapeake Community Church. The Barnesville congregation wishes both Julia and Steve many blessings as they begin their new life together.

*Special Thanks to the good neighbors at Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department (UMVFD).* BBC is very grateful to the men and women at UMVFD for their courtesy and willingness to help in the community. They have come to our aid several times in the past year or so. Most recently the men of "B" Shift filled the church baptistry for the August 10 baptism service. These truly are community minded public servants and deserve our support and appreciation. Some of you might send a card just to thank them for their service in a very dangerous role to protect the residents of the Montgomery County community.

*Interest in Grief Counseling training.* The Local Missions Committee wants to offer Grief Counseling Training. There is a need for this ministry. If you believe this is an area where you could be effective, please contact Pastor Joe.

*Spanish New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs available.* Joe Yates and the Gideons International have provided several copies of *Nuevo Testamento Con Salmos y Proverbios*, available in the church office. We have many Spanish-speaking neighbors who may not have the Scriptures and may need an invitation to attend church.

## Praises

from the Church Family

- Praise God for the Father-Son banquet and the powerful witness of Christian men
- Praise God there was no serious injury in riding accident
- Praise God for adding two new choir members
- Praise God for special music in worship last week
- Praise God that serious eye injury was avoided in accident
- Praise God for successful adoption after months of effort
- Praise God for recovery from virus picked up in Africa
- Praise God that heart transplant patient is doing fine

## State Missions Offering

The State Missions offering is a vital part of the on-going task of building the Kingdom in Maryland and Delaware, which will be collected September 7-14. The State goal this year is \$225,000. Allocations for this money will be targeted in four specific areas: Starting Churches, Strengthening Congregations, Developing Leaders, and Involving People. The Theme this year is *Beyond Imagination*. The focus Scripture is I Corinthians 2:9, *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him."* The offering goal for Barnesville Baptist Church is **\$700.00**. Special missions offering envelopes will be available in the pew racks beginning Sunday September 7. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give to support state missions. In these days the mission opportunities are increasing and the cost of meeting the state challenge is also increasing. This is another opportunity for us to have a direct part in mission work in places we may never have an opportunity to actually visit. But, we can make the work of others possible. God bless you as you pray about your state missions offering.

God's work in our convention is simply beyond our wildest imagination. God is offering us a chance to be a part of something that has never happened before. In 2001 God laid it on the hearts of Maryland/Delaware Baptists to start 20 new churches each year for the next 10 years. The first year 21 new churches were started, the second year, 30; and as of June 2003, 23; with more on the horizon. Some of these new churches are already starting other churches!



*"...I will build my Church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" Matthew 16:18.*