



# The Barnesville Lantern



Barnesville Baptist Church  
17917 Barnesville Road  
Barnesville, Maryland 20838

301-407-0500  
www.barnesvillebaptist.org  
barnesvillebaptist@msn.com

December 2003, Volume 2, No. 7

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



## The Pastors' Spotlight:

Christmas Greetings from your Pastors! Can you recall the story of the shepherds in *Luke 2*?

*"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests'" (Luke 2:9-14).*

What a sight that must have been for those shepherds, a great company of the heavenly host praising God and singing about the greatest event that had ever happened on the earth. Imagine, the Sovereign God of the universe intersected time and space to come to this place to live among His creation as one of us. This is truly the greatest story ever told. We pray that this Christmas you will let the awe and glory of that singular event capture your thoughts and turn your heart toward our loving Savior.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).  
Hallelujah!*

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 XV, Page 2  
Good News Acrostic, Page 2  
December Birthdays, Page 3  
Prayer Concerns, Page 3  
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3  
BFM Reflection: "The Christian and the Social Order", Page 3  
News You Can Use, Page 4  
Christmas Theology in Hymns, Page 4  
Baptist Press Cartoon, Page 4  
December 2003 Calendar, Page 5

## Upcoming Events

**December 3** Business Meeting  
**December 19** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends  
**December 21** Christmas Music Hymn-Sing  
**December 24** Christmas Eve Service  
**December 25** Christmas: Church Office Closed  
**December 31** New Year's Eve: Church Office Closed



*"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:23).*



**XV. The Christian and the Social Order**

Most people are familiar with the New Testament accounts of the Christmas story, especially the record of what “came to pass” in *Luke 2*. However, there is a wealth of information about Jesus’ birth in the Old Testament. Even at the very beginning of the Bible, God had a plan to rescue mankind from its fallen condition. Addressing Satan after his deception of Adam and Eve, God announced that, “...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed...” (*Genesis 3:15*). Strictly speaking, mankind is the seed of Adam. But this description is appropriate for a Child who would be born of a virgin, so that He would not inherit the sin nature all humans receive from their ancestor Adam. This first prophecy, given even as Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden, gave hope to all the generations between Adam and the advent of Jesus.

The prophets also foretold of a coming Messiah that would rescue Israel from her physical and spiritual captivity. The Lord spoke through Isaiah to King Ahaz 700 years before Jesus’ birth, predicting His coming, “...Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (*Isaiah 7:14*). As we read in *Matthew 1:23*, Immanuel means ‘God with us’. Further describing the promised Savior, Isaiah continued to prophesy, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (*Isaiah 9:6*). Jesus came the first time as a humble child, but when Jesus returns a second time, He will do so as the great King, whose rule will be wonderful, and mighty, and everlasting, and peaceful, restoring Israel to her former greatness and ushering in God’s kingdom on earth.

People in Old Testament times even knew where the coming Messiah would be born—in Bethlehem, ancestral home of King David. “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from old, from everlasting” (*Micah 5:2*). This verse, also written centuries before Jesus’ birth, was cited by the Pharisees to direct the Magi to Jesus. It is sad to note that these biblical scholars did not join the Magi to greet the newborn King, but stood by while King Herod tried to kill Him by massacring all the young male babies of Bethlehem. However, God’s plan to redeem humanity was not stopped. As John recorded in his gospel, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (*John 1:14*). The very Creator of the universe wrapped Himself in swaddling clothes so that He could be truly God and truly man, who would in time become the perfect Easter sacrifice to atone for our sins; a debt we could never repay on our own. What a great and wonderful God we have, that He loved us so much that sent us His own Son. That is enough to make Christmas a very merry day indeed.

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

*Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Good News Acrostic**

Paul Meissner

**God’s  
Only  
Son  
Proclaiming  
Everlasting  
Life**



The *Lantern* staff wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy 2004.

## December Birthdays

2 Tina Williams  
12 Gabby Marsh  
16 Teresa Tuttle  
17 Mary Winfield  
19 Lisa Cooley  
23 Samantha Cole  
24 Ashlinn Cole  
28 Ralph Cooley  
29 Ollie Baumbaugh  
31 Larry Michael



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in November:*

- The Church adopted a by-law regarding the operation and staffing of the Nursery, as reported by the Education Committee.
- The Church voted to send a \$100 “thank you” donation to the Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department.
- A resolution to correct several items in the Church minutes was approved.
- A resolution to transfer funds within the Outreach Committee’s budget was passed.
- A motion to assign the 2003 VBS missions offering was referred to the Education Committee.

*Expected at the December Business Meeting:*

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2004 Budget proposal.
- The Education Committee will recommend a recipient for the 2003 VBS missions offering.

## **BFM Reflection: “The Christian and the Social Order”**

Lee Michael

This section of the BFM is probably the second-most “controversial” part of this doctrinal statement, according to the media and popular culture. (Most controversial would be #XVIII, which will appear in March 2004.) In this fifteenth section, Baptists take a firm stand against abortion, assisted suicide, homosexuality, pornography, and other behaviors now considered acceptable by society. However, the Bible teaches us that we should have God-centered values, even if they are unpopular. That is why we uphold the sanctity of life, especially for those least able to defend their own—the unborn and the very old. Life is everyone’s God-given right, and only He can determine when it will begin or end. Baptists also support the traditional family structure, and reject the myth that pornography is a victimless indulgence. We are called to be salt and light to a dark world, where wrong is right and bad is good. When questions of public morality arise, Southern Baptists must pledge themselves to earnestly contend with their family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, employers, and elected officials; indeed, all of society, to uphold biblical standards of conduct instead of everyone doing what is right in their own eyes.

## Prayer Concerns

Ben & Laura Bennett  
Pat Elam  
Annie Cooley  
Pastor Joe, stitches in eye to be removed Dec. 12  
Charles & Dot Fowler  
Virginia Shreve  
Carole Shreve and family on the loss of her mother  
Kathleen Cole, infant niece of Peter Cole  
Dale Willis, Joe Yates’ cousin  
David Risner, brain tumor/cancer  
Wesley McGraw, 9 years old, brain tumor/cancer  
Mike Smith, brain tumor  
Walt Rohwer, nerve disorder  
The Joe Williams family  
Jennifer Mays, Leslie’s niece, needs kidney transplant  
Dick Katzenbach, has leukemia in Xenia, Ohio  
Shauna, young mother of two, pancreatic cancer  
Herman Entizen, cancer, acquaintance of Kitty Cooley  
Mike & Debbie Dennis, preparing as missionaries  
Steve & Emily Ruffner, Campus Crusade for Christ  
U.S. Military men and women deployed overseas  
Our Nation and its 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.”*





## News You Can Use

*Revival a great success.* One decision to receive Christ as Savior was made during the services. We had an opportunity to meet and visit with Mike and Debbie and their daughter Rachael at a dessert fellowship following the Saturday night service. The "Barnesville Praise Team" helped lead the singing on Saturday. Everyone enjoyed the lively music. The Dennises were very appreciative of the loving and warm way they were welcomed by the great people of Barnesville Baptist Church. They were also very humbled by the generous gift they received from you. We will keep the Dennis family on our prayer list. They will leave for Guatemala in Jan. 2004.

*WMU has an active month.* During the month of November, the WMU assembled 14 Thanksgiving baskets with the generous donations made by church members. Someone said, "It was like manna from heaven!" Also, 42 wrapped shoe boxes packed with Christmas presents for needy children around the world were donated by members. The ladies of the WMU were blessed and humbled by your generosity. Thank you all for your willingness to share.

*Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$1100.* All of this money goes directly to support foreign missionaries around the world. We will share letters from missionaries with you in the *Lantern* in coming editions. For them, this Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is the life blood of various ministries to people with spiritual and physical needs. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions. You will be blessed.

*Open House at the Parsonage.* After the Monthly Hymn-Sing on Dec. 21, when we will have a chance to sing everyone's favorite Christmas carols, Randy & Sandy Gilliam will have an open house at the Church parsonage. Everyone is invited to sing at 6:00 pm and enjoy refreshments afterward.

*Congratulations to Dan Yates.* Dan Yates, brother of Deacon Joe Yates, has retired after 37 years of service at Germantown Elementary School as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. An article about Dan Yates recently appeared in *The Gazette*. We are all very happy for Dan and wish him health, happiness and fulfillment in retirement.

*Students do well first quarter.* Special recognition is given to Jesse Yates for making the Honor Roll at school for the first quarter! Way to go Jesse! Also, Nick Cole had an excellent quarter with outstanding grades. He really likes school this year.

*Lois Carroll is home!* It was a joy to welcome Lois back to BBC after her sojourn of more than 12 weeks in Denmark and Norway. She got to sightsee in France, Italy and Spain as well. After this semester abroad, Lois will return to normal studies at IUP in January. God is good!

## Christmas Theology in Hymns

Randy Gilliam

It has been said that most of the theology Christians believe is learned through hymns in the church. If you were to review the Christmas hymns and the scriptures to which they speak, much of the biblical theology of Christ (Christology) would be revealed. We sing it, we learn it, we believe it, we celebrate it, we love it, and we cherish it. This great music of the church is a "God thing". Below are some first lines of hymns and the Scriptures associated with them. Take some time this Christmas to look up and read these Scriptures:

"O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel"  
(*Isaiah 7:14*)

"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie"  
(*Micah 5:2*)

"O holy night! The stars are brightly shining"  
(*Luke 1:35*)

"I heard the bells on Christmas day"  
(*Micah 5:5*)

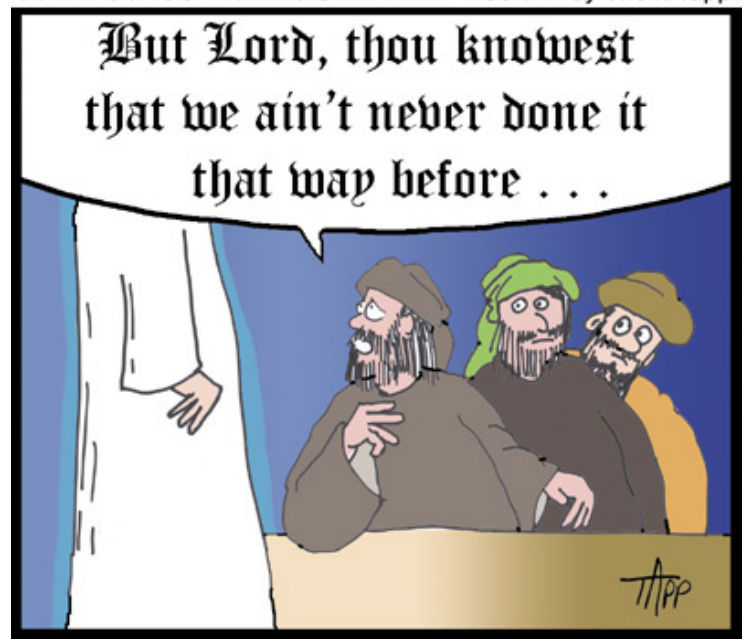
"Who is He in yonder stall, At whose feet the shepherds fall"  
(*Rev. 17:14*)

"Once our blessed Christ of beauty was veiled off from view"  
(*Hebrews 10:20*)

This is only a small sample of the hymns of Christmas. Enjoy reading the scriptures and learning perhaps new scriptures about an old, old story. God bless you in every way in this joyous season. Merry Christmas!

## Baptist Press Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



The First Church Committee Meeting

Copied by permission of Baptist Press