



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

Your Pastors pray that each of you will allow God to work out His will in your life this coming year. No matter what our plans or expectations might be, it always seems that God sees more clearly and has the best plan for bringing meaning and fulfillment through the endeavors we commit to Him and His purpose in loving people.

Many of you have spiritual gifts and ideas for ministry to those around us. We encourage you to pray about any ministry of service you feel called to this coming year. Our church is reaching out to the community in a number of ways and touching lives with the love of Christ. We want you to be a part of that. Please let us know if we can help you initiate your special ministry this year.

We wish all of you peace in your mind and spirit, joy in your life, and love in your relationships for this new year, 2004. The following Scripture from Philippians is the Apostle Paul's recommendation for God's peace and presence in your life:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you"
(Philippians 4:4-9).

God Bless,

Your Pastors

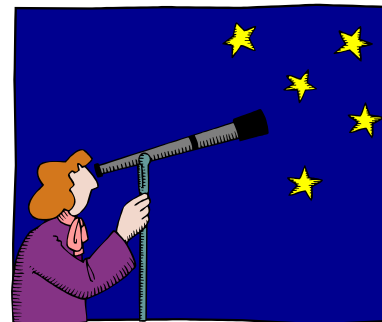


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Upcoming Events

January 1 New Year's Day: Church Office Closed
January 3 Business Meeting
January 16 Parents' Night Out
January 18 Baptist Men's Day & Breakfast
January 23 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends



Happy New Year 2004!

"Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years...'" (Genesis 1:14).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

It seems like I just wrote a year-in-review column for 2002, and now the year 2003 is almost history. Time flies when we are having fun and when we are serving our Lord (or is that the same thing?). Here are some of the more important Church news headlines from the past 12 months:

January: Baptist Men's Day was marked by breakfast and the men singing, and new library shelves were installed by our Watkins friends

February: Jim & Gale Cole gave a concert, and we had a lovely Valentine's Day dinner

March: Abner Lumpkin gave a live radio show

April: our new shed was installed

May: we had a dinner with our Watkins Cabinet friends & family, Julia Michael & Virginia Carroll graduated from college, and the Women's Ministry held a seminar on angels

June: the SBC convention was attended by Gilliams, *Rushing Wind* gave a concert, Kaitlyn Cole was born, the *Sons of Thunder* gave a concert, and Bruce Elman gave his testimony

July: we held a "Truth Trackers" VBS

August: we had a baptism service for three, and the Father-Son Banquet was held at Dutch's Daughter

September: Hurricane Isabel blew through, Logan Marsh was born, and Julia Michael was married

October: a prayer vigil was held to prepare for the revival, and the Children's Choir started up again

November: the Dennis family led our revival, and a large number of Thanksgiving baskets & Christmas boxes were prepared for those in need

December: a Christmas dinner was held at Cozy Restaurant, where we ate heartily and sang carols

In general, the last year's headlines indicate that our Church enjoyed worshipping and fellowshiping together, as well as reaching out to the community through music and evangelistic activities. If 2003 is any indication, 2004 will be a year in which Barnesville Baptist will continue to develop in our love for our community at large and our Church family's fellowship. Look for more new headlines in the coming months to highlight our service together for the Lord's work.

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works..." (Hebrews 10:24).

Baptist Faith and Message, Part XVI

XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

BFM Reflection: "Peace and War"

Lee Michael

Toward the end of the Civil War, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman remarked, "war is hell". In a sense, it is. War, like cemeteries, are a constant reminder of humanity's fallen condition and inability to save ourselves from our sinful and violent way of life. Wars have been fought over territory, power, revenge, and other senseless reasons. It has also been waged to pursue liberty, free slaves, repel aggressors, stop genocide, and prevent the spread of further violence. Regardless of the motives, war is still characterized by death, violence, and destruction.

We know that Jesus is the only permanent solution to war, not treaties or alliances. His Gospel has the power to transform men's lives from a pattern of violence to a lifestyle of peace. We await the day that He will return again (and He will), to set up His kingdom as the Prince of Peace Isaiah prophesied about long ago. Until then, we can only continue to share the good news we know: that a personal relationship with Jesus Christ can not only make peace between man and the Father, but between the nations of the world.

January Birthdays

- 1 Jack Cooley
- 3 Annie Cooley
- 4 Bob Lillard
- 8 Dan Yates
Flora Gilliam
Hanna Leibrand
- 9 Pat Elam
- 10 Lois Carroll
- 11 Jesse Yates
- 19 Nikki Holcomb
- 20 Julia Cole
- 21 Robert Fowler
- 22 Leslie Foster
Michele Normoyle
- 26 TJ Marsh



Prayer Concerns

Charles & Dot Fowler
Ben & Laura Bennett
Virginia Shreve, at the Sunrise Retirement Center
Kathleen Cole, Peter & Marva's 2-month old niece
David Risner, 38 years old, brain tumor
Wesley McGraw, 9 years old, brain tumor
Mike Smith, brain tumor
Katherine Martin, Sandy's Aunt, Hospice in Dayton
Jennifer Mays, Leslie's niece needs a kidney transplant
Shauna, an acquaintance of Sandra Oden who is a young mother with pancreatic cancer
Louis MacNaughton, Ann Carroll's father in Pensacola, Florida, congestive heart failure
Margie Stream, corrective hip surgery in January
Mike & Debbie Dennis, going to Guatemala in January
Steve & Emily Ruffner, Campus Crusade for Christ
Pastor Joe's eye surgery in January
Our Nation and its leaders
All of our military men and women

"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 December:

- The 2004 Budget was approved, with \$138,176 being appropriated for the fiscal year.
- It was decided that the 2003 VBS missions offering will go to missionaries Mike & Debbie Dennis.
- A motion to consider supporting various ministries and missionaries was referred to the Outreach Committee.

Expected at the January Business Meeting:

- The Treasurer will submit his Annual Report on the 2003 fiscal year.
- The Pastor will appoint a Select Committee on Auditing to review the 2003 finances, which will report at the March Business Meeting.

"In A Quiet Church"

Grace E. Easley

I stepped inside the quiet Church,
And in a shadowed pew,
I opened up my heart to God,
Though He already knew
The burden that I carried,
And the trials I had to face,
But He was all that mattered,
In this very holy place.

I know that walking in His steps,
Is not an easy chore,
To take whatever He may give,
And never ask for more.
Deep rooted is the firm belief,
God always knows what's best,
I must forever cling to Him,
Forsaking all the rest.

Within this quiet Church today,
I felt God close to me,
I didn't have to touch Him,
And I didn't have to see.
He's saved me from myself too many
Times for me to doubt,
And He remains the only Love,
...I cannot do without.

News You Can Use

Randy Gilliam

Special Thanks to our friends at Watkins Cabinet. At the December luncheon these special friends presented a gift offering to BBC. We were humbled and appreciative of this generous and sacrificial gift. This gift will support a special need and ministry of the church. Our prayer is that each friend experiences a heartfelt blessing from God because of this kindness.

Jail ministry has begun. Pastor Joe and Bud Baumbaugh have begun a weekly ministry in the new Clarksburg detention facility. They began with counseling sessions and in January will begin a morning Bible Study class. There are already 40 men signed up to participate. Please pray for Pastor Joe and Bud as they bear witness of God's love to these men and women.

Thank you, Paul Meissner. You have no doubt enjoyed the lighted "Peace" sign in the church yard and the illumination of the front of the church during this holiday season. Paul Meissner sets up this lighted display each year. When you see him, let him know how much we appreciate his efforts. Thank you Brother Paul!

Update on Pastor Joe's eyes. Pastor Joe has gotten new glasses that give him 20/30 vision in his right eye. He is so excited about being able to see details and colors. It is like a new world to him. He is also able to read street and traffic signs at a great distance. Praise the Lord! He plans to have surgery on his left eye in January 2004. Please keep him in your prayers.

Christmas Music Enjoyed by all! Thanks to Paul Foster and the Adult Choir and to Ann Carroll and the Children's Choir for their worshipful music presentations on Sunday, Dec. 21. Also, special thanks to Gale Cole and Bud Baumbaugh for their musical accompaniment. As the BBC music ministry continues to grow, why don't you consider becoming a part of it? Maybe this is the gift the Lord is asking you to share with others this year.

Lottie Moon Christmas offering received until Jan. 25. The BBC goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering this year is \$1100. All of this money goes directly to foreign missions, so each of us can participate in spreading the good news of the Gospel to the far corners of the world. We may never go to those places personally, but our gifts send others who are called and we become partakers in this work. God bless you as you consider your gift.

11 Reasons To Give To The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Shawn Hendricks

Looking for a good reason to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering? Start with these 11. We have more-- thanks to the 5,000-plus Southern Baptist missionaries you support through your gifts. Without the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering...

1. Missionary Troy Lewis would be unable to minister to people with AIDS like Milita in Lusaka, Zambia. The young girl cares for her grandmother despite being in the last stages of the virus. As the only HIV/AIDS program developer, Lewis hopes to reach more people like Milita with the Gospel before it is too late.
2. Mike Loftice and his family would not be able to share the Gospel with Muslims in Gidan Bawa, Niger. He meets twice a week with men from the village to help them learn more about the Gospel.
3. Backpackers would not be able to share their faith in village homes while traveling through remote areas of China. The hikers use global positioning system equipment to find their way through the countryside and locate unreached people groups.
4. Southern Baptists would not be in war-ravaged countries, such as Afghanistan, to distribute food and supplies to those in need. This year, workers took hundreds of boxes of food and supplies to help the people in this country.
5. Families like Mark & Rejeanna Jones may never be able to go to the mission field to share the Gospel. This year, the Joneses and their four children were unable to answer their call to missions because the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering fell 10 million dollars short of its goal.
6. Southern Baptist workers in Lebanon would not be able to complete their goal of distributing Bibles to every household in their city. Because of the offering, they are there to minister to Muslims and others who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ.
7. A 12-year-old missionary kid in Peru would not be able to minister to other young girls through a house church she started. She leads her friends in memorizing Bible verses, prepares lessons and leads the group in making crafts.
8. David and Tami Wood would be unable to help guide journeymen in sharing the "Jesus path" with the Marenses in Burkina Faso, West Africa. The Woodses have helped lead journeymen in carrying the Gospel to every Marenses village in the country.
9. Two Southern Baptists living in Paris would not be able to lead a Bible study in their apartment where nine nations from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe are represented. At the Bible study, they read scripture, sing French choruses and pray.
10. Mark and Vesta Sauter would be unable to minister to the deaf in Central and Eastern Europe. For more than seven years, the couple has ministered among the deaf there.
11. Southern Baptists would be unable to minister to the Zaramo people group in a remote village in Tanzania, where 98 percent are Muslim. Among the Zaramo, 20 new believers recently were baptized after accepting Christ as their Savior.