



# 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

*When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died, My richest  
gain I count but loss, And pour contempt  
on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most  
I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*See, from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

This old hymn by Isaac Watts expresses in very human terms the profound sacrifice and love the Lord Jesus had for us. It also presents the overwhelming humility and thankfulness we feel toward Our Lord. Thankfully this was not the end of the story, however. For this Christ was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, "*He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples... 'He has risen from the dead...'*" (Matthew 28:6-7a). Jesus gave us a marvelous promise in John 14:19: "*Because I live, ye shall live also*". Jesus not only lives but lives forever more: "*I am He that liveth, and was dead, and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen*" (Revelation 1:18).

God Bless,

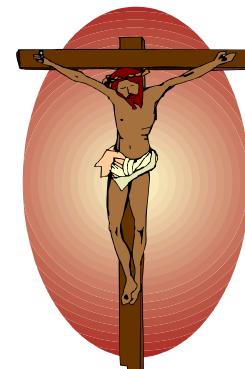
Your Pastors



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## Upcoming Events

**April 2** Parents' Night Out  
**April 4** Palm Sunday; Easter Cantata  
**April 7** Business Meeting  
**April 9** Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm  
**April 11** Easter Sunday  
**April 16** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends



*"But He was beaten for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Poor Thomas. He is always labeled as the doubting apostle, the one who refused to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead after the apostles watched Him die on the cross on that first Good Friday, and then be placed in a borrowed tomb. What is often overlooked is the second time the risen Lord appeared to the apostles, and demonstrated that He had been resurrected both physically and spiritually. It was then that Thomas' doubt was forever removed. *"Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing'. And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God'" (John 20:27-28)!*

That is the crux of the Easter message: Jesus, who conquered death, hell, and the grave, had convincingly demonstrated that He was the Savior of humanity, able to reconcile God and man. This is the faith and joy of Easter that replaces the guilt and sadness of His crucifixion. It is Thomas' confession of faith, that Jesus is Lord and God, which provides salvation. It is the same belief that gave new life to others in the New Testament:

Peter, answering Jesus' question about His true identity: *"Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'" (Matthew 16:16).*

Martha, sister of Mary and Lazarus:

*"She said to Him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world'" (John 11:27).*

The Ethiopian eunuch, after reading *Isaiah* with Philip: *"And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God'" (Acts 8:37).*

Paul, after his conversion in Damascus:

*"Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God" (Acts 9:20).*

John, in his letter to the Christian Churches:

*"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God"; "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God" (I John 4:15; 5:13).*

At some point in our life, every person must answer the question, 'who do I say that Jesus is'? For those, like Thomas, who can answer by faith, 'Jesus is my Lord and my God', Easter reminds us that Jesus is alive, and has provided us access to the Father through His atoning work on the cross. Thomas' doubt turned to faith when he saw the risen Christ standing in front of him. We today must believe by faith without seeing—not a faith of wishful thinking, but of trust in historical fact—that Jesus did rise from the dead on that first Easter morning. Although we cannot touch Jesus' nail marks, the faith that sustains us is the same type of faith Thomas received. Let's not forget that Thomas, though temporarily a doubter, found permanent faith and joy in Jesus' resurrection.

## Faith of our Fathers

With the conclusion of the Baptist Faith & Message series, we offer a new series of columns in this space, this time focusing on the history of our Church. We will present documents, stories, and clippings of interest by delving into the Church archives and interviewing senior members. Our first article is a condensed version of the 1871 "Church Covenant". The full document is available on the Church website. If you have any suggestions for this column, please contact the Editor.

### The Covenant

Agreed upon, entered into, and signed by the Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, constituted at Barnesville, in Montgomery County in the State of Maryland on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 1871

We the subscribers, inhabitants of the County and State aforesaid, being regularly baptized, according to the apostolic order, humbly desirous to be established unto a Regular Church, hoping it may be to the Glory of God, and our own edification, Do hereby as in presence of God solemnly united as a religious Society, to worship Him, to celebrate His Ordinances, to maintain His Truths, and to endeavor, to promote His glory in the world, and to this we promise by Divine assistance to profess, stand by, and defend the following Doctrines, and observe the rules of Discipline, hereafter named, and always to our lives end.

In general, we humbly declare before God who knows our hearts, that we firmly believe that the sacred Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament are the Word of God, and our certain and infallible guide, both of Truth and Practice, containing every thing needful for us to know, to believe, as to do in the service of salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus, by which we expect to be judged in the last day, and to which our opinion and practices, ought at all times to be conformed, and therefore that all Christians who can read ought to search them diligently and daily, praying to God for the light of his Holy Spirit, without which none can understand them so as to comprehend the Will of God, therein contained. . .

In conclusion it is unanimously agreed upon by the Church that if any member or members shall be found erroneous or disorderly in any of the particulars above stated; or in any other contrary to the word of God, he, she, or they shall be liable to the censure of the Church, and in case of obstinate continuance therein shall be entirely excommunicated from our communion; and it also is agreed that none shall hereafter be admitted to the Church, but what are willing to Sign this Covenant that disputes may as far as possible be avoided; and Love, Peace, and Harmony be preserved

In testimony whereof we have hereunto signed our names, the day, year and month above written.

Joseph H. Jones, Richard T White, Wm O. Sellman, Samuel Darby, Joel H Wolfe, F. M. Griffith, Wm T Hilton, Wm W. Darby, Charlie R. Darby, Jemima A Griffith, Prudence Griffith, Mary E. White, Mary J Darby, Ann P. Sellman, E. D. Griffith, Sarah Harris, Anna M. Wolfe, F R Hilton, Lizzie Jones, Racheal Oden, Laura Gott, Leah Chiswell, Mary F Murdock, Virginia Worthington, R. A. Bowie, Maggie V. Bowie

## April Birthdays

**2** Rebecca Umstead  
**10** Mike Driver  
**13** Katie Holcomb  
**16** Dot Fowler  
**24** Mark Williams  
**29** Zachary Fedders



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in February:*

- The Select Committee on Auditing presented its report on the 2003 fiscal year, which was read and accepted.
- A set of questions about church fiscal planning was referred to the Finance Committee.
- A motion to consider purchasing a Church bus was referred to the Internal Administration Committee.
- The membership applications of Dave Thomas, Jamie Thomas, and Marva Cole were approved.

*Expected at the April Business Meeting:*

- The Internal Administration Committee will report on the motions assigned to it in February and March, including those on the basement bathroom, stair glide lift, and purchase of a church bus.
- A proposed by-law to define the procedures to call emergency and special business meetings will be offered under a committee bypass motion.

## Prayer Concerns

Charles & Dot Fowler  
Ben & Laura Bennett  
Pat Elam  
Annie Cooley  
Virginia Shreve, at the Sunrise Retirement Center  
Kathleen Cole, Peter & Marva's niece, cancer  
Walt Rohwer, nerve disorder  
Margie Stream, recuperating from hip surgery  
Mike & Debbie Dennis, missionaries in Guatemala  
Todd Marsh, recovering from back surgery  
Marge Grant  
Matt Cole, Lyme disease  
Dale Willis  
Jack Cole, Peter's father  
Scott Wyatt  
Roberta Richards, Jamie Thomas' mother, broken leg  
Our Nation and its leaders  
All of our military men and women  
Steve and Emily Ruffner, Campus Crusade  
Jean Phillips, friend of Gilliams  
All Missionaries in hostile environments  
The peace of Jerusalem



*"The LORD is righteous in all His ways,  
Gracious in all His works.  
The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,  
To all who call upon Him in truth.  
He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;  
He also will hear their cry and save them"  
(Psalm 145:17-19).*



*"Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh will also rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:9-11).*

## News You Can Use

*Important meeting for men coming April 17.* Mr. Jim McBride, a BCM/D worker, will be here to talk to the men of BBC about organizing for men's ministry. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 am. Men, please put this Saturday meeting on your calendar. Wouldn't it be great to have someone start an RA chapter here at BBC again? Many men in this fellowship "grew up" in RA's!

*Bennett-Carroll wedding set for April 25.* The entire church family is invited to witness the marriage of David Bennett and Ann Carroll on Sunday, Apr. 25, at 3:00 pm in the church sanctuary. Please sign up in the church foyer so David & Ann can plan for your attendance. The men of the church are invited to a bachelor dinner for David on Thursday, Apr. 22. Contact Larry Michael for details on the dinner.

*Church website updated.* Our website has been updated with new information on church history and a description of our congregation. We also have a monthly calendar, prayer requests, and an archive of the current and past issues of the *Lantern*. Visit us online at [www.barnesvillebaptist.org](http://www.barnesvillebaptist.org).

*Construction and improvements are underway.* Walls and drywall are now up as the installation of a handicap-accessible toilet and sink begins. This new facility is located by the boiler room and is designed for use especially by the children in the nursery and those who would like to minimize their use of the stairs. Thanks also to the men who cut down one of our storm-damaged oaks, and installed a mulch base around the swing set.

*Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal set.* The WMU has set a goal of \$1000 for BBC. This offering is used to support the 5176 missionaries serving under the North American Mission Board. The national goal is \$54 million. Receipts to the 2004 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will benefit the following mission endeavors: Missionary Support, 75%; Church Planting, 16%; Evangelism, 9%. Let's do our part to support missionaries in the United States & Canada--thank you for your generosity.

*Thank you to volunteers.* Thanks to those who have volunteered their time to clean the church this year. We still have openings for April, May, July, and the last 3 weeks of December. If you have not done so already, please consider serving in this ministry opportunity.

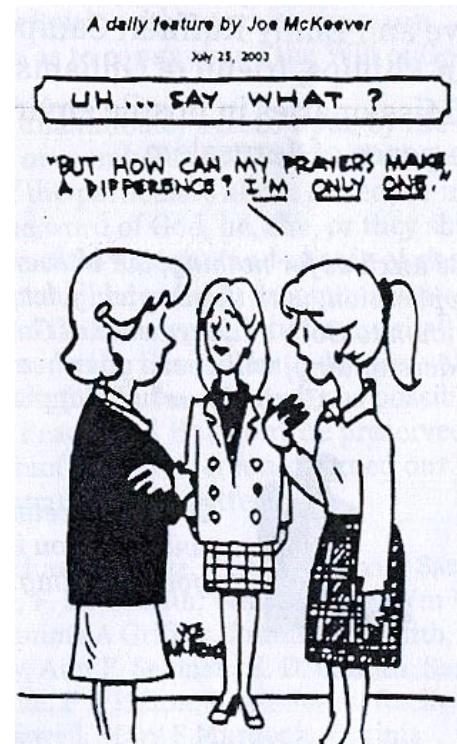
*New address update.* Julia & Steve Cole have moved from their Towson apartment into a townhouse. Their new address is 33 Spring Glen Court, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

## News You Can Use, continued

*Interactive Missions experience Apr. 24.* The WMU would like to invite all women (middle/high school/college age girls invited also) to a missions conference on Apr. 24. *Turning Points*, a dynamic and interactive missions experience, will be held at the Korean Baptist Church of Washington, located in Silver Spring, Maryland. This up-close and personal missions encounter will be from 9:00 am-4:00 pm and will feature Elena Key, IMB missionary from Brazil, Dr. Carol Causey, Bible Teacher, Korean cuisine, special international music, the Women's Missionary Union Annual Meeting, a "glocal" walk-thru village, and the Lifeway bookstore on site. The registration fee is \$15.00. Contact Flora Gilliam for a registration form if you would like to attend. You may find out more about *Turning Points* online at [www.yourbcm.org/events/turning](http://www.yourbcm.org/events/turning).

*Super Saturday for Children grades 1 through 6.* A Super Saturday for boys and girls in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> is planned at Camp Wo-Me-To on May 15. This will be a day of sharing faith and having fun with clowns and puppets. The cost is \$15 per person, which includes lunch. Many adults at BBC spent some summer weeks at Camp Wo-Me-To as RA's or GA's. It would be wonderful for a new generation of young people to get to know others from around the state at events like this. Watch for information about registration in future church bulletins and in the May *Lantern*.

## Baptist Press Cartoon



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