



The Barnesville Lantern

Barnesville Baptist Church
17917 Barnesville Road
Barnesville, Maryland 20838

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

May 2004, Volume 2, No. 12

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

The Pastors' Spotlight

Our nation will observe the *National Day of Prayer* on Thursday, May 6, 2004. The organizing committee challenges all of us to set aside five minutes each day to pray. Imagine the power in Christians across this great country committing to pray each day for five minutes! Christ practiced fervent prayer and the Scriptures command us to pray (*Matthew 6:5; Romans 12:12; I Thessalonians 5:17*). It is consistent with God's nature for us to pray for our country (*II Chronicles 7:14*). The Bible also instructs us to pray for our leaders (*I Timothy 2:1-3*).

Prayer in faith has the power to change our communities, to protect our families, and to encourage and help our young people. Please pray for our schools and those who teach our children. Pray also for your church and other churches and ministries that they may be strong in their convictions and be places of hope and healing. Pray especially for the soldiers in Iraq. These are difficult days and we believe that peace will be accomplished first through prayer, then through diplomatic and military activity. Please pray as though the life of someone you know may depend on it! The NDP Committee is asking people to join together and pray the following prayer for the nation at noon on May 6:

Gracious God, You have been good to us beyond our deserving, making our Nation a land of liberty. Help us to protect our freedoms with diligence and integrity. Lord, bless our military as it advances freedom's cause around the world. Bless also the institutions of power and influence in our society—the government, the churches, the media, the schools and the families. May each bring glory to Your Name. Forgive us when we stray from right paths. We place our trust in You, O Lord, believing that Your hand will sustain America. Let no shadows obscure the pathways which we should tread. We pray in the Name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

Barnesville's sanctuary will be open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm if you want to stop by and pray. Coffee and pastries will be provided.

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

May 5 Business Meeting
May 6 National Day of Prayer
May 9 Mother's Day
May 14 Parents' Night Out
May 15 Baptist Men's Meeting, 8:00 am
May 21 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
May 31 Memorial Day, Church Office closed



*"Truly the light is sweet,
And it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun..."
(Ecclesiastes 11:7).*

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

So, what should I write about for this month's newsletter? May is a busy month, and there are all kinds of potential topics on which I can pontificate. As I sit here typing in late April, all types of activities and events are in the near future: Mother's Day, final exams and graduations are upcoming, and spring has now bloomed with a vengeance—flowers, leaves, and pollen have sprung up everywhere.

As good as these potential topics are, I instead have been thinking about past events. Way back in February 2003 (Vol. 1, No. 9), I first wrote about the pending war in Iraq. So much has changed since then. Probably no one is more surprised to learn that no weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq than Saddam Hussein. Somehow, his underlings managed to convince him and the rest of the world that Iraq was armed with dangerous chemicals and poisons. Saddam's web of lies and deception finally ensnared him, costing him his job and his freedom. What the United States and her allies did learn with certainty was that Saddam had no desire to truly disarm and prove his innocence, but rather preferred to continue the cat-and-mouse game he had played with the inspectors for the last dozen years, even in the face of promised and delivered military action.

Today Iraq is free from tyranny but plagued by uneven progress and sporadic violence. Coalitions troops, especially the brave American, British, Australian, Polish, and Spanish men and women, have been away from their families and directly in the line of fire to provide a better future for Iraqis and a safer world for the rest of us. Roadside booby traps, kidnappings, and truck bombs have all taken a toll on the hopes and aspirations of Iraqis as well as the lives and morale of our troops. Unarmed missionaries and aid workers have been targeted along with members of the military by terrorists and fanatics who wish to impose their own brand of fear and oppression in Iraq.

Looking again at my May calendar, I notice that I have overlooked two holidays: May 15th is Armed Services Day, and Memorial Day is scheduled for the 31st. These days of recognition are appropriate reminders of those who have served, and those who have died, for the preservation of our freedom. Today's soldiers continue in a long and proud tradition of sacrificing their own safety for the common good. American fighting men and women are serving not only in Iraq, but in Afghanistan, South Korea, Haiti, and many other lonely posts throughout the world to protect those who need help the most, and to secure the liberty we enjoy today.

So, I, for one, say thank you to those that serve. Paul, writing to the Corinthian Church, offered these words of encouragement that are appropriate also for this context: *"We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed..." (II Corinthians 4:8-9)*. Paul was able to write this because of the power of the Lord in Christians' lives. It is my prayer that the same Lord that watches over His children will protect and bless the troops as they unflinchingly continue to serve the greater good.

Faith of our Fathers

This month we dug into the church archives and found the biography of our first pastor, Rev. Joseph H. Jones (1871). The following is a minimally-edited compilation of his life story. A fuller version is available on the Church website.

Mr. Jones was of Irish parentage. His father, Charles Jones, was a captain in the Irish Rebellion, for whose arrest a reward of 200 guineas was offered. He escaped and came to America, where he married Prudence Hawkins, a widow of Providence, R. I. He lived for some time in Fairfax Co. Va., where Joseph Hawkins Jones was born, Dec. 3-1798. The family afterward moved to Washington City. Joseph's father died when he was about 12 yrs. old, soon after that he was apprenticed to a silver plater in Baltimore. He served his time and returned to Washington, where and while yet a boy he became acquainted with Rev. O. B. Brown, pastor of the Baptist Church, who took much notice of his young friend and often pronounced a blessing upon him. Such attention drew forth his confidence. The mutual attachment never waned.

Joseph was converted at 18 yrs. of age and was baptized by Mr. Brown and united with his church. He studied under Rev. Mr. Breckenridge at Rockville Academy, about a year, and this, with the little schooling he had in his father's lifetime, constituted all the education he enjoyed. About 1818 he began to exercise his gifts in preaching, soon after this he was licensed to preach by the Church, was ordained 1820. In 1821 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Clagett of Montg. Co. Md. He settled in Rockville, worked at his trade and engaged in the sale of merchandise. But his heart was in the ministry. His appointments were chiefly at Bethel and Rockville, and he went to Upper Seneca, and to Linganore, Frederick Co. He was ordained in 1820 by request of 2nd Baltimore church.

Elder Plummer Waters' sermons about this time were very denunciatory against Missions and Missionary men. This was the cause of the division in Old Seneca Church, and the formation of the Bethel Church, of Montgomery County. The members of the Church at Seneca resided so widely apart that it was difficult for them to meet together, there was also a difference of views between some of them and their pastor, Plummer Waters. The latter was not only an uncompromising opponent of missionary enterprises; but denounced all who sympathized in that work. The consequence was that 8 of the members withdrew from the Church and organized in Oct. 1821 and were recognized as a regular Bapt. Church by a council of ministers, viz: Rev. Jno. Healy, of Balto., Revs. O. B. Brown and Thos. Barton, of Washington. The new church chose Rev. Jos. H. Jones as their pastor, with the Rev. Wm. Sedgwick, assistant. He served 4 churches, spending one Sunday in a month with each Church, they were Rockville, Upper Seneca, 14 miles from Rockville, Linganore-28 mi. in Fredk. Co; and Pleasant Valley-40 mi. in Washington Co. making a monthly trip of 164 miles besides frequently attending funerals, and weddings, and associations. These journeys were made on horseback, after some years he resigned the charge of Pleasant Valley and transferred his labors to Ebenezer Church Loudon Co. Va. to which he had been invited. Some time afterward Frederick City Church was added to his field. Rev. Jos. H. Jones retained the Upper Seneca Baptist Church pastorate for over forty years and until his death, preaching once monthly.

(to be continued next month)

May Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Ennis
- 2 Kevin Becraft
- 3 Dawn Geisler
- 6 Savannah Geisler
- 13 Bud Baumbaugh
- 15 Jim Cole
- 24 Nicholas Cole
Wade Williams
- 25 Michelle Becraft
- 28 Paul Foster
- 30 Sandy Gilliam



Prayer Concerns

Charles & Dot Fowler
Ben & Laura Bennett
Pat Elam
Annie Cooley
Pastor Joe, issues with new cornea
Virginia Shreve, at the Sunrise Retirement Center
Kathleen Cole, Peter & Marva's niece, cancer
the Rohwer family, friends of the Michael family
Margie Stream, recuperating from hip surgery
Mike & Debbie Dennis, missionaries in Guatemala
Jack Cole, Peter's father
Steve and Emily Ruffner and new baby Darcy
David Bennett, broken toe
Lena Wright, Margie Stream's sister, lung cancer
Dick Magruder
Col. Anderson, triple bypass surgery
James Rice, wounded sailor at Walter Reed
John Collingsworth, Joe Yates' uncle
Clayton Hayward, cancer
Lauryn Gilliam and soon-to-be-born Peyton
June Schaum, Flora Gilliam's sister
Our Nation and its leaders
All of our military men and women



*"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).*

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in April:

- The Church approved the motions from the Internal Administration Committee regarding the construction of the basement bathroom, the purchase of a stair glide lift, and the creation of a special church bus fund.
- A bypass motion to adopt a by-law to define the procedures to call emergency and special business meetings was accepted.

Expected at the May Business Meeting:

- The Finance Committee will report on the set of questions about church fiscal planning which was referred to it in March.

Vacation Bible School 2004

VBS at Barnesville Baptist Church will be held July 26-30, 2004, in the evenings from 6:30 until 8:30. The theme for this year's VBS is "Rickshaw Rally: Racing To The Son". The VBS Scripture is *I Corinthians 9:24*: "Do you not know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win". Contact Pastor Randy or Mary Yates if you would like to participate by serving in a classroom, or in music, crafts, recreation, or snack. VBS is arguably our church's most important outreach activity; please join us in serving the Lord.



Barnesville celebrates the Resurrection. BBC held several services in April to recognize the Easter season. On Apr. 4, Psalm Sunday, the Choir presented its cantata "At the Cross". Later in the week, a service of reflection and remembrance was held on Good Friday. The Church met again on Apr. 11 for a joyous Easter Sunday service. At the conclusion of the Easter service, Pastors Joe and Randy baptized new members Dave & Jamie Thomas. What a way to celebrate the Risen Lord!

Men plan for their second meeting. The men of the Church held their first meeting with a breakfast of bacon and eggs on Apr. 17 to discuss organizing for men's ministry in the Church and community. The second meeting will be held on May 15, when Jim McBride of the BCM/D is rescheduled to speak to the men about men's ministry opportunities. Contact Larry Michael if you would like to participate.

Several projects finished. The new bathroom is now complete, thanks to Ralph Cooley, Larry Michael, Buddy Baumbaugh, and Tod Luhn. Thanks also to Ralph Cooley, Jack Cooley, Joe Yates, and Jimmy Ward, who removed two large oak trees that were lightning-damaged.

Men held bachelor dinner for David Bennett. Friends and family gathered at Mealey's Restaurant in New Market on Apr. 22 to mark the end of David's bachelor days. After sharing their sage advice on married life, many of the men spoke about their friendship with David and how they respected him for his wisdom and humbleness. The evening was a good time of fellowship and all the men wish David and Ann many blessings in their new life together.

David & Ann Bennett are married. The wedding of David Bennett and Ann Carroll was held on Apr. 25. Pastor Joe gave Ann away on behalf of her parents, and Pastor Randy conducted the service. The theme verse was *Colossians 3:12-17*, "...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience...". After the ceremony, there was a time of fellowship downstairs. Ann & David will reside at: 4902 Edgeware Terrace, Frederick, MD 21703.

Congratulations to Sarah Marsh. The *Germantown Gazette* recently published the following blurb: "Congratulations to the Seneca Sports Association Cheerleading 6 and under squad on their second place finish at the ACDC Battle at the Capital on March 6. The 14 and under squad also had an outstanding performance. A special kudos goes to Sarah Marsh... for being selected as All Americans."

"The Bridge" will be in concert May 23. This contemporary Christian folk band, made up of four Laurel, MD residents, will give a Sunday concert at BBC from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The Iveys and Gilliams heard the band recently and enjoyed them very much. These are wonderful musicians with a rich testimony for the Lord. The band members said they "aim their music at a wide spectrum of people by blending rock, folk, country and jazz". We are sure you will enjoy hearing and getting to know these men.

Parenting Class Coming. Pastor Randy & Sandy Gilliam will facilitate a parenting class which will begin on Mother's Day, May 9, during the Sunday School hour (9:30 am -10:30 am) in the Fellowship Hall. The material is based on the work of Dr. Kevin Leman, Christian psychologist and author of the best selling book, *Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours*. The six lessons will help parents bring out the best in their kids by doing what's best for them. This class is for anyone who is, was or is thinking about becoming a parent.

Baptist Press Cartoon



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