



# 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

I'd rather  
Have Jesus  
Than silver  
Or gold,  
I'd rather

Be His than have riches untold;  
I'd rather have Jesus than houses  
Or lands, I'd rather be led by His  
Nail-pierced hand. Than to be the  
ing of a vast domain and be held

in sin's  
dread sway  
I'd rather  
have Jesus  
than any-  
thing This  
world af-  
fords today.

WOULD YOU?

This Cross-shaped presentation of the first verse of the great hymn *I'd Rather Have Jesus* by Rhea Miller appeared on the front of the BBC worship bulletin on March 14, 1954. Leaders change, the world changes, and circumstances change, but the desire to have and know the love and mercy of Jesus, God Incarnate, never changes.

*"I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ" (Philippians 3:8).*

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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## Upcoming Events

**July 4** Independence Day (Church office closed 7/5)  
**July 7** Business Meeting  
**July 26-30** Vacation Bible School



*"Let justice roll on like a river and righteousness like a never failing stream" (Amos 5:24).*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

As we approach another anniversary of our Nation's independence, it is worth recalling a theme, or a guiding purpose, which has directed our Nation since its conception. It started in colonial times, when Puritan immigrants left everyone and everything they knew to start life anew in a new world. Referencing *Matthew 5*, the Puritan pastor John Winthrop, aboard the ship *Arabella* in 1630, exhorted his fellow pilgrims, "For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us; so that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall shame the faces of many of God's worthy servants, and cause their prayers to be turned into curses...". The theme continued in the early years of our Republic, when French observer Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, "'I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America...Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great". Abraham Lincoln charged his countrymen in a dark hour that, "In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free—honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve. We shall nobly save—or meanly lose—the last, best hope of earth. Other means may succeed; this could not fail. This way is plain, peaceful, generous, just—a way which if followed the world will forever applaud and God must forever bless". Ronald Reagan also reminded us of our national purpose, saying, "We cannot escape our destiny, nor should we try to do so. The leadership of the free world was thrust upon us two centuries ago in that little hall of Philadelphia. In the days following World War II, when the economic strength and power of America was all that stood between the world and the return to the dark ages, Pope Pius XII said, 'The American people have a great genius for splendid and unselfish actions. Into the hands of America God has placed the destinies of an afflicted mankind.' We are indeed, and we are today, the last best hope of man on earth".

It is our national purpose to serve as a torch of freedom in a dark world whose peoples know mostly tyranny and want. From Yorktown to Gettysburg, from Flanders to Normandy, and from Warsaw to Baghdad, America has been a country dedicated to preserving the freedom that God has endowed from birth to each of His children, of every tongue and tribe. I believe it providential that our Nation, whose future was not certain in its earliest years, has arisen on the world stage as the greatest force for liberty and freedom in history. The words Mordecai told his niece Esther also seem appropriate for the United States, "...Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this" (*Esther 4:14*)? As we approach another Fourth of July, let us remember how our freedom and prosperity is dependent upon our Nation's reliance on and faith in God, and how our National purpose is intertwined with God's fatherly love for all mankind.

*"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound..." (Isaiah 61:1).*

## Faith of our Fathers

*This month we begin the story of how our Fellowship Hall and Sunday School facilities came to be. The following is a minimally-edited account of the construction, taken from our Church archives.*

For a period of time, money had been given for the purpose of adding to the Church a Sunday School building, adequate to care for the increase in enrolment, as well as the possibilities of enlistment. After a while the Sunday School offering of the fourth Sunday of each month was set aside for the Building Fund. By June 1, 195[3?] the Building Fund had reached.—

The offering of Sunday, Dec. 20, 1953, was the largest single amount added to the Bldg. Fund. The total amount was \$747. Memorials for [Pastor] Rev. Wm. Shoup and [Sunday School Superintendent] E.T. Dixon were added to the Fund. These gifts came from their friends, who would have otherwise sent floral remembrances. Surely these will be more lasting memorials.

At the morning service, Sunday, Apr. 25, 1954, a motion was made that we accept the gracious offer of Mr. and Mrs. Garvin Tankersley for the use of their bulldozer and an operator's time for the purpose of digging the basement. The motion was seconded and carried.

At the same service another motion was made and carried that we have a ground breaking service at 2:30 P.M. of the afternoon of that day.

At 2:30 P.M. Sunday, Apr. 25, 1954, the ground breaking service was held. The group first met in the Church. The hymns "The Church's One Foundation" and "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" were sung. Portions of Scripture (Ex. 25:1-10a, 21, 22, 1 K. 5:1-12 and Ps. 84) pertaining to the building of God's House were read. There was a sense of prayer by those present. An offering of \$7.77 was received. This made the morning offering up to \$200. which is the second largest single offering, until this time for which we are grateful. The singing of the hymn, "Take My Life and Let It Be", concludes the portion of the service in the church auditorium.

The group retired to the outside in the rear of the building. The Chairman of the Bldg. Committee offered the shovel to Mrs. Vernon B. Nicholson, who was the oldest member present in point of church membership and time (1904) as the representative of the Church, to break the ground first...The pastor concluded the ground breaking portion of the service. (Each organization of the Church had a part in the breaking of the ground [Deacons, Trustees, Sunday School, Women's Missionary Society, Building Committee, Junior GA's, Intermediate GA's, Senior Choir, RAs]). After this the pastor closed with prayer.

*(to be continued next month)*

## July Birthdays

- 5 Savannah Wasko
- 6 Buddy Baumbaugh
- 8 Nancy Cooley
- 9 Fred Bird
- 22 Douglas Cooley
- 23 Mary Yates
- 26 Joe Yates  
Virginia Magaha
- 27 Margery Lillard
- 28 Jacqueline Cole
- 29 Joanne Dorsey
- 30 Sherri Marsh



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in June:*

- A motion to call for the Standing Committees to authorize Church officer and committee positions for the 2004-2006 term was adopted and charged to all the standing committees.

*Expected at the July Business Meeting:*

- The Finance Committee will report on the set of questions about church fiscal planning, which was due in May.

## 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  
the Rohwer family, friends of the Michael family  
Margie Stream, recuperating from hip surgery  
Mike & Debbie Dennis, missionaries in Guatemala  
Manuel & Cindy Batres, missionaries in Guatemala  
Steve & Emily Ruffner, Campus Crusade missionaries  
Lena Wright, Margie Stream's sister, lung cancer  
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Frankie Hurd, Dot Fowler's sister, heart problem  
John Shreve, broken foot  
Lee Luhn, Tod's brother, diabetes & kidney failure  
the Van Houtens, relatives of the Michael family  
Eleanor Vest, blood disease  
Stephanie Rice  
June Schaum, Flora's sister, lung cancer  
Eileen Stull  
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).*

## VBS Announcement

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JULY 26-30, 2004**

**6:30-8:30 pm**



### Registration Picnic

**Monday, July 26, 5:00- 6:30 pm**

### Family Night Program & Ice Cream Social

**Friday, July 30, 7:30 pm**

The theme for this year's VBS is "Rickshaw Rally: Racing To The Son". 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.

## News You Can Use

*Baptist Men to hold banquet.* On Aug. 12, the Baptist Men invite fathers, and their sons & daughters, to a time of fellowship at the Mountain Gate Family Restaurant in Thurmont from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Prices for the all you can eat country buffet are \$10.35 for adults and \$5.35 for kids 5-12. Please RSVP to the Church before July 29 to attend.

*Congratulations to great-grandmothers!* Two ladies in our congregation recently became great-grandmothers (again). Flora Gilliam celebrates the birth of Peyton Gilliam on May 27, and Virginia Magaha welcomes Zachary Shell, born on June 11.

*Southern Baptist Convention makes news.* Messengers to the 2004 Convention held in Indianapolis, IN made several significant decisions of interest to Baptists. Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, FL, was elected president, succeeding Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, TX. The messengers overwhelmingly voted to break ties with the Baptist World Alliance, a loose global confederation of Baptist conventions that cooperates to defend religious liberty, support missionaries, and finance disaster relief overseas. The SBC was a founding member and major financial supporter of the BWA, but decided to part ways with the fellowship due to its increasingly anti-American stances and tolerance of liberal theology and positions, such as affirming homosexuality and questioning the inerrancy and infallibility of Scripture. Messengers rejected resolutions calling for changing the name of the SBC, and for SBC families to withdraw their children from public schools over concerns of secularism and hostility to Christian values.

## Baptist Press Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



**“Now that the Deacons have locked all the doors, my sermon topic today is tithing...”**

## Reagan on the Founding Fathers

*To celebrate our Nation's 228<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence, and commemorate the life of our 40<sup>th</sup> president, we offer two selections from the late Ronald Reagan's thoughts on the Founding Fathers.*

“Now we are a nation of 211 million people with a pedigree that includes blood lines from every corner of the world. We have shed that American-melting-pot blood in every corner of the world, usually in defense of someone's freedom. Those who remained of that remarkable band we call our Founding Fathers tied up some of the loose ends about a dozen years after the Revolution. It had been the first revolution in all man's history that did not just exchange one set of rulers for another. This had been a philosophical revolution. The culmination of men's dreams for 6,000 years were formalized with the Constitution, probably the most unique document ever drawn in the long history of man's relation to man. I know there have been other constitutions, new ones are being drawn today by newly emerging nations. Most of them, even the one of the Soviet Union, contains many of the same guarantees as our own Constitution, and still there is a difference. The difference is so subtle that we often overlook it, but it is so great that it tells the whole story. Those other constitutions say, ‘Government grants you these rights’ and ours says, ‘You are born with these rights, they are yours by the grace of God, and no government on earth can take them from you.’” *Ronald Reagan, January 25, 1974*

“The Founding Fathers established a system which meant a radical break from that which preceded it. A written constitution would provide a permanent form of government, limited in scope, but effective in providing both liberty and order. Government was not to be a matter of self-appointed rulers, governing by whim or harsh ideology. It was not to be government by the strongest or for the few. Our principles were revolutionary. We began as a small, weak republic. But we survived. Our example inspired others, imperfectly at times, but it inspired them nevertheless. This constitutional republic, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, prospered and grew strong. To this day, America is still the abiding alternative to tyranny. That is our purpose in the world -- nothing more and nothing less... We must shoulder our burden with our eyes fixed on the future, but recognizing the realities of today, not counting on mere hope or wishes. We must be willing to carry out our responsibility as the custodian of individual freedom. Then we will achieve our destiny to be as a shining city on a hill for all mankind to see.” *Ronald Reagan, March 17, 1978*