



The Barnesville Lantern

Barnesville Baptist Church
17917 Barnesville Road
Barnesville, Maryland 20838

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

October 2004, Volume 3, No. 5

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

The Pastors' Spotlight

We are very excited about having Rev. Doyne Cantrell come to BBC to preach in our Revival/Renewal Services Oct. 10-13. Pastor Doyne has a wonderful testimony for the Lord and we know that you will be blessed and stirred by his messages from the Bible. We have told him that we as a church want and need a spiritual renewal. We crave this so that we as members and pastors can live our individual lives according to God's will for us and minister in the power of the Holy Spirit to those who need the love and comfort and encouragement of the Lord, and to those who have not believed the good news of the gospel. Jesus' invitation to all is, *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28); and His declaration to all is, *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel"* (Mark 1:15).

We ask all the members and friends of BBC, near and far, to pray with us that God would work powerfully in these next weeks. Dwight L. Moody once said, "Every great work of God can be traced to a kneeling figure." Those living in the area can join others in Cottage Prayer Meetings. Some of the locations scheduled are: in the Boyds area, Jim and Gale Cole's on Oct. 1; Joe and Mary Yates' on Oct. 7; in Barnesville, Randy and Sandy Gilliam's on Oct.9; in the Frederick area, David and Ann Bennett's on Oct. 4. The Cottage Prayer Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm. If you are out of the area you might schedule your own Cottage Prayer Meeting and pray revival and renewal will spread through our and your communities. If we pray in faith according to God's will for us, we have the Lord's promise, *"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive"* (Matthew 21:22).

God Bless,

Your Pastors



In This Edition:

- The Pastors' Spotlight, Page 1
- Upcoming Events, Page 1
- The Pew Perspective, Page 2
- Faith of our Fathers, Page 2
- October Birthdays, Page 3
- Prayer Concerns, Page 3
- Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
- Baptist Press Cartoon, Page 3
- News You Can Use, Page 4
- Why Christians Should Vote, Page 4
- October 2004 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

- October 6** Annual Business Meeting/Elections
- October 8** Parents' Night Out
- October 10-13** Revival Services
- October 15** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- October 18** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
- October 31** Halloween; Discipleship Training



"Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God" (II Corinthians 9:10-11).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

November 2 is Election Day. American voters will decide not only who will be the next president, but will also elect all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, one third of the U.S. Senate, as well as state and local offices and issues.

Here are a few questions for you to consider: Are you registered? It's easy to do—forms are available in your local post office, and you can even download them off the internet. Even if it's too late for this year, register now and be eligible for the next elections in 2006. Will you be voting? Polling places are no more than a few miles away from your home, and if you are too busy to vote in person, you can request an absentee ballot and vote in the comfort of your own home. Are you informed about the issues? Watch the presidential debates on TV; read the newspaper; visit the candidates' websites. How will you cast your ballot? Many people use party label, issue stances, opinions from friends and family, and perceptions of the candidates to make their decisions. How about your values? Do they play a role in your decision-making? As Christians, we strive to implement the teachings of Jesus in our own lives and to share them with others. This includes all aspects of our lives, such as our role as citizens and voters. Jesus commanded us in the Great Commission to, "...teach [all nations] to observe all things I have commanded you"... (Matthew 28:20). Not only should we tell our friends and neighbors that Jesus loves them and died for their sins; but that He has instructed us on how to live fruitful and meaning lives by following His laws of morality and virtuous living. After being arrested, Paul used his rights as a Roman citizen to witness to King Agrippa. "I think myself happy...because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all...things..." (Acts 26:2). Just as Paul was able to share his values with the politicians of his day, so we should make sure that those who represent us in Rockville, Annapolis, and Washington, DC know that we care about the world we live in, and want it to be a place where life, liberty, compassion, justice, integrity, respect, and truth are cornerstones of our political system. President John Adams wrote, "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break through the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other". That is why I encourage fellow Christians to participate in the democratic process on November 2, and use your Christian values as a compass to guide your voting decisions.

Faith of our Fathers

This month we found an old newspaper clipping in the Church archives, discussing the last major round of construction on the Church building over 20 years ago.

"B'ville Baptists Plan Bond Issue". *The Western Montgomery Bulletin*. Poolesville, MD: February 27, 1982, Page 1.

In an effort to raise about \$100,000 for much-needed renovation and reconstruction of their 111-year old Sanctuary and an addition, members of the Barnesville Baptist Church have agreed to issue 10-year bonds that will carry interest payments of between 10 and 13 percent, Church officials said last week.

The bonds will be made available for public purchase about May 1, according to William L. Burns of Barnesville, who heads the Church building committee.

Bonds will be backed by the Baptist Extension Society of Maryland.

Burns said that current plans are to issue to bonds in denominations of \$250, \$500 and \$1,000, maturing at varying periods up to 10 years. Shorter-term bonds will carry interest rates varying from 10 ½ to 11 percent, with bond maturing at the end of the 10-year period carrying the full 13 percent interest. Interest may be either simple or compounded. More details will be forthcoming well before actual sales start, Burns said.

[The] Principal purpose for raising the money is to rehabilitate the wood frame Sanctuary, built in 1871, the work to include replacing siding, repairing or replacing the roof, and some interior structural changes; and to rehabilitate a concrete-block addition at the rear of the older structure, added in 1954-55. Extensive interior refurbishing is also planned.

The building committee, Burns said, has already approved the selection of an architect (based in Frederick), to direct the planned work, and insure [sic] that the changes make the entire structure compatible in both appearance and function.

October Birthdays

6 Michaela Driver
8 Karian Mitchell
10 David Shive
11 Zoe Thomas
13 Peter Cole
23 John Shreve
27 Paul Geisler



Prayer Concerns

Charles & Dot Fowler

Annie Cooley

Virginia Shreve

Margie Stream

Joyce Dunn

David Bennett

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.

the Van Houtens, relatives of the Michael family

the Rohwer family, friends of the Michael family

Eleanor Vest, blood disease

June Schaum, Flora Gilliam's sister, lung cancer

Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother

Craig Rice, cancer (uncle of our friend Todd Rice)

Dale Willis, Joe Yates' cousin, pneumonia & blood clot

Jim & Linda Gilliam

Phyllis Kirby, friend of the Meissners

Kitty Cooley

Donald & Doris Jeffers

Mary Barr, heart attack

the repair of our bell tower

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 September:

- The Church approved Nancy Cooley, Sandy Gilliam, Joe Ivey, Paul Meissner, and Lee Michael to serve as messengers to the Montgomery Baptist Association Annual Meeting on October 18.
- The Church adopted a motion to increase the budget allocation for Building Improvements by \$1000.00.
- A bypass motion to allocate \$500.00 from the Primetime budget line item to the Baptist Men for their 2004 activities was passed.
- A motion to plan a Church Christmas party was referred to the Outreach Committee.

Expected at the 133rd Annual Business Meeting:

- The Select Committee on Nominations will report on its recommendations for church officers, and the Church will then vote on those nominations.
- A motion to begin the annual budget process for 2005 will be presented to the Church.
- The Outreach Committee will report on a motion to plan a Church Christmas party.
- Note: all outstanding motions not acted on at the October Business Meeting must be re-introduced for any further consideration by the Church.

Baptist Press Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I don't believe in gossip either. If it wasn't for prayer requests I wouldn't know ANYTHING!"

Copied by permission of Baptist Press

Revival coming in October. Service for revival and renewal will be held Oct. 10-13. There will be five services: Sunday morning and evening, and evening services Monday through Wednesday. The evening services will begin at 7:00 pm. Rev. Doyne Cantrell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Damascus, will be our lead speaker.

Committee heads to hold special meeting. The newly-elected chairmen of the five standing committees will meet promptly after the morning worship on Sunday, Oct. 17 to review the upcoming 2005 budget process. Any interested Church member is invited to attend.

Pig Pickin' a great time for all. The Baptist Men sponsored a pig roast on Saturday, Sep. 18. At least 70 people attended and helped eat our 103-pound pig. Winners of the cake-baking contest include Steve Cole, who won for both ugliest cake and tallest cake. For best-tasting cake, Dave Thomas won with his chocolate éclair cake, followed by Lee Michael (carrot cake), and Charles Fowler (pineapple cake). For best-decorated cake, Jesse Yates won with his red chocolate cake, followed by Charles Fowler, and David Bennett, who iced a pictured of the church on his cake. Thanks to judges Virginia Magaha, Nancy Cooley, Julia Cole, Mary Yates, Jamie Thomas, and Sandy Gilliam for evaluating the 14 entries.

Montgomery Baptists to meet. The Montgomery Baptist Association Annual Meeting will take place on Oct. 16 at Global Mission Church in Silver Spring. The guest preacher will be Dr. David Lee, the Executive Director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. Barnesville is sending five messengers to attend this important meeting.

Oct. 31st to be a busy day! Three things occur on the last day of the month: It's the end of Daylight Savings time, so set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed on Oct. 30; it's Halloween, so carve those pumpkins and stock up on candy; and it's the fifth Sunday in a month. We are starting a new activity on every 5th Sunday: Discipleship Training. This will be a 2-hour time of intensive Bible study and doctrinal training—some real “red meat” for your spiritual diet. There will be several classes to choose from; afterwards we will have a fellowship dinner.

Supporting missions in Maryland/Delaware. The State Missions offering is a vital part of the on-going task of building the Kingdom. The convention-wide goal this year is \$225,000. Allocations for this money will be targeted toward starting churches, strengthening congregations, developing leaders, and involving people. BBC's goal is \$770.00. Please prayerfully consider how you can support state missions.

Americans are blessed to have a “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” But democracy has one key requirement: our participation. And the most basic democratic participation is voting. Yet it can also have the most profound impact. When you vote, you help determine who will lead our nation, make our laws and protect our liberties. More than a right, voting is a privilege that millions of people in other parts of the world can only dream about. Still, many Americans choose not to vote. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as many as 25 to 35 percent of eligible Americans are not registered to vote — that's 45 to 65 million people! Less than half of the voting age population actually votes in any given election. What's worse, according to the Republican National Committee (from data provided by The Pew Research Center, Voter News Service, and Gallup and Zogby polls), only one out of four eligible evangelical Christians voted in the 2000 elections. Of 59 million potential evangelical voters, 24 million of them were not registered to vote. Only 20 million of the 35 million registered evangelical voters went out and actually voted.

Author Jim Nelson Black, in his book *When Nations Die*, wrote: “One of the greatest reasons for the decline of American society over the past century has been the tendency of Christians who have practical solutions to abandon the forum at the first sign of resistance.... In the parable of the talents, Jesus Christ did not warn us to run away, to flee to the hills, or hide our eyes, but to go into the fields and bring forth the harvest.” Our faith in God should influence our values in life, and that includes the political arena. We shouldn't be bashful about injecting notions of right and wrong into public debates. These ideas come from moral standards, which are essential to a free society such as ours, to prevent it from sliding into social chaos. People of faith, grounded in moral truth, must be prepared to discern those candidates best able to uphold moral values. As Christ's representatives on earth, we are under a mandate to be “salt and light” in our culture (*Matthew 5:13-16*). Dr. James Dobson wrote, “We live in a representative form of government where we *are* its leaders. It means that every citizen has a responsibility to participate in the decisions that are made...and that includes people of faith...[using] his or her influence for what is moral and just.”

Here's more sobering news: Many believers fail to consider their biblical values when voting, often choosing candidates whose positions are at odds with their own beliefs, convictions, and values. A recent study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life shows that nearly two-thirds of Americans say their faith has little to do with their voting decisions. But Charles Colson, founder of the Prison Fellowship ministry, highlighted the need for something more than voting the party line when he wrote: “Societies are tragically vulnerable when the men and women who compose them lack character. A nation or a culture cannot endure for long unless it is undergirded by common values such as valor, public-spiritedness, respect for others and for the law; it cannot stand unless it is populated by people who will act on motives superior to their own immediate interest. Keeping the law, respecting human life and property, loving one's family, fighting to defend national goals, helping the unfortunate, paying taxes — all these depend on the individual virtues of courage, loyalty, charity, compassion, civility and duty.”