



# 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 and June and Sandy wish all the members and friends of BBC a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Our spirits are moved each Christmas when we have a chance to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus and to honor Him and to thank Him for all He has done. Because of the sacrifice Jesus made He, "...purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9).

Because of this great truth we are especially thankful that we belong to a church and community that believes in, gives to, and prays for mission work in the U.S. and around the world. This Christmas season please consider giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. In this world where there is so much violence and darkness our convention sends and supports 5, 277 missionaries who serve 1,328 people groups.

Below are excerpts of letters from very grateful missionaries: "My husband and I serve in a very large city in India. We are church planters. Though the majority of people in India are Hindus, this country has one of the largest populations of Muslims in the world. We are seeing God work as Muslims are coming to faith throughout South Asia. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering provides for needs we have on the field. A national partner who came to faith in Jesus now oversees 45 house churches. Praise the Lord that through literature and training God has been able to do mighty things. Thanks again for your generous gifts." Another missionary wrote, "We have been privileged to help in starting 8 new churches this year in Nigeria. People are coming out from the darkness of spirit worship and Islam to serve the living God. People are hungry for the gospel. It is like living in the Book of Acts. Thank you for supporting our work through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering."

*"All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will worship before You." Psalm 22:27*

God Bless,

Your Pastors

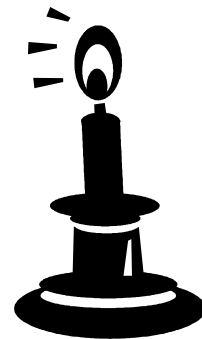


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## Upcoming Events

- December 1** Business Meeting
- December 17** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- December 18** Baptist Men's Meeting
- December 19** Christmas Music Hymn-Sing
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service
- December 25** Christmas: Church Office Closed
- December 31** New Year's Eve: Church Office Closed



*"In the beginning was the Word... in Him was life, and the life was the light of men.  
That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world...  
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1;4;9;14).*



## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Angels must be scary creatures. They are constantly saying, "don't be afraid"! At the first Christmas, Gabriel appeared four times: to Zacharias the priest, Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds abiding in their fields. The lead angel in the Christmas story identified himself by saying, "...I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings" (Luke 1:19). This messenger of God experienced similar encounters each time he spoke. Gabriel first had to calm human nerves, and then share the good news he brought. Reactions varied from Zacharias' doubt, to Mary's faith, to Joseph's obedience, to the shepherds' wonder.

Gabriel first appeared to Zacharias, husband of Elizabeth and future father of John the Baptist. At the time, Zacharias and Elizabeth were old and childless after many years spent praying for a child. "But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard...'" (Luke 1:13). Zacharias was promised a son who would prepare the way for the Messiah. However, like Abraham and Sarah, he first doubted the word of the Lord. "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years" (Luke 1:18).

Mary, like Zacharias, was deeply troubled by the presence of an angel. "...Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God" (Luke 1:30). However, Mary was more receptive to Gabriel's message that God was going to radically change her life. "Then Mary said, 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word'" (Luke 1:38).

Gabriel only added to Joseph's worries. Already concerned about his fiancée's pregnancy, Gabriel had to calm Joseph's fears at first, "...behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit...and you shall call His name JESUS...'" (Matthew 1:20, 21). Gabriel explained the situation and told Joseph what he must do. Joseph responded in obedience, not only at this time, but when he had to take his young family to Egypt to flee Herod's wrath. "Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS" (Matthew 1:24-25).

The shepherds were minding their own business when Gabriel and a multitude of his closest friends interrupted their evening. "Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people'" (Luke 2:10). The shepherds were awestruck at the sight, but enthusiastically made their way to the City of David. "...Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us" (Luke 2:15).

And so at this Christmas time, let us remember the good tidings of great joy that Gabriel announced, and respond not with fear or doubt that God loves us and has shown us mercy, but with faith like Mary's, obedience like Joseph's, and with the same wonder that the shepherds felt in that cold field so long ago.

The *Lantern* staff wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2005.

## Faith of our Fathers

*This month we dug up a letter from the church archives between Pastor Thomas Fleming and former member and Church Clerk Rose Griffith for your reading enjoyment.*

March 21, 1949

Dear Miss Rose:

Procrastination is an evil that besets all of us but I seem to be the worst of sinners in this respect. I cannot enumerate the times that I have planned to write you and yours but it is only now that I have put pen to paper.

We do hope that things are well with you all as it has been the case with us. The mild winter makes us grateful with the traveling we have to do. The weather caused us to lose no Sundays as in the past. You often come to our minds as we cut through the road there near your home.

As we drove through last week we remarked how nice it would be if you all could drop by and visit us sometime. The Lord has been good to us up at Barnesville the past two years and we would like to share some of the things with which he had blessed. In fact, he has been over-abundant in the youngsters that are coming up to the Sunday School. There are 127 on roll as of last Sunday and we have no idea where we will put them. There just is no more space. We have discussed buildings and are looking for a way to do so. As you know, we purchased our new furnace early this winter and because of it our Church attendance even through the bad days was better than last Summers. We cannot thank the Lord enough! We are seeding the Church yard in grass next week which will aid greatly in appearance as well as planting evergreens in the yard. In the near future it is hoped that we shall be able to go ahead with the remainder of the painting in the auditorium.—There is much more but it is hoped that you all can come up soon and see for yourselves.

We do miss all of you but realize that our loss was another's gain, being aware that you are as great a help where you are and we are satisfied with that.

Again, Miss Rose, may we express our gratitude for the check which you forwarded to us some time ago? Thank you.

Please say hello to Mr. & Mrs. Clark for us. You can rest assured that you are in good hands. Occasionally we get down to see the Wards. The youngsters are still quite active in Sunday School.

I hope that you will remember the Lord's work here in Barnesville in your prayers. There is such a great opportunity and so much promise. Pray for us.

May the Lord bless all of you and keep you in his care.

Sincerely, your servant in Christ,

Thomas A. Fleming Jr.  
Your Pastor

P.S. Mrs. Fleming sends her fondest regards.  
T. A. F.

## December Birthdays

2 Tina Williams  
3 Sherri Crowe  
11 Amy Williams  
12 Gabby Marsh  
14 Rachel Engle  
16 Teresa Tuttle  
17 Mary Winfield  
19 Lisa Cooley, Kyle Shreve  
23 Samantha Cole  
24 Ashlinn Cole  
25 Grace Normoyle  
28 Ralph Cooley, Tim Rice  
29 Ollie Baumbaugh  
31 Larry Michael



## Prayer Concerns

Charles & Dot Fowler  
Annie Cooley  
Virginia Shreve  
Margie Stream  
Joyce Dunn  
Trudy Meissner  
Pastor Joe  
the Dennis & Batres families, 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  
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother  
David Stull, June's nephew  
Dale Willis, Joe Yates' cousin  
Jim & Linda Gilliam  
Kitty Cooley, breast cancer  
Donald & Doris Jeffers  
Mike Kinderdine, motorcycle accident (Damascus Baptist)  
Tim Rice  
Holly Hammarlund, the Baumbaugh's granddaughter, spot  
on her lung  
the family of Dan Sivert  
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 November:*

- The Church approved the nominations of Randy & Sandy Gilliam to serve as messengers to the BCM/D Annual Meeting, held on Nov. 15-16.

*Expected at the December Business Meeting:*

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2005 Budget proposal.

## "Wondrous Star"

Paul Meissner

Twinkle, twinkle, wondrous star, see how bright and fair you are,  
Up above the world so high, lighting Bethlehem's dark sky;  
While the little town is sleeping, faithful shepherds watch are keeping;  
Twinkle, twinkle, wondrous star, drawing wise men from afar.

Twinkle, twinkle, brilliant star, shining with celestial fire,  
While on high the angels sing glory to earth's tiny King;  
Hear the angels' proclamation, mankind welcome thy salvation  
Let us join the jubilation, praising God's beloved Son.

Twinkle, twinkle, star divine, with a holy light you shine;  
Glowing in the Christmas morn, as the Holy Child is born;  
God has shown to us His favor, His own Son to be our Savior;  
Star resplendent brightly shining, three kings to His cradle bring.

Light their royal gifts, bright star, gold and frankincense and myrrh;  
Frankincense, a fragrant scent, myrrh for His anointing meant,  
Gold denoting His dominion, born to rule o'er all creation;  
We exalt Thy Name, Lord Jesus, for the gifts you bring to us.

Twinkle, twinkle, shining ray, light our Savior on His way;  
Guide Him into ev'ry heart, life eternal to impart;  
May our hearts be ever grateful, to His word be ever faithful;  
Thou alone, O Lord, art worthy, May we ever live for Thee.

Jesus, Lord of light and life, end our darkness, end our strife;  
Son of God and Son of Man, Heaven's sacrificial Lamb,  
Slain before the world's foundation, from the grave to glory risen,  
Bright and Morning Star of Heaven, come, we pray, to Earth again;  
Christ in us the hope of glory, light our way to victory.  
AMEN.



## News You Can Use

*WMU has an active month.* During the month of November, the WMU assembled 15 Thanksgiving baskets with the generous donations made by church members. Also, 49 wrapped shoeboxes packed with Christmas presents for needy children around the world were donated by members. The ladies of the WMU were blessed and humbled by your generosity. Thank you all for your willingness to share.

*Baptist Men's Thanksgiving Potluck a great time.* The Baptist Men sponsored a turkey dinner on Saturday, Nov. 20. A great crowd came out to dine on three fried and two smoked turkeys with all the trimmings. Winners of the ladies' pie-baking contest include Dot Fowler, who won first place in both the best-tasting and best-decorated pie categories with her peanut butter pie. Also in the best-tasting pie category, Chris Driver took second place with her white chocolate banana cream pie. Third place was a tie between Sandy Gilliam's mock pecan pie and Ann Bennett's key lime cornucopia pie. For best-decorated pie, Virginia Magaha took second place with her cherry pie, followed by Jackie & Ashlinn Cole with their chocolate pudding pie. Thanks to judges Lee Michael, Larry Michael, Matt Cole, Joe Ivey, and David Bennett for evaluating the 10 entries.

*Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$1200.* All of this money goes directly to support foreign missionaries around the world. For them, this Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is the lifeblood of various ministries to people with spiritual and physical needs. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions.

*Open House at the Parsonage.* After the Monthly Hymn-Sing on Dec. 19, when we will have a chance to sing everyone's favorite Christmas carols, Randy & Sandy Gilliam will have an open house at the Church parsonage. Everyone is invited to sing at 6:00 pm and enjoy refreshments afterward.

*Nursery and Children's Church workers needed.* If you are willing to help in these vital ministries of our church, please let us know. Contact Tina Williams or Janice Cole to work in the nursery. Also, to assist with Children's Church, contact Dave Thomas or Buddy Baumbaugh. Our children need your support.

## Lottie Moon Top Ten

You should give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering because...

10. It makes gift giving easy. There's no shopping and it lasts forever.
9. In a slow economy or falling stock market, it's an investment that will pay lasting returns in God's kingdom.
8. Over 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries depend on you to keep them in the field.
7. 100 percent of our offering supports missionaries and their ministries.
6. Your gift can help send a God-called missionary who is ready to go.
5. Your gift makes you part of God's work around the world.
4. A world rocked with war, hatred, hunger and greed desperately needs the loving touch of Jesus.
3. You will be a blessing to all peoples (*Genesis 12:2-3*).
2. Billions have little or no chance of hearing the gospel unless you give.
1. You're giving Jesus something He really wants for His birthday.

## Baptist Press Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



**After Clarence's choir debut, his other Spiritual gifts were quickly discovered.**

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