



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

A new year is beginning and we look expectantly to what God will do and reveal to us in 2005. Like the year just past, the new year will bring gladness and sadness, gain and loss, joy and grief, and challenges that without God might seem impossible. Let us all be reminded that God will call us to service that might to some seem too hard or too important or too menial. The great comforting truth of the gospel of Christ is that whatever God calls us to do He will equip and empower us to succeed. We were reminded during the recent Christmas season that Jesus truly is the light of the world. And since believers have the light of His spirit dwelling in them, they become the Lord's candles, illuminating dark areas where the touch and love and encouragement of Christ are so much needed. We can say with certainty that part of God's will for you this year is for you to rejoice in His love, pray, and be thankful in every circumstance (*I Thessalonians 5:16-17*). Let these words of Christ give direction to your actions, words, goals and thoughts this coming year:

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

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
January Birthdays, Page 3
Prayer Concerns, Page 3
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
Special Gift from Watkins Cabinet, Page 3
News You Can Use, Page 4
Baptist Press Cartoon, Page 4
January 2005 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

January 1 New Year's Day: Church Office Closed
January 5 Business Meeting
January 14 Parents' Night Out
January 21 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
January 23 Baptist Men's Day: Breakfast & Service
January 30 Fifth Sunday Discipleship Training



Happy New Year 2005!

*"Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.
Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God,
for to You I will pray.*

*My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD;
In the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up"
(Psalm 5:1-3).*

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

It seems like I just wrote a year-in-review column for 2003, and now the year 2004 is almost history. Time flies when we are having fun and when we are serving our Lord (or is that the same thing?). Here are some of the more important Church news headlines from the past 12 months:

January: jail ministry started, new prayer kneelers built by our Watkins friends were installed
February: snowstorm delayed Baptist Men's Day from January, Valentine's Day Dinner ended with an engagement announcement
March: first Sunday School teachers' meeting held
April: Baptist Men's group began, Bennett-Carroll wedding celebrated, new basement bathroom built
May: "The Bridge" was in concert
June: the 17-year cicadas returned
July: we held a "Rickshaw Rally" VBS
August: Father-Son Banquet was held at Mountain Gate, Sunday School picnic at Black Hills Park
September: Manuel and Cindy Batres visited us from Guatemala, Baptist Men's Pig Pickin' and Cake Baking Contest were held
October: Revival with Doyne Cantrell, 5th Sunday Discipleship Training started
November: Baptist Men's Thanksgiving Potluck and Pie Baking Contest was held, and a large number of Thanksgiving baskets & Christmas boxes were prepared for those in need
December: a Christmas dinner was held at Cozy Restaurant, where we ate heartily and sang carols, the Emmanuel cantata was performed and we all had a good time at the Parsonage Open House

In general, the last year's headlines indicate that our Church enjoyed worshipping and fellowshiping together, as well as reaching out to the community through music and evangelistic activities. If 2004 is any indication, 2005 will be a year in which Barnesville Baptist will continue to develop in our love for our community at large and our Church family's fellowship. Look for more new headlines in the coming months to highlight our service together for the Lord's work.

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works..." (Hebrews 10:24).

Faith of our Fathers

This month, we offer a letter addressed to Rose Griffith, introduced last month, from the wife of our sixth pastor, L.R. Milbourne, who served from 1891-1892. The document they discussed is in the Church archives and is used on the Church website in our history section.

2800 Jefferson Street
Baltimore, Md.
Oct. 29, 1921

My dear Miss Rose,

Do you remember one Christmas Day that we spent with you while Mr. Keyes was still living, when it was so warm that we played croquet in the afternoon? Ralph was a little boy then, and now he is a married man, with a dear little baby girl, living here in Baltimore. I have been spending this week in his happy home, attending meanwhile some sessions of the Association which I have greatly enjoyed, but not more than the meetings in Rockville. Of course, the climax of those meetings was the Historical Night, for which you furnished the most valuable meeting.

I have a great desire to possess a copy of that rare old pamphlet of Elder Jos. H. Jones's, and talking yesterday with Mr. Wagner I learned that it is still in his possession, so I am writing to ask you to allow some type-written copies to be made, of which one would be sent to me. I am also writing to Mrs. Jones, my girlhood friend, with whom I staid last week, to arrange for the works. She and Mr. Wagner, I am sure, would see that the original would be safely cared for—she also was much interested in it, as her husband's relatives were concerned in some of the history.

Will you please let Mr. Wagner, as well as me, know if you will consent to this use being made of the document? I shall thank you very much, as I know they will too.

Ralph has copied out the church paper which Mr. Milbourne edited the last two years of his life a letter which I thought would perhaps interest you. I hope you, Miss Emma and Miss Clara are all reasonably well, and very happy, and may have many blessings in store, in "the fair future."

With love to all three,
sincerely Virginia S. Milbourne

January Birthdays

- 1 Jack Cooley
- 3 Annie Cooley
- 4 Bob Lillard
- 5 Dave Thomas
- 8 Flora Gilliam, Hanna Leibrand,
Dan Yates
- 9 Pat Elam
- 10 Lois Carroll, Rebecca Thomas
- 11 Jesse Yates
- 19 Nikki Holcomb
- 20 Julia Cole
- 21 Robert Fowler
- 22 Leslie Foster, Michele Normoyle
- 23 Isaac Madison
- 26 TJ Marsh



Prayer Concerns

Charles & Dot Fowler
Annie Cooley
Virginia Shreve
Margie Stream
Joyce Dunn
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
Tim Rice
the repair of our bell tower
our nation and its leaders
All of our military men and women
The victims of the tsunami across southern Asia



*"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
December:*

- The 2005 Budget was approved, with \$125,526 being appropriated for the fiscal year, and \$13,000 designated as Special Appropriations to come out of the Church savings accounts.

Expected at the January Business Meeting:

- The Internal Administration Committee will recommend the establishment of a roof fund during Old Business.
- The Treasurer will submit his Annual Report on the 2004 fiscal year.
- The Pastor will appoint a Select Committee on Auditing to review the 2004 finances, which will report at the March Business Meeting.

Special Gift from Watkins Cabinet

The effects of 9/11 are visible almost everywhere you go due to heightened security measures and the on-going news of the war on terror. A very positive effect of 9/11 is observable at BBC. Since September 13, 2001, the men and women of Watkins Cabinet Company and Barnesville Baptist have developed a close and supportive relationship. It has been a great pleasure and blessing for many at BBC to fellowship with these friends at a luncheon once a month (September to June) at the church. Pastor Randy meets with many of the men each Friday morning for Bible reading, a brief devotion and prayer.

To show their appreciation for the kindnesses of BBC folks, the men have designed, built and installed beautiful white cabinets in the fellowship hall. These cabinets provide much needed storage space for kitchen items, a serving counter with electrical outlets for food, and a beverage service counter. In addition to this wonderful gift, the men and women gave the Church a significant offering at the Christmas luncheon in December. The amount was more than enough to upgrade and add to useful kitchen appliances that complement the new cabinets. Larry Michael installed the outlets and lighting for the cabinets. Pictures of the new cabinetry can be seen on the church website.

*Thank you, men and women of Watkins Cabinet!
May your 2005 be healthy, prosperous, and filled
with God's richest blessings!*

News You Can Use

Randy Gilliam going to Kentucky. Pastor Randy will be attending classes at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for two weeks from Jan. 3 to Jan. 16 as a part of his seminary training, which requires some time at the main campus. Study hard, Randy!

Thank you, Paul Meissner. You have no doubt enjoyed the lighted "Peace" sign in the front yard and the decorations inside the sanctuary during this Christmas season. Paul Meissner sets up his lighted display each year. When you see him, let him know how much we appreciate his efforts.

"Emmanuel: Celebrating Heaven's Child" Cantata performed. Thanks to Paul Foster and the Adult Choir for their worshipful music presentation on Dec. 19. As the BBC music ministry continues to grow, why don't you consider becoming a part of it? Maybe this is the gift the Lord is asking you to share with others this year.

Men's and Women's groups celebrate Christmas. The Baptist Men assembled 19 gift bags for the children of the Church at their December meeting and distributed them on Dec. 19. The WMU led the Church in collecting for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. The BBC goal of \$1200 has been met and passed. The final amount will not be known until all of the money in the children's mite boxes has been counted. The women also assembled 17 Christmas baskets for shut-ins. Consider joining the men's or women's group this coming year as a way to serve the Church and the Lord.

Baptist Men's Day scheduled. If the snow doesn't stop us like in previous years, the Baptist Men will be cooking breakfast and leading the morning service on Jan. 23. Join the men at 8:30 am for a breakfast buffet of pancakes, eggs, and other good food, and then get ready for the annual singing performance of the MOB: Men of Barnesville choir during morning worship.

Second round of Discipleship Classes to be held. If you enjoyed the Fifth Sunday discipleship training we had back in October, your wait is over. On Jan. 30, classes are back in session. The teachers and the subjects are the same, so choose a different class than the one you attended last time. Lee Michael will discuss miracles, Pastor Joe will talk about evangelism, Pastor Randy will speak on the importance of doctrine, and Paul Meissner will lecture on spoken blessings. We will have a pizza dinner afterwards.

Toys for Tots drive successful. Thank you to those who contributed to the Toys for Tots drive; 70 gifts will be given to needy children around our area this Christmas.

Southern Baptist relief workers join others in Asia. In the tsunami-devastated areas of Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, and Malaysia, SBC Disaster Relief workers and other help agencies are delivering food, clean water, blankets and other essentials. The SBC relief efforts will focus initially on coastal villages in southern Thailand. The death and destruction are so great that significant aid is required. If you want to make a donation to this effort, please send checks to: IMB Disaster Relief Fund, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. Designate the gift for "Asia Earthquake Disaster Relief". All of this money goes to the relief effort. No money is used for administrative costs. If you want to contribute on-line, go to www.imb.org and click on Give Now.

Baptist Press Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Members of the Martyrs Memorial Snake Handling Church work their way up slowly.

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