



# The Barnesville Lantern

Barnesville Baptist Church  
17917 Barnesville Road  
Barnesville, Maryland 20838

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

February 2005, Volume 3, No. 9

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

## The Pastors' Spotlight

What are you going to do in February? This coldest of the winter months gives all of us the opportunity to spend more time inside, and maybe, more time talking (communicating) and sharing ideas, thoughts, concerns, and hopes with family members and others we love. We also may find opportunities to extend a helping hand to any who have trouble staying warm and fed during this cold season. Kindness is always in season!

One suggestion on how to spend some of February's inside time is to read over the book of *Proverbs* several times and ponder the "wisdom" of it. This book is a treasure of practical and godly wisdom. Even though the contents are from periods ranging from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C., the wisdom and instruction offered are relevant today and address many of the values and morality-related questions which confront us. Husbands and wives, parents and children, and all who by experience and age are the respected "sages" among us would benefit from reading and re-reading this book.

Major themes in *Proverbs* include reverential respect and awe toward a sovereign God; the power of human speech to hurt and to heal; the virtue of monogamous marriage and the folly of sexual sin; the development of character by walking in the ways of wisdom; and the dangers and possible consequences of ignoring godly wisdom.

For Christians a special blessing is experienced as wisdom is praised in *Proverbs*. We look toward the New Testament and glimpse God's greatest revelation of wisdom, Jesus.

*"But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (I Corinthians 1:23-24).*

*"...that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2b-3).*

God Bless,

Your Pastors

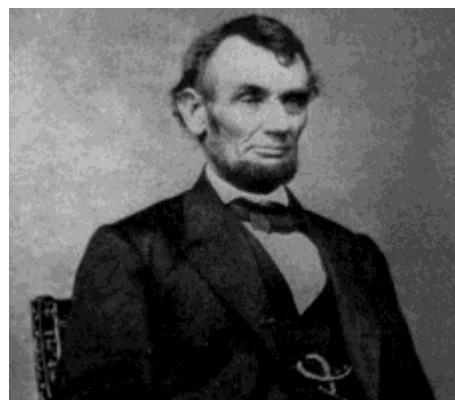


## In This Edition:

The Pastors' Spotlight, Page 1  
Upcoming Events, Page 1  
The Pew Perspective, Page 2  
Faith of our Fathers, Page 2  
February Birthdays, Page 3  
Prayer Concerns, Page 3  
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3  
Words of Love: *I John 4:7-21*, Page 3  
News You Can Use, Page 4  
Laura Fels To Speak March 13, Page 4  
Baptist Press Cartoon, Page 4  
February 2005 Calendar, Page 5

## Upcoming Events

**February 2** Business Meeting  
**February 4** Parents' Night Out  
**February 12** Valentine's Day Dinner, 5:30 pm  
**February 18** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends  
**February 19** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am



*Presidents' Day is February 21*

*"...There is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God...For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good" (Romans 13:1,3).*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

I thought I'd share my 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Discipleship Training class notes with you in the form of a column, especially since we are experiencing a pattern of church-canceling snowstorms. My topic, both in October and scheduled for January, is on miracles. First, what is a miracle? Webster defines a miracle as, "an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs", or, "an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment". The former definition is what I would term a Class A miracle—something that contravenes natural processes by suspending and/or overriding natural laws, or activating latent or unknown laws of nature. The latter definition would be a Class B miracle, which is accomplished within the framework of natural laws, but the specific timing, intensity, duration, and rate of the event are of very low probability.

To illustrate the difference, I would categorize the following miracles in the Bible as Class A: the Creation, the plagues on Egypt, Elijah calling down fire on Mt. Carmel, the Incarnation, Christ healing the blind and the lame, and the miracles of the apostles, just to name a few. These all involved the creation of new life, information, matter, energy, and complexity. Famous Class B miracles include Noah's Flood, the toppling of Jericho, Elijah's drought, Jesus finding His temple tax in a fish, and the earthquake at the Phillipian jail. All of these events took place within the framework of the regular laws of nature, but happened in such a time, place, and manner as to serve an intelligent, divine purpose.

Many skeptics question whether miracles are possible—they claim that natural laws are immutable, and that all events must have a natural explanation. The real question is not about miracles, but about God. Miracles can only occur if there exists an infinitely powerful, intelligent God who is *outside* the universe, but can act *within* the universe. If you can defend the existence of such a God (and you can), the possibility of miracles just falls into place.

Miracles are not just random events, designed to make the Bible more interesting to read. Miracles are caused by the purposeful, intelligent will of God through the power of the Godhead. They are performed either by God Himself, or through angels, prophets, or apostles. Miracles are intended to produce faith, obedience, prove Messiah-ship, and demonstrate prophetic/apostolic authority.

Miracles are rare. There are only 234 miracles listed in the Bible, occurring during crisis points in biblical history and located in a relatively small geographical area—Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Israel.

Miracles are distinct from magic. Miracles are under God's control, not available on command, have a supernatural origin, are associated with good and with truth, can overpower evil, affirm that Jesus is God in the flesh, and are never associated with occult practices.

If you don't get a chance to attend my Discipleship Training class, read the *John 9* account of Jesus healing a blind man and look for the following characteristics of a miracle. In verse 3, the purpose of the miracle is revealed. Verse 4 shows the power and the agent. Verses 17, 27, and 33 demonstrate the faith produced by the miracle. Verse 22 proves Jesus' Messiahship, and verse 38 highlights the obedience produced.

## Faith of our Fathers

*This month we found a several pages in the old minutes book covering the resignation of a pastor and the church's "farewell salute". Many business meetings in era were often conducted on Sunday mornings.*

Barnesville Md. 9/29/1900

At a meeting of the Barnesville Baptist Church held this afternoon, Bro. R.T. White in the chair and ten members present, the resignation of the Pastor S.R. White which had been offered two weeks ago was accepted & A.G. Harley & France Wolfe directed to prepare suitable resolutions thereon. Bro. R.T. White was directed to secure Bro. Lewis F Jones to preach on Oct 14<sup>th</sup> next. By order & in behalf of the church

A G Harley  
Ch. Clk

Barnesville Md. Sept 30, 1900

A meeting of the Barnesville Baptist Church was held this morning after regular services by the retiring Pastor, who preached an able and edifying sermon and Bro. R.T. White & Sister Mary Brown were appointed delegates to represent this Church in Md. Baptist Union Association which is to meet with Immanuel Baptist Church in Baltimore on the 24 proximo.

The committee on resolutions appointed at yesterday's meeting made the following report which was unanimously adopted.

Whereas in the economy of Divine Providence Rev. S.R. White, Pastor of the Barnesville Baptist Church, has felt it incumbent upon him to resign the Pastoral care of said church.

Therefore be it resolved

That it is a matter of profound regret to this church that our Pastor feels it is his duty to leave us.

That in Bro. White the church has had a model, faithful, & efficient Pastor. His sermons have been those of an able accomplished and God-serving divine, giving light strength & comfort to the membership and have been faithful warnings to the irreligious.

That as a man, As a Pastor and as a Christian gentleman he has fully met our ideal.

That we part with him with deep regret, and that we commend him to any and all with whom he may be thrown in the future as eminently worthy of their highest consideration their Christian confidence, love and esteem.

that our prayers for himself and family their success, peace and prosperity shall follow him in the future

A G Harley } Committee  
France Wolfe }

the clerk was directed to have the resolutions [illegible] & also entered on the minutes

Done by order in behalf of the Church  
A G Harley  
Ch Clk.

## February Birthdays

- 3 Gary Cooley  
Cynthia Westland
- 7 Maggie Cole  
Michelle Vasko
- 8 Jeddie DeFries
- 9 Trudy Meissner
- 10 Carole Shreve
- 12 Luke Fedders
- 13 Bill Pleasants
- 20 Janet Magruder
- 21 David Gilliam
- 22 Joshua Holcomb
- 25 Paiten Cole
- 26 Joe Williams



## Prayer Concerns

Charles & Dot Fowler  
Annie Cooley  
Virginia Shreve  
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 Ivey's nephew  
Kitty Cooley, breast cancer  
Jake Rockenhauser, Cris Driver's father-in-law  
Blake Reuter  
J.C. Hartley  
Lauren Weller  
Amy Killeen  
Margie Lillard  
Helen Hughes, Dot Fowler's sister  
Ray Oaks, friend of the Baumbaugh's  
Mary Barr  
Jim McKamey, friend of the Gilliams  
Clark Poole  
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 January:*

- The Church approved the establishment of a roof fund and authorized the repair of the steeple, the replacement of the sanctuary roof, and the painting of the Sunday School roof to match the sanctuary roof.
- A motion to designate the money from the Laura Bennett Memorial Fund to be used to purchase a video camera was referred to the Internal Administration Committee.
- A motion that the Church host a retirement party for Joyce Dunn was referred to the Outreach Committee.

*Expected at the February Business Meeting:*

- The Outreach Committee will request an increase in the appropriation for Missions Support.

## Words of Love: *I John 4:7-21*

(for Valentine's Day)

*<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. <sup>19</sup>We love Him because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.*

## News You Can Use

*Roof fund drive underway.* Paul Meissner has constructed a steeple-shaped “thermometer” to help us see our progress toward funding the repair of our steeple and replacement of our roof. The “temperature” will be painted in red on a regular basis until we achieve our goal. Please pray about giving a special gift toward this effort above and beyond your normal tithes and offerings.

*Snow postpones Baptist Men’s Day again.* For the second year in a row, a snowstorm has delayed the Baptist Men’s breakfast and worship service. The breakfast and service, originally scheduled for Jan. 23, will now be held on Jan. 30. Next year, the Baptist Men will pick a different weekend!

*Valentine’s Day Dinner.* Our church family will celebrate Valentine’s Day with a dinner on Feb. 12 at 5:30 pm. The church will provide meat and drinks. Mary Yates will contact members about bringing a dish to share.

*Volunteers needed for monthly cleaning.* If you have not done so already, please consider volunteering to serve in this ministry opportunity. We rely on our members to help keep the church clean. The sign-up calendar is located in the foyer.

*Lottie Moon offering goal exceeded.* Our goal for the Lottie Moon offering this year was \$1200. The final total will be reported when all offerings have been tallied. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this offering for international missions and helping BBC exceed our goal again this year. Special thanks to the children who participated by bringing in their mite boxes.

*Rushing Wind coming in May.* *Rushing Wind* will be in concert at BBC on the evening of May 14 and during the morning worship service on May 15. We feel as though these are old friends of our church family. Plan to come and bring your family and friends as they share new music and old favorites with us.

*New phone tree available.* New phone tree lists may be picked up Sunday from the table in the church entrance. If you are not able to attend church please contact the church office and we will gladly mail a phone tree list to you.

## Laura Fels To Speak March 13

Laura Fels, of Chosen People Ministries, will speak at BBC during the morning worship service on March 13. Chosen People Ministries is made up of Jews and Gentiles who believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. Their questions to everyone including the Jewish community are: “Do you know the Messiah?”, or, “Are you curious?”

Laura was born in Asheboro, North Carolina to a Gentile mother and Jewish father. When Laura was a baby, her family to her father’s hometown of San Juan, Puerto Rico, where she grew up longing to know more about the religion of her Jewish grandmother. As Laura sought happiness and fulfillment, she rejected religion. Then, at the height of her career and social life, someone presented the Gospel to her. Unable to resist the wooing of the Lord, she yielded her life to Him. She later met Jewish believers who helped her understand the Jewishness of Christianity.

Laura has served on the staff of Campus Crusade’s Executive Ministries since 1986 in New York City and elsewhere. In 2001 she joined in a partnership with Chosen People Ministries, reaching Jewish executives.

If you have friends, especially Jewish friends, who need to ponder the two questions mentioned above, please invite them to come with you to BBC on March 13 and listen to Laura. This could be a life changing experience for many because of the power of God’s word in the Gospel message.

## Baptist Press Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



“Sorry about your visit last night pastor, but Hank is a bit sensitive on the subject of sin.”

Copied by permission of Baptist Press