



The Barnesville Lantern

Barnesville Baptist Church
17917 Barnesville Road
Barnesville, Maryland 20838

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

April 2005, Volume 3, No. 11

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

The Pastors' Spotlight

*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity"
(1 Timothy 4:12).*

This was the admonition from the Apostle Paul to the young pastor Timothy. Young people today need the encouragement and nurturing of mature Christians to help them mature in the faith and prepare for some area of service in the local church or in the world church. The Lord's instruction to go into the world making disciples did not end with the current 'seasoned' citizens of the kingdom but reaches to the generations now in the growing/ maturing ages. Timothy traveled with Paul and got a close-up look at what the ministry of the Gospel looked like and saw the people face to face whom Jesus loved and died for.

There will be an opportunity in the morning worship service on Sunday, April 10, for everyone, especially for children, teens and young people, to hear the testimony of a high school senior who is, like Timothy, experiencing missions ministry up-close. Erin Poteet will be speaking at 10:45. As part of her spiritual journey Erin has served as a summer missionary in London, England and in Jamaica. In the summer of 2005 she plans to travel with Global Expeditions to Romania serving with a group of teens on the inner city orphanage outreach ministry. Her team will also present the gospel of Jesus Christ in city parks and market places in the city of Oradea through street drama presentations.

Please encourage young people and friends to come hear Erin on April 10.

God Bless,

Your Pastors



In This Edition:

The Pastors' Spotlight, Page 1
Upcoming Events, Page 1
The Pew Perspective, Page 2
Member of the Month, Page 2
April Birthdays, Page 3
Prayer Concerns, Page 3
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
Vacation Bible School 2005, Page 3
News You Can Use, Page 4
Baptist Press Cartoon, Page 4
April 2005 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

April 1 Parents' Night Out
April 6 Business Meeting
April 15 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
April 16 Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
Church Clean-up Day, 9:00 am



"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him all you stars of light! Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord..." (Psalm 148:1-5).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

A couple of weekends ago, I found myself pruning a honeysuckle vine growing outside our shed. The plant was a tangled mess with last summer's growth brown and lifeless after a winter's worth of cold and darkness. I knew that as long as I didn't cut the main stem, I could hack away at the branches and twigs without fear, for whatever skills I lack as a barber will soon be forgotten as the honeysuckle sends forth a springtime rush of new greenery. This activity reminded me of *John 15:1-2*, which reads, *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit"*. Just as honeysuckle branches depend on the stem for growth and nourishment, Jesus is our spiritual source of life, and His Father guides and directs our spiritual walk. Without trimming and pruning to guide a plant's growth, even the most elaborate topiary soon becomes just another shrub. Similarly, we need guidance and direction in our own lives. Many times, this involves diminishing and removing, or pruning, behaviors, goals, and attitudes that distance or distract us from God's will for our lives. People, like plants, find it difficult to self-prune, so how fortunate are we to have a top-notch Vinedresser available to us? John explained why God corrects His followers: *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent"* (*Revelation 3:19*).

Paul reminded the Christians of Rome how it came to pass that they, as Gentiles, were included in the Master's garden: *"And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you"* (*Romans 11:17-18*). Gentiles, not being descendants of Abraham, were not initially included in God's promise of salvation. However, the Great Commission mandate that the Gospel go unto the ends of the earth allowed us to become adopted, or grafted, into the family of God through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ we just celebrated at Easter. Our salvation gives us more than just life, but causes us to bear fruit. Again, Jesus uses the metaphor of the vine and branches to explain what happens when a person is made alive in Christ: *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned"* (*John 15:5-6*). Just as I would be disappointed if my honeysuckle failed to send forth leaves and flowers, Jesus expects to grow in knowledge and grace, not stay in a permanent winter-time slumber. Remember, *"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..."* (*Galatians 5:22-23*). Christians who fail to display this cornucopia of Christ-likeness are no more useful than a dead branch. As spring approaches, let us continue to abide in Christ, that He may give us the abundant life He has promised to those who love Him.

Member of the Month: David Bennett

- ★ Born: June 9, 1967
- ★ How long a BBC member: since 1977
- ★ Church offices held: Deacon, Treasurer, Chairman of Finance Committee, Pastor Search Committee member, Usher
- ★ How he first came to BBC: "My parents brought me as a young child".
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "Have Thine Own Way Lord"
- ★ Favorite Pew: "Second pew from the back on the left side as you come in from the foyer".
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 91*
- ★ Age at baptism: 9 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Barnesville Baptist Church
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: September 11, 2001
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Spain
- ★ Story on first name: "Dad wanted me to have the same initials as my brothers (SEB), but Mom wanted something different, like David".
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: Personal Computer
- ★ Childhood hero: "Elvin Hayes of the Washington Bullets. My Sunday School teacher Mr. Swank took some of the Sunday School children to see a Bullets game".
- ★ Hobbies: playing Scrabble, crossword puzzles
- ★ Important event in his life: Diagnosed with cancer and had a successful bone marrow transplant in 2001.



April Birthdays

1 Jo Blalock
2 Rebecca Umstead
5 Hannah Madison
10 Mike Driver
13 Katie Holcomb
16 Dot Fowler
24 Mark Williams
29 Zachary Fedders



Prayer Concerns

Maggie Cole
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
Kitty Cooley, breast cancer
Margie Lillard
Virginia Magaha
Lois Carroll, knee surgery
Gertrude Weston, David Bennett's grandmother
John Shreve
Jerry Hurley, Flora Gilliam's son-in-law, heart attack
Michael Gross, severely burned
Mary Barr
Dale Willis, Joe Yates' cousin
Fred McKinney, Joyce Dunn's brother
Lisa Grant, stationed in Iraq
Angela Myers, Pastor Joe's daughter
Marion Macauley, friend of the Marsh family
Jim McKamey, recovering from back surgery
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 March:

- The Select Committee on Auditing, which was to present its report on the 2004 fiscal year in March, will do so in April.
- The Outreach Committee's request for an increase in the appropriation for Missions Support was accepted.
- The Internal Administration Committee was authorized to spend the monies in the Laura Bennett Memorial Fund.
- The Church approved the membership application of Jo Blalock.
- The Church passed a motion commending Joyce Dunn on her retirement from NIH.

Expected at the April Business Meeting:

- The Select Committee on Auditing will give its report on the 2004 fiscal year.

Vacation Bible School 2005

VBS at Barnesville Baptist Church will be held July 25-29, 2005, in the evenings from 6:30 until 8:30. The theme for this year's VBS is "Ramblin' Road Trip: Which Way Do I Go?" The VBS Scripture is *Psalm 25:4*: "Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation". 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

Roof fund drive underway. Please pray about giving a special gift toward this effort above and beyond your normal tithes and offerings. So far we have collected \$3,640 toward our goal of \$10,500—about 40% of our goal. The work on the bell tower and roof should begin in April.

Thank you to volunteers. Thanks to those who have volunteered their time to clean the church this year. We still have openings for July, August, September and October. If you have not done so already, please consider serving in this ministry opportunity.

Welcome, Jo Blalock! Jo has joined our congregation by letter from Helen First Baptist Church of Helen, Georgia. She is a neighbor of the Meissners in Buckingham's Choice. Her address is 3200 Baker Circle, Apt. #120, Adamstown, MD 21710.

Daylight Savings Time begins April 3. Remember to set your watches and clocks forward one hour when you go to bed on Saturday night.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal set. The Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is April 6-13. The WMU has set a goal of \$1100 for BBC. This offering is used to support the 5000+ missionaries serving under the North American Mission Board. The national goal is \$55 million. Receipts to the 2005 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will benefit the following mission endeavors: Missionary Support, 75%; Church Planting, 15%; Evangelism, 10%. Let's do our part to support missionaries in the United States & Canada--thank you for your generosity.

Church to be cleaned on April 16. Make plans to work with the Groundsmen and the Baptist Men, as well as the rest of your Church family at this annual clean up day. We will start at 9:00 am. Contact Head Groundsman Ralph Cooley for information on jobs and tools needed.

"See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"
(1 Thessalonians 5:15-18).

Cantata captured on film. With our new church video camera, operated by David Benett, our Easter Sunday performance of "Behold the Lamb" is now recorded for posterity. The Cantata was directed by Paul Foster, and starred sopranos Marva Cole (soloist), Leslie Foster, and Suzanne Neal. Altos were Ann Bennett, Sandy Gilliam, and Mary Yates. The men included tenor Scott Foster and basses Buddy Baumbaugh and Randy Gilliam. Gale Cole played piano, along with Jim Cole on the guitar and Bud Baumbaugh behind the drums. Paul Foster III and Lee Michael were the readers.

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.

Baptist Press Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Copied by permission of Baptist Press