



The Barnesville Lantern

Barnesville Baptist Church
17917 Barnesville Road
Barnesville, Maryland 20838

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

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

The Pastors' Spotlight

May! What a wonderfully busy month. This special season finds us eager to get outside and enjoy the warm weather and get back in touch with the nature around us. We are busy individually, as a church, and as a nation. We look forward to celebrating Mother's Day on May 8 and Memorial Day on May 31. But, one of the most important activities this month for all of us is the call to pray. This we should do every day, but May 5 has been designated as the National Day of Prayer. We cannot help but bring to mind what Alfred Lord Tennyson said about prayer in "Le Morte d'Arthur", "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of". Jesus said in His instructions about prayer, "I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened" (Luke 11:9-10).

Jim Cymbala (*Break Through Prayer, 2003*) suggests four keys that unlock God's blessing in our lives and in the life of our nation:

1) Ask! This is the first step, which we sometimes overlook. God delights in answering our prayers; 2) Make time to read Scripture. There is a blessing from reading and taking to heart the inspired Word of God; 3) Practice obedience through faith. Do the things we know God desires for us and avoid those things (decisions) that are sin to Him; 4) Imitate God's character by compassionate giving to and caring for the poor and suffering.

There is so much need in our own lives and in our country for God's wisdom and direction. Please take some time on May 5 to pray in faith, then wait patiently with hope for God to answer in His time and according to His perfect will. Amen.

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

May 4 Business Meeting
May 5 National Day of Prayer
May 6 Parents' Night Out
May 8 Mother's Day
May 14-15 *Rushing Wind* in concert
May 20 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
May 21 Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
May 31 Memorial Day, Church Office closed



May 31 is Memorial Day

"Greater love hath no man this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The last few weeks, in which Pope John Paul II died, was buried, and succeeded by a new pontiff were quite memorable. The pomp and ceremony of the funeral and the conclave were quite impressive and colorful, from the cardinal's red cassocks to the white smoke from the Sistine chimney. What was most astonishing was the dramatic shift from the fawning adulation given to Pope John Paul II, lauded as a man of peace and reconciliation, to the critical cynicism heaped upon his successor, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI. The editorial page pundits of the *Washington Post*, one day after Ratzinger's election, described him as 'tough', 'strict', 'an enforcer', 'polemic[al]', 'serious', 'rigorously conservative', 'hard', and 'controversial'. These were kind words compared to what the European press used: 'Panzerkardinal', and 'Pope Adolph', mocking Ratzinger's German heritage. What did Ratzinger do to deserve these epithets? Read below this excerpt from his homily given the day before his election:

Having a clear faith, based on the Creed of the Church, is often labeled today as a fundamentalism. Whereas, relativism, which is letting oneself be tossed and "swept along by every wind of teaching", looks like the only attitude (acceptable) to today's standards. We are moving towards a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything as for certain and which has as its highest goal one's own ego and one's own desires. However, we have a different goal: the Son of God, true man. He is the measure of true humanism. Being an "Adult" means having a faith which does not follow the waves of today's fashions or the latest novelties. A faith which is deeply rooted in friendship with Christ is adult and mature. It is this friendship which opens us up to all that is good and gives us the knowledge to judge true from false, and deceit from truth. We must become mature in this adult faith; we must guide the flock of Christ to this faith.

This is Ratzinger's crime—he challenged the idea that truth and morality are relative. In spite of all the important doctrinal disagreements we have with the Roman Catholic Church, we worship the same Lord and have the same outlook on truth, which is the basis for the attack on the new pope. All serious Christians believe that truth is absolute, and does not change over time or circumstance. It is this belief that so infuriates and confounds the world's secularists and religious progressives. Terms such as "compromise", "tolerance", "dialogue", and "openness" are their bywords. These are, or at least can be, good things, especially in a democracy where respect for others is necessary to fashion agreement and change is needed to adapt to new environments. But truth is inherently conservative and dogmatic. It can't be improved upon by dialogue or compromise, because it is already perfect. Truth doesn't need to indulge tolerance or openness, because any movement away from the status quo is a degrading move, not an enhancement. This controversy over truth is not an abstract, academic debate. Issues such as the sanctity of life (abortion) and the sanctity of marriage (homosexuality) are universally debated across all Christian

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Member of the Month: Maggie Cole

Editor's note: "Miss Maggie" is our oldest and dearest member.

- ★ Born: February 7, 1912
- ★ How long a BBC member: since 1925
- ★ Church offices held: was Church Treasurer twice, ten years each time
- ★ How she first came to BBC: her older sisters carried her to church when she was three years old
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "Old Rugged Cross"
- ★ Favorite Pew: third one on the right facing the pulpit, aisle seat
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalm 23*
- ★ Age at baptism: 13 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Barnesville Baptist
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: the implementation of the Social Security program
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Arizona
- ★ Story on first name: named after her aunt
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: the electronic computer (1943) and space travel (1957)
- ★ Childhood hero: her parents, Frances & Lula Davis
- ★ Hobbies: jigsaw puzzles, number search



May Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Ennis
- 2 Kevin Becraft
- 3 Dawn Geisler
- 6 Savannah Geisler
- 12 Nathaniel Madison
- 13 Bud Baumbaugh
- 15 Jim Cole
- 17 Leroy Watkins
- 18 Sandy Watkins
- 22 Vicki Crowe
- 24 Nicholas Cole, Wade Williams
- 25 Michelle Becraft
- 28 Paul Foster
- 29 Quipsa Mayorga
- 30 Sandy Gilliam



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in April:

- The Church approved the report on the 2004 fiscal year from the Select Committee on Auditing.
- The recommendations from the 2004 audit report were forwarded to the Finance Committee for review.
- A bypass motion authorizing the timely payment for the costs of repairing of the bell tower and roof was approved.

Expected at the May Business Meeting:

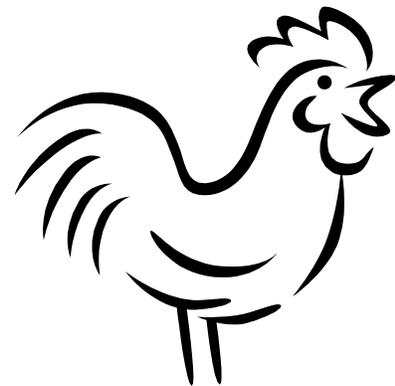
- The Town of Barnesville's request to use our parking lot for meetings at the Town Hall will be considered.
- The Finance Committee will make a motion regarding the Charles Fowler Memorial Fund and report on the recommendations offered in the 2004 audit report.

Prayer Concerns

Maggie Cole
Annie Cooley
Virginia Shreve
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
Jack & Kitty Cooley
Margie Lillard
Gertrude Weston, David Bennett's grandmother
John Shreve
Mary Barr
Dale Willis, Joe Yates' cousin
Fred McKinney, Joyce Dunn's brother
Lisa Grant, stationed in Iraq
Sgt. Alexandre Gerena, deploying to Iraq
Jolene Gerena, Alexandre's mother
Jim McKamey, recovering from back surgery
Samantha Cole, recovering from surgery
Our missionary friends: the Dennis & Batres families
(Guatemala); Steve & Emily Ruffner (Campus Crusade);
Erin Poteet & Hope Stone, (Romania)
our nation and its leaders
All of our military men and women

Chicken Dinner Announcement

*The Baptist Men invite the Church family to a
Chicken Dinner*



*Saturday, May 14 in the Fellowship Hall
Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm
Bring a side dish to share*

Rushing Wind concert starts at 7:00 pm

*Enter your homemade ice cream into the Ice Cream
Tasting Contest. Judging will be open to everyone!*



*"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).*

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 \$6,484 toward our goal of \$10,500, or 62% of our goal, up from 57% in April.

Congratulations to Karian Mitchell! Karian is graduating on May 15 from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. She majored in computer science and hopes to enter graduate school in the fall of 2005. Her address at school is: 172 SSC Lane, U.M.E.S., Princess Anne, MD 21853.

Vacation Bible School coming soon! The theme for this year's VBS is "Ramblin' Road Trip: Which Way Do I Go?", which will be July 25-29, from 6:30-8:30 pm. 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.

Church cleanup day report. Thanks to those who took time out of their schedules to help take care of the Church grounds and building, especially the Baptist Men. Ralph Cooley and Joe Yates painted the railings on the ramp, Lee Michael raked leaves and weeded, and Larry Michael, Dave Thomas, and Billy Robson installed a speaker in the Fellowship Hall. Sandy Gilliam and Ann Bennett washed windows, inside and out.

Baptist Press Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Several of you have commented that my preaching style is too direct, so I've invited Brother Brimstone here to preach this morning, so you will have a good basis for comparison."

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The Pew Perspective, continued

denominations. However, progressives in the Catholic Church have been quite vocal about the need for the pope and his teachings to be more contemporary and "relevant" to today's society. This is not a modern phenomenon; Paul confronted the distortion of truth in the first century, condemning those, "...who exchanged the truth of God for a lie..." (Romans 1:25). Paul further described the secularists and progressives of his day in his letter to the church in Ephesus, writing, "They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts" (Ephesians 4:18).

Ratzinger grew up in 20th-century Europe, a century overtaken by succeeding waves of ideology, be they Nazi fascism, Soviet communism, or today's relativism and secularism. Ratzinger recognized that these were vain and hollow philosophies. Although opposed to each other, they all have one thing in common: the subjugation and twisting of truth to serve the state, the proletariat, or one's personal wants and needs, through the means of brute force, party propaganda, or slick marketing. Europe was once a Christian continent. It is now a post-Christian society, with only historical relics to mark its past, with massive cathedrals and state-supported churches. Most European countries have crosses on their flags, yet on Sunday mornings, the percentage of Europeans attending religious services is in the single digits.

What is truth? Webster defines it as a body of real things, events, and facts. Truth is what is real. Truth does not depend on whether you are aware of, understand, or like it. Truth is immutable and constant. Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, "what is truth?" The world wants to know what truth is, because the thin ideological and philosophical gruel they have accepted as truth is neither filling nor nourishing. Jesus said "I am...the truth" (John 14:6), and, "Your word is truth" (John 17:17). John penned, "...the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:1, 14). Thus Jesus' moral teachings, preserved in the Word of God as the Gospels and the epistles of the New Testament, are truth—permanent, unwavering truth. Those in positions of religious authority, whether a pastor in a small country church or the pope in Rome, have an obligation to transmit Christ's truth to those in their flocks unvarnished and unchanged. Jesus instructed His followers, "...If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). Jesus' truth is an exclusive truth. He told his followers, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

Like Paul, the new pope can pose this question to the modern world, "Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16). If Pope Benedict XVI is the world's enemy for proclaiming the truth of Christ, then I will call him my friend.