



# 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

The 66<sup>th</sup> and final book of the Bible, *Revelation*, is perhaps the most popular, but least understood, book in the New Testament. For the next several weeks, the book of *Revelation* will be taught from the pulpit at the 10:45 am worship service at BBC. An introduction to *Revelation* was given on Sunday morning, May 22. On May 29, the lesson will be a brief review of chapter one and comments on chapters two and three. The remaining chapters will be addressed each week in turn.

Three verses that will be helpful to you as you work through this book are:

- 1) A statement of what the book is ultimately about: *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ..." (Revelation 1:1a).*
- 2) A promise associated with this book: *"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near" (Revelation 1:3).*
- 3) A three-part outline of the book addressed simply as what was, what is, and what is to be: *"Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things" (Revelation. 1:19).*

If you are interested in this study but cannot attend the Sunday morning worship services, you may ask for a videocassette of each week's lesson. Several cassettes will be made and will be loaned to those who are interested.

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8).*

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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## Upcoming Events

- June 1** Business Meeting
- June 14** Flag Day
- June 19** Father's Day
- June 25** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
- June 26** Discipleship Training, 4:00 pm



*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

On May 20, there was a special on the resurrection of Jesus on ABC's program 20/20. I am normally under-impressed with such shows, which usually consist of interviews with Ivy League theologians and religious skeptics (these two groups are usually interchangeable). To these "experts", if the Bible says something occurred, then a) it really didn't happen, b) it was put in the text centuries after the fact, and c) it's all symbolic anyway. However, since nothing else was on, I decided to watch the show. I was pleasantly surprised to see that it was well-balanced in the views that were presented and the type of people that were interviewed. Not only were the Ivy Leaguers there, but also evangelical Protestants and conservative Catholics who believe that the Bible is an accurate and truthful account of historical events.

I thought it was quite significant that just about everyone interviewed agreed or conceded that Jesus' tomb was indeed found empty on Easter Sunday. Thus, scenarios in which the disciples stole Jesus' body (protected by a multi-ton boulder and a Roman SWAT team), or the disciples simply went to the wrong tomb are dismissible for the pipe dreams they are.

Also agreed upon was the fact that the apostles and disciples underwent a radical change in attitude. Before, during and immediately after the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, the disciples were disloyal, frightened, and scared for their lives, hiding from the Jewish and Roman authorities. Then, "something" happened. The apostles emerged, boldly proclaiming that Jesus had risen from the dead. They preached in public, drawing large crowds. They challenged the Jewish authorities by preaching in the Temple. They dedicated the remainder of their lives to sharing the gospel message despite persecution, poverty, and even death.

So what happened? The Church universal has taught for 2000 years that Jesus was resurrected with a physical but glorified body, defeating sin and death. Christ appeared over several weeks to over 500 disciples in Jerusalem, Galilee, and Emmaus, eating with them, showing them his wounds, and instructing them to spread the gospel to all nations. Other explanations for the apostles' newfound courage are a mass hallucination or dream that they saw Jesus alive, or they received some sort of religious/mystic vision of peace and light. Another possibility, really a non-explanation, given by scholars and experts, is that they really "don't know" what happened.

However, Paul, one of the top religious scholars of his day, found out what happened. Not only did he interview and investigate the claims of the apostles in Jerusalem, but he saw the resurrected Christ on the road to Damascus. He found out that, "...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time" (I Corinthians 15:3-8). We too can have the same confidence, knowing with certainty that Jesus is alive.

## Member of the Month: Annie Cooley

- ★ Born: January 3, 1914 in Thurston, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: 51 years
- ★ Church offices held: Sunday School teacher, prepared communion, sang in the choir, received perfect attendance awards in Sunday School for 32 years
- ★ How she first came to BBC: she came with her son Ralph
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "Precious Memories"
- ★ Favorite Pew: third pew from the back on the left side
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalms 23* and *121*
- ★ Age at baptism: 51 years old
- ★ Childhood churches: Hyattstown and Pleasant Grove Methodist Churches
- ★ Personal claim to fame: "The Lord blessing me with a fine son, Ralph, and daughter, Barbara, and living to see my four grandchildren grow up and now my three great grandchildren".
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: World War I—her brother served in this war
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: "New England and Knoxville, TN to see my four grandchildren march in the Damascus High School band".
- ★ Most important technologies invented in her lifetime: modern medicine and the computer
- ★ Childhood heroes: her parents
- ★ Hobbies: ceramics, crocheting, and reading



## June Birthdays

*The Barnesville Lantern*

**4** Marva Cole  
**7** Stephanie Rice  
**8** Lisa Fedders  
**9** David Bennett, Gary Burdette  
**10** Sharon Engle  
**11** Jan Lillard  
**16** Edith J. Luhn  
**17** Matt Yates, Donna Elgin  
**22** Joshua Thomas  
**23** June Ivey  
**27** Sandra Oden, Mark Crowe



## Prayer Concerns

Maggie Cole  
Annie Cooley  
Virginia Shreve  
Margie Stream  
Virginia Magaha  
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  
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  
Gerald Ivey, Pastor Joe's cousin  
Jim and Gale Cole  
Madison Straw, 8 year old girl, leukemia  
Our missionary friends: the Dennis & Batres families  
(Guatemala); Steve & Emily Ruffner (Campus Crusade);  
Erin Poteet & Hope Stone, (summer missions)  
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 May:*

- The Town of Barnesville's request to use our parking lot for meetings at the Town Hall was approved.
- The Church adopted a motion assigning the Charles Fowler Memorial Fund toward the roof fund.
- The size of the Internal Administration Committee was reduced by one to close a vacancy.
- The church library was named in Laura Bennett's memory and was expanded to include the classroom across the hall.
- The Church appointed Randy & Sandy Gilliam to serve as messengers to the annual Southern Baptist Convention, being held in Nashville, TN in June.

*Expected at the June Business Meeting:*

- There is no known new business at this time.

## 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.

If you know anyone who needs transportation in order to come to VBS, please leave a message at the church office so we can make arrangements (301-407-0500).





## News You Can Use

*Steeple removed, roof fund continues.* The church building is steeple-less for the first time in 100 years as the old bell tower and bell were removed from the roof for repairs. Pictures, short movies, and a link to coverage by the local newspaper, *The Gazette*, are all located on the church website. The replacement of the sanctuary and Sunday school roofs will take place in the upcoming weeks. Because of the generous donations of members and friends, so far we have collected \$8159 toward our goal of \$10,500, or 78% of our goal, up from 62% in May. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this important restoration.

*Vacation Bible School coming soon!* Preparations for VBS have already begun, as supplies have been ordered and teachers have already held a preliminary meeting—but there is still plenty of time and opportunities to get involved! 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.

*Congratulations graduate.* David Gilliam finished his studies at Mt. Vernon Nazarene College in May. He plans to return to Barnesville, and begin working toward his Maryland teacher certification. He is also interested in school counseling. Way to go, David!

*Congratulations to Luke Fedders.* Luke was elected as a Town Commissioner during Barnesville's municipal elections in May.

*Chicken Dinner/Rushing Wind recap.* The Baptist Men sponsored a scrumptious dinner for Southern gospel music lovers on May 14 just before the *Rushing Wind* concert. The dinner was extremely well attended. Visitors and the special guests from Florida expressed delight at the food and fellowship. The *Rushing Wind* concert and Sunday morning worship music were dedicated to our good friend and one of their big fans, Charles Fowler. Charles and Dot have hosted the *Rushing Wind* in their home in the past and it is through them that the BBC family has gotten to know the *Rushing Wind* quartet. Charles would have enjoyed this special weekend, fried chicken and all!

*Special thanks.* Ralph Cooley laid decorative blocks at the end of the front ramp into church. This is an attractive addition but more importantly the blocks make it much easier to maneuver a wheelchair onto the ramp. Also, you have surely noticed how beautiful the flowers are in front of the ramp. We are very grateful to Nancy Cooley (with Ralph's help) for this project of love and beauty.

## Laura Bennett Memorial Library

At the May business meeting, the Church voted unanimously to name the library, "The Laura Bennett Memorial Library". This is an appropriate way to honor Laura Bennett, who loved BBC and was deeply committed to ministering to the church through media (books, video cassettes and other materials for all ages). Because of Laura's poor health over the last several years many of her hopes and dreams for the library were frustrated. Nonetheless, she purchased scores of books at her own expense to be added to the library when she could complete the necessary documentation. Her son David and his wife Ann have brought many of those books to the church. After book shelving has been expanded in a nearby Sunday School classroom and the books cataloged, a dedication service will be planned to inaugurate a new culture of reading awareness among the family and friends of BBC.

Parents of young children will want to watch for incentives made available to encourage children to read. The incentive plan will be revealed at the dedication service, but one incentive is rumored to be 'dinner with the pastor'.

*"Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning"*  
(Proverbs 9:9).

## Baptist Press Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I liked our crafts time a lot better last year."

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