



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

You may not have noticed it in the *Lantern's* list of June birthdays, but the *Barnesville Lantern* celebrated its third birthday this year. The very first *Lantern* was distributed in June 2002. This edition takes the *Lantern* two months into its fourth year of publication. Your pastors would like to publicly thank those who prepare this newsletter for distribution. Lee Michael is the Editor-in-Chief and also writes the "Pew Perspective" column. Sandy Gilliam oversees the copying of each month's edition, and Nancy Cooley folds, labels, seals, and hands out or mails each newsletter. We are very grateful for their faithful service and thank God for their willingness to take on this ministry. When you see these people in church, take a moment to thank them for making the newsletter possible, or if you can, send them a card of appreciation.

Your pastors and Lee would be very interested in your feedback regarding the *Lantern's* contents as well as suggestions about what you would like to see in the newsletter. We also encourage you to submit original articles, poems, or lyrics to be considered for publication. If you would like to comment about news and views in the *Lantern*, please send a letter (or email) to BBC, Attention Editor.

God bless each of you as you celebrate Independence Day on July 4th.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows"
(James 1:17).

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

- July 4** Independence Day, Church office closed
- July 6** Business Meeting
- July 16** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
- July 23** Baptist Men's Fishing Trip, 8:00 am-12:00 pm
- July 25-29** Vacation Bible School



"A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"
(Matthew 5:14, 16).

The Pew Perspective*

Lee Michael

As we celebrate our independence this Fourth of July, it is easy to overlook the dangers the colonists faced in starting a new country. Back in 1776, the United States was not the global superpower we are familiar with today; instead, the United States was a quarrelsome group of weak colonies, surrounded by larger, more powerful, and not always friendly empires: the British, French, and Spanish, which controlled the world's shipping lanes, and had the world's most powerful armies and navies.

So how did 13 little colonies, with no economic clout, small, amateur militias, and no navies, think they could successfully overthrow British rule? Their answer had better have been a good one. As Benjamin Franklin told the other Founding Fathers, if they didn't hang together, they would all hang separately (and he wasn't joking). The answer was that they considered it their *Christian* duty to oppose the tyranny of King George III and Parliament. The leaders of the American Revolution took their inspiration from the Old Testament. The stories of Moses in Egypt, and David and Saul gave the colonists assurance that their rebellion was justified. Many Americans weren't sure that the Revolution was a wise idea, and the British considered the colonists' actions treasonous.

In *Romans 13*, Paul instructs Christians to obey governing authorities. These verses gave Americans pause as to the appropriateness of declaring independence. As late as May 1776, the Founding Fathers tried to solve their grievances without separating from Great Britain. However, since King George III had declared the American colonies "out of his protection" and sent in British troops and Hessian mercenaries to occupy and invade the colonies, the Founding Fathers felt that the king had "abdicated government" in America, thus creating the absence of any British governing authority. Therefore the colonies needed to "institute new government" and "provide new guards for their future security" by creating a new country.

The colonists saw their actions not as a revolution, but as a restoration of government that would protect their lives, liberty, and property—all gifts and rights bestowed from God that were to be protected and defended. They looked to the Bible for inspiration from stories like those of Moses and David. Moses freed the slaves from bondage and led them to worship God freely in a new land. David, a man after God's own heart, succeeded Saul, a king who had rejected God and tried to kill David out of jealousy. In these biblical stories and many more, Americans saw themselves. Americans, by and large, believed they were a chosen people taken out of the Old World to be a new city set on a hill. These beliefs are inherent in the words of the Declaration of Independence. The Founding Fathers justified their separation on the "Laws of Nature and Nature's God", appealed "to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of their intentions", and requested the "protection of Divine Providence" in their struggle for freedom. As we celebrate this Fourth of July, take time to thank God for the scriptural inspiration He gave to our forefathers in their quest for freedom.

* quotes taken from the Declaration of Independence

Member of the Month: Paul Meissner

- ★ Born: August 29, 1926 in Brooklyn, New York
- ★ How long a BBC member: since the mid-1980s
- ★ Church offices held: Deacon, Worship Cmte. Chairman, Nominating Cmte. member
- ★ How he first came to BBC: "We came to Barnesville in 1965, after having been in a large Presbyterian Church that had gone through a devastating controversy. So we decided not to get involved until we finished a big remodeling project. But soon after we arrived, Rev. Tim Lee of Poolesville Presbyterian visited us, and he made us feel so welcome that we decided to begin attending his church. Eventually, he was replaced by other ministers who were much more inclined toward social activism, so we started going to a charismatic church in Gaithersburg with some friends from Poolesville. When that church began to fold, we decided to try someplace closer to home, and that is when we started attending BBC, where we had come to know many of the members. This was about 1988."
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "The Church's One Foundation"
- ★ Favorite Pew: east side, about fourth from the rear.
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee*" (*Isaiah 26:3*).
- ★ When baptized: baptized by immersion in 1985
- ★ Childhood church: Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church
- ★ Most famous person he's met: Ernest Ambler, who was director of the Bureau of Standards, now NIST.
- ★ Personal claim to fame: served entire professional career as an electrical engineer at the Bureau of Standards.
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: collapse of the Soviet Union.
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Bavarian Alps as a GI in WWII.
- ★ Story on first name: named for my uncle Paul Weaver, who once was voted the outstanding engineer in Texas.
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: the integrated circuit
- ★ Childhood heroes: Gen. Eisenhower & Winston Churchill
- ★ Hobbies: music (writing worship songs), woodworking, gardening, and crossword puzzles



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in June:

- There was no old business reported or new business offered.

Expected at the July Business Meeting:

- A motion to designate a portion of the Maggie Cole Memorial Fund toward the roof fund will be made by the Finance Committee.

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; please join us in serving in the Lord.

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).



July Birthdays

- 6 Buddy Baumbaugh
- 8 Nancy Cooley
- 9 Fred Bird
- 18 Laura Musser
- 20 Joshua Madison
- 22 Douglas Cooley
- 23 Mary Yates, Emily Crowe
- 26 Virginia Magaha, Joe Yates
Roy Musser
- 27 Margie Lillard
- 28 Jacqueline Cole
- 30 Sherri Marsh



Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley
Virginia Shreve
Margie Stream
Lena Wright, Margie Stream's sister, lung cancer
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Eileen Stull, July Ivey's mother
the Van Houtens, relatives of the Michael family
Jack & Kitty Cooley
Margie Lillard
Gale Cole
Doug Swank
Jo Blalock
Betty Savage
Barbara Roberson
Ginger Hurmence, Pat Elam's daughter
Mary Barr
Lisa Grant, stationed in Iraq
Sgt. Alexandre Gerena, stationed in Iraq
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).*

News You Can Use

Roof fund thermometer nears 100. Due to the faithfulness and generosity of members and friends, we are very close to meeting our goal of raising \$10,500 for the roof fund that was started at the beginning of the year. So far we have collected \$9709 toward our goal of \$10,500, or 92% of our goal, up from 78% in June. News of the steeple's return will be covered by the *Lantern* in future issues.

Vacation Bible School draws closer! VBS 2005 is only a few weeks away, but there is still plenty of time and opportunities to get involved! VBS week starts with a registration dinner on Monday, and concludes on Friday with graduation and ice cream. A lot of fun and learning about Jesus will take place in between. Please pray for the children and workers, that those present would all have the opportunity to hear about Jesus' love for them.

Fred Bird highlighted on NCC website. Fred was selected as the June member of the month by the National Christian Choir, for which he has sang tenor for 13 years. His picture and biography were posted on the NCC website. Congratulations, Fred!

Discipleship training held. Twenty people showed up on June 26 for a fun-packed night. There were four hour-long classes; Pastor Joe spoke about evangelism, Paul Meissner had a seminar on blessings, Pastor Randy taught doctrine, and Lee Michael's class was on miracles. Afterwards, Conrad Burch of the BCM/D spoke on estate planning. The evening was concluded by a pizza dinner. The next Discipleship Training will be held on the 5th Sunday of October.

Maggie Cole, 1912-2005. Our sister Maggie Cole passed away on June 3 at the age of 93. She served her Church and her Lord by serving as Treasurer for 20 years. Miss Maggie was a faithful member of our congregation for 80 years, and first attended in 1915. We mourn her death with her family, and pray that the Lord will give them comfort and strength in the days and weeks ahead.

Baptist Men make summer plans. The Baptist Men have planned several events for the next few months. In July, they will have a fishing trip and picnic for the church's children at Cliff Neal's Pond. On August 21, the 3rd annual Father-Child banquet will be held at Dutch's Daughter in Frederick, and the Pig Pickin' will be held in mid-September. Look for signups and additional details in the near future.

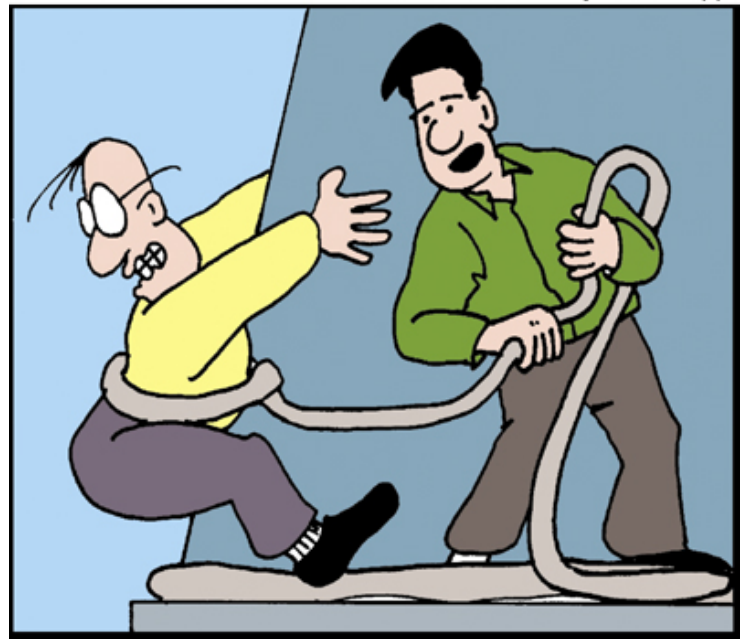
Highlights From The Annual Meeting

Randy Gilliam

Pastor Randy and wife Sandy attended the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, June 20-22. There were approximately 12,000 messengers in attendance from almost 5,000 different churches. The Executive Committee reported that there are 43,465 churches cooperating in the SBC with a total membership of 16,267,494. The North American Mission Board reported 1,781 new congregations started in 2004. SBC churches reported over 388,000 baptisms. The International Mission Board reported 21,028 new churches started in 2004 and over 600,000 baptisms. IMB reports church membership in other countries at 7,451,242. The messengers reelected Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Florida, to serve the convention as president. The theme and heartbeat of this year's convention (the 148th SBC convention) was "Everyone Can!" This is an all-out effort to create a unity of purpose for evangelism that will unite Southern Baptists to witness, win and baptize one million in one church year (October 2005-September 2006). Future SBC convention sites are: Greensboro, North Carolina in 2006 and San Antonio, Texas in 2007.

Baptist Press Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Didn't I tell you bungee jumping would bring in a bunch of kids for Vacation Bible School?"

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