



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

Your pastors and June and Sandy would like to wish all the members and friends of Barnesville Baptist Church a very "Merry Christmas". We also pray that each of you and your families find wellness, purpose, and contentment in the coming year. May you know the peace and joy of Jesus Christ no matter what circumstances come your way in 2006.

Many of you have made the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering a special and regular part of your holiday celebration. We encourage all of you to pray about participating in this important missions outreach. It will be a spiritual blessing to you. Each of our gifts may be just a drop in the bucket, but combined with gifts from over 43,000 SBC churches around the country, they create a stream of support for over 5,200 missionaries. These missionaries and the believers they work with accounted for over 607,000 baptisms and the establishment of over 21,000 new churches in 2004. We can't go to the many places where people are desperate for physical and medical help, as well as the good news of Jesus Christ. However, we can support those who do go. There is a great thirst in the world for spiritual truth. Jesus, God incarnate, Whom we celebrate this season, said, *"...If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water"* (John 7:37-38).

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
December Birthdays, Page 3
Prayer Concerns, Page 3
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
The Christmas Story, Page 3
News You Can Use, Page 4
Library News, Page 4
COTCD Cartoon, Page 4
December 2005 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

December 4 Christmas Dinner at Cozy Restaurant
December 7 Business Meeting
December 16 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
December 17 Baptist Men's Meeting
December 18 Christmas Music Hymn-Sing
December 24 Christmas Eve Service
December 25 Christmas
December 31 New Year's Eve: Church Office Closed



"So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us'" (Luke 2:15).



In *Revelation 19*, Jesus is called King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In *Revelation 5*, He is called worthy to receive power, riches, honor, glory, and blessings. Yet during His sojourn on earth Jesus neither claimed nor received any of these things He deserved by royal right. Instead, He was born in a feed trough and spent His first night wrapped with rags. *"...She brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7)*. The One who spoke the universe into existence (*Colossians 1; Hebrews 1*) subjected Himself to the laws of nature and human limitations. Jesus came as a humble child and lived as a lowly servant, not a royal prince or conquering general, in order to fulfill His Father's plan of salvation.

During His ministry, Jesus taught His disciples and apostles not to strive for personal fame. *"...If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."* Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, *"Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."* (*Mark 9:35-37*). Jesus often used children as examples of those who would enter the Kingdom. Children, unlike adults, are not known to seek after position and praise. Children do not have impressive resumes or lists of accomplishments to impress others or merit favor. Instead, they trust and depend upon others for their most basic needs. In a spiritual context, we, as children of God, similarly need to trust and depend upon our heavenly Father for our spiritual needs. Our worldly achievements and successes do not entitle us to any position or favor with God; it is only our child-like faith that admits us into His Kingdom.

Servanthood was also a constant theme with Jesus. Those who want recognition and authority in the Kingdom should be modest and others-minded. After one of several who's-number-one arguments among the apostles, Jesus presented the true path to significance by examining His own life: *"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"* (*Matthew 20:26-28; Mark 10:43-45*). Jesus' purpose on this planet was to follow His Father's will—to come as a child, live as a servant, and die as a Savior. Christmas is only a prologue to Easter.

When Mary and Joseph first took Jesus to the Temple, elderly Simeon met them on their way in. God had promised Simeon he would live to see the Messiah. Upon seeing Jesus, Simeon blessed Him and said, *"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel"* (*Luke 2:29-32*). Thanks be to God for the humble birth and life of Jesus, so that we may one day be in the chorus that calls Him worthy to receive power, riches, honor, glory, and blessings.

Member of the Month: Joyce Dunn

- ★ Born: November 26, 1942 in Fayetteville, West Virginia
- ★ How long a BBC member: 24 years
- ★ Church offices held: Assistant and GA Leader; Sunday School Teacher for Youth, Assistant Sunday School Teacher for grades 4-5; Young Married, Adult and Women's Ministry Leader; Choir member; Children's Church Leader
- ★ How she first came to BBC: by invitation from Jeddie DeFries and Kitty Cooley
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "Love Lifted Me"
- ★ Favorite Pew: back row on the right side
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: *John 3:16*
- ★ Age at baptism: 39 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Doggett Chapel Methodist Church
- ★ Most famous person she's met: Barbara McClintock, Nobel Laureate
- ★ Personal claim to fame: "Numerous scientific publications during my career".
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: the assassination of President Kennedy
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: San Francisco, California
- ★ Story on first name: "I was named after Smiling Jack Martin's wife in the comic strip".
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: digital images
- ★ Childhood hero: The Lone Ranger
- ★ Hobbies: growing flowers, photographing all living things, and making greeting cards



The *Lantern* staff wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2006.

December Birthdays

- 2 Tina Williams
- 3 Sherri Crowe
- 11 Amy Williams
- 12 Gabby Marsh
- 14 Rachel Engle
- 16 Teresa Tuttle
- 17 Mary Ann Luhn
- 19 Lisa Cooley, Kyle Shreve
- 23 Samantha Cole
- 24 Ashlinn Cole
- 25 Grace Normoyle
- 28 Ralph Cooley, Tim Rice
- 29 Ollie Baumbaugh
- 31 Larry Michael



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in November:

- A by-law to define the duties of the Church custodian was adopted by the Church.
- The Church approved two motions from the Internal Administration Committee: one to set the Church Custodian's salary, the other to increase the ministry reimbursement budget line item.
- Dot Fowler's nomination to be the Church Custodian was approved.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2006 Budget proposal.
- The Deacons will make motions to accept Jackie Cole and Sarah Marsh as members pending baptism.
- The Baptist Men will request an increase in their 2005 budget line item.

Prayer Concerns

Hurricane victims and those helping them

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.

Kitty Cooley

Gale Cole and her father in Tennessee

Mary Barr

Lisa Grant, stationed in Iraq

Sgt. Alexandre Gerena, stationed in Iraq

Madison Straw, 9 year old girl, leukemia

Dean Scoggins

Linda Gilliam

Dave Fowler, Sandy Gilliam's father, shingles

Braden Smith, Joyce Dunn's grandson, skin problem

Nuvia and Patricia Bautista, missionaries in auto accident

Cancer patients: Margie Lillard, Doug Swank, Tim

MacCarthy, Dwayne Nichodemus, Raymond Enright

Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala);

Steve & Emily Ruffner and new baby Timothy Byron Ruffner
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).*

The Christmas Story

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.



News You Can Use

WMU has an active month. During the month of November, the WMU assembled 15 Thanksgiving baskets with the generous donations made by church members. Also, members donated 40 wrapped shoeboxes packed with Christmas presents for needy children around the world. The ladies of the WMU were blessed and humbled by your generosity. Thank you all for your willingness to share.

New roof fully installed. The Sunday School section of the building recently had a brand new green metal roof installed and now matches the sanctuary's recent roof renovations. The total effect is very attractive and should serve us well in the years to come.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$1320. All of this money goes directly to support foreign missionaries around the world. For them, this Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is the lifeblood of various ministries to people with spiritual and physical needs. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions.



Baptist Men's Thanksgiving Potluck a great time. The Baptist Men sponsored a turkey dinner on Saturday, Nov. 19. A crowd of 50 came out to dine on two fried and two smoked turkeys with all the trimmings. Flora Gilliam won the pie-baking contest with her derby pie. She received an 8 x 10 picture of the church, taken by Dave Thomas. Cris Driver took second place with her apple crumb pie. Third place was won by Ann Bennett's no-bake pumpkin pie. Thanks to judges Randy Gilliam,

Jamie Thomas, Tina Williams, Paiten Cole, Nick Cole, and Samantha Cole for tasting all eight entries.

Open House at the Parsonage. After the Monthly Hymn-Sing on Dec. 18, when we will have a chance to sing everyone's favorite Christmas carols, Randy & Sandy Gilliam will have an open house at the Church parsonage. Everyone is invited to sing at 6:00 pm and enjoy refreshments afterward.

Nursery and Children's Church workers needed. If you are willing to help in these vital ministries, please let us know. Contact Tina Williams or Janice Cole to work in the nursery. Also, to assist with Children's Church, contact Dave Thomas or Buddy Baumbaugh. Our children need your support.

Library News

Randy Gilliam

The library's first reading star has emerged. Michaela Driver, daughter of Mike and Cris Driver, has completed at least eight books (with her mom and dad's help). The library reading incentive is that after reading seven books, the reader will be invited to have dinner with the pastor. The date for this dinner has not been set, but the pastor(s) are really looking forward to rewarding Michaela for her interest in reading. The book titles that Michaela borrowed from the Laura Bennett Memorial Library are: *Where Are You, God?; Adam Raccoon and the King's Big Dinner; Joy to the World Jesus is Born; What Nick and Holly Found in Grandpa's Attic; Grandpa, Is There a Heaven?; The Pumpkin Patch Parable; A Friend Is Sue or Who Likes You?;* and; *The Story of the First Christmas.*

Parents, be sure to check out the many titles of Christmas books in the library to share with your children this Christmas season. You will find these books just inside the library on the small wooden shelf.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Merry Christmas... pass it on."

Editor's Note: We have recently purchased a permanent license to use COTCD cartoons directly from the cartoonist.