



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

God's Word, the Bible, is our best source for information about the Father and His great redemptive plan for mankind, instruction about life, comfort when we struggle with life issues and problems, and for help to allow us to worship God better. All of these scriptural themes are prominently featured in the book of *Psalms*. If you have not read *Psalms* recently, treat yourself to a wonderful experience and read through all 150 of these poetic chapters. If you read just five chapters each day (many of the chapters are very short!), you could finish the entire book in one month. Consider these incredibly powerful statements that come from verses in just one chapter, *Psalm 34*:

"The angel of Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them" (v. 7).

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed (happy) is the man who trusts in Him!" (v. 8-9).

"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry" (v. 15).

"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles" (v. 17).

"The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned" (v.22).

Many people have found psalms that help them pray, rejoice and be glad in their hearts toward God, worship God from the depths of their hearts, express gratitude and thankfulness for His goodness and mercy, express repentance from sin and ask for forgiveness, bring comfort and assurance in times of trouble, and calm their hearts when they have emotional stress or other turmoil in their lives. Won't you accept the invitation from God in *Psalm 34:8*, "... taste and see that the Lord is good", and receive the benefit of *34:9*, "... happy is the man who trusts in Him?"

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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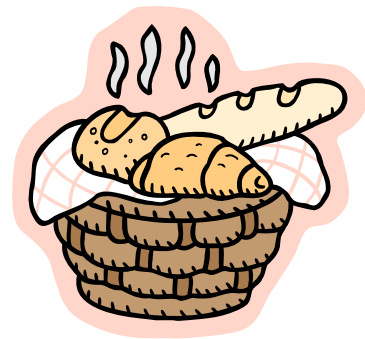
Upcoming Events

March 1 Business Meeting

March 3 Parents' Night Out

March 17 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends

March 18 Baptist Men's Meeting



"And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst'" (John 6:35).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Back in my November 2005 column, I mentioned that my Sunday School class was studying the book of *Matthew*. We're still there, but have progressed to the death of Jesus on the cross. So far, we've discussed the mechanics of Jesus' death—the Pharisees, Pontius Pilate, Passover, etc. Next, we'll examine the question, "so what?" At the risk of being irreverent, I like asking the "so what?" question. I believe it discourages stock "Sunday School answers" and challenges us to examine what we believe and why. So, exactly why should we care that Jesus died on the cross?

The Apostle Paul tells us that all men are, "... *justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, ... to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus*" (*Romans 3:24-26*). Similarly, in *II Corinthians 5:18-19*, Paul says that God, "... *has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, ... that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them...*". Propitiation? Imputing? What Paul is trying to explain with these big theological terms is that a holy and righteous God cannot tolerate sin and will punish it severely. However, God, who is just as loving as He is holy, has offered His Son to the world as a whipping boy. European royalty were prominent advocates of this unenviable position. The job basically consisted of being a specially designated companion for young princes. Whenever a junior royal misbehaved at school, the teacher would thrash the whipping boy in order to maintain classroom order and discipline without actually touching a young prince. God, through His love, has designated Jesus as an acceptable substitute for our sins. Jesus served as our whipping boy on the cross and took the blame and penalty for sins He did not commit. This is what Isaiah meant when he wrote the verse, "... *the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed*" (*Isaiah 53:5*).

Returning to Paul, "propitiation" means to satisfy or appease, while "imputing" means to accuse or blame. For those who repent and believe in Jesus, His suffering and death appeased God's demand for justice and we now stand before God accused not of our own sins, but of being just as holy as Jesus. What a great thing to be accused of—we can now stand before God justified by Jesus, free from the condemnation of sin that we truly deserve but are forgiven for through grace. This good news reminds me of the third verse of, "It Is Well with My Soul" (hymn 493 in our red hymnals), where it reads, "My sin—O, the bliss of this glorious thought, My sin—not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more (Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!)". I am so glad to know that Jesus has taken the burden of sin off of me and placed it on Himself. What a great Savior we have!

Member of the Month: Ralph Cooley

- ★ Born: Dec. 28, 1932 in Comus, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: 54 years
- ★ Church offices held: Deacon, Trustee, Head Groundsman, Sunday School Teacher
- ★ How he first came to BBC: invited by his then-girlfriend Nancy, now his wife
- ★ Favorite Hymn: doesn't have a favorite hymn
- ★ Favorite Pew: back row on the left next to the door
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalm 15*
- ★ Age at baptism: 20 years old
- ★ Childhood church: none prior to BBC
- ★ Most famous person he's met: Rev. Horace DuBois (famous for his godly and loving manner)
- ★ Personal claim to fame: accepting Jesus Christ, all other accomplishments are secondary
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: removal of the Berlin Wall
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Chun Chon, Korea
- ★ Story on first name: named after father, Ralph Sr.
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: oil-based hydraulic power
- ★ Childhood heroes: the Lone Ranger and Tom Mix
- ★ Hobby: RV motor-homing



March Birthdays

- 5 Stape Shields, Iva Musser
- 11 Jim Gilliam
- 12 Brittney Lucas
- 17 Tammy Thomas
- 18 Steve Bennett
- 24 Janice Cole
- 25 Virginia Shreve
- 26 Nevada Pleasants
- 27 Sharon Davidson
- 28 Jack Hough, Todd Marsh
- 29 Sarah Marsh
- 30 Earle Stevens
- 31 Ted Burriss, Robert Shreve,
Jessica Thomas



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in February:

- The Church authorized the Head Groundsman to investigate options for refurbishing the stone foundation on the west side of the church building.
- A motion from the Internal Administration Committee proposing to replace the flowerbeds on the southeast side of the building with low-maintenance perennials was adopted.
- Bill & Sherry Morrison were accepted into church membership by letter from First Baptist Church of Frederick, as was Mary Mossberg, coming by letter from Poolesville Baptist.

Expected at the March Business Meeting:

- The Select Committee on Auditing will present its report on the 2005 finances.
- The Deacons will make motions to accept Frank & Jane Fowler as members by profession of faith pending baptism on March 19.

Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley
Virginia Shreve
Margie Stream
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother
Bud Baumbaugh, knee problems
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Nathan Blankenship, son of Ron, head injury
Jamie Thomas, broken arm
Mary Barr
Charles Williams
Scott Gilliam, hand injury
Roy Musser
Connie Connelly
David Myers, grandson of Pastor Joe, stationed off Bahrain
Madison Straw, 9-year old girl, leukemia
Zoey, 7-month old with eye tumor
Cancer patients: Lena Wright, Doug Swank, Tim MacCarthy,
Dwayne Nichodemas, Raymond Enright, Ted Detrow, June Schaum
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala);
Steve & Emily Ruffner (Campus Crusade)
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).*

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



*"That last sermon was a real doozy pastor...
it was all I could do not to come forward!"*

News You Can Use

Big snow cancels events. A snowstorm that dumped at least 18 inches of snow on the Barnesville area was responsible for significantly altering BBC's schedule on the weekend of Feb. 11-12. The Valentine's dinner planned for that Saturday was canceled, and church services on the morning of the 12th were limited to those few who could walk to church. The final *Revelation* series sermon, previously advertised for that date, will now be heard on Feb. 26.



Snow scene in the neighboring town of Boyds

First Discipleship Training concluded. Jan. 29 marked the fourth of four sessions where Lee Michael discussed miracles, Pastor Joe talked about evangelism, Pastor Randy spoke on the importance of doctrine, and Paul Meissner lectured on spoken blessings. The 25 participants enjoyed a pizza dinner afterwards. The second training series will begin on Apr. 30.

Choir practicing Easter cantata. The choir is busy preparing its Easter presentation of "Amazing Grace" on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm—anyone who would like to participate is welcome. The choir is pleased to include Amy Williams as a new member. You can see Amy on the front row with the sopranos.

Education Committee to meet. Members of the Education Committee are requested to attend a 15-minute meeting after morning worship on March 5. A proposal to establish a Sunday School Honor Roll program will be discussed. Please come with your ideas and suggestions.

Baptism planned for March 19. The congregation was very pleased to hear during the morning worship on Mar. 5 that Frank & Jane Fowler have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior and have requested church membership. Frank and Jane have been attending BBC regularly for the past several months. They will be baptized during the service on Sunday, Mar. 19. We are delighted to



have Frank & Jane join our fellowship.

Happy 90th birthday to Virginia Shreve. Church members are invited to a reception for Virginia Shreve at the Beverly Health & Rehabilitation Center on Mar. 26 at 6:15 pm. The address is 203 W. Patrick St. in Frederick.

Children's Church meeting rescheduled. If you are interested in supporting this important ministry, please attend a meeting with Pastor Randy on Thursday, Mar. 9 at 7:00 pm.

Sanctuary to feel warmer. A round of applause is due to Ralph Cooley, Joe Yates, and Pastor Randy for installing new insulation in the sanctuary roof and under the platform area after the Feb. Baptist Men's Meeting.

VBS 2006 dates set. Believe it or not, Barnesville Baptist is already preparing for this year's Vacation Bible School. The 2006 theme is "Arctic Edge: Where Adventure Meets Courage"! Based on *Joshua 1:9*, Arctic Edge helps kids find the courage required to follow Jesus in the every day challenges of their lives as they learn that God is always with them. Keep the evenings of July 24-28 open on your calendar and begin praying for this important outreach event.



Directory update coming soon. Attention new members: an update to the 2006 church directory will be distributed in several weeks. Please see Lee Michael to have your pictures taken and submit your contact information to share with the church. Those members already in the directory with significant changes in their contact information should also provide Lee with their new data.

Library preparations progressing. In preparation for a formal dedication ceremony in April, several people merit recognition for assisting in the library recently. Joseph Runkles helped us print spine, card, and book labels for the 720 currently registered books. Meanwhile, Joseph's mother, Stephanie, who has church library experience, spent many hours correcting label information. Ann & David Bennett recently donated a round wooden table, a hanging plant, and beautiful framed poster entitled, "And He Shall Be Called...", depicting the names of Jesus Christ, to the library. Check out the poster (and a book or two) when you stop by the library. If anyone would like to donate, buy, or suggest the purchase of a Christian book for the library, please see Pastor Joe or Pastor Randy.