



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

For members and friends of Barnesville Baptist who have been so generous and faithful in supporting those who go to the nations carrying the good news of Jesus Christ, the following is a letter from Manuel and Cindy Batres, friends of BBC and missionaries to Guatemala:

Dear Church Family of BBC,

Greetings from Guatemala. It is such a blessing and a privilege to send you our greetings and thanks for you generous financial support as we minister here in Guatemala. We have received your initial check, and we are blessed and humbled by your generosity. We do not have the words to express what your loving gesture means to us. We see your gift as a blessing straight from God in His infinite provision for our every need, and so much more. *"Before they call, I will answer," says the Lord (Isaiah 65:24).* He has been just that faithful with us. Thank you for including us in your missions giving. We pray that we will prove worthy of your investment and that many eternal rewards will be earned. This summer we have ten (work and witness) teams in eleven weeks. We thank God for every team that is coming and for the financial and moral support they give to so many local churches as they help us provide assistance with permanent structures for churches, parsonages and even occasionally Sunday School rooms. You are helping provide these structures as well as you share in our ministry and become a part now of everything we do! Thank you again so much and God's richest blessings upon you.

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28: 19-20).

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

- May 3** Business Meeting
- May 5** Parents' Night Out
- May 13** Baptist Men's Chicken Dinner
- May 14** Mother's Day
- May 19** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- May 21** Library Dedication Service
- May 29** Memorial Day, Church Office closed



May 4 is the National Day of Prayer

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The Apostle John is one of the most emphatic writers of the New Testament, boldly proclaiming the fact that Jesus is the Son of God and source of eternal life in a black and white, you're-either-with-us-or-against-us manner. In his eponymic gospel, John uses the word "believe" to urge people to faith in Christ over 100 times—twice as often as the other three gospel writers combined. With similar fervency, at the end of his first epistle, John tells Christians that there are five facts that they can know for certain, that they can have faith and confidence in, based upon their belief in Jesus and their saving relationship with Him.

First, Christians can know they have eternal life. *"...You who believe in the name of the Son of God...know that you have eternal life (I John 5:13).* Jesus, talking about His followers, said, *"...I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28).* No one can separate us from Almighty God's love and fellowship.

Second, Christians can know that they have access to God through prayer. *"...We know that He hears us, whatever we ask..." (v. 15).* We can communicate with the Father through His Son, who intercedes on our behalf. The writer of *Hebrews* tells us that, *"...we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession..., let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (4:14; 16).*

Third, Christians can know that they have power over sin and temptation. *"We know that whoever is born of God does not sin...and the wicked one does not touch him" (v. 18).* Paul wrote that we devote our thoughts, words, and deeds to God's will when we become His children. *"But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life" (Romans 6:22).*

Fourth, Christians can know that we abide in Christ. *"We know that we are of God..." (v. 19).* In *John 15:1-11*, Jesus described Himself as the true vine, and His followers as branches, totally dependent upon the vine for life and fruitfulness. As we abide, or stay/remain with Jesus, we spiritually grow several ways: we love God, follow His commandments, know His will, know how to pray in His will, bear fruit, and finally, we know God's joy.

Fifth, Christians can know that Jesus is truly the Son of God. *"...We know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding..." (v. 20).* Jesus came to reveal His Father to the world. John witnessed firsthand the life and ministry of Jesus Christ—His teaching, preaching, and healing, and His victory over sin, death, and the grave. It is from his eyewitness experience that John so forcefully advocates that we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that we can have eternal life with the Father in His name.

Member of the Month: Martha Jo Blalock

- ★ Born: April 1, 1925 in Atlanta, Georgia
- ★ How long a BBC member: one year
- ★ Church offices held (in Georgia): WMU president, church librarian, organist, pianist, treasurer, VBS leader, worship chairman
- ★ How she first came to BBC: was looking for a SBC church and was invited by Trudy Meissner
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "He Touched Me"
- ★ Favorite Pew: fourth from the back on the right side
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: *John 3:16*
- ★ Age at baptism: 13 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Capitol View Baptist in Atlanta
- ★ Personal claim to fame: walking with Jesus and raising two beautiful daughters
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: the end of World War II
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Texas
- ★ Story on first name: named after her grandmother
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: computers
- ★ Childhood hero: Jesus Christ
- ★ Hobbies: crocheting, cross-stitching, and reading



May Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Ennis
- 2 Kevin Becraft
- 3 Dawn 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:

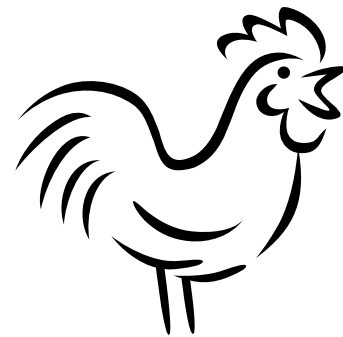
- The Church approved the Education Committee's request for an \$800 budget line for the Sunday School Honor Roll program.
- The Church approved the nomination of Cris Driver to serve on the Education Committee as Sunday School Teacher for 3-5 year olds for the remainder of the 2004-2006 term, vice June Ivey, resigned. Mary Yates also was approved as a non-committee assistant for the 3-5 year olds class.
- Ashlenn Cole, William Rodgers, and Iris Rodgers were each accepted as members by profession of faith. All three were baptized on March 19.
- A motion to upgrade the sanctuary sound system was jointly referred to the Internal Administration and Worship Committees.

Expected at the May Business Meeting:

- The Deacons will make a motion to accept Resha Martin-Ahalt as a member by statement.
- The Internal Administration Committee will report on a motion to upgrade the sanctuary sound system, and will request that two new slots for groundsmen be added to the committee's membership.
- Randy & Sandy Gilliam will be nominated to serve as messengers to the 2006 Southern Baptist Convention in Greensboro, NC on June 11-14.

Chicken Dinner Announcement

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



*Saturday, May 13 in the Fellowship Hall
Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm
Bring a side dish to share*

*Enter a strawberry-based dessert (pie, cake, ice cream,
tarts, etc.) into the Strawberry Dessert Contest!*

Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley
Virginia Shreve
Margie Stream
Margery Lillard
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Christopher Claude, injured in Iraq
Don Barr
Mitch Nikirk, June Ivey's son
Cancer patients: Lena Wright, Doug Swank, Tim
MacCarthy, Dwayne Nichodemus, Raymond Enright, Ted
Detrow, June Schaum, Norman Bishop, Bessie Moore,
Raymond Money (father of Brenda Cross)
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres
(Guatemala); Steve & Emily Ruffner (Campus Crusade)
our Sunday School
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

"Amazing Grace" Cantata performed. Thanks to Paul Foster and the Adult Choir for their excellent presentation



Choir singing at the Palm Sunday Sunrise Service

during morning worship on Easter Sunday. The lyrics

of "Amazing Grace" took a closer look at the incomprehensible grace of

God as they retraced the events that led up to the resurrection. Leslie Foster and Scott Foster sang solos. Lee Michael was the narrator. The Choir also performed the cantata at the Sunrise Service on Apr. 9. Both audiences appreciated the performance. If you like to sing, please consider joining the choir and making a joyful noise unto the Lord on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

Congratulations to graduates. Pastor Randy Gilliam will receive his Master of Divinity degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Lee Michael has earned his Master of Arts degree in Political Science (American Government & Politics) from George Washington University in Washington, DC. Lois Carroll will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in



Elementary Education and a concentration in Reading from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Pennsylvania. She is currently interviewing for local elementary teaching positions.



Vacation Bible School coming soon! The theme for this year's VBS is "Arctic Edge: Where Adventure Meets Courage", which will be held July 24-28, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Please attend the VBS planning meeting scheduled for May 18 at 7:00 pm 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.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal surpassed. Thank you for the great response to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The WMU set a goal of \$1210 for BBC. So far, we have raised over \$1400. This offering is used to finance the efforts of 5300+ SBC missionaries serving under the North American Mission Board. Your generosity in supporting missionaries in the United States & Canada is appreciated.

New discipleship training series to begin. The second series of discipleship training starts on Apr. 30, our first 5th Sunday of the year. At 4:30 pm, Lee Michael will discuss the Pharisees and Sadducees, Pastor Joe will survey the book of *Malachi*, Paul Meissner will lecture on "Crying Out", and Pastor Randy will teach on the book of *Proverbs*. A pizza dinner will follow at 6:00 pm.

WMU collecting health kit supplies. Please join the WMU and the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware in their outreach ministry to migrant workers, prison inmates, homeless people, and seamen. The WMU is preparing health kits that consist of a new, large bath towel and washcloth, an adult toothbrush, a large comb (not a rattail comb), full-sized shampoo bottle and bar of soap, and deodorant. If you would like to contribute items for the health kits, please bring them to church no later than Sunday, May 7.

Library dedication set for May 21. The official dedication of the "Laura Ann Bennett Memorial Library" will be observed in the morning worship service on May 21. If you have memories and recollections of Laura's work with the library and her enthusiasm about getting books out to children, please send a message to Pastor Randy. We are so glad to be able to recognize Laura's love for the Lord, books, children, and for BBC. Please plan to attend this important dedication and enjoy visiting the library.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"It's been a better week than usual..."