



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 be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!
(Psalm 67:1-4a).

Throughout the Old Testament it is clear that God's love is for all people. God's great promises to Abraham included this, "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3b). Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah's ministry, "I will keep you and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house" (Isaiah 42:6a-7). Jesus read from Isaiah when He began His ministry in the synagogue at Nazareth, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18).

Jesus focused the mission of the church on all people, "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).

We encourage you to pray fervently for missionaries who have committed their lives to taking the gospel to the farthest corners of the world.

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

June 7 Business Meeting
June 14 Flag Day
June 18 Father's Day
June 24 Baptist Men's Fishing Trip



Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men" (Mark 1:17).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The Da Vinci Code, based on the book by Dan Brown, has started showing on movie screens recently, and its premise, that a fourth-century conspiracy has shrouded the real history of Christianity and Jesus' identity, has caused a big stir. Similarly, National Geographic has published and promoted its research on the "Gospel of Judas", a second-century Gnostic writing that purports to record secret conversations between Jesus and His most infamous apostle, Judas Iscariot. This manuscript reveals Judas as one entrusted with secret knowledge about salvation and Jesus' real identity.

What are Christians and the public at large to think of these works that challenge fundamental biblical doctrines and 2000 years of church history, namely, that Jesus Christ, who was fully God and fully man, died on the cross and was resurrected three days later to bring salvation to all who trust Him in faith?

I do not intend to answer every question related to *The Da Vinci Code* or the "Gospel of Judas" in this short column. There are many books out on the market that can ably respond to and rebut their claims. What I would, however, like to review is the fact that the history of Christianity occurred in the first century, and it occurred in the open, in public, leaving no room for thoughts of conspiracies or secret truths to fester. The enemies of Christianity certainly knew what Jesus' followers believed. The Sanhedrin charged Jesus with blasphemy (claiming to be God) and jailed His disciples for believing in His divinity. The pagan Romans executed Christians for refusing to pay homage to any of the Roman gods or emperors, instead only worshipping Christ. Jewish Sadducees and Greek philosophers mocked Paul for preaching the resurrection of the dead. Christianity was a known quantity, fixed in the first century.

Speaking of Jesus, Peter told Cornelius and his family that, "...we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly..." (Acts 10:39-40). Paul, writing to the Christians of Ephesus, reminded them of his preaching, "...You know, from the first day...how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ; For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:18-20;27). Similarly, Paul reminded King Agrippa of the history of Jesus and His church during his trial, "For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner" (Acts 26:26).

Jesus openly preached that He was the Son of God, and that people could receive eternal life through faith in Him. His death, burial, and resurrection were public events. His apostles and disciples spread the same message Jesus preached and were persecuted for it by enemies who understood Christian beliefs and wanted to punish those who believed them. The only "code" necessary to reveal the truth of Christianity is this: the cover of your Bible opens by flipping it to the left.

Member of the Month: Larry Michael

- ★ Born: December 31, 1948 in Washington, DC
- ★ How long a BBC member: since 1996
- ★ Church offices held: deacon, Sunday School teacher, head groundsman, head usher
- ★ How he first came to BBC: family visited BBC with Judy Boswell
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "Onward, Christian Soldiers"
- ★ Favorite Pew: left side, middle pew
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: *Genesis 1:1*
- ★ Age at baptism: 47 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, MD
- ★ Most famous person he's met: Hubert Humphrey
- ★ Personal claim to fame: Won the "dirty truck award" from the electrical supply house
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: 9/11
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Buenos Aires, Argentina
- ★ Favorite type of tractor: Ford 8-N
- ★ Favorite soft drink: orange or grape Nehi
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: splitting the atom
- ★ Hobbies: gardening, fishing



June Birthdays

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



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in May:

- The Church approved a motion to upgrade the sanctuary sound system.
- Resha Martin-Ahalt was accepted as a member by statement.
- The Internal Administration Committee's request to add two new slots for groundsmen to its membership was approved.
- Randy & Sandy Gilliam were appointed to serve as messengers to the 2006 Southern Baptist Convention in Greensboro, NC on June 11-14.

Expected at the June Business Meeting:

- There is no known new business at this time.

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.
Don Barr
Roberta Richards, Jamie Thomas' mother
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 VBS
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



"Dear Brother Eli, I have been out of town on vacation, and I would have sent you my tithe, but I already sealed the envelope."

News You Can Use

Chicken dinner a good time for all. The Baptist Men sponsored an evening of good food and fellowship on May 13. Larry Michael and Joe Yates brined and barbequed 25 chickens for dinner, which was served at 5:00 pm. Afterwards was the dessert contest.



Joe Yates & Larry Michael at the grill

Twelve ladies (where were

the men?) entered a total of thirteen strawberry-based desserts, ranging from strawberry pie to strawberry applesauce to "chocolate pizza". In a narrow decision, the nine judges awarded first place for best strawberry dessert to Sherri Marsh for her strawberry jello cake; second place to Melissa Campbell for her strawberry trefoil; while third place went to Flora Gilliam for her strawberry shortcake.



Sherri Marsh and her winning cake

Baptist Men make summer plans. The Baptist Men have planned several events for the next few months. On Jun. 24, they will have a fishing trip and picnic for the church's children at Cliff Neal's Pond. On July 15, they will co-sponsor the Sunday School Picnic. On Aug. 27, the 4th annual Father-Child banquet will be held at Dutch's Daughter. Look for additional details in the near future.

Congratulations to graduate. Best wishes go out to Lindsey Baumbaugh for receiving her high school diploma from Conowingo-Rising Sun Christian School on May 21. Lindsey is currently working in a local attorney's office and hopes to become a licensed masseuse, as well as continuing her education at a local college. Lindsey says, "I know God has plans for me and I am trusting Him all the way".

New discipleship training series begun. The second series of discipleship training was held on Apr. 30, our first 5th Sunday of the year. Lee Michael discussed the Pharisees and Sadducees, Pastor Joe surveyed the book of *Malachi*, and Paul Meissner lectured on "Crying Out". Pastor Randy taught on *Proverbs*. A pizza dinner followed at 6:00 pm. The next 5th Sunday falls on Jul. 30.

Welcome new members. We are pleased to report that Resha Martin-Ahalt is our newest member, joining our congregation by statement. We are also delighted that Eddie & Pauline Fowler have recently made decisions for Christ and will be baptized

and presented for church membership later this summer after completing new member training. They have already joined the choir! Eddie & Pauline are siblings of Frank & Jane Fowler, respectively.



Library dedication service held. The Laura Bennett Memorial Library was officially dedicated on May 21 with the presentation of a plaque that was mounted near the library entrance. With shelves full of books, tapes, and other resources, we hope, as Laura did, that the library plays an important role in edifying our members in their Christian walk.



Laura Bennett

IMB focuses on Egypt. The International Mission Board has selected Sunday, June 4 (Pentecost) as a day of prayer and fasting for world evangelization, with a special focus on Egypt. Please consider praying and fasting for the gospel to reach the lost in this important Middle Eastern country.

Revelation notes available. Sermon-by-sermon outlines of Pastor Joe's *Revelation* preaching series, written by Joyce Dunn, are printed and bound and are available for pick-up in the foyer to anyone who wants a copy.

Vacation Bible School 2006. VBS at Barnesville Baptist Church will be held July 24-28, 2006, in the evenings from 6:30 until 8:30. The theme for this year's VBS is "Arctic Edge: Where Adventure Meets Courage!" The VBS Scripture is "*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go*" (*Joshua 1:9*). Contact Pastor Randy or Mary Yates if you would like to participate by serving in a classroom, or in music, crafts, recreation, or snack.