



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 as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another" (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the Apostle Paul's favorite metaphors for the church was the Body of Christ. He presented this metaphor to the churches in Rome, Corinth, and Ephesus. His great desire was to help believers understand that they were all part of the Lord's ministry and that each one had been given unique gifts. Working together, these individual parts do the work of Christ all around the world.

VBS gives a marvelous example of the diversity in the church working together with unity of mind to accomplish a common goal. Anyone who has ever participated in VBS knows that it takes everyone working together to have a successful VBS experience. At BBC this July nearly 40 volunteers participated in our five-day VBS. VBS tasks included: promotion, obtaining literature, preparing food, decorating, setting up the tent, registering students, cooking for the picnic, leading in the joint worship rally, preparing craft activities, supervising recreation, preparing snacks, teaching classes ranging from 2 years through adult, preparing student recognition certificates and thank you cards for all the workers, and hosting the ice cream social for VBS students, workers and parents. The diversity of workers was astonishing. Volunteers included new and long-term members, as well as regular visitors and friends of BBC. Workers ranged in age from 13 years to 86 years old with all the diverse life experiences inherent in folks of different ages and backgrounds.

All of this was accomplished in a Christian atmosphere, i.e., *"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another" (Romans 12:10).*

Your pastors salute all who participated in VBS and offered the many children and parents an example of Christian love through Christ Jesus. Thank you and God bless you for exercising your special gifts in the Body of Christ.

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

August 2 Business Meeting
August 4 Game Night
August 19 Baptist Men's Meeting
August 27 Baptist Men's Father-Child Banquet



*"Trust in the Lord, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
Delight yourself also in the Lord,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart"
(Psalm 37:3-4).*

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

How have people come to attend and become members of BBC? Of the 17 people who have thus far responded to the "How s/he first came to BBC" query in the Member of the Month column, nine (53%) said they were invited to worship by a family member, friend, or the pastor. Four (24%) said that their eventual membership was due to their parents' attendance, and four (24%) said that they started coming when they moved into the local area. One of the four who said he came due to proximity also mentioned knowing many BBC members, so arguably 59% of respondents indicated that personal invitations from current attendees were responsible for their joining BBC. The 17 respondents are predominantly our most senior members by age (born pre-WWII) and/or church membership (measured in decades).

Again looking back through the *Lantern* archives, BBC has gained 34 new members since May 2002 (7 the first twelve months since 5/02, 10 the second year, 1 the third year, 14 the fourth year, and 2 more this month). My rough estimate is that 18 (53%) of the 34 were ministered to by the church or invited by friends and family. Seven (21%) of the 34 are children whose parents are numbered in the first 18. Nine more (26%) appear to have joined due to proximity.

It appears that by a ratio of more than 2:1, BBC has historically gained members by inviting friends and family to worship here, and by ministering to families in need. Another 25% of our membership comes from the natural growth of families. The final quarter consists of nearby residents.

I recently asked Pastor Joe why our church is growing, and he attributed the increased membership to a spiritual emphasis on prayer, worship and missions, as well as people responding to visitation and outreach. This matches very closely to the biblical model. Jesus told us in the Great Commission to go and make disciples, baptize them, and teach them. The first-century church in *Acts 2* focused on the following five functions: fellowship (showing care and love), discipleship (teaching), worship (praising God), ministry (meeting needs) and evangelism (sharing the Gospel).

Thinking about our church and its members, I can come up with examples of how we engage, to some extent, in all of these activities. We are especially good at fostering a climate of love, unity, and fellowship. Our per capita missions giving can put many larger churches to shame. However, my impression is that our community outreach and evangelistic efforts, outside VBS week, is not our strongest area. Our discipleship efforts, primarily Sunday School and discipleship training, have dedicated teachers, but student numbers are consistently lower than Sunday morning worship figures. Our children's Sunday School attendance is irregular at best.

Fellowship, discipleship, worship, ministry, and evangelism must be pursued with equal vigor. We are each responsible for engaging in these activities, and not leaving some to the pastors, the deacons, or other members. I can think of areas in my own spiritual walk where I am more comfortable and gifted, and areas where I need to grow. How did you come to join BBC? In what ways have you helped the church grow? What areas do you need to work on? Your answers will help determine the future growth of our congregation and God's Kingdom.

Member of the Month: Ann Bennett

- ★ Born: August 28, 1954 in Miami, Florida
- ★ How long a BBC member: 8 years
- ★ Church offices held: Sunday School teacher (juniors); Children's Choir director; Children's Church leader; VBS crafts lady; interim choir director; interim pianist; pastor search committee; nominating committee; worship committee; education committee; finance committee.
- ★ How she first came to BBC: "I met David Bennett at work and we became friends. He talked about BBC and its activities; I invited myself to visit BBC and have been coming ever since".
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "How Great Thou Art"
- ★ Favorite Pew: "the one in which my husband is seated".
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalm 51:10; Colossians 3:12-17*
- ★ Age at baptism: 13 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Central Baptist Church, Miami, Florida
- ★ Personal claim to fame: "I've got the two sweetest, nicest, smartest, caring-est daughters on the face of the earth"!
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: man landing on the moon
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- ★ Story on first name: "I was named for a close family friend, Ann Westbrook".
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: central A/C !
- ★ Hobbies: playing Scrabble; crossword puzzles; playing piano; crafts



August Birthdays

- 1 John Brennan
- 3 John Michael Williams
- 5 Susanne Neal
- 11 Rick Thomas
- 12 Madison Marsh
- 14 Will Pleasants IV
- 17 Pauline Fowler
- 19 Kyle Marsh
- 21 Edith Fowler, Jamie Thomas
- 26 Lee Michael, Shayna Campbell
- 28 Ann Bennett, Robert Normoyle
- 29 Paul Meissner
- 30 Matthew Cole



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in July:

- Eddie & Pauline Fowler were accepted as members by profession of faith pending baptism on Aug. 13.
- Frank Fowler and Bill Morrison were approved to serve on the Internal Administration Committee as Groundsmen for the remainder of the 2004-2006 term.
- The Internal Administration Committee was instructed to prepare a motion incorporating the costs of the new septic system into the budget.

Expected at the August Business Meeting:

- The Standing Committees will report on Church officer authorizations for the 2006-2008 term.
- The Outreach Committee will offer a by-law redesignating the position of Kitchen Coordinator as Fellowship Coordinator.
- The Internal Administration Committee will report a motion incorporating the costs of the new septic system into the budget.

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.
Dottie Shifflett, Dot Fowler's niece
Dean Scoggins
Joey Runkles, graduated with honors from Air Force training
Madison Shreve
Chris Fleming, friend of Matt & Janice Cole
Emily Thorne, recovering from hip surgery
Rev. Jack Reynolds
Bill Luhn, Tod's brother, recovering from surgery
Cancer patients: Lena Wright, Doug Swank, Tim MacCarthy,
Dwayne Nichodemus, Raymond Enright, Ted Detrow, June
Schaum, Norman Bishop, Bessie Moore, Raymond Money,
Oscar Summers
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala);
Steve & Emily Ruffner (Campus Crusade); John Forrester
(Alaska)
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



Brother Eli thinks back on all the lofty reasons why he entered the ministry . . .

News You Can Use

Vacation Bible School a great success! Thank you to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School 2006 (Arctic Edge: Where Adventure Meets Courage!) a success, especially to those in the classroom, crafts, recreation, snack, and behind the scenes. Your service in building God's Kingdom is appreciated. The total enrollment this year was 100, and an offering of \$786.75 was collected and will be sent to NAMB missionary John Forrester, a church planter serving north of the Arctic Circle in Kotzebue,



John Forrester

Alaska. We appreciate Mr. Forrester's willingness to communicate with our VBS kids; he prepared short videos about his work with the Inupiaq Eskimos for use each day in our worship rally, and spoke by phone to the 7th-10th graders.

Major repairs transform parsonage front yard. Heavy machinery and multi-ton piles of topsoil and gravel covered the parsonage grounds as the new septic system was put in place during a week of many significant repairs to our



facilities. We are quite pleased that the county allowed us to install field drains instead of a sand mound, which would have cost twice as much. Sandy Gilliam is also pleased that her flowerbeds and birdbath were not uprooted. In addition, two new shutters were installed, plaster repairs to the sanctuary ceiling were made, and the refurbishing of the original stone foundation was undertaken.

Baptist Men to hold Father-Child banquet. Don't forget--on Aug. 27, those fathers and children who have RSVP-ed will join the Baptist Men for a special time of fellowship at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant in Frederick from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. The theme will be "What Fathers Want Their Children To Know". Sign up on the bulletin board and make your checks payable to Barnesville Baptist Church before Aug. 6.

Wingerts in concert. The Wingert Family Singers quartet performed to a packed sanctuary during the morning worship service on Jul. 9. Their songs ranged from traditional to contemporary with several original compositions as well. Their words of testimony also helped us worship. Afterwards, a fried chicken lunch was served in the fellowship hall.



Three families have plans to move. Three families loved by our congregation have indicated plans to move out of state sometime this summer: Jim & Gale Cole, our talented banjo player and pianist, are heading to



North Carolina to be closer to Gale's parents; Bud & Ollie Baumbaugh are relocating to



their property in the Pennsylvania mountains; and the Marsh family is moving to West Virginia. We will truly miss each family's warmth and friendship, and pray God's blessings on them in these new chapters of their lives.

A good time had at Sunday School picnic. Church members gathered for food and fellowship at Black Hills Regional Park on the afternoon of Jul. 15. Church family, fellowship and food are always a happy combination. We encourage you to take every opportunity to join with your church in festive events, as well as in weekly prayer and worship. What a blessing to be part of the family of God!

Gideon service nets sizable offering. Joe Yates, our resident Gideon member and duly-authorized Gideon spokesman, had the service on Jul. 2. \$1136 was given during the offering to support the Gideons' work. Barnesville Baptist, under Pastor Joe's leadership, is very pleased to support the work of Gideons International in distributing Bibles to people around the world and close to home.



Sunday School honors top students. The following were recently recognized for their outstanding Sunday School participation for having at least 80% attendance and meeting other class-specific criteria for the period of April-June: David Bennett, Jo Blalock, Nancy Cooley, Ralph Cooley, Michaela Driver, Dot Fowler, Frank Fowler, Jane Fowler, and Virginia Magaha.

Game night scheduled. Join Ann Bennett and Trudy Meissner for a summertime game night on Aug. 4 at 7:00 pm. Bring your favorite board games to the fellowship hall for an evening of fun.

Fall activities to start up soon. September is coming sooner than you think. Activities that will resume from their summer hiatus include Parents' Night Out and Lunch with Watkins Cabinet. Watch for details in next month's *Lantern*.