



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 would like to wish all members and friends of Barnesville Baptist Church a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year. It is not possible to fully express our and our families' gratitude for your kindnesses and generosity. Your thoughtfulness during Pastor Appreciation Month was overwhelming and we thank you. It remains a joy and a blessing to be allowed to serve you.

Without a doubt, the greatest announcement ever made to men and women and children on the earth is recorded in *Luke 2:11*, printed in the lower right corner of this page. This announcement was about a real event, a real person, in a specific place, at a specific time, that would forever change human history. In announcing the birth of Jesus, the angel made startling assertions: "a Savior has been born" (One who will save mankind from the bondage and penalty of sin); "who is Christ" (the Anointed One, the Messiah of God, Whose coming was prophesized in the Old Testament); "the Lord" (the very Jehovah God in the flesh, Immanuel, God with us).

When Jesus came in the flesh He laid down the glory and privileges of His divine nature and humbled Himself in the likeness of man, yet did not lay down His deity. His works testified of His omnipotence (study His miracles); His words testified of His eternal existence, "*Before Abraham was, I AM*" (*John 8:58*); His teaching demonstrated His authority, "*You have heard that the ancients were told...but I say to you...*" (*Matthew 5:21-22*); and His promise testified to His omnipresence, "*Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age*" (*Matthew 28:20*).

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

December 3 Christmas Dinner at Cozy Restaurant
December 6 Business Meeting
December 15 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
December 16 Baptist Men's Meeting
December 17 Christmas Hymn-Sing, Parsonage Open House
December 24 Christmas Eve Service
December 25 Christmas: Church Office Closed
December 31 New Year's Eve



"...There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).



The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Every November, we submit an annual church profile (ACP) to the SBC, reporting on the vital statistics of our congregation. In the process of filling out the form, I have gathered some interesting data on Barnesville's members. As of the Dec. 3 baptism, BBC will have gained its 99th and 100th current members. Having 100 members makes it real easy to calculate percentages, so this month I'd like to share some facts about the 100 people who comprise the membership roster of Barnesville Baptist.

BBC has an older membership: the median member is age 55, or was born in 1951. (Or 43 years old/b. 1963 if you include our non-member children). The median date of membership is June 2001, meaning more than half of the membership joined no later than 5 ½ years ago. That means 51% of members have known only one senior pastor, 8% just two, 24% joined during the DeFries pastorate, 13% in the DuBois era, and only 4% knew earlier pastors.

Barnesville, like many American churches, has a substantial gender gap: 57% female members to 43% male.

Where do members live? Not surprisingly, members live near the church; 55% reside within one zip code area of BBC, 70% live in Montgomery Co., and 26% dwell in Frederick Co.

How did we get on the membership roll? Most entered through the baptistry: 57% were dunked right here at BBC, 29% had regular letters of transfer from other Baptist churches, and 14% gave statements to join.

How active are we? Within the last year, 70% have attended at least one worship service, 30% haven't (average worship attendance in the last year is 74). 51% of members are enrolled in Sunday School (but only 37 people of all ages attend on an average Sunday) and 13% sing in the choir.

Our membership spans multiple generations: the oldest member is 93 years old; the youngest, 7 years old—a range of 86 years. To beat the record for having the longest membership, you need to have attended since before 1948 or accrue more than 59 years (that's 3,068 Sundays). As mentioned above, our newest members are scheduled to join this month. What is the age breakdown? By decade, 3% were born before 1920, 13% were born in the 1920s, 9% were born in the 1930s, 23% were born in the 1940s, 10% were born in the 1950s, 21% were born in the 1960s, 10% were born in the 1970s, 1% was born in the 1980s, and 9% were born in the 1990s. These numbers shift downward if you include the 27 regularly attending non-members, 20 of whom are children under 18. In that scenario, 1 in 5 were born after 1990.

What do we call each other? The most common last names are Cole and Cooley—16% of members have one of these two surnames. More ladies will respond to the first name of Michelle or Virginia than any other, while men's heads will most likely turn if you call out for Joe.

I remember a current member once said that the church is always one generation away from extinction—we must keep evangelizing future members. These pieces of BBC trivia may not mean much, but together they point to who we are, where we've been, and where to go in the future.

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2007 from the *Lantern* staff!

Member of the Month: Janet Magruder

- ★ Born: February 20, 1931 in Montrose, Rockville, MD
- ★ How long a BBC member: since July 2003
- ★ Church offices held: Outreach Cmte. member
- ★ How she first came to BBC: "I was invited by Laura Bennett and Louise Queen, who told me to 'try it—you'll like it'—I did!"
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "He Touched Me"
- ★ Favorite Pew: anywhere in the back
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalms 103:8-14*
- ★ Age at baptism: saved and baptized two days before her 14th birthday
- ★ Childhood church: Wildwood Baptist
- ★ Most famous person she's met: Sabu the "Elephant Boy"
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: end of World War II
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Florida
- ★ Story on first name: named after a friend of her mother
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: indoor plumbing
- ★ Hobbies: knitting, crocheting, and writing letters



December Birthdays

- 2 Tina Yates-Williams
- 3 Sherri Crowe
- 11 Amy Williams
- 12 Gabby Marsh
- 14 Rachel Engle
- 15 Holly Cross
- 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



Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley
Virginia Shreve
Margie Stream
June Luhn, recovering from hip surgery
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, recovering from surgery
Joseph Runkles, son of Bob & Stephanie
Marva Cole
Alice Mills, broken hip
the Burgwald family
Jennifer Lewis
Limor Bregman
Rev. Jack Reynolds
Cancer patients: Lena Wright, Doug Swank, Tim MacCarthy,
Raymond Enright, Norman Bishop, Raymond Money,
Norman Brandenburg
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).*

Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in
November:*

- Bill Morrison and Ralph Wright were confirmed by the Church to serve as Deacons; they will receive training from the Pastor before beginning their service.
- Melissa Campbell and Sierra Tohill were accepted as members by profession of faith pending baptism on Dec. 3.
- The Church voted to discontinue the van fund.
- A discharge motion to approve the installation of new ovens in the kitchen was passed.
- A motion to increase the Building Improvements and Maintenance line items was referred to the Internal Administration Committee.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2007 Budget proposal.
- The Internal Administration Committee will recommend increasing the Building Improvements and Maintenance line items for the current year.
- A report on a motion to start an exercise class is expected from the Outreach Committee.
- Jan Burdette will be nominated to serve as Church Musician for the remainder of the 2006-2008 term.

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

Thanksgiving potluck a great time. The Baptist Men sponsored a turkey dinner on Saturday, Nov. 11. A large crowd came out to



dine on four turkeys with all the trimmings. In the pumpkin/pecan dessert contest, nine people submitted entries. The first-place winner was Sandy Gilliam, who baked a pecan-based "million dollar pie" that won her the National Christian Choir CD, "Every Time I Feel the Spirit". Second place was awarded to Trudy Meissner for her smoothie pumpkin cheese-cake. Sherri Marsh's third-place entry was a pumpkin trefoil. Thanks to Janice Cole, TJ Marsh, Sylvia Little, Eddie Fowler, and Pastors Joe Ivey & Randy Gilliam for judging each entry.

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 25 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.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$1450. 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. Also, a Christmas card exchange will be set up at church—save postage and donate what you would have spent on stamps to Lottie Moon!

New email, fax number for BBC. After five years of dial-up access to the internet, the church office now has a high-speed connection. As part of this upgrade, our email is now **barnesvillebaptist@comcast.net**. The old MSN email account will no longer work in the near future. In addition, our fax number has switched from 407-2568 to **407-0500**, which is also our regular phone number. Please update your address books with our new contact information.

Rushing Wind blows into town. *Rushing Wind* performed twice over the Veterans' Day weekend. They first performed for an hour after the Baptist Men's Thanksgiving potluck.

Rushing Wind also had the service on Sunday, Nov. 12, singing old favorites and new compositions in front of a packed audience. The music and testimonies made for a worshipful experience.



New oven installed. After decades of faithful service, our old oven in the church kitchen was finally showing its age and needed to be replaced. BBC wishes to express its gratitude to Mr. Rudy Day and the Watkins Cabinet Company for donating and installing (with Larry Michael's help) a brand new commercial oven—it is such a generous gift. It should serve us well for years to come.

Open House at the Parsonage. After the Monthly Hymn-Sing on Dec. 17, 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.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"No no no! There were no reindeer at the manger! They came later... with the wise men!"