



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

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11).

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

If these Scripture verses truly represent our desire to know the Bible and the power of God's Word, then it is reasonable to make a consistent effort to read and study His Word. We used to hear it said that the Bible is the most-sold and least-read book in the world. Perhaps that's true. However, in the Christian community, not reading the Scriptures and not learning about the character of God causes Christians to lose their bearings and their spiritual and moral anchor in a sea of changing attitudes and practices. This is no small issue considering the enormous cultural shifts away from traditional values.

Why not commit yourself this February to get better acquainted with the Bible? Some ways to do this might be to pray and then read a short passage of Scripture every day; select a book of the Bible to study and have a commentary on that book to refer to; join or form a small Bible study group; attend a regular Bible study class at church (the Adult Sunday School class will be studying lessons from *John* in March and April); memorize passages of Scripture; take notes on Sunday sermons and then study the text to see if what you heard was consistent with what you read for yourself. Then share that with your pastors. Imagine how much learning would take place and how your pastors would be challenged if everyone took notes on Sunday morning sermons!

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

February 7 Business Meeting
February 9 Parents' Night Out
February 10 Valentine's Day Dinner, 5:00 pm
February 16 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
February 17 Baptist Men's Meeting
February 19 Presidents' Day



February 22 is George Washington's birthday

"Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh, that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:10).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

What exactly is the Trinity? This doctrine seems to me to be one of the harder beliefs for Christians to wrap their minds around. Among monotheists, Muslims have accused Christians of being polytheists for proclaiming it, and most Jews deny that Jesus is the Son of their God. However, believing in the Trinity is a fundamental cornerstone of the faith. There is no one “go to” verse in the Bible that explains the Trinity in a neat phrase, but it is based on 4 key facts that the Bible teaches over and over: A) There is only one God (*Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 45:5-7, I Corinthians 8:4*); B) The Father is God (*Genesis 1:1, Proverbs 30:4*); C) Jesus Christ, the Son, is God (*Matthew 1:23, 28:18-19, Colossians 2:9*); and D) the Holy Spirit is God (*Psalms 139:7, Acts 5:3-4, II Corinthians 3:17-18*).

Perhaps the Trinity is hard to understand because we have little to compare it with, just as it is hard to understand that God is infinite and eternal when we have only experienced life in a universe that is limited by time and space, where everything has a beginning and end. We are not able to comprehend (fully understand) the nature of God, but rather can only apprehend (be imperfectly aware of) Who He is.

The best explanation I have seen for the Trinity is that when it comes to God, there is one What and three Whos: there is one Being that is God, and within that one Being, there are three Persons who are equally, fully, inseparably, and eternally God. Those three Persons have their own personality, will, and intelligence, but co-exist and cooperate in a perfect, seamless unity. God does not wear three different hats of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as if an actor in a one-man play. Instead, a better analogy is that of time, where past, present, and future exist together in perfect harmony. A dramatic, visible expression of the Trinity is found in *Mark 1:10-11*, at the baptism of Jesus. When Jesus came up out of the Jordan, *“He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”*. It is in the name of this Trinity that we are baptized (*Matthew 28:19*).

Why does the Trinity matter so much? Not only does a proper respect for the Bible require it, the Trinity is essential to our salvation, worship, and prayer. We received salvation because of the great love of the Father that sent the Son to redeem us. Through the ministry of the Son, we became aware of the Father and His will for our lives, and can stand justified before the One against Whom we have sinned. It is the Holy Spirit that gave us ears to hear and eyes to see spiritual things and seek after God, cleansed us from all sin, then indwelt and empowered us to lead acceptable lives of faith, obedience, and service. We worship Jesus Christ in spirit and truth to the glory of God the Father using the gifts of the Spirit. Our prayers to the Father are mediated by Jesus Christ our High Priest, and are given voice through the Holy Spirit. Without the Trinity, our salvation, worship, and prayer are undone. Is the Trinity still hard to understand? It is for me too. But each night I can see the stars set ablaze by the Father, feel the love of Christ in my soul, and know that any talent or service I perform is inspired not from my own strength, but that of the Holy Spirit.

Member of the Month: Bob Lillard

- ★ Born: January 4, 1931 in Barnesville, MD, in the same bedroom where he now sleeps
- ★ How long a BBC member: since 1948, has attended since childhood [*Mr. Lillard is BBC's most senior member with 59 years of membership and counting—Editor*]
- ★ Church offices held: trustee, usher, teller
- ★ How he first came to BBC: “My mother sent me to Sunday School”.
- ★ Favorite Hymn: enjoys all of them
- ★ Age at baptism: 17 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Barnesville Baptist
- ★ Most famous person he’s met: “J.W. Marriott, Sr.—I drove him to the groundbreaking of the new Marriott headquarters on Democracy Blvd. on his 50th anniversary of being in business in my 50-year old car”.
- ★ Personal claim to fame: “With the help of a neighbor, I met the perfect girl, resulting in a perfect marriage for 48 years”.
- ★ Most interesting event in his life: “A trip from home, to New York City, to Seattle, Washington, and back home in a 1913 Model T Ford”.
- ★ Farthest place he’s been from Barnesville: Europe
- ★ Story on first name: named after his father, J. Robert, Sr.
- ★ Childhood hero: Tom Mix
- ★ Hobbies: antique cars



February Birthdays

3 Gary Cooley, Cynthia Westland
7 Michelle Vasko
8 Jeddie DeFries
9 Trudy Meissner
10 Carole Shreve
12 Luke Fedders
13 Bill Pleasants
20 Janet Magruder
21 David Gilliam
22 Joshua Holcomb
25 Paiten Cole
26 Joe Williams



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in January:

- The Treasurer submitted his Annual Report on the 2006 fiscal year.
- The Pastor appointed the Deacons to serve on the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2006 finances and report at the March Business Meeting.
- The Associate Pastor's 2006 salary was adjusted to reflect the 53 Sundays in the year.

Expected at the February Business Meeting:

- The Deacons will make a motion to accept Brooke Ahalt as a member by profession of faith pending baptism.
- The Internal Administration Committee will make a motion recommending an increase in pastoral salaries and a by-law to have annual deacon input on staff salaries and benefits.
- The Worship Committee will recommend a motion to start a regular Sunday evening worship service.

Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Mergie Stream
Tod Luhn
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother
Flora Gilliam, ankle problem
Bill Morrison
Emily Thorne
Dottie Shifflett, Dot Fowler's niece
Joseph Runkles, son of Bob & Stephanie
Mary Barr
Limor Bregman
the family of Rev. Jack Reynolds
Reyna Poole
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Tim MacCarthy, Raymond Enright, Norman Bishop, Raymond Money, Norman Brandenburg, Ola Ward
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



"I found your cactus pastor . . . Someone put it in the choir rehearsal room."

News You Can Use

Baptist Men's Day again brings snow. Snow fell and the wind blew mightily both the morning before and the afternoon after the Baptist Men's Day service, but the breakfast and worship hour were held on time on Jan. 21. The Baptist Men cooked a hearty breakfast of eggs, pancakes, hash browns, sausage gravy, bacon, and



Herbert Dixon and Bob Lillard enjoying breakfast together

other good food for a large crowd at 8:30 am. Later in the morning, seventeen men gave the annual performance of the MOB: Men of Barnesville choir. The choir special was "Trust and Obey", which was well received by the congregation. During the service, Larry Michael read the announcements, David Bennett offered prayer, Ralph Cooley and Eddie & Frank Fowler collected the offering, and Joe Yates told the children's story. Lee Michael gave the message on Moses, the man of God, with Paul Meissner closing the service in prayer. Thank you to Joe Yates for organizing the breakfast and also to the Baptist Men for a good time of fellowship and worship.

Valentine's Day Dinner. Our church family will celebrate Valentine's Day with a dinner on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 5:00 pm. The church will provide ham and drinks. Please bring a dish to share for dinner, and a red dessert for afterwards.

Lottie Moon offering goal exceeded. \$2012 have been raised—more than \$550 over our goal for the Lottie Moon offering this year of \$1450. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this offering for international missions and helped BBC exceed our goal once again. This same spirit of giving allowed BBC to send 194% of its annual goal of \$10,000 to the Cooperative Program in 2006.

Sunday School honor roll report. Sunday School members with at least 80% attendance for the months of Nov.-Dec. 2006 are: David Bennett, Jo Blalock, Eddie Fowler, Frank Fowler, Jane Fowler, and Pauline Fowler. Congratulations to these individuals for making regular Bible study an important part of their schedule.

Discipleship Training held. Jan. 28 marked the third session of the current teaching series. Lee Michael discussed the Pharisees & Sadducees; Randy, Sandy, and Flora Gilliam showed video footage and pictures of their Fall 2006 trip to the Holy Land; and Paul Meissner lectured on Crying Out. A pizza dinner was held afterwards. The final session of this training series will be held on Apr. 29.

James Vaughn Thomas was born to Jamie & Dave Thomas on Jan. 18 at Shady Grove Hospital in Rockville. He weighs 8 lbs., 1 oz. and is 21 inches long. Jessica and Zoie are his proud big sisters.

Virginia Shreve, 1916-2007. Our second-oldest living member, sister Virginia Shreve, passed away on Jan. 17 at the age of 90. Virginia was a long-time member of our congregation, active since the 1950s. She served her Church and her Lord as a member of the choir for many years, and also taught Sunday School, Bible School, and G.A.s. Virginia was also an active member of the WMU until her health began to decline. We mourn Virginia's death with her daughter Shirley, daughter-in-law Carole, and all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and pray that the Lord will give the Shreve and Yates families comfort and strength in the days and weeks ahead.



Mission trip plans in motion. So far, four people from BBC have expressed interest in volunteering for the mission trip to Biloxi, Mississippi to help Hurricane Katrina victims. The trip will be led by Redland Baptist Church and will occur Mar. 29-Apr. 4. Please start praying for the trip, those who are going, and those who will benefit from the workers' expressions of Christian love. The first workers' meeting was held at Redland on Jan. 28.

Lord's Prayer sermon series. On Feb. 18 and 25, Pastor Joe will bring a two-part message on the Lord's Prayer, one of the most familiar passages of Scripture. After the final message on the 25th, harpist Andrew Bennett will perform a special musical rendition of the Lord's Prayer.