



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 been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

As you celebrate Resurrection Sunday on April 8, it is our prayer that you experience the awe and excitement of those early Christians, and also that you wrestle with the enormity of what Christ accomplished for you through His death, burial and resurrection.

When the women went to the tomb on the first day of the week to anoint Jesus' body, they were given the wonderful announcement that would forever change the lives of believers throughout history: *"...I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said" (Matthew 28:5-6).*

The remarkable truth for believers is that the same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead is made available to His church, i.e., those through the ages who confess Him as Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead. The Apostle Paul said to the Christians in Rome that because of God's love in Christ Jesus, they were "more than conquerors" over the troubles, hardships, and difficulties of this world. Paul's heart cry was expressed in *Philippians 3:10*, "I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead." Paul understood that the resurrected Christ had changed him completely. His life revolved around Christ living in him. His direction and purpose were determined by faith and trust in the very Son of God, Jesus, who loved him and proved it by dying for his sin. Once we grasp this truth for ourselves, we can shout with the Apostle Peter, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (I Peter 1:3).

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Upcoming Events

- April 1** Palm Sunday; Easter Cantata
- April 4** Business Meeting
- April 6** Good Friday; Service at 7:00 pm
- April 8** Easter Sunday
- April 13** Parents' Night Out
- April 20** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- April 21** Baptist Men's Meeting; Church Clean-Up Day
- April 29** Discipleship Training



"...Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!" (Luke 24:5-6).

God Bless,



Your Pastors

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Easter is a celebration of what Jesus Christ accomplished at the end of His earthly ministry. Viciously executed by the Roman government at the behest of Jewish leaders who charged Him with blasphemy, Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. Three days later, Jesus' resurrection proved His victory over death and sin.

But exactly how does Easter translate into something important to us? In other words, what is it about Jesus' death on the cross that inspired God to forgive us of our sins? What is the link between Jesus' bloody death 2000 years ago and our spiritual state today? Every human being, by default, is born, lives, and dies in a permanent state of spiritual death, or separation from God. Human nature wants nothing to do with God or His ways. Instead, mankind wants to chart and follow its own path. Paul, raised as a Pharisee—the most "righteous" and observant of God's chosen people—still recognized, "...*There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God*" (*Romans 3:10-11*). All of humanity is, by nature, spiritually "...*dead in trespasses and sins*" (*Ephesians 2:1*).

The Bible shows the Lord to be holy and righteous, extending mercy and grace to undeserving sinners. It was because of God's love for mankind that He allowed men to offer sacrifices, or animal substitutes, to atone for sins instead of requiring people to pay with their own lives. The sacrificial system described by the Old Testament was only a temporary, imperfect solution to mankind's spiritual separation from God. In the fullness of time, God the Father offered up His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be the perfect and complete sacrifice for sin. Jesus was the only one worthy to absorb the punishment for the sins of the world and satisfy God's demand for justice. For those who through grace-empowered faith accept Christ as their Savior, God grants forgiveness and spiritual life. As *John 3* says, we are born again, given a new Christ-like nature and identity.

As children of God, the Father sees us as He sees His Son—perfect and blameless before Him. We receive this justification because Jesus' victory over death is shared with us. "*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive*" (*I Corinthians 15:22*). The answer to this column's question—what is the connection between Jesus' death and our spiritual state today?—is that when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we inherit His spiritual status. God treats us the same as Jesus when He saves us; we die to self and receive the spiritual life and blessings Jesus offers as our own. "*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*" (*Ephesians 2:4-6*). That is why Paul told the church at Ephesus they were, "... *no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God*" (*Ephesians 2:19*). It is through Jesus we have access to and fellowship with God, our human nature replaced with a heavenly one. Jesus' Easter victory over death and sin has given us a new and eternal life with God.

Member of the Month: Sandy Gilliam

- ★ Born: May 30, 1945 in Steubenville, Ohio
- ★ How long a BBC member: since October 2001
- ★ Church offices held: Outreach Cmte. Chairman, choir member, Sunday School teacher, *Lantern* staff member for production
- ★ How she first came to BBC: She came when Randy was called as associate pastor.
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "all those with good alto parts"
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Lamentations 3:22- 23, Romans 8:26-28*
- ★ Age at baptism: 25 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Bethany Memorial Church (Disciples of Christ), Bethany, West Virginia
- ★ Career field before being a "preacher's wife": she was a social worker in Ohio for 30 years
- ★ Personal claim to fame: "Well, it's not my cooking, but I have enjoyed being a wife to Randy and a mother to David".
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: the moon landing in 1969
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Israel
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: the personal computer
- ★ Hobbies: reading, taking long walks, emailing friends



April Birthdays

- 1 Jo Blalock
- 2 Rebecca Umstead
- 4 Ralph Wright
- 5 Hannah Madison
- 13 Katie Holcomb
- 14 Luke Watson
- 15 Dot Fowler
- 24 Mark Williams
- 29 Zachary Fedders



Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Margie Stream
Tod Luhn—praise God for a clean bill of health!
Pat Elam
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother
Flora Gilliam, ankle problem
Gertrude Weston, David Bennett's grandmother
Emily Thorne
Dottie Shifflett, Dot Fowler's niece
Joseph Runkles
Mary Barr
Cancer patients: 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 March:

- The Select Committee on Auditing presented its report on the 2006 finances, which was approved by the Church.
- The Church approved the membership applications of Charles Watson as a member by profession of faith pending baptism on April 15, 2007, and Juanita Watson as a member by letter from First Baptist Church of Century, Florida.

Expected at the April Business Meeting:

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the April 2007 Business Meeting.

Church Clean-Up Day Announcement



On Apr. 21 at 9:00 am, join the Groundsmen, the Baptist Men, and the rest of your Church family to clean up the church building and grounds. Contact Head Groundsman Ralph Cooley for more information on jobs and tools needed.
Lunch will be provided for workers.

News You Can Use

Baptism service set for Apr. 15.

Barnesville will celebrate the ordinance of baptism on the third Sunday of April, with two candidates for baptism and church membership: Brooke Ahalt and Charles Watson. Brooke Ahalt, who gave her life to Christ this past January, is the daughter of Resha Martin. Charles Watson, already a Christian, requested baptism before joining. He and his family have been attending for the last several months. Charles' wife Juanita joined BBC in March. Their children are Joseph, Meri, Luke, Kase, and Brennan. You can find all of these individuals' pictures and contact information in the new church directory supplement coming out this month. Following the baptismal ceremony, a luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall to welcome these new members into our church family.



New evening service reminder. Beginning on Apr. 22 and on every fourth Sunday thereafter, BBC will hold an evening worship service at 6:00 pm. Please join your fellow church members for a faith-deepening service of worship and instruction in God's Word.

Annie Armstrong offering continues. Barnesville plans to contribute \$1320 toward the SBC-wide goal of \$57 million. This annual offering supports the missionaries of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) who spread the good news of the gospel to people across the United States and Canada. Many of our state convention and local association leaders receive support through the NAMB, so this offering truly makes a difference in our local communities. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the Kingdom in this Easter season.

Mission trip underway. Larry Michael is BBC's representative on a Redland Baptist-sponsored mission trip to help Hurricane Katrina victims in Lakewood, Mississippi. Twenty-four men and women are going on this trip, which runs Apr. 1-4, to help reconstruct homes damaged in the storm. Pray that these missionaries and their efforts would make many people receptive to the Gospel during the week.

WMU to assemble Easter baskets. The women of BBC will meet on Monday, Apr. 2 to make holiday baskets for local shut-ins. Please bring candy, fruit, and cookies to the church no later than 10:00 am on that morning.

Easter Services planned. The BBC Choir will present their cantata entitled, "He Is Alive!", on Palm Sunday, Apr. 1, during the morning worship. The soloist will be Lisa Katzenberg, who will sing "Via Dolorosa". Lee Michael will narrate. BBC will also gather for a Good Friday worship service on Apr. 6 at 7:00 pm.

Easter lilies for sale. If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily in honor of/in memory of a loved one, please contact Kitty Cooley at 301-349-5119. The lilies will be used to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter season.

Easter sunrise service on Sugarloaf Mountain. For early risers, this 53rd annual mountaintop service beginning at 6:30 am is a wonderful way to begin the celebration of the Lord's resurrection with believers from many local congregations. We all have the Risen Savior in common.

Current discipleship training series ends Apr. 29. The next fifth Sunday of 2007 falls at the end of April. For the very last time, beginning 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 *Proverbs*. A pizza dinner will follow at 6:00 pm.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I'm sorry you didn't like my sermon Sunday, but I really didn't care for your snoring either!"