



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

"See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18).

You have no doubt heard it said that, "attitude is everything". The scripture above reveals a life attitude that champions kindness and forgiveness toward others, optimism and hope for good things, deep joy in the heart, belief and confidence in prayer, and heartfelt gratitude for life itself and God's gift of love to us. With such an attitude, we all can find ourselves, regardless of circumstances, inside of God's will. If you look around, you will be able to locate someone who models this kind of positive attitude about life.

Jack Schaum, Flora Gilliam's brother-in-law, is an inspiration to those who know him because of his unflagging attitude of optimism about life and about people. In an editorial announcing his retirement from professional life in 1982, he wrote, "I am not one to talk about the 'good old days' because I am and always will be a futurist. Tomorrow is still my favorite day of the week. My retirement...is not an end but a beginning for another exciting adventure. I'm not going fishing. I'm going hunting. Hunting for new experiences, for new opportunities to serve...To wear out, not rust out."

As Christians we have the remarkable opportunity to model a life of optimism and kindness and hope to a world sadly lacking in those graces. In addition, we can live as futurists with a lively expectancy of the return of Christ! An unknown writer said, "I want to live each day as though Christ died yesterday, rose today, and is coming back tomorrow!" Hallelujah!

God Bless,

Your Pastors



In This Edition:

- The Pastors' Spotlight, Page 1
- Upcoming Events, Page 1
- The Pew Perspective, Page 2
- Member of the Month, Page 2
- May Birthdays, Page 3
- Prayer Concerns, Page 3
- Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
- Chicken Dinner & Concert Announcement, Page 3
- News You Can Use, Page 4
- COTCD Cartoon, Page 4
- May 2007 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

- May 2** Business Meeting
- May 3** National Day of Prayer
- May 11** Parents' Night Out
- May 13** Mother's Day
- May 18** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- May 19** Baptist Men's Chicken Dinner & Concert
- May 28** Memorial Day, Church Office closed



"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her..." (Proverbs 31:28).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

I have noticed that throughout the Bible, when God wants to use someone to accomplish something great for His glory, God does most, if not all, of the heavy lifting, and only asks for our faith and obedience. I had noticed this trend before, but it was really evident when I read the story of Peter and Cornelius in *Acts 10*. God was at work in Cornelius' life. Although a Roman centurion, Cornelius feared and respected the God of the Jews. A moral and decent man, Cornelius still needed a Savior. Up to that time, however, Jesus had only been preached to, and accepted by, Jews. However, God's love extended to all mankind, as evidenced by verses such as *Isaiah 49:6*, which reads, "*Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth'*". God thus sent an angel to Cornelius, instructing him to send for Peter, in nearby Joppa, to speak to Cornelius in Caesarea.

Peter, a devout observer of all the Old Testament regulations, would never associate with a Gentile or enter his house. God prepared Peter for Cornelius' call with a vision, showing him a sheet full of leuitically unclean animals and thrice instructing him to, "*Rise, Peter; kill and eat*" (*Acts 10:13*). It was in this vision that God rescinded the dietary restrictions of the Old Testament. No longer did holiness to the Lord require outward conformity to rules and ceremony, but inner sanctification by the Holy Spirit. As soon as the vision ended, Cornelius' messengers arrived, requesting that Peter speak to his entire household. Peter went with them without any objections, explaining to Cornelius when he arrived the meaning of his vision, that, "*...God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean*" (*Acts 10:28*). Peter then proceeded to share with Cornelius and his entire household the good news about Jesus—who He was and what He did to offer salvation to all men. Those who believed were immediately indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and entered the Kingdom as the first Gentile Christians. It was this incident that opened the doors for the Gospel to be preached to all mankind, foreshadowing the verse, "*There is neither Jew nor Greek...for you are all one in Christ Jesus*" (*Galatians 3:28*).

I find it very interesting how God orchestrated all the events of this situation, prompting Cornelius to send for Peter while working on Peter's heart to accept the offer to speak with a Gentile. Similar stories like that of the Exodus come to mind, where God inflicted the plagues that forced Pharaoh to free the Hebrew slaves; also the Conquest, where God knocked down the walls of Jericho. What did these stories' human actors do? Moses agreed to speak the words God gave him and wave his staff around; Joshua followed God's instructions to march around Jericho several times and shout. Peter could have refused to go to Caesarea, Moses might have remained a shepherd in the Sinai, and Joshua could have decided to attack Jericho with his army. However, all three put their faith in God and obeyed His will for their lives. Their great victories and achievements resulted from the works God performed. God likewise wants to display His glory in our lives. What great things would occur if we put our faith and obedience in His hands?

Member of the Month: June Ivey

- ★ Born: June 23, 1942 in Walkersville, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since July 2001
- ★ Church offices held: Sunday School teacher, Outreach Cmte. member, Cards Ministry, nursery worker
- ★ How she first came to BBC: she attended when Pastor Joe was called to do a revival at Barnesville
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "In the Garden"
- ★ Favorite Pew: second from the back on the left, unless children are sitting on her lap
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Isaiah 41:10* and *Psalms 101*
- ★ Age at baptism: 40 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Church of the Brethren in Frederick
- ★ Most famous people she's met: Dolly Parton & Jimmy Dean
- ★ Personal claim to fame: winner of the Miss Fire Prevention beauty contest at age 18—she was crowned by Governor Tawes
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: racial integration of schools—her high school class was the first to graduate as an integrated class in 1960
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: San Diego
- ★ Story on first name: named after the month of her birth
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: the cell phone
- ★ Childhood hero: Annie Oakley
- ★ Hobbies: horses, yard work, caring for her mother



May Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Ennis, Frankie Fowler
- 2 Kevin Becraft, Frank Fowler Jr., Heather Cross, Brennan Watson
- 12 Nathaniel Madison
- 13 Bud Baumbaugh, Joseph Ball
- 15 Jim Cole, Eddie Fowler
- 17 Leroy Watkins
- 18 Sandy Watkins
- 22 Vicki Crowe
- 24 Nicholas Cole, Wade Williams
- 25 Michelle Becraft
- 28 Paul Foster
- 29 Quipsa Mayorga
- 30 Sandy Gilliam



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in April:

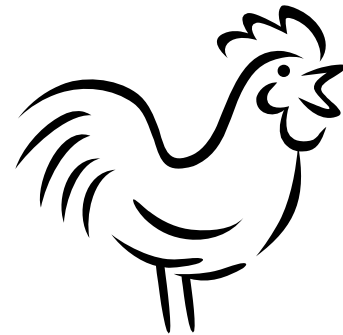
- A motion to begin a hand bell choir ministry was referred to the Worship Committee.

Expected at the May Business Meeting:

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

Chicken Dinner & Concert Announcement

*The Baptist Men invite the Church family to a
Chicken Dinner*



*Saturday, May 19 in the Fellowship Hall
Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm
Bring a side dish to share*

*Enter a strawberry-based dessert (pie, cake, ice cream,
tarts, etc.) into the Strawberry Dessert Contest!*

*Country/Bluegrass Gospel Concert
with*

Potter's Clay

*7:00 pm after the dinner
&*

10:45 am Sunday, May 20

a love offering will be taken

Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Margie Stream
Bud Baumbaugh, knee surgery on May 1
Pat Elam
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother
Gertrude Weston, David Bennett's grandmother
Emily Thorne
Dottie Shifflett, Dot Fowler's niece
Joseph Runkles
Wanda Brown; Jim McKamey, friends of the Gilliams
Mary Barr
Troops deploying to Iraq: Michael Hayes; Jo Blalock's
grandson Seth Rogers and nephew Ken Kercival
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Tim MacCarthy, Raymond
Enright, Norman Bishop, Raymond Money, Norman
Brandenburg, Janice Shull, Karen King, Rose Grant, Betty
Sica
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).*

News You Can Use

Baptism service held on April 15. On a rain-soaked Sunday, Barnesville gained two new members when Brooke Ahalt and Charles Watson followed the example of Jesus Christ and were baptized by Pastors Joe and Randy. Both received certificates of baptism during a luncheon held in their honor down in the Fellowship Hall. Both later received the right hand of fellowship from the congregation.



Brooke Ahalt and Pastor Joe in the baptistry just prior to her immersion.

WMU collecting health kit supplies. Please join the WMU and the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware in their outreach ministry to migrant workers, prison inmates, homeless people, and seamen. The WMU is preparing health kits that consist of a new, large bath towel and washcloth, an adult toothbrush, a large comb (not a rattail comb), full-sized shampoo bottle and bar of soap, and deodorant. If you would like to contribute items for the health kits, please bring them to church no later than Sunday, May 13.

Sunday School honor roll report. Sunday School members with at least 80% attendance for the months of Jan.-Mar. 2007 include: Melissa Campbell, Nancy Cooley, Ralph Cooley, Michaela Driver, Frank Fowler, Jane Fowler, Sierra Tothill, Stacey Tothill, and Casey Watson. Congratulations to these individuals for making regular Bible study an important part of their schedule. Double congratulations go to Frank & Jane Fowler for maintaining honor roll status throughout the past year!

Second discipleship training series concludes. Thanks to teachers Lee Michael, Pastor Joe, Pastor Randy, and Paul Meissner for leading fifth Sunday Bible study classes for the past two years. The next series, scheduled to begin on Jul. 29, will have a different format. To allow teachers to hear the other lessons, each class will be held only once, not four times. Instead of rotating to different classes each time, everyone will meet in the sanctuary to attend one class. A pizza dinner will be served afterwards as usual.

Harpist Andrew Bennett in concert on Apr. 29. For those who missed Andrew's performance in February due to the snow, you will have a chance to hear him play his harp, sing, and give his testimony during the morning worship service.

New books to read. We encourage you to browse the library for unexpected gems to read. Five new titles that will soon be on the shelves are: *A Love Worth Giving* by Max Lucado, *Amazing Grace* by Kurt Bruner & Jim Ware, *Captured by Grace* by David Jeremiah, *Facing Your Giants* by Max Lucado, *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem, and *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan.

Vacation Bible School coming soon! The theme for this year's VBS is "Game Day Central: Where Heroes Are Made", which will be held July 23-27, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Please attend the VBS planning meeting scheduled for May 17 at 7:00 pm if you would like to participate by serving in a classroom, or in music, crafts, recreation, or snack. VBS is arguably our church's most important outreach activity; please join us in serving the Lord.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal surpassed. Thank you for the amazing response to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The WMU set a goal of \$1320 for BBC. This year, we raised \$16,585! This offering is used to finance the efforts of 5300+ SBC missionaries serving under the North American Mission Board. Your generosity in supporting missionaries in the United States & Canada is appreciated.

Workday well attended. Thanks so much to the 20+ Baptist Men and other people who helped clean up the church grounds and interior on Apr. 21: the Matthew Cole family, the Fowlers, Ralph & Nancy Cooley, Joe and Jesse Yates, Lee Michael, Charles Watson, Joseph Ball, Matthew Runkles, and Randy & Sandy Gilliam. Due to everyone's cooperation, we now have a church with windows washed inside and out, the grass cut, the lawn raked free of leaves and branches, and flowerbeds and playground weed-free.



Pastor Randy, Charles Watson, and Joseph Ball fixing the parsonage gutter

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Your service was a moving experience, three people had us to move because we were in their seats."