



# The Barnesville Lantern

Barnesville Baptist Church  
17917 Barnesville Road/P.O. Box 69  
Barnesville, Maryland 20838

301-407-0500 (phone/fax)  
www.barnesvillebaptist.org  
barnesvillebaptist@comcast.net

August 2007, Volume 6, No. 3

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

## The Pastors' Spotlight

*"My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life" (Proverbs 6:20-23).*

The writer of *Proverbs* gives us some excellent help in making decisions that come with living this life. If you are fortunate enough to have a background in godly, Christian morality and reverence for God, that teaching truly is a lamp to illuminate good choices and expose the choices that damage health, relationships, and career. Consider the security and confidence in all of life's situations when we follow these teachings, *"when you walk they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you."*

All of us are confronted at times with temptations that nudge us to make moral, financial, or ethical decisions that conflict with the teachings of Scripture. Having a clear path of reference is vital to getting through these testing times. For golf lovers, an analogy of this "ambush" by temptation is the 18<sup>th</sup> hole at Carnoustie. Rick Reilly, in the July 30, 2007 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, described this hole as "the most diabolical creation in the world". With its deep bunker, a stream that crosses the fairway twice, and with the out-of-bounds along the left side, this so called "noose" crushes professional golfers. Having the certainty of a clear path to the green takes away the fear of a double or triple bogey. In the same way, allowing the Lord to "make our paths straight" saves us from the calamity of wrong decisions.

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  
August Birthdays, Page 3  
Prayer Concerns, Page 3  
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3  
VBS 2008 Sneak Peek, Page 3  
COTCD Cartoon, Page 3  
News You Can Use, Page 4  
August 2007 Calendar, Page 5

## Upcoming Events

**August 1** Business Meeting  
**August 4** Sunday School Picnic  
**August 18** Baptist Men's Meeting  
**August 19** Baptist Men's Father-Child Banquet  
**August 26** *Dominion 4* in concert



*"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture" (John 10:9).*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

As I write this column, Vacation Bible School 2007 has only been over for a few hours. Weeks and months of preparation and planning boiled down to five fast-paced evenings with our students that just seemed to fly by. We who participated in VBS as teachers and workers truly took to heart our theme Bible verse, "...Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1-2), because it was only through His strength that we were able to have such a successful experience. But God's strength did not benefit us solely as individuals; "Game Day Central" was a corporate effort of dozens of Barnesville members working together as a body. That is just how Christ expects us to work and how He blesses us—together.

The Apostle Paul encouraged the Christians of Ephesus to unite their hearts through Christ to advance His Kingdom, saying, "... the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:16). Just like an athlete improves and strengthens his body through exercise, a congregation increases in love for its members and its effectiveness in sharing that love with others when it benefits from the individual gifts and talents of each member. Indeed, God blesses every Christian with abilities to exercise in the church. Barnesville is no exception. We have people who can teach, people who are good with children, people who can lead in the spotlight, and people who get all kinds of work done quietly (and prefer it that way). The Apostle Peter reminded Christians, "as each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (I Peter 4:10).

It was quite amazing to witness the harmony that we experienced, both during VBS and in all our activities. Our common goal was to share the love of Jesus Christ with the children of our community and their families, and I didn't hear of a cross word nor a bad attitude that got in the way of that. Such unity does not come by accident; it comes by the grace and power of God. Paul exhorted the church at Philippi to, "...Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that... you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel..." (Philippians 1:27).

I know for certain that seeds were planted in students' hearts and minds this past week. God has blessed Barnesville with the people and the resources to minister to our local community, and He is pleased when we follow His will to do so. Many of us who staff VBS are well aware of past generations of VBS workers who ministered to us in our youth, exposing us to the love of God. "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). Let us continue, during VBS week and throughout the year, to walk in the love and unity of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Member of the Month: Jane Fowler

- ★ Born: November 11, 1943 in Laytonsville, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since March 2006
- ★ Church offices held: Outreach Cmte., Choir member
- ★ How she first came to BBC: she was looking for a church to stay at
- ★ Favorite Hymns: "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art"
- ★ Favorite Pew: 6<sup>th</sup> pew from the front, right side
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: *John 3:16*
- ★ Age at baptism: 62 years old
- ★ Childhood church: St. Luke's Lutheran in Gaithersburg
- ★ Most famous person she's met: Randy Travis
- ★ Personal claim to fame: being married to Frank
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: when she lived with her aunt
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Oklahoma
- ★ Story on first name: named after her aunt, Lena Jane
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: cell phone
- ★ Childhood hero: Elvis Presley for his gospel singing
- ★ Hobbies: enjoying her children, grandchildren, husband, and her life



## 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:*

- No new business was presented at the July 2007 Business Meeting.

*Expected at the August Business Meeting:*

- The Pastor will nominate five members (Randy & Sandy Gilliam, Lee Michael, June Ivey, and himself) and an alternate (Nancy Cooley) to serve as messengers to the Montgomery Baptist Association Annual Meeting, being held on October 13, 2007.

## Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley  
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Margie Stream  
David Gilliam, in U.S. Army basic training  
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother  
Kenny Hurd, Dot Fowler's nephew  
Will Noegel  
Rod Kaufman, Pastor Joe's neighbor  
Joseph Runkles  
Chuck Ramsburg  
James McKamey, Jr.  
James Vaughn Thomas  
Robert Richards  
Helen Hughes, Dot Fowler's sister  
Jack Harrington  
Troops in 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, Rose Grant, Betty Sica, Glen & Helen Magaha, Janice Shull  
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).

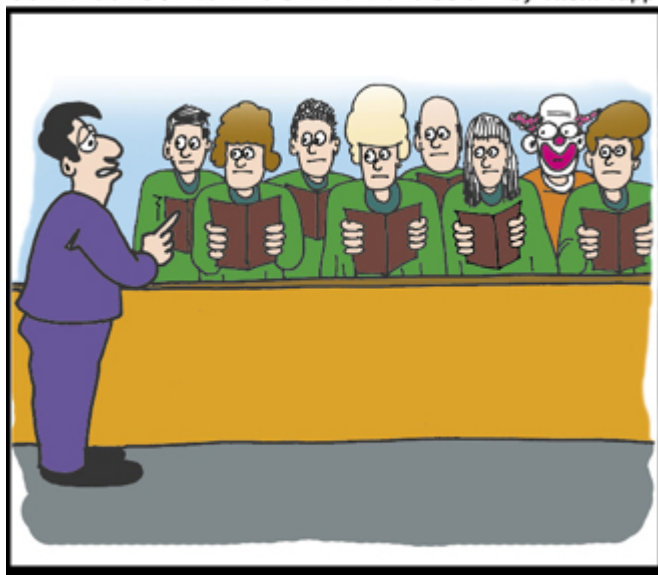
## VBS 2008 Sneak Peek



*"Teach me Your way, LORD, and I will live by Your truth.  
Give me an undivided mind to fear Your name"*  
(Psalm 86:11).

## COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



**"Let's try that song one more time,  
there's still something funny about it"**

## News You Can Use

*Vacation Bible School a great success!* Thank you to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School 2007 (Game Day



*Kids play during rec time*

Central: Where Heroes Are Made) 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 67, and an offering of \$1000 was collected and will be sent to Campus Crusade for Christ missionaries Steve & Emily Ruffner, who will soon visit BBC in person.



*Older boys testing a bamboo chariot*

*Baptist Men's upcoming events.* Don't forget--on Sunday, Aug. 19, 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. Pastor Randy will be the keynote speaker. Fathers, please sign up on the bulletin board and make your checks payable to Barnesville Baptist Church no later than Aug. 5. Also, this year's Pig Pickin' will be held on Saturday, Sept. 22.

*Discipleship training on July 29.* Paul Meissner will be the first teacher in the third running of the fifth Sunday classes, which begin at 4:30 pm. The class is entitled, "Sharing the Lord's Blessing", and will feature video and workbook components. A pizza dinner will follow the lesson at 6:00 pm. The second class of the series, with a new teacher and new topic, will be held in September.

*Sunday School picnic rescheduled.* The Sunday School picnic, originally scheduled for the afternoon of Jul. 14, was postponed due to scheduling difficulties. The picnic will now be held on Saturday, Aug. 4 at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share; the Church will provide fried chicken and drinks.

*More sunlight hitting the parsonage.* Two more of our mighty oak trees were cut down on Jul. 7 and 14, victims of last year's dry summer and the extensive digging that was part of replacing the parsonage's septic system. For a while, it looked like the two trees might have made it, but by springtime it was clear that they had expired. The parsonage front yard certainly looks different without the oaks providing shade. New trees and grass seed will be planted in the parsonage yard this fall.

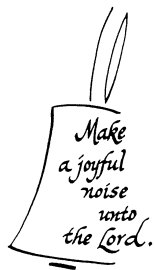


*Cutting down an oak, limb by limb*

*Update on David Gilliam.* David is in the middle of his Army basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He would appreciate your continued prayers and would enjoy receiving letters from his church family (no care packages, please). You can write to David at this address: Spc. Gilliam, David/CO E, 82 CM BN, 3<sup>rd</sup> PT/451 Colorado Avenue Unit #52/Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473. Please put a 3 with a circle around it in the center of the back of the envelope. This helps David's mail reach the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon more easily.



*Matthew Runkles graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy on Jul. 12.* He is the son of Bob & Stephanie of Dickerson. Ralph Cooley, himself a retired Montgomery County policeman, presented a certificate of congratulations on behalf of the congregation to Matthew during the Jul. 22 worship service. Congratulations, Matthew, on your new career of public service. Our prayers go with you.



*Barnesville Bell Choir plans.* Ann Bennett is beginning a handbell ministry. Anyone aged 12 or older interested in participating should contact Ann. You need not be able to read music, just an interest in making a joyful noise to the Lord! Learning to read music is a part of this ministry. Watch for more news in the morning bulletins this month! The tentative start date is Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

*Barbershop quartet in concert.* On Aug. 26, *Dominion 4* will lead the Fourth Sunday worship service. The singers, Bob Rodriguez, Ray Sitter, Dave Updegrove, and Frank Shipp, have been singing together since 2003. Show up at 6:00 pm to enjoy the spiritual music of this quartet.