



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

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

The Pastors' Spotlight

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).

Ben Wade is a larger-than-life outlaw in the remake of a terrific old western movie, *3:10 to Yuma*. Played by Russell Crowe, Wade is amoral and conscience-less, lightly regarding others' lives or property, feared by everyone. A surprising thing happens to Wade when confronted by a poor farmer, a man of quiet courage and honest character who loves his family, willing to sacrifice even his own life for their survival. The movie portrays the classic tale of evil bending to the demonstration of righteousness. (The 1957 version has less violence and more family-friendly language.)

Scripture teaches us that Jesus has authority over everything in heaven and in earth (*Matthew 28:18*). We also see examples of the change that comes to a person's life when he or she is confronted with the claims of Jesus and in faith submits to His Lordship as Messiah.

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector in Jericho. He was wealthy, but the religious Jews considered him a sinner and a sell-out. However, when Jesus visited his house, Zacchaeus was changed. *"Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."* Jesus said to him, *"Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost"* (*Luke 19:8-10*).

Saul of Tarsus also had a life-changing encounter with Jesus. You can read about his conversion in *Acts 9*. As a Pharisee he was convinced that he should *"...do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them"* (*Acts 26:9-10*). After his encounter with Jesus, this Saul became the great Apostle Paul, who gave his life taking the gospel of Jesus Christ, Yeshua, to the world.

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

October 3 136th Annual Business Meeting
October 5 Parents' Night Out
October 19 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
October 20 Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
October 31 Halloween



October 8 is Columbus Day

"I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King." Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters" (*Isaiah 43:15-16*).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Where did the New Testament (NT) come from? How can we be sure we are reading the words of Christ and the apostles? In researching this topic, I found reams and reams of information evidencing God's preservation of the Scriptures throughout the centuries—take the following as a brief skimming of the highlights only:

The original NT was written in Greek in the second half of the 1st century by a small number of writers: Matthew, Peter/Mark, Paul/Luke, John, James, and Jude. Although the original manuscripts no longer exist, we have manuscripts and fragments dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries—only a few generations removed from the apostles. The earliest known NT text is the Rylands Papyrus, a fragment found in Egypt containing *John 18:31-33, 37*, written about 130 A.D. The oldest, most complete NTs are the Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus, which date from the 4th century. They were discovered in 1889 and 1844 (the Sinaiticus was found in a trashcan, about to be burned!)

Over 5,300 manuscripts or portions of the NT exist, 800 of which date before 1000 A.D. There are also 25,000 copies of these Greek manuscripts extant. Furthermore, we could also reconstruct all but 15 verses of the NT by using quotations from the early Church Fathers. The writings of Plato, in contrast, survived from antiquity with only seven known manuscripts, 13 centuries removed from the original! The overwhelming numbers of early manuscripts make it possible for scholars to confirm the NT text's authenticity from the beginnings of Christianity to today, proving the reliability and trustworthiness of the text found in our modern Bibles.

By 170-200 A.D., 23 of the 27 NT books were universally recognized as Scripture—*James* and Peter's two epistles were among those books that took a bit longer for all Christians to fully accept. The Councils of Hippo and Carthage in 393 and 397 A.D. affirmed the 27 books of the NT as canonical.

The Latin Vulgate, translated from the Greek by Jerome in 383-405 A.D., became Europe's standard Bible until the Vulgate was translated into English by John Wycliffe in 1382; *Genesis 1:1* of his work reads, "*In the bigynnyng God made of nouyt heuene and erthe (In the beginning God made of naught heaven and earth)*". In 1526, William Tyndale translated the Bible into English directly from the available Greek texts; 90% of his words are found in the King James Version of 1611. The 1762 revision of the KJV is the version most people would be familiar with today. Chapters and verses are a "recent" phenomenon and aren't original to the Scriptures. Chapter divisions began in 1227 with Stephen Langton, a professor at the University of Paris. Robert Stephanus, a Paris printer, included verses in 1551 and 1555.

Three different 20th century scholars have calculated that the versions of the Bible available today, based on better and more manuscripts than available when the earliest English Bibles were written, are 98.33, 99.75, and 99.9 percent faithful to the original words of the apostles. According to Sir Frederic Kenyon, an eminent Bible scholar, linguist, and archaeologist, "The Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in it the true word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries".

Member of the Month: Frank Fowler

- ★ Born June 18, 1944 in Smith County, Virginia
- ★ How long a BBC member: since March 2006
- ★ Church offices held: Groundsman on the Internal Administration Cmte., Usher, Choir
- ★ How he first came to BBC: invited by family members
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "The Old Rugged Cross"
- ★ Favorite Pew: 6th pew from the front, right side
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: *John 3:16*
- ★ Age at baptism: 62 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Dawsonville Mennonite Church
- ★ Personal claim to fame: he is "a hard worker who treats everyone fairly".
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: 1969 moon landing
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Oklahoma
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: the computer
- ★ Childhood heroes: characters from "Gunsmoke"
- ★ Hobbies: working around the house and fishing



October Birthdays

- 6 Michaela Driver
- 7 Iris Rodgers
- 8 Karian Mitchell
- 10 David Shive
- 11 Zoe Thomas
- 13 Peter Cole, Brooke Ahalt
- 17 Sierra Tothill
- 23 John Shreve
- 25 Judy Wright
- 30 Samantha Fowler



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in September:

- A motion to increase the VBS budget line item by \$500.00, to \$3000.00, was referred to the Education Committee.

Expected at the 136th Annual Business Meeting:

- A resolution to begin the annual budget process for 2008 will be offered; the standing committees will report to the Treasurer by Nov. 4.
- A motion will be made to nominate Pastor Joe & June Ivey, and Pastor Randy & Sandy Gilliam, as messengers to the BCM/D Annual Convention, being held Nov. 12-13 in Ocean City, MD.
- The Outreach Committee will move to send \$100 per month, effective Oct. 2007, to the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry of Chaplain Keith Rivers at the Frederick County Adult Detention Center.

Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Margie Stream
David Gilliam, in U.S. Army 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
Helen Hughes, Dot Fowler's sister
Jack Harrington
Noland Wilson
Lindsey Baumbaugh
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, Rose Grant, Betty Sica, Glen & Helen Magaha, Janice Shull, Pat Stabler
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



New cutting-edge methods of stewardship promotion.

News You Can Use

Pig Pickin' a great time for all. The Baptist Men sponsored their annual pig roast on Saturday, Sept. 22. Well over 100 people (we lost count!) attended and helped eat our 115 ½ lb. pound pig and 22 lb. round roast, cooked by Joe Yates and Larry Michael, plus fried chicken, bean soup, and all kinds of side dishes. In our apple dessert contest, nine people submitted 11 entries. The first-place winner was Dot Fowler, who baked a Macaroon Apple Pie. Second place was awarded to Sherri Marsh for her Caramel Apple Pecan Pie. Flora Gilliam's third-place entry was an apple pie. Thanks to judges Shayna Campbell, Sarah Marsh, Kyle Marsh, Sierra Tohill, Dawn Gonzales, Ronnie Johnston, Nick Cole, and TJ Marsh for evaluating each entry.



Montgomery Baptists to meet. The 72nd Montgomery Baptist Association Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2007, 9:30 am-12:30 pm at Upper Seneca Baptist Church in Cedar Grove. The guest preacher will be Rev. Jorge Fonseca, a BCM/D missionary for Hispanic Church Development. Barnesville will send five delegates to attend this important meeting.

Get ready for Operation Christmas Child. Again this year we have the privilege of sharing the love and hope of Jesus Christ with needy children around the world. This wonderful shoebox ministry has been a blessing to needy children and a blessing to those ladies who pack the boxes for the children. The WMU needs your donations early this year--no later than Nov. 4. Stayed tuned for additional details.

Supporting missions in Maryland/Delaware. The State Missions offering is a vital part of the on-going task of building God's Kingdom. This year's theme is "Embrace the Call". The convention-wide goal this year is \$250,000. BBC's 2007 goal is \$970. Please prayerfully consider how you can support state missions.

Chosen People missionary to speak. Ryan Karp, a missionary for Chosen People Ministries, will speak in the morning worship service on Oct. 28. Ryan grew up in suburban Maryland with a Jewish father and Gentile mother. Ryan's father accepted Christ when Ryan was eight years old. Ryan came to faith when he was ten. Ryan graduated from Philadelphia Biblical University with a B.S. in Bible and is currently attending Capital Bible Seminary in Lanham, MD. He is serving as a missionary with Chosen People Ministries and has a passion to reach Jewish people with the gospel.

Pastor Joe marks 50 years in the ministry. BBC celebrated Pastor Joe Ivey's 50th year of service in the ministry of the Gospel on Saturday, Sept. 22, in a special



Pastor Joe & June during the celebration service

service held after the Pig Pickin'. Pastor Randy led the service, introducing special presenters that included singers Bill Burdette, Bill Morrison, Barbara Swank, and Cris & Michaela Driver. Those speaking were Ralph Cooley, Paul Meissner, Jamie Thomas, Virginia Thomas, and MBA Director Ron Blankenship. Pastor Joe has shepherded congregations in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Maryland in the last 50 years, but we are so glad that he fills the pulpit here at Barnesville.

Discipleship training on Sept. 30. Lee Michael will be the second teacher in the third running of the fifth Sunday classes, which begin at 4:30 pm. The class is entitled, "The Trinity". A pizza dinner will follow the lesson at 6:00 pm. The third class of the series, with a new teacher and new topic, will be held in December.

SPC David Gilliam graduates. Congratulations to Specialist David Gilliam, who completed his U.S. Army basic training at Fort Leonard on Sept. 6. He is now stationed at Fort Huachuca in Arizona, where his training will continue. All of BBC is proud of you, David.



Committee heads to hold special meeting. The chairmen of the five standing committees will meet promptly after the morning worship on Sunday, Oct. 7 to briefly review the upcoming 2008 budget process. Any interested Church member is welcome to attend.

Directory update planned. Anyone with corrections or updates for their entry in the church directory should contact Lee Michael immediately. Supplements will be distributed in mid-October.

Book fair coming. From Oct. 24-28, BBC will have a wide assortment of Christian books and materials from Lifeway publishers available for everyone, kids through adults. Purchase a book for yourself or as a gift, donate a book to the library, or nominate a title for the church to purchase.