



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

"But the angel said unto them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord'" (Luke 2:11).

This was the marvelous announcement made by the angel to shepherds on that divine night. After two thousand years we continue to celebrate this special birth because, "God became flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14).

We invite you during this Christmas season to search the Scriptures and become familiar with prophecies this birth brought to fulfillment. Become familiar again with why Jesus, the Messiah, came. Learn to love Him all over again by reading about the good news of salvation through faith that is to be shared with the entire world. Find time this Christmas season to bow and thank God for His gift of eternal life through His Son. If you have any doubt in your heart about who Jesus is, we ask you to search the Scriptures because they testify of Him. Listen to some in Scripture who recognized the Savior:

Simeon: *"For my eyes have seen your salvation...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to Your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32).*

Peter: *"'But what about you?' He asked, 'Who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'The Christ of God'" (Luke 9:20).*

John the Baptist: *"...Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).*

Some Samaritans: *"...we know that this man really is the Savior of the World" (John 4:42).*

Martha: *"'Yes, Lord,' she told Him, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the son of God, who was to come into the world'" (John 11:27).*

Because you know the Savior, may this Christmas season bring you and yours God's joy and peace as you celebrate this most wonderful of all gifts.

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
December Birthdays, Page 3
Prayer Concerns, Page 3
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
COTCD Cartoon, Page 3
News You Can Use, Page 4
December 2007 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

December 2 Christmas Dinner at Cozy Restaurant
December 5 Business Meeting
December 14 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
December 15 Baptist Men's Meeting
December 16 Christmas Hymn-Sing, Parsonage Open House
December 24 Christmas Eve Service
December 25 Christmas: Church Office Closed
December 31 New Year's Eve



"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined" (Isaiah 9:2).



I realized something rather counterintuitive as I prepared this Christmas-themed column, something that made me stop and wonder--we were adopted by a Baby. It is not uncommon to hear about adults who adopt small infants, but Paul tells us that, *"...when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5)*. I have noticed over the years that God likes paradoxes. For example: *"He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:25)*; *"But many who are first will be last, and the last first" (Mark 10:31)*. Why God's truths are so simple and yet at the same time so profound I do not know, but, as Jesus said, *"...I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes..." (Matthew 11:25)*.

Jesus came in "the fullness of time"—in other words, with perfect timing; neither too early nor too late. Jesus was born at a time and place in history when and where the Gospel would have maximum exposure. Bethlehem was located at the intersection of three continents, and, at the dawn of the first century, A.D., was situated in the middle of a massive empire (stretching from Britain to Babylon) connected by Roman roads, governed by Roman laws, and unified by Greek culture and language. Christ was born into a world lost and confused by spiritual things. The Greeks and Romans were busy trying to appease a host of marble gods and goddesses, and all but a remnant of God's chosen people were trapped by a strangling set of rules and regulations for religious observance. Yet Christ came to call us to Himself.

When Jesus called the world to a saving knowledge of Himself during His earthly ministry, and called us today by name through the Holy Spirit, He offered us the opportunity to become children of His Father, instead of, *"aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace... Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:12-14, 19)*. The Prince of Peace brought peace on earth and God's favor to mankind by His very presence, bringing us in from the cold and grafting us into His family through faith (see *Romans 11:17-24*). As Paul explained, *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:26,29)*.

During Christmastime it is especially easy to say along with the hymn writer, "I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene...", a Baby who adopts, a Lord who came to serve, a Savior who died to give us life. Take time to stop and wonder at the paradoxes of God in this special season.

Member of the Month: Judy Wright

- ★ Born: January 25, 1944 in Olney, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since January 2006
- ★ Church offices held: Finance Committee member, Children's Church
- ★ How she first came to BBC: "I heard Pastor Joe preaching Mrs. Elsie Pyle's funeral and was touched by his kindness".
- ★ Favorite Hymns: "Amazing Grace", "How Great Thou Art"
- ★ Favorite Pew: any one, really
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Proverbs 3:5-6*
- ★ Age at baptism: 28 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Darnestown Presbyterian
- ★ Most famous person she's met: Billy Graham
- ★ Personal claim to fame: finding Jesus!
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: 1969 moon landing
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Alaska
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: computer
- ★ Childhood heroes: Roy Rogers and Dale Evans
- ★ Hobbies: her grandchildren



Merry Christmas and a Happy 2008 from the *Lantern* staff!

December Birthdays

- 2 Tina Yates-Williams
- 3 Sherri Crowe, Juanita Watson
- 11 Amy Williams
- 12 Gabby Marsh
- 14 Rachel Engle
- 15 Holly Cross
- 16 Teresa Tuttle
- 17 Mary Ann Luhn, Roy Leibrand
- 19 Lisa Cooley, Mary Mossburg,
Kyle Shreve
- 23 Samantha Cole
- 24 Ashlinn Cole
- 25 Grace Normoyle
- 28 Ralph Cooley, Tim Rice
- 29 Ollie Baumbaugh
- 31 Larry Michael



Prayer Concerns

Annie Cooley
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Pauline Fowler, recovering from surgery
Margie Stream
David Gilliam, in U.S. Army training
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother
Kenny Hurd, Dot Fowler's nephew
Will Noegel
Joseph Runkles
Rev. Jack & Margie Grant
Jim McKamey
Helen Hughes, Dot Fowler's sister
Troops in Iraq: Michael Hayes
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Tim MacCarthy, Raymond
Enright, Norman Bishop, Raymond Money, Rose Grant, Betty
Sica, Glen & Helen Magaha, Pat Stabler, Teresa Luhn, Nancy
Gallo, Gary Burdette's sister
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
November:*

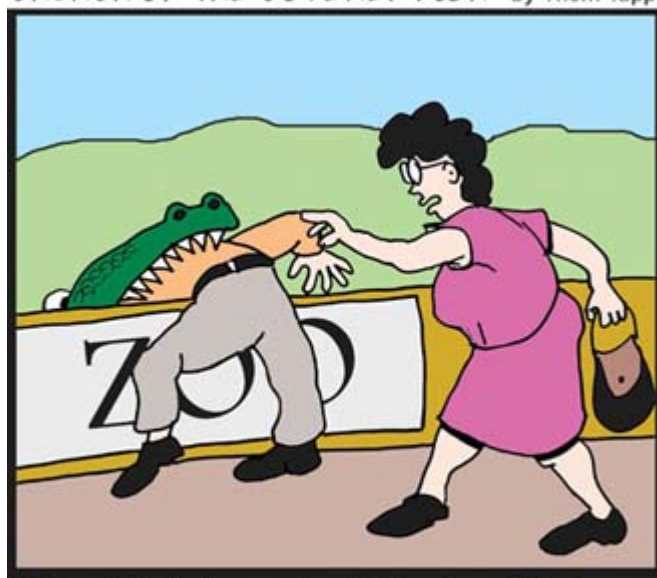
- An Outreach Committee motion to send \$100 per month, to the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry of Chaplain Keith Rivers at the Frederick County Adult Detention Center for the remainder of 2007 was approved.
- The Church voted to increase the 2007 benevolence budget by \$700 as requested by the Internal Administration Committee.
- The Outreach Committee's motion to hold a Church Christmas party at Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont, MD on Dec. 2 was adopted.
- The Worship Committee offered a bypass motion to purchase a projector system, which the Church accepted.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2008 Budget proposal.
- An Education Committee motion to increase the 2007 VBS budget line item by \$500.00 will be proposed.
- A motion from the Groundsmen to install three low-flow commodes in the church and parsonage will be made.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



**"For Pete's sake Eli... just let go
of the Chicken leg!"**



News You Can Use

Thanksgiving potluck a great time. The Baptist Men sponsored a turkey dinner on Saturday, Nov. 10. A large crowd came out to



Sherri Marsh and family

dine on four turkeys, two deep-fried, and two oven-baked, with all the trimmings. In the pumpkin/ pecan dessert contest, five people submitted entries. The first-place winner was Sherri Marsh, who baked a pumpkin layer cake that won her a "John Bunyan Story" DVD. Second

place was awarded to Flora Gilliam for her paradise pumpkin pie. Cris Driver's third-place entry was a pumpkin streusel. Thanks to Sarah Marsh, Lucy Tran, Nick Cole, and TJ Marsh for judging each entry. After the dinner and the contest, everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to Pastor Joe and Pastor Randy, both of whom celebrated a birthday during the week.



Pastors Joe & Randy sung to by BBC

WMU autumn activity report. The WMU has had a busy fall; \$880 were raised for state missions, the ladies assembled 14 Thanksgiving baskets with the generous donations made by church members, and BBC members donated 50 wrapped shoeboxes packed with Christmas presents for needy children around the world. The ladies of the WMU were blessed and humbled by your generosity. Thank you all for your willingness to share.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$1600. All of this money goes directly to support foreign missionaries around the world. For them, this Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is the lifeblood of various ministries to people with spiritual and physical needs. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions. Also, a Christmas card exchange will be set up at church—save postage and donate what you would have spent on stamps to Lottie Moon!

Open House at the Parsonage. After the Monthly Hymn-Sing on Dec. 16, when we will have a chance to sing everyone's favorite Christmas carols, Randy & Sandy Gilliam will have an open house at the Church parsonage. Everyone is invited to sing at 6:00 pm and enjoy refreshments afterward.

Revival services held. Pastor Danny Moore and his wife Cindy, from Towne Baptist Church in Joppa, MD, spent Nov. 25-28 with BBC. We truly enjoyed fellowshiping with them. Danny presented both encouragement and challenges to us as a church. Using the Scriptures and his own amazing testimony about God's power to change lives, Danny put forth these challenges: "Trust God to Do Mighty Works"; "The Work of the Church Begins and Ends in Prayer"; "God's Work to Reach Others Begins with Compassion in Our Hearts"; "Don't Be Afraid, Only Believe"; and "Sing a New Song – Celebrate God". On Tuesday night, the Upper Montgomery County VFD brought out their tanker truck to fill the baptistery, which will be used for a baptism service on Dec. 2. The BBC Choir, Cris Driver, Bill Morrison, Iris Rodgers, and the trio of Pastor Joe, Pastor Randy, and Sandy Gilliam provided special music during the week. We thank Pastor Danny for spending the week with us and for sharing messages from God's Word that will inspire us to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with our family, friends, and neighbors. Towne Baptist and BBC are sister churches in ministry and have covenanted to continue to pray for each other in the months and years ahead. God bless you, Danny and Cindy.



Cindy & Danny Moore

Christmas services planned. The Choir will present its cantata, "The Love of God at Christmas", to the Sunrise Center Service on Sunday, Dec. 9, and to the BBC congregation during worship on Dec. 23. The new bell choir will also present its second performance at the Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24.

Evangelism training grads. In October, Pastor Joe led a four-week Sunday School class on how to share one's faith. Those who attended and received certificates included Bud & Ollie Baumbaugh, Jo Blalock, Ralph & Nancy Cooley, Cris Driver, Pat Elam, Dot Fowler, Flora Gilliam, Lee Michael, and Virginia Magaha. The next running of the course is set for Jan. 2008. If you didn't attend the last class, be sure to participate in the next one to learn how to share the Gospel with others.

Special thank yous go out to Stape Shields for organizing the effort to reseal the baptistery and for joining our men in the work of getting the job done, and to Jerry Neal for replacing the cap on the parsonage chimney. Your efforts and thoughtful help are appreciated.