



# 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

*"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed; His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).*

As we enter this new year of 2008, keep two very important things in mind. First, God is a loving God and His care and kindness toward you are new every single day and His faithfulness never fails. Barbara Johnson, a Christian writer and popular speaker, said, "The glory of each morning is that it offers us a chance to begin again." Our great God allows us to stumble, perhaps even fall, but He is always ready to restore us and His very Spirit is available to help us more and more be conformed to the image of Christ (*Romans 8:29*).

Perhaps the Apostle Paul's prayer for the Christians at Colosse is a good one for all Christians as we enter a new year asking God, "...to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God...so that you may have endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father" (*Colossians 1:9-12*).

The second thing is this: there is no greater force for good in the world than the Christian church, united and sharing God's love with those in need and praying for God's will to be done on earth. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (*Matthew 5:14-16*).

No doubt there will be frightening headlines in the newspapers and stories of crises on the evening news. But Paul's admonition gives us a godly perspective, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (*Romans 12:21*).

God's richest blessings on you and yours this New Year!

God Bless,

Your Pastors

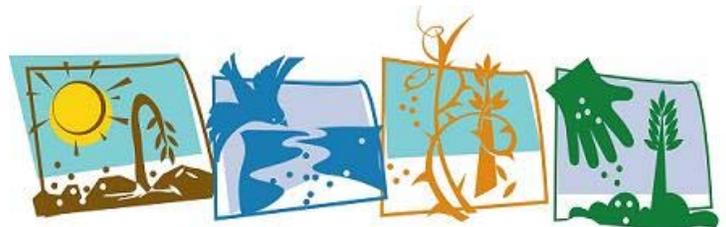


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## Upcoming Events

- January 1** New Year's Day
- January 2** Business Meeting
- January 11** Parents' Night Out
- January 18** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- January 19** Baptist Men's Meeting
- January 20** Baptist Men's Day: Breakfast & Service



*"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding" (Daniel 2:20-21).*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

It seems like I just wrote a year-in-review column for 2006, and now the year 2007 is almost history. Time flies when we are having fun and when we are serving our Lord (or is that the same thing?). Here are some of the more important Church news headlines from the past 12 months:

January: wind and snow for Baptist Men's Day, birth of James Thomas, death of Virginia Shreve

February: snowfall for Andrew Bennett's harp concert

March: a quiet news month, it seems

April: "He Is Alive!" cantata performed, good turnout for cleanup day, two baptisms held, Andrew Bennett returned with his harp

May: Baptist Men's chicken dinner followed by an impromptu homegrown talent concert

June: Baptist Men's fishing trip a good time

July: we held an "Game Day Central" VBS, David Gilliam joined the Army, two of our big oak trees were cut down

August: the Father-Child Banquet was held at Dutch's Daughter, *Dominion 4* was in concert

September: the Baptist Men's Pig Pickin', bell choir began, evangelism training course started

October: book fair held, Pastor Joe's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the ministry celebrated, Chosen People missionary Ryan Karp spoke

November: the Baptist Men's Thanksgiving Potluck held, Revival with Danny Moore, BBC received IMB award for Lottie Moon giving

December: four new members baptized, annual Christmas dinner held at Cozy Restaurant, the "Love of God at Christmas" cantata was performed, loss of Annie Cooley

God has truly blessed Barnesville Baptist in the past year, and has positioned us for great achievements for His Kingdom in the future. I am reminded of the description of the early Church in *Acts*: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Act 2:42). Barnesville is a praying, giving, mission-minded, warm and welcoming church with excellent preachers and teachers. Over the last year, we as a congregation have been led from the pulpit, and through our revival experience and evangelism training classes, to reach out into our community and further share the love of Christ with our friends, families, and neighbors.

This past month, I was driving up to Frederick with some Choir members for our Christmas cantata performance at the nursing home. In the course of the conversation, we in the car recounted how many people and extended families our church members had touched by simple acts of service and kindness, and how those occasions led to further openings to share the Gospel with those who didn't know Jesus. I believe this year God will present us with additional opportunities to be salt and light to a dark and dying world.

*"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works..." (Hebrews 10:24).*

## Member of the Month: Sherry Morrison

- ★ Born: November 16, 1945 in Bethesda, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since February 2006
- ★ Church offices held: Nursery Coordinator, Children's Church
- ★ How she first came to BBC: "I heard Pastor Joe preaching Mrs. Elsie Pyle's funeral".
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "At Calvary", "His Name Is Wonderful"
- ★ Favorite Pew: none
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *John 11:25-26* and *14:1-4*
- ★ Age at baptism: 16 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Darnestown Presbyterian
- ★ Most famous person she's met: Roy Rogers and Willard Scott
- ★ Personal claim to fame: being a child of the King
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: 1969 moon landing
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Florida
- ★ Story on first name: it's really Sharon, but she's called Sherry
- ★ Hobbies: her puppies Ranger and Toots



## January Birthdays

- 1 Jack Cooley
- 2 Manuel Batres, Ruth Bullock
- 4 Bob Lillard
- 5 Dave Thomas
- 8 Flora Gilliam, Scott Foster,  
Hanna Leibrand, Dan Yates
- 9 Pat Elam
- 10 Lois Hogue, Rebecca Thomas
- 11 Jesse Yates
- 15 Sara Oden
- 18 James Thomas
- 19 Nikki Holcomb
- 20 Julia Cole
- 21 Robert Fowler
- 22 Leslie Foster, Michele  
Normoyle
- 23 Isaac Madison
- 26 TJ Marsh, Stacey Tothill



## Prayer Concerns

the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
the family of Annie Cooley  
Margie Stream  
David Gilliam, in U.S. Army training  
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother  
Kenny Hurd, Dot Fowler's nephew  
Joseph Runkles  
Dave & Evelyn Fowler, Sandy Gilliam's father & stepmother  
Helen Hughes, Dot Fowler's sister  
Troops in Iraq: Michael Hayes, Jennifer Pernnel  
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Tim MacCarthy, Raymond Money,  
Rose Grant, Glen & Helen Magaha, Pat Stabler, Nancy Gallo, Jim  
Cole  
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  
December:*

- Consideration of the Finance Committee's 2008 Budget proposal was delayed until January due to inclement weather.
- An Education Committee motion to increase the 2007 VBS budget line item by \$500.00 was adopted.
- A motion from the Groundsmen to install four low-flow commodes in the church and parsonage was passed.
- The Church approved the membership applications of Martha Woods, Gabrielle Marsh, and Shayna Campbell as members by profession of faith, and Penny Barton as a member by statement.

*Expected at the January Business Meeting:*

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2008 Budget proposal.
- The Treasurer will submit his Annual Report on the 2007 fiscal year.
- The Pastor will appoint the Deacons to serve as the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2007 finances and report at the March Business Meeting.
- The Deacons will offer a motion to approve the membership application of Ronnie Johnston by profession of faith.

## COTCD Cartoon

**CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp



**"You're doing a good job as an usher,  
but its called an offering, not a sin tax."**

## News You Can Use

*December a busy, happy time for BBC.* Barnesville recently welcomed five people into our church family: On



Dec. 2, Martha Woods, Shayna Campbell, and Gabrielle Marsh were baptized by Pastors Joe & Randy. Penny Barton asked to join by statement. (Their membership applications were approved at the December business meeting). On Dec. 9, Pastor Randy baptized Ronnie Johnston upon his profession of faith. His membership will be voted on in January. We are so pleased to have so many people make decisions for the Lord!

*Men's and Women's groups celebrate Christmas.* The Baptist Men assembled 20 gift bags for the children of the Church at their December meeting and distributed them during the Dec. 23 morning worship service. The WMU also assembled 13 Christmas baskets for shut-ins. Consider joining the men's or women's group this coming year. The WMU gathers on the second Monday evening of each month, and the Baptist Men normally meet on the third Saturday morning of the month for breakfast.

*"The Love of God at Christmas" Cantata performed.*

Thanks to Paul Foster and the Adult Choir for their excellent musical presentation on Dec. 23. The cantata celebrates the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came to us, not to conquer, enslave, or dominate, but to give all of us His love. Scott Foster and Randy & Sandy Gilliam sang solos, while Lee Michael narrated. The Choir also performed the cantata at the Sunrise Center Service on Dec. 9. Both audiences appreciated the music. If you like to sing, please consider joining the choir and making a joyful noise unto the Lord on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.



*Lancaster, PA trip outstanding.* About 46 BBC members and friends made a coach trip to see "The Miracle of Christmas" at the Millennium Theater in Lancaster, PA, on Dec. 6. The trip, the program, and the food were all excellent! Watch the *Lantern* for a similar event to be scheduled in the future.

*Lottie Moon giving continues into January.* Offerings toward BBC's \$1600 goal are ongoing as of press time. The SBC has recently reported that as a result of fellow Baptists uniting in prayer and giving, 5,148 SBC-supported missionaries used our gifts to start 23,486 new churches, conduct 475,072 baptisms, and disciple 590,890 new believers. Supporting a missionary for one year costs 8 cents a minute, or over \$40,000 a year. Won't you prayerfully consider how you can contribute to building God's Kingdom?

*Annie Cooley, 1914-2007.* Our oldest living member, sister



Annie Cooley, passed away on Dec. 15 at the age of 93. Annie was a long-time member of our congregation, joining in 1954. She served her Church and her Lord as a Sunday School teacher, and also prepared communion and sang in the choir. Annie received perfect

attendance awards in Sunday School for 32 years. We mourn Annie's death with her son Ralph and daughter Barbara, all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and pray that the Lord will give the Cooley and Swank families comfort and strength in the days and weeks ahead.

*Call for submissions.* As the *Lantern* begins its seventh calendar year, the Editor would like to remind the readership that we accept original poems, song lyrics and other appropriate materials for publication. Please contact the Editor with questions and for more specific guidelines.

*Birthday updates requested.* The *Lantern* enjoys sharing members' and friends' birthdays with the church family. Please help us keep our records current by contacting the church office with any names and dates we may lack, especially if you started attending within the last year.

*Snow policy.* As we enter the winter months, we would like to let all our members and visitors know that the Church will be open on Sunday mornings as Pastor Randy is only a sidewalk away, and will hold services for anyone who can walk or safely travel during inclement weather. A BBC local weather/road condition message will be posted on the answering machine. We urge everyone to exercise caution and good judgment in deciding whether or not it is safe for your family to travel on a given Sunday. We ask that Sunday School teachers or other leaders call in their absence to the church office at their earliest convenience.

*Baptist Men's Day scheduled.* If the snow doesn't stop us as in previous years, the Baptist Men will cook breakfast for the church on Jan. 20. Join the men at 8:30 am for a breakfast buffet of pancakes, eggs, and other good food, and then get ready for the annual singing performance of the *MOB: Men of Barnesville* choir. The men of the church will lead the morning service.