



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

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen" (II Corinthians 13:14).

This very familiar passage is a pronouncement of Paul's desire that those receiving this letter experience divine blessings from God. Imagine the personal or corporate joy that comes from experiencing God's special unmerited favor and His unconditional love and the warmth of communing with the Holy Spirit! Such a pronounced blessing is called a benediction, a brief statement that is intended to bring joy and hope and comfort and assurance to all who hear it or read it.

There are a number of other wonderful benedictions in the Scripture. They are uplifting because God is able to accomplish those things spoken as desired blessings. May all of you be encouraged by these benedictions:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).

"Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21).

"Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love" (II John 3).

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

February 6 Business Meeting
February 15 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
February 16 Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
Valentine's Day Dinner, 5:00 pm
February 18 Presidents' Day



"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit" (John 15:1-2).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

One of the most heart-stopping stories in the Bible must be found in *Genesis 22*, which my Sunday School class recently read. This 19-verse-long account, which details God's command for Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, is a breathtaking read from start to finish. In these verses, both Abraham and Isaac display extreme faith, putting total trust in their God. I can't imagine the fear, doubt, and confusion God's strange request brought to Abraham and Isaac. Think of Abraham, well over 100 years old at the time, being asked to give up the son of promise for whom he and his wife spent decades waiting and praying to God. Oh how Abraham rejoiced to finally hear God's words that, "...*Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him*" (*Genesis 17:19*). How could God keep his promise to give Abraham descendants like the sand of the seashore or the stars of the sky if He required Isaac's life? Surely Abraham took each step toward Moriah with a heavy heart and a troubled soul.

Isaac himself was no little boy—he was old enough to take the wood for the burnt offering up the mountain on his back (verse 6). No doubt, Isaac was strong and fast enough to escape his elderly father if he so wanted. I assume that not too long after Isaac wondered where the sacrifice was in verse 7 that he put two and two together. However, Isaac obeyed his father and his God, and we do not read of any resistance on his part when he was placed on the altar in verse 9.

Yet Abraham, in spite of all he didn't understand about what God had asked him to do, knew that God was One who kept His promises, made the impossible possible, and made a way where there was none. Abraham had nothing left but his faith, which he relied on to say in *verse 5*, "...*the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you*"—both of them, both Abraham and Isaac. Abraham believed that even if Isaac's life were required that day, God would still fulfill his covenant promises. As we read in the New Testament, "*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense*" (*Hebrews 11:17-19*).

We all know the end of the story, how God stopped Abraham in mid-plunge, telling Abraham, "*because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you...because you have obeyed My voice*" (*vv. 16-19*). Not only did God spare Isaac's life, but he provided a substitute sacrifice, foreshadowing God's provision of His only Son as a sacrifice to serve as our substitute for sin on the cross.

When James wrote about faith-empowered works, he used Abraham as an example: "*Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar*" (*2:21*)? When we act and follow God's will for our lives, even when our circumstances make no sense, we follow in the steps of men like Abraham who trusted in God in spite of everything, and were blessed for acting out their faith through trial.

Member of the Month: Eddie Fowler

- ★ Born: May 15, 1947 in Poolesville, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since August 2006
- ★ Church offices held: Groundsman, choir member, bell choir member, Baptist Men member
- ★ How he first came to BBC: visited for a baptism
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "Just a Little Talk with Jesus", "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"
- ★ Age at baptism: 59 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Dawsonville Mennonite Church
- ★ Most famous person he's met: Conway Twitty
- ★ Personal claim to fame: raising a family with Pauline and accepting Jesus as his Savior
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: 1969 moon landing
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Nashville, TN
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: cell phones and computers
- ★ Hobbies: bowling



February Birthdays

- 3 Gary Cooley, Cynthia Westland
- 5 Kase Watson
- 7 Michelle Vasko, Charles Watson
- 8 Jeddie DeFries
- 9 Trudy Meissner
- 10 Carole Shreve
- 12 Luke Fedders
- 13 Bill Pleasants
- 20 Janet Magruder
- 21 David Gilliam
- 22 Joshua Holcomb
- 25 Paiten Cole
- 26 Joe Williams



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in January:

- The Treasurer submitted his Annual Report on the 2007 fiscal year.
- The Pastor appointed the Deacons to serve on the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2007 finances and report at the March Business Meeting.
- The Church adopted the Finance Committee's motion to approve its 2008 Budget proposal.
- The membership application of Ronnie Johnston by profession of faith was approved.

Expected at the February Business Meeting:

- The Outreach Committee will make a motion to rename the Women's Ministry as the Family Ministry, and adjust its budget line item description accordingly.
- The Deacons will request an additional \$5400 in benevolence spending.

Prayer Concerns

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

Joseph Runkles

Dave & Evelyn Fowler, Sandy Gilliam's father & stepmother

Helen Hughes, Dot Fowler's sister

Pastor Danny Moore & Towne Baptist Church

Brenda Bondar, injured in a car accident

Rev. Jeddie DeFries

Junior Collins, Janice Cole & Sherri Marsh's uncle

Troops in Iraq: Michael Hayes

Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Raymond Money, Rose Grant,

Helen Magaha, Pat Stabler, Jim Cole, Connie Ewin, Nancy Gallo

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



"But Please, Lord, don't let it be ME!"

News You Can Use

Baptist Men's Day report. Snow was already on the ground and the temperature was below freezing, but the Baptist Men's Day breakfast and worship hour were



The MOB in concert

held without incident on Jan. 21. The Baptist Men cooked a hearty breakfast of eggs, pancakes, hash browns, biscuits and sausage gravy, bacon, and other good food for a large crowd at 8:30 am. Later in the morning, fifteen men gave the annual performance of the MOB: Men of Barnesville choir. The choir specials were "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love", and "Victory in Jesus", which were well received by the congregation. During the service, Larry Michael read the announcements, David Bennett offered prayer, Ralph Cooley and Eddie & Frank Fowler collected the offering, Lee Michael gave the Mission Moment, and Joe Yates told the children's story. For the message time, Ann Bennett, Nancy Cooley, Jane Fowler, Pauline Fowler, and Mary Yates spoke about their husbands, followed with remarks by Pastor Joe. The service was closed with Gary Cooley singing, "Shine on Us", and Paul Meissner giving the benediction.

Valentine's Day Dinner. Barnesville Baptist will celebrate Valentine's Day with a dinner for the entire church family on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 5:00 pm. The acapella quartet *Dominion 4* will provide a flair of music and romance to the evening. BBC will provide fried chicken and drinks. Please bring a dish to share for dinner, and a red dessert.

February is a great month for reading. When it's cold and gray outside, curl up with some of the titles you will find as you browse the BBC library: "A Savvy Christian's Guide to Life", by Tracey Lawrence (A handbook on being street smart and pure of heart. This is a source of practical help in biblically responding to life's dilemmas); "Praying God's Word", by Beth Moore (Beth shares ways to incorporate Scripture in your daily prayer life to "tear down strongholds" with the knowledge of God); "Facing Your Giants", by Max Lucado (The seemingly insurmountable obstacles and giants in your life crumble when your focus is on God).

WMU meeting change. The WMU has decided to change its meeting time to 10:30 am to better accommodate its members' schedules. The WMU will still continue to meet on the 2nd Monday of every month. This month's meeting will take place on Feb. 11 at the home of Flora Gilliam.

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.

James Alexander Cole was born to Julia & Steve Cole on Jan. 22 in Towson, Maryland. He weighs 8 lbs., 9 oz. and is 21 inches long. Mother and son are at home and doing well. Larry & Anna Michael are the proud grandparents, and Ethan Cole is James' newly-minted big brother.

NASCAR comes to Barnesville. BBC member Kitty Cooley was pleasantly surprised on Jan. 22 by a knock on the door from NASCAR driver Jeff Burton. Kitty received the keys to her very own Chevrolet Monte Carlo racecar, as she had won the Prilosec OTC Victory of a Lifetime national sweepstakes. *The Gazette* covered the story in its Jan. 23 edition. Congrats, Kitty!

Lottie Moon offering goal exceeded. As of press time, \$2156.41 have been raised—more than \$550 over our goal for the Lottie Moon offering this year of \$1600. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this offering for international missions and helped BBC exceed our goal once again. This same spirit of giving allowed BBC to send 215% of its annual goal of \$10,000 to the Cooperative Program in 2007.

Family Film Night returns. The first Family Film Night of 2008 will be held on Friday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 pm. The showing will be in the Fellowship Hall downstairs so popcorn and soft drinks will be available. Come out for a good time of Christian family entertainment.