



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

Pastors often hear this statement: "I don't have to go to church to worship God", or, "I don't have to belong to a church to be a Christian. I can worship God in my heart". This is true and not easy to refute, to a point. The Bible is clear that Jesus is the only way and no one comes to the Father except through Him (*John 14:6*). But let us be reminded that the Church is valuable because it was purchased with Christ's own blood. We are His possession, we belong to Him (*I Corinthians 6:19-20*).

So what is the value of the church? Is participation a prerequisite for growth as a Christian? Is it a mandatory part of maturity? In *Hebrews 10:23-25* we read, "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." In this passage, the Apostle Paul is telling us how important it is that a church family spend time together worshipping, praying, praising, and serving God. We are also to grab tight onto our faith and never back down. We are not to become spiritual schizophrenics—acting one way on Sundays and another the rest of the week. We as the Church are also to stir up love and good works.

When you build a fire with just one log, it only gives out a little heat and light, and soon burns out. But when you set fire to a large pile of logs supplied by a good air supply, the light and heat of its flames will shine forth for all to see and warm themselves. The Church needs to share our sparks of faithfulness, kindness, love, and encouragement (fanned into flame by the Holy Spirit) with those who are showing signs of drifting away from Christ's most valuable possession, His Church.

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
April Birthdays, Page 3
Prayer Concerns, Page 3
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
COTCD Cartoon, Page 3
News You Can Use, Page 4
April 2008 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

April 2 Business Meeting
April 18 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
April 19 Baptist Men's Meeting; Church Clean-Up Day
April 20 Dan Keeton Quartet Concert, 6:00 pm



"For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations" (Isaiah 61:11).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

This month, I thought I would take a crack at some of those “big life questions” people always talk about—Who are we? Why are we here? It turns out (surprise!) that the Bible has some great answers for us.

Who are we? The Bible teaches us that we are the creation of God, the Author of all life and existence on this planet and in this universe. Throughout the scriptures, we learn of our origin. In the Old Testament, we are told, *“Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him” (Isaiah 43:7)*. Also in the New, we hear, *“...All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16)*, and, *“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created” (Revelation 4:11)*. God did not have to make us, He made us because He wanted to, for His own purposes, one of them being His glory—and it is so easy for us to appreciate His goodness, love, and majesty.

Why are we here? God’s Word has even more answers to provide on this topic. I noticed that only sometimes in the Bible are we told why we are here in descriptive terms (you are here because). More often than not, our purpose is expressed in imperative form (thou shalt).

God told His chosen people that He had a specific plan and goal for them: *“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)*? Jesus repeated these verses to His disciples, lifting them up as the highest and greatest commandments, those that fulfill and complete all the Law: *“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind’” (Matthew 22:37)*. For Christians, those who accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, the Apostle Paul teaches us that, *“...it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13)*.

Every aspect of our lives—our thoughts, words, and deeds, even our hopes and dreams, are to be in accordance with His perfect will. This is a challenging thought for many. We are often told that we are independent and free to chart our own course and find our own meaning in life. This is true and good in many cases, at least in a political and civil context, but this mindset needs to be set aside when it comes to knowing our ultimate purpose in life, especially for those who call upon the name of the Lord. When Jesus is truly Lord, we are to put away our former selves and former way of life. Instead, we are commanded to, *“...be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and ... put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:23-24)*. The old nature, beset by sin, is cast off when Jesus saves us. He gives a new identity, and renewed meaning and purpose. As the Preacher said, our origin and purpose is to, *“...Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)*.

Member of the Month: Paul Foster

- ★ Born May 28, 1951 in Cleveland, Ohio
- ★ How long a BBC member: since January 2002
- ★ Church offices held: Choir Director, Worship Cmte. member
- ★ How he first came to BBC: “I was invited by the then-choir director, Emily Thorne, to help and sing with the choir”.
- ★ Favorite Hymn: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Hebrews 13:5-6, Psalm 143:8, John 3:16*
- ★ Age at baptism: 36 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Bay Village United Methodist Church, Bay Village, Ohio
- ★ Most famous person he’s met: Brooks Robinson
- ★ Personal claim to fame: “Being married for over 30 years to the most wonderful woman in the world”.
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: 1969 moon landing
- ★ Farthest place he’s been from Barnesville: Israel
- ★ Story on first name: named after his father
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: the computer
- ★ Childhood hero: Davy Crockett
- ★ Hobbies: singing, bird watching, running



April Birthdays

- 1 Jo Blalock
- 2 Rebecca Umstead
- 4 Ralph Wright
- 5 Hannah Madison
- 13 Katie Holcomb
- 14 Luke Watson
- 15 Dot Fowler
- 24 Mark Williams
- 29 Zachary Fedders



Prayer Concerns

the family of Dave Fowler
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Margie Stream
Spc. David Gilliam
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother
Kenny Hurd, Dot Fowler's nephew
Joseph Runkles
Evelyn Fowler, Sandy Gilliam's stepmother
Helen Hughes, Dot Fowler's sister
Pastor Danny Moore & Towne Baptist Church
Junior Collins, Janice Cole & Sherri Marsh's uncle
Shirley Streilein, Bud Baumbaugh's sister
Kathy McKamey, back problems
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Raymond Money, Rose Grant, Helen Magaha, 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).*

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in February:

- The Select Committee on Auditing's report on the 2007 finances was accepted by the Church.
- The Church approved the Internal Administration Committee's recommendation to replace the furnace and air handlers.

Expected at the April Business Meeting:

- The Deacons will offer motions to approve the membership applications of Rose Furr, Holly Anne Noegel, and Justin Tothill, each by profession of faith pending baptism on Apr. 6.

Church Clean-Up Day Announcement



On Apr. 19 at 9:00 am, join the Groundsmen, the Baptist Men, and the rest of your Church family to clean up the church building and grounds. Contact Head Groundsman Ralph Cooley for more information on jobs and tools needed—some touch-up painting is on the list of chores. Lunch will be provided for workers at noon.

News You Can Use

Four baptisms set for Apr. 6. BBC will celebrate both the ordinance of communion and baptism on the first Sunday of April, with four candidates. Rose Furr, Holly Anne Noegel, and Justin Tothill each recently accepted Jesus as their Savior; their membership applications will be voted on at the April business meeting. Pat Elam will be rebaptized at her request. We are so pleased to have so many people make decisions for the Lord and join our church family!

Discipleship training on Mar. 30. Lee Michael will be the teacher for this third class of the third running of the fifth Sunday classes, which begins at 4:30 pm. This session will provide an introduction to three New Testament books: *John, Romans, and Galatians*. A pizza dinner will follow the lesson at 6:00 pm. The fourth and final class of the series will be held in June.

Dave Fowler, 1914-2008. BBC extends its sympathies to the Gilliam family in the loss of Sandy's father, Dave Fowler, who died at the age of 93 on Saturday, Mar. 22. Services were held in his hometown of Wellsburg, West Virginia. We certainly enjoyed having Dave attend our services and fellowships over the last several months, and pray that the Lord will give the Gilliam and



Fowler families comfort and strength in the days and weeks ahead.

Second Family Ministry seminar planned. If you enjoyed the parent/teen communication seminar held in March, stayed tuned for details on a seminar themed, "Discovering God's Way of Handling Money". This session, tentatively scheduled for mid-April, will feature Ronald Frere as the speaker. For questions or to sign up to attend, contact Joyce Dunn. Future seminar topics include parenting and self-esteem.

Dan Keeton Quartet in concert Apr. 20. If you enjoy Southern Gospel music, you will certainly want to attend a concert on Sunday, Apr. 20 at 6:00 pm, which will feature 24-year gospel music veteran Dan Keeton's newly-formed group from Ashland, Kentucky. They will be a blessing to those at BBC, both in song and in their testimonies.

Two guest speakers to come this month. During our Wednesday night Bible Study time on Apr. 9, BBC will host Rev. Randy Luffman from the Rankin Baptist Association in Mississippi, which is our long-term associational missions partner. Our own Joe Yates will speak to us on Sunday the 13th as a representative of the Gideons. Both speakers are sure to bring messages of interest from their respective organizations and partners in Kingdom work.

Easter activity report. As of press time, Barnesville's plan to contribute \$1450 toward its 2008 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal was reached and surpassed--\$1605 were collected to support the missionaries of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) who spread the good news of the gospel to people across the United States and Canada. Many of our state convention and local association leaders receive support through the NAMB, so this offering truly makes a difference in our local communities. In addition, the WMU much appreciated the contributions that helped them fill 10 Easter baskets for area shut-ins. Thank you for your prayerful generosity as you supported God's Kingdom in these many ways this Easter season.

Directory update coming soon. Attention all members: the next update to the church directory will be distributed in mid-April. Anyone with changes to their contact information or regular attendees who would like to have their picture and information included for the first time should contact Lee Michael immediately. After April, the next scheduled directory update is planned for October—don't delay!

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"You need to cut down on stress. I suggest you quit preaching and join the bomb squad."