



# 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 because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:4-5).*

There are three wonderful truths about God shared by all orthodox Christian believers: God has a great love for people (*John 3:16*); God has shown us mercy (*Luke 6:36*); and God has freed us from the power and penalty of sin by the atoning work of Jesus Christ (*Romans 6:23*). The worldwide Christian community may not all agree on every single point of doctrine, but on these three truths we can all agree. God powerfully uses the witness and testimony of Christians of diverse persuasions by the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news of the gospel to all people.

As members of the Christian community we should be careful not to disparage or put down those whose practices of worship, music, and ministry are different from those with which we are comfortable. Even the disciples of Jesus had a bit of a pride problem with this issue. In *Mark 9:38* they told Jesus that, "... We saw a man driving out demons in Your name and we told him to stop, because he was not of us". Jesus' response was, "Do not stop them...for whoever is not against us is for us" (*Mark 9:39-40*).

Perhaps the disciples wanted to protect their perceived special place in Jesus' ministry. Jesus reminded them that in the battle with evil in the world even the smallest act of kindness is an important service to God. When someone receives the good news of the gospel, repents, and accepts Christ's work on the cross, that person is released from the power of evil—that is, "...the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient" (*Ephesians 2:2*). That the gospel is shared is immeasurably more important than who shared it or how. When you can, pray for your local church, but also pray for Christians around the world who may look and act and speak differently than we do but are active in the great ministry of sharing the love of Christ and bearing witness to God's great plan of redemption.

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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## Upcoming Events

- May 7** Business Meeting
- May 11** Mother's Day
- May 16** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- May 17** Baptist Men's Chicken Dinner
- May 26** Memorial Day, Church Office closed



May 1 is the National Day of Prayer

*"...If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14).*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

I am certain that all Christians reading this column have been questioned and even challenged about their faith. Do you really believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Do you really believe in all those miracles? Do you really believe the creation story in *Genesis*? Christianity is not just a belief system concerned with the hereafter; it is a faith that intersects with reality—what we believe is based on actual, literal, and historical truths. The Apostle Peter instructed the first-century church to, "...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you..." (1 Peter 3:15). From the Greek word for "defense" in that verse we get the term apologetics—the discipline of being able to defend (and promote) Christian beliefs. All Christians should be able to explain why they believe what they believe. It is not just a job for pastors or Sunday School teachers.

Apologetics requires a sound foundation in the Scriptures, a strong knowledge of basic doctrines, and a healthy dose of love and respect for those you are trying to reach. There are so many competing belief systems and misuses and misunderstandings of God's Word out there that we must be able to confidently proclaim His truths on a daily basis.

Just this past Monday, a very timely example of the need to defend sound doctrine occurred. Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Senator Obama's controversial pastor, was asked during a press conference if he believed what Jesus said in *John 14:6*. That verse reads, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'". Rev. Wright's answer was rather unfortunate. He responded that Jesus also said, "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold..." (*John 10:16*), with the strong implication in his answer that you do not have to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord to receive salvation.

How would you respond to Rev. Wright's answer? Is he correct? After all, he did quote a Bible verse. Is Jesus really the only possible way to salvation?

Let's look at *John 10:16* again. This time, here's the entire verse, not the partial quote Rev. Wright gave: "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd." It is quite clear that the full verse says something very different from the partial quote Rev. Wright provided. The full verse clearly shows that the "other sheep" are to be brought into the same herd and under the leadership of the same Shepherd. A good principle of apologetics to know is that Scripture must be interpreted in the light and context of other Scriptures. In case there was any doubt that Jesus does not have separate herds with separate means to the Father, consider verses like *Acts 4:12*, which reads, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved".

I have heard that Secret Service agents are trained to detect counterfeit bills not by studying fake money, but by handling real money so much and becoming so familiar with it that any counterfeit bills are easily found out. Christians must have that same level of familiarity with God's Word and its truths, so that we can readily defend the truth to anyone who asks.

## Member of the Month: Jan Burdette

- ★ Born June 11, 1963 in Frederick, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since May 1974
- ★ Church offices held: Church and Youth Choir Pianist, Finance, Worship, Nominating, and Pastor Search Committees member, Treasurer, Teller
- ★ How she first came to BBC: As a small child, with her parents
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "Blessed Assurance"
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalms 138:8*
- ★ Age at baptism: 10 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Barnesville Baptist Church
- ★ Personal claim to fame: "Having been blessed three times over with Bob and Margery Lillard as wonderful parents and friends, and Gary Burdette as a patient and generous husband."
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: 9/11
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Seattle, WA
- ★ Story on first name: "My parents were looking for a name that matched my father's initials (JRL). About that time, they read an article about astronaut named Cooper. The article mentioned his daughter, named Janita."
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: Cyberknife – computer mapped and guided radiation
- ★ Hobbies: Decorative painting, collecting vintage clothing and accessories, craft shows



## May Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Ennis, Frankie Fowler
- 2 Frank Fowler Jr., Heather Cross,  
Eli Watson
- 12 Nathaniel Madison
- 13 Bud Baumbaugh, Joseph Ball
- 15 Jim Cole, Eddie Fowler
- 17 Leroy Watkins
- 18 Sandy Watkins
- 22 Vicki Crowe
- 24 Nicholas Cole, Wade Williams
- 25 Elsie Allnut
- 28 Paul Foster
- 29 Quipsa Mayorga
- 30 Sandy Gilliam



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in March:*

- The Church approved the membership applications of Rosie Furr, Hollyanne Noegel, and Justin Tohill, each by profession of faith. All three were baptized on Apr. 6.

*Expected at the May Business Meeting:*

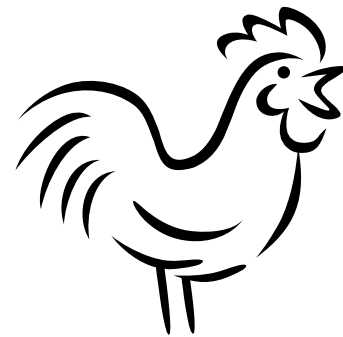
- The Deacons will offer motions to approve the membership applications of both Sam Furr and Laura Luhn by profession of faith, as they were baptized on Apr. 6.
- The Deacons will offer motions to approve the membership applications of Junior and Arlene Luhn, both by statement.

## Prayer Concerns

the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Margie Stream  
Spc. David Gilliam, deploying to Baghdad in mid-May  
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother  
Paul and Trudy Meissner  
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  
Billy Moore, Rev. Danny Moore's son  
Rev. Jeddie DeFries  
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, Joyce Williams, friend of the Luhn family  
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala); Steve & Emily Ruffner (Campus Crusade)  
Our nation and its leaders  
All of our military men and women

## Chicken Dinner Announcement

*The Baptist Men invite the Church family to a  
Chicken Dinner*



*Saturday, May 17 in the Fellowship Hall  
Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm  
Bring a side dish to share*

*Enter a strawberry-based dessert (pie, cake, ice cream,  
tarts, etc.) into the Strawberry Dessert Contest!*



*"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).*



## News You Can Use

*Six baptisms occurred on Apr. 6.* The baptismal waters were stirred six times on the first Sunday of April. In addition to Rosie Furr, Hollyanne Noegel, Justin Tothill, and Pat Elam, who were mentioned in the April *Lantern*, Sam Furr and Laura Luhn were also baptized on the same day. Sam and Laura's membership applications will be voted on at the May business meeting. We are so pleased to have so



*From left to right: Justin Tothill, Laura Luhn, Hollyanne Noegel, Rosie Furr, Sam Furr, Pastor Joe, and Pat Elam before the baptism*

many people make decisions for the Lord and join our church family!

*Dan Keeton Quartet performed Apr. 20.* Those in attendance certainly enjoyed the musical stylings and powerful testimonies of Southern Gospel singer Dan Keeton and his quartet on Sunday, Apr. 20 during the Hymn Sing hour. After a 90-minute performance, a goodwill offering was taken for this Kentucky-based singing group.

*Our own Kitty Cooley* is taking part in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life on Jun. 7th and 8th at Poolesville High School. If you would like to assist her in raising money to fight cancer, please make a donation of any amount. Please make checks payable to the American Cancer Society and put "Kitty Cooley" in the memo section. You can mail donations to her at 22331 Old Hundred Rd., Barnesville, MD 20838. Donations are tax deductible. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Kitty at 301-349-5119 or visit their website at [www.poolesvillereley.org](http://www.poolesvillereley.org).

*WMU collecting health kit supplies.* Please join the WMU and the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware in their outreach ministry to migrant workers, prison inmates, homeless people, and seamen. The WMU is preparing health kits that consist of a new, large bath towel and washcloth, an adult toothbrush, a large comb (not a rattail comb), full-sized shampoo bottle and bar of soap, and deodorant. If you would like to contribute items for the health kits, please bring them to church no later than Sunday, May 11.

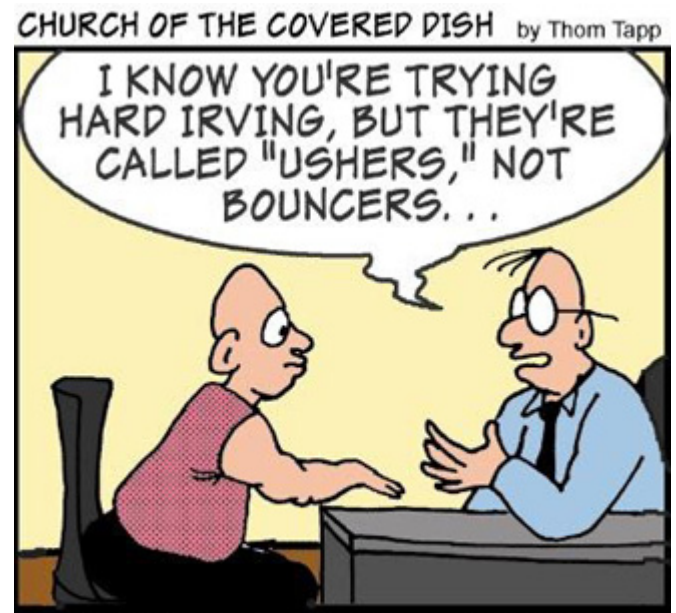
*Blood drive for local pastor.* The pastor of Araby Methodist in Urbana, Charlotte Mayne, is in need of blood donations. A blood drive will be held for her at the Urbana V.F.D. on May 22 from 2:00 to 8:00 pm. If interested, you can register by calling 1-800-GIVE BLOOD. This is a good way to show Christian love to a fellow believer.

*Vacation Bible School coming soon!* The theme for this year's VBS is "Outrigger Island", which will be held Jul. 28-Aug. 1 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Please see Pastor Randy or Mary Yates if you would like to participate by serving in a classroom, or in music, crafts, recreation, or snack. VBS is arguably our church's most important outreach activity of the year; please join us in serving the Lord.

*Workday leaves a streak-free shine.* Thanks so much to the Baptist Men and other BBC members who helped clean up the church grounds and interior on Apr. 21: the Fowler families, Ralph & Nancy Cooley, Larry and Lee Michael, Joe & June Ivey, and Randy & Sandy Gilliam. Due to everyone's cooperation, we now have a church with windows washed inside and out, the lawn raked free of leaves and branches, and flowerbeds and playground weed-free. Thanks also to Joe Yates and Wade Williams for spreading needed fill dirt in the parsonage yard earlier in the week.

*Library news.* The DVD and book from the most recent Family Ministry seminar on "Discovering God's Way of Handling Money" are available to be borrowed from the church library. These resources teach Biblical guidelines for giving, borrowing, saving, working, investing, handling debt, and financial honesty. Also, for those who have borrowed materials, please do return them after you have finished using them in a timely manner. Finally, those interested in a cassette of a recent sermon will find them in the library and/or can request a personal copy to be made for them.

## COTCD Cartoon



**Another good reason to have new member training.**