



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

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

A wonderful truth for Christians to embrace is that everything good in our lives originates with God because God is good. Even things that sometimes don't appear good at the time may be gifts out of which God will create a good thing, a good situation, or good training for our spiritual maturing. And, because God is unchanging, we can always expect good from Him.

You have probably heard it said by Christians that, "It is impossible to out give God"! Sometimes God's goodness overflows toward His people to the extent that we just can't receive it all. These blessings are sometimes material, sometimes relational, sometimes spiritual, and sometimes almost like a special 'hug' from God just to let us know He loves us.

BBC has been blessed with good things during VBS week: Towne Baptist Church loaned us a beautiful mural (about 8' x 40') to decorate the sanctuary, committed teachers and helpers volunteered for all age level classes, a terrific craft team worked with all the children, the food and snack team took very good care of everyone during the week, God blessed us with safety for all the children and wonderful weather throughout the week, God blessed us with the privilege of sharing His good news with many children and young people, and God gave us a spirit of love and unity of purpose throughout the week.

At BBC we sing a doxology of praise every week to God in response to His goodness. As your spiritual eyes allow you to see God's goodness working in your life, breathe this hymn of praise and gratitude to a loving Heavenly Father: *"Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below, Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen"*.

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
- August Birthdays, Page 3
- Prayer Concerns, Page 3
- Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
- VBS 2009 Sneak Peek, Page 3
- News You Can Use, Page 4
- COTCD Cartoon, Page 4
- August 2008 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

- August 6** Business Meeting
- August 16** Baptist Men's Meeting
- August 17** Baptist Men's Father-Child Banquet



"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (John 14:6).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Greetings from Australia. As many of you know, my job has taken me to the land down under for six weeks, so this *Lantern* would not be possible without the internet, which has helped me connect with the rest of the *Lantern* staff across 14 time zones and thousands of miles. I am writing this column with the help of a Bible placed in my hotel desk drawer by none other than the Gideons. There are so many things that are different about Australia—winter in July and August, strange-looking plants and animals, Aussies' insistence on calling ketchup "tomato sauce"—but I can attest that the God in Barnesville is just as present in Canberra.

The sun was breaking through the rain clouds yesterday afternoon when I left work. The resulting rainbow reminded me of *Genesis 9:11-17*, where God promised a rainbow would be "a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth". It hit me when I saw that rainbow that the God of Noah's day was the God of the year 2008, and that the God in America was the same God in Australia. He is the same, year in and year out, north or south, east or west.

Consider David's words in *Psalms 139:7-10*: "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me". Verses like these have been of particular relevance to me; David was also a foreign traveler (unfortunately, his travel was necessitated by the wrath of an angry King Saul who chased David through the Judean wilderness, seeking his life). Regardless of whether you are traveling far from home or just traveling through life, such verses teach that the Lord who created the heavens and the earth loves us and will look after us wherever we are.

Another Australian scene gave me pause to reflect on the Lord. This Saturday (Saturday morning in Barnesville is just beginning as my Saturday is about to end), I was driving along the coast of New South Wales, two hours distant from Canberra. This coastline is nothing like the one we have in Ocean City. Here the mountains meet the Tasman Sea (the southern Pacific Ocean) with steep cliffs and rock formations, providing dramatic landscapes that bear witness to the majesty of God's creation. Again, scriptures like, "...the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD" (*Psalms 33:5*) and "All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You; they shall sing praises to Your name" (*Psalms 66:4*) come to mind. Indeed, it is easy to say "how great Thou art" when you have such great natural beauty spread before you, mile after mile.

My trip is half over; as much as I have enjoyed working in and exploring this island continent, I am looking forward to returning home to my family and my church. Until we meet again, I am confident that God's presence, love, and power will continue to span the distance between us.

"By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation; You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea..." (Psalms 65:5).

Member of the Month: Lee Michael

- ★ Born: August 26, 1979 in Takoma Park, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since June 2001
- ★ Church offices held: Sunday School Teacher, Internal Administration, Education, Nominating, and Constitutional Revision Cmtes. member, *Lantern* Editor, Webmaster, Historian, Associational Messenger
- ★ How he first came to BBC: family attended with Judy Boswell in 1995
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "The Church's One Foundation"
- ★ Favorite Pew: window seat, middle row, right side
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: *Galatians 2:20*
- ★ Age at baptism: 11 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Redland Baptist Church, Derwood, Maryland
- ★ Most famous person he's met: stood next to Charlton Heston at the Dulles Airport baggage claim
- ★ Personal claim to fame: earned Eagle Scout Award, 53 merit badges as a Boy Scout
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: 9/11
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Canberra, Australia
- ★ Story on first name: "it's my father's middle name"
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: the internet
- ★ Childhood hero: Indiana Jones
- ★ Hobbies: editing *Lantern*, fishing, genealogy



August Birthdays

1 John Brennan
3 John Michael Williams
5 Suzanne Neal
11 Rick Thomas
12 Madison Marsh
14 Will Pleasants IV
17 Pauline Fowler
19 Kyle Marsh
21 Edith Fowler, Jamie Thomas
26 Lee Michael, Shayna Campbell
28 Ann Bennett
29 Paul Meissner
30 Matthew Cole



Prayer Concerns

the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Margie Stream
Spc. David Gilliam, serving in Baghdad
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother
Joseph Runkles
Helen Hughes, Dot Fowler's sister
Resha Martin-Ahalt, in the death of her uncle Clyde Bartee
Pastor Danny Moore & Towne Baptist Church
Bud Baumbaugh, in the death of his sister Shirley
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Raymond Money, Rose Grant,
Helen Magaha, Jim Cole, Nancy Gallo, Rita Gallagher,
Jasmine Budderball, Jim Wiley
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 July:

- Motions to establish and fund a Director of Youth position were approved by the Church; Eric Noegel was called to fill the position.
- The Pastor announced that the following members will serve on the Nominating Committee to select 2008-2010 officers: Randy Gilliam, Nancy Cooley, Ann Bennett, Lee Michael, and himself.

Expected at the August Business Meeting:

- The Standing Committees will report on Church officer authorizations for the 2008-2010 term.
- The Pastor will nominate five members (Randy & Sandy Gilliam, Lee Michael, June Ivey, and himself) and an alternate (Nancy Cooley) to serve as messengers to the Montgomery Baptist Association Annual Meeting, being held on October 11, 2008.
- The Outreach Committee will recommend that a \$1000 offering be sent to Building HOPE Ministries.

VBS 2009 Sneak Peek



"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him" (I John 4:9).

News You Can Use

Vacation Bible School a great success! Thank you to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School 2008 (Outrigger Island) a success, especially to those in the classroom, crafts, recreation, snack, and behind the scenes. Your service in building God's Kingdom is appreciated. The total enrollment this year was 72, and an offering of \$607 was collected and will be sent to church-building missionaries Manuel & Cindy Batres, whom we hope to have visit us at BBC later this year.



*Missionaries
Manuel & Cindy
Batres*

Fall activities to start up soon. September is coming sooner than you think. Activities that will resume from their summer hiatus include the monthly WMU meetings, Friday Family Film Night, and the lunches with Watkins Cabinet. Watch for details in next month's *Lantern*.

Thanks for your support. Kitty Cooley, who took part in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, said this: "A very big thank you to all of you who donated to the American Cancer Relay for Life. With your help I am so happy to report that I was able to raise over \$4,300. The whole event was such a rewarding experience for me and I invite all of you to come join this event next year. The grand total raised by all the participants in the Poolesville Relay for Life is now over \$127,500 and growing. Contributions are being accepted through the end of August. Thank you for contributing to this worthwhile event and the support you gave me."



Service project to help our troops. We have learned of a need for egg-carton mattress pads for our military personnel deployed in Iraq. If they are fortunate enough to have a bed at all, it a metal-spring cot. For \$25, an egg-carton pad can be shipped to our troops in Iraq to make one soldier's sleeping conditions more comfortable. If you would like to participate, use the special envelopes in the pew racks, making the checks out to BBC. All the money received will be used to purchase pads and postage. Thank you for your contribution and for supporting our troops. As the *Lantern* goes to press, enough money has been contributed to purchase and send 81 mattress pads to our young men and women serving in Iraq. Bed Bath and Beyond has given a 30% discount on these pads.

Write to David Gilliam in Baghdad. David and his family covet your prayers as he serves our country. He can be mailed at: Spc. Gilliam, David/HHC 4th BDE, 10th MTN DIV/Unit 41546/FOB Loyalty/APO, AE 09390-1546.

Baptist Men's upcoming events. Don't forget--on Sunday, Aug. 17, those fathers and children who have RSVP-ed will join the Baptist Men for a special time of fellowship at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant in Frederick from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Pastor Randy will be the keynote speaker. Fathers, please sign up on the bulletin board and make your checks payable to Barnesville Baptist Church no later than Aug. 3. Also, this year's Pig Pickin' will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Fishing trip a fun time. Saturday, Jun. 28, was a beautiful day for children, Baptist Men, and church members to test their fishing skills at Cliff Neal's pond in Barnesville. A large number of sunfish were caught—everyone hooked fish, from the youngest to the oldest. BBC extends thanks to the late Cliff Neal who generously allowed us to use his pond over the years, and to the Baptist Men for arranging this time of family fellowship.



*Larry Michael and Joe
Yates with their sunfish*

Happy 50th anniversary to the DeFrieses! Rev. & Mrs. Jeddie (Lorraine) DeFries will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 12. You can send them a card at: 3320 Lowell Lane, Ijamsville, MD 21754-9052.

COTCD Cartoon

