



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

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (I Thessalonians 5:18).

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons we become especially aware of the many blessings we receive from God's hand. To list them all would be almost impossible. You could start with life, health, family, children, a job, transportation, money to pay bills, friends, answered prayers, food, clean air and water, and on and on. Of course, the greatest blessing and gift is knowledge of the gospel of Christ. Through faith in Him we receive forgiveness of sins, His righteousness, and eternal life. It is easy to be thankful for these things. But the Scripture says, *'in everything give thanks'*. Someone described these good things as the "apple pie à la mode" of life. But what about the times of "liver and brussels sprouts" --times when our circumstances are lousy and our luck seems to be all bad? Can we give thanks in those times?

If you were to read the testimonies of believers of all ages, including our present age, you would hear them shout out the answer, "Yes!" to that question. Perhaps in our most difficult and trying times the love of God and comfort of the Holy Spirit are closest to us. It is in our need that our faith grows stronger. Sometimes in our hurt, in our disappointment, and in our pain we can't see God's purpose. In these times, be thankful and trust God because of His love. *"For we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).* The love of God is the message of Christmas. *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (II Corinthians 9:15)!*

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

- December 3** Business Meeting
- December 7** Christmas Dinner at Cozy Restaurant
- December 19** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- December 20** Baptist Men's Meeting
- December 21** Christmas Hymn-Sing, Parsonage Open House
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service
- December 25** Christmas: Church Office Closed
- December 31** New Year's Eve: Church Office Closed



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14)!



The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The true miracle of Christmas is that the Son of God took on human flesh, becoming fully man while retaining His full divinity. "...*Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God...made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and c[ame] in the likeness of men*" (Philippians 2:5-7). The incarnation of Jesus Christ as the God-Man was most necessary for Him to serve as our Savior. Anything less would have made Jesus ineligible or unworthy for that task. There are at least eight reasons why it was required for Jesus to be fully God and fully man.

First, Jesus came to serve as a worthy substitute sacrifice for our sins. Just as we are flesh and blood, Jesus, "...*like-wise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; ...in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people*" (Hebrews 2:14, 17).

Second, Christ served as a second Adam, obeying and trusting God where the first Adam was disobedient and doubted God's word. "*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous*" (Romans 5:19).

Third, Jesus' joint humanity and divinity allows Him to serve as a mediator between man and God. "...*there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...*" (I Timothy 2:5).

Fourth, Jesus' incarnation lets Him fulfill man's dominion over creation. "*You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet*" (Hebrews 2:7-8).

Fifth, Christ's full humanity permits us to look to Him as an example and pattern in life. "...*Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 'Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth'*" (I Peter 2:21-22).

Sixth, when He rose from the grave as a victorious Savior, Jesus' bodily resurrection served as a pattern for our future redeemed bodies. "...*as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man*" (I Corinthians 15:49).

Seventh, Jesus' experience existing as a man gives Him the ability to sympathize with our shortcomings and limitations. "*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin*" (Hebrews 4:15).

Lastly, Christ's divinity proves that salvation is from the Lord. "...*Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God*" (Revelation 19:1)!

Jesus Christ, fully God and man, was sent to us long ago so that He could reveal God's love and salvation to a lost and fallen world, redeem mankind from the power and penalty of sin to life eternal with the Father, and rule over His Kingdom where we can forever call Him, "*Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*" (Isaiah 9:6). What a wonderful Christmas gift!

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2009 from the *Lantern* staff!

Member of the Month: Anna Michael

- ★ Born: November 18, 1953 in Washington, DC
- ★ How long a BBC member: since June 2001
- ★ Church offices held: Sunday School Teacher, VBS and Nursery worker
- ★ How she first came to BBC: accompanied Judy Boswell in 1995
- ★ A Favorite Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision"
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Acts 4:12, Philippians 2:9-11*
- ★ Age at baptism: 35 years old
- ★ Baptized at: Redland Baptist Church
- ★ Childhood church: St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Forest Glen, Maryland
- ★ Most famous person she's met: Henry Kissinger
- ★ Most important historical events in her life: fall of the Berlin Wall, demise of the Soviet Union
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Japan
- ★ Story on first name: named after her paternal aunt who had five sons and no daughters.
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: barcode scanner
- ★ Hobbies: reading



December Birthdays

- 2 Tina Yates
- 3 Sherri Crowe, Juanita Watson
- 11 Amy Williams
- 12 Gabby Marsh
- 14 Rachel Engle
- 15 Holly Cross
- 16 Teresa Tuttle
- 17 Mary Ann Luhn
- 19 Lisa Cooley, Mary Mossburg,
Kyle Shreve
- 23 Samantha Cole
- 24 Ashlinn Cole
- 25 Grace Normoyle
- 28 Ralph Cooley, Tim Rice
- 29 Ollie Baumbaugh
- 31 Larry Michael



Prayer Concerns

the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Spc. David Gilliam, serving in Baghdad
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother
Bud Baumbaugh
Kenny Hurd, Dot Fowler's nephew
Suzanne Neal
Jane Fowler
Pat Elam
Charles Watson
Bobbie Burris
Larry Michael
Bill Luhn
Stephanie Rice
Rev. Michael Carmin
Jo Clingan
Mack Bottoroff
Linda Gilliam
Mary Rice
Cpl. Seth Rogers, Jo Blalock's grandson
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Raymond Money, Helen Magaha,
Jim Cole, Jasmine Budderball, Cathleen James, Vaughn
Simmons
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
November:*

- The Church approved the membership applications of Dick & Nancy Wells, who both came by letter from Tricounty Baptist.
- The Church approved the membership applications of Michael Oden and Ray Randall, each by profession of faith pending baptism on Nov. 30.
- A bypass motion to transfer \$4000 from the ministry reimbursement line item to the benevolence line item was adopted.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2009 Budget proposal.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Dear Brother Eli, Your sermon on sin was very moving. It covered my situation so well that my lawyer will be in contact with you next week."



News You Can Use

Thanksgiving potluck a great time.

The Baptist Men sponsored a turkey dinner on Saturday, Nov. 8. At least 80 people came out to dine on four turkeys, two deep-fried, and two oven-baked, with all the trimmings. In the pumpkin/pecan dessert contest, nine people submitted entries. The first-place winner was Sherri Marsh, who baked a four-layer pumpkin cake that won



her the National Christian Choir CD, "People Need the Lord". Second place was awarded to Sandra Oden for her upside down pumpkin pie. Dot Fowler's third-place entry was a pumpkin cheesecake. Thanks to judges Gabby Marsh, Laura Luhn, Kyle Marsh, TJ Marsh, Tina Yates, Eric Noegel, Hollyanne Noegel, Randy Gilliam, Ronnie Johnston, and Larry Michael for evaluating each of the dessert entries.



Sherri Marsh

WMU autumn activity report. The WMU has had a busy fall; the ladies assembled 15 Thanksgiving baskets with the generous donations made by church members, and BBC members donated 33 wrapped shoeboxes packed with Christmas presents for needy children around the world. The ladies of the WMU were blessed and humbled by your generosity. Thank you all for your willingness to share.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$1760. All of this money goes directly to support foreign missionaries around the world. For them, this Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is the lifeblood of various ministries to people with spiritual and physical needs. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions. Also, a Christmas card exchange will be set up at church—save postage and donate what you would have spent on stamps to Lottie Moon!

Open House at the Parsonage. After the Monthly Hymn-Sing on Dec. 21, when we will have a chance to sing everyone's favorite Christmas carols, Randy & Sandy Gilliam will have an open house at the Church parsonage. Everyone is invited to sing at 6:00 pm and enjoy refreshments afterward.

Christmas services planned. The Choir will present its cantata, "The Love of God at Christmas", to the Sunrise Center Service on Sunday, Dec. 14, and to the BBC congregation during worship on Dec. 21. The bell choir will present its Christmas-themed repertoire on Dec. 28.

Christmas poinsettias for sale. If you would like to purchase a Christmas poinsettia in honor of/in memory of a loved one, please contact Kitty Cooley at 301-349-5119. The poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas services and throughout the holiday season.

Christmas Dinner on Dec. 7. For those who have purchased tickets, please remember that the annual Christmas Dinner and Fellowship will be held at Cozy Restaurant on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 5:00 pm. The restaurant is located at 103 Frederick Rd./Rt. 806 in Thurmont.

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, BDE 4/10 S-2/Unit #41546, FOB LOYALTY/APO, AE 09313-9998.

UMCVFD brings baptism water. Everyone who lives in the Barnesville area tries to conserve water because of the water table problems in this locale. To fill our baptistery when we observe the ordinance of baptism, i.e. complete immersion of the baptismal candidate, requires about 1000 gallons of water.



The men and women of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD) have generously come over to the church many times in recent years to fill the baptistery for us. The most recent occasion was on Thursday, Nov. 26, when the firemen drove up in a big tanker truck and filled the baptistery in about 15 minutes. We are truly thankful for their kind help and friendly service to us. We include these friends in our prayer concerns list every month. In your prayers, please remember the men and women of the UMCVFD. Pray for their protection and safety as they serve the community in what can be a very dangerous career. And every time you see the big fire truck parked at the church, rejoice because someone has accepted Christ and is following His command to be baptized.