



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

"...Thus says the LORD: 'Make this valley full of ditches.' For thus says the LORD: 'You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink'"
(II Kings 3:16-17).

II Kings 3 tells how the armies of Israel, Judah, and Edom went to Moab to put down a rebellion. The soldiers found themselves in a desert wilderness with no water. The king of Israel despaired, but the king of Judah called for Elisha, the prophet of God. After seeking God's direction, Elisha instructed the men to dig ditches all over the valley floor. The men prepared to receive God's blessing (water) by being obedient and digging the ditches needed to receive the water. God gave them not only water but also victory over Moab.

This process is seen repeatedly in the Scriptures: seek God's will, be obedient to His instructions, and then receive His blessings. The man born blind who encountered Jesus was told to wash in the pool of Siloam. *"...So he went and washed and came back seeing"* (John 9:7). In Luke 17 Jesus told the ten lepers who cried out to Him for mercy to show themselves to the priests. *"...And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed"* (Luke 17:14).

The Men's Rally held Jan. 16-18 was planned in obedience to a vision Pastor Joe received from God. The "ditches were dug" as plans were made to hold the rally and invite speakers under the Lord's leadership. God is faithful and consistent. God blessed many lives through the rally and will continue to bless us in ways of which we may not even be aware. On the first night of the rally, Pastor Danny Moore challenged the men to stand firm on the Word, to be men of courage, to be strong, and to act in love. He then asked the question, "What are we doing in our lives to make ready for God's blessing?" What "ditches" do you need to dig to receive the blessings God wants to send your way? Pray, seek God's will, be obedient to His leading, then God will bless in ways He chooses.

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Upcoming Events

- February 4** Business Meeting
- February 14** Valentine's Day
- February 16** Presidents' Day
- February 20** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- February 21** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
Valentine's Day Dinner, 5:00 pm



"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live...'"
(John 11:25).

God Bless,

Your Pastors



The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Do you know what it means to be a member of the “priesthood of all believers”? The Apostle Peter is most responsible for the term, writing in his first epistle that all believers are part of, “... a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...” (I Peter 2:9). All Christians are members of this unique fraternity. Simply stated, the priesthood of all believers means that every Christian is a minister, enabled by the Holy Spirit to communicate with God, interpret Scripture, and serve others in Christ's name. As priests, we have equality before God in three key ways: we have equal worth before God, equal access to God, and equal responsibility to use our God-given gifts.

Christ redeemed His followers “...out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation...”, and made them, “...kings and priests to our God...” (Revelation 5:9-10). The Holy Spirit indwells every believer at conversion, not just pastors or deacons, providing power, direction, and guidance to follow Christ in this life. “The Spirit of truth...dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:17). There are no second-class Christians; we are each equally loved by our Heavenly Father and are equally His sons and daughters. Christ paid the same debt on the cross to save each one of us, and our ultimate worth is grounded in that truth alone.

Secondly, we have the great privilege to communicate with the Lord freely, accessing Heaven's throne room without intermediaries or restrictions. We are encouraged to seek God through prayer throughout the Scriptures. “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). The Holy Spirit assists us in that effort, communicating our prayers and praises, serving as our Counselor and advocating God to us, just as Christ advocates us to God. Paul explained that, “...we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Romans 8:26). Similarly, Jesus told His disciples that He would not leave them alone, but would send the Holy Spirit to serve as our Counselor. “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper...whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (John 14:16, 26).

Third, Christians' status as members of a universal priesthood also lays upon all those who follow Christ the responsibility for using their Spirit-given gifts to build others up in the faith. Spiritual gifts are supernatural abilities given to us to be used for the glory of God and the benefit of others in the Church, not for personal pleasure or boasting. As Paul explained, “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...” (I Corinthians 12:4-7).

The priesthood of all believers is a powerful concept, calling and challenging everyone who names Christ as Lord to take hold of their full potential and duty as His disciples. This year, let us seek to take hold of that high calling.

Member of the Month: Gary Burdette

- ★ Born: June 10, 1954 in Frederick, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since April 1981
- ★ Church offices held: Building Committee member, Christmas Party coordinator, usher
- ★ How he first came to BBC: invited by the Yates family
- ★ Favorite Hymn: “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”
- ★ Favorite Pew: Right rear pew
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalm 23* and *I John 3:17-18*
- ★ Age at baptism: 26 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Dickerson United Methodist Church
- ★ Most famous person he's met: Milton Berle
- ★ Personal claim to fame: elected as Lions Club district governor
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Budapest, Hungary
- ★ Story on first name: “my parents liked the name”.
- ★ Most important technologies invented in his lifetime: the personal computer and the internet
- ★ Hobbies: golf, travel, Lions Club activities



February Birthdays

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



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in January:

- The Treasurer submitted his Annual Report on the 2008 fiscal year.
- The Pastor appointed the Deacons to serve on the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2008 finances and report at the March Business Meeting.

Expected at the February Business Meeting:

- The Deacons will make motions to accept Ed & Ellen Williams as members by letter from Greenridge Baptist Church.
- The Select Committee on Nominations will recommend Nancy Wells to serve on the Education Committee as Teacher for 3 years-Kindergarten for the remainder of the 2008-2010 term, vice Margie Noegel, resigned.

Prayer Concerns

the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.

Gale Cole in the loss of Jim

Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother

Bud Baumbaugh

Suzanne Neal

Pat Elam

Bobbie Burris

Rev. Michael Carmin

Jo Clingan

Mary Rice

Cpl. Seth Rogers, Jo Blalock's grandson

Arlene Luhn

David Barton

Randy Lease

Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Raymond Money, Helen

Magaha, Jim Cole, Jasmine Budderball, Vaughn Simmons,

Edwin Dudley

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



"I don't know about you, but I just can't get all that excited about bringin' in the sheaves!"

News You Can Use

Baptist Men's Day/Men's Rally report. Bitter cold and the threat of snow were not enough to deter the Baptist Men's Day breakfast and worship hour on Jan. 18. The Baptist Men cooked a hearty breakfast of eggs, pancakes, hash browns, grits, 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 sang "Go Tell It on the Mountain", "Victory in Jesus", and closed the service with "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" with Pastor Joe as soloist. All the songs were well received by the congregation. During the service,



Sunday morning speaker
Ian Godwin

Larry Michael read the announcements, Joe Yates offered the morning prayer, Ralph Cooley gave the offertory prayer, and Matthew & Nick Cole ushered. For the message time, Ian Godwin gave his testimony and challenged all believers to use the gifts God has given us in order to share the good news of Christ. To keep sharp in his own spiritual life, Ian asks every day for God to give him a challenge. That way, he said, "I know that I have to depend on God. And I am reminded daily that all things are possible with Him."

Feb. 1 luncheon for David Gilliam. A welcome home luncheon for David will be held immediately after church on Sunday, Feb. 1. David has returned from Iraq and is now stationed at Ft. Polk, LA. He is home on leave and we would like to express our love for David and our gratitude for his service to our country. Everyone is invited to share in this special celebration.

Library news. Winter evenings are perfect for a good book or DVD. Curl up in front of the fireplace with these titles available now in the BBC library:

For young readers: *Dearest Dorothy, Are We There Yet?* and *Dearest Dorothy, Slow Down, You're Wearing Me Out!* by Charlene Ann Baumbich.

New DVDs: *I Flunked Sunday School*: a fascinating story about how a man learns about God's plan for his life; *Amazing Grace*, based on the true story of William Wilberforce and his courageous quest to end the British slave trade; and *A Man Called Peter*, a classic movie about Peter Marshall, a Scottish minister, who became "pastor to the presidents" in Washington, D.C.

Women's Rally coming. Join the women of BBC in a three-day series of meetings focusing on women's spirituality from Apr. 3-5. Services on Friday and Saturday will be at 7:00 pm, with a 10:30 am service on Sunday. The theme of this event is "The Legacy of Women Recorded in the Holy Bible". Speaking to the women will be Gayla Parker, WMU Director of the BCM/D. As part of the rally celebration, women may participate by making posters honoring women in the Bible and women's Christian heritage; please contact Joyce Dunn to sign up. Please pray for this event and invite your friends and family to join us.

Jim Cole, 1933-2009. BBC extends its sympathies to Gale Cole and her family in the loss of Jim, who died at the age of 75 on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at his home in Hendersonville, NC. Services will be held at Barnesville Baptist on Friday, Feb. 6 at 11 am. Jim was a good friend to many in the BBC family, and we appreciated his and Gale's musical contributions over the years. We pray that the Lord will give the Cole family comfort and strength in the days and weeks ahead.



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.

Valentine's Day dinner. Barnesville Baptist will celebrate Valentine's Day with a dinner for the entire church family on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 5:00 pm. BBC will provide fried chicken and drinks. Please bring a dish to share for dinner, and a red dessert in honor of the holiday.

Family film night. On Friday, Feb. 27 at 7:00 pm, Barnesville will show "Fireproof: Never Leave Your Partner Behind" starring Kirk Cameron. This movie will be a timely encouragement to married couples, couples thinking of a long-term relationship, and singles who may consider marriage in the future. It will have you thinking about conflict resolution, forgiveness, communication, and most of all the need for God's love in a marital relationship. Join us for this time of entertainment, reflection and fellowship. Beverages and popcorn will be provided.