



# 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

*"I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth -- praise to our God. Many will see it and fear and will trust in the Lord" (Psalm 40:1-3).*

A good friend from Oklahoma was quick to share his testimony about his faith in Christ whenever he was asked. He almost always recited *Psalm 40:1-3*. And he always had tears in his eyes when he spoke those words. To him, the difference Christ made in his life was more wonderful than he could express. His gratitude for being lifted out of the "miry clay" of sin and ignorance of God was the joy of his life. This psalm of David talks about a deliverance, but a deliverance that came only after praying earnestly and patiently waiting for God to move and display His will.

There are members and friends of BBC, and others that you may know, who struggle with different sorts of "mire" in their lives. The circumstances of "mire" may be health issues, addictions, financial, relational, emotional, sin-based, or times of grief. No matter how difficult or painful the circumstances in a believer's life are, the encouragement from the Old and the New Testaments is the same: pray fervently in faith for God to intervene according to His will, trust the heart of God which can only respond in love, wait patiently for God to move in a way consistent with His character, then praise Him for His faithfulness and share your joy with others so that God is glorified.

Take your eyes off the "mire" and set them on Christ. Wait patiently before the Lord in rejoicing, prayer, and thanksgiving. God's peace will guard your heart and mind through Christ Jesus. Amen.

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## Upcoming Events

**March 4** Business Meeting  
**March 20** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends  
**March 21** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am



God Bless,

Your Pastors



*"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way"  
(Matthew 13:24-25).*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Do you know about *all* the benefits of salvation? Most people know that you receive eternal life and forgiveness for sins when you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. The Bible is very clear that Christians will enjoy life everlasting in the presence of God. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16)*. The Scriptures also make it very plain that Jesus’ death on the cross resulted in a permanent satisfaction of God’s wrath and need for justice against your sin. *“...Now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many...” (Hebrews 9:26-28)*.

But, as they say on TV, that’s not all! Those who put their faith in Christ also receive, as part of their salvation, freedom from sin, righteousness, assurance, adoption, and victory.

We are freed from sin in three ways: its penalty, its power, and, in heaven, its presence. *Romans 6* tells us that, *“...the wages of sin is death...” (v. 23)*, but because of grace through faith, *“...sin shall not have dominion over you”*, and we have *“...been set free from sin...” (vv. 14, 18)*. Upon our natural death, we won’t even be near sin anymore, because it cannot enter heaven, *“... only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Revelation 21:27)*.

A more immediate effect of salvation is that God declares us righteous in His sight. We are clothed with Christ’s moral purity based upon His work on the cross. Paul wrote to the church at Rome that Jesus, *“...was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification” (Romans 4:25)*. From this base of spiritual cleanness, we can begin to walk in Christ’s footsteps and learn to live and become more like Him through the Holy Spirit’s power.

With salvation comes an assurance against all doubts that our salvation is permanent. Since our forgiveness is not gained by anything we do, it cannot be lost by anything we do. Peter wrote to the first-century Church, explaining that God has given us an, *“...inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation...” (I Peter 1:4-5)*.

Another key benefit of salvation is our adoption and membership in God’s family. As a son or daughter of the King, we become heirs to all our Heavenly Father’s blessings. Paul proclaimed to the Galatian Christians that, *“...you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26)*.

Finally, a new Christian can claim power and victory in life. John explained in his first epistle that God’s power dominates over sin, temptation, and the wicked schemes of this fallen world in which we live. As the apostle wrote, *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (I John 5:4)*.

As we enter this Easter season, consider the full extent of salvation’s blessings. It is more than just “fire insurance”, it is the opportunity of a lifetime--no, an eternity--to cast off the burdens that weigh us down and enjoy the fullness of joy and blessing that God wishes to bestow on those who seek after Him.

## Member of the Month: Nancy Wells

- ★ Born: November 6, 1947 in Takoma Park, MD
- ★ How long a BBC member: since November 2008
- ★ Church offices held: Sunday School Teacher
- ★ How she first came to BBC: invited by Dot Fowler
- ★ Favorite Hymn: “Amazing Grace”
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalms 23* and *John 3:16*
- ★ Age at baptism: 13 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Salvation Army
- ★ Most famous person she’s met: Louis Goldstein, Comptroller of Maryland
- ★ Personal claim to fame: “My volunteer work with my horses visiting nursing homes with them”.
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: election of the first black president
- ★ Farthest place she’s been from Barnesville: Hawaii
- ★ Story on first name: named after both her grandmothers
- ★ Most important technologies invented in her lifetime: fiber optics
- ★ Hobbies: horses, crafts



## March Birthdays

- 5 Stape Shields, Iva Musser
- 9 Arlene Luhn
- 10 Ed Williams
- 11 Jim Gilliam
- 17 Tammy Thomas
- 18 Steven Bennett
- 24 Janice Cole
- 26 Nevada Pleasants
- 28 Jack Hough, Todd Marsh
- 29 Sarah Marsh
- 31 Robert Shreve, Jessica Thomas



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in February:*

- The Church approved the membership applications of Ed & Ellen Williams, coming by letter from Greenridge Baptist Church.
- Nancy Wells was selected to serve on the Education Committee as Teacher for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grades for the remainder of the 2008-2010 term, vice Margie Noegel, resigned.

*Expected at the March Business Meeting:*

- The Select Committee on Auditing will present its report on the 2008 finances.

## Prayer Concerns

Mary Cole, Matthew Cole's mother  
Linda Gilliam  
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother  
Phil Thorne, recovering from heart bypass surgery  
Virginia Magaha  
Bud Baumbaugh  
Bobbie Burris  
Rev. Michael Carmin  
Gale Cole  
Jamie Thomas  
Mable Moxley, Margie Stream's sister-in-law  
Cpl. Seth Rogers, Jo Blalock's grandson  
Arlene Luhn  
Randy Lease  
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Raymond Money, Jasmine Budderball, Vaughn Simmons, Edwin Dudley, Wayne McKenzie  
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



**Creativity and budget constraints sometimes go hand in hand.**

## News You Can Use

*Church folk eat fried chicken.* Members and friends of BBC gathered for dinner on Feb. 21 to celebrate Valentine's



Day and enjoy a evening of fun and fellowship. Many thanks to everyone who helped set up the festive decorations and to

those who contributed by bringing a dish or dessert to the meal.

*Sight & Sound Theatre travel plans.* On Mar. 12, BBC members and friends are invited to travel to Strasburg, PA to see Sight & Sound Theatre's production of "Behold the Lamb", just in time for Easter. The charter bus will pick up attendees at BBC at 8:30 am, and at the Frederick Ice Skating Rink parking lot on Rt. 26 at 9:00 am. Please contact Sandy Gilliam to sign (and pay) up no later than Mar. 8. The total cost, which includes dinner at Hershey Farms, is \$88.

*MBA revival services at Upper Seneca.* All Barnesville members are invited to attend a spring revival at Upper Seneca Baptist Church in Cedar Grove from Mar. 29 through Apr. 1. This event, sponsored by the Montgomery Baptist Association, is an opportunity for Baptists from across the county to worship together. Pastor Bill Robertson will be leading the services that will begin at 7:30 pm.

*Snow policy.* As we pass through 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.

*Nursery workers needed.* We have a continuing need for two people to staff the nursery at a time during Sunday morning worship services. This is a once-a-month commitment. If you are willing to participate in this important ministry, please contact Sherri Morrison. Our children need your support.

*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.

*Directory update coming soon.* Attention all members: the next update to the church directory will be distributed in 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 promptly submit their data to Lee Michael. After April, the next scheduled directory update is planned for October—don't delay!

*Sanctuary upgrades now installed.* The last several weeks have seen several significant changes to the church building. Downstairs, the Nursery carpet was replaced with the same wood-toned flooring that is in the Fellowship Hall. In the sanctuary, new carpet has been laid and the pews have been reupholstered with new fabric and new padding. None of these upgrades could have been made without the assistance of those volunteers who helped move the pews out of the way for the installers to lay down the new carpet, and then set the pews back into place. A big BBC "thank you" goes out to Ralph Cooley, Jack Cooley, Frank Fowler, Eddie Fowler, Ed Williams, Dick Wells, Tod Luhn, Dick Tolbert, Bob Lillard, Jesse Yates, Nancy Wells, Gary Burdette, and Joe Yates for all their hard work.

*Daylight Savings Time begins Mar. 8.* Remember to set your watches and clocks forward one hour (and lose an hour of sleep) before you go to bed on that Saturday night.

*Library news.* Have you read the classics of Christian literature? Charles Sheldon's novel, *In His Steps*, is a must-read. This book is where the popular phrase "What Would Jesus Do?" was birthed. For young readers, we have an illustrated version of John Bunyan's classic, *The Pilgrim's Progress Retold in Today's English*, written by James Thomas. Both of these books would be good family read-alouds. Please contact Stephanie Runkles for help finding books in the library.