



# The Barnesville Lantern

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April 2009, Volume 7, No. 11

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).*

## The Pastors' Spotlight

*"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant; I have chosen you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand'" (Isaiah 41:9-10).*

It was with these verses that Cindy Batres began speaking on Sunday, Mar. 15. Cindy & Manuel Batres were called as missionaries about five years ago. It was exciting to hear Cindy and Manuel testify how faithful God has been to them



in all their experiences in Guatemala. He has upheld them with His "righteous right hand" by giving them a deep compassion for the Mayan people in northern Guatemala; by protecting them from physical harm in the mountainous terrain where they work; by caring and providing for their two daughters in Ohio; and

by allowing their ministry to help hundreds of small church plants in Guatemala. According to Cindy & Manuel, what seemed at first like a great personal sacrifice to sell their possessions and move to a foreign country, God has turned into and inexpressible blessing. "God is so good!"

Their ministry involves prefabricating metal structures for churches, schools, and living quarters for pastors. With the help of volunteer teams, they have built 250 permanent structures. Every time a team puts up a building, a village sees the love of Christ in the lives of those who come to help them. They work together, pray together, hold VBS classes, and demonstrate the love of Jesus in many other ways. Cindy & Manuel are finding ways to take the gospel of Christ to those people whom Jesus loves. Cindy & Manuel are very thankful for the BBC support they receive. They also hope that maybe sometime soon a BBC team will go to Guatemala and work with them to demonstrate the love of Christ.

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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## Upcoming Events

**April 1** Business Meeting  
**April 3-4** Women's Rally Services, 7:00 pm  
**April 10** Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm  
**April 12** Easter Sunday; Easter Cantata  
**April 17** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends  
**April 18** Baptist Men's Meeting; Church Clean-Up Day



*"...It is finished..." (John 19:30)!*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The resurrection victory of Jesus Christ on that first Easter Sunday morning has echoed throughout the pages of history, saving souls and changing lives. For those who follow Jesus and have put their faith in Him for salvation, the redeeming power of that resurrection will allow us to meet Him face to face one day.

Heaven is the place where God and His people will dwell together. The Apostle John foresaw that a “*new heaven and a new earth*” would replace the current universe (*Revelation 21:1*). People often wonder what we will be doing for the rest of forever. While some imagine heaven to be the longest choir practice ever, heaven’s major focus is to serve as the location where God most fully makes known His presence to us so that we can fellowship with Him. Although it is true that we will praise God with joy and exult His triumph over evil forever (*Revelation 5:11-13, 15:2-4, 19:1-6*), John explained in his first epistle that the glory of heaven will be that the veil of mystery will be lifted, and we will have full communion with the Father. “*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is*” (*I John 3:2*).

We will also feel at home in heaven, in fellowship with our Savior, the redeemed of all ages, and our loved ones who also put their faith in Christ’s atonement. Jesus comforted His disciples by telling them that, “*I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also*” (*John 14:3*). Paul, for one, was looking forward to seeing Christ, writing that, “*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*” (*Romans 8:18*).

Whatever heaven will be, it will be somewhere nice. I have heard that the most luxurious, world-class hotels and resorts are “seven star” facilities. I can only imagine that heaven will merit “seventy times seven” stars for its wondrous splendor. Three times heaven is described in the New Testament as “paradise” (*Luke 23:43, II Corinthians 12:4, Revelation 2:7*). John goes on to explain that in heaven there will be no sin or suffering (*Revelation 21:4, 27, 22:1-3*), while Jesus taught that we will be rewarded in proportion to our faithful service to the Kingdom (*Matthew 25:14-30*).

Heaven will not be an idle place with nothing to do but lounge around on the clouds and pluck our harps. In reality, we will also have work—exciting, fulfilling missions—to do, ministering before God in His Kingdom. We are also told that we will serve God, as Christ “has made us kings and priests to His God and Father”; we will also reign with Christ and rule over the angels “*...His servants shall serve Him...and they shall reign forever and ever*” (*Revelation 1:6; 22:3, 5*).

As we remember Jesus’ sacrificial love displayed on that first Good Friday, and celebrate His conquering of death, hell, and the grave, let us also look forward to the eternal blessings that await those who love Him.

## Member of the Month: Resha Martin

- ★ Born: November 18, 1964 in Olney, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since May 2006
- ★ Church offices held: Sunday School teacher
- ★ How she first came to BBC: “I was looking for a church home”.
- ★ Favorite Hymns: “Amazing Grace” and “The Old Rugged Cross”
- ★ Favorite Pew: second pew on the left
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalms 23, Revelation 21*
- ★ Age at baptism: 11 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Clarksburg Baptist Church
- ★ Most famous person she’s met: Mel Tillis
- ★ Personal claim to fame: “My daughter Brooke”.
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: election of the first black president
- ★ Farthest place she’s been from Barnesville: Memphis, Tennessee
- ★ Story on first name: “My mother and grandfather found a name in the King James Bible and put a twist on it”.
- ★ Most important moment in her lifetime: “Accepting God’s love and knowing that I’m going home”.
- ★ Childhood hero: her father
- ★ Hobbies: reading, sewing, cooking



## April Birthdays

- 1 Jo Blalock
- 2 Rebecca Umstead
- 4 Ralph Wright
- 5 Hannah Madison
- 13 Katie Holcomb, Lacey Williams
- 14 Luke Watson
- 15 Dot Fowler
- 24 Mark Williams
- 29 Zachary Fedders



## Prayer Concerns

Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother  
Bud Baumbaugh  
Bobbie Burris  
Cpl. Seth Rogers, Jo Blalock's grandson  
Tom Dillingham  
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).*

## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in March:*

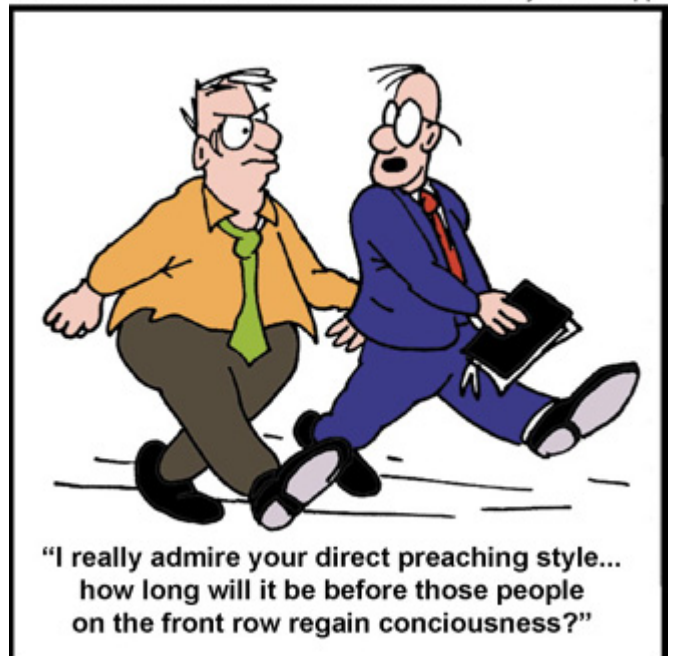
- The Select Committee on Auditing's report on the 2008 finances was accepted by the Church.
- The Church approved a motion from the Internal Administration Committee to install duet honeycomb blinds in the 14 sanctuary windows.

*Expected at the April Business Meeting:*

- The Deacons will offer motions to approve the membership applications of Paul Keriakos, Vicki Keriakos, and Ashley Babyak, each by profession of faith pending baptism.
- The Deacons will offer motions to approve the membership applications of Bill Williams and Janna Williams, both by statement.

## COTCD Cartoon

**CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp



## News You Can Use

*Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal set.* The WMU has set a 2009 goal of \$1600 for BBC. This offering is used to support the 5,500+ missionaries serving under the North American Mission Board. The SBC-wide goal is \$65 million, \$4 million more than last year. Receipts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will support the following mission endeavors: Missionary Support, 70%; Church Planting, 17%; Evangelism, 13%. Let's do our part to support the missionaries who are spreading the good news of the gospel in the United States & Canada. Thank you for your prayerful generosity.



*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!

*Easter lilies for sale.* If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily in honor of/in memory of a loved one, please contact Kitty Cooley at 301-349-5119. The lilies will be used to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter season.

*Easter sunrise service on Sugarloaf Mountain.* For early risers, this 55<sup>th</sup> annual mountaintop service beginning at 6:15 am is a wonderful way to begin the celebration of the Lord's resurrection with believers from many local congregations. We all have the Risen Savior in common.

*Youth events enjoyed by all.* Thanks to Youth Director Eric Noegel for initiating a new series of activities for our youth. In February, 20 young people and family members went up to Ski Liberty in Pennsylvania for a fun afternoon of snow tubing. A Wii sports tournament was held in March; another tournament is scheduled for April.



*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.

*Easter services planned.* The BBC Choir will present their cantata entitled, "Love Grew Where The Blood Fell", which tells the story of God's loving plan for fallen men through the sacrifice and shed blood of His only Son, on Easter Sunday, Apr. 12, during the morning worship service. Ann Bennett and Penny Barton will sing the solos in "The Wondrous Story Medley", while Leslie and Scott Foster will be featured in "My Tribute". Lee Michael will narrate. BBC will also gather for a Good Friday worship service on Apr. 10 at 7:00 pm.

*Church clean-up day.* On Apr. 18 at 9:00 am, join the Groundsmen, the Baptist Men, and the rest of your Church family to clean up the church building and grounds. Contact Head Groundsman Ralph Cooley for more information on jobs and tools needed. Lunch will be provided for workers at noon.



*VBS 2009 dates set.* Believe it or not, Barnesville Baptist is already preparing for this year's Vacation Bible School. The Australia-focused theme for 2009 is "Boomerang Express". Based on *I John 4:9*, kids will discover the vastness of God's love, and they'll learn that no matter where they go or what they do in life, it all comes back to Jesus. Keep the evenings of Jul. 27-31 open on your calendar and begin praying for this most important outreach event.

*Library news.* If you missed the Family Film Night showing of *Fireproof*, the DVD is now available: an inspirational story of how God saved a troubled marriage. With Easter fast approaching, now is a good time to read the many children's books on the death and resurrection of Christ. *Journey to the Cross* by Helen Haidle features all the events of the last week of Jesus' life in chronological order. Another fascinating story is *The Legend of the Easter Egg* by Lori Walburg: a story of a young boy who learns the deeper meaning behind the tradition of the Easter egg. *The Easter Cave* by Carol Wedeven is yet another good children's book that teaches the real meaning of Easter.