



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 will lift up my eyes unto the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip. He who watches over you will not slumber..." (Psalm 121:1-3).

If you have not done this recently, we encourage you to take a few minutes and consider the blessings God has showered upon you, regardless of your age or circumstances. Sometimes God's goodness is so overwhelming we just can't express it, like David in *II Samuel 7:18*, who cried out, "Who am I, O Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far"? Or like the psalmist in *Psalm 8:3-4*, we too can wonder, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him?"

However, sometimes our circumstances are very difficult and we then ask where God is in all of the mess and trouble? Job experienced extreme loss and suffering, but his confidence in a sovereign God remained firm. Job made his attitude made known when he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised" (*Job 1:20*).

Perhaps the Apostle Paul expressed best the attitude that never allows us to forget that God is our helper: "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (*Philippians 4:11-13*).

We are truly blessed to live in a nation where we are free to live, work, and worship as we desire. Thank God for this and other blessings. Receive His great love and mercy and help in faith with thanksgiving.

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Upcoming Events

- July 1** Business Meeting
- July 4** Independence Day
- July 13** VBS Planning Meeting, 7:00 pm
- July 18** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
- July 27-31** Vacation Bible School



"Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Corinthians 3:17).

God Bless,



Your Pastors

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

What is Christian freedom? Freedom is certainly something we think about this time of year as we celebrate our political freedom and independence as a nation on the Fourth of July. Although it is good and proper to remember the valiant struggles of our Founding Fathers in obtaining our freedom, as well as the efforts of patriotic Americans across the generations to preserve that legacy, we should never forget what it means to be free as followers of Christ.

God created us with free will, the ability to make moral choices, to decide between right and wrong. From the beginning, we were given the opportunity to make up our minds, such as when God told Adam, *"You are free to eat from any tree in the garden...[but one]" (Genesis 2:16)*. Adam freely chose not to obey God, and God allowed Adam to carry out his decision without interference, and also to face the consequences for acting as he did.

Whereas freedom is always seen in the political context as a good thing, Christians recognize the reality that freedom without morality, without God, is often a recipe for disaster, like a car driving on a dark, icy mountain road "free" from the constraints of guardrails. We also know that achieving spiritual freedom is only possible by receiving eternal life from God, because living free from God really means being a slave to sin.

Jesus Christ came to offer us an escape from the slavery of sin and the dominion of Satan over our lives. He told his fellow Jews to follow His teachings and become His disciples. *"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32)*. By following Christ, we too can receive the new life He promises and become free from the power and penalty of sin. The Apostle Paul explained that when we experience the new birth, we die to sin. Instead of being mastered by sin, *"...you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life" (Romans 6:22)*.

When we receive the free gift of salvation and become Christians, we still have the freedom to make meaningful choices about the direction of our lives, and even to make mistakes. However, we are not alone anymore. Instead, the Holy Spirit lives within us to give us guidance, support, and strength to live in a manner pleasing to God and in a way that will give us a life full of purpose and meaning. The Apostle Peter encouraged the early Christians to recognize that their newfound freedom in Christ provided an opportunity to freely choose to love God and serve Him and stop seeking to do evil and indulge selfish, destructive desires. *"Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God" (I Peter 2:16)*.

We have so many reasons to thank God for our freedom. Our spiritual freedom in Christ guarantees us everlasting life, and inspired men throughout history to seek from their earthly masters the same opportunities to make meaningful choices in their lives. The "self-evident" idea that freedom is a birthright from God instead of a grant from government justified our American revolution for independence and encouraged peoples across the world to reach for liberty as well.

Member of the Month: Janice Cole

- ★ Born: March 24, 1973 in Montgomery County, MD
- ★ How long a BBC member: since May 2002
- ★ Church offices held: Outreach Committee, VBS teacher, Cards Ministry
- ★ How she first came to BBC: "I was invited by Pastor Joe and Pastor Randy".
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "Amazing Grace"
- ★ Favorite Pew: left side, second from the back
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *I John 4:19*
- ★ Age at baptism: 29 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Aspen Hill Wesleyan Church
- ★ Most famous person she's met: bluegrass artist Ralph Stanley
- ★ Personal claim to fame: "Being Matthew's wife and my childrens' mother, and an award-winning baker".
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: the election of Barack Obama
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Hendersonville, North Carolina
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: cell phone, computer
- ★ Childhood hero: "My daddy".
- ★ Hobbies: reading, gardening, spending time with my family



July Birthdays

8 Nancy Cooley
9 Fred Bird, Hollyanne Noegel
14 Penny Barton, Vicki Keriakos
16 Nicole Oden, Tiffany Oden
18 Laura Musser
19 Brandon Cole
20 Joshua Madison, Margie Noegel
22 Douglas Cooley
23 Mary Yates, Emily Crowe
26 Virginia Magaha, Roy Musser,
Joe Yates
28 Jackie Cole
30 Sherri Marsh



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in June:

- The Church approved the membership application of Linda Roberts by profession of faith pending baptism.
- The Church approved the membership applications of Lacey Williams and Kirk Williams, each by statement.
- The Church accepted a bypass motion to allocate \$1000 for a new speaker in the sanctuary.

Expected at the July Business Meeting:

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the July 2009 Business Meeting.

Prayer Concerns

Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother
Bud Baumbaugh
Junior & Arlene Luhn
David Bennett
Spc. Mandie Conway & Airman Jeff Davis, stationed in Iraq
Mary Cole
Marty Woods
James Meekin, recovering from auto accident
Carolyn Miller, Janna Williams' mother
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Raymond Money, Vaughn Simmons, Deborah Corbishley, sister of Vicki Keriakos, Roxy, Bud Baumbaugh's niece, Terri Winn, Anne Hunter, friend of Laura Luhn, Virginia Thomas, Dave Thomas' mother
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



News You Can Use

Vacation Bible School coming soon! The theme for this year's VBS is "Boomerang Express", which will be held Jul. 27-31 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. If you would like to serve in a classroom, music, crafts, recreation, or snack, please contact Pastor

Randy or Mary Yates. If you know anyone who needs transportation in order to come to VBS, please leave a message at the church office so we can make arrangements. Also, if anyone is interested in learning the words and movements to the VBS theme song, "Boomerang Express", before VBS week, please leave a phone message at church for Paul Foster. The kick-off picnic and registration will start on Monday, Jun. 27 at 5:30 pm. If you want to have a "g'day, mate", plan to be there!

Baptist Men's upcoming summer events. Don't forget-- on Saturday, Aug. 15, those fathers and children who have RSVP-ed for the 7th Annual Father-Child Banquet will join the Baptist Men for a special time of fellowship at Red Horse Restaurant in Frederick from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Fathers, please sign up on the bulletin board and make your checks payable to BBC no later than Sunday, Aug. 2. Also, this year's Pig Pickin' will be held on Saturday, Sep. 19.

Fishing trip at Neals' Pond. Several rain showers passed through Barnesville on Saturday morning, Jun. 20, but that didn't stop a few brave souls from enjoying themselves at the Baptist Men-sponsored fishing trip at the Neals' Pond. The sunfish were certainly hungry that morning; it is uncertain exactly how many state fishing records were broken. Many thanks to the



Lee Michael and Scott Van Houten each with a sunfish

Neal family for allowing the church to use their pond.

Youth Rally a success. What a day! Thanks to Eric Noegel, BBC Youth Director, a small army of wonderful volunteers, and the cooperation of some very excellent weather, the Youth Rally on Saturday, Jun. 13 was exciting and memorable. From noon until 5:00 pm, the church grounds were filled with games, activities, special speakers, and music. Just to name a few of the events: dunk tank (Ashley, Brianna, and Justin, you guys were great), moon bounce with slide, bungee run, jousting pedestals; tug-of-war (pictured below), three-legged race, pie-eating contest, face painting, and lots of food. Justin Hanneken, youth pastor at Taney-



Kyle Marsh having fun



Tug-of-war competition on the east lawn

town Baptist Church, presented the gospel of Jesus Christ followed by a concert from the Christian rock band LifeBlood. This music was a very new experience for all of us here in Barnesville. Please continue to pray for the children and youth of this generation, as they will lead the church of tomorrow. Thank you, Lord, for this experience at BBC.

Library news. For adults, there is a new DVD in the library entitled *Faith Like Potatoes*. It is based on a true story of a struggling farmer who finds faith and discovers his own purpose in life. This movie was recently shown at BBC on a Friday Family Film Night. For children ages 4-7, there are several *Adam Racoon Parables for Kids* books, authored by Glen Keane, in the library. Adam Racoon and King Aren the Lion will help your children learn Biblical truths and challenge them to follow Jesus.

Family Film Night. If you like watching movies but don't like the expense and content of films in the theaters, head to the Fellowship Hall every fourth Friday. You will find well-made, Christian-themed movies on our big screen complete with theater sound, free popcorn and sodas, and a time of fellowship with friends. You'll have a blast!