



# 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

*Then Jesus spoke to them again, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12).*

At a time when the world desperately needs the light of the knowledge of God and His righteousness, there seems to be a militant determination to rid the name of God and Jesus from the public square. This public rejection is not new to our Lord or to His followers, and will not hinder God's work as He builds His Church in the present world. As believers, you reflect the light of Christ in all your words and actions. Remember that He taught, *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden; Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14, 16).*

Those who reject the Christ Child today are no different from those who rejected Him during His earthly ministry. *"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).*

This Christmas, do not let political correctness, multiculturalism, or relativism keep you from shining the light of Christ into any corner of the world you find yourself. Do not underestimate the power of your modeling of Christlikeness before others. People notice, and the Holy Spirit will make your witness effective. The world needs the light and the love of Christ. His promise is still true today, *"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself" (John 12:32).*

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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## Upcoming Events

**December 2** Business Meeting  
**December 6** Christmas Dinner at Mountain Gate  
**December 11** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends  
**December 19** Baptist Men's Meeting  
**December 20** 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



*"Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me..." (Malachi 3:1).*



## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

When Jesus stood bound before Pontius Pilate as a prisoner of the Sanhedrin, the Roman governor's first question was, "...are You the King of the Jews" (*John 18:33*)? Indeed, Pilate was focused on Jesus' royal identity throughout the entire trial, again asking Him, "...are You a king then"? in *John 18:37*. Although Pilate found no fault with Christ, Jesus' regal status was the reason Pilate sentenced Him to death by crucifixion (*John 19:12-13*) and was the basis of the charge written on the placard above Jesus' cross (*John 19:19*). In many ways, Jesus' death was a direct result of His birth, and in some ways, it was surprising that the two events did not occur closer together.

Outside the gospel accounts, history took little note of Christ's birth at the time; the only witnesses present were His parents and the shepherds alerted by the angels. However, before long wise men from the East, most likely astronomer-priests from Persia, arrived at King Herod's palace in Jerusalem asking, "...Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" (*Matthew 2:2*). To King Herod, this news represented a mortal threat to his throne, as the Jewish people accepted his rule halfheartedly, Herod being a tool of the Romans and lacking a true Jewish pedigree. Only Joseph's angelic vision spared the infant Jesus from the slaughter ordered by Herod to wipe out the competition, heaven-sent or not.

Despite the alternating indifference and hostility to His arrival, Jesus came as the Prince of Peace, God incarnate, worthy of worship and praise. The Old Testament described the coming Messiah, or Promised One, as a Jewish male born of a virgin, of the tribe of Judah, and a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Messiah would be born in the town of Bethlehem, the city of King David whose heir He would be and whose throne He would inherit and sit on forever. Also, the arrival of the promised Messiah would occur no later than the year 30 A.D.. These descriptions from prophets like Isaiah, Micah, and Daniel allowed Herod's advisors to pinpoint Christ's location for the Magi.

Rejection and ridicule associated with the circumstances of Jesus' birth followed Him throughout His life. His boyhood neighbors in Nazareth scoffed at Jesus' amazing teaching and healing abilities, asking in contempt, "...Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary" (*Mark 6:3*)? The Pharisees and Sadducees similarly made disparaging comments questioning Christ's parentage and legitimacy.

Jesus affirmed His royal status and the heavenly nature of His kingdom in *John 18:37*, answering Pilate, "...You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Instead of ignoring, fearing, or rejecting Christ's royal birth, let us instead take our example from the wise men and our queue from the hymn writer, who invited us to "come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King"!

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2010 from the *Lantern* staff!

## Member of the Month: Junior Luhn

- ★ Born: November 21, 1927 in Comus, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since May 2008
- ★ How he first came to BBC: invited by Jane Fowler
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "Precious Lord"
- ★ Favorite Pew: fourth pew from the back, on the left
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: *John 3:16*
- ★ Childhood church: Memorial United Methodist Church in Poolesville, Maryland
- ★ Most famous person he's met: Mark Kennedy Shriver
- ★ Personal claim to fame: "I was a pitcher on one of the Washington Senator's minor league farm teams".
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: the assassination of President John F. Kennedy
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Alaska
- ★ Story on first name: "I was named after my father, Maynard Clark Luhn, Sr."
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: the computer
- ★ Childhood hero: Lou Gehrig
- ★ Hobbies: fishing, golf, walking, and watching the New York Yankees play baseball



## 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
- 24 Ashlinn Cole
- 25 Grace Normoyle
- 28 Ralph Cooley, Tim Rice
- 29 Ollie Baumbaugh
- 31 Larry Michael



## Prayer Concerns

Margie Stream, recovering from surgery  
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother  
Junior & Arlene Luhn  
Ben Bennett  
Sgt. Mandie Conway, Capt. Frank Skrypak, Mat Conway,  
1 Lt. Shana Kayne-Beach, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan  
Carolyn Miller, Janna Williams' mother  
Terry Bernardo  
Faye Shrader, Dot's niece  
Evelyn Carlin  
Nko Tachie-Menson & his mother, Vanassa, friends of  
Janice Cole  
Virginia Thomas, Dave Thomas' mother  
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Raymond Money, Vaughn  
Simmons, Jasmine Budderball, niece of Pastor Joe and  
June, Terri Winn, Linda Fitch, friend of Laura Luhn  
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres  
(Guatemala), Steve & Emily Ruffner (Campus Crusade),  
David & Cheryl Shive (Faith Home Ministries)  
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 Deacons announced the nomination of Bud Baumbaugh to serve as a Deacon, which will be voted on at the December Business Meeting.

*Expected at the December Business Meeting:*

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2010 Budget proposal.
- The Worship Committee will offer a motion to purchase a set of the Baptist Hymnal for use as the official songbook.
- The nomination of Bud Baumbaugh to serve as Deacon will be considered.
- The Deacons will offer a motion to approve the membership application of Chuck Fowler by profession of faith pending baptism.
- The Deacons will offer a motion to approve the membership application of Megan Turner by statement.

## COTCD Cartoon

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



**"Our church is doing a community survey to find out the most important issues of the day... do you prefer contemporary or traditional music?"**



## News You Can Use

*Thanksgiving potluck a great time.* The Baptist Men sponsored a turkey dinner on Saturday, Nov. 14. A large crowd of people came

out to dine on four turkeys with all the trimmings. In the pumpkin/pecan dessert contest, seven people submitted



entries. The first-place winner was Ellen Williams, who baked a pumpkin cheesecake. Second place was awarded to the sibling team of Kyle, Madison, and Gabby Marsh for their pumpkin fluff. Mary Yates' third-place entry was a pecan pumpkin torte. Thanks to judges June Ivey, Laura Luhn, Sarah Marsh, Lee Michael, and Michael Oden for evaluating each of the dessert entries.

*Open House at the Parsonage.* After the Monthly Hymn-Sing on Dec. 20, 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 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.

*WMU autumn activity report.* The members of the WMU were blessed and humbled by the generosity of BBC members who donated 23 wrapped shoeboxes packed with Christmas presents for needy children around the world. Thank you all for your willingness to share.

*Benevolence needs increase.* Our church is receiving more calls from people in need of financial assistance. If you are able to make a contribution toward helping these situations, please write a check to BBC clearly marked for benevolence.

*Write to Margie Stream.* Margie is now back home continuing to recuperate. She can be mailed at: 948 Jubal Way, Frederick, MD 21701. Cards of support and encouragement from her church family would be welcomed.

*Book fair coming soon!* Please be sure to check what is new in Christian literature at the BBC Book Fair Dec. 8-13. Books will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a great opportunity to see what is new in Christian literature. Books will include devotionals, Bible study aids, topical, reference, and fiction genres for all ages and interests. Purchase a book for yourself or as a gift, donate a book to the library, or nominate a title for the church to purchase.

*Christmas services planned.* The Choir will present its cantata, "The Love of God at Christmas", at the Sunrise Center Service on Sunday, Dec. 13, and to the BBC congregation during worship on Sunday, Dec. 20. A Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 pm.

*WMU food drive.* The WMU is having a food drive during this holiday season. Canned goods and other non-perishable items may be brought to the church until Dec. 20. These donations will be used to help those in need who are known to our church or given to WUMCO Help for families in the western upper Montgomery County area. This food drive is being held in lieu of our usual food basket packing.

*Christmas dinner scheduled for Dec. 6.* Friends and families of Barnesville Baptist are invited to a Christmas Dinner and Fellowship at Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 3:30 pm. We will enjoy a dinner buffet in a private room. The total cost is \$16.01 for adults. Children ages 12 and under are the guests of BBC. Please make your reservations by contacting Sandy Gilliam no later than Sunday, Nov. 29.

*Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$1950.* Nov. 29-Dec. 6 is the week of prayer for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This year's theme is "Who's Missing? Whose Mission?", focusing on those still missing from God's family and our Great Commission call to reach them. The national goal is \$175 million; BBC's is \$1950.

**WHO'S  
WHOSE MISSING?  
MISSION?**

All of this money goes directly to support foreign missionaries around the world. For them, this

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is the lifeblood of multiple 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!

*BCM/D annual meeting report.* BBC messengers Randy & Sandy Gilliam attended the MD/DE state convention in November in Towson, MD. The theme for the 2009 meeting was "Connect: Connecting to God; Connecting to one another; Connecting to the community; Connecting to the World". In addition to the official reports and business meeting sessions, there were wonderfully inspirational speakers and music. Some of the speakers and musical groups who ministered were Ron Sylvia, founding pastor of The Church at The Springs, Ocala, FL, who spoke on "God is Good, but He is Not Safe!"; and Fred Luter, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA, who spoke about "Empowered by Another: How They Turned the World Upside Down". Songwriters Keith & Kristyn Getty presented exceptional music for worship.