



# 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

*"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth..." (John 14:15-17).*

The Person and ministry of the Holy Spirit will be the subject of an important two-part message series beginning Feb. 14 at BBC. The third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is a vital part of the Christian's life. It is through the Spirit that we are convicted of sin, drawn toward salvation, and given assurance of life everlasting with the Father. The Holy Spirit also provides our strength, communicates our prayers, and teaches God's people about heavenly matters. He also empowers us to have daily victory as we follow after Christ, and bestows to us spiritual gifts to use in service for the Kingdom.

If you are in the area and can attend these services, we encourage you to be present. If you do not live in the Barnesville area but would like to have a tape of these messages, please contact the church by phone, by e-mail, or mail and we will send one to you. The number and addresses are in the masthead of the *Lantern*. (Incidentally, all of the messages at BBC are available on tape and can be sent to you at no charge. We would be happy to add your name to the tape ministry mailing list.)

The very well-known Christian worship chorus by Steven Adams, "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is", mentions some of the blessings the Holy Spirit brings to the believer. This chorus is based on *II Corinthians 3:17*, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom". Read the lyrics and note especially the bold words:

*Where the Sprit of the Lord is, there is **peace**;*  
*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **love**;*  
*There is **comfort** in life's darkest hour,*  
*There is **light and life**; there is **help and power***  
*In the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.*

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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## Upcoming Events

**February 3** Business Meeting  
**February 14** Baptist Men's Day (rescheduled)  
**February 15** Presidents' Day  
**February 19** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends  
**February 20** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am



*"Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants" (Matthew 18:23).*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Did you know that God has blessings already marked out for us, waiting to be delivered? In *Ephesians 1:3*, the Apostle Paul told those early Christians that our Heavenly Father has already blessed us according to the counsel of His will, writing, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...*". Just as we were predestined to adoption into God's family, blessings are in store and designated for our use. However, God's blessings do not automatically fall from the sky into our lives. Instead, we must walk by faith and prayerfully seek God's will for our lives, so we can understand why God wants to bless us with talents, resources, or His favor. There are actually several requirements that must be met, according to the Scriptures, before we will receive God's blessings. These include agreement, obedience, thankfulness, and continual effort and focus.

Agreement means that even though all the blessings God has for us are pre-approved, we must sign on as well. In *1 Corinthians 1:19-20*, Paul wrote, "*For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us... was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us*". Just as we must accept God's offer of salvation through Jesus Christ, we must also say "Amen" to God's "Yes" to His blessings. For example, the prophet Jonah was told to preach to Nineveh, but ran away from God's will. God let him run, but Jonah faced negative consequences until he agreed to support God's agenda. Once in step with God, Jonah saw great revival break out in the city of Nineveh where he preached repentance.

Blessings also require obedience, or following God's will, which is established by His word. Abiding with the Lord purifies our motives and aligns us with His will. "*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you*" (*John 15:7*).

Thankfulness is also necessary. What have you done for the Kingdom with what you already have? How have you already blessed others? Many times God's blessings are not meant for you, but are given by God through you to bless others. Our own blessings often arrive as a by-product after we are obedient. Consider barren Hannah in *1 Samuel 1*, who desperately wanted to have a child. Her suffering made her completely willing to accept God's will, allowing God's blessings to flow through her. Samuel, Hannah's long-sought child, whom she dedicated as a Nazarene, was not just a blessing to her, but to all of Israel.

Finally, God's blessings are accessed by continual effort and focus. Jesus taught His followers in *Matthew 7:7*, "*Ask, and it will be given to you...*". Christ's words meant to ask—continually—and to keep asking, not once or twice, but until you get an answer. God rewards those who diligently seek Him and have faith to keep looking for an answer from Heaven's throne. Keep these principles in mind and in your heart, and see how God will bless you.

## Member of the Month: Brenda Cross

- ★ Born: November 11, 1996 in Bethesda, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since March 2006
- ★ Church offices held: Outreach Cmte. member
- ★ How she first came to BBC: "Tina Yates wanted me to come to church with her".
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "The Old Rugged Cross"
- ★ Favorite Pew: third row on the right
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalm 23*
- ★ Age at baptism: 11 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Poolesville Baptist Church
- ★ Most famous people she's met: Loretta Lynn and the Extreme Makeover Home Edition crew
- ★ Personal claim to fame: "Being married and having my two girls".
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: 9/11
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Florida
- ★ Story on first name: named after Brenda Lee the singer
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: cell phones
- ★ Childhood hero: her mother
- ★ Hobbies: scrapbooking, making jewelry, landscaping



## February Birthdays

- 3 Gary Cooley, Linda Roberts
- 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 Bradley Keriakos, Joshua Holcomb



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in January:*

- The Treasurer submitted his Annual Report on the 2009 fiscal year.
- The Pastor appointed the Deacons to serve on the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2009 finances and report at the March Business Meeting.
- A motion to hold a special offering to support the completion of the construction for Faith Home Ministries was adopted; the offering was held on Jan. 24.

*Expected at the February Business Meeting:*

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the February 2010 Business Meeting.

## Prayer Concerns

earthquake victims in Haiti  
Margie Stream, recovering from surgery  
Eileen Stull, June Ivey's mother  
Junior & Arlene Luhn  
Capt. Frank Skrypak and 1 Lt. Shana Kayne-Beach, stationed in Afghanistan  
Carolyn Miller, Janna Williams' mother  
Faye Shrader, Dot's niece  
Linda Gilliam recovering from surgery  
Ben Bennett  
Bill Wega, Janice Cole's uncle  
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Cancer patients: Tim MacCarthy, Jeanette Bini, Betty Allnutt, Doug Swank, Raymond Money, Vaughn Simmons, Jasmine Buterbaugh, Terri Winn, Linda Fitch  
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala), Steve & Emily Ruffner (Campus Crusade), David & Cheryl Shive (Faith Home Ministries)  
Matt and Ellen Zell (Honduras)  
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



**"You know, I don't think you have complained one time about the pastor's sermons since he announced that he has a carry permit..."**

## News You Can Use

*Snow policy.* As we continue through the winter months, we urge all our members and visitors to exercise caution and good judgment in deciding whether or not it is safe for your family to travel on a given Sunday. Pastor Randy is only a sidewalk away from the sanctuary, and will hold services for anyone who can safely travel during inclement weather. A BBC local weather/road condition message will be posted on the answering machine. We ask that Sunday School teachers or other leaders call in their absence to the Church office at their earliest convenience.

*Lottie Moon offering report.* Thank you for your prayerful, sacrificial giving towards foreign missions. A total of \$1857 was received toward BBC's \$1950 goal for 2009. According to the SBC, every penny given to Lottie Moon is used to support Southern Baptist missionaries as they share the Gospel overseas. The offering represents 50% of the International Mission Board's total annual income. Won't you consider how you can contribute to building God's Kingdom throughout this new year?

*Library news.* Winter evenings are perfect for a good book or DVD. Curl up in front of the fireplace with the titles available now in the BBC library. Best-selling author Elizabeth George addresses the topic of worry in her book, *Breaking the Worry Habit Forever: God's Plan for Lasting Peace of Mind*. George draws on God's Word and her own personal experience to reveal the keys to overcome worry once and for all. A complete study guide is included. For kids, enter the magical world of Narnia. We now have the animated version of *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe* on DVD.

*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.

*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.

*Snow delays Baptist Men's Day to Feb. 14.* The snowfall on Jan. 30 has delayed our planned Jan. 31 breakfast and service. Join the men on Feb. 14 at 8:30 am instead for a breakfast buffet of pancakes, eggs, and other good food, and then get ready for the annual singing performance of the MOB: Men of Barnesville choir, which will include the following selections: "Victory in Jesus", "Just a Little Talk with Jesus", "I'll Fly Away", "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", and "The Old Rugged Cross". The men of the church will lead the morning service, including: Eric Noegel (welcome and announcements), Ralph Cooley (morning prayer), Ed Williams (offertory prayer), Lee Michael (mission moment), Joe Yates (children's story), and David Bennett (benediction). Our guest speaker will be Steve Honeycutt, an instructor at Our House, a residential program for at-risk teen boys.

*Visit from the Lees.* BBC was very pleased to have Dr. David Lee, executive director of the BCM/D, visit us with his wife Sherry on Sunday, Jan. 24. Dr. Lee's sermon was about being "Kingdom people", and was based on the parables of Jesus.



*Dr. David & Sherry Lee*

Sherry Lee was recognized for her encouragement and support for pastors' wives and families. June Ivey and Sandy Gilliam presented Sherry an arrangement of white roses. A fried chicken luncheon was served in the Lees' honor in the fellowship hall. The visit marked the first time Barnesville has hosted a leader from the state convention.

*Faith Home Ministries offering.* Thank you for your generosity on Jan. 24; the special offering received for the needs of David & Cheryl Shive's Faith Home Ministries was wonderful. Your support will facilitate the completion of the construction and allow the ministry to launch. This is truly an investment in God's Kingdom here in our own backyard.