



The Barnesville Lantern

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May 2010, Volume 8, No. 12

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

The Pastors' Spotlight

"And Simon answering said unto Him, "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing; nevertheless, at Thy word I will let down the net" (Luke 5:5).

This verse in *Luke* captures in a powerful but simple way what happens when someone is willing to obey the Lord because He is trustworthy. Simon had fished all night but caught nothing. Jesus, after telling Simon to put out into deep water, said, "let down the nets for a catch". Simon acknowledged Jesus' authority and did as He asked. The result of Simon's obedience was that the number of fish caught was too much for the nets and boats to handle! The lesson here seems straightforward. Do the thing that the Lord has called you to, even if you don't understand it, and watch Him work through your obedience.

Part of *Luke 5:5* appears on a plaque near the Sea of Galilee in Israel: "At Thy word I will let down the net". Under this verse is written: "The deeds and miracles of Jesus are not actions of the past. Jesus is waiting for those who are still prepared to take risks at His word, because they trust His power utterly".

You probably know people who have sensed a calling or a strong impression from the Lord through the Holy Spirit to "let down the net". It may come as a call to share one's personal testimony about the love of Christ. It may be a call to house the homeless, feed the poor, or minister to prisoners. Or it might be a call to a mission field in the United States or abroad. It may be a call to start a house church, teach Sunday School, or work in VBS. A call to pray for and support a local congregation is possible as well. Whatever the "net" or the call is, if it is done by faith, in obedience to the Lord, you can stand back and watch the power of the risen Christ be revealed through a harvest. The harvest is not always immediate like the large catch of fish, but the smallest efforts can be made great in God's time and according to His purpose. Jesus is still waiting for those who are prepared to take risks at His word, because they trust Him utterly. Maybe, He is waiting for you.

God Bless,

Your Pastors



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Upcoming Events

- May 5** Business Meeting
- May 9** Mother's Day
- May 14** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- May 15** Baptist Men's Chicken Dinner, 5:30 pm
- May 17** VBS Planning Meeting, 7:00 pm
- May 31** Memorial Day, Church Office closed



"You shall not make for yourself a carved image..."
(Exodus 20:4).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Do you know how many blessings God has promised specifically to Christians? In addition to the Lord's general goodness to all creation, making His sun rise over and sending rain to all mankind (*Matthew 5:45*), He has even more in store for those He has redeemed through the blood of His Son.

Even before we knew Him, God blessed us with His Word so that we might learn of His great love for us. In *Romans 1:1-2*, Paul explained that the gospel was promised to us, "...before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures". We were also blessed with the gift of salvation. On the first Pentecost after Easter, when Peter exhorted the crowd to repent of their sins and receive forgiveness through Christ, he described salvation as a, "...promise...to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call" (*Acts 2:39*). Jesus Himself guaranteed the Holy Spirit's presence in the life of the believer in *John 14:16*, declaring, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever". As part of the salvation experience, our adoption into God's family is certain. Although He is fatherly to all His creation, our Heavenly Father promised through Paul that, "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters..." (*II Corinthians 6:18*).

A major theme in the promised blessings for believers is life. Jesus told His followers, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (*John 10:10*). Christ meant a better and richer life here and now, both physically and spiritually. He also meant life everlasting with God in heaven. We see these guarantees throughout the New Testament. Paul referenced, "...the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus..." in *II Timothy 1:1*. The Apostle John in his first epistle mentioned, "... the promise that He has promised us—eternal life" in *2:25*. Again, Paul had a word to share about life, both now and in the future. He wrote that, "...godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come" (*I Timothy 4:8*). James, Jesus' half-brother, spoke of a crown of life for those who persevere in this world: "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (*James 1:12*).

Our eternal destiny was also a significant focus of God's promises for us. Peter warned scoffers that there would indeed be a second coming of Christ, admonishing them, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise..." (*II Peter 3:9*). Several verses later, the apostle predicted this fallen creation would pass away, saying in *II Peter 3:13*, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells". The author of *Hebrews* assured his readers that, "...since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it" (*4:1*).

We who call Jesus our Savior and Lord should look for the fulfillment of these promises like childless Abram waited for his promised son, "...fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform" (*Romans 4:21*).

Member of the Month: Linda Roberts

- ★ Born: February 3, 1947 in Frederick, MD
- ★ How long a BBC member: since July 2009
- ★ Church offices held: Choir member, Children's Church helper
- ★ How she first came to BBC: invited by Ed & Ellen Williams
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "Once to Every Man and Nation"
- ★ Favorite Pew: 2nd from the front on the left
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalms 23*
- ★ Age at baptism: 62 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Poolesville United Methodist Church
- ★ Most famous person she's met: author C.J. Cherryh
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: 9/11
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: San Francisco, CA
- ★ Story on first name: "At the time, my mother didn't know anyone named Linda—she thought it was different!"
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: computers
- ★ Childhood heroes: Robin Hood, Zorro, any characters played by John Wayne
- ★ Hobbies: crocheting, knitting, crafts



May Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Ennis, Frankie Fowler
- 2 Frank Fowler Jr., Heather Cross, Eli Watson
- 12 Nathaniel Madison
- 13 Bud Baumbaugh, Joseph Ball
- 15 Eddie Fowler
- 17 Leroy Watkins
- 18 Sandy Watkins
- 22 Vicki Crowe
- 24 Nicholas Cole, Wade Williams
- 25 Elsie Allnut
- 28 Paul Foster
- 30 Sandy Gilliam



Prayer Concerns

Junior & Arlene Luhn
June Luhn
Virginia Magaha
Dominic Latch
Sgt. Seth Rogers, stationed in Afghanistan
Carolyn Miller, Janna Williams' mother
Tabitha Runkles
Tim Miller
Joan Scheck
Gavin Poole
Betty Allnut
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Cancer patients: Tim MacCarthy, Jeanette Bini, Doug Swank, Raymond Money, Vaughn Simmons, Dr. David Lee, Debbie Ricketts
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).*

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in April:

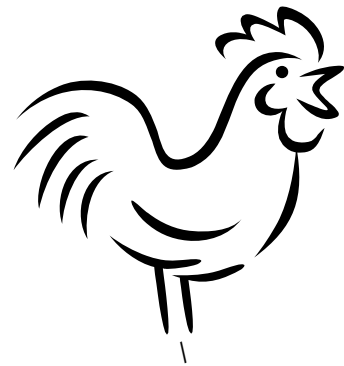
- The Church approved the Worship Committee's motion to increase the Pulpit Supply budget line item by \$600 to a total of \$1,200.
- Pastor Randy & Sandy Gilliam were elected to serve as messengers to the 2010 SBC Annual Meeting being held in Orlando, Florida from Jun. 15-16.

Expected at the May Business Meeting:

- The Deacons will offer a motion to approve the membership application of Amber Ennis by profession of faith pending baptism.
- The Deacons will offer a motion to approve the membership application of Matt Burriss by profession of faith pending baptism.
- The Deacons will offer a motion to approve the membership application of Rhonda Burriss by statement.

Chicken Dinner Announcement

*The Baptist Men invite the Church family to a
Chicken Dinner*



*Saturday, May 15 in the Fellowship Hall
Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm
Bring a side dish to share*

Enter a strawberry-based dessert (pie, cake, ice cream, tarts, etc.) into the Strawberry Dessert Contest!

News You Can Use

Easter activity report. As of press time, Barnesville received \$1285 toward its 2010 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal to support the missionaries of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) who spread the good news of the gospel to people across the United States and Canada. Many of our state convention and local association leaders receive support through the NAMB, so this offering truly makes a difference in our local communities. Thank you for your prayerful generosity as you supported God's Kingdom this Easter season.

Many hands make light work on cleanup day. Thanks so much to the Baptist Men and other BBC members--Gary Burdette, Jack Cooley, Ralph Cooley, Eddie & Pauline Fowler, Frank Fowler, Pastor Randy & Sandy Gilliam, Pastor Joe Ivey, Todd, TJ, and Kyle Marsh, Laura Luhn, Lee Michael, and Ed & Ellen Williams--who helped take care of the church grounds and interior on Saturday, Apr. 17. Due to everyone's hard work, we now have a church with clean windows, the lawn raked free of leaves and branches, flowerbeds weeded, and dead branches and tree limbs cleaned up.



Missionaries Matt & Ellen Zell spoke. We were pleased to have Equip International missionaries Matt and Ellen Zell tell us about their plans to minister in Honduras during the morning service on Sunday, Apr. 18. The Zells are planning to move down this summer to share the Gospel with the indigenous Lenca tribe through community-selected health, hygiene, and sustainable agriculture projects.



Best wishes to Eric Noegel. Our great friend and Youth Director, Eric Noegel, resigned on Mar. 14 as he addressed the BBC congregation in the morning worship service. Eric will be missed by the pastors, the young people he has grown to love, and all the members of BBC. Eric has a call on his life to minister in some way in God's Kingdom. His experiences and growth at BBC will give him confidence to assume leadership responsibility in some ministry of God's choosing. We are grateful to have had an opportunity to work and to fellowship with Eric. We will continue to pray for Eric and his family, Margie, Hollyanne and Will. God is good and He has a great plan for Eric. Send Eric a note and let him know you appreciate his service here and wish him success in all things.



VBS 2010 dates set. Believe it or not, Barnesville Baptist is already preparing for this year's Vacation Bible School. Please attend the VBS planning meeting scheduled for Monday, May 17 at 7:00 pm if you would like to participate by serving in a classroom, or in music, crafts, recreation, or snack. Keep the evenings of Jul. 26-30 open on your calendar and begin praying for this most important outreach event.



WMU collecting health kit supplies. Please join the WMU and the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware in their outreach ministry to migrant workers, prison inmates, homeless people, and seamen. The WMU is preparing health kits that consist of a new, large bath towel and washcloth, an adult toothbrush, toothpaste, a large comb (not a rattail comb), a full-sized shampoo bottle and bar of soap, and deodorant. If you would like to contribute items for the health kits, please bring them to church no later than Sunday, May 9.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



The Church Council has developed a new stimulus plan to combat moral bankruptcy, We call it "Bible study."