



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 have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

Each Christmas season we are reminded of how blessed we are to experience the life and love of God through the Holy Spirit because of Jesus, the Christ. Besides God's love we receive blessings that are far too numerous to count, e.g. family, friends, home, freedom. We enjoy a life in the United States that much of the world can barely dream about or even imagine. The Christmas season wonderfully ignites in people, Christians in particular and even the Scrooges among us, a desire to give gifts, help others, contribute to charities, and just "be nice" for a time. Christians have the power to model this Christmas spirit throughout the year for all to notice. They do this just by being obedient as much as possible to Scripture. For example, how do we treat each other, both inside and outside the community of faith? According to *Ephesians 4:32* we are to, *"...be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you"*. Or how about concern for those who come into our sphere of influence with physical needs?

Matthew 25:35-36 says, *"...for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me"*. And of course the Lord's imperative that should always inform our actions and thoughts is found in *Luke 6:31*: *"Do to others as you would have them do to you"*. Your Christmas (Christian) attitude throughout the year may draw others to get to know the Bethlehem child, God with us, and to receive His abundant life.

A very Merry Christmas to members and friends of BBC.

God Bless,

Your Pastors

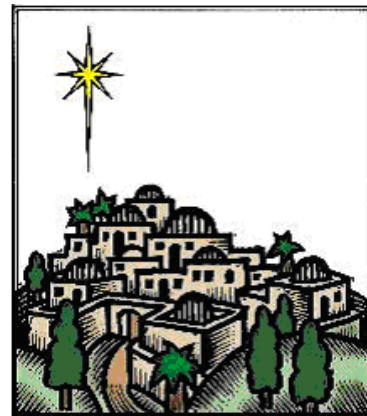


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Upcoming Events

December 1 Business Meeting
December 5 Christmas Dinner at Mountain Gate
December 17 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
December 18 Baptist Men's Meeting
December 19 Christmas Hymn-Sing, Parsonage Open House
December 24 Christmas Eve Service
December 25 Christmas
December 31 New Year's Eve: Church Office Closed



"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).



The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Have you ever looked down on Christmas?

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy the holiday as much as anybody. I ask because we so often look up in wonder at Christmas, watching along with the shepherds the hosts of angels heralding Jesus' birth in Bethlehem or standing in awe like Mary and Joseph upon receiving God's word from an angelic visitor. The Book of *Hebrews* gives a unique heavenly perspective on the incarnation of Christ. *Hebrews* gives us a peek into the Father and the Son's conversation as Christ was about to embark on a 33-year journey living among us so we too can look down upon the events of that first Christmas from the vantage point of heaven. *Hebrews 10:5* reveals that the Father prepared a body, and that the Son was prepared to use it to do His Father's will, to serve as sacrificial lamb for the sins of all mankind as planned by God since, "...the foundation of the world" (*Revelation 13:8*). *Hebrews 10:5* provides even more insight into God's thinking because it contrasts God's perfect will and pleasure—sending His Son into the world—with something He did not delight in: the empty and ritualistic sacrifices and offerings of those with proud spirits and unrepentant hearts. As it says earlier in *Hebrews 10*, animal sacrifices were just a foreshadowing of something better, something that didn't have to be repeated and would do more than just cover up sin. The Son, by obeying His Father, would do away with the old way of doing things. Christmas inaugurated Jesus' now-completed work to provide a new way of satisfying a holy God's requirement for righteousness and solving the problem of sin once and for all.

And so it came to pass that Jesus, "...was made lower than the angels...", descending from His heavenly throne to dwell with and as man (*Hebrews 2:9*). Being fully man while remaining fully God, Jesus learned through personal experience the suffering and temptation mankind endured, allowing Him to more fully sympathize with our plight. Jesus' substitutionary death on the cross signaled the completion of His mission began on that first Christmas and the beginning of a new way of relating to God. The really good presents came not at Christmastime, but as a result of Christ's Easter death and resurrection. *Hebrews 10* lists several "Easter presents" we can expect to receive as believers: we are declared righteous in God's sight and are permanently cleansed from sin.

Jesus is again back in heaven, for "...when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels..." (*Hebrews 1:3*). It is from that lofty perch that Jesus continues to look down on us, ministering and interceding on our behalf before His Father as our great High Priest.

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2011 from the *Lantern* staff!

Member of the Month: Bill Williams

- ★ Born: August 20, 1962 in Cumberland, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: since April 2009
- ★ How he first came to BBC: "The Buffington and Morrison families invited us".
- ★ Favorite Hymns: "How Great Thou Art" and "The Old Rugged Cross"
- ★ Favorite Pew: Fourth from the back on the right
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Exodus 20:12*
- ★ Age at baptism: 12 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Welsh Baptist Church, Frostburg, Maryland
- ★ Most famous person he's met: General Colin Powell
- ★ Personal claim to fame: "Fatherhood, teaching my children what my father has taught me".
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: 9/11
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: "Hawaii for my honeymoon (I won the ticket)".
- ★ Story on first name: "First name (William) is after my dad and my middle name (Alex) is after my dad's close friend".
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: cell phone
- ★ Childhood hero: "My mom and dad".
- ★ Hobbies: "Hunting, boating, fishing and spending time at Deep Creek Lake".



December Birthdays

- 2 Elnora Caudell, Tina Yates
- 3 Sherri Crowe, Juanita Watson
- 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
- 28 Ralph Cooley
- 29 Ollie Baumbaugh
- 31 Larry Michael



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in November:

- The Church approved an Outreach Committee motion to reallocate budget line item amounts within its 2010 budget. Unspent funds from the Mission Trip budget line item were transferred to the Hospitality/Bereavement and Outreach budget line items to account for increased spending in those areas.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2011 Budget proposal. The proposed budget amount of \$233,341 is \$5,420 more than the 2010 adjusted budget amount of \$227,921.

Prayer Concerns

Junior & Arlene Luhn
Bilyie Luhn
June Luhn
Dominic Latch
Chelsea Mossburg and Sarah Stull
Virginia Magaha
Danny Cole
Neal Gravel, stationed in Afghanistan
Carolyn Miller, Janna Williams' mother
Tabitha Runkles
Roberta Richards, Jamie Thomas' mother
Pat Elam
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Rod Maggard, Pete Menke, Christine Carlin, Dee Baker
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



"GIVE" UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE "GIVEN" UNTO YOU.



News You Can Use

Thanksgiving potluck a great time. The Baptist Men sponsored a turkey dinner on Saturday, Nov. 14. A large crowd came out to dine on four turkeys with all the trimmings. In the pumpkin/pecan dessert contest, four people submitted entries. The winner was Sandy Gilliam, who baked a pumpkin cheesecake pie. Thanks to judges Laura Luhn, Sarah Oden, Wade Williams, Mary Luhn, and Ed Williams for evaluating each of the dessert entries.



Open House at the Parsonage. After the Monthly Hymn-Sing on Dec. 19, 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 19 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 marked for benevolence.

Kristina Kumble in concert. On Sunday, Nov. 14, our missionary friend Michael Callahan of Building Hope Ministries (BHM) introduced us to Kristina Kumble. BHM, which BBC supports through prayer and giving, shares the Gospel through building churches, schools, and orphanages in Andhra Pradesh, India. Kristina sang several worshipful songs during the service. She has teamed with BHM to create a 12-song CD entitled, "Safe In Your Arms" in order to raise funds and awareness for BHM's Gospel outreach efforts in India.



Bell choir performs for Thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving Eve service on Nov. 24 featured three selections from the Bell Choir, under the capable direction of Ann Bennett: "Spirit of the Living God", "Glorify Thy Name", and "Give Thanks". The bell ringers were also in uniform for the first time in concert, all sporting embroidered red t-shirts. Interested in joining?—the Bell Choir practices on Thursdays at 7 pm.



Christmas dinner scheduled for Dec. 5. 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 5:00 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. 28.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$2,000. Nov. 28-Dec. 5 is the week of prayer for the 2010 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This year's theme is "Are We There Yet?", focusing on the people groups that still remain untouched by the Gospel. The national goal is \$175 million; BBC's is \$2,000. 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. Visit www.commissionstories.com to access photos, video, and text that demonstrate how God uses your Lottie Moon offerings to reach every nation, tribe, people and language. 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 state convention Nov. 14-16 in Towson, MD. The theme for the 2010 meeting was "Connect 2010: Celebrating 175 Years of Great Commission Partnership". There are over 530 churches in the BCM/D with at least 32 new churches this past year. One out of every five new church plants is a language church, i.e. a church serving people with limited English ability. The partnership of churches in the convention has enabled ongoing Great Commission evangelism, strengthening existing churches, and planting new churches. There were 339 messengers and 105 visitors registered. Besides receiving reports and approving the 2011 budget, there was lots of inspirational preaching and music.