



# 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 Pastor's Spotlight

*"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).*

Isn't it a great encouragement to know that in every believer's life, God has begun a work that He will continue until He comes back or until the believer leaves this physical life and goes to Him? Sometimes discouragement and doubt are very much a part of our life experiences. But Paul would remind us that God is a great God and is more than able to help us and to use every situation to strengthen our faith and to teach us His way and will for our lives. Paul was so practical in his exhortation to the Christians at Philippi not to be at odds with one another but to be united. He told them, *"stand fast in the Lord...be of the same mind...rejoice in the Lord always...in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:1-7). God can work mightily in a life that practices prayer and praise and thanksgiving to Him.

The Lord can also work mightily in the local church. He is active where people grow to be like Jesus in the way they talk, the way they act, and the way they react. The work of the church then is to disciple believers so that they grow into the image of Christ. Much as the church in Antioch-- *"...and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch"* (Acts 11:26) --God began a work at BBC 140 years ago on Sept. 24, 1871. He has continued that work through September 2011. If Christ is to continue that work into the future until He returns, members and friends of BBC need to heed Paul's exhortation to the Philippians: stand fast, praise Him, pray with thanksgiving, and be about the business of making disciples. That is the only commission the Lord ever gave to the church. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."* (Matthew 28:19).

God Bless,

Pastor Randy



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## Upcoming Events

**October 5** 140<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting  
**October 8** 76<sup>th</sup> MBA Annual Meeting  
**October 15** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am  
**October 21** Watkins Cabinet Lunch  
**October 31** Halloween



*"Jesus said to him, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'. And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked" (John 5:8-9).*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The Scriptures describe many occasions when times of transition occurred: the passing of generational leadership from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Joseph, the end of the era of judges to the rule of kings over Israel, and even when Jesus charged the apostles to lead the early church when He ascended back to the Father. Another important time of transition was the assumption of leadership by Joshua over the children of Israel after Moses had died, not being allowed to enter the Promised Land because of his sin.

At the end of *Deuteronomy 34*, Moses was buried on Mount Nebo and mourned by the entire nation. The next chapter, *Joshua 1*, immediately begins with God addressing Moses' former assistant and successor, Joshua. The Lord recognized the past, but was focused on the future, providing the new leader and the current generation instruction and encouragement to face the challenges and opportunities ahead.

First, God told Joshua and Israel to get up and go forward. The wilderness was not Israel's home, they were to pick themselves up and move on. The Lord has always told His people to go forward. Consider Abraham, who wasn't even given a destination, but just a command to leave his current situation. "*Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country...and you shall be a blessing"*" (*Genesis 12:1-2*).

It is awesome to consider who God is. Time is no barrier to Him; He has already been to the future and back and has promised it to us as an already-conquered prize. This was the point Paul was trying to teach the Christians of Corinth, that God's promises were packaged, shipped, and awaiting final delivery. "*For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in [Christ] Amen...*" (*II Corinthians 1:19*).

The Lord's third piece of guidance to Joshua was that no one could stand against him or Israel. No enemy, obstacle, or difficulty would prevent total victory. Christ said the same thing to His followers, promising that the Church and the Gospel would advance throughout the world, and even "*...the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*" (*Matthew 16:18*).

One of the encouraging promises God gave Joshua was that He would never leave or abandon Israel. God is with us, and we can look to Jesus' promise in the Great Commission for confirmation: "*...I am with you always, even to the end of the age*" (*Matthew 28:20*).

Another piece of encouragement was to be strong and courageous, even in the face of persecution and opposition. David, who was no stranger to adversity, penned these words based on His faith in God: "*The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid*" (*Psalms 27:1*)?

Sixth and finally, the Lord instructed Joshua not to waver from His will. Christ gave this same command and wrapped it with a promise in *John 15:7*: "*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you*". Israel would prosper as long as it obeyed God's holy and perfect Law.

BBC is also in a time of transition, looking to God as we pilgrimage toward the future. We can draw strength and comfort from knowing that because the Lord is the same today, yesterday, and tomorrow, His instruction and blessing given to Joshua's generation are also ours to possess.

## Interview with the New Pastor

- ★ *How does it feel to be the new pastor of BBC? Three feelings come to mind: It is humbling to believe that the Lord would allow me to serve in this position. It is challenging considering the work needed to keep a healthy church growing and ministering according to God's plan for it. And, it gives me an acute sense of dependency on the Lord and on all the fellow laborers at BBC.*
- ★ *What have you learned or experienced in the last 10 years that will help you in your new role? The greatest lesson I have learned is that nothing of value in serving the Lord comes without first praying for God to lead. Pray, then plan, then let God lead. This keeps us in His will and keeps us from straying into some program or activity that He will not bless. Another lesson is that for me and for everyone, private prayer and devotion, regular Bible study, and corporate worship are essential to our growth toward spiritual maturity. It is spiritual maturity and an intimacy with the Lord that allow us to bear a Christian witness in all types of circumstances.*
- ★ *What is your vision for Barnesville Baptist in the next year? The next five years? In the new church year, I pray that BBC will continue its strong support of missions; that we will begin a teacher training program to equip all who are interested to teach Bible truth; that Sunday School attendance will reach at least 50 by October 2012; and that every member and friend of BBC is visited by the pastor or a deacon by October 2012. In the next five years, the Lord willing, BBC should send a mission team to a needy location in the United States and also to Guatemala to work with the Batreses. We should also have the strength and resources to plant a new church in the heavily populated Germantown area. "*In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths*" (*Proverbs 3:6*).*
- ★ *How can members and friends of BBC participate during this time of transition? Pray, pray, and pray. Pray for me and Sandy, and pray for each other. Then, ask the Lord to reveal to each person how their special gifts can be used to minister to and encourage those in our fellowship, and how we can more effectively take our Christian witness to those outside the church.*
- ★ *What does Sandy have to say about all of this? Over these 10 years I have come to love the BBC family and want to serve them. My prayer is that I might be able to help the healing process continue in whatever way God leads. I would ask that we each earnestly pray for our church family and by His grace we will grow stronger in our love for each other, more trusting in God's Word and better equipped to spread His Gospel. One of my favorite chapters in the New Testament is *Romans 12*. Paul's instructions to the church in Rome are just as essential to BBC today. I am looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us and through us!*

## October Birthdays

- 1 Ashley Babyak
- 6 Michaela Driver
- 7 Iris Rodgers
- 8 Karian Mitchell
- 10 David Shive
- 11 Zoe Thomas
- 13 Lynn Eplee, Peter Cole,  
Brooke Ahalt
- 17 Sierra Tothill
- 23 Ray Randall, John Shreve
- 25 Judy Wright
- 30 Samantha Fowler, Amber  
Ennis



## Business Meeting Briefs

### *Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in September:*

- The Worship Committee's motion to recognize Paul Foster for his 10 years of service as Choir Director with a luncheon on Sunday, Oct. 16 was adopted.
- Linda Roberts was appointed to serve as the Church Clerk for the remainder of the 2010-2012 term, vice Nancy Cooley, resigned after 53 years of service.
- Lynn Eplee was appointed to serve on the Outreach Committee for the remainder of the 2010-2012 term, vice Linda Roberts, resigned.
- A motion to nominate Pauline Fowler as a messenger to the October MBA meeting was approved.
- The Church selected the following BBC members to serve on the Pastor Search Committee: Larry Michael, Chairman; Ann Bennett; David Bennett; Jan Burdette; Cris Driver; Lee Michael; and Mary Yates.

### *Report from the Special Business Meeting on September 25:*

- A series of administrative motions from the Internal Administration and Nominating Committees were adopted to adjust the Church by-laws, 2011 budget, and 2010-2012 committee roster to prepare for Pastor Randy Gilliam's election to the pastorate.
- The Church elected Rev. Randy Gilliam as the new pastor of Barnesville Baptist Church by a vote of 44-0.

### *Expected at the 140<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting:*

- A resolution to begin the annual budget process for 2012 will be offered; the standing committees will report to the Treasurer by Oct. 30.
- The Nominating Committee will recommend Joe Yates to serve as the chairman of the Education Committee for the remainder of the 2010-2012 term.
- A motion will be made to nominate Pastor Randy & Sandy Gilliam as messengers to the BCM/D Annual Convention, being held Nov. 13-15 in Ocean City, MD.
- The Outreach Committee will report on a motion to plan a Church Christmas party.
- Note: All outstanding motions not acted on at the October Business Meeting must be re-introduced for any further consideration by the Church.

## Prayer Concerns

Nancy Cooley  
Jeddie DeFries  
Junior & Arlene Luhn, Bilyie Luhn  
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother  
Steve Scheuch, Nancy Wells' brother  
George Heaton, Dot Fowler's brother  
the Campbell family in the loss of Louis Jacobs  
Dominic Latch  
Frank Kostenko, stationed in Afghanistan  
Tabitha Runkles  
Gavin Byrnes  
Linda Cain  
Tommy Thacker, Margie Stream's sister  
Bea Lindsten, Nancy Taylor's mother  
Melanie Baumbaugh  
Edith Lowe and family  
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Cancer patients: Bill Caudell, Doug Swank, Christine Carlin,  
Mike Geiser, Billy Broschart, John Moore, Lyndsay O'Malley,  
Kathleen James, Nikkie Harrington, Chris Levinton, Bev  
Magruder, Gavin Brynes  
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala),  
Steve & Emily Ruffner (International School Project), David &  
Cheryl Shive (Faith Home Ministries), Matt & Ellen Zell  
(Honduras), Earl & Maria Wentzel (Urbana)



*"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).*

## News You Can Use

*Pig Pickin' and concert a great time for all.* The Baptist Men sponsored their annual pig roast on Saturday, Sept. 17 with a gospel bluegrass concert afterwards. In the apple dessert contest, Mary Yates baked an Apple Praline Pie for first place. Second place was Ellen Williams' for her Apple Cake. Thanks to judges Tori Gold, Jocey Gold, Trent Gold, and Caleb Gossage from Gold Heart and BBC's Laura Luhn for evaluating each entry. After the dinner, the Gold Heart bluegrass band gave an excellent performance, playing tunes from

their upcoming all-gospel album as well as several of their current hits. The audience even got to sing along for several songs! Thanks to the Baptist Men for hosting this time of fellowship.



*One baptized on Sept. 18.* Following Jesus' example, Michaela Driver was baptized on the third Sunday of September by Pastor Randy and her grandfather Joe Yates. Michaela's membership application was approved at the August business meeting. We are so pleased to have Michaela join our church family!



*Get ready for Operation Christmas Child.* You can share the love and hope of Jesus Christ with needy children around the world by packing a shoebox with toys. The WMU needs your donations no later than Sunday, Nov. 13.

*Women's study to begin.* Lynn Eplee and Stephanie Runkles will lead eight sessions on "Mind, Mouth, Moods, and Attitudes" Wednesdays at 10:00 am starting Oct. 5, in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to attend.

*Counseling resources available.* In follow-up to the discussion with Kim Cook of CentrePointe Counseling on Sept. 25, please note that the BCM/D offers counseling scholarships; the Family Ministry also has some vouchers. Please contact Pastor Randy for additional information.

*BCM/D missionary Randy Millwood to speak Oct. 9.* Randy Millwood works with pastors and churches in leadership, spiritual transformation, and small groups, and has a passion for the local church. Please make plans to attend the morning worship service on the second Sunday of the month.

*New pastor elected.* During a special business meeting on Sunday, Sept. 25, the members of Barnesville Baptist Church unanimously elected a new pastor--Randy Gilliam--who has served BBC faithfully as associate pastor since 2001 and as acting pastor for the last month. Please pray for Pastor Randy and his wife Sandy as he steps up to a new position of leadership and ministry in our congregation and community.

*BBC thanks Paul Foster for 10 years of service.* We have been blessed for the last decade by Paul Foster, who has ably served as our Choir Director. As a way of saying "thank you", there will be a luncheon in Paul's honor after the service on Sunday, Oct. 16. Please bring a side dish to share.

*Committee heads to hold special meeting.* The chairmen of the five standing committees will meet promptly after the morning worship on Sunday, Oct. 9 to briefly review the upcoming 2012 budget process. Any interested Church member is welcome to attend.

*Supporting missions in Maryland/Delaware.* The State Missions offering is a vital part of the ongoing task of building God's Kingdom. The BCM/D-wide goal this year is \$215,000. To date, BBC has received \$930 towards its 2011 goal of \$1,455, which will support local efforts like girls' and boys' missions camps, Ocean City and Deep Creek Lake resort ministries, disaster relief, and VBS clinics. Thank you to everyone who has helped us reach 64% of our 2011 goal. Please prayerfully consider how you can support state missions this fall.

## COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"You know Agnes... I wonder if we are getting through to the younger generation as well as we think..."