



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

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14)!

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

God's glory is recognized and heralded when we proclaim praise, honor, power, authority, goodness, faithfulness, and holiness to Him. Although God is invisible, "...the whole earth is full of His glory" (Isaiah 6:3). God manifested His glory to men in ancient times in the glowing of Moses' face (Exodus 34:29) and in a cloud that filled the temple (I Kings 8: 10-11). In the birth of Christ we see this glory again! "And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them..." (Luke 2:9).

To those who saw God's glory manifested it was awesome and fearful. Moses had to put a veil over his face because the people were afraid to come near him. The priests could not continue their ministering because of the cloud in the temple. And the shepherds were "greatly afraid". But, with the birth of Christ, God's glory was not to be feared. God brought the light to know His glory through Jesus, "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Corinthians 4:6). How awesome is that? The Apostle John acknowledged God's glory revealed in Christ. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may our thoughts, words and actions bring glory to God. "To God our Savior be glory and majesty forever. Amen" (Jude 25).

God Bless,

Pastor Randy



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Upcoming Events

December 4 Christmas Dinner at Mountain Gate
December 7 Business Meeting
December 11 Christmas Hymn-Sing, Parsonage Open House
December 16 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet
December 17 Baptist Men's Meeting
December 24 Christmas Eve Service
December 25 Christmas
December 31 New Year's Eve



"...that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).



The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

I don't think it's a secret that certain parts of the Bible are more popular than others. One of the less-popular sections are the Old Testament "phone books", where ancient men with funny names "begat" other oddly-named patriarchs. The New Testament is largely begat-free, except that *Matthew* and *Luke* feature Jesus' genealogy in chapters 1 and 3, respectively. Although these listings seem to be a lot like their Old Testament counterparts, if you look closely at them, you will notice some interesting patterns that merit attention, especially during this Christmas season.

The first noteworthy feature is that the two lists don't match very well in between David and Jesus. A simple solution is to regard *Matthew's* list as Jesus' descent through Joseph, and *Luke's* as a family tree on Mary's side. This squares well with major themes in each gospel: *Matthew* demonstrates that Jesus is the legal heir of King David and thus the Messiah, while *Luke* shows Jesus as the Son of Man, extending the genealogy all the way to Adam.

Matthew listed Jesus' ancestors in three 14-generation groupings to cover the history of the Jewish people, skipping over more than a few forefathers in the process: Abraham to David, David to the Babylonian Captivity, and from the break-up of the nation until the Messiah's coming. The father-begat-son pattern in *Matthew* is interrupted by five women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Uriah's wife (Bathsheba), and Mary. The first three were Gentiles, the fourth an adulteress, and Mary was accused of impropriety, and yet all were part of the Messiah's lineage through God's grace. The genealogy ends not with "Joseph begat Jesus", but "*Joseph the husband of Mary of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ*" (*Matthew 1:16*), thus noting the fact that Jesus was the legal, if not biological, heir of Joseph, descendant of King David.

Luke reversed the order, starting with Jesus and going all the way back to Adam. Only men are listed, even naming Joseph as the son of his father-in-law. *Luke* gives Jesus' descent from David to his human mother Mary through Nathan, bypassing the curse on the wicked king Jeconiah in *Matthew's* list whose descendants God said would never sit on David's throne (*Jeremiah 22:30*).

Three key people common to both lists are Abraham, Judah, and David. Abraham was the father of the Jewish people and the recipient of God's covenant promise in *Genesis 12* that all the world through him would be blessed. Among the 12 tribes of Israel, in *Genesis 49:10* Jacob prophesied that Judah would have leadership among his brothers' descendants. The Lord furthered both promises when in *II Samuel 7:12-17* He covenanted that Judah's descendant, David, would be king over Israel and his throne would be established forever. Linking Jesus to these forefathers demonstrated He was indeed the Christ.

Although the biblical genealogies aren't always as exciting as slaying Philistines or splitting the Red Sea, take time this Christmas to look for the nuggets of knowledge they contain.

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2012 from the *Lantern* staff!

Interview with the Chairman of the Deacons

David Bennett

★ *Many people know the deacons help serve communion and call people on the phone tree. In what other ways do BBC's deacons serve?* The deacons support the pastor in the ministry of the church. The more visible parts are participating in the weekly services and filling in as needed when the pastor is unable to be there. Less visible is how the closely the deacons work with the pastor to serve the needs of the church and its members. Deacons aid in the ministry to church families and act as a sounding board for the pastor to help shape the direction of the church now and in the future.

★ *When you became a deacon, how did your perspective change from being a regular BBC member?* As a deacon, I have grown a Christian and a leader, which in turn has broadened my perspective. I became a deacon around age 30, which is young for a deacon. I grew up in this church, so it was strange to be considered a peer with those whom had I had looked up to as church leaders and taught me in Sunday School. I always felt welcomed and treated as an equal, but it still took me a while to realize that I had value to add based on the unique talents and perspective that God has given me.

★ *What is the most important thing you have learned or experienced as a deacon?* I learned *Philippians 4:13* real well: "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*". There are things that I have experienced that there is no way that I could have gotten through without relying on Christ to get through them.

★ *Each member and family is assigned to a deacon. What does that mean?* Deacons are encouraged to pray for their families and contact them as needed. As Pastor Randy mentioned in his *Lantern* interview a few months ago [Ed.: Oct. 2011], we will also be visiting families in the coming year. What it does not mean is that if someone is your deacon, you have to go through them if you have a question or issue. Everyone is welcome to go to the pastor or any deacon with a question or issue.

★ *What really goes on during the monthly deacons' meetings?* I know my business meeting deacons' reports do not have much detail, so many may not know what we discuss. We call it the deacons' meeting, but the pastor is always included. We discuss our family ministry; issues that the church may be facing now or potentially in the future; upcoming events, business of the church, and the direction of the church. We always conclude with a time of prayer and ask for God's blessings and direction for the church and its members.

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



Prayer Concerns

Nancy Cooley
Kitty Cooley
Junior & Arlene Luhn, Bilyie Luhn
Steve Scheuch, Nancy Wells' brother
George Heaton, Dot Fowler's brother
Frank Kostenko, stationed in Afghanistan
Bill Caudell
Bobby Trumpower
Bryant Barnhouse, Penny Barton's cousin
Edith Lowe and family
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother
Linda Cain
Michael Grant
Rev. Jeddie DeFries
Scott Smith
Tabitha Runkles
Tammy Combs
Ted Halverson
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Mike Geiser, Billy Broschart,
John Moore, Lyndsay O'Malley, Chris Levinton, Bev
Magruder, Rosie Bowman, Thomas Lally
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).*

Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in
November:*

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the November 2011 Business Meeting.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2012 budget. The proposed budget amount of \$222,301 is \$21,688 less than the 2011 adjusted budget amount of \$250,996, which to date includes over \$7,000 in Cooperative Program giving beyond the minimum budgeted amount of \$10,000.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp





News You Can Use

Frank Fowler, 1944-2011. Our dear brother Frank Fowler passed away on Nov. 8 at the age of 67. Frank became a member of our congregation in 2006. He served his Church and his Lord as a Deacon, Choir member, and as a Groundsman.



Frank making pancakes at the 2007 Baptist Men's Breakfast

During his funeral service on Nov. 12, several speakers remarked that Frank was respected for his quiet strength and practical service. We mourn Frank's death with his wife Jane, daughter Penny, son Frank Jr. and brother Eddie, and pray that the Lord will give the Fowler family comfort and strength in the weeks and months ahead.

Open House at the Parsonage. After the Monthly Hymn-Sing on Dec. 11, 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 by Sunday, Dec. 11. 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 25 wrapped shoeboxes packed with Christmas presents for needy children around the world. Thank you all for your willingness to share. The WMU is now collecting non-perishable food items for the food pantry, which will be distributed to local families in need.

Christmas services planned. The Choir will present its cantata, "Mary Did You Know?", during worship on Sunday, Dec. 18, after which the Baptist Men will give gifts to the children. A Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 pm. On Christmas Day, there will be no Sunday School. Instead, there will be a light fellowship breakfast starting at 9:00 am, followed by morning worship at its regular time of 10:45 am.

Christmas dinner scheduled for Dec. 4. Friends and families of Barnesville Baptist are reminded that the annual Christmas Dinner will be held at Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 pm. See you there for a good time of fellowship and singing after the meal.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$2,000. Dec. 4-11 is the week of prayer for the 2011 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This year's theme is "His heart, His hands, His voice - I am Southern



Baptist missions"; SBC churches must take direct responsibility for helping reach the nearly 3,800 unengaged, unreached people

groups that IMB missionaries may never be able to reach. 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. 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. 13-15 in Ocean City, MD. The theme for the 2011 meeting was "Connect for Life Change: Making Disciples". There were 368 messengers and 93 visitors registered. Besides receiving reports and approving the 2012 budget, pastors, seminary presidents, and the BCM/D executive director inspired and challenged the messengers about the importance of making disciples. Also, the messengers passed a resolution in support of traditional marriage.

Write to David Gilliam. David and his family covet your prayers as he serves our country. He can be mailed at: SGT. Gilliam, David/HC, 2-16 INF-BN/Bldg. 8020, Box #181/Ft. Riley, KS 66442.

Calling servants. If you are looking for a way to serve our Lord this coming year, there are two possibilities. First, learn about becoming a Sunday School teacher or helper. A class for new teachers will begin in January. Also, if you are a musician, we will begin a Fourth Sunday Praise and Worship Service in January. Please let Pastor Randy know if you would like to contribute your musical talent to this venue of worship and praise.