



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

"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

A year has ended. A new year is beginning. We can all reflect back on the past year and realize that there have been ups and downs, successes and disappointments. There have been times of celebration and times of grief, times of health and times of sickness. We can remember yesterday with joy or sorrow but we live in today and we look toward the future with optimism and hope. In *Lamentations*, Jeremiah was lamenting the destruction of his beloved city, Jerusalem. In the midst of his great sorrow, he recognized two important things. First, God's compassions, His tender mercies, never fail to come to those who trust Him. No matter what a day may bring, God's love and mercy and compassion are freely given and renewed day by day in the lives of those who love Him. He promises His help, strength, presence, rest, and peace through Jesus Christ.

Second, almost in a shout of victory, Jeremiah acknowledged that no matter how things seem, God is faithful, "*Great is Your faithfulness*". That is why we can look toward the future with optimism and hope. Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, will lead us to quiet waters and green pastures and bring renewed life to our spirits. There is an adventure lying ahead for each one of us in the coming year. We should pray that the Lord's will be done in our lives in a way that honors Him. May the Lord bless each one of you in this new year with wisdom, strength, and faith. And may your life shine the light of Christ's love in the darkness where people are needy and hurting without hope. Amen and Amen.

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Upcoming Events

January 1 New Year's Day
January 4 Business Meeting
January 20 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet
January 21 Baptist Men's Meeting
January 29 Baptist Men's Day



"So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat..." (John 6:19).

God Bless,



Pastor Randy

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

It seems like I just wrote a year-in-review column for 2010, and now the year 2011 has already gone on its way. The last 12 months have included some high highs and some low lows, but the Lord has continued to bless and prosper His church at Barnesville for His Kingdom's sake. Here are some of 2011's more interesting and important Church news headlines:

January: pretty quiet, still recovering from Christmas 2010?

February: Upper Seneca's Pastor Gayle Clifton taught "The Old Testament Made Simple" course, Baptist Men's Day held

March: third Women's Rally with Gayla Parker, two baptized

April: "The King is Coming" Easter cantata performed, \$3,665 collected for the 2011 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

May: two baptized, BBC recognized by the BCM/D as a top-50 church in Cooperative Program giving

June: 10th anniversary celebration for pastors

July: Big Apple VBS, offering sent to NYC missionaries

August: BBC manned the MBA's county fair tent, Father-Child Banquet held at Dutch's Daughter

September: resignation of Pastor Joe Ivey, Pig Pickin' and Gold Heart concert sponsored by Baptist Men, election of Randy Gilliam as Pastor, one baptized

October: 10th anniversary celebrated for Choir Director Paul Foster with luncheon, \$1,505 collected for state missions

November: passing of Frank Fowler, WMU packed 25 Christmas shoeboxes

December: annual Christmas dinner held at Mountain Gate, "Mary Did You Know?" cantata performed for Christmas, WMU-led Lottie Moon Christmas Offering near goal

As a congregation, 2011 has been a time to practice Paul's admonition in *Romans 12:15* to "*rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep*". Our call to disciple new believers, share the gospel with all, fellowship with each other, minister to those in need, and worship the Lord together continues year in and year out. As we enter the new year of 2012, we look forward to the opportunities and challenges the Lord will place before us as we seek to serve Him.

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Hebrews 12:28).

Interview with the Sunday School Superintendent

Joe Yates

★ *Why do you believe attending Sunday School is important?*

It's most important to a young mind. It's the place where God's Word is taught, a place to learn. There's nothing more important than getting to know Christ personally as your Savior early in life. Churches are grown from Sunday School. The younger you are the easier it is to learn God's principles for life.

★ *How did Sunday School affect your Christian walk growing up?*

It helped me to grow up. I learned scripture and it helped me to know and accept Christ as my Savior by the age of 8.

★ *What is the most important thing you have learned or experienced serving as a Sunday School teacher?*

God's Word is alive. You have to study! As a teacher you always learn more than the students because of study and preparation. There is no other word or book more important than the Bible--God's Word. Praise God it's taught and preached at Barnesville Baptist Church!!! It's wonderful to see lives changed when God's Word is taught!

★ *What advice would you give to someone thinking about becoming a Sunday School teacher?*

Talk to Pastor Randy or me. Pray, ask God if this is what He wants you to do. You are held to a higher accountability as a teacher of God's Word. It is of utmost importance you follow His leading for your life.

★ *As the Sunday School Superintendent, what are your goals for Barnesville's Sunday School in the next year? The next five years?*

To pray, listen to the teachers, and meet their needs. To keep abreast of other teaching materials. To pray that the parents will bring their young ones to Sunday School. We are to seek His will, and He will add to Barnesville Baptist Church as we grow in His love, grace and mercy. See you in Sunday School!!!!!! God bless you!!

January Birthdays

- 1 Jack Cooley
- 4 Bob Lillard
- 5 Dave Thomas
- 8 Flora Gilliam, Scott Foster,
Dan Yates
- 9 Pat Elam
- 10 Lois Hogue, Rebecca Thomas
- 11 Jesse Yates
- 15 Sara Oden
- 18 James Thomas
- 19 Dick Wells
- 20 Julia Cole
- 21 Robert Fowler
- 22 Leslie Foster
- 26 TJ Marsh, Stacey Tothill



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in December:

- The Church accepted the Finance Committee's motion to approve its 2012 Budget proposal.
- Larry Michael was appointed to serve as the Head Groundsman for the remainder of the 2010-2012 term, vice Ralph Cooley, resigned.
- Ed Williams was appointed to serve as the Head Usher for the remainder of the 2010-2012 term, vice Larry Michael, resigned.
- Lee Michael was appointed to serve as the Chairman of the Internal Administration Committee for the remainder of the 2010-2012 term, vice Nancy Cooley, resigned.

Expected at the January Business Meeting:

- The Treasurer will submit his Annual Report on the 2011 fiscal year.
- The Pastor will appoint the Deacons to serve as the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2011 finances and report at the March Business Meeting.

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
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).*

COTCD Cartoon



Religious crooks

News You Can Use

Lottie Moon goal almost met. As of press time, offerings toward BBC's \$2,000 goal are at \$1,940, or 97%, of our 2011 target. 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 57 percent of the International Mission Board's total annual income. Thank you for your willingness to contribute to building God's Kingdom throughout the coming year.

Birthday updates requested. The *Lantern* enjoys sharing members' and friends' birthdays with the Church family. Please help us keep our records current by contacting the Church office with any names and dates we may lack, especially if you started attending within the last year.

Go paperless in 2012. BBC is now offering the *Lantern* in electronic format to those would prefer such an option instead of a copy sent by mail. If you would like to receive a monthly email with a link to the *Lantern*, please send an email to our masthead address. Those who wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the *Lantern* will continue to receive one; no further action is required. While back copies of the *Lantern* are always available on the BBC website, the calendar is for the current month only.

Baptist Men's Day scheduled. If the snow doesn't stop us as in previous years, the Baptist Men will cook breakfast for the church on Sunday, Jan. 29. Join the men at 8:30 am 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. The MOB will again perform "Fishers of Men" as well as some new songs. The men of the church will lead the morning service. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Danny Moore, who spoke at our three-day men's rally in 2009; he will bring a message of encouragement and challenge for men.

"Mary Did You Know?" cantata performed. Thanks to Paul



was based on the popular Mark Lowry song of the same name. Leslie Foster performed a solo, the narrator was Paul Foster III, and Luke Fedders was the audio technician. If you like to sing, please consider joining the choir and making a joyful noise unto the Lord on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

Foster and the Adult Choir for their excellent musical and video presentation on Dec. 18. The cantata

Men's and women's groups celebrate Christmas. The Baptist Men assembled 30 gift bags for the children of the church at their December meeting and distributed them during the Dec. 18 morning worship service. The



Ann Bennett, Bob Lillard, and Jan & Gary Burdette at the Dec. 4 Christmas dinner (l-r)

WMU is now collecting non-perishable food items for the food pantry, which will be distributed to local families in need. Consider joining the men's or women's group this coming year. The WMU gathers on the second Monday morning of each month, and the Baptist Men normally meet every third Saturday for breakfast.

Call for submissions. As the *Lantern* begins its 11th calendar year, the Editor would like to remind the readership that we accept original compositions, poems, lyrics or other appropriate materials for publication. Please contact the Editor with questions and for more specific guidelines.

Snow policy. As we enter the season of ice and snow, 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.

New women's Bible study course to begin. Lynn Eplee and Stephanie Runkles will be leading a new Bible study starting Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 12:30 pm. This course will run for eight weeks. The study is based on Nancy Leigh DeMoss' book *Lies Women Believe and The Truth That Sets Them Free*. DeMoss exposes common areas of deception believed by Christian women such as, "I cannot walk in consistent victory over sin", "I cannot control my emotions", "If I submit to my husband, I will be miserable", and "I just can't take it any more", just to name a few. Child care is available. Please call Stephanie at (301) 525-8194 for more information.

Call for overdue library books. Please return any church library materials that you are no longer using. Some items were checked out over a year ago. Please keep books no more than one month and DVDs and videos no longer than two weeks.