



# The Barnesville Lantern

Barnesville Baptist Church  
17917 Barnesville Road/P.O. Box 69  
Barnesville, Maryland 20838

301-407-0500 (phone/fax)  
www.barnesvillebaptist.org  
barnesvillebaptist@comcast.net

February 2012, Volume 10, No. 9

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

## The Pastor's Spotlight

*"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him, all you peoples. For great is His love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord" (Psalm 117:1-2)!*

February is upon us. We are in the midst of a fairly mild winter with little snow, ice, or really cold weather, but we do have short days and long nights. For whatever reason, February has a very bad reputation. Sometimes people find themselves more irritable, moody, or sad, having less energy than normal, or just plain hard to get along with. Doctors have given this condition a name, seasonal affective disorder (SAD). This is a form of mild depression. Maybe some of you have noticed a change in your general outlook on life now that February has arrived. You may be convinced that things will not get much better until spring arrives.

One antidote for SAD that you can try without a prescription is to praise God daily! Praise is an outward expression of internal adoration for the Lord. There are many ways to praise God. In the Old Testament at least seven different words are translated "praise". These descriptors help us understand what praise may look like. You can praise God with extended or uplifted hands; sing songs of thanksgiving; meditate on God's holiness and goodness; dance or clap your hands; read or sing the *Psalms*; allow your spirit to be joyful in the Lord; and gather with your faith family and sing praises at every opportunity. And according to one Hebrew word, you can be "clamorously foolish". This effective antidote can be used when you are happy or sad, when things are good or when things stink. Praise is the vehicle that allows us to open ourselves to the Lord without inhibitions, conditions, or expectations, just heartfelt praise, gratitude, and thanksgiving to a holy and righteous God who loves us. Praise is an act of the will. For God's help with the SAD times in your life, commit to praise Him and then allow Him to bring His peace and joy to your life. *"Every day I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever" (Psalm 145:2).*

## In This Edition:

- The Pastor's Spotlight, Page 1
- Upcoming Events, Page 1
- The Pew Perspective, Page 2
- Interview with a Short-Term Missionary, Page 2
- February Birthdays, Page 3
- Prayer Concerns, Page 3
- Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
- COTCD Cartoon, Page 3
- News You Can Use, Page 4
- February 2012 Calendar, Page 5

## Upcoming Events

- February 1** Business Meeting
- February 14** Valentine's Day
- February 17** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- February 18** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
- February 20** Presidents' Day



*"... A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight" (John 9:11).*

God Bless,



Pastor Randy

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Have you considered how long-lasting decisions can be? Pastor Randy and I were talking about the upcoming new year in late December, and he asked me if I thought the new year of 2012 would be a better year than 2011 was. My answer was that I wasn't sure that 2012 would be much of an improvement, because all the same people that were in 2011 making decisions would be around for the start of 2012. Although many people like to celebrate the first day of the first month as a dividing line between the past and the future, our state of affairs on January 1 looks a lot like it did on December 31 because the decisions of the past have led us to where we are in the present and affect where we will be in the future.

The Bible references many instances where the power and reach of our choices are obvious. Part of being created in the Lord's image is our capacity to exercise will and make real decisions that have permanent consequences, be they good or bad. For example, while in the land of Moab, Moses again charged the children of Israel to obey their covenant promises to the Lord. Reminding them that they would be blessed if they obeyed God, but cursed if they were disobedient, Moses said, "...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live..." (Deuteronomy 30:19). It is significant that people not only make decisions that affect themselves, but also the generations that come after them. The Lord described Himself to Moses as both merciful and just, "...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation..." (Exodus 34:7). With this verse in mind, it is fascinating to consider that if a generation is 30 years, that for more than a century someone's decisions could ripple across time. In your own lives, consider how decisions made by people before you were even born shaped the course of your life. None of us had a say on what our name is, where we were born and raised, or what language we learned to speak.

One of the most significant decisions in human history was the decision by Adam and Eve to not trust or obey the Lord's requirement to avoid just one tree in Eden. Their sin severed not just their spiritual relationship with God, but also imparted to their descendants a sin nature hostile to knowing or seeking God. It wasn't until Jesus served as a model of obedience that the consequences of Adam's actions could be reversed. Paul explained it this way: "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous" (Romans 5:19). What a blessing it is to know that as powerful and consequential as our ability to make decisions is, the Lord's ability to show us mercy and grace for His glory's sake is so much more abounding. As we continue through 2012, and toward 2013, 2014, and how ever many more years the Lord has allotted for us, let us consider the great responsibility that comes with the gift to make decisions.

## Interview with a Short-Term Missionary

Larry Michael

★ *Why did you start participating in short-term missions activities?* I first participated at the request of my brother who attends Redland Baptist, to use my construction skills to help my fellow brothers in Christ.

★ *Where have you gone on your short-term mission trips? What projects and activities did you participate in during your visits?* I went to Gulfport, Mississippi twice to work on Hurricane Katrina reconstruction projects, helping to build a battered women's shelter and wire houses. In New Orleans, I put up drywall in a woman's home after Hurricane Katrina. I have gone to Hato Mayor in the Dominican Republic three times, where I have done electrical work and carpentry at small village churches and local homes.

★ *How have the mission trips impacted your Christian walk?* The mission trips have reinforced my belief that you should help others with the gifts the Lord has given you and that there is a blessing in service to others.

★ *What is the most important thing you have learned or experienced serving as short-term missionary?* There can be joy even in the midst of hardships for people who truly love the Lord.

★ *What preparations were needed to successfully travel to and serve at the mission locations?* In Gulfport and New Orleans, we needed to prepare VBS supplies and lessons beforehand, and assemble tools for construction. To travel to the Dominican Republic, we needed to get passports and vaccinations in advance of our trip. In addition to the VBS and construction supplies we used, we also had medical and dental teams that needed to collect medicines, toothbrushes, vitamins, personal hygiene items, and eyeglasses to provide medical care to the people we met.

★ *What advice would you give to someone thinking about participating in a short-term mission trip or activity?* Pray about getting involved, then trust the Lord to direct your path. Everyone has a gift for service--VBS teacher, construction worker, medical assistant, kitchen helper, music leader or just as an extra pair of hands--there is always something to do if one is willing.

★ *What steps would you recommend BBC take as a congregation to prepare for sending out its own team of short-term missionaries in the future?* I would recommend BBC leadership and/or interested members accompany another church mission trip to see what is involved.

## February Birthdays

- 3 Gary Cooley, Linda Roberts
- 5 Kase Watson
- 7 Michelle Vasko, Charles Watson
- 8 Jeddie DeFries
- 9 Trudy Meissner
- 10 Carole Kearse
- 11 Sam Furr
- 12 Luke Fedders
- 13 Bill Pleasants
- 20 Janet Magruder
- 21 David Gilliam
- 22 Bradley Keriakos



## Business Meeting Briefs

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

- The Treasurer submitted his Annual Report on the 2011 fiscal year.
- The Pastor appointed the Deacons to serve on the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2011 finances and report at the March Business Meeting.
- A motion to recognize Nancy Cooley for her 58 years of service as Church Clerk (1953-2011) was referred to the Outreach Committee.

### *Expected at the February Business Meeting:*

- The Outreach Committee will return a motion on recognizing Nancy Cooley's 58 years of service as Church Clerk.

## Prayer Concerns

Ralph & Nancy Cooley  
Kitty Cooley  
Junior & Arlene Luhn, Bilyie Luhn  
Steve Scheuch, Nancy Wells' brother  
Frank Kostenko, stationed in Afghanistan  
Bobby Trumpower  
Bryant Barnhouse, Penny Barton's cousin  
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother  
Linda Cain  
Michael Grant  
Rev. Jeddie DeFries  
Scott Smith  
Lynn Eplee  
June Luhn  
Tabitha Runkles  
Jen Bach, friend of Leslie Foster  
Ted Halverson  
Melanie Baumbaugh  
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Mike Geiser, Billy Broschart,  
John Moore, Lyndsay O'Malley, Bev Magruder, Thomas Lally,  
Phil Brudner, Ginger Anderson, Sandy Shaull  
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala),  
Steve & Emily Ruffner (International School Project), David &  
Cheryl Shive (Faith Home Ministries), Matt & Ellen Zell  
(Honduras)



*"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



*"And in the future, when you take up the offering  
I would appreciate it if you didn't say 'stick-em up'"*

## News You Can Use

**Fourth Women's Rally coming in March.** Gayla Parker is coming back to BBC for a fourth Women's Rally Mar. 16-18. Gayla is the WMU President for the BCM/D. She will speak three times, twice from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on Friday, Mar. 16 and Saturday, Mar. 17 and also during the Sunday morning worship service on the 18th. Gayla speaks with the heart of a missionary and with passion for the Gospel and for people.

**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.

**Historian's update.** Log onto the BBC website's church history page to find an online record of newspaper articles about BBC, its members, and pastors beginning in the 1830s up to the present day. A digital copy of the old minutes, covering the first 60-odd years of BBC history, is available through the church office. The early minutes contain the 1871 church covenant signed by the founding members, the 1882 articles of incorporation, records of 19<sup>th</sup>-century business meetings, and membership rolls until 1943. We are also starting to digitize old pictures; we have 250 pictures from 1995-1997 newly available.

**Building improvements.** Vall Boring of Steeples Plus has been busy the past few weeks, making the exterior of Barnesville Baptist ready for the next several decades. For several days in late December, the front façade of BBC sported a light green hue, the base color of the concrete fiberboard that will replace the old wood clapboard siding.



Originally tasked to paint the church's exterior, Vall discovered after scraping that most of the 1980s-era wood was deteriorated. The sanctuary window frames were showing their age too, and needed to be replaced. The new front façade matches very well with the original wood, now that it has been primed white. The new sanctuary windows are very similar to the old ones as well, especially with the new shutters installed. Springtime plans include installing concrete fiberboard around the entire church building and then, finally, painting it all white.



*The old east face windows resting in the snow*

**Carroll "Ben" Bennett, 1929-2012.** BBC member Carroll "Ben" Bennett passed away on Jan. 12 at the age of 82. Ben became a member of our congregation in 1965. He served his Church and his Lord as a trustee, usher, and Choir member. We mourn Ben's death with his sons David, Steven, and Scott, and pray that the Lord will give the Bennett family comfort and strength in the weeks and months ahead.



**Welcome baby Aydin.** Mr. Aydin Zain Malik was born to Atif & Megan Malik on Jan. 6 at Shady Grove Hospital. He weighed in at 7 lbs., 13 oz. and was 20 and 1/4 inches long. Aydin's first worship service and Children's Story attendance at BBC was on Sunday, Jan. 15. Proud grandparents are Ed & Ellen Williams.

**Snow policy.** During this 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.



*Snow covering the BBC parking lot on Jan. 22*

**Write to David Gilliam.** David and the Gilliam 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.

**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.

**Lottie Moon goal surpassed.** At final count, BBC's \$2,000 goal for 2011 was exceeded by \$200. Thank you for your prayerful, generous support of international missions.