



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

"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humble with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Spring is right around the corner. This glorious season of new birth gives us a renewed sense of innocence, beauty, purity, and the promise of planting and reaping. It renews in our spirits also a yearning to be better people, love our family and friends more, live healthier lives, and to enjoy life and the blessings that come to us from the hand of a loving and merciful God. Spring energizes our desire to be alive and experience the joys of new life.

As Christians we think: "This is a new season. I want to please the Lord in everything I do". And as we think about how to do that, *Micah 6:8* comes to mind. "If I can just be righteous in my dealing with other people; and somehow feel God's lovingkindness for all people; and submit my own pride to the leadership of a holy God, God will be pleased with me". Unfortunately, the Scriptures reveal the sinful nature of man. *"There is none righteous, no not one" (Romans 3:10); "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23); and "Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God" (Romans 8:8).*

In this season before Easter, we again realize what the Lord has done for us. He has truly given us new life, spring life, life that can please God because we have the righteousness of Christ. Now we begin to prepare to celebrate His wondrous resurrection from the dead. *"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification" (Romans 4:25).* The righteousness, the new life that we yearn for, is given to us through faith. *"...not having a righteousness of my own...but that which is through faith in Christ-the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith" (Philippians 3:9).* The weeks leading up to Resurrection Sunday give us an opportunity to refocus on Christ and with the help of the Holy Spirit, to learn better how to *"walk humbly with our God"*.

God Bless,



Pastor Randy

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Upcoming Events

March 7 Business Meeting
March 16 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
March 16-18 Women's Rally Services
March 17 Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am



"Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth'" (John 11:43)!

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Are you a “Teflon” Christian? Teflon is the non-stick coating used on pans that makes them easy to clean, and was part of the famous nickname given to President Ronald Reagan for his uncanny ability to be unaffected by his detractors’ political attacks. For followers of Jesus Christ, our ability to withstand accusations comes from living a life that is above reproach.

In his short letter to the young pastor Titus, the Apostle Paul laid out guidance for four groups of Christians to follow so that their daily walk would be without condemnation: older men, older women, younger women, and younger men. Before describing how Christians could live upright lives, Paul described people in Titus’ community on the Mediterranean island of Crete who lived in direct contrast to a Christian lifestyle. Some of Paul’s concerns were that these people were, “...insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers...” and “...abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work” (Titus 1:10, 16).

This may have been normal behavior for many, “But as for you...”, as Paul started *Titus 2*, there was a higher standard for Christians. Older men were to be “...sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience” (v. 2). As men who had followed Christ for a long time, they were to stand out as role models, being sober (moderate, not extravagant or reckless), reverent (dignified, respectable), temperate (sensible, discerning), sound (whole, healthy, strong, solid) in faith (unwavering, undoubting, trusting, convinced), in love (serving others with self-sacrifice, not bitter or selfish), and in perseverance (enduring, tested, patient, tempered).

The older women were to behave similarly to the older men (reverent and temperate), as well as to avoid being like the gossipers of *Titus 1* (v. 3). In addition, the older women were instructed to train the younger women to “...love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands...” (vv. 4-5). Christian women were to prioritize their families and in so doing honor the Lord.

Younger men, who are more typically bold and risk-taking than their elders, were exhorted to be “...sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned...” (vv. 6-8). That young Christian men were to be “sober-minded in all things” meant they should develop self-mastery and self-control in all aspects of their lives: mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual. In this way, they would bring glory to Christ in their speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity (*1 Timothy 4:12*), being obedient to God’s Word and His will (*Psalms 119:9-16*).

Living up to these standards is what gives Christians their Teflon-likeness. Paul explained to Titus the goal and result of consistent Christian testimony by word and deed: “...that the word of God may not be blasphemed” (v. 5) and “...that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of us” (v. 8). When Christians live out their faith, critics will have no legitimate ammunition to levy against Christ or His church, and those who do attack Christianity will hesitate to open their mouths any longer.

Interview with the Bell Choir Director

Ann Bennett

★ *You started BBC’s bell choir. What do you like most about playing bells?* I love the sound that comes from a bell choir playing in cooperation and harmony. I like that it is a great music-teaching and -learning activity. I also like praising the Lord with music!

★ *Why do the bell choir members wear white gloves when they play?* The white gloves were given to us by the sales rep for the hand bell manufacturer and they happened to be white! Any color glove will work; the main purpose is to keep the oils from our hands from tarnishing the brass. The bells do not have a lacquer coating so they tarnish easily.

★ *How is playing bells different from playing other musical instruments?* Each musician plays one, two or three bells/notes while musicians of other instruments have to play ALL the notes! And with bells, you must work together to get the sound that you want to achieve.

★ *You also sing in the choir, play the organ and piano, and can conduct. How did you get your start with music?* My parents always had classical music playing at our home--that started my love for music. There was a piano in our home that I had the opportunity to learn to play. I took many courses in music (chorus, theory, and composition) in junior and senior high school. What got me interested in bells specifically was the opportunity I had during junior and senior high school to play in the different bell choirs at my church. I even got to direct the juniors when I was 18 years old.

★ *What is the most important thing you have learned or experienced as BBC’s bell choir director?* That everyone has different talents, learning curves, and levels of “stage fright” but that everyone enjoys praising the Lord with music. We have very dedicated choir members and that includes not only the playing of the bells but the set-up and take-down of the equipment at each rehearsal and performance. They work together in almost military precision!

★ *What plans does the bell choir have in store for this year?* We are currently working on two pieces of music for the Sunday after Easter (4/15). One of the pieces has a flute descant! We are hoping to get more interest in the bell choir. If we have 11 musicians we can play three-octave music for the Christmas season.

March Birthdays

- 3 Kirk Williams
- 5 Stape Shields
- 9 Arlene Luhn
- 10 Ed Williams
- 11 Jim Gilliam
- 17 Tammy Thomas
- 18 Steven Bennett
- 24 Janice Cole
- 26 Nevada Pleasants
- 28 Jack Hough, Todd Marsh
- 29 Sarah Marsh
- 30 Paul Keriakos
- 31 Tyler Babyak, Rhonda Burriss,
Robert Shreve, Jessica Thomas



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).*

Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in
February:*

- The Church adopted a motion to recognize Nancy Cooley for her 58 years of service as Church Clerk (1953-2011) during the Feb. 12 service and a luncheon afterwards.

*Report from the Special Business Meeting on February
19:*

- The Church approved a motion to upgrade the parsonage kitchen.

Expected at the March Business Meeting:

- The Select Committee on Auditing will present its report on the 2011 finances.
- The Internal Administration Cmte. will offer a motion to accept the Steeples Plus bid to repair the window trims and jambs, front porch, basement entrance area, and install and paint cement board on the remainder of the sanctuary exterior.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"The Praise Team wants a bigger budget, or they're going to take their show on the road"

News You Can Use

Nancy Cooley honored for 58 years of service. On Sunday,



Ralph & Nancy Cooley with Pastor Randy Gilliam

Feb. 12, BBC had a special time of recognition for Nancy Cooley, who was Church Clerk from 1953 until she stepped down from the position in 2011. Nancy's tenure as clerk was truly a remarkable length of faithful service, the longest in our Church's history. Special speakers during the service

were Nancy's sister-in-law Barbara Swank, former BBC pastor Jeddie DeFries (1969-1994), and Sandy Gilliam, all of whom shared stories about Nancy's service to the Lord and to BBC. Pastor Randy Gilliam ended the time of recognition by presenting Nancy a plaque. A luncheon was held in the Fellowship Hall after the service in Nancy's honor.

Snow policy. As we head into the final weeks of winter and look forward to springtime, we urge all our members and visitors to exercise caution and good judgment in deciding whether 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.

Fourth Women's Rally coming in March. Gayla Parker is coming back to BBC for a fourth annual 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.

Baptist Men's Day held. The 2012 celebration of Baptist Men's Day

was held on Sunday, Jan. 29, starting with a church-wide breakfast at 8:30 am. The



10:45 am worship service began with the welcome and responsive reading by Lee Michael, followed by the morning prayer from Joe Yates, the offering by Ed Williams and ushers TJ Marsh and Kirk Williams, children's story by Larry

Michael, prayer and praises and introduction of our guest speaker Rev. Danny Moore by Pastor Randy Gilliam, and the benediction by David Bennett. Scott Foster was at the piano. The Men of Barnesville (MOB) Choir opened the service with "Down to the River to Pray", Scott Foster, soloist. The congregation joined in the hymns "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "Rise Up, O Men of God". The MOB special



was "Fishers of Men" featuring Pastor Randy Gilliam and Eddie Fowler on the refrain.

New directory coming soon. Attention all members: a new version of the church directory will be distributed in April. We will be taking new pictures of all members for this new edition. Also, anyone with changes to his or her contact information or regular attendees who would like to be included for the first time should promptly submit their data to Lee Michael. After April, the next scheduled directory update is planned for October—don't delay!

Daylight Savings Time begins Mar. 11. Remember to set your watches and clocks forward one hour (and lose an hour of sleep) before you go to bed on the 10th.

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.