



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

"On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink'" (John 7:37).

John 7:37 was the life verse for David Brainerd (1718-1747), missionary to the American Indians. David thirsted to know and to trust and to serve God. His calling was to have the Indians experience that thirst and be born into God's kingdom. David's life was not an easy one. His father died when he was five. His mother died five years later. For most of his life he was prone to depression and was physically frail. At an early age he developed symptoms of tuberculosis. A diary entry showed his physical hardships, "My circumstances are such that I have no comfort in any kind but what I have in God". David faithfully pursued God during all of his emotional and physical suffering. David died of tuberculosis at the age of 29. Because of his complete trust in God, even in his suffering, his life story, though short, has inspired Christian missionaries for over two centuries.

Today in our community of faith, there are people grieving over the loss or illness of family or friends. Life delivers sadness in many ways. Seemingly unbearable circumstances direct us toward helplessness and hopelessness. But, that is only the human side of suffering. The Apostle Paul, who was no stranger to suffering and hardship, knew the power of the Holy Spirit in one's life to bring joy and peace and hope. His prayer for the Roman Christians was that they trusted in God, not that they were delivered from hardship. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

The Spirit of the Lord Jesus can bring joy and peace and hope in the midst of the most painful circumstances. It begins with thirst, then trust, and then the power of the Holy Spirit working His will in each life.

God Bless,

Pastor Randy



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Upcoming Events

- May 2** Business Meeting
- May 3** National Day of Prayer
- May 13** Mother's Day
- May 18** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- May 19** Baptist Men's Chicken Dinner & Concert
- May 28** Memorial Day, Church Office closed



"And He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some'. So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish" (John 21:6).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Who needs a Savior? The answer is the same as for the question, who needs a lifeguard at the beach? Someone who needs to be rescued. When it comes to standing before God, no one is high and dry on the beach; everyone is treading in deep water. However, unless a struggling swimmer (or sinner) recognizes his situation, he will refuse help even if it is offered. That was the point Jesus made in *Luke 5:31-32* when the Pharisees condemned Him for consorting with sinners and tax collectors: *“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance’”*. Healthy people don’t need to go to the doctor, only those who are sick. So it is in the spiritual world: those who are holy and upright don’t need help. However, according to God’s Word, everyone is fatally ill from sin.

Several chapters later, in *Luke 19*, the story of Zacchaeus illustrates how one spiritually drowning man recognized his need for the Lifeguard’s help. Zacchaeus was a rich and important man as the chief tax collector of Jericho. Although Zacchaeus appeared to be successful, he was desperate to meet Jesus, even to the point of climbing a sycamore tree to see Him over the height of the crowds (*Luke 19:3-4*). What is most remarkable is that while Zacchaeus was looking for Jesus, Jesus was looking for Zacchaeus. *“And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house’”* (v. 5). Jesus had never met Zacchaeus before, but He knew him and called him by name. Jesus taught in *John 6:44* that, *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...”*. No sinner seeks after God or His standards of righteousness unless the Lord in His grace revives that person’s spiritual senses.

In response to Jesus’ call, Zacchaeus, *“...made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully...Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.’”* (vv. 6, 8). In these verses Zacchaeus demonstrated outwardly the inner workings of conviction, repentance, conversion, and salvation. Only a person who recognizes his sinfulness before God and need for forgiveness, and then receives that forgiveness can joyfully approach a holy and righteous God. Zacchaeus proved Jesus had changed his life by forsaking his earthly riches, obtained by exploiting the people of Jericho with heavy taxes. The Apostle Paul explained what happened to Zacchaeus and every other forgiven sinner in *II Corinthians 5:17*: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”*. The old Zacchaeus who stole from his neighbors was gone, and in his place was one who sought to right his wrongs and live honorably. In response to his turning from sin, Jesus said to Zacchaeus, *“...Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (vv. 9-10).

Jesus still seeks to save those who recognize they need a Savior. How long will you keep treading water?

Interview with the VBS Director

Mary Yates

★ *Why do you believe attending Vacation Bible School (VBS) is important?* It helps children and adults understand and apply Biblical concepts that lead them to their spiritual transformation.

★ *What is your favorite VBS memory from childhood?* I first attended VBS at the age of 7 at BBC. VBS was held for two weeks in the mornings. We learned Bible stories, memorized Bible verses, held Bible drills, and had cookies and Kool-Aid. *John 3:16* was the first Bible verse I memorized. I was one of many children wishing VBS could have been longer.

★ *How has VBS changed at BBC over the years?* With an evening schedule, there are more teachers and helpers participating. We offer classes for youth and adults in addition to the children. There is a new theme each year, and we select a missionary to go with the theme and send our missions offering to that person. Last year we started a missions rotation.

★ *Before serving as co-director with Pastor Randy, how did you else did you participate in VBS?* I enrolled my daughter Tina at a young age at Viers Mill Baptist and became a classroom helper. I was also a teacher/helper at Clarksburg Baptist. I have served as VBS director at BBC for many years and am co-director at the present.

★ *As director, how do you prepare for an upcoming VBS?* I pray for God’s guidance in planning the VBS and then meet with the teachers and helpers. We have to order literature and supplies for each department. We promote VBS in the community by sending postcards to children who attended previously, hang banners in the church yard, advertise in the local newspapers, and post fliers in the community.

★ *What is the most important thing you have learned or experienced serving as a VBS director?* To teach children that God loves them and that He wants them to become Christians.

★ *What are you most looking forward to at this year’s VBS, July 9-13?* To see children and adults experience all the week has to offer. This year’s theme is Amazing Wonders Aviation: Encountering God’s Awesome Power. VBS will kick-off with a 5:30 cookout and moon bounce for the kids on Monday evening. Classes will run from 6:30 to 8:30 pm during the week.

May Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Ennis, Frankie Fowler
- 2 Frank Fowler Jr., Heather Cross,
Eli Watson
- 13 Joseph Ball
- 15 Eddie Fowler
- 17 Leroy Watkins
- 18 Sandy Watkins
- 22 Vicki Crowe
- 24 Nicholas Cole, Wade Williams
- 25 Elsie Allnut
- 28 Paul Foster
- 30 Sandy Gilliam



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in April:

- There was no Old Business pending before the Church.

Expected at the May Business Meeting:

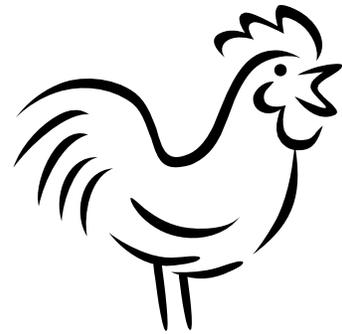
- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the May 2012 Business Meeting.

Prayer Concerns

Ralph & Nancy Cooley
Kitty Cooley
Joanne Dorsey
Matthew Burris, recovering from surgery
Sandra Oden, recovering from surgery
Dave Rose
Ashley Dixon
Tammy Combs
Wanda Huntley
Junior & Arlene Luhn, Bilyie Luhn
Steve Scheuch, Nancy Wells' brother
Michael Grant, Scott Smith, Frank Kostenko, stationed in Afghanistan
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother
Linda Cain
June Luhn
Tabitha Runkles
Jen Bach, friend of Leslie Foster
Jamie Thomas & family in the loss of her mother
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Mike Geiser, Billy Broschart, Lyndsay O'Malley, Bev Magruder, Phil Brudner, Ginger Anderson, Sandy Shaull, Jimmy Benson, Mary Harrington, Rick Hartley, Evelyn Carlin, Louise Richardson
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala), Steve & Emily Ruffner (International School Project), David & Cheryl Shive (Faith Home Ministries), Matt & Ellen Zell (Honduras)

Chicken Dinner & Concert Announcement

*The Baptist Men invite the Church family to a
Chicken Dinner & Concert*



*Saturday, May 19 in the Fellowship Hall
Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm
Bring a side dish to share*

Enter a strawberry-based dessert (pie, cake, ice cream, tarts, etc.) into the Strawberry Dessert Contest!



*"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).*



*The Gold Heart Bluegrass Gospel Concert will begin at
7:00 pm*

News You Can Use

Easter activity report. We are proud to report that BBC has collected \$2,185 for the 2012 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, exceeding our goal of \$1,950 to support the North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries who



The Choir presenting the Amazing Grace Cantata on Easter Sunday

spread the Gospel to people across the United States and Canada. Many of our state convention and local association leaders receive support through the NAMB, so this offering truly makes a difference in our community. Thank you for your prayerful generosity in support of God's Kingdom.

Women's Bible study. Lynn Eplee and Stephanie Runkles will lead a four-week Joyce Meyer study entitled "Guard Your Heart", focusing on the importance of examining one's heart for pride, wrong attitudes, and hypocrisy. Participants will learn how to have hearts that are tender, merciful, pure, and honoring to God. Biblical characters such as Hezekiah and Nebuchadnezzar will be discussed. The study will end with a "heart test". The sessions will be held in the Fellowship Hall starting Wednesday, May 2, from 12:30-2:00 pm.

Clean-up day thanks. Despite a looming forecast of rain and cold, a hardy group came out on Saturday, Apr. 21 to help beautify and maintain the church grounds: Randy & Sandy Gilliam, Joe Yates, Larry Michael, Dot Fowler, Ed Williams, Joyce Dunn, Lee Michael, Wade Williams, as well as Laura Luhn and Bilyie Luhn (pictured below).



Wade Williams, Larry Michael, and Ed Williams mulching

These volunteers mulched the playground and shrubbery, weeded the shrubbery, raked the front yard, and washed the windows inside and out. Many thanks to those listed above for their time and effort. Your volunteerism is most appreciated.



Messiah in the Passover. The Wednesday after Easter brought Neal & Kim Surasky of Chosen People Ministries back to BBC for an hour-long discussion of the Jewish context in which the Last Supper took place. Neal went through the traditional Seder meal elements, such as parsley, salt water, horseradish, and matza bread that recalled the events of the Passover. Both Neal and Kim explained how that ancient celebration foreshadowed the coming of the ultimate sacrificial Lamb. We also learned how the Christian communion was instituted during the Jewish Passover meal. We are hoping to have Neal & Kim return this fall for a discussion on the Jewish high holy days.



VBS 2012 volunteers needed. In preparation for this year's Vacation Bible School, to be held Jul. 9-13, volunteers are needed to serve as teachers and helpers in the areas of crafts, recreation, and snack. Talk to Pastor Randy if you'd like to participate. Please begin praying for this important ministry.

WMU collecting health kit supplies. Please join the WMU and the BCM/D in their outreach to wounded veterans and seamen. Items for a health kit include a new, large bath towel and washcloth, an adult toothbrush, toothpaste, a large comb (not a rattail comb), a full-sized shampoo bottle and bar of soap, and deodorant. If you would like to contribute items for the health kits, please bring them to church no later than Sunday, May 13.

COTCD Cartoon

Church of the Covered Dish

by Thom Tapp

