



# 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

July 2012, Volume 11, No. 2

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

## The Pastor's Spotlight

*"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).*

Years ago, a gentleman with the Goethe Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio was briefing several teachers and educators in preparation for a trip to Germany for a "German experience". He said, "If you really want to get to know what the Germans are like, learn their language, for the culture is imbedded in the language". This piece of advice is accurate for learning about other cultures, but it is exactly right for those who want to know God, who reveals Himself through His Word. *"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His son, whom He appointed heir of all things and through whom He made the universe" (Hebrews 1:1-2).* The written Word of God, the Bible, contains 66 books, written by about 40 authors covering approximately 1,600 years. Preserved through the ages, it is God's written revelation of His will to man. *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (II Timothy 3:16-17).* Jesus, the Word become flesh, was God's ultimate revelation of His great love, mercy, and grace for men. The plan of redemption, prophesied in the Old Testament, was completed in His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. The Bible says He is coming again. Although Christians need to know about God's Word, surveys show that there is very little Bible knowledge in the Church, much less in the larger community. There is a Bible literacy quiz on the youth activity page this month and next. I would be very interested in how you do on the quiz. Share this with your family and friends and discuss why the Bible is so important.

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## Upcoming Events

- July 4** Independence Day
- July 9-13** Vacation Bible School
- July 21** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
- July 30** Deacons' Meeting



*"He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and guides them" (Job 12:23).*

God Bless,



Pastor Randy

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

At the end of the book of *Philippians*, a short but remarkable verse is found. Paul, writing from Rome, ended his epistle to the church at Philippi with the words, *"All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household"* (*Philippians 4:22*). This verse is remarkable because that "Caesar" was the Roman emperor Nero, under whose cruel reign Christians were persecuted in the Roman Empire. Yet even in that hostile environment, God's people were present in and around the halls of power, perhaps as lowly servants, mid-ranking clerks, or even prominent administrators. The scriptures record how godly people have always sought basic dignity and justice when tyrants ruled over them.

First, God's people reject tyrants' evil ways. Consider how Joseph refused the advances of Potiphar's wife, or Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who were quick to refuse to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden idol. *"Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it"* (*Psalms 34:14*).

Second, God's people tell the truth to wicked rulers. Consider how John the Baptist told the truth, condemning Herod and Herodias' incest for the sin that it was. *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (*John 8:32*).

Third, God's people seek after peace, even when those in authority mistreat them. Consider how David sought peace, refusing to strike down his pursuer King Saul when he had the opportunity to ambush him in a cave. *"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men"* (*Romans 12:18*).

Fourth, God's people stand up for their rights. Consider how Esther defended the Jewish people from Haman's wrath, risking her life by approaching the king's throne uninvited. *"He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday"* (*Psalms 37:6*).

Fifth, God's people await the Lord's vindication even when their oppressors win the day. Consider how God vindicated Elijah's message of judgment against the idolatrous Ahab & Jezebel, elevating the prophet from being fed by ravens in the wilderness to calling down fire atop Mt. Carmel. *"...Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them"* (*Luke 18:7*)?

In God's providence, His people did not win every victory against earthly tyranny, either back then or today. John the Baptist was beheaded for his boldness. Paul, falsely accused of sedition and denied due process despite his Roman citizenship, was ultimately beheaded. Despite success or failure against this world's tyrants, they lived God-pleasing lives seeking after the birthrights of freedom God has given every man in every age. Such godly men and women will receive *"crowns of life"* in God's Kingdom (*James 1:12*). We further know that there will come a day when all tyranny, injustice, wickedness, and oppression will cease, when Christ comes again as a conquering King and *"the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ..."* (*Revelation 11:15*). In that day, we shall rule with Christ as *"kings and priests before our God"* (*Revelation 1:6*), and know what it is like to live in the household of the King.

## Interview with the Senior Member

Rebecca Umstead

*Already our current most-senior member, on July 8, 2012 Rebecca will become the most senior BBC member in church history with 79 years, 7 months, and 4 days of membership.*

★ *When did you first come to BBC? Who brought you? I believe I was about 5 or 6 years old. My mother brought me, initially, but then I walked with others in the town.*

★ *Describe your baptism. I was baptized at the Baptist church in Frederick on Nov. 27, 1932 by BBC's pastor Rev. H. M. Hall and became a BBC member on Dec. 4, 1932. I remember that I was baptized in the winter, because I had to wear long underwear! I believe I was about 10 years old.*

★ *Who was "in charge" when the pastor was absent or there wasn't a pastor? Mr. Mortimer Hilton and Brother E. T. Dixon did a lot to keep the church going. They sometimes had Sunday School with only 3 or 4 children. They started the pot-bellied stove and did whatever needed to be done to keep the church going.*

★ *Describe a worship service. How was it different from our service today? The service today is more active – so many more taking part. The length of service was shorter. We only used a piano and the choir was very small.*

★ *What events and activities did the church hold besides the Sunday morning service? There were very little activities outside of the Sunday service. The highlight was the Christmas treat--a little box of candy with a string handle--and an orange. In the summer, we had an ice cream social.*

★ *How was Sunday School conducted without the Sunday School building we have today? Classes were held in the church, around a pot-bellied stove. For many years, I only went to Sunday School.*

★ *What did the church look like inside and out? The outside is much the same as it was then, without the added Sunday School rooms. We did not have cushioned pews. We did not have a baptismal and the choir sat on pews in the front of the church.*

★ *How did people get to church? From how far away would people come? Most people walked to church and most came from the town. Everyone knew one another; a visitor was unusual.*

★ *How many people attended a Sunday service? For years, attendance was small. There were two other churches in town at that time.*

★ *Where was the parsonage located? It was the house beside the Town Hall.*

## July Birthdays

8 Nancy Cooley  
9 Fred Bird, Hollyanne Noegel  
11 Megan Malik  
14 Penny Barton, Vicki Keriakos  
19 Brandon Cole  
20 Margie Noegel  
22 Douglas Cooley  
23 Mary Yates  
25 Matthew Burriss  
26 Virginia Magaha, Joe Yates  
28 Jackie Cole  
30 Sherri Marsh



## Prayer Concerns

Ralph & Nancy Cooley  
Kitty Cooley  
Dave Rose  
Ashley Dixon  
Tammy Combs  
Wanda Huntley  
Junior & Arlene Luhn, Bilyie Luhn  
Steve Scheuch, Nancy Wells' brother  
David Gilliam, Michael Grant, Scott Smith, and Frank Kostenko,  
stationed in Afghanistan  
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother  
Linda Cain  
June Luhn  
Tabitha Runkles  
Jen Bach, friend of Leslie Foster  
Pat Elam  
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, Sandy Shaull,  
Jimmy Benson, Mary Harrington, Rick Hartley, Evelyn Carlin,  
Louise Richardson, Joanne Dorsey  
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 June:*

- The Church accepted the Steeples Plus bid to install and paint concrete fiberboard on all remaining untreated walls and to paint and install shutters and increasing the Physical Plant budget line item by \$33,000 to cover the new spending.
- A motion to increase the Historian budget line item by \$200 will be offered by the Internal Administration Cmte. was adopted.
- A motion to move the July Business meeting to June 27 so as not to conflict with the Independence Day holiday was approved.

### *Report from the Monthly Business Meeting for July:*

- A motion was made to call for the Standing Committees to authorize Church officer and committee positions for the 2012-2014 term.
- The Pastor announced that the following members will serve on the Nominating Committee to select 2012-2014 officers: Pauline Fowler, Lee Michael, Ellen Williams, Joe Yates, and himself.
- A motion to increase the Library budget line item by \$600 to install additional shelving offered by the Internal Administration Cmte. was adopted.
- The Deacons will offer a motion to approve the membership application of Bill Appleton by profession of faith pending baptism on July 29.

## News You Can Use

*Vacation Bible School heading our way!* This year's "Amazing Wonders" VBS will be held Jul. 9-13 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. If you would like to serve in a class-room, music, crafts, recreation, or snack, please contact Pastor Randy or Mary Yates. If you know anyone who needs transportation in order to come to VBS,



please leave a message at the church office so we can make arrangements. The kick-off picnic and registration will start on Monday, Jul. 9 at 5:30 pm.

*Father's and Mother's days.* At the beginning of the May 13 and Jun. 17 services, special songs were sung to honor Mother's and Father's days, respectively. For mothers, Ann Bennett, Randy & Sandy Gilliam, Paul, Leslie, and Scott



Foster performed "Mom-isms" to the tune of the *William Tell Overture*, while in June "I Am the Dad" was sung to the tune of Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*. Both songs incorporated various sayings, pleadings, and threats for children associated with each parent. Audience members appreciated the songs in honor of parents and recognized more than a few choice phrases uttered by them as parents or to them from their own parents.



*Special speakers scheduled for July.* The pastor has invited several guest speakers to share special messages with BBC in the upcoming weeks. On Jul. 1 or 8, depending on whether power is restored, Lee Michael will give an Independence Day message. On Jul. 18, missionaries Matt & Ellen Zell will speak during the Wednesday night service, preceded by a light meal at 6:00 pm. On Jul. 22, Paul Fields will sing and give his testimony during the morning worship service.

*2012 SBC annual meeting.* Nearly 7,900 messengers attended the 2012 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, LA. Current first vice president Fred Luter, pastor of New Orleans' Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, became the SBC's first black president. Messengers also passed nine resolutions, covering topics such as the role of the "sinner's prayer" in salvation, the need for cooperation between Calvinists and non-Calvinists within the SBC, same-sex marriage, and religious freedom. Next year's convention will be held in Houston, TX.

*Fishing trip at Neals' Pond.* The fish were biting on Saturday morning, Jun. 16 for those who had fun at the annual Baptist Men-sponsored fishing trip. Many thanks to the Neal family for the use of their pond.

*Baptist Men's upcoming summer events.* The 10th Annual Father-Child Banquet will be held on Saturday, Aug. 18, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Fathers, please sign up on the bulletin board and make your checks payable to BBC no later than Sunday, Aug. 5. Also, this year's Pig Pickin' will be held on Saturday, Sep. 22. A bluegrass concert will be given by the band Mama Tried.

## COTCD Cartoon

