



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

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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

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).

Did you ever consider that Christ might be called a revolutionary or a fanatic or a radical? The religious leaders and secular leaders that He spoke to would surely have ridiculed Him as a radical when He, speaking with authority, stated that to be godly, spiritually mature, and a true child of God, one must love his enemies! Surely no one had ever suggested this to them before. After all, non-Jews were to be looked down on, even hated by the Jews, and to the Romans, others were there to be conquered and subdued. What did love have to do with anything?

This love Jesus spoke of meant that even for one's enemies, there should be a heartfelt desire for their well-being. It means that when possible, Christ-like behavior compels one to return good for evil. It means praying for their salvation and offering a blessing instead of a curse to those who are spiteful to us. And why should one love his enemies? Because God is love and He is willing to bless and demonstrate love to everyone. *"...for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45).*

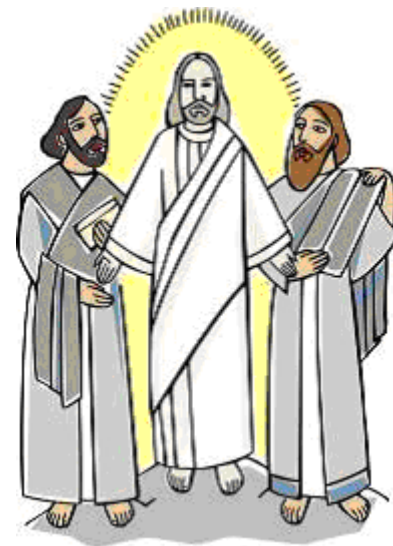
For Christians there is no place for a spirit of retribution toward those who offend us and no excuse for harboring unkind thoughts or disdain toward those who are unkind. In terms of human nature, Jesus was a revolutionary and a radical. It is impossible with human emotions and a human sense of right and wrong to show this kind of love. But, the Scriptures teach that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (*Galatians 5:22-23*). Through the Holy Spirit God shares His heart with us and gives us the privilege of sharing His love with others.

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Upcoming Events

August 1 Business Meeting
August 18 Baptist Men's Father-Child Banquet



"...He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him." (Matthew 17:1-3).

God Bless,

Pastor Randy



The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

I don't think I've ever seen an animal with such an interesting body as the platypus, found only in eastern Australia. Classified as a semi-aquatic mammal, the platypus is shaped like an eggplant, with the bill of a duck and the fur of an otter. It has a beaver-like tail and the webbed feet of a seal. When English scientists first learned of it, they thought it was a fake, sewn together from multiple animals. Yet this marvelous creature uses its duck-like bill to locate food underwater, keeps warm and dry with its waterproof fur, stores energy in its fat tail, and navigates with ease using its four rudder-like limbs.

Like the platypus, the church—God's people—is made up of many unique and seemingly incompatible parts that must function together to live, grow, and thrive. Coming together from many lifestyles, backgrounds, and experiences, Christians, according to the Apostle Paul, start out as disparate people, but Jesus Christ can take those He has given salvation and fuse them together into a working whole. *"...Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:15-16).*

As new Christians, we receive spiritual gifts of service from the Holy Spirit that we can use to build up each other and the church. As we continue to use these gifts, our love and concern for the welfare of our fellow brothers and sisters will bridge the differences we may have started out with, replacing them with the common experience of living for Jesus. *"...He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ..." (Ephesians 4:11-13).*

Another way we are joined and fused together is that as we grow in Christ through the disciplines of prayer, Bible study, attending worship, and acts of service, we become more and more like Jesus Christ in our attitudes, thoughts, and behavior, and less like the way we used to be. Responding to his followers who were becoming jealous and concerned about the prominence of Jesus' ministry, John the Baptist explained that it was necessary and proper for Jesus to be elevated above himself. *"He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).*

Neither the platypus nor the church should be reasonably expected to exist. Furthering its odd reputation among mammals, the platypus lays eggs and the males have venomous spurs on their hind feet. The church is likewise a unique organization, taking strangers and turning them into family. The fact that both are thriving is a testament to the Lord's creating and sustaining power.

Interview with Missionaries in Honduras

Matt & Ellen Zell

★ *What led you to the Lenca Indians of Honduras as the group you wanted to serve?* Some friends who are career missionaries challenged us to seek out the unreached. In searching to find an unreached people group we discovered the Lenca. While performing our in-country assessment work we found that the area of San Pedro de Tutule has not had mission groups or missionaries to work there.

★ *What projects are you working on to help the Lenca?* Our mission methodology is to help a community assess their own needs and they select a project. Since our work is still in the beginning stages the communities are not yet ready to select a project. We have done our own assessment work and recognize that malnutrition is a problem and so we are starting to grow Moringa trees, which have many health benefits including being highly stocked with vitamins and minerals, and even contain all 18 essential amino acids. We have three trees growing in our backyard in hopes of sharing the seeds so others can grow their own trees.

★ *How do the projects help you share the gospel with the Lenca people?* Our primary purpose is to help the people become Jesus' disciples. The projects allow us to walk closely with them in their lives and to share Scriptural truth about living. We have really found that even if the people have a 'church' background (usually Catholic) they have not made the connection that the Bible has wonderful gems to help us live out our daily lives.

★ *How has the Lord blessed your efforts?* The Lord keeps opening doors and preparing hearts before us! The Lord provided an incredible house down in the valley near a whole new community, El Grupo, which we would never have gone to if we had a house closer to Tutule. The Lord is also blessing our language ability. Sometimes in the middle of a conversation our fluency seems very high and then later, when we're doing something simple like shopping, we can hardly speak. He is blessing us as we need it for Him!

★ *What is the most important thing you have learned or experienced serving as a missionary?* I would argue that it is to stay in the Word and stay praying. Our life has been thrown into a scattered state, so our constant need is for Jesus. It's easy to say 'I'm going out to do such and such today' but have we prepared at the throne or is it in our strength? Also, we need to purpose in sharing the truths of Scripture in response to life issues. This is so impactful and keeps Jesus real instead of just a study of theology.

★ *How has being a missionary impacted your Christian walk?* Our life feels like it's in upheaval and our only constant is Jesus. That's very different than being in the States and having a high-paying job which allowed me the freedom to lean on my own resources (they were never my own but only given to me by the Lord but I treated them as mine). So, depending on prayer and God to move is much more acute on the field.

August Birthdays

3 John Michael Williams
5 Suzanne Neal
7 Matthew Ennis
11 Rick Thomas
12 Madison Marsh
16 Stephanie Runkles
17 Pauline Fowler
19 Kyle Marsh
20 Bill Williams
21 Edith Fowler, Jamie Thomas
26 Lee Michael, Shayna Campbell
28 Ann Bennett
29 Paul Meissner
30 Matthew Cole
31 Bob Runkles



Business Meeting Briefs

Expected at the August Business Meeting:

- The Standing Committees will report on Church officer authorizations for the 2012-2014 term.
- The Deacons may offer motions to approve the membership applications for as many as four people who will be baptized on Jul. 29.
- The Pastor is seeking five BBC members to serve as messengers to the 77th Montgomery Baptist Association Annual Meeting, being held on Oct. 20 at Colesville Baptist Church in Silver Spring.

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)

VBS 2013 Sneak Peek



*"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).*

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but
one of power, love, and sound judgment"
(II Timothy 1:7).*

News You Can Use

Vacation Bible School a good time. Psalm 147:5 and the motto of "Awesome God! Amazing Power!" were shouted in the sanctuary during the evenings of Jul. 9-13 during our aviation-themed VBS, Amazing Wonders Aviation. Thank you to everyone who helped make



VBS Family Night on Friday evening

School 2012 a success, especially to those in the classroom, crafts, missions, recreation, snack, and behind the scenes. Your service in building God's Kingdom and sharing His Gospel is appreciated. The total enrollment this year was 68.

VBS missions offering goes to local and international missionaries. This year's VBS missions offering totaled \$1,075 and will be sent to missionaries Manuel & Cindy Batres in Guatemala to purchase school uniforms, shoes, and supplies for local children so they can attend school. The missions rotation prepared backpacks and school supplies for donation to the Baptist Family & Children's Services, which will benefit needy children in Maryland.

Fall activities to start up soon. September is coming sooner than you think. Activities that will resume from their summer hiatus after Labor Day include the Friday Night movie, monthly WMU meetings, bell choir practices on Thursdays, and the lunches with Watkins Cabinet.

BBC to spend a day at the fair. On Friday, Aug. 10, members of Barnesville Baptist will man the Montgomery Baptist Association tent at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair from 3 to 10 pm. If you are interested in spending some time representing the church during this outreach opportunity, please contact Pastor Randy.

Directory update planned. Anyone with corrections or updates for their entry in the church directory should contact Lee Michael before the end of September. Supplements will be distributed in mid-October.

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. Also, this year's Pig Pickin' will be held on Saturday, Sep. 22. A bluegrass concert will be given by the band Mama Tried and Randy Barrett, an award-winning local banjoist.

Missions giving recognized. The North American Mission Board recently recognized BBC with a certificate for our missions giving in 2011. Barnesville Baptist was the top-ranked church in the Montgomery Baptist Association for per capita giving. Thank you for your willingness to invest in God's Kingdom and sharing the Gospel with others.

Special speakers. On Jul. 18, missionaries Matt & Ellen Zell spoke during the Wednesday night service about their experiences serving the Lord and sharing the Gospel in Honduras (see their interview on Page 2). The Zells' presentation was preceded by a light meal. On Sunday, Jul. 22, Paul Fields sang five songs and gave his testimony about the passing of his brother during the morning worship service.



COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

