



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

Jesus, Messiah, Son of God, Son of Man, Savior, Prince of Peace, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the Light of the World and the Bread of Life: this is whose birth we celebrate at Christmas time and to whom we offer praise and worship all during the year. Each year we thrill at Luke's account of the angel Gabriel coming to Mary with that astonishing news: *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God"* (Luke 1:35). Then in *Luke 2:10-11* the angel proclaimed the good news that prophets and kings had wanted for centuries to hear, *"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord"*. When Jesus was presented in the Temple in Jerusalem the news of the Savior's birth was affirmed by Simeon, a righteous and devout man moved by the Holy Spirit. Simeon took the infant Jesus in his arms and praised God saying, *"Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel"* (Luke 2:29-32). Christmas is a good time to begin to re-read the gospels and get reacquainted with this Jesus, His teachings, His love for people, His amazing works, His brutal death, and His glorious resurrection, all of which are the fulfillment of prophecy. Then go to *Colossians 1:15* and read the Apostle Paul's description of Jesus: *"He is the image of the invisible God ...by Him all things were created...He is before all things and in Him all things hold together...For God was pleased to have all fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things...by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross."* Amen and amen.

God Bless,

Pastor Randy



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Upcoming Events

December 2 Christmas Dinner at Mountain Gate
December 5 Business Meeting
December 9 Christmas Hymn-Sing, Parsonage Open House
December 21 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet
December 22 Baptist Men's Meeting
December 24 Christmas Eve Service
December 25 Christmas
December 31 New Year's Eve



"...I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth" (Jeremiah 33:15).



The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

How far would you travel to see something amazing? A parade, a presidential motorcade, a fireworks display, or a movie star, perhaps? What if that something wonderful was only five or six miles from your home? For some perspective, from Barnesville Boyds is 4.5 miles to the east. Hyattstown and Poolesville are six miles to the north and south. Dickerson to the west is barely three miles away. Would it be too hard for you to find the time and the energy to travel to any of those locations to see something that might change your very life? For many people in Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago, the answer was “no”. The destination would have been Bethlehem, a quiet village only five or six miles to the south of Israel’s capital city. However, when wise men from the East visited King Herod and asked about the whereabouts of “...*He who has been born King of the Jews...*” (*Matthew 2:2*), the reaction of most was far from positive. Herod, a non-Jew who earned his title of Jewish king by serving as a Roman stooge, was first frightened at the news, before turning angry. When he asked those who knew the answer, the chief priests and scribes, Herod received a ready answer from the religious establishment straight out of *Micah 5:2* identifying Bethlehem of Judea as the birthplace of the “...*Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel*” (*Matthew 2:6*). However, for those who knew where to go to find the promised Messiah, anticipated since the Garden of Eden and God’s promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the announcement of that divine arrival barely merited a yawn, much less a downhill stroll to see what all the fuss was about.

Herod, after gaining his composure, sought out the rightful King’s location only to slaughter Him like a rival political opponent. When Jesus told His followers in *John 15:18* that “*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you*”, Herod was just the first of many to oppose Him.

Only those who had the farthest to travel actually made the last leg of the journey to see the “young Child”. No one knows their names or their number, but those visitors who came from such a long distance were among the few who were actually happy to see the newborn King. Even the sight of the Christmas star, which beckoned them near, brought the wise men “*exceedingly great joy*” (*Matthew 2:10*). When the wise men finally did encounter Christ face to face, they “*fell down and worshiped Him, [and] opened their treasures*”: gold fit for a king, frankincense fit for a priest, and myrrh fit for a sacrifice—foreshadows of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection (*Matthew 2:11*).

Jesus’ birth brought “*good news*” according to *Luke 2*. Don’t let fear, indifference, or anger ruin your Christmas like it did for Herod and the priest and scribes. Be instead like the wise men from afar who came near and received God’s gift of “*exceeding great joy*”.

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2013 from the *Lantern* staff!

Member of the Month: Susan Rice

- ★ Born: June 23, 1958 in Baltimore, MD
- ★ How long a BBC member: since November 2012
- ★ Church offices held: Choir and Bell Choir member
- ★ How she first came to BBC: invited by Linda Roberts
- ★ Favorite Hymn: “For All the Saints”
- ★ Favorite Pew: 2nd or 3rd on the left
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Matthew 5-7*
- ★ Age at baptism: 64 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Ascension Lutheran, Towson, MD
- ★ Most famous person she’s met: Rita Mae Brown, mystery writer
- ★ Personal claim to fame: writer of cat stories
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: the 1969 moon landing
- ★ Farthest place she’s been from Barnesville: Bermuda
- ★ Story on first name: named by her brother
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: calculator
- ★ Childhood heroes: Robin Hood, Zorro, cowboys
- ★ Hobbies: crossword puzzles, painting, crocheting, and sewing



December Birthdays

- 2 Elnora Caudell, Tina Yates
- 3 Sherri Crowe, Juanita Watson
- 9 Jeannye Hungerford
- 12 Gabby Marsh
- 14 Rachel Engle
- 15 Holly Cross
- 16 Teresa Tuttle
- 17 Mary Ann Luhn
- 19 Lisa Cooley, Mary Mossburg,
Kyle Shreve
- 24 Ashlinn Cole
- 28 Ralph Cooley
- 29 Ollie Baumbaugh
- 31 Larry Michael



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in November:

- The Church approved a motion to increase the 2012 budget line item for Office Supplies by \$1,000.
- The Pastor has accepted the resignation of Larry Michael as Deacon, for cause, effective November 3, 2012.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2013 budget. The proposed budget amount of \$195,141 is \$112,120 less than the 2012 adjusted budget amount of \$307,261, which to date includes over \$6,000 in Cooperative Program giving beyond the minimum budgeted amount of \$10,000.

Prayer Concerns

Virginia Magaha
Ralph & Nancy Cooley
Kitty Cooley
Dave Rose
Ashley Dixon
Tammy Combs
Wanda Huntley
Junior & Arlene Luhn, Bilyie Luhn
David Gilliam, stationed in Afghanistan
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother
Linda Cain
June Luhn
Tabitha Runkles
Lillian Runkles, Bob Runkles' mother
Stephen Williams, Ed Williams' brother
Connie Connelly
David Cooper
Edith Lowe
Mike Sutphin
Pam Miceli
John Fields
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Dean Swank, Mike Geiser, Billy Broschart, Lyndsay O'Malley, Bev Magruder, Phil Brudner, Joanne Dorsey, Skip Mallory, Bill Dunn, Jane Ward, Cindy Warner
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



"It's a Christmas gift from the older boy's Sunday School Class. Would you check and see who's teaching that class please?"



News You Can Use

Open House at the Parsonage. After the Monthly Hymn-Sing on Dec. 9, when we will have a chance to sing everyone's favorite Christmas carols, Randy & Sandy Gilliam will have an open house at the Church parsonage. Everyone is invited to sing at 6:00 pm and enjoy refreshments afterward.

Christmas poinsettias for sale. If you would like to purchase a Christmas poinsettia in honor of/in memory of a loved one, please contact Kitty Cooley at 301-349-5119. The poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas services and throughout the holiday season. Three poinsettia sizes are available this year: 6" for \$10.00; 8" for \$25.00; and 10" for \$32.00.

WMU autumn activity report. The members of the WMU were blessed and humbled by the generosity of BBC members who donated 25 wrapped shoeboxes packed with Christmas presents for needy children around the world. Thank you all for your willingness to share. The WMU is now collecting non-perishable food items for the food pantry, which will be distributed to local families in need.

Christmas services planned. The Choir will present its cantata, "Silent Night! Holy Night!", during worship on Sunday, Dec. 23, after which the Baptist Men will give gifts to the children. A Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 pm. The Bell Choir will present its Christmas pieces during the Dec. 16 worship service.

BCM/D annual meeting report. BBC messengers Randy & Sandy Gilliam attended the state convention Nov. 11-13, which was hosted by Global Mission Church in Silver Spring, MD. The theme for the 2012 meeting was "We Can't Stop: Speaking, Serving, Praying, Loving, Pursuing". There were 260 messengers and 96 visitors registered. Speakers at this annual meeting included Kevin Ezell, President of the North American Mission Board, Ken Stalls, President of the BCM/D and pastor of South End Baptist Church, Frederick, MD, Vaughn Walker, pastor from Louisville, KY, Chuck Lawless, Dean of Graduate Studies for SE Baptist Theological Seminary, and David Lee, Executive Director of BCM/D. Dr. Lee announced to the messengers that he is retiring, effective July 2013.

Baptism service held on Nov. 4. We welcomed into full membership Susan Rice, who was baptized on Sunday, Nov. 4.

Christmas dinner scheduled for Dec. 2. Friends and families of Barnesville Baptist are reminded that the annual Christmas Dinner will be held at Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 5:00 pm. See you there for a good time of fellowship and singing after the meal.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$2,200. Dec. 2-9 is the week of prayer for the 2012 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This year's theme is "BE His heart, His hands, His voice"; SBC churches must take direct responsibility for helping reach the nearly 3,400 unengaged, unreached people groups that IMB missionaries may never be able to reach. The national goal is \$175 million; BBC's is \$2,200. All of this money goes directly to support foreign missionaries around the world. For them, this Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is the lifeblood of multiple ministries to people with spiritual and physical needs. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions. Also, a Christmas card exchange will be set up at church—save postage and donate what you would have spent on stamps to Lottie Moon!



Milestones. Congratulations to Joe & Mary Yates, who married at BBC 50 Thanksgivings ago. Joyce Dunn is celebrating her 70th birthday. Senior member Rebecca Umstead will be the first BBC member to reach 80 years of membership as of Dec. 4. A surprise birthday party on Saturday, Nov. 24 celebrated 90 years for Margie Stream.

Window pane preserved. During this year's replacement of the sanctuary windows, a pane of glass dedicated to the memory of Tom H. Stream (1920-1991), late husband of Margie Stream, was removed and put in storage. On Sunday, Nov. 18, Pastor Randy presented Margie that preserved window pane in a frame to take home. A replica of the memorial pane will be installed in the same location.



Final state missions offering report. BBC gave \$1,385 for 2012. Thank you to all who gave to this important offering.