



# 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

*"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift"  
(II Corinthians 9:15)!*

Truly, it is during the Easter Season that the Christian community should rejoice and be glad in Christ! The indescribable gift from God to mankind is the Lord Jesus Christ. Consider four facets of this most gracious gift from God: Christ died for us. Because Christ bore on His own body the punishment for our sin, we no longer have to live under the guilt and shame of sin. We have been forgiven, *"...Christ died for our sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God" (I Peter 3:18).*

Jesus was raised to life. Because of the empty tomb we know Jesus is alive today and His promise to us is that, *"...Because I live you, you also will live" (John 14:19)!* Every day of this life should be lived with the great certainty of one day being in Paradise with the Lord forever.

Jesus is at the right hand of God. *"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven" (Hebrews 1:3).* In this position of authority and power Jesus told His disciples, *"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18).* This is the powerful One who is with us every day of our lives.

Jesus is interceding for us. One of the marvelous things about God's love is that we do not have to be perfect. We will stumble and sin against God's law of love, *"...but if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the righteous One" (I John 2:1).*

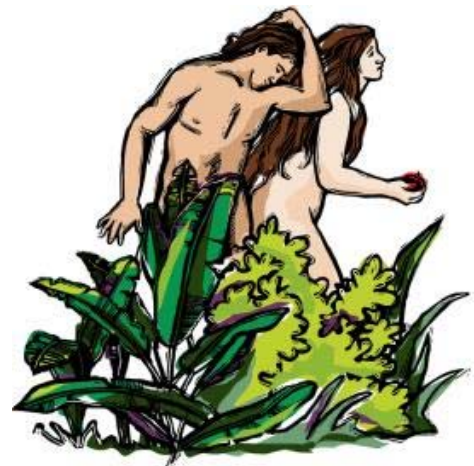
Jesus is coming back! *"I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:3).* Jesus is going to return suddenly, visibly, bodily, and with great glory. Until He returns, it is the privilege of all believers to *"live upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:12-13).*

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## Upcoming Events

- March 6** Business Meeting
- March 8-10** Women's Rally Services
- March 15** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet
- March 16** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
- March 24** Palm Sunday
- March 29** Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm
- March 31** Easter Sunday



*"For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:21-22).*

God Bless,



Pastor Randy

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Very important decisions have been made in gardens. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus Christ made a choice to be obedient to God's will. Contemplating the violent and humiliating death before Him, Jesus wrestled with His fear and desire for self-preservation but still made a choice that honored the Lord, saying, "... *Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done*" (Luke 22:42). In another garden, the opposite choice was made. At the beginning of the human race, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden were given a choice to obey God by not doing the one thing they were told not to do, but yet they succumbed to the devil's temptation and took of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Like an infection, the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin have rippled through the DNA of all their descendants, birthing them in a state of sin and defiance against God for generations. Paul summarized humanity's fatal condition, saying, "*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned*" (Romans 5:12).

It was into this situation where mankind was separated from the God who created them that a Savior was sent as a man to rescue them. In an act of divine symmetry, God sent a second Adam to undo the damage the first Adam caused. Paul explained to the Corinthian church, "*For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive*" (I Corinthians 15:21-22). Jesus' deliberate obedience to God's will that He sacrifice His life when He was guilty of no crime reversed Adam's deliberate disobedience to heed God's commandment in Eden.

Perhaps some may ask, are we back to "zero", Jesus' obedience and righteousness cancelling out Adam's disobedience and sin? The joy-giving answer is that Jesus' obedience and righteousness did much, much more than merely zero out Adam's sin debt. *Romans 5:20* tells us "... *where sin abounded, grace abounded much more...*". Christ's death and resurrection didn't just free us from spiritual jail, it endowed us with a heavenly inheritance. Our relationship with God, transformed by Christ's redemption, didn't just go from negative to neutral, but instead like a fuel gauge went all the way past "full". Peter told Christians they could expect, based on their faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, "... *an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...*" (I Peter 1:4).

As we again come to our annual remembrance of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, we too have a decision to make. We can, like Christ in Gethsemane, choose to follow God's will and receive His love, forgiveness, and purpose in life. Or, like Adam in Eden, we can choose to follow our own selfish desires that lead to alienation, destruction, and regret. This year, what path will you choose? Whose will will be done in your life?

## Interview with the Baptist Men's Day

### Speaker

Danny Moore

★ *How did you first hear about BBC?* I became friends in seminary with Randy Gilliam, who invited me to visit BBC. I felt very comfortable and at home with the people of Barnesville. I continue to pray for you all.

★ *Where are you currently serving?* I am involved in the bus ministry with Beacon Baptist in White Marsh, MD as well as helping at a homeless shelter run by Breath of Life Baptist Church in Aberdeen, MD, where I help with devotions, counseling, and providing clothing for the poor. My wife Cindy is a partner in ministry.

★ *How did you know you were called into the ministry?* After co-owning a trucking company for 15 years, God called me to leave and go into the ministry--go now or not at all. I signed up for classes with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary even though I didn't even have a GED. In my first seminary class on theology, I was intimidated by the big words used and didn't plan to return for the second class. However, the professor stopped me after class and offered to help me get through his class, even though he didn't know me or my situation.

★ *What is the most important thing you have learned or experienced in your ministry?* To be grateful for the privilege to teach His Word and to be a shepherd.

★ *What is your best memory of BBC?* I was preaching a revival at BBC. One day when I arrived at the church, I saw a fire truck with the hose in the church, filling the baptistry. I told the firemen to run the siren next time they came to fill the baptistry as a sign that someone got saved at BBC!

★ *Any final thoughts?* Thank you for loving and embracing Cindy and I. Keep your loving feeling foremost.



## 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



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in February:*

- The Church approved a Worship Cmte. motion to replace the choir chairs with 17 wood-framed, low-backed, padded choir chairs for a cost of \$2,936.05 to be funded by the Frank Fowler and Ben Bennett memorial funds. The original choir chairs will be placed under the care of the Church Historian.

*Expected at the March Business Meeting:*

- The Select Committee on Auditing will present its report on the 2012 finances.
- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the March 2013 Business Meeting.

## Prayer Concerns

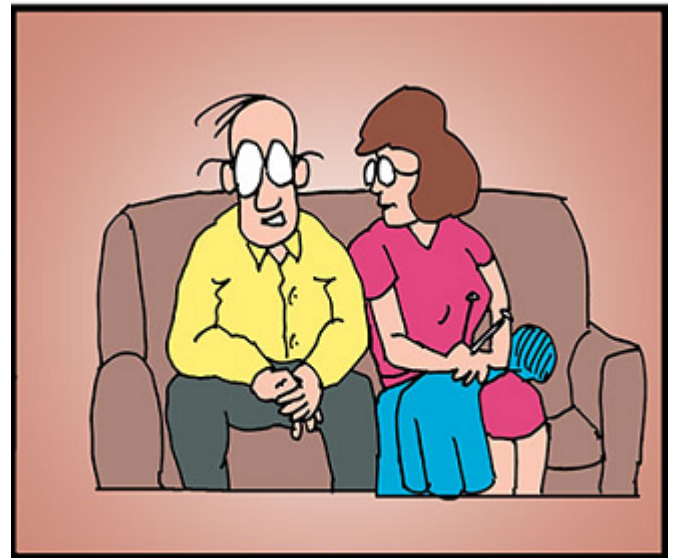
Virginia Magaha  
Ralph & Nancy Cooley  
Kitty Cooley  
Dave Rose  
Ashley Dixon  
Tammy Combs  
Junior & Arlene Luhn, Bilyie Luhn  
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother  
Linda Cain  
June Luhn  
Tabitha Runkles  
Bob Lillard  
David Cooper  
Edith Lowe  
Pam Miceli  
Stephen Williams, Ed's brother  
Jeanette Watkins  
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Dean Swank, Billy Broschart,  
Lyndsay O'Malley, Bev Magruder, Phil Brudner, Joanne  
Dorsey, Bill Dunn, Jane Ward, Betsy Wenz, Brenda Saylor,  
Fran Hoagland  
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



**"Church work is getting me down. I think I'll focus on Jesus for a while."**

## News You Can Use

**Fifth Women's Rally coming in March.** Gayla Parker is coming back to BBC for a fifth annual Women's Rally Mar. 8-10. She will speak three times, twice from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on Friday, Mar. 8 and Saturday, Mar. 9 and also during the Sunday morning worship service on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Gayla speaks with the heart of a missionary and with passion for the Gospel and for people.

**Easter services planned.** The BBC Choir will present their cantata entitled, "It Is Finished", which recounts Jesus; final breath on the cross, celebrates His victory over death's stronghold, and declares with confidence, "it is finished!" during the morning worship service on Easter Sunday, Mar. 31. Lynn Eplee will sing a solo and Lee Michael will narrate. BBC will also gather for a Good Friday worship service on Mar. 29 at 7:00 pm.

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal set.** The WMU has set a 2013 goal of \$2,150 for BBC. The SBC-wide goal is \$70 million. This offering is used to fund 49% of the budget for missionaries serving under the North American



Mission Board. AAEO-supported missionaries start new churches, engage in student evangelism on college campuses, serve the physical and spiritual needs of people through ministry evangelism, and serve as church planting catalysts. Let's do our part to support the missionaries who are spreading the good news of the Gospel in the United States & Canada. Thank you for your prayerful generosity.

**Easter sunrise service on Sugarloaf Mountain.** For early risers, this 59<sup>th</sup> annual mountaintop service beginning at 6:30 am on Easter morning is a wonderful way to begin the celebration of the Lord's resurrection with believers from many local congregations. We all have the Risen Savior in common.

**VBS 2013 dates set.** Believe it or not, Barnesville Baptist is already preparing for this year's Vacation Bible School, to be held Jul. 8-12. 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 most important outreach event of the year. A planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, Mar. 25 at 7:00 pm.

**Baptist Men's Day held.** The 2013 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, responsive reading by David Bennett, the offering by Ed 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 Ralph Cooley. Scott Foster was at the piano. The Men of Barnesville (MOB) Choir opened the service with "Down to the River to Pray". The congregation joined in the hymns "I'll Fly Away" and "Rise Up, O Men of God". The MOB special was "Fishers of Men" featuring Pastor Randy Gilliam and Eddie Fowler on the refrain.



*Ed Williams making pancakes on the griddle for the 8:30 am breakfast*

**Directory update coming soon.** Attention all members: the next update to the church directory will be distributed in April. Anyone with changes to their contact information or regular attendees who would like to have their picture and information 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. 10.** Remember to set your watches and clocks forward one hour (and lose an hour of sleep) before you go to bed on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**Easter lilies for sale.** If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily in honor of/in memory of a loved one, please contact Kitty Cooley at 301-349-5119. The lilies will be used to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter season.