



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

April 2013, Volume 11, No. 11

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

The Pastor's Spotlight

"Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom'. Jesus answered him, 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise'" (Luke 23:42-43).

A great truth we learn in the account of Jesus' death on the cross came in an exchange between Jesus and a criminal crucified beside Him. The criminal believed that Jesus could help him. He had no doubt heard about the miracles and the teachings of this innocent man being crucified unfairly. The criminal was just hours away from death by crucifixion which he deserved because of his crimes. His legs would be broken so that he would suffocate and die quickly. At this moment of decision, this thief expressed faith in who Jesus was and with that simple faith asked the Lord to remember him when He came into His kingdom. This was a plea for undeserved mercy from a desperate man wanting to repent of the evils he had committed in his life. Jesus' response to him was a great confirmation of what Jesus had taught about everlasting life and the place prepared for those who trust in Him. Jesus told the thief, *"Today you will be with me in paradise"*.

If Jesus were not God's Son, such a statement would be laughable. But, consider who Jesus had proven Himself to be. The wind and the waves obeyed His voice. The lame walked and the lepers were healed. A young girl who died got up and ate at His command. At the Lord's command Lazarus came out of the tomb alive after being buried for four days. The man born blind obeyed Jesus' command to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam and he came home seeing. Jesus' works, the Hebrew prophets, and God the Father all testified that Jesus was the Son of God. He had the authority and the power to grant forgiveness and life and a home in paradise to the repentant criminal. The *"whosoever"* of *John 3:16* included the thief on the cross just as it includes you and me. Charles Wesley's lyrics from "And Can It Be" express the only appropriate reaction: "Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, should die for me."

God Bless,



Pastor Randy

In This Edition:

- The Pastor's Spotlight, Page 1
- Upcoming Events, Page 1
- The Pew Perspective, Page 2
- Interview with the Women's Rally Speaker, Page 2
- April Birthdays, Page 3
- Prayer Concerns, Page 3
- Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
- News You Can Use, Page 4
- COTCD Cartoon, Page 4
- April 2013 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

- April 3** Business Meeting
- April 19** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
- April 20** Baptist Men's Meeting; Church Clean-Up Day



"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'..."
(Psalm 14:1).

April 1 is April Fools' Day

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

What, I have often wondered, would have happened if Jesus hadn't called out Lazarus by name when He raised the four-days-dead man from the grave? As recorded by the Apostle John, when Jesus approached the rock-sealed tomb of His good friend, He prayed out loud and then, "...He cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth'" (John 11:43)! Lazarus then came out from the tomb, still wrapped in his burial garments, alive and well to the amazement of the great crowd that witnessed the miracle. However, what if Jesus hadn't specified Lazarus' name, and just called out "come forth"? My suspicion is that every grave within earshot would have been emptied by the command of the Resurrection and the Life.

We do know that one day every grave will be emptied and every soul will come before God. Jesus told His followers that He would call forth the righteous and the unrighteous at the judgment. "*Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live*" (John 5:25). Those who put saving faith in Christ will be resurrected unto eternal life, but those who remain in their sins will be resurrected for judgment and punishment.

So, in many ways, Jesus' resurrection of Lazarus was a warm-up session. Lazarus lived but two miles outside of Jerusalem in the town of Bethany, where it was quite easy for those assembled for Passover to investigate the claim that the teacher from Nazareth had brought someone back from the grave. They could see Lazarus face to face and talk to his sisters Mary and Martha, as well as those who had attended the funeral and sealed Lazarus' dead body into its tomb. Many people came to the conclusion that Jesus wasn't just a prophet or a rabbi or a healer, but was in fact the long-awaited Messiah. "*Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him*" (John 11:45). The religious authorities from the Temple as well as the Pharisees also came and saw the same evidence. Instead of praising God and responding in faith, they were concerned with maintaining their power and privilege. They didn't want to celebrate Lazarus' miraculous recovery, but rather wanted to kill him so Jesus would not be recognized as the Son of God. "*But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus*" (John 12:10-11).

The High Priest Caiaphas and the other religious leaders from that time also began to plot Jesus' death, with the high priest recommending, "...it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish" (John 11:50). Caiaphas didn't understand the implications of his own words, for Jesus would surely die for the Jewish people, and indeed all mankind, so that they would not perish in their sins, but that through God's grace they would receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life through faith in Christ's redeeming sacrifice on the cross. Practice truly made us perfect.

Interview with the Women's Rally Speaker

Gayla Parker

★ *How did you first hear about BBC?* Joyce called and invited me to come and speak at the first Women's Rally. I'm not sure where she got my name but I'm certainly glad she called. That first year the topic was "Leaving a Legacy". She had the women bring things to display in the fellowship hall that represented their families' legacies. I remember several of the ladies had quilts. We looked at women who had changed the lives of others: *Proverbs 31*, Esther changed a family, Huldah changed a nation. I fell in love with the church the first visit...everything about it.

★ *Where are you currently serving?* I'm serving as women's ministry leader and pastor's wife at Lifeway Baptist Church in Little Rock. I'm also writing and teaching for WMU and Lifeway (I'll be doing a webcast for Lifeway this week that will be aired in August). I'm also taking speaking engagements for women's events as much as possible. I love teaching women and challenging us all to dig deeper in learning and serving. I'm also doing a little writing and editing for the Arkansas Baptist State paper. Hopefully by summer I will be enrolled in seminary to work toward a Ph.D. program.

★ *How did you know you were called into the ministry?* For those who have heard my story, you know that my background is pretty messy but yet God still loved me. I knew that there were a lot of young girls with messed up families and lives that may never hear that God loves them. If God could change my life then certainly He could change theirs. After the first time I led someone to the Lord, I knew that was how God wanted to use my story.

★ *What is the most important thing you have learned or experienced in your ministry?* The importance of staying close to God and keeping the focus on HIM. It is easy to substitute preparation for teaching for your own quiet time. While God has spoken to me in many ways in the midst of preparing, that is not a substitute for having a quiet time and prayer time a part from my preparing. If that gets out of balance then God is not at the center of what I do. The Bible has some serious consequences for a teacher out of balance. I'm very intentional in regards to my own spiritual growth and keeping my heart in tune to the way in which the Holy Spirit is teaching, leading, AND convicting.

continued on page 3, column 2

April Birthdays

- 1 Jo Blalock
- 2 Rebecca Umstead
- 4 Ralph Wright
- 10 Alexis Connelly
- 13 Lacey Williams
- 14 Luke Watson
- 15 Dot Fowler
- 24 Mark Williams
- 29 Zachary Fedders



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in March:

- The March 2013 Business Meeting was held on Mar. 13 instead of Mar. 6 due to snow.
- The Select Committee on Auditing's report on the 2012 finances was accepted by the Church.

Expected at the April Business Meeting:

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the April 2013 Business Meeting.

Interview with the Women's Rally Speaker, continued

★ *What is your best memory of BBC?* There are so many memories it is hard to think of just one. Of all the studies I think my favorite was Ruth and Naomi and the Armor of God. Sometimes when I'm feeling overwhelmed I close my eyes and just put myself on the front steps of Barnesville and think about the many faces that I have grown to love and it always makes me smile.

★ *Any final thoughts?* The members at Barnesville have blessed me more than any of you will ever know. Your encouragement, love, and trust have been confirmation to my call on more than one occasion. When I'm really tired and still have miles to go I know Joyce, Randy and Sandy along with others at Barnesville are praying for me and I gain strength in that knowledge. Regardless of where I live, Barnesville will always be in my heart and ya'll will always be some of the folks that I call family. My deepest love goes out to each of you. Know that you are prayed for everyday.

Prayer Concerns

Virginia Magaha
Ralph & Nancy Cooley
Linda Roberts
Dave Rose
Ashley Dixon
Tammy Combs
Junior & Arlene Luhn, Bilyie Luhn
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother
Linda Cain
June Luhn
Tabitha Runkles
David Cooper
Edith Lowe
Pam Miceli
Stephen Williams, Ed's brother
Jeanette Watkins
Eddie Dorsey
Pat Elam
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, Fran Hoagland, John Hunter, Mark Wilkinson
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).*

News You Can Use

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.

Church clean-up day. On Saturday, Apr. 20 at 9:00 am, join the Groundsmen, the Baptist Men, and the rest of your Church family to clean up the church building and grounds. Contact Head Groundsman Larry Michael for more information on jobs and tools needed. Lunch will be provided for workers at noon.

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.



April directory update coming soon. Attention all members: the next update to the church directory will be distributed by the end of April. New pictures are being taken for everyone. Also, those with changes to their contact information should promptly submit their information to Lee Michael. After April, the next scheduled directory update is planned for October—don't delay!

Choir chairs. The white oak chairs used as far back as anyone can remember (before 1952 for sure) have been retired to the choir room and replaced with wood frame, padded chairs. The old chairs were manufactured in Baltimore between 1897 and 1921. They will remain in service at BBC as a reminder of the church's history and God's faithfulness over so many years. Thanks to Jane Fowler and David Bennett for using the Frank Fowler and Ben Bennett memorial funds to purchase the new chairs.

Women's Rally report. BBC held its fifth Women's Rally on Mar. 8-10. Our keynote speaker was Gayla Parker, whose messages came from the book of *Nehemiah*. Nehemiah employed fervent prayer, the strength of families, and surrender to God's will to complete an impossible task. Gayla's encouragement to us was to be BOLD like Nehemiah: Bold in complete surrender to Jesus Christ; Observe His provisions in the past; Listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit; and Declare His glory and His name along the way. This kind of boldness is necessary in order to rebuild Christian families, churches, and nations. Special thanks go out to Joyce Dunn who organized this and the four previous women's rallies.



BBC recognized by BCM/D. Barnesville was awarded a certificate of recognition by the state convention for our congregation's commitment to missions. BBC was one of the top 50 BCM/D churches supporting the Cooperative Program in 2012. Congratulations Barnesville.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I've never heard a better sermon on missions giving, have you?"