



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

"When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you"?...the King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'" (Matthew 25:38, 40).

Barnesville Baptist Church feels very privileged to be a small part of the missionary ministry of Cindy & Manuel Batres in Guatemala. The goal of their ministry is to "bring hope to the Mayan people of Guatemala". They do this by helping villages build churches and schools, improving sanitary conditions and helping with access to clean water, and most importantly by sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with all they meet.

When Cindy & Manuel last visited BBC, they shared a new burden the Lord had laid on their hearts for children. With their improved mission station they now have the capacity to invite groups of children over for recreation, learning crafts, and spiritual development. Because they recognize that the key to a successful future for these children is education, Cindy & Manuel have begun helping the most needy children with acquiring mandatory school supplies, uniforms and shoes. Even though education in Guatemala is free, children must have the many required materials and uniforms in order to attend. The poorest children are deprived of an education because their families cannot afford the required materials.

This year in Vacation Bible School a collection will be received specifically to provide materials and clothing to children in Guatemala so they may enter school in January 2014. If any *Lantern* readers would like to contribute to this ministry, send your donation to BBC with "mission2-guatemala" on the memo line. We will forward all donations to Cindy and Manuel at the close of VBS in July. *"Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me."*

You may find out more about Cindy & Manuel's ministry at www.mission2guatemala.com. Pray for Cindy & Manuel and the work they do in Guatemala.

God Bless,

Pastor Randy



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Upcoming Events

May 1 Business Meeting
May 2 National Day of Prayer
May 10 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet Friends
May 12 Mother's Day
May 27 Memorial Day, Church Office closed



"... 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven'" (Acts 1:11).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Coming up with a topic for this column sometimes is hard to do. Holidays or significant events can lead to a natural topic of discussion, but there are other times when writer's block comes and I can't narrow down on a single topic for the "Pew Perspective" or come up with something to say that hasn't already been said many times before. Just this afternoon, a day before publication, I was riding down the highway pondering what I might write for May and came across a large billboard that read: "Who is Jesus? Matthew 16:16". Well, I took the super-sized suggestion for a column topic and looked up *Matthew 16:16*, which reads, "Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'". How interesting that *Matthew 16:16* is the answer to the "Who is Jesus?" question of *Matthew 16:15* ("...But who do you say that I am?"), which is indeed the most important topic to discuss in all of Christianity. I will file this topic-finding solution on my ever-growing list of "well-timed coincidences" that I have experienced. Without the knowledge of Jesus' true identity, any further investigation into the claims of Christianity will founder.

By the time of *Matthew 16*, the world had already come up with some answers about Jesus' identity when He raised the topic with His followers. Jesus' detractors called Him a blasphemer, a rabble-rouser, and a liar. Those more favorably disposed to Jesus, possibly because they witnessed His teaching and healing, admitted that He was a good person, a religious teacher, even a prophet sent by God. Perhaps, some thought, Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah come back from the dead to herald in the long-awaited Messiah. Only Peter's Spirit-filled and -empowered *Matthew 16:16* response gave the full truth. Yes, it was true that Jesus was a good person, but He was also the very source of goodness, righteousness, and holiness. Yes, it was true that Jesus was a religious teacher, but He was also the Word made flesh and the Author of our faith. And yes, it was true that Jesus was a prophet, but he was also the High Priest and King whom all the other prophets predicted would come and save His people from their sins. Jesus was the Son of Man, but He was also the Son of God, fully and eternally divine and one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is either the Lord or He is a first-century curiosity to be catalogued and then forgotten in a book of historical trivia. There is no in between because the world is full of good teachers, role models, and nice neighbors. A merely good Jesus isn't good enough for anything. Only a death-defying, grace-giving, soul-saving, straight-from-Heaven, Son-of-the-Living-God Jesus can do the world any good. But because Jesus is indeed the Son of the Living God, His Church is empowered to change the world with His Gospel (*Matthew 16:18-19*).

Knowing that Jesus is the Son of God is more than just an academic fact. Jesus didn't ask His disciples who He was just to pass the time. He wanted them to express their faith and confess what they believed in their hearts. Jesus asks each person the same question today: Who do you say that I am? What is your answer to the most important question in the world? Now, what are you going to do about it?

Interview with Faith Home Ministries

David & Cheryl Shive

★ *What is the purpose of Faith Home Ministries?*

Faith Home Ministries is a 501(c)(3) charitable, tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Our mission is to help disadvantaged women and children become self-sufficient, gain a positive self-esteem, learn healthy and productive lifestyles and relationships, provide hope, unconditional love, and mentoring to children and women in need of the love and support of a family. We provide a forever family to children old enough to ask us to be a part of their family and wanting a place to call home after they go away to college. We hope to encourage others in a personal relationship with Christ as they see God's love for them through our actions. Faith Home Ministries models appropriate and healthy behavior of a Christian husband, wife, mother, and father in a family home.

★ *What led you to start this type of ministry?*

Praying for God's will for us, being open to God's calling, and seeing the tremendous need for Christian families to take in children of abuse and neglect and show God's love and support to them. It is heartbreaking how many children are existing with only one parent and often living with neglect or abuse and instability.

★ *How has the Lord blessed your efforts?* We are blessed to be a blessing to others. Nothing is more fulfilling than doing the work God purposed for you to do (*Ephesians 2:10—For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us*). We are so humbled by how happy our children are, and that God chose us to be their parents and meet their needs.

★ *How has serving in your ministry impacted your Christian walk?* This ministry keeps us humble as we live in prayer to model Christ like behavior to the children. There are numerous challenges and issues that come up and by living in prayer and with wonderful prayer partners on our prayer email chain, there is much victory!

★ *What is the most important thing you have learned or experienced in your ministry?* Seeing God work in the lives of the children! They tell us their perspective when they first came, and now, and we are so humbled and grateful to be a part of their happiness, peace, and stability. It is amazing the difference one can make in a person's life, especially as a Christian!

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May Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Ennis, Frankie Fowler
- 2 Frank Fowler Jr., Heather Cross
- 15 Eddie Fowler
- 17 Leroy Watkins
- 18 Sandy Watkins
- 22 Vicki Crowe
- 24 Nicholas Cole, Wade Williams
- 28 Paul Foster
- 30 Sandy Gilliam



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in April:

- There was no Old Business pending before the Church.

Expected at the May Business Meeting:

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

Prayer Concerns

Virginia Magaha
Ralph & Nancy Cooley
Linda Roberts
Dave Rose
Tammy Combs
Junior & Arlene Luhn, Bilyie Luhn
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother
Linda Cain
June Luhn
Bob Runkles
Lacey Williams
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).*

Interview with Faith Home Ministries, continued

★ *How can Barnesville Baptist continue to help you in your ministry?* We have a prayer email chain we send out from time to time as certain girls are struggling with a particular issue or situation in their lives. We have five girls right now. A couple girls are not Christian and are still seeking spiritually, and they all have their own challenges from being raised in unstable homes. We are so very grateful for BBC's support and individual donations as people feel led. Thank you so much for supporting us!! If you are interested in being on our prayer email chain, please contact us at bengaline@comcast.net.

COTCD Cartoon



News You Can Use

Easter activity report. We are proud to report that BBC has met its 2013 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$2,150 to support the North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries who spread the Gospel to people across the United States and Canada. Many of our state convention and local association leaders receive support through the NAMB,



Lynn Eplee sings a solo while Paul Foster directs the Easter cantata "It Is Finished" on Mar. 31.

so this offering truly makes a difference in our community. Thank you for your prayerful generosity in support of God's Kingdom.

Clean-up day thanks. Seventeen people came out on Saturday, Apr. 20 to help beautify and maintain the church grounds: Randy & Sandy Gilliam, Joe & Mary Yates, Larry Michael, Ed & Ellen Williams, Lee Michael, Wade Williams,



Laura Luhn, Bilyie Luhn, Luke Fedders, Bill Caudell, Tina Yates, Bill Appleton, and Gary & Jan Burdette. These volunteers spackled drywall cracks, repaired the parsonage swing, weeded the flower beds, raked the front yard, cleaned the kitchen, replaced lights, and

washed windows. Many thanks to those listed above for their time and effort. Your volunteerism is most appreciated.

Easter lillies. Flowers to decorate the sanctuary were donated by the following people: Bob Lillard and Jan & Gary Burdette in memory of Margery Lillard; Gary & Jan Burdette in memory of Lloyd & Helen Burdette; Jack & Kitty Cooley in memory of their parents, Carson & Dorothy Ward and Jack & Nellie Cooley; Flora Gilliam in memory of Rufus Gilliam, June & Jack Schaum, and Mary Crouse; Pastor Randy & Sandy Gilliam in memory of Rufus Gilliam and Dave & Pearl Fowler and in honor of Flora Gilliam; Jerry & Suzanne Neal in memory and honor of Safford and Neal family loved ones; Tod & June Luhn in memory of Donnie & Mary Barr and Rev. Jeddie DeFries; David & Ann Bennett in memory of Carroll & Laura Bennett and Jean Noland; Jane Fowler and family in memory of Frank Fowler, Sr.; Dot Fowler in memory of Charles Fowler and her parents; Joe & Mary Yates in memory of Larkin & Anne Yates, Hazel Ward, and Bruce Benson; and Gus Keriakos and family in memory of Betty Keriakos.

National Day of Prayer on May 2. The National Day of Prayer has been officially observed since 1952, when President Truman signed a law marking the day as a time for Americans to pray for their country and ask for God's blessings and guidance. BBC's sanctuary will be open from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm on Thursday, May 2 if you want to come and pray.



WMU collecting health kit supplies. Please join the WMU and the BCM/D in their outreach to wounded veterans and seamen. Items for a health kit include a new, large bath towel and washcloth, an adult toothbrush, toothpaste, a large comb (not a rattail comb), a full-sized shampoo bottle and bar of soap, and deodorant. If you would like to contribute items for the health kits, please bring them to church no later than Sunday, May 12.

Historian's update. VHS tapes of the 1997 and 1998 Vacation Bible Schools have been converted into DVDs and are available for viewing in the library's archives section. Many familiar faces are present in the videos; the 1997 footage covers each day's activities during that week of summertime fun.



VBS 2013 volunteers needed. In preparation 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 important ministry.

Bell choir performance. On Sunday, Apr. 14, the BBC bell choir under the direction of Ann Bennett presented three Easter-themed selections during the morning worship service. The tunes included "Were You There?", "The Power of the Cross", and "And Can It Be"? The bell choir will be taking the summer off and will resume its practice schedule after Labor Day.

