



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

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock" (Matthew 7:24-25).

These Scripture verses come at the close of Jesus' great Sermon on the Mount, *Matthew 5-7*. Like the wise builder who dug down to find rock on which to lay the foundation of his house, the wise person must find the Rock on which to build his/her life. According to Jesus, who by the way is the foremost authority on this subject being very God, said that everyone who hears (listens to) His words and practices living by them (obeys them) is wise. Searching for life's rock begins by having faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Once Jesus becomes the Lord of your life, then the foundational rock is strengthened by studying His Word to find out His ways, attitudes, motivations, and instructions for interacting with God and with others. This is rock that never shifts, sinks, or erodes. Edward Mote had it exactly right in his great hymn, "The Solid Rock", speaking of Jesus: *"His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay."*

In this world of constantly changing values, morals, priorities, beliefs, and circumstances, it is the most reassuring and sturdiest truth to know that *"Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever"* (*Hebrews 13:8*). In your summer reading, take some time to dig into the Bible and be reacquainted with the eternal truths that lead to an abundant life.

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 International School Project, Page 2
- June Birthdays, Page 3
- Prayer Concerns, Page 3
- Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
- News You Can Use, Page 4
- COTCD Cartoon, Page 4
- June 2013 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

- June 5** Business Meeting
- June 14** Flag Day
- June 15** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:00 am
- June 16** Father's Day
- June 24** VBS Planning Meeting, 7:00 pm



"...Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh" (Ecclesiastes 12:12).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The Sight & Sound presentation of “Noah” that a group from BBC attended on May 23 got me thinking about the “in between” times of following God. The “Noah” production obviously had to invent additional characters and dialogue beyond the few chapters of biblical text that described Noah’s story in *Genesis*. One of the major plot lines was how Noah had to endure the criticism and even persecution from family members and townspeople who mocked and opposed his efforts to build an ark. “...Noah, one of eight people, [was] a preacher of righteousness...” (II Peter 2:5). Who was Noah that God would speak to him? Was Noah right and everyone else on the planet wrong about the coming of a great flood? Noah had to endure this pressure for 120 years, having to overcome doubt as he and his family devoted their lives to building a giant ark, for God had indeed instructed him to create such an object and there would be a worldwide deluge to purge mankind’s wickedness and evil hearts.

I can sympathize with Noah as a Christian in this modern world, and I think you, the reader, can too. We live in a world where attention and admiration is given to celebrities (often talent-less) and personalities whose lifestyles and behavior are alien to our understanding of right and wrong. We are inundated by opinion polls and authoritative statements from world-recognized experts telling us that what we believe is wrong, narrow-minded, and unpopular. Long-standing institutions that we thought would withstand pressure to succumb to the least common denominator of morality have buckled to maintain funding from donors and standing with those who never liked them to begin with.

But the rains did come. After 12 decades of pleading with a hostile and defiant world, Noah’s faith was vindicated. “...On that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened” (*Genesis 7:11*). The voices that mocked him began shouting for mercy and rescue from the waters. And then the voices were silent.

In the Sight & Sound narrative, Noah again faced doubt as he was sealed up in the ark for over a year. Imagine being stuck in a under-lit box with your seven closest relatives and the world’s largest zoological exhibit. As someone who has experienced the joy of being stuck in a traffic jam during a family car ride without the benefit of air conditioning, I assume there may have been some times of tension as stormy waves rocked the ark, the novelty of tending to a menagerie of animals began to wear off, and having to cohabitate with seven equally frazzled people day in and day out began to fray nerves. Even though Noah and his family may have been uncomfortable, they were alive, floating above the destruction that swirled about them. The ark did eventually land, and the waters finally subsided, and God, faithful to His Word as always, opened the door of the ark and ushered His faithful ones into a new world. If we remain faithful to God in our day as Noah did in his, God will most certainly deliver us into a new heaven and a new earth as He has promised us. “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (II Peter 3:13).

Interview with the International School Project

Steve & Emily Ruffner

★ *What is the purpose of the International School Project?* The vision of ISP is to see a Christian teacher in every school throughout the world who is having an impact for Christ with their students, the parents, their colleagues, and in their community. We focus our efforts to reach teachers because they really are the most influential people in society, impacting future generations in their classrooms year after year. To make this happen, ISP hosts conferences for teachers where they are trained in various educational topics and techniques to help them grow professionally. We also introduce them to a curriculum that supports a Christian worldview in the areas of character development, drug and alcohol abuse, and sexual ethics. Educators are exposed to the Gospel three or four times in various ways throughout the conference. A secondary purpose of ISP is to engage the body of Christ to participate in the Great Commission. ISP brings teams of 10 - 40 people from the United States and Canada to help lead these conferences. These teams lead small discussion groups to interact with the teachers on the curriculum and their personal spiritual journey.

★ *What led you to participate in this type of ministry?* We transitioned to ISP in 2006 after working with the Campus Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ for 13 years. Initially the transition was for selfish reasons: we wanted to move back to Ohio to be closer to family, especially Emily’s mom who has Alzheimer’s. ISP was one of the Campus Crusade ministries located in the area. We soon fell in love with the ISP strategy to change societies by reaching teachers.

★ *How has the Lord blessed your efforts?* The Lord has been very good to us. ISP has worked with more than 80,000 teachers and served in 18 different countries. Through the “language of education” God has opened doors to the gospel in Muslim, Buddhist, and other cultures that are frequently closed to the Gospel. We’ve seen teachers come to Christ all over the world, and in several countries the ISP curriculum is required to be used in their schools.

★ *How has serving in your ministry impacted your Christian walk?* This summer is our 20th anniversary of being on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ. Several years ago, someone shared some principles from *Acts 6:1-7* (the men chosen to serve the Greek widows) that really changed our perspective on our ministry. Emily and I have administrative and organizational gifts, but we felt guilty at

continued on page 3, column 2

June Birthdays

The Barnesville Lantern

4 Marva Cole
7 Stephanie Rice
8 Lisa Fedders
9 David Bennett, Kaitlyn Cole
10 Gary Burdette, Sharon Engle
11 Jan Burdette
14 Marty Woods
16 June Luhn
17 Donna Elgin, Matt Yates
23 Bill Appleton, June Ivey
27 Mark Crowe, Sandra Oden



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in May:

- There was no Old Business pending before the Church.

Expected at the June Business Meeting:

- The Deacons will offer a motion to approve the membership application of Dillon Clipp pending baptism on Jun. 2.
- A motion to remodel the church kitchen will be introduced.

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
Pam Miceli
Stephen Williams, Ed's brother
the families of Jeanette Watkins and Joann Dorsey at their passing
Fred Bird in the passing of his mother
Eddie Dorsey
Pat Elam
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Dean Swank, Lyndsay O'Malley, Bev Magruder, Phil Brudner, 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)

Interview with the International School Project, continued

times for not being gifted evangelists or disciplers. We realized that we are most fruitful in our ministry when we do what God has gifted us to do. By using our gifts, we enable and support others to use their gifts so that "the Word of God continues to spread." We all have a role in helping to fulfill the Great Commission.

★ *What is the most important thing you have learned or experienced in your ministry?* Serving in ISP has opened our eyes to the reality that the Gospel really does intersect with every facet of our life. ISP shows the connection between the Gospel to education...but the connection can be made between the Gospel and every other area of our life. We don't need to make some kind of secular/spiritual distinction. God really wants us to interact with Him wherever we are.

★ *How can Barnesville Baptist continue to help you in your ministry?* Barnesville has been a part of our ministry since 2004. You really are a tremendous blessing to us with your prayers, financial support, and encouraging notes and emails. As far as our personal ministry is concerned, we are always looking for more people to be a part of our ministry team who, like you, can support us with their prayers and finances. We can always use help connecting with potential ministry partners. As far as ISP is concerned, Emily and I would love to have you join us on an ISP trip. ISP has 12 - 20 trips a year into nearly every corner of the globe. You really can make a difference...and you don't need to be an educator yourself to go on an ISP trip.



*"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

Vacation Bible School heading our way! The theme for this year's VBS is "Colossal Coaster World", which will be held Jul. 8-12 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. If you would like to serve in a classroom, music, crafts, recreation, or snack, please contact Pastor Randy or Mary Yates.



Vacation Bible School is arguably our church's most important annual outreach activity; please join us in serving the Lord and building His Kingdom. A final planning meeting

will be held on Monday, Jun. 24 at 7:00 pm.

Summer vacation begins for several programs. Monthly activities beginning their summer hiatus include the Friday Night movie, WMU meetings, and the lunches with Watkins Cabinet. These programs will resume in September.

Bus trip to Sight & Sound. Seventeen people from BBC enjoyed a production of "Noah" at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA on May 23. The live drama, which told the story of Noah's deliverance from the



Genesis Flood, featured dozens of live and animatronic animals. Those who enjoyed the ante-diluvian spectacle included David Bennett, Fred Bird, Elnora Caudell, Janice, Nick, Jackie, Ashlynn, and Kaitlyn Cole, Dot Fowler, Eddie & Pauline Fowler, Jane Fowler,

Flora Gilliam, Randy & Sandy Gilliam, Lee Michael, and Nancy Stonestreet.

Health kits distributed. The WMU wishes to thank those who contributed enough supplies to make 31 health kits for migrant workers, prison inmates, homeless people, and seamen. The WMU sent these kits to the state convention headquarters in Columbia, from where the kits were sent out to those in need in places like the port of Baltimore.



Belated birthday greetings. Susan Rice celebrated her birthday on May 30. Nancy Stonestreet turned a year older on May 26.

Congratulations to graduates. Ashley Babyak is graduating on Jun. 6 from Brunswick High School and the Frederick



County Career and Technology Center, where she is currently enrolled in a biomedical science program. Ashley will be attending Stevenson University near Baltimore where she plans to major in biotechnology with a

minor in biochemistry. Bennett McPhatter, Jr. graduated on May 31 from Poolesville High School. The ceremony was held at the Knott Arena at Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, MD. Bennett plans to



attend Montgomery College this fall. Alexis Connelly will graduate from Fairfield High School in Fairfield, PA on Jun. 7. Alexis completed a two-year program in diesel mechanics with the Adams County Tech Prep program and received recognition for scoring "advanced" in the comprehensive final evaluation in her tech program. After graduation Alexis plans to work full time at Finch Services Inc., a John Deere-Bobcat dealership, where she will use her tech training and gain practical experience in diesel mechanics.



Congratulations to Luke Fedders. Luke was re-elected as town mayor during Barnesville's municipal elections on May 6. He will serve a two-year term.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



He knew it had to be opened, but, should it be done in business meeting?