



# The Barnesville Lantern

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August 2013, Volume 12, No. 3

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

## The Pastor's Spotlight

*"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (I Corinthians 11:26).*

Wouldn't it be an incredibly wonderful thing if every Christian in the world could sit at the Lord's table and celebrate the Lord's Supper together? *"Because there is one loaf, we who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf" (I Corinthians 10:17).* It is this place at the table, at the Lord's invitation, which should unite Christians everywhere. The Lord's desire certainly was that all of His followers should be united in Him. He prayed for those who were with Him and also for all who would follow that they would be one: *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me" (John 17:20-21).*

The simple ordinance with bread and wine really needs no words to express its meaning. It is a picture of *"...the incomparable riches of [God's] grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7).* The foundational reality of all Christian faith is the death, burial, and bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is around this fundamental truth that all Christians should be united. If the worldwide church could look beyond its many differences and denominations, imagine what a powerful witness it would make to a world desperately seeking the joy, peace, and rest only God can give.

Affecting the worldwide church is out of the hands of most of us, but we, in local congregations, can demonstrate love, tolerance, and unity with other Christian groups. *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35).*

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## Upcoming Events

- August 1** Business Meeting
- August 5** Outreach Cmte. Kitchen Workday
- August 10** Kitchen/Flooring Workday
- August 12** MBA Tent at the County Fair



*"...No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:20-21).*

God Bless,

Pastor Randy



## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Have you ever had the experience of seeing something that you had known for a very long time in a completely new light? I had such an experience this past week when I settled on and moved into a new house. Now, I have known about and lived in houses all my life. I am familiar with kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, stairwells, and all the other things that make up a house. What makes things new is that for the first time, I am responsible for all the many systems that make up a house, how to operate them, what could go wrong with them, and how to fix them or stop them from getting worse until I can get someone else to fix them. Take the walls. They seemed to be pretty simple, two-dimensional objects. Not anymore! I now have to care about nail-pops, seams between the drywall, and scuffs in the paint. This new home-owning experience has also given me a new perspective on the Apostle Paul's description of the body of Christ being composed of many members. *"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another"* (Romans 12:4-5).

This new perspective was also brought to light by the many people who contributed not just to the physical construction of my house, but to turning it into the place where I live. In the past week, I have interacted with builders, real estate agents, deliverymen, installers, painters, utilities, a moving crew, and several handymen. These men and women used their vastly different talents and abilities to contribute something important to my successful move-in. Who could say that the settlement agent was more important than a deliveryman? Without the settlement agent, I wouldn't legally own my house, but without the furniture deliveryman, I'd be sitting on the floor for want of a chair. There were also some people I didn't even meet that affected my move. I never saw the inspectors who certified that my house was built up to code or marked out the paths of the cables and pipes that led to my house, yet I would certainly feel the effects if I had no water, gas, or electricity.

This interdependence and cooperation displayed in a physical sense is what Paul was trying to teach the Roman Christians about the nature of the church. It requires different people with different personalities and different giftings to build up the others with or without everyone's knowledge. Could you imagine what our morning services would look like if everyone were the same? If everyone were a choir member we'd have great singing but we might have to sing in the dark for having forgotten to pay the light bill. If everyone were a Sunday School teacher we'd have great teaching but we might suffer in our ability to care for the sick and hurting as we got lost discussing deep theological issues.

This week has been very eye-opening, learning about the many responsibilities it takes to be a homeowner and a deeper appreciation what the body of Christ means. God through His Holy Spirit uses the common experiences of life to teach us His truths. Be open to the opportunities to *"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."* (Romans 12:2), even if it comes from learning where the water shut-off valve is located.

## Interview with the MBA Director

Dr. Ron Blankenship

*Dr. Blankenship is the Director of Missions for the Montgomery Baptist Association (MBA)—Ed.*

★ *What led you to become a missionary?* I had been a pastor and church planter for 19 years. During this time I had been active in association and state convention work in the Southern Baptist Convention. When the opportunity presented itself to serve as a Director of Missions/Church Starter Strategist for the MBA and simultaneously as a home missionary with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in 1999, I answered the call. For many years I had prayed for such a position to work with a variety of churches to help them with their ministries as well as oversee planting of new churches. There is no greater area that can affect the Kingdom of God than the metro DC region.

★ *What is the purpose of the MBA and what is your role as its director?* The overarching mission statement of MBA is: "Churches on mission in fellowship for the kingdom of Jesus Christ". The association is made up of churches and the association exists to help them to work together to build the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. My role is to facilitate the cooperative efforts of these churches to fulfill the Great Commission. I am available to preach, lead a variety of seminars, counsel pastors and staff, help churches during interim pastorates, help churches in conflict, supervise the planting of new churches, and many other tasks as the churches' needs arise. To accomplish our mission the MBA focuses on four purposes: strengthening existing churches, starting new churches, cooperative ministries of churches, and encouraging leaders in the churches. The association is not a separate organization from the churches, but is made up of the churches.

★ *What are the MBA's most important goals or activities at this time?* The MBA is in a four-year partnership with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D) called "Embrace Silver Spring". The goals are to help churches in the MBA to be healthier and to plant new churches. It is proven that a healthy church participates in reproduction. We are also cooperating with the NAMB emphasis called Send Cities DC, in which the purpose is to lead as many churches as we can to participate in church planting in DC and within a 50-mile radius of DC. A church can participate in church planting by being a sponsoring-, sending-, or multiplying church. For several years we have led the way in the BCM/D to plant churches in surrounding Maryland counties, DC and Northern Virginia.

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## August Birthdays

5 Suzanne Neal  
7 Matthew Ennis  
11 Rick Thomas  
12 Madison Marsh  
16 Stephanie Runkles  
17 Pauline Fowler  
19 Kyle Marsh  
20 Bill Williams  
21 Edith Fowler, Jamie Thomas  
26 Lee Michael, Shayna Campbell  
28 Ann Bennett  
29 Paul Meissner  
30 Matthew Cole  
31 Bob Runkles



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Expected at the August Business Meeting:*

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

## VBS 2014 Sneak Peek



*"But honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).*

## Prayer Concerns

Virginia Magaha  
the family of Dean Swank in his loss  
Mike Furr, recovering from surgery  
Tammy Combs  
Junior & Arlene Luhn  
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother  
Jane Fowler  
Carson Hammerlund, Ollie Baumbaugh's great-grandson  
Linda Cain  
Tabitha Runkles  
June Luhn  
Paul Crowe  
Eddie Dorsey  
Bill Combs  
Marsha Espinoza, Penny Barton's friend  
Mary Cole, Matthew Cole's mother  
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Lyndsay O'Malley, Bev Magruder, Phil Brudner, Bill Dunn, Jane Ward, Fran Hoagland, Mark Wilkinson, Mike Blinkhorn, Jody Pelligrino, Donald Jericho  
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala), Steve & Emily Ruffner (Inat'l. School Project), David & Cheryl Shive (Faith Home Ministries), Matt & Ellen Zell (Honduras), Candice Corwin (King's Domain)



*"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 the MBA Director, continued

★ *How has serving in your ministry impacted your Christian walk?* Ministering and serving the Lord in this heavily populated and ethnically diverse area has led me to a deeper prayer life and a closer relationship with God. It is our Lord Jesus Christ who originated and sustains the church. God uses His servants to plant churches, but ultimately only God can grow a church. We are weak human beings who can do little without dependence upon Almighty God who is all-knowing and all-powerful, our God who provides all our needs as we do His will.

★ *What is the most important thing you have learned or experienced in your ministry?* That Christians and the church must work where God is working and allow Him to act through them. We cannot come up with a plan and ask God to bless it. Instead, we have to pray unceasingly that God will show us His will and then show us how we can experience His power and presence as we see God's mighty works and will unfolding before our very eyes. For example, when I started as director the MBA had 40 member churches. Since that time three churches closed their doors due to decline in membership. Our association has attempted over 30 new church starts and now we have 63 member churches and at any given time about 10 new church plants in the birthing stage.

★ *How can BBC continue to help you in your ministry?* BBC can pray for the ongoing cooperative ministries and church planting in the MBA. You can continue to give financially to support our ongoing ministries and church planting efforts. BBC members can participate in annual meeting, training events, and other fellowship events designed to grow unity and cooperation among the churches. Your church has been a loyal supporter and friend of the MBA over the years and your dedication to the Lord's work is appreciated very much.

## News You Can Use

*Vacation Bible School a good time.* *1 Timothy 1:7* and the motto of "Facing Fear! Trusting God!" were shouted in the sanctuary during the evenings of Jul. 8-12 during our roller coaster-themed VBS, Colossal Coaster World. Thank you to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible



School 2013 a success, especially to those in the classroom,

crafts, missions, recreation, snack, and behind the scenes. Your service in building God's Kingdom and sharing His Gospel is appreciated. The total enrollment this year was 56. One student was known to have made a decision to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior during VBS.

*VBS missions offering goes to local and international missionaries.* This year's VBS missions offering totaled \$1,400 and will be sent to missionaries Manuel & Cindy Batres in Guatemala to purchase school uniforms, shoes, and supplies for local children so they can attend school.

*Fall activities to start up soon.* September is coming sooner than you think. Activities that will resume from their summer hiatus after Labor Day include the Friday Night movie, monthly WMU meetings, bell choir practices on Thursdays, and the lunches with Watkins Cabinet.

*BBC to spend a day at the fair.* On Monday, Aug. 12, members of Barnesville Baptist will pass out water and information to passers-by in front of the Montgomery Baptist Association tent at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. If you are interested in covering a two-hour block of time representing the church during this outreach opportunity, please contact Pastor Randy.

*Directory update planned.* Anyone with corrections or updates for their entry in the church directory should contact Lee Michael before the end of September. Supplements will be distributed in mid-October.

*Workdays.* In preparation for the remodeling of the church kitchen, the Outreach Cmte. will meet on Monday, Aug. 5 at 10:00 am to empty the cabinets and drawers. Volunteers are requested to help removed the old kitchen cabinets and the Fellowship Hall flooring on Saturday, Aug. 10 starting at 7:30 am. The cabinetry will be given to a church member who has requested it and the flooring will be donated to Habitat for Humanity. We expect the new kitchen to be finished by the end of August.

*Gold Heart returning to the Pig Pickin'.* On Saturday, Sept. 21, the annual Pig Pickin' will be followed with a 7:00 pm bluegrass gospel concert starring the band Gold Heart, whom we have heard perform several times before. However, this time we are looking forward to hearing songs from their newest album! Be sure to attend the dinner at 5:30 pm and invite your friends and family to the concert afterwards.

## COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I just realised why no one was in church today... I forgot to unlock the doors."