



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

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..."
(Hebrews 10:23-25).

Back-to-school activities are a significant part of the late summer and fall season for many families. There is shopping to do for clothes and school supplies, working out transportation and schedules, attending orientations and back-to-school nights, meeting new teachers and friends, as well as the challenge of school work and extra-curricular activities. When schools open there is an electric excitement about people gathering and interacting with one other.

This fall, may we suggest that your family consider a back-to-church emphasis? In our busy world, church attendance is sometimes given a pretty low priority because of competing demands on our time and on our energy. The writer of *Hebrews* encouraged Christians to persevere in their faith for several good reasons: the Lord has done so much for us giving us a clean conscience and a future hope, He has promised to be faithful in all our circumstances and needs, and He has given us access to God in the Most Holy Place. In addition, meeting together is an encouragement to others to "*spur one another on to love and good deeds*". When people meet to worship, pray, and praise God together there is a joy and blessing that we do not get by worshipping alone. Corporate worship and prayer is good for the soul. Just think, if everyone decided to go "back to church" this fall, there would be new excitement in our fellowship, new opportunities to learn about our Lord, new opportunities to serve Him, and new times to listen for His voice as He leads us.

God Bless,

Pastor Randy



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Upcoming Events

- October 2** 142nd Annual Business Meeting
- October 18** Watkins Cabinet Lunch
- October 20** 78th MBA Annual Meeting
- October 31** Halloween



"O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your creatures"
(Psalm 104:24).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The *Washington Post* published on Sept. 26 an article entitled “Five myths about Jesus” by Reza Aslan, the latest celebrity religious scholar-author to step into the media limelight with a book about the “legends and myths” that have obscured the “real” Jesus of history over the centuries. Aslan claims in his article that the following statements about Jesus are myths, fancifully or falsely invented by early Christians to round out their biography of Jesus: (1) Jesus was born in Bethlehem, (2) Jesus was an only child, (3) Jesus had 12 disciples, (4) Jesus had a trial before Pontius Pilate, and (5) Jesus was buried in a tomb.

Considering and responding to claims like these are a great opportunity to hone your apologetics skills: “...*always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you...*” (1 Peter 3:15). Debunking the claims in the article is not too hard if you remember that the Bible counts as a historical record, as well as being familiar with what the Bible actually says, not how someone slants it.

Aslan’s first claimed myth is based on the argument that there is no record of the census described in *Luke 1* that sent Joseph & Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem. But wait, what about *Luke 1*? What Aslan is really saying is that the already available evidence of an otherwise historically unimportant bureaucratic order from 2,000 years ago isn’t good enough for him, and that despite the ravages of time, wars, fires, and the rise and fall of civilizations, he would like even more evidence to exist than what has survived.

Myth two is only controversial to those who believe in the Catholic doctrine of Mary’s perpetual virginity, so it’s really not worthy of a top five list. In fact, two of Jesus’ brothers, James and Jude, wrote epistles that are included as books of the New Testament.

Myth three is also trivial and relies on the fact that people often interchange the words “disciples” and “apostles”. The Gospels record that Jesus had many disciples, or followers, but only a dozen inner-circle men who were given leadership roles in the Church, the apostles. This “myth” is nothing more than a complaint about word usage.

Aslan claims for his fourth and fifth myths that the Romans wouldn’t have given Jesus special treatment like a trial or a burial. This is where the knowing what the Bible says helps out, as the Scripture explains why Jesus’ death and burial played out as they did. The Gospels reveal that Jesus wasn’t a Roman prisoner. Christ was arrested by the Temple authorities, who brought Him before the Roman governor and whipped up the Passover crowds so the death penalty, a punishment only the Romans could authorize, would be imposed. Also, it’s true a poor, itinerant preacher like Jesus normally wouldn’t have been buried in a rock-hewn tomb, but as the Gospels explain, the rich and influential Joseph of Arimathea persuaded Pontius Pilate to give him custody of Jesus’ body.

Aslan is not the first and won’t be the last to criticize the historical accuracy of the Bible or the truth it presents about Jesus. We therefore as Christ’s representatives must continue to be ready to defend the Scripture’s trustworthiness.

Missions Focus: Montgomery County Correctional Facility

For several years BBC has made monthly donations as part of its support to missions to the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry to support the ministry of Rev. Russ Isler, the chaplain at Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF) in nearby Clarksburg, Maryland. Chaplain Isler’s mission is to “present the Gospel of Jesus to the men and women” at MCCF. Through his own preaching, teaching, and counseling, and with the help of many volunteers, the men and women incarcerated at MCCF have the “opportunity to encounter the life-giving power of Jesus Christ.”

Chaplain Isler began his involvement with jail ministry as a volunteer. He was moved by the fact that some people he interacted with in jail were young men he had gone to school with years earlier, saying, “how blessed I am and but by the grace of God I could be an inmate”. Because Chaplain Isler knew the background of many of these inmates, he understood how critical the need was to take the good news of the Gospel into the jails. With the help of volunteers and support by many churches the MCCF jail ministry now includes Bible study classes, worship services, the distribution of Bibles and Christian literature, Bible correspondence courses, one-on-one counseling, and aftercare ministry for those who are released from MCCF.

A great joy of Chaplain Isler’s ministry is seeing how God’s power can completely change people’s lives. Some time ago a woman enslaved to drugs and alcohol and burdened with guilt and shame happened to read the account of the Samaritan woman in *John 4*. God began to speak to her and as volunteers began to share that text she experienced God’s forgiveness and His cleansing which washed away all of her sin. She began to know the joy and peace that only comes by grace through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. God’s power to “demolish strongholds” of evil is truly on display in this place of so much spiritual darkness. “*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost*” (*Luke 19:10*).

With an average daily population of around 700 at MCCF, the chaplain’s work is never done. Rev. Isler is very appreciative of the prayer and financial support provided by Barnesville Baptist through its missions giving. “*I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me*” (*Matthew 25:40*).

October Birthdays

- 1 Ashley Babyak
- 6 Michaela Driver
- 7 Iris Rodgers
- 10 David Shive
- 11 Zoe Thomas
- 13 Lynn Eplee, Peter Cole, Brooke Ahalt, Barbara Hungerford
- 17 Sierra Tothill
- 23 Ray Randall, John Shreve
- 25 Judy Wright
- 30 Samantha Fowler, Amber Ennis



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in September:

- The Church adopted a proposal from Sugarloaf Network Systems to install an antenna on the church building in exchange for providing free internet service to the church and parsonage.
- A Finance Committee motion to increase its solid waste budget line item by \$200 was approved.

Expected at the 142nd Annual Business Meeting:

- A resolution to begin the annual budget process for 2014 will be offered; the standing committees will report to the Treasurer by Nov. 10.
- The Deacons will offer a motion to approve the membership application of Zachary Fedders by profession of faith pending baptism on Sept. 29.
- A motion will be made to nominate Pastor Randy & Sandy Gilliam as messengers to the BCM/D Annual Convention, being held Nov. 10-12 in Newark, DE.
- The Pastor will nominate as many as five members to serve as messengers to the 78th Montgomery Baptist Association Annual Meeting, being held on Oct. 20 at Montrose Baptist Church in Rockville.
- An Outreach Committee motion to transfer \$3,000 from the Missions Trip budget line item to the Outreach budget line item will be presented.
- Note: All outstanding motions not acted on at the October Business Meeting must be re-introduced for any further consideration by the Church.

Prayer Concerns

Virginia Magaha
Mike Furr, recovering from surgery
Junior & Arlene Luhn
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother
Jane Fowler
Ollie Baumbaugh
Linda Cain
Tabitha Runkles
June Luhn
Paul Crowe
Eddie Dorsey
Tammy Combs
Lynn Meier, Leslie Foster's friend
Marsha Espinoza, Penny Barton's friend
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, John Hunter, Mike Blinkhorn, Cathy Mallory
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).*

News You Can Use

Pig Pickin' and concert a great time for all. The Baptist Men



sponsored their annual pig roast on Saturday, Sept. 20 with a Gospel bluegrass concert afterwards. The Gold Heart sisters, Tori (mandolin), Joceyln (guitar) and Shelby (fiddle), plus father Trent (bass) returned

to provide an excellent performance, with Randy Barrett joining them to play the banjo. Thanks to the Baptist Men for hosting this time of fellowship.

Committee heads to hold special meeting. The chairmen of the five standing committees will meet promptly after the morning worship on Sunday, Oct. 13 to briefly review the upcoming 2014 budget process. Any interested Church member is welcome to attend.

Kitchen status. As of press time, the church kitchen renovations are almost completed.



The new cabinets and granite countertops are installed, the new flooring is down, and the appliances are back in place. A tile backsplash and some minor painting and lighting tasks are all that are needed to complete the project. The new drawers have really helped with organizing the utensils and other kitchenware. Thanks especially go out to our friends at Watkins Cabinet for all

their help with this project.

Batreses to visit BBC. Manuel & Cindy Batres will be visiting Barnesville on Sunday, Oct. 6 to provide an update on their ministry in Guatemala and to receive the funds raised at VBS this past summer to help children attend school. The Batreses last visited us in Sept. 2012 and we are anxious to hear what they have been doing in the last 12 months.

Human trafficking seminar. The Family Ministry is sponsoring a seminar on the issue of human trafficking on Sunday, Oct. 27 at 1:00 pm. The speaker will be Melody Knox, interim WMU Director for the BCM/D. The event is open to the community, and childcare will be provided. A light lunch will be served to BBC members prior to the event.

Montgomery Baptists to meet. The Montgomery Baptist Association has scheduled its annual meeting and fall revival as back-to-back events on Sunday, Oct. 20 at Montrose Baptist Church in Rockville. The 78th annual business meeting will be held from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, with the revival service starting at 7:30 pm. Duly elected messengers who participate in both events will be served dinner in between meetings. BBC is entitled to send five messengers.

Get ready for Operation Christmas Child. You can share the love and hope of Jesus Christ with needy children around the world by packing a shoebox with toys. The WMU needs your donations no later than Sunday, Nov. 17.

Supporting missions in Maryland/Delaware. The state missions offering is a vital part of

Gather² SCATTER
ACTS 8:4

the ongoing task of building God's Kingdom. The BCM/D-wide goal for 2013 is \$190,000, which will support local efforts like Embrace Silver Spring, collegiate ministries, poverty initiatives, disaster relief, and outreach to internationals. Please prayerfully consider how you can support state missions.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Well, to be honest, from your radio sermons, I was expecting you to look a little more mature pastor..."