



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

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him 'Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')' (Matthew 1:22-23).

The most astonishing fact in all of human history is that the Creator of the universe came to live among people in the flesh of a human being. *"...Do not be afraid, Mary you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High..." (Luke 1:30-31).* It is the celebration of this unique and miraculous birth that makes Christmas such a wonderful season. The four weeks leading up to Christmas, called Advent, provide us the opportunity to prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord. How do we prepare for this celebration?

First, we need to remember why we need a Savior. Jesus gave His life for us because God judges sin and we are all sinners. *"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...",* and, *"...the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 3:23; 6:23).* Because Jesus bore our sins' penalty, we receive forgiveness, eternal life, peace with God and the Holy Spirit's fellowship throughout our lives. Plus, He promises us a heavenly home. So, we can say with the songwriter Phillip Bliss, "hallelujah, what a Savior"!

Next, we prepare for Christmas by self-examination, asking if our lives are consistent with God's standards of honesty, moral purity, and love for God and others. We can all say with the psalmist, *"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).*

And finally, throughout all the weeks of Advent there should be a God-centered excitement about the advent of our Savior and excitement about the Lord's second coming in great power and glory! Have a wonderful Christmas!

God Bless,

Pastor Randy



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Upcoming Events

December 1 Christmas Dinner at Mountain Gate
December 4 Business Meeting
December 15 Christmas Hymn-Sing,
Parsonage Open House
December 20 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet
December 21 Baptist Men's Meeting
December 24 Christmas Eve Service
December 25 Christmas
December 31 New Year's Eve



"The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together..." (Isaiah 40:5).



The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

One of the ways I like to start off the Christmas season is by listening to Handel's *Messiah*. George Frideric Handel composed his famous oratorio in 1741 and audiences have enjoyed it ever since. *Messiah* covers Christ's incarnation, passion, and reign in the millennial kingdom, making it appropriate for every Christian holiday. The simple beauty of the King James Bible text being sung in different ways within each movement makes for a very worshipful experience as the Old Testament prophecies foretell the coming of a Redeemer who will rescue Israel from spiritual darkness and bring the light of salvation to all mankind.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people
Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
the glory of the LORD shall be revealed
Isaiah 40:1-3
Isaiah 40:4
Isaiah 40:5

the Desire of All Nations shall come
My messenger...shall prepare the way before me
But who may abide the day of His coming?
And He shall purify the sons of Levi
Haggai 2:6-7
Malachi 3:1
Malachi 3:2
Malachi 3:3

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.
Say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!
the glory of the Lord is risen
the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.
Isaiah 7:14,
Matthew 1:23
Isaiah 40:9
Isaiah 60:1
Isaiah 60:2-3

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light
For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given
Isaiah 9:2
Isaiah 9:6

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
Luke 2:8
Luke 2:9-10
Luke 2:13
Luke 2:14

Whenever you get tired of seeing nine-foot-tall snowglobe lawn decorations or hearing "Jingle Bell Rock" play on the radio for the 43rd time, listening to *Messiah* is a great tonic. Let the Bible tell you in its own words the reason why we celebrate the birth of Jesus and why He is worthy of celebration. Merry Christmas and a Happy 2014 from the *Lantern* staff!

Survey Question of the Month

December's question is "What is your most—or least—favorite part of the Christmas season, and how would you change the holiday to make it better?"

"My least favorite part of the Christmas season is all the political correctness surrounding Christmas, like being told to say 'Happy Holidays' instead of 'Merry Christmas' because someone might get offended. I also do not like the greed that surrounds Christmas. The stores start putting out Christmas items in September before we have even had Halloween and Thanksgiving. I like my holidays one at a time!

What I love about Christmas is watching little children get excited, watching Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and A Charlie Brown Christmas with my family, singing "O Holy Night", and being thankful that my Savior was born, died, and resurrected so that I could have everlasting life". —Laura Luhn

"My most favorite part of Christmas is the music. Have you ever sat down and just read the words of your favorite carols? Try this, and you will be singing the praises of God's greatest gift to you". —Trudy Meissner

"My least favorite part about Christmas is the lack of real joy and meaning! Not all this rushing around trying to buy the most and the best for whomever, but remembering why we celebrate the time of year and to be thankful for the blessing we have been given of the birth of a Savior and the meaning of what that of which is to come by His birth and that we are not worthy of what has been given to us.

My favorite thing about Christmas is taking the time to worship Him, glorify Him, and thank Him for what He has done for me and to praise God for the gift He gave me, for He loved me so "that He gave His only begotten Son, so that I may have everlasting life," because I believe in Him. I don't know that I could ever change the season on my own for the world, but I know I changed it for my family and that is a beginning". —Nancy Wells

"As missionaries, our new home country (Honduras) doesn't commercialize Christmas the way we do in the States, so that is a welcomed change. But we don't particularly care for the special holiday food that the Hondurans enjoy at this time of year. It's not that it tastes bad, it's just that we are not used to the many ways you can eat corn! Although it is not the custom in Honduras, we still like to make Christmas cookies and share them with our neighbors!"—Matt and Ellen Zell

"My favorite times at Christmas are the quiet times. There is so much hustle and bustle during this time of year. It is nice to just turn off everything and focus on God and what He has done for us. Whether is sitting at home with only the Christmas tree lights on or at church in a candlelight service". —David Bennett

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December Birthdays

- 2 Elnora Caudell, Tina Yates
- 3 Sherri Crowe, Juanita Watson
- 9 Jeannye Hungerford
- 12 Gabby Marsh
- 14 Rachel Engle
- 15 Holly Cross
- 16 Teresa Tuttle
- 17 Mary Ann Luhn
- 19 Mary Mossburg, Kyle Shreve
- 24 Ashlinn Cole
- 28 Ralph Cooley
- 29 Ollie Baumbaugh
- 31 Larry Michael



Prayer Concerns

Virginia Magaha
Mike Furr
Junior & Arlene Luhn
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother
Jane Fowler
Ollie Baumbaugh
Linda Cain
the family of Eddie Dorsey at his passing
Tammy Combs
Dot Fowler's family at the loss of her nephew
June Luhn
Bob Runkles
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, Cathy Mallory, JoAnn Clark, Jack Neal, Mary White Lok, Ralph Wright, Sally Buffington
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).

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in November:

- The Outreach Committee's motion to hold a Church Christmas party at Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont, MD on Dec. 1 was approved.
- A motion to change the date of the January Business Meeting from Jan. 1 to Jan. 8 was adopted.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2014 budget. The proposed budget amount of \$192,971 is \$16,680 less than the 2013 adjusted budget amount of \$214,171, which to date includes over \$4,500 in Cooperative Program giving beyond the minimum budgeted amount of \$10,000.
- An Internal Administration Cmte. motion to carry insurance coverage from Bitner-Henry Insurance Agency will be offered.
- An Internal Administration Cmte. motion to lease a copier from DCA Imaging Systems will be offered.

Survey Question of the Month, continued

"I do not like Christmas at all. People put the emphasis on all the wrong things, get harried and hassled about things like baking cookies, preparing big meals, and then complain about their weight. People give gifts nobody wants, and then have yard sales to get rid of their stuff!

I'd rather celebrate Jesus' birth by sitting next to a fire in the evening, reading the Scriptures with a warm beverage, looking at the Christmas tree and thinking of the tree Christ died on, looking at the Christmas lights and thinking of the Light of the world."—Bonnie Todd

"My least favorite part is Christmas is the commercialization. Retail stores put out Christmas decorations before Halloween and people become blasé and tired of it all before Thanks-giving. The emphasis on buying "stuff" has taken over the wonder and excitement of the birth of our Savior.

My favorite part is the gathering of friends and family on Christmas Eve and Day. The quiet and peace of the Christmas Eve Service helps me focus on why we celebrate Christmas".—Sandy Gilliam

January's question is **"What New Year's resolution(s) would most help you become more Christ-like?"**

Responses are due to the Editor by Wednesday, Dec. 25.



News You Can Use

Open House at the Parsonage. After the Monthly Hymn-Sing on Dec. 15, when we will have a chance to sing everyone's favorite Christmas carols, Randy & Sandy Gilliam will have an open house at the Church parsonage. Everyone is invited to sing at 6:00 pm and enjoy refreshments afterward.

Christmas poinsettias for sale. If you would like to purchase a Christmas poinsettia in honor of/in memory of a loved one, please contact Kitty Cooley at 301-349-5119. The poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas services and throughout the holiday season. Four poinsettia sizes are available this year: 6" for \$10.00; 7" for \$16.00; 8" for \$25.00; and 10" for \$32.00.

WMU autumn activity report. The members of the WMU were blessed and humbled by the generosity of BBC members who donated 14 wrapped shoeboxes packed with Christmas presents for needy children around the world. Thank you all for your willingness to share. The WMU is now collecting non-perishable food items for the food pantry, which will be distributed to local families in need.

Christmas services planned. The Choir will present its cantata, "Bethlehem Morning", during worship on Sunday, Dec. 22, after which the Baptist Men will give gifts to the children. A Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 pm. The Bell Choir will present its Christmas pieces during the Dec. 15 worship service.

Missionaries to visit on Dec. 8. Matt & Ellen Zell will be visiting BBC on Sunday, Dec. 8 to share about their recent experiences as missionaries in Honduras. Barnesville plays an important role in the Zells' ministry as a financial and prayer partner.

BCM/D annual meeting. BBC messengers Randy & Sandy Gilliam attended the state convention Nov. 10-12, hosted by Ogletown Baptist Church in Newark, DE. The theme for the 2013 meeting was "Gather2Scatter". There were 256 messengers and 71 visitors registered. Speakers at this annual meeting included James Merritt, A.B. Vines, and BCM/D President Robert Anderson. Executive Missional Strategist Dr. Will McRaney succeeded Executive Director Dr. David Lee, who retired Jul. 1, 2013. Dr. McRaney and his wife Sandy were very well received. The BCM/D staff are confident that Dr. McRaney is God's man for this time and that his leadership will enhance the mission of Maryland and Delaware Baptists. Please keep Dr. McRaney in your prayers.

Christmas dinner scheduled for Dec. 1. Friends and families of Barnesville Baptist are reminded that the annual Christmas Dinner will be held at Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 5:00 pm. See you there for a good time of fellowship and singing after the meal.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$2,200. Dec. 1-8 is the week of prayer for the 2013 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This year's theme is "Totally His: Heart, Hands, Voice"; SBC churches must take direct responsibility for helping reach over 3,000 unengaged, unreached people groups that IMB missionaries may never be able to reach. The national goal is \$175 million; BBC's is \$2,200. All of this money goes directly to support foreign missionaries around the world. For them, this Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is the lifeblood of multiple ministries to people with spiritual and physical needs. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions. Also, a Christmas card exchange will be set up at church—save postage and donate what you would have spent on stamps to Lottie Moon!



COTCD Cartoon



Christmas tends to bring out the best in us.