



The Barnesville Lantern

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January 2014, Volume 12, No. 8

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

The Pastor's Spotlight

"May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word" (II Thessalonians 2:16-17).

For followers of Christ, the coming new year should bring excitement and anticipation of the Lord's ministry to us and to others through us. It is no small joy to remember that we are all co-laborers together with God. Because God loves us, we can expect His encouragement and grace in every relationship, circumstance, problem, sorrow, and joy throughout the year. His amazing grace not only provides for our reconciliation through Jesus Christ, but is a constant source of hope and courage as we face the ups and downs of life. His grace will provide strength to help us do and say the things that He has planned for us to do for His glory. Remember that "...we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

There will be events and challenges in 2014 that may shake our faith in men and in government and maybe even in God. If God's love, grace, strength, and power become hidden from you by clouds of misfortune or confusion, remember that you are God's own special creation and that He will never leave you nor forsake you. The Great Shepherd, Jesus, will never let the smallest lamb out of His sight. Spend time in prayer with Him and be strengthened for every day's demands. "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).

May you have a most blessed and Christ-centered New Year!

God Bless,

Pastor Randy



In This Edition:

The Pastor's Spotlight, Page 1
Upcoming Events, Page 1
The Pew Perspective, Page 2
Survey Question of the Month, Page 2
January Birthdays, Page 3
Prayer Concerns, Page 3
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
COTCD Cartoon, Page 3
News You Can Use, Page 4
January 2014 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

January 1 New Year's Day
January 8 Business Meeting
January 24 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet
January 25 Baptist Men's Meeting



January 20 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain..." (Isaiah 40:4).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

It seems like I just wrote a year-in-review column for 2012, and now the year 2013 has already gone on its way. Time flies when we are having fun and when we are serving our Lord (or is that the same thing)? Here are some of the more interesting and important Church news headlines from the past 12 months:

January: passing of former pastor Rev. Jeddie DeFries

February: rescheduled Baptist Men's Day celebrated with Danny Moore

March: fifth Women's Rally led by Gayla Parker, Easter cantata "It Is Finished" performed

April: BBC recognized by state convention for being one of the top 50 BCM/D churches supporting the Cooperative Program in 2012

May: bus trip to "Noah" at Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA

June: one baptized

July: Colossal Coaster World VBS held

August: BBC mans tent at county fair, Church kitchen renovated

September: one baptized, Pig Pickin' featured a concert by bluegrass band Gold Heart

October: the International Mission Board recognized BBC with a Cartersville Challenge certificate for our 2012 Lottie Moon Christmas offering

November: WMU collected 14 shoeboxes for Christmas

December: annual Christmas dinner held at Mountain Gate, "Bethlehem Morning" cantata performed for Christmas

God has certainly blessed BBC in the past year with many opportunities to engage in discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, ministry, and worship. As we look forward to 2014, it is exciting to imagine the possibilities the Lord has in store for us as we seek to serve Him in this new year.

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works..." (Hebrews 10:24).

Survey Question of the Month

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

"The New Year's resolutions that would help me become more Christ-like are to read my Holy Bible more often, to pray more for others, to think about how Christ would answer people, to take self out of the way, and to put a guard on my mouth and fingers".—Bonnie Todd

"I don't make New Year's resolutions, because it has been my experience that they are too easily broken. So in 2014, to try to be more Christ-like, I will just continue to do what I try to do each day, which is to do what is right and learn from the examples of other Christians so that I can make Jesus happy. I know that there are times where I will fail miserably at it because I am a sinner, and there are times that I will succeed. I hope that each time I make a mistake, that I will learn and grow from it, so that I don't make it again. God teaches us valuable life lessons when we fail and when we succeed. I hope that by continuing to grow privately in my relationship with Christ, that I will listen to Him more and continue to learn from Him and then apply the lessons He teaches to everyday life in my interactions with others".—Laura Luhn

"I would resolve to see all people through Jesus' eyes, becoming more loving and less judgmental. Also, to take a stand where He would take a stand".—Sandy Gilliam

"New Year's resolutions are stubbornly difficult to keep as the year goes on. Focusing on the two most important spiritual disciplines will help me be more Christ-like in all parts of my life.

First, I resolve to spend much more time in prayer each day as an act of worship, as a time to commune with the Father, as a time for understanding God's will, and as a time to intercede on behalf of those who need God's healing or encouragement. Jesus set the example for lifestyle prayer and the Apostle Paul admonished believers to "devote yourselves to prayer" (Colossians 4:2) and to "pray continually" (I Thessalonians 5:17).

Second, I resolve to study the Scriptures. The year 2014 would be a great opportunity to read through the Bible again, looking for the Lord Jesus on every page, especially the books and passages that are not frequently read. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (II Timothy 3:16-17). God help us all to be more Christ-like in 2014".—Randy Gilliam

February's two-part question is **"Whom would you choose as best Bible hero and worst Bible villain, and why?"** Be creative and unique to avoid duplicating others' responses.

Responses are due to the Editor by Wednesday, Jan. 29.

January Birthdays

- 1 Jack Cooley
- 4 Bob Lillard
- 5 Dave Thomas
- 8 Flora Gilliam, Scott Foster,
Dan Yates
- 9 Pat Elam
- 10 Lois Hogue, Rebecca Thomas
- 11 Jesse Yates
- 15 Sara Oden
- 18 James Thomas
- 19 Joe Connelly Jr., Dick Wells
- 20 Julia Cole
- 21 Robert Fowler
- 22 Leslie Foster
- 26 TJ Marsh, Stacey Tothill



Prayer Concerns

Virginia Magaha
Mike Furr
Junior & Arlene Luhn
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother
Jane Fowler
Ollie Baumbaugh
Linda Cain
Tammy Combs
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
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
December:*

- The Church accepted the Finance Committee's motion to approve its 2014 Budget proposal.
- An Internal Administration Cmte. motion to carry insurance coverage from Bitner-Henry Insurance Agency was adopted.
- An Internal Administration Cmte. motion to lease a copier from DCA Imaging Systems was approved.

Expected at the January Business Meeting:

- The Treasurer will submit his Annual Report on the 2013 fiscal year.
- The Pastor will appoint the Deacons to serve as the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2013 finances and report at the March Business Meeting.

COTCD Cartoon



News You Can Use

Lottie Moon goal surpassed. Offerings have met and exceeded the 2013 goal of \$2,200. Praise God! According to the SBC, every penny given to Lottie Moon is used to support Southern Baptist missionaries as they share the Gospel overseas. The offering represents 54 percent of the International Mission Board's total annual income. Thank you for your willingness to contribute to the building of God's Kingdom throughout the coming year. To get an up close view of how the Lord is touching lives through the Lottie Moon offering, pick up a copy of the Commission Stories paper at Church, or go online to www.commissionstories.com.

Men's and women's groups celebrate Christmas. The Baptist Men distributed gift bags to the children during the



Michaela Driver and Mary & Joe Yates enjoy the Dec. 1 Christmas dinner at Mountain Gate

Dec. 22 morning worship service. The WMU is now collecting non-perishable food items for the food pantry, which will be distributed to local families in need. Consider joining the men's or women's group this coming year. The WMU will take January off but usually gathers on the second Monday morning of

each month, and the Baptist Men normally meet every third Saturday for breakfast.

Birthday updates requested. The *Lantern* enjoys sharing members' and friends' birthdays with the Church family. Please help us keep our records current by contacting the Church office with any names and dates we may lack, especially if you started attending within the last year.

Call for submissions. As the *Lantern* begins its 13th calendar year, the Editor would like to remind the readership that we accept original compositions, poems, lyrics or other appropriate materials for publication. Please contact the Editor with questions and for more specific guidelines.

Women's Bible study. Starting Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, Stephanie Runkles and Lynn Eplee will be offering six weeks of lessons from Joyce Meyer's *Living Without Frustration*.

Pastor on sabbatical. While Pastor Randy & Sandy Gilliam are on sabbatical during the month of January, Rev. Danny Moore will be preaching each Sunday. Danny will also be at the Church each Saturday if you want to speak with him. His cell number is 410-459-3993. You can prepare for Danny's messages by reading about the life of Joshua in the Old Testament.

Activity nights for middle schoolers. On the Friday evenings of Jan. 10 and 24, Luke Fedders will organize activities and devotions for middle school-aged boys and girls at Monocacy Elementary School's gym. These events will run from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. All kids in the age group are welcome to attend.

Snow policy. As we enter the season of ice and snow, we urge all our members and visitors to exercise caution and good judgment in deciding whether or not it is safe for your family to travel on a given Sunday. Services will be held for anyone who can safely travel during inclement weather. A BBC local weather/road condition message will be posted on the answering machine. We ask that Sunday School teachers or other leaders call in their absence to the Church office.

Go paperless in 2014. BBC offers the *Lantern* in electronic format to those would prefer such an option instead of a copy sent by mail. If you would like to receive a monthly email with a link to the *Lantern*, please send an email to our masthead address. Those who wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the *Lantern* will continue to receive one; no further action is required. While back copies of the *Lantern* are always available on the BBC website, the calendar is for the current month only.

"Bethlehem Morning" cantata performed. Thanks to Paul Foster and the Adult Choir for their excellent musical and video

presentation on Dec. 22. Jan Burdette was the pianist, Leslie Foster and Scott Foster sang solos, Lee Michael

narrated, and Luke Fedders was the audio-visual technician. If you like to sing, please consider joining the choir and making a joyful noise unto the Lord on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

