



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

*"Teach me to do Your will, for you are my God; may Your good Spirit lead me into the land of uprightness"
(Psalm 143:10).*

Teach me! You have probably heard many people say those words in different settings. Students say it to teachers when things interest them, "Teach me". Maybe you have said it to a music teacher when you decided you wanted to learn how to play the guitar: "Teach me". Maybe you committed to take up tennis for exercise and recreation and asked the local pro, "Would you teach me to play tennis"?

When someone begins teaching, the student discovers right away that there is more involved in learning to do something than just listening to information. A master guitar player can tell you everything there is to know about playing a guitar, basic techniques, different rhythms and styles, stringing, tuning and caring for the instrument, etc. But telling is only the beginning. The teacher then shows you how to do something and observes as you practice a specific skill. The teacher stays to coach and encourage and to challenge you to become better and better. To learn to do something requires information, modeling, and supervised practice.

When the psalmist, David, prayed, "Teach me to do Your will", he wanted to be exercised in doing the things that pleased God. By experience he knew that without God's mentoring his faith would sometimes fail, and he would stray from a righteous path. He needed God's Spirit to "lead him". Like David, we sometimes out of our own shortcomings pray for God to teach us to do His will. Through our faith in Him, Jesus, the master teacher, gives us His word. He modeled for us how to live a godly, separated life. Also, the Holy Spirit indwells us to guide and to encourage and to teach and to "...show [us] the way [we] should go" (Psalm 143:8). May our prayer this year be that we may be doers of the Word and that we would allow God to "teach us to do His will".

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Upcoming Events

- February 5** Business Meeting
- February 14** Valentine's Day, Lunch with Watkins Cabinet
- February 17** Presidents' Day
- February 23** Baptist Men's Day



*"...be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men"
(Titus 3:1-2).*

God Bless,



Pastor Randy

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

January 2014 has certainly been one of the coldest months I can remember. Each morning I would start my car and notice the onboard temperature gauge read something like 41° due to my garage's limited insulation and protection from the elements. However, once I ventured out, that temperature reading would tumble two and three degrees at a time, until that 41° turned into 14°. The whipping wind made it feel even colder, and thus we have endured many weeks of miserable weather. But what is "cold"? It is not a thing, but an absence. Cold is nothing more than an absence of heat, like darkness is the absence of light, or thirst no more than the absence of drink.

And so it is in the spiritual realm that what we see in the world around us is the result of absences when God is pushed away. When God is the source of life, light, goodness, purpose, direction, meaning, and strength, and people reject him, should we be that surprised that the world's spiritual condition is one of death, darkness, evil, meaninglessness, lostness, and weakness? Would you be surprised if a hiker without a map, compass, or knowledge of the terrain did not get lost if he embarked on a journey through unfamiliar territory? Why would the outcome be any different for someone journeying through life without any idea of why they are here, where they came from, or where they should be going?

Luckily for us, the Lord seeks to guide us and lead us through our lives. *"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths"* (Proverbs 3:6). For those who accept the Lord's leadership, we can have victory over the "absences" in this world because of the already-accomplished work of Jesus Christ. *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). For Christians, we should take comfort and strength from the fact that Jesus Christ has already defeated death and wickedness. Even from His advent, Christ has been on the offensive. *"And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it"* (John 1:5). As Christians, our power comes through our faith in Jesus. Notice how Jesus told His disciples in *Matthew 16:18* that *"...the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it [the Church]"*. Christians are not to be holed up in a castle waiting for the forces of evil to surround them. Instead, Jesus was painting a picture of a victorious Church marching upon the forces of evil, ready to overcome them! Paul struck a similar tone when he encouraged the early Christians: *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"* (Romans 12:21).

Just as we can wait out the frigid temperatures of winter knowing that the sun will warm us into the spring and summer seasons of life and growth, so we too should ever be ready to overcome the "absences" of this world with God's "somethings".

Survey Question of the Month

February's question is **"Whom would you choose as best Bible hero and worst Bible villain, and why?"**

Can the same man be the worst villain and the best hero? This man was present and approved of the stoning of Stephen. He launched out from there persecuting the early Christians, scattering and imprisoning them. Had it continued, who knows what would have happened to the early Church. But one day he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, and Saul, the villain, turned into Paul, the hero. From there, Paul went on to take the Gospel to the Gentiles and win many souls for Christ. He wrote many of the books of the New Testament that still guide us in our walk with Christ today.--David Bennett

I think that Jezebel would be a contender for worst Bible villain because of the way she led the entire nation of Israel (save but a few) into idolatry and wickedness. That, combined with her personal vanity and the way she ran roughshod over her little toad of a husband, King Ahab, makes me think she would have been a great villainess in an old-time Disney movie, like the wicked queens in Snow White or Sleeping Beauty.

I would choose Gideon as the greatest Bible hero for the mighty way God used him. Gideon started out as a coward, hiding from his enemies, when God spoke to him and said, "Hail, mighty warrior" (Judges 6:12)! The Lord used Gideon, despite his lack of courage, military skill, or any other obvious talents to win a mighty victory over Israel's enemies, resulting in 40 years of peace. This story just goes to show that God can use anyone to accomplish His purposes, and that in our weakness we are made strong through Him.—Anne O'Nymous

I think the worst Bible villain is a pair of people: Adam and Eve. Because they chose to commit that first sin, the perfect sinless world God created for them was forever changed and that has affected all of us ever since.

For me, the best Bible hero is Paul. Paul started out as Saul, and he persecuted Christians and even gave his approval when Stephen was stoned to death. However, when God spoke to him from heaven and asked him "why do you persecute Me?", his life was changed. Saul, after suffering blindness for three days was converted and Saul's name was changed to Paul and he spent the rest of his life serving Jesus and teaching people all over the world about Him.--Laura Luhn

I choose Job as best Bible hero. He is the epitome of what a Christian is to me: waiting upon the Lord for all things.--Nancy Wells

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February Birthdays

- 3 Gary Cooley, Linda Roberts
- 5 Kase Watson
- 7 Michelle Vasko, Charles Watson
- 9 Trudy Meissner
- 10 Carole Kearse
- 11 Sam Furr
- 12 Luke Fedders
- 14 Dillon Clipp
- 20 Janet Magruder
- 21 David Gilliam, David Buchanan
- 22 Bradley Keriakos



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in January:

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

Expected at the February Business Meeting:

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the February 2014 Business Meeting.

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).*

Survey Question of the Month, continued

I think the best Bible hero is Paul because of all he endured for bringing the Gospel to the whole world, and how he was such a help to the early Christians, as well as for his example to us today.

I would choose Pharaoh as worst Bible villain because of his example of what happens to people when their heart is hardened against God. The pharaoh also shows that God's mercy is not limitless.--Bonnie Ricketts Todd

Joseph, the husband of Mary and adoptive father of Jesus Christ, deserves recognition as a top Bible hero, or at least the most under-appreciated hero. He showed great amounts of faith and perseverance to accept the fact that his marriage to Mary would be interrupted by a most unusual pregnancy, and then stood by Mary's side despite the comments and questions from his neighbors. Joseph also had to show bravery by taking Mary and Jesus to Egypt to escape the murderous wrath of King Herod.

One of the worst Bible villains would have to be Haman, the top official under King Ahasuerus in the book of Esther. He displayed all the worst character traits: jealousy, wrath, vengeance, and deceit. In the end, he destroyed his own life and that of his family by his obsession with humiliating Mordecai, but he came ever so close to successfully murdering the Jewish people across the entire Persian Empire.--Jon Deaux

March's question is **"If you could chisel out an 11th Commandment, what would it be and why would you add it?"** Be creative and unique to avoid duplicating others' responses.

Responses are due to the Editor by Wednesday, Feb. 26.

News You Can Use



Thanks to Danny Moore. BBC thanks Rev. Danny Moore for preaching during the month of January while Pastor Randy Gilliam was on sabbatical. Danny's messages, taken from the book of *Joshua* and focused on key teachings like prayer, God's Word, and stepping out in faith, will help us prepare to serve the Lord in great ways in 2014. Thanks also to Danny's family for supporting him during his weekends with Barnesville and to those within the BBC who stepped up to take care of the behind-the-scenes chores that made each service run smoothly.

Christmas poinsettias. Flowers to decorate the sanctuary were donated by the following people: Dot Fowler in memory of Charles Fowler and her parents; Jack & Kitty Cooley in memory of Carson & Dorothy Ward and Jack & Nellie Cooley; Bob Lillard and Gary & Jan Burdette in memory of Margery Lillard; Gary & Jan Burdette in memory of Lloyd & Helen Burdette; Flora Gilliam in memory of Rufus Gilliam, Jack & June Schaum, and Mary Crouse; Jerry & Suzanne Neal in memory and honor of loved ones of the Safford & Neal families; Jane Fowler & family in memory of Frank Fowler, Sr.; David & Ann Bennett in memory of Laura & Ben Bennett and Jean Noland; Tod & June Luhn in memory of Donnie & Mary Barr and Rev. Jeddie DeFries; Pastor Randy & Sandy Gilliam in memory of Rufus Gilliam and Dave & Pearl Fowler and in honor of Flora Gilliam.

Go paperless in 2014. BBC is now offering 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.

Snow policy. During this 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. Pastor Randy is only a sidewalk away from the sanctuary, and will hold services 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 at their earliest convenience.

Baptist Men's Day. The Baptist Men will cook breakfast for the church on Sunday, Feb. 23. Join the men at 8:30 am for



a breakfast buffet of pan-cakes, eggs, and other good food, and then get ready for the annual singing performance of the MOB: Men of Barnesville choir. The men of the church will lead the morning service.

The Men of Barnesville (MOB) singing during the 2013 Baptist Men's Day service

Call for overdue library books. Please return any church library materials that you are no longer using. Some items were checked out over a year ago. Please keep books only for one month and DVDs and videos only for two weeks.

Barnesville Activity Nights. These new events will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at the Monocacy Elementary School gym. In addition to middle school-aged boys and girls, high school students are now also invited to participate. Luke Fedders will organize the activities. Invite your young friends to this evening of fun and fellowship. Please contact Luke with any questions at 240-848-1769.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

