



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

"For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks...But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:34, 36-37).

With every season we are reminded that we have no control over the weather. We can wish for more or less snow, warmer or cooler temperatures, for rain after the garden is planted, or for sunshine every weekend. We can wish but we can't control the weather. And, if we are perfectly honest, there are many other things that we can't control. We can't control the ups and downs of the economy or what others do or think. Accidents happen, health sometimes deserts us, and the government frustrates us. Sometimes we cannot control our feelings. But, there is one thing that we have absolute control over, the words that come out of our mouths. By our words people learn who we are, what we believe, and what our values are. People judge our character by the words we speak.

Jesus taught that we speak from the overflow of our heart. If our hearts are filled with the love of God, what comes out of our mouths in every situation should reflect the character of God. This is very important for us to consider. Jesus said we will have to give an account of our words that were careless (idle, offensive, hurtful, useless). If we claim to follow Christ and our words confirm a change of heart and a desire to honor Him and attract others to Him, our words acquit us and validate our faith. *"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17).* On the other hand, if our words are continually profane and hurtful, unforgiving and inconsiderate of others, there is no evidence of a change of heart and our words condemn us. Because of the importance the Lord placed on our words, our prayer everyday should be like the psalmist's: *"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).*

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Upcoming Events

- March 5** Business Meeting
- March 15** Baptist Men's Meeting
- March 21** Watkins Cabinet Lunch



"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you" (Numbers 6:24-25).

God Bless,



Pastor Randy

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Have you ever been reluctant to share your testimony because it's too "boring"? Many Christians have this fear, especially when they compare their testimony to stories of conversion where God has saved someone from a life of drugs and alcohol abuse, or turned a hardened gang member into a productive citizen and upstanding Christian. For the Christian who was brought up in a Christian home and attended Sunday School every week, there is no dramatic story to tell, no exciting details to share. Or is there? Consider the following the next time you're asked to share.

First, if your testimony is about you, it's likely to be boring because the true hero of your salvation story is Jesus Christ. Make the focus of your testimony about Him, not you. Consider your conversion like that of childbirth. Jesus did in *John 3:7*, where He told Nicodemus: "...you must be born again...". During physical birth, the child is the least interesting character. A baby has nothing to do with the planning of this event, no lines to say, does not even remember the event, and only contributes to the outcome by breathing. In the same way, Jesus is the hero of your second birth. Jesus saves you, you don't give Jesus the opportunity to save you. "*He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...*" (*Ephesians 1:4-5*).

Second, the Gospel has just as much power to save you from things that will never happen as it does to forgive sins. Obedience to God's Word and standards of behavior gives unrecognized blessings by protecting you from the dangers and pitfalls of the world. Under what circumstances would a God-fearing, rule-following Christian find himself in a crackhouse or a police line-up? "*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly...*" (*Psalms 1:1*). Being raised in a Christian home gets you closer to salvation by pre-exposing you to God's Word, prayer, Christian values and godly role models. If you want to be a word-class athlete, would it not be a great advantage if your parents were Olympic medal winners? The Apostle Paul pointed this out to young Timothy when he wrote to him about his Christian family, noting "*...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*" (*II Timothy 3:15*).

Third, your real testimony comes after conversion. When we talk about our conversion story, it should be just the beginning, not the highlight of our Christian testimony. Notice the sequence of events in *Hebrews 11:2*: "*For by [faith] the elders obtained a good testimony*". Faith comes first, and then a testimony. How sad would it be if we had nothing further to say about our Christian life other than Jesus had saved us. Paul explained to the early Christians in *Ephesians 2:10* that, "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them*". Jesus saved us and commissioned us to live out our faith by doing good works for others in His name.

God's salvation reaches out to every person in every situation. For those Christians who were saved in Sunday School instead of a prison cell, keep focusing on Jesus Christ and you will always have something to share.

Survey Question of the Month

March's question is "**If you could chisel out an 11th Commandment, what would it be and why would you add it?**"

"Thou shalt remember I will never leave you or forsake you". There are times in life when you feel the whole world is caving in and we need to be reminded from time to time that we are not alone and God does know our suffering.--Bonnie Todd

We came to the conclusion that God really does have personal behavior covered with His original 10, so our 11th commandment is: "*Thou shall not beat Rickie Fowler, Bubba Watson, Ben Crane, Hunter Mahan or Phil Mickelson in golf*".--Laura Luhn and Ellen Williams

For all dog lovers, this should be a commandment: "*Thou shalt strive to be as loyal and faithful to the Lord God as your dog is to you*". This commandment would humble us before God.--Pastor Randy Gilliam

A life commitment commandment: "*Thou shalt not fail to spend some time in prayer and Bible reading on all days that end in 'Y'*".--Beatrice True

"Thou shalt not look for loopholes". If we spent as much time trying to follow God's Word as we do trying to justify what we want to do, how much stronger would our faith be?--Anne O'Nymous

To preserve peace and harmony in the modern church: "*Thou shalt turn off your cell phone before the service starts*";

"Thou shalt not make change in the offering plate";

"Thou shalt not sneeze while holding the communion plate";

"Thou shalt not sit in someone else's pew";

"Thou shalt not cannonball into the baptistery";

"Thou shalt not treat VBS attendance as credit for time served the next Sunday"; and

"Thou shalt not make changes to the 'way we've always done it'"--Jon Deaux

April's question is "**What evidence most convinces you that Jesus Christ was resurrected?**" Be creative and unique to avoid duplicating others' responses.

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

March Birthdays

- 3 Kirk Williams
- 5 Stape Shields
- 9 Arlene Luhn
- 10 Ed Williams
- 11 Jim Gilliam
- 17 Tammy Thomas
- 18 Steven Bennett
- 24 Janice Cole
- 26 Nevada Pleasants
- 28 Jack Hough, Todd Marsh
- 29 Sarah Marsh
- 30 Paul Keriakos
- 31 Tyler Babyak, Rhonda Burriss,
Robert Shreve, Jessica Thomas



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in February:

- 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 March Business Meeting:

- The Select Committee on Auditing will present its report on the 2013 finances.

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
Kevin Yates, at Marine boot camp
Mildred Eplee, Lynn Eplee's mother
Helen Hughes, Dot Fowler's sister
Dale Willis, Joe Yates' cousin
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Lyndsay O'Malley, Bev Magruder, Mary Helix, Bill Dunn, Jane Ward, Fran Hoagland, Mark Wilkinson, Mike Blinkhorn, Jody Pelligrino, Donald Jericho, John Hunter, Cathy Mallory, JoAnn Clark, Jack Neal, Sally Buffington, John Beach, David Fogle, Faye Schrader
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).*

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Lord, help me be more tolerant of all those lame-brained, idiotic, stupid, ignorant people who do not agree with me."

News You Can Use

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal set. The WMU has set a 2014 goal of \$2,375 for BBC. The SBC-wide goal is



\$70 million. This offering is used to fund 49% of the budget for missionaries serving under the North American Mission Board. AAEO-supported missionaries start new churches, engage in student evangelism on college campuses, serve the physical and spiritual needs of people through ministry evangelism, and serve as church planting catalysts. Let's do our part to support the missionaries who are spreading the good news of the Gospel in the United States & Canada. Thank you for your prayerful generosity.

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.

Daylight Savings Time begins Mar. 9. Remember to set your watches and clocks forward one hour (and lose an hour of sleep) before you go to bed on the 8th.

VBS 2014 dates set. Believe it or not, Barnesville Baptist is already preparing for this year's Vacation Bible School, to be held Jul. 7-11. Volunteers are needed to serve as teachers and helpers in the areas of crafts, recreation, and snack. Talk to Pastor Randy if you'd like to participate. Please begin praying for this most important outreach event of the year. A planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, Mar. 31 at 7:00 pm.

Resurrection Sunday cantata. The BBC choir will present a special Easter Cantata, "Jesus Is Alive!", during the morning worship service on Sunday, Apr. 20. A Good Friday service will be held on Apr. 18 at 7:00 pm.

Baptist Men's Day held. The 2014 celebration of Baptist Men's Day was held on Sunday, Feb. 23, starting with a church-wide breakfast at 8:30 am. The 10:45 am worship service began with the welcome by Lee Michael, followed by the morning prayer from Joe Yates, responsive reading by Ralph Cooley, the offering led by Ed Williams, the children's story by Larry Michael, and prayer concerns and praises by Pastor Randy Gilliam. Scott Foster was at the piano. The Men of Barnesville (MOB) Choir opened the service with



"Rise Up, O Men of God". The congregation joined in the hymns "There Is Power in the Blood" and "Victory in Jesus". The MOB special was "Fishers of Men". Instead of a special speaker, several of the men gave their testimonies: Ed Williams, David Bennett, Bill Appleton, Lee Michael, and Joe Yates. The service concluded with the singing of "Joyful, Joyful, We

Adore Thee" and the benedictory prayer led by David Bennett.

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 for students in middle and high school. 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.

Directory update coming soon. Attention all members: the next update to the church directory will be distributed in April. Anyone with changes to their contact information or regular attendees who would like to have their picture and information included for the first time should promptly submit their data to Lee Michael. After April, the next scheduled directory update is planned for October—don't delay!

Thank you BBC members and friends. Pastor Randy and Sandy want to again express their gratitude to the church family for permitting them to be away during the month of January. The weather was cold and snowy, but the rest was refreshing and the solitude was inspiring. They join all of you in excited expectation for what the Lord will choose to do through BBC in 2014.