



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 Pastors' Spotlight

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

Anticipation of the Christmas season is already gaining momentum in our families and church. Family visits are planned, shopping lists are made, and food is brought in for the festivities to be held around tables where friendship and fellowship are enjoyed. Christmas is a season of the heart. Love, affection, and appreciating others are expressed more freely and openly. Awareness of others' needs is noted and a generous spirit shows itself in acts of caring and compassion. With Christmas in the heart, joy and gladness can be experienced even without decorations and presents.

This season's greatest joy and purpose is found in celebrating the advent of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth is truly the most remarkable historical event to ever take place. That birth was normal—a real flesh and blood baby was born to Mary & Joseph in Bethlehem—but it was special and supernatural too. Mary was a virgin in whom the Holy Spirit conceived Jesus as testified by an angel to Joseph, "...Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-21). The name "Jesus" means "Jehovah is salvation". The Apostle John, who was present throughout the Lord's ministry, wrote, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

As you celebrate Christmas this year, take time to worship Jesus, our Savior, our Lord, and our God.



God Bless,

Pastors Randy & Danny

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Upcoming Events

December 3 Business Meeting
December 7 Christmas Dinner at St. Mary's Pavilion
December 14 Hymn-Sing & Dessert Fellowship
December 19 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet
December 20 Baptist Men's Meeting
December 24 Christmas Eve Service
December 25 Christmas
December 31 New Year's Eve



"Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David..." (Luke 2:4).



How long have you waited to open your Christmas presents? I remember as a kid opening the Christmas-time JC Penney catalog which came in the mail about November and looking in the toy section to see what sorts of action figures and games I might want to ask for. Then, the Christmas tree would go up after Thanksgiving, followed by a December trip to see Santa at the mall to submit my requests. The days would crawl by until Christmas Eve arrived. That sleepless night would go by even slower as the excitement mounted. Finally, Christmas morning would arrive and even more presents, delivered from the North Pole, would be under the Christmas tree! (However, certain people who shall remain nameless delayed gift-opening until the coffee was ready). Luckily, I only had to wait a matter of weeks for my presents. For Abraham and the Jewish people, they had to wait two millennia to receive the Gift that God had promised them.

The link between Abraham and Jesus, the fulfillment of God's covenant promise to Abraham, shows up several times in the Christmas accounts of the New Testament. It's easy to pass the clues by, but they are there. In *Matthew 1:1*, Jesus is highlighted as the Son of Abraham among all of the generations that make up Christ's genealogy. A pregnant Mary, in response to Elizabeth's Holy Spirit-filled blessing of Mary's unborn Child, said of the Lord, "...He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever" (*Luke 1:54-55*). As a daughter of Israel, Mary knew that she would be a beneficiary of God's covenant with her ancestor Abraham, and realized that the Child she was carrying was proof that God was delivering on that ancient promise. Similarly, Zachariah, father of John the Baptist, prophesied after being filled with the Holy Spirit that the Lord would "...perform the mercy promised to our fathers and...remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham" (*Luke 1:72-73*). Just like Mary, Zachariah understood the significance of Christ's birth and how it was a fulfillment of God's promise first made to Abraham 20 centuries earlier.

When God first promised Abraham that "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (*Genesis 12:3*), it wasn't immediately clear what that meant or how it would be accomplished. But as God repeated and clarified that promise to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and subsequent generations, it became evident that God's ultimate blessing, which would benefit both the Jews and Gentiles, would be delivered through a Messiah, a Promised One. Paul explained in *Galatians 3:14* that "the blessing of Abraham [came] upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith". As Christ came to fulfill God's covenantal promises to Abraham, it is fitting to note that Luke recorded in his Gospel (*2:21*) that Jesus' parents circumcised Him when He was eight days old as required by God's covenant with Abraham (*Genesis 17:12*).

Now that Christ, our God-given Christmas gift, is indeed finally here, let us enjoy Him forever. Merry Christmas and a Happy 2015 from the *Lantern* staff!

Christmas Event Scramble

Can you place these 20 events in the correct order? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 2.

- A. Joseph & Mary presented Jesus at the Temple
- B. Mary gave birth to Jesus in a manger
- C. Gabriel told Mary she would have a Son
- D. Mary "magnified the Lord"
- E. an angel brought "good tidings" to shepherds
- F. Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt
- G. wise men from the East came to Jerusalem
- H. an angel warned Joseph of Herod's wrath
- I. Simeon prophesied about Jesus
- J. Zacharias named his son John
- K. the wise men gave Jesus gifts
- L. Zacharias was serving in the Temple
- M. Herod had the male children of Bethlehem killed
- N. Jesus was circumcised
- O. Joseph & Mary went to Bethlehem for the Roman census
- P. Gabriel told Zacharias he would have a son
- Q. Joseph's family returned to Nazareth after Herod died
- R. the shepherds visited Jesus in the manger
- S. Mary visited Elizabeth
- T. Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem

Christmas Word Search

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F R A N K I N C E N S E D
M G A B R I E L H E R O D
E N N S P H T E M P L E S
H E G X A X T K M K Y H M
E M E S L I J E H A E L K
L E L Y U O R T R P R M R
H S S D S S E A H A A Y D
T I M E U B N E H N Z S T
E W P S A M R E G C I A T
B H E Z Y D G E C M A P N
Q J I R S N R O E Q Y Z D
Y L R W B L K O L G M L P
E H Q G B R N M E D G L Y

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Word Bank: angels, Bethlehem, census, Egypt, Elizabeth, frankincense, Gabriel, gold, Herod, Jesus, Joseph, manger, Mary, myrrh, Nazareth, shepherds, Simeon, Temple, wise men, Zacharias

December Birthdays

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



Prayer Concerns

Jim & Lois Hogue and new baby Angelo
Pastor Randy Gilliam
Junior & Arlene Luhn
Julie Foster, Paul Foster's mother
Jane Fowler
Ollie Baumbaugh
Tammy Combs
June Luhn
PFC Kevin Yates
Patricia Stiles
Reese Burdette
Lara Saylor and baby Kaycee
Vivian Neal
Suzanne & Jerry Neal
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Cancer patients: Doug Swank, Mark Wilkinson, Mike Blinkhorn, Jody Pelligrino, Donald Jericho, Cathy Mallory, David Fogle, Jan Woody, Jimmy Benson, Phil Brudner, Donald Nugen, Freddy Parker, Kim Slack
Pastor Lord Boadu and Calvary Life Baptist Chapel
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala), Steve & Emily Ruffner (International School Project), David & Cheryl Shive (Faith Home Ministries), Matt & Ellen Zell (Honduras)



*"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:

- There was no Old Business pending before the Church.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its 2015 budget. The proposed budget amount of \$215,741 is \$5,445 more than the 2014 adjusted budget amount of \$215,142, which to date includes over \$4,800 in Cooperative Program giving beyond the minimum budgeted amount of \$10,000.

COTCD Cartoon

Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



"It's a Christmas gift from the older boys Sunday School Class. Would you check and see who is teaching that class please?"

Christmas Event Scramble Answers

- 1. L** (Luke 1:8); **2. P** (Luke 1:13); **3. C** (Luke 1:31); **4. S** (Luke 1:39); **5. D** (Luke 1:46); **6. J** (Luke 1:63); **7. O** (Luke 2:4); **8. B** (Luke 2:7); **9. E** (Luke 2:10); **10. R** (Luke 2:16); **11. N** (Luke 2:21); **12. A** (Luke 2:22); **13. I** (Luke 2:28); **14. G** (Matthew 2:1); **15. T** (Matthew 2:8); **16. K** (Matthew 2:11); **17. H** (Matthew 2:13); **18. F** (Matthew 2:14); **19. M** (Matthew 2:16); **20. Q** (Matthew 2:23).



News You Can Use

Dessert Fellowship. After the monthly hymn-sing on Sunday, Dec. 14, when we will have a chance to sing everyone's favorite Christmas carols, Randy & Sandy Gilliam will host a dessert and beverage fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. 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 or 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.

Nursery workers needed. Volunteers to staff the nursery on Sunday mornings are needed. Only two people per service are required. The commitment would only be one Sunday per month. Please contact Ellen Williams at 301-972-7005 or edpwilliams@gmail.com to sign up.

Christmas services planned. The Choir will present its cantata, "God Is With Us", during worship on Sunday, Dec. 21, after which the Baptist Men will give gifts to the children. A Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 pm on the 24th.

Youth bonfire. About 30 youth and adults enjoyed a bonfire in Mark Williams' backyard on Saturday, Nov. 15, roasting hot dogs and making s'mores. Pastor Danny shared a brief devotion and Nancy Taylor led songs with her ukelele. The next youth event will be a hayride down W. Harris Road followed by a birthday party for Jesus on Saturday, Dec. 20 starting at 4:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.



welcome to attend.

Congratulations to Jim & Lois Hogue as they return from Ethiopia, bringing home their newly adopted son Angelo. Please pray that God would bless the Hogue family.

Christmas dinner scheduled for Dec. 7. Friends and families of Barnesville Baptist are reminded that the annual Christmas Dinner will be held at St. Mary's Pavilion on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 5:00 pm. See you there for a good time of fellowship and singing after the meal. The last day to sign up is Nov. 30; please RSVP to Sandy Gilliam. Adults' meals cost \$15; children 12 and under are free.



Ann Bennett, Margie Stream, and Bob Lillard at the 2013 Christmas dinner

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$2,400. Nov. 30-Dec. 7 is the week of prayer for the 2014 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This year's theme is "One Sacred Effort"; it is our call and privilege to join the Author of all history in His magnificent story of redemption as we advance His Gospel among all nations. The national goal is \$175 million; BBC's is \$2,400. All of this money goes directly to support foreign missionaries around the world. For them, the 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.



WMU autumn activity report. The members of the WMU were blessed and humbled by the generosity of BBC members who donated 24 wrapped shoeboxes—10 more than last year—packed with Christmas presents for needy children around the world. Thank you all for your willingness to share.

Dec. 7 joint worship service. We will be hosting Rev. Lord Boadu and the congregation of Calvary Life Baptist Chapel in a joint worship service on Sunday, Dec. 7 at BBC. As Calvary Life's parent church, it is our privilege to pray for and fellowship with this new fellowship of believers as they grow their ministry and seek the Lord's will.