



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

"...the virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us")" (Matthew 1:23).

As we approach the Christmas season I would like for us to slow down just for a moment and reflect on the reason for the season: Jesus, God's only begotten Son, Immanuel, God with us. As believers in Jesus Christ we have the greatest reason to celebrate Christmas. We can celebrate because of the new life and forgiveness that Jesus has given us. *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).* We can celebrate all the gifts that Jesus has bestowed on us: freedom from Satan's attacks, joy, peace, hope, family, and His presence. We can also celebrate because Jesus has freed us from the fear of death, pain, and suffering. Jesus *"... will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Revelation 21:4).* As we gather together this Christmas I would like to encourage you to take time to reflect on Jesus' gifts to you. The best way to thank Jesus for His gifts is to share them with others and bless them with Christ's love!

Cindy and I would like to thank God for allowing us to be part of this wonderful family of believers here at BBC, and we would like to thank you, our church family, for all of your love for us. May God bless and keep us all in His arms this coming year. Please mark your calendars for our parsonage open house celebration on Sunday, Dec. 20 from 12:30-3:00 pm. We would like to personally invite everyone to come by and share with us in fellowship, food, and laughter. Afterwards, we are going to worship Jesus at the Christmas hymn sing at 3:00 pm. Join us in fellowship and worship as we celebrate the real reason for the season, Jesus! Merry Christmas, and God may bless you!



God Bless,

Pastor Danny

In This Edition:

The Pastor's Spotlight, Page 1
Upcoming Events, Page 1
The Pew Perspective, Page 2
Member of the Month, Page 2
November Birthdays, Page 3
Prayer Concerns, Page 3
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
News You Can Use, Page 4
COTCD Cartoon, Page 4
December 2015 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

December 2 Business Meeting
December 6 Christmas Dinner at St. Mary's Pavilion
December 18 Lunch with Watkins Cabinet
December 19 Baptist Men's Meeting
December 20 Parsonage Open House and Hymn-Sing
December 24 Christmas Eve Service
December 25 Christmas
December 31 New Year's Eve



"...And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11).



The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

There is some great theology in Christmas carols. One of those memorable verses with deep truth is found in Charles Wesley's "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", where Jesus' incarnation is described in rhyme: *Mild He lay His glory by, born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.* Jesus came to this earth with a mission to save souls. But how did Jesus' birth in Bethlehem so many centuries ago free those sons of earth from spiritual death and give them a second birth? It has to do with baptism.

The water baptism that we observe in our baptistery may be symbolic, but it reflects a real spiritual baptism that occurs when we receive God's salvation through faith. That baptism of justification and sanctification transforms, immerses, and fuses us into Christ. The Apostle Paul explained this in *Romans 6:3-4*: "...As many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death... Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life". Through some amazing, incomprehensible act of God, we get to share in Christ's death and partake in His resurrection. Our old, sinful nature is replaced with a new nature and identity in Jesus Christ, just like salt poured into water. The grains are immediately gone, dissolved into the water. Instead of sinking to the bottom, they are transformed into something new: not just wet salt, but salt water.

In addition to a new nature, those who are baptized into Christ Jesus are freed from the penalty and power of sin. *Romans 6:7* tells us that "For he who has died has been freed from sin". Just like a prisoner is released from his sentence at death, a newborn Christian is dead to his old way of living. We don't have to live like we used to. Sin is no longer in charge of us.

Closely following our death to our old nature is our birth into a new life full of abilities, opportunities, and potential. Paul described this new destiny to the Christians of Rome, writing, "...reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (*Romans 6:11*). When we receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, He doesn't just forgive our sins and then wish us luck. He has an amazing future of love, blessings, and purpose in store for His children.

Our new birth is linked to Jesus' death in the same way that Christmas only matters because of Easter. "...Christ...loved the Church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious Church..." (*Ephesians 5:25-27*). Our Savior set aside His glorious existence in Heaven to reverse our curse. He was our second Adam, obedient and trusting God unlike our forebearer, who chose disobedience and doubt. Just as we inherited Adam's nature at birth, we can inherit Christ's nature at our second birth. What a Savior we have! How else can we respond but by saying: *Glory to the newborn King!?*

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2016 from the *Lantern* staff!

Member of the Month: Doug Swank

- ★ Born: August 7, 1940 in Clarksburg, MD
- ★ How long a BBC member: 1961-2000; since October 2015
- ★ Church offices held: Sunday School teacher for 37 years, deacon, trustee, served on building and grounds committees
- ★ How he first came to BBC: invited by his wife
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "Precious Memories"
- ★ Favorite Pew: "Any pew. I am so happy to be here".
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: *Romans 6:23*
- ★ Most famous person he's met: Charlie Pride
- ★ Personal claim to fame: "Being the father of two great sons".
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: 9/11
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Paris, France
- ★ Story on first name: named after his father
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: cell phone
- ★ Childhood hero: "my great grandmother".
- ★ Hobbies: building projects, construction work



December Birthdays

- 2 Tina Appleton, Elnora Caudell
- 5 Robin Berry
- 6 Justin Yates
- 9 Jeannye Hungerford
- 12 Gabby Marsh
- 15 Holly Cross
- 17 Mary Ann Luhn, Cindy Moore
- 19 Kyle Shreve
- 24 Ashlinn Cole
- 28 Ralph Cooley
- 29 Ollie Baumbaugh
- 31 Larry Michael



Prayer Concerns

Brad & Claudia Hazelrigs
Janet & Dick Magruder
Kris Drews

Larry Michael, recovering from surgery
Pastor Lord Boadu and Calvary Life Baptist Chapel
Rex Schmidt, Watkins Cabinet friend
Homebound: Flora Gilliam, Tod & June Luhn, Junior & Arlene Luhn, Ollie Baumbaugh, Margie Stream
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Cancer patients: Billy Heaton, Cathy Mallory, David Fogle, Doug Swank, Gail Zingg, Jody Pelligrino, Jimmy Benson, Phil Brudner, Patti Watkins, Eddie Weston, Shirley Molitor, Butch Thompson

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:

- A motion from the Internal Administration Cmte. to increase the Benevolence budget line item by \$1,000 was approved.
- The Internal Administration Cmte. offered a bylaw to allow a portion of the security deposit for non-members' weddings to be given to the church custodian, which was adopted.
- The membership application of Justin Yates, based on his profession of faith and baptism on Nov. 1, was approved.
- A motion to give \$50 to the International Student Ministry of Ocean City Baptist Church was passed.

Report from the Special Business Meeting on Nov. 22:

- The Church ratified four amendments to the Church Constitution to improve and clarify procedures related to admitting and dismissing members, applying the Church's views of faith and practice, and defining deacon tenure and service.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Committee will offer a motion to approve its recommended 2016 Church budget. The proposed budget amount of \$209,881 is \$17,500 less than the 2015 adjusted budget amount of \$233,616, which to date includes over \$6,235 in Cooperative Program giving beyond the minimum budgeted amount of \$10,000.

For the Record:

- At the October 2015 business meeting, the electrical budget line item was increased to \$1,500.
- The membership applications of Sam & Robin Berry, each coming by statement, were approved at the October 2015 business meeting.



News You Can Use

Constitutional amendments approved.

During a special business meeting on Sunday, Nov. 22, the Church approved four amendments to the Church Constitution. Fifty adult members were present for the meeting and ratified all the changes unanimously. The amendments will improve and clarify our procedures related to admitting and dismissing members, applying the Church's views of faith and practice, and defining deacon tenure and service.

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.

Youth events. There was a great turnout and favorable weather for the hayride to Sugarloaf Mountain on Saturday, Nov. 7. The evening ended with a hot dog roast and bonfire. The youth also assembled Thanksgiving-themed gift baskets for seniors during Children's Church and handed them out on Sunday, Nov. 22.



Christmas services planned. BBC has several special events scheduled to celebrate Christmas. The Bell Choir will start the season off with a performance on Sunday, Dec. 13. The Choir will present its cantata, "Breath of Heaven", during worship on Sunday, Dec. 20. Based on the reflective Christmas song by Amy Grant, the "Breath of Heaven" cantata will give a fresh perspective of Christmas by taking a closer look at the compassionate heart of Mary. Paul Foster will direct. Lee Michael and Jan Burdette will narrate as Joseph & Mary. The service will close with the Baptist Men giving gifts to the children present. After the service, the parsonage open house will be held from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm, when we will reconvene in the sanctuary for the annual Christmas hymn sing. A Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 pm on the 24th.

Christmas dinner scheduled for Dec. 6. Friends and families of Barnesville Baptist are reminded that the annual Christmas Dinner will be held at St. Mary's Pavilion on Sunday, Dec. 6 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 Sunday, Nov. 29; please RSVP to Gary & Jan Burdette. Adults' meals cost \$15; children 12 and under are free.

Baptism. Following Jesus' example, Justin Yates was baptized on Sunday, Nov. 1 by Pastor Danny Moore. Justin's membership application was approved at the November business meeting. We are so pleased to have Justin join our church family!



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$2,600. Nov. 29-Dec. 6 is the week of prayer for the 2015 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This year's theme is "Because Of Who He Is". Your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God. The national goal is \$175 million; BBC's is \$2,600. 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.

BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS

WMU autumn activity report. The WMU was blessed and humbled by the generosity of those who donated 40 wrapped shoeboxes—16 more than last year—packed with Christmas presents for needy children around the world. Thank you all for your willingness to share.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I said Merry Christmas in public... what are you in for?"