



# 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

*"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven'" (Acts 1:9-11).*

As a church family we gathered on Good Friday to remember the suffering, crucifixion, death, and burial of the Lord Jesus. On Easter Sunday we gathered to celebrate His resurrection from the dead. The choir sang of His glory and the congregation here at BBC experienced real revival in our hearts. We rejoiced over the words of the angels that first Easter morning, *"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen"* (Luke 24:5-6). And then to complete the joy of this season, the angels said in *Acts 1:11* that Jesus will return. Now that's something worth celebrating! If we truly believe God's Word, then our lives should always reflect gratitude, confidence, and hope.

We can hold on to the angels' encouraging words because Jesus' love sees us through joys and sorrows, successes and failures, health and sickness, and life and death. We should live as though Jesus died yesterday, rose today, and is coming back tomorrow. Jesus arose and is a living Savior today. As He said, *"And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20). By being raised from the dead all that Jesus ever taught and did and promised was validated by His victory over every foe, even death. He arose and walks with us today. Because of Jesus' resurrection we have victory today over death, sickness, Satan, and hell itself. My prayer is that we will always remember the price that Jesus paid for our forgiveness and victories. Jesus is coming back for His children and we will see Him face to face. Now that's a great promise!

God Bless,

Pastor Danny



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## Upcoming Events

- April 6** Business Meeting
- April 10** Fellowship Lunch
- April 15** Lunch with Watkins Cabinet
- April 16** Baptist Men's Meeting; Church Clean-Up Day
- April 23** Youth Duckpin Bowling
- April 25** Deacons' Meeting



*"Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea" (John 21:7).*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Why does active church membership matter? This issue has been on my mind recently. As you will note on page 3, the pastor and deacons have been spending considerable time on this issue in the last few months, reaching out to inactive members in the months since the language on membership in the church constitution was updated last November.

The difference between just attending a church and being a church member is like the difference between renting and owning your home. When I rented an apartment, my attitude when something broke and needed repair was that it was the manager's problem, not mine. As long as I paid my rent, I would enjoy the amenities that were offered but didn't spend any time or effort thinking about upgrading my unit or improving the apartment complex. Now that I am a homeowner, I have put down permanent roots and care much more about my house as well as the neighborhood I live in. As someone with a vested interest in the well-being of my local community, I will pick up trash that has blown into the bushes across the street from me. When I was a renter, things like that were other people's responsibilities.

In the same way, we as a local congregation can't fulfill our God-given commission to share and live out the Gospel without a mutual commitment among members to be there for the church and each other. BBC has always been a welcoming and inviting congregation for anyone who wishes to worship with us, and I for one hope that tradition always continues. However, just as a church couldn't function if the pastor and Sunday School teachers only showed up every once in a while, BBC requires a core of committed members who regularly contribute their time, talents, and treasure, participate in ministries and activities, and support each other in our Christian walk.

It is true that church membership is not required for salvation or belonging to God's family; the thief on the cross certainly never walked down the aisle to join a church or volunteered to teach a VBS class. However, in addition to the universal church to which all Christians belong, the idea of belonging and committing to specific congregations is well-established in the New Testament as a part of God's plan for Christians (*Acts 13:1, 14:23, 16:5; Romans 1:7; I Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1*). Consider the example of the early Church in Jerusalem. Only those who agreed with commonly-held Christian beliefs were baptized (*Acts 2:41, 5:13*), who then became devoted to the church's activities and ministries (*Acts 2:42*). Only fellow believers made decisions for the church (*Acts 6:3*). Only fellow believers were publicly recognized as servant-leaders and entrusted with handling the church's resources (*Acts 6:5-6*).

The early church knew who its members were. New Christians were at least counted (*Acts 2:41, 47, 5:14*) and in the case of needy widows in the congregation, listed (*I Timothy 5:9*). Congregations wrote letters commending departing and traveling members to other churches (*Acts 18:27; Romans 16:1; Colossians 4:10; II Corinthians 3:1-2*).

*continued on page 3, column 2*

## Member of the Month: Barbara Swank

- ★ Born: March 14, 1944 in Frederick, Maryland
- ★ How long a BBC member: 1954-2000, since Oct. 2015
- ★ Church offices held: Sunday School teacher
- ★ How she first came to BBC: "My mother brought me".
- ★ Favorite Hymn: "He Touched Me"
- ★ Favorite Pew: back row, left side
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Psalm 121, John 3:16, Philippians 4:6*
- ★ Age at baptism: nine years old
- ★ Childhood church: Barnesville Baptist Church
- ★ Most famous person she's met: saxophone player Boots Randolph
- ★ Personal claim to fame: mother of two great sons and three wonderful grandsons
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: 9/11
- ★ Farthest place she's been from Barnesville: Paris, France
- ★ Story on first name: named by her mother
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: computer, cell phone
- ★ Childhood heroes: her mother and brother Ralph Cooley
- ★ Hobbies: reading



## April Birthdays

- 1 Jo Blalock
- 2 Rebecca Umstead
- 4 Ralph Wright
- 10 Alexis Connelly
- 13 Lacey Williams
- 14 Luke Watson
- 15 Dot Fowler
- 24 Mark Williams
- 29 Zachary Fedders



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in March:*

- The Church approved a recommendation from the Pastor and Deacons to assign a dismissal date for 325 individuals in the church membership records, the earliest of whom joined in 1877.

*Expected at the April Business Meeting:*

- The Pastor will discuss his and the deacons' review of the membership roster and efforts to reach out to inactive members. In May, a motion will be offered to dismiss some long-term inactive members upon their request, because they have moved away, or because reasonable efforts to locate them have been unsuccessful. Prayers for wisdom and unity are requested during this process.

## Prayer Concerns

Jane Fowler  
Kris Drews  
Pastor Lord Boadu and Calvary Life Baptist Chapel  
Rob Hendricks  
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).*

## The Pew Perspective, *continued*

Lee Michael

The concept of independent and unattached Christians is alien to the New Testament. The church is composed of body parts—members—that can't survive, thrive, or function without each other (*I Corinthians 12:12-26; Hebrews 10:24-25*). Only in a body of mutually committed and accountable members can Christians fully minister to others, exercise their spiritual gifts, and receive shepherding, discipline, and edification (*Acts 20:28; I Corinthians 5:4-5; II Thessalonians 3:6; I Peter 5:1-4*).

So why are you a church member? Is it only because you were put on the roll when you baptized at the age of 11? In the same way that we don't have families just so we have someone to eat holiday meals with, a church family doesn't exist just so we can form quorums and tithe to support budgets. Instead, both types of families are important parts of our identity and life. Even if family members don't live in the same house or see each other every day, they are still frequently communicating with each other and interacting on a regular basis. In the same way, one's church membership shouldn't be a historical fact that gathers dust. If you have been away from BBC for a long time, come home! We are diminished without your presence and your walk with Christ will never be as strong as it could be without us.

## News You Can Use

*Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.* Thanks to all who have given to this year's AAEO, which is used to fund 49% of the budget for missionaries serving under the North American Mission Board. As of Mar. 27, we have received \$1,576.60, or 63%, of our 2016 goal of \$2,500. The SBC-wide goal is \$60 million. The SBC missionaries supported by the AAEO 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 and Canada. Thank you for your prayerful generosity.

*Spring revival scheduled.* BBC will hold revival services on the weekend of May 20-22. Returning to lead this three-day event are Salvation Army evangelists Majors Brian and Loretta Gilliam. Please start praying for these revival services, that the Lord would prepare our hearts.

*April youth event.* The youth will enjoy an evening of duckpin bowling from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on Saturday, Apr. 23 at the Mt. Airy Bowling Lanes located at 304 Center St. in Mt. Airy. The cost is \$4.75 per person per game, shoes included. The church will provide pizza and drinks.



*Bowling on Feb. 27 at Bowl America in Gaithersburg*

*2016-2018 directory being prepared.* The new edition of the church directory will be finalized shortly after the end of April. See Lee Michael to get your pictures taken and submit any changes to your contact information. After April, the next scheduled directory update is planned for October—don't delay!

*Church clean-up day.* On Saturday, Apr. 16 at 9:00 am, join the Groundsmen, the Baptist Men, and the rest of your Church family to clean up the church building and grounds. Major projects include re-staining the entrance ramp and cleaning out the shed. Contact Head Groundsman Larry Michael for more information on jobs and tools needed. Lunch will be provided for workers at noon.

*VBS 2016 dates set.* Believe it or not, Barnesville Baptist is already preparing for this year's Vacation Bible School, to be held Jul. 11-15. This year's theme is "Submerged: Finding Truth Below the Surface". The VBS Scripture is *Psalm 139:23-24*. Volunteers are needed to serve as teachers and helpers in the areas of crafts, recreation, and snack. Talk to Pastor Danny 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, Apr. 11 at 7:00 pm.



*Apr. 10 service and lunch.* Our good friend Dr. Ron Blankenship, Director of the Montgomery Baptist Association, will be preaching on Sunday, Apr. 10. Lori Bowers, worship leader of Mars Hill Baptist Church in Essex, MD, will provide special music. She will be singing gospel singer Nicole C. Mullen's song "Redeemer". Following the service, a luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The church will provide chicken and drinks.

## COTCD Cartoon

### Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



# **Youth Activities & Interests**

**April 2016**

## What's In Your Heart?

by Ashley Babyak

I recently attended a concert where the Newsboys performed. It was an amazing time of worshiping the Lord through music, but what really stuck with me was something lead singer Michael Tait said. He referenced the commercial where viewers are asked, "What's in your safe?" and then pointed out that it really doesn't matter what is in your safe, what matters is in your heart. Since then, I haven't been able to watch that commercial without thinking, what is in my heart? After all, when it comes down to it, what is in my heart is what is going to ensure that I will one day be with our Father in heaven. No possession or amount of money will guarantee me a spot in heaven. At some point in our lives, especially during our younger years we think there is an item, whether it be an article of clothing, a tech device, or anything else, that we cannot live without—I'm guilty of it too. The truth is, the only thing we cannot live without is the love of Jesus, and as the Newsboys sang that night "He's living on the inside". The life we receive when we accept Jesus into our hearts is not only one of hope here on earth, but it is an eternal life. In *John 5:24* Jesus said "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." I ask you today, as the youth of the church, what is in your heart? And if you ever have any questions about what is in your heart and what it means to live a life with Jesus in it, the adults of our church are here for you to come to and ask.



### Monthly Scripture

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

John 4:4

## Pastor's Note

I hope and pray that you all had a great Easter. The church was full and it was exciting experiencing more of Jesus' love. God is really blessing us in so many ways. My prayer is that you will get involved in your church and in your youth and young adult group. I have started a new Sunday school class on Sundays at 9:30 am. Please come and join us as we seek out God's love and wisdom to help us all make the correct decisions in life as we grow together. We have had a good time reading and discussing God's love for us. Some of our youth and young adults have been taking an active role in helping out on Sundays in nursery and children's church. We need more of you to get involved and help us be the church that God wants us to be. We really need your help and support in the choir, please get involved. God has a plan for us here at His church, and that includes you and I getting more involved.

See you Sunday!

In His love,

Pastor Danny

## Prayer Concerns

Share your prayer concerns with and questions for your pastor:

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# LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM

1 John 5:11



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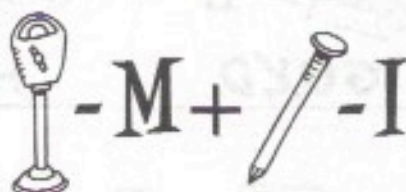


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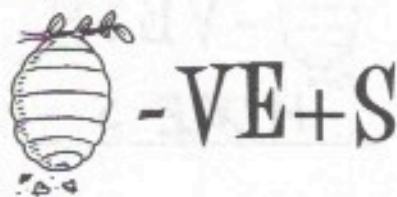
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