



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

Every time we pray we are sending up to God a sweet fragrance that pleases Him more than any Old Testament burnt offering. We see that truth in *Psalm 141:2*, where David petitioned the Lord: "*May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice*". We see the value of prayer in the New Testament too. For example, the Apostle John reported a heavenly scene in *Revelation 8:3-4*, where "...on the golden altar in front of the throne [the] smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God...". When we pray to the Lord, we can take confidence that our petitions reach beyond this world to the Father's throne in heaven. Yet prayer is more than just asking for needs. Prayer also means praise and worship. In *Hebrews 13:15* we are encouraged to "...continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess His name".

Church, as we take time in August's sermons to look at our prayer life, we will first discover that Jesus taught and walked a life that showed that prayer is important. Jesus Himself took time to commune with the Father. Next, we will see that prayer is part of the Christian walk. Jesus' followers wanted to know how to pray. Finally, we will look at the Lord's Prayer to see how prayer was modeled for us by Jesus, who taught His followers to pray with the right attitude and purpose.

Join us please as we seek out God's wisdom and grow closer to Him and to each other as we study His Word. I hope to see you this coming Sunday in Sunday School starting at 9:30 am and then joining us in worship at 10:45 am. Remember, we all need each other to be all that God wants us to be.

God Bless,

Pastor Danny



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Upcoming Events

August 3 Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
August 9 Seniors' Lunch, 12:00 pm
August 18 MBA Tent at Montgomery County Fair
August 20 Baptist Men's Breakfast, 7:30 am
August 21 Youth Swim Party & BBQ, 1:00 pm
August 29 Deacons' Meeting, 7:00 pm



"Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...'" (Luke 11:1).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Do you believe in life after birth? I heard this thought-provoking question on Christian radio on VBS Day 3, when the lesson was based on Jesus telling Nicodemus that he had to be born again in *John 3*. In the on-air sermon illustration, the question was asked during a conversation between twins in the womb. One sibling believed there was more to his existence than what he had already experienced. The second twin doubted there was anything beyond their dark, cramped environment. He even rejected that there was really such a thing as a “mother”, whom neither had ever seen. We can laugh at this story because all of us have experienced life after physical birth--indeed, we don't even remember our existence in the womb--and have met our mothers face to face.

Jesus brought up the issue of life after spiritual birth to Nicodemus, one of the most learned theologians of first-century Judaism. Jesus dismissed Nicodemus' professional piety and religious credentials, telling him that to be in right standing with God, he would have to be born again, born of water and the Spirit (*John 3:3,5*). As a scholar of the Old Testament, Nicodemus surely would have recalled verses like *Ezekiel 36:25-26* that talked about water and Spirit as metaphors for spiritual cleansing and renewal. The prophet Ezekiel spoke often of the Lord's promise to redeem and restore Israel from its sin and rebellion. “...*I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh...*”. Ezekiel looked forward to a time when sinful men would honor and obey God not because rules and regulations required it, but because they loved their Creator and their redeemed hearts beat in tune with His will. Just as a baby, who plays no role in his own conception or delivery, is birthed into the world, the spiritual transformation that leads to a relationship with God is a gift from above that we cannot earn, deserve, or strive for. Human babies are born totally weak and helpless, requiring constant care and nurturing from their parents. In the same way, our arrival into God's Kingdom is based on a complete dependence on God for our spiritual survival and growth. However, Nicodemus couldn't accept what Jesus told him after devoting a lifetime to working his way into God's favor and being confident in his own righteousness: “*How can these things be*” (*John 3:9*)?

John 3 doesn't end with Nicodemus accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior while “Just As I Am” plays softly in the background. But in *John 19:39* we see that Nicodemus must have continued to consider Jesus' words, risking his reputation to help bury Jesus. Nicodemus' willingness to publicly associate with Jesus at a time when His own disciples fled speaks to the spiritual change brewing inside Nicodemus' heart. As Jesus also said in *John 3*, we can hear the wind but can't see it; in the same way we can't predict or control God's gift of eternal life, but we can detect the results in a changed life. So, what do you believe about life after birth? Are you content with living in the dark, small world you've always known, or will you receive God's free gift and be delivered into a new life full of hope, joy, and peace?

Member of the Month: Megan Fedders

- ★ Born: September 3, 1997 at Shady Grove Hospital in Rockville, MD
- ★ How long a BBC member: since August 2012
- ★ How she first came to BBC: “I was born and raised in the church. My parents brought me when I was a baby”.
- ★ Favorite Hymns: “Our God Reigns” and “Because He Lives”
- ★ Favorite Pew: sixth pew on the right
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: *II Corinthians 5:7*
- ★ Age at baptism: 15 years old
- ★ Childhood church: Barnesville Baptist
- ★ Most famous people she's met: U.S. Women's National Soccer Team players Abby Wambach and Hope Solo
- ★ Personal claim to fame: “My mission trip to Honduras”.
- ★ Most important historical event in her life: 9/11
- ★ Farthest places she's been from Barnesville: Italy and Greece
- ★ Story on first name: “My parents liked the name Megan. My middle name is after my Nan”.
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: Iphone
- ★ Childhood hero: “My mom”.
- ★ Hobbies: going to the beach, being with my family and dogs



August Birthdays

5 Suzanne Neal
7 Doug Swank
11 Rick Thomas
12 Madison Marsh
16 Stephanie Runkles
17 Pauline Fowler
19 Kyle Marsh
20 Bill Williams
25 Jim Gong
26 Lee Michael
28 Ann Bennett
29 Paul Meissner
30 Matthew Cole
31 Bob Runkles



Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in July:

- A motion to call for the five Standing Committees to authorize Church officer and committee positions for the 2016-2018 term was charged to those Committees. Each committee will meet no later than Sunday, Jul. 24 to decide their recommendations and report back in time for the August 2016 business meeting.

Expected at the August Business Meeting:

- The Church Clerk will report a joint motion providing the five Standing Committees' recommendations for Church officer and committee position vacancies for the 2016-2018 term. The Select Committee on Nominations will use those authorizations as it seeks out Church members to serve. Those slates of nominees will be announced in September and voted on in October.

Prayer Concerns

Amy Rogers' mother
Ashlinn Cole
Jane Fowler
Kris Drews
Janet Magruder's son Larry
Pastor Lord Boadu and Calvary Life Baptist Chapel
Paul Foster's mother
Ralph Cooley, recovering from hip surgery
Reese Burdette, burn victim
Rob Hendricks
the family of Tod Luhn at his passing
the family of Jack Hough at his passing
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Seniors: Flora Gilliam, June Luhn, Junior & Arlene Luhn, Ollie Baumbaugh, Hisle Beach, Margie Stream, Paul & Trudy Meissner, Rebecca Umstead, Jo Blalock, Vivian Neal
Cancer patients: Billy Heaton, Cathy Mallory, David Fogle, Doug Swank, Jody Pelligrino, Phil Brudner, Patti Watkins, Eddie Weston, Shirley Molitor, Butch Thompson, Donald Jericho, Dave Rose
Our missionary friends: Manuel & Cindy Batres (Guatemala), 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).*

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"PLEASE REMAIN CALM, TRADITIONAL MUSIC WILL RESUME MOMENTARILY."

News You Can Use

Vacation Bible School a good time. The motto of “Jesus Sees, Jesus Knows, Jesus Saves!” was called out on the evenings of Jul. 11-15 during our underwater-themed VBS, Submerged.



Thank you to everyone who helped make VBS 2016 a success, especially to those in the classroom, crafts, recreation, snacks, and behind the scenes. Your service in building God’s Kingdom

and sharing His Gospel is appreciated. The enrollment was 60. The missions offering totaled \$1,103 and will again be sent to missionaries Manuel & Cindy Batres in Guatemala to purchase school uniforms, shoes, and supplies for local children so they can attend school.

Summer youth activity. The youth are invited on Sunday, Aug. 21 to a cookout and swimming at the Yates’ house from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Invite your friends and family to join in and have fun at this opportunity for Christian fellowship.

Seniors’ lunches. Eighteen seniors enjoyed the first summer seniors’ lunch on Jul. 24. The second lunch has been moved from Tuesday, Aug. 2. Those aged 55 and over are invited to a noontime meal and time of fellowship on Tuesday, Aug. 9. Those attending should RSVP to Stephanie Runkles.

Donations appreciated. Thanks to all who contributed to the relief effort for West Virginia flood victims. BBC was able to fill up half a pickup truck bed with food, clothing, Bibles, and other emergency supplies.

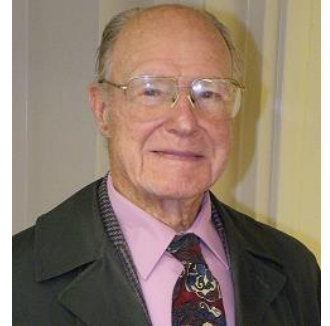


Gary Burdette loading supplies

Special Sunday School class. Are you a new Christian, a new BBC member, or would you like a refresher on key Christian beliefs? Then you will want to participate in the Basic Doctrine class, which will meet in the Church office at 9:30 am starting Sunday, Sep. 11. Taught by Lee Michael, the eight sessions comprise: The Bible, God, Jesus Christ, Sin & Salvation, The Church, Christian Living, Last Things, and Baptist Heritage.

Tod Luhn, 1919-2016. The oldest member of Barnesville Baptist, Leslie Tod Luhn, passed away on Saturday, Jul. 16 at the age of 96. In his Member of the Month column

from 2005, Mr. Tod was described as “...a dependable, solid man of few words who lets his positive actions speak for his sincere dedication to our Church and all its members. He truly cares for others and the Church’s continued influence in this community”.



Baptized in April 1964, Mr. Tod faithfully served the Lord and BBC for over 52 years as Sunday School secretary, choir member, head teller, and deacon. We mourn Mr. Tod’s passing with his wife June, daughters Sandra and Mary Anne, and great-grandson Michael, Jr., and pray that the Lord will give the Luhn and Oden families comfort and strength in the days and weeks ahead.

County fair outreach. On Thursday, Aug. 18, Barnesville Baptist will be at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair to man the Montgomery Baptist Association booth from 2:00 to 8:00 pm. Please contact Pastor Danny if you would like to participate in this outreach ministry.

Short-term missionaries. Randy & Sandy Gilliam are going on a missions trip to Guatemala from Jul. 30 to Aug. 7 to help the Batreses in their ministry. They will be part of a 14-member team that will help with a building or water project. One of the devotions Randy will give is based on *Proverbs 16:3*: “Commit your works to the Lord and your thoughts will be established”. Randy & Sandy are looking forward to working with their hands and sharing the good news of the Gospel with the people they encounter in Guatemala. They will share more about their experience with the *Lantern* when they return. Pray for their safe and fruitful trip.

Volunteers wanted. On Saturday, August 6, the church parking lot will be striped starting at 8:00 am. If anyone is available for a couple hours that morning to help with this small project, please contact Lee Michael.

Fall activities to start up soon. September is coming sooner than you think. Activities that will resume from their summer hiatus after Labor Day include the monthly WMU meetings and the lunches with Watkins Cabinet.