



# 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

Easter Sunday is almost here! As we begin to re-open, I am looking forward to again celebrating with fellow believers Jesus' resurrection from the dead. His supreme act of love 2,000 years ago gave us salvation and eternal life when we believe in Jesus through faith. Even though we can't be on Sugarloaf Mountain again this year, we are resuming our community's long-held tradition with a sunrise service from our own hilltop perch held here at the church. As we look for the sun to peek above the eastern tree line early Sunday morning, we will rejoice as the angels did that first Easter morning, saying to Jesus' women disciples, "...*Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!...*" (Luke 24:5-6). Let's always keep fresh in our minds just how much God the Father loved us by sacrificing His only begotten Son on the cross, that we might be forgiven of our sins and reconciled to the Lord (I John 3:1).

After Jesus rose from the grave and before He returned to heaven, He told His followers, "*And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age*" (Matthew 28:20). Do you believe? I am confident that because Jesus died, was raised from the dead, and returned to the Father, that one day He will come back for His children, just as He promised. The truth of this promise should make us rejoice with Jesus and each other each day.

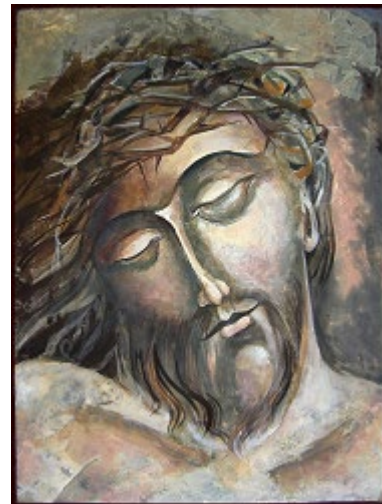
With our eternity safe and secure in His hands, our earthly lives should always reflect gratitude, confidence, hope, and peace. I pray that each of us will remember the past year of pandemic, filled with separation, sickness, and even death, and will never take God's fellowship of like-minded believers for granted. Thank you for having a spirit of flexibility and compassion toward one another.

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## Upcoming Events

- April 2** Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm
- April 4** Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 am; Easter Worship Service, 10:45 am
- April 7** Business Meeting
- April 17** Baptist Men's Meeting, Church Clean-Up Day
- April 26** Deacons' Meeting



*"For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God" (Romans 6:10).*

God Bless,



Pastor Danny

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Jesus' followers and enemies had little in common, yet both agreed that His grave was occupied on Good Friday night but was empty on Easter morning. In other words, there was no dispute that Jesus was dead and was placed in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb. There were only two explanations offered for Jesus' empty grave. The Jewish leaders said His disciples stole the body while behind a massive stone marked with a Roman seal as Roman guards slept (*Matthew 27:66, 28:13-15*). Negligence on guard duty was punishable by death, so the Jewish leaders had to pay the Roman soldiers heavy bribes to gain their agreement for that explanation of Jesus' empty tomb. Jesus' followers said that He had risen bodily from the dead. Resurrection is not only the best explanation for the empty tomb, but it provides the most plausible reason for other facts about what happened after Jesus' death.

First, the resurrection best explains the multiple, independent reports of witnesses who saw Jesus alive and well after His crucifixion and burial. The initial reports of Jesus' resurrection came from his women followers: "...He appeared first to Mary Magdalene..." (*Luke 24:1-11, Mark 16:9-11*). Women were considered unreliable witnesses under Jewish law, so the only reason the Gospels would have cited the women's eyewitness testimonies of the risen Christ was because they were true. In *I Corinthians 15:5-8*, the Apostle Paul highlighted others who saw the risen Christ: Peter, the apostles, 500 at once, James, and Paul himself. The scramble on the opposite column lists 17 times Jesus was seen by various eyewitnesses under multiple circumstances, times, and places. While many were already followers of Jesus when they saw Him resurrected, two stand out as initially hostile to Jesus: James and Paul. James was Jesus' half-brother who must have resented his "special" older sibling; *John 7:5* notes: "For even His brothers did not believe in Him". Yet James became the leader of the Jerusalem church and author of a New Testament epistle. *Acts 9* describes how Saul the Pharisee and enemy of the Church was converted on the Damascus Road. Both James and Saul/Paul were confronted with the risen Christ and their doubt and opposition were replaced with faith and obedience unto death.

Second, the resurrection best explains the radical change in the apostles' attitudes and the founding of the Church. The apostles were afraid and in hiding shortly after Jesus' arrest: "Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled" (*Matthew 26:56*). Even on Easter Sunday, the apostles rejected the resurrection reports they received from Mary Madaglne and the Emmaus disciples (*Mark 16:11,13*). It wasn't until Jesus appeared to the apostles directly that they believed: "...He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen" (*Mark 16:14*). The apostles' bold, public witness and ministry in Jesus' name in *Acts 3-4*, even in defiance of the same Jewish leaders who had crucified Jesus, was starkly different from the frightened and defeated behavior of followers whose Teacher had been killed a few months before. Only a rock-solid conviction that Jesus had risen from the dead would have set the apostles on a life-long effort to preach and teach

Continued on page 3, column 1

## Post-Resurrection Appearances Scramble

Can you place these post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to His followers in the correct order?

Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 2.

1. Saul on the Damascus Road
2. Mary Magdalene at Jesus' tomb
3. Thomas and disciples in the Upper Room
4. Paul while in Arabia
5. 10 disciples on Easter evening
6. at Jesus' Ascension back to the Father
7. women leaving Jesus' tomb
8. 500 disciples at one time
9. John while exiled on the island of Patmos
10. Paul in jail at Caesarea
11. James, Jesus' brother and all the apostles
12. two disciples on the road to Emmaus
13. Peter
14. Stephen just before his martyrdom by stoning
15. Paul in the Temple in Jerusalem
16. seven fishing disciples by the Sea of Galilee
17. giving of the Great Commission

## Post-Resurrection Appearances Word Search

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

Word Bank: Ascension, Caesarean jail, Damascus Road, Emmaus road, five hundred, Great Commission, James, John on Patmos, Mary Magdalene, Paul in Arabia, Peter, Sea of Galilee, Stephen, Temple vision, ten disciples, Thomas, women at tomb

## April Birthdays

- 2 Rebecca Umstead
- 4 Ralph Wright
- 13 Lacey Williams
- 15 Dot Fowler
- 23 Cortland "Pop" Moore
- 29 Zack Fedders



## Prayer Concerns

Robert Michael, Larry Michael's brother  
Nick Cole  
the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Seniors: Arlene Luhn, Bilyie Luhn, Cortland "Pop" Moore, Dot Fowler, Gene Bennett, Hisle Beach, Janet Magruder, Ollie Baumbaugh, Linda Roberts, Margie Stream, Paul & Trudy Meissner, Phoebe Rogers, Ralph Cooley, Rebecca Umstead, Susan Rice  
Cancer patients: Kitty Cooley; Sam Berry, prostate cancer; Gail Palestine; Joe Williams; Bob & Stephanie Runkles' granddaughter, Amathy, breast cancer



*"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

the Gospel of Jesus even at the cost of their lives.  
And third, the resurrection best explains why worship shifted from the Jewish Sabbath on Saturday to the Lord's Day on Sunday. The seventh-day Sabbath was set in the Ten Commandments (*Exodus 20:8-11*), so only something as significant as the resurrection of the Messiah could have explained how devout Jews like Jesus' followers set aside all the rules about the Sabbath. Christian worship is on Sundays to recall Jesus' resurrection: "...*He rose early on the first day of the week...*" (*Mark 16:9; John 20:1,19*). Sunday worship was an early practice of the first-century church in Jerusalem: "*Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...*" (*Acts 20:7*) and assumed as normal in Gentile services by the Apostle Paul: "*On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside...*" (*I Corinthians 16:2*). As we today worship weekly on Sundays, we recall and celebrate Jesus' resurrection as a historical fact.

## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in March:*

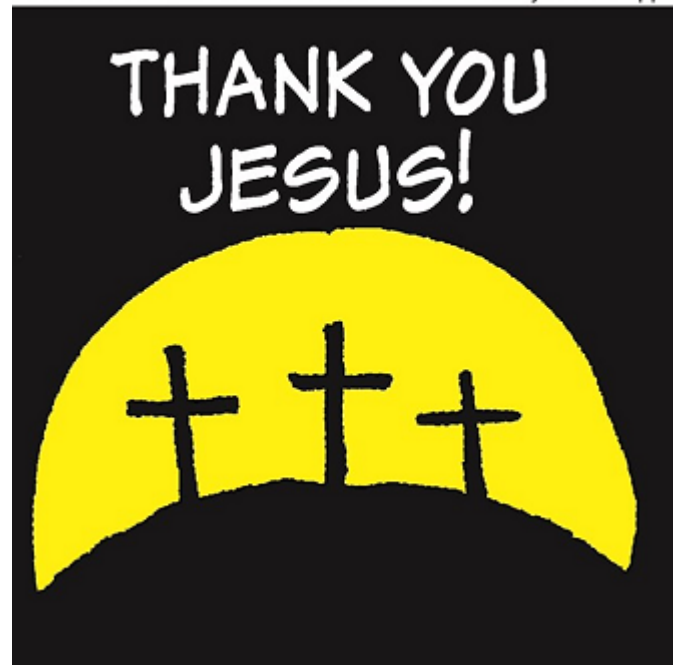
- Pastor Danny Moore, Cindy Moore, and Lee Michael were elected to serve as messengers to the 2021 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting being held in Nashville, TN from June 15-16.
- The Select Committee on Auditing's report on the 2020 finances was accepted by the Church.

*Expected at the April Business Meeting:*

- As of press time, there were no new motions ready for action at the April business meeting.

## COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



## Post-Resurrection Appearances Scramble Answers

1. M (*Acts 9:3-6*); 2. A (*John 20:11-17*); 3. F (*John 20:26-29*); 4. N (*Galatians 1:12-17*); 5. E (*John 20:19-20*); 6. K (*Luke 24:44-53*); 7. B (*Matthew 28:9-10*); 8. H (*I Corinthians 15:6*); 9. Q (*Revelation 1:12-20*); 10. P (*Acts 23:11*); 11. I (*I Corinthians 15:7*); 12. D (*Luke 24:13-31*); 13. C (*Luke 24:34*); 14. L (*Acts 7:55-56*); 15. O (*Acts 22:17-21*); 16. G (*John 21:1-14*); 17. J (*Matthew 28:16-20*).

## News You Can Use

**Easter services.** Everyone is invited to worship, either in person or online, as we remember the crucifixion and death of our Lord on Good Friday and celebrate His resurrection on Easter Sunday. Services include: Good Friday Service on Friday, Apr. 2 at 7:00 pm, Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, Apr. 4 at 6:30 am in the church's front yard, Sunday School on Sunday, Apr. 4 at 9:30 am, and Easter Sunday Service on Sunday, Apr. 4 at 10:45 am.

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.** Did you know that three out of four people in the United States and Canada are lost and do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? The most effective and efficient way to reach the lost in North America is with SBC missionaries who spread the Gospel by establishing new churches and serving the needs of their communities. The 2019 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will bless the North American Mission Board's 5,000+ missionaries not only with our prayers, but also our financial support. Together, we are uniquely positioned to help those missionaries make the greatest Kingdom impact. We have just begun collecting offerings toward our 2019 goal of \$2,000; envelopes are available in each pew. The SBC-wide goal is \$70 million. Your prayerful generosity is much appreciated.

**VBS 2021.** Vacation Bible School will be held this year on Aug. 2-6 using the 2020 theme "Concrete & Cranes: Building on the Love of Jesus". The VBS Scripture is *Philippians 1:6*. Volunteers are needed to serve as teachers and helpers in the areas of crafts, recreation, and snack. Talk to VBS Co-Directors Cindy Moore and Tina Appleton if you'd like to participate. Please begin praying for this most important outreach event of the year.



**Congratulations.** Ann & David Bennett are proud to announce the birth of a grandson, Dominic Jesse Hogue, on Mar. 30. Mother Lois and baby are doing well.

**Church clean-up day.** On Saturday, Apr. 17 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. Contact Head Groundsman Bill Appleton for more information on jobs and tools needed. Lunch will be provided for workers at noon.



Row 1: Brooke Speed singing "He Keeps Me Singing" with Ann Bennett on piano, Ed Williams leading the Doxology, Karen Hazzard singing "Why Me"; Row 2: Larry Michael teaching about Palm Sunday, Nita Roff directing Sunday singing, Pastor Danny baptizing Brooke Speed; Row 3: Deacons David Bennett, Lee Michael, and Joe Yates (left to right) up front; Row 4: Pastor Danny baptizing Trish Bennett, Donna Conklin reading, Bill Caudell sharing the Children's Story; Row 5: Jan Burdette playing piano, Noah Arthur singing "My Anchor Holds", Pastor Danny preaching