



# 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

Merry Christmas! Yes, it is that time of year.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are my favorite holidays of the year. People seem to be a little nicer and smile more. The music is festive and church services are a little more cheerful. One may ask, why are people just a little more friendly during the Christmas season? I believe that it is because of the very reason we celebrate Christmas in the first place: Jesus, God's only begotten Son. Jesus came to bring life, joy, and salvation to all who would believe in Him. As it says in *John 3:16-17*, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him". Wow, so I say Merry Christmas!

What a true gift from God, His Son Jesus. Once you accept His free offer of grace and mercy, Jesus will change your life from the inside out and save you from hell itself. He is a gift that will give you a new life free from guilt and shame for all eternity if you will personally seek out Jesus' love and forgiveness. As the Apostle Peter preached in *Acts 2:38*, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit". Again, I say Merry Christmas! My prayer for everyone is that you can say with me "Merry Christmas!" and that when you say that this year it will remind you of the greatest gift ever given: Jesus. As Paul said, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (*II Corinthians 9:15*)!

Cindy and I would like to thank everyone for your love and support during this past year. I personally believe that God has great things in store for BBC in the year 2022. Please stay focused and join with your church family as we go deeper into God's Word this coming year. We are blessed to have been chosen by God to be His beacon of light here on His hill here at BBC. To God be the glory!



God Bless,

Pastor Danny

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## Upcoming Events

- December 1** Business Meeting
- December 18** Baptist Men's Meeting
- December 19** Christmas Program
- December 20** Deacons' Meeting
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service
- December 25** Christmas



*"Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them" (Luke 2:20).*



# The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Oh no, it's Christmas time again! While some people (on page 1) find it easy to be full of Christmas cheer, others of us find ourselves at this time of year sympathizing with that iconic Christmas character, the Grinch, from Dr. Seuss' 1966 animated TV special "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"



Like Ebenezer Scrooge before him, the Grinch found the Christmas celebrations going on all around him just a bit too much and too loud at times. When I see Christmas decorations out and Christmas songs being played before Halloween or can't open a webpage after Thanksgiving without being swamped with Black Friday ads, I too would like to bag up all the commercialism and busyness of Christmas and toss it out. Before you send me complaints about my lack of Christmas spirit, I already have a Christmas tree of my own up!

Just like today, people in the first century had different reactions to Jesus' birth: not everyone was equally excited and some were outright hostile. Mary and Joseph were all-in and preparing for the first Christmas months in advance, per *Matthew 1* and *Luke 2*. The Bethlehem shepherds, according to *Luke 2:8-20*, were enthusiastic witnesses of Jesus' birth, but only stayed for a short time. The wise men missed the festivities by several years but brought great gifts, according to *Matthew 2:11*. There were even first-century Scrooges and Grinches who didn't like Christmas. The priests and scribes in Jerusalem knew all about the expected birth of the Messiah and where it would take place (*Matthew 2:5-6*) but couldn't be bothered to visit Bethlehem.

And then there was King Herod, the greatest Christmas villain of them all. He was "troubled" in *Matthew 2:3* to learn of the birth of the King of the Jews when he was certain that the position was already filled—by himself! What Herod did next isn't covered by most Christmas carols or featured on Christmas cards. According to *Matthew 2:16*, Herod became "exceedingly angry" that the wise men didn't report back to him and proceeded to massacre all male children under two years of age in the Bethlehem area, so he could eliminate a rival to his throne. But King Herod's violent opposition to Jesus was in vain. God was prepared for His Son's entry into this world and knew how Herod would react. As prophesied in *Jeremiah 31:15* and *Hosea 11:1*, as recalled in *Matthew 2:18* and *Matthew 2:15*, Jesus had been taken to Egypt by Joseph & Mary to wait in safety until Herod's wrath died with him.

Just like the Grinch ultimately learned in the cartoon, Herod couldn't stop or undo Christmas: it came, just the same! Jesus came into this world because He was sent by His Father on a mission. He took the form of a bondservant, and lived as a man among mankind (*Philippians 2:7*). Jesus was not deterred or distracted from His purpose for any reason. His enemies were unsuccessful in their opposition to Him until it was time for Jesus to take our place on the cross and face God's judgment against all sin for all time. So for all of you who find the Christmas season and all its demands a bit daunting at times, remember that the real reason for the season is all you need to focus on.

## Christmas Carol Scramble #2

Can you match these 20 Christmas carols with a phrase from their lyrics? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. And the Glory of the Lord             | A. guiding star behold          |
| 2. As With Gladness Men of Old           | B. bed a cattle stall           |
| 3. Come on, Ring Those Bells             | C. bore sweet Jesus Christ      |
| 4. Do You Hear What I Hear?              | D. harps of gold                |
| 5. For Unto Us a Child is Born           | E. room in my heart             |
| 6. Glory to God in the Highest           | F. finest gifts we bring        |
| 7. God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen!         | G. manger for is bed            |
| 8. I Saw Three Ships                     | H. sing we now Noel             |
| 9. Infant Holy, Infant Lowly             | I. glory shone around           |
| 10. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear        | J. we were gone astray          |
| 11. Little Drummer Boy                   | K. Christmas Day in the morning |
| 12. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming         | L. half-gone was the night      |
| 13. Mary, Did You Know?                  | M. goodwill towards men         |
| 14. Once in Royal David's City           | N. the shepherds fall           |
| 15. Sing We Now of Christmas             | O. will soon deliver you        |
| 16. Twelve Days of Christmas             | P. a Son is given               |
| 17. The Holly and the Ivy                | Q. mountain and hill made low   |
| 18. Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne          | R. five golden rings            |
| 19. While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks | S. born for you and me          |
| 20. Who is He in Yonder Stall            | T. goodness and light           |

## COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



## December Birthdays

- 2 Tina Appleton, Elnora Caudell
- 5 Robin Berry
- 6 Justin Yates
- 7 Harper Ahalt
- 17 Roy Leibrand, Mary Ann Luhn, Cindy Moore
- 24 Ashlinn Cole
- 28 Ralph Cooley
- 29 Ollie Baumbaugh
- 31 Larry Michael



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in November:*

- An Internal Administration Cmte. motion to increase the 2021 Physical Plant BLI by \$7,700 was adopted.
- An Internal Administration Cmte. motion to donate up to 30 metal chairs to a sister church was approved.
- The Church passed the Finance Cmte. motion to increase the 2021 Online Payments BLI by \$200.

*Expected at the December Business Meeting:*

- The Finance Cmte. will offer a motion to approve its recommended 2022 Church budget of \$209,462, which is \$27,464 less than the 2021 adjusted budget amount of \$236,926.

## Prayer Concerns

Joe & Mary Yates  
 Cris Driver  
 Eddie Fowler, Parkinson's disease  
 Margie Stream, in rehabilitation  
 Nick Cole  
 Stephanie Runkles  
 the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co.  
 V.F.D.  
 Seniors: Arlene Luhn, Cortland "Pop" Moore, Dot Fowler, Gene Bennett, Janet Magruder, Ollie Baumbaugh, Linda Roberts, Ralph Cooley, Rebecca Umstead, Susan Rice  
 Cancer patients: Kitty Cooley, Pat Luhn

## Christmas Carol Word Search #2

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



*"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)*

## Christmas Carol Scramble Answers

1. Q; 2. A; 3. S; 4. T; 5. P; 6. M; 7. J; 8. K; 9. B; 10. D;  
 11. F; 12. L; 13. O; 14. G; 15. H; 16. R; 17. C; 18. E; 19. I;  
 20. N

Word Bank: Glory of the Lord, Gladness Men of Old, Ring Bells, Hear What I Hear, Child is Born, Glory to God, Merry Gentlemen, Three Ships, Infant Holy, Midnight Clear, Drummer Boy, Rose Blooming, Mary Did You Know, Royal David's City, Sing We Now, Twelve Days, Holly and Ivy, Leave Throne, Shepherds Watched, Yonder Stall

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022 from the Lantern staff.



## News You Can Use

*Celebrating Christmas.* Compared to Christmas 2020, Christmas 2021 will have fewer restrictions but COVID cautions are still in effect. There will not be a Christmas Dinner, Parsonage Open House, or caroling. The Christmas Cantata will be scaled back to a more modest program on Sunday, Dec. 19 with smaller Christmas-themed specials throughout December. There will be a Christmas Eve candlelight service on Dec. 24 at 6:00 pm.



*Nov. 28.* Captain Lawrence “LT” Tyler will be singing on Sunday, Nov. 28 from his new gospel album “God of Second Chances” as well as Christmas songs to start the Advent season.

*Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$2,000.* Nov. 29-Dec. 5 is the week of prayer for the 2021 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Together, we and the International Mission Board are able to send out more than 3,600 missionaries to share the Gospel all over the world. The national goal is \$185 million; BBC’s is \$2,000. Last year, IMB missionaries engaged 247 people groups, planted over 18,000 churches and baptized over 86,000 people. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions.

*COVID update.* After several weeks of mask-free worship in late October and early November, Montgomery County again imposed an indoor face mask requirement effective Nov. 20 due to a rise in COVID-19 transmission from “moderate” to “substantial”. As such, Barnesville Baptist Church has returned to our previous practices of wearing face masks. Masks are provided at the entrances for those who need one.

BBC will continue to follow the requirements issued by the county and state. When the transmission rate decreases or the vaccination rate increases to a level that allows the mask mandate to be relaxed, we will adhere to that guidance.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we have done our best to follow the rules, respect one another, and get through this season of challenge together with love and unity. In this season of giving thanks, let us appreciate that we are able to worship and fellowship together as we serve God’s Kingdom.

*Gifts for children.* Please contact Cindy Moore to sign up to donate Christmas gifts to needy children. We have 28 names from the SBC church plant in Baltimore and 12 from CareNet of Frederick. Gifts are due to BBC by Sunday, Dec. 12. Money can also be given by hand or online for those who would like to participate but aren’t able to shop in person.

*Discipleship podcasts resume.* Our sixth podcast in our “Equipping the Saints” series has been posted on the Spotify and Google Podcasts apps (as well as the BBC website) on the topic of “Prayer”. Upcoming topics in December include “Unity of the Church” and “Baptists”. Expect additional episodes in early 2022.



*New air conditioner on roof.* Every few decades or so, it’s time to replace the sanctuary air conditioning unit atop the roof. On Nov. 5, the old unit from the late 1990s was replaced by Frederick Air with a 2021 version which should keep us cool for years to come, once warm temperatures return next year!



*BCM/D annual meeting report.* BBC messengers Danny Moore and Lee Michael attended the 185<sup>th</sup> Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware annual meeting on Monday, Nov. 15 at First Baptist Church of Laurel in Prince George’s County. Pastor Glenn Swanson of Bayside Baptist Church was elected BCM/D president. The 365 messengers present adopted a \$6.9 million budget and a resolution in support of sexual abuse survivors. Pastor Danny served on the 2021 Resolutions Committee that recommended the resolution; Lee Michael will represent the Montgomery Baptist Association on the BCM/D Committee on Order of Business through 2023.

*Christmas poinsettias for sale.* If you would like to purchase a Christmas poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Kitty Cooley at 301-349-5119.