



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

As we come to the end of a cold January 2022, we have seen a lot of snow, rain, and COVID-19 cases. I know that it is very hard to worship online only. I would rather be worshipping God with my church family in person also, but I know that at times we must put others' safety and health first. True love and concern and having everyone's wellbeing in mind is why we have gone to online services for a short period of time. In trying to be considerate of everyone's needs, at times we must sacrifice our preferences for the best of others. Just please know that I have spent much time praying over this decision. If we can spare BBC family members and worshipers from unnecessary suffering and sickness, I believe it is what we should do.

We are blessed to have great audio-visual equipment and God-gifted people here at BBC to make our online worship service the best it can be, and for that I say thank you, Lord Jesus! As we move forward in God's plan for His church here at BBC, we need to stand firm on God's commands. *"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go"* (Joshua 1:7). Now is the time to pray, now is the time to reach out to others with the love and joy and peace and support each other as we are online. Send cards, call each other, and above all, pray! The world today needs to see God's love in action in and through us like never before. People all around us are searching for answers, hope, and peace. We have the living joy of Christ within our hearts and souls.

BBC, I am so proud of how you are a family of believers that shares and lives out God's Word. I know that you are loving others in the name of Jesus. We will be back in person for worship very soon. In the meantime, please call me or your deacons if you need anything or if you have any concerns or praises to share.

God Bless,

Pastor Danny



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Upcoming Events

February 2 Groundhog Day
February 14 Valentine's Day
February 15 Love Our Seniors Lunch Deliveries
February 17 Presidents' Day
February 19 Baptist Men's Meeting; Deacons' Annual Prayer Session
February 20 In-Person Worship Resumes



"Then He spoke many things to them in parables... because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven"
(Matthew 13:3,11).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Jesus' parables are among His most memorable and well-known teachings: even non-religious people today will refer to a passerby who rescues a victim as a "good Samaritan" (*Luke 10:30-37*) or will call someone who is on the wrong path in life a "prodigal son" (*Luke 15:11-32*). Parables are a special kind of story: they use earthly things to convey spiritual truths. The word "parable" comes from two Greek words that together mean "to throw alongside", that is, to compare two things to one another by using word pictures. Jesus' parables have four qualities that make them effective teaching tools: they are real, simple, interesting, and relevant. With all four factors, Jesus' parables are more useful than just mere entertainment and more applicable than just impractical philosophy.

Jesus' parables were reality-based. Many of Jesus' parables began with "the kingdom of heaven is like". Imagine the challenge before Jesus: to explain the eternal, invisible, spiritual nature of God and His will and purpose to common, ignorant people whose minds were clouded from truth by sin. Where to begin? Instead of overwhelming them with deep theology or made-up fantasy, Jesus used familiar characters and common objects that people would have already known from their everyday lives: sheep and seeds, farmers and servants. From these basic elements Jesus brought forth stories that gave a glimpse into heavenly things.

Jesus' parables were simple. Most of Jesus' parables were short, the longest no more than a few paragraphs and some no more than a few sentences. The characters were clearly defined and didn't have complicated backstories or histories to muddle through. The actions were straightforward: planting fields with seeds (*Matthew 13:3-23*), searching for lost coins (*Luke 15:8-10*), and tending oil lamps (*Matthew 25:1-13*). These qualities are what help us remember and digest these stories.

Jesus' parables were interesting. His stories grab your attention right away. The prodigal son who leaves home with his father's fortune, a man robbed on the highway and left for dead...what happens next? Even the short ones spark interest, like selling all your possessions to buy one great pearl...why?

Jesus' parables were relevant. The combination of real, simple, and interesting make Jesus' parables relevant. Even if you don't follow the lifestyle of first-century Jews, most modern-day people have still had the experiences of planting a seed or losing a valuable item and have known the frustration of not having a plant grow or not being able to find something dear to them. Being able to accept and internalize the surface story of one of Jesus' parables helps to digest the spiritual truth Jesus intended to convey.

The principles Jesus used to teach the multitudes about the kingdom of God can benefit us today as we engage those unfamiliar with spiritual matters with the message of the Gospel. It is not surprising that one of the most popular elements of our worship service is the children's story: a condensed message or object lesson about an important truth that is easy to understand, remember, and share.

Parable Pairs Scramble

Can you match each of these 20 characters or items from Jesus' parables with their pair? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. bridegroom | A. ten servants |
| 2. creditor | B. unmerciful servant |
| 3. Good Samaritan | C. older brother |
| 4. Good Shepherd | D. hireling |
| 5. king | E. pearl of great price |
| 6. landowner | F. workers |
| 7. man | G. publican |
| 8. master | H. Lazarus |
| 9. merchant | I. seed |
| 10. nobleman | J. master |
| 11. Pharisee | K. two debtors |
| 12. prodigal son | L. leaven |
| 13. rich man | M. ten virgins |
| 14. servants | N. tares |
| 15. shepherd | O. neighbor |
| 16. sower | P. lost sheep |
| 17. wheat | Q. unjust judge |
| 18. widow | R. foolish builder |
| 19. wise man | S. unjust steward |
| 20. woman | T. mustard seed |

Parable Pairs Word Search

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

Word Bank: bridegroom, creditor, hireling, judge, king, landowner, Lazarus, merchant, mustard seed, nobleman, pearl of great price, Pharisee, prodigal son, Samaritan, shepherd, sower, tares, virgins, wheat, widow

February Birthdays

3 Gary Cooley, Linda Roberts
7 Susan Mentzer, Michelle Vasko
10 Carole Kearse
12 Luke Fedders
20 Janet Magruder



Prayer Concerns

COVID-19: Doug & Liz Heimlich; Ian McCall and his mother Chandra

Members: Bill Appleton, leukemia; Noah Arthur; Janet Magruder, recovering from fall; Eddie Fowler, Parkinson's

Family and Friends: Steve Vasko, Ralph Cooley's son-in-law; Gary Shirk; Stephanie Runkles, back pain; Joshua Shirk, nine-year-old recovering from drowning; the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.

Seniors: Arlene Luhn, Cortland "Pop" Moore, Dot Fowler, Gene Bennett, Ollie Baumbaugh, Linda Roberts,

Ralph Cooley, Rebecca Umstead, Susan Rice
Cancer patients: Bill Appleton, leukemia; Kitty Cooley

Business Meeting Briefs

Business Report from January:

- The Pastor has appointed the Deacons to serve on the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2021 finances and is due to report at the March Business 2022 Meeting.

Expected at the February Business Meeting:

- Under the provisions of the Mar. 2020 By-Law to Define Church Operations During Emergency Conditions, on Jan. 28, 2022, the Pastor and Deacons cancelled the Feb. 2022 business meeting.
- All pending motions and reports will be presented at the Mar. 2022 business meeting.

COTCD Cartoon



*"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).

Parable Pairs Scramble Answers

1. **M** (Matthew 25:1-13); 2. **K** (Luke 7:41-47); 3. **O** (Luke 10:30-37); 4. **D** (John 10:11-16); 5. **B** (Matthew 18:23-35); 6. **F** (Matthew 20:1-16); 7. **T** (Luke 13:18-19); 8. **S** (Luke 16:1-9); 9. **E** (Matthew 13:45-46); 10. **A** (Luke 19:11-27); 11. **G** (Luke 18:9-14); 12. **C** (Luke 15:11-32); 13. **H** (Luke 16:19-31); 14. **J** (Luke 12:35-40); 15. **P** (Matthew 18:12-14); 16. **I** (Mark 4:1-9); 17. **N** (Matthew 13:24-30); 18. **Q** (Luke 18:1-8); 19. **R** (Matthew 7:24-27); 20. **L** (Matthew 13:33).

News You Can Use

In-person worship resumes Feb. 20. We are looking forward to resuming in-person services on Sunday, Feb. 20! The Sunday schedule will be the same as when we last met in early January, with Sunday School at 9:30 am and worship at 10:45 am. We will continue following the indoor face mask requirement when we resume services until that rule is lifted by Montgomery County.

As we approach the second anniversary of facing this pandemic, we are thankful to God for His provision and watch care over us and appreciate your support and love as we try to navigate unforeseen challenges and changes. When we last communicated, we anticipated resuming in-person services by the end of January. While the omicron surge is rapidly decreasing from its peak, the rate of COVID-19 cases in Montgomery County is still in the “high” range.

The Pastor and Deacons agreed that waiting several more weeks should get us back into at least the “substantial” range, and is in line with what several other Montgomery Baptist Association sister churches are planning. It is our desire to have in-person worship as much as possible. Given the significant number of BBC worshipers, their family members, and local community members having caught COVID in the past several weeks, we feel it was important to have taken steps to protect one another’s health.

February schedule. At-church activities begin on Saturday, Feb. 19, with the monthly Baptist Men’s breakfast meeting at 7:30 am. The Deacons will hold their rescheduled annual prayer session at 9:00 am that Saturday, when they will pray over each person, family, and ministry of Barnesville Baptist Church to ask for God’s provision, direction, and blessing for the coming year. If you would like the Deacons to pray for a specific issue, please contact Pastor Danny.

The Worship Cmte. will meet in the Fellowship after church on Sunday, Feb. 20 to discuss plans for the choir and Easter.

The Love Our Seniors lunch scheduled for Feb. 15 will be delivered to seniors’ homes on that day. The duckpin bowling event set for Feb. 26 is now planned for Mar. 26.

MBA update. The Montgomery Baptist Association has moved to a new office as of Jan. 29. The new mailing address is P.O. Box 3009, Gaithersburg, MD 20885-3009. The physical address is now 841 Quince Orchard Blvd. Suite E, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. The phone number remains 301-740-7144.

Birthday updates requested. The *Lantern* enjoys sharing members’ and friends’ birthdays with the Church family. Please help us keep our records current by contacting the Church office with any names and dates we may lack, especially if you started attending within the last year.

Lottie Moon totals. Individual gifts received for the 2021 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering as of Jan. 27 stand at \$1,231, which is 62% of our goal of \$2,000. With the church’s \$1,000 contribution, our total giving was \$2,231, or 112% of our goal. Thank you to everyone who gave to support the 3,600 International Mission Board missionaries to share the Gospel all over the world.

Mar. 19 discipleship training. On Saturday, Mar. 19, an Old Testament introduction class will be taught by Revs. Tim Bonner and Gayle Clifton. Pastor Tim will give background and context about the Hebrew Scriptures while Pastor Gayle focuses on 20 key people in the Old Testament. Light breakfast items will be served at 8:30 am; classes begin at 9:00 am and go until 12:30 pm.

Go paperless in 2022. BBC offers the *Lantern* in electronic (and in color) format to those would prefer such an option instead of a copy sent by mail. If you would like to receive a monthly email with a link to the *Lantern*, please send an email to our masthead address. Those who wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the *Lantern* will continue to receive one; no further action is required.



Row 1: Ann Bennett sharing a children’s story, Lee Michael reading *Psalms 105* for Wed. Night Bible study, Gary Cooley soloing; Row 2: Joe Yates praying the Lord’s Prayer, Jan Burdette playing piano, David Bennett giving the morning announcements; Row 3: Pastor Danny and Deacons Luke Fedders, Joe Yates, David Bennett, and Lee Michael serving communion on Jan. 2; Row 4: Bill Caudell talking to the kids, Pastor Danny preaching, Barbara Swank singing with Jan Burdette accompanying; Row 5: Pastor Danny and Lee Michael participating in a Jan. 9 ordination service at Rev. Michael Mattar’s Hope Fellowship Church in Ashburn, VA, Harper Ahalt singing