



The Barnesville Lantern

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April 2023, Volume 21, No. 11

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

The Pastor's Spotlight

Welcome to spring! April is one of my favorite months: green leaves and flowers are blooming, the sunlight lasts longer each evening, and the weather is getting warmer. Easter weekend is just a few days away. The new life of spring reminds us that Easter is the time of year when we come together as God's children and celebrate Jesus our risen Savior and Lord. Over the last eight Sundays, we have been preparing for Easter by looking deeper into God's Word in the New Testament books of *John*, *Hebrews*, and *Colossians* concerning Jesus and asking the Lord to give us a clearer picture of who He is.

The Holy Spirit has been opening our eyes to see that Jesus is better, greater, and superior to all things, that Jesus is the creator and sustainer of all things, and that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. In his gospel account, the apostle John started out with a run-down on just how awesome Jesus is. John described Jesus as co-existent and co-eternal with the Father, co-creator of everything in existence and of all life and light (*John 1:1-5*)! John left no doubt about Jesus' awesomeness and divinity in those opening verses. If you have missed any of the worship services since January of 2023, I want to encourage you to go to our [Facebook](#) or our [YouTube](#) pages and watch the worship services to prepare yourself for an Easter full of praise and adoration for Christ our Redeemer.

Please take time to worship Jesus this coming Easter weekend. From the quiet remembrance of Good Friday to the joyous praise of Easter morning, there is much for which we need to thank the Lord. Invite someone to come with you to church and pray for the lost, hurting people all around us to respond to the stirring of their hearts by the Holy Spirit. See you in worship, and remember that we all need each other to be all that God wants us to be.



God Bless,

Pastor Danny

In This Edition:

The Pastor's Spotlight, Page 1
Upcoming Events, Page 1
The Pew Perspective, Page 2
Holy Week Characters Scramble and Word Search, Page 2
April Birthdays, Page 3
Prayer Concerns, Page 3
Holy Week Characters Scramble Answers, Page 3
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
COTCD Cartoon, Page 3
News You Can Use, Page 4
April 2023 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

April 5 Business Meeting, 7:15 pm
April 7 Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm
April 8 Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am; Church Clean-Up Day, 9:00 am
April 9 Easter Sunrise Service on the Grounds, 6:30 am; Easter Breakfast, 7:45 am
April 24 Deacons' Meeting, 7:00 pm
April 30 VBS Planning Meeting, 12:00 pm



*"Pilate said to them, 'What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said to him, 'Let Him be crucified'"
(Matthew 27:22)!*

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Psalm 22 is an often-quoted Old Testament scripture for Easter, as the parallels between it and *Matthew 27*'s account of Jesus' crucifixion are many and obvious--the dividing of clothes, the mocking of the crowd, the crying out over being forsaken. The meaning of one verse, however, is not as obvious, *Psalm 22:12-13*: "*Many bulls have surrounded Me; strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. They gape at Me with their mouths, like a raging and roaring lion.*" I don't recall any cattle being present during the crucifixion scene or discussed in the New Testament descriptions of Jesus' death, so it's often been a verse I "skipped over" or didn't think that much about. However, by examining the historical context, there's enough information to have a pretty good idea of what was going on with those fierce bulls.

The region of Bashan, located in northern Israel, was first discussed in *Deuteronomy 3* as the land of King Og, an enemy of Israel who was defeated by Moses and the army of Israel. Ever since, Bashan was associated in the Jewish mind as a place linked with evil. Additional references in the Old Testament make the case stronger:

First, the northern king Jeroboam set up golden calves for worship to draw away the people from worship of the true God and His temple in Jerusalem (*I Kings 12:25-33*), associating the region of Bashan with idolatry. The prophet Amos must have had that bull worship in mind when he discussed insulted the "*cows of Bashan*" in *Amos 4:1*. The reference may have been directed not only at idolatrous women but perhaps also their false gods who "*oppress the poor*" and "*crush the needy*", the same groups the Lord condemned false gods for mistreating in *Psalm 82:4*.

Second, in Jesus' day, the city of Caesarea Philippi was located in the region of Bashan, where the famous scene in *Matthew 16* about Peter and "the rock" took place. There was indeed a literal rock Jesus referred to, a large outcropping in which there was a cave known as the "gates of Hades". Temples dedicated to pagan gods from Baal to Pan were part of the site's history. Pan was a Greek god described as having cloven goat hooves and horns, the same imagery even we today associate with the devil.

Third, just a few miles away from the site associated with the gates of Hades, in plain sight, was Mount Hermon, the snow-capped peak associated in extrabiblical literature as the home of wicked spirits discussed in *Genesis 6*. *Psalm 68:15-23* picks up on the theme of Bashan being opposed to, or a target of conquest by, God and His forces. *Psalm 68:18* ("*You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive*") is better known from Paul's use of the text in *Ephesians 4:8* as a verse associated with Jesus' resurrection victory over Satan and death, but the original context is Bashan.

Taking all the evidence together, the "*strong bulls of Bashan*" of *Psalm 22* likely reference the spiritual forces of darkness invisible to Matthew and the first-century crowd watching Jesus' crucifixion but inevitably present. Jesus Himself noted satanic interest in His death twice. In *Luke 22:3*, Satan possessed Judas immediately before he enacted his plan to betray Jesus: "*Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.*" John also linked

Continued on page 3, column 2

Holy Week Characters Scramble

Can you match these 20 people or groups (besides His followers) that Jesus encountered in His last week before His death, burial, and resurrection? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Annas | A. asked Pilate for Jesus' body |
| 2. blind and lame | B. objected to the INRI sign |
| 3. Caiaphas | C. questioned Jesus first |
| 4. chief priests | D. asked what charges Jesus faced |
| 5. criminal on cross | E. Jesus healed them |
| 6. Herod | F. hoped to see Jesus do a miracle |
| 7. Jerusalem crowd | G. shouted for Jesus' crucifixion |
| 8. Joseph of Arimathea | H. arrested Jesus in Gethsemane |
| 9. Lazarus | I. mocked and scourged Jesus |
| 10. Malchus | J. stood by Jesus' cross |
| 11. Mary, wife of Clopas | K. demanded Jesus identify Himself |
| 12. money changers | L. Jesus healed his cut ear |
| 13. Nicodemus | M. called Jesus the Son of God |
| 14. Pharisees | N. blasphemed Christ |
| 15. Pilate | O. carried Jesus' cross for Him |
| 16. Roman centurion | P. wept and mourned for Jesus |
| 17. Roman soldiers | Q. dined with Jesus and his sisters |
| 18. Simon of Cyrene | R. Jesus overthrew their tables and seats |
| 19. Temple troops | S. tried to trap Jesus in His words |
| 20. women of Jerusalem | T. brought 100 lbs. of spices for Jesus' burial |

Holy Week Characters Word Search

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

Word Bank: Annas, Blind and lame, Caiaphas, Chief priests, criminal, Herod, Jerusalem crowd, Joseph of Arimathea, Lazarus, Malchus, Mary wife of Clopas, Money changers, Nicodemus, Pharisees, Pilate, centurion, soldiers, Simon [of] Cyrene, Temple troops, [Jerusalem] women



April Birthdays

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

Prayer Concerns

Members: Doug & Roberta Allnut and family
 Family and Friends: Theresa, daughter of Eddie & Pauline Fowler; the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
 Seniors: Arlene Luhn, Betty James, Cortland “Pop” Moore, Dot Fowler, Eddie Fowler, Gene Bennett, Janet Magruder, Margie Stream, Ollie Baumbaugh, Ralph Cooley, Rebecca Umstead, Susan Rice
 Cancer patients: Jack Cooley, bone cancer; Pat Luhn, breast cancer; Bill Appleton, recovering from successful leukemia treatment; Kitty Cooley
 Missions: NAMB and IMB missionaries; all the church planters in MD/DE; King of Glory Church in Pakistan; MBA-sponsored church plant Hope Fellowship Church in Ashburn, VA

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in March:

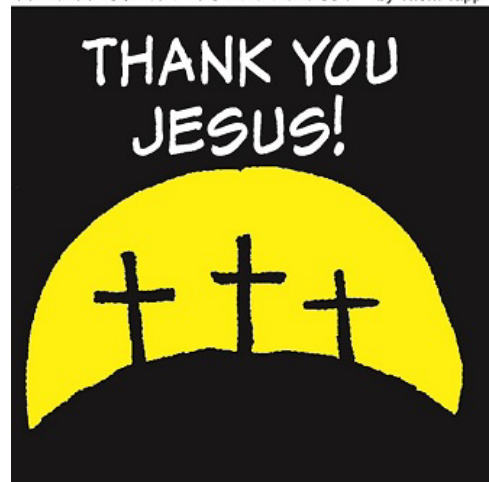
- The Church approved the report of the Select Committee on Auditing on the 2022 finances, which found the Church’s financial books to be in order.

Expected at the April Business Meeting:

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the April 2023 Business Meeting.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



The Pew Perspective, continued

Judas’ betrayal to satanic influence: “...the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him...” (John 13:2). Jesus also warned Peter of Satan’s interest in him as Jesus’ death approached: “And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat’” (Luke 22:31). The “roaring lion” language associated with the bulls of Bashan strengthens the satanic connection, with *I Peter* 5:8 linking the two together: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion...”. Jesus’ death was a scene of intense interest not just for the Jewish high priests and Roman authorities who wanted Him gone, but Satan and all his demons were also fixated on the defeat of their Adversary. Little did they know that their temporary sense of victory would turn into their greatest defeat. With His resurrection victory over Satan and death, Jesus turned the tables on the bulls of Bashan: “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:15)!



*“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).*

Holy Week Characters Scramble Answers

1. C (John 18:13,19); 2. E (Matthew 21:14); 3. K (Matthew 26:57,63); 4. B (John 19:21); 5. N (Luke 23:39); 6. F (Luke 23:7-8); 7. G (Mark 15:11,13); 8. A (John 19:38); 9. Q (John 12:2); 10. L (John 18:10); 11. J (John 19:25); 12. R (Matthew 21:12); 13. T (John 19:39); 14. S (Matthew 22); 15. D (John 18:29); 16. M (Mark 15:39); 17. I (John 19:1-3); 18. O (Luke 23:26); 19. H (John 18:3-4); 20. P (Luke 23:27).

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



Karen Hazzard taught the children about Jonah and the whale during the Mar. 12 Children's Story.

on Easter Sunday. Services and activities include: Good Friday Service on Friday, Apr. 7 at 7:00 pm, Easter Sunrise Service on the BBC grounds on Sunday, Apr. 9 starting at 6:30 am (bring a lawn chair and dress for the weather!), Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 7:45 am, Sunday School at

9:30 am, and Easter Sunday Service at 10:45 am. There will be bell and singing specials on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

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

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®

FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

needs of their communities. The 2023 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will bless the North American Mission Board's 2,400+ 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. Through the month of April, we will be collecting offerings toward our 2023 goal of \$2,500; envelopes are available in each pew. The SBC-wide goal is \$70 million. Your prayerful generosity is much appreciated.

Church clean-up day. On Saturday, Apr. 9 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. Many people have already begun cleaning the church. Thank you to those who have cleaned surfaces, washed windows, weeded and mulched flower beds, and raked and cut the lawns.



Gary Cooley sang "Peter's Song" on Mar. 5.

Easter lilies. Easter lilies may be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one to decorate the sanctuary. Prices are \$14 for a single-bloom flower and \$23 for one with two blooms. Please contact Kitty Cooley (301-349-5119) to place an order.

Deacon retirement. Joe Yates retired from active duty as a Deacon on Feb. 3, after 44.5 years of service. BBC offers its gratitude and appreciation to the Lord for Joe's many decades of faithful support and leadership as a Deacon. We look forward to the many ways Joe will continue to serve the Lord and the Barnesville Baptist congregation.



VBS 2023 dates set. On Sunday, Apr. 24, the first planning meeting for Vacation Bible School will be held in the Fellowship Hall after worship, with lunch served. Believe it



or not, BBC is already preparing for this year's VBS to be held Jul. 10-14. This year's theme is "Twists & Turns: Following Jesus Changes the Game", a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over". Please begin praying for this most important outreach event of the year.

Cookies and ice cream. Alannah Yates had the best-decorated cookie at the Youth Ministry-sponsored cookie decorating event on Saturday, Mar. 25, according to judge Larry Michael (see picture below, right). As such, Alannah won a Walmart gift certificate for her skills. Twenty-one kids and adults (see picture below, left) tried their hand at using frosting and toppings to make edible art with cookies, as well as enjoying ice cream sundaes. Thanks to Lisa Fedders for organizing the event.



Prayer requests. The worship bulletin is updated weekly with prayer requests for BBC members, family and friends, and other needs. Please contact Pastor Danny or the Church Office by Wednesday at 6:00 pm to have your request included in the following Sunday's bulletin. Prayer requests can also be emailed to the BBC email list for more timely needs.