



The Barnesville Lantern

Barnesville Baptist Church
17917 Barnesville Road/P.O. Box 69
Barnesville, Maryland 20838

301-407-0500 (phone/fax)
www.barnesvillebaptist.org
church@barnesvillebaptist.org

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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

The Christmas season is here! Let us all rejoice as we celebrate our Savior and Lord Jesus' birth. One of my favorite Bible passages that we read at Christmas time is the messianic prophecy found in *Isaiah 9:6*: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". This passage of scripture from the Old Testament tells us what Christmas really is about: Jesus, the eternal God and Creator of the universe, came to Earth wrapped in human flesh to live among mankind as one of us. He set aside the glory of heaven to show His amazing love to a dark and sinful world that will last for all eternity for those who accept His gift of salvation! Now that is an awesome Christmas present worth celebrating!

My prayer for all of us is that we will make time during this busy time of the year to reflect on Jesus' grace, mercy, and love that He has poured out on us as His children all year long. Christmas is about love in action. So, as we go about buying gifts and going to all our special occasions that are on our calendars during Christmas, take time to read the Scriptures that tell us about Christmas and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal them to us in a new and special way this holiday season. Ask the Holy Spirit to place a special person on your heart that you can reach out to with some extra Christmas love: someone that you would not normally reach out to, maybe someone outside of your regular circle of loved ones, friends, and family. Let us all put some extra love into action this Christmas season.

God Bless,

Pastor Danny



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Upcoming Events

- December 3** Christmas Dinner, 4:00 pm
- December 6** Business Meeting
- December 10** Birthday Party for Jesus, 12:15 pm
- December 16** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
- December 17** Christmas Cantata
- December 22** Arlene Luhn Funeral, 11:00 am
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 pm
- December 25** Christmas



*"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" says your God"
(Isaiah 40:1).*



Growing up, I always liked to “inspect” the wrapped presents that would start showing up under the Christmas tree in the days before Dec. 25. I wouldn’t try to remove the wrapping paper, but I wasn’t above a diagnostic shake of the boxes to determine what was concealed inside. I would try to guess which presents were for me or for other family members, if they weren’t already labeled. It was fun to imagine what gifts might be inside those wrapped boxes, but I often guessed wrong. When Christmas morning came, each gift-giver would make sure that the correct recipient received their intended gifts.

When it comes to God, He too has a very specific gift in mind for His children, and there is no substitute or replacement that can take the place of His greatest gift, His Son Jesus. We are familiar with the Apostle John’s use of “only begotten Son” from *John 1* and *John 3* to describe Jesus’ sacrificial role, but its use by the author of *Hebrews* in chapter 11, verse 17 gives us a fresh perspective on those familiar words from the fourth gospel. The epistle reads: “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son...”. *Hebrews 11:17* refers back to the episode in *Genesis 22* where God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on the altar. *Genesis 22:2* says, “Then He said, ‘Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you’”. Both *Hebrews 11* and *Genesis 22* seem to forget that Abraham was the father of not just one son, but two:

Ishmael was Abraham’s oldest son by Hagar. The reason that the the Old and New Testament accounts treat Isaac, Sarah’s son, as Abraham’s only son was because Isaac was the only one that was the son of promise (*Genesis 17:9*). All of God’s promises and blessings would be fulfilled through Isaac, which made him unique and one of a kind, which is the best way to explain what John meant by “only begotten Son”. In the same way that Isaac had a special role that Ishmael could never fill, Jesus holds a unique position in God’s plan of salvation: the promised Messiah who would crush the serpent’s head (*Genesis 3:15*), bless the nations (*Genesis 12:3, 28:14*), and fulfill God’s promises to Abraham and his descendants (*Genesis 49:10, II Samuel 7:12–13*).

As we get ready to celebrate Christmas yet again and prepare to exchange gifts with loved ones, remember that God offers you the best, most unique, and irreplaceable gift imaginable: His Son Jesus Christ, who came to give you abundant life in this world and eternal joy in the next. No one else can offer such an amazing present, and it is ours for the taking if we would only accept it. Unlike a Christmas present, God’s gift of salvation through Jesus Christ can be shared with so many more people without reducing our enjoyment of the gift He has offered us. Indeed, He would be pleased if we would tell others about the unique gift that Jesus is with others so that they too can experience God’s generosity and love for them.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024
from the *Lantern* staff.

Hebrew Terms in the Bible Scramble

Can you match these 20 transliterated Hebrew words in the Bible with their English definition? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 2.

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|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1. abba | A. save us now |
| 2. alleluia | B. let it be so |
| 3. amen | C. rest |
| 4. behemoth | D. ram’s horn trumpet |
| 5. cherubim | E. high priest’s garment |
| 6. ephod | F. master |
| 7. hosanna | G. realm of the dead |
| 8. jubilee | H. praise the Lord |
| 9. leviathan | I. fiery ones |
| 10. manna | J. adversary |
| 11. messiah | K. currency |
| 12. pharaoh | L. pause |
| 13. pharisee | M. separated |
| 14. rabbi | N. what is it? |
| 15. sabbath | O. great house |
| 16. Satan | P. winged throne guardian |
| 17. selah | Q. father |
| 18. seraphim | R. beast |
| 19. shekel | S. anointed |
| 20. Sheol | T. sea monster |

Hebrew Terms in the Bible Word Search

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

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Word Bank: abba, alleluia, amen, behemoth, cherubim, ephod, hosanna, jubilee, leviathan, manna, messiah, pharaoh, pharisee, rabbi, sabbath, Satan, selah, seraphim, shekel, Sheol

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



Prayer Concerns

Members: the family of Arlene Luhn at her passing; Susan Rice, kidney stones; Ellen Williams, health
Family and Friends: Bob Runkles, recovering from stroke; Angela Wagner, cousin of Tina Appleton, ALS and dementia; Andrea Appleton, Billy Appleton's sister; the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.

Seniors: Betty James; Cortland "Pop" Moore; Dot Fowler; Eddie & Pauline Fowler; Janet Magruder; Joe & Mary Yates; Linda Roberts; Margie Stream; Ollie Baumbaugh; Ralph Cooley; Rebecca Umstead
Cancer patients: Billy Appleton, 18 months of remission; Jack Cooley, bone cancer; Pat Luhn, breast cancer; Kitty Cooley

Missions: Montgomery Baptist Association leaders Dr. Ron Blankenship and Rev. Michael Mattar; BCM/D Executive Director Tom Stolle and staff; NAMB and IMB missionaries; church planters in MD/DE; Grace Baptist Church in Davao City, Philippines; King of Glory Church in Pakistan; MBA-sponsored church plant Hope Fellowship Church in Ashburn, VA



*"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)

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in November:

- No new motions were offered during the Nov. 2023 business meeting.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Cmte. will offer a motion to approve its recommended 2024 Church budget of \$209,952, down \$7,470 from the 2023 adjusted budget of \$217,422.
- The Pastor and Deacons will present the membership application of Donna Belcher, who was baptized on Aug. 20, for approval by the Church.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"No no no! There were no reindeer at the manger!
They came later... with the wise men!"

Hebrew Terms in the Bible Scramble Answers

1. **Q** (Mark 14:36); 2. **H** (Revelation 19:1); 3. **B** (Numbers 5:22); 4. **R** (Job 40:15); 5. **P** (Genesis 3:24); 6. **E** (Exodus 28:6); 7. **A** (Matthew 21:9); 8. **D** (Leviticus 25:9); 9. **T** (Isaiah 27:1); 10. **N** (Exodus 16:15,31); 11. **S** (John 4:25); 12. **O** (Genesis 41:46); 13. **M** (Luke 11:42); 14. **F** (John 1:38); 15. **C** (Exodus 16:23); 16. **J** (Zechariah 3:1); 17. **L** (Psalm 3:2); 18. **I** (Isaiah 6:6); 19. **K** (Genesis 23:16); 20. **G** (Psalm 116:3).



News You Can Use

Celebrating Christmas. We are excited to have a full schedule of worship and fellowship activities to celebrate the birth of our Savior for the Christmas 2023 season. The festivities start straight away on Sunday, Dec. 3, when the Church Christmas Dinner will be held at St. Mary's Pavilion at 4:00 pm. Those who have RSVPed should bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. On Sunday, Dec. 10, the children will have a birthday party for Jesus after the morning service. The Baptist Men will prepare their Christmas gifts for the BBC children during their monthly breakfast meeting on Saturday, Dec. 16. Gift bags for Spring Arbor seniors and Care Net families are due on Sunday, Dec. 17, when the "Mary, Did You Know?" Christmas Cantata will be performed. On Sunday, Dec. 24, in addition to the regular morning worship service, the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 6:00 pm. There will be no Wednesday Night Bible Study on Dec. 27.



Captain Lawrence "LT" Tyler sang during the Sunday service on Oct. 29

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$2,000. Dec. 3-10 is the week of prayer for the 2023 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. We and the International Mission Board are able to send out more than 3,500 missionaries to share the Gospel around the world. The national goal is \$200 million; BBC's is \$2,000. In 2022, thanks to IMB missionaries, 728,589

people heard the gospel; 178,177 new believers were saved; and 21,231 new churches were started. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions.

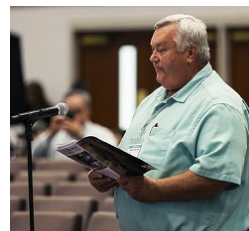


The Adult Choir and the BBC children sang "We Give Thanks to You, O Lord" on Sunday, Nov. 19 to celebrate Thanksgiving

Arlene Luhn, 1933-2023. We regret to announce the passing of our sister in Christ and BBC member Arlene Luhn, on Nov. 22 at age 90. We extend sympathies and prayers to Ellen & Ed Williams, Laura Luhn Hiatt, granddaughters Megan McCall and Lara Saylor, and their families at this time. Services will be held at BBC on Friday, Dec. 22 at 11:00 am.



BCM/D annual meeting report. BBC messengers Danny Moore and Lee Michael attended the 187th Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware annual meeting on Nov. 10-11 at Kettering Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro, MD. BCM/D Executive Director Tom Stolle



Pastor Danny Moore nominated MBA Director of Missions Ron Blankenship to serve as BCM/D First Vice President

emphasized and discussed his pillars of ministry in his address, which are: moving members to missionaries, disability care and community, poverty ministry, BCM/D Ready (natural and social disaster ministry), and gospel-centered mental health. Rev. Fred Caudle, the Potomac Baptist Association Director of Missions, was elected BCM/D president and a \$7.12 million annual budget was adopted, retaining 63% of

Cooperative Program receipts for BCM/D priorities. Messengers finalized approval of a constitutional change requiring churches to take steps to protect children and vulnerable adults as a requirement for BCM/D affiliation. BBC Pastor Danny Moore was selected to serve on the General Mission Board.

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. Sizes and prices are 6" for \$13, 7" for \$20, 8" for \$32, and 10" for \$42.



Noah Arthur sang several hymns during the Thanksgiving Eve service and Rev. Michael Thomas was our special guest singer and speaker on Sunday, Nov. 26