



# 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 Searchlight

As we head into March, we start to see many changes. Winter turns to spring, we move our clocks forward for Daylight Savings Time, and for those of us who like baseball, a new season. As for Barnesville Baptist Church, we are also moving into a new season of life. We thank Pastor Danny & Cindy Moore for their love, friendship, and service to God and to us, and pray that God will use them in a mighty way in Damascus. But we also look forward to the opportunity to continue God's work here at BBC.

You may have noticed that the name of this column has also changed, from "The Pastor's Spotlight" to "The Pastor Searchlight". We will use this section to keep you informed of the Pastor Search Committee's progress. The Committee is developing community and church Profiles that will provide pastoral candidates with information about us. We will be updating parts of the church website as that may be the first place a candidate might visit. We are also preparing a survey for the congregation to complete to help identify what the church is looking for in a pastor.

You may ask, what else can I do to help with this process? Along with completing the congregational survey, the most important thing we all can do is pray. Pray for our congregation, pray for each other, and pray for unity within the church. Pray that God will provide the resources for us to continue to do God's work during this transition. Pray for the Pastor Search Committee. Pray for patience, wisdom, and willingness to focus on God's will and His calling of the next pastor. Also pray for our next pastor, that he is seeking God's will and that God is preparing him to serve at BBC.

We thank God for what he has done and look forward to the blessings that God has in store for all of us.



God Bless,

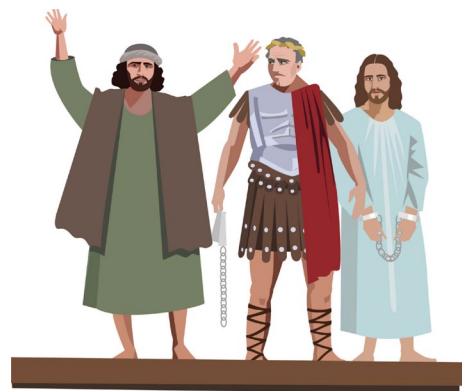
David Bennett  
Chairman of Deacons

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## Upcoming Events

- March 6** Business Meeting
- March 10** Baptist Men's Day Breakfast and Service; Deacons' Meeting
- March 23** Baptist Men's Meeting; Spring Clean-Up Day
- March 29** Good Friday Service
- March 31** Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast; Easter Cantata



*"But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus" (Matthew 27:20).*

# The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Imagine, if you will, that you are Barabbas, on the morning before Passover, in the dungeon of the Antonia Fortress in Jerusalem. You are awaiting execution by the Romans. Your cell is dark and crowded with fellow prisoners, who, like you, have committed violent crimes and rebellion against the occupying Roman authorities. *Matthew* called Barabbas a “notorious prisoner” (27:16), *Mark* said Barabbas was a rebel and a murderer (15:7), and *John* described him as a “robber” (18:40). *Luke* explained that Barabbas was in prison “...for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder” (23:19). Very little light, much less news about your fate, reaches you in the depths of the Roman citadel. Little do you know that on this Passover eve, the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, is examining a Galilean preacher who has been accused by the Jewish priests and scribes for stirring up trouble in Israel. Neither can you see that a large and unruly crowd is gathered before Pilate and the preacher from Nazareth named Jesus. But you can hear the noise of the crowd and can tell that there is anger and passion in the cry of voices that reaches your prison cell. Not every word is clear and distinct, but you can pick out the loudest chants. Suddenly, you hear your own name: “Barabbas” (*Matthew 27:21*)!

Something else is said, but it’s impossible to make out. The next refrain you hear is: “Let Him be crucified” (*Matthew 27:22*)! Panic and fear grip you. You know that your end would soon come, but not today, never on Passover. Again, there is a lull in the noise of crowd, but again they chant, “Let Him be crucified” (*Matthew 27:23*)!

The Roman guards come and drag you out of your cell, into the bright and blinding light of the day. You prepare for the end, but instead of whips and nails, you hear the most unlikely words: you have been freed!

We do not know what happened to Barabbas afterward: did he cross paths with Jesus as He was taken away to be scourged? Did Barabbas learn that the crowd was calling for him to be freed and for Jesus to be crucified? Did he even have a drop of sympathy or remorse that Jesus took his place on the Roman cross intended for him that day? Did Barabbas change his ways or did he continue a life of violence and murder?

We know that Jesus came as the substitute sacrifice for mankind, to take on the sin of the world through His suffering, crucifixion, and death. Throughout the New Testament we hear of Jesus’ sacrifice for us: in *Mark 10:45*, the Son of Man came “...to give His life a ransom for many”; in *II Corinthians 5:21*, Jesus is called “...Him who knew no sin to be sin for us...”; in *Ephesians 5:2*, we learn that Christ gave “...Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God...”; Paul reminds us in *I Timothy 1:15* that “...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”; and *John* tells us in *Revelation 13:8* that Jesus is “...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”. But even more amazing is that Jesus died just for us. Each one of us. Barabbas was the first individual for whom Jesus took undeserved punishment. It easily could have been Barabbas between the two thieves on the cross. But instead, Jesus took his place. As you reflect on the cost of Jesus’ death this Easter, remember that He came to take away your punishment, your sin. As you remember Jesus, ask Him to remember you so that you can be with Him, in Paradise (*Luke 23:42-43*).

# On the Way to the Cross Scramble

Can you match these 20 people and their roles as Jesus came to the cross? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Annas                | A. accused Peter of following Jesus    |
| 2. Barabbas             | B. witnessed Jesus’ burial             |
| 3. Caiaphas             | C. prepared Passover meal with Peter   |
| 4. centurion            | D. sent Jesus back to Pilate           |
| 5. Herod the Tetrarch   | E. one of three Marys at Jesus’ tomb   |
| 6. James                | F. called Jesus a blasphemer           |
| 7. John                 | G. first to examine Jesus              |
| 8. Joseph               | H. called Jesus righteous              |
| 9. Judas Iscariot       | I. Satan entered into him              |
| 10. Lazarus             | J. went with Jesus to Gethsemane       |
| 11. Malchus             | K. forced to carry Jesus’ cross        |
| 12. Mary                | L. his ear was cut by Peter            |
| 13. Mary Magdalene      | M. resurrected by Jesus in Bethany     |
| 14. Mary wife of Clopas | N. laid Jesus’ body in his tomb        |
| 15. Nicodemus           | O. sought to sift Peter as wheat       |
| 16. Peter               | P. taken in by John after Jesus’ death |
| 17. Pilate              | Q. asked Jesus what truth is           |
| 18. Satan               | R. promised Jesus he’d never leave     |
| 19. servant girl        | S. robber set free instead of Jesus    |
| 20. Simon of Cyrene     | T. brought 100 pounds of spices        |

# On the Way to the Cross Word Search

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

Word Bank: Annas, Barabbas, Caiaphas, centurion, Herod the Tetrarch, James, John, Joseph, Judas Iscariot, Lazarus, Malchus, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Clopas, Nicodemus, Peter, Pilate, Satan, servant girl, Simon of Cyrene

## March Birthdays

- 2 Joe Connelly
- 3 Kirk Williams
- 8 Doug Heimlich, Alannah O'Leary-Yates
- 10 Ed Williams
- 14 Barbara Swank
- 24 Janice Cole



## Prayer Concerns

Family and Friends: Sharon Keeney, sister of Donna Belcher, stroke; Bob Runkles, health; 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; Shirley Yates; Susan Rice  
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).*

## On the Way to the Cross Scramble Answers

1. G (John 18:13); 2. S (Matthew 27:21); 3. F (Matthew 26:65); 4. H (Luke 23:47); 5. D (Luke 23:11); 6. J (Matthew 26:37); 7. C (Luke 22:8); 8. N (Luke 23:53); 9. I (Luke 22:3); 10. M (John 12:1); 11. L (John 18:10); 12. P (John 19:27); 13. B (Mark 15:47); 14. E (John 19:25); 15. T (John 19:39); 16. R (Matthew 26:33); 17. Q (John 18:38); 18. O (Luke 22:31); 19. A (Matthew 26:69); 20. K (Matthew 27:32).

## Business Meeting Briefs

### Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in February:

- The Church approved the following members to serve for the remainder of the 2022-2024 term: Ellen Williams as Children's Sunday School Teacher and Children's Church Coordinator on the Education Cmte., vice Cindy Moore, resigned; and Donna Belcher as Fellowship Coordinator on the Outreach Cmte., vice Cindy Moore, resigned.
- The Church approved the following members to serve on the Pastor Search Committee: Deacons: Lee Michael (Chairman); Education: Ellen Williams; Finance: David Bennett; Outreach: Donna Belcher; Internal Administration: Larry Michael; Worship: Luke Fedders; and Congregation: Jan Burdette.
- A motion to reduce the Pastor budget line item by \$15,000 and establish a Pastoral Transition budget line item of \$15,000 was adopted.

### Expected at the March Business Meeting:

- The Nominating Cmte. will recommend the following member to serve on the Pastor Search Cmte.: Colin Ahalt for the Outreach Cmte., vice Donna Belcher, resigned.
- The Deacons will present the membership application of Stephanie Runkles, coming by statement.

## COTCD Cartoon





## News You Can Use

**Easter services.** Everyone is invited to worship, either in person or online, as we remember the crucifixion and death



*Dr. John Gauger preached Feb. 11 and 25 from Isaiah*

of our Lord on Good Friday and celebrate His resurrection on Easter Sunday. Services and activities include: Good Friday Service on Friday, Mar. 29 at 7:00 pm, Easter Sunrise Service on the BBC grounds on Sunday, Mar. 31 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. The Easter Cantata will be performed on Easter Sunday and is entitled “Is He Worthy”.

**Baptist Men’s Day.** The Baptist Men’s Day, including the churchwide breakfast and MOB choir presentation, previously scheduled for Jan. 28, will be held on Sunday, Mar. 10. Please sign up to attend the breakfast using the sheet in the vestibule by Sunday, Mar. 3.

**March preaching schedule.** The following ministers will preach during the Sunday worship services this month: on Mar. 3 is Dr. Michael Trammell, who will lead us in communion, Dr. Ron Blankenship on Mar. 10 (Baptist Men’s Day), Dr. Tim Bonner on Mar. 17, Rev. Michael Mattar on Mar. 24 (Palm Sunday), and Pastor-Rabbi Robert Pristoop on Mar. 29 (Good Friday). On Mar. 31, Deacons Lee Michael and David Bennett



*Rev. Michael Thompson preached on Feb. 18.*

will give devotionals for Easter Sunday sunrise and main worship services, respectively.

**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.

**Daylight savings time begins Mar. 10.** Set your watches and clocks forward one hour (and lose an hour of sleep) before you go to bed on Saturday, Mar. 9. Otherwise, you might miss the men-cooked breakfast for Baptist Men’s Day on the 10<sup>th</sup>!

**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 2024 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will bless the North American Mission Board’s almost 3,000 missionaries not only with our prayers, but also our financial support.

## Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®

FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

Together, we are uniquely positioned to help those missionaries make the greatest Kingdom impact. Through the month of March, we will be collecting offerings toward our 2024 goal of \$2,500; envelopes are available in each pew. The SBC-wide goal is \$75 million. Your prayerful generosity is much appreciated.

**Church clean-up day.** On Saturday, Mar. 23 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, to include cleaning surfaces, washing windows, weeding and mulching flower beds, and raking and cleaning the lawns.



*Dr. Ron Blankenship preached and led communion on Feb. 4.*

**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, \$23 for one with two blooms, and \$30 for three blooms. Please contact Kitty Cooley (301-349-5119) to place an order.

**Prayer requests.** The worship bulletin is updated weekly with prayer requests for BBC members, family and friends, and other needs. Please contact 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.

**Go paperless in 2024.** 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.