



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

On behalf of the Pastor Search Committee (PSC), we thank you for providing input through the congregation survey. Your responses will be used to help shape the way the PSC evaluates applications and interviews potential pastoral candidates.

During the month of April, the PSC will review the survey responses and create our position advertisement and application form. Our position advertisement will be sent to the MBA, BCM/D and SBC pastor search pages, as well as with the Southeastern and Southern seminaries. This will allow us to reach potential candidates throughout the region as well as graduates and alumni from the seminaries.

After receiving applications, the PSC will narrow down to candidates we believe are best matched and suited to serving at BBC and will schedule additional rounds of questions and then interviews with the most promising applicants.

Continue to pray for God's will and for patience during the pastor search process. The timing and pace of our search is ultimately in God's hands. We will continue to move ahead but we don't want to rush or skip over important steps and select the wrong person in an effort to finish sooner.

This transitional time is a good opportunity to consider how God wants you to participate in the life of BBC. What are your talents and spiritual gifts that He has blessed you with? How could you use them to serve Him here at BBC and in His Kingdom? VBS is coming in July--how might you volunteer to help in our largest evangelistic outreach of the year?

Please pray for unity within the church and that God will continue to provide support for the church during our transition. Also pray for the PSC for wisdom and guidance as we move through the process. Also pray for our next pastor. Pray that God is preparing him now to receive God's call to service here at BBC.



God Bless,

David Bennett
Chairman of Deacons

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Upcoming Events

April 3 Business Meeting, 7:15 pm
April 20 Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
April 22 Deacons' Meeting, 7:00 pm
April 28 VBS Planning Meeting, 12:15 pm



"When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive." (Luke 24:23).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Many Gospel accounts are about people who joyfully believed in Jesus: those whom He healed of terrible diseases, delivered from demon possession, and gave hope and forgiveness. It is easy to understand why they believed in Jesus and accepted His claims to divinity. But there are also those whose road to faith in Christ was much more difficult, who finally accepted that Jesus is Lord not because they wanted to, but because the fact that Jesus was the Son of God could not be denied.

Among those who were not easily impressed by Jesus were His own earthly brothers, the sons of Joseph & Mary. Just as the sons of Isaac were jealous of and hated their younger brother Joseph, it is easy to imagine that Jesus' younger siblings resented their literally holier-than-thou oldest brother. Jesus was the perfect sibling who never did anything wrong, who was never scolded or disciplined by his parents, and who was constantly held up as a role model of morality and correct behavior. And at the age of 30, Jesus stopped supporting His widowed mother to become a traveling religious teacher and started claiming to be the Son of God and a miracle worker. It's no wonder that Jesus' brothers considered Him weird at best and insane at worst.

The Gospels record three times how Jesus' brothers rejected Him and His message. In *Mark 3:21*, they questioned Jesus' mental health: *"But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, 'He is out of His mind'".* Again in *Mark 6:3-4*, Jesus' neighbors and relatives in Nazareth rejected Jesus, saying, *"Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us? So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house'".* According to *John 7:1-5*, Jesus' siblings were so hostile that they urged Him to go into Judea where they knew His enemies sought to kill Jesus: *"After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. His brothers therefore said to Him, 'Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.' For even His brothers did not believe in Him".* Again, the parallel between Jesus' brothers and Joseph's brothers is striking: both sets of siblings were so enraged at their brother that they would say or do anything to get rid of him forever.

Jesus' siblings were conspicuously absent at His death. Jesus, dying upon the cross, entrusted His widowed mother Mary to His apostle John, the only follower who had not abandoned Him (*John 19:26-27*). There was no time or opportunity to seek out His relatives in Nazareth, so Jesus put His mother's welfare into the hands of a close friend because His family members were nowhere to be found. Indeed, the four Gospels close with no further mention of Jesus' siblings.

And yet, we find in *Acts 1:14* that the entire family is assembled together with the apostles and the rest of Jesus' followers in the Upper Room, waiting for the Holy Spirit to

Continued on page 4, column 2

After the Resurrection Scramble

Can you match these 20 people and places and their roles after Jesus' resurrection? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 2.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. angel of the Lord | A. met Jesus in Galilee |
| 2. Barsabas | B. where Jesus ascended |
| 3. beloved disciple | C. where Jesus prepared breakfast |
| 4. brothers of Jesus | D. were with believers in upper room |
| 5. chief priests | E. walked with Jesus to Emmaus |
| 6. Cleopas | F. purchased field where he died |
| 7. Emmaus | G. bribed guards to lie about tomb |
| 8. guards | H. brought spices on Sunday morning |
| 9. Holy Spirit | I. rolled back stone from tomb |
| 10. Jerusalem | J. examined Jesus' linen cloths |
| 11. Judas | K. where apostles waited for Holy Spirit |
| 12. Mary Magdalene | L. promised by Jesus to apostles |
| 13. Matthias | M. frightened by angel at tomb |
| 14. Mount Olivet | N. questioned thrice by Jesus |
| 15. Sea of Tiberias | O. chosen to replace Judas |
| 16. Simon Peter | P. outran Peter to Jesus' tomb |
| 17. son of Jonah | Q. thought Jesus was a gardener |
| 18. the eleven | R. where Jesus dined with two disciples |
| 19. Thomas | S. candidate for apostleship |
| 20. women | T. felt Jesus' wounds |

After the Resurrection Word Search

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

Word Bank: angel of the Lord, Barsabas, beloved disciple, brothers of Jesus, chief priests, Cleopas, Emmaus, guards, Holy Spirit, Jerusalem, Judas, Mary Magdalene, Matthias, Mount Olivet, Sea of Tiberias, Simon Peter, son of Jonah, the eleven, Thomas, women

April Birthdays

- 4 Ralph Wright
- 13 Lacey Williams
- 15 Dot Fowler
- 23 Cortland "Pop" Moore
- 29 Zack Fedders



Prayer Concerns

Members: the family of Rebecca Umstead at her passing
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 Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.
Seniors: Cortland "Pop" Moore; Dot Fowler; Eddie & Pauline Fowler; Janet Magruder; Linda Roberts; Margie Stream; Ollie Baumbaugh; Ralph Cooley; Shirley Yates; Susan Rice
Cancer patients: Billy Appleton, 18 months of remission; Jack Cooley, bone cancer; Pat Luhn, breast cancer; Kitty Cooley
Missions: MBA 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).

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Well, to be honest, from your radio sermons, I was expecting you to look a little more mature pastor..."

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in March:

- The Church approved Colin Ahalt serving on the Pastor Search Cmte. for the Outreach Cmte., vice Donna Belcher, resigned.
- The Church approved the membership application of Stephanie Runkles, coming by statement.

Expected at the April Business Meeting:

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the April 2024 Business Meeting.

The Pew Perspective, continued

descend upon them as promised by Christ: *"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."* What happened between the contempt and hatred for their brother found in the Gospels and the display of faith and obedience at the beginning of Acts?

We must turn to Paul for the answer, who recorded an early statement of faith in the resurrected Christ recorded in *I Corinthians 15:3-8*: among those who saw Jesus risen from the dead was **James**, listed as an eyewitness to the resurrection along with Peter, the apostles, and Paul himself. We aren't given much detail about James or his brothers, but his encounter with the risen Christ completely transformed his life. Indeed, both James and Jude wrote New Testament epistles. James began his by describing himself not as Jesus' brother but as *"...a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ..."* (*James 1:1*), as did Jude, who called himself *"...a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James..."*. Jesus was no longer their strange older brother, He was eternal God in the flesh, their Lord and Savior.

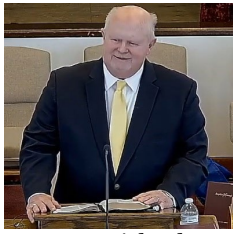
The radical change in James' and Jude's lifelong attitude toward Jesus is important for us because they were least likely to accept Jesus, having grown up with a bias against Him. Only the undeniable evidence of the resurrection could melt their hearts and send them on a path of worship and devotion. James was described in later life by Paul in *Galatians 2:9* as a pillar of the Jerusalem church. Much like Paul's own journey of faith, James' and Jude's path to belief in Jesus was hard-won and shows us that historical truth of the resurrection can change hearts, minds, and lives for eternity.

After the Resurrection Scramble Answers

1. **I** (*Matthew 28:2*); 2. **S** (*Acts 1:23*); 3. **P** (*John 20:5*); 4. **D** (*Acts 1:14*); 5. **G** (*Matthew 28:11*); 6. **E** (*Luke 24:18*); 7. **R** (*Luke 24:42*); 8. **M** (*Matthew 28:4*); 9. **L** (*Luke 24:49*); 10. **K** (*Acts 1:4*); 11. **F** (*Acts 1:18*); 12. **Q** (*John 20:15*); 13. **O** (*Acts 1:26*); 14. **B** (*Acts 1:12*); 15. **C** (*John 21:12*); 16. **J** (*John 20:6*); 17. **N** (*John 21:17*); 18. **A** (*Matthew 28:16*); 19. **T** (*John 20:27*); 20. **H** (*Luke 24:1*).

News You Can Use

April preaching schedule. The following ministers will preach during the Sunday worship services this month: on Apr. 7 and 14 we will again have Dr. Michael Trammell in the pulpit, who will lead us in communion on the 7th, and BMC/D Executive Director Rev. Tom Stolle will speak to us on Apr. 28. We will have a special musical presentation on Apr. 21, a quartet of National Christian Choir members: Don Donnevant, Gary Cooley, Vera Campbell, and Joi Hilton.



Dr. Michael Trammell preached on "change" based on John 20:19-28 and led communion on Mar. 3.

2024 goal of \$2,500 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering with a collection of \$1,815. So far, 45% (\$815) has come from individual gifts and 55% (\$1,000) is supported by the church budget line item for Cooperative Program offerings. 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



Dr. Tim Bonner asked "Does Your Temple Need Cleaning"? using I Corinthians 6:19-20 on Mar. 17.

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 missionaries with our prayers and financial support. Together, we are uniquely positioned to help those missionaries make the greatest Kingdom impact.

Wednesday Night Bible Study. Deacon Lee Michael is teaching on "the Resurrection of Jesus Christ" on Wednesday nights at 7:00. Now is a great time to join this midweek prayer time and Bible study.



On Mar. 10, the MOB Choir sang "Down to the River" and "Fishers of Men".



For Baptist Men's Day (Mar. 10), Dr. Ron Blankenship preached on "Taking Wrong Turns in Life" from John 4:1-42.



Rev. Michael Mattar's Palm Sunday sermon "We Were There in the Crowd" was based on Matthew 21:1-11.

Rebecca Umstead, 1922-2024. We regret to announce the passing of our sister in Christ and BBC member Rebecca Umstead on Mar. 17 at age 101. Rebecca was baptized on Dec. 4, 1932, making her BBC membership the longest-ever at 91 years, three months, and 26 days. We extend sympathies to and prayers to Rebecca's niece Jan Burdette and the extended Lillard and Umstead families at this time. Services will be held at a later date; an obituary is posted on the Hilton Funeral Home website.



VBS 2023 dates set. On Sunday, Apr. 28, 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. 8-12. This year's theme is "Breaker Rock Beach". Kids will be challenged as they discover that God's truth never changes, everyone needs Jesus, and learn to speak the truth in love. Please begin praying for this most important outreach event of the year.



The Choir sang "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" for their Palm Sunday Call to Worship, accompanied by Sheryl Roff on the bell tree.

Easter lilies. Flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter were donated in memory of loved ones by the following people: Gary & Jan Burdette (Bill & Helen Burdette, Bob & Margery Lillard, Becky Umstead, Nancy Gallo, and Amy Riggs); David & Ann Bennett (Carroll & Laura Bennett and Jean Noland); Jack & Kitty Cooley (Jack & Nellie Cooley and Carson & Dorothy Ward); Luke & Lisa Fedders & family (Doug Cooley and John Michael Fedders); Sandra Oden and Mary Ann Luhn (Tod & June Luhn); Dan & Shirley Yates (Earl & Virginia Shreve, Earl T. Shreve, and Lark & Ann Yates); and Joe & Mary Yates (Lark & Ann Yates, Hazel Ward, and Bruce Benson).



Rabbi-Pastor Robert Pristoop led Good Friday worship and served communion on Mar. 29