



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

The BBC Pastor Search Committee (PSC) is pleased to announce that our application for the position of pastor is now published; we are accepting responses from candidates through June 15. The position notice has been posted on our Facebook page and shared with the Montgomery Baptist Association, the BCM/D, and the SBC, who have included our position notice in their newsletters and/or job search pages. We have also sent the position notice to the SBC's Southern and Southeastern seminaries and Liberty University.

While we are receiving applications, the PSC is developing an application evaluation form as a tool to grade each candidate's entry consistently as we review the applications. The PSC will also be preparing additional questions to ask as we further narrow down the list of candidates to those we will interview in person.

We would ask each member of the BBC family to pray over our pastor search process. Please lift up the following:

1. That God is leading the right man to BBC to be our next pastor;
2. That God would direct our future pastor to fill out the application;
3. That God has been preparing the right man all along to be an effective preacher, teacher, and shepherd for the BBC congregation and community;
4. That God would lead the Pastor Search Committee through the interview process to recognize His choice for pastor;
5. That the membership of BBC would support and affirm the choice of pastor that God will set before us; and
6. That God would receive all the glory and honor as our next pastor leads us to serve Him and share His gospel.

The Deacons appreciate your continued prayer support for the pastor search process and for the continuing ministry of BBC.



God Bless,

David Bennett
Chairman of Deacons

In This Edition:

- The Pastor Searchlight, Page 1
- Upcoming Events, Page 1
- The Pew Perspective, Page 2
- Biblical Symbols #3 Scramble and Word Search, Page 2
- May Birthdays, Page 3
- Prayer Concerns, Page 3
- Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
- Biblical Symbols #3 Scramble Answers, Page 3
- News You Can Use, Page 4
- COTCD Cartoon, Page 4
- May 2024 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

- May 1** Business Meeting
- May 2** National Day of Prayer
- May 12** Mother's Day
- May 25** Baptist Men's Meeting
- May 27** Memorial Day
- May 28** Deacons' Meeting



"In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, and all the night with a light of fire" (Psalm 78:14).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

What happened to the Apostle Paul after his conversion? The account of what happened to the former Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus and how he encountered the resurrected Christ is found in *Acts* 9, but there is a break in the timeline between verses 22 and 23. Paul fills in the gap about his earliest years as a Christian in his epistle to the Galatians, where he explained his three-year stay in the wilderness of Arabia. *“I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus”* (*Galatians 1:16-17*). Paul was instructed in the gospel message during his time in the Arabian desert. *Galatians 1:12* reads, *“For I neither received [the gospel] from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ”*. In the absence of any human teacher, Paul’s time of preparation was either based on direct revelation by Christ, or by careful study of the (Old Testament) scriptures, or perhaps a combination of both. It is interesting that Paul spent three years in preparation for ministry, just as Jesus taught the apostles for three years. In any case, when Paul completed his time alone, he went to Jerusalem to see the other eyewitnesses of Jesus’ resurrection.

In *Galatians 1:18*, Paul explained how he visited Jerusalem to conduct an investigation of the gospel with Peter, the chief apostle, and with James, the head pastor of the Jerusalem church: *“Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother”*. Paul wanted to verify that everything he had experienced and been taught about Jesus was the same as that believed by His main followers. After that meeting of three eyewitnesses to the resurrection, it is likely that *I Corinthians 15:3-7* was the result. The parallels between the wording of the *I Corinthians* passage and Paul’s visit with Peter and James recorded in Galatians are compelling. It is significant that Paul explained to the Corinthians that those verses weren’t from him, but something he was taught and was in turn passing down to them: *“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received...”* (*I Corinthians 15:3*). Paul’s visit to Jerusalem was an obvious opportunity for Peter and James to share with Paul one of the earliest Christian teachings about the resurrection of Christ. The *I Corinthians* passage also ties the key facts of the gospel message--Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection--to the (Old Testament) Scriptures, which was a point of emphasis for Peter in his early *Acts* sermons. Finally, of the 514 eyewitnesses to Christ’s resurrection identified in that passage, only three are named: Peter (“Cephas”), James, and Paul (“me”), the same men who were part of the *Galatians 1* meeting.

Paul’s careful investigation of the facts of the resurrection was not just the thorough research of a highly-trained religious scholar. As Paul wrote just a few verses after, *“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty”* (*I Corinthians 15:14*). Paul wanted to know that what he experienced on the Damascus road so many years before matched up with scripture and was agreed with by other eyewitnesses. As we know, Paul spent the rest of his life

continued on page 4, column 2

Biblical Symbols #3 Scramble

Can you match these 20 symbols in the Bible with their meanings? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. broken jar | A. fierce adversaries |
| 2. bull | B. spiritual need |
| 3. cloud and fire | C. peace |
| 4. covered heads | D. wisdom |
| 5. donkey | E. God’s ministers |
| 6. dry bones | F. anger and sorrow |
| 7. horse | G. Christ’s sacrifice |
| 8. lamb | H. God’s voice |
| 9. lifted hands | I. judgment |
| 10. locusts | J. Jerusalem’s destruction |
| 11. rock | K. war |
| 12. serpent | L. innocence |
| 13. shaking off dust | M. stability |
| 14. spitting | N. spiritual death |
| 15. stars | O. contempt |
| 16. thirst | P. prayer |
| 17. torn garments | Q. God’s guidance |
| 18. trumpets | R. rejection |
| 19. washed hands | S. Satan’s subtlety |
| 20. white hair | T. submission |

Biblical Symbols #3 Word Search

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

Word Bank: broken jar, bull, cloud and fire, covered heads, donkey, dry bones, horse, lamb, lifted hands, locusts, rock, serpent, shaking off dust, spitting, stars, thirst, torn garments, trumpets, washed hands, white hair

May Birthdays

12 Lara Saylor
14 John Beach
15 Eddie Fowler
24 Bobbi Comert, Wade Williams
28 Paul Foster
30 Sandy Gilliam, Susan Rice



Prayer Concerns

Members: Margie Stream, out of the hospital; Karen Hazzard, broken wrist; Linda Roberts, recovering at Shady Grove Hospital ICU

Family and Friends: Cindy, Joe Yates' niece, eyesight improving; Luke Fedders' father, recovering from surgery; Suzanne Neal, recovering from cataract surgery; 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: Barbara Swank; Cortland "Pop" Moore; Dot Fowler; Eddie & Pauline Fowler; Janet Magruder; 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).

Biblical Symbols #3 Scramble Answers

1. **J** (Jeremiah 19:10-11); 2. **A** (Psalm 22:12); 3. **Q** (Exodus 13:21); 4. **T** (I Corinthians 11:3-10); 5. **C** (Zechariah 9:9); 6. **N** (Ezekiel 37:1-2); 7. **K** (Ezekiel 23:24); 8. **G** (Revelation 5:6); 9. **P** (I Timothy 2:8); 10. **I** (Joel 1:4); 11. **M** (Psalm 18:2); 12. **S** (Genesis 3:1); 13. **R** (Luke 9:5); 14. **O** (Mark 14:65); 15. **E** (Revelation 1:20); 16. **B** (John 7:37); 17. **F** (Joseph 7:6); 18. **H** (Exodus 19:19); 19. **L** (Matthew 27:24); 20. **D** (Daniel 7:9).

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in April:

- No new motions were offered during the April 2024 business meeting.

Expected at the May Business Meeting:

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

The Pew Perspective, continued

preaching the gospel, so it makes sense that he wanted to verify as much as possible everything he believed and taught others.

Paul repeated his investigation of the gospel 14 years later in a return trip to Jerusalem (*Galatians 2:1*), meeting again with Peter and James, as well as with John (*2:9*), whom Paul described as "pillars" of the church (*Galatians 2:9*). Indeed, Peter and John were among the top three of Jesus' 12 disciples (*Matthew 17:1, Mark 5:37*) and James the brother of Jesus was also a senior leader in the Jerusalem church (*Acts 12:17*). By the time of Paul's second visit to the apostles, strong debates about whether Gentile Christians needed to follow Jewish law were brewing. Paul, having been away from the apostles for a long time, again wanted to ensure that His gospel message about only needing to believe in Christ and not relying on circumcision as a requirement for salvation (*Acts 15*). Having explained his preaching to the apostles (*Galatians 2:2*), they "...added nothing to me" (*Galatians 2:6*), that is, the apostles had no corrections or additions for Paul and his preaching of the gospel. Indeed, in *Acts 15:25-26*, the apostles sent out a letter to all the churches describing Paul as a valued gospel preacher: "...our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ". Paul's instruction in the gospel that he first received in Arabia was still correct and true to the teaching of Christ's apostles.

For us as followers of Christ 20 centuries afterwards, the testimonies of those who knew Christ best are important evidences for our faith. Paul and James, Jesus' brother, started out as strong opponents of Jesus, rejecting His claims to be the Son of God. Yet both of them turned into devoted supporters of Christ and leaders of the early Christian church. What turned both of them around is the undeniable proof they encountered of the resurrected Christ. We too come to faith in Christ in much the same way. We can read and research as much as we can about Jesus, but our faith in Him ultimately comes down to our personal experience with God reaching out and down to us to touch our hearts. Just like Paul, James, and the other early Christians, we believe in the resurrected Christ because we have experienced Him as well.

News You Can Use

May preaching schedule. The following ministers will preach during the Sunday worship services during the month of May: On May 5, former BBC pastor Randy Gilliam will preach and serve communion; Rev. Mark Adams will share a message from God's Word on May 12; and Dr. John Gauger will speak from the pulpit on May 26. Special musical guest Wynn Roos will play the harp during the service on Sunday, May 19.



Dr. Michael Trammell preached on Apr. 7 and 14

Creek baptism. Claude Belcher will be baptized in the creek at Roy Leibrand's home on Saturday, May 4 at 10:00 am. Our former pastor Danny Moore will officiate. All BBC members are invited to attend the baptism in person. A video of the baptism will be recorded and played during the Sunday service at BBC on May 5.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. As of press time, BBC was 88% toward its 2024 goal of \$2,500 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering with a collection of \$2,205. So far, 55% (\$1,205) has come from individual gifts and 45% (\$1,000) is supported by the church budget line item for Cooperative Program offerings.



On Apr. 21, a quartet of National Christian Choir members--Don Dunnevant, Gary Cooley, Vera Campbell, and Joi Hilton--led in worship through music and song.

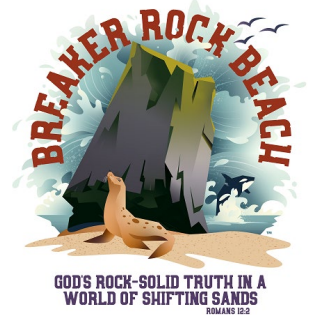
Offerings will be taken until the end of April. Your prayerful generosity will be much appreciated and used to share the gospel across the United States and Canada.

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.

National Day of Prayer on May 2. The National Day of Prayer is a time for Americans to pray for our country and ask for God's blessings and guidance. Take some time on the 2nd to pray for your family and friends, our community and nation, and our church family. Ask the Lord for His blessings and guidance that we may draw closer to Him.

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.

VBS 2024 dates set. On Sunday, Apr. 28, a planning meeting for Vacation Bible School (VBS) 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. Please see VBS Director Tina Appleton to volunteer as a teacher or worker.



Easter 2024. Jesus' resurrection was celebrated on Sunday, Mar. 31 during two Easter morning services. At sunrise,



Deacon Lee Michael led early risers in a time of celebration out on the east parking lot. The spirit of worship was complemented by a beautiful sunrise scene. During the 10:45 am service, the Easter Cantata "Is He Worthy?" capped the worship hour. With Choir Director Nita Roff conducting and Jan Burdette on the piano, the choir composed of Suzanne Neal, Megan McCall, Karen Hazzard, Gary Cooley, Ed Williams, David Bennett, Ann Bennett, and Linda Roberts sang. Luke Fedders served as Audio-Visual Technician and Lee Michael narrated. Deacon David Bennett concluded the service with a short devotional.



COTCD Cartoon

Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



"Look Howard, I've tried to be sensitive to your fear of water, but sooner or later a baptism gets you wet..."