



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 Jun. 15, we reached our initial deadline to receive applications for pastor. While we are still open to accepting new applications, we are focusing on reviewing the applications and resumes that have been received. This is one of the most important times in the process, one where we need to continue to be strong in prayer and discernment. We also need to be open to listen to God and follow His leading. *Jeremiah 33:3* says “*Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and wondrous things you do not know*”.

As we pray over and evaluate the applicants, we are applying what we learned during the first several months of the search. We are evaluating the applicants based on God’s Word and the qualifications for pastor outlined in *I Timothy 3:1-7*. We are looking to see if the candidates match the qualities that you prioritized in the congregational survey. We are using an evaluation form to review and rank each applicant as we discuss the merits of each one. We are also refining our follow-up questions for the next phase of the process.

Having served on the Pastor Search Committee in 2000-2001, I have noticed that though the process steps are still the same, some of the methods have changed. With email and online applications, correspondence is faster than receiving resumes and sending responses by mail. With the internet, social media, and online videos of church services, there is more easily accessible information available to review for potential candidates. Although some things have changed, I also noticed that the truly important things have not changed. Prayer and listening to God’s call is still paramount. The qualifications and type of pastor we want have not changed and ultimately the decision to call a pastor will be made based on face-to-face meetings both with the committee and ultimately the church.



God Bless,

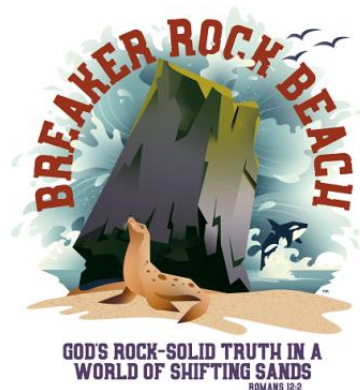
David Bennett
Chairman of Deacons

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Upcoming Events

- July 3** July Business Meeting
- July 4** Independence Day
- July 7** VBS Set-Up
- July 8-12** Vacation Bible School, 6:30-8:30 pm
- July 20** Men’s Breakfast
- July 23** Seniors’ Luncheon
- July 29** Deacons’ Meeting



“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. A walk straight from Egypt to the Promised Land would have only taken 11 days, so their time spent getting to Canaan was not a problem of geography or navigation. According to *Hebrews 3*, Israel spent four decades stuck between their past and their future because they would not trust God nor listen to His Word. Speaking to first-century Christians, the author of *Hebrews* quoted *Psalm 95:8-9* to warn believers of the perils of hardening their hearts to God's voice: "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, when your fathers tested Me; they tried Me, though they saw My work".

The generation that Moses led out of Egypt witnessed miracle after miracle. Almighty God brought down the most powerful nation in the world with plague after plague to free Israel from the yoke of Egyptian slavery. He brought them through the Red Sea and forged a covenant with them at Mount Sinai. And yet, those people who were the beneficiaries of such amazing blessings and were regular eyewitnesses to God's power so easily fell into idolatry and complaining. It is even more shocking to consider that their doubt and defiance took place with God's constant presence before them. As it says in *Exodus 13:21*, "...the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night", never departing from them. To rebel against Moses, God's appointed leader with a visible sign of the Lord's presence over them day and night is hard to fathom. That the Lord tolerated their defiance and rejection as long as He did is a sign of His mercy and grace. But finally, the Lord would not let such hard-hearted people into the Promised Land and would wait for the next generation to take their place: "For forty years I was grieved with that generation, and said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts, and they do not know My ways.' So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest'" (*Psalm 95:10-11*).

Taking that first generation of freed Hebrew slaves as a cautionary tale, the author of *Hebrews* issued an invitation to Christians: take heed and believe before it's too late to partake of what God has in store for you. "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God" (*Hebrews 3:12*). God had plans to bless His people, having already gone to such great and miraculous steps to free them. Yet their stubborn refusal to trust God and follow Him meant that they had forfeited their inheritance, which would be given to their children instead. God didn't leave His chosen people or forsake them in the wilderness, but He never brought them out of the wilderness until those doubting and defiant people had all died.

To avoid that literal dead-end path, the author issued an instruction: exhort one another daily to follow Christ before your hearts become hard and insensitive to God. Moses had so few people on his side while leading the children of Israel. Joshua and Caleb were famously allied with Moses and trusted God, but even Moses' own siblings, Aaron and Miriam, were found to challenge his leadership and authority to the point that God gave Miriam leprosy for a week and Aaron built a

continued on page 3, column 2

Wilderness Wanderings Scramble

Can you match these 20 people or things from Israel's wilderness wanderings after leaving Egypt? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Aaron | A. waters stopped for Israel's crossing |
| 2. Angel of God | B. punishment for Miriam's rebellion |
| 3. Balaam | C. defeated Amalek with raised hands |
| 4. bitter | D. opened dry path through sea |
| 5. bronze snake | E. Moses' shined after being near God |
| 6. chariots | F. cured snakebite by sight |
| 7. cloud and fire | G. led Israel through wilderness |
| 8. face | H. his rod blossomed |
| 9. golden calf | I. brought water out of rock |
| 10. Jordan | J. provided when people tired of manna |
| 11. Korah | K. swallowed up by the earth |
| 12. leprosy | L. didn't wear out in 40 years |
| 13. manna | M. God engraved His law on two |
| 14. Moses | N. spoken to by smarter donkey |
| 15. quail | O. mountain where God met Israel |
| 16. rod | P. idol made by Aaron |
| 17. sandals | Q. wheels came off |
| 18. Sinai | R. daily bread from heaven |
| 19. strong wind | S. guiding pillar by day and night |
| 20. tablets | T. waters at Marah made sweet |

Wilderness Wanderings Word Search

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

Word Bank: Aaron, Angel of God, Balaam, bitter, bronze snake, chariots, cloud and fire, face, golden calf, Jordan, Korah, leprosy, manna, Moses, quail, rod, sandals, Sinai, strong wind, tablets

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in June:

- The Church approved the membership transfer of Cindy Moore to First Baptist Church of Damascus.

Expected at the July Business Meeting:

- A motion will be made to call for the Standing Committees to authorize Church officer and committee positions for the 2024-2026 term.

July Birthdays

11 Megan McCall
12 Maggie Leibrand
14 Penny Barton
23 Mary Yates, Aleena Malik
26 Joe Yates
28 Jackie Cole



Prayer Concerns

Members: Linda Roberts, in rehabilitation; for the Lord's will and guidance as we seek our next pastor; preparations for VBS on July 8-12

Family and Friends: the family of Jim Gilliam at his passing; Jim Hogue, recovering from surgery; Morgan and Dade Pumphrey, Will Pumphrey's daughters; Joe Yates' niece Cindy, eyesight; 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; Eddie & Pauline Fowler; Janet Magruder; Ollie Baumbaugh; Ralph Cooley; Shirley Yates; Susan Rice

Cancer patients: Seneca Raines, brain cancer; Carol Sullivan, lung cancer; Glenn Norris, colon cancer; 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; King of Glory Church in Pakistan; MBA-sponsored church plant Hope Fellowship Church in Ashburn, VA

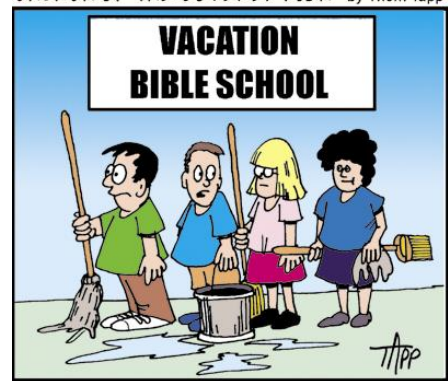
The Pew Perspective, continued

golden calf as an idol to worship. Instead, each of us should "...exhort one another daily..." (*Hebrews 3:13*) to encourage fellow believers to trust in the Lord and avoid the snares of temptation and sin. The children of Israel went into the wilderness together, not separately. They could have chosen to encourage one another through the challenges and difficulties to trust in the miracle-working God right in front of their eyes, but they did the opposite. We, as Christians, have the opportunity to lift each other up as we draw closer to the Lord, or we can tear each other down--the choice is ours to make, but one is much better than the other.

As we celebrate our national independence on July 4 and the blessings of liberty that have come with it so abundantly for almost 250 years, we must also consider where that freedom comes from. God's favor on America is neither guaranteed nor earned. We are the beneficiaries of His kindness and mercy because of His goodness, the same goodness which He showered on the children of Israel and then held back because of their refusal to trust Him. Let each of us ask, as Americans and as Christians, are we grateful recipients of the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness given to us by our Creator? Do we use our freedoms to honor God and lift up His name, or have we been spoiled with so much material comfort that we longer treat God's favor as a precious gift? *Hebrews 3* gives good advice to the patriot and to the believer: seek the Lord earnestly in all things, lest we too be left in the wilderness until a more grateful generation replaces us.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I liked our crafts time a lot better last year."



*"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).

Wilderness Wanderings Scramble Answers

1. **H** (*Numbers 17:8*); 2. **G** (*Exodus 14:19*); 3. **N** (*Numbers 22:28*); 4. **T** (*Exodus 15:23*); 5. **F** (*Numbers 21:9*); 6. **Q** (*Exodus 14:25*); 7. **S** (*Exodus 13:22*); 8. **E** (*Exodus 34:29*); 9. **P** (*Exodus 32:4*); 10. **A** (*Joshua 3:16*); 11. **K** (*Numbers 16:32*); 12. **B** (*Numbers 12:10*); 13. **R** (*Exodus 16:4*); 14. **C** (*Exodus 17:11*); 15. **J** (*Psalms 105:40*); 16. **I** (*Numbers 20:11*); 17. **L** (*Deuteronomy 29:5*); 18. **O** (*Exodus 19:11*); 19. **D** (*Exodus 14:21*); 20. **M** (*Exodus 32:16*).

News You Can Use

Dot Fowler, 1936-2024. We regret to announce the passing of our sister in Christ and BBC member Dot Fowler on Jun. 8 at age 88. Dot joined BBC in 1984 and served her Lord and her church family in many ways over the years: as a Sunday School teacher, Choir member, on the Worship and Outreach committees, and as Church Custodian. We extend sympathies to and prayers for the Fowler family at this time. The funeral service, led by former pastor Danny Moore, and a fellowship meal were held on Jun. 14.



July preaching schedule. The following minister will preach during the Sunday worship services during the month of July: Dr. Michael Trammell. Dr. Trammell is scheduled to share God's Word with us each week through the first Sunday of August. He and his wife Pam will also be attending VBS on Jul. 8-12 to meet and greet the children and their families each evening.



Rev. Mark Dooley, associate executive director of the BCM/D, preached from Luke 15 on Jun. 16

Creek baptism held. Claude Belcher was baptized in the creek at Roy Leibrand's home in nearby Dickerson, MD on Saturday, Jun. 22. Former pastor Danny Moore, assisted by Deacon Luke Fedders, participated in the service. A video of the baptism was recorded and played during the Sunday service at BBC on Jun. 23 and is available on our YouTube and Facebook pages.



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

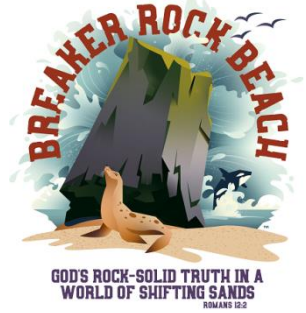


The Church Picnic on Jun. 2 was a time of great fellowship and good food.

the BBC email list for more timely needs.

Please contact the Church Office by Wednesdays at 6:00 pm to have your request included in the following Sunday's bulletin. Prayer requests can also be sent out on

VBS 2024 coming soon. Set-up and a final planning meeting for Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held on Sunday, Jul. 7 in the Fellowship Hall after worship, with lunch provided for VBS teachers and workers. This year's theme for our Jul. 8-12 VBS 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.



Register online for classes at barnesvillebaptist.org/vbs. Invite your friends, family, and neighborhood kids to join us. Classes are available from Pre-K to Adults. VBS is arguably our church's most important annual outreach activity; please join us in serving the Lord and building His Kingdom. This year's VBS offering will again be sent to the King of Glory Church in Pakistan to buy school supplies for the children. Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve as teachers and helpers in the areas of crafts, recreation, and snack. Please begin praying for this most important outreach event of the year.

Museum trip. BBC is hosting a return visit to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC on Saturday, Aug. 17. Round-trip transportation from BBC will be available, departing at 8:45 am. Purchase your tickets ahead of time online at museumofthebible.org. An early dinner will be held at Clyde's Tower Oaks Lodge in Rockville following the museum visit. RSVP to the Church Office by Sunday, Jul. 28.



Seniors' lunch. Those aged 55 and over are invited to a noontime meal and time of fellowship on Tuesday, Jul. 23. Please RSVP to Mary Yates by Sunday, Jul. 14.

Condolences. James (Jim) Gilliam, brother of former pastor Randy Gilliam, passed away in Delaware on Jun. 23. Jim was baptized at BBC in 1954. A memorial service was held at BBC on Jun. 25 for Rebecca Umstead. Please pray for these families and others who have lost loved ones recently, that they may experience God's love and peace.



Former pastor Randy Gilliam preached on Jun. 2 and 23.