



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

I pray that everyone is having a great summer and is staying cool. The Pastor Search Cmte. (PSC) did not meet during VBS week, but we have been working and meeting throughout July. After reviewing the applications and resumes that were submitted, the PSC agreed to focus on one applicant and move forward with scheduling interview sessions with him. Please continue to pray for the committee and our prospective candidate.

To prepare, we started the month off by creating brief descriptions of the major functions of BBC to share during the interview sessions. We also reviewed topics and questions that we would want to ask a prospective candidate. We created an online form for references to fill out regarding applicants and have received six completed references for our candidate. All this prepared us for our first two interview sessions, via Zoom, during the last half of the month.

As we go through the next stages of the search process, we need to work with our candidate and accommodate his various commitments and work schedule in arranging meetings and respecting his time. In August, we look forward to additional interview sessions and then an in-person visit to BBC between the candidate and his wife and the PSC. We will also need to verify employment, education and do a background check on him and his wife as we advance into the next stages of the search process.

The Deacons and the PSC members 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
Babylonian Exile Scramble and Word Search, Page 2
August Birthdays, Page 3
Prayer Concerns, Page 3
Business Meeting Briefs, Page 3
Babylonian Exile Scramble Answers, Page 3
News You Can Use, Page 4
COTCD Cartoon, Page 4
August 2024 Calendar, Page 5

Upcoming Events

August 7 August Business Meeting
August 11 Nominating Cmte. Meeting
August 15 Montgomery Baptist Tent at County Fair
August 17 Men's Breakfast
August 18 Spring Arbor Service
August 26 Deacons' Meeting



"The king spoke, saying to Daniel, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions'" (Daniel 6:20)?

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The book of Daniel covers the lives of three kings: Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon; his successor Belshazzar, and Darius, the Medo-Persian who defeated Belshazzar and took Babylon. Each of those rulers, who worshiped other gods, had to contend with the God of Israel and the faithful servants who were exiles from Judah--Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (*Daniel 1:11*). Each of them being faithful witnesses, the three kings had to admit that those Jewish exiles' God was the one true God. It is interesting how the kings described the Lord in a personal way, i.e., "the God of Daniel", rather than the God of Israel or Judah. Those pagan kings knew about and acknowledged the superiority of the Lord because of the personal witness and example of His followers.

Nebuchadnezzar is most famously known as the king who (unsuccessfully) threw Daniel's three young friends--given the pagan names of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego--into the furnace for refusing to worship his golden statue (*Daniel 3*). Nebuchadnezzar was also reduced to the state of a wild animal for seven years as a divine punishment for his pride (*Daniel 4*). After the three Jewish men were let out of the furnace, the king had to admit the unique power of their God, noting that "...there is no other God who can deliver like this" (*Daniel 3:29*). Three times Nebuchadnezzar described the Lord as the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego (*vv. 26, 28, 29*), and that He alone was worthy of worship and respect. The king's rage against the three for their defiance of his order turned to an attitude of respect for their stand.

In *Daniel 5*, the short reign and violent end of Belshazzar is recorded. Having disrespected the captured vessels of the Temple in Jerusalem for use in a drunken and profane feast, Belshazzar was judged with the original "handwriting on the wall". Daniel interpreted God's message that the days of the kingdom had been numbered, that the king himself had been weighed and found wanting, and that his kingdom would be divided in two. Belshazzar seemed to know of Daniel, but not as well as Nebuchadnezzar had, for both the queen and Daniel had to give the new king a history lesson about Daniel and the power of his God. Belshazzar had an even more severe case of pride and arrogance than his predecessor, for his judgment was more swift and final: "That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain" (*Daniel 5:30*). But even Belshazzar recognized the special abilities Daniel had because of the relationship he had with his God: "I have heard of you, that the Spirit of God is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you" (*Daniel 5:14*).

Darius the Mede, the conqueror of Babylon, kept an elderly Daniel on from the previous administration, but was deceived by jealous rivals of Daniel's into having to punish Daniel for praying to his God and not to the king by putting him into the lions' den (*Daniel 6*). Daniel's lifelong sterling

continued on page 3, column 2

Babylonian Exile Scramble

Can you match these 20 people or things from the book of *Daniel* with their descriptions? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Arioch | A. rulers of Darius' kingdom |
| 2. Ashpenaz | B. Abed-Nego |
| 3. Azariah | C. king of Judah |
| 4. Belshazzar | D. king of Persia |
| 5. Chaldeans | E. Meshach |
| 6. Cyrus | F. master of eunuchs |
| 7. Daniel | G. Greek kingdom |
| 8. Darius | H. like the Son of God |
| 9. fourth man | I. Medo-Persian kingdom |
| 10. Gabriel | J. chief prince over Israel |
| 11. goat | K. Belteshazzar |
| 12. Hananiah | L. king of Babylon |
| 13. Jehoiakim | M. captain of the king's guard |
| 14. Jeremiah | N. conquered Babylon from Belshazzar |
| 15. Medes and Persians | O. their laws could not be changed |
| 16. Michael | P. son of Nebuchadnezzar |
| 17. Mishael | Q. Shadrach |
| 18. Nebuchadnezzar | R. interpreted vision for Daniel |
| 19. ram | S. interpreters of dreams |
| 20. satraps | T. prophesied exile from Jerusalem |

Babylonian Exile Word Search

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

Word Bank: Arioch, Ashpenaz, Azariah, Belshazzar, Chaldeans, Cyrus, Daniel, Darius, fourth man, Gabriel, goat, Hananiah, Jehoiakim, Jeremiah, Medes and Persians, Michael, Mishael, Nebuchadnezzar, ram, satraps

August Birthdays

5 Suzanne Neal
11 Rick Thomas
16 Stephanie Runkles
17 Pauline Fowler
20 Bill Williams
25 Jim Gong
26 Lee Michael
28 Ann Bennett
30 Matthew Cole
31 Bob Runkles



Prayer Concerns

Members: Linda Roberts, in rehabilitation; for the Lord's will and guidance as we seek our next pastor

Family and Friends: 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: 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 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).

Babylonian Exile Scramble Answers

1. **M** (Daniel 2:14); 2. **F** (Daniel 1:3); 3. **B** (Daniel 1:7); 4. **P** (Daniel 5:2); 5. **S** (Daniel 2:4); 6. **D** (Daniel 10:1); 7. **K** (Daniel 4:8); 8. **N** (Daniel 5:31); 9. **H** (Daniel 3:25); 10. **R** (Daniel 8:16); 11. **G** (Daniel 8:21); 12. **Q** (Daniel 1:7); 13. **C** (Daniel 1:1); 14. **T** (Daniel 9:1); 15. **O** (Daniel 6:15); 16. **J** (Daniel 12:1); 17. **E** (Daniel 1:7); 18. **L** (Daniel 2:46); 19. **I** (Daniel 8:20); 20. **A** (Daniel 6:1).

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in July:

- A motion was passed to call for the Standing Committees to authorize Church officer and committee positions for the 2024-2026 term.

Expected at the August Business Meeting:

- The Church Clerk will report a joint motion providing the Standing Committees' recommendations for Church officer and committee position vacancies for the 2024-2026 term.
- The Deacons will present the membership application of Claude Belcher, who was baptized on Jun. 22, for approval by the Church.

The Pew Perspective, continued

reputation and devotion to his God was well-known among the new cast of Persian leaders who resented Daniel's supreme political position. Darius was very reluctant--"*greatly displeased with himself*" (Daniel 6:14)--to have to act against Daniel, and was slow to administer the punishment and quick to have it end. In contrast, Darius was equally quick to punish those who deceived him and accused Daniel. Like Nebuchadnezzar before him, Darius was compelled to offer praise and acknowledgement of Daniel's God for His miraculous deliverance of His faithful servant, describing Him in those personal terms: the God of Daniel. "*I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God...*" (Daniel 6:26).

For each of us as "*ambassadors for Christ*" (II Corinthians 5:20), we too have the opportunity to represent our Lord to people who have never before heard about or understood who He is and what He is like. While we may not have to endure fiery furnaces or leaping lions, our neighbors and friends will most likely come to know about Jesus as our personal God because we have told them and represented Him well.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



News You Can Use

August preaching schedule. The following ministers will preach in the Sunday worship services during the month of August:



Dr. Michael Trammell (see picture, left) will conclude his five-Sunday “Face to Face

with Jesus” preaching series on Aug. 4 and lead us in communion; Rev. Randy Gilliam will speak on Aug. 11; the Aug. 18 service will be a concert by the Charleses; and on Aug. 25, Rabbi-Pastor Robert Pristoop of Shofarel Jewish Ministries will be in the pulpit.



Dr. Tim Bonner led our Independence Day-themed service on Jun. 30.

Museum trip. BBC is hosting a return visit to the Museum



**museum
of the
Bible**

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, Aug. 4.

Seniors’ lunch. Fourteen seniors enjoyed a noontime meal of Dickerson Market fried chicken and a fun time of games and fellowship on Tuesday, Jul. 23 during our summer seniors’ appreciation luncheon. We thank the Lord for those who have done and are doing so much



Nita Roff and Pam Trammell in the foreground, enjoying lunch

in BBC’s ministry. Thanks to Stephanie Runkles, Nita Roff, and Donna Belcher for organizing the event.

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 Wednesdays at 6:00 pm to have your request included in the following Sunday’s bulletin. Prayer requests can also be sent out on the BBC email list for more timely needs.

Wednesday night Bible study. Deacon Lee Michael is in the middle of a teaching series on the Resurrection on Wednesday nights at 7:00. Now is a great time to join this Bible study and prayer service.

VBS 2024. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s “Breaker Rock Beach” Vacation Bible School on Jul. 8-12. VBS 2024 was a good time of teaching the Gospel and fellowship with new and old friends.

Registration totaled 36 with 20 children and 16 workers. Fun was had by all as students



The monarch butterfly release was a special treat during VBS week

enjoyed times of worship, Bible study, crafts, recreation, and snacks. This year’s VBS offering, which as of publication was \$1,135, will again be sent to the King of Glory Church in Pakistan to buy school supplies for the children. We appreciate everyone who volunteered to make this year’s VBS a blessing to so many children and their families. Special thanks goes to Tina Appleton for stepping up to serve as VBS Director for the first time this year.



Charleses back in concert. Winston & Bernadette Charles, who have worshipped with us several times, will be singing again during the morning worship service on Sunday, Aug. 18. They are members of the National Christian Choir.



County fair outreach. On Thursday, Aug. 15, BBC will partner with First Baptist Church of Damascus to man the Montgomery Baptist Association booth at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. Please pray over this time: contacts with people at the county fair have led to salvation decisions and baptisms, so this is a great opportunity to reach many people with the Gospel by passing out water, candy, New Testaments, and tracts.

Nominating Cmte. to meet. The first meeting of the Nominating Cmte.

will be held on Sunday, Aug. 11 in the Church Office after the service. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as the committee selects church officers and



With the heat wave at full strength, the VBS ice cream social was held in the Fellowship Hall

leaders for the 2024-2026 term. The selected candidates will be announced by mid-September and will be voted on at the annual business meeting in October.