



The Barnesville Lantern

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October 2024, Volume 23, No. 5

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

The Pastor Searchlight

I am writing today what could be the last Pastor Searchlight column for *The Lantern*. Don't be sad. Be glad if we are able to turn off the Pastor Searchlight and turn back on the Pastor Spotlight. From the moment that the Pastor Search Cmte. (PSC) was confirmed at the Feb. 2024 business meeting, the goal has been to get to where we are today, Sep. 29, 2024, the day we have a candidate—Rev. Kevin Cullins—to present to the church and vote whether to call him to be our next pastor.

All the meetings, reviewing of applications and resumes, interviews, and above all prayer by both the PSC and the whole church, led the PSC to recommend Rev. Kevin Cullins to serve as our next pastor. The news was communicated first at the September business meeting, then by email, and then from the pulpit on Sunday, Sep. 8 and each subsequent Sunday.

Compared to previous pastor searches, technology has allowed us to be able to get more information on our candidate, and for him to get more information on us. The PSC email included links to online services so that everyone had an opportunity to see Rev. Cullins preach more than just the one time he will preach in person at BBC. Our online services gave Rev. Cullins and his wife a chance to see our church services and learn about us. On Sep. 16, the church hosted a Zoom call with Rev. Cullins and his wife Isabel. They shared information about themselves so that we could get to know them better. There was also a time for audience questions. BBC also hosted a meet and greet dinner on Sep. 28 for another opportunity to meet our candidate.

Depending on when you read this article, the vote may have already happened. We will communicate the results shortly after completion of the special business meeting to be held after the service on Sunday, Sep. 29. The Deacons appreciate your prayer support for the pastor search process and the continuing ministry of BBC.



God Bless,

David Bennett
Chairman of Deacons

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Upcoming Events

October 2 153rd Annual Business Meeting
October 14 Columbus Day
October 19 Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Contest
October 20-23 MBA Annual Meeting; Revival Services
October 28 Deacons' Meeting
October 31 Halloween



“And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence” (Colossians 1:18).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The topic of pastors is especially relevant to BBC at this time, with October being pastor appreciation month and BBC considering the approval of a new pastor on Sep. 29. As BBC is at the moment in between pastors, we can look back on the ministries of former pastors and look forward to the service of future pastors as we consider the importance of the scriptural office of the pastor. Also described as bishops (*I Timothy 3:1*), elders (*Titus 1:5*), and overseers (*I Peter 5:2*), pastors are vital leaders, counselors, guides, and teachers for Christian believers. They need our prayer, support, and encouragement as they serve the Lord and us. Consider the example of Timothy, a young pastor and protege of the Apostle Paul, as we show our appreciation to all pastors as we pray for and support them and their work.

Timothy was raised by a believing mother (*Acts 16:1*) and grandmother (*II Timothy 1:5*). Pray that our pastors will have the benefit of a Christian upbringing and be encouraged in their ministry by supportive family and friends who share their faith.

Timothy was willing to go and serve God's people wherever he was needed (*I Corinthians 4:17*). Pray for our pastors, that they and their families will be willing to go where they are called and that there will be pastors seeking to serve.

Timothy preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ (*II Corinthians 1:19*). Pray for our pastors, that they will boldly and faithfully teach and preach the good news of Jesus, even when it is not popular.

Timothy was a humble servant of Jesus Christ (*Philippians 1:1*). Pray that our pastors will have hearts sensitive to God's leading and shape their wills to His.

Timothy worked hard as a minister to establish and encourage the faith of believers (*I Thessalonians 3:2*). Pray for the physical health and mental endurance of our pastors, that they will persevere in their labors and be successful and fruitful in their Kingdom work.

Timothy endured persecution and suffering to serve Christ (*Hebrews 13:23*). Pray that our pastors will be safe from physical harm and spiritual attack.

Timothy needed encouragement and prayer to overcome his fear and use his gifts (*I Corinthians 16:10*; *II Timothy 1:6-7*). Pray that our pastors will have the support, love, and friendship of their congregations.

Timothy had to guard himself to remain spiritually pure (*I Timothy 6:20*). Pray that our pastors will protect and defend their integrity so that no one can question their faithfulness.

Timothy was called by the Lord to the ministry (*I Timothy 1:18*). Pray that our pastors are in the ministry because they are compelled to serve the Lord, and not for any selfish reason.

Timothy was trained, encouraged, and prayed for by mentors (*II Timothy 1:2*). Pray that our pastors will be fully equipped and prepared to do all they have been called to do with excellence and skill.

New Testament Churches Scramble

Can you match these 20 New Testament churches with their descriptions? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Antioch | A. cared for blind Saul |
| 2. Athens | B. first Gentile Christian here |
| 3. Berea | C. the corrupt church |
| 4. Caesarea | D. the lukewarm church |
| 5. Cenchrea | E. the loveless church |
| 6. Corinth | F. Peter healed Aeneas here |
| 7. Crete | G. scripture-readers |
| 8. Damascus | H. founded after philosophy debate |
| 9. Ephesus | I. Titus pastored here |
| 10. Laodicea | J. Timothy preached here |
| 11. Lydda | K. Paul preached thrice |
| 12. Lystra | L. Phoebe served here |
| 13. Pergamum | M. jailer's family saved here |
| 14. Philadelphia | N. Paul stoned here |
| 15. Philippi | O. first known as Christians |
| 16. Rome | P. the persecuted church |
| 17. Sardis | Q. had world-famous faith |
| 18. Smyrna | R. the dead church |
| 19. Thessalonica | S. the faithful church |
| 20. Thyatira | T. the compromising church |

New Testament Churches Word Search

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

Word Bank: Antioch, Athens, Berea, Caesarea, Cenchrea, Corinth, Crete, Damascus, Ephesus, Laodicea, Lydda, Lystra, Pergamum, Philadelphia, Philippi, Rome, Sardis, Smyrna, Thessalonica, Thyatira

October Birthdays

23 Kaycee Saylor
25 Judy Wright
26 Liz Heimlich



Prayer Concerns

Members: Bill Williams, recovering from hip surgery; Janna Williams, recovering from appendectomy; Stephanie Runkles, injured back; Linda Roberts, health and future care

Family and Friends: LT Tyler, recovering from back surgery; passing of Nita Roff's uncle Leonard; Brad Hogue and Jim Hogue, in-laws of the Bennetts; Betty Ritorto, friend of Mary Ann Luhn; Doris Seagal, Joe Yates' friend; Denise Trump, relative of Janet Magruder, recovering from surgery; Jody Reed, relative of Janna Williams, recovering from back 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: Blake, 15-year-old with leukemia; Glenn Norris, colon 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).*

New Testament Churches Scramble Answers

1. **O** (Acts 11:26); 2. **H** (Acts 17:34); 3. **G** (Acts 17:11); 4. **B** (Acts 10); 5. **L** (Romans 16:1); 6. **J** (I Corinthians 4:17); 7. **I** (Titus 1:5); 8. **A** (Acts 9:19); 9. **E** (Revelation 2:1-6); 10. **D** (Revelation 3:14-21); 11. **F** (Acts 9:32); 12. **N** (Acts 14:19); 13. **T** (Revelation 2:12-16); 14. **S** (Revelation 3:7-12); 15. **M** (Acts 16:25-34); 16. **Q** (Romans 1:8); 17. **R** (Revelation 3:1-5); 18. **P** (Revelation 2:8-10); 19. **K** (Acts 17:1-2); 20. **C** (Revelation 2:18-29).

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in September:

- The Church approved a bypass motion from the Pastor Search Cmte. defining the qualifications and procedures for absentee ballots to vote on the pastoral candidate at the Sep. 29 special business meeting.
- The Church approved the membership transfer of Sam & Robin Berry to First Baptist Church of Damascus.

Expected at the Sep. 29 Special Business Meeting:

- The Pastor Search Cmte. will offer a motion to approve its employment contract with Rev. Kevin Cullins, pending election as pastor.
- The Pastor Search Cmte. will offer a motion to elect Rev. Kevin Cullins as pastor, effective Nov. 1.

Expected at the 153rd Annual Business Meeting in October:

- Lee Michael and Nita Roff will be nominated to serve as messengers to the 89th Montgomery Baptist Association Annual Meeting, being held on Sunday, Oct. 20 at Olney Baptist Church.
- The Deacons will offer a motion to approve the membership application of Suzanne Neal, coming by statement.
- A resolution to begin the annual budget process for 2025 will be offered; the standing committees will report to the Treasurer by Sunday, Nov. 3.
- The Internal Administration Cmte. will move to decrease the Pastor BLI by \$5,000 and increase the Pastoral Transition BLI by \$5,000.
- The Select Committee on Nominations will report on its recommendations for 2024-2026 church officers, and the Church will then vote on those nominations.
- Note: All outstanding motions not acted on at the October Business Meeting must be re-introduced for any further consideration by the Church.

News You Can Use

October preaching schedule. The following ministers will preach in the Sunday worship services during the month of October: Dr. Michael Trammell will preach on Oct. 6 and lead us in communion; Rabbi-Pastor Robert Pristoop of Shofarel Jewish Ministries will speak about the fall festivals in the Old Testament on Oct. 13; the Oct. 20 service will be led by Dr. Ron Blankenship; and on Oct. 27, Rev. Michael Mattar will be in the pulpit.

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 has started a teaching series on the book of *Romans* on Wednesday nights at 7:00. Now is a great time to join this Bible study and prayer service.

Supporting missions in Maryland/Delaware. The annual State Missions offering is a vital part of the ongoing task of building God's Kingdom. Donations will be collected through the end of the month. The BCM/D-wide goal for 2024 is \$100,000. Donations will be used to revitalize and plant new churches and to raise up teams and church plant leaders. Please prayerfully consider how you can support state missions. If you would like to contribute, please designate your check or use the online giving option.

COTCD Cartoon



Introducing Rev. Kevin Cullins. The Pastor Search Cmte. (PSC) is pleased to recommend Rev. Kevin D. Cullins to serve as the next pastor of BBC. The PSC's nomination comes after a seven-month search process that included an application and resume review, five interview sessions with Rev. Cullins and his wife Isabel, character references from fellow pastors, online sermon review, checks and verification of his background and credentials, as well as an employment contract negotiation. After much prayer, the PSC believes that it has conducted a thorough and thoughtful search process, so the PSC can confidently recommend Rev. Kevin Cullins to BBC as our next pastor. An hour-long introduction with Rev. Cullins was held by Zoom on Monday, Sep. 16, and an in-person meet & greet BBQ will be held on Saturday, Sep. 28. After Rev. Cullins preaches on Sep. 29, a special business meeting will be held to vote on calling him as pastor, effective Nov. 1.



Fall fellowships. A church-wide chili cook-off and dessert contest will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your best pot of homemade chili and a dessert for a chance to win prizes. The dinner menu will also include fried fish, venison burgers, and wild game stew. BBC will host the MBA ministers' fellowship on Tuesday, Nov. 5. On Saturday, Nov. 16, we will have a turkey dinner. Stand by for the Outreach Cmte. to provide additional details and sign-up information.

Choir update. Weekly practices resume on Sunday, Oct. 6 with practices on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of the month. See Choir Director Nita Roff if you are interested in joining the Choir.

Fall revival services. The 89th Montgomery Baptist Association (MBA) Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 20 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, with dinner to follow. This year's meeting will feature keynote addresses by BCM/D Associate Executive Director Mark Dooley and MBA Director of Missions Dr. Ron Blankenship. Following the annual meeting, the MBA will kick off a series of four nights of church revitalization, renewal, and revival services starting at 7:30 each night from Oct. 20 to 23. Each evening will offer a unique experience with different worship teams and testimonies. Revival speakers include Chris Allen on Oct. 20, Greg Kame on Oct. 21, Jeremy Dickson on Oct. 22, and Brian Tubbs on Oct. 23. All events will be held at Olney Baptist Church in Olney, MD.