



# 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's Spotlight

Isabel and I are so thankful that you have called us to serve as your next pastor. We are looking forward to starting the next chapter of our lives and getting to know all of you. I want you to know that I am not coming to Barnesville just to be your pastor. We are coming to worship with you, serve alongside you, and fellowship together in the name of the Lord.

Accepting the call as your pastor could have come at any time, but it seems right that we begin in November, the month when we give thanks for all that God has done for us. There are two other dates that make November special to me. We celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11. I retired from the Navy in 2008 with the rank of Chief Petty Officer (E7) after serving for 21 years. It was an honor to serve my country in this capacity. The memories I have are far too many to share here but I will gladly tell you about them any time you ask.

The highlight of my naval career was meeting Isabel while stationed in Rota, Spain and marrying in July 1996. She is my other reason for celebration in November. Although her birth certificate says Nov. 23, Isabel's mother is sure that she gave birth to her on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. She is adamant that the hospital recorded the wrong date. I'm not allowed to tell you how old she will be on this birthday but can tell you that she will turn 60 years old next year. Oops!

Isabel has faithfully walked with me first as a sailor's wife and then as a pastor's wife. She has stayed with me through thick and thin. She will tell you with sincerity that God has blessed us with more than we deserve. Together we have watched Him do amazing things in our lives that we can only explain as a God thing. Being called to serve at BBC is one in a long list of blessings that God has given us that we do not deserve.

If there is anything either of us can do for you, all you need to do is ask. We want our door and our hearts to be open to you. Along with serving alongside you, we want to serve you. Jesus said in *Mark 10:45*, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve." We want to be just like Jesus in that regard.



God Bless,

Pastor Kevin

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## Upcoming Events

**November 6** Business Meeting  
**November 11** Veterans Day  
**November 16** Turkey Dinner Fellowship, 4:00 pm  
**November 25** Deacons' Meeting  
**November 27** Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00 pm  
**November 28** Thanksgiving



*"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him" (Psalm 34:8)!*

## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

In the book of *Revelation*, John introduces a new set of interconnected titles to describe the Lord Jesus Christ: the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and End, and the First and the Last. The titles are used singly or together six times in *Revelation 1:8, 1:11, 1:17, 2:8, 21:6, and 22:13*. All three are used in *Revelation 22:13*, where Jesus tells John, “*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*” While alpha and omega are unique to the New Testament, being the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the idea of God being at the start and finish of everything is well grounded in the Old Testament, especially in *Isaiah*.

The Old Testament uses the language of “first and last” and “beginning and end” to show God’s eternal nature, that He is both outside and beyond time and yet also present for all time, throughout the generations and millennia. “*Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last*” (*Isaiah 48:12*). In addition, the Scriptures also emphasizes that God’s eternal nature is a unique quality of His divinity that no other creature shares. Generations of mankind will be born, live, and die, civilizations will rise and fall, but the everlasting God will remain, ageless and timeless. In *Isaiah 44:6*, the Lord reminds us that He is alone and unique: “*Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God’*”. In *Isaiah 41:4*, God asks who can compare with His longevity: “*Who has performed and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? ‘I, the Lord, am the first; and with the last I am He’*”. Again in *Isaiah 46:9-10*, God repeats the theme of His unrivaled ability to transcend past, present, and future, to bring future events into being: “*Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure’*”. Along with God’s timeless and unique nature, His ability to achieve all that His will desires is unlimited. There is no one who can challenge, delay, or prevent Him from accomplishing what He wants to do.

Returning to *Revelation*, it is not surprising that Christ uses those titles to identify Himself to John as God, the all-powerful and eternal One, Creator of the universe, the incarnate Word of God who came in flesh, and the returning King who will take His Church home. “*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,*” says the Lord, “*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty*” (*Revelation 1:8*). In case it wasn’t clear who was using those titles of Godhood, Jesus referred to Himself in *Revelation 2:8* as “*...the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life...*”. No one but Jesus Christ, the Son of God, can claim to be both God Almighty and the One who died and returned to life, a clear reference to His resurrection power or death, hell, and the grave.

Jesus’ claims of His eternal Godhood gave John comfort in the midst of the apocalyptic scenes that unfolded throughout *Revelation*. Despite the turmoil and trouble, John saw that Jesus’ victory is assured and that righteousness will prevail over evil in the end. We too can rely on Jesus to see us through our lives, He who has been the same in the past, now in the present, and will be in the future.

## Member of the Month: Kevin Cullins

- ★ Born: Feb. 16, 1964 in Jeffersonville, Indiana
- ★ How long a BBC member: since Nov. 1, 2024
- ★ Church offices held: Pastor
- ★ How he first came to BBC: invited to meet with Pastor Search Committee
- ★ Favorite Hymn: “Victory in Jesus”
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: *Isaiah 40:31*
- ★ Age at baptism: 19 years old
- ★ Childhood church: St. Patrick’s Catholic Church
- ★ Most famous people he’s met: Dr. Jerry Falwell and Baltimore Orioles third baseman Brooks Robinson
- ★ Personal claim to fame: Official scorer for a professional baseball team
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: 9/11
- ★ Farthest place he’s been from Barnesville: Ship port visit to the United Arab Emirates (approximately 7,000 miles)
- ★ Story on first name: “It was a name my mom liked. I was the only one of six children not named after a relative”.
- ★ Most important technology invented in his lifetime: smart phone
- ★ Hobbies: “Watching or attending sporting events, primarily baseball, creating music playlists from my iTunes account, and working out at the gym”.



## November Birthdays

- 4 Laura Luhn Hiatt
- 5 Randy Gilliam
- 12 Cris Driver
- 16 Sherry Morrison
- 22 Michelle Ennis
- 23 Kitty Cooley, Isabel Cullins
- 26 Joyce Dunn



## Prayer Concerns

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

Family and Friends: former pastor Danny Moore, recovering from neck surgery; Joyce Dunn's relative Jessie, health; Brad Hogue and Jim Hogue, in-laws of the Bennetts; Betty Ritorto, friend of Mary Ann Luhn; 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).

## Business Meeting Briefs

### *Report from the Sep. 29 Special Business Meeting:*

- The Church approved an employment contract with Rev. Kevin Cullins, pending election as pastor.
- The Church elected Rev. Kevin Cullins as pastor, effective Nov. 1.

### *Report from the 153<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Meeting in October:*

- Lee Michael and Nita Roff were approved to serve as messengers to the 89<sup>th</sup> Montgomery Baptist Association Annual Meeting, held on Sunday, Oct. 20 at Olney Baptist Church.
- A motion from the Internal Administration Cmte. to decrease the Pastor BLI by \$5,000 and increase the Pastoral Transition BLI by \$5,000 was approved.
- A resolution to begin the annual budget process for 2025 was approved; the standing committees will report to the Treasurer by Sunday, Nov. 3.
- The Church voted to approve the Select Committee on Nominations' five slates of recommendations for 2024-2026 church officers and committee members.

### *Expected at the November Business Meeting:*

- The Pastor and Deacons will offer a motion to approve the membership application of Isabel Cullins, coming by statement.
- Pastor Kevin & Isabel Cullins and Lee Michael will be nominated to serve as messengers to the BCM/D Annual Meeting, being held on Nov. 10-12 in Ocean City, MD.
- The Internal Administration Cmte. will move to decrease the Pastor BLI by \$5,000 and increase the Physical Plant BLI by \$5,000.

## News You Can Use

**Fall fellowships.** A good time of fellowship was held on Saturday, Oct. 19 during the church-wide chili cook-off and dessert contest. Judges were Ed Williams, Kevin Cullins,



Ann Bennett and Cris Driver sang "Heaven Came Down" on Sep. 29

and his grandson Derrick. Stephanie Runkles won top prizes for both her chili and dessert entries.

On Saturday, Nov. 16, we will have a turkey dinner fellowship at 4:00 pm. Please sign up to bring a dish on the on the bulletin board in the vestibule. A Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 27 at

7:00 pm to thank the Lord for all His many blessings and kindnesses this past year. This is a great way to start the holiday season by focusing on all our blessings from the Lord.

Looking ahead to the Christmas season, LT Tyler will be in concert on Sunday, Dec. 1 and the annual Christmas dinner will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15 at St. Mary's Pavilion.

**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

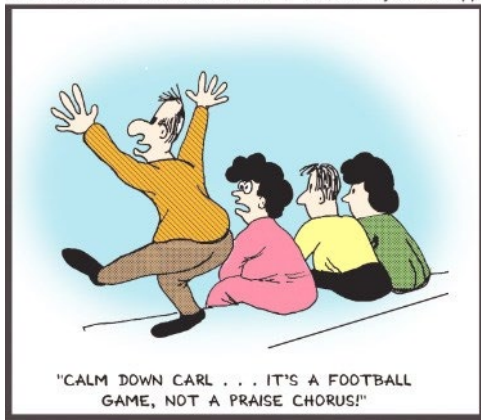


The choir special on Oct. 20 was "Doxology", with Gary Cooley on the trombone.

Sunday's bulletin. Prayer requests can also be sent out on the BBC email list for more timely needs.

## COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



**New pastor arrives.** Rev. Kevin Cullins was elected as the new pastor of Barnesville Baptist Church during a special business meeting after the worship service on Sunday, Sep. 29. Thank you to the members of the Pastor Search Cmte. for their efforts since February in seeking a pastoral candidate to recommend to the congregation: David Bennett, Ellen Williams, Jan Burdette, Lee Michael, Larry Michael, and Luke Fedders.



Pastor Kevin & Isabel after his Sep. 29 election

Pastor Kevin & Isabel Cullins have moved into the parsonage; the pastor's first official day was Nov. 1 and his first sermon as pastor will be Sunday, Nov. 3. The parsonage has been professionally painted over the last several weeks. Thanks to Billy & Tina Appleton, Luke Fedders, Stephanie Runkles, and Larry Michael for cleaning and upgrading the parsonage and making it ready for our new pastor's family.

**Contact information.** To reach our pastor by phone and email, Pastor Kevin can be reached at 240-412-9554 and [pastorbbc2024@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbbc2024@gmail.com).

**Choir update.** Weekly practices are being held on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of the month. See Choir Director Nita Roff if you are interested in joining the Choir.

**Thank you.** "On behalf of the Cooley and Fedders family, we want to thank everyone who supported our family with your calls, cards, visits, food donations, prayers, and attendance at Jack's visitation and funeral. Thanks also to all our friends who helped with the reception before and after the funeral."

**MBA annual meeting report.** Two BBC messengers—Lee Michael and Nita Roff—attended the 89<sup>th</sup> Montgomery Baptist Association annual meeting held at Olney Baptist Church in Hyattsville, MD on Sunday, Oct. 20. Rev. Chris Allen from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary was the keynote speaker. Lee Michael led the business meeting as the MBA moderator. Business was light, with the messenger approving new officers and the 2025 association budget.

**Wednesday night Bible study.** Deacon Lee Michael is teaching from the book of *Romans* on Wednesday nights at 7:00. Now is a great time to join this Bible study and prayer service.