



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

I want to express my gratitude to all of you for the gracious welcome you showed to Ted and Teddy Pearce. From the feedback I received, most everyone enjoyed the virtual tour to Israel. Only being here for such a short time, I felt like I was going out on a limb inviting someone from outside to come in and make a presentation.

With your blessing, I would like to occasionally invite to BBC other groups and individuals in Christian ministry. God has many folks doing His work in some unique ways. I like when they get to tell their stories and show how God is using them. We can sometimes get in a rut always doing the same thing. I think it's nice to change things up from time to time.

One initiative I would like to start is what I am calling for now a "Fifth Sunday Celebration". My plan is that we do something a little different in our worship services anytime a month contains a fifth Sunday. Those Sundays for 2025 are March, June, August, and November.

A few ideas that I have include: feature those within our congregation who are blessed with musical and vocal talents; invite staff members from the state convention and local association to share information on their ministries; and invite a preacher or evangelist to share a message from God's Word.

None of this is set in stone and exactly what we do may change over time. If you think this is a good idea, please let me know. I welcome any suggestions that you may have to make these services special. If you think this is a terrible idea, I would like to hear from you as well.

The 19th-century missionary William Carey is quoted as saying, "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." I want BBC to be known as a church that attempts great things for God. This may mean doing things we have never done before. It may mean getting out of our comfort zone. The Apostle Paul wrote: "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9). I appreciate everything that I see so many of you doing. It takes all of us working together to get the results that are pleasing to God.

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Upcoming Events

February 2 Groundhog Day
February 5 Business Meeting
February 11 Love Our Seniors Luncheon
February 14 Valentine's Day
February 15 Baptist Men's Meeting
February 17 Presidents' Day
February 24 Deacons' Meeting



"The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it arose" (Ecclesiastes 1:5).

God Bless,



Pastor Kevin

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

In late January, I concluded my stint as the Wednesday night Bible study teacher. The topic of my final class was *Romans 12-15*. You may ask why I didn't start with the first 11 chapters of Paul's longest epistle--I have taught on the beginning of *Romans* several times already but have never had enough time to go through the entire book! Thus, I chose to focus on the chapters I had not been able to teach on previously. That choice made the first verse of the study *Romans 12:1*: "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service*". The phrase "reasonable service" became the most significant theme of our Bible study, in that Paul uses that those words to describe what our appropriate reaction should be to Christ's work of salvation in our lives.

The book of *Romans* can be divided into two major parts, with chapters 1-11 describing Jesus' work as savior in responding to sin, with chapter 12 to the end describing how we should react to Jesus, and how that will show up in our lives. A large part of Paul's expectation is that the way we feel about Jesus and how important He is to us will be evident in the way we live our lives and relate to others. Paul started out easy, telling us that reasonable service involves loving and prioritizing people who are more like us, fellow believers and neighbors with whom we likely share common beliefs and values. Paul then gives us the hard news, that our reasonable service to Christ also requires us to show respect to and value those we may not like and may not like us, be they unbelievers, adversaries, or governmental authorities (who in Paul's day would have been the Romans who persecuted Christians).

When we stop and think about everything Jesus has done for us, what He can "reasonably" ask of us in return becomes clear. Imagine that you owed a million-dollar debt and a friend paid off the entire balance for you. How grateful would you be to have that debt erased? How would you show your deepest thankfulness to such a friend? But even then, your bank account would have gone from negative one million to zero. A zero balance is amazingly greater than a negative balance, but it leaves you with exactly nothing for the future. In human terms, would you then ask your incredibly generous friend who just paid off your enormous debt to also start paying for your future expenses? I'd be much too embarrassed to ask for anything more from someone who just canceled my negative balance. And yet Jesus is so much more generous with us than our most compassionate human friend would ever be. Jesus not only solved all of our past problems with His forgiveness of sins, He also credited us with His love, forgiveness, and an eternal destiny with Him. Jesus transforms us from debtors to heirs when we accept His free gift of salvation that was so costly and painful for Him to provide to us. How do you show your genuine gratitude and lifelong appreciation to someone who has transformed your past, present, and future? What does "reasonable service" look like in your life when you compare it to the enormous blessings Jesus has given you?

The scriptures are amazing in that no matter how many times you read them or how well you think you know them, something new appears each time you study God's word. This time, I gained a deeper understanding of what I owe God.

Member of the Month: Noah Arthur

- ★ Born: June 10, 1961 in Accra, Ghana
- ★ How long a BBC member: since May 2021
- ★ Church offices held: Outreach and Worship Cmtes.
- ★ How he first came to BBC: "I just drove by".
- ★ Favorite Hymns: "A Mighty Fortress", "If God Be for Us", "He Is Able to Deliver Thee"
- ★ Favorite Bible verse: *Jeremiah 32:27*
- ★ Age at baptism: 60 years old
- ★ Childhood church: First Century Gospel Church
- ★ Personal claim to fame: hymn-singing soloist
- ★ Most important historical event in his life: the Entebbe raid in Uganda in 1976
- ★ Farthest place he's been from Barnesville: Ghana
- ★ Story on first name: named after his paternal grandfather
- ★ Most important technologies invented in his lifetime: the computer
- ★ Childhood hero: Moshe Dayan, Chief of the General Staff of the Israel Defense Forces
- ★ Hobbies: listening to and singing hymns, listening to family radio, soccer, track and field, basketball, and tennis



February Birthdays

3 Gary Cooley, Linda Roberts
7 Michelle Vasko
10 Carole Kearse
12 Luke Fedders
16 Kevin Cullins
20 Janet Magruder



Prayer Concerns

Members: Mary Yates, recovering from heart surgery; Stephanie Runkles, injured back; Linda Roberts, health and future care

Family and Friends: Marty Woods, electrical fire at residence; Sharon Keeney, sister of Donna Belcher, recovering from surgery; Jody Reed, cousin of Janna Williams, health; 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; Andrea Appleton, Billy Appleton's sister; the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.

Seniors: Barbara Swank; Cortland "Pop" Moore; Eddie & Pauline Fowler; Janet Magruder; Ralph Cooley; Shirley Yates; Susan Rice

Cancer patients: Bill & Elnora Caudell's niece, Brenda Malinowski, cancer; David Carlson, brain tumor; 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

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in January:

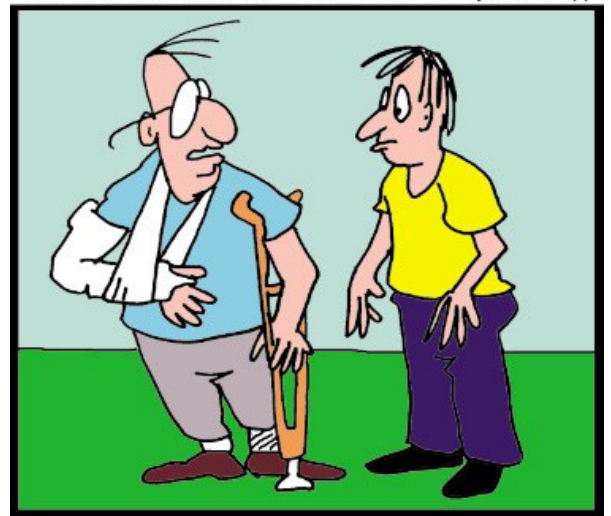
- The Treasurer submitted his Annual Report on the 2024 fiscal year.
- The Pastor appointed the Deacons to serve as the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2024 finances and report at the March 2025 Business Meeting.

Expected at the February Business Meeting:

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the February 2025 Business Meeting.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Carl - if you ever go on a mission trip, don't get an interpreter with a sense of humor!"



*"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).



The choir sang "Heaven Came Down" on January 12.

News You Can Use

Valentine's lunch. The annual Love Our Seniors Luncheon will be held Tuesday, Feb. 11 in the Fellowship Hall at noon. Anyone 55 years and older is welcome to enjoy this time of fellowship and appreciation for the most senior of our church family. RSVPs for the meal are due to Ellen Williams or Stephanie Runkles.



Baptist Men's Day. Due to the winter weather forecast, the Baptist Men's Day service, including the churchwide breakfast and MOB presentation, previously scheduled for Jan. 19 will now be held on Sunday, Mar. 16.

Prayer session. Pastor Kevin Cullins and Deacons David Bennett, Lee Michael, and Luke Fedders met on Saturday, Jan. 18 for their annual prayer session. For almost three hours, they prayed over each person, family, and ministry of Barnesville Baptist Church to ask for God's provision, direction, and blessing for the coming year. You too can pray for your church family throughout the year: use the weekly worship bulletin insert and the prayer concerns list on page 3 of this monthly newsletter to guide your requests and petitions before the Lord.



Ted Pearce sang and played his guitar on Jan. 26

Birthday updates requested. The *Lantern* enjoys sharing members' and friends' birthdays with the Church family. Please help us keep our records current by contacting the Church office with any names and dates we may lack, especially if you started attending within the last year.

Lottie Moon total. Thank you for supporting the 2024 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering with a final total of \$3,189. Adding all the individual offerings to the \$1,000 church contribution, we achieved 106% of our goal! Together, we and sister SBC congregations are able to send out more than 3,600 International Mission Board missionaries to share the Gospel all over the world. Thank you again for your sacrificial gifts for foreign missions.

Go paperless in 2025. BBC offers the *Lantern* in electronic (and in color) format to those would prefer such an option instead of a copy sent by mail. If you would like to receive a monthly email with a link to the *Lantern*, please send an email to our masthead address. Those who wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the *Lantern* will continue to receive one; no further action is required.

Virtual tour of Israel. On Sunday, Jan. 26, Ted Pearce and Teddy Pearce of Cultural Xchange gave us an hour-long tour of key sites in the Holy Land from the Old and New Testaments, all without leaving the Fellowship Hall. With virtual reality headsets on, we experienced 360-degree videos of places like En Gedi in the Judean wilderness, Jesus' boyhood home of Nazareth, many sites in Jerusalem associated with Easter (Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Garden Tomb), Banias (Caesarea Philippi), Capernaum (synagogue and Peter's house), and Masada (Herod's palace complex). To learn more about the Pearces' ministry, visit culturalxchange.org and see some of their videos at youtube.com/@culturalxchangeisrael799.



Adjusting the virtual reality headsets before beginning the tour of Israel

New Bible study. Pastor Kevin has begun a teaching series on "Interactions with the Messiah" for Wednesday night Bible studies. The study has started in *John 1*. Join us for midweek prayer and learning from God's Word at 7:00 pm.

Montgomery Baptist newsletter. The Montgomery Baptist Association's newsletter is now in an electronic-only format. If you would like to receive a copy of the MBA's newsletter, please visit their website at montgomeryba.org and hit the subscribe button on the bottom half of the home page. Alternatively, you can email the MBA at ilovemba777@gmail.com and ask to be subscribed to the newsletter.

Flowers ministry update. From Kitty Cooley: "BBC would like to thank Beall's Florist and Beall's Nursery for their many, many years of service to our church and to the community. The florist shop in Damascus is now closed and the farm nursery has been sold. The whole Beall family has been so good to our church in ways too numerous to list. The poinsettias and lillies we use in the church are grown at the farm in their greenhouses. They supplied and delivered flowers for funerals, get well, birthdays, wedding or any other special occasion. So many behind the scenes things. Part of one of our big poinsettias died this year for no reason. Danny Beall the owner sent us another one to replace it. There are so many examples like that. We truly are going to miss them and thank them for the many years of service and friendship."