



The Barnesville Lantern

Barnesville Baptist Church
17917 Barnesville Road/P.O. Box 69
Barnesville, Maryland 20838

301-407-0500 (phone/fax)
www.barnesvillebaptist.org
church@barnesvillebaptist.org

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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

The month of March is finally upon us. With the days getting noticeably longer, we should start to feel warmer weather after a cold winter. March also gives us the NCAA basketball tournament (March Madness), and baseball season will soon be underway. We also have a number of activities at Barnesville Baptist during the month of March.

On Mar. 16, BBC's MOB will provide a few special hymns during the worship service. We tried to do this back in January, but the winter weather put that plan on hold. You will want to be present for the men's service as it will be the only time you witness me singing in public! The men will also be serving breakfast that morning. Come early and enjoy some food and fellowship. On the same day, the North American Mission Board is encouraging pastors to preach on *John 3:16* for 3/16. *John 3:16* is one of the most recognizable verses in the Bible. It has also been called the Gospel message in a nutshell. I plan to preach a sermon entitled, "The Gospel Is Good News". If you know what the word "gospel" means, you will understand the reason for the sermon title. If you are not, come on 3/16 and find out.

Mar. 30 is the first month of 2025 with five Sundays. To kick off what I am calling 5th Sunday service, Choir Director Nita Roff is lining up some of our talented soloists to bless us with additional musical selections. For future 5th Sunday services, I plan to invite staff members of the BCM/D or others involved in Kingdom work to share with us their ministries and tell how we can get involved or support these ministries.

As always, I encourage you to be involved in the ministries we offer here at BBC. There's something here for everyone and something everyone can do. If you are not sure what you can do, come see me and let's talk. We will discover your talents and the spiritual gift(s) that God has given you. The more involved you are, the more of a blessing you will receive and the more you will be a blessing to others.

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Upcoming Events

- March 5** Business Meeting
- March 15** Baptist Men's Meeting
- March 16** Baptist Men's Day Breakfast and Service
- March 17** St. Patrick's Day
- March 24** Deacons' Meeting



"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

God Bless,



Pastor Kevin

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

In the book of *Acts*, chapters 8, 9, and 10 have three well-known stories about Philip meeting the Ethiopian eunuch, Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus road, and the Roman centurion Cornelius. No doubt you have read those accounts many times and heard them discussed in Sunday School lessons and sermons. But perhaps you have never looked at all three stories as belonging to a larger whole. I believe Dr. Luke, *Acts'* author, presented the three accounts in sequence on purpose. Each story has similar elements: a divine vision, the leading of the Holy Spirit, a focus on the resurrected Jesus, a salvation experience, and believers' baptism.

In *Acts 8:26* and *v. 29*, Philip was directed by an angel and then the Holy Spirit to meet up with the Ethiopian eunuch on his chariot. After Philip explained the *Isaiah* prophecy about the Messiah and introduced the eunuch to Jesus (*v. 35*), the eunuch confessed Jesus as the Son of God (*v. 37*). Philip then baptized the eunuch (*v. 38*).

In *Acts 9*, Saul of Tarsus, the infamous Pharisee and head persecutor of the Church, had a life-changing encounter on the road to Damascus, where He met the resurrected Jesus (*v. 5*), who blinded him and sent him to Damascus. The Lord Jesus then directed Ananias to speak with Saul and heal him (*vv. 10-17*). Saul was then filled with the Holy Spirit (*v. 17*), received baptism (*v. 18*), and began to preach Christ (*v. 20*) to his fellow Jews.

Acts 10 introduced Cornelius as the first Gentile believer. Before Cornelius followed Jesus, the all-Jewish Christian Church was not quite clear on whether non-Jews could be saved. In order to prepare both Cornelius, a Roman centurion, and the Apostle Peter, the Jewish believer who would share Christ with Cornelius, visions were given to each. Cornelius was visited by an angel, who told him to invite Peter from Joppa to visit him in Caesarea (*vv. 3-8*). Peter required a heavenly vision and three voices to prepare him to enter a Gentile's home. Peter preached that Jesus is Lord (*v. 36*) not only to Cornelius, but to all who were in the house. The Holy Spirit fell upon all of them who believed in Christ (*v. 44*), who then were baptized (*vv. 47-48*).

As you can see, all three chapters are stories of salvation, with the spreading of the Gospel reaching from Jerusalem out in ever-broader circles. No doubt many people from many different backgrounds were becoming believers in Jesus in the months and years after His resurrection and ascension. Luke could have used any number of examples to show the growth of the early Church. But I believe Luke chose those three on purpose for *Acts 8-10*--an African, a Hebrew, and a Roman--because they call us back to an Old Testament promise. Luke chose the Ethiopian eunuch--a descendant of Ham, the Jewish Saul--a descendant of Shem, and the Roman Cornelius--a descendant of Japheth, as representatives of the three sons of Noah to show that the gospel was reaching all of mankind. Way back in *Genesis 9:18-19*, the survivors of the Flood were Noah and his

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Member of the Month: Karen Hazzard

- ★ Born: March 23, 1951 in Charlotte, NC
- ★ How long a BBC member: since July 2021
- ★ Church offices held: choir member, Finance Cmte.
- ★ How she first came to BBC: "I was looking for a church home after my previous church went full contemporary".
- ★ Favorite Hymns: "Jesus Paid it All", "Because He Lives", "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
- ★ Favorite pew: 3rd pew on left facing pulpit
- ★ Favorite Bible verses: *Genesis 50:20, Ephesians 3:17-19, John 21:15-17, Colossians 3:12-17*
- ★ Age at baptism: 6 years old
- ★ Childhood churches: Miami Shores Baptist, Miami, FL; First Baptist of North Augusta, SC
- ★ Most famous people she's met: Senator Strom Thurmond, President Bill Clinton, Dr. Francis Collins, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas
- ★ Personal claims to fame: Miss North Augusta, 1970; sang in a choir led by George Beverly Shea at a Billy Graham crusade, earned two college scholarships; lead author of scientific paper in the AAALAS journal
- ★ Most important historical events in her life: JFK assassination, Vietnam War, 9/11
- ★ Farthest places she's been from Barnesville: Alaska and Vietnam
- ★ Story on first name: "Just popular in the early 1950s".
- ★ Most important technology invented in her lifetime: cell phone
- ★ Childhood heroes: Mrs. Underwood (4th-grade teacher); Bill Mize (choir director); and Jane & Gerry Howington (Young Life leaders)
- ★ Hobbies: bridge, knitting, cross stitch, golf, puzzles



March Birthdays

- 3 Kirk Williams
- 8 Alannah O'Leary-Yates
- 10 Ed Williams
- 14 Barbara Swank
- 23 Karen Hazzard



Prayer Concerns

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

Family and Friends: former pastor Randy Gilliam, open heart surgery; Vicky Yates' mother Nancy Noe; Marty Woods, electrical fire at residence; Sharon Keeney, sister of Donna Belcher, recovering from surgery; Jody Reed, cousin of Janna Williams, for leg strength and walking capabilities; passing of Brad Hogue, in-law of the Bennetts; Morgan and Dade Pumphrey, Will Pumphrey's daughters; Joe Yates' niece Cyndi, for her 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; Kitty Cooley; 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

Missions: Dr. Ron Blankenship and MBA leaders; 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 Monthly Business Meeting in February:

- No new business was presented at the February business meeting.

Expected at the March Business Meeting:

- The Select Committee on Auditing will present its report on the 2024 finances.

The Pew Perspective, continued

family: *"Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth...These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated"*.

With the rebellion at Babel and the dispersion of Noah's descendants across the earth thereafter (*Genesis 10-11*), all of mankind but Abram and his line had been scattered and separated from a personal relationship with God. The Lord turned His efforts to redeem mankind to just Abram (Abraham), Isaac, and Jacob and their Hebrew descendants, selecting them as His chosen people and sharing His Word with them, so that they could worship their Creator in righteousness and truth. It was from the Jewish line that Jesus would come to fulfill the prophecy of *Genesis 12:3* given to Abram: *"And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"*. Jesus was certainly the promised Messiah of the nation of Israel, but He also came as the savior of the entire world, which included the Gentiles. *Acts 8, 9, and 10* give us proof that all three Noahic branches of the human family were being reached with the message of the Gospel!

God is always faithful to keep His promises. As Peter later wrote in his second epistle, *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance"* (*II Peter 3:9*). Even if it takes thousands of years, God's plan of salvation will reach all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues. Indeed, the book of *Revelation* describes the throne of God being surrounded by believers from every background and ethnicity. We too are part of the story of building God's kingdom. What started in *Acts* continues today, so we also should be bold to share the good news of Jesus with everyone we can.

News You Can Use

Baptist Men's Day. Sunday, Mar. 16 will feature a church-wide breakfast at 8:30 am prepared and served by the men and a performance by the MOB: Men of Barnesville choir during the 10:45 am morning service. Their special selections will be "Rise Up, O Men of God", "Fishers of Men", and "How Firm a Foundation". The Baptist Men also hold a monthly breakfast meeting, which includes a time of Bible study and prayer. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Mar. 15 at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited for this time of fellowship.

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.

Go paperless in 2025. BBC offers the *Lantern* in electronic (and in color) format to those who 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.



BBC seniors enjoyed food and fellowship at the Valentine's luncheon on Feb. 18



Pastor Kevin & Isabel's daughter Marina Rodriguez sang "As The Deer" on Feb. 9

MBA at ilovemba777@gmail.com and ask to be subscribed to the newsletter.

Daylight savings time begins Mar. 9. Set your watches and clocks forward one hour (and lose an hour of sleep) before you go to bed on Saturday, Mar. 8.

Thursday Bible study. Starting Thursday, Mar. 6, we will hold a second midweek prayer meeting and Bible study at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

This time is intended for those who would prefer a daytime instead of a nighttime event. The format of having a time of corporate prayer followed by a Bible lesson will be the same as Wednesday night. Upcoming studies will be four to eight weeks long. Pastor Kevin will also introduce a section called "What's on Your Mind?" This will be an opportunity during the Bible study hour to bring up a topic of interest that the group will research and discuss what the Bible says about that topic. You are welcome to bring a drink or snack down in the Fellowship Hall. In March, the Thursday meeting will be held weekly except the 13th.



Thanks to the Outreach Cmte. for honoring our seniors with a Valentine's Day-themed luncheon on Feb. 18

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

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"That last sermon was a real doozy pastor... it was all I could do not to come forward!"