



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

Congratulations on the 249th birthday of the United States! Our nation has seen its share of ups and downs, but so far, we have remained strong. One reason we have remained intact is that we are bestowed with God's blessings, which we will receive as long as we depend on Him. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage" (Psalm 33:12)! Our forefathers valued God's contributions to our national welfare. I doubt that all were Christian, but they at least respected and revered God.

As a kid, the idea that we live in a free country was drilled into my head. I remember hearing, "This is a free country, you can do anything you want". As I got older, I realized that statement is not entirely true. Yes, this is a free country, and we are free to choose our path. However, laws dictate what we can and can't do. Those laws, for the most part, protect our rights and the rights of others.

I thank God that I live in a country where I am free to choose my career instead of the government. I thank God that I live in a country where I am free to worship where I want without fear of the government hindering me. I thank God that I live in a country where I am free to express my opinion without the government telling me what I am allowed to say.

We enjoy so many blessings from God that we can take them for granted. We should never get so comfortable to think that just because God has blessed us for nearly 250 years He always will. If we are not careful, He will take those blessings away. When Israel got complacent, God allowed other nations to control them and their land. If God allowed that to happen to His chosen people, He can allow it to happen to us.

We have so much going for us, I would hate to lose what we have. I believe God will allow us to keep what we have if we continue to honor Him and put Him in first in our lives. I want to always live by the words of Joshua 24:15: "And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD".

I pray that you have a very happy, safe, and wonderful 4th of July celebration. Enjoy the time with friends and family.

God Bless,



Pastor Kevin

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Upcoming Events

- July 2** July Business Meeting
- July 4** Independence Day
- July 6** VBS Set-Up
- July 7-11** Vacation Bible School, 6:30-8:30 pm
- July 19** Men's Breakfast
- July 22** Seniors' Luncheon
- July 28** Deacons' Meeting



*"Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt His name together" (Psalm 34:3).*

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Wells in the Old Testament were famous for meeting brides. Eliezer, Abraham’s servant, found Isaac’s future wife, Rebekah, at a well (*Genesis 24*). Similarly, Jacob fell in love with Rachel (*Genesis 29:10-11*) and Moses met his future wife Zipporah (*Genesis 2:16-17*) while drawing water for livestock. Jesus’ mission as Savior can be understood as that of a Bridegroom seeking His bride, the Church, which is how John the Baptist described Jesus in *John 3:29*.

Jesus also described Himself as a Bridegroom (*Matthew 9:15*) who was getting ready to receive His bride (*John 14:1-3*), all one day culminating in the marriage supper of the Lamb (*Revelation 19:7-9*). And so it does not take too great an imagination to link Jesus’ visit to the well of Sychar (*John 4:5-6*) to His ultimate purpose in seeking after His bride, the Church of Christian believers, just as those Old Testament grooms did in finding their brides.

However, the Samaritan woman who Jesus met at Jacob’s well on that warm afternoon was not anyone’s first choice for a bride. In comparison with Rebekah in *Genesis 24*, the Samaritan woman came up far short. If you will recall the story, Eliezer, Abraham’s servant, was sent back to Abraham’s relatives to seek a wife for Isaac, as Abraham did not want Isaac to marry one of the local Canaanite women. Eliezer was seeking a sign from the Lord that the young woman who offered to give both him and his ten camels water would be the bride for Isaac (*Genesis 24:13-14*). And it happened just that way. Rebekah showed herself to be virtuous, generous, compassionate, and beautiful, everything Eliezer was hoping for in a bride to bring back for Isaac. Rebekah came to draw water with the other women in the cool of the evening, showing she was accepted in that society (*Genesis 24:11*). Rebekah came from a good family--Abraham’s kinsmen--and was described as chaste and beautiful. “*Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her*” (*Genesis 24:15-16*). Her ready offer to give Eliezer and then his 10 camels water meant she would be drawing hundreds of gallons by hand from a deep well to slake the thirst of weary travelers (*Genesis 24:18-19*). And yet Rebekah took on the task without complaint or seeking any reward.

In comparison with Rebekah, the Samaritan woman in *John 4* was shunned by God-fearing Jews and rejected even in her own community. She was living in sin, failed to offer or provide Jesus any water at all, and had a combative attitude, starting arguments about religion and politics with Jesus. She had to come to Jacob’s well in the heat of the day (*John 4:6-7*) because as a five-time divorcee living with a man not her husband (*John 4:17-18*), she was socially outcast and not welcome to draw water with the other women of Sychar. Even though Jesus asked for a drink, she

continued on page 3, column 2

Biblical Names #3 Scramble

Can you match these 20 biblical names with their meanings? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Abaddon | A. stone |
| 2. Abel | B. bee |
| 3. Abigail | C. son of the right hand |
| 4. Abimelech | D. comforter |
| 5. Benjamin | E. my power is the Lord |
| 6. Cain | F. Lord strengthens |
| 7. Cephas | G. my father is king |
| 8. Daniel | H. destruction |
| 9. Deborah | I. servant of the Lord |
| 10. Elijah | J. my father is joy |
| 11. Esther | K. lucky |
| 12. Eunice | L. bitter |
| 13. Felix | M. breath |
| 14. Hezekiah | N. no glory |
| 15. Ichabod | O. good victory |
| 16. Jedidiah | P. acquired |
| 17. Mara | Q. beloved of the Lord |
| 18. Nahum | R. star |
| 19. Obadiah | S. my God is Lord |
| 20. Uzziah | T. God is my judge |

Biblical Names #3 Word Search

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

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Word Bank: Abaddon, Abel, Abigail, Abimelech, Benjamin, Cain, Cephas, Daniel, Deborah, Elijah, Esther, Eunice, Felix, Hezekiah, Ichabod, Jedidiah, Mara, Nahum, Obadiah, Uzziah

July Birthdays

11 Megan McCall
12 Maggie Leibrand
14 Penny Barton
23 Mary Yates, Aleena Malik
26 Joe Yates



Prayer Concerns

Members: Gary Cooley, health; Joyce Dunn, foot and back pain

Family and Friends: Layla, 15-year-old with health concerns; Jody Reed, cousin of Janna Williams, for leg strength and walking capabilities; Morgan and Dade Pumphrey, Will Pumphrey's daughters; Joe Yates' niece Cyndi, for her eyesight; Bob Runkles, health; the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.

Seniors: Barbara Swank; Bob Runkles; Cortland "Pop" Moore; Eddie & Pauline Fowler; Janet Magruder; Kitty Cooley; Linda Roberts; Mary Yates; Ralph Cooley; Shirley Yates; Susan Rice
Cancer patients: Rhonda, friend of Mary Ann Luhn; Carl Schulz, cousin of George Hazzard; Patricia Lashmit and Sharon Keeney, sisters of Donna Belcher; Bill & Elnora Caudell's niece, Brenda Malinowski; 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).

Biblical Names #3 Scramble Answers

1. **H** (Revelation 9:11); 2. **M** (Genesis 4:2); 3. **J** (I Samuel 25:3); 4. **G** (Genesis 20:2); 5. **C** (Genesis 35:18); 6. **P** (Genesis 4:1); 7. **A** (John 1:42); 8. **T** (Daniel 2:48); 9. **B** (Judges 4:4); 10. **S** (I Kings 17:1); 11. **R** (Esther 2:7); 12. **O** (II Timothy 1:5); 13. **K** (Acts 23:24); 14. **F** (2 Kings 18:1); 15. **N** (I Samuel 4:21); 16. **Q** (II Samuel 12:25); 17. **L** (Ruth 1:20); 18. **D** (Nahum 1:1); 19. **I** (Obadiah 1:1); 20. **E** (II Chronicles 26:3).

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in June:

- No new motions were offered during the June 2025 Business Meeting.

Expected at the July Business Meeting:

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

The Pew Perspective, continued

started to argue with Him about the poor state of Jewish-Samaritan relations (*John 4:9*) and pointed out that Jesus should have been better prepared to draw (His own) water (*John 4:11*)! In fact, the woman asked Jesus to provide her with water (*John 4:15*). Jesus had to shift the conversation in a more productive direction because the Samaritan woman was ready for a fight, not an encounter with a loving Bridegroom.

The Samaritan woman was no Rebekah. Indeed, she reminds us more of the wife in another Old Testament story, that of the prophet Hosea and his adulterous wife Gomer. Just as the Jewish people of Hosea's day were faithless and disloyal to the Lord, Gomer strayed from her marriage to Hosea. Hosea continued to love Gomer and even redeemed her from slavery (*Hosea 3:2*), just like the Lord seeks to pardon and restore sinners rather than condemn and punish them. It is the Gomers and Samaritan women, not the Rebekahs, that are the bride Jesus wants to find—the imperfect, the rebellious, and the sinful. Jesus is seeking out those whom He can heal and forgive. *"I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord"* (*Hosea 2:19-20*). When Jesus seeks us out as sinners in need of His forgiveness and salvation, very few of us are eager and willing to leave our past lives behind like Rebekah and travel into an unknown future. That is why Jesus shows us His love, mercy, and kindness, so that we can come to understand His character and that He is deserving of our faith and loyalty. Jesus, as the Son of David, the Lamb of God, and the King of Kings, deserves a Rebekah for His wife—a pure, holy, and sinless bride. And yet He sought out the opposite—those who were unclean, unlovely, and unworthy. He has restored and redeemed those He has saved—His Church—and made them beautiful and adorned with jewels (*Revelation 21*), fit to live with Him for eternity.

News You Can Use

June review. It was a bit cool and windy during our annual church picnic on Sunday, Jun. 1, but the meal and the fellowship were warm and inviting. Thanks to Ellen Williams, Stephanie Runkles, and the rest of the Outreach



Picnic-goes around the old church sign (L-R): Isabel Cullins, Noah Arthur, Kevin Cullins, Nita Roff, David & Ann Bennett, Jan Burdette, Tina Appleton, Gary Burdette, Joe & Mary Yates, Karen Hazzard, Jan Erickson, Barbara Swank, Ralph Cooley, George Hazzard, and Lee Michael.

Cmte. and volunteers for arranging the event.

The Choir wrapped up its season on Sunday, Jun. 22 with "The Rock Medley", featuring



Suzanne Neal, Karen Hazzard, Ann Bennett, Isabel Cullins, Jan Erikson, Gary Cooley, Noah Arthur, and David Bennett (pictured above), with Nita Roff directing and Jan Burdette playing the piano.

School supply give-away. An evangelistic outreach giving out school supplies to local children is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 16 at 9:00 am at BBC. More details about how you can participate will be shared after VBS!

July Bible studies. Pastor Kevin Cullins has begun a new series on key biblical doctrines on Wednesday nights and Thursday mornings. There are several adjustments to the schedule in July: there will not be any Bible studies during VBS week (Jul. 7-11), nor on Jul. 24.

Pastor vacation. Pastor Kevin & Isabel Cullins will take a week of vacation on Jul. 21-27. Rev. Tim Bonner from First Baptist Church of Rockville will preach on Sunday, Jul. 27.

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.

VBS 2025 almost here! Set-up and decorating of classrooms and the sanctuary for Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held on Sunday, Jul. 6 in the Fellowship Hall after worship, with lunch provided for VBS teachers and workers.

This year's theme for our Jul. 7-11 Vacation Bible School is "Magnified: Discovering the Bigness of God in the Smallest of Things". Kids will be encouraged to look closely at the details of God's amazing world and magnify, or proclaim, the greatness of God.

This year's VBS mission offering will benefit the Čhajkú Wašté Ranch in Porcupine, South Dakota, an SBC-supported ministry that offers summer camp programs for Lakota Sioux youth on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

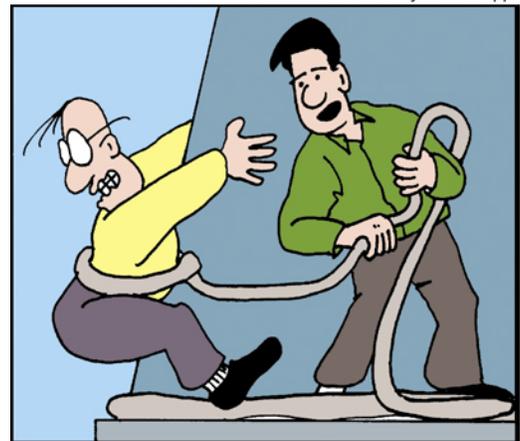
Invite your friends, family, and neighborhood kids to join us for VBS from 6:30 to 8:30 pm each weeknight. Classes are available from Pre-K to Adults. Register online at barnesvillebaptist.org/vbs. VBS is arguably our church's most important annual outreach activity; please join us in serving the Lord and building His Kingdom.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve as teachers and helpers in the areas of crafts, recreation, and snack. Please continue to praying for this most important outreach event of the year.

Seniors' lunch. Those aged 55 and over are invited to a noontime meal and time of fellowship on Tuesday, Jul. 22. Please RSVP to Ellen Williams or Stephanie Runkles by Sunday, Jul. 13.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Didn't I tell you bungee jumping would bring in a bunch of kids for Vacation Bible School?"