



# 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

Now that we are now in the month of September, summer vacations are over, the days are noticeably shorter, a new school year has just begun, and we are at the start of a new football season. The start of a new school year and a new football season have some things in common. Both allow for a clean slate. In school, everyone has the same GPA. There have yet to be any grades given for tests, research papers, or essays. At the beginning of the football season, every team, from youth leagues to the NFL, have the same record of 0-0. Every team believes it can win the championship of its respective league.

I learned in the classroom and in the sports arena that things -do not always go as planned. Both can be filled with difficult assignments and unexpected issues. Even when I thought I knew the subject matter or the opponent, I was often surprised how unprepared I was when it came to time for taking the test or facing the competition.

The Christian life, just as in school and sports, can be full of surprises. While we think we have a solid game plan, God can make changes without notice. He may lead us in a direction we did not expect or want to go in. *Proverbs 16:9* reminds us, "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps".

To get us where we need to be, God will not always follow the advice of the ancient Greek mathematician Archimedes who is quoted as saying, "The shortest distance between two points is a straight line". God will get us to where we need to go. The path may include a few twists and turns, as well as some detours and delays, but we will get there. The key is to make sure we are always ready.

During our Aug. 16 school supplies give-away, I asked the kids if they were ready for school to start. About half said yes and the other half said no. To be honest, I was surprised that more kids did not say no. Hank Williams, Jr. asked in a song prior to the start of a Monday Night Football game, "Are you ready for some football"? I am going to assume that those who tuned into the game were ready, or they would have been watching something else. Are you ready for whatever God has for you?

God Bless,



Pastor Kevin

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## Upcoming Events

- September 1** Labor Day
- September 3** September Business Meeting
- September 7** Event Planning Meeting
- September 14** Choir Practices resume
- September 20** Baptist Men's Meeting; Fishing at Neals' Pond
- September 22** Deacons' Meeting



*"When you eat the labor of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you" (Psalm 128:2).*

# The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

When the Lord gave Moses and the children of Israel instructions about living in the Promised Land, He was emphatic about keeping apart from the Canaanites who lived in the land (*Deuteronomy 7:1*). The Lord warned of three dangers for Israel if they should embrace the lifestyle, values, and religion of their Canaanite neighbors. First, compromise, or weakening of their faithfulness to the Lord: “...*you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Nor shall you make marriages with them...*” (*vv. 2-3*). Second, corruption, or departing from or weakening the moral standards of right and wrong set by God: “*For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods...*” (*v. 4*). And finally, consequences, or the damaging outcomes of disloyalty to God and His Word: “...*so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly*” (*v. 4*). God’s warnings to Moses and Israel about avoiding the pitfalls of the Canaanites weren’t based on close-mindedness or pride. The families of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had interacted with the Canaanites centuries before the children of Israel had come out of Egypt. Each time, the family of Abraham went through tragedy when they departed from the narrow path of following God and pursued the temptations the Canaanites had to offer.

Trouble began for Lot, Abraham’s nephew, when he chose to depart from his uncle and live in the well-watered plains of the Jordan, whose fertile fields could support large flocks and make Lot rich. However, the lowlands happened to be where the Canaanites lived. In *Genesis 13:12*, we see that Lot was first located near the city of Sodom. “...*Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom*”. Several chapters later, when Lot is next discussed, he is found “*sitting in the gate of Sodom*” (*Genesis 19:1*), meaning that Lot progressed from just camping near Sodom to being a part of its leadership structure, as the city gate was where the elders and judges of the city would rule. When Lot received the two angels as guests (*vv. 2-3*), it was clear that he was well aware of the great immorality of the Sodomites and was unable to stand against it (*vv. 4-8*). As God prepared to destroy Sodom, Lot was only able to save his two daughters, for his sons-in-law refused to believe his warning (*v. 14*) and his wife longed to stay and was turned into a pillar of salt (*v. 26*). Lot knew the lifestyle and values of Sodom were wrong but he tolerated and accepted them. While Lot was able to take his two daughters’ out of Sodom, they still had enough Sodom in them that their immoral behavior led to the rise of the Moabites and Ammonites (*vv. 31-38*), two of Israel’s greatest enemies. It was no wonder that when it came time for Abraham to find a wife for his own son Isaac, he made his servant swear an oath “...*that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell...*” (*Genesis 24:3*), lest Isaac be led astray into the same wickedness that befell his cousin Lot.

In the next generation, grief came to the family of Jacob in the Canaanite city of Shechem. “*Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he*

*continued on page 3, column 2*

## Biblical Hometowns Scramble

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

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Abraham         | A. Tel Abib       |
| 2. Amos            | B. Tarsus         |
| 3. Ezekiel         | C. Anathoth       |
| 4. Gideon          | D. Moresheth-Gath |
| 5. Goliath         | E. Bethany        |
| 6. Isaiah          | F. Paddan Aram    |
| 7. Jeremiah        | G. Ophrah         |
| 8. Jesus           | H. Zorah          |
| 9. Jonah           | I. Tekoa          |
| 10. Lazarus        | J. Nazareth       |
| 11. Mary           | K. Jericho        |
| 12. Mary Magdalene | L. Elkosh         |
| 13. Matthew        | M. Gath           |
| 14. Micah          | N. Jerusalem      |
| 15. Nahum          | O. Ur             |
| 16. Paul           | P. Bethsaida      |
| 17. Philip         | Q. Magdala        |
| 18. Rebekah        | R. Capernaum      |
| 19. Samson         | S. Gath-hepher    |
| 20. Zaccheus       | T. Bethlehem      |

## Biblical Hometowns Word Search

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

Word Bank: Abraham, Amos, Ezekiel, Gideon, Goliath, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jesus, Jonah, Lazarus, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Matthew, Micah, Nahum, Paul, Philip, Rebekah, Samson, Zaccheus

## September Birthdays

- 3 Megan Fedders McAleer
- 9 Janna Williams
- 11 Shirley Yates
- 13 Michael Oden
- 14 Nita Roff, Ellen Williams



## Prayer Concerns

Members: Gary Cooley, health

Family and Friends: Bill Lynch at the passing of his wife Linda; 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: 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; 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 Hometowns Scramble Answers

1. **O** (Genesis 15:7); 2. **I** (Amos 1:1); 3. **A** (Ezekiel 3:15); 4. **G** (Judges 6:11); 5. **M** (I Samuel 17:4); 6. **N** (Isaiah 1:1); 7. **C** (Jeremiah 1:1); 8. **T** (Micah 5:2); 9. **S** (II Kings 14:25); 10. **E** (John 11:1); 11. **J** (Luke 2:39); 12. **Q** (Luke 8:2); 13. **R** (Matthew 9:1-10); 14. **D** (Micah 1:1,14); 15. **L** (Nahum 1:1); 16. **B** (Acts 9:11); 17. **P** (John 1:44); 18. **F** (Genesis 28:5); 19. **H** (Judges 13:2); 20. **K** (Luke 19:1-10).

## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in August:*

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

*Expected at the September Business Meeting:*

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

## The Pew Perspective, continued

*came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city" (Genesis 33:18).* Like Lot, Jacob pitched his tent in the wrong place, near the wrong people whose moral standards were drastically different than his. Unfortunately, Jacob's daughter Dinah was assaulted by the son of the ruler. *"And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her" (Genesis 34:2).* Hamor, father of Shechem, tried to patch up the incident by arranging a marriage between Dinah and his son, and proposed further to Jacob that his sons also intermarry with Hamor's people (vv. 6-10). Hamor and Shechem saw an opportunity for Jacob's family and their town *"to be one people" (v. 22)*, which would have meant taking on their lifestyle and religion. However, Jacob's sons were furious at what had happened to Dinah, and their anger led to the murder of the people of Shechem (vv. 25-27). Jacob's family soon after departed from Shechem for fear of additional violence (Genesis 34:30-35:1).

Judah was the next to fall into the snare of the Canaanite lifestyle. Rejecting the wisdom of his forefathers, Judah moved away from his family into Canaanite territory (Genesis 38:1) and married a Canaanite woman, the daughter of Shua (v. 2). Of three sons, two were so wicked that God killed them. First Er: *"But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord killed him" (v. 7);* and then Onan: *"And the thing which he did displeased the Lord; therefore He killed him also" (v. 10).* Judah further took Tamar, also a Canaanite woman, as wife for his son Er and then Onan. The balance of Genesis 38 describes how Tamar bore two sons to Judah through deceit and harlotry accepted under Canaanite values but in direct violation of God's standards of holiness for His people.

In each situation for Lot, Dinah, and Judah, like moths to a flame they got too close to and too comfortable with the Canaanites until they got burnt and suffered great pain and disaster in their lives. As followers of Christ, we are to be salt and light to the world, not hiding ourselves away but shining our light before all men (Matthew 5:13-16). But we must take great care that we hold fast to Jesus as we share His truth in love to those who are lost, neither watering down or changing His message to seek approval. As Jesus asked His Father: *"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15).*

## News You Can Use

**School supply give-away.** Our inaugural school supply give-away on Saturday, Aug. 16 blessed 31 local



children from 11 families from Poolesville, Dickerson, Boyds, and Clarksburg. The event was a good opportunity to meet new families in our community, introduce ourselves and our church to them, and share

the love of Jesus.

Thank you to all our volunteers (and the Gideons) who staffed the different stations and provided a friendly, Christian witness to the families and children that attended. In addition to the school supplies, the kids also



*Tom Roff, Stephanie Runkles, and Tina Appleton handing out school supplies*

enjoyed snow cones, the moon bounce. We were also able to pray with and hand out tracts and Bibles to the families.



*Larry Michael and Billy Appleton making snow cones*

We still have some leftover school supplies. If you know of families who could benefit, please have them contact the Church Office and arrange a time to come by BBC.

**Fall revival services.** The 90<sup>th</sup> Montgomery Baptist Association (MBA) Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, with dinner to follow. This year's meeting will feature keynote addresses by Rev. Jeremy Dickson, BCM/D Director of Church Strengthening, 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 7:00 pm from Oct. 19 to 22. Each evening will offer a unique experience with different worship teams and testimonies. Revival speakers include BCM/D pastors Colin Pugh on Oct. 19, Richard Pope on Oct. 20, Jaime Caldwell on Oct. 21, and MBA preachers Ron Blankenship, Danny Moore and Brian Tubbs on Oct. 22. All events will be held at Olney Baptist Church in Olney, MD.



*Pastor Kevin Cullins and Lee Michael handed out tracts and Bibles at the MBA tent during the Montgomery County Fair on Aug. 14.*

**Supporting missions in Maryland/Delaware.** The annual State Missions offering is a vital part of the ongoing task of building God's Kingdom. BBC's goal is \$500; donations will be collected through the end of September. Donations will be used to plant and revitalize BCM/D



*Danny Howe from Hughesville Baptist Church sang and played guitar on Aug. 10; Mother-daughter duo Isabel Cullins and Marina Rodriguez sang "He Who Began a Good Work in You" on Aug. 17.*

churches. Please prayerfully consider how you can support state missions. You can contribute by designating your check or using the online giving option.

**Fall Bible studies.** Pastor Kevin Cullins will soon begin a new series on the seven "I Am" sayings of Jesus on Wednesday nights and Thursday mornings.

**September schedule.** Committee heads and ministry leaders will meet in the Fellowship Hall after the service on Sunday, Sep. 7 to discuss best practices for planning and coordinating church events and activities.

The Choir will resume practices on Sunday, Sep. 14.

A visit to the Neals' Pond (21511 Peach Tree Road) will be held on Saturday, Sep. 20 starting at 9:00 am. Bring your own fishing gear and bait.

Rabbi-Pastor Robert Pristoop of Shofarel Jewish Ministries will preach on Sunday, Sep. 21 as Pastor Kevin Cullins attends his former church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary service.

## 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!"