



# 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

In 1961, Major League Baseball decided to increase the number of games for each team from 154 to 162. In recent years, that has not always been the case. Due to the pandemic in 2020, the season was shorted to each team playing a maximum of 50 games. Occasionally, a labor dispute by the players and the owners has resulted in the loss of games. A strike by the players in 1994 resulted in the cancellation of the World Series.

The Bible records a few disputes between God and His people which have resulted in lockouts. These lockouts had nothing to do with money or benefits. These lockouts were a result of disobedience. Adam & Eve were locked out of the Garden of Eden. The Israelites were locked out of the Promised Land for 40 years. Jesus spoke of a group in *Matthew 7* who were locked out of Heaven for failing to do "the will of my Father".

I feel secure enough in my faith that God will not lock me out of Heaven when my time comes to check in. However, I realize there are things I could do that would affect my fellowship with God. When I was a kid and did something bad, my parents would tell me to go to my room. God may do something like that let me know He is not pleased with my actions.

*Psalm 66:18* reads, "If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened". *Isaiah 59:1-2* says, "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear".

To think that God would not listen to me or separate Himself from me is a sobering thought. That's like being locked out of my house and nobody hearing me knocking on the door to let me in.

If you are a baseball fan, I hope you enjoy another postseason regardless of who is crowned the champion. More importantly, as a believer, I hope you are enjoying your fellowship with God and never get locked out because of disobedience.

God Bless,



Pastor Kevin

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## Upcoming Events

- October 1** 154<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting
- October 13** Columbus Day
- October 18** Baptist Men's Meeting; Fall Bonfire and Hot Dog Roast
- October 19-22** MBA Annual Meeting; Revival Services
- October 27** Deacons' Meeting
- October 31** Halloween



*"So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water" (Exodus 34:28).*

# The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

When we as Christians offend or are offended by someone else, the Bible discusses three levels of repair to that relationship: forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration. For a Christian, forgiveness is required and can be one-sided; reconciliation is desirable and should be attempted; while restoration ultimately requires both sides to make it work.

Forgiveness is the removal of punishment for a trespass or injury, a choice one makes to pardon and release someone for their offenses. In the Old Testament, Joseph's brothers requested his forgiveness for selling him into Egyptian slavery in *Genesis 50:17*: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you". Abigail pleaded that David not punish her husband Nabal for his rude behavior in *I Samuel 25:28*. Even in cases where the guilty party does not seek forgiveness, the Christian should be eager to offer it. Stephen, the first martyr, waived his right to vengeance against those who were stoning him with his dying words: "Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not charge them with this sin.'" (*Acts 7:60*). Jesus spoke boldly on the necessity for forgiveness, teaching His followers to "forgive our debtors" (*Matthew 6:12*) in the Lord's Prayer. He instructed Peter to forgive others an infinite number of times: "...I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven" (*Matthew 18:22*). In the parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus equates those who do not forgive as unforgiven by God (see *Matthew 6:15*) for their own sins and as those delivered over to the torturers (*Matthew 18:34*). The Apostle Paul continued Jesus' teaching about forgiveness, instructing the church at Ephesus: "And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (*Ephesians 4:32*).

Reconciliation builds on forgiveness and causes a change in relationship from enmity to friendship, resulting in peace. The model for reconciliation between men is that of the peace created between God and man by God's forgiveness of human sin, allowing God to treat man with friendship instead of punishment. As Paul wrote: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..." (*Romans 5:1*). We in turn as followers of Christ are to extend the same offer of compassion and fellowship to others as we have received from God. "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (*II Corinthians 5:18*). As such, we should seek out opportunities to reconcile with others. "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (*Romans 12:18*).

Restoration goes beyond forgiveness and reconciliation by allowing those who had previously hurt or offended you the ability to do so again by allowing them privileged access to you. It takes wisdom to discern whether someone, even though forgiven and reconciled, needs to be brought (back) into your inner circle of trust and vulnerability. A modern example might be how you treat your neighbor after he borrows your car and damages it through reckless driving. You might forgive him and restore a friendly relationship (reconciliation), but would you trust him again to drive your vehicle? A biblical

continued on page 3, column 2

## Forty Days and Nights Scramble

Can you match these 20 biblical characters with their season of trial or life event? Numbers 1-10 took 40 days (and nights) and numbers 11-20 took 40 years. Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- |                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Christ       | A. lay on his right side              |
| 2. Elijah       | B. fasted in the wilderness           |
| 3. Ezekiel      | C. embalmed by Egyptians              |
| 4. Goliath      | D. forewarned by Jonah of judgment    |
| 5. Jacob        | E. rain fell during his Flood         |
| 6. Jesus        | F. explored Canaan                    |
| 7. Moses        | G. taunted army of Israel             |
| 8. Ninevites    | H. received Law on Mt. Sinai          |
| 9. Noah         | I. traveled to Mt. Horeb              |
| 10. Spies       | J. appeared after resurrection        |
| 11. David       | K. provided manna to Israel           |
| 12. Egyptians   | L. ruled as second king               |
| 13. God         | M. lay desolate                       |
| 14. Isaac       | N. age when he married Rebekah        |
| 15. Israelites  | O. ruled as third king                |
| 16. Joash       | P. had peace with Israel under Gideon |
| 17. Midianites  | Q. ruled as first king                |
| 18. Philistines | R. ruled over Judah                   |
| 19. Saul        | S. oppressed Israel before Samson     |
| 20. Solomon     | T. wandered in the wilderness         |

## Forty Days and Nights Word Search

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

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Word Bank: Christ, David, Egyptians, Elijah, Ezekiel, God, Goliath, Isaac, Israelites, Jacob, Jesus, Joash, Midianites, Moses, Ninevites, Noah, Philistines, Saul, Solomon, Spies

## October Birthdays

23 Kaycee Saylor  
25 Judy Wright  
26 Liz Heimlich



## Prayer Concerns

Members: John & Joyce Dunn at the passing of their daughter Abby; Joyce Dunn, in the hospital; Gary Cooley, health  
Family and Friends: former pastor Danny Moore, recovering from pneumonia; 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; John & Joyce Dunn; 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

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).

## Forty Days and Nights Scramble Answers

1. **J** (Acts 1:3); 2. **I** (I Kings 19:8); 3. **A** (Ezekiel 4:6); 4. **G** (I Samuel 17:16); 5. **C** (Genesis 50:3); 6. **B** (Matthew 4:2); 7. **H** (Exodus 24:18); 8. **D** (Jonah 3:4); 9. **E** (Genesis 7:4,12); 10. **F** (Numbers 13:25); 11. **L** (II Samuel 5:4); 12. **M** (Ezekiel 29:11-12); 13. **K** (Exodus 16:35); 14. **N** (Genesis 25:20); 15. **T** (Numbers 14:33-34); 16. **R** (II Kings 12:1); 17. **P** (Judges 8:28); 18. **S** (Judges 13:1); 19. **Q** (Acts 13:21); 20. **O** (I Kings 11:42).

## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in September:*

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

*Expected at the 154<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting in October:*

- A resolution to begin the annual budget process for 2026 will be offered; the standing committees will report to the Treasurer by Sunday, Nov. 2.
- Pastor Kevin Cullins, Lee Michael, and Nita Roff will be nominated to serve as messengers to the 90<sup>th</sup> Montgomery Baptist Association Annual Meeting, being held on Sunday, Oct. 19 at Olney Baptist Church.
- Pastor Kevin Cullins, Lee Michael, and Nita Roff will be nominated to serve as messengers to the BCM/D Annual Meeting, being held Nov. 10-11 in Ocean City, MD.

## The Pew Perspective, continued

example involves the relationship of Paul and Barnabas, who were close traveling companions and missionaries in the book of Acts until they had a falling out over Mark, Barnabas' cousin, who had previously abandoned Paul and Barnabas on a missionary journey in Acts 13:13. When the opportunity arose for Mark to again join a missionary trip, Paul refused to allow Mark to come while Barnabas insisted that he be given a second chance. As recorded in Acts 15:39, "Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus...". There is no further record in the Bible of Paul and Barnabas, once the closest of partners, ever working together again. We can tell from I Corinthians 9:6 that Paul had forgiven or reconciled with Barnabas, as Paul spoke positively of him as a fellow laborer. But Paul achieved the next level of restored relationship with Mark, asking Timothy that Mark be brought to Paul as an active ministry partner: "...Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry" (II Timothy 4:11). Evidently, Mark had the opportunity to show Paul that he had matured from his early failure, and Paul allowed him to become a trusted and valuable partner and friend, especially in Paul's time of great need.

Forgiving others is ultimately trusting God that His way of compassion and mercy is best, that He will ensure that justice and righteousness will prevail, and that wrongdoing and sin will be punished. We must give up our desire to seek those things ourselves and place our faith in God to take care of us and others. It is only then that we can truly live in peace with others, with ourselves, and with God.

## News You Can Use

**Autumn outing.** A fall bonfire and hot dog roast (and s'mores) will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 4:00 pm in the backyard of the parsonage. Please RSVP your attendance on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule by Oct. 12. Please contact Stephanie Runkles with any questions. The Baptist Men will hold their monthly breakfast meeting at 7:30 on the same morning and will help set up tables for the afternoon event.



*Ann Bennett, Karen Hazzard, Noah Arthur, and Gary Cooley sang "Pilot Me Home" on Sep. 7*

**Calendar planning meeting.** Committee heads and ministry leaders will hold a lunch meeting in the Fellowship Hall after the service on Sunday, Oct. 26 to discuss plans for church events and activities for 2026.

**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.



*Rabbi-Pastor Robert Pristoop preached on Sep. 21 and blew the shofar*

**Supporting missions in Maryland/Delaware.** The annual State Missions offering is a vital part of the ongoing task of building God's Kingdom. To date, we have received \$595 (119%) toward BBC's goal of \$500. Donations will be used to plant and revitalize BCM/D churches. Thank you to everyone who has generously supported our state missions offering.



*Rev. Jeremy Dickson spoke about the work of the BCM/D on Aug. 31*

**Abby Dunn, 1969-2025.** BBC hosted the Sep. 20 funeral of Abby Dunn, daughter of John & Joyce Dunn, who passed away on Sep. 13. Abby was baptized at BBC in 1981 and was active in the BBC youth group in her younger years. She enjoyed events like the annual youth group trip to Flora Gillam's beach house in Rehoboth, DE. We pray for the Lord's blessing and comforts over the Dunn family at this time of loss and grief.



**Pastor vacation.** Pastor Kevin & Isabel Cullins will be traveling to Spain to visit family Oct. 6-19; Isabel will stay in Spain into November. Rev. Bruce Conley, director of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association, will preach from the pulpit on Oct. 12. Evangelist Jose Lopez will give the sermon on Oct. 19. Midweek Bible studies will be held on their regular schedule.

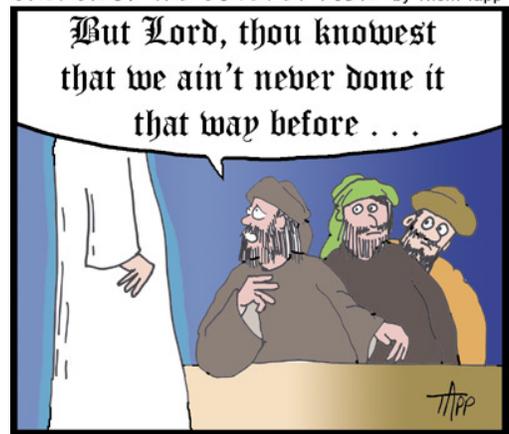


*Nita Roff and Isabel Cullins performed "Open the Eyes of My Heart" on Sep. 14*

**Fall Bible studies.** Pastor Kevin Cullins has begun a new series on the seven "I Am" sayings of Jesus on Wednesday nights and Thursday mornings. Everyone is welcome to participate in midweek Bible study.

## COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



The First Church Committee Meeting