



# 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

It is once again that time of year in which we will hear the Christmas story. Not the one that begins, "Twas the night before Christmas", but, "*Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way...*" (Matthew 1:18). We read and hear the Christmas story each year and yet it never gets old because it reminds us of God's love for us.

Christmas is just one day each year, but Jesus' birth has taken on its very own season. The Hallmark Channels begin showing Christmas movies in October. Some radio stations go to a 24-hour Christmas-only music format in early November. The stores decorate for Christmas, it seems like, right after Christmas. Why extend it out for so long? Because Christmas is that special.

With all the fanfare for Christmas, I would venture to say that all of us have our own Christmas stories to tell. Your Christmas story may be about a childhood tradition or one that you observe now with your family. It may involve the joy of decorating your home, purchasing gifts, or feasting on a special meal with family and friends. Your Christmas story may include events that occurred on or near Christmas Day. I know of someone who met her future husband at a Christmas party held in February (you read that right). That same person was proposed to on Christmas Eve. Moments like that make for some fun and interesting Christmas stories. In case you are wondering, no, they did not get married on Christmas Day.

Jesus is the reason for the season, and it is important that we keep our focus on Him. Some people have been known to make Christmas more about the activities and less about Him. Right or wrong, good or bad, I cannot imagine what Christmas would look like without all the pageantry we have added to it. For the record, I am okay with keeping things the way they are, even if it means hearing the same song several times a day. After all, if there was ever a king that deserved a grand birthday celebration, it would be Jesus.

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## Upcoming Events

- December 3** Business Meeting
- December 6** Christmas Stocking Give-Away, 9:00 am
- December 7** Christmas Lunch, 12:30 pm
- December 20** Baptist Men's Meeting, 7:30 am
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 pm
- December 25** Christmas



*"And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people'"*  
(Luke 2:10).

God Bless,



Pastor Kevin



# The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

One of the major themes that the Apostle Matthew used to introduce Jesus in the first chapter of his gospel was that of “the Son”. In *Matthew 1:1*, Jesus was described as “*the Son of Abraham*” and “*the Son of David*”, linking Him to the first of God’s chosen people (*Genesis 12:2-3*) and the throne whose kingdom would have no end (*II Samuel 7:12-14*). At the end of chapter 1 in verse 25, Matthew made sure to highlight that Jesus was Mary’s firstborn Son. Indeed, two-thirds of *Matthew 1* are about Jesus’ genealogy in the male line--noting a chain of fathers and sons through the Old Testament patriarchs and kings of the Jews. Matthew’s most famous “Son” verse is the quotation of *Isaiah 7:14* in *Matthew 1:23*, that “*...the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel...*”. But Matthew’s focus on Jesus as a Son was not limited to just one verse from *Isaiah 7*. Matthew had several other references in mind to remind his Jewish audience about what the Old Testament prophecies had to say about the long-expected Messiah, Jesus.

The Child-Son language from *Isaiah 7:14* and *Matthew 1:23* was also used in *Isaiah 9:6*: “*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given*”. The two phrases capture two perspectives, of something sent and something received; a delivery shipped down from Heaven and placed into the hands of mankind. Babies are born every day, so the arrival of yet another regular human newborn was not the intent of Isaiah’s promise. Rather, Isaiah’s point about the Child born unto us, the Son given unto us was that the He would be unique, different, and special in some very profound ways, as seen in the rest of *Isaiah 9:6-7*. The Child-Son would have or share God’s almighty power, eternal nature, and wisdom. The promised Child-Son would rule on the throne of David as the governor of an eternal, ever-growing kingdom. He would be a good king, ruling with peace, judgment, and justice.

Isaiah was looking for a righteous king like the Child-Son promised by God. Across the centuries and over the generations, the hope that the Jewish people would live under good and just rulers, be they judges, prophets, or kings, eventually failed. Temporary periods of obedience to God and enjoying His blessing ended with cycles of sin and judgment. Even their greatest king, David, committed the sins of murder and adultery and brought God’s judgment down upon his royal line. All but a few of David’s descendants, from Solomon on down, worshiped other gods alongside the Lord and led the nation into sin and wickedness. The promised Child-Son would be different from all who came before Him. That was part of what Matthew had in mind when he quoted *Isaiah*.

Matthew’s same idea of a God-sent Son given to rule the earth and fix its deep-seated problems is also found in *Psalms 2*. By way of introduction, *Psalms 2* has four characters in it: a narrator, the rulers of the earth, the Lord, and a fourth Person the Lord described with three different but connected titles. The narrator started *Psalms 2* by describing the nations of the world as in rebellion against God, seeking to break free from His righteous rule (vv. 1-3). In response,

*continued on page 3, column 2*

## Scripture in the Carols Scramble

Can you match these 20 Christmas carols with their scripture-inspired lyrics? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Angels From the Realms of Glory       | A. Jesus Christ was born to save                         |
| 2. Angels We Have Heard on High          | B. on Mary’s lap is sleeping                             |
| 3. Away in a Manger                      | C. Israel’s strength and consolation                     |
| 4. Come Thou Long Expected Jesus         | D. angels bending near the earth                         |
| 5. Go Tell it on the Mountain            | E. o’er Bethlehem it took its rest                       |
| 6. God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen!         | F. let heaven and nature sing                            |
| 7. Good Christian Men Rejoice            | G. yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light |
| 8. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing          | H. Immanuel shall come to you                            |
| 9. It Came Upon the Midnight Clear       | I. while shepherds kept their watching                   |
| 10. Joy to the World                     | J. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing            |
| 11. Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming         | K. seek the great Desire of Nations                      |
| 12. O Come O Come Emmanuel               | L. ris’n with healing in His wings                       |
| 13. O Come, All Ye Faithful              | M. O tidings of comfort and joy                          |
| 14. O Holy Night                         | N. truly He taught us to love one another                |
| 15. O Little Town of Bethlehem           | O. gloria in excelsis deo                                |
| 16. Silent Night                         | P. no crib for a bed                                     |
| 17. The First Noel                       | Q. Christ the Savior is born!                            |
| 18. We Three Kings of Orient Are         | R. from tender stem hath sprung                          |
| 19. What Child Is This?                  | S. fear not, said he for mighty dread                    |
| 20. While Shepherds Watched their Flocks | T. bearing gifts we traverse afar                        |

## Scripture in the Carols Word Search

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

Word Bank: angels, Bethlehem, birth, Emmanuel, faithful, firstborn, flocks, glory, holy, Jesus, Joseph, joy, magi, manger, Mary, Noel, rejoice, savior, shepherds, worship

## December Birthdays

- 2 Tina Appleton, Elnora Caudell
- 7 Harper Ahalt
- 17 Roy Leibrand, Mary Ann Luhn
- 28 Ralph Cooley
- 31 Larry Michael



## Prayer Concerns

Members: John & Joyce Dunn, staying in Idaho; Gary Cooley, health

Family and Friends: Allison Runkles, sister-in-law of Stephanie Runkles, dementia; 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; 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

Cancer patients: Patricia Lashmit, sister 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).*

## Scripture in the Carols Scramble Answers

1. **K** (*Haggai 2:7*); 2. **O** (*Luke 2:14*); 3. **P** (*Luke 2:7*); 4. **C** (*Luke 2:25*); 5. **I** (*Luke 2:8*); 6. **M** (*Isaiah 49:13*); 7. **A** (*Matthew 1:21*); 8. **L** (*Malachi 4:2*); 9. **D** (*Luke 2:13*); 10. **F** (*Isaiah 49:13*); 11. **R** (*Isaiah 11:1*); 12. **H** (*Isaiah 7:14*); 13. **J** (*John 1:1,14*); 14. **N** (*John 13:34-35*); 15. **G** (*Micah 5:2*); 16. **Q** (*Luke 2:11*); 17. **E** (*Matthew 2:9*); 18. **T** (*Matthew 2:11*); 19. **B** (*Luke 2:6*); 20. **S** (*Luke 2:9*).

## Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in November:

- A bypass motion to designate certain funds under the Finance Cmte. was approved.

Expected at the December Business Meeting:

- The Finance Cmte. will offer a motion to approve its recommended 2026 Church budget of \$202,697, down \$5,605 from the 2025 adjusted budget of \$208,302.

## COTCD Cartoon

Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



"It's a Christmas gift from the older boys' Sunday School class. Would you check and see who's teaching that class please?"

## The Pew Perspective, continued

the Lord along with the fourth Person, "His Anointed" (v. 2), looked down at the world from heaven and laughed at mankind's futile efforts to escape His judgment (vv. 4-5). God's response to humanity's defiance was to call upon His Anointed (also, Christ or Messiah), whom He called: "...My King on My holy hill of Zion" (v. 6). In other words, God sent down His own Ruler to be present on the earth, in Jerusalem. The Anointed-King was then recognized by the Lord as His Son: "The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You'" (v. 7). The Anointed-King-Son then received from the Lord His commission to inherit the nations and rule the earth (vv. 8-9). The narrator concluded *Psalm 2* by cautioning the human rulers to serve the Lord and submit to His Son to avoid His wrath and receive His blessing if they will trust in Him (vv. 10-12).

*Psalm 2* reminds us that the Child promised and given unto us in *Isaiah* was not meant to remain a quiet infant forever. Jesus is the eternal Son of God, Creator and Lord of creation from eternity past. Matthew's goal in his first chapter was to bridge the promises of the Old Testament with the future rule of an eternal King.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2026  
from the *Lantern* staff.



## News You Can Use

**Celebrating Christmas.** We are excited to have a full schedule of worship and fellowship activities to celebrate the birth of our Savior for the Christmas 2025 season.

The festivities start straight away on Sunday, Nov. 30, when LT Tyler will sing Christmas songs during the morning worship service.

A Christmas Lunch will be held after the service on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 12:30 pm at Bassett's Restaurant in Poolesville. We have reserved a private room; you may order from the full menu and will be responsible for your own bill.



*A good time of fellowship was had at the Italian Dinner on Nov. 15, hosted by the Outreach Cmte.*

On Sunday, Dec. 21, the choir will present its Christmas music program, "The Light of the World", during the morning service. That evening at 5:15 pm, those who want to sing carols at the Town of Barnesville's Christmas party will gather at BBC before going over to the Town Hall.

On Wednesday, Dec. 24, the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 6:00 pm. There will be no midweek Bible studies on Dec. 24, 25, 31 or Jan. 1.

### *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$3,500.*

Nov. 30-Dec. 7 is the week of prayer for the 2025 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. We and the International Mission Board (IMB) are able to send out more than 3,500 missionaries to share the Gospel around the world. The national goal is \$210 million; BBC's is \$3,500. In 2024, thanks to your support of our IMB missionaries, 1.6 million people heard the gospel; 144,969 new believers were saved; and 68,628 were baptized. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions. Offerings via envelope and online will be collected until the end of January 2026.



*Bill Caudell, Larry Michael, Ed Williams, and Billy Appleton screwing down the planks of the sanctuary ramp during the fall clean-up day on Nov. 15.*

**Christmas stocking give-away.** An evangelistic outreach giving out Christmas stockings—filled with gifts!—to 48 local children

will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Just like the school supplies give-away we held in August, this event in our Fellowship Hall and main parking lot will be an opportunity to meet new families in our community, introduce ourselves and our church to them, and share the love of Jesus. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to sign up--online registration is available on the BBC website ([barnesvillebaptist.org/outreach](http://barnesvillebaptist.org/outreach)). As of press time, over 30 local children are signed up to participate.



### *BCM/D annual meeting report.* BBC messengers



*Three BBC pastors together—Kevin Cullins, Randy & Sandy Gilliam, and Danny Moore—at the 2025 BCM/D Annual Meeting in Ocean City, MD.*

Kevin Cullins, Lee Michael, and Nita Roff attended the 189<sup>th</sup> Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware annual meeting on Nov. 10-11 in Ocean City, MD. Dubbed "The Gathering", this

year's annual meeting included reports from each area of BCM/D ministry--church strengthening, formation and health, mobilization and planting, and missional impact—as well as times of worship and prayer. A \$6.85 million annual budget was adopted, retaining 63% of Cooperative Program receipts for BCM/D priorities. MBA Director of Missions Ron Blankenship was elected as president of the convention and former BBC pastor Danny Moore will begin serving as the president of the General Mission Board in December.

**Christmas poinsettias for sale.** If you would like to purchase a Christmas poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Kitty Cooley at 301-349-5119 for sizes and prices.