



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

Welcome to 2026! Are you ready for what this new year will bring? To me, January 1 is an artificial starting line. Many aspects of our lives remain the same even though the calendar flips from one year to another. A new year brings a sense of excitement and anxiety for what is to come that we may not feel at other times of the year. Every new year I hear and read about people who make resolutions. Most involve areas of self-improvement like exercising more, losing weight, and saving money. We want less around the waist and more in the wallet!

The new year is a convenient time to set goals and make plans to accomplish throughout the year. Jan. 1 is an easy date to remember for a progress check. There is nothing wrong with setting goals or making plans. A former pastor told me that we should die with a thousand dreams. As we decide what we want to accomplish, we must ask if what we want is what God wants for our lives. *Proverbs 16:9* tells us, "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps".

In *II Samuel 7*, David wanted to build a house for God. On the surface, there wasn't anything wrong with undertaking such a noble task. The only problem was that it was not God's plan for David, but his son Solomon. David did not argue or plead his case. He obeyed God and left the project for Solomon to complete.

In *Acts 16*, the Apostle Paul tried to go to Phrygia, Galatia, and then Bithynia, but was forbidden by the Holy Spirit. Rather than forcing the issue, Paul waited for a clear message from the Lord before proceeding. His patience paid off as he received the Macedonian call and helped lead the first European to Christ.

The Apostle James warned against making any plans not approved by God, lest we boast. Rather than saying that we will do this or do that, *James 4:15* says, "...If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that".

I pray that you have a blessed 2026. Even if every goal and plan does not come to fruition, you can find peace in all God allows you to do. I commend you to remember *Galatians 3:17*: "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him".

God Bless,

Pastor Kevin



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Upcoming Events

- January 1** New Year's Day
- January 7** Business Meeting
- January 17** Baptist Men's Meeting; Deacons' Annual Prayer Session
- January 19** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

I like writing my annual year-in-review column each January for two reasons. First, it takes a lot less time to write this column because I am reviewing old content instead of creating new material. The second and the main reason is it gives me an opportunity to look back and reflect on how the Lord has led us as a church over the last 12 months. From the vantage point of hindsight here at the beginning of 2026, I can see the trends and patterns that weren't as obvious in the midst of 2025. As I look over the events and activities of 2025, I see how the Lord prepared us and then opened doors for us to try several new ministry activities, from a new midweek Bible study to several outreach events that connected with local families. We also continued to worship, fellowship, and serve in ways that honored the Lord. *Lamentations 3:25-26* reminds us that trusting in the Lord's provision and following His will keeps us on the right path as we celebrate His kindness and mercy: "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord". Here are some of the more interesting and important Church news headlines from the past 12 months:

January: land of Israel explored by virtual reality tour, pastor and deacons pray over church, Lottie Moon goal topped

February: seniors enjoyed Valentine's luncheon

March: Baptist Men served breakfast and led the service, Thursday morning Bible study began

April: Easter celebrated with "Scenes from Passion Week" music program, kids hunted for Easter eggs

May: 10 BBC members learned new skills at MBA Spring Training conference, Annie Armstrong goal surpassed

June: church family picnicked on grounds, the Charleses sang in concert

July: Gospel shared at "Magnified" Vacation Bible School, seniors appreciated at luncheon

August: school supplies give-away outreach made connections with local families

September: church showed love to Abby Dunn's family at her passing, state missions offering goal exceeded

October: hot dogs and s'mores roasted at fall bonfire

November: church fellowshiped at Italian dinner, LT Tyler sang during concert, passing of Susan Rice

December: Christmas stocking give-away reached out to local families, Christmas lunch enjoyed, choir performed "Jesus: The Light of the World" Christmas program

Second Name Scramble

Can you match the names of these 20 biblical characters with a second name they had? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 2.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ben-Oni | A. Cephas |
| 2. Daniel | B. Belteshazzar |
| 3. Eliakim | C. Didymus |
| 4. Gideon | D. Jehoiakim |
| 5. Hadassah | E. Joshua |
| 6. Hoshea | F. Jethro |
| 7. Jacob | G. Barnabas |
| 8. Jesus | H. Benjamin |
| 9. Joseph | I. Israel |
| 10. Joses | J. Zedekiah |
| 11. Levi | K. Jedidiah |
| 12. Mattaniah | L. Jerubbaal |
| 13. Naomi | M. Zaphenath-Paneah |
| 14. Reuel | N. Dorcas |
| 15. Saul | O. Silvanus |
| 16. Silas | P. Matthew |
| 17. Simon | Q. Mara |
| 18. Solomon | R. Immanuel |
| 19. Tabitha | S. Paul |
| 20. Thomas | T. Esther |

Second Name Word Search

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

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Word Bank: Ben-Oni, Daniel, Eliakim, Gideon, Hadassah, Hoshea, Jacob, Jesus, Joseph, Joses, Levi, Mattaniah, Naomi, Reuel, Saul, Silas, Simon, Solomon, Tabitha, Thomas



January Birthdays

- 8 Dan Yates
- 10 Lois Hogue
- 11 Jesse Yates
- 24 Dennis Bryson

Prayer Concerns

Members: Elnora Caudell, lungs; John & Joyce Dunn, staying in Idaho; Gary Cooley, health
 Family and Friends: Susan Cooley, recovering from stroke; Sherry Morrison, recovering from heart surgery; 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: Rev. Mike Trammell; Brenda Baker Windsor and Rhonda, friends of Mary Ann Luhn; Pat Luhn, breast cancer; Patti DeArcangelis, friend of Bill Williams; Bill & Elnora Caudell's niece, Brenda Malinowski, cancer; 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 Nepalese church plant Christ Vision International Church in Rockville, MD

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in December:

- The Church accepted the Finance Cmte.'s motion to approve its 2026 Budget proposal of \$202,697, down \$5,605 from the 2025 adjusted budget of \$208,302.

Expected at the January Business Meeting:

- The Treasurer will submit his Annual Report on the 2025 fiscal year.
- The Pastor will appoint the Deacons to serve as the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2025 finances and report at the March 2026 Business Meeting.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"And then I said 'would it KILL you to be quiet in business meeting just once?'"

Second Name Scramble Answers

1. H (Genesis 35:18); 2. B (Daniel 1:7); 3. D (II Kings 23:34); 4. L (Judges 6:32); 5. T (Esther 2:7); 6. E (Numbers 13:16); 7. I (Genesis 32:28); 8. R (Matthew 1:23); 9. M (Genesis 41:45); 10. G (Acts 4:36); 11. P (Matthew 9:9); 12. J (II Kings 24:17); 13. Q (Ruth 1:20); 14. F (Exodus 2:18); 15. S (Acts 13:9); 16. O (Acts 15:22); 17. A (John 1:42); 18. K (II Samuel 12:24-25); 19. N (Acts 9:36); 20. C (John 11:16).



*"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).*

News You Can Use

Christmas celebration. The BBC Choir performed its “Jesus: The Light of the World” Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 21. The choir was led by Choir Director Nita Roff with Jan



Burdette on the piano. Choir members were: Suzanne Neal, Karen Hazzard (solo), Gary Cooley (solo), Noah Arthur, David Bennett,

Ann Bennett (bells), Isabel Cullins (solo), and Jan Erickson. Lee Michael narrated and Luke Fedders provided audio-visual support.

Deacons’ prayer meeting. After the monthly Baptist Men’s meeting on Saturday, Jan. 17, the Deacons will hold their annual prayer session, when they will pray over each person, family, and ministry of Barnesville Baptist Church to ask for God’s provision, direction, and blessing for the coming year. If you would like the Deacons to pray for a specific issue, please contact Pastor Kevin Cullins.

Lottie Moon offering. Our 2025 goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$3,500. To date, we have collected \$1,969 from individual offerings in addition to the \$1,000 church contribution, which is 85% of our goal! Together, we and sister SBC congregations are able to send out more than 3,500 International Mission Board missionaries to share



BBC carolers sang four well-received songs at the town hall on Dec. 21 for the Town of Barnesville Christmas party.

the Gospel all over the world. Offerings will be collected through the end of January, so let’s see if we can meet or exceed our goal. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions.

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.

Cards ministry volunteer. A volunteer is needed for the cards ministry to send out birthday, get well, sympathy, and other cards throughout the year. If you are a BBC member interested in serving in this position, please contact Pastor Kevin Cullins or Outreach Committee Chair Ellen Williams for more information.

Men’s conference. The BBC Baptist Men are hosting a men’s conference on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. In addition to BBC men, we are inviting men from other local churches to participate.

The theme of the conference is “Equipped to Serve” and will help men identify and use their spiritual gifts to serve and lead their families, churches, and communities, both as individuals and with other

Christian men. The main conference speaker will be Rev. Jeremy Dickson from the BCM/D. Break-out sessions will be led by speakers from the BCM/D and local associations. Registration and other details will be announced soon.



Thanks to everyone who volunteered at our Dec. 6 Christmas stocking give-away to reach out to local families with the Gospel message through prayer, handing out Bibles, singing Christmas carols, giving away Christmas stockings, and serving snacks and drinks.

Candles. Advent wreath candles were lit and scriptures were read to prepare us for Christmas. On Nov. 30, Ed & Ellen Williams lit the candle for “Hope”; on Dec. 7, Larry Michael and Lee Michael lit the “Peace” candle; on Dec. 14, Chase Klein and Jonathan Chandan lit the candle for “Joy”; on Dec. 21, Joe & Mary Yates lit the “Love” candle; and during the Christmas Eve candlelight service, Pastor Kevin & Isabel Cullins lit the “Christ” candle, from which the congregation received its flames while singing “Silent Night”.



Go paperless in 2026. BBC offers the *Lantern* in electronic (and in color) format to those 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.

Christmas poinsettias. Flowers were donated to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season by the following in memory or honor of loved ones: Rev. Kevin & Isabel Cullins (the men and women of BBC); David & Ann Bennett (Carroll & Laura Bennett and Jean Noland); Luke & Lisa Fedders (Doug Cooley and John Michael Fedders); Gary & Jan Burdette (Bill & Helen Burdette, Bob & Margery Lillard, and Rebecca Umstead); Kitty Cooley (Jack Cooley, Carson & Dorothy Ward, and Jack & Nellie Cooley); and Joe & Mary Yates (Lark & Ann Yates, Hazel Ward, and Bruce Benson).