



# 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

*Proverbs 17:6* reads, "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged...". Isabel & I are excited that our second grandson, Greyson, is in our lives. The joy we feel is the same as when Derrick was born 16 years ago. We want to thank everyone who coordinated and contributed to the "Grandma Shower" given in Isabel's honor last month. The highlight for me was that Greyson made a guest appearance. We had a great time of fellowship and were so blessed with the wonderful gifts that will allow us to spoil Greyson when he visits.

During the shower, my oldest daughter Marina took a picture of me holding Greyson (see page 4). As I look at that photo, I see someone who doesn't have a care in the world. He's not afraid that I'll lose or forget him. He's not worried about where his next meal will come from or who will change his diaper. Greyson looks like someone who feels safe and well protected. He doesn't act like he is in any danger or has gotten him into a situation he can't get out of. His look of contentment is the same way that God wants us to feel towards Him. He reminds us throughout Scripture not to worry, be anxious, or doubt.

God is always with us: "...I will never leave you nor forsake you" (*Hebrews 13:5*).

God will always give us what we need: "And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (*Philippians 4:19*).

God will never give us over to anyone else: "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand" (*John 10:29*).

Greyson is too young to understand this now, but I want him to get from the way I hold him that the only thing he needs to feel is loved. I hope that Derrick already knows this, but I also want Greyson to know that his "Papa" will be there for him.

I want to wish all of our mothers, grandmothers, and those who serve in a motherly role a happy Mother's Day. You are all a blessing and deserve to be honored and recognized.

God Bless,



Pastor Kevin

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## Upcoming Events

- May 3** VBS Planning Meeting
- May 6** Business Meeting
- May 7** National Day of Prayer
- May 10** Mother's Day
- May 16** Baptist Men's Meeting
- May 18** MBA Spring Training
- May 24** Deacons' Meeting
- May 25** Memorial Day



*"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11).*

# The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

The Apostle Paul’s description of spiritual armor in *Ephesians 6* is a familiar passage of Scripture for many. No doubt you can recall a sermon with props or a Sunday School lesson with paper cut-outs on a flannel board depicting the different pieces of armor and weapons. Regardless, the versions of those six military items--belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet, and sword--were inevitably described by the pastor or Sunday School teacher as Roman weaponry worn by a Roman soldier. Indeed, Paul, a Roman citizen, wrote *Ephesians* while under house arrest in Rome, guarded by a Roman soldier (*Acts 28:16*). In the first century A.D., even Paul’s Jewish and Gentile readers were familiar with a world where the Romans wore the armor and held the weapons. While Paul would have had his ever-present Roman guard in mind as he penned those verses, he was also drawing on some specific Old Testament imagery to make his point to Christian believers.

The whole section in *Ephesians 6* on the “Armor of God” is about needing to defend against spiritual warfare from the snares of the devil and spirits of wickedness (*Ephesians 6:11-12*). Paul began the topic in *v. 10* with an instruction to “...be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”. Rather than exhorting Christians to supply themselves with the best military equipment they could find, Paul reminded them to rely on Christ for their spiritual defense and health. As he said in *I Corinthians 15:57*, “...thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”. The same spiritual forces we wrestle against in this fallen and sinful world—“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers...” (*Ephesians 6:12*)--are the same ones that Christ has already defeated through His work of salvation on the cross: “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” (*Colossians 2:15*). The closer we abide with Christ and put our trust and faith in His finished work, the more we can rely on Him for our spiritual victory and safety from evil.

Paul’s spiritual armor imagery in *Ephesians 6* is found in a number of messianic passages in *Isaiah* and the *Psalms* that prophesy of a coming King who destroys evil, redeems His people, and rules the world in righteousness. Take the first item of military garb, the belt of truth, which is listed in *Ephesians 6:14*: “...gird...your waist with truth...”. Such a King is described as wearing a belt in *Isaiah 11*, a chapter about a descendant of David who will come to judge the world and rule it in peace. That King is described as One who will slay the wicked in *v. 4*, followed with these words in *v. 5*: “righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist”. Jesus, that King of righteousness, described Himself as “...the truth...” in *John 14:6*. Paul in *Romans 13:14* told us to “...put on the Lord Jesus Christ...”, so that as we wrap ourselves and gird our souls with His goodness and holiness, we are strengthened to lead lives of truth and grace that keep us from sin and temptation.

Stayed tuned for part two of this column in the June 2026 issue of the *Lantern!*

## Weapons in the Bible Scramble

Can you match these 20 people or groups from the Bible with the weapon(s) they used? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Abimelech        | A. javelin           |
| 2. Abishai          | B. trumpets and jars |
| 3. Babylonians      | C. bow and arrows    |
| 4. Canaanites       | D. sword             |
| 5. David            | E. chariot           |
| 6. Egyptians        | F. hammer and peg    |
| 7. Ehud             | G. shield            |
| 8. Gadites          | H. dagger            |
| 9. Gideon           | I. sling             |
| 10. Goliath         | J. millstone         |
| 11. Hezekiah        | K. helmet            |
| 12. Jael            | L. spear             |
| 13. Joab            | M. siege engine      |
| 14. Joash           | N. battering ram     |
| 15. Moses           | O. horses            |
| 16. Samson          | P. jawbone           |
| 17. Saul            | Q. buckler           |
| 18. Shamgar         | R. staff             |
| 19. Uzziah          | S. iron goad         |
| 20. woman of Thebez | T. axe               |

## Weapons in the Bible Word Search

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

Word Bank: axe, battering ram, bow and arrows, buckler, chariot, dagger, hammer and peg, helmet, horses, iron goad, javelin, jawbone, millstone, shield, siege engine, sling, spear, staff, sword, trumpets and jars

## May Birthdays

- 14 John Beach
- 15 Eddie Fowler
- 24 Bobbi Comert, Tom Roff, Wade Williams
- 28 Paul Foster
- 30 Sandy Gilliam



## Prayer Concerns

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

Family and Friends: Jonathan Chandan, recovering from 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; Eddie & Pauline Fowler; Kitty Cooley; 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  
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



*"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).

## Weapons in the Bible Scramble Answers

1. T (Judges 9:53); 2. L (Judges 4:21); 3. N (II Kings 13:15); 4. E (Samuel 17:49-50); 5. I (Judges 7:16-20); 6. O (Exodus 4:2); 7. H (I Chronicles 12:8); 8. Q (I Samuel 19:10); 9. B (II Samuel 23:18); 10. K (II Chronicles 32:5); 11. G (Judges 3:16-21); 12. F (Isaiah 31:1); 13. D (Judges 1:19); 14. C (Ezekiel 26:9); 15. R (Judges 3:31); 16. P (Judges 15:15); 17. A (Judges 9:48); 18. S (II Chronicles 26:15); 19. M (II Samuel 20:8-10); 20. J (I Samuel 17:5).

## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in April:*

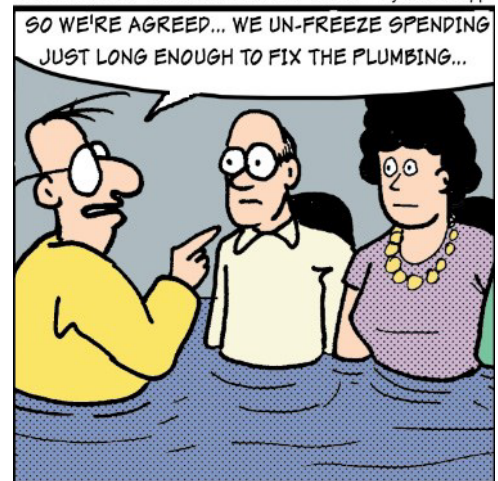
- The Finance Cmte.'s motion to discontinue the online giving account with iDonate was adopted.
- The Church approved the Nominating Cmte. motion for the following members to serve on the Outreach Cmte. for the remainder of the 2024-2026 term: Stephanie Runkles as Chairman and Bereavement Coordinator, vice Ellen Williams, resigned; Noah Arthur, Cards Ministry, vice Donna Belcher, resigned; Isabel Cullins, and Sandra Oden.
- The Church approved the Nominating Cmte. motion for the following member to serve on the Internal Administration Cmte. for the remainder of the 2024-2026 term: Tom Roff as Groundsman, vice Ed Williams, resigned.
- The Church approved the Nominating Cmte. motion for the following members to serve on the Worship Cmte. for the remainder of the 2024-2026 term: Noah Arthur as Head Usher, vice Ed Williams, resigned; Tom Roff for Audio-Visual, vice Noah Arthur, resigned.
- Motions from the Pastor and Deacons to send letters of membership transfer for Janet Magruder, Ed Williams, and Ellen Williams to First Baptist Church of Damascus were approved.

*Expected at the May Business Meeting:*

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the May 2026 Business Meeting.

## COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



## News You Can Use

**Easter 2026.** Celebrations of Jesus' resurrection began with the Easter music program "Calvary's Love" on Palm Sunday, Mar. 29, with Choir Director Nita Roff conducting and Jan Burdette on the piano. The BBC Choir (right)

was composed of Suzanne Neal, Karen Hazzard, Isabel Cullins, Ann



Bennett, Jan Erickson, Gary Cooley, Noah Arthur, and David Bennett. Luke Fedders served as Audio-Visual Technician and Lee Michael narrated. The Good Friday service on Apr. 3 featured a dramatic reading from *Mark 15* about Jesus' sufferings, voiced by Lee Michael, Nita Roff,



Larry Michael, Noah Arthur, Gary Burdette, David Bennett, Karen Hazzard, Joe Yates, and Luke Fedders. On Easter Sunday, Apr. 5, a good-sized crowd came out for the sunrise service on the east parking lot (see picture, above left) and then enjoyed breakfast in the Fellowship Hall before the main service at 10:45 am.

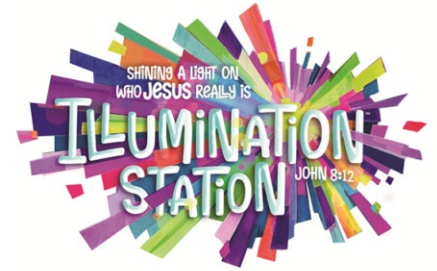
**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.** Thank you to everyone who contributed to BBC's 2026 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Together, we collected 133% of our \$2,500 goal with a total of \$3,325. Seventy percent (\$2,325) came from individual gifts and 30% (\$1,000) was supported by the church budget line item for Cooperative Program offerings. Your prayerful generosity is much appreciated and will be used to share the Gospel across the United States and Canada.

**Easter lilies.** Flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter were donated in memory of loved ones by the following people: Pastor Kevin & Isabel Cullins (all the men and women of BBC); Bill & Tina Appleton (William Sr. & Leila Appleton); Luke & Lisa Fedders (Doug Cooley and John Michael Fedders); Gary & Jan Burdette (Bill & Helen Burdette, Bob & Margery Lillard, and Rebecca Umstead); Dan & Shirley Yates (Lark & Ann Yates; Earl &



Virginia Shreve, and Earl Shreve Jr.); Kitty Cooley (Jack Cooley, Jack & Nellie Cooley, and Carson & Dorothy Ward); David & Ann Bennett (Carroll & Laura Bennett and Jean Noland); and Joe & Mary Yates (Lark & Ann Yates, Hazel Ward, and Bruce Benson).

**VBS 2026 dates set.** On Sunday, May 3, all VBS workers are invited to attend the first planning meeting for Vacation Bible School, which will be held in the Fellowship Hall after worship, with lunch served. Believe it or not, BBC is already preparing for this year's VBS to be held on Jul. 13-17. The 2026 theme is



"Illumination Station", based on *John 8:12*. While many people claim to know about Jesus, many are in the dark about who He really is. During VBS, kids will explore all the ways light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals. Please begin praying for this most important outreach event of the year.

**Spring training.** The Montgomery Baptist Association's Spring Training event will be held on Monday, May 18 at First Baptist Church of Rockville. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, followed by your choice of one of six seminars from 7:00 to 9:00 pm: discovering and using your spiritual gifts, developing a seniors' ministry, using AI in ministry, church budgeting best practices, AWANA ministry, and witnessing for Jesus from the Old Testament. Sign up online at [montgomeryba.org](http://montgomeryba.org). The event is free but advance registration is required. Carpooling from BBC will be available; contact Pastor Kevin Cullins to claim your seat. Last year, BBC had 10 people participate and received an award from the MBA—let's see if we can match that this year also!

**National Day of Prayer on May 7.** The National Day of Prayer is a time for Americans to pray for our country and ask for God's blessings and guidance. Take some time on that day to pray for your family and friends, our community and nation, and our church family. Ask the Lord for His blessings and guidance that we may draw closer to Him. A special prayer guide insert will be included in the May 3 worship bulletin to help you pray. The Thursday morning Bible study at 10:00 am on May 7 will be devoted to prayer.



Pastor Kevin Cullins with grandson Greyson Collins born Apr. 7

**New Bible study.** Beginning in May, Pastor Kevin Cullins will lead a study in *Acts* for the Wednesday evening and Thursday morning Bible studies. Now is a great time to jump in and study the scriptures with fellow believers during the week.