



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

Those who play on teams have heard the saying, "there is no 'I' in team". Team players put their team ahead of themselves and don't care who scores the most points. Team players have the attitude of, "we win as a team, we lose as a team". They know every player contributes to the team's success or failure. While the media and fans often credit or blame just one player, team players see the whole rather than the individual parts.

Barnabas is a great biblical example of a team player. When your nickname is "Son of Encouragement", it is hard to be anything but a team player. He was key in supporting the early church and was the Apostle Paul's first missionary partner.

After Paul's conversion in *Acts 9*, when the original apostles were unsure of welcoming that former church terrorist into their midst, Barnabas stood up for Paul. *"But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus" (Acts 9:27).*

When Paul and Barnabas set out on their first missionary journey (*Acts 13*), they took along John Mark. Although John Mark quit and returned home, Barnabas wanted to take him along on their second trip (*Acts 15*), causing a split between Paul and Barnabas. Barnabas proved to be right about John Mark as Paul would write some years later, *"...Get Mark..., for he is very useful to me for ministry" (II Timothy 4:11).*

If I were putting together a team, I would want someone like Barnabas. His benevolent spirit showed his care for others. His endorsement of Paul revealed that he was willing to take a risk. His support of John Mark showed his ability to see others' potential. He did not view failure as a weakness but an opportunity to grow. Barnabas seems to me to be the type of person who doesn't care who gets the credit. He just wants to see the job get done.

Not everyone can be a Peter or a Paul, but anyone can be like Barnabas. He opened doors for others, encouraged spiritual growth, and partnered in advancing the gospel. Does that sound like you? Are you that type of team player?

God Bless,

Pastor Kevin



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Upcoming Events

August 5 August Business Meeting
August 8 Baptist Men's Meeting; School Supplies Give-Away
August 16 Spring Arbor Services
August 24 Deacons' Meeting
August 30 Church Picnic



"And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them" (II Kings 18:13).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

One of the Jewish people's greatest enemies in the Old Testament were the Assyrians. Located in modern-day northern Iraq, the Assyrians were a conquering nation hated and feared by its neighbors. The prophet Jonah ran from the Lord when He asked him to preach repentance in Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, because of the Assyrians' reputation for violence and cruelty. *"Arise, and go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me"* (Jonah 1:2).

By the late 8th century B.C., the Assyrians were at their strongest and the Jewish people were suffering from their neighbor's attacks. No longer a powerful nation as in the days of Kings David and Solomon, the Jewish people were divided into two kingdoms, north and south. Ten tribes formed the Northern Kingdom, called Israel, which was led by an unbroken series of wicked, ungodly kings with their capital in Samaria. The Northern Kingdom was conquered by Assyria in 722 B.C., with its king imprisoned, its capital city destroyed after a three-year siege, and its surviving population taken into exile and slavery in the Assyrian Empire. The prophet Amos warned the North of its fate, comparing Assyria to a devouring lion: *"As a shepherd rescues from the lion's mouth only two leg bones or a piece of an ear, so will the Israelites living in Samaria be rescued"* (Amos 3:12).

The Southern Kingdom, called Judah, also suffered from many wicked kings who did not follow God's Law and worshiped idols. But King Hezekiah was a welcome, if rare, exception. *"And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done"* (II Kings 18:3). Hezekiah was faithful to remove the altars of idol worship not only in the Temple across his kingdom. Even though Hezekiah did his best to follow the Lord, he was not immune from the dangers of the Assyrians. Eventually, one of the greatest Assyrian kings decided to invade Judah and destroy Jerusalem. *"And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them"* (II Kings 18:13). King Hezekiah did all he could to prepare his people for the coming invasion: he repaired the walls of Jerusalem, forged weapons, and organized the men to defend the city. But it wouldn't be enough. One by one, Judah's cities fell to Assyria.

According to Assyrian records discovered by archaeologists, Sennacherib conquered 46 Judean cities and captured over 200,000 Judean people who were taken as slaves. Jerusalem was the final Assyrian target before Sennacherib could declare complete victory over the Jewish people. Sennacherib sent three of his royal and military officials to Jerusalem to tell Hezekiah to surrender before his army attacked. They mocked the Lord God of Israel and compared Him to all the false gods of the nations they had conquered, saying: *"Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"* (II Kings 18:35). Faced with fear and discouragement in his own power and might, King Hezekiah turned to his God in prayer, asking for mercy and protection. *"Now therefore, O Lord our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the*

continued on page 3, column 2

Hezekiah vs. Sennacherib Scramble

Can you match these 20 biblical characters and locations from the story of Hezekiah vs. Sennacherib with their descriptions? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Ahaz | A. conquering empire led by Sennacherib |
| 2. Assyria | B. southern kingdom led by David's house |
| 3. Eliakim | C. Assyrian chief of staff sent to Jerusalem |
| 4. Hezekiah | D. last king of Israel defeated by Assyria |
| 5. Hoshea | E. Hezekiah's wicked father |
| 6. Isaiah | F. Assyrian king who exiled northern Israelite tribes |
| 7. Jerusalem | G. Hezekiah's royal recorder |
| 8. Joah | H. capital city of Assyria |
| 9. Judah | I. Hezekiah's palace administrator |
| 10. Lachish | J. Judean fortress city conquered by Sennacherib |
| 11. Nineveh | K. prophet who brought God's messages of deliverance to Hezekiah |
| 12. Pekah | L. Assyrian military commander who threatened Jerusalem |
| 13. Rabsharis | M. Assyrian field commander who mocked Jerusalem |
| 14. Rabshakeh | N. Assyrian king who besieged Samaria |
| 15. Sargon | O. Sennacherib's father |
| 16. Sennacherib | P. king of Israel who lost lands to Assyria |
| 17. Shalmaneser | Q. besieged capital of Judah |
| 18. Shebna | R. Hezekiah's royal scribe who negotiated with Assyrians |
| 19. Tartan | S. aggressive Assyrian king who besieged Jerusalem |
| 20. Tiglath-Pileser | T. faithful king of Judah who resisted Assyrian rule |

Hezekiah vs. Sennacherib Word Search

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

Word Bank: Ahaz, Assyria, Eliakim, Hezekiah, Hoshea, Isaiah, Jerusalem, Joah, Judah, Lachish, Nineveh, Pekah, Rabsharis, Rabshakeh, Sargon, Sennacherib, Shalmaneser, Shebna, Tartan, Tiglath-Pileser

August Birthdays

5 Suzanne Neal
11 Rick Thomas
16 Stephanie Runkles
17 Pauline Fowler
20 Bill Williams
25 Jim Gong
26 Lee Michael
28 Ann Bennett
31 Bob Runkles



Prayer Concerns

Members: Mary Yates, recovering from a broken shoulder;
Gary Cooley, health

Family and Friends: Jerry Neal, heart health; Jonathan Chandan's father Dennis, 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; Eddie & Pauline Fowler; John & Joyce Dunn; Kitty Cooley; Ralph Cooley; Shirley Yates

Cancer patients: Brenda Baker Windsor; Pat Luhn, breast cancer; Patti DeArcangelis, friend of Bill Williams

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).*

Hezekiah vs. Sennacherib Scramble Answers

1. **E** (II Kings 18:1); 2. **A** (II Kings 18:13); 3. **I** (II Kings 18:18);
4. **T** (II Kings 18:1); 5. **D** (II Kings 17:3); 6. **K** (II Kings 19:2);
7. **Q** (II Kings 18:17); 8. **G** (II Kings 18:18); 9. **B** (II Kings
18:1); 10. **J** (II Kings 18:14); 11. **H** (II Kings 19:36); 12. **P** (II
Kings 15:29); 13. **C** (II Kings 18:17); 14. **M** (II Kings 18:17); 15.
O (Isaiah 20:1); 16. **S** (II Kings 18:13); 17. **N** (II Kings 17:3);
18. **R** (II Kings 18:18); 19. **L** (II Kings 18:17); 20. **F** (II Kings
15:29).

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in July:

- A motion was passed to call for the Standing Committees to authorize Church officer and committee positions for the 2026-2028 term.

Expected at the August Business Meeting:

- The Church Clerk will report a joint motion providing the Standing Committees' recommendations for Church officer and committee position vacancies for the 2026-2028 term.
- The Pastor will announce the appointment of a Select Committee on Nominations to nominate candidates for Church officer and committee positions for the 2026-2028 term: Noah Arthur, David Bennett, Jan Burdette, Lee Michael, and Nita Roff.
- The Nominating Cmte. will recommend the following members to serve on the Worship Cmte. for the remainder of the 2024-2026 term: Jan Burdette as Chairman, vice Luke Fedders, resigned; and Tom Roff as Audio-Visual Technician, vice Luke Fedders, resigned.
- The Pastor and Deacons will offer a motion to send letters of membership transfer for Claude & Donna Belcher to First Baptist Church of Damascus.

The Pew Perspective, continued

kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord God, You alone" (II Kings 19:19). And God answered Hezekiah. "And the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying, 'Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: "I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city"' (Isaiah 38:4-6). God delivered a miracle to save Jerusalem. "And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand...; So he [Sennacherib] returned shamefaced to his own land." (II Kings 19:35; II Chronicles 32:21). We know from archaeological and historical records that the Assyrians never conquered Jerusalem, and Hezekiah continued to reign as king of Judah, even after all the lands around him had been defeated by Sennacherib.

Hezekiah's example reminds us of several truths. One is that even good people who are faithful to the Lord can come across situations that are too big for them to solve on their own. Another is that prayer works. God can intervene in any circumstance. It is still important for us to be wise and diligent to do all we are supposed to do, but trusting in the Lord and relying on His strength and understanding is the most important key to success and victory. God didn't promise to rescue until Hezekiah asked for it. Sometimes God doesn't give us His blessings because we don't ask for them. Don't wait until a conquering army crashes into your life to seek out your heavenly Father. Pray and talk with Him on a regular basis.

News You Can Use

School supply give-away. An evangelistic outreach giving out school supplies to local pre-K to 12th grade children will be held on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. 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). All kids must be physically present to receive the school supplies. BBC volunteers will staff the different stations and provide a friendly, Christian witness to the families and children that attend.

BBC has purchased school supplies, to include: backpacks, binders, colored pencils, composition notebooks, construction paper, crayons, dividers, erasers, folders, glue sticks, hand sanitizer, highlighters, loose leaf paper, pencil sharpeners, pencils, pens, protractors, rulers, scissors, and tissue packs. There will also be stations to receive free Bibles and prayer requests; complete a Bible-based craft; learn more about BBC's ministries and activities; enjoy a snack; and play in our moon bounce.

Congratulations. Jan Burdette retired from the Montgomery County Office of the County Attorney as a paralegal specialist, capping a career of 41 years. Best wishes, Jan, on the next chapter of your life!

Leadership conference. Pastor Kevin Cullins, Lee Michael, and Nita Roff will be attending the BCM/D's Church Leaders Conference on Aug. 13-14 in Davidsonville, MD. There will be a variety of workshops and speakers to help pastors, leaders, and teams to serve the local church.

August schedule. Pastor Kevin & Isabel Cullins will be on vacation Aug. 17-23. Evangelist Jose Lopez will preach the sermon on Sunday, Aug. 23. Danny Howe from Hughesville Baptist Church will sing and play music on Sunday, Aug. 30.

Prayer requests. The worship bulletin is updated weekly with prayer requests for BBC members, family and friends, and other needs. Please contact the Church Office by Wednesdays at 6:00 pm to have your request included in the following Sunday's bulletin. Prayer requests can also be sent out on the BBC email list for more timely needs.

VBS 2026. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's "Illumination Station" Vacation Bible School on Jul. 13-17. VBS 2026 was a good time of teaching the Gospel and fellowship with new and old friends.



Registration totaled 23 with four children and 19 workers.

Fun was had by all as students enjoyed times of worship, Bible study, crafts, recreation, and snacks. This year's VBS



offering, which as of publication was \$1,091.26, will be sent to Skycroft Conference Center, the BCM/D's summer camp for kids, in western Maryland.

Many people encounter Jesus as their Savior while attending camp or a retreat at Skycroft. We appreciate everyone who volunteered to make this year's VBS a blessing to so many children and their families. Special appreciation goes to Tina Appleton for serving as VBS Director.



Church picnic. Gather with us for our rescheduled annual church picnic on the grounds on Sunday, Aug. 30 after the worship service. BBC is providing the main meal (Mission BBQ) and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. In the event of rain, we will use the Fellowship Hall. RSVP your attendance on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



When Pastors Dream