



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

October means the temperatures and leaves begin to fall; and for me, the six best baseball teams compete in the World Series. What makes the playoffs so interesting is that the team with the best record after a 162-game season seldom wins the World Series. In fact, the team with the best record has only won the World Series about 30% of the time. Cliches such as "It's anybody's ball game" and "It ain't over 'til it's over" are true when it comes to most any playoffs. The sentiment among the lower-seeded teams is that they are down but not out.

Washington Nationals fans will long remember the 2019 World Series. After starting the year with a 19-31 record, who would have thought that the Nationals would have even made the playoffs? In the championship series, the Nationals scored six runs in the last three innings of the seventh and final game to beat the heavily favored Houston Astros and bring home the trophy. Listening to the interviews afterward, none of the Nationals felt the game was over after the sixth inning.

Living the Christian life can sometimes feel like we are on the losing side late in the game. Going from day to day often feels like a grind. I know there have been times in which I have felt as if my back was up against the wall and that I couldn't win. The important thing is that I did not give up. The Apostle Paul had a number of reasons to be discouraged and feel the agony of defeat. He experienced his share of troubles but never quit. *"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies"* (II Corinthians 4:8-10).

The main difference between baseball and the Christian life is knowing the outcome. No one knows who will win a game regardless of how much better a team seems to be. As Christians, we know that Jesus has already secured the victory. I like the title of the old Southern Gospel song, "I read the back of the book and we win". If you ever feel down and out and just cannot win, just hang in there. The game is not over until the last out. God has made a way for you to win and claim your heavenly trophy.

God Bless,



Pastor Kevin

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Upcoming Events

October 7 155th Annual Business Meeting
October 12 Columbus Day
October 17 Baptist Men's Meeting; Fall Bonfire and Hot Dog Roast
October 18-21 MBA Annual Meeting; Revival Services
October 26 Deacons' Meeting
October 31 Halloween



"...And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock" (Matthew 7:25).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Just a few weeks ago, in early September, I was able to visit Ocean City, MD and spend several hours at the beach, enjoying the water and relaxing on the sand. Just last weekend, at the end of September, a strong nor'easter storm pounded the beaches of the mid-Atlantic. The dunes and once gently sloping sands I had only recently visited had been hit hard by storm surge, leaving behind miniature cliffs where the erosion had removed multiple feet of sand from the beach. Looking at pictures online, the path I used to walk down to the water was now impassable without a ladder to get down to the bottom of the ledge carved out by the storm. Remnants of dune fencing were strewn about and other structures that were not behind the seawalls or the protective dunes had been tossed around. On the main boardwalk, the seawalls did their job but even then, drifting sand and seafoam covered the wooden walkway. For an Atlantic hurricane season without a formal hurricane (yet), that unnamed storm that didn't even make landfall certainly caused a lot of trouble.

Last weekend's storm reminds me of Jesus' parable in *Matthew 7* when he told the story about the wise man who built his house on the rock and the foolish man who built his house on the sand. When the sun is shining and the winds are soft, it doesn't matter how or where your house is built. But when the storms approach, the winds howl, and the waves come crashing in, previous choices make all the difference.

Looking at the recent damage in Ocean City, I imagined how worse the storm would have been if there was nothing between the ocean and the buildings and boardwalk to protect them. If you've ever been to Ocean City in the off-season, there are scores of construction workers and repairmen taking care of all the projects you don't often see during the summer. Worn-out planks on the boardwalk are replaced with new timber; hotels and restaurants receive maintenance that can't be done during tourist season; and roads and bridges are maintained by work crews. Millions of dollars are spent to replace the Ocean City sand that is washed out to sea, and hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent to build and maintain the seawall and dunes. But almost a billion dollars have been saved in preventing damage and even lost lives that would have occurred without those defensive structures. The property saved in the latest storm would not have been defended if not for the efforts and preparations made over the last 35 years to put the 30-foot-deep and three-foot-high seawalls in place.

Jesus made the same point 2,000 years ago that you need to have your defenses up well before trouble comes. Knowing God's rules for living in a righteous way needs to come before a temptation tests you. Unlike the weather forecast, we often do not get advance warning that we may be placed in a situation where our faith will be challenged. Our response or decision on how to proceed when faced with a moral dilemma may be required on the spot, without a chance to do some Bible study, ask the pastor, or pray about our answer. Instead, as Christians, we need to have made up our minds already about what our values are and already know what the Scriptures say about a moral position. And we need to be ready to put those beliefs into action. Jesus explained to His disciples in

continued on page 3, column 2

Biblical Metaphors Scramble

Can you match these 20 objects or persons used in New Testament metaphors to describe a heavenly truth or ideal with their earthly contrast? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. crown | A. shadow |
| 2. fig | B. hireling |
| 3. gold | C. priest |
| 4. good Samaritan | D. fire |
| 5. lampstand | E. bushel basket |
| 6. Lazarus | F. wreath |
| 7. light | G. tares |
| 8. manna | H. thornbush |
| 9. meat | I. log |
| 10. Mount Zion | J. sand |
| 11. mustard seed | K. branches |
| 12. rock | L. straw |
| 13. rudder | M. leaven |
| 14. sheep | N. Mount Sinai |
| 15. shepherd | O. goats |
| 16. speck of dust | P. bread |
| 17. substance | Q. Pharisee |
| 18. tax collector | R. rick man |
| 19. vine | S. dark |
| 20. wheat | T. milk |

Biblical Metaphors Word Search

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

Word Bank: crown, fig, gold, good Samaritan, lampstand, Lazarus, light, manna, meat, Mount Zion, mustard seed, rock, rudder, sheep, shepherd, speck of dust, substance, tax collector, vine, wheat

October Birthdays

23 Kaycee Saylor
25 Judy Wright
26 Liz Heimlich



Prayer Concerns

Members: Elnora Caudell, recovering from gall bladder surgery; Gary Cooley, health

Family and Friends: Gene Yates, recovering from stroke; former pastor Danny Moore, recovering from back surgery; Jerry Neal, recovering from heart surgery; 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; Mary Yates; Ralph Cooley; Shirley Yates

Cancer patients: 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).*

Biblical Metaphors Scramble Answers

1. **F** (I Corinthians 9:25); 2. **H** (Luke 6:44); 3. **L** (I Corinthians 3:12-15); 4. **C** (Luke 10:25-37); 5. **E** (Matthew 5:15); 6. **R** (Luke 16:19-31); 7. **S** (John 3:19-21); 8. **P** (John 6:49-51); 9. **T** (I Corinthians 3:2); 10. **N** (Hebrews 12:18-24); 11. **M** (Matthew 13:31-33); 12. **J** (Matthew 7:24-27); 13. **D** (James 3:3-5); 14. **O** (Matthew 25:31-46); 15. **B** (John 10:12); 16. **I** (Matthew 7:3-5); 17. **A** (Colossians 2:17); 18. **Q** (Luke 18:9-14); 19. **K** (John 15:1-8); 20. **G** (Matthew 13:24-30).

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in September:

- The Church approved a motion to dismiss 42 inactive members for one or more of the reasons described in Article II, Section 1 of the Church Constitution.

Expected at the 155th Annual Business Meeting in October:

- A resolution to begin the annual budget process for 2027 will be offered; the standing committees will report to the Treasurer by Sunday, Nov. 8.
- Pastor Kevin Cullins, Lee Michael, and Nita Roff will be nominated to serve as messengers to the 91st Montgomery Baptist Association Annual Meeting, being held on Sunday, Oct. 18 at Georgia Avenue Baptist Church in Silver Spring, MD.
- Pastor Kevin & Isabel Cullins, Lee Michael, and Nita Roff will be nominated to serve as messengers to the BCM/D Annual Meeting, being held Nov. 9-10 in Annapolis, MD.
- The Select Committee on Nominations will report on its recommendations for 2026-2028 church officers, and the Church will then vote on those nominations.
- Note: All outstanding motions not acted on at the October Business Meeting must be re-introduced for any further consideration by the Church.

The Pew Perspective, continued

Matthew 7:24 that the wise man is the one who not only knows what to do but actually does the right thing: *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man..."*. The rock of protection Jesus spoke of requires us to be ready to say and do the right thing at the right time, not just have a head knowledge of what should be done but is never put into practice. The foolish builder in Jesus' parable isn't so much someone who has never heard Jesus' teachings but rather one who has but still has never found the time or the energy to put them into practice as part of his daily living. James explained that principle in his epistle, writing to the first-century Christians: *"What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works"* (James 2:14)?

Hurricane season doesn't officially end until Nov. 30 and our season of tempting and trials in this life never takes a vacation. Now, not later, is the time to decide Whose we are and how we want to live our lives. Only then will we be ready when the next batch of dark clouds comes over the horizon.

News You Can Use

Autumn outings. A fall bonfire and hot dog roast (and s'mores) will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 4:00 pm in the backyard of the parsonage. Please RSVP your attendance on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule by Oct. 11. 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.

Committee heads meeting. The five standing committee chairmen will hold a Zoom meeting on Monday, Oct. 12 at 7:00 pm to discuss plans and goals for church ministries for 2027. A larger calendar planning meeting will be held on Nov. 1.

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 \$696 (139%) toward BBC's goal of \$500! Donations will be used to for compassionate ministries. Thank you to everyone who has generously supported our state missions offering.

Fall revival services. The 91st Montgomery Baptist Association (MBA) Annual Meeting will be held at Georgia Avenue Baptist Church in Silver Spring, MD on Sunday, Oct. 18 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. This year's meeting will feature keynote addresses by



NAMB missionary Rev. Colin Pugh. Following the annual meeting, the MBA will kick off four nights of church revitalization, renewal, and revival services starting at 7:00 pm from Oct. 19 to 21. Each evening will offer a unique experience with

different worship teams and testimonies. Revival speakers include BCM/D pastors Jeremy Dickson on Oct. 19 and Jaime Caldwell on Oct. 20, as well as MBA preachers Ron Blankenship and Gayle Clifton on Oct. 21.

Calendar items. The Spring Arbor service for October will be held on Oct. 11 instead of the 18th. Pastor Kevin & Isabel Cullins will be on leave in the local area Oct. 19-25. Rev. Jeremy Dickson from the BCM/D will preach the sermon on Oct. 25.

Fall Bible studies. Pastor Kevin Cullins is working through the book of Acts, teaching about the early Church, on Wednesday nights and Thursday mornings. Everyone is welcome to participate in midweek Bible study.

Congratulations. Kitty Cooley was the recipient of the 2026 Montgomery Agricultural Center Leadership Award at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. The purpose of Agricultural Leaders is to provide an opportunity for leaders in the agricultural community to come together during the annual Agricultural Fair to commemorate the importance of agriculture, share ideas, concerns and successes impacting Montgomery County.

Late summer round-up. On Aug. 30, Danny Howe (pictured, right) sang and played guitar during the worship service, which was followed by the annual church picnic on the grounds (pictured below, right). With much better weather than in June, the BBQ lunch was enjoyed by all.



Saturdays in September were also great times of celebration and ministry. Pastor Kevin Cullins baptized Jonathan Chandon



(pictured below, left) in the Little Monocacy River off of Mouth of Monocacy Road on Saturday, Sep. 12. A group of BBC



members and Jonathan's family gathered at the creekside to witness him follow in obedience to Jesus' example and dedicate himself to walking in

Christian discipleship. A reception followed in the parsonage. Saturday the 19th was BBC's first time to participate in

Poolesville Day. We interacted with hundreds of local residents at our tent on Fisher Avenue across from Whalen Commons (pictured, right), sharing information about BBC, passing out gospel tracts and Bibles, and giving away prizes to kids of all ages.



COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"You can always tell when he's going to preach from the book of Romans!"