

The Lamplighter

From Our Interim Pastor, Mark Dooley

FBC, LaPlata saints,

I am excited to be with you throughout the beginning weeks of 2020 as you prepare for the arrival of your new pastor, Dr. Gary Schneider. I will be away January 12 in Montana for work related travel, but other than that I am looking forward to filling the pulpit each week through February 9. It is always such a joy to be able to share the word of God with people who so eagerly want to consider its claims.

We will open the year with a message from 2 Timothy 3:14-17 called, "Resolved to be a better disciple." That evening, I'll also begin a series on the "one anothers" of Scripture. We will consider these messages during the Sunday evening services. There are almost 60 unique statements of Scripture in this regard. We obviously won't have time to consider them all, but we will be looking at Love one another (Jan. 5 – John 13:34-35), Serve one another (Jan. 19 – 1 Peter 4:7-11), Forgive one another (Jan. 26 – Colossians 3:12-14), Instruct one another (Feb. 2 – Romans 15:14, Colossians 3:16), and Honor one another (Feb. 9 – Romans 12:9-16).

After I return from Montana, I'm excited to begin a series from the book of Titus. I believe this will help us understand what it means to be the church and go a long way toward preparing for the arrival of a new pastor. We will break that study up as follows:

- Jan. 19 – Titus 1:1-4 – The truth defended by Titus
- Jan. 26 – Titus:5-16 – The task dispensed to Titus
- Feb. 2 – Titus 2:1-15 – The teaching delivered to Titus
- Feb. 9 – Titus 3:1-15 – The trust described to Titus

Let me encourage you to prayerfully read each of these passages prior to each service. On January 12, when I'm away, I'm grateful that Stan Beall will be coming to fill the pulpit. Since he has preached for FBC, LaPlata before, you know that he's a man of God who believes the Word of God and will preach solid biblical messages for you.

Please pray for me, church, as I prepare each week. And continue to pray for your new pastor, Dr. Schneider, that God will continue to guide him as he concludes his current ministry and makes preparation to relocate to southern Maryland. May God bless each of you greatly.

Servants Together,

Pastor Mark Dooley
Interim Pastor

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2020

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We would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Happy New Year.

How did you celebrate New Year's Day?

Our celebration should consist of taking time to stop and look back over the past year and thank God for His blessings to us. The Bible reminds us that "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father" (James 1:17). We should also take time at the beginning of the year to look forward, and to commit our lives into God's hands. Only God knows what the new year will bring—but when we know Christ, we can face the future with confidence, because we know we belong to Him. Commit this coming year—and your whole life—to Jesus Christ. You can depend on God's promise: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Why should I serve in the Church?

When we received the Holy Spirit, we committed our lives to our Lord and Savior. We are now part of the body of Christ, the Church (1 Corinthians 12:27). Serving the Lord is our highest priority. We love Jesus because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). It's because of that love that we follow Jesus.

Jesus came to serve, rather than to be served. The most well-known example of this was when He washed the feet of his disciples (John 13), a job that was traditionally done by a lowly slave. Through this act Jesus demonstrated the heart of a true servant and set an example for us to follow. Each time we serve another we are becoming more like Christ.


Jesus gives us the greatest commandment in Luke 10:27 – "And He answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." We show our love by serving others and this also shows God's love for them.

In Jesus' last words before ascending into heaven, He commands us to: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

God created us for serving! In Ephesians, Paul writes "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

God has blessed each one of us with different gifts and abilities. In 1 Peter 4:10 we are instructed to, "...serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

Ask God how you should serve Him in His Church. There are many ministries at the First Baptist Church of La Plata. It's truly a blessing to be part of those ministries.



*Before I was
born*
THE LORD CALLED ME;
FROM MY MOTHER'S WOMB
HE HAS SPOKEN MY NAME.
ISAIAH 49:1





Library News

New and on the Shelf

Fiction

- The Tears of Dark Water* by Addison Corban (F ADD)
- The Half-Stitched Amish Quilting Club* by Wanda Brunstetter (F BRU)
- The Devoted* by Suzanne Woods Fisher (F FIS)
- Tempest in a Teapot* by Judy Baer (F BAE)
- We Have This Moment* by Diann Hunt (F HUN)

Non-Fiction

- Wild Grace* by Max Lucado (248.8'3)
- Gospel Trailblazer* by Howard Jones (B JON)

DVD

- Drive Through History: Jerusalem to Calvary*
- The Amish and the Reformation*
- The Imposter*

Meet Your Deacon

Scott Nupson

(Standing , Center)



Scott is our newest but not least experienced deacon. He joined FBC La Plata in August 2018 after moving here from Alabama with his wife, Ellen (of 32 years) and her parents, Gordon (a retired pastor) and Norma Hanson from Minnesota, who live with them. He is an Air Force Chaplain. He and Ellen raised four children: Kyle, a USAF Intelligence Officer married to Joz; Kelly, a high school English teacher at a Christian school in Wisconsin; Kristen, Legislative Director for Right to Life Wisconsin; and Kari, who is a senior art major at Cedarville University in Ohio.

He has been a deacon here since October of this year and had previously served as a pastor of First Baptist church in Spring Valley, Minnesota for six years and has been a chaplain for 20 years.

Scott, what do you like most about being a deacon?

Connecting with God's people.

What do you see as your mission as a deacon?

To be an extension of the Pastor.

Any other comments or things you would like us to know?


First Baptist Church is an awesome church family and we are thankful to be part of this ministry.

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Bible Quiz

According to Matthew, who was present at Jesus' baptism? (Choose as many as apply.)

- A. John the Baptist
- B. The Spirit of God
- C. Jesus' Mother, Mary
- D. His first disciples




January is Sanctity of Life Month

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."

Charles Dickens



Missions & Outreach

Women on Mission News

Thank you for generously filling approximately 50 stockings. Fifty children also received New Testaments, Bible story activity books, and Christmas tracts. Pray that those children will be blessed with the knowledge of Jesus and become believers in Him.

Thank you also for the donations of hats, mittens and gloves to help keep Charles County children warm.

Weekday Women on Mission will meet Thursday, January 9th at 10:00 am for their mission study and to make jump ropes. All ladies are welcome.



Meeting Schedule

5:30 - 7 pm

January 5th - Regular Club Night
 January 12th - Regular Club Night
 January 19th - Regular Club Night
 January 26th - Double Section Night



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's never too early to start thinking about the 2020 Collection Week. Buying and donating different items all during the year will make it easier to have lots of gifts to pack at the packing parties during VBS and Collection Week. January is a great time to load up on bargains from the after-Christmas sales, and wrapping paper and tape. And with the collection bins out all year around, it's easy to bring in items anytime.

For more information email:

Charles County Right to Life:

ccrtl1973@gmail.com, or call

301-645-1122 and leave a message.

Watch upcoming bulletins for a link to Signup Genius to reserve a seat on one of the buses. **Seating is limited.**

A Sacred Partnership

Bible scholar William Barclay notes that John the Baptist was "startled and unwilling" when Jesus asked to be baptized. The evangelist thought he needed what Jesus could give, not the reverse!

We are pros at taking our needs to God--indeed He invites this: "Call on Me in the day of trouble" (Psalm 50:15). But God also comes to us with needs: "Mortal, I am sending you" (Ezekiel 2:3, NRSV), "Go . . . make disciples" (Matthew 28:19); "Carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2, NIV).

Apparently, God prefers partnership to acting solo. From the beginning, God has invited people to name the animals, tend the garden, welcome strangers, build the tabernacle, proclaim His word, ensure justice and mercy, share His love.

What does God need from you, as Jesus needed baptism from John? Salvation is God's alone to accomplish, but then He calls us to share work with Him, for the world's sake. So we echo Jesus: "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this" (Matthew 3:15, NIV)

Heidi Mann

FYI

Pulpit Schedule for January

Interim Pastor Mark Dooley unless otherwise specified (Subject to Change)

Jan. 05	AM	<i>"Resolved to be a Better Disciple"</i>	2 Timothy 3:14-17
	PM	<i>"Love One Another"</i>	John 13:34-35
Jan. 12	AM	Dr. Stan Beall	
	PM	TBA	
Jan. 19	AM	<i>"The Truth Defended by Titus"</i>	Titus 1:1-4
	PM	<i>"Serve One Another"</i>	1 Peter 4:7-11
Jan. 26	AM	<i>"Forgive One Another"</i>	Colossians 3:12-14
	PM	<i>"The Task Dispensed to Titus"</i>	Titus 1:5-16

Our thanks to Pastor Dooley who will be filling in until our new pastor, Dr. Schneider comes in mid-February.

Tellers for January

Sharon Bruce & Kevin Guiffre

Deacon of the Week

	8:30 am	11:00 am
Jan. 05	Nick Papanicolas	Dean Irwin
Jan. 12	Jim Robey	Bobby Jones
Jan. 19	Virgil Burnette	Ron McConkey
Jan. 26	Ed Mauck	Scott Nupson

Children's Church Workers

Jan. 05 & 12: Jennifer & Corbin Cooke, Collette Lusk & Jessica Miller

Jan. 19 & 26: Karen Jones, Tabby, Morgan & Hannah Krauel, Caitlyn Hancock

Safety Teams for January

- 05** Nick Papanicolas & Dale Gordon (sub. John Pankhurst)
- 12** Paul Miller & Dave Thompson (sub. Jim Sanny)
- 19** Jonathan Doyle & Dean Irwin (sub. Jerry Pruitt)
- 26** Ben Doyle & Al Law (sub. Kevin Guiffre)

Nursery Schedule: Sundays

- Jan. 05** - AM -
- PM -
- Jan. 12** - AM -
- PM -
- Jan. 19** - AM -
- PM -
- Jan. 26** - AM -
- PM -

Schedule unavailable
at press time

Wednesdays

- Jan. 01** - NEW YEAR'S DAY; NO SERVICE
- Jan. 08** -
- Jan. 15** -
- Jan. 22** -
- Jan. 29** -

January Family News



01	Kylie Duehring	16	Sally Sexton
01	Bob Mathews	17	Lucy Bowie
02	Virgil Burnette	17	Ed Mauck
02	Dean Howard	20	Thao Dinh
04	Jaime Galloway	21	Dottie Guilliams
04	Brian Thompson	22	Nathan Hancock
05	Maya Tappen	24	Arlo Bowie
07	Doug Duehring	25	Carrie Peterson
08	Drew Havrilla	26	Jonathan Miller
09	Ayla Havrilla	27	Ashley Braun
09	Elle Havrilla	27	Charity Fuchs
10	Janet Jones	30	Mary McNair
14	Chris Peterson Sr.	31	Bob Farncomb
15	Krystle Murray	31	Pastor Miller
15	Bonnie Orndorff		

11	Ken & Janet Doyle
25	Jim & Ann Robey
30	Jerry & Barbara Hill

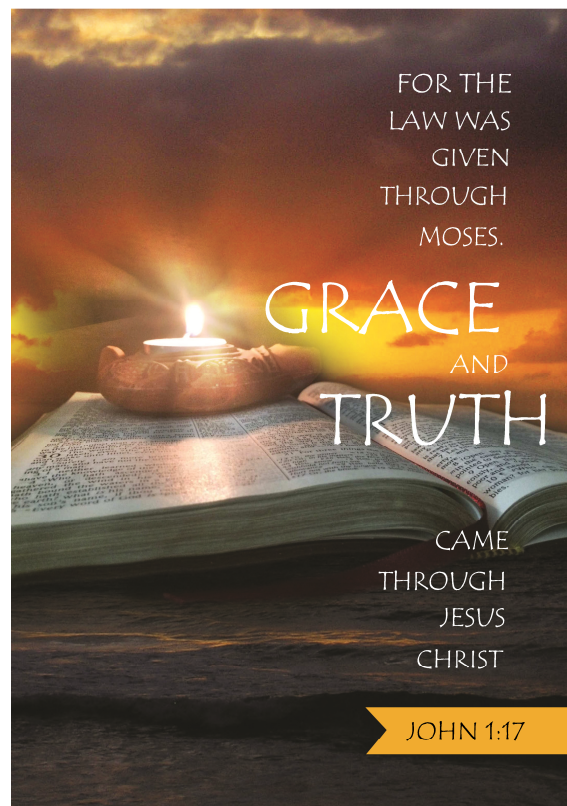
***Note: If you don't see your birthday or anniversary listed here and would like to have it included, please call the office. Also notify the office if you find an error.**

Please remember that if you have something planned and want it announced in the newsletter for that month, you need to get the information to the secretary by the 15th of the month before the event. (Absolutely no later than the 20th.) This gives her more time to plan the layout of the newsletter.



On December we voted overwhelmingly to call Dr. Gary Schneider as our next pastor. He will be coming to us from Washington, PA in mid-February, beginning his service on February 16th. He brings with him his wife Debbie, their 16 year old daughter, and a Korean exchange student whom they are hosting this school year. They also have two older, grown children.

Until then, Pastor Mark Dooley will be filling the pulpit as our Interim Pastor. Thank you Pastor Mark!

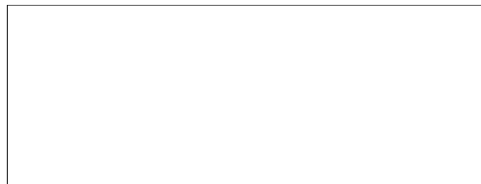


"Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new."

Author Unknown

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Love in Action

Martin Luther King Jr., whose life and legacy we honor this month, spoke often about the power of love. In fact, he equated the practice of nonviolence with “absolute commitment to the way of love.”

Love, declared the minister and activist, “is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.” And, he said, anyone who’s “devoid of the power of love” is “devoid of the power to forgive.”

King distinguished between true love and “empty sentimentalism”, however. He taught - and showed - that love is “the active outpouring of one’s’ whole being in the being of another.”

Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate “active outpouring” of love, and we can choose to follow His example daily.

“Because of Calvary I’m free to choose,” writes Max Lucado in *Ehen God Whispers Your Name*. “No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God Loves.”