

The Lamplighter

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2020

Pastor's Page

"We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ praying always for you." (Colossians 1:3)

Prayer is an essential component of living the Christian life. We must communicate with others to establish and maintain the relationship we have with them. Our relationship with God is no different; we must spend time talking to Him in order to maintain and grow in our relationship with Him. While there is no right or wrong way to pray, I was introduced decades ago to a formula, or pattern, for prayer that I have used ever since: ACTS. A is for adoration: tell God you love Him; C is for confession: tell God you are sorry for your sins; T is for thanksgiving: thank God for all of His blessings; and S is for supplication: ask God for what you and others need. I like this pattern because it puts God in His place, us in our place, and thanks God for all He has done before ever getting around to asking for our needs and desires. Sadly, most people jump right to the supplication part skipping over these other vital components. As it has been quipped, we are often like the boy who prayed, "God, this is Jimmy, I'll take all you'll gimme." I pray using ACTS in both my personal and public prayer time.

I don't know most of you, but I am praying for you. You are part of my personal S-time (supplication). I am using the church picture directory from 2010 as

well as a paper directory to pray for you. At this point, I neither know most of you or your specific concerns, but God does. As I look at your names and decade-old faces, I am both learning who you are and how to pray for you. At present, my prayers for you are rather generic; I pray that God will bless you in meeting your needs and causing you to grow in His grace and knowledge. As I learn more about you, my prayers for you will become more specific; however, I will always want for you what I am already praying for you.

Prayer is a precious resource for Christians. Prayer is both a tool and a weapon. When discussing the Armor of God in Ephesians 6:11-18, we often stop at the "Sword of the Spirit" in verse 17, but verse 18 states, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..." While prayer does not fit into the military motif, it is very much an essential part of the Christian armor.

I am praying for you, and I covet your prayers for me. As Paul requested in I Thessalonians 5:17, "Brethren, pray for us." May God bless us as we get to know each other personally and prayerfully.

Pastor Gary

Inside this issue:

Bible Quiz	3
Calendar	7
Family News	6
FYI	5
Library News	3
Missions & Outreach	3, 4
Pastor's Page	1
Sunday School News	2

"Prayer is both a tool and a weapon."

Pastor Gary

Do We Really Need Sunday School?

The Bible is a book full of spiritual treasures that will make us wise with the help of the Holy Spirit, prayer, and effort. It has been the best-selling book every year that sales have been recorded.

Why is the Bible difficult to understand? 1 Corinthians 2:14 says that, "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned." Our natural minds often struggle with what we cannot see and what is not easy to understand.

God knows that understanding the Bible takes work and prayer, but so often we want quick benefits from the Bible without putting in the necessary labor.

In 2 Timothy 2:15, Paul writes to Timothy to tell him that he is to work hard in his study, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." Paul knows that a failure to work diligently at studying the Word can make people misunderstand the Word and miss out on God's approval.

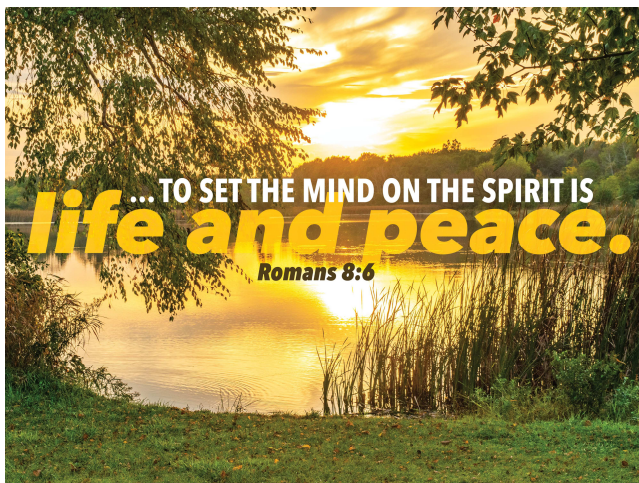
God didn't make His Word too difficult for us to understand or write it just for the original recipients. God's Word is for *our* instruction and *our* encouragement as well. Romans 15:4 says, "For whatever was written in former days **was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope**".

God promises that His Word won't return to Him void (Isaiah 55:11). Dedicate yourself to become a person of the Word by studying it, obeying it, and treasuring it.

If reading the Bible is difficult for you, approach study prayerfully with a willing and humble heart. God will help you and reward your effort.

God blessed us with a building designed specifically for the teaching of His Word. He blessed us with teachers who have a passion for teaching His Word. In Sunday School we find teachers eager to answer our questions, and students who can't wait to share with us how they learned to study the Bible successfully. If we're serious about learning God's Word, we will be in a classroom at 9:45 every Sunday morning with Bible, paper, and pencil ready to receive His Word.

Yes, we really need Sunday School!





Library News

New and on the Shelf

Fiction

War Room by Chris Fabry (F FAB)

The Tattered Quilt by Linda Brunstetter (F BRU)

The Healing Quilt by Linda Brunstetter (F BRU)

The Tinderbox by Beverly Lewis (F LEW)

The Timepiece by Beverly Lewis (F LEW)

Lancaster Burning by Linda Byler (F BYL)

Non-Fiction

Gospel Trailblazer by Howard Jones (B JON)

DVD

Uncommon

Virtuous

Audio

Love Come to Life by Big Daddy Weave



Missions & Outreach



Safe Nights

SafeNights is almost here and Courtney needs your help! Nights from **March 15-22** we coordinate with Lifestyles of Maryland to host the homeless, providing a place to sleep and three meals each day. We will be providing breakfast, a bag lunch, and hot supper each day through breakfast on March 22.

We will need help on the 15th and the 22nd with setting up, then loading the cots for the next location, help with building security, and of course, help with the meals and sack lunches. Watch for the sign-up poster or forms.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for a specific service, contact Courtney Harbin at 301-7705-6605 or cooksqueek@comcast.net.

My (Brief) Story by Pastor Gary

I am the product of God's grace through godly parents raising their child in a Christian home. It seems I have always known about Jesus Christ, but there was a point in my life when I was seven years old that I received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I am also the product of being an Army brat. My father was in the US Army for 28 years, so traveling and meeting new friends was a normal part of my childhood; in fact, by the time I was in eleventh grade, I had been in eleven different schools. I was born in Texas and have lived in Kentucky, Maryland, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. While living in Pennsylvania, as a Junior in high school, God called me into the ministry. Graduating from high school did not end my travels. After graduating from high school in Pennsylvania, I went to college in West Virginia, attended seminary in Louisiana, and graduated from another seminary in Florida. In between college and seminary, I worked in Maryland where I

(See "Story" page 6)

Bible Quiz

Who came to Jesus by night to ask Him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

- A. Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."
- B. Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."
- C. Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."
- D. Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."

(See John 3)



Caring Meals Ministry

FBC of La Plata has a Caring Meals Ministry that provides meals for those who are dealing with sicknesses, hospital stays, financial hardships, etc. When a need arises, we contact the family and offer our assistance. Our Ministry is structured into teams and each meal is assigned to a different team on a rotating basis. It is a wonderful opportunity to serve our church family. If you think you may be interested in participating and would like more information, please contact Elaine Anderson at 240-349-2551.



Missions & Outreach

Women on Mission News

Weekday Women on Mission will meet on Thursday, March 12th at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. Following their mission study, they will be making jump ropes for Operation Christmas Child and also gifts for the homebound.

Their next visitation day with the homebound will be Thursday, March 19th after meeting at the church at 10 am to pair up and receive assignments. If you are able to join them, please let Carol Gill know by 12:30 pm the day before so she can put together the teams.

Finally, watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters for details on the collection of women's toiletries for the youth July mission trip to West Virginia.



Meeting Schedule

5:30 - 7 pm

- Mar. 01 -Team Colors Night
- Mar. 08 - Dad/Granddad Night
- Mar. 15 - **NO AWANA**
- Mar. 22 - Double Section Night
- Mar. 29 - Crazy Hair Night



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

March is a great time to hit the clearance sales and stock up on winter clothing items, like hats, gloves, sweaters, socks and underwear. Of course you can bring in any suitable shoebox gifts anytime during the year. It's because of your ongoing donations throughout the year that FBCLP is able to pack so many shoeboxes each year.



2020 VBS

Mark your calendar now for July 20 – 24, this year's Vacation Bible School – Concrete & Cranes: Building on the Love of Jesus. Classes for children age 4 – 8th grade will be held from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and classes for youth in grades 6 – 12 will be held from 6 – 8:30 p.m. Kids and their leaders will don their hard hats and head out to the construction site to discover that skyscrapers aren't the only things that need a rock solid foundation. Jesus' love provides a foundation that will last through the storms of life, and we want to share that foundation with the children in our church and in our community. Many workers are needed to carry out this important ministry of our church. For more information or to volunteer, contact Alison Bode at thebodes@verizon.net or 301-246-4957.



2020 Upward Soccer



Boys and Girls K5 - 9th Grade
Online registration ended 2/29

Late In-office registration available through 3/4

Meet Your Coach Day: April 4, 2020
(10:00 a.m. - Noon)

First practice: Week of April 6, 2020

First Game: April 18, 2020

**If you have any questions, email to fbclpsoccer@gmail.com

Weather hotline 240-297-3295 for updates on cancellations

FYI

Pulpit Schedule for March

(Subject to Change)

Mar. 01	AM	<i>"The Confession"</i>	Matthew 16:13
	PM	<i>"God's Plan for Marriage"</i>	Matthew 19:3-9
Mar. 08	AM	<i>"God's Promises"</i>	Genesis 15:3-6
	PM	<i>"The Dreamer"</i>	Genesis 37:3-11
Mar. 15	AM	<i>"Is Hell for Real?"</i>	Mark 9:3-48
	PM	<i>"Are Demons for Real?"</i>	Mark 3:22-27
Mar. 22	AM	<i>"The Ten Commandments"</i>	Exodus 20:1-2
	PM	<i>"God and War"</i>	Exodus 15:1
Mar. 29*	AM	<i>"Four Questions About Eternal Life"</i>	Luke 15:11-23
	PM	<i>"The Prodigal Son"</i>	Luke 15:11-23

* Morning Services combine at 11:00 for Lord's Supper

Tellers for March

Courtney Harbin & Rosa Minehan

Deacon of the Week

	8:30 am	11:00 am
Mar. 01	Nick Papanicolas	Dean Irwin
Mar. 08	Jim Robey	Bobby Jones
Mar. 15	Virgil Burnette	Ron McConkey
Mar. 22	Ed Mauck	Scott Nupson
Mar. 29	NO SERVICE	Dennis Sellers

Children's Church Workers

Mar. 01 & 08: Jennifer & Corbin Cooke; Collette Lusk & Jessica Miller

Mar. 15 & 22: Tabby, Morgan & Hannah Krauel, Karen Jones & Caitlyn Hancock

Mar. 29: NO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Safety Teams for March

- 01** Al Law & Ben Doyle (sub. Bob Mathews)
- 08** Dale Gordon & Dave Thompson (sub. Dean Irwin)
- 15** Ed Blunt & Ed Mauck (sub. Jim Miller)
- 22** Jerry Pruitt & Jim Sanny (sub. John Pankhurst)
- 29** Jonathan Doyle & Kevin Guiffre (sub. Nick Papanicolas)

Nursery Schedule: Sundays

Mar. 01 - AM - Gerald & Kay Hancock
- **PM** - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mar. 08 - AM - Jim & Jennifer Miller
- **PM** - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mar. 15 - AM - Norma Stump & Sandy Getz
- **PM** - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mar. 22 - AM - Katelyn Gross & VOLUNTEER NEEDED
- **PM** - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mar. 29 - AM - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
- **PM** - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Wednesdays

Mar. 04 - Norma Stump & VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Mar. 11 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mar. 18 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mar. 25 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

March Family News



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 01 | Elena Gilroy | 15 | Jeffrey Grote |
| 05 | Amber Astacio | 18 | Donna Duehring |
| 06 | Phuong Dinh | 18 | Pat Hall |
| 08 | Richard Getz | 19 | Patrick Guiffre |
| 08 | Kevin Guiffre | 21 | Tyler Griffith |
| 09 | Sy Collins | 27 | Dean Irwin |
| 13 | Thelma McConkey | 30 | Ashleigh Grigsby |
| 14 | Jennifer Cooke | 31 | Shirley Grumbling |
| 15 | Andrew Bode | | |

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 03 | Tookie & Bonnie Orndorff |
| 17 | Drew & Tara Havrilla |
| 25 | Melvin & Janet King |

***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.**

Story from page 3)

met my wife and surrendered to the ministry. My wife, Debbie, was born and raised in Landover, Maryland.

Debbie and I were married in Maryland and moved to Louisiana. We adopted two children, biological siblings, each born in different states: our son is from Virginia and our daughter is from Mississippi. After living in Louisiana for eight years, we moved to Pennsylvania where our daughter, Xaris, was born. Both of our older children are married; our son and his wife live in Pennsylvania; our daughter, her husband, and their daughter live in West Virginia. Xaris is a senior in high school and will graduate this Spring.

We are a Christian family with the desire to serve the Lord and His church however and wherever He chooses. We offer our time, treasures, and talents as a sacrifice to Him to be used to further His Kingdom.



Our first "Fifth Sunday" fellowship of 2020 will be on Sunday, March 29th at 12:30 pm, immediately following the morning service. (Both services will combine at 11:00 at which time we will observe The Lord's Supper.)

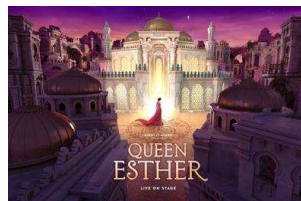
We do this four times a year as an opportunity for attendees from both services to mingle and get to know one another better. It will be a soup and salad potluck.

Watch upcoming bulletins to find out more details.



If you would like to be added to the Prayer Tree/Chain to receive calls on people we need to pray for, please get in touch with Ken Doyle either by Call or Text to 301-643-6191 or Email ken.doyle.64@gmail.com and leave your name and phone number that you want to receive the calls on and he will add you on list.

If any questions on this, please call Cookie Wilsey 301-645-2681 or 301-643-5395.



Jennifer Miller is working on locking in a date for a trip to see "Queen Esther" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. If you would

like to go, start putting aside money **now** and watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters as details become available.

These productions are spectacular and very well done. Those who have attended past productions have enjoyed them immensely.

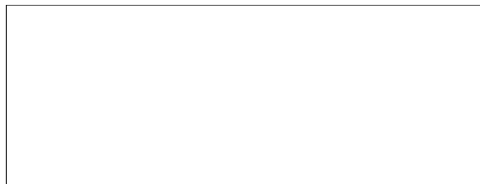
Contact information for Pastor Gary:

email: PastorGary@fbclaplata.org

cell: 724-747-0430

First Baptist Church of La Plata
9070 Hawthorne Road
La Plata, MD 20646

Address Service Requested



**Date-Sensitive
Please Expedite**

.Of rocks and repentance

Before recently closing to tourists, Australia's majestic Uluru (formerly called Ayers Rock) was popular with climbers. Many took home illegal souvenirs, sometimes later mailing them back to park rangers after experiencing what they considered bad luck.



So many pilfered mementos were returned, often with notes of apology, that rangers called them "sorry rocks." The returns merely created more work for park staff, who urged visitors not to take specimens in the first place.

"Sorry rocks" is a fitting image for our sins, which the Bible describes as weights and entanglements (see Hebrews 12:1). As sinners, we can't remove those heavy burdens on our own. But through Christ's redeeming work on our behalf, we can "return" the rocks of wrongdoing. When we repent and seek forgiveness, God promises to "remember [our] sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12).