

# The Lamplighter

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2020

## Pastor's Page

by Pastor Gary

It seems that nothing ever happens in August. My parents were married in August, and so was I; these are significant and important personal events, but January has New Years Day, February has Valentines Day, March has St. Patrick's Day (and sometimes Easter), April has Easter, May has Mother's Day and Memorial Day, June has Father's Day, July has Independence Day, September has Labor Day, October has Halloween, November has Thanksgiving, and December has Christmas. August has nothing but back to school—and nobody really gets excited about that!

Some important historical events occurred in August such as the burning of Washington, DC, during the War of 1812; The 19th Amendment to the US Constitution giving women the right to vote was ratified; the world's first two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, leading to the subsequent surrender of Japan; and President Nixon resigned; but there are no holidays.

The month of August is named after Caesar Augustus, the first Emperor of Rome, but do you know why the other months have their names? January is named after the pagan god of beginnings and endings, Janus; February is named after the Roman purification festival, Februa; March is named after the pagan god of war, Mars; April is named after the Latin word for "second," since April was originally the 2nd month on the Roman

calendar, May is named after the Greek earth goddess, Maia; June is named after the pagan goddess of war and women, Juno; July is named for Julius Caesar who was born in this month; and September, October, November, and December are named because they were the 7th (sept), eighth (oct), ninth (novem), and 10th (deca) months but got bumped by the later addition of January and February to the front of the calendar.

The word month comes from the word for moon. The months are essentially lunar, but the lunar cycle is 29.5 days—not 30 or 31. The Romans figured out that giving months 30 or 31 days each, reducing February to 29 days and adding an extra day every four years worked pretty well. The reason that February got shortchanged to 28 days was that Augustus Caesar did not want Julius Caesar to have more days in his month, so another day was stolen from February.

Six of our modern months and all seven days of the week were named to honor false gods—including Sunday, our day to formally worship the One, True, and living God. The names of the months and days do not really matter—they are what they are. What matters is what we do with the time that we have. The Apostle Paul admonishes us to be "redeeming the time" in Ephesians 5:16. As the old saying goes, "One life 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." Our

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*"The names of the months and days do not really matter . . . What matters is what we do with the time that we have."*

- Pastor Gary

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Please be in prayer for our Sunday School as we begin the transition back to in-person classes. The current plan is to have the adult classes meet on a modified basis here at the church (with the Zoom option still available) while children and youth will continue their studies via Zoom for the time being.

Also, please also be in prayer for the Nominating Committee as it begins its search for a new Sunday School Director.

Finally, we have had to make the hard decision to cancel the annual Sunday School Picnic which was scheduled for Sunday, August 2nd on the church grounds because of ongoing virus risks.

**-Information for this article was supplied by Carol Hancock & Pastor Gary.**

### Pastor's Page (cont.)

challenge is to somehow make every day count for Christ. Reading the Bible, praying, witnessing, and serving others are great ways to ensure we are redeeming the unknown amount of time we have been allotted by God in this life.

Let's take our pagan timekeepers and purify them by serving The True God and His Son, Jesus Christ!

Therefore,  
since we are surrounded by  
so great a cloud of witnesses,  
let us also lay aside  
every weight, and...  
*run with endurance the race*  
that is set before us,  
*looking to Jesus*  
the founder and  
perfector of our faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2





## Library News

### New and on the Shelf

#### Fiction

*Starfish Pier* by Irene Hannon (F HAN)

*Life Everlasting* by Robert Whitlow (F WHI)

#### Nonfiction

*Coronavirus and Christ* by John Piper (248.4)

*The Broken Way* by Ann Voskamp (248.41)

*Experiencing the Presence of God* by Charles Finney (248.4'848)

*Next Door Savior* by Max Lucado (232)

## God amid pandemic

Last spring, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them!

## Dear FBC Family,

The last 4 weeks have gone by fairly quickly. I left for South Korea on 1 June, flying commercially to Seattle where I then took a military contract passenger flight to Osan AB. The flight out of Seattle was delayed 24 hrs, but somehow the Lord allowed me to be given a business class seat...it was a huge blessing! I had to show up at the Airport at 0230 to check in even though the plane did not leave until 0900. The military "hurry up and wait" routine shines again! I arrived at Kunsan AB at 2130 so the bed in my apartment was a sight for sore eyes, as I can not sleep on airplanes, even in business class. I was placed in quarantine for 14 days and was allowed just 2 hours a day to go outside in a confined space for exercise. I now have sympathy for folks who are in prison.

Finally released from quarantine, my time has been filled with in-processing and meeting lots of people. I belong to the 8th Fighter Wing that has an F-16 mission. The base has a long, interesting history and we are known as the Wolf Pack. The commander is called Wolf, and I am Shepherd, and my chapel team is known as the Halos. Squadrons in the medical group are Bones, Stitches, and Mash, to give you a flavor of how the wing is set up here.

My group of Halos consists of four Chaplains, and four Religious Affairs Airmen (formerly called Chaplain Assistants). I have several major challenges within my staff and chapel program, where I would especially appreciate your prayers for wisdom. One interesting note is that my deputy is Mike Carey, who grew up in Waldorf, MD, and

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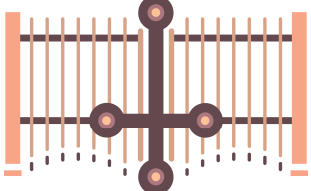
? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

In John of Patmos' vision, what is special about the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem?

- A. They are made of gold and always closed.
- B. They are made of amethyst and onyx.
- C. They are closed by day and open by night.
- D. They are made of pearl and never closed.

*(See Revelation 21)*

*But you shouldn't need to look this one up!*



*"A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be."*

-Douglas Pagels

*"Every saint has a past. Every sinner has a future."*

- Stanley Hauerwas



# Missions & Outreach

Dear FBC Family, cont.

pastored in La Plata before becoming a chaplain. Many of you will recognize his name as he is Vi's former son-in-law. We have had a great time connecting and I am thankful he is on my team. It certainly is a small world!

The counseling load at Kunsan where everyone is serving one year away from family is pretty heavy. Some folks have volunteered to come here because they are running away from problems at home. Others make wrong choices with alcohol and sinful relationships while they are here. I covet your prayers as I share Christ with those who are hurting, and encourage believers to be faithful to the Lord.

In spite of COVID we are able to meet for worship on Sundays, with the now-familiar social distancing guidelines in place. One of the challenges I have is to replace the current musicians and praise team members who are cycling back home. Pray that God will provide Christians who have a passion to serve the Lord in this ministry. We also have an Airman's Ministry Center we call the Sonlight Inn. Last fall there were around 3000 Airmen per month who took advantage of this ministry and facilities. We use an old portable building that came from the Vietnam War. Last October the roof developed structural issues so they closed the building for three months for repairs. Then COVID 19 hit so it was shut down again only to reopen in mid-May. So, we are asking God to restore that ministry to be a blessing to all the new folks processing into the base..

Please pray for my chapel team, some of whom are not yet here, and some who have health and other challenges. Also, keep Wolf, and the leadership team in your prayers. They have very busy schedules bursting with a heavy load of responsibility. Both Wolf and Wolf 2 attend the chapel service each week as well as a couple of the Group Commanders. Also keep Ellen, Gordon, and Norma in your prayers while I am away. I am missing home! I certainly miss your fellowship, especially since we were just beginning to meet again in person when I left. I even miss Pastor Gary and our exercise mornings! I am praying for all of you too, especially Lucy and family in the loss of Arlo, and for Geary Bish's family as well. "The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion...." "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" (Psalm 116:15).

May God richly bless and keep you as you faithful serve Him. Grow in His grace and strength.

**Scott Nupson**

## A lachrymatory lesson



To calm his crying children, Charles Ferrell used to say, "Wait until I get a jar! I want to catch and save your tears." While he pretended to search for a vessel, his kids usually quieted down.

Tear jars were actually common in biblical times. Called *lachrymatories*, they're still sold in Old Jerusalem. Bible characters had a variety of uses for these jars. The woman who cried at Jesus' feet may have felt such sorrow about her wayward lifestyle that she brought a jar of her tears and added to them. In Psalm 23:5 (KJV), the cup that "runneth over" may have referred to a lachrymatory filled with tears of joy due to God's goodness.



## Operation Christmas Child

Even though many of our recent meetings have been virtual (online), now that we are beginning to hold some meetings and services in person, don't forget, we are still accepting donations for this year's Operation Christmas Child boxes. August emphasis is on school supplies, such as pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, markers, writing pads, solar calculators, glue sticks, stamp pads and stamps, and more. The collection box is in the lobby near the sanctuary. Also, don't forget the summer clearance sales for summer clothes, sunglasses, flip-flops, etc.

## Status of Planned Events

### due to Coronavirus

**Sunday School:** Via Zoom, adult classes also in-person

**Sunday Morning Services:**

**8:30 am** - In person, with social distancing

**11 am** - In person with social distancing, via Facebook Live, and audio only on 88.1 FM in parking lot

**Sunday evening services:** Suspended until further notice

**Wednesday evening services:** Live & via Zoom

**Ladies' Tuesday Bible Study:** cancelled until further notice. Please continue reading the book of Isaiah.

**Women on Mission & Mission Warriors**—on summer break. Plans are to resume meeting in September.

**Aug. 2 Sunday School Picnic** on church grounds - cancelled for this year

# FYI

(Sermon Topic Subject to Change)

Aug. 02	<i>"Here Comes Trouble"</i>	2 Samuel 11:1-5
Aug. 09	<i>"Should I Stay or Should I Go?"</i>	Philippians 1:20-24
Aug. 16	<i>"Untamable Desire"</i>	1 Kings 21:1-4
Aug. 23	<i>"Why Sing?"</i>	Colossians 3:16
Aug. 30	<i>"Believing the Unseen"</i>	2 Kings 6:11-17

## Door Team for July

### Tellers for August\*

Sheri Bresnahan & Norma Stump  
\*Subject to change due to pandemic

02

09

16

23

30

**Schedule Pending**

### Deacon of the Week

Aug. 02

Aug. 09

Aug. 16

Aug. 23

Aug. 30

**Rotation has not yet resumed.**

### Nursery Schedule - Sundays

Aug. 02: - AM

Aug. 09: - AM

Aug. 16: - AM

Aug. 23: - AM

Aug. 30: - AM

Wednesdays:

Aug. 05:

Aug. 12:

Aug. 19:

Aug. 26:

**Nursery not yet available**

### Children's Worship Workers

Aug. 2 & 9:

Aug. 16 & 23

**Children's Worship has not yet resumed.**

# August Family News



01 Paul Milcetic	14 Sophia Adamo
02 Vicky Boyce	15 Chuck Bonn
04 Ed Blunt	18 Alexiah Daye
04 Pat Hancock	18 Chad Irwin
05 Joshua Hancock	19 Robert Simmons
05 Karen Jones	20 Robert Krauel, Jr.
05 Patricia Yowell	20 Diane Sheffe
09 Robby Jones	20 Lauren Thrift
10 Matt Cooke	21 Mariah Hancock
11 Angela Deal	23 Elaine Anderson
11 Hannah Krauel	23 Eli Hancock
12 Nora Dodge	23 Patrick Hancock
12 Colton Jones	26 Lauren Bonn
13 Don Cooke	28 Wesley Tippet

15 Pastor Gary & Debbie Schneider
16 Jeff & Sheri Bresnahan
16 Dennis & Wanda Sellers
26 Calvin & Cheryl Allison
26 Jim & Carolyn Shaffer
31 Louis & Gloria Schneider

**\*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.**

### Contact information for Pastor Gary:

email: [PastorGary@fbclaplata.org](mailto:PastorGary@fbclaplata.org)  
 cell: 724-747-0430



Sally Sexton has a hospital bed, walker, bedside commode and other medical equipment to give away. If you can use any of it or know of someone who can, please call her at 301-934-9317 or email her at [talmagesexton@yahoo.com](mailto:talmagesexton@yahoo.com).

Our condolences and prayers go out to the family of Talmage Sexton, who went home to be with the Lord on July 9, 2020.



Talmage and Sally were longtime members of FBC La Plata, and raised their two daughters in the church as well. Talmage served as a deacon for most of their 54 years here, including several stints as Chairman of the Deacons. Last fall when his health made it impossible for him to continue serving, he was ordained as Deacon Emeritus. He also served as a Sunday School teacher and youth leader.

He served his country in the Air Force before marrying Sally, his high school sweetheart, settling in Bel Air, and fathering two daughters before moving to La Plata where he worked many years for the Charles County Board of Education and Southern Maryland Community College (Now CSM) where he retired as Dean of Administrative Service after 22 years. But he didn't retire for long. He and Sally were co-owners of Country Florist in Waldorf for a few years, then he retired again and went to work for Safeway, where he enjoyed helping people.

He was also very active in the local community as a Rotarian and even volunteered as a Cubmaster for Cub Scout Pack 1423 from 1966-67, even though he had no sons of his own!

Although we will miss him, we rejoice at the legacy and memories he left us in his family and his example to us. Please keep Sally, Joan, Janet, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

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

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## **Precision-crafted by the Master**

All around us, miracles happen and God empowers life, thanks to exacting conditions. We know of caterpillars and butterflies, but did you know about these details shared by Gayle Boss in *Wild Hope* (Paraclete)?

“For about a month each female [monarch butterfly] plants four hundred or so eggs. ... Ninety-nine in a hundred ... perish. But on the third day, from the one remaining, a caterpillar the size of a rice grain breaks.

“She devours the egg casing, then the milkweed leaves beneath her feet. In those leaves is a steroid that makes her body brightly striped — and toxic to her predators. Ravenous, she eats milkweed unceasingly for twelve days, bulging her skin to splitting. Five skins later, two thousand times her birthweight, she stops. ...

“Crawling to a suitable twig or ledge, she hangs head down, shaping herself into a question mark. One last time her skin falls away. This new one is not a soft, stripy, caterpillar skin but a polished, jade-green shell studded with a gold tiara.


“Because she is enclosed and still, changes that had already begun within her wormlike body erupt outward. Wings! Long, delicate legs! After twelve days in the chrysalis she is a new creature.” Praise God!





# August 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 am Early Service 9:45 am SS via Zoom 11 am Morning Worship online, in person or on FM	3	4 7 pm Deacons' Meeting	5 7 pm Midweek Service/ Prayer Meeting	6	7	8
9 8:30 am Early Service (in person) 9:45 am SS via Zoom 11 am Morning Worship online, in person or on FM	10	11	12 7 pm Midweek Service/ Prayer Meeting	13	14	15
16 8:30 am Early Service (in person) 9:45 am SS via Zoom 11 am Morning Worship online, in person or on FM	17	18	19 7 pm Midweek Service/ Prayer Meeting	20	21	22
23 8:30 am Early Service (in person) 9:45 am SS via Zoom 11 am Morning Worship online, in person or on FM	24	25	26 7 pm Midweek Service/ Prayer Meeting	27	28	29
30 8:30 am Early Service (in person) 9:45 am SS via Zoom 11 am Morning Worship online, in person or on FM	31  Back to School - Virtual Edition					