First Baptist Church of La Plata

The Lamplighter

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2020

Pastor's Page

by Pastor Gary

We are called to missions: across the world and across the street. Doing missions involves sending career missionaries around the world as well as sharing our faith with a local neighbor, friend, or stranger.

The biblical mandate for missions comes early: as part of Abraham's call in Genesis 12:3, God declares that Abraham will be a blessing to all of the nations. In the ultimate sense, Abraham became a global blessing because Jesus was born through Abraham's descendants; however, the mandate to be a blessing to the world is also a mandate for missions. When we look at the geographic placement of Israel, we see her in between the great civilizations of the known world: Assyria or Babylon to the north and Egypt to the south. These great kingdoms would need to trade with each other, and they would need to travel back and forth to conduct this trade. On one side was the Mediterranean Sea; on the other side was desert; the only way to get back and forth was through Israel. As citizens from the great kingdoms of the earth passed through Israel, Israel was to be a witness to them. Unlike modern missions, God was not sending Israelites to the world; He was sending the world to the Israelites!

Southern Baptists are the organization we are in order to do missions. While we are somewhat cohesive in our theology and practice, missions is something we all do alike and together. The history of Southern Baptist missions is a little embarrassing, but God has used Southern Baptist missions unlike any other evangelical organization in history. The Southern Baptist mission program was born out of missionaries wanting to own slaves; since the northern baptists, now called American Baptists, would not allow slave-owning missionaries to serve, Southern Baptist missions was born. That is history. Southern Baptists have long ago repented, apologized, and re-tooled.

How has the coronavirus pandemic affected missions? We need to look no further than our own church to see the impact. This summer was to see one mission trip to Kenya and another to West Virginia—both of which were canceled. Mission trips and missionary activity has been either canceled or curtailed all around the world. We have continued our financial and prayer support of missions and missionaries even though mission activities are essentially on hold right now. Does this mean that some people who would otherwise have been won for Christ are dying without Christ? Is the coronavirus responsible for sending people to eternal hell? Will there be more people in hell because the coronoavirus shut down mission activity? These are interesting questions that presuppose that an impersonal virus is in control instead of a personal God. Nothing hap-

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"A god who is stymied by human or viral activity is not the God of the Bible, is not the God I serve. . . Nothing happens without God's knowledge and permission."

-Pastor Gary

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The adult Sunday School classes have been meeting in person now for six weeks with average attendance of 47. Youth classes continue to meet via Zoom, with exact attendance information unavailable.

Lifeway material for the fall quarter is available for distribution. Teachers using the Answers in Genesis material need to contact Carol Hancock as soon as possible to let her know what unit you need to order next so we can have the material on hand when you are ready for it.

We are still searching for a Sunday School director, so please pray for God's leading in prompting someone to come forward to take on this very important leadership position.

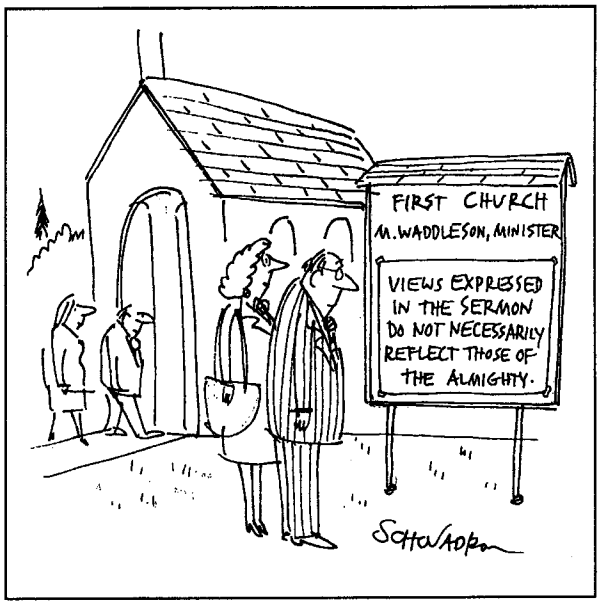
-Information for this article was supplied by Carol Hancock & Pastor Gary.

Pastor's Page (cont.)

pens without God's knowledge and permission. We read in the Book of Job that Satan caused terrible things to happen to Job; however, Satan was unable to lift one finger against Job without checking with God first.

God is sovereign which means that He is in control. God is in control of the Universe, the world, our nation, our lives, our church, our homes, our bodies, and even the coronavirus. From eternity past, God has known who will be saved and who will not be saved. God will save all whom He foreknew--pandemic or not; in fact, God is using the pandemic to save some who would not have been saved otherwise! Mission activity may have been curtailed, but God has not. A god who is stymied by human or viral activity is not the God of the Bible, is not the God I serve. God's sovereignty is my security. I trust Him every day in every way; Proverbs 3:5 puts it like this,"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding..."

Trust Him, serve Him, worship Him, share Him!



Library News

New and on the Shelf

Fiction

A Time to Stand by Robert Whitlow

Nonfiction

The Trouble with Jesus by Joseph Stowell (248)

Faith Training by Joe White (248.8)

Fly a Little Higher by L. Sobiech (B SOB)

DVD

God's Club

Children's Nonfiction

Abraham and Isaac by C. Storr (CNF 222.1)

Moses of the Bulrushes by C. Storr (CNF 222.1)

King David by C. Storr (CNF 222.4)

Samson and Delilah by C. Storr (CNF 222.3)

Joseph and the Famine by C. Storr (CNF 222.1)

Jesus and John the Baptist by C. Storr (CNF 232.4)

Noah and his Ark by C. Storr (CNF 222.1)

The Prodigal Son by C. Storr (CNF 226.4)

Bible Quiz

Which of these was *not* one of the 10 plagues God brought against Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go?

A. an abundance of frogs
B. the Nile River turned to blood
C. the collapse of the pyramids
D. thick darkness

Human history is the long, terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy. - C.S. Lewis

One all-important word

Sometimes one word makes all the difference. In John 14:16, when Jesus promises the disciples that God will send the Holy Spirit, He doesn't say "the" Helper or "a" Helper but "another" Helper. For there to be "another" of something, we must already be familiar with a first of that thing. Jesus has been, for the disciples, their first Helper. They already "know Him for He dwells with [them]" (verse 17, ESV).

When my infant son was to start full-time daycare, the transition went quite smoothly. That's because his "new" caregiver wasn't new at all: She was Grandma! The sense that my son would be in the hands of *another* family member he already knew eased the handoff for Mama and baby alike.

Not all parents have access to that type of situation, but the caregiving arrangement Jesus provided his disciples is available to all. Even when Jesus is no longer physically with us, another who loves us just as much — another we already know and whose truth we've seen in Jesus — is here. We're in good hands.

—Heidi Mann

...so in Christ we,
though many,

FORM ONE BODY,
and each member
belongs to all the others.
Romans 12:5, NIV

All workers are essential

The concept of vocation, Latin for "to call," previously referred only to a calling to church work. But then Martin Luther emphasized the importance — and even sanctity — of *all* types of labors. The reformer pointed out that "*God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor does.*"

RJ Grunewald, in a blog post titled "God Makes Pizza," describes how this looks today: "God is busy about *his* work in the midst of *your* work whether you realize it or not. The laundry, the spreadsheets, the phone calls and the cups of coffee are all deeply spiritual because God is at work in the world. He is serving your family, your coworkers and your community through the work you do. God is at work providing 'daily bread' through the work that you do, no matter what that work is."

Women on Mission News

Women on Mission will not be resuming their monthly meetings this month. However, they will be filling Christmas stockings for LifeStyles again this year. So please begin scouting sales for small gifts that can be put in them, and watch for announcements in November regarding when the stockings will be available for filling.

Mission Warriors' plans are still tentative for September. Check with Jennifer Miller for the latest information.

We're Back!

AWANA will resume on Sunday, September 20th at 5:30 in person, but will be held outdoors, weather permitting. For more details contact your AWANA Commander, Julie Burgess @ 301-934-3340 or jaburgess6@yahoo.com.

JOIN ME

PRAYER MARCH 2020

WASHINGTON, D.C. | SEPTEMBER 26

OUR NATION IS IN TROUBLE— AND WE NEED GOD'S HELP.

Join me for a Prayer March at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, Sept. 26. Let's pray that God will turn this nation back to Him. This is the most critical time for America that we have seen in our lifetime—and I know the power of prayer. I want to invite you to bring your family and gather with other Christians, churches and pastors, fill a busload and join thousands to pray.

"Thus the Lord was moved by prayer for the land..."

–FRANKLIN GRAHAM

WASHINGTON PRAYER MARCH 2020 with FRANKLIN GRAHAM

Visit **BillyGraham.org** for more details.

If you can't join us in person, please pray from wherever you are from noon until 2 pm.

Operation Christmas Child

Don't forget the packing party here at the church on Saturday, September 12th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to come and help.

If you are wondering what to add to what we've already collected, Septembers list of suggested items, check out the summer clearance sales for things like sandals, flip-flops, sunglasses, t-shirts, socks and summer related toys.

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— status still uncertain. Contact Carol Gill or Jennifer Miller for the latest information.

FYI

(Sermon Topic Subject to Change)

Sept. 06	*"Believing the Unseen"*	2 Kings 6:11-17
Sept. 13	*"Christian Work Ethic"*	2 Thessalonians 3:8
Sept. 20	Title TBD	1 Chronicles
Sept. 27	*"The Deacon"*	1 Timothy 3:8-13

PM services are suspended until further notice.

Tellers for September*

Sheri Bresnahan & Norma Stump

*Subject to change due to pandemic

Deacon of the Week

Aug. 02

Aug. 09

Aug. 16

Aug. 23

Aug. 30

Rotation has not yet resumed.

Children's Worship Workers

Aug. 2 & 9:

Aug. 16 & 23

Children's Worship has not yet resumed.

Door Team for September

02

09

16

23

30

Schedule Pending

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:

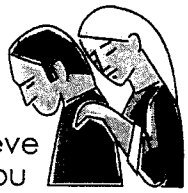
Nursery not yet available

September Family News

05	Myrtle Skinner	17	Kara Thompson
06	Dawn Adamo	18	Doreen Corrado
06	Adrielle Law	18	Joy Hamilton
06	Luke Mauck	18	Joyce Irwin
08	Laura Harris	20	Bob Gill
08	Ronald McConkey	20	Carol Hancock
09	Callie Hancock	22	Mary Levander
11	Gerald Hancock	24	Brian Mauck
11	Logan Irwin	24	Kaylee Tappen
12	Bonnie Hanks	24	Abigail Thompson
13	Tabby Krauel	24	Carl Widmayer
13	Norma Stump	27	Sharon Hile
14	Julie Burgess	29	Gary Boston
14	Heather Guiffre	30	Rhonda Cusato
15	Caitlyn Hancock	30	Noah Hancock
17	Kim Mauck		

06	Dave & Patty Thompson
07	Robert & Dorothy Simmons
09	Jakob & Courtney Boisvert
10	Orbie & Ashleigh Grigsby
11	Buddy & Susan Sanders
18	Kenny & Esther Fletcher
22	Nick & Maria Papanicolas
23	Jim & Jennifer Miller

***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.**



Our church family is mourning the loss of another one of our own. Dennis Sellers, one of our newer deacons, lost his valiant fight last week against a deadly virus. While the virus had left his system, the complications left behind were just too much for his weakened body, and the LORD took him home. Please remember Wanda and the rest of the family in your prayers as they mourn his loss while at the same time rejoice that he is well and safe in the arms of his Savior.

Always within reach

As I grow older, I appreciate help getting up from the couch. Often, my husband extends his arm to boost me up. This act of kindness reminds me how the Lord reaches out to me each morning. He is the strength to lift me up so I needn't depend on myself.

Looking back through the years, I can see how the Lord endlessly extended His arm to me. Isaiah 33:2 says, "O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for You. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble." Too often I haven't waited for the Lord, and my impatience resulted in no-good results. Waiting for — and accepting — God's guidance isn't always easy, but He always comes through, and we're never out of His reach.

I'm so thankful my heavenly Father graciously extends His arm to help me up, get me "unstuck" and keep me from trouble.

—MaryAnn Sundby

God of (all) the ages

It's tempting to breeze through biblical genealogies, but those name lists serve important purposes. They reveal the fulfillment of prophecy, tie together time periods and Bible books, and reveal how God works in every age — and through people of all ages.

Consider the Old Testament's many references to "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." That lineage-linked name reminds us that God is the Lord of every succeeding generation and the friend of all. Although people's needs differ as they journey from youth to middle age to their later years, God remains constant and ageless, fulfilling his promises to all who seek him.

Weekly SUNDAY Schedule
8:30 am Early Worship - in person
9:45 am Sunday School (Adults in person/kids on Zoom until further notice))
11:00 am Morning Worship online and in person
5:30 pm AWANA (Sept. - May) via Zoom
(Other special or non-weekly activities listed below.)

September 2020

Weekly WEDNESDAY Schedule
7:00 pm Adult Bible Study live & via Zoom
Missions programs & Adult Choir on hold until further notice
(Other special or non-weekly activities listed below.)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 *7 pm Deacon Meeting*	2	3	4	5
6	7 	8	9	10	11 	12 *9 am Mission Warriors @ church - tentative, contact Jennifer Miller* *6:30 pm OCC Packing Party*
13 	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 *5:30 pm AWANA resumes in-person, outdoors*	21	22 	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

First Baptist Church of La Plata
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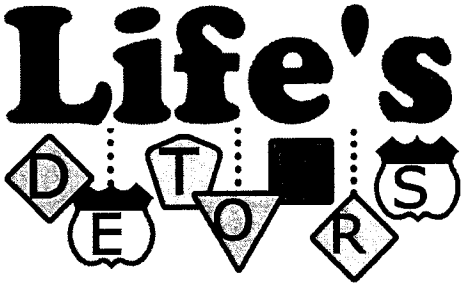
When God crosses our paths



Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and petitions." Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).