

The Lamplighter

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2022

Pastor's Page

by Pastor Gary

The Bible is an amazing book that could not have been conceived and compiled by mere human efforts. In our recent Wednesday night study of the Book of Psalms, we began an in-depth study of Psalm 119, the longest psalm and longest chapter in the Bible. Psalm 119 is an acrostic psalm about the Word of God using multiple synonyms for the Word of God which include: commandments, judgments, law, ordinances, precepts, statutes, testimonies, ways, and word. The acrostic aspect is not noticeable in English—only in Hebrew; in Hebrew, each verse of each eight-verse section begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. As part of our study, we considered the genealogical passage in Genesis 5. Usually, most people skip over the biblical genealogies because they are boring and the names are difficult to pronounce; however, when you understand that biblical names often had significant meanings, it can give a whole new appreciation of genealogies in general and the Genesis 5 genealogy in particular. Moses gives us the genealogy from Adam to Noah. Here are the names with their respective meanings:

- Adam = "man"
- Seth = "appointed"
- Enosh = "mortal"
- Kenan = "sorrow"
- Mahalalel = "the blessed God"
- Jared = "shall come down"
- Enoch = "teaching"

- Methuselah = "his death shall bring"
- Lamech = "the despairing"
- Noah = "comfort"

Putting it all together and adding a few connecting words, we get the following statement: "Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow, (but) the Blessed God shall come down teaching (that) His death shall bring (the) despairing comfort." This is the Gospel in a genealogy! The wages of sin is death, but God Himself came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ through Whose death hopeless humans can experience eternal comfort.

Of particular interest in this genealogy is the name of Methuselah. His name means, "his death shall bring." The year that Methuselah died, the flood came. Methuselah was 187 when Lamech was born and lived another 782 years (vv. 25-26). Lamech had Noah when he was 182 (vv. 28-29). The flood came when Noah was 600 (7:6). Here's the math: 187+182+600 = 969, Methuselah's age when he died (v. 27) which was also the year that the flood began; hence, "his death shall bring" is also a reference to the flood.

Not every genealogy works out this way, but the point is that we should never skip over any parts or passages of the Bible. Every book, chapter, verse, and word is important; otherwise God would not have included it in His Word. Read your Bible every day. Study what you don't understand. Ask for help when you

Inside this issue:

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



"Every book, chapter, verse, and word is important; otherwise God would not have included it in His Word"

-Pastor Gary

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Love

Love in the Bible, as in our everyday usage, can be directed from person to person or from a person to things. When directed toward things, love means enjoying or taking pleasure in those things. Love towards persons is more complex. As with things, loving persons may mean simply enjoying them and taking pleasure in their personalities, achievements, etc. But there is another aspect of interpersonal love that is very important in the Bible. There is the aspect of love for persons who are not attractive or productive. In this case, love is not a delight in what a person is, but a deeply felt commitment to helping him be what he ought to be. The love for things and both dimensions of the love for persons are richly illustrated in the Bible.

Jesus said that the greatest commandment in the Old Testament was, *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. The second commandment was, Love your neighbor as yourself.* Then He said, On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets. This must mean that if a person understood and obeyed these two commandments, he would understand and fulfill what the whole Old Testament was trying to teach. Everything in the Old Testament, when properly understood, means to transform men and women into people who faithfully love God and their neighbor.

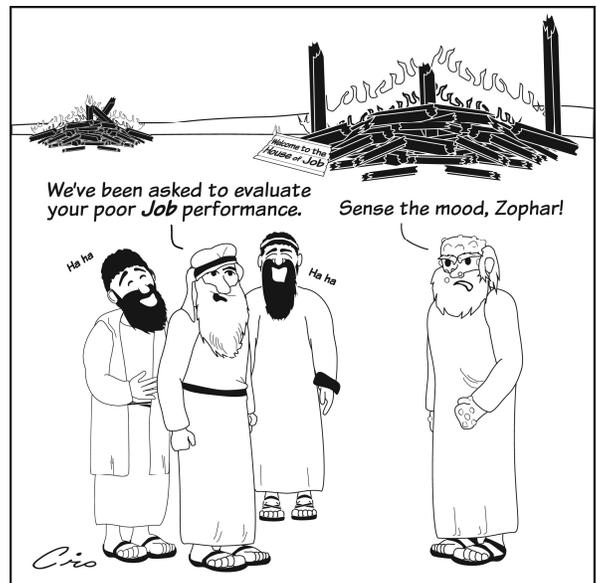
But the coming of Christ not only brings about the revelation of God. By His death and resurrection Christ also brings about the salvation of men. This salvation includes forgiveness of sins, access to God, the hope of eternal life, and a new heart which is inclined to do good deeds.

Therefore, when dealing with love, we must try to relate everything to Jesus Christ and His life, death and resurrection. In the life and death of Christ we see in a new way what God's love is and what man's love for God and for others should be. And through faith, the Spirit of Christ, living in us enables us to follow His example.

In His Name We Serve,
Kevin Guiffre

Pastor's Page (cont.)

get stuck. Enjoy the blessings God's Word offers to all who read and believe!





Missions & Outreach

Women on Mission News

Women on Mission will meet on Thursday, February 3 at 10 am in the fellowship hall. They will be making jump ropes for Operation Christmas Child following their mission study.

Ladies are also invited to bring their recycled Christmas cards to use in future projects.

All ladies are invited.

WoM would like to thank all those who donated hats, scarves and mittens for our hat tree. They were donated to the Children's Aid Society for distribution.



2022 VBS July 18-22, 2022

Mark your calendars now for this year's Spark Studio Vacation Bible School, the week of July 18 - 22. We will spark imagination and kick creativity into high gear as we learn that God's creativity didn't stop in Genesis. The Master Artist is working to redeem, reclaim, and transform us – His creation – to the design He planned for us. Kids will have fun while learning that we are His workmanship (Ephesians 2:10) and a masterpiece in process. More information will be coming soon!

There will be a VBS planning meeting on Tuesday, February 22, at 6:30 pm in the College and Career Sunday School classroom. Anyone interested in helping to plan and organize this year's VBS is asked to attend. Contact Alison Bode 301-246-4957 or thebodes@verizon.net for more information.

"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?"

John Wesley

"We cannot learn from one another until we stop shouting at one another, until we speak quietly enough so that our words can be heard as well as our voices."

Richard Nixon



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

Soccer registration began January 12, 2022

Boys and Girls K5 (Must be 5 years old by September 1, 2022) - 10th Grade

Registration: \$65 January 12th – February 26th

Late Registration: \$80 after February 26th

Shorts may be purchased for an additional \$9

***Registration is available online at
<https://registration.upward.org/UPW81637>
or link from the church website

Evaluations: at FBCLP on
Saturday, February 26th, between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Meet the Coach: March 26, 2022
First practice: Week of March 28, 2022
First Game: April 9, 2022

**If you have any questions or your child participated in fall soccer (2021) at First Baptist Church of Waldorf, email to see if you are eligible for a uniform discount.

fbclpsoccer@gmail.com



Operation Christmas Child

February's emphasis is on fashion accessories, such as barrettes, hair scrunchies, jewelry, headbands, etc.

Don't forget to scout the clearance sales for other items appropriate for the boxes. You can buy these anytime and bring in for the packing parties.

FYI

(Sermon Topic Subject to Change)

Feb. 06	AM	<i>"Hearing vs. Listening"</i>	Ezekiel 33:31-32
	PM	<i>'Paul's Testimony'</i>	Galatians 1:13-16
Feb. 13	AM	<i>"The Holy Spirit"</i>	John 14:16-17
	PM	<i>"Justification"</i>	<i>Galatians 2:16-19</i>
Feb. 20	AM	<i>"God's Restoration"</i>	Ezekiel 36:32
	PM	<i>"Father Abraham"</i>	Galatians 3:6-8
Feb. 27	AM	<i>"The Temple"</i>	Ezekiel 40:2-4
	PM	<i>"Uninterrupted Service"</i>	Galatians 4:13-20

Tellers for February

Shannon Pankhurst & Jeni Irwin

Sunday Morning Door Team (Plus officers)

8:30

SS & 11:00

Feb.06	(P) Marion Simpson	(P) Sheri Bresnahan
	(A) Norma Stump	(A) Terry Mathews
Feb. 13	(P) Sheri Bresnahan	(P) Al Law
	(A) Courtney Harbin	(A) Betty Lou Moore
Feb.20	(P) Donna Duehring	(P) Billy Moore
	(A) Marion Simpson	(A) Bob Mathews
Feb. 27	(P) Norma Stump	(P) Jennifer Miller
	(A) Sheri Bresnahan	(A) Jerry Pruitt

Greeter of the Week

Feb. 06	Nick Papanicolas	Paul Dillon
Feb. 13	Dave Bode	Ken Doyle
Feb.20	Bob Gill	Patrick Hancock
Feb. 27	Glenn Miller	Dean Irwin

Children's Worship Schedule

Feb. 06: Debbie & Gloria Schneider, Becky Bucher

Feb. 13: Stephanie Walton, Caitlin Hancock & Hannah Pankhurst

Feb. 20: Jennifer & Corbin Cooke, Xaris Schneider, Callie Hancock

Feb. 27: Ellen Nupson, Alison Bode & Jessica Miller

Sunday Morning Nursery

Volunteers are still needed for Sunday & Wednesday evenings.

Feb. 06: Norma Stump, Patrick & Jill Hancock

Feb. 13: Norma Stump, Gerald & Kay Hancock

Feb. 20: Norma Stump, Debbie Schneider & Becky Bucher

Feb. 27: Norma Stump, Dave & Alison Bode

February Family News



01 John Osakowicz	18 Marvin McNair
03 Sandy Getz	18 Darlene Murphy-Crosson
04 William (Bao) Dinh	21 Sheri Bresnahan
05 Paul Dillon	21 Jenny Curtis
05 Erin Hancock	23 Cheryl Allison
05 Amy Jewell	23 Becky Miller
08 Laura Dillon	24 Gladys Bruce
09 Travis Jones	25 Tim Hill
12 Kristen Gibson	26 Gene Hile
14 Shannon Pankhurst	26 Michael Jewell
14 Michael Pickens	27 Pua Bess
15 Brynna Bode	27 Kimberly Burgess
18 Anya Bode	29 Joyce Hanson

You can now listen to the “God’s Grace with Gary” podcast on Amazon Music, Apple Podcast app, iHeart, iTunes, or Spotify.

Hope-filled hearts

When Bowen Hammitt was born with essentially half a heart, the odds were stacked against him. But after three surgeries and numerous setbacks, Bowen is now an active 11-year-old who raises awareness about congenital heart disease. He’s also a budding Christian musician, following in the footsteps of his dad, Matt (formerly with Sanctus Real). The Hammitts use Bowen’s story to offer hope amid adversity — “a message the world really needs right now.” The documentary *Bowen’s Heart* features this tagline: “Is it worth giving your heart to something that can break it?” Absolutely, say his loved ones, who describe Bowen and his life as incredible blessings from God.

For Matt Hammitt, Proverbs 13:12 is now a favorite Bible verse. “Hope deferred makes the heart sick,” it reads, “but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life” (NIV).

04 Dean & Eileen Howard
14 Glenn & Becky 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.**



**Safe
Nights**

March 13-19

Every year, our church partners with LifeStyles of Southern Maryland to host SafeNights for homeless people for one week in March. This year we will host them from March 13-19.

There are many opportunities to volunteer to serve in some capacity during this week of ministry. Check the signup sheets outside the library or contact Courtney Harbin at 301-705-6605 to see where you are needed most.

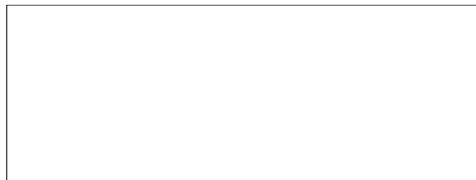
Honor thy teachers

When President Eisenhower invited James Michener to a White House dinner, the bestselling author replied: “Dear Mr. President, I received your invitation three days after I had agreed to speak a few words at a dinner honoring the wonderful high school teacher who taught me how to write. I know you will not miss me at your dinner, but she might at hers.” Instead of taking offense, Eisenhower answered: “In his lifetime, a man lives under 15 or 16 presidents. But a really fine teacher comes into his life but rarely.”

Fine teachers are indeed worth cherishing, whether they hold classes in churches or public schools, on Sundays or on weekdays. Let us honor and appreciate all teachers, all year long. Thank you for preparing lessons with care, for going above and beyond to meet each student’s needs, and for sparking curiosity about God and everything he created. You’re a blessing!

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

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Faith's role in love

In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of His followers. He commands us to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27, ESV).

But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. "I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love Him with is my mind. We're called to love Him with more." That "more," she explains, involves these paradoxes: "We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand."

