



First Baptist Church of La Plata

The Lamplighter

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2022

Pastor's Page

by Pastor Gary

This is the fourth in the pledges series.

This month, we will examine the pledge to the AWANA flag. II Timothy 2:15 states, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth"; based on this verse, AWANA stands for, "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed."

At the beginning of every AWANA Club meeting, three pledges are recited: the pledge to the United States flag, the pledge to the Bible, and the pledge to the AWANA flag. Here is the pledge to the AWANA flag, "I pledge allegiance to the AWANA flag which stands for the AWANA clubs whose goal is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him."

As with the other pledges, this pledge is personal stating, "I pledge allegiance."

This is not a pledge that someone else can do for you. You must do it for yourself, or not at all. Allegiance refers to faithfulness which, in this case, means attending club and memorizing the assigned Bible verses.

Second, the pledge is particular: the pledge is not to just any flag but to the AWANA flag and the club that flag represents. While there are a few varieties of AWANA flags, they are generally red with the words, "AWANA Clubs" on them.

Third, the pledge is practical explaining what AWANA clubs do: reach and train children. The primary goal of AWANA is to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is given in I Corinthians 15:1-4, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" Simply put, the gospel, or "good news," is that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. The secondary purpose of AWANA is to train people to serve the Lord. AWANA does this by encouraging clubbers to invite their friends and family members to club as well as supporting their communities through food drives and other outreach opportunities. AWANA further trains adults by recruiting them to serve in the AWANA program encouraging clubbers, listening to clubbers' memorized Scriptures, and leading Bible study lessons.

AWANA is where I got my start memorizing Scriptures, teaching on a weekly basis, and doing magic tricks. For me, serving in AWANA blossomed into full time ministry. If you would like to serve in AWANA, please let Julie Burgess, our AWANA Commander, know.

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AWANA stands for, "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed."

-Pastor Gary

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

I Never Knew

Is any lostness worse than remaining lost while believing you're found?

Of all those who finally travel the broad way to destruction, are any so wretched as those who sang Christian songs, prayed Christian prayers, and sat under countless Christian sermons along the way? The man sipping sand in the desert, because he thinks he holds a cup of water, is the most tragic and sad of sights. To plunge thoughtlessly into the next life is one horror, to play the saint, and still be deceived, is another.

There was a time I wouldn't have believed such people existed, least of all that I was one of them. Certainly, all who have called upon Jesus as Lord would be saved why else would anyone show up every Sunday? But there it stood before me, glowing as if engraved in fire, Jesus's own words giving us a transcript of some on judgment day:

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

(Matthew 7:21-23)

I read it again. And again. No verse had ever made me lose sleep before.

I realized that I must be one of the "many."

In his name we serve

Kevin Guiffre

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

Pastor's Page (cont.)

I am grateful for the impact that AWANA had on my life; I am grateful that our church sponsors AWANA; and I am grateful for all those who attend and serve in AWANA. Let's all keep reaching and training until Jesus returns!





Library News

New and on the Shelf

Nonfiction

The Letters and Lessons of Theodore Roosevelt to his Sons (NF 248.4)

Where Do We Go From Here by David Jeremiah (NF 236)

Night Light by James Dobson (NF 242.644)

Bringing Up Boys by James Dobson (NF 248.845)

When a Good Man Fails by Erwin Lutzer (NF 241.4)

Thoughts for Young Men by J.C. Ryle (NF 241.4)

Children's Nonfiction

David's Psalms by Collin Eisler (CNF 223.20)

Audio

Making a Case for the Bible

Abiding in Christ

Gettysburg

DVD

Jesus, Fact or Fiction

What Did Jesus Do?



Missions & Outreach

God Loves the Lonely

People are lonely. Loneliness stems from an unmet desire to be seen and known. Some people are lonely because of the absence of people, while others are around people constantly but struggle to find meaningful relationship. In 2018, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation report found 22% of American adults say they often or always feel lonely or socially isolated. The COVID-19 pandemic compounded loneliness by isolating people from meaningful relationships. Social media complicates the situation, offering virtual connections that often fall short of their non-virtual counterparts.

The Bible offers hope to lonely people. In Genesis 16:13, Hagar calls Him El Roi- 'the God who sees'. She gives us a word of hope. God sees us. God also gives us a place to belong. He sent His son, Jesus, to restore our relationship with Him. If we repent and believe in Jesus, God calls us friends, children, and heirs. Jesus is with us to the end of time (Matt. 28:20). We also become part of something bigger; our new birth positions us within a family-the church-that stretches through time and across nations.

Christ came and inaugurated His kingdom, but this kingdom won't be fully realized until He returns. Loneliness falls into this already—not—yet category. Christ came so we could know God. But while we wait for His return, we still wrestle with sin and brokenness. Being a Christian does not shelter us from loneliness; it re-orientes us to a coming day when loneliness will be no more.

We can proclaim this message of hope to lonely people. We also promote it by offering real relationships to those who are lonely. We also promote it by offering real relationships to those who are lonely. Have people over for dinner, invite them to an event, or send them a message to let them know you care. Introduce them to others at your church. The world is broken, desires go unmet, and relationships feel unobtainable. Something is missing. We proclaim a God who sees people, loves them, and makes a way for them to know Him. Through Christ, they can find a place of belonging while waiting for the day when they see their Savior face to face. And they will never be alone again.

(continued on p. 4)

Bible Quiz

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?

- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre

(See Ezra 1:1-4.)



Missions & Outreach

Women on Mission News by Carol Gill

Women on Mission will meet on Thursday, October 6th at 9:45 am in the fellowship hall. If time remains after Sally Pruitt gives her presentation on BFH (New Orleans), the ladies will continue making jump ropes for Operation Christmas Child.

Mission Opportunities for Oct. by Jennifer Miller

Town of La Plata Scarecrow Contest- we need help creating a scene that represents our church. It cannot be a religious scene. If you have materials or would like to participate, let us know! Scarecrows are displayed along the streets of La Plata for viewing.

Oct. 31 6:30-8Pm is Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot! This is a great opportunity to meet the community and have fellowship! Start thinking about how you want to decorate your car and look for the donation buckets to contribute candy!

Nov. 6- Veterans Parade through the town of La Plata- We need help passing out tracts and decorating a float representing our church.

November 14-21 is Operation Christmas Child week- Start packing now! We have plenty of empty shoeboxes.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 8- 'David' Sight and Sound theater trip- Leave the church at 7AM. If you need transportation let Jennifer Miller know ASAP.



One month to go until Collection Week! If you've been collecting items all year long, the latest list suggests that you include a letter and photos of your family. What a great idea! The child who receives your shoebox will get to see the people who packed and

"Battle of the Bowls" Chili Cook-off

*Sunday, October 16th
following 11 am service*

Register by October 9th



Pick up information & rules at Welcome Desk



*Trunk
or Treat*

Monday, October 31, 2022

6:30- 8 pm

FBC La Plata

9070 Hawthorne Road



Bible character or other non-scary costumes welcome.
(Please no scary or gory costumes!)

- Volunteers needed to give out candy from their car trunks.
- Prepackaged candy donations welcome! (See orange collection bin near sanctuary & restrooms.)
- For more information call 301-934-9040.

You're made for faith

Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there."

Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

FYI

(Sermon Topic Subject to Change)

10/2	AM	<i>"Signs & Salvation"</i>	Matthew 12:38-41
	PM	<i>"Hearing God"</i>	Numbers 7:89
10/9	AM	<i>"Sowing Seeds"</i>	Matthew 13:3-9
	PM	<i>"Light & Levites"</i>	Numbers 8:2-3
10/16	AM	<i>"God's Net"</i>	Matthew 13:44-57
	PM	<i>"Passover & Patience"</i>	Numbers 9:1-4
10/23	AM	<i>"The Controlling of Herod"</i>	Matthew 14:1-12
	AM	<i>"Blow Your Horns!"</i>	Numbers 18:1-2
10/30	AM	<i>"Water Walker"</i>	Matthew 14:25
	PM	<i>"Complainers"</i>	Numbers 11:1-3

Tellers for October

Greeter of the Week		
10/2	Darrell Linville	Dave Bode
10/9	Glenn Miller	Paul Dillon
10/16	Nick Papanicolas	Andy Gibson
10/23	Bob Gill	Billy Moore
10/30	Darrell Linville	Scott Nupson

Door Monitor Schedule (Plus Officers)

	8:30	SS & 11:00
02	(P) Norma Stump (A) Kevin Guiffre	(P) Patrick Hancock (A) Paul Miller
09	(P) Sheri Bresnahan (A) Courtney Harbin	(P) Robert Hicks (A) Sheri Bresnahan
16	(P) Marion Simpson (A) Dillon Edelen	(P) Terry Mathews (A) Al Law
23	(P) Norma Stump (A) Kevin Guiffre	(P) Betty Lou Moore (A) Bob Mathews
30	(P) Sheri Bresnahan (A) Courtney Harbin	(P) Jennifer Miller (A) Jerry Pruitt

Children's Worship Schedule

10/2	Stephanie Walton, Ruth Dillon, Adrielle Law
10/9	Jennifer & Camden Cooke, Jessica Miller
10/16	Ellen Nupson, Alison Bode, Laura Dillon
10/23	Hannah & Abby Pankhurst, Katie Lusk
10/30	Debbie Schneider & Becky Buchner

Sunday Morning Nursery

Oct. 02:
Oct. 09:
Oct. 16:
Oct. 23:
Oct. 30:

Schedule pending

October Family News



01	Austin Belski	17	Chris Peterson Jr.
01	Zachary Donaldson	17	Linda Pickle
01	Debbie Schneider	18	David Boarman Sr.
02	Courtney Boisvert	18	Brendan Doyle
04	Jim Robey	19	Kim Duehring
05	James Sanny Sr.	20	Brenda Stokes
06	Judy Tippet	21	Bonita Bish
08	Barbara Windsor	22	Steven Bode
09	Esther Fletcher	22	Karen Law
10	Kenny Fletcher	22	CJ Miller
10	Dave Bode	24	Bill Breitenbach
10	Bruce Orenca	25	Ken Doyle
11	Carl Scholl	27	Debbie Wedding
12	Berna Claspell	28	Melvin King
12	Layson Hancock	29	Ann Robey
12	Maria Papanicolas	31	Bella Curtis
13	Bill Burgess		

Help us revamp the newsletter!

We are considering change the name and look of our newsletter and we welcome your input! If you have an idea for a new title and logo (masthead) for our newsletter, please submit your suggested title to newsletter@fbclaplata.org. We will compile a list of your suggestions so that you can vote for your favorite.

If you have any questions, call 301-535-3983.

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.

—Gunilla Norris, *Weavings*, July/August 2008



05	Layson & Pat Hancock
08	Bobby & Janet Jones
10	Dennis & Valerie Hill
27	John & Frances Osakowicz
28	Robert & Tabitha Krauel

Give all glory to God

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, “All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring Myself glory.”

Our identity is in God, as His beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask Him to filter each word and speak His truth to our souls. We can pray: What do You want me to hear, God? Are You inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to You? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people’s applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God’s work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let’s rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!

Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside He has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what He sends and trust Him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of His providence, even in times of darkness.

—A.B. Simpson

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

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Cents-ible stewards

During a children's sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. "With full hands," he asked, "how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?" They'd have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to "let go" of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)

The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, "NO! I need more money!" (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn't sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away "worthless" pennies.



When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. "Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight," she said. God's prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.

—Julie Lee