



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAPLATA

Time--How Do We Treat it?

by Pastor Gordon Hanson

As we leave one year and enter another, expectations will vary. Some will have regrets over conditions or omissions, others will hopefully rejoice over victories, fulfilled goals, paid-up debts (or avoidance of same), spiritual growth because of obedience to the Lord. Did you read through His Word this year? Will you make a sincere effort to do so in 2024?

Time always moves at the same rate, though it may not seem so to we mortals. Do you redeem time with full satisfaction? One's current, or temporary work may not yield the satisfaction expected, but should always result in gratitude unto the Lord (Eph. 5:20).

This writer has been involved in a dozen or more adventures in this 95 years, the most rewarding being farmer and Pastor. The present, I've made a choice to be as Adam Holy wrote in Our Daily Bread 12/14, "To dive deeply into still spiritual waters", and "we must rest in contentment--soul satisfaction that only God can provide, since no smart phone app or social media can deliver."

While experiencing this march of progress, I have learned a few things:

- There are people who love another dearly, but just don't know how to show it. Lets you and I do better.
- You can make someone's day by simply sending a note of encouragement.
- Singing "Amazing Grace" or "Blessed Assurance" (my favorite) can lift my spirits for hours.
- That even when I have a pain, I don't have to be one.
- That I still have a lot to learn.
- To regain peace and patience (we've lost) turn off the news. The world won't burn down until Jesus comes, and believers can be calmer in a crazy world.
- Read a Proverb a day, written by a very wise man, Solomon.

Proverbs 3: 1,2 "My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandment: for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."

Proverbs 4:23 "Keep they heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life."



Contact Us

9070 Hawthorne Rd
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 934-9040

pastor@fbclaplata.org
secretary@fbclaplata.org

Deacon Highlight: Darrell Linville

1. How long have you been at FBC? *It's either 4 or 6 years--one year under Pastor Stokes and now [during the] time Pastor Gary has been here.*
2. In what capacities have you served? *this is my 2nd year as deacon, greeter at 8:30 AM service on Sundays, member of benevolent committee*
3. *I have been married 61 years, 8 months and we have 2 sons, Mark & Keith*
4. Employment:
 - *FBI in Washington DC 1957-1970 (incl. 2 years in the Army)*
 - *MPDC, Washington DC 1970-1995--25 years in Forensic Science*
 - *APD-VA 1995-2003 -- 8 years in Forensic Science*
 - *CCSO (La Plata) 2003-2013 --10 years in Forensic Science*
5. Hobbies? *Yard work and rest, after all, I'm 86 yrs old!*
6. *"Deacon's job, as far as I'm concerned, is a job of service to the people, helping the Pastor in any way we can. It's an honor to be a deacon, but if you take the office to get praise, then maybe you shouldn't take the position of deacon."*



Glory Way Quartet returned to FBC on 12/13 for a Christmas concert. A great time was had by all.



Andy, Kristen & Kayla welcomed Isaiah Hayes Gibson on 10/16/23. He weighed 9lbs, 5oz and was 22" long. We thank God for this sweet addition to our church family.

On November 19th we had Isaiah's dedication here at the church.



2024 Upcoming events (tentative)...

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information...if you are interested in one/more of these events, please let Jennifer Miller know.

- Feb 9-11** Weekend to Remember in Hershey, PA--need to register & book hotel room on your own
- Feb 14** Valentine Dinner (in place of prayer meeting)
- March 1** Prince Caspian Play @ Museum of the Bible, Washington DC
- March 8-9** Women's BCM/D Conference
- April 6** Chonda Pierce 'Life is Fun' Show, Fredericksburg VA
- April 28** Mercy Me & Newsboys 'Always Only Jesus' Tour, Fairfax VA
- June 15-21** South Dakota Mission Trip
- August 17** 'Daniel' Show at Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster PA



- 01 - Bob Mathews
- 02 - Virgil Burnette
- 07 - Doug Duehring
- 08 - Drew Havrilla
- 09 -- Ayla Havrilla
- 09 - Elle Havrilla
- 10 - Janet Jones
- 10 - Xaris Schneider
- 16 - Sally Sexton
- 17 - Lucy Bowie
- 18 - Adeline Freeman
- 20 - Thao Dinh
- 21 - Dottie Williams
- 26 - Jonathan Miller
- 28 - Kelley Haynie
- 30 - Mary McNair



Jan 11 - Ken & Janet Doyle
Jan 30 - Jerry & Barbara Hill

Women on Mission will meet Jan. 4th @ 9:45AM.
Janet Saal will be giving the mission presentation & we will be stuffing bears for OCC boxes.

New & On the Shelf by Bob Mathews

Fiction

The Chosen: Come and See by Jerry Jenkins (F JEN)

Non-Fiction

A Little Primer on Humble Apologetics

by James Sire (NF 239)

Reaching God Speed by Joe Kovacs (NF 248.4)

The World of the End by David Jeremiah (Nf 234.4)

DVD

Sound of Freedom



- birthstone is garnet
- birthflower is carnation



Newsletter... ("Back in the Day")

As I look at the cover of the newsletter "The Lamplighter", can't help but appreciate how attractive the banner looks now that it's printed in color.

From 1974-1975, I served as the church secretary. There was no space in the church for an office, so I worked from my home. The most challenging part of my job was the production of "The Lamplighter." The pastor would bring me the information for the newsletter, and I would get started.

I started with a stencil. To get the banner at the top, you used a razor blade and cut out a section of the stencil just the right size for the banner. The "banner" was a separate item of stencil material that was glued to the master stencil. The opening that you cut had to be precise. You used a particular glue to join the banner strip to the stencil., If your cutout section was too large, you risked having a black smudge that was so obvious. Be too skimpy with the glue and it would separate from the stencil and then you would have a real problem. These problems occurred at one time or another during my tenure as church secretary.

Next came the typing on a manual Royal typewriter. Make a typo and you used a liquid filler, wait for it to dry, and make the correction. Now it was time to duplicate the newsletter. The stencil was attached to a large, electric mimeograph machine. It has a "drum" that was inked with black ink. Under inked, it would produce a copy of uneven print. Over inked, you had the possibility of a messy outcome, i.e. black hands, spotted clothes and a messy work area!!!!

This is a typical "back in the day" recollection. At my age and memory challenges, it's somewhat of a miracle that I could recall it!!!!

~Sally Sexton

P.S. I wasn't fired as the church secretary. I needed to get a higher paying job so we could send our two daughters to college!!!!



Celebrating Together



Merry Widows enjoyed a lovely luncheon and secret gift exchange together.



The annual White Elephant Gift Exchange & Brunch was loads of fun & mischievousness.



Andy & Kristen Gibson threw a party for the youth that included many games, treats, an elephant gift exchange and a gingerbread decorating contest! The photos below are in order of the results! ;)



Ms. Debbie helped with games!



Sunday morning Nursery (Infant & toddler):

Jan 7	Norma Stump, Donna Fleming Grant & Sara Walker
Jan 14	Norma Stump, Adrielle Law Amy Jewell, Becky Bucher, Kayla Hepner
Jan 21	Norma Stump, Stephanie Walton Katie Lusk, Fran Wright, Erin Hancock
Jan 28	Norma Stump, Cecelia Stauffer Ruth Dillon, Gracelynn Nicklis, Eli Hancock

Children's Worship:

Jan 7	Stephanie Walton, Ruth Dillon,
Jan 14	Jennifer Cooke, Ashley Miller, Camden Cooke
Jan 21	Sharon Hile, Alison Bode
Jan 28	Kim Burgess, Katie Lusk, Abby Pankhurst

Sunday Morning Security Team:



	8:30 AM	SS & 11 AM
Jan 7	Marion Simpson Dillon Edelen	Al Law Jennifer Miller
Jan 14	Norma Stump Kevin Guiffre	Jerry Pruitt Jim Miller
Jan 21	Courtney Harbin Marion Simpson	Melvin King Patrick Hancock
Jan 28	Dillon Edelen Norma Stump	Robert Hicks Al Law

Upcoming Sermon Topics:

Jan 7	AM	<i>The Women</i>	Mth. 27:55-56
	PM	<i>Do You Know?</i>	Gal. 4:8-11
Jan 14	AM	<i>The Guard</i>	Mth. 27:62-64
	PM	<i>The Value of the Old Testament</i>	Gal. 4:21-26
Jan 21	AM	<i>The Rise of Antichrist</i>	Rev. 6:1-2
	PM	<i>Losing, Leavening, Loving</i>	Gal. 5:2-4
Jan 28	AM	<i>The Reign of Antichrist</i>	Rev. 13:7
	PM	<i>Freedom and Service</i>	Gal. 5:13

Greeter Schedule:

Jan 7	Marion Simpson Paul Dillon
Jan 14	Gary Boston Ken Doyle
Jan 21	Kevin Guiffre Patrick Hancock
Jan 28	Darrell Linville Billy Moore

January Tellers:

Sharon Bruce
Donna Fleming



Everything OCC

At some point, you've likely heard life being described as a race. In fact, the Bible compares it to a race numerous times, though the race is not so much a sprint as a marathon. We have all been called to run, and we are encouraged to run well. The question must be asked then about our spiritual lives: Are we ready? Have you prepared well for your race? Was there a moment when you confessed your sins to God and accepted Christ as your personal Savior? That's the first step! Then look to the Word of God as the ultimate guide to prepare you for your own unique spiritual race. God also has rules for His people. In Exodus 20, God gives Moses the "rules" for Godly living: The Ten Commandments. In the New Testament, Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, and He responded, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:37-39). Jesus made the most important rule for believers very clear: Love God and love others! Let's not complicate that. Our Heavenly Father wants to reward you too. But His rewards are far better than any of these earthly rewards that we collect. The Bible reminds us that material rewards and possessions will rust and decay, but our spiritual rewards will last forever (Matthew 6:19-21). God's race for our lives is not one that requires striving out of our own strength to keep up and hoping to achieve a prize. As we keep our eyes on Him and fill our hearts with His Word, He will surely guide our steps and remind us of what is most important. And we'll find that His rewards are worth more than anything the world could offer.

'Adapted from Sports Spectrum Daily Devotions'

OCC News

We have received confirmation for where most of our OCC boxes went (some may not have shipped as of the writing of this article) Here is a little more information about each country!

Tanzania-

Tanzania is an East African country that features Africa's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro, at more than 19,000 feet. The country has over 100 indigenous people groups and two official languages, Swahili and English. Samaritan's Purse began distributing gift-filled shoeboxes there in 2001 and launched The Greatest Journey, our follow-up discipleship program, in this nation in 2011.

Cont. on back....

Lesotho-

Landlocked within the nation of South Africa, Lesotho is mountainous with little land suitable for growing crops. Due to a scarcity of jobs, much of the population travels out of the country to work. Samaritan's Purse began delivering Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to children here in 1999.

Eswatini-

Located in southern Africa, Eswatini is one of the world's remaining absolute monarchies. Formerly Swaziland, the nation is known today as an exporter of sugar. Samaritan's Purse began delivering Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to children in this nation in 1999.

Now that the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season has passed, this is a great time to build a shoebox on-line and start purchasing items for next year's OCC season!

The final count for OCC boxes collected at FBC is 2,485!!! Over 900 boxes were packed here (during AWANA, VBS & our packing party).



January is for catching after the holiday sales, wrapping paper (for boxes), etc.

Also, personal care items:

combs & brushes

toothbrushes (NO toothpaste)

washcloths

fingernail clippers

band aids (non-medicated)

chap stick (non-medicated)

dental floss

q-tips

hair accessories (clips, ponytail holders, etc.)