



The Lamplighter

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAPLATA

February 2024 . Volume 17 . Issue 2

Take My Hand, Precious Lord

by Pastor Gordon Hanson

Ever wonder why the hand, most frequently the right hand, is referred to by the Lord and the writers in the Bible? We know it was the appeal of many who were facing a critical or heart-rending need. In the hymnal where this song appears, Isaiah 41:13 is quoted, "I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand." Other than the Scriptural use and since for most of mankind it being the prominent hand used, we do not know totally why, but accept it as stated.

We do know that it was the song requested by M.L.K. Jr. just a few moments before he was assassinated on a motel balcony about 56 years ago. The orchestra on site never played it then, but it was sung by Mahalia Jackson at King's memorial. Musician Thomas Dorsey wrote the song in 1932 following the death of his wife at childbirth. The baby died two days later. In his grief, the Lord gave him the now famous words

*"Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn..."*

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Deacon Highlight: Billy Moore



My name is Ronald William “Billy” Moore born June 8, 1951 in Marlinton WV. We moved to Maryland in 1960. My parents William Thomas and Opal Moore have both passed: in 2005 (at 79) and in 2001 (at 69), respectively. I am the second child of three— my oldest brother Tommy died in a duck hunting accident on 1/12/74 (at 24) & my younger sister Louise is now 71.

My wife, life mate, and best friend, Betty Lou “Jackson” Moore and I were married on November 23, 1974 at Indian Head Baptist Church. This year will be our 50th Anniversary! I was not a Christian when we married at the young age of 23, but thank God Betty Lou and her mother, Mrs. Clara Jackson, were instrumental in leading me to Christ at the age of 37. God used both of these wonderful women to lead an adventurous hillbilly kid to the Lord and I am eternally thankful they did.

We have two adult children, Casey born 10/7/76 is married to Jaymie and they have three children: Clara (8), Jackson (5) and Miriam (4). They reside on their farm in KS. Our daughter Carrie is married to Adam Norman with their 9 year old daughter, Dylan. and currently live in NC.

I graduated from La Plata HS in 1969 & started college at Ch. Co. Comm. College. In the summer of 1970 I enlisted in the MD Army National Guard and I retired in 1990 with 20 plus years of service. In the spring of 1970, I trained as a Combat Engineer & returned to college to earn an Associate’s degree. The Technical training was useful to start a career in the energy business performing pre-operational assessments for a proposed Nuclear Power plant owned by PEPCO. The plant was officially cancelled in 1976 & I then worked in management in Washington, DC. My career ended in 2012 with NRG Energy & I retiring with 42 years of service. Lastly, I was the Plant Manager of the Potomac River Generating Station in VA. While maturing as a Christian I went back to college and obtained a BS degree from Liberty University, graduating in September 1998.

Betty Lou and I have attended several Baptist Churches over the years starting at Hughesville Baptist church around 1976. As mentioned I was not a believer until age 37 thus many years Betty Lou attended church with our two children while I stayed home. Fortunately she and my mother in law Mrs. Jackson were obedient to continue to pray for me while the Lord continued to pursue me. I still recall that day stepping out of the pew and walking towards Pastor Stan Beall. I wanted to be baptized. Several years later the Lord continued molding me to serve His people and I was ordained as a Deacon at Hughesville Baptist Church on February 20, 1994 (*soon to be 30 years next month*).

Betty Lou and I both enjoy traveling to new places around the globe. In addition to traveling, especially to visit our grandchildren, my greatest hobby is passed down from many Moore family generations which is our love of hunting. That long family tradition has allowed me to experience so many exciting adventures in God’s great outdoor mostly with archery. These many adventures over six decades with lifelong friends, have allowed me to write stories about hunting adventures in numerous articles and even a few books. All articles and books honor God by showing how He can use even hunting experiences to witness to people who do not know Christ.

We have assisted starting two mission churches in So. MD and planted many seeds for Christ. We joined FBCLP on Christmas Eve, 2018. We both love our church family and commit to serve wherever our gifts are most useful. We both have assisted with the safety and security team and currently help with hospitality and the food ministry where having an ear to listen and a heart to share Christ is our passion... For me, I will continue to serve as a Deacon and teach Sunday school until I am called home or Jesus returns.

My final thought about the role of a Deacon is very simple and takes me back to my ordination in 1994. When asked to provide a personal testimony, I was lead to Galatians 1:10 *“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ”*. That verse remains as my commitment to serve the people of this church as a servant of Christ.

—Billy

Sunday morning Nursery (Infant & toddler):

Feb 4	Norma Stump, Donna Fleming Grant & Sara Walker
Feb 11	Norma Stump, Christina Vandroff Sarah Conant, Amy Jewell, Kayla Hepner
Feb 18	Norma Stump, Stephanie Walton Katie Lusk, Becky Bucher, Erin Hancock
Feb 25	Norma Stump, Cecelia Stauffer Ruth Dillon, Fran Wright, Eli Hancock

Children's Worship:

Feb 4	Stephanie Walton, Ruth Dillon
Feb 11	Jennifer Cooke, Ashley Miller, Camden Cooke
Feb 18	Sharon Hile, Alison Bode
Feb 25	Kim Burgess, Katie Lusk, Abby Pankhurst

Sunday Morning Security Team:



	8:30 AM	SS & 11 AM
Feb 4	Kevin Guiffre Courtney Harbin	Jennifer Miller Jerry Pruitt
Feb 11	Marion Simpson Dillon Edelen	Jim Miller Melvin King
Feb 18	Norma Stump Kevin Guiffre	Patrick Hancock Robert Hicks
Feb 25	Courtney Harbin Marion Simpson	Al Law Jennifer Miller

Upcoming Sermon Topics:

Feb 4	AM	<i>Rejection of Antichrist</i>	II Thessalonians 2:3-4
	PM	<i>Do You Know?</i>	Galatians 4:8-11
Feb 11	AM	<i>Compelling Love</i>	II Corinthians 5:13-15
	PM	<i>Promise and Persecution</i>	Galatians 4:27-31
Feb 18	AM	<i>Rout of Antichrist</i>	Revelation 16:12-14
	PM	<i>The Value of the Old Testament</i>	Galatians 4:21-26
Feb 25	AM	<i>Strong and Courageous</i>	Joshua 1:6-9
	PM	<i>Losing, Leavening, Loving</i>	Galatians 5:2-4

Greeter Schedule:

Feb 4	Glenn Miller Paul Dillon
Feb 11	Nick Papanicolas Ken Doyle
Feb 18	Marion Simpson Patrick Hancock
Feb 25	Gary Boston Billy Moore

February Tellers:

Shannon Pankhurst
Jeni Irwin

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Even under different circumstances, many can relate to this appeal. All God's creatures made in His image, need Him and the hand seems like the most logical point of connection. The psalmist, (16:8) wrote, "I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken." The final verse of Psalm 16 says, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

See also Psalm 110:1,5, "What more could we desire than what he has promised- "Take my Hand, precious Lord." God's great goal this side of heaven is our holiness, our Christlikeness, our trust (in Him), so all His promises lean toward that outcome.



UPWARD SOCCER



registration began January 16, 2024

- Boys and Girls K5 through 12th Grade
(Must be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2024)
- Registration:* \$80 Jan. 16th – Feb. 24th
Late Registration: \$95 after Feb. 24th
Shorts may be purchased for an additional \$10
- Registration is available online at:
<https://registration.upward.org/UPW85853>
- Evaluations: at FBCLP on
Saturday, Feb. 24, between 11 a.m.—2 p.m.
- First practice: Week of April 1, 2024
First Game: April 13, 2024

WE NEED COACHES AND REFS!

Email **fbclpsoccer@gmail.com** to volunteer and receive a discount code for your family's registration. Code must be entered at time of registration in order to receive discount.



Are you ready to start thinking about summer? This year's VBS – *Breaker Rock Beach* – explores God's rock solid truth in a world of shifting sands. VBS will be held the week of July 15 – 19, and we're going to start planning the details for this year's event on Monday, February 26, at 6:30 in the church fellowship hall. Anyone who is on the VBS Committee, interested in helping to plan for VBS, or has ideas of how to make our community outreach even better is encouraged to attend. Everyone is encouraged to save the date and start sharing it with your friends now. Any questions can be directed to Alison Bode: 301-246-4957 or thebodes@verizon.net.

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
- Feb 14** Valentine Dinner *payment due to Jennifer Miller*
- Feb 18-19** Youth lock-in (here at FBC) for grades 6-12
- 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

February Fun Facts

- birth stone is amethyst & onyx
- birth flower is iris & violet
- the year's shortest month
- gets its name from the Latin word "februum"
 - Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day & the Superbowl are all celebrated



New & On the Shelf by Bob Mathews

Fiction

Non-Fiction

Everyone's a Theologian by R.C Sproul {NF 230}

From Exile to Christ by Werner Foerster (NF 296.0901)

DVD

Christmas with the Chosen

Audio

A Christmas Carol (Audio Drama)



Women on Mission will meet February 1st and will make Valentine's cards. Rosa Minehan will be giving the missions presentation.



01 - John Osakowicz
 03 - Sandy Getz
 04 - William (Bao) Dinh
 05 - Paul Dillon
 05 - Erin Hancock
 05 - Amy Jewell
 08 - Laura Dillon
 12 - Kristen Gibson
 14 - Shannon Pankhurst
 14 - Mike Pickens
 15 - Brynna Bode
 16 - Jamie Hepner
 18 - Anya Bode
 18 - Marvin McNair
 21 - Sheri Bresnahan
 23 - Cheryl Allison
 23 - Becky Miller
 24 - Gladys Bruce
 26 - Gene Hile
 26 - Michael Jewell
 27 - Kimberly Burgess
 29 - Joyce Hanson



I would like to thank Pastor Gordon Hanson for so faithfully providing well written, thought provoking and encouraging articles for the Lamp-lighter. We have all thoroughly enjoyed them!

I would also like to thank Ken Doyle for not only ordering my new computer, keyboard, etc. but for helping me to set it up by moving furniture, removing old equipment/wires and cleaning behind everything!

I appreciate you both!
Amanda

The Safety & Security Committee is asking for volunteers for Sunday morning door monitors. If you are able to serve the church in this capacity, please see Logan Irwin.



04 - Dean & Eileen Howard
 14 - Glenn & Becky Miller

Thank You!

Laura Harris would like to thank our church family for all of the prayers, cards, meals & visits during her time of convalescence from hip repair surgery.



Love...

"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17

"Everything should be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong doing, but rejoices with the truth." 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

"No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in use and his love is perfected in us." 1 John 4:12

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8

"And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you." 1 Thessalonians 3:12



We are collecting donations for the **Safe Nights** program. A more extensive list is here: fbclaplata.org/safe-nights-program/ but some items include: paper products, microwaveable meals, personal care items, activity bags (incl. puzzles, etc.), hotel room cost donations, laundry certificates.

We are also collecting donations for the **Humane Society**. This list can also be found at: fbclaplata.org/humane-society/ and includes items like: dog & cat food, toys, litter, bedding, gift cards to Amazon, Petco, PetSmart, etc.



Youth Event
Feb 18th 7 pm to Feb 19th 7 am.



Pastor Gary is available for visits on Tuesdays. If you would like a visit from him, please call the church office to schedule: 301-934-9040.





GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

Everything OCC

If I asked you to go shopping in November and buy \$55 worth of shoebox items, most of you would think “That’s a little much, I don’t think I could afford that.” But what if I asked you to spend just \$5 each month on items, most of you would say, “Well, that much I could do..... But what should I buy?”

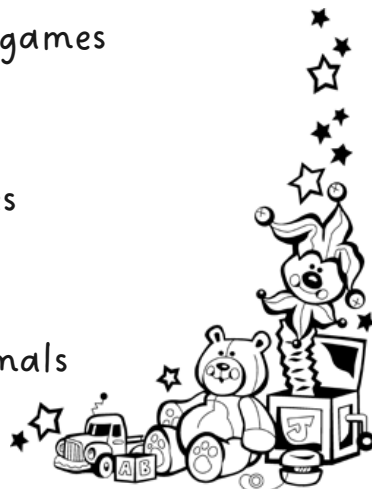
We encourage you to go on a \$5 shopping spree each month for items to pack in the shoeboxes. In the Lamplighter we always print suggestions of things you can buy according to a theme. But these are just suggestions, if you find a great deal on something that is not on the list— don’t leave it at the store!

If you would like to participate but you aren’t able to go online or to a store, you can give an offering to the office and we will shop for you!



February is for *Inside Play*:

Travel size board games, Card games
Marbles, Dominoes
Slinky, Yo-yo
Balloons, Spinning tops, Puzzles
Building sets (Legos, blocks...)
Lacing cards/beads
Rubber ducks/other small animals
Stuffed animals, puppets



Delivered into the hands of children through local churches, every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share about Jesus Christ and God's love.

Since 2009, 35.4 million shoebox recipients have participated in our 12-lesson discipleship course, “The Greatest Journey”. More than 24.9 million children have graduated from this program with over 17.4 million boys and girls making decisions for Christ.

In 2023, Operation Christmas Child is celebrating 50 million children discipled.