

The Lamplighter

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAPLATA

April 2024 . Volume 17 . Issue 4

Go to Sleep, God Has the Wheel

By Paul Banfe

I remember driving with my Dad at night when it would rain hard, and as a kid, I was afraid. I thought to myself, "How could he see? What about all of the cars around him?" However, time and time again, I would drift off to sleep in the back of the car. You see, no matter how dark and stormy the road, my Dad had the wheel, and I trusted him.

I'm reminded of a story about the English Reformer martyr, Nicholas Ridley. Nicholas Ridley was a Bishop of London who lived during the times of the Marian persecution of Protestants. The night before Ridley was to be executed, we find recorded that when asked by some friends if he would like them to stay up with him that night, he said, *"No, no, that you shall not. For I mind (God willing) to go to bed, and to sleep as quietly tonight, as ever I did in my life."*

How could he sleep before his execution? It was because he knew that his heavenly Father had the wheel, no matter how dark and stormy the road ahead might be. The Psalmist wrote about this experience in Psalm 4:8, *"In peace, I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."* Another way to say this is, *"Be still and know that I am God."* Still your heart Christian, because God is God. No matter what happens, no matter what your experience may be, there is not a square inch in this universe or moment in time over which he does not reign.

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Deacon Highlight: Glenn Miller

My wife Becky and I have been members of First Baptist La Plata for about 10 years.

During that time I have been privileged to serve our Lord and the church as a member of the deacon body. I also teach an adult Sunday School class and serve on the personnel committee.

Becky and I were high school sweethearts who married in 1959 and have been blessed with 4 sons, 10 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. Two of our sons, Rick & Doug, and our granddaughter Alexis, run the family cabinetmaking business. Rick is also a self-defense instructor and Tan Soo Do Grandmaster. Our son Chris is a gunsmith (Precision Gun Works) and our son Clint has a heavy equipment repair business (CBM Mechanical Service).



Early on I worked as a claims adjuster and then claims supervisor for a large auto insurance company. During my time there, I earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from LaSalle Extension University, which was a forerunner of today's online college degree programs.

Realizing that I didn't want to devote myself to a career in law, I followed my passion for woodworking and in 1974 started a family cabinetmaking business that has been ongoing for 50 years. Becky and I are still able to work there every day.

Although being brought up in the church, it wasn't until I was in my 40's that I was truly saved when the Holy Spirit enabled me to believe the gospel, repent, and receive Christ into my heart.

Serving as chairman of the deacon body for the past 3 years has been a humbling yet gratifying experience. Serving my brothers and sisters in the Lord has made me more aware of the importance of Christian fellowship and the joy of helping to relieve the moral and spiritual struggles and physical needs of the church family.

-GLENN

Sunday Morning Nursery (Infant & toddler):

April 7: TBD

April 14: TBD

April 21: TBD

April 28: TBD

Children's Worship:

April 7: Stephanie Walton, Ruth Dillon

April 14: Jennifer Cooke, Ashley Miller,
Camden Cooke

April 21: Sharon Hile, Alison Bode

April 28: Kim Burgess, Katie Lusk,
Abby Pankhurst

Sunday Morning Security Team:



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

Upcoming Sermon Topics:

April 7:	<i>The Peace Offering</i>	Leviticus 3:1
	<i>Conceited Christians</i>	Galatians 6:3
April 14:	<i>Signorance</i> (sin + ignorance)	Leviticus 5:15
	<i>Sowing and Reaping</i>	Galatians 6:7-10
April 20:	<i>Neighborly Sin</i>	Leviticus 6:2-5
	<i>Priorities</i>	Galatians 6:13-15
April 28:	<i>Fire!</i>	Leviticus 6:12-13
	<i>Final Words</i>	Leviticus 6:15-18

Greeter Schedule:

April 7: Gary Boston, Ken Doyle

April 14: Kevin Guiffre, Patrick Hancock

April 21: Darrell Linville, Billy Moore

April 28: Glenn Miller, Paul Dillon

April Tellers:

Sheri Bresnahan
Cecelia Stauffer

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Lay your head on this pillow and sleep: God is God. Whisper to your heart, "Be still, heart, God is God." Fall, recklessly into the pillow of his sovereignty, love, mercy, and care.

What is happening in your life? What anxiety is keeping you up at night? You can drift off to sleep because your Heavenly Father has the wheel, and no matter how dark and stormy the road ahead of you might be, you can trust him with your life.

Banfe, P. *Go to Sleep, God Has the Wheel*. churchletters.org <https://churchletters.org/church-bulletin-articles/go-to-sleep-god-has-the-wheel#more-22367>



VacATION
BIBLE SCHOOL



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, with classes for 3-year-olds through 5th grade in the mornings from 9 am -noon and activities for youth in the evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. To make this event possible, we will need help from our whole church family. Start praying now for the families who will bring their children to VBS, and for the workers who will bring God's Word to those children and youth. Pray about what your role might be.

- Can you help lead groups of children to their learning stations in the morning?
- Can you hold babies in the nursery so their parents can serve?
- Can you purchase snacks to donate for VBS refreshments?
- Can you plan games for the evening youth?
- Are there friends or neighbors you can invite to VBS?

We all have different gifts, and now is the time for our church to come together to share the Gospel with our community through VBS. July is only 3 months away! If you would like to help, please contact Alison Bode at 301-246-4957 or thebodes@verizon.net to discuss how your gifts can be used this summer.

Our next VBS planning meeting will be held April 8, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited.

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.

- 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 *SIGN UP NOW*

New & On the Shelf

by Bob Mathews



- 01 – Gloria Schneider
- 08 - Janet King
- 10 - Olive Perry
- 14 – Jessica Miller
- 14 – Ellen Nupson
- 15 – Dale Gordon
- 17 – Andy Gibson
- 18 – Saverio Adamo
- 20 – Abby Pankhurst
- 22 - Buddy Sanders
- 27 - Jill Hancock
- 29 - Janet Doyle



- 12—Jamie & Amanda Hepner
- 19 – Kevin & Heather Guiffre
- 28 – Darrell & Nan Linville

Fiction

The Choice by Suzanne Fisher (F FIS)

The Libyan Diversion

by Joel C. Rosenberg (F ROS)

Non-fiction

The Wisdom of God by Nancy Guthrie (NF 223.06)

The Jesus You Cannot Ignore

by John MacArthur (NF 232.9)

Spectacular Sins by John Piper (NF 241.3)

Biography

The Crooked Christmas Tree by Damian Chandler (B CHA)

Juvenile Fiction

The Wormling: The Author's Blood by Jerry Jenkins (JF JEN)

The Wormling: The Minions of Time by Jerry Jenkins (JF JEN)

The Wormling: The Changeling by Jerry Jenkins (JF JEN)

The Wormling: The Sword of Wormling by Jerry Jenkins (JF JEN)

The Wormling: The Book of the King by Jerry Jenkins (JF JEN)

DVD

I Heard the Bells (DVD)

Is Genesis History? (DVD)



April Fun Facts

- birthstone is diamond
- birth flower is a daisy or sweet pea



- the name April is thought to come from the latin word “aperire” which means “to open” signifying the beginning of Spring
- 1st Sunday of April was formerly known as “Daffodil Sunday” because in Victorian times, people would pick daffodils from their gardens to take to the sick in hospitals
- April 22nd is Earth Day
- baseball season begins in this month

April 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



Administrative
Professionals
Day April 24th

Women on Mission will meet
April 4th @ 9:45 am.



Rosa Minehan will give the
mission presentation. We will
continue to work on making
bears for the OCC boxes.

6 Verses About Speaking Kind Words

1. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29
2. There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Proverbs 12:18
3. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Colossians 4:6
4. A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1
5. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14
6. Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body. Proverbs 16:24



Baptisms

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY



Jay Andrews



Tracy Savoy



Aleczander De Jesus



Jesus came from
Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized by
John in the Jordan.

Mark 1:9, NRSV

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*



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Annie Armstrong Easter Offering:

As of 3/24/24, we have collected \$7,431 which is \$931 over our goal for this year!



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox gifts are collected in Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

More than 10.5 million shoebox gifts were collected globally in 2022, 9.3 million from the U.S. alone. In 2023, Operation Christmas Child collected enough shoeboxes to reach another 11.3 million children.

Nearly 540,000 volunteers worldwide—with more than 220,000 of those in the U.S.—are involved in collecting, shipping and distributing shoebox gifts.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. Samaritan's Purse currently works in more than 100 countries to provide aid to victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine.

April's theme for box items is:

Make a Joyful Noise

Noisemakers, party blowers, whistles, harmonicas, tambourines, kid xylophones, maracas, toys with bells, horns, etc.!



OCC Impact Story

God uses Operation Christmas Child to touch the lives of Philippine children living in dire conditions. It smells so strongly of trash and cow dung at the big garbage dump outside of Manila that most people hold handkerchiefs to their noses to block some of the smell. No one wants to visit this area. Muck swallows shoes, leaving people barefoot in the smelly mess. And yet there are people who live and work here. These people are lower-class Filipinos. They collect bottles and other pieces of trash to sell. Their houses sit right on the edge of the dump site and are made of trash. While most people crinkle their noses and want to leave, the dump people smile and laugh while the brown concoction on the ground squishes deeper in between their toes. The children in this area are quiet but happy. Boys run shirtless through small patches of grass with a soccer ball. Girls watch and giggle in their crisp, white school blouses and plaid skirts. They've just finished a day of school and walked home under the hot and sticky June sun. Today, the smiles are a little wider. On the walk home, the children cradle Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes underneath their elbows. This was a special day at school, a day of surprises. Although the teachers had tried to keep it a secret, the children had found out that they would receive gifts, and they were excited. Before she received her shoe box, 8-year-old Joy listed the things she wanted. "School supplies ... slippers ... a pencil case ... a pencil ... anything that can be used for writing ... and shoes." She paused between each item as if she was afraid to say that she wanted more than one thing. Only after being prompted did she continue her list.

Nine-year-old Ralph slowly listed what he wanted, too. "School supplies, school bag, a T-shirt, shoes and socks." All of these are simple things that most American children take for granted. But in impoverished areas like this one, school supplies and basic clothing make a huge difference. "Education is the only way out," said Marlin, pastor of the church that arranged the shoe box distribution at the school. "OCC will make a difference for them." With new school supplies, the children will have more opportunities in class. But the shoe boxes don't just offer physical items to make life better for children. The gifts also present an opportunity to learn about the Gospel.

That's exactly what Ralph did. When he accepted his gift, he also accepted Christ. As he kicks a soccer ball to a friend, his smile isn't just because of his new toys. Now he has found God's love. Ralph and his friends were offered "The Greatest Gift of All" booklet with their gifts, which explains the story of Christ and salvation through Him. Ralph said he is excited to learn more about Jesus. He is blessed because his mother is also a Christian, and she taught him about Christ even before he believed. Joy also received the booklet, but she didn't look at it as soon as she received it. She said she wanted to look at it later. When she reads "The Greatest Gift of All," there is hope that she too will find Christ's love.