

The Lamplighter

First Baptist Church of LaPlata

September 2024 . Volume 17 . Issue 9

One Easter Sunday morning, a pastor came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Several eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, the pastor began to speak.

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me, swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What you got there son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you gonna do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em. I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats. They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh??!!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing - they ain't even pretty!"

"How much?"

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?".

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone.

The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free.

Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story.

Cont. page 3

Contact Us

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pastorgary@fbclaplata.org secretary@fbclaplata.org

Children's Worship:

Sept 1	TBD
Sept 8	TBD
Sept 15	TBD
Sept 22	TBD
Sept 29	TBD

September Tellers:

Sharon Bruce
Donna Fleming

Sunday Morning Nursery (Infant & toddler):

Sept 1	TBD
Sept 8	TBD
Sept 15	TBD
Sept 22	TBD
Sept 29	TBD

Greeter Schedule:

Sept 1	Glenn Miller, Andy Gibson
Sept 8	Marion Simpson, Patrick Hancock
Sept 15	Gary Boston, Scott Nupson
Sept 22	Kevin Guiffre, Dave Bode
Sept 29	Darrell Linville, Ken Doyle



Sunday Morning Security Team:

	8:30 am	11 am
Sept 1	Norma Stump, Kevin Guiffre	Al Law, Jennifer Miller
Sept 8	Courtney Harbin, Marion Simpson	Jerry Pruitt, Jim Miller
Sept 15	TBD, Norma Stump	Melvin King, Robert Hicks
Sept 22	Kevin Guiffre, Courtney Harbin	Paul Miller, Jerry Pruitt
Sept 29	Marion Simpson, TBD	Jennifer Miller, Al Law



A big thank you to Debbie Schneider, and Scott & Ellen Nupson for diligently taking care of our flower bed located near the glass doors. They faithfully water and tend to the plants even on the hottest days! We appreciate you!

The
Caring Meals Ministry
is looking for
volunteers to help provide
meals to our church
families when the
needs arise.
Contact: Elaine Anderson
240-349-2551

Cont. from p.1

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting.

"Yes, sir, I just caught the world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other. How to hate and abuse each other. How to drink and smoke and curse. How to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you get done with them?", Jesus asked.

"Oh, I'll kill 'em."

"How much do you want for them?"

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you!! You don't want those people!!"

"How much?"

Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your tears, and all your blood." Jesus paid the price.

The pastor picked up the cage he opened the door and he walked from the pulpit.



Registration for AWANA is open!
fbclaplata.org/awana/



Bob Mathews'

LAST

New & On the Shelf



thank you

Non-fiction

Beneath the Cross by Patricia Pingry (NF 232.96)

Jezebel's War with America by Michael L. Brown (NF 277.3)

How Small Churches Grow by Stephen Douglas (NF 250)

In Search of the Real Spirit of Christmas by Dan Schaeffer (NF 263.915)

Children's Non-fiction

My First Book about Jesus by Sally Ann Wright (CNF 252)

Children's Fiction

The Letter E Leaves the Alphabet by Martha Lane (CF LAN)

Audio

Romans: Chapters 1-3 by David Jeremiah (Audio Sermon)

Romans: Chapters 4-7 by David Jeremiah (Audio Sermon)

Romans: Chapter 8 by David Jeremiah (Audio Sermon)

Romans: Chapters 9-11 by David Jeremiah (Audio Sermon)

For over 20 years (!!!)
Bob & Terry Mathews
have managed, cared
for, organized, etc. our
church library. We are
so thankful for their
hard work and
dedication. Be sure to
let them know! :)

Women on Mission
Will meet September 5th
@ 9:45 am. There will be a
presentation given about
the South Dakota
Mission Trip.

Becky & Xaris enjoyed their graduation party and they are thankful for everyone that came to help them celebrate.



Back-to-school laughs

These education-themed riddles will make the return to classrooms more fun!

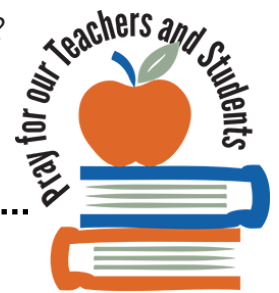
Why was the arithmetic book so sad?
It had too many problems.

What school supply is in charge of the classroom?
The ruler

What does the English teacher make for breakfast?
Synonym rolls

Why doesn't the school library have a clock?
It tocks too much.

What is the blackboard's favorite drink?
Hot chalk-olate



The Glory Way Quartet (minus 1 singer) came to visit us.



FBCLP participated in Indian Head's Night Out Event.

September Fun Facts

- birthstone is sapphire
- birth flowers are aster and morning glory
- the 17th is Constitution Day, which marks the day that the U.S. Constitution was adopted
- The first day of fall is typically on September 22 or September 23 in North America. This is when the hours in the day are almost equal to the hours in the night. This occurs at the same time as the Spring Equinox does in Australia.
- 9th month of the year
- 26th is Johnny Appleseed Day



SEPTEMBER

UPCOMING | EVENTS

Catherine Foundation
Table Shower

03 UPWARD
practice begins
14 UPWARD
1st game

12-15
Charles County Fair
Outreach

28 Bible Museum
& Prayer Walking

17
Church
Council
Meeting

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot considered work a gift and a blessing. Ponder the following quotes of hers as you celebrate Labor Day. How do they mesh with your own views of work?

"This job has been given to me to do. Therefore, it is a gift. Therefore, it is a privilege. Therefore, it is an offering I may make to God. Therefore, it is to be done gladly, if it is done for him. Here, not somewhere else, I may learn God's way. In this job, not in some other, God looks for faithfulness."

"Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and he gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures."

Operation Christmas Child

Did you know that you can fill a shoebox entirely online? These boxes will be sent to hard to reach places that are closed off to the gospel. Use this link <https://sampur.se/4awjK6j> or:



September's theme for box items is : *Let's Eat*

Water bottles, cups, travel cups, bowls, plates (small enough to fit in the box), silverware, items for cooking kits: mixing spoons, hot pads, tongs, cookie cutters...

OCC Impact Story

While growing up in Ukraine I lived in a three-bedroom apartment with my family of 11. Toys were rare in our neighborhood. I remember one of my neighbors showing me her doll from her balcony because it was too valuable to bring outside.

My father had a difficult time finding a job because he was the pastor of an underground church. Communism fell when I was 7, but Christians were still persecuted—even being thrown in jail for other people's crimes.

There were times when we had no food, but my mother would fast and stay up all night praying for God's provision. He always came through for us, but when we sang "Jesus loves all the children of the world" at church, I wondered why he let some of us be poor.

One day while my dad was in the countryside preaching, my mom loaded all nine of us kids on a bus to take us to an Operation Christmas Child outreach event. I was 10 at the time.

The first thing that stood out to me when we arrived were all the smiling people. In the Ukraine then, people weren't happy. Though I was already a Christian, I felt like the people leading the event truly showed me the light and joy found in Christ.

As I received my shoebox gift along with all of my siblings, it was an answer to my mom's prayers that God would provide. Inside my box, I found a doll wearing a dress and pink plastic heels. I was so surprised, I thought,

Is that for me? I felt so special—so loved!

I was delighted to share my new treasure with my friends. Every day, we played with the doll together outside. Each night, one of my friends took her home for a sleepover. This continued day after day.

I moved to the United States with my family at age 14. I grew up, went to school, and got married. Three years ago, I was in a Christian store that was giving away empty Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. As they encouraged people to pack them, I realized I was a shoebox recipient as a little girl. From that point on, my husband and I and our three children began packing shoebox gifts to send to children in need.

A year later, my parents started packing shoeboxes, too. They were like little kids as they filled the boxes. They were so excited to be a part of answering the prayers of other families around the world. I also recently learned that my doll—which I received more than 20 years ago—is still being enjoyed by family friends in Ukraine.

Today, I live in Ohio, and my prayer as I drop off my family's shoeboxes is that God will work through our gifts and draw children closer to Himself.

When I began speaking for Operation Christmas Child last year, I realized just how much of a spiritual difference my shoebox made in my life. It helped me experience God's love and grow in my faith. I am grateful now to have the opportunity to share the importance of giving—in Jesus' Name—with others.