

The Lamplighter

First Baptist Church of LaPlata

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The Spiritually Dangerous Spiral of Complaint

Every parent has experienced it. You get up every morning with a commitment to provide what is best for the spiritual, emotional, and physical help of your children. You actively do things every day because you love them, you know what they need, and you do what is necessary to provide it. You are not perfect, but your intentions are good-hearted and loving. But your children don't always appreciate you. They aren't always thankful for your loving attention or hard work. They often complain about what you feed them or schedule for them. They don't always think that your intentions are good, and they often find it easier to complain about you than to be thankful for you. But it's not just children, sadly, who do not praise, because complaining is the default language of fallen humanity.

The story recorded in Numbers 11 is striking, sad, illuminating, and convicting. The children of Israel were on a long journey through wilderness country to the land God had promised them. They were living what was essentially a nomadic life. It was therefore impossible for them to plant seeds, cultivate crops, or harvest food to eat. So God, in one of the most striking miracles of provision in Scripture, caused edible material to appear every morning like dew on the ground. This is both a visible demonstration of God's commitment to unleash his almighty power to provide for his people and a visual prophecy of his ultimate provision from above, Jesus. Jesus is the bread of life, the manna come down from heaven. Manna was nutritious, but here is God's dear children's response to this amazing provision: (Continued p.5)



Recent Adult Social Events & Outreach

Blue Crabs baseball game



Barb Kirkum, Ruth K., Sally, Scott & Ellen



Jim & Jennifer

Sight & Sound trip to see *Daniel*



Jennifer, Barbara, Tracy, Stephanie, Amanda N. & Sharon



Charles County Fair Outreach



Donna, Sally & Betty Lou

Annual Cookie Exchange



Thank you, Ruth D.!



Jennifer & Debbie



Rosa & Courtney



Kayla & Amanda H.



Julie, Sally & Ruth K.



Tommie

Children's Worship:

Nov 3 Stephanie Walton & Jonathan Miller
 Nov 10 Jennifer Cooke & Chloe Cooke
 Nov 17 Amanda Nicklis & Ashley Miller
 Nov 24 Kim Kret, Katie Lusk & Abby Pankhurst

November Tellers:

Courtney Harbin
 Amanda Nicklis

Sunday Morning Nursery (Infant & toddler):

Nov 3 Norma Stump & Donna Fleming
 Jill Hancock & TBD
 Nov 10 Norma Stump, Fran Wright & Abby Pankhurst
 Katie Lusk, Kristen Gibson & Erin Hancock
 Nov 17 Norma Stump, Fran Wright & Carlesh Nchinda
 Ruth Dillon & TBD
 Nov 24 Norma Stump & Cecelia Stauffer
 Amanda Nicklis, Ruth Dillon & Gracelynn Nicklis

Greeter Schedule:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Nov 3	Darrell Linville	Scott Nupson
Nov 10	Glenn Miller	Dave Bode
Nov 17	Marion Simpson	Ken Doyle
Nov 24	Gary Boston	Patrick Hancock

Sunday Morning Security Team:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Nov 3	Norma S., TBD	Paul M., Al Law
Nov 10	Kevin G., TBD	Jennifer M., Jerry P.
Nov 17	Marion S., TBD	Jim M., Brian M.
Nov 24	Courtney H., TBD	Melvin K., Patrick H.

Upcoming November Events:

10th:

Veteran's Dinner

18th-25th:

OCC Collection

23rd:

OCC Packing Party

On Sunday, October 6th, Gary & Debbie Schneider, Xaris McCartney & Karla Miller held up pro-life signs in La Plata along the main streets & 301 Highway. It was a silent demonstration to show support for protecting life in the womb.





Our church will be going on a **2 day missions** trip to Virginia Beach in **March of 2025.**

We'll leave Maryland on 3/27 and return on 3/29.

This opportunity is with the ***Send Relief Serve Tour.*** Please see the Welcome Center and/or Jennifer Miller for more information and to register.
servetour.org

Woman on Mission will meet on Thursday, Nov. 7th, at 9:45 AM.

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



Please excuse our mess! The library is currently "under construction" as we work to reorganize it. Don't worry, you can still check out materials during the process.

Stay tuned, exciting things are coming!
--The Library Committee



To thank Bob & Terry Mathews for so diligently maintaining the library for the last 20 years, the church gifted them a basket full of literature related gifts, chocolates and an Amazon gift card!



(Cont. from p. 1) “Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, ‘Oh that we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at!’” (Num. 11:4–6).

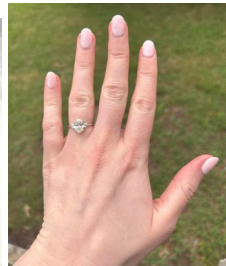
You can't complain about God's provision without questioning his wisdom, goodness, faithfulness, and love.

Notice what is happening here. You can't complain about God's provision without questioning his wisdom, goodness, faithfulness, and love. If you question his goodness, then you will stop relying on him for help; you don't trust someone you don't think is good. If you don't functionally trust God, you will take your life into your own hands, and, with a heart that's turning away from him, you will be susceptible to look at what is bad and see it as good. God's complaining children looked back at Egypt and didn't remember it as a horrible place of slavery and suffering; it looked more like a great Middle Eastern deli! Allowing your heart to complain and your mouth to grumble is always spiritually dangerous. The same heart that caused people to reject wilderness manna caused people thousands of years later to reject the ultimate provision of manna, Jesus. May God grace us with always-thankful hearts.

Tripp, P. (2024, October 17). The Spiritually Dangerous Spiral of Complaint. Crossway.org. This article adapted from Everyday Gospel: A Daily Devotional Connecting Scripture to All of Life.



Becky Bucher & Alec DeJesús
were engaged on August 31st
after dating since January!



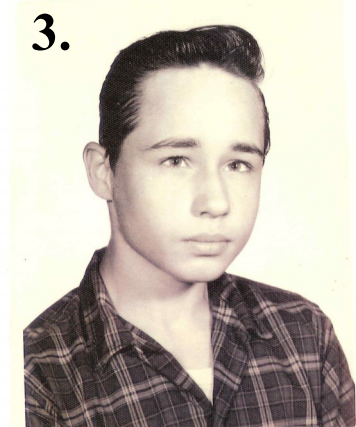
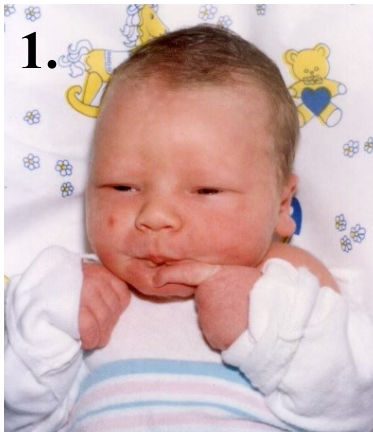
Logan Irwin & Ashley Miller
were engaged on October 16th
after dating for 3.5 years!



Our church was recognized for 15 years of service as a drop off location for OCC boxes. FBCLP has brought in, and processed over 24,000 boxes! A big thank you to Jill Hancock and Jennifer Miller for their ever faithful hard work, and dedication to this ministry of ours!



Time for another *Guess Who?* Game! This time it's your pastor, deacons & yoke fellows. Answers are on page 7.



Here are your choices (in alphabetical order):
Dave Bode, Andy Gibson, Kevin Guiffre, Jamie Hepner, Glenn Miller
Jim Miller, Scott Nupson, Gary Schneider, Marion Simpson

QUARTERLY Business Meeting

Wednesday, November 13th



Sunday, November 3rd



There will be a luncheon to honor veterans after the 11AM service on 11/10. Please come join us to thank those who have served our country. There will be a sign up sheet on the Welcome Desk.

P s a l m 9 5 : 1 - 5

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD is the great God, and the great King above all gods.

Answers to Guess the Pastor/Deacon/Yoke Fellow:

1. Andy Gibson
2. Jamie Hepner
3. Jim Miller
4. Kevin Guiffre
5. Dave Bode
6. Pastor Gary
7. Marion Simpson
8. Glenn Miller
9. Scott Nupson



November Fun Facts



- birthstone is topaz
- chrysanthemum is the birth flower
- *Novem* is the Latin word for 9 because it was originally the 9th month of the calendar
- November is the only month that Shakespeare never mentioned in any of his plays or sonnets
- The 3rd is the end of Daylight Savings Time, the 5th is Election Day, the 11th is Veterans Day, the 28th is Thanksgiving
- the US has celebrated Thanksgiving since 1621



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

Operation Christmas Child

Steady streams dripped from holes in the roof, and puddles were scattered all over the floor. The rain pounded relentlessly and threatened to drown out every other sound in the small church. But as the wet and windy thrashing continued, the songs of praise soared louder.

Rita Danso had just started a Gospel presentation when the rain began its most aggressive assault, making it nearly impossible for the children to hear her. She didn't want the boys and girls to miss a single word, so she led them in worship songs until the presentation could continue.

Rita had prayed for this moment in the mountain community in Ghana for several years. She felt burdened to reach its isolated, impoverished villages with the Good News because she knew that many people worshipped idols and had never heard about Jesus.

But no one would go with her. Every friend and church leader she asked turned her down. Even her ministry team was reluctant. The answers were always the same: The villages were too far away, the road was too bad, and the journey would be too hard.

Finally, Rita found someone who answered yes. She connected with Operation Christmas Child leaders in Ghana who wanted to take the Gospel to unreached people groups. "I told them that I had a place in mind. They said, 'Let's do it together.'"

A few months later, Rita was helping lead two Operation Christmas Child outreach events in the community on the same day. "Only God could order my steps to be here," she said. "I pray that every seed of the Gospel will soon bear fruit."

Planting those Gospel seeds wasn't easy. Rita made the arduous journey to the village prior to the outreach event and was joined by Operation Christmas Child leaders and her ministry team. (Continued on back)

NOVEMBER 2024 BOX COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Monday 11/18	5 to 8 PM
Tuesday 11/19	3 to 6 PM
Wednesday 11/20	9 to 11:30 AM 5 to 7 PM
Thursday 11/21	5 to 8 PM
Friday 11/22	3 to 7 PM
Saturday 11/23	10 AM to 2 PM
Sunday 11/24	12:30 to 4 PM
Monday 11/25	9 AM to 1 PM

NOVEMBER: IT'S TIME!!!!



- Stock up on any additional items
- Volunteer your time at FBCLP
- PRAY for God's will with each box!
- Donate \$10 per box to help cover shipping costs
- Build a shoebox entirely online! <https://sampur.se/4awjK6j>



On Saturday Nov 23 at 3 PM we will have a Shoebox Dedication where we will pray over the boxes as they start their journey around the world. Afterwards we will have a packing party! We are in need of items for our packing party! In general, we always need washcloths, toothbrushes, stuffed animals, toys, and school supplies, but you can use the Amazon link to purchase other items!

Packing Party



You can also help contribute to the shipping costs for boxes.

amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/5K4S2KKYJBM6?



(Continued) None of them were prepared for the steep, muddy, and rocky challenge that awaited. "At one point, we had already walked so much, but we wondered if we should turn back. We really got tired," Rita said.

They pressed on, and the two-hour hike was worth it. The village chief gave his blessing and permission to host the shoebox outreach event. Rita and the team were touched by his words: "For you to come here means that you love us."

On the day of the events, a tractor transported containers filled with shoebox gifts to the mountaintop. Operation Christmas Child leaders joined Rita and her team for the special day.

"We want to reach kids with these shoebox gifts. This is the first time these children have been presented with the Gospel," said George Gumah, an Operation Christmas Child international field representative. "We want to disciple them to the glory of God."

"Operation Christmas Child is a powerful gateway to a community," Rita said. "The gift boxes help you gain entry, and once you do, you can keep going with the discipleship material because you have earned their trust and built a relationship."