

# The Lamplighter

First Baptist Church of LaPlata  
July 2024 . Volume 17 . Issue 7

## *Patriotism and Prayer* by Laurie Adams

**Happy 4th of July! A day that we celebrate freedom, faith and independence.**

Many of us, when asked about patriotism, will think of the American flag, fireworks, parades and the American soldier. Often, the idea of prayer is not linked to patriotism at all. But, I believe that the more patriotic that we become, individually and as a nation, the more we will want to pray for our country.

*Our nation was birthed out of prayer.* The Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776 was first preempted with our Founding Fathers praying during the first Continental Congress meeting on September 7th, 1774. For nearly two years, delegates prayed for a nation under God.

George Washington wrote in his diary at the time, "*Went to church and fasted all day.*" John Adams wrote in his diary, "*God grant us wisdom and fortitude.*" Tom Cushing, also moved by prayer, asked the Continental Congress to be opened up in prayer and his motion was passed. A nation under God was born.

Since then, we have elected both Republicans and Democrats into office, some have believed in prayer and some have not. But I believe that there is one thing that has not changed since that first Independence day, our nation needs men and women who lead our country to depend upon God. Not only that, God is depending upon you and me to not just be patriotic, but to also pray for our leaders and our country.

We are living in terroristic, troubling, and dividing times. Often times, the one thing that stands in the way of God blessing a nation is our prayers. Or I should say, the lack of our prayers... Cont. page 3



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## Children's Worship:

July 7 Stephanie Walton, Ruth Dillon  
 July 14 Jennifer Cooke, Ashley Miller, Camden Cooke  
 July 21 Sharon Hile, Alison Bode  
 July 28 Kim Kret, Katie Lusk, Abby P.

## Greeter Schedule:

July 7 Kevin Guiffre, Patrick Hancock  
 July 14 Darrell Linville, Billy Moore  
 July 21 Glenn Miller, Paul Dillon  
 July 28 Nick Papanicolas, Ken Doyle

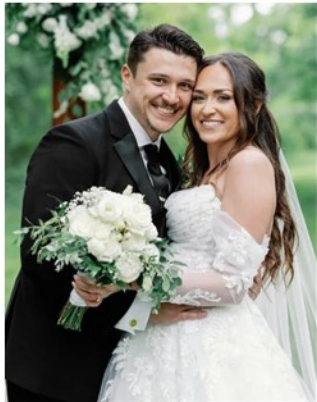
## Sunday Morning Security Team:

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

## July Tellers:

Courtney Harbin  
 Amanda Nicklis

Congratulations to Matthew Kret and Kimberly Burgess who were married on May 4, 2024!



Our high school & middle school youth each spent a week at Camp Carmel.

Brynna Bode is thankful for everyone that attended her bridal shower and for all of the thoughtful gifts.



Jennifer & Jonathan Miller, Nan Stout, and Rosa & Dan Minehan spent a week in So. Dakota on a missions trip. Stay tuned for more photos and a report on their trip!



***"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before Me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one." Ezekiel 22:30***

It doesn't really matter how we feel about the man or woman in office, what matters is whether or not we are willing to stand in the gap for our country?

I am proud to be an American and I hope you are too. Today, I hope you value your right to be patriotic in a land that is free and I hope that you will exercise your freedom to pray to God that He will bless the USA.

Patriotism and prayer; a Believer in Christ cannot have one without the other.

Adams, L. (2019, July 4). Patriotism and Prayer. <https://lacedwithgrace.com>. <https://lacedwithgrace.com/patriotism-and-prayer/>

Celebrate July with some patriotic "dad jokes"...

1. How come there aren't any knock-knock jokes about America?  
Because freedom rings.
2. What's the difference between a duck and George Washington?  
One has a bill on his face, and the other has his face on a bill.
3. Why doesn't fire get to enjoy a day off on the 4th of July?  
Because fire works.
4. What do you call an American revolutionary who draws cartoons?  
A Yankee Doodler.
5. Which colonists told the most jokes?  
Punsylvanians!



July 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	31			

## **New & On the Shelf** by Bob Mathews



### **Fiction**

*The Heart of Home* by Stephenia McGee (F MCG)  
*Revival in the Rockies* [by Robert Allen \(F ALL\)](#)  
*Crusade* by Robert Allen (F ALL)  
*The Seven Revivals of the Apocalypse* by Robert Allen (F ALL)  
*Keeping Secrets* by Linda Byler (F BYL)  
*The Disappearances* by Linda Byler (F BYL)  
*Together Is All We Need* by Michael Phillips (F PHI)

### **Non-fiction**

*Rose Then and Now Bible Map Atlas* by Paul Wright (NF 220.99)  
*Second Chance, Second Act* by Robert Jeffress (NF 248.6)

There will be no Women on Mission or Visitation Ministry for July or August.

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

## 2024 Upcoming events (tentative)...

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information. Contact Jennifer Miller if interested in an activity

- July 4** CC Fairground Outreach Event
- July 7** Missionary (Both AM Services, love offering, no live stream for security reasons)
- July 15-19** Vacation Bible School
- August 6 National Night Out Indian Head Green 6-8 pm
- August 17 'Daniel' Show at Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster PA
- August 25 Global Hunger Sunday (bread basket/rice bowl coin collection month of Aug.)
- August 25 "Smoke Off" Church fellowship and PM devotion (no PM service) (Tentative)
- August 26 PACE school year begins
- September Collection for Catherine Foundation
- Sept. 2 Fall Upward Sports Practices Begin
- Sept. 7 Bible Museum Trip and Prayer Walking
- Sept. 13-15 CC Fair (PBA Outreach)
- Sept. 14 First Fall Upward Game
- Sept. 17 Fall Church Council Meeting
- Sept. 29 Catherine Foundation Table Shower



- 03 Barbara Madison
- 09 Ethan Hancock
- 09 Angie Still
- 11 Scott Nupson
- 12 Bobby Jones
- 15 Carol Gill
- 17 Jim Miller
- 21 Eleanor Grunstra
- 22 Sandra Janke
- 23 Jordan Hancock
- 26 Alison Bode
- 26 Mark Burgess
- 26 Betty Lou Moore
- 27 Neal Wilsey



- 03 Gary & Celie Boston
- 17 Bill & Ruby Breitenbach
- 23 Bill & Julie Burgess
- 24 Jerry & Sally Pruitt
- 29 Andy & Kristen Gibson

Glory Way Quartet will be at FBC during the 11:00 AM service on August 11th.

### July Fun Facts

- **Birth stone is ruby**
- **Birth flowers are larkspur and water lily**
- **Around 150 million hot dogs are consumed on 4th of July**
- **Americans spend \$1 billion on fireworks annually**
- **It is the hottest month, national ice cream month, 7th month of the year**
- **The Roman Senate named July after Roman General Julius Caesar in 44 B.C., the year of his birth. Before that, it was called Quintilis, the fifth month of the calendar that began in March.**



# CONGRATULATIONS

## CLASS OF 2024



### Becky Bucher

Daughter of Bob & Laurel Bucher

- B.S. in Applied Ministries from Liberty University
- Currently working in Pro-Life Movement and will grow photography business.



### Charlotte Lloyd

Daughter of Matt & Amy Lloyd

- High school diploma from North Point High School
- Will be attending VA Tech in the Corps of Cadets and majoring in Political Science



### Benjamin Burgess

Son of Bill & Julie Burgess

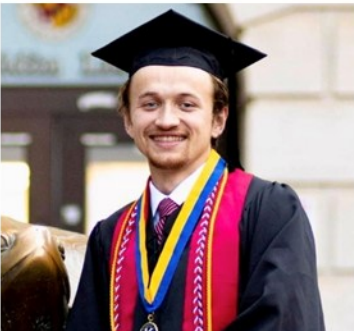
- High school diploma from Maurice McDonough HS
- Will join Air Force this fall



### Xaris McCartney

Daughter of Pastor Gary & Debbie Schneider

- B.S. in Psychology & Christian Counseling from Liberty Univ.
- Will apply for internships & possibly continue education to obtain Master's degree



### Jake Burgess

Son of Bill & Julie Burgess

- BS in Finance, Magna Cum Laude and BA Economics, Cum Laude from University of Maryland
- Currently working full-time as a campus minister with OneU at Univ. of MD



### Brooke Speidel

Granddaughter of Jan Saal

- High school diploma from Maurice McDonough HS
- Plans to attend the College of Southern Maryland and then transfer to a 4 year college



### Blake Williams

Great-grandson of Jan Saal

- High school diploma from Lackey HS
- Will be joining Local 26 of the IBEW to become a Master Electrician



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

# 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 scan this code:



## July's theme for box items is : All About the Boys

Cars & trucks, building sets, dinosaurs and animals, items for fishing kits (lures, small spools of line, hooks, sinkers), tools (screwdrivers & screws, hammers & nails (short handles so it fits in the box), tape measures (with metric), pliers), zip ties, electrical tape, duck tape, rope, tarps



## OCC Impact Story

Esmeralda startled her daughter Fernanda awake as Hurricane Otis roared over their town just outside of Acapulco. Gentle words did little to sooth the 10-year-old's fears as she saw the terror in her mother's face, especially as the sheet metal roof peeled away.

"I told them, 'We're going to stay here and nothing's going to happen. We're OK,'" Esmeralda said. "But it was more fear than I've ever felt."

Hours before, as Fernanda fell asleep, it had only been a gentle rain. Now, Otis was a Category 5 storm, the strongest ever to hit Mexico's Pacific Coast.

It was very cold. They shivered and prayed as they hid under the bed. Fernanda's cat was with them, clawing under them for cover. Then the rest of the roof caved, covering the bed and trapping them as the mud poured in, quickly filling the floor through the walls of their one-room home. Everything they owned was being buried, and so were they. "That mud was ugly," Fernanda later said as she recounted that night, which included the heroism of her grandfather.

Somehow the ailing man had made it from four houses away, alongside another of his daughters. He burst into the home and shouted "Let's go!" He pulled off the sheet metal and dragged them out of the mud. All was lost. Dishes, furniture, beds, and valuables. The children's clothes and all their books for school. Even Fernanda's cherished notebooks and crayons were gone.

The October 2023 hurricane took lives and destroyed homes across the state of Guerrero's coastal areas, leaving a city and surrounding towns in ruins. Samaritan's Purse responded shortly after, working in Jesus' Name alongside local churches to provide water filtration systems, shelter, food, mosquito netting to protect against dengue fever, and solar lanterns that kept homes illuminated at night in communities without electricity.

Fernanda and her family were invited to attend one of these outreach events by a local pastor in her neighborhood. "I found some kids from school there. We played a fun game of Piojo Juancho. We prayed. They taught us how the heavens and the earth were made, how God made the water and the animals, and Adam and Eve," Fernanda recounted. "They taught us about Jesus, too."

And when Fernanda opened her shoebox alongside the dozens of other children, her eyes widened with delight. Inside she found a toy boat, little toy kittens, socks, and, most exciting, notebooks, colored paper, crayons, and pencils.

Esmeralda said the storm and everything that's happened after the storm, especially the love shown by the church and by Samaritan's Purse, has encouraged her to reconnect with God and other believers.