

# The Lamp Lighter



Evangelism is at the core of our Christian mission. It is the joyful act of sharing the love, hope, and salvation found in Jesus Christ with others. As believers, we are called to be witnesses of God's grace, extending His kingdom through our words and actions.

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 commands us to go and make disciples of all nations. This is not just a responsibility for pastors or evangelists; it is a calling for every Christian. Whether through personal conversations, acts of kindness, or community outreach, each of us has a role to play in spreading the Gospel.

Effective evangelism begins with prayer—seeking God's guidance and wisdom as we reach out. It also requires genuine love and compassion, meeting people where they are and sharing the transformative power of Christ in a relatable way. Remember, evangelism is not about pressure or debate, but about demonstrating Christ's love and inviting others to experience it for themselves.

Our church has numerous opportunities to get involved in evangelism efforts. Participating in local outreach events, supporting mission trips, or simply sharing your testimony can make a significant impact. Every small act of sharing the Gospel can plant seeds that the Holy Spirit will nurture.

Let us embrace evangelism with enthusiasm and humility, trusting that God will work through our efforts. As we actively share the message of salvation, we become vessels of His love and truth, pointing others to the hope found in Christ. In doing so, we not only fulfill the Great Commission but also strengthen our own faith, growing deeper in our walk with the Lord as we witness the power of the gospel transform lives.

--Kevin Guiffre

*Go ye  
therefore,  
and teach all  
nations,  
baptizing  
them in the  
name of the  
Father, and  
of the Son,  
and of the  
Holy Ghost*

--Matthew 28:19

## Sunday Morning Security Team:

	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
Oct. 05	Marion S., VACANT	Al L., Bob M.
Oct. 12	Courtney H. VACANT	Brian M., Jamie H.
Oct. 19	Norma S., VACANT	Jennifer M., Jerry P.
Oct. 26	Kevin G., VACANT	Jim M., Melvin K.

## Greeter Schedule:

	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
Oct. 05	Bobby J.	Ken D.
Oct. 12	Marion S.	Dave B.
Oct. 19	Gary B.	Andrew C.
Oct. 26	Kevin G.	Paul D.

## October Tellers:

Shannon P., Jeni I.

## Sunday Morning Nursery:

### Infant/Toddler

Oct. 05	Norma S., Donna F.
Oct. 12	Norma S., Stephanie W.
Oct. 19	Norma S., Adrielle L.
Oct. 26	Norma S., Cecelia S., Erin H.

## Children's Worship:

Oct. 05	Stephanie W., Jonathan M., Kayla H.
Oct. 12	Jennifer C., Chloe C.
Oct. 19	Amanda N., Kristen G.
Oct. 26	Katie L., Tara H., Ayla H., Elle H.

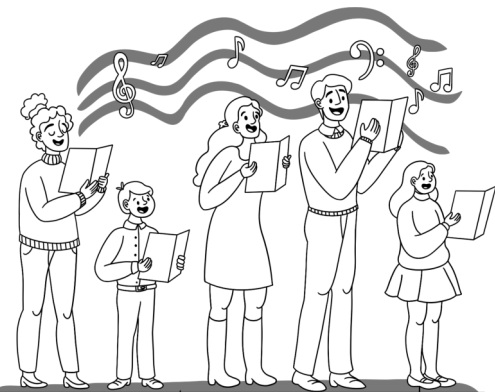


Many of our folks volunteered to hand out Bibles, bracelets & tracts during the Charles County Fair. Pictured are Jim & Jennifer Miller, Patty Wiley and Karen Law.

## Edify Returns!

Edify will begin rehearsing on Sunday, October 5, 2025, after late service. Please vacate the sanctuary after church to facilitate the Edify rehearsal. You are welcome to stay and fellowship in the foyer as long as you like.

"... It is in our life and conduct that we must show our devotion to Christ." —Woodrow Wilson



Choir will begin rehearsing on Tuesdays @ 6pm beginning September 30<sup>th</sup>. Come join us!

It is time to develop our 2026 budget. To do this we need to hear from the POC for each organization or function. If you need funding to support your ministry, then we need to hear from you before October 12th.



**Forms are on the Welcome Center.**

I have already started planning for VBS 2026! If you are going to get rid of anything that has to do with light: lamps, colored or oversized lightbulbs, flashlights, and **NEON colored items**, etc. then please consider bringing them to the office. Our 2026 theme is: **ILLUMINATION!!**

--Amanda

Answers to Bible Trivia on page 4:



1. cypress (Genesis 6:14)
2. three (Genesis 6:16)
3. seven (Genesis 7:2)
4. six hundred years old (Genesis 7:6)
5. eight (Genesis 7:13)





To celebrate Lois & Gloria Schneider's 69th Wedding Anniversary (which was 8/31), Pastor Gary & his daughter, Xaris, took them out on a boat ride on 9/2. They started from National Harbor & boated to Georgetown. They enjoyed lunch on the boat from Nick's Riverside Grill.



Most of us are pretty good at planning—schedules, to-do lists, calendars filled to the brim. But what happens when God steps in with an unexpected detour?

Throughout Scripture, God often moved in the interruptions. Moses was tending sheep when he saw a burning bush. Mary was simply living her life when an angel appeared. Even Jesus was frequently "interrupted" by people seeking healing or hope—and He never turned them away.



"Interruptible faith" is a posture of openness. It's saying, "Lord, here's my plan—but I trust Yours more." It means slowing down, paying attention, and being willing to let God rearrange our day for His greater purpose.

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) reminds us, *"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."* May we have the courage to let Him.

## Bible Challenge:

### "What Do You Noah About the Ark?"

1. What kind of wood was the ark made of?
2. How many decks did the ark have?
3. How many kind of clean animals did God tell Noah to take?
4. How old was Noah when the floodwaters came on the earth?
5. How many humans were on the ark?

Taken from *The American Bible Challenge* by Troy Schmidt  
Answers can be found on pg. 3 of newsletter



Pastor Gary & Carl Widmayer are part of a group called Patriot Guard Riders. They recently participated in a local event and ended up in The Baynet! The whole article can be read here: <https://tinyurl.com/2pm5nstv>

# OCTOBER

activities



**English as Second Language:**  
Training for ESL teachers and helpers is here **Oct 3/4** but please sign up for the training in advance. \*\*classes begin 10/9\*\*  
Bella Curtis @ 240-320-7613  
or email: [esl@fbclaplata.org](mailto:esl@fbclaplata.org)

**Brotherhood & Mission Warriors will meet Saturday, October 4th @ 9am.**



*Celebration of Life for Jeff Bresnahan*  
**October 12<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 PM**  
Blue Dog Saloon & Restaurant in Port Tobacco

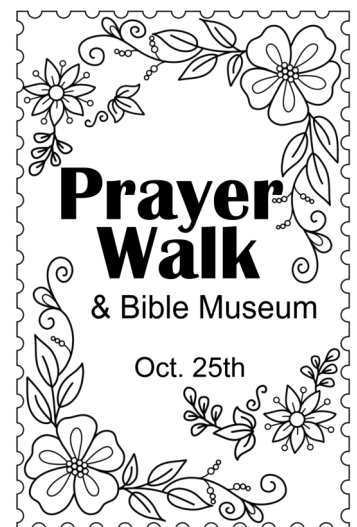


**Finance Committee Meeting**  
Oct. 17, 6:30 PM



Please sign up to decorate your vehicle for our yearly outreach event on 10/31. The more cars we have (they don't have to be elaborate), the more fun the kids will have! If you need ideas, ask Amanda! Also, please start collecting candy for our candy drive!

**Trunk or Treat**







*I would like to thank my church family for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, visits, food and all the ways you have shown your love during this time in the loss of my son. May God continue to bless everyone as we continue HIS work.*

*In Christ's love,*

*Laura Harris*



There are small tags on the WC with items listed for OCC boxes. There is also a basket provided for bringing in the items.

**Anyone have a shovel?!!**

*just kidding!*

We received a tractor trailer load of mulch for the playground. This is an example of some of the behind the scenes work that Buddy Sanders & Melvin King do to keep the church grounds looking great & functioning well!





## The Best Gift for Your Pastor

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you’ve ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn’t a plaque or applause. More often than not, it’s simple: “Pray for me.”

Even the Apostle Paul didn’t ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: “Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company” (Rom. 15:30–32).

This October—and every month—encourage your pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.

Youth Bible Study (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)  
Friday nights here, 6:30-8:00 pm



On Friday, Sept. 5th, Women on Mission sponsored a fiesta themed dinner for the youth. A big thanks to Rosa for decorating & cooking! The youth also helped with a craft for OCC boxes.





# Operation Christmas Child

## The Power of a Simple Gift

### Monthly Shopping Ideas: OCTOBER: Work on letter & photo

#### *Denis and A Cowboy*

Growing up in Honduras, my brother and I only had to one toy to play with—a plastic soccer ball that cost less than 50 cents. When “Toy Story” came out, we used to pretend that my brother was Buzz Lightyear and I was Woody because they were almost like brothers. We asked our parents if they could get us Buzz Lightyear and Woody toys, but they couldn’t because of difficult financial issues.

I grew up in a Christian family and attended church. I accepted Jesus as my Savior when I was young in Sunday school. In 2002, our Sunday school teacher challenged us to invite a new friend to church who didn’t know Jesus.

The following Sunday, I saw a lot of unfamiliar faces in the classroom. I remember my teacher and other volunteers bringing in boxes. I wondered what was in them—I’d never seen anything like them before. Then we were all handed a shoebox and were told we could open them.

Inside I found a Woody doll! I stared at it. I couldn’t believe it—I now had something I had desired. But I put it back right away so no one would take it from me. I’d been wanting it for so long. It was a special moment for me because I received something I wanted from someone I didn’t even know.

Woody from “Toy Story” reminded me of God’s faithfulness.

I also remember receiving “The Greatest Gift” booklet that talked about Jesus and different characters in the Bible. They are printed in color now, but I remember coloring the black and white pages. As I did so, it reminded me of every story I’d heard in Sunday school. It helped me memorize the stories I was coloring and grew my knowledge of the Bible.

My shoebox specifically showed me God’s faithfulness through hardship, illustrating to me that He was going to provide. If He provided in the small things, He would provide in the big things. I was able to appreciate an act of love by someone I didn’t know. To this day, this prompts me to participate in acts of love just as Jesus did. It motivates me to be a light wherever I go to help others in need just as I was helped.

Recently my uncle asked if I would pass the doll down to my cousin, but I told him it meant so much in my life that I wanted to keep it as a reminder of God’s faithfulness—that He would always be there even in difficult times. I give thanks for people who dedicate their time to pack shoeboxes and pray over them. They are used by God to make an impact on children all over the world. They are reaching out to those who don’t know Jesus and showing them His love through shoeboxes.

