



# THE LIGHTHOUSE

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## APRIL NEWSLETTER

### Pastor's Message



### THANK YOU!

No one said it would be easy.

As you know, our middle son Andrew has been in a fight for his life since December 6, 2016. His acutely inflamed pancreas spewed acid throughout his abdomen causing severe inflammation and put his internal organs at risk.

Yet, your prayers have made a difference! Thank you!

About half the people with such a condition do not make it through the first few critical days. But he did! About half of those people do not make it through the first few weeks of severe inflammation. But he did! About half of those people do not survive the long painful months of healing and fighting off infection. But he has!

Currently, he has lost his spleen and most of his pancreas. He still has a feeding tube and the large wound caused by his initial incision is still open. But he could have the incision closed with a skin graft very soon.

One of the toughest challenges has been that Andrew's hospital and doctors are in Virginia. Cathy has been with him this entire time. I have been driving back and forth (over 7,000 miles total the last few months). Obviously, it has been a very difficult season for us, but God has been faithful.

During these last few months, you all have helped us carry this heavy burden. Thanks for being such a blessing. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for the cards. Thanks for the meals. Thanks for understanding when I have been in Virginia.

We love you all.  
**Pastor Dave and Cathy Earley**

Dr. Jerry Neal  
Senior Pastor

Dr. Dave Earley  
Lead Pastor

Bryan Corbett  
Associate Pastor

David Berna  
Visitation Pastor

Jeff Bane  
Outreach Pastor

Mike D'Attoma  
Student Pastor

Mike Latella  
Children's Pastor

Robert Stroup  
Business Administrator

Andy Kovalchik  
Life Group Pastor

Doug Worley  
Life Group Pastor

Brian Kinnett  
Member Services Pastor

Cindy Tryon  
Preschool Coordinator

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[www.firstgc.org](http://www.firstgc.org)



When God created humans in his image, we were perfect. But after sin entered the world, we needed a Savior. The good news of Easter is that Jesus, God's Son, died on the cross for our sins and then rose again. Because of Jesus' victory, we can receive the free gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.

Jesus tells us, as forgiven people, also to extend forgiveness to others who wrong us. That isn't always easy, especially when an offender doesn't seem sorry. But Jesus helps us follow his example of offering love, compassion, and forgiveness—even to our enemies.

A constant focus on forgiveness is especially important in families. Every day, hurt feelings, grudges, and slights interfere with our relationships with the people we love most. Children need to experience the feeling of being forgiven in order to begin forgiving others. They also must learn that forgiveness is more than just accepting an apology. It also involves resisting the urge to retaliate, get even, or make someone pay for mistakes. We become vulnerable as we allow that person back into our lives—and that's also a big part of loving others. As you help your children understand that Jesus forgives them and that they can forgive others, you will share the joy and freedom coming from both experiences.

Because forgiveness is an abstract concept, it's important to model it for kids of all ages. When you mess up, let your kids see you apologize. Be specific about what you're apologizing for, and ask for forgiveness. When young children do something wrong, offer hugs and say, "I love you, and I forgive you." Learn to apologize together by practicing it with your kids. Help your kids learn to say they're sorry through nonverbal means (drawing a picture or giving a hug). During family prayers, practice saying, "I'm sorry." Admit to Jesus that you've all made mistakes and are sorry; then ask for forgiveness together.

Plan to join us on Saturday, April 15th, for our **Easter Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza** from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. There will be bounce houses, face painters, balloon artists, caricature artists, and, of course, a huge Easter Egg Hunt. This event is for children up to 6th grade.

**Michael Latella**  
Children's Pastor

## Members Ministry

As Christians, we want the world to know how great God is, and by doing so sometimes we hide the pain or grief that we are in. By doing this, we present a false identity that we learn to hide in, and we put on fronts that are not true to life.

It is okay when we hurt and when we grieve to talk about it to others; we never know what someone is going through unless we share with them or they share with us. We forget God never promised a life of comfort, He promised a life of conformity. He is in the process of conforming us into the image of Christ, chiseling off the rough edges and sanctifying us daily.

Others around us are hurting — they are grieving, and they are watching. Be authentic and let them see God working in us and through us to reach the lost and hopeless. I am not talking about complaining, but rather sharing that life is not perfect. Things that happen are not always good. They can be rather discouraging at times. But share that God is good and He is with us, and He will never leave us or forsake us. People want authentic relationships with us and with God. Let's let them see Christ in us.

Life Groups are a great place to experience this authenticity. As we grow closer together, we see God working in each of our lives. As we come together and lift each other up in prayer and in fellowship, we see more of God and less of us. If you're in a life group, start engaging and start being authentic if you're not. If you're not in a life group, join one next week and see what God is doing in the lives of those around you.

**In Christ,**  
**Pastor Brian Kinnett**

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## A Word From Our Worship Minister

Many people learn of the story of Christ through drama. If the story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is important, then the Easter drama is an important way to share the gospel with many folks who come to church only on Palm Sunday and Easter. Those days are always high attendance Sundays. *(If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. – Romans 10:9)*



Good news! You still have time to participate in our Easter drama being presented on April 9 and April 16. We rehearse on Saturdays at 10 AM. See me if you're interested.

**In Christ,**  
**Pastor Bryan Corbett**

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

WALSH, Betsy	04/01		
HILYARD, Caleigh	04/01		
KAUFMAN, Ron	04/02	KAUFMAN, Sara	04/23
MCQUIRT, Joyce	04/02	HELLARD, David	04/23
BRIGNER, Aiden	04/02	MARTIN, Cheryl	04/24
HOARD, Joyce	04/02	MORGAN, Dan	04/24
GORDON-SMITH, Vicki	04/03	SEIPEL, David	04/25
KNAPP, Jeremy	04/03	STICKEL, Anna	04/25
ROSE, Dan	04/03	BOWEN, Viva	04/25
FULTON, Joyce	04/04	LEU, John	04/27
BEARD, Skip	04/04	LANTZ, Jasmine	04/28
DRUMMOND, Rosemary	04/04	CRESPIN, Joshua	04/28
RATLIFF, Kevin	04/05	LILLICO, Ralph	04/29
EWING, Ed	04/05	CRAIG, Allison	04/29
MICHEL, Brenden	04/05	HENDRICKSON, Sandy	04/30
BUTTRICK, Jimmie	04/06	STEWART, Beverly	04/30
CASTLE, Sue	04/06		
SHOFTER, Kim	04/06		
WADDLE, Debbie	04/06		
HAUGHN, Josh	04/07		
BUTLER, Joe	04/08		
BETTES, Gabby	04/08		
KINNETT, Jeremiah	04/09		
JONES, Sam	04/09		
REISER, Margaret	04/09		
SPENCER, Zachary	04/09		
WHITTINGTON, Abby	04/09		
ROBINETT, Brandy	04/09		
HEATH, Jamie	04/09		
SMITHERMAN, John	04/10		
VALLANCE, Christy	04/10		
WAGNER, Allison	04/11		
BABBERT, Beverly	04/12		
BLACK, Doris	04/13		
WILLIAMS, Kenneth	04/13		
McGUIRE, Rose	04/13		
HEIBY, Valerie	04/15		
COSSIN, William	04/15		
COX, Josh	04/15		
JONES Jr, John	04/16		
SMITHERMAN, Becky	04/16		
HOHN, Ethel	04/16		
McCARTHY, Brenda	04/16		
MURPHY, Patricia	04/17		
HOLBROOK, Angela	04/17		
SOSA, Melissa	04/17		
KRATZ, Jonathan	04/18		
WATTS, Joshua	04/18		
JOHNSON, Cody	04/19		
BERRY, Xandrya	04/20		
CLARK, Myrna	04/20		
FEGAN, Rhoda	04/21		
PULLINS, Stuart	04/21		
RAQUET, Jonathan	04/21		
HARVEY, Vickie	04/22		
HILL, Kannella	04/22		
MCGILL, Paul	04/22		
TYLER, Maggie	04/22		
BRANSON, Greg	04/22		
HARR, Kevin	04/23		

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### Notes of Appreciation

We want to thank First Baptist Church and our church family for all the support you gave to us during Don's stroke with your prayers, phone calls, cards, and food. What a blessing you have been to us. Thank you and God bless you.

Don and Louise Johnson

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Thank you so much for the beautiful Red and White carnations for my mother's funeral and all of your support. We were so touched by the flowers and the beautiful celebration of her precious life.

Dixie and Steve Click

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Thank you for the lovely flowers for my mom. We appreciate all the cards, calls, texts, and especially the prayers.

Donna Cawood and Family

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Words cannot express our thankfulness for the support of our church family during a time we needed it most. Judy would have been so pleased with all the love shown to her, our family, and Soul Purpose. God bless you!

The Clapsaddle Family and Soul Purpose Quartet

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Thank you for the beautiful flowers and precious prayers in memory of my mother Helen Brinley. Love in Christ our Savior.

Don and Mattie Brinley

## REAL PEOPLE, REAL FAITH Starting Sunday April 23

Have you ever felt insignificant and inadequate?  
You are not the first.

Starting Sunday, April 23rd, we will launch a very special Sunday teaching series examining real women and men who, even with their shortcomings, played pivotal roles in God's kingdom work. All of them were unimpressive, forgettable, or ill-equipped in their own ways, but the Lord accomplished mighty things in them and through them just the same.

April 23: Esther  
April 30: Joshua  
May 7: Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego  
May 14: Hannah  
May 21: Samson  
May 28: John the Baptist  
June 4: Ruth  
June 11: Jonah  
June 18: Gideon

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### Missions Ministry

By the time you read this, there will probably be a couple inches of snow on the ground – after all it's April! Actually, instead of snow, we hope our property will be blanketed by people who have yet to experience the transforming power of Jesus in their lives – so that we can help them discover what we know.

Yes, Upward soccer season is now upon us. And our hope is that each team has an individual, family, or life group from FBC who is connecting with the families on those teams, helping build bridges in order to help people take their next steps toward Jesus. If you would be interested in being one of these TEAM ENCOURAGERS, please let me know ([jeff@firstgc.org](mailto:jeff@firstgc.org)). All it takes is coming to a few practices and games and getting to know some of the families on the team. Maybe you could host a pizza party for them? The options are limitless – like our God and His desire to bring the world to Him!

In Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Bane



Did you know that the relationships you build in a life group can last for the *rest of your life*?

When my wife Karen and I attended Dallas Theological Seminary, we lived in Swiss Tower, the 10-story student housing complex. There were 15 apartments on each floor, and over the course of 4 plus years, each floor became, well, not actually a life group, but definitely a group of believers who shared life with each other (as well as the communal laundry room facilities).

It has been 10 years since we moved out of Swiss Tower. Over the years, Karen and I have followed the lives of many of the younger couples who lived on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor with us and whose children we saw come into the world. When we traveled to Texas on vacation last summer, we visited one such family, and the closeness we had with them 10 years ago in Dallas came flooding right back.

Just yesterday while I was viewing Facebook, another friend responded to an article I had posted by an Australian about what makes America great. We grew to love Malcolm and his wife Tamara in Dallas and cared often for little Annabel and Adam. They live in Sydney, Australia, hence the post caught his eye. It was great to hear from him.

Friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ, whom we shared life with 10 years ago in Dallas, Texas, and with whom we bonded in our 10<sup>th</sup> floor "life group" - these are the rewards of Christian fellowship, the best expression of which is found in a life group.

Connections Minister,  
Pastor Andy Kovalchik



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**April 05 - Special Men's Night!**  
**April 12-Easter Extravaganza!**  
**April 19-Crazy Hair Night!**  
**April 26-AWANA Colors Night!**

# Women's Ministry

**Book Club:** Will meet Friday, April 7th, from 7-8:30 PM, at Panera. We will be discussing the book *Promise Me This* by Cathy Gohlke. Please contact Kari Jones at (614) 589-7557 with any questions.

**Craft Day:** Will be Friday, April 21st, from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall.

**Paint and Potluck:** On April 28th at 6 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. with Gina from Creative Clinic. Cost is \$35 per person. Tickets must be purchased for children as well. Payment is your RSVP and is due as soon as possible.

**Surviving Grief with Hope:** This resource is available to support those who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, health, a marriage, a job, and much more. Please contact Barb Lovingsheimer at (614) 875-4613 if you would like to set up a meeting.

**Priscilla Shirer Simulcast:** Saturday, April 8th, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Tickets are \$25 and include breakfast and lunch. You may purchase your tickets on Sunday mornings or anytime during the week in the FBC church office.

**Bible Studies:** We offer several Bible Studies throughout the week for women.

- Sunday at 4:30 PM in Room C-154. Kay Arthur Precepts.
- Monday at 1:00 PM beginning April 10th. Bi-weekly study on Godly women. More information to come.
- Tuesday at 7:00 PM in Room C-156. *Glory Days* by Max Lucado.
- Wednesday at 6:45 PM in Room K-117. *Basic* by Francis Chan.
- Thursday at 9:30 AM in Room C-156. *Unanswered* by Jeremiah Johnson.

**Kari Jones,  
Women's Ministry Director**

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## New Book Published by Jeff Griesheimer

FBC member and deacon Jeff Griesheimer recently published his first book titled *Cade and Deerstalker: Small Dreams, Big Hearts*. This fictional children's book is set in 1830s eastern Tennessee and chronicles a unique friendship that is forged on the American frontier between two youth of that era: a white settler and a Cherokee Indian.

Readers can follow along with the adventures of Cade and Deerstalker as they emerge from adolescence into adulthood, learning to live off the land and confronting injustices as they emerge. For more information please contact Jeff directly at (614) 580-0430.

FBC Family,

I absolutely love springtime. How about you? I love the spring for several reasons. I love spring because of the possibility of warmer weather, because it is the beginning of baseball season, because the trees will begin to have leaves soon, and because the grass will soon be green again! I love spring because of all of its "newness" that it brings to the table. Spring is a beautiful time of year. It's fresh, it's clean, it's new. Spring also reminds us of the life that we now have when we put our faith in the Son of God! When we are born again in Christ Jesus, we become a new creation. The Bible says, the old has passed away - the fall has gone if you will, and the new has come — spring has come! Let me encourage you this month: Do not be bogged down by what has passed, but be encouraged by what is to come - the newness of life that you have in Christ Jesus!

I do want to update you on our student ministry. God is really working, and it is incredible to see all that God is doing! We are seeing over 100 people join us almost regularly each week. Students are being exposed to the Gospel, and students are being baptized. It is a beautiful thing! We have our high school retreat coming up this month, and we would certainly covet your prayers! If you'd like to sponsor a student, let me know. The cost is just \$40 per student!

Also, if you are a parent of a student in our student ministry, please make plans to join us for PARENT NIGHT at Exposure on Wednesday, April 12th!! We want you there! It's going to be an awesome night!!

It is a joy to serve alongside you, Church. We love you!

**Soli Deo Gloria,  
Pastor Mike D'Attoma**

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## Trustees' Report

So far the Ohio winter weather has been rather mild. As of this writing, the sun is shining and the wind is calm. We are thankful for these beautiful days; the sunshine is good for our morale. Trustees are taking a break before the lawn maintenance season arrives.

The remodeling of the lobby, hallways, café area, and fellowship hall is complete. The painting and new vinyl/wood flooring, plus the newly laminated information desks are definitely an enhancement to our campus building. The rock wall behind the visitor information desk is attractive and pleasing. The whole entry way is very appealing to members and visitors. We are honoring God with our appreciation of His many blessings to us individually and as members of His church, First Baptist Church of Grove City.

**Alice Thompson,  
Trustee Ministry Secretary**



## Men's Corner

**The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast at FBC will be on Saturday, April 1st at 7:30 AM. Pastor Dave Earley will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of John Edington given at our March breakfast.**

### **"If You Are Real, Please Reveal Yourself"**

As a young Catholic and altar boy, this was the prayer I cast to heaven as a teenager. I meant it too! I just didn't realize it yet. I was a good kid who obeyed the rules and kept to myself with only a handful of friends. I was privileged to have parents who sent me to a private school with great education, discipline, and religion. I generally understood and practiced love, forgiveness, sacrifice, and respect. The problem is that I seemed to go through the motions, and it lacked substance. I was your ideal "Catholic," except I never drank alcohol outside of Mass. These notions continued through high school. I was semi-popular being elected on student council and obtaining a nickname from a John Wayne movie. I was infatuated with the Spanish language, sports cards, cross country, and anything literature. At home it was chores, homework, and again, keeping to myself; however, this time I discovered the secret life of pornography along with hours of video games. They both became my "two gods" as well as my "religion." I served, worshiped, and loved them faithfully.

It was about this time that God intervened by sending two angels: my Christian uncle and a new friend I met while working at Kroger. I learned two very important concepts from them both: the Ten Commandments are not a checklist AND the process of Sanctification. I slowly learned the connection of these two concepts, but still justified my addiction, which I began to replace with hours of video games. I felt less dirty and at least I could control video games, unlike this seemingly destructive habit.

As a lone teenager with some new Christian friends, I would church-hop, occasionally going with my uncle, but I always kept a King James version Bible in my truck. I soon met my first girlfriend, and she liked the fact I had a Bible. At this point I matured quickly, working a number of jobs. Within a couple of years, we got married and moved to Grove City. I bought her a house and a new car, and we were doing pretty well. We both worked a lot and I didn't have much time for my addiction. I started going to her family church and began renewing my faith in a Christian environment. I was always attracted because of how genuine and real my friend and uncle were. She became the Worship Leader and I became the youth pastor. Things went well for awhile, but temptation and sin crept into my life again in a different form and a deeper level.

Adultery entered into our marriage. I fought daily to save our marriage, utilizing every person and resource available. My mother-in-law helped and supported me in every way she could and even took my side. After the divorce I became a loner again in an empty house, which I eventually sold before losing it.

The last three to four years have been very burdensome on me emotionally and financially yet most productive spiritually, politically, theologically, and career-wise. I mainly work two jobs and tend to a dying father, while trying to develop a better relationship with my mother. I live just trying to be the best man I can be, emulating the love of Christ while honoring God. It's still hard everyday. The flesh is tricky, and I'm sharing this because I love the Lord, I love you guys, and I love this church. I need prayer as I am now leading a Life Group along with Doug Worley. Prayer is the key to everything.

John Edington

**God Bless,  
Pastor Dave Berna**

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### **My View From The Back Of The Pew**

*"Train a child in the way he should go,  
and when he is old, he will not turn from it."  
Proverbs 22:6*

I love taking personality quizzes on line. They are found on the internet, so they have to be accurate, right? So far, I have personality traits similar to Bette Davis, Miss Piggy, and Sandra Bullock. On one quiz, I was deemed an extrovert/introvert. I would never consider myself an introvert, but I do enjoy many solo activities such as reading and gardening and, especially, my solitary drive to and from work. I use my commute as time to pray, listen to music, and mentally berate those who forgot how to use their turn signal. It is amazing to me that these new vehicles come with Blue Tooth, but not a blinker!

Some of my friends have very similar personalities to my own. Others could not be more different. One will probably never put herself in a group situation, while others are always the life of the party and could never imagine shopping, dining or vacationing alone.

I enjoy my friends, not because of their personalities, but because of their attitudes. Whether alone or with friends, they are joyful. — not happy, but filled with a joy that radiates from inside. Their attitude is never dependent upon someone else's either. They truly try to honor God with word and deed.

These people are not simply my friends, they are my role models. I want to be more like them. They, in turn, want to be more like Christ. That is definitely a personality trait I want to be known for as well.

**~ Cindy Tryon  
Nursery Minister**

