



First Baptist Church
Grove City

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AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Message



My grandson, Bradley, cracks me up when he strikes a serious tone toward me poking fun. He asked me why I had a cut on my arm. Jokingly, I said I got in a fight and the other guy scratched me. Bradley said, "Papa, you know violence never solves anything, don't you?" The cute remark was one of my birthday's best moments. The next was a letter written by my oldest grandson stating that when he was small, he always wanted to be a preacher like his papa.

Children and grandchildren are the most prized possessions to all of us. They make your life count and add joy to everything you do.

This week at FBC has been all about children starting from the Sunday Country Fair and going through each night at VBS. On our first night we had 374 people and saw 50 children make decisions for Jesus Christ. I hope all of our church family can see how precious this week has been for the families of our community. Someone has said it is much easier to keep a young tree growing straight than to wait until it's crooked and try to straighten it out.

Summer is a time of harvest in the Kingdom for children's ministry. Right after VBS, Pastor Mike Latella is loading up 50 some kids and adult counselors to go to Seneca Lake. Kids Kamp is another opportunity for children to give their lives to Jesus. Children are precious to God and to us as well. Enjoy your kids, love them, and bring them to Jesus.

When it comes time to die and you are on your death bed, what do you ask to see? Your diplomas? Your awards or trophies? Your bank account? NO! You will want to see your children. They make life count.

Pastor Jerry

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

Visit us on the Web
www.firstgc.org



Members' Ministry

Like frozen treats on a 100-degree day, summer is quickly melting away. For many school districts in our area, the first day of school is August 23rd. That means it's time to get back into old routines and start some new ones. Routines offer kids stability and help them develop self-discipline. Knowing what to expect—and what's expected—can make family interactions smoother, too. Here are a few tips to make the most of August's opportunities before we hit the "reset" button:

Have a family meeting before the school year begins. Review schedules and brainstorm new approaches to easier mornings, healthier eating, more productive studying, and more.

Focus on just one or two goals at a time, rather than tackling everything at once. When a new habit is in place, then move on to the next goal.

Prepare for changes to your daily routine by practicing before school begins. Create simple checklists as visual reminders for getting ready.

Empower kids to make decisions. Encourage them (in age-appropriate ways) to adapt routines whenever unexpected situations arise.

Build spiritual practices into your family's daily routine. This allows faith development to occur while children are growing in other ways during the upcoming school year.

Expand your family's faith outreach. Use new routines to help build children's faith-sharing skills. Encourage your kids to invite their friends to church and Sunday school. Welcome new friends into your home and show them Christian hospitality and love.

Most importantly, don't forget to add Jesus to your routines. When busy schedules resume, Jesus is often left out of the mix. Even if we attend church more regularly when school begins and our children move up a grade level in Sunday school, equipping children to live as disciples of Christ frequently takes a back seat during the action-packed weekdays.

Keeping Jesus front and center will help you and your family thrive in your new routines.

Michael Latella,
Children's Pastor

I believe we as Christians always have the best intentions, but we fall short because we do not act upon those intentions at times. We get up, go to church on Sunday and sometimes on Wednesday, and we think about joining a Life Group or serving in an area, but we just seem to never get started.

The devil knows that he can keep us distracted and busy, as well as just off the path far enough that we miss the mark.

You and I must make the difference. God has made a way where there was no way, He says to come follow Him, and He gives us the grace to get back up again if we fail. God's grace is free, but it cost Jesus everything — and it will cost us everything, sometimes even family, friends, jobs, and time.

Jesus said to follow Him, and that we must do. Jesus taught His disciples their next steps: Baptism, fellowship and serving others. We must be willing to lay aside our inhibitions and do the same. I want to encourage you that if you've not been baptized to do so and watch how the first act of obedience brings new blessings from the Lord. If you're not in a Life Group, come see what you are missing. There are over 45 Life Groups right now, and one of these will surely fit your schedule and interest. Come receive the blessings of fellowship that God has for you. And if you're not serving yet, there are plenty of opportunities to serve right here in Grove City and Columbus. Once you serve and receive the blessing of honoring God and helping others, you will not want to stop.

Matthew 5:13-16 HCSB "*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men. You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*"

God our Father has so much more for you and me than wake up, work, sleep, then repeat, or worship, sleep, wake up then repeat. Come see what exciting thing God wants to write into your story so you can share His love with those around you.

Stop by the Kiosk on Sunday mornings and talk with us. Let us pray with you and help you take your next steps.

In Christ,

Pastor Brian Kinnett
Members' Minister

"God acts on behalf of those who wait for Him."

Dr. Charles Stanley

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

GLASS, Ben	08/01	HARTMAN, Chris	08/15
PACHE, Gary	08/01	JONES, Joshua	08/15
MAYNARD, Ronda	08/01	HOFFMAN, Dick	08/15
GROSSMAN, Julia	08/02	BANE, Hannah	08/16
NEELEY, Brooke	08/02	BARR, Megan	08/16
CROMER, Justin	08/02	HILL, Klarissa	08/16
CLARK, Tom	08/02	MILOVICH, Charlene	08/16
MYERS, Ron	08/02	SEELEY, John	08/16
EARLEY, Cathy	08/02	PERRY, Robert	08/17
BOBO, Mitchell	08/02	TOWNSLEY, Loretta	08/17
WESTFALL, Wyman	08/02	STROUP, Donna	08/17
MCDONALD, Robert	08/03	JONES, Jessica	08/19
GROSSMAN, Jennifer	08/04	STEVENS, Anthony	08/19
HILL, Elvie	08/04	PINKERMAN, Jackson	08/20
SATTERFIELD, Colleen	08/04	MISHNE, Amanda	08/21
SOUTHERS, Stephanie	08/04	SINSEL, David	08/21
JARRELL, Carson	08/04	SNIDER, David	08/21
ROBINETT, Joann	08/04	YOUNG, Julie	08/21
REICHLE, Larry	08/04	SEELEY, Lynn	08/22
BLAKESLEY, Debra	08/05	SCHUMAN, Karen	08/23
BLAKESLEY, Edward	08/05	ADKINS, Kristin	08/23
JOHNSTON, Dale	08/05	NORTH, Erica	08/24
GLASS, Lauren	08/06	CLICK, Steve	08/24
CROMER, Minda	08/06	HEJDUK, Dave	08/24
BLAKESLEY, Jonathon	08/06	HARR, Tracey	08/25
FULTON, Mitchell	08/07	HUFF, Kelly	08/25
CANTER, Dianne	08/08	PULLINS, Bradley	08/25
MONTELL, Lisa	08/08	BELCHER, William	08/25
THOMPSON, Rhonda	08/08	CORBETT, Bryan	08/26
GLASS, Adam	08/08	NEELEY, Jennifer	08/26
ARMSTRONG, Joe	08/08	WORLEY, Doug	08/26
HOLINGA, Karen	08/08	CONANT, Phyllis	08/27
PORTER, Caleb	08/09	PETERS, Pamela	08/27
HANDLEY, Ben	08/09	PETERS, William	08/27
NEISWANGER, Linda	08/09	YENCER, Kathy	08/27
ROBERTS, Kay	08/09	ATKINS, Jacob	08/27
CAMPBELL, Scott	08/09	D'ATTOMA, Sarah	08/27
ANGLES, Betsy	08/10	BANE, Joanna	08/28
BOYD, James	08/10	BROWN, Connie	08/28
GRAY, Wilma	08/10	DUNCAN, Alan	08/28
JAMES, Tamela	08/10	McKEE, Christian	08/28
PINKERMAN, Brian	08/10	RILEY, Russell	08/28
TATERA, Tammie	08/10	HILL, Robert	08/29
WILSON, Sarah	08/10	BENNETT, Lynnetta	08/29
REICHLE, Ken	08/11	ALLMON, Emily	08/30
PERRY, Ruby	08/11	LATELLA, Linda	08/30
GERACE, Jerry	08/11	GLASS, Jody	08/30
FRASHER, Caleb	08/12	DUGAN, Peyton	08/31
RILEY, Alma	08/12	FEUSTEL, Steve	08/31
ROBERTS, James	08/12	RUCKER, Minda	08/31
CARSON, Derek	08/13	CHADWICK, Sue	08/31
PINKERMAN, Lindsay	08/13	PACHE, Marlene	08/31
DYER, Janie	08/13		
LIFF, Mallory	08/13		
HARDMAN, Kay	08/14		
MCPHERSON, Chris	08/14		
WESTFALL, Rhonda	08/14		
BUZZARD, Jared	08/14		

“If you wish to be a man or woman of God, it is essential that you face the impossible situations of life with faith, as Elijah did.”

Dr. Chuck Swindoll

From Our Worship Minister

We are always looking for new people to join us in the Celebration Choir on Sunday mornings. If you have a talent to sing, perhaps you could pray about using that talent in this leadership ministry.

As we've studied the Psalms this Summer, we find that singing is an important part of worship.

Psalms 95:1 *"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord..."*

Psalms 96:1 *"O Sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth."*

Psalms 98:1 *"O sing unto the Lord a new song: for He has done marvelous things."*

Psalms 100:1 *"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."*

Psalms 101:1 *"I will sing of your love and justice to you. O Lord, I will sing praise."*

The word 'sing' or 'praise' is used in the Psalms over 100 times.

If you want more information, please contact me.

**In Christ,
Pastor Bryan Corbett**

Trustee Ministry Report

This has been a busy month for the Trustee Ministry. Have you noticed as you pull into the church parking lot that, to the right, the brush has been cleared from the understory of the trees located along Orders Road? Eventually, the plan is to continue clearing the brush to provide a neat and scenic view of our church from the road.

Log jams were removed from the creek, between the crop fields, with the help of the Grove City Service Department. The arbor vitae on the FBC campus was invested with bagworms. A spray treatment was employed.

Parking lots for both KKDC and FBC were treated whereby cracks were filled and then both lots were sealed.

Have a great month and always know that our greatest privilege is to enjoy God's presence.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Secretary**



Ah! Great are the spiritual lessons we can learn from a tomato plant!

We planted six of them this year. Two of them are completely out of control. They are taller than I am. They grew out of their tomato pots in two weeks, and I had to construct a six foot tall wood lattice to support them. Before I got it erected, I noticed two branches were bent over under the sheer force of their own weight. One was completely severed and hanging only by a small portion of the outer skin of the vine. The other was simply badly kinked. I tied them both up with garden twine to see how they would do.

The branch that was only kinked has strengthened itself and is thriving once again. But the branch that was completely severed and hanging only by a snippet of outer skin? OVERNIGHT, the leaves and flowers of that branch shriveled up. I cut the snippet of skin and threw that branch into a yard waste bag.

Jesus tells us that He is the vine, and we are the branches. If we abide in Him, we will bear much fruit. If we do not, we will be cast out as a branch and withered, and thrown into the fire (or maybe a yard waste bag?) (John 15:5-6)

Many of our Life Groups are on hiatus for the summer. But no Life Group member should be on hiatus from a thriving relationship with our Lord Jesus. Just as I'm expecting mountains of tomatoes this year, Jesus is expecting much fruit from each of us. We must be connected to Him for that to happen.

**Connections Minister,
Pastor Andy Kovalchik**

Notes of Appreciation

Thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement. We appreciate your kindness.

The family of Larmie Penberthy

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers you sent in honor of my Dad. He was 92 years young and still quite active in his church. We also appreciate all the love, concern, and prayers. This is not goodbye, but until we meet again in Heaven! Love being a part of FBCGC!

**Love,
Tracy Harr**

I wish to express my sincere thanks to First Baptist Church for their ministry to me during my recent surgery for a brain tumor. The tumor was completely removed and was benign. My prognosis is excellent! Glory to God!

Maria Wurr-Ogg

Women of FBC

Women's' Retreat: Why go to a retreat? For most of us, the pace of daily life is hectic. Because we are always on the go, there isn't much time to think about the things that are truly important in life. During this retreat, you may discover the inner strength to help you with the many issues you may be facing. Retreats are not just for difficult times in your life—they are also for time when you feel happy, fulfilled, and thankful for all your many blessings.

Room Cost: 1 person—\$115.00
2 persons—\$58.00 each
3-4 persons—\$35.00 each

The Retreat is Friday and Saturday, September 29th and 30th, at the Oglebay Resort. For more details, contact Sharon Myers at 614-991-0205.

Book Club: Will meet on Thursday, August 3rd, from 7:00-8:30 PM at China Bell. We will be discussing the book *Magnolia Story* by Chip and Joanna Gaines. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 with any questions.

Craft Day: Will be August 18th from 9 AM to 9 PM in the fellowship hall. Bring your unfinished project, a snack to share, and a dish for the potluck dinner. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 with any questions.

Surviving Grief with Hope: This is a group to support those who are dealing with the grief of the loss of a loved one, health, a marriage, a job, and more. A new group will start on September 10th at 4:00 PM. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 if you have questions.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Is a volunteer-based initiative to help people in our area who are seniors and/or struggling with disabilities with various home projects. For more information, please contact Sherri Love at 614-871-3053.

Bible Studies: There are some new ones so please check them out!

- Monday night at 7:00 PM in Room C-157. Please contact Carol Middendorf at 614-370-3480 with any questions.
- Tuesday at 7:00 PM in Room C-156. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201 with any questions.
- Wednesday at 7:00 PM in Room K-117. We are studying the Book of .
- Thursday at 9:30 AM in Room K-117, Kay Hardman will be starting a new study. Watch for more on this.

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

FBC Family,

I cannot believe that we are already two months through the summer, and entering into our final few weeks before the new school year begins!



I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the new school year! I have always loved the new school year! I always saw it as a new opportunity, a fresh opportunity to make commitments to the Lord during the new school year. I saw it as an opportunity at "new life," if you will. The last year has gone, and the new year is here!

It reminds me of Paul's writing in his second letter to the Church of Corinth when he wrote, "*If anyone is in Christ, he is a NEW CREATION, the old has gone, behold, the new has come.*" I absolutely love this verse! For the longest time it has been such an encouragement to me.

If we are in Christ — we are no longer dead in our sin, we are no longer stuck in our sin, but we are new and fresh and alive in Christ. We are a NEW Creation! I want to encourage you, as we head into the new school year, to be reminded of your newness in Christ. You are NEW in Him. The old has gone, the old has passed away—it is dead—it is gone! Do not be bound by it, but rather, LIVE AND REST AND MOVE in your newness that is in Christ!!!

It is a blessing to serve you Church. We love you!

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

AWANA Calendar of Events

Leaders Meeting—Wednesday, August 16, at 6 PM, led by Commander Sherri Love. This includes all AWANA leaders.

Next Gen Leaders Rally—Sunday, August 20th, from 5 to 8 PM, in the Neal Auditorium. Meal and snacks provided. This includes all AWANA leaders.

Sundaes on Wednesday—Wednesday, August 23rd, from 7 to 8 PM. This is the official launch of AWANA for 2017-2018.

AWANA Conference—Saturday, October 14th, at FBC Groveport. More information coming!

We are in great need of Adult Leaders for Pre-K through 6th grade for the upcoming season with the greatest need coming in the Pre-K age group. Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Director Sherri Love or Pastor Rob Stroup for more information.



Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast at FBC will be on Saturday, August 5th, at 7:30 AM. Larry Wilson will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Ron Logsdon who shared his testimony at our July breakfast.

My mom and dad divorced when I was three years old. My Aunt Ruth was inspirational in guiding me to church. I was baptized at eight years of age and saved at fifteen.

My mom worked three jobs to make ends meet. She was divorced seven times. My dad was divorced five times. I had several violent encounters with step-dads while protecting my mom from abuse—from the time I was 11 to 17 years old.

Dad was Catholic and, at 16 years of age, I went to live with him and turned Catholic to please my him. But I knew shortly it was not what I wanted to pursue as my faith.

I came back to Columbus to be with my mom and graduated from Linden McKinley H. S. in 1968. Following graduation, I soon joined the Marines and was sent to Vietnam in an infantry unit. I asked God to bring me home alive to take care of my mom. I was medevacked out of Vietnam from a battle injury sustained in the A Shau Valley. After recovering, I was stationed at Quantico, VA, Marine Base where I served the rest of my four year enlistment.

Following my discharge in 1972, I joined the Columbus Police Department and later went on SWAT in 1996. I retired in 2006 with 34 years of duty with CPD. During my career, I had many close encounters with death, but, by the grace of God, my life was spared.

After failed marriages early in my police career, I married Beverly in 1993. This turned out to be the best decision of my life. She turned me back to God, and eventually we found FBC to be a real family of believers who help keep each other focused and thankful for God's grace and mercy.

Our thanks goes to the many friends here at church whom we pray for daily and whose prayers helped us through a difficult time when my daughter Tracy died in March of this year.

I don't need more to be thankful for. I just need to be more thankful for the spiritual gifts we have received.

When you know a mountain has to be climbed, waiting doesn't make that mountain any smaller.

FBC AWANA Donates to International Clubs

Each Wednesday during the school year, our kindergarten through sixth grade Awana club members watch a very short video about an Awana club in another country. We've learned how blessed we are to have our church building and all of the Awana materials we need. We pray for the Awana clubs in those other countries, and this past Awana season, we donated \$314.94 to assist those clubs with their expenses.

Thank you, FBC Awana Kids, and Leaders!

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

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to thank you so much for the love and dedication you show to our little ones. I worked in the Preschool wing this past week for VBS. People came directly from work or home to volunteer this week. They volunteered for much longer than three hours a night, and they did much more than they were asked.

Thank you to the "snackers." This is what our little preschoolers called the ladies who made and brought treats each night to class. They deftly handled foot allergies while still creating cute snacks each night. Thank you for keeping your smile (and mind) intact while 26 sticky little hands reached and pulled and maneuvered to be first in line for the goodies.

Thank you to the teens who helped. Your youth and energy were sorely needed the last hour (and last couple of days of the week). You helped, played, and encouraged our little ones—and your efforts were appreciated by the kids and teachers alike.

Thank you to the music teachers. We all learned new songs and some of us learned to praise Jesus for the very first time. There is nothing sweeter than watching tiny (still sticky) hands reaching toward heaven, eyes closed, bodies swaying while they worship their Savior. Two year-old Lily Worley could teach a class on praise and worship!

The lives you touched this week may remain unknown until Jesus tells you about them himself one day. I just wanted to thank you today.



**Cindy Tryon,
Preschool Coordinator**

Notes of Appreciation

Thank you for your visits to my dad at the hospital, rehab, and funeral home. My dad truly enjoyed his time with you (Thursday Night Life Group)! He loved studying the Word of the Lord and he loved the fellowship of your group. Thanks also for the wonderful meal you prepared after the funeral. It meant so much to our family. May God bless you.

The Family of Carl Armbrust

We would like to express our sincere thanks for all the cards, flowers, and prayers from our church family. Thank you to Pastor Jerry Neal for his very moving funeral service for my husband, Richard. And thank you to Pastor Dave Berna for his visits, calls, and prayers. Also, thanks to our Life Group friends for the wonderful lunch on such short notice.

Freda Lindsay, Sherry and Sandy, and family