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APRIL NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Message



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
Assistant Pastor

Robert Stroup
Business Administrator

Visit us on the Web
www.firstgc.org

One of our long-time members, Bonnie Kaufman, went home to be with the Lord this week. Sharon and I were very blessed to see her just a few days before she died. Sharon couldn't get over how bright and upbeat she looked. Her smile was radiant. This is the way Bonnie greeted everyone. When she would meet you, it was always with a big smile. She loved people.

I would suggest that Bonnie Kaufman is a great candidate to be the poster child for FBC. People who come to our church for the first time seem to always remark how loving our church is compared to others. Bill Davidge, speaking at Prime Time last month said he and his wife attended several churches before coming to FBC. Most of those churches offer little greeting. But at FBC you get handshakes from several people and even hugs from some. At FBC we love people.

The love people feel in our church is not accidental. Every effort put forth in ministry is to love people. Pastor Jeff Bane meets with a large leadership team all year to prepare for Upward sports. This month, on Saturdays, you will see nearly 2000 people on our sports field playing soccer. Pastor Jeff has our church members working all week with kids. Many of these families are unchurched. The primary motive to working like this is love. At FBC, we love people—all sizes and all ages.

Our children's ministries on Sunday morning and Awana on Wednesday are staffed with our members who love children. Pastor Mike Latella retired last year. He was the oldest children's minister with a young mind and a loving heart. Nobody loved kids like Mike. Now, Pastor Earley and the personnel committee are interviewing Pastor Mike's replacement. And you can be sure that person will be a lover of kids.

Bonnie Kaufman's life reveals the secret of our church. All her life while she served the Lord, she worked with children. She quit her job to be home with her kids. She taught children in our church on Sunday morning, Wednesday night, Vacation Bible School, and in her home throughout the week. Bonnie loved people because God gave Bonnie a heart to love kids. Let's keep loving kids at FBC. Let's pray as we look for a new Children's Pastor to make loving kids our priority.

Pastor Jerry



Family ties. They can, and should, run deep.

My oldest daughter just drove cross country from California to Tennessee to spend some time with my second oldest daughter and

her nephew. After more than a decade in California, she is exploring options to move back this way.

I saw one of our pastor’s wives stopping by her mother’s home on the way to church this morning. Her mother and father have just moved from Xenia to be closer to her family and the grandkids.

Both my father and mother are in senior living facilities now. Both of them recently moved to be near what is left of their families. My mother has outlived all her siblings and her husband, but one of my younger sisters is now just minutes away. My father has outlived his nine siblings, but my other younger sister is now just minutes away.

Thinking about these things, some words Jesus spoke concerning family ties come to mind. Luke records for us an incident when our Lord’s mother and brothers were trying to see Him, but couldn’t because of the crowd surrounding Him. When Jesus was told His family was outside and desired to see Him, He said, “*My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.*” (Luke 8:19-21)

Family ties run deep. They should. But ties between Christians should run even deeper. We develop strong family ties by growing up in a healthy household. How do we develop strong Christian “family” ties? Can you say, with Jesus, that your relationships with those of like precious faith (2 Peter 1:1) are stronger than with your flesh and blood family?

That can happen—and should. It happens in a Life Group. Are you in one yet?

Pastor Andy Kovalchik,
Connections Minister

AWANA Calendar of Events

April 4—Dad’s (and other Men’s) Night!

April 11—Pajama Night!

April 18—Double Points for Handbooks Night!

April 25—Favorite Color Night!
(Wear Your Favorite Color!)

We are always looking for volunteers to assist in a variety of ways with our AWANA program. Please see Sherri Love or Rob Stroup for information.



Members’ Ministry

Trials and tribulations come and go, in various times and seasons, and eventually we will pass through them. James tells us: “*Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials,*” (James 1:2)

When he penned these words, he was writing to the persecuted Jews who fled Jerusalem in fear for their lives, as recorded by Luke in Acts 8:1 and James: “*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ: To the twelve tribes dispersed abroad. Greetings.*” (James 1:1) The

early Church loved to gather together, sing songs, help one another and love one another, but they forgot what Jesus told them: “*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” (Acts 1:8)

They had received the Holy Spirit and the power of God, but they stayed in Jerusalem and did not take the gospel message out. So God sent persecution, through trials by a Pharisee named Saul. When God tells us to do something, it is not for His musing but for His glory. When we just say “Yes Lord, I will get to it,” and we don’t, we are missing out on the blessings of God because we get comfortable and complacent. So we sometimes invite the trials and tribulations into our lives.

God does not call us to be complacent. God uses these testings as a means of growing us up in Him. It’s not always because of our complacency, but our trials and triumphs are for God’s glory, every time. I thank God that He helps me handle them. He waits for me to turn them over to Him, then He helps me. When we go through these trials we need to remember God is conforming us into the image of His Son and working out all the imperfections in our lives. (Romans 8:29)

James tells us; *because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.* (James 1:3) The word testing is unique. It is a word that describes what a silversmith would do to purify silver; he would boil the silver in a pot and the impurities would come to the top. He would skim them away until the silver is pure. He could tell the silver was pure when he looked into it and saw his perfect reflection.

That is what God does with us as He is testing us. He is removing the impurities from our lives, and He skims them off one by one, until one day He can look into our lives and see His perfect reflection. So when James says count it all joy, when we experience various trials, he is telling us that God is at work, He is with you, He is for you and when you put all your faith in Him, He will take care of you and see you through whatever you’re facing.

Whatever trial you’re going through now, know God is with you, even to the ends of the earth. Rejoice in the fact God is good and knows the end from the beginning. Rejoice that God is with you and rejoice in Him. (James 1:1-12)

He has surrounded you and me with a Church family, to hold each other up and pray for one another. We do this in Life Groups, as an example of how Jesus walked with His disciples, together. I pray you are in one and if not are planning to join one today.

In Christ,
Pastor Brian Kinnett

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

WALSH, Betsy	04/01
HILYARD, Caleigh	04/01
KAUFMAN, Ron	04/02
MCQUIRT, Joyce	04/02
BRIGNER, Aiden	04/02
HOARD, Joyce	04/02
KNAPP, Jeremy	04/03
ROSE, Dan	04/03
FULTON, Joyce	04/04
BEARD, Skip	04/04
DRUMMOND, Rosemary	04/04
RATLIFF, Kevin	04/05
EWING, Ed	04/05
MICHEL, Brenden	04/05
BUTTRICK, Jimmie	04/06
CASTLE, Sue	04/06
SHOFTER, Kim	04/06
WADDLE, Debbie	04/06
HAUGHN, Josh	04/07
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
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
CLARK, Myrna	04/20
BERGER, Brandon	04/20
FEGAN, Rhoda	04/21
PULLINS, Stuart	04/21
RAQUET, Jonathan	04/21
HARVEY, Vickie	04/22
HILL, Kannella	04/22
TYLER, Maggie	04/22
BRANSON, Greg	04/22
O'NEAL, Scott	04/22
HARR, Kevin	04/23
HELLARD, David	04/23
SMITH, Lynn	04/23
MARTIN, Cheryl	04/24
MORGAN, Dan	04/24

SEIPEL, David	04/25
STICKEL, Anna	04/25
BOWEN, Viva	04/25
HEIBY, Joe	04/26
LEU, John	04/27
LANTZ, Jasmine	04/28
CRESPIN, Joshua	04/28
LILLICO, Ralph	04/29
HENDRICKSON, Sandy	04/30
STEWART, Beverly	04/30

Rick Matlock Testimony Continued from Page 6

At this point, I was still working, so I ended up going to the Methadone clinic so I didn't have to go detox. I also started going to church with my parents. After 2-3 weeks coming to church, I knew what had to change. God dealt with me in his time and by early November he was done. One night, I knelt by my bed at home and I thanked God for saving my life and I asked God to come back in my life and be my personal King.

I did continue through the methadone clinic for a month until I had them start decreasing my dose. On June 24th of 2016, I took my last dose of methadone and have been completely clean since then.

Not only did God save my life, He delivered me from much of the mental anguish that people coming off opiates have. October 1st was the last day I actually ever wanted to use any drug and was the last day I ever used anything except methadone. The process to get off methadone was long and difficult, but God pulled me through it. He has made me a new man.

My oldest son and I have a good relationship now, and I'm serving God and I love Him with all of my heart, soul, strength, and mind.

**God Bless,
Pastor David Berna**

2018 Southern Gospel Music Concert Series

Friday, June 15th at 7 PM
The Whisnants

Friday, August 10th at 7 PM
Tribute Quartet

Friday, November 2nd at 7 PM
TRIUMPHANT

Individual: \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door

From Our Worship Minister

I would like to tell you about Edward Kimball. In 1854, Kimball was a Sunday School teacher in Detroit, and one day he went to visit a 17 year-old boy who was in his Sunday School class who had little interest in God or religion. During his visit with this young man at his job in a shoe shop, he led the boy into a relationship with Christ. That young man was D.L. Moody, who went on to become one of the greatest evangelists in the world, sharing the gospel with 100 million people, as well as founding Moody Bible Institute and The Moody Church in Chicago.

But the story doesn't end there. Through his ministry, Moody was responsible for a London pastor named F.B. Meyer coming to faith. Meyer was responsible for J. Wilbur Chapman coming to faith, and Chapman influenced Billy Sunday, another prominent evangelist of the 20th century. Billy Sunday was integral in a man named Mordecai Ham coming to faith. And Mordecai Ham was the preacher responsible for leading a young man named Billy Graham to Christ.

Never underestimate the power of leading one person to Christ. It could lead millions more.

In Christ,

**Bryan Corbett,
Worship Minister**

Notes of Appreciation

To Our Church Family,

In times of need, our Church family means the world to us. We want to thank everyone for the phone calls, food, cards, visits, and the many prayers that were showered on us all through Dean's accident and hospital stay. He is recovering and gets better each day. God bless each and everyone of you. God has been good to us.

**In His Love,
Dean and Lucy Grossholz**

Thank you so much for the beautiful carnation arrangement for my father's funeral. A special thanks to the team that provided the wonderful lunch for us.

**In His Love,
Carole Butler Reynolds**

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

Thank you so much for the food, flowers, and prayers on the passing of my dad, Bill Brown. Your outpouring of love greatly touched us.

**Sincerely,
Len and Sandy Stayton**

Trustee Ministry Report

February 2018 will go down in history as a time of deep reflection on the incredible legacy left to us by Dr. Billy Graham; a legacy which most likely will never again be experienced in our lifetime. It is exciting to embrace the thought of the glorious reception he must have received as he was ushered into Heaven.

A "Member Services" sign will be installed on the new John Deere Gator so that FBC attendees will immediately be made aware of on-site parking lot security. The Gator will also be used for those requiring assistance from the parking lot.

The flag pole located in front of the church has needed some TLC. Be on the lookout for a new wind resistant flag, rope, and hardware.

The new 15-passenger bus which had been scheduled for delivery by the end of December was put on "short delay" by the manufacturer. The church will be granted priority use of the bus, and it will be housed at KK Day Care during the week.

The Baptist Builders made improvements to the lighting in both auditoriums and back parking lot.

It was decided that with warm weather approaching, any necessary roof leak repairs would be completed and building stucco stains will be power-washed.

The church crop land lease was up for renewal at an annual rate of \$10,000. The renewal was granted. The annual furnace contract with Air Quality Solutions was also renewed. A gas powered, self-propelled snow blower was recently donated to the church.

The Trustees need volunteers for yard care. Please see Bob Fulton.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

Notes of Appreciation

To Our Wonderful Alpha and Omega Life Group Class,

Thank you very much for the very nice fruit and cheese basket we received on Tuesday, February 27th. I know that we'll enjoy it. It all looks delicious. Most of all, we appreciate all of your prayers. Lord knows this news hit us totally by surprise, and Steve has a long journey ahead yet, trying to get better. Please continue praying that his chemo treatments work and that he will be back to his usual self and lifestyle soon.

Again, we appreciate your thoughtfulness during this difficult time. We love you all!

Steve and Laura Teaford

Women of FBC

Book Club: We will meet Thursday, April 5th, from 7:00-8:30 PM. We are meeting at China Bell on Stringtown Road and will discuss the book, *Miss Invisible*, by Laura Jensen Walker. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

Craft Day: Will span two days this month—Friday, April 20th, from 9 AM-9 PM and Saturday, April 21st, from 9 AM to 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a project, a snack to share, and a dish for dinner. We hope you join us. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

Surviving Grief with Hope: This is a group to support those who are dealing with the grief over the loss of a loved one, one's health, a marriage, a job, and more. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 with questions.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Is a volunteer-based initiative to assist people in our area who are seniors and/or struggling with disabilities. We provide volunteers with a wide range of home maintenance abilities to work on projects that you may need help with. For more information, please contact Becky Grundei at 614-947-9296 or Sherri Love at 614-871-3053.

Next Ladies' Fellowship Breakfast: Saturday, April 14th, starting at 9 AM. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-507-6306 with any questions.

Paint Night Is Back: Friday, April 13th, from 6:30-9:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. A fee of \$40.00 must be prepaid to reserve your place. Bring a potluck dish to share. Learn to paint on 8.5" x 11" framed glass using templates, specialty paints, and wood patterned papers! Choose your design that night. See Karen Campbell to pay or for questions. She can be reached at 614-208-6355 or by email kjb1978@live.com

Bible Studies:

- Mondays bi-weekly, at 1:00 PM, in Room C-154, re-starting April 9th. Please contact Mindi Stith at 614-871-4812 for more information.
- Depression Support Group. Monday mornings weekly, at 11:30 AM, in Room C-157. Please contact Carol Middelendorf at 614-370-3480.
- Tuesday, at 7:30 PM, in Room C-156. We begin a new study of Psalm 107 by Lauren Chandler. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201 for more information.
- Wednesday at 6:45 PM in Room K-117. We are studying *A Woman's High Calling* by Elizabeth George. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871.

- Thursday at 9:30 AM in Room K-117. We are studying *Why Do You Believe That* by Mary Jo Sharp. Please contact Kay Hardman at 614-323-6891 or kayhardman@gmail.com
- Sunday at 4:00 PM. Surviving Grief with Hope. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 if interested.
- Sunday at 4:30 PM. We are exploring a *Kay Arthur Precepts* study on the book of Ezekiel. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557.

I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all who hosted a table and to all of you who came to the Amazing Love Dinner. It was a wonderful evening and huge success, so THANK YOU, LADIES!

Kari Jones, Women's Ministry Director

FBC Family,

What a joy it is to be able to celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus! Easter is my favorite time of the year because not only do we get to celebrate the reality that Jesus has conquered

death, hell, and the grave by rising from the dead, but it also reminds me that when I put my faith in the finished work of Christ, I too can conquer sin, death, and the grave through the power of Christ Jesus, Himself! What an incredible reality for the believer in Christ. May you be fulfilled in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ this Easter season, and beyond.

We had a wonderful mission trip to New York City as we served in Brooklyn, Brownsville, and Manhattan! Our team of 38 FBC'ers did a wonderful job sharing the gospel, spreading the love of Christ, and promoting the local churches that we served with in NYC. It was a joy to see God work in us and through us! Thank you for your prayers—we certainly felt them!

Our Student Ministry is in a great place right now, and we are asking God for more. For the first time since we've been on staff here, we have averaged over 100 students on Wednesday nights. Every Wednesday in March we had 100 or more students join us for worship. WOAHH! PRAISE GOD! We are so thankful for the work God is doing and will continue to do!

Please continue to pray for us as we seek God's wisdom, grace, and, leadership in our church and family! We are seeking to daily exalt Jesus and love one another as we walk through this life together. I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord Jesus with each of y'all, a blessing I do not take for granted. Thank you for your continue prayers and support!

It is a joy to serve with y'all—love y'all!

Soli Deo Gloria,

**Pastor Mike D'Attoma,
Assistant Pastor**



Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast at FBC will be on Saturday, April 7th, at 7:30 AM. John Mowry will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Rick Matlock from the March breakfast.

I was born in California and have a brother who is five years older than me. My parents are active members of FBC.

My mom raised my brother and me in church. I remember going to Sunday school, memorizing verses, going to VBS and playing under the pews on Sunday mornings. I had a fairly uneventful childhood.

When I was 13, Dad was transferred from California to a new factory in Versailles, KY. Talk about culture shock—going from “the valley” in California to a small town in Kentucky was a big jump.

I was your typical high school Christian who did actually focus on Christ. A couple of us started a Bible study at school, I was at church twice on Sunday and every Wednesday, but I didn't really focus on staying in God's word on my own. When I went to college at the University of Kentucky, I fell away fairly quickly and basically started living for myself.

I met a girl in college, got a job while in school that would support me after I graduated, and got married at 21. At 23, we had our first son and shortly after I moved the family up for a new job here in Columbus. Thirteen years and a second son later, we were divorced.

Six or seven years ago, I ended up meeting a girl who was an addict. I was in a point in my life where I really wasn't happy, working a lot, depressed, and this is exactly what I didn't need.

I eventually started experimenting and got myself hooked on opiates. I spent 2-3 years using any form of opiate I could. If you haven't ever been addicted to something, it's hard to understand exactly what life is like. Everything becomes about that drug for it becomes your god. You wake up wondering how you are going to stop from being sick today.

I was, however, blessed. I was making good money and was able to keep things somewhat under control for a little while. That didn't last too long, and eventually it started impacting work and, to a much larger degree, my family. I had ruined my relationship with my oldest son and abandoned most other relationships I had.

My mom and dad were very active here at church and had their individual groups praying for me. I know there were a LOT of prayers and what happened is ultimately God's answer to those prayers. Those prayers are the only reason I'm here today.

Recently, Bob McCoy told me that he was to the point that he was praying that God do whatever necessary, other than killing me, to get my attention.

On October 1, 2016, God answered his specific prayer. I took Xanax along with my normal opiates and I put myself into the hospital. These two are both suppressants of your respiratory system and can cause you to fall asleep and never wake up.

When I began having this reaction, I was at a store and a cop ended up calling a taxi to get me home. I came home and

ended up passing out. The girl I was seeing called my ex-wife to get them to take her to get my car. This worked its way to my parents. The Holy Spirit told my mom that something was wrong and that someone needed to be at my house. My dad immediately got up and drove to my house. He found me passed out and called the EMT.

They rushed me to the hospital and where a breathing tube, and who knows what else, stabilized me. Afterwards, I was told that I was 5-10 minutes from my respiratory system completely shutting down and dying. GOD SAVED ME! I knew something had to change, I just wasn't sure what at that point in time.

Rick Matlock Testimony Continued on Page 3

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

When my son came in from walking the dogs, he asked for a toothbrush. I asked if he had been pondering oral hygiene during his jaunt, but he replied that he stepped in “something” and it was stuck to his shoe. I told him I kept a toothbrush by the kitchen sink for scrubbing grout lines and that he could use it. I reminded him twice though to toss it when he finished getting “something” out of his shoe.

About an hour later I walked into the kitchen and found the toothbrush. By the sink. Although it looked rather clean, I was taking no chances and threw it in the trash. Later that night, I went to brush my teeth before bed. After some searching, I located my toothbrush. In the bathroom trash can. Still covered in “something.” I had made everything perfectly clear. He heard “toothbrush” and “sink” and found it where I instructed. I wanted to be angry. I also wanted to be sick.

While driving to the drugstore to purchase another toothbrush (and some extras), God gently reminded me how I respond to His instructions. He promised if I acknowledge Him and do not rely on my own understanding that He will direct my paths. Yet, I listen half-heartedly, distractedly, and proceed with my own little agenda. I miss His details because I am in a hurry. I need to clean up something in my life. I need to make it nice again. Does it matter HOW it gets done?

As I paid for my new toothbrush, I was so ashamed of how I listen and obey that hot tears of shame filled my eyes. So I begged His forgiveness. While I may not always get the instructions right, I am going to start listening without distraction. Especially when I am waiting on His answer about how to clean up my stuff.

**Cindy Tryon,
Preschool Coordinator**

