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AUGUST 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

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www.firstgc.org

It troubles me to read the *Columbus Dispatch* articles citing a decline in church attendance and Christian influence. Each time a reporter writes such a negative story about the church in America they focus on an old church with a big building and few people in the pews. The truth is some churches are closing. But a new Lifeway Research survey, made in conjunction with Leadership Network, reveals that there are more churches starting every year than there are churches closing.

The Washington Post ran an article entitled, "The World is Expected to Become More Religious, Not Less." The story stated that, while in some parts of the world, religious affiliations will be declining, yet overall world religious affiliations are growing steadily and strongly.

We need only to look at new churches that are reaching out to young people to be encouraged that the Church is alive and well in our world.

This summer when many churches dismiss their choirs and cut back their services because vacations have taken away their congregation, we at FBC have increased ministries.

Student camp at *Crossings* was a huge success with 100 of our people, students, and leaders spending time in worship and Bible studies. Many students were saved. Some committed their lives to fulltime Christian service. This 4th of July, we had 300-400 people on our property for the fireworks. A prayer tent was set up and many unchurched prayed and found help for their lives. One of those families has started attending FBC.

During VBS week, we had 300 children and over 100 adults together for three hours hearing the Word of God with many boys and girls giving their hearts to Jesus. This year we have 80 of our kids, along with chaperones, attending *Kids' Kamp* at Seneca Lake for a week of worship and Bible studies. And many kids will be giving their lives to Christ.

Each week we have many of our people ministering to "Feed My Sheep" and "Jericho House" by feeding the hungry and caring for the poor. This ministry goes along with those working for the Stowe Center. Our people roll up their sleeves and become Jesus to the world.

Please, *Columbus Dispatch*, the next time you want to write an article on Christianity, pick a church like First Baptist Church. There are many dying churches, but there are many more that are alive and are excited about serving our risen Lord!

Pastor Jerry



God has wired us all with a need to be connected to other human beings. That's why we put so much emphasis on Life Groups here at FBC Grove City. Karen and I were reminded of this need

to be connected when we made a trip to Home Depot a couple of days ago.

We were in the cleaning supplies aisle looking for a particular product. I spoke aloud to Karen and asked her if she had located it yet. A woman standing there with her husband overheard me, pulled a bottle of what I had mentioned off a shelf, and gave it to me. That was the start of a pleasant conversation with both of them.

We learned they had moved to Grove City about 3 years ago, but still didn't really know any of their neighbors and didn't really feel a part of the community. There could be more than one reason for that, of course. I asked them if they had found a good church. They had not. Karen and I sensed they weren't really interested in church attendance, but we extended an invitation to come worship with us anyway. They showed no interest, but continued to talk with us for some time, and it was obvious to us that they were a lonely couple. They needed to talk. Their situation is very common.

How is your Life Group doing in reaching out to your neighbors? Granted, reaching out is a two-way street, but is your group taking the initiative in this? As I write this, Karen and I are looking forward to attending a neighborhood block party this weekend hosted by one of our home Life Groups. It's a great way to reach out and connect with your neighbors.

And you might find out some interesting things, such as that one of your neighbors has the same name as one of our earliest presidents and was born on the 4th of July. True story. Learned it at Home Depot.

Pastor Andy Kovalchik,
Connections Minister

Notes of Appreciation

First Baptist Church,

Thank you for your donation. God Bless You!

**Love, Wilma Gray's family—Keith, Lee,
Mike, and Kay Gray**

To Our Family at First Baptist Church,

We thank you for your thoughts, prayers, kind words, and beautiful flowers. Please continue to pray for us in the weeks ahead. We know that God's grace is sufficient. We are thankful for our church family.

**Larry and Eula Reichle, Greg and Karen
Reichle, and the family**

Members' Ministry

When we focus on things, others, or ourselves instead of God, it's easy to be distracted and get caught up in the sea of life. Let's face it, living in a busy world is distracting enough, and we can be dragged out to sea easily if we don't tread lightly and stay away from the affairs of this world.

Life is overwhelming with depression, fear, anxiety, anger, grief, financial problems, health problems, family problems, and more. These feelings seem more intense as the days press on becoming even worse around holidays. In reality they are the same. It is our focus that has changed as we are reflecting on them and dwelling on them more. Each of these things is all part of our story, which is a part of God's story. He is big enough, great enough, and has overcome all of these things. We need to turn our eyes upon Him and trust Him.

We must make the choice to get out of the negativity that drags us down. If you get in over your head treading the waters of life, remember the waters are still under the feet of Jesus. Reach up and take hold of His hands, focus on His face, and listen to His voice.

We must grab hold of these truths, cling to Christ, and live our lives in a manner in which the Lord's name will be exalted. We must choose, moment by moment if need be, whom we will live for — me, myself and I; or Jesus, others and you.

If you want the Joy of the Lord in your life, then He must have first place always. When He is the desire of your heart, everything else will fall into place.

Let's make God the desire of our hearts, and let's keep our eyes and hearts on Christ so that we live in faith and not fear.

God's Word says this:

Immediately Jesus spoke to them. "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's You," Peter answered Him, "command me to come to You on the water." "Come!" He said. And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid. And beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out His hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those in the boat worshiped Him and said, "Truly You are the Son of God!" **Matthew 14:27-33, HCSB**

In Christ,

Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members' Minister



**Sign up for the
NEW Church Directory.
Photos will be taken on
August 16, 17, 18
August 23, 24, 25 and
August 30, 31, Sept 1**

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

From Our Children's Pastor

Be Present.

I am just going to put it out there. Most of parents are busy, and I don't mean the "I have a lot to do kind of busy." I mean the kind of busy where you feel as though you don't have time to breathe and you are living off coffee and the food you took from your child's plate right before you fed them. Between work, life, explosive diapers, naptime meltdowns, and soccer practice, you don't have time to think. It is during these times that we are so caught up in life that I encourage you to make an extra effort to be present for your family.

Now I know what you are thinking. "I am with my family all of the time." Being with them isn't the same as being present. It is so easy for us to get so wrapped up in all of the tasks that we have to accomplish that we are more focused on those things during our days. We sit with our families to spend time with them, but we aren't really there mentally. We are on our phones or computers trying to take care of things that seem so important and cannot wait, or we are thinking about all of the reasons we should be working. The truth is that most of the things that take us away from being present can wait.

I encourage you in the next month to try two things to be more *present* with your family.

1) No phones or devices at dinner. Have dinner with your family and actually ask each other about how the day was. Spend time in conversation, not being distracted by screens.

2) Go outside! Plan a picnic, go to a park, or take a hike. Some of my best times with my family lately have been sitting in the back-yard while Lindsay and I push the boys on the swing and I am giving them my full attention.

So, this month, when life is busy, slow down and go for a walk with your family. You won't regret it.

Pastor Josh Wright,
Children's Pastor

AWANA Calendar of Events

August 19th—Brief meeting for AWANA workers immediately following the second service in Genesis Auditorium.

August 22nd—AWANA Kickoff—*Sundaes on Wednesdays* (7:00 to 8:00 PM)

August 29th—First Regular Night of AWANA (6:30 to 8:00 PM)

Help Wanted!

- 2 leaders for 3rd and 4th grade boys.
- 1 leader for 5th and 6th grade boys.
- 1 leader for Sparks K-2nd grade.



Trustee Ministry Report

The sunny summer has finally decided to present itself. Enjoy the summer breezes, birds singing, hydrangeas and roses, melting ice cream, cookouts, long days, short nights, and family and friends. Our lives have been showered with many blessings from our Lord. Enjoy and be safe.

Many thanks go out to the dependable volunteers who, even on incredibly hot days, keep our campus in beautiful shape. We have volunteers mowing, tree trimming, maintaining weed and insect control, and taking care of the flowers located around the building. A new fountain was also installed in the west pond.

The 48-passenger (International) bus has had the center aisle repaired and new seat covers installed. The 15-passenger Chevrolet bus has been repaired. The 15-passenger Ford bus has been disposed of due to needing too many repairs to meet State Police inspection standards.

The new 15-passenger van should arrive sometime in August.

A plaque dedicated to Justin Butcher has been mounted to a red oak tree on the campus.

The FBC financial team is finished and ready for the auditor.

Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary



Coming to Neal Auditorium

Friday, August 10th at 7 PM

Tickets \$15 in Advance and \$20 at the Door

For online purchases, please visit:

SoulPurposeQuartet.com.

Women of FBC

Book Club: We will meet Thursday, August 2nd, from 7:00-8:30 PM, at City BBQ. We will discuss the book, *Losing the Cape*, by Dan Stanford. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

Craft Day: Friday, August 18th, from 9 AM-9 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 and the time we will be meeting. We hope to start a group in September.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Is a volunteer-based initiative to assist people in our area who are seniors and/or struggling with disabilities. If you are available to assist in any way or if you know someone who is, please contact Becky Grundei at 614-947-9296 or Sherri Love at 614-871-3053.

Next Women's Fellowship Breakfast: Saturday, August 11th, at 9 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-879-7646 with any questions.

Beth Moore Simulcast will be on Saturday, September 15th. **TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!** Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 if you are interested in helping.

Dinner to Honor Veterans in our church will be held Friday, October 26th. Please contact Carol Middendorf at 614-370-3480 to assist or for more information.

Bible Studies:

- Mondays bi-weekly, at 1:00 PM, in Room C-154. Please contact Mindi Stith at 614-871-4812 for information.
- Tuesday, at 7:30 PM, in Room C-156. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201 for more information.
- Wednesday, at 6:45 PM in Room K-117. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.
- Thursday, at 9:30 AM, in Room K-117. We are finishing Beth Moore's *Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit*. Contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 with any questions.

Kari Jones,
Women's Ministry Director

FBC Family,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer! I cannot believe that we are in our final weeks of summer, and school will be starting soon! Crazy! I hope that you have been enjoying our *Bible Promises to Live By* series, and I pray that the promises of God have encouraged you and challenged you. It has been wonderful for my heart to be encouraged week after week by the promises of God. He is good and faithful to every promise He makes!

I want to make you aware of several important dates to put on your calendar! August 10th-11th, our student ministry is going to Versailles, KY, for a Christ and Culture conference. Issues such as atheism, secularism, and sexuality will be discussed by some of the best Bible teachers in our area. It is going to be a wonderful conference. Please pray that our students will glean great wisdom from this conference.

On August 26th, we will be hosting a Fall Ministry Kick-Off for any of y'all that are teaching, working, or leading in our Kids' Ministry, Student Ministry, or Groups' Ministry! This training event is going to be from 6 PM to 8 PM, and includes large group training, and smaller group breakouts! It is going to be incredible! Please make plans to join us, and register online:

<https://firstgc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/146429>.

Finally, beginning on September 9th, our *Marriage Builder* begins. The Marriage Builder is an hour-long, once a month, Bible Study to help strengthen and encourage you in your marriage. The Builder will be taught by several of our pastors and will be an incredible time. The majority of the Builders will be on the 2nd Sunday of each month, with a few exceptions. The first Builder you attend will cost \$15 per person which includes your workbook and lunch. Each Builder after that is simply \$5 for your lunch.

You MUST register online ONE WEEK prior to each Builder. The registration for the September Builder is LIVE now, and you may register for the September Builder at any time.

I strongly encourage you to join us for The Marriage Builder! Here is the link to register online:

<https://firstgc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/141920>.

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

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Mike D'Attoma,
Assistant Pastor

Did You Know.....

Our AWANA volunteers pay dues for the privilege of working with our AWANA children? We collected \$323.00 from leaders dues (2017-2018 school year) in support of our local AWANA missionaries, Mike and Kris Reed.

Thank You FBC AWANA Volunteers for your faithfulness!!

Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, August 4th, at 7:30 AM. Wyman Westfall will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of J.W. Morgan shared at the June Breakfast.

My name is J.W. Morgan. I was born the youngest of 5 in 1957, on the same night that Humphrey Bogart died, in the same hospital, in Los Angeles, CA. I was born a month early, which was why my parents made the journey to Los Angeles. I was raised in Whittier, CA.

My mother was a Christian and my father was an atheist. My father had anger issues. He would get angry and beat my mother. Then he would leave for 3 to 5 days. I struggled as a child to understand his anger. I blamed myself and had issues with blame. I went to school with bruises through about the 6th grade. Since my dad was a teacher, no one believed me or my sisters and brothers.

In 7th grade, something magical happened. I had a substitute teacher who talked about his best friend. His best friend sounded wonderful! He said to stay after school, and we could hear all about his best friend. I stayed, and that substitute teacher told me all about Jesus. I did not have a Bible, but I went down to the store he recommended and bought a Good News for Modern Man Bible for 25 cents. It changed my life.

By the time I got in high school, I drifted away from Christ and got into drugs and alcohol. I started springboard and platform diving which I became very good at. The diving helped keep the drinking and drugs in check, but God had His hand on me in a big way. After high school, I married my high school sweetheart, but she became an alcoholic. After 11 years of marriage, we divorced.

I met Beth, my current wife, in a photography class. She walked in, sat down in front of me, and introduced herself. We went around the room saying what we liked to photograph, and she loved photographing old buildings, as did I. She likes to think she stole my thunder. Truth of the matter is, for me, it was love at first sight.

We had our first child, Stephanie, 6 months before we were married. You see, we had not come back to Christ. Our second child, Tiffany, was born 2 1/2 years later. By the time Beth and I married in October of 1992, I had long given up drinking, drugs, and smoking. I was clean but still had not come back to Jesus.

Beth and I decided when our kids were young that they needed Christian instruction. We started in Chico with the Community Church of God. We were reborn. I had been estranged from my father, and once I rededicated my life to Christ, God spoke to me in a dream. He told me I had to forgive my father. I told God in my dream, "You do not know what he has done." God's response was, "They hung my son on a cross, so you need to forgive him." After I forgave him, for the last 20 years of my Dad's life, we had a good father-son relationship.

I finished my degree and started a career with Nationwide Insurance. We had to sell our home in Chico and we moved to Sacramento. There we attended Antelope Road Christian

Fellowship. After 13 years in Sacramento (August 2016) we transferred to Ohio with Nationwide.

In 2003, I joined the Gideon Ministry. It has been a blessing to be involved in such a great ministry giving out Bibles and telling others of the love of Jesus Christ — like the substitute teacher had done for me so many years before. In 2011, I was introduced to the Kairos Prison ministry. I have served 7 weekends in California's Folsom Prison and one weekend in Ohio's Marion Correctional Institute. Teaching men who are incarcerated the love of Jesus is a rewarding experience.

As I look forward to the last 5 years of my working career, I would like to concentrate on the Gideon Ministry. I would like to encourage everyone to get involved. The Godly works you do are the painting of your soul. Paint a wonderful portrait of Jesus.

**God Bless,
Pastor David Berna**

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

We have a small house but we love it. Passing my pack-rat mentality on to my children has not made it seem any larger. So we have been slowly de-cluttering to make room for three other people to join us as we begin a new life together.

Like any good procrastinator, I found ways to declutter without actually throwing anything away. I read articles about decluttering, I went to the Container Store to look for things to help me declutter, and I took the kids to coffee shops to talk about what we could toss from our home. Finally, I invited my parents over to help. After their ruthless plundering of my "valuables" and aloofness when confronted with my child's first report card, I realized how freeing it is to let some things go. Now, I am carting out random Lego pieces and chipped dishes to the trash like it's my job!

In my attempts to keep the momentum going, I looked for a devotional for the less-than-tidy Christian. I found an abundance of them. Christ may have cleansed us from sin, but He sure didn't make us organized. I kept seeing the word "Minimalism." I read on despite my strong aversion to that word until one Blogger pointed out that minimalism is simply being intentional with what we have in life. She went on to say this is not only regarding our "things," but also our relationships and our goals. Do they bring us joy? Or do they distract from what is really important to us? May we only keep what is truly of value.

**Cindy Tryon,
Preschool Coordinator**

