



First Baptist Church
Grove City

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FEBRUARY 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

Andy Kovalchik
Home 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

Good things happen at the time when you least expect them. My wife and I bumped into each other in the doorway. She was coming out, I was going in when we collided. It was 5:00AM. The doorway was our bathroom. The room was dark. I thought she was still in bed. The collision scared me out of my mind.

When we settled down, sleep did not come. Instead, we talked and she shared something that was very helpful to me. I didn't see it coming.

I bumped into Dave Earley at the SBC in Columbus 3 years ago and something good happened. I bumped into Dean Fulks in Baltimore, Maryland, and Mike D'Attoma happened.

This is a New Year and God is going to do something good in your life and in our church. It may come at a time you least expect it. But believe something good is going to happen.

If you are having financial difficulty, believe something good will happen when you least expect it.

If your family is having a great deal of stress, this may be your year of breakthrough.

If your health is suffering, something good will happen when you least expect it.

A miracle is just around the corner.

This is a New Year and God says, "I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun." Isaiah 43:19

This is going to be a good year!

Pastor Jerry



Karen and I really needed an immediate answer to prayer. And we got it!

Northern Lower Michigan. Traverse City area. Think snow country. MAJOR

snow country. We drove up there during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day to celebrate a late Christmas with my mother.

That night in our motel room, we watched the weather reports. Bitter cold, lots of lake effect snow coming in off Lake Michigan, and low visibility was the forecast for the next day, Saturday, our "have to travel today" day. We had to be back in Columbus that night.

We woke up next morning to steadily falling snow and gusting winds. I asked the desk clerk if route 72, the main road east to I-75, was open. He said yes that he had just come to work on that road, but it was getting worse. Not what I wanted to hear. Karen and I talked, prayed, and set off. Our vehicle was reliable, we had two drivers, and we could take all day to travel the 450 miles.

About five miles into our journey, I began to regret our decision. Visibility dropped to about 150 feet. When the wind gusted, we could see nothing. Had to hold steady on course until the tail light of the vehicle in front of us came into view again. We were smack in the middle of what Northern Michiganders call a "White Out Squall." And I was scared. There was no way to turn around at this point.

We had asked both our Life Groups to pray for us on our trip. Now Karen and I started praying that God would give us a break in that poor visibility and get us to Kalkaska. Right after we prayed, it happened. The sun appeared through the clouds, and the winds let up. Karen and I broke out with a shout of "Thank You, Lord!" Shortly after that, we were able to tuck ourselves in behind a snow plow and follow him at about 25 miles an hour to Kalkaska.

I honestly don't know if it was the prayers of our Life Groups or our prayers that got us through that storm. I like to think both. It's not only great to have the prayer support of your Life Group, it can actually be life-saving. Are you in a Life Group with that kind of prayer support?

Pastor Andy Kovalchik,
Connections Minister

New York City Mission Trip 2018

We are heading back to NYC to serve in the Brooklyn area on March 24-29th. The cost is \$225. If you would like to register, visit our website, or talk to Pastor Mike D'Attoma ASAP. We have limited spots, and they will fill up quickly. See you in New York City!

Members' Ministry

When God's people pray earnestly and honestly, when we seek His face, God will send revival. He has promised us in His word, He has great plans for each of us. He wants to bless us and give to us abundantly, but He must become the desire of our hearts.

What areas of our lives are we keeping from God?

Today, right now is the time to surrender these areas to Him, whatever they are, God has greater plans for us than we have for ourselves.

Times of refreshing, restoration, and revival come when God's people pray, repent, and seek Him with all our hearts, minds, and strength.

If your plans are not working out like you thought for your life, or your family's plans, it is time to do life God's way.

"For I know the plans I have for you"—this is the Lord's declaration—"plans for your wellbeing, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you search for me will all your heart. I will be found by you"—this is the Lord's declaration—"and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and places where I banished you"—this is the Lord's declaration. "I will restore you to the place from which I deported you."

Jeremiah 29:11-14, CSB

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:17, NIV

In Christ,

Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members' Minister

FBC News and Notes

The next **Seneca Lake** work trip will occur the week of April 29th through May 4th. Please contact Marc Wells at (614) 579-9927 for more information.

One-Day Membership Class will be held Sunday, February 4th from 12:30-3:30 PM in room G-104. Lunch will be provided. Sign-up at the Next Steps Kiosk.

Weekly Membership Class begins Sunday, February 18th, at 6:00 PM in room G-104. Sign-up at the Next Steps Kiosk.

Adult Bible Study meets each Wednesday beginning at 6:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Neal. *Refresh: Road to Revival* is our new study.

Equip U returns Sunday, February 11th at 6:00 PM. Check in at the Next Steps Kiosk for more details.

Refresh: The Road to Revival workbooks are still available for \$10. Please call or stop by the church office.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

MATLOCK, Linda	02/01
BARBER, Kim	02/02
HOLBROOK, Everett	02/02
HILYARD, Terry	02/02
ROBINETT, Stephanie	02/02
BRANNAN, Shelba	02/03
WATTS, Dan	02/03
RAHMAT, Patras	02/03
HAYES, Kaleigh	02/03
BOWER, Sharon	02/04
SCOTT, Karen	02/04
MAYNARD, Christy	02/04
CURTIS, Terry	02/06
ALEXANDER, Martha	02/06
PEITSMEYER, Victoria	02/06
REYNOLDS, Gary	02/07
SOTO, Jr., Robert	02/07
MULLINS, Jeff	02/07
REISER, Paul	02/07
HICKMAN, Betty	02/08
HUGGINS, Kay	02/09
WEEKLEY, Jean	02/09
FROST, Glenda	02/09
SLACK, Teri	02/10
GIFFORD, Sharon	02/10
EVANS, Janet	02/11
SLACK, Chip	02/11
WOLFE, Justin	02/11
CASTO, Carrie	02/12
HENDERSON, Trinity	02/12
OGUICH, Cathy	02/12
EARLEY, Dave	02/12
STOLL, Anna	02/13
CARPENTER, David	02/13
BERRY, Bilenda	02/14
MCCOY, Beth	02/16
JOHNSON, Andy	02/16
RIZER, Caleb	02/17
CAMAQUIN, Nicholas	02/17
HITE, Charles	02/18
HALL, Karla	02/18
HEATH, Bethany	02/19
SOSA, Mercedes	02/19
CHADWICK, Rebekah	02/20
BERRY, Deajah	02/20
NEISWANGER, Darren	02/20
SIMMONS, Dillan	02/20
CUNNINGHAM, Martha	02/22
WATTS, Bennie	02/22
ANGUS, Jim	02/23
HILL, Darrald	02/23
CAMPBELL, Karen	02/23
UPTON, Sharon	02/23
GREEN, Sarah	02/23
MAYNARD, Rachel	02/23
HILDEBRAND, Bethany	02/23
WESTFALL, Jean	02/23
CRAY, Joanna	02/25
CROPPER, Dianna	02/25
YOUNG, Ashley	02/25
TEAFORD, Steve	02/25

HIVELY, Ed	02/25
BOWMAN, Jeremy	02/26
IMBODEN, Kim	02/27
FEGAN, Lauryn	02/27
ROADCAP, Patti	02/28
ZELLER, Tammy	02/29

From Our Worship Minister

The Bible says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Here is a big number for me. 7,305. That's how many days are in 20 years. This Spring, that's how long Angel and I will have been here at First Baptist.

Looking back, we have been so blessed to be a part of a growing church that loves God and loves people. As I look at the choir, I see people who were here when I came and have stuck with me for 20 years. I also see so many who have joined us along the way. The same can be said of the congregation. More than any church I've ever been a part of, the spirit of worship is evident in the praise here. Life has been good!

Looking forward, we live in one of the fastest growing areas in the state. We have leadership here at the church that is preparing to reach those new people. I can only imagine how, years from now, we will look back and see new people whom God has sent our way. Lives will be changed. A love for God and for people will grow. I am excited to be a part of it. In God's will. Life will always be good.

In Christ,

Bryan Corbett,
Worship Minister

2018 Southern Gospel Music Concert Series

Friday, March 9th at 7 PM
The Mark Trammel Quartet

Friday, June 15th at 7 PM
The Whisnants

Friday, August 10th at 7 PM
Tribute Quartet

Friday, November 2nd at 7 PM
TRIUMPHANT

Season Ticket: \$50.00

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

MISSIONS NEWS – FEBRUARY 2018

As I sit in this warm room and look out the windows, I see snow and ice everywhere. This is a stark reminder that Spring Soccer is just around the corner! Our 10th season of Upward Soccer will be underway very soon, and our campus will be flooded with hundreds and sometimes thousands of players and family members from our community, many of whom are not connected to Christ or His family. Providing a place and league for them is a great first step for building a bridge between our church and our community; however, we also want to help people take that NEXT STEP toward becoming a follower of Jesus by joining us for services here. The best and most meaningful bridge for those next steps is through relationships. God always works with people through people. Without relationships and a personal touch/invitation, it is not likely that people will simply make their way from the soccer fields to the sanctuary.

Upward Sports is not and cannot be a “program” that our church provides — it must be a place for our church to connect with people! The best and most lasting way to build these relationships is through coaches. Our goal this season is for ½ the teams in our league to have a head coach or assistant coach from our church. You might say, “I don’t know anything about soccer!” Great! We can teach you enough to help out with someone who does! If you provide the will, we’ll provide a way to make it work (and a little secret: with the 4 and 5 year olds you don’t have to know much!). Please contact Pastor Jeff (jeff@firstgc.org, 614-991-0205) for more info or to get involved in helping our community connect with Christ. We will be offering Coach and Referee Training in February and March.

Equip U classes begin Sunday, Feb. 11, at 6 pm. Equip U is a full curriculum of classes designed to Equip You to be a growing follower of Jesus. You may sign up now at the EquipU table.

Winter course offerings are: You may sign up now at the Equip U table. Winter course offerings appear below:

Spiritual Disciplines (Pastor Mike D’Attoma): Spiritual Disciplines is a course that is practically designed to help you grow in your personal relationship with Christ. We will look at disciplines such as prayer, journaling, Bible intake, and more in hopes of accomplishing this goal—that these disciplines would become regular in our lives so that we might be conformed to the image of Christ Jesus Himself! Come join us!

Personal Evangelism (Pastor Dave Earley): This six-week class is purposeful, practical, and powerful. You will learn to effectively build redemptive relationships with the un-churched as you become proficient at sharing your salvation testimony, your recovery story, and the Gospel. You will learn the motivation, meaning, manner, message, and methods of personal evangelism.

Church History (Dr. Ron Routh): From Peter to Pope Francis. How did all this happen? What came after Paul in the provinces? Where do Luther, Calvin, and the Crusades all fit in? When were the first Baptists? Join us as we explore the Church History, the triumphs, and the failures. You just cannot make this stuff up!

Old Testament Survey (Pastor Jeff Bane): Let the Bible come alive in your life as we discover how God has been at work among His creation from the beginning until now! We’ll discover: how the Old Testament is organized and why it matters, key themes and events and how they fit together, and How and Why the Old Testament matters to us today!

**Pastor Jeff Bane,
Outreach Pastor**

Trustee Ministry Report

To begin the New Year, the Trustee Ministry leaders had an orientation session for new trustees at the First Baptist Church garage following the January Men’s Fellowship Breakfast.

The leaders of the yard care and snow care crews explained the use of the equipment and reviewed what was stored in the various buildings.

Some of the Christmas decorations were taken down and stored. The tree lights on both sides of the incoming driveway and the nativity scene will be stored after the weather becomes warmer.

Plans are being made to receive the new 15-passenger bus and the new John Deere Gator. The bus will be shared with KKDC. The Gator will be used by the First Baptist Church security team for parking lot patrol, the Trustees will use it for the FBC campus care, and it will be used to transport people needing a ride from the parking lot.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

Notes of Appreciation

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to all for surrounding us with your love and sharing in our grief at the loss of our mother, Katherine Scott. We will always be grateful for the fellowship and the care so enthusiastically given at our time of need. All the prayers, cards, food, and the flowers were much appreciated. Christ is clearly the head of this church.

**With Deepest Thanks,
Lynn Seeley, Phil Scott and Leah Scott**

“We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.”

Dr. Charles R. Swindoll

Women of FBC

Book Club: We will meet Thursday, February 1st from 7:00-8:30 PM. We are meeting at Donatos on Stringtown Road and will discuss the book, *A Time to Stand* by Robert Whitlow. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 with any questions.

Craft Day: Will be Friday, February 16th, 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 KyleAnne 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 of the loss of a loved one, 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 help 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 Fellowship Breakfast: Saturday, February 10th, starting at 9 AM. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship. Ronda Kinnett will be sharing. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-507-6306 with any questions.

Amazing Love Dinner: Will be held on Friday, March 2nd. Stop by the table in front of the Women's Ministry kiosk to host a table or to purchase your ticket. Tickets are \$10.00 each and include an evening of food, fellowship, and a wonderful message.

Bible Studies:

- Mondays bi-weekly, at 1:00 PM, in Room C-154, re-starting in the spring. Please contact Mindi Stith at 614-871-4812.
- Monday mornings weekly, at 11:30 AM, in Room C-157. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-507-6306.
- Tuesday, at 7:30 PM, in Room C-156. We are studying *I Peter* by Jen Wilkin. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201.
- 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 *Open Your Bible* by Raechel Myers and Amanda Williams. Please contact Pam Peters at 614-274-9279.
- 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 with any questions.
- Sunday at 4:00 PM. Surviving Grief with Hope. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 for more information.

Kari Jones, Women's Ministry Director

FBC Family,

I hope you are doing well, and I hope you have found some refreshing as we have sought the Lord over the last month. I look forward to all that God is going to continue to do in our body as we continue to seek the Lord! Let's keep asking, seeking, and knocking for God to do even greater things among us. I don't know about you, but I want more of God, and I need more of God!



We had a wonderful January in our student ministry! During the first night of our Refresh Campaign, as we sought after a fresh vision of God and a fresh vision of ourselves, God revealed Himself. Thirty-five to forty students came forward, opening their hearts to the Lord for Him to do whatever necessary over the next couple of months. It was awesome.

We also hosted our Annual Campy Awards! It is a night where our students got to dress up, and we celebrated all God did at camp last year. We also look forward to all God is going to do at camp this summer. As always, students are in need of scholarships to help pay for camp. For one student to go to camp, it costs \$289.00. If you'd like to sponsor a student, or two, or more—please let me know as soon as you are able! It would be a huge blessing!

Coming up in February, we have our annual Dinner and a Movie with Cake Auction Fundraiser! It is Friday, February 9, and the movie we will be watching is *The Case for Christ!* It is an incredibly powerful movie. Tickets are \$10.00 in the lobby, and I hope you will join us! All proceeds will go towards our student camp! Please be prepared to bid on some cakes during the auction as well! It is such a FUN evening—you do not want to miss it!!

I appreciate you, Church. I hope you know that. Thank you for your constant prayers, and support.

Love you, Church.

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

Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast at FBC will be on Saturday, February 3rd, at 7:30 AM. Clifford Hauser will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Thom Burbridge from the January breakfast.

My journey of faith has been a long journey. It began as an infant when my mother took me to church and dedicated me to the Lord. I thank the Lord everyday for a godly mother.

In high school, the mother of one of my friends passed away and I attended the funeral. Suddenly, during the service, people in the congregation began to weep and go to the altar. The pastor began to pray with them and more people continued to come which made me wonder what was going on. A woman from the church came to me and tried to explain what was happening. She used the terms Holy Spirit, Revival, and Renewal which were all new terms to me. This made an impression on me, and this was another step to my faith.

After high school, I joined the military. I remember some of the soldiers reading their bibles before bedtime. This impressed me and brought back memories of my days of Sunday school and church. Once again the Holy Spirit was working in my life.

Upon my discharge, I returned to Columbus and began working there. I reconnected with my old friends and we spent most weekends partying. One night a group of guys left the party and, fortunately for me, I fell asleep and didn't go with them. Later I learned they had killed someone that night and if I would have been with them, I also would have been convicted and sent to prison. How the Lord protected me from that tragedy. Another step in my journey to faith.

Shortly after that I was invited to Memorial Baptist Church where I heard the Gospel for the first time. I was influenced by so many people and eventually accepted the Lord. As I grew in my faith, the pastor suggested that I might consider going to Bible College. After much prayer and consideration I took the next step in my journey. I attended several Bible colleges and graduate schools, including Dallas Seminary. During this time I was involved in pastoring, teaching, and many summer mission trips.

Later on in my journey I decided to pursue a doctorate in marriage and family counseling in Philadelphia at Eastern Baptist Seminary.

I am thankful that the Lord has used me in these ministries and my prayer is to finish well.

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony.

**God Bless,
Pastor Dave Berna**

Calling All Men!

Come join us in *Men's Fraternity* as we rightly divide the Word of God. We begin at 6:45 PM on Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Brian Kinnett at 614-313-7870 for more information.

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

While I was cleaning up around the house, my son asked a simple question. "Are we a stupid family?" As I turned on the ceiling fan to get some air flowing in the now-tidied room, I ducked as a dust bunny flew onto my recently vacuumed floor. I stifled a giggle and answered, "Well, we do have our moments." Seems I had forgotten to clean the big spinning thing on the ceiling first! Only later did it occur to me that someone had insulted my family.

Why is it on some days my commute to work is so easy? I graciously let a car or two cut in, and the radio plays every single song I love. Other days, I fear I may need to hire a bail bondsman long before I near the Stringtown Road exit.

I am starting to realize my circumstances are out of my control. My reactions to my circumstances are equally out of my control. A sweet friend who knows me well bought me a sign to place above my headboard. It says, "Every morning, give me Jesus!" I have taken that advice to heart. When I start my day with Him, it goes a little smoother. I'm more patient when traffic or office equipment jams occur.

My source of serenity has not gone unnoticed by my children. Another thoughtful friend gifted me with a set of colored pencils to use in my new coloring/journal Bible. I was starting to get frustrated one night and my son came up, gave me a hug, and suggested I go in my room to "color" until I felt better.

I'm not able to memorize vast amounts of scripture. Heck, I can't always understand how to apply the verses to my life yet. But I do know I need the author. Every single day.

**Cindy Tryon,
Preschool Coordinator**



AWANA Calendar of Events

Feb. 7—Tropical Night! (Wear tropical colors)

Feb. 14—Kiss Night! (Earn a chocolate Kiss for each section you pass.)

Feb. 21—Patriotic Night! (Wear red, white, &/ or blue.)

**Feb. 28—Special Ladies Night!
(Invite a special lady to join you
for a "normal" night of AWANA.)**

