



First Baptist Church
Grove City

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JULY 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
Student Pastor

Mike Latella
Children's Pastor

Robert Stroup
Business Administrator

Andy Kovalchik
Life Group Pastor

Doug Worley
Life Group Pastor

Brian Kinnett
Member Services Pastor

Cindy Tryon
Preschool Coordinator

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www.firstgc.org

I noticed the waitress at Bob Evans was stressed as she waited on our table. I asked her if she had a hard day. Her response was more than I expected. The hours at work that day weren't so long, but so many other things in her world were overwhelming. I stopped eating and asked if we could pray with her.

Immediately she stopped working and gave me her hand. Our whole table prayed for her and the burden she was carrying. She hugged me and gave me a kiss (right in front of my wife). Then with tears she thanked us. WOW!

Pastor Dave Earley challenged our staff last week to connect with eight people face to face. Leaders in our church, potential leaders, and other people were singled out as individuals we need to fellowship with in an intentional way. Our intention is to get them to take their next step—whether it is salvation, baptism, membership, or leadership. Everyone is on a journey, and our agenda should be to help them to grow closer to God.

As a church we have a mandate by our Lord to share the Gospel in all the world. We are to evangelize, baptize, and disciple people wherever we get a chance. Make this summer your time to commit your time to connect with eight people face to face per month. Help each one to take his or her next step. For some, their next step may just be to have you to bring up the subject of God. Many haven't heard that God loves them. This is a conversation you can initiate, and you may be surprised what joy will result.

I don't remember my meal at Bob Evans, but I will never forget the waitress. Her response was a blessing. I did invite her to church. It is her next step.

Pastor Jerry



“CAN I BE BAPTIZED, TOO?”

This is one of those questions children often ask their parents, especially after witnessing one of their friends taking the plunge (pun intended). While contemplating this query, parents often ask themselves the root question: “Is my child ready to begin a relationship with Jesus?” This can be one of the most exciting (and challenging) times for parents as they try to decide if their child is really ready to make this decision or not. And many times they will come to me for help.

They will ask questions like... "How old should my child be to make this decision?" or "How do I know if my child is ready or not?" or "Should I let them pray the prayer of salvation or have them wait?" So how do you tell if a child is ready to begin a relationship with Jesus? Here are three indicators to watch for.

#1 - The child knows what sin is. Before a child (or anyone) can enter a relationship with Jesus, that child must understand why he or she needs a relationship with Jesus. The child must understand what sin is and that he or she has sinned. If a child doesn't understand this, then that child is not ready to step across the line of faith.

#2 - The child initiates the conversation on a regular basis. If a child continues to initiate conversations about accepting Jesus, then that is a good sign that God is working in the child's life. The Holy Spirit convicts and draws people...including kids. There is no "Jr. Holy Spirit."

#3 - The child knows he or she "needs" to do this vs. the child "wanting" to do this. There is a difference. There is a difference between "I want to do this because my friends are" or "I want to do this because it's fun" and "I need to make this decision" or "I need to do this because I want Jesus in my life."

In Matthew 18: 1-5, the Bible tells us: At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “*Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?*” He called a little child to him and placed the child among them. And He said: “*Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.*”

The bottom line is this: There is no minimum age to become a believer in Christ. By the way, neither is there a maximum age.

July children events include VBS (*Galactic Starveyors!*) which begins with a Country Fair Kickoff Event on Sunday, July 9th from 2:00 – 7:00 PM followed by evening VBS from 6:00–9:00 PM on Monday through Friday, July 10th–14th. Kids Kamp at Seneca Lake dates are July 24th–28th. This camp is for children who have completed 3rd–6th grades.

**Mike Latella,
Children’s Pastor**

Members’ Ministry

Have you ever walked around the property and looked at the memorial benches and trees?

I love to walk and remember friends and family who have gone on before us. These clouds of witnesses have paved the way for us to be able to worship God in such a beautiful place as this property. They have done this through the giving of their tithes, talents, and time. They have prayed, labored, and shared the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout their lifetimes—for our generations. My prayer is that we continue in the same Spirit they did by letting the Holy Spirit lead our lives.

None of them were perfect, but they had a heart for Jesus plus reaching us and this community for the Kingdom of God. May our legacy be as theirs, that they loved the Lord our God with all their hearts, minds, bodies, and souls.

Let us never forget these loved ones. Let us never forget why we come to First Baptist to worship Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Let us not be tangled up with the affairs of the world, but press on for the Glory of God.

If you feel the call to serve God in any capacity, come by the Next Steps Kiosk and let us help you get involved in a ministry that will impact future generations for the Kingdom of God.

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and is sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **Hebrews 12:1-2***

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members’ Minister**

Notes of Appreciation

Thank you to Becky and Ken Grundei for the good job they did cleaning out my gutters on my house. I really appreciate it.

Also, thank you to Wes and Sherri Love, and Sue Chadwick for the excellent job they did washing my windows. I certainly appreciate their help.

**In Christian Love,
Georgiana Furr**

JULY BIRTHDAYS

CASTO, Paul	07/01	BERRY, Johnnie	07/22
COBB, Don	07/01	BOSO, Chris	07/22
RIDER, Michelle	07/01	SHONK, Kevin	07/22
BANE, Jeff	07/02	LAMB, Shannon	07/23
GOLDSMITH, Hannah	07/02	OVERMYER, Rick	07/23
ZAVALA, Alonso	07/02	WHITE, Alandon	07/23
O'NEAL, Cami	07/02	FUHR, Butch	07/23
GOLDSMITH, John	07/03	BORROR, Anissa	07/24
DAVIS, Thomas	07/04	LAITRES, Richard	07/24
SMITH, Brooklyn	07/04	JEWETT, Nikia	07/25
RUCKER, Deanna	07/05	REICHLE, Greg	07/25
SEITZ, Michel	07/05	ALEXANDER, Russ	07/25
CARSON, David	07/06	WOLFE, Sam	07/25
DEVINE, Nancy	07/06	HILL, Kathy	07/26
STAMBAUGH, Judy	07/07	BREECH, Chris	07/26
WILHELM, Katie	07/07	WADDLE, Nancy	07/26
WEST, Jim	07/07	HARDMAN, Edward	07/27
CORBETT, William	07/08	MAY, Patty	07/27
DYER, Taylor	07/08	BUTTRICK, Doug	07/27
WILHELM, Katie	07/08	LILLICO, Sabrina	07/27
RONE, Penny	07/08	LILLICO, Gabrielle	07/27
GRIESHEIMER, Jeff	07/09	PRICE, Tim	07/27
TEAFORD, Bradley	07/09	ALLEN, Billy	07/28
RILEY, Jason	07/09	MARTIN, Dawn	07/28
GIBSON, Misty	07/09	PAIGE, Justin	07/28
HAWK, Nick	07/10	HEATH, McKenzie	07/28
HAWK, Noah	07/10	NEWCOMB, Ben	07/28
ROBINSON, Devon	07/10	FEGAN, Jared	07/29
MEANS, Kerry	07/10	STRAWSER, Brian	07/29
HIVELY, Isabel	07/11	TERRY, Kelsea	07/29
NEAL, Jerry	07/11	THOMPSON, Allen	07/29
WATKINS, Dan	07/11	BOBO, LaVonda	07/29
RONE, Michael	07/11	GULLION, Tony	07/30
HAMANN, Roberta	07/12	HERDERICK, Grace	07/30
KUHLMAN, Gordon	07/12	WATTS, Nathan	07/30
MCFARLAND, Joyce	07/12	EDWARDS, Rick	07/30
ROBERTS, Ruth	07/12	WILT, Susan	07/30
WELCH, Phyllis	07/12	COLEMAN, Shawna	07/31
WHITTINGTON, Theodore	07/12	GRUNDEI, Daniel	07/31
HIGGINS, Nancy	07/13	TYLER, Debbie	07/31
SATTERFIELD, Gerald	07/14	WOLFE, Spencer	07/31
ARLEDGE, Annetta	07/15	ROMANS, Shane	07/31
GRUNDEI, Ashley	07/15		
WARNER, Mason	07/15		
CRANE, Linda	07/15		
RICKETTS, Nancy	07/16		
THOMAS, Darla	07/16		
HALL, Robert	07/16		
CONTI, Gina	07/17		
ZICKAFOOSE, Jackie	07/17		
MACKAN, Jessica	07/18		
WILLIAMS, Shannon	07/19		
ESTEP, Jim	07/19		
SMOOT, Lisa	07/19		
COX, Ethan	07/20		
WOLFE, Connor	07/20		
CURTIS, Jackie	07/21		
FRASHER, Katie	07/21		
HUGHES, Shane	07/21		
STACY, Gail	07/21		
BONNELL, Vicki	07/22		

From Our Music Minister

A Mighty Fortress

We recently sang this great old hymn in our worship service. There is quite a story about it. After posting his ninety-five theses on the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church in October of 1517, Martin Luther faced many years of trials and persecution. And during the years of the ensuing Protestant Reformation, Luther came to know better than most the gracious power of God's sheltering hand. He confidently stepped forward to defend the truth he found in God's Word, despite excommunication from the Roman church, continual threats to his life and freedom, and times of intense spiritual battle. In the comforting words of Palms 46, Luther found the inspiration for this hymn that would become the battle cry of the Protestant Reformation.

Continued on page 6

Missions Ministry

Ten years! That's an entire decade. A new first digit in front of our age (not necessarily a good thought!). Half of a generation. And quite significantly here at FBC, this coming Fall will be our 10th season of Upward Flag-football and Cheerleading. That's right – for 10 years now – we have been drawing hundreds of families from Central Ohio into relationships where we have the opportunity to share the message of Jesus with them!

It all started with season one played at Buckeye Woods Elementary. Seasons two and three were played in front of the YMCA. And finally, after much work and preparation from our crew of workers and heavy equipment operators, seasons four through ten will have been played here on our own property. Significant numbers of children and families have become followers of Jesus through this ministry, and many have been baptized right here in our worship services.

As we get ready for Season 10, we would love to see our FBC family join together to make a significant impact on our community in the name of Jesus. We have opportunities to coach or assistant coach, referee games, work in the concession stand, DJ, prepare and paint fields, or be a team encourager. Our goal is for every single team and family participating in the league to have a meaningful relationship with someone from our church who will help them take their next steps toward following Jesus. For more information or to join the team, see one of our Upward Leadership Team members or contact Pastor Jeff.

**In Christ,
Pastor Jeff Bane**

Trustee Ministry Report

Were you able to come see the antique car show at FBC parking lot? There were some beautiful antique cars here. Our Trustee Ministry helped with the parking of the many customers who visited the show. God blessed this event with good weather during that beautiful sunny day as well as good fellowship.

This will probably be the last news article I will write for the FBC newsletter. I plan to move to a retirement community, Feridean Commons on Freeman Road in Westerville, Ohio. I will have a villa with a garage in this independent living community. I plan to keep my dog, a Shish tzu named Lady Bug, with me. When I was healing from pneumonia last winter, I felt God telling me to sell the apartments and get rid of some of my responsibilities. The apartments did sell and my home is on the market now. My grand-daughter and her family live close to the condos.

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School is out!

Grandchildren are here! Our two grandchildren from Alabama are in town, and Karen and I took them, along with our grandchildren here in Grove City, to see Old Man's Cave and Rockhouse this past weekend.

They all loved the rock formations. God did some amazing work in the Hocking Hills. Nestled among the rock formations are the Bracken Ferns. Bracken Ferns are amazing plants. They spread prolifically because they put out horizontal roots called rhizomes under the soil. These rhizomes travel many feet before they pop up to the surface again and send up new fronds. The fronds that appear on the surface of the soil and seem to be great distances apart are all interconnected and are actually one plant.

Many of our life groups stop meeting for the summer. I wish they didn't, but I understand busy summer schedules, vacations, and travel plans. If your life group suspends formal meetings for the summer, I would like to encourage you to stay connected in some way, via phone, text, Facebook, or informal get-togethers. We can learn something from the Bracken Fern. They keep their underground root connection no matter where their root systems go (or grow).

We need to do the same with our life group connections, no matter where our summer activities may take us. Like the Bracken Fern, no matter where it goes, it continues to grow, because it is still connected.

Keep your life group connection alive and intact this summer!

**Connections Minister,
Pastor Andy Kovalchik**

Notes of Appreciation

We would like to thank Pastor Neal and Pastor Earley for visiting and having prayer with Evelyn Ballou at Mt. Carmel.

Much appreciation to Pastor Berna for all he did through the years. The visitation and prayers were special to her. The eulogy was one of a kind and would have suited her just fine. We all enjoyed it and it made our hearts lighter.

Thank you to the kitchen staff for a lovely and delicious luncheon after the funeral. It gave us a chance to visit all our out-of-town family before departing home.

The flowers were beautiful and thanks to all for the hugs and kind words of remembrance of our mother.

**In Christian Love,
Vi Bowen and Karen Whitmer**

Women of FBC

Book Club: Will be meeting on Thursday, July 13th from 7:00-8:30 PM at Longhorn. We will be discussing the book *Stars in the Grass* by Ann Marie Stewart. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 with any questions.

Craft Day: Will be on Friday, July 21st, from 9:00 AM to 9:00 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 or Janet Swicegood at 614-572-5659 with any questions.

Surviving Grief with Hope: Is a resource available to support those who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, health, a marriage, a job, and other losses. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 if you would like to set up a meeting.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Is helping seniors and those with disabilities with home projects. For more information, please contact Sherri Love at 614-871-3053.

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

- Monday night at 7:00 PM. Please contact Carol Midden-dorf 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 6:45 PM in Room K-117. We are studying the Book of Ecclesiastes.
- Thursday at 9:30 AM in Room K-117. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 with any questions.

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.

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

Friday and Saturday, September 29th-30th, at the Oglebay Resort. Contact Sharon Myers for details at 614-991-0205.

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

FBC Family,

I hope you have had a great start to your summer! I thought it was hot until Dr. Earley shared with me the other day that it was 117 degrees in Las Vegas!! WOAH!

Anyways, I hope you are finding some much needed rest and relaxation in the summertime! Rest is good for our souls!!



This past month, we took eighty-three people to Crossings Summer Camp at Cedarmore! What a week it was!! We had an incredible time! God did some amazing things at our student camp! We had five first time decisions for Christ, and twelve total to be baptized. On July 2nd, we will be baptizing these students in Genesis!! WOO HOO! PRAISE GOD! We are so thankful for the week that God allowed us to have! It truly was incredible!! Below is a group picture from our experience at Crossings!

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

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



Trustees Ministry Report [continued from page 4]

The question everyone asks me is will I continue to attend church at FBC? I certainly will attend FBC on special occasions but probably not every Sunday.

I love all of you good people and surely will pray for the pastoral staff and all of you. We have a great pastoral group of dedicated men and women and a lovely choir which prepares us for the messages. The Holy Spirit is definitely in the worship services. Our people learn the values of being a Christian and experience love for each other in the Life Groups.

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Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast at FBC will be on Saturday, July 1st, at 7:30 AM. Ron Logsdon will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of George Holinga who shared his testimony at our June breakfast.

I was raised in a loving and religious family, and, as I was growing up, I had a good relationship with God. The relationship, however, was much less personal than today. I went to parochial schools in grade school and high school. My high school was a great Christian Brothers institution and we were required to memorize chapters of the New Testament on a daily basis.

As I went off to college, however, I put God in the closet and didn't think at all about spiritual things. Things changed though when I got back together with my college sweet heart and current wife of forty-four years. She influenced me to make a spiritual commitment to Jesus Christ as my personal savior, a personal commitment that has grown over the past forty plus years.

Today my relationship to Jesus Christ is constant daily. I start the day with prayer, a pretty simple four step prayer. First, I praise Him for all the wondrous things in the world. Next, I ask for forgiveness for any sins of the past day. Third, I thank Him for the many blessings He bestows on me every day. And lastly, I ask Him for any of my needs, yes, and wants. And I always ask for His will in my life, not mine. I define my Savior as ALL powerful and ALL loving so if my petition is correct and I sincerely believe it, He will always provide me with whatever I need and is best for me.

He has never ever let me down. Even when, at the time, things don't work out the way I want, in the end, I can sincerely say they are in my best interest. Why not? My God is all-knowing and all-powerful and all-loving.

It's a great way to live knowing that I have a friend in Jesus! He gives me serenity and the knowledge that I can handle any challenge that I am presented with. He lets me live a positive, happy, and fulfilled life.

What then shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things. Romans 8:31

**God Bless,
Pastor Dave Berna**

Music Minister [continued from page 3]

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging." – Psalm 46:1-3

**In Christ,
Pastor Bryan Corbett**

My View From The Back Of The Pew

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

I am sitting here listening to the rain pour down outside. Usually, I am not a fan of storms. I enjoy being poolside on sunny days. Today, I am smiling and thanking God for his provision. A couple weeks ago, I ran into a friend at Giant Eagle. He asked what I was building as I was purchasing several Home Depot gift cards. After explaining my need for window well covers due to some leaky gutters, we chatted about his wife and kids a few more minutes and parted. Saturday morning, I was having coffee and happened to see a ladder being propped up on the side of my house. My friend came over and cleaned out my gutters for me and nailed them back into place! I went out to thank him and he said he just had to do the same for his house. He remembered our earlier conversation and thought he might be of help.

This morning, I was on my way to work and the car in front of me came to an abrupt stop. I had several thoughts as the contents of my purse spilled onto the floor board. The only one I can share here was that perhaps this woman should invest in a hands-free option for her cell phone. I tried to focus on the sunny morning and arrived at work without another thought, hateful or otherwise, about my near collision. I only remembered it when I couldn't locate my own phone. I took my keys, ran out to my car, and, sure enough, there it was almost under the seat. As I made my way back across the parking lot, thunder rolled and ominous clouds blocked the sun. I had checked the weather and saw a 30% chance of rain on the otherwise sunny day. I quickly returned to my car and rolled up my windows. I made it into the building as the first drops of rain began to fall. If I hadn't needed to go find my phone due to some careless person, I am sure my vehicle's interior would be flooded.

I tell God I have enough storms in my life. I tell Him about my wish for perfect days and beautiful skies. Then, without fail, He shows me how to find the sun in the storm. Every time. Whether that gorgeous sun comes in the form of handy friends or erratic drivers, He shows His plan has a purpose—no matter the weather.

**Cindy Tryon,
Preschool Coordinator**

Trustee Ministry Report [continued from page 5]

To the Trustees with whom I have served a long time: Continue to keep the FBC and KKDC facilities looking beautiful and running smoothly as you have performed these duties faithfully in the past. It is your responsibility to serve and support the pastoral staff and all other ministries of the church. May you continue to seek God's guidance and blessings in everything you do. I will continue to keep in contact and pray for you daily. God's blessings to you all.

**Alice Thompson,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**