



# THE LIGHTHOUSE

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## JANUARY 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

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[www.firstgc.org](http://www.firstgc.org)

As a kid I didn't look forward to revival meetings. It always meant my mom would spend every night in church for a week or two. And if things went well, it could be six weeks straight. For a youngster, this was not good. However, I did see some of our country neighbors get saved. Their marriages took on a renewal commitment. Many quit drinking and fighting. Others started showing up in church for the first time and were baptized. The baptisms were outside in the creek. Sometimes they had to break the ice for those new converts. That was my favorite part.

Revivals have other names. Sam Lawless, one of our long-time members, died at the age of 101. He was converted as a young man in a *protracted meeting*. Another name for revival is a *crusade*. D.L. Moody, Billy Sunday, and Billy Graham were famous for *evangelistic crusades*, where people were saved by the thousands. *Awakening* is another historical name for revival. Preachers associated with great awakenings are John Wesley, George Whitefield, and Jonathan Edwards.

King David spoke of his need for revival: "*will you not revive us again?*" Ps. 85:6.

Then again he said: "*I have been anointed with fresh oil.*" Ps. 92:10.

I have been a Christian since I was seventeen, and over the years I have felt the need for a personal revival: a fresh anointing of the Spirit or a closer walk with God. This January and February will you join Pastor Earley and myself as we seek a time of refreshing, which is the road to Revival? This can be the highest point in your Christian walk. Let God revive your faith, your spirit, and your relationship with Christ.

I remember strangers coming up to me telling me how my mother carried me to church each night during revival meetings in our church. I don't know what good it did me, but I will never forget what it did for my mom. It seemed to me that she was always full of God. Why? She never missed a revival service.

**Pastor Jerry**



## Schedule of Events—January/February 2018

- Sunday Morning Sermon Series.
- BREAKTHROUGH—Sunday Evening Worship Services in January.
- Extended Prayer at the Men’s Fellowship Breakfast on January 6th.
- Daily Prayer Monday-Thursday, beginning January 2nd at 8:30 AM.
- Men’s Summit Presents “The Iron Man” Weekend featuring Harold Vaughan February 23-25.
- Refresh Life Group Bible Studies during January and February (available in Lobby for \$10.00).
- Refresh T-Shirts available in Lobby.



I hope my tale of a broken boot lace will be more interesting than a talk about New Year’s Resolutions. I bet you have had enough of the latter.

I broke a boot lace at my tentmaking job last week. To my shame, I saw it coming and didn’t act sooner. I noticed it was fraying the last few times I laced up my boots, but I didn’t tend to it until I had to. “Had to” meant I had to tie the broken lace parts together to make it through the day.

But if I had just replaced the frayed lace with a new one when I first noticed it beginning to fray, I would still have had problems. It turns out the speed lace eyelet on my boot had been damaged and had a sharp edge that was cutting into the lace. Aha. Now I remember. I had to replace a lace a while back, and it had frayed in the exact same spot. There was the root problem. A little work with a flat head screwdriver and a file fixed that eyelet.

Sometimes we treat the problems in our lives like I did my boot lace. We put off dealing with them, and then when they become bad enough to demand attention, we don’t get to the root of the problem. If we are honest with ourselves, sometimes the problems in our lives are due to our own sin. And until we deal with our sin, we are not getting to the root of the problem.

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The Apostle James tells us to confess our sins to one another and to pray for one another, that we may be healed (James 5:16). Do you know where a great place to do that is? In your Life Group.

I guess I do have something to say about New Year’s Resolutions after all. Are you in a Life Group? How about making a New Year’s Resolution to join one this January? Your Life Group members can even help you keep that resolution.

**Pastor Andy Kovalchik,  
Connections Minister**

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### Members’ Ministry

As we begin the new year let us remember this truth, God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The same God who saw us through the trials of our youth and the darkness of yesterday will see us through the storms of today, He is our ever present hope, strength, and promise.

Let us examine ourselves and ask God to refresh our souls and renew our commitment to Him. Let us also pray He helps us each day to walk in His will.

Trust what God is doing. Draw near to Him, and He will draw nearer to you.

Don’t put your hope in yourself or your abilities. Hope is not found in humanity! Hope is not found in our world’s system! Hope is never found in a government or government program! It is impossible to find hope in the hopeless!

Hope is found in Jesus Christ alone.

Don’t be left standing hopeless. Start the year off right: get into the word of God, find a Life Group to fellowship in, and ask God to reveal Himself to you.

*“Be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the Lord.”*  
**Psalm 31:24, HCSB**

*“God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble. Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth trembles and the mountains topple into the depths of the seas, though its water roars and foams and the mountains quake with its turmoil. Selah.”* **Psalm 46:1-3, CSB**

**In Christ,**

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,  
Members’ Minister**

*“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**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

ANGLES, Dillon	01/01	SIMON, Doris	01/24
HALL, Abigail	01/01	PLUMLY, Jeffrey	01/25
BROOKS, Samantha	01/01	PLUMLY, Jerrod	01/25
STICKEL, Aubrey	01/01	MCCOY, Bob	01/25
WILSON, Naomi	01/03	KEYES, Winter	01/25
TYLER, Andrew	01/03	WORKMAN, Gene	01/25
HOLINGA, George	01/04	DEAN, Susie	01/25
PINKERMAN, Levi	01/05	WARNER, Melanie	01/26
KEITH, Kevin	01/06	RAQUET, Fritz, Sr.	01/26
JONES, Emily	01/07	RAQUET, Toni	01/26
JARRELLS, Brett	01/07	SWICEGOOD, Jamie	01/26
SMITH, James	01/07	TRYON, Haley	01/27
BROWN, Jeff	01/09	RIZER, Andrew	01/27
HITE, Patricia	01/09	VANWAGNER, Kaye	01/28
ROBINETT, Anthony	01/09	EDWARDS, Austin	01/28
SEITZ, Jeff	01/09	SCOTT, Katherine	01/30
TOWNSLEY, Ned	01/09	VANDYKE, Lucrecia	01/30
BLAKE, JR. Alvin	01/09	GRIESHEIMER, Valerie	01/31
CONTI, Linda	01/10	JONES, Patty	01/31
ROSS, Paul	01/10	NICHOLS, Charles	01/31
STRAWSER, Matthew	01/10	TERRY, Kelly	01/31
WALTERS, Destiny	01/10		
OGUICH, George	01/10		
WELSH, Michael	01/10		
SHAFFER, Teresa	01/10		
LAMB, Emily	01/11		
WEEKLEY, Donald	01/11		
STAYTON, Len	01/11		
GOLDSMITH, Dave	01/12		
McCREARY, James	01/12		
GIFFEN, Minerva	01/13		
BENNETT, Bud	01/13		
THOMPSON, Kristoffer	01/13		
JAMES, Michael	01/13		
PETTIBONE, Janet	01/13		
MORGAN, J W	01/13		
THOMPSON, Alice	01/14		
WILSON, Debbie	01/14		
ARN, Jeff	01/14		
UPTON, Kerry	01/15		
RAQUET, Christopher	01/15		
WELSH, Judy	01/15		
SEBERT, Elza	01/16		
ERIKSEN, Lorrie	01/16		
STRAWSER, Beth	01/17		
WEBB, Rosemarie	01/17		
REICHLE, Karen	01/19		
TRYON, Cindy	01/19		
HASKELL, Carol	01/20		
WHITE, Amy	01/20		
MYERS, Sharon	01/20		
BRINLEY, Don	01/21		
MCKAY, Samuel	01/21		
DRAKE, Gail	01/21		
CLEMENTS, Grace	01/22		
WELLS, Marc	01/22		
SMOOT, Cole	01/22		
SCHAFFER, Michael	01/23		
ARN, Elizabeth	01/23		
HAUGHN, Donna	01/24		
FLUHARTY, Keith	01/24		

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### Notes of Appreciation

Dear First Baptist Church,

Our family wishes to thank our church family for all the cards, prayers, gifts, and beautiful flowers. Our mother, De-  
lores Arthur loved FBCGC and all the wonderful friends in  
Christ she had, but most of all she loved our Lord and Savior!

God's Blessings,

#### **Lynnette & Jerry Gerace, and the Arthur family**

Church family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, cards, and pray-  
ers after my mom's passing. It is so wonderful to call this  
church home and to have such great people to do life together  
with.

#### **The Wolfe Pack, Will, Shelby, Spencer, & Connor**

First Baptist Church,

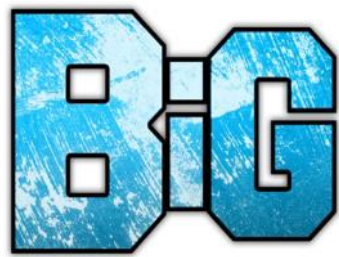
Thanks so much for the goodies, what wonderful caring  
hearts the people at First Baptist have, so much appreciated.  
I am asking God's Blessings now and always on those who  
took part in this service.

#### **My Love in Christ, Minerva Giffen**

## From Our Worship Minister

When I was a teenager, we had a slogan at our church that said, “**Church, the Sunday night place to be.**”

This could be said of January 2018. We are having Sunday night worship services, including the Celebration Choir, all through the month, as part of the *Refresh, the Road to Revival*.



We are also having a big children’s program each Sunday night at 5:45 PM. It includes games, music, Bible study and other stuff. We call it our **KIDSTUFF** program.

## **Big News. Big God. Big Life. Big Impact.**

We hope you’ll make plans to make church the Sunday night place to be.

In Christ,

**Bryan and Angela Corbett**

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## AWANA Calendar of Events

**Jan. 3—Triple Points for Sections Passed Night.**

**Jan. 10—Wacky Sock Night!**

**Jan. 17—Gloves for FEED MY SHEEP Ministry Night.**

**Jan. 24—Double Points for Sunday School on the 21st (be sure to wear your uniform).**

**Jan. 31—Dues to “GO” Missions Night!**



## Trustee Ministry Report

Last month First Baptist Church was the recipient of four “Hardy Rubber” trees planted by the Grove City Service Department in the easement located along Orders Road. Hardy Rubber trees have long, thin, glossy, dark leaves. The foliage appears to glimmer in the moonlight or when lit from above. The leaves change to a paler green in the fall.

The water fountains located in the two ponds on the FBC campus were taken in for service and have been stored for the winter.

The Upward playing field was spread with fertilizer in preparation for winter. Volunteers have installed wooden boards under the runner of the new bleachers enabling them to be moved without tearing up the sod.

A new battery back-up sump pump was installed at the King’s Kids Day Care.

The yard care equipment has been serviced and ready for next season. The snow equipment is ready for the winter season. The pick-up truck had an attachment installed at each end of the snow plow blade to aid in plowing snow more efficiently.

Christmas lights were arranged on the trees along the driveway and the nativity scene was completed.

From the Trustee Ministry, Best Wishes for a Blessed Christmas Season with your Family and Friends!

**Phyllis McCloy,**  
**Trustee Ministry Secretary**

*This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ. —Frank McKibben*

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## FBC News and Notes

**The Baptist Builders** will be roughing in the Electric on a new build in Lake View, Ohio, in January and a remodel at the Stowe Baptist Center soon. Contact Marc Wells at 614-579-9927 if you would like to participate in Baptist Builders.

**The Sunday 10:45 AM 2nd Grade Life Group** raised \$270.00 from donations relating to their recent ornament project. Proceeds support the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Thank you First Baptist Church for helping to support our class mission project!

**The Secret Sister** party will be Friday, January 12th at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This is for all current women involved and for those who would like to participate in 2018. Please contact Karen Campbell with any questions at 614-208-6355.

# Women of FBC

**Book Club:** Will be meeting on Thursday, January 4th from 7:00-8:30 PM. We are meeting at City BBQ and will discuss the book *Lady Jayne Disappears* by Joanna Davidson Politano. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 with any questions.

**Craft Day:** Will be Friday, January 19th, 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 about up-coming meetings.

**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, January 13th, starting at 9 AM. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship. Ronda Kinnett will be sharing. Please contact Carol Middendorf at 614-370-3480 with any questions.

**Amazing Love Dinner:** To be announced.

## **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 Carol Middendorf at 614-370-3480.
- Tuesday, at 7:30 PM, in Room C-156. Starting January 9th, we will be studying *A Living Hope in Christ* by Jen Wilkin. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201.
- Wednesday at 6:45 PM in Room K-117. Contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871.
- Thursday at 9:30 AM in Room K-117. We will resume January 11th. For more information, please contact Kay Hardman at 614-323-6891 or [kayhardman@gmail.com](mailto:kayhardman@gmail.com)
- 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.

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

FBC Family,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas, and are looking forward to the new year! It is going to be a great year at FBC Grove City! I hope you're excited to see what God is going to do! As a Pastoral staff, for the last couple months, we have been praying, begging, and yearning for God to do something special in 2018 at FBC Grove City. We have asked God to bring revival to His church. We have prayed that our people, ourselves included, would yearn for holiness, and worship with reverence. We have prayed that we would take the Word of God seriously, by studying it, obeying it, and communing with God the Father in a new, and real way. We have begged God to manifest Himself in our midst, and I cannot wait to see what God is going to do! I hope you're ready!!

I want to update you on a few events we have coming up in January! If you are a Life Group leader (home or on campus, or affinity group), preschool-children or student worker/teacher/leader—please put January 20th on your calendar. This is the day of our annual Ministry Summit Training Event. The event will last from 9AM-2 PM, and we will have incredible worship and practical training! Please make plans to be with us.

As far as our student ministry—we are expecting God do to incredible things in 2018. We have seen Him work in some amazing ways, and we cannot wait to see Him do even more! Our attendance and baptisms in 2017 were higher than ever, and God is going to do even greater things in 2018. We are praying, seeking, and asking for more. We are asking for more of Him, and less of us.

Our Annual Campy Awards are on January 14th, in the Genesis Auditorium. This is a night when we invite parents, students dress up for their awards night, and we celebrate all God did at camp last summer. We also look forward to camp this upcoming year. Our camp dates are June 9th-13th. It is also the first night that you can pay your \$75 deposit, and if you do, you are entered into a drawing for a free camp scholarship.

One last thing to bring your attention to is our New York Mission Trip. This trip is for students and adults. It is March 24th-29th, and cost is \$225 per person. We will be taking a charter bus this year and staying, once again, at Living Waters Fellowship in Brooklyn. It is an incredible opportunity to serve the Lord. If you would like to go, registration will open in mid January. If you cannot go, but would like to support an adult or student who is going, or scholarship someone—please let me know ASAP, and we can make sure that happens. We are always looking for sponsorships!

Church—it is a blessing and honor to serve our Lord Jesus Christ alongside you. He is so faithful and good.

Love you, Church.

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





## Men's Corner

**The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast at FBC will be on Saturday, January 6th at 7:30 AM. Thom Burbridge will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Richard Bebel from the December breakfast.**

I grew up in a small town in New York called Owego. I have two brothers and a sister and all four of us have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. My mom and dad didn't accept Jesus until mom was in her late 40's and dad in his early 60's.

We were brought up by moral values and went to church on special holidays and Christmas. As I think back over my life, I always believed in God. As a young kid I almost drowned in a deep creek near our house, and a lady scooped me up as I was going down. But I never saw her again. Also as a kid, I was hit by a car on Main Street but was not injured. I always believed in God.

As a teenager, I hung around with the wrong crowd in school. I started to drink and smoke, got kicked off the wrestling team, did some other stupid things, and was asked to leave the school for a week.

My dad was a manager at a bottled gas company, and I worked with him during school and a year after. One day I was driving a truck and was hit on the side. I rolled the truck a few times. I had 100 pound cylinders in the truck. I climbed out of the passenger door window unharmed, and not one cylinder exploded. I knew God was with me. Another time, I was bleeding the gas out of a tank and unscrewed the valve. Because of the pressure, I heard and felt the valve miss my head and dented the roof 25 feet above me. God was with me.

One day I met one of my mom's friends. Ted was talking about how to be saved and that I needed to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. We talked, and I told him I'd be in church that Sunday. Well, that Sunday I did go forward and asked Jesus into my life, but being a full gospel church, I needed the Holy Spirit. The way they were talking made me feel uncomfortable, and I didn't go back. I felt Ted was right that I would need Jesus in my life to have eternal life. So a few weeks later, I went to another church and went forward to ask Jesus to come into my life but was told I needed to speak in tongues and that didn't feel right. I soon went to a Nazarene church and went forward, but there I could lose my salvation when I sinned, and that didn't feel right.

After visiting with family in Florida, I decided to stay and began working in construction. I got along with my supervisors and was promoted from within. I was eventually transferred to another section of the Florida Turnpike where I got my hand caught in the bull gear. This injury forced me out of the workforce for eleven months. The first question that came out of my mouth was, "Why God?"

Eventually, after surgeries, recovery, and fittings of prosthetics, I got a job working at a hotel in Fort Lauderdale as a night auditor. One morning I was awakened by a robber pointing a gun at my stomach. The robber got away with \$100 and left me unharmed. I knew God was with me.

Eventually, I was transferred to Dayton, Ohio. Every morning I drove past Far Hill Baptist Church and thought I would attend a service. After going a few times, I joined the singles group. I soon received a call from the pastor, and he asked me if I was saved. I told him I went down the aisle many times and asked Jesus into my life but never felt that "cloud 9" feeling. He asked if I truly accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and I said, "I did." He then quoted Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace you are saved through faith, and not of yourself, it is a gift of God, not as a result of works, that no one should boast.*" Finally, I met my wife in a Bible study there, and now 35 years later we are members of First Baptist Church of Grove City.

**God Bless,  
Pastor Dave Berna**

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## 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

Thank you for loving me and my children and the pre-school ministry. There is no greater encouragement than to actually feel your prayers. My family is in the midst of some trials and emerging victoriously from others. Every Bible Study and Life Group lesson this year has had this one recurring theme: The struggle is real!

Because the word "struggle" kept coming to mind and surfacing in every single Bible study, Life Group, and personal devotions, I actually looked up the word. **Struggle:** verb. A forceful or violent event to get free of restraint or resist attack. The synonyms of fight, scuffle, brawl, wrestle, fracas, melee were a little over the top I thought. Yet when my own personal battles rage, the hurt is so raw and open that those words don't seem strong enough.

My first taste in any fight is usually bitterness. Someone has wronged me or someone I love, and thoughts of revenge begin to form. Of course, God has put people in my life who, after denying my request to form a posse and go after those who hurt me, remind me that God says, "See to it...that no root of bitterness springs up," and "If you forgive other people when they sin against you, God will also forgive you."

If my circumstances are stealing my joy, I feel hopeless. Yet, once again, I am encouraged to put my hope in the God of David and always, always, say or think "once again, I will praise Him, my Savior and my God."

I know that I am not alone in this. If you believe you are the only person who struggles, please put down this newsletter and RUN to our Life Group kiosk. We all need to start this year knowing we are loved—and maybe not by the people who *should* love and treat us well. Yet, we are loved by the One who adopted us as His very own.

Sometimes I forget that. How great to be a part of a church family who reminds me.

**Cindy Tryon,  
Preschool Coordinator**

