



First Baptist Church  
**Grove City**

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# THE LIGHTHOUSE

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## JUNE 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](http://www.firstgc.org)

Sharon and I love playing cards. The interaction with friends is invigorating. The conversations are always upbeat and positive. Even when I'm losing, I can't have any better fun. But my favorite thing is watching my wife laugh. Seeing her have fun is just thrilling to me.

Strange as it may seem, Sharon has been leading children's programs for many years and kids make her laugh. There are times she seems tired, but when she gets around the children's workers and classrooms full of children, the smiles break out. This has been her ministry and her life since before we ever got married. It has been a great blessing as we have pastored together.

Some may wonder if Sharon will have a problem taking a back seat to a full-time children's pastor. The answer is no! My wife has such a heart for the kids' program that she can't wait to see how Pastor Josh Wright will steer us forward to greater things. Sharon will be his biggest fan just as I am Pastor Earley's biggest fan. Our ministry is not about us; it is about First Baptist Church reaching our city for Christ.

This summer offers many opportunities for our kids' ministry to grow. Wednesday night is our children's summer program. While this is scaled back from the AWANA program, it still offers children the opportunity to grow in Christ. The first big event is VBS. Our Country Fair Kick-off will be Sunday, July 8th, from 2:00-7:00 PM. Then our nightly VBS is Monday-Friday, July 9th-13th, from 6:00-9:00 PM. Over 300 kids will fill our rooms and rock our church. Pastor Wright will have an evangelistic message each night. It will be dynamite.

After VBS week, we will prepare for Kids' Kamp in July at Seneca Lake. Pastor Mike Latella will show Pastor Wright the ropes as a camp pastor. What a summer!! There is room for you to be involved in one of these children's events. There's going to be a tremendous amount of fun, but don't sign up if you don't like to laugh!

**Pastor Jerry**



We can be reminded of how Life Groups are supposed to work in the most interesting ways—like finding an abandoned bird’s nest in a tree. How’s that, you ask?

I traveled to Knoxville, TN, to see my grandson’s orchestra concert this past week. While there, I did some work at my daughter’s house. One of those jobs was pruning an overgrown tree that was encroaching on her deck. After removing several lower limbs, I looked up, and there was a bird’s nest about 15 feet off the ground, right on top of a big limb I would need to brace the ladder on to continue work.

Hmmm. I didn’t want to disturb mother bird and her young. Should I continue with this project or not? Since there was only one way to find out, I carefully placed the ladder, climbed up, and peered into the nest.

Empty. No broken egg shells. No sign at all of recent occupancy. Mother bird and her young were gone. The young were probably off building nests of their own and raising their own little families. I took the nest down.

And then I remembered—one of the characteristics of a healthy Life Group is multiplication. A healthy Life Group should be raising up new leaders to go out and start new Life Groups. Just like a mother bird raises up her young and sends them out to build their own nests and raise their own families, Life Group leaders should be grooming potential new leaders in their Groups.

How is your Life Group doing with this?

**Pastor Andy Kovalchik,  
Connections Minister**

## Members’ Ministry

Agnostics, Atheists, and others who don’t believe in Christ Jesus say they see no evidence of God. We know better, and you can easily refute their disbelief with one simple answer: “I am the evidence!”

You have a past that Christ rescued you from, whether you thought you were a good person who did the right things and found out that you were hell bound without Christ, or if you were rotten, vile, and plain rebellious and hell bound without Christ. It doesn’t matter.

Christ came to you personally, revealed Himself to you, and saved you. The evidence is a changed life—your changed life. He changes you and me daily still. The unbelievers want evidence—you and I are the evidence, and we must share that with them.

God saves us not so we may sit on our hands, occasionally yell Amen, and raise our hands in a worship service, He saves us so others may see the glory of God, and He will be known to them and save them as He did us.

If you’re not being the evidence of a saved and sanctified life, today is the day you start and share what God has done for you, in you so that others may have the hope of Christ and eternity.

The world needs to hear God’s story in you!

*“They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death.”*

**Revelation 12:11**

*“You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”*

**Matthew 5:14-16**

**In Christ,**

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,  
Members’ Minister**



**In Concert at FBC’s Neal Auditorium  
Friday, June 15th, at 7 PM  
Tickets \$15.00 in Advance & \$20.00 at the Door**

## **AWANA Calendar of Events**

**AWANA Parents:** Thank you for allowing us to work with your child(ren) this year in AWANA. We had a great year and hope to see your child back on Wednesdays in the fall!

**AWANA Leaders:** You are the best! Thanks for sharing Jesus with the AWANA kids in our church!

**Mark your calendars**—AWANA Ministry Conference will be held here at our church on Saturday, October 6, 2018. More info coming soon.

**Our AWANA Club** raised \$339.12 to help AWANA Clubs in other countries. Our kindergarten through sixth grade groups learned about several international AWANA clubs and their needs. And they really stepped up to help!

**Sherri Love,  
FBC AWANA Commander**



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

JONES, Jo	06/01	CROPPER, Chris	06/23
UPTON, Misty	06/01	MEYERINK, Robert	06/23
HUGHES, Jeff	06/01	WILLS, Gary	06/23
BARBRE, Josiah	06/01	EVANS, Barbara	06/23
HAUGHN, Raymond	06/02	O'DONNELL, Donald	06/24
KINNETT, Faith	06/02	WILLS, Marlene	06/24
KUHLMAN, Richard	06/02	BERTRAM, Mary	06/25
LOVE, Sherri	06/02	HIGGINS, Melissa	06/25
WELCH, Hayden	06/02	HAMBLEY, Sarah	06/25
BISHOP, Hope	06/03	EBERST, Minerva	06/26
GIFFORD, Lee	06/03	HEIBY, Joe	06/26
HILLMAN, Talmer	06/03	BURNELL, James	06/26
WARNER, Jeffrey	06/04	CHANNEL, Vick	06/27
BERRY, Brenda	06/04	KNAPP, Shirley	06/28
STENGER, Deanna	06/04	WARD, Dwight	06/28
HILYARD, Bethany	06/04	WEISS, Kevin	06/28
SOBONY, Tony	06/05	GREEN, Don	06/28
DUNCAN, Leigh-Anne	06/06	HEJDUK, Katie	06/29
HOLLINGSWORTH, Greg	06/06	CAIN, Chase	06/29
RATLIFF, Audrea	06/07	CHADWICK, Robert	06/30
MCCONNAUGHEY, Brett	06/08	GEBHARDT, Sophie	06/30
STEWART, Desiree	06/08	GRIFFITH, Dawn	06/30
SHOEMAKER, Kason	06/08	GRIFFITH, Olivia	06/30
TYLER, Emily	06/09	GRIFFITH, Julia	06/30
SPEAKMAN, Hope	06/09		
JAMES, Rachel	06/10		
LANE, Miles	06/10		
MARTIN, Ron	06/10		
STEWART, Judith	06/10		
ANDREWS, Lucas	06/10		
GRAHAM, Glenn	06/10		
VERNON, Debi	06/10		
ROSS, Sylvia	06/11		
SUHAYDA, Tim	06/11		
ERNST, Larry	06/11		
HAMMOND, Jane	06/12		
PRINCE, Linda	06/12		
GAMMELL, Charlene	06/12		
LEHMAN, Scott	06/13		
NORTH, Adrienne	06/13		
VIRGIN, Jeremy	06/13		
CRAMER, LeeAnn	06/14		
GABRIEL, Ron	06/15		
KINNER, Joanna	06/15		
ELLIOTT, John	06/16		
STOLL, Avery	06/16		
LEETH, Gene	06/17		
LOGSDON, Ron	06/17		
BOSWELL, Carla	06/18		
MCFARLAND, Jim	06/18		
DOLCH, Michelle	06/18		
CARSON, Sarah	06/18		
BARBER, Aaron	06/19		
WILHELM, Valerie	06/19		
SOSA, Jeremy	06/20		
SHEWALTER, Susan	06/20		
ROBERTS, Aubrey	06/21		
PULLINS, Betty	06/22		
BARTLETT, Gary	06/22		
ZEMBITZKY, Mindy	06/22		
HILER, Debby	06/22		

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### Men's Corner continued from Page 6

#### **Men's May Fellowship Breakfast Nathan Rizer Testimony**

As a child, I was raised in a Christian home with good morals and values. I thought that going to church is what would get me to Heaven. I always strived to do good things and was content in my earlier years. However, my testimony really started when I went to High School. In my years there, I was surrounded with new pressures and influences that did not necessarily lead me to Christ. Some of those influences included an unhealthy relationship that quickly led to sexual sin, dishonesty, foul language, disrespect, and a self-centered attitude. My actions and mindset during this time led to a distanced relationship with family, friends, and my church at the time. I thought that I was doing fine, but I know now how sin can cloud your judgement.

After many arguments with my family, I finally prayed to God and said, "Lord, I am tired of fighting the sexual sins, anger and lies in my life, and I give this to You." Within the next week, my unhealthy relationship ended suddenly, and my family moved to First Baptist Church. I received good spiritual food from the messages at church and, with these events, I was led to submit and call to Jesus as my Lord and Savior. From that point on, I have experienced joy, peace, contentment, and assurance with my eternal home. I am truly in a season of gratitude, and I feel His presence more and more every day. A question I have for the reader is whether or not you have experienced God's peace and joy? If not, I encourage you to seek it out and to open up in Christian fellowship.

## From Our Worship Minister

Every Summer the *Celebration Choir* presents the Summer Classics. Choir and orchestra members vote on the Sunday anthems. This lets me know which songs are blessing folks the most. Sometimes I can predict what the favorites will be; sometimes I cannot.

### **Here is the list of songs that they picked.**

I Shall Wear a Crown

Your Grace Still Amazes Me

I Won't Have to Cross Jordan Alone

I Bowed on My Knees

Mountain Mover

Let the Worshipers Arise

We Shall See Jesus

When I Get Up to Heaven

Chain Breaker

Yahweh

One Day

It Was a Great Thing

Take Me Back

The song that received the most votes was

***Let the Worshipers Arise.***

The Bible says "*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.*" **John 4:23**

**In Christ,  
Bryan Corbett**

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### Notes of Appreciation

To Our Church Family,

Thank you so much for the outpouring of love you have shown to us in the passing of our beloved Grandson and Nephew, Justin Butcher. We cannot thank you enough for your prayers, many cards, and delicious food.

Love,

**Marshall and Ruth Butcher & Cathy and George Oguich**

## Trustee Ministry Report

No second guessing, spring was reluctant to come and stay this year. Finally, the first watch for spring and summer has arrived. The trees and shrubs are showing the flowers we always look forward to seeing and the birds and critters have certainly made it known by their presence. God has given us this beautiful time of year; let's make it the best spring and summer ever.

The Trustees are working with the AWANA program to dedicate a tree along the Upward Field in memory of Justin Butcher.

The large rock located at the FBC entrance and approximately one-hundred trees and shrubs throughout the campus were mulched last month.

The pond care company replaced the fountains in the two ponds located at the FBC entrance and treated them for water weeds.

Soil has been secured to fill the lawn ruts created by the crew working on restoring the tornado-damaged utility poles along Orders Road.

The lawn care crew has mowed the campus and cleaned up the tornado debris and damage along Orders Road.

The Upward field was rolled and aeriated in preparation for the upcoming sports season. One-third acre of the field was reseeded.

The flower care crew has been working on the plant beds and shrubs around the main FBC building.

FBC has three buses which needed to pass inspection by the State Highway Patrol. The large bus passed, while the two smaller buses need further repair before they will pass inspection.

The snow plow and salt spreader were removed from the church pick-up and will be taken in for needed repairs.

**Phyllis McCloy,  
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

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### Notes of Appreciation

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot express how much we appreciate your overwhelming love, support, and prayers during the loss of our son, Justin. Thank you so much for the food, contributions, many cards, gift cards, gifts, and flowers. As some of you know, a fund in Justin's name has been set up to send kids to Kids Kamp at Seneca Lake. Again, thank you to those who have allowed this to be possible. Our church family is so wonderful and again, we thank you.

Love in Christ,

**Rod, Jodi, Jace, and Jillian Butcher**

# Women of FBC

**Book Club:** We will meet Thursday, June 7th, from 7:00-8:30 PM at Cimi's Bistro. We will discuss the book, *The Bachelor Girl's Guide to Murder*, by Rachel McMillan. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

**Craft Day:** Friday, June 15th, 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.

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors:** Is a volunteer-based initiative to assist people in our area who are seniors and/or struggling with disabilities. **We are in urgent need of volunteers** to assist with a wide range of home maintenance projects as soon as possible. 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 Ladies' Fellowship Breakfast:** Saturday, June 9th at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-879-7646 with any questions.

**Senior Single Ladies' Tea:** Saturday, July 28th, from 12-3:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Grace Herderick at 614-875-0366 with any questions.

## 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. We are finishing a study of Psalm 107. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201 for more information and the new study.
- Wednesday at 6:45 PM in Room K-117. On May 30th we will begin our discussion of *Women of the Word* by Jen Wilkin. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for information.
- Thursday, at 9:30 AM, in Room K-117. On June 7th, we will be starting Beth Moore's *Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit* [based on Galatians 5:22-23]. Call Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 with any questions.

- Sunday at 4:30 PM. We are exploring a *Kay Arthur Precepts* study on the covenants in the Bible. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for information.

## Kari Jones, Women's Ministry Director

FBC Family,

Happy Summer! I hope you had a wonderful spring, and are ready for summer! We love summer here at FBC because it means we have all kinds of awesome stuff going on—everything from Student Camp to VBS to River Boat Cruises to Kid's Camp! It's going to be an incredible summer here at FBC!

We had our #SSKO18 (Storm Summer Kick-Off) on May 23rd, and it was incredible! We had over 100 students join us for a night of BBQ, games, and worship! Our band this year was from North Church, and they were incredible!



Our Theme this year was USA night, and everyone looked awesome in their USA gear! We are thankful for all God is doing in our student ministry!

I wanted to let you know about a few very important items coming up in our church, specifically, our student ministry! Coming up in just a couple short weeks is Crossings Student Camp! Crossings is an incredible week for our students. This year, we will be taking over 95 people to camp, on two charter buses, to stay in two cabins! It's going to be fantastic. We covet your prayers! We still NEED scholarships for students to join us! If you would like to sponsor a student or two, let me know – the cost of one is \$289! Let me know ASAP if you would like to sponsor – and THANK YOU to all who have already sponsored!!

Finally, our new Children's Pastor, Josh Wright, and his family are arriving the first weekend of June. We are hosting a "pounding" for them. When our family has experienced a job change with little ones across the country, one of the biggest blessings for us was a fully stocked pantry/fridge when we arrived. There are so many costly things involved in a cross-country move, and one of those is that first big grocery trip to try to restock things you need for every day cooking and living. We want to bless Josh and Lindsay with a "pounding." This is a loose term, but it means you can donate a "pound" of something that will help them to restock those essentials. A pound of flour or sugar. A dozen canned goods. A package of paper towels or toilet paper. A bottle of Dawn or detergent. (The only things that will not work are freezer/refrigerator items.) Please bring something to donate to this sweet family to help them feel a warm welcome from our church! There will be a container outside of my office for you to drop your items off anytime the church is open!! Thank you so much! It is a joy to serve our gracious and merciful King alongside you.

**Soli Deo Gloria,**

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

## Men's Corner

**The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, June 2nd, at 7:30 AM. Tom Williams will be sharing his testimony. Below are the testimonies of John Mowry and Nathan Rizer, each shared at the May Breakfast.**

I (John Mowry) was born in Portsmouth, OH, in 1962. I had two older sisters and an older brother. My father was an alcoholic and a furniture salesman. As a child I remember going to bars with him and as he drank himself to a drunken stupor. I would play bowling games.

In 1972, my brother and I got saved at Twin Valley Baptist Church. After my mom did not bail him out of jail, my dad decided to quit drinking. After multiple attempts, he finally stopped. He soon joined AA, got his GED, and became a counselor. He took a job in Columbus, and so we moved there as a family. I did not fit well in the Big City as a small town, country boy raised mainly by my sisters. I did not have many friends, but the one good friend I had got my brother and me interested in muscle cars.

In 1980, I graduated from high school and took a job at Treasure Chest, a newspaper printer. At that point in my life, I had vowed I would never drink. But the pull of the world was strong. So on my 18th birthday, I started hitting the Disco bars and by age 20 I was hitting many bars and drinking and driving. My life began a downward spiral. I once even went the wrong way on I-270 losing control a number of times. But the Lord's hand was on me. Even though I was not walking with the Lord, I still prayed. I prayed that the Lord would send me a woman who would lead me back to church. Since the only place I went was bars, it was hard to find a church woman. So that's what God did. The woman I met was in a bar and God knew that He would eventually draw us both to Himself.

We both went to the same school on the westside but did not know each other. We married in 1985, and our daughter was born in 1989. For the sake of our daughter, we went back to church. Little did we know we needed it too. So we started attending Westgate Baptist Church and rededicated our lives in 1989. We both were delivered from alcohol.

I felt called to ministry but did not know what to expect. After a church split, we left and began attending Trinity Assembly of God, but we never felt at home there. After praying in 1993 for compassion for the lost, God woke me up in the middle of the night and had me write a letter to read to the church. And then all of a sudden I felt more of a burden to reach outside of the four walls of the local church. We also began to attend El Paso Drive Church of God at about the same time. This church later became the Potters House Church Of God.

In 1994, we began feeding the homeless out of the back of a 2-door, Hyundai. As we grew at the Potters House, they began to back us financially, as we were serving on the streets, feeding and attending to homeless shelters, and preaching Jesus. I felt a calling not only to the homeless, but also to inner city families. So we started feeding in Franklinton at Jericho's Light Club in 2010. Knowing that we were wanting to do more than just feed the homeless, God led the way for a rent free, 1,000 sq. ft. building in the Hilltop area in 2011. And with Potters

House's blessing, we were granted our own 501C3 status as a public charity. We opened the Hilltop location while still maintaining our place in "the Bottoms."

In 2013, we moved to our most recent Hilltop location, a 4,000 sq. ft. facility. In the year 2017, we opened the Free Store in our old "rent free" building thanks to the help of First Baptist Church of Grove City.

After 35 years in the printing business, I left my job to work for my brother's auto body shop at Classic Resurrection and to continue to pursue my vision for *Feed My Sheep*. We are still growing and God is still blessing!

**[Nathan Rizer's Testimony Can Be Found On Page 3]**

**God Bless,  
Pastor David 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

As the continued rainstorms have kept me inside, I decided to fix some simple issues inside my home. These are simple projects as my tool kit consists of little more than a small hammer, super glue, and a screwdriver with assorted screws. And by "tool kit," I mean an old pillowcase.

My first project was our coat rack. It has been slowly pulling away from the wall under the weight of our coats. It was my first project when we moved in our house. A few years ago, after a chat with a helpful sales associate at Home Depot, I started using anchors in my plaster walls for heavy objects. Now I was doubting that even these simple anchors were working. I fretted about other things I have hung using these little plastic pieces. Would the mirror over the mantle fall? What about the mantle itself? At best, I would have seven years bad luck. At worst, my tiny dogs could be crushed by a fake plant. As I removed the final screw holding the rack to the wall, I sighed with relief. I had not used any anchors. I only discovered them after the coat rack installation.

As I dug through my pillowcase to grab a couple of anchors to rehang the rack, I found myself humming "The Anchor Holds." I could even hear Betsy Walsh's voice! So many times I have worried about the worst case life scenario. My mind jumps to the least logical conclusion. I doubt my ability to complete something I have yet to start. Truthfully, I forget I have an Anchor—the One Who keeps me from drifting away in my own insecurities. Now, I am not saying I've never stretched that chain to its limits, but it pulls me back. Back to His Grace. Back to my identity in Him. The Anchor *definitely* holds.

**Cindy Tryon,  
Preschool Coordinator**

