



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
Assistant Pastor

Robert Stroup
Business Administrator

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www.firstgc.org

Sharon is slow about fastening her seat belt. The alarm goes off and drives me crazy until she snaps that buckle I offered her \$5 each time she puts it on in time to beat the alarm. She would pay me \$5 each time the alarm sounded. She owed me over \$200 when we gave up on the experiment. This week my darling wife was given a ticket by one of Grove City's finest for not wearing her seat belt. Now the alarm doesn't go off!

The highways are dangerous, and the requirement to be strapped in is necessary. We also live in an evil world, and we need to be held in by God's grace. We need to be held tightly by His unconditional love. We need to be wrapped securely with His never failing promises.

As we consider the multitude of people whose lives are being destroyed by using drugs, the rising rate of suicide, and many homes destroyed by hostility, it is time we heed the warning sounds.

The world we live in has no hope of survival without the gospel of Jesus Christ. As a church we have the safety belts that will keep people's lives from being wasted.

Summer camps, Vacation Bible School, and Children's Sunday School may sound cute and fun. The truth is they offer love, joy, peace, hope, and faith. The VBS this summer starts with a kickoff (Country Fair), July 8th, 2-7:00 PM. Then on July 9-13th, 6-9:00 PM, each night, classes will be held and the gospel presented. Many kids will be saved the week of Bible School. They will be connected with God—securely fastened in to His saving grace.

I asked Sharon why she didn't buckle up? "I was rebelling against that warning sound," she said. Not good! Let's help our kids to buckle up!

Pastor Jerry



We have all witnessed history in the making in the last few weeks. Not here at our church in Grove City, but halfway around the world.

When President Trump met with North Korean leader Kim Jung Un, a relationship was initiated that hopefully will lead to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. But even better, we can join with the church in South Korea in praying it will lead to something much more.

Billy Graham visited Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, in 1992 and 1994. He had a significant impact on the country but wasn't able to realize his dream of preaching the Gospel to a packed stadium in that city. Since that time, the opportunities to evangelize North Korea have been virtually nonexistent. But perhaps that is about to change.

I was moved to hear that the reaction of the church in South Korea to the meeting of President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jung Un was not joy over the possibility of a denuclearized Korean peninsula, but joy over the possibility of being able to send missionaries into North Korea to preach the Gospel. Since the Korean War, the Church in South Korea has been on fire for God, boasts some of the largest congregations in the world, and has surpassed the United States in the number of Christian missionaries sent abroad—abroad everywhere except North Korea, that is.

Now the South Korean's prayer is for that mission field to be opened to them.

Do we have such a zeal for evangelization here in Grove City? Is your Life Group zealous for souls right here in our neighborhoods? We don't have to worry about nuclear weapons in our neighbor's backyards. We don't even need for President Trump to meet with Mayor Stage to pave the way. We're good to go right now.

It is a command, not a suggestion.

**Pastor Andy Kovalchik,
Connections Minister**

Notes of Appreciation

First Baptist Church Family,

Thank you very much for the Graduation Sunday Celebration festivities and the meal. This church has always been my family and I am so thankful for everything everyone has done for me over the years. Thank you!

**Love,
Avery Stoll,
Class of 2018**

Members' Ministry

God is never limited by our resources, our location, our abilities, or by our mobility. God moves mountains, parts the seas, draws fire from the earth's core, creates all things from nothingness, He does not need for you or I to accomplish what He wills. Oh, but He invites us to join Him.

God has a calling on the life of each of His children, His presence dwells within us; there is nothing impossible for God to do, in us or through us. There is no place He cannot reach, no person He cannot touch, no ruler He cannot move. We need to trust God to take care of all our needs, go where He leads, speak when He tells us, and love those around us as He does. Where is God calling you to join Him today?

We have over fifty areas of service available for you to come along side God where He is working. Come to the Next Steps Kiosk and see where you can serve.

"Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world — what is viewed as nothing — to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, so that no one may boast in his presence. It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us — our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, in order that, as it is written: Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 CSB

**In Christ,
Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members' Minister**

From Our New Children's Pastor

Hello First Baptist.

I am ecstatic to be the new Children's Pastor here! I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the warm welcome you have shown me and my family. My family and I have felt extremely welcomed and we are so excited to be here as a part of this church family. I would like to say thank you to all the ladies who personally contacted my wife Lindsay to introduce yourself or invite her to spend time with you, as well as everyone who have helped my children, Judson and Jameson, get acquainted to our new church home. Your friendliness has made this move so much easier, and we thank God for each of you.

Over the next few months I will be working hard to get to know every kid, parent, and grandparent. I believe that the way we grow and strengthen the church is by growing and strengthening families. I look forward to partnering with every family to help grow our children into strong, Bible-believing, disciples of Christ! Thank you for the privilege to minister to your children.

**Pastor Josh Wright,
Children's Pastor**

JULY BIRTHDAYS

BANE, Jeff	07/02	BOSO, Chris	07/22
GOLDSMITH, Hannah	07/02	SHONK, Kevin	07/22
O'NEAL, Cami	07/02	LAMB, Shannon	07/23
GOLDSMITH, John	07/03	OVERMYER, Rick	07/23
DAVIS, Thomas	07/04	WHITE, Alandon	07/23
SMITH, Brooklyn	07/04	FUHR, Butch	07/23
CALDWELL, Jamie	07/04	BORROR, Anissa	07/24
RUCKER, Deanna	07/05	LAITRES, Richard	07/24
SEITZ, Michel	07/05	LACY, Bonnie	07/24
CARSON, David	07/06	JEWETT, Nikia	07/25
DEVINE, Nancy	07/06	REICHLE, Greg	07/25
STAMBAUGH, Judy	07/07	ALEXANDER, Russ	07/25
WILHELM, Katie	07/07	WOLFE, Sam	07/25
WEST, Jim	07/07	HILL, Kathy	07/26
CORBETT, William	07/08	BREECH, Chris	07/26
DYER, Taylor	07/08	WADDLE, Nancy	07/26
WILHELM, Katie	07/08	HARDMAN, Edward	07/27
RONE, Penny	07/08	MAY, Patty	07/27
NELSON, Andrea	07/08	BUTTRICK, Doug	07/27
GRIESHEIMER, Jeff	07/09	LILLICO, Sabrina	07/27
TEAFORD, Bradley	07/09	LILLICO, Gabrielle	07/27
RILEY, Jason	07/09	PRICE, Tim	07/27
GIBSON, Misty	07/09	ALLEN, Billy	07/28
HAWK, Nick	07/10	MARTIN, Dawn	07/28
HAWK, Noah	07/10	PAIGE, Justin	07/28
ROBINSON, Devon	07/10	HEATH, McKenzie	07/28
HIVELY, Isabel	07/11	NEWCOMB, Ben	07/28
NEAL, Jerry	07/11	FEGAN, Jared	07/29
WATKINS, Dan	07/11	STRAWSER, Brian	07/29
RONE, Michael	07/11	TERRY, Kelsea	07/29
HAMANN, Roberta	07/12	THOMPSON, Allen	07/29
KUHLMAN, Gordon	07/12	BOBO, LaVonda	07/29
MCFARLAND, Joyce	07/12	GULLION, Tony	07/30
ROBERTS, Ruth	07/12	HERDERICK, Grace	07/30
WELCH, Phyllis	07/12	WATTS, Nathan	07/30
WHITTINGTON, Theodore	07/12	EDWARDS, Rick	07/30
HIGGINS, Nancy	07/13	WILT, Susan	07/30
SATTERFIELD, Gerald	07/14	HEIBY, Perry	07/30
ANDRICK, Cailyn	07/14	HEIBY, Sylvia	07/30
ARLEDGE, Annetta	07/15	COLEMAN, Shawna	07/31
GRUNDEI, Ashley	07/15	GRUNDEI, Daniel	07/31
WARNER, Mason	07/15	TYLER, Debbie	07/31
CRANE, Linda	07/15	WOLFE, Spencer	07/31
HAUSER, Clifford	07/15	ROMANS, Shane	07/31
RICKETTS, Nancy	07/16		
THOMAS, Darla	07/16		
HALL, Robert	07/16		
CONTI, Gina	07/17		
NELSON, Brad	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		
BERRY, Johnnie	07/22		

From Our Worship Minister

I remember 10 years ago, Summer of 2008, when our current building was under construction. I came alone to walk around on a beautiful Sunday evening as the sun was going down. It was a typical construction site with a concrete floor. There were tools and machines all around. Some of it was under roof, but not all. But I started to see more than a building. I was standing in the very place God was preparing to change people's lives. It was the very place from which praises would rise and worship would be offered. I felt like I was standing on holy ground.

I remember writing these words (in 2008). As I was standing there taking it all in, I looked up through an unfinished part of the roof and saw the moon. It was bright and beautiful. The sun was setting on the west part of the vast acreage of that property. I believed we would see many spectacular sun sets, especially from the shelter house. But the darker it got, the more the moonlight was able to shine into the building. What a sight. It made me realize that God is ready to inhabit this place. He is going to work in the lives of many people right here on this very spot.

Here we are 10 years later and I see people in our congregation who were not here then. God has moved in the hearts of many. Lives have been changed. Praises have been raised. Worship has been offered. And the sunsets are still beautiful.

I look forward to see what God is going to do in the next 10 years.

In Christ,

**Bryan Corbett,
Worship Minister**



**Coming to Neal Auditorium
Friday, August 10th at 7 PM**

Trustee Ministry Report

Summer has finally arrived. The aroma of freshly cut grass is in the air. Children are out of school, parents are planning getaways, Vacation Bible School is coming, and then the fun begins. Lawn care, mowing, edging, power blowing grass from decks and sidewalks, removing weeds, trimming bushes, planting flowers—don't forget to water. We are so blessed—outside working activities always provide a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time alone with the Lord.

The Trustees helped the Men's Ministry carry out a very successful FBC Car Show.

In certain places, the church stucco has been power-washed. Currently we are waiting on a price quote for the LED lights in the parking lot.

The 28-acre campus has been mowed and trimmed. Weeds around the island and along the creek were sprayed. Hopefully you have noticed that the flower beds around the church are in excellent shape.

The Trustees and volunteers helped Baptist Builders install a new sound system in the Neal Auditorium. The doors throughout the church have been adjusted this past month.

The two 15-passenger vans have been inspected by the State Highway Patrol. The Ford did not pass inspection and could not be repaired. The Chevrolet was repaired and will go back into service.

The new bus will not be delivered until possibly August. The company will furnish a loaner free of charge until that time.

The FBC finance committee is ready for the auditor.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

From Our State Representative

Dear Pastor Neal and Congregation,

On behalf of myself and the entire Ohio House of Representatives, I wish to extend my deepest sympathies for the loss of Mr. Justin Butcher. The death of an impactful and beloved member of one's congregation is always difficult, but I hope you can find solace in the memories you have of Justin, who was an extraordinary young man. There are many in the community who will deeply mourn his passing as his was a life of service, love, and compassion. His legacy will live on through the young men and women whose lives he touched as a Student Ministry Adult Leader and role model.

If there is anything that I can do for you during this difficult time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Laura Lanese,
State Representative, 23rd District
Ohio House of Representatives**

Women of FBC

Book Club: We will meet Thursday, July 5th, from 7:00-8:30 PM at Olive Garden. We will discuss the book, *The Writing Desk*, by Rachel Hauck. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

Craft Day: Friday, July 20th, from 9 AM-9 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a project, a snack to share, and a dish for dinner. We hope you join us. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

Surviving Grief with Hope: This is a group to support those who are dealing with the grief over the loss of a loved one, one's health, a marriage, a job, and more. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 with questions and the time we will be meeting. We hope to start a group later this July.

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

Next Women's Fellowship Breakfast: Saturday, July 7th 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 12-3:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet will be in the church lobby on Sundays throughout the month of July. Come celebrate summer and fun hats.

Bible Studies:

- Mondays bi-weekly, at 1:00 PM, in Room C-154. Please contact Mindi Stith at 614-871-4812 for information.
- Tuesday, at 7:30 PM, in Room C-156. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201 for more information.
- Wednesday, at 6:45 PM in Room K-117. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.
- Thursday, at 9:30 AM, in Room K-117. We are studying Beth Moore's *Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit* [based on Galatians 5:22-23]. Contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 with any questions.

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

FBC Family,

I hope you are having a wonderful start to your summer! I know I write this many times, but I cannot believe how quickly time seems to go by during some seasons, and how slow it goes by during other seasons.



The Bible has a great deal to say about seasons, and no I am not referring to winter, spring, summer or fall—but they make great analogies to relate to the “seasons” of life that we are going through. Whether it's bright, sunny, and long enjoyable days for you right now, or you feel as if winter has hit your home in the middle of the summer, remember this: God is faithful, God is good, and God is worthy. The Bible continually talks about how there is a time for everything, and how there is NO ONE like our God. It is so true. As we have studied these promises, I have constantly been reminded of God's worthiness, goodness, and faithfulness.

Regardless of what season you are in currently, remember, our circumstances, good or bad, do not and cannot change the character and nature of our great God. If He was good on your best day—He is still good on your worst. Praise Him today, this summer, regardless of what season has hit your home.

We went to Crossings Camp last month, and many of you sponsored students, or gave money so students could go at little or no cost to them—and let me tell you—it was worth every penny! God did an amazing work! We had 98 total people go to camp this year—by far—the most ever, and of the 80 students who went, 27 of them were FIRST TIME CAMP GOERS! WHOA! PRAISE GOD!

Celebrate with us that 4 students professed Christ for the FIRST TIME, and 8 others professed a desire, and calling, to full time ministry in some capacity!



GOD IS GOOD, Y'all!

He is at work in our midst—
DON'T MISS IT!

Here are a couple of pictures
from camp.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Mike D'Attoma,

Men's Corner

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

In 1981, I was very frustrated with my life—I was married to Marilyn and had 2 children; I just didn't feel close to them. There were so many walls between Marilyn, my boys, and me.

Although I grew up in church, I had no relationship with God, and neither did my parents or my siblings. Marilyn had a cancer scare and a neighbor led her to the Lord. We began attending a non-denominational church, and the praise choruses by Hosanna Integrity really spoke to my heart and that's what led me to the Lord.

I had a real hunger for the Lord and for the Bible, to be a good husband and father, and to be a responsible, Godly man. But it seemed the closer I came to Him, the further away my wife pushed me. She seemed intent on destroying me. I didn't understand what was happening or why. The boys were at the age of rebellion and she filled them with terrible stories about how awful I was. Finally, one Christmas, she had a deputy sheriff remove me from our home. I lost everything I had, and our younger son ended up incarcerated for drugs, which fried his brain and vastly increased his schizophrenia and bi-polar condition.

When she first had me put out, I stayed with friends. Finally, I bought a house where Chad could come for support and encouragement once he was out of jail. As I got closer to God, I was able to get closer to my mom and to apologize to her for being such a thoughtless, self-centered child.

I met Kyle on January 1, 1997, at a S.A.L.T. (Single Adults Living Triumphantly) meeting. At that time, I was not looking for a wife or to have someone in my life, and neither was she. We developed a friendship over a 2-year period. She had told God she was not going to date, and if He wanted her to have someone in her life, He had to bring that person to her. He told her to make a list of what she wanted in a life mate, and she came up with 12 items. According to her, I met 11 of those 12, the primary attribute was that she wanted a Godly man. I wish she still had that list!

After 2 years of getting to know each other, we decided to marry. We eloped to Tennessee. Since then, God has blessed me and my marriage. I had not really planned on selling my house right away, but a realtor friend called me up one day and said she had someone who was interested in buying my house! Then God helped us find Kyle's dream home here in Grove City, where she worked, attended church, and took care of her mother. We definitely saw the hand of God in the sale of my house and in purchasing our home.

There are times when I get very discouraged, but that discouragement doesn't last very long at all. I continue to pray about things God would have me change in my life. Kyle encourages me to read to her every night from the Bible as well as from a devotional or two. It is very difficult to remain discouraged when you are in the Word daily and when you share worship with your wife. He reminds me to focus on Him, and He continually gives me peace.

With sermon messages from pastors like Mike D'Attoma and Dave Earley, along with books they have recommended, I see God working in me greatly and making huge changes in the way I relate to other people, especially strangers. He has given me excitement in sharing His Word.

**God Bless,
Pastor David Berna**

My View From The Back Of The Pew

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

July is a busy month for our church and also our family. My parents will celebrate their 43rd wedding anniversary on the 4th. After that is a graduation party for Haley, before moving onto my Mom's favorite pastime, VBS, with the usual grand kick-off on July 8th. Nestled into all the festivities, we celebrate my Dad's birthday and sending our children to Kid's Camp on the 23rd.

I have been thinking a great deal about my parent's marriage lately. We are a blended family. For those who need a chart: My Mom and I met my Dad. He brought Jason and Valerie from his first marriage and then a couple of years later—because things weren't chaotic enough—they added Tommy. Add in a poodle with a bad disposition, and it wasn't an easy transition for any of us. Only God's grace truly melded us into a family. As we argued over sharing crowded bathrooms, bedrooms, and every other thing we could fight about, we forgot we weren't "birth" family.

About a year into this new marriage, my parents got into an argument, and my mom decided she was taking a drive to cool off. As she jumped into the car, she yelled, "And I'm taking my daughter with me!" At this point, Valerie ran and jumped in the car and down the driveway they went. Stunned, I looked up at my recently-acquired Dad. He assured me she would come back; if not for him, then to pick up the daughter she originally brought to the marriage!

Having lived through that day and similar ones, I am on the verge of making the same leap myself. Rick Matlock and I are getting married! He has two sons, Josh and Christian. I have Enzo and Haley. As a testimony to the love we share, he is letting me bring my ill-tempered mutt, Dexter. Trust me when I say, I scheduled premarital counseling before he finished proposing.

While I am absolutely certain there will be plenty of new lessons to be learned (and probably shared here), we would love if you would pray for our new family as we move forward on faith that God brought us all together. If you would like to witness our first steps into sheer madness and utter joy, please join us on Saturday, August 11th at 2 PM. There will be cake! As requested by my soon-to-be husband and our local fire department, it will be baked by someone other than myself.

**Cindy Tryon,
Preschool Coordinator**