



# THE LIGHTHOUSE

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## MARCH NEWSLETTER

### Pastor's Message



#### Looking Back

We can look back at 2017 with gratitude and praise to God because in our key areas of ministry, **2017 was a year of positive progress for First Baptist Church.** In several key areas we saw growth to the status of **best year ever at FBC:**

- The number of **Non-Sunday AM Life Groups** increased from 16 last in 2016 to **28** in 2017. **(75%)**
- The number of people **baptized** grew from 37 in 2016 to **62** in 2017. **(68%)**
- Our **Genesis Worship** service attendance increased from 83 people per week in 2016 to **120** in 2017. **(45%)**
- The total number of **First-Time Visiting Families** grew from 155 in 2016 to **214** in 2017. **(38%)**
- Our total number of **New Members** grew from 90 in 2016 to **122** in 2017. **(36%)**
- The total number of **Children** participating in our **Fall Upward Sports** leagues grew from 276 in 2016 to **325** in 2017. **(18%)**
- Our **Total Giving** average grew from \$37,536 a week to **\$39,641**. **(6%)**
- Our **Sunday Morning Worship Attendance** grew from 901 people a week in 2016 to **921** in 2017. **(2%)**.

#### Looking Forward

We have several initiatives in place to make the years **2018 and beyond** continue to be our **best years ever.**

- We are in the middle of our search for our first full-time **Children's Ministry Director.**
- We have begun the process to give FBC a **Fresh Vision and Clear Mission** for the next ten years.
- We are tightening and enhancing our systems, structures, and staff to allow us to most effectively impact the most people possible in the next few years.
- We are in very initial stages of planning for our **next building project** as we study how to next handle the growth we have, are, and will experience in the next few years.

As we move forward, let's *all* work together to see the Lord accomplish *all* that He desires this year through FBC!

**Pastor Dave Earley**

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)



You may have heard it said that the family who prays together stays together. I think it could also be said that the family who laughs together stays together. I think these truths can also

be applied to Life Groups.

Does your Life Group laugh together? I hope so! I recently visited one of our in-home Life Groups where the topic for the meeting was “Super Sheep.” You might be laughing already.

Ken Davis is a Christian comedian who usually does short, stand-up comedy routines. But his routine this night was almost an hour long. It was a great mix of comedy and biblical truth. He had us all laughing with the truth that God chose probably the stupidest animal He created to compare us to. Throughout the Bible, we are likened to sheep. Fortunately, we have a Good Shepherd who takes us and turns us into “Super Sheep.” You have to laugh.

The Bible never specifically says Jesus laughed. But there are subtle hints He did, and with a nature that was fully human and fully divine, I’m sure he had great times of laughter with His disciples.

Do you have a great deal of laughter in your Life Group? I hope so. If you don’t, maybe it’s time to lighten up. The Bible tells us, “A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.” (Proverbs 17:22) You don’t want your bones to dry up.

And I can tell you, in all seriousness, it’s no laughing matter if you aren’t in a Life Group. Are you in one yet?

**Pastor Andy Kovalchik,  
Connections Minister**

### AWANA Calendar of Events

March 7—Double Points for Bibles Night!

March 14—Green Night! (Wear Green or your uniform.)

March 21—Easter Extravaganza Game Night!

March 28—No AWANA (Have A Blessed Easter!)

Thank you AWANA families for donating books to the Papua New Guinea school in December and for hats, gloves, and scarves for *Feed My Sheep* in January!

We are always looking for volunteers to assist in a variety of ways with our AWANA program. Please see Sherri Love or Rob Stroup for more information.



### Members’ Ministry

Ronda and I just celebrated 31 years of marriage. God has blessed me with the love of my life, my help mate, and my best friend. I count each day that I get to spend with her as a blessing.

We have had an incredible journey and are looking forward to what God has in store for us still. We haven’t always been Christ Followers, but we can tell you His ways are much better than ours. What a difference He has made in our marriage, in our relationship, and in our family. Without His help, we wouldn’t have made it.

We thank God for His love and that He has surrounded us with others in Life Groups and in the body of Christ. You are the Church. God never intended for any of us to walk alone. We need each other, and we need brothers and sisters we can call on for prayer—in times of loneliness, in times when all goes well, and in times of need.

Our prayers for dating couples, singles, and married couples in our church is that they find others to share life with. (If you want to hang out with us, we would love to hang out and do life together.)

Our marriage and lives are not perfect but our God is. And His help daily is beyond words.

*“And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25*

**In Christ,**

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,  
Members’ Minister**

### From Our Worship Minister

Sunday nights we have been studying the books of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles where we learn how King David made preparations for the Temple to be built. He placed a very high priority on the music and worship.

In the church age (today) we learn that our body is the temple of God’s Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). How interesting that in Ephesians 5, God not only tells us to be filled with the Holy Spirit (v.18) but He follows that with this. *“Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,” —Ephesians 5:19* — Whether you’re in the Old Testament Temple of Solomon or the New Testament temple of your body, God wants to hear you sing about Him.

I hope you will join us for a night of Praise and Worship on March 25th—Palm Sunday. The theme will be about the Cross.

**In Christ,**

**Pastor Bryan Corbett,  
Associate Pastor and Worship Minister**

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

COVERSTONE, Cassidy	03/01	REYNOLDS, Annette	03/23
CLICK, Dixie	03/02	SALMONS, Phyllis	03/23
ADKINS, Kaitlin	03/02	GRUBB, Teresa	03/23
GERACE, Lynnette	03/02	CONRATH, Carol	03/23
VAN CLEAVE, Walt	03/02	BUTTRICK, Jesse	03/24
MYERS, Gordy	03/04	CAVE, Aaron	03/24
BASINGER, Julie	03/04	RICKETTS, Ron	03/24
SIMCOE, Claudia	03/05	BLOUNT, Tina	03/24
ELLIOTT, Mary Ann	03/06	LEONARD, Bob	03/24
GULLION, Melody	03/06	WATKINS, Joseph	03/24
KAUFMAN, Lois	03/06	BELCHER, Pamela	03/24
PEITSMEYER, Steve	03/07	WALTERS, Logan	03/24
WARD, Shirley	03/07	CURTIS, Lauren	03/25
WOLFE, Shelby	03/07	GROSSHOLZ, Dean	03/26
PARSONS, Kim	03/07	THOMPSON, Erin	03/26
LAITRES, Gloria	03/07	BERRY, Ralph	03/27
HAUGHN, Teresa	03/08	CAVE, Darlene	03/28
LANE, Dale	03/08	FEUSTEL, Debbie	03/28
VANDYKE, Deanna	03/08	WAGNER, Alex	03/28
JONES, Marc	03/10	CASTLE, Dan	03/29
BUTCHER, Austin	03/10	MARCUM, Charles	03/29
McKEE, Marissa	03/11	CLAPSADDLE, Don	03/30
FREET, Trish	03/11	HUMPHREY, Margaret	03/30
JAMES, Matthew	03/12	WARNER, Bill	03/30
REICHLE, Kara	03/12	BROWN, Deborah	03/30
CROPPER, Michael	03/13	WHITMER, Karen	03/31
HOLBROOK, Christina	03/13		
PATRAS, Naomi	03/13		
YAKE, Hannah	03/14		
BELCHER, Amanda	03/14		
BELCHER, Denise	03/14		
DOTSON, Kyle	03/15		
JARRELL, Carson	03/15		
JAMES, Katie	03/15		
BUTTS, John	03/15		
KNOLL, Joshua	03/15		
WARNER, Tim	03/15		
PRICE, Cindi	03/15		
DAVIS, Troy	03/15		
STILLWELL, Austin	03/15		
MYERS, Connie	03/15		
CANTER, Ray	03/16		
SMITH, Karla	03/16		
DANIEL, Carla	03/17		
CALDWELL, Caleb	03/17		
TILLEY, Amy	03/18		
CHADWICK, Mary	03/19		
SMOOT, Dan	03/19		
CURRY, Elijah	03/19		
BOSO, Shelly	03/19		
WILLIAMS, Roy	03/19		
SUTTLES, Charles	03/19		
BARR, Sarah	03/20		
HASKELL, Russell	03/20		
HILL, Cinnamon	03/20		
WILLIAMS, Tom	03/21		
HIGGINS, Courtney	03/21		
BROWN, Terry	03/21		
GREEN, Brad	03/22		
HUFF, Austin	03/22		
REED, Michelle	03/22		

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### Men's Corner—Clifford Hauser testimony

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I would like to report that from that moment on that all was well, but you and I know differently. God does not work that way. God has teaching points. After another week or so, my bad dreams finally went away but the mental problem of the constant replay of the event was still present. Finally, at the men's prayer breakfast in August, I told this story. Everyone talked for over 30 minutes (no judging), and when we left, everyone agreed that I needed to get my relationship with God back together. As I was walking out the door, one of my good Christian friends asked a simple question: "Have you taken it back?" It took me a second to remember what he was talking about, but then I was able to say "No." His parting comment was "Good," and then he left. That was the best 15 second counseling session I ever had. Within the next week, my mental pain was gone and my relationship with God was restored.

#### Lesson Learned:

1. When you get Mad/Angry at God, you lose.
2. Prayer works (it really does) and this is necessary to keep the relationship alive and well.
3. God takes care of His own children even when we try to go it alone.

**God Bless,  
Pastor Dave Berna**

## 2018 An Evening of Southern Gospel Music



Mark Trammell  
Quartet

Fri. – March 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

Mark has received multiple awards as a singer and producer, and has been a member of four of Gospel Music's most acclaimed groups:

**The Kingsmen  
The Cathedrals  
Greater Vision &  
Gold City Quartet.**

**National Quartet Convention  
Main Stage Artists**

**2017 Singing News Fan Favorite Baritone**

## Trustee Ministry Report

January was such an incredibly frigid month that it was a relief to move into February, a month which focuses attention on kindness, warmth, and love.

The John Deere Gator has been delivered. The Trustees have already begun a training program on its operation and maintenance. The Gator will be used for campus care, transportation assistance during church events, and in the First Baptist Church security patrol.

The annual Trustee team assignments have been made for both yard care and snow care.

New flags have been raised and future upgrading of the hardware and ropes will be installed as weather permits.

The Baptist Builders have been busy making improvements to the lighting in both sanctuaries.

The new 15-passenger bus is due to arrive at any time.

The outdoor Nativity Scene and lights were taken down.

**Phyllis McCloy,  
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

Kindness is Christianity with its working clothes on.  
Author Unknown

## Notes of Appreciation

Dear Church Family,

My family and I want to thank you for the flowers, the cards, and your prayers for our father. We are blessed to have such a caring church family.

**In Christ's Love,  
The Marvin Yost Family and Darla Thomas**

Dearest First Baptist Family,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flower arrangement, the ham, and the many prayers and cards. It is comforting to know that I am surrounded by your love and prayers.

**Sincerely and Love,  
Debby Hiler**

Thank you for the flowers you provided in mom's (Glenna Plymale) memory; they were appreciated!

**Lexie and Steve Veselica  
Amy and Mark Hillis  
Greg and Cindy Plymale**

We would like to thank our church family for all the prayers, love, and concern for me and my family while in the hospital and afterward. A special appreciation for the visits from pastors and friends and Emogene Treadway for all she did for us. Also the flowers, food, and cards from so many.

**God Bless,  
Jean and Wyman Westfall**



**Harold Vaughan shares at the 2018 Men's Summit held at FBC February 23-24. His sermons will be available on our website. [www.Firstgc.org](http://www.Firstgc.org)**

# Women of FBC

**Book Club:** We will meet Thursday, March 1st from 7:00-8:30 PM. We are meeting at Smokey Bones on Stringtown Road and will discuss the book, *The Sacrament of Happy* by Lisa Harper. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

**Craft Day:** Will be Friday, March 16th, from 9 AM-9 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a project, a snack to share, and a dish for dinner. We hope you join us. Please contact 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.

**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 Grudei at 614-947-9296 or Sherri Love at 614-871-3053.

**Next Ladies' Fellowship Breakfast:** Saturday, March 10th, starting at 9 AM. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship. Sherri Love will be sharing. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-507-6306 with any questions.

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

## **Bible Studies:**

- Mondays bi-weekly, at 1:00 PM, in Room C-154, re-starting April 9th. Please contact Mindi Stith at 614-871-4812 for more information.
- Monday mornings weekly, at 11:30 AM, in Room C-157. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-507-6306.
- Tuesday, at 7:30 PM, in Room C-156. We are studying *I Peter* by Jen Wilkin. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201 for more information.
- Wednesday at 6:45 PM in Room K-117. We are studying *A Woman's High Calling* by Elizabeth George. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871.

- Thursday at 9:30 AM in Room K-117. We are studying *Why Do You Believe That* by Mary Jo Sharp. Please contact Kay Hardman at 614-274-9279.
- Sunday at 4:30 PM. We are exploring a *Kay Arthur Precepts* study on the book of Ezekiel. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-323-6891 [kayhardman@gmail.com].
- Sunday at 4:00 PM. Surviving Grief with Hope. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 for more information.

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

FBC Family,

Thank you so much for your continued love and support of our family and our ministry! It is a joy to serve here at FBC alongside y'all and watch the Lord do amazing things! We are excited about what God is doing in our church and in our student ministry.



Last month was an incredible month for our students, especially those going to camp! We had our annual Dinner and a Movie Fundraiser, and it was incredible! We are so thankful for your overwhelming support coming out on a Friday night, enjoying a wonderful dinner, watching a great movie, but more importantly, supporting our students going to camp! Your generosity is incredible as always. We sold over 30 cakes in our cake auction, and our total profit for the night was right around \$9,700!!! It is by FAR the most that we have ever raised. I am blown away, and again, all I can say is THANK YOU! Your generosity is important in providing students with the opportunity to hear the Gospel and have their life transformed by His grace. Thank you so much!!

We are going to NYC for a mission trip again at the end of March, and we covet your prayers. We are taking close to 40 people for this mission trip, and will be working in four church plants around NYC. Please pray for our safety and that God would use us to partner with these local churches and see the Gospel spread forth throughout NYC.

It is a joy to serve you Church. Love you Church.

## **Soli Deo Gloria,**

**Pastor Mike D'Attoma  
Assistant Pastor**

## Men's Corner

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

I am the new guy here at church. My name is LTC Clifford E. Hauser: U.S. Army Retired. I retired from the ARMY in 1997, from Honeywell in 2005, and from Raytheon Missile System in 2015. I have been married to Christine for 51 years and we have two boys.

I started attending the First Baptist Church of Huntington Park (a suburb of Los Angeles) soon after my birth. My mother was in charge of the nursery. I grew up attending and participating in the many activities of that church as a kid and young adult. I was baptized at around 12 years of age and was very active in youth activities. I married Christine at that church in June of 1966.

I finished schooling (BSEE) in June of 1968 and went into the ARMY in August of 1968. I was released from active duty in September of 1973 and then joined the active reserves in September of 1975. I officially retired from the ARMY Reserve in November of 1997.

My civilian job (Honeywell, Inc.) changed locations from the Los Angeles area, and I was moved to Tucson, Arizona, in 1985. And so we changed church membership to Casa Adobe Baptist Church and became very active in many parts of church life including men's prayer breakfast and ABF class director, usher, greeter, safety, and more. We moved to the Columbus area on May 1, 2017, to be closer to children and family. We started attending FBC in July of 2017.

I would like to say all went well in my walk with God, but that is not true. There are the good, the bad, and the ugly times that all of us as Christians have during our life with Christ. I will share one of the ugly parts of my life with God. I am not proud of what happened but looking back God may use this testimony to prevent others from doing the same.

On June 9th of 2016, I was on Mount Lemmon, outside of Tucson, at my communications site, helping three other people change radio antenna coax on the tower. All was going well until Milt Jensen, N5IA, fell from the 50 foot level of the tower and died in front of me. We called 911 and did CPR but it was not enough. Milt was a good friend whom I had known for many years. I lost it and started blaming God for this event. By the time I got home that evening—after a 90 minute drive from the site to home—my thoughts toward God changed. It is hard to write down what was going through my mind, but by the time I got home after thinking “God, you don't know what you did, this is wrong.” I ended up very angry at God for letting this happen. Thursday night, all day and night Friday, I did not get much rest and also had very bad dreams when I tried to sleep. My relationship with God was non-existent. By Saturday morning I was not only mentally exhausted from the constant memory of this accident, but physically exhausted also. God and I were not on speaking terms. He was trying to talk to me and I was not listening. We

were not on the same frequency/wave length.

On Saturday mornings when working around the house we normally put Christian CD's on all through the day. The disc player is on shuffle so we get a variety of music. Around 10:00 in the morning (Saturday the 11th) I decided to try and get some rest and hopefully get my mental state back together. I relaxed in my chair and began listening to Christian music that was playing. I was hoping to ease my mental pain and regain my contact with God. It started to rain (Tucson monsoon season) and at the same time a song from Michael W. Smith called “Healing Rain” came on. I listened and hoped that it would soothe my pain. The rain quit at the same time as the song. I don't believe in coincidences so my thought to God was “Are you trying to tell me something?” I then remembered that the Bible teaches us that if you give your troubles to God, He will take care of them for you. So I just told God that the removal of my mental pain was now His to accomplish.

**Clifford Hauser testimony**  
**Continued on Page 3**

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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

Several years ago, I was watching a softball game with my sister. We sat in our lawn chairs chatting away a sunny afternoon. Suddenly, I spotted a fly ball heading our way. Leaving Valerie to fend for herself, I jumped out of my chair and began running in the opposite direction. With a thud, the ball landed on me. After a quick check to make sure I hadn't, in fact, died from my injury, I hobbled over to my chair. Judging from her laughter, Valerie had no such concerns. Through all the giggles and gasps for breath, she told me she looked over in time to see me leave the safety of our spot to run directly into the path of the ball. I countered by pointing out my lack of depth perception. I don't think she heard me.

I would like to say that my perception, depth or otherwise, has improved. It has not.

I still balk when I sense God asking me to wait on Him. My first instinct is to bolt. And, as history shows, rarely do I run to safety. Instead, I charge headlong into my own way, my own plans and get hurt. Quite winded (from all the running), I make my way back to where I was supposed to wait and ask for one more chance to sit quietly, waiting for Him to do His work. More often than not, I find that God wasn't even working on the person or situation that I desired to see changed. He was using that time to work on me.

Running is not my gift. Neither is patience. But it is His, and God makes even the waiting so much more beautiful than my own fulfilled plans could ever be.



**Cindy Tryon,**  
**Preschool Coordinator**