



# THE LIGHTHOUSE

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## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

### Pastor's Message



My two sisters were at the heart of the hurricane in Ft. Myers and Naples, Florida. Sharon's sister lives close to Venice. We were very concerned for their homes but mostly for their personal well-being. While the devastation in Florida was massive, it was much less destructive than predicted. The homes of so many were spared. Those in our church family, as well as our immediate family, are safe. My sisters now have their electricity restored.

The prayers of God's people really made a difference. Just about everyone prays during crisis, but not everyone gives thanks for answered prayers after the storm. Many just credit coincidence that the storm turned toward Orlando and lost energy going over land rather than the coast line. Someone once said, "When I pray, coincidences happen, but when I don't pray, coincidences don't happen."

Sharon and I credit God's answers to prayers for protection over our family during the hurricane. We were constantly texting our sisters as they were hunkered down waiting for the storm. It is such a blessing to witness their fear turn into praise.

May our church become more dependent on prayer than ever before. There is a world of people in our community going through storms of much more intensity than a hurricane: storms caused by drugs, alcohol, promiscuity, and emptiness. Pastor Earley and I are praying for a revival. Revival in the church brings people with problems to God, the problem solver. Fox News and CNN are not going to provide 24-hour coverage for those people's storms. We are the ones to identify them and call out to God on their behalf.

Wouldn't it be great if your brothers or sisters could be delivered from the storms of life?

**Pastor Jerry**

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

Mike Latella  
Children's 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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What do the Tooth Fairy, a lobster, a cowboy, Superman, and a storm trooper have in common? They are all costumes I've worn for Trunk-or-Treat since moving to the Orders Road site in 2009. Although sweating inside a giant decapod-crustacean costume is no one's idea of sophistication, it did cause quite a splash (pun intended).

Occasionally someone will ask me why I do the silly things I do (more often than not, they just shake their heads in bewilderment). It is at these times that I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian church:

*"Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to **win as many as possible**. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to **win the Jews**. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to **win those under the law**. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to **win those not having the law**. To the weak I became weak, to **win the weak**. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessings."* 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, NIV. **(Empahsis mine)**

Just like Paul, I endeavor to do whatever it takes to win some to Christ. Jesus said that the defining characteristic of those who follow him is to love... love one another and love those outside the faith. Jesus instructed his followers to "go and make disciples." What he *did not* instruct us to do is every bit as significant as what he told us to do. He does not tell us to judge non-believers. He does not tell us to impose our values on them. He did not instruct us to change behavior (other than our own). He *did* instruct us to be salt and light. We are to do whatever it takes to impact our sphere of influence and point the way to Jesus.

**Trunk-or-Treat** this year will be on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Everyone is invited to fill their vehicles with treats and wear their favorite "friendly" costume.

So, if you want to know what nonsensical costume I'll wear for Trunk-or-Treat this year, you'll just have to show up!

**Michael Latella,  
Children's Pastor**

## MEMBERS' MINISTRY

When I went back to the hospital, my roommate Otis, who is in his 80s, had been in there for a week. He fell and was completely paralyzed from the neck down; the doctors said he will only move if he has surgery.

Otis had felt God was punishing him. He felt he rightfully deserved to be punished for all he had done. I was given the opportunity to share with Otis, (who is a believer in Christ) that God has no favorites, and while God works in mysterious ways, He gives grace freely. I was able to talk with him about God's grace, how if God gave us what we deserved the morgues would be full and the hospitals empty.

I was able to explain how God uses all things for our good and His glory. We started having church everyday; his church family and family would come up to visit and rejoice in what the Lord was doing. When I left, Otis was moving his arms, feet, and head on his own. We talked about how God had ministered to him and everyone that came to see him, because Otis was now praising God and thanking Him for the grace he has received.

I don't know what it is going on in your life, but God does, and He deeply cares for His children. It is when we change our perspective and focus on what God is doing in us and through us instead of what is happening to us, that God is glorified and all things work out for our benefit.

Wherever God leads we should willingly follow Him no matter where He takes us.

To God be the glory, great things He still does!

*"We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."* Romans 8:28 CSB.

**In Christ,**

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,  
Members' Minister**

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

HANSHAW, Julie	10/01	TEAFORD, Laura	10/22
JONES, James	10/01	CHAMBERS, Jeanne	10/23
KNAPP, Richard	10/01	SMITH, Harriet	10/23
WILSON, John	10/01	MOORE, Janet	10/24
MILLER, Brian	10/02	STERN, Susan	10/24
JOHNSON, Don	10/02	BARTLETT, Angela	10/24
BROWN, Latoni	10/02	JARRELL, Beth	10/24
SAUNDERS, Jill	10/02	LIFF, Sara	10/25
BUTCHER, Marshall	10/02	HELLARD, Brenda	10/25
MAXSON, Diane	10/02	BALDWIN, Paula	10/25
BEACH, Suzanne	10/03	LANE, Lori	10/26
BEACH, Kennedy	10/03	ALHSTROM, Tammy	10/27
MATLOCK, Thomas	10/04	ROBINSON, Karen	10/27
WINGET, Christine	10/04	BOBO, Faith	10/27
ODONNELL, Rebecca	10/05	CRANE, Garrett	10/27
SCOTT, Erin	10/05	DYER, Marsha	10/28
WARNER, Bill	10/05	HARRIS, Christy	10/28
JONES, Allen	10/06	ADKINS, Julie	10/28
LATELLA, Michael	10/06	CARTER, Tanya	10/29
PAIGE, Ashley	10/06	WHITE, Kevin	10/30
HUGHES, Ashley	10/06	LAMB, Kari	10/31
VALONE, David	10/07	LUCAS, Amanda	10/31
WURR, Marvin	10/07	COMER, Sandra	10/31
MONAHAN, Olivia	10/08		
CHAMBERS, Samuel	10/09		
SALMONS, Carl	10/09		
HILL, Abigail	10/09		
ADKINS, Jerred	10/09		
CROWE, Steven	10/10		
HELMBRECHT, Diane	10/10		
BURGE, Alicia	10/10		
CHADWICK, Brian	10/11		
WILHELM, Benjamin	10/11		
HAUGHN, Linda	10/11		
KAUFMAN, Martha	10/12		
SCOTT, Lauren	10/12		
HILDEBRAND, Jeremiah	10/12		
HUFF, Chaz	10/13		
THOMPSON, Courtney	10/13		
BOBO, Dustin	10/13		
D'ATTOMA, Mike	10/14		
RUHLEN, Cheryl	10/14		
TIMMONS, Daniel	10/15		
WATTS, Debra	10/15		
STEVENS, Elizabeth	10/15		
BUTTS, Brittany	10/15		
BERNA, David	10/17		
WHEELER, Carolyn	10/17		
KUHLMAN, Marie	10/19		
SEIPEL, Giselle	10/19		
WILLIAMSON, Jessie	10/19		
STAYTON, Sandy	10/19		
MCKAY, Tara	10/20		
UPTON, Zachary	10/20		
WEISS, Amy	10/20		
ERIKSEN, Wayne	10/20		
DEARING, April	10/20		
GRABILL, Jeff	10/21		
BERNA, Nora	10/22		
KNOLL, Larry	10/22		

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### Trustee Ministry Report

Transitioning from summer into autumn has resulted in a flurry of activity for the Trustees.

The new 15-passenger bus purchase was presented and approved at the Quarterly Business Meeting. The Trustees have placed the order for the new bus which includes the comprised specifications required by FBC and KKDC. The church will take possession of the new bus in approximately three months.

Both 15-passenger vans have been serviced for the winter. The Chevrolet 15-passenger van's bent bumper was repaired and new tires were put on the front of the Ford van. The pick-up truck has been serviced for the winter; the rusted bumper was replaced to ease the procedure of mounting the salt spreader, and the rocker-panel in each door had the rusted edges covered to ensure added safety when used.

The area along the creek, where the brush had been removed from under the trees, was sprayed with brush killer. Along the south side of the creek an area was seeded and fertilized following the removal of a pile of brush and top soil. The flower beds have been winterized around the campus for fall and winter.

Have a great month and always remember, our greatest privilege is to enjoy God's presence.

**Phyllis McCoy,**  
**Trustee Ministry Secretary**

From Our Worship Minister

## Daytrip

December 1, 2017, with the Primetimers



- We leave at 7:00 AM – Return around 8:00 PM.
- Lunch at the Amish Country Theater Restaurant (included in price).
- Shopping at Lehman’s Hardware and in Berlin.
- 3:00 PM show at the Amish Country Theater.
- \$75.00—for Theater ticket, meal, and transportation.



For more information, please contact Bryan Corbett, [bryan@firstgc.org](mailto:bryan@firstgc.org)



I bicycled out to Battelle-Darby Creek Park a few weeks ago. As I was traveling west along Kropp Road just before it intersects with Lukens Road, I noticed something unusual

about the corn fields on the right side of the road. The stalks were all tall, well over 6 feet, except for one small patch. In this one patch, the stalks were not over 2 feet tall. As I passed by, I noticed there was standing water in that area. Hmmm. Could there be a connection between the standing water and those stunted corn stalks?

Corn needs rain. We were blessed to have a summer with lots of it. But the roots of corn stalks, or any plant for that matter, also need oxygen. Too much water, especially standing water in a field, will drown the roots of a plant and deprive it of the oxygen it needs. I suspect that little patch probably accumulates water after every rainfall. Over the summer, that was enough to stunt the growth of the stalks.

A Life Group principle comes to mind. Sometimes we may not want or feel a need to attend our Life Group. Things may be going well for us. Some unexpected events may come up and make a claim on our time. But, maybe someone else needs us to be there *for them*?

Like the cornstalks stunted in their growth for lack of oxygen, if we don’t faithfully attend our Life Group, some of our brothers and sisters may be stunted in their spiritual growth because of our absence. They’ll miss the love, concern, encouragement, and prayer support they need to grow in Christ. Gosh. I don’t want to be guilty of keeping my brothers and sisters in Christ from growing spiritually. How about you?

**Connections Minister,  
Pastor Andy Kovalchik**

### Baby Dedication Sunday

Baby Dedication Sunday was held during the 10:45 AM Worship Service on September 10, 2017, with Pastor and Mrs. Neal presiding. We would like to recognize one more time these children and their parents. Please remember to uphold them in your prayer time.

- Isaac James Fellure, son of Zach and Laura Fellure.
- Everette Wayne Bobo, son, and Gabriella Bell Bobo, daughter of Dustin and Faith Bobo.
- Elijah William Hall, son of Robert and Amanda Hall.
- Mya Hope Pache, daughter of Melissa Pache.
- Reis Harrison Berger and Keaton Eugene Berger, sons of Brandon and Tiffany Berger.
- Roran Colt Lovejoy, son of Colt and Callie Lovejoy.



# Women of FBC

**Book Club:** Will be meeting on Thursday, October 5th from 7:00-8:30 PM, at I-Hop. We will be discussing the book *None Like Him* by Jen Wilkin. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 with questions.

**Craft Day:** Is on October 20th from 9-9 in the fellowship hall. Bring your unfinished project, a snack to share, and a dish for the potluck dinner. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 with any questions.

**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 if you have 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 need help with. Guidelines and applications are on the small table by the café. We are also seeking volunteers to assist with projects. For more information, please contact Becky Grundei at 614-947-9296 or Sherri Love at 614-871-3053.

**Bible Studies:** There are some new studies being offered so please check them out!

- Monday night at 7:00 PM in Room C-157. Please contact Carol Middendorf at 614-370-3480 with questions.
- Tuesday at 7:00 PM in Room C-156. We are studying *Entrusted* by Beth Moore. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201 with any questions.
- Wednesday at 7:00 PM in Room K-117. We are studying the Book of Ecclesiastes.
- Thursday at 9:30 AM in Room K-117. We are studying *Fight Back with JOY* by Margaret Feinberg. 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 started off with *Lord Teach Me to Study the Bible in 28 Days* by Kay Arthur and, are then moving on to one of her *Precepts* studies. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 with any questions.

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

FBC Family,

Let me begin by saying how thankful my family is to be able to be apart of FBC Grove City and serve our church family! It is such a joy each day to be able to serve our church family. Thank you for the way that you love our family, support us, and grow with us! We appreciate you!



It has been a busy start to the fall in our student ministry. In September, we, along with five other churches in our community hosted SEE YOU AT THE POLE at Grove City High School! We prayed for several weeks ahead of time that God would bless this event, and He surely did. It was so cool to see all of our students from different churches come together, under the banner of the Gospel, on a PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL campus, and worship and pray to our God! It was amazing!!!

Coming up, in the middle of November is our DNOW Weekend! DNOW is an incredible weekend for our students to grow in their faith, have a ton of fun, and eat really good food! We worship, we laugh, we cry, we play, we study the Word, and of course, we eat! This year, of course, we are bringing back The Justin Putnam Band from South Carolina. These guys are amazing! Our speaker this year is John Nix! John has spoken for our students several times at Summer Camp, and we are so excited to have him here at FBC! The weekend is scheduled for November 17-19, and is \$45 per student! If you can sponsor a student, or two, or three that would be amazing! We can always use scholarships to help the students! Just contact me, and let me know how many students you want to sponsor!! It's truly going to be a life changing weekend!

Finally, we are updating and improving all of our systems here at FBC so that we can SERVE you, the church, better! One of the ways we are doing that is with a new, and improved online giving platform! If you haven't given our new online giving platform a try, I strongly encourage you to do so! Simply go to our website ([www.firstgc.org](http://www.firstgc.org)) and click on GIVE! It is as simple as that. You can also text to give through this new platform! It is safe, secure, and super fast! Simply text the dollar amount you'd like to give to the number 84321, and walk through the prompts on your device! It was pretty awesome!

As I sated previously, it is a joy to be one of your Pastors. Love you Church!

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

## AWANA Calendar of Events

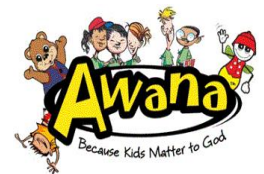
Oct. 4 - Awana "GO" Envelope Night!

Oct. 11 - Double Points for Handbooks Night!

Oct. 18 - Favorite Team Night!

Oct. 25-Trunk-or-Treat!

AWANA Conference—Saturday, October 14th, at **Our Church!!** See Sherri Love for more details!



## Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast at FBC will be on Saturday, October 7th at 7:30 AM. Derrick Maynard will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Mike Hoard from the September breakfast.

I was born and raised in Scott County, Indiana, a long, long time ago. When I was born, my parents lived in a little town called Blocher, but when I was around five, they bought a house in Lexington Township and they owned that house until the passing of my dad, twelve years ago next month.

One of the events that stuck with me when I was around seven, was when a lady by the name of Mrs. Lynch would come by our house on Sunday and take us kids in the neighborhood to the Methodist Church in Blocher. I can remember making crafts out of popsicle sticks and hearing about Jesus. As I grew older, I started working on the farms in the area, mowed yards and didn't think about church.

My wife and I met in high school. Dad paid me five dollars to ask her out on a date. We went together to our junior prom and when she didn't see me all summer, between our junior and senior years, she broke up with me.

After graduation we started dating again, got married and, then had two outstanding kids. Now we have six grandchildren: two girls and four boys. I remember how my dad spoiled my kids and now I know why, it's our job as grandparents.

In 1993, my wife started attending a small Baptist Church just outside of Blocher. She kept telling me that I needed to hear the new preacher. So I finally said OK and went. He definitely did a good job in the pulpit. One July Wednesday night after Bible Study the preacher and I were standing outside in the parking lot. He knew that my daughter was taking some classes at Indiana University Southeast, and he knew a lady that was having a Bible Study on campus. He asked me if my daughter was a Christian and I told him I wasn't sure, but I knew that I wasn't. I went home that night feeling like a ton of bricks had been lifted off of my shoulders. A couple of weeks later my daughter and I were baptized the same day.

In 1995, my wife and I went to Chattanooga, Tennessee, to take training to teach Kay Arthur's Inductive Bible Study. A couple of years later I started taking night classes at Ivy Tech in Sellersburg, Indiana, and in 2001, I received my associates degree in Industrial Technology. A couple of more years later, I started taking night classes at Louisville Bible College and in 2007, I received my bachelor's degree in Sacred Literature.

When we came here to visit the kids, we came to church with them and when we finally moved here, we really enjoyed the music and thought the preaching wasn't too bad either so we made this our church.

Now that I'm getting to retirement age, I am planning to enjoy the grandbabies even more and all my hobbies, which are woodworking, golf, playing my musical instruments and studying the Bible.

**God Bless,  
Pastor Dave Berna**

Ps. Don't forget our **Father—Son Air Show and Hog Roast** on Saturday, October 21st beginning at 4 PM. See you there!

## 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

We have seen some great prayers answered around here. We have also had some go unanswered as we await God's timing.

A couple of months ago, I was asked by a friend to pray for a mutual acquaintance. It wasn't an urgent request, but she wanted some of us to start praying that God would make His will known for her life. I pray often. I keep a prayer journal. I offer to pray for people. Why wouldn't my friend ask me to pray for another person?

Thing is, this person I am to pray for is not one of my favorite people on the planet. I do not believe I am mistaken in her feelings for me either. She hasn't come at me in anger or said anything directly vile. It's the rather unpleasant remarks she has made on everything from my wardrobe choices to my parenting skills. She rubs me the wrong way. It's the way her face contorts when she sees me. I can't say she always contorts her face. Sometimes, she just turns her head or leaves the room when I enter.

But I've been learning to pray for my sworn enemies. If God can help me pray for them, He can certainly help me pray for somebody who steps on my toes from time to time. See, I know God loves this girl every bit as much as He loves me. I know He has ordered her days and heard her prayers and will answer one way or another. So I pray to the one who made us both. I ask for His blessings. And, of course, God works on me. I ask God to heal whatever rift has occurred. I've asked His forgiveness for any part I have played. I have asked Him to soften our hearts so that maybe, just maybe, we could eventually become true friends.

I pray because God answers me back. Not audibly, but he answers every time. He answers in the way He changes me. Even if I want a "yes" and He says, "no," He grants peace where none should be found. He shapes my heart in a way I can become more like Him. It isn't always pain-free, but He does it every single time I pray for someone who is, um, not a friend. I am not a perfect person because I *do* pray for my enemies. But apparently God believes I am the perfect person *to* pray for my enemies.

**Cindy Tryon,  
Preschool Coordinator**



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"I have always believed that the deeper and darker the valley we experience, the greater the blessing the Father has planned for us."

**Dr. Charles Stanley**