



First Baptist Church  
**Grove City**

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## OCTOBER 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

Joshua Wright  
Children's Pastor

Robert Stroup  
Business Administrator

Visit us on the Web  
[www.firstgc.org](http://www.firstgc.org)

I fussed with the *Columbus Dispatch* over my monthly bill of \$46.00. Surely there must be a discount price for people who are 7-day-a-week newspaper readers. Nothing doing. They wouldn't budge. Months later I get a telemarketing call, offering the Dispatch for \$19.99 per month. Not only that but free on the internet.

I have been slow to do anything digitally. Go paperless they say. Not me, I want a paper trail. When the suggestion was made to offer the opportunity for people to give to the church using a credit card or online, I was mortified. Reluctantly, I went along, and now a great portion of FBC gifts come in electronically. Amazing!

So here I am with my slow approach to anything digitally ready to offer our monthly newsletter to you electronically. Go paperless! We will email you monthly with a link to just click and the newsletter will open. We will save paper, and you will be so cool. All of your grandchildren will be impressed.

Now, if you read our newsletter as faithfully as I read the *Dispatch* you need to act on this opportunity. Sit down right now and email me at [www.jerry@firstgc.org](mailto:www.jerry@firstgc.org) and sign up.

If you are not wanting to modernize, just call the church secretary and tell her to keep sending you the newsletter in the mail.

Either way, I want you to respond so I will know you read it.

**Pastor Jerry**



I visited one of our home Life Groups last week. The presentation that night concerned the marvelous gift God has given us called FRIENDSHIP. Margaret Feinberg pointed out five

levels of friendship, from shallow to deep, and that it takes work and time to develop deep, fulfilling friendships. In other words, they must be cultivated.

It was great to study this in a life group. An article in The Briefing, put out by Al Mohler, the president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, expressed concern over the way so many young people, especially the young and affluent, are not finding friendship at church or in a life group. They find it in places like Crossfit Gyms and SoulCycle or Peloton cycling groups. Those groups do meet the need for friendship and camaraderie, but too often, they are Christ-less.

I wonder how many of you have close, meaningful friendships? I took a survey at the life group last week, and about half the folks raised their hands and said they did have a friend they could spill their guts to and still be totally accepted. That leaves half that did not.

Can I encourage you to cultivate some friendships, and do it with those who share a like precious faith (2 Pet. 1:1)? Friendship is one of God's greatest gifts to us. A great place to cultivate a deep, spiritually based friendship is in your Life Group.

**Pastor Andy Kovalchik,**  
**Assistant Visitation Pastor**

## Members' Ministry

I have been thinking about our journey with Crohn's disease that started in 2010. I say "ours" because my wife and family have been through this with me every step. This journey has taken us to 5 different hospital systems here in Columbus, Ohio, and the Cleveland Clinic, and more than 50 doctors, plus holistic doctors. This disease has affected every part of my body and yet there seem to be no answers from anyone in the medical profession other than this: "my body's reaction to this disease is unlike any other. I don't fit into any diagnoses or any textbook. As a matter of fact, they will be writing studies on how Crohn's has affected my digestive system, nervous system, muscular system, skeletal parts, lungs, and so on. This I understand: I have a Heavenly Father who has me in His hands. He is my creator, my healer, my sustainer, my strength, the very breath I breathe and I am His. My life is not mine to live; it is His. To me, it doesn't matter what I go through, for He is with me, and every day I surrender all of me to Him to do as He pleases so others will know Him, His grace and mercy. There may not be any medical reasons why my body responds to everything they have tried in a negative way, no answers the doctors can give and no cure from a human standpoint, but this I know: my God is able to heal and help me in everything, anytime and in anyway. My hope is that, in all I do, all I go through, all I bear, that Christ is exalted and that others would know the hope and peace I have in Christ alone.

Whatever any of us faces as a child of God, we're in His care, His mercy, His hands. We can trust God every step, every day and know that He is with us. I don't say this from things I just read, but from the very fabric of my soul, for I live this every day.

"What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this, I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Philippians 21-1:18 NASB

**In Christ,**

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

## **Dinner to Honor Veterans** **Friday, October 26th** **6 PM in the Neal Auditorium**

**For U.S. Veterans [Church Members Only] to Include One Guest**  
**Non-Veteran Volunteers Needed to Supply Food and Door Prizes**  
**Please Contact Janet Swicegood at 614-572-5659 or Carol Middendorf at 614-370-3480 for more details!**

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

HANSHAW, Julie	10/01	DEARING, April	10/20
JONES, James	10/01	GRABILL, Jeff	10/21
KNAPP, Richard	10/01	BERNA, Nora	10/22
WILSON, John	10/01	KNOLL, Larry	10/22
MILLER, Brian	10/02	TEAFORD, Laura	10/22
JOHNSON, Don	10/02	CHAMBERS, Jeanne	10/23
BROWN, Latoni	10/02	SMITH, Harriet	10/23
SAUNDERS, Jill	10/02	BLECHER, Jacki	10/23
BUTCHER, Marshall	10/02	MOORE, Janet	10/24
MAXSON, Diane	10/02	BARTLETT, Angela	10/24
BEACH, Suzanne	10/03	JARRELL, Beth	10/24
BEACH, Kennedy	10/03	LIFF, Sara	10/25
MATLOCK, Thomas	10/04	HELLARD, Brenda	10/25
WINGET, Christine	10/04	BALDWIN, Paula	10/25
CHANNEL, Lisa	10/04	LANE, Lori	10/26
ODONNELL, Rebecca	10/05	ALHSTROM, Tammy	10/27
SCOTT, Erin	10/05	ROBINSON, Karen	10/27
WARNER, Bill	10/05	BOBO, Faith	10/27
BYRNE, Sherry	10/05	CRANE, Garrett	10/27
JONES, Allen	10/06	DYER, Marsha	10/28
LATELLA, Michael	10/06	HARRIS, Christy	10/28
PAIGE, Ashley	10/06	ADKINS, Julie	10/28
HUGHES, Ashley	10/06	CARTER, Tanya	10/29
VALONE, David	10/07	WHITE, Kevin	10/30
WURR, Marvin	10/07	LAMB, Kari	10/31
MONAHAN, Olivia	10/08	LUCAS, Amanda	10/31
STEPHENSON, Bill	10/08	COMER, Sandra	10/31
CHAMBERS, Samuel	10/09		
SALMONS, Carl	10/09		
HILL, Abigail	10/09		
ADKINS, Jerred	10/09		
CROWE, Steven	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		
WRIGHT, Lindsay	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		
KITCHEN, Anna	10/18		
SIMMS, Joan	10/18		
NEWCOMB, Linda	10/19		
MCKAY, Tara	10/20		
UPTON, Zachary	10/20		
WEISS, Amy	10/20		
ERIKSEN, Wayne	10/20		

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**When I was a teenager, our church had a campaign called "Church. The Sunday Night Place to Be".**

**It was said that the attendance of Sunday morning reflected the popularity of the church, or the pastor. But the attendance of Sunday night reflected the popularity of God. We always attended both morning and evening services. But today is a different time and most churches do not have Sunday evening worship services.**

**Several years ago, we started a verse by verse study of the Bible on Sunday nights at 6 PM in the Neal auditorium. We began in Genesis. We look at every chapter and every verse. We are now in Ezra. It has been a lot of fun to see God's Word come alive. Learning Bible history is very interesting, but God's Word is so much more. I believe that God speaks to His believers through His Word.**

**We also sing hymns and have special music. You might think it's a Sunday evening worship service. It is certainly the *Sunday Night Place to Be*.**

**In Christ,  
Bryan Corbett**

## From Our Children's Pastor

## Trustee Ministry Report

### **“No” Is OK**

My son Judson has quickly become a recognizable face here at FBC. His big head of hair and even bigger personality make him pretty hard to miss. In case you haven't met him, he is the curly haired little boy that walks around telling everyone “hey” and sticking his hand out for a high five or fist bump. Now that we are all acquainted with Judson, I want to tell you an important lesson I have learned from being his dad. I have learned that one of the best things I can do for Judson is not to give him everything he wants. The best example of this in our life is by telling him no when he asks for his third snack in the past half hour or by telling him that he can't have the giant Paw Patrol stuffed animal at Walmart even though I know this will cause a catastrophic meltdown of epic proportions.

One of the hardest, but also most important aspects of being a parent is learning to tell our children no. For many of us we want to provide them with everything to make sure they are happy and feel loved. The problem with raising children that have never been told no and have never had to learn not to get their own way is that one day they become adults. This makes for a difficult transition to the “real world.” It is actually a good thing for them to learn they can't have every toy on the shelf and that it's not best for them to eat the whole 5-pound bag of gummy bears in one sitting. Trust me when I say that these lessons will help them later in life.

While it is important to say no about some things, here are a few things you should try not to say no to. Don't say no to extra hugs and kisses, spending time with them, when they want to snuggle, or if they ask if they are special. With those questions, you can't go wrong with a YES!

Josh Wright  
Children's Pastor

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## **Wills and Estate Planning Seminar**

With Attorney Val Holz of  
the Holz Law Firm

Thursday, October 11th  
7 PM in Fellowship Hall  
No Cost to Attend!

Free Basic Will for All of  
Those in Attendance!

Contact Pastor Rob Stroup in the  
church office for more details.

We are slowly going through the mode of easing out of the humid temperatures of summer and trending into the cooler evenings of fall. While this may be somewhat bitter-sweet, we can look forward to football and pumpkin pie! Maybe a little canning and fresh cider, as well!

Two (2) new ceiling speakers were installed by Baptist Builders in the Neal Auditorium. Sound boards were also attached to the walls to assist in reducing an echo from the PA system; the PA system in Genesis was also worked on. The shelter house ceiling has been painted and vinyl siding installed on each end.

The Baptist Builders, along with FBC volunteers, have power washed stucco siding on the church (front, east and back sides). The air conditioning enclosures, including the air conditioning units, have been cleaned and power washed.

The 15-passenger Ford van was transferred to Baptist Builders since it could not be repaired to meet KK Day Care standards. Baptist Builders have been working on rehabbing the van with seating for eight to be used for short trips and storage.

The new 15-passenger bus is in the manufacturing phase and scheduled to be delivered by mid-October.

The outside duct work on the kitchen exhaust fan has been repaired; the compressor in the refrigerator has been replaced; and the purchase of a new sump pump is currently being investigated. A new fountain has been installed in the FBC east campus pond; and, the creek bank on the west side of the front driveway has been trimmed to sustain an easier mowing area.

The KK Day Care east fence, along the playground property line of the adjoining property owner, must be moved back onto the KK Day Care lot at the request of the property owner's insurance company. A surveyor has been hired to resurvey the property line.

The FBC audit review being conducted is expected to be completed by the end of 2018. In two to three years a regular audit will follow.

The Trustees are in the process of obtaining blacktop bids from three contractors for both the FBC and KK Day Care parking lots.

The Trustees are in the process of working on the 2019 budget.

**Phyllis McCloy,  
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

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The Scriptures are full of examples of people who failed miserably and yet were used greatly by God.

**Dr. Chuck Swindoll**

# Women of FBC

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all who helped with and attended the Beth Moore Simulcast. We had a wonderful time and all your efforts are appreciated.

**Book Club:** We will meet Thursday, October 4th, from 7:00-8:30 PM, at Panera on Stringtown Road. We will discuss the book, *The Fitting Room*, chapters 1-7, by Kelly Minter. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

**Craft Day:** Friday, October 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.

**Next Women's Fellowship Breakfast:** Saturday, October 13th, at 9 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-879-7646 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 more details.
- 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. Come join our study on the Book of Esther. No materials necessary. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.
- Wednesday, at 6:45 PM in Room K-121. Please contact DeeAnn Brown at 614-314-7847 for more information.
- Thursday, at 9:30 AM, in Room K-117. We are beginning the study, *God of Creation*, by Jen Wilkin. Childcare will be provided. Contact Kay Hardman at 614-323-6891 for more information.

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

Hey Church Family,

I hope this article finds you doing well. As we continue to move into the fall here at FBC Grove City, we are excited about what God is going to do over the next several months. I always want to encourage you to use our website to keep up with the most updated information on events and activities here and around FBC Grove City. We have several things coming in the next few months that are going to be incredible!



In the middle of September, our new children's pastor, Josh Wright, launched Kids' Church @ First Kids! This Sunday night worship experience for children, first through sixth grade, is incredible! It is high energy, full of incredible fun, and provides simple yet profound Bible truths for our children. If you have a child in these grades or know someone who has children in these grades, please make sure they join us every Sunday night at 6 PM in the Genesis Auditorium for Kids Church!

Last month we had our very first Marriage Builders seminar after church and it was incredible. We had nearly 70 people join us, enjoyed a wonderful lunch, and worked on Biblical truths to help us grow our marriages. The next Marriage Builder is on October 14th, and we would love for you to join us. You can register now at [www.firstgc.org](http://www.firstgc.org).

As far as our student ministry is concerned, God is up to incredible things. We continually see students saved and taking their next steps in their faith with Jesus Christ! Our Disciple Now weekend is coming up in November. DNOW is an incredible time for our students to get together, put away the chaos of this world, and focus in on who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for them. It truly is an incredible weekend! If you would like to sponsor a student or multiple students for this weekend please let me know as soon as possible! It is a joy to serve you, Church!

**Soli Deo Gloria,**

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

## **AWANA Calendar of Events**

**October 3rd—AWANA "GO" Envelope Night!**

**October 10th—Favorite Team Night!**

**October 17th—Double Points for Handbook Night!**

**October 24th—Trunk-or-Treat! (No regular AWANA)**

**October 31st—Dues to "GO" Missions Night!**

## **Help Wanted!**

- 1 leader for 3rd and 4th grade boys.
- 1 leader for 5th and 6th grade girls.
- Cubbies—Preschool volunteers!!



## Men's Corner

**The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be October 6th at 7:30 AM. Colt Lovejoy will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony Mitch Bobo shared at the September breakfast.**

I was born in Columbus in 1961. When I was a year old, my family moved to Grove City where I reside today. I have two older sisters, each of whom live within thirty minutes of me.

As I look back, I had all the essentials I needed while growing up, except for one. Jesus Christ. My parents, whom I loved dearly, didn't know Jesus, therefore my two sisters and I did not know Him either. The love that can come only from Jesus just wasn't there from my family. My father was a very hard working construction worker. He also had some mental problems. Back then most people did not want to admit that they had any type of mental illness. In due time, he was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder and depression.

Now looking back, I can see my father's mental illness. He could be very cool one minute and very angry the next. He could also become quiet and keep to himself for days, weeks, or even months at a time.

I graduated from Grove City High School in 1979. At the ripe old age of 21 I met the woman of my dreams, my future wife, LaVonda. We were soon married. Before long, our son, Dustin, was born. A few years later, we had a daughter named Amber.

I settled into a career as a union electrical construction worker. LaVonda was working harder than I as a wife, mother, babysitter, and homemaker. What a woman she was then and now. LaVonda was doing well but there was something missing in my life. I fell into a deep depression which resulted in me losing more than one job and being angry most of the time. I just didn't like the person I had become. I considered taking my life but, thank God, I didn't. It was at this time that I was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder, depression, and anxiety. I was placed on medication and began seeing a doctor regularly for these conditions. I am still seeing a doctor to this day.

I was soon feeling better but there was still something missing in my life. Jesus! In 1992, my family joined Grove City Church of the Nazarene. LaVonda and I were saved and baptized there that same year. Thank you, Jesus!

The next ten years were uneventful for us. LaVonda was full of Jesus but I had grown lukewarm. In 2001, I sustained a knee injury while on the job resulting in the loss of my job. In 2002, I fell from a tree stand while bow hunting for deer and severely broke my back. Once my family and friends found out about my accident, they began to pray for me. I could feel those prayers were answered and my surgery went well. My surgeon suggested I find a new line of work or even file for disability. I placed my recovery totally in God's hands and went back to work as a construction electrician. Thank you, Jesus.

I later applied for and received disability in 2016. I soon fell into another depression. Throughout my marriage, I would let sin enter into my life. Following my retirement, I was letting more and more sin into my life because I had a lot of time on my hands. Following a major surgery for my wife, I confessed

some long-term sin issues that had plagued our marriage. I confessed that sin and repented of it. Thank you, Jesus, and thank you, First Baptist Church, for your prayers and counsel!

I can tell you that LaVonda and I are doing well. Thanks to Jesus in her heart, she has forgiven me. I feel that God can now make me the man He wants me to be.

In conclusion, if you have unconfessed sin in your life, you need to confess it, repent from it, and let God take control of your life.

**God Bless,  
Pastor David Berna**

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### My View From The Back Of The Pew

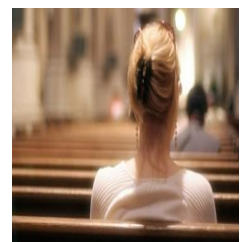
*"Train a child in the way he should go,  
and when he is old, he will not turn from it."*  
Proverbs 22:6

A friend randomly texted me a quote from Charles Spurgeon: Come boldly, Believer, for despite the whisperings of Satan and the doubting of your own heart, you are greatly loved.

I wondered how she knew I needed this. This is exactly how Satan speaks to me: whispering like maybe he doesn't want God to hear the thoughts he puts in my mind. I'm not a good wife, mother, daughter, friend. I lack so much that it will never matter how many Bible studies I attend or sermons I hear. I should just quit going. It's easier to stay home than be convicted of something. It's easier to avoid friends and fellowship so they don't see any internal pain or how I interact with my spouse or children. Satan tells me that joy is for other people. Better people.

Satan is so full of deceit. He wants us to stay in our little pits of despair and self-loathing. Otherwise, we might be encouraged by learning to overcome our weakness through Christ's strength and bear some fruit. We might even want to share with others how God brought us through our trials and loved us at our worst. No, he would rather keep us secluded so his stupid, toxic voice is the only one we hear. In case, we do come to church, he wants to keep us insecure. Go, but don't serve anywhere. Make sure to complain about the song choices, the sermon and the pastor's insistence on shaking hands with those around you. Satan always tells me I will feel better about myself if I can find a flaw, real or imagined, in someone else.

Satan is a liar. What line is he feeding you right now? Don't believe it. He knows that if we keep coming back to church (music, sermons and flawed folks aside) and reading God's word, we might actually hear the truth. God will give us joy. He will give us a ministry. We are greatly loved. Don't doubt it for a second.



**Cindy Matlock,**