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SEPTEMBER 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

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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Alaska was a great vacation. We were able to see whales, salmon, bears, and glaciers. All of this while being treated to the luxury of a cruise ship: entertainment, first-class service, and the best dining on the planet. The surprising thing about this vacation was being free from stress. Our children and grandchildren were doing well, and the church was being cared for by our lead pastor, Dave Earley.

Pastoring FBC has been a blessing for thirty-one years, but there is a degree of responsibility that creates stress. I know I am responsible to the church and not for the church. However, at times I get that confused. When I am out of town, I have always wondered about the ministries. At times I have even worried. Alaska was different. I have come to appreciate the leadership of our lead pastor. Brother Dave is such a dedicated pastor who works very diligently to preach the Word, love the church, and lead us to a higher place in prayer and service.

Since Dave and Cathy have joined us, they have been plagued with hardships related to their son's health. Yet, with all the distractions and pain they have gone through, somehow, Pastor Dave has been able to lead our church successfully for this first year. Last week, Genesis had record attendance with 163 people. Our total number of people in church on Sunday has been averaging mid-900 instead of 800. Pastor Dave has assisted the Upward Ministry in doing evangelistic outreach events. He has also worked with our Day Care Ministry in doing outreach events. Consequently, we are having more families worshipping from these two ministries.

Personally, I have enjoyed Pastor Dave and Cathy's friendship and their level of expertise they bring to FBC. I hope you learn to appreciate them like I do. I have never mentioned retirement, even though some think I am semi-retired.

The truth is I work harder since our lead pastor came on staff than I ever did before. I am trying to keep up with pastoral care and first-time visitors.

As I continue to be co-pastor with Pastor Dave, to my surprise, I work harder and enjoy it more. The stress is gone.

Continuing as your pastor,

Jerry Neal



THE ONE THING THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR FAMILY FOREVER

What if I told you that if you did just one thing as a family, it would change everything? What if I told you doing this one thing could mean less trouble with drugs and alcohol, eating healthier, and showing better school performance? What is the one thing? Eat dinner together.

Dinner is the most reliable way for families to connect and find out what's going on with each other. In a survey, American preteens were asked when they were most likely to talk with their parents. Dinner was their top answer. Kids who eat dinner with their parents tend to experience less stress and have a better relationship with them. Of course, the real power of dinners lies in its quality, not quantity. If family members sit in stony silence, if parents yell at each other or scold their kids, family dinner won't produce many positive benefits. Sharing a meatloaf dinner won't magically transform parent-child relationships. But, dinner may be the one time of the day when a parent and child can share a positive experience—a well-cooked meal, a joke, or a story—and these small moments can gain momentum to create stronger connections away from the table.

Unfortunately, the family dinner has been lost. This has happened for a variety of reasons, but I strongly believe in families having dinner together. If I could encourage parents in our church to start doing one thing, it would be this. Since I know that there are some common questions and objections as to why this wouldn't work, let's look at a few.

How often should we eat dinner together? I would say three nights a week is minimal. **I don't cook.** You don't have to—order in or get take-out and bring it back home and eat it around the table. **We are all way too busy.** Family time needs to be a priority. Outside of the home activities are important, but so is this. **What do we say? I have nothing to talk about.** Even if they're unable to have long conversations, younger kids like to be included in dinnertime chit chat. Children love hearing about stories of their parents, grandparents, and family history.

Here are a few dinnertime conversation starters: Tell your children how you met. Tell them how their names were chosen. Let them know some of the lessons you've learned from good, or bad, childhood experiences. Tell them about your first job. Simply "Google" dinnertime conversation starters. I did and got over 300,000 results.

As I look back over my life, one thing I don't regret is sharing a meal with my children. I doubt you will either.

Michael Latella,
Children's Pastor

MEMBERS' MINISTRY

We go through many seasons in our lives. Some are joyful while others are sorrowful. Either way we press on with the good news that in every season we are a child of God; He is with us. He holds us by His hands, He sustains our lives, and He keeps us from perishing.

So many around us have lost loved ones too soon. Rest assured that though death has overcome their mortal body, as a child of God, they are with Him. That is God's promise. Because of Christ Jesus, we have victory over sin and death, and neither have power over us.

If you're fearful, hopeless, or anxious, turn your eyes upon Christ Jesus. He is the author and finisher of life; He holds the keys to everlasting life; He is the resurrection and the life; and He is the way, the truth, and the life.

His name is above all things, and while death works in each of us, it cannot take us away from Him. Come out of the fear that holds you into the arms of a loving Lord and Savior and know that nothing can separate you from Christ today, tomorrow, or eternally.

The truth is this — God will never give us more than He and we can handle for He wants us to depend on Him. Whatever you are going through, remember to turn it over to Jesus, for nothing is impossible for God. Trust Him to be with you now and always.

Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us. We are pressured in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed. We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who live are always given over to death because of Jesus, so that Jesus' life may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. So death works in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith in keeping with what is written, I believed, therefore I spoke, we also believe, and therefore speak. We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and present us with you. Indeed, everything is for your benefit, so that grace, extended through more and more people, may cause thanksgiving to increase to God's glory. Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen, for what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal"

2 Corinthians 4:7-18 HCSB.

In Christ,

Pastor Brian Kinnett
Members' Minister

"If God has positioned us in a certain place, we must leave all the details to Him."

Dr. Charles Stanley

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

CHADWICK, Bill	09/01	HOARD, Mike	09/17
TARLTON, Sherry	09/01	BEAVER, Virginia	09/18
WATKINS, Wilma	09/01	PEITSMAYER, Julie	09/18
BARR, Michael	09/02	DEAN, Richard	09/18
MAYNARD, Kevin	09/02	ANGUS, Joy	09/19
RIZER, Nathan	09/02	CHAMBERS, Nicholas	09/19
BISHOP, Helen	09/03	MULLINS, Charles	09/19
GOLDSMITH, Zachary	09/04	BEACH, Tony	09/19
KNOLL, Joyce	09/04	HIGGINS, Greg	09/19
HOSFELT, Robert	09/04	CLARK, Herb	09/20
COOPER, Sally	09/04	WILSON, Bret	09/20
BOBO, Gracelin	09/04	BUTTRICK, Gail	09/20
WILSON, Ginger	09/04	DILLEN, Laura	09/20
HENDERSON, Tanya	09/05	RODENSTINE, Tammy	09/21
HILL, Keavin	09/05	SAUNDERS, Isaac	09/21
HOLBROOK, Sharon	09/05	CURRY, Rick	09/21
BERGER, Leah	09/06	KINNETT, Ronda	09/22
SEELEY, Scott	09/06	KNAPP, Rebekah	09/22
STEWART, Steve	09/06	WILSON, Sarah	09/22
BUCHOLTZ, Dennis	09/06	COX, Holly	09/22
MELVIN, Kayleigh	09/06	MULLINS, Claudette	09/22
GILLILAND, Hayden	09/07	MCCALLISTER, Jerry	09/22
MULLETT, McKenna	09/07	HANKINS, Betsy	09/22
WILLIAMS, Joyce	09/07	SCHMIDT, Marvin	09/22
SAUNDERS, Caroline	09/07	CASTO, Abigail	09/23
CRANE, Tim	09/08	CASTO, Caitlen	09/23
LANTZ, Jamie	09/08	CONGROVE, Kerry	09/23
JONES, Emily	09/08	VARGAS, Christina	09/23
SOSA, Miguel	09/08	TIPTON, Ramona	09/23
CUMMINGS, Michael	09/08	LOVINGSHIMER, Barbara	09/24
TREADWAY, Emogene	09/09	MCGRATH, Dianna	09/24
MARTIN, Denise	09/10	DAVIS, Rachel	09/24
PETERS, Brian	09/10	STRAWSER, Zachary	09/25
CLARK, Ashlynn	09/10	BURNELL, Deirdre	09/25
GRUNDEI, Kenneth	09/11	CRUMP, Tori	09/26
HAWK, Nathan	09/11	WELSH, Michelle	09/26
ARMBRUST, Carol	09/11	FAUGHT, Patti	09/26
MOSIER, Ronald	09/12	GROSSHOLZ, Lucy	09/27
WILSON, William	09/12	JONES, Jill	09/27
YOUNG, Joshua	09/12	SIMON, Denise	09/27
HOUSER, Vicki	09/12	SPRAGUE, Alice	09/27
BUTCHER, Ruth	09/12	STAMBAUGH, Wayne	09/27
ESTEP, Ernestine	09/12	HOFFMAN, Michelle	09/27
EGELHOFF, Barb	09/12	BISHOP, Racheal	09/28
CLARK, Courtney	09/12	FULTON, Robert	09/28
BROWN, Carrie	09/13	GRIESHEIMER, Rebecca	09/28
HISEY, Austin	09/13	SEELEY, Dwight	09/28
COTTON, Virginia	09/14	HINKLE, Freda	09/28
GRUNDEI, Becky	09/14	MAYNARD, Tina	09/28
STROUP, Rob	09/14	CROPPER, Christopher	09/29
FUHR, Wilma	09/15	HAYS, Jennifer	09/29
BRADFORD, Kelsey	09/16	KNAPP, Judy	09/29
KINNETT, Brian	09/16	WHITE, Edith	09/29
WARD, Judy	09/16	HALL, Amber	09/29
BAILEY, Leota	09/16	GOLDSMITH, Kelly	09/30
PAXTON, Dottie	09/16	HART, Heather	09/30
BROTHERS, Melissa	09/16	KORP, Mary Jo	09/30
MCKAY, Daniel	09/17	MULLINS, Terry	09/30
BEBEL, P.J.	09/17		
HUNTER, Richard	09/17		

From Our Worship Minister

The Top 10 Reasons for Not Joining the Choir ...and Why That's No Excuse!

10. **I can't read music.** We have rehearsal CD's that make it easy for the non-reader to learn parts.
9. **I'm scared of auditions.** This one is easy. There are no auditions. Just an interview with Bryan.
8. **I can't come every week.** Coming every week is encouraged and ideal, but allowances are made for real life.
7. **I've never sung anywhere but the shower.** This is just like singing in the shower, except for the water and being alone. Fear of being in front of a crowd is greatly reduced by being one of many. There is no individual pressure — it's a blend thing.
6. **I don't have childcare.** We should try to figure that one out.
5. **I am not a member.** Membership is not a requirement. Contributing to the worship experience makes you a much appreciated "friend."
4. **I don't know what part I sing.** We will know right away.
3. **I have musical dyslexia.** See #10 above.
2. **I can't take direction.** You WILL take direction! We make it easy.
1. **The plate in my head receives messages from outer space, when I sing in harmony.** No problem — the choir loft has been retrofitted with an intergalactic interceptor shield.

I hope to see you soon - Pastor Bryan Corbett

Trustee Ministry Report

The summer is slowly winding down, and along with the season our FBC Trustees have been hard at work overseeing and finishing summer projects.

The brush clearing along the creek in front of the FBC campus has been completed: the contractor did a great job. The trustees and several volunteers finished the project by cleaning up and spreading mulch.

Something interesting happened after the Grove City Service Department came out to the campus with a backhoe to pull out a log-jam. A three-foot concrete yard angel was found in the creek near the road culvert.

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Dare I say that Karen and I spent the Saturday before last on the campus of *Michigan State University*? This close to football season, I've learned it can be outright *dangerous* to

acknowledge that I hail from Michigan. But before you rush to judgment, let me be quick to say that Karen and I didn't travel all the way to East Lansing and Michigan State University to support the Michigan State Spartans (although the football team did make an appearance while we were there).

We were there to support our granddaughter Quinn. Quinn is a sweet, adorable eight year old who happens to have type one diabetes. She was diagnosed a year ago. She is a brave little girl and a fighter who has adjusted quite well to wearing an insulin pump 24/7 and having her finger pricked twice daily to monitor her blood sugar.

The JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund) Walk-For-A-Cure is held every year on the campus of Michigan State University. Karen and I joined well over a thousand others for their fundraising walk this year. We were proudly part of "TEAM QUINN." Needless to say, our granddaughter was not the only child being supported that day. We are praying a cure is found for juvenile diabetes in the not too distant future.

But it's not just children who need support in facing the hardships of life, is it? The Apostle Paul tells us to "*bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ*" (Gal. 6:2). Here is some good news: you don't have to travel to Michigan to do this! You can do it right in your Life Group. Are you in one yet? Stop by our Next Steps Kiosk if you're not, and we'll get you connected.

**Connections Minister,
Pastor Andy Kovalchik**

Notes of Appreciation

Thank you for your kindness during our time of loss. My mom was 96 years old (young). Thanks for the beautiful bouquet, prayers, and kind words.

The Yowell family—Carlos and Kay

To my loving church family,

Thank you for your kind condolences and love you extended to the Leshner family. We appreciated the food and use of the fellowship hall. Thank you for the cards and hugs. Prayers were felt during the time of Dad's illness and death.

Love, Becky and Kenny Grundei

"When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his in-laws to be at peace with him."

Dr. Chuck Swindoll

Women of FBC

Book Club: Will be meeting on Thursday, September 14th, from 7:00-8:30 PM, at Fiesta Mariachi. We will be discussing the book *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus* by Beth Moore. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 with questions.

Craft Day: Is September 15th 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.

Prayer Breakfast: Will be Saturday, September 23rd, at 9:00 AM. Please join us for a morning of fellowship and fun with our guest speaker, Esther Flores.

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. A new group will start on September 10th at 4:00 PM. 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 with various home projects. For more information, please contact Becky Grundei at 614-947-9296.

Bible Studies: There are some new ones 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 will be starting *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 will be starting a new class on September 7th. We will be studying *Fight Back with JOY* by Margaret Feinberg. For more information please contact Kay Hardman at 614-323-6891 or kayhardman@gmail.com
- Sunday at 4:30 PM. We will be starting off with *Lord Teach Me to Study the Bible in 28 Days* by Kay Arthur and 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,

I hope this newsletter finds you well! I cannot believe that school has started, and we are full blast looking at the fall of 2017. Our hope is that the fall of 2017

would be the best one we have ever experienced here at FBC Grove City! From our Pre-School ministry, to Children's and AWANA, to Students, Young Adults, and Adult Ministries, we want to see God do incredible things this fall. We had a really great last few weeks of summer. In August, we celebrated baptism in Genesis by baptizing four more students. We also had our Next Generation Ministries Kick Off Event. Our goal for our Next Generation Ministries (Birth-18 years old) is that it would do three things: Be Safe, Super Fun, and Scripture-based. In everything we do, across the board, we want to ensure that our children and students are safe, that they are having a super fun time, and learning the beauty of God's Word. It was a wonderful night!

We also, for the first time, had a 3-Day long back to School bash! We had events for our students on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. It turned out to be an incredible three nights! We were able to meet many of our new students and, hopefully, get them plugged into our ministry here at FBC!

We also hosted our Adult Life Group leader training and kick off, and it was amazing! Such an awesome night of worship, training, and learning! We truly want to see our Life Groups grow this fall!

I have one thing I want to mention to you and ask you to pray for in the next few weeks. Coming up on September 27 is **See You at the Pole**. See You at the Pole is a National day of prayer for students to pray on their school campuses for their community. We have partnered with Highland Baptist, The Purple Door Church, and The Naz to do a SYAP rally at Grove City High School that Wednesday night. It's going to be an incredible time of worship and prayer, and we expect close to 350 students, if not more! Please pray that this night would be incredible, and begin now, praying that it would be, weather wise, the most beautiful night of the year!!

Thank you for all your prayers. We love you Church!

Sola Deo Gloria,
Pastor Mike D'Attoma

AWANA Calendar of Events

Sept. 6 - Double Points for Bibles Night!

Sept. 13 - Root Beer Relay Night!

Sept. 20 - Visitor Treat Night!

Sept. 27 - Pajama Night!

AWANA Conference—Saturday, October 14th, at FBC Groveport. See Sherri Love for more details!



Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast at FBC will be on Saturday, September 2nd, at 7:30 AM. Mike Hoard will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Larry Wilson (as told by Rob Stroup) at the August breakfast.

Although Larry Wilson is not a member of First Baptist, it can certainly be said that he is a friend of FBC. Larry was first introduced to our church more than a year ago when he helped lead an active shooter seminar held here. Since that time, he has been a frequent attendee of our monthly men's prayer breakfast.....and we are privileged to call him friend.

The youngest of thirteen children, Larry was born to southern (Georgia/Tennessee) parents (African-American) and grew up in nearby Bexley. His father worked as a laborer on construction crews that built two elementary schools, a junior high school, and parts of Bexley High School where he was always held in high regard. His father was given a disability retirement following a workplace injury. His mother worked and retired after a thirty-seven year career as a dietician with The Ohio State University.

Larry attended Bexley High School where he was a standout athlete, garnering national interest from college recruiters for his abilities in football, track, and basketball. He was recruited by Woody Hayes to Ohio State but ultimately chose the University of Texas when Hayes demanded he forgo playing basketball. His success as a two-sport athlete gave way to opportunities to play basketball professionally in France, Germany, and England.

Larry accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior while a teenager in 1975 but drifted from the things of God shortly thereafter. After a number of years of living what he considers a life of licentiousness, Larry experienced the Lord's "crackdown." The result of a life of repeated disobedience was injury resulting in total brokenness and a finished career. As a result, he eventually rededicated his life to the Lord.

Following his athletic career, Larry tested various job opportunities including motor coach operations and coaching basketball at Westerville Middle School. In 1990, Larry was accepted in the Columbus Division of Police training academy and ultimately enjoyed a rewarding twenty-five year career, retiring as a detective in 2015.

Larry is now occupied with two distinct assignments given by God. The first was inspired from his many years of service as a Columbus Police Officer. *Bridging the Gap* is committed to developing more fruitful relationships between law enforcement and young people. The second is *B.A.S.I.C. or Brothers and Sisters in Christ* and is committed to inspiring the Church to return with fervor to embracing Scriptural values including taking a stand for holiness in the culture.

Larry's life is a testament that God is indeed faithful, completing the work begun in you (see Philippians 1:6). Only don't tell anyone.....God isn't finished with him yet!

**God Bless,
Pastor Dave 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

As we have the Kindergarten class in the Pre-School wing, I love asking them about their first day at school. Some children are experiencing culture shock. One little guy told me he likes school, but his teacher is "very bossy". Another five year-old told me that her favorite thing about kindergarten is her new clothes. She has already asked her mom if they could shop for new outfits *every year* before School starts. One little boy confided that he worried about his Mom. She had never had to spend an entire day alone before. I assured him that she would do just fine!

I have some friends whose kids are in their first year of Pre-School and others who are in their last year of college. The challenges we face as we help our kids get through school are so different, yet similar. They are exposed more than ever to different cultures, different family structures, and, maybe for the first time, someone questioning their own religious beliefs.

I pray every day that my kids are grounded enough in Christ that they can be strong in the face of adversity. I want them to know right from wrong, but have the compassion to treat all with dignity and respect. I pray they work hard, have fun, find good friends during the day, and come home safe every evening.

I ask God to make Himself known to them each day.

I love when we can actually see God's protection for His children. The adult ones, too.



**Cindy Tryon,
Preschool Coordinator**

Trustees Continued from Page 4

When driving into or out of the FBC campus, be sure to look at the newest addition happily residing on a stump near the brush clearing.

The trustees have been working with the FBC Baptist Builders to enlarge the stage in Genesis. Along with this project, a storage room was also constructed in Genesis.

Contact was initiated with a company to determine the extent of repair required to fix the dividers in the Fellowship Hall. A drain was also installed for the new washer-dryer.

Repair was made on a piece of roofing trim that the wind had torn loose. A volunteer used his personal power-washer and cleaned the deck located behind the church, the floor of the picnic shelter, and some sidewalks. The lawn company was called to return to treat a neglected area of the lawn.

Lastly, as many of our members are finalizing summer travel, please pray for their safety and reach out with a warm welcome on their return.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**