



First Baptist Church
Grove City

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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

Joshua Wright
Children's Pastor

Robert Stroup
Business Administrator

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www.firstgc.org

Sharon's bicycle was an antique. We have moved it around our garage, to the out building and back again. Through forty-four years of marriage and four different homes we have found new locations to store her childhood possession. Recently, I pleaded with her to let me sell it. After many tears she agreed. Off to the bike shop I ran with her keepsake hanging out of the trunk.

At the bike shop the owner downgraded our merchandise with the ability of a used car salesman. He gave me a lowball price thinking I came to dicker. I quickly took his offer which obviously caused him shock. But, just as he went into the cash register I remembered Pastor Earley's message on BLESS. I said, "Keep your money; it's a gift to help your business to prosper." Then I proceeded to ask about his church experience and made him an offer he could say "yes" to.

To reach our community for Christ, we must **B**egin with prayers for our neighbors. We must **L**isten to them. We must **E**at with them. We must **S**erve them or give them an antique bike. We must tell our **S**tory and God's story.

Today I had lunch with Pat Donahue who has a tract ministry as a means of evangelism. It was exciting to eat with a Christian who has a heart to reach the lost. Pat gives out tracts wherever he goes, and there are tracts for all occasions. He folded up a small tract and put it with the sugar container on the table. He took time to ensure the tract was not sticking up to be noticed. He wanted someone to take it thinking it was an actual sugar packet, then discover something that is really sweet.

Thank Pastor Earley for reminding us how we can BLESS people all around us.

Pastor Jerry



Jesus said, “No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.” (Matt. 5:15-16)

One of the first things I did when we bought our house in Grove City was to put up a flagpole in our front yard. We fly Old Glory 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Proper flag etiquette requires a flag to be illuminated after dark, so we installed a spotlight at the base of the pole. It does a great job of illuminating Old Glory, but the other night I learned it does much more.

I was sitting in the yard reading after dark and enjoying one of the many warm, balmy nights we have had this year. I looked at our flagpole, and noticed that not only did the spotlight illuminate Old Glory, but the light reached far beyond the top of the pole. The undersides of all the leaves of our tall maple tree were flickering silver and green in the light as they fluttered in the warm breeze. The leaves reflected much of the light back down so that even the roof of our house was illuminated, and even the roof of our next door neighbor’s home.

Jesus said if we put our lamp on a lampstand, it gives light to all who are in the house. But if the light is powerful enough, it will spill out the window of that house and light up the street outside, and maybe even the neighbor’s house across the street.

How is your Life Group doing at lighting up your neighborhood? Is your “light” strong enough so that your neighbors know you are there when you meet? Have you had any of your neighbors knock on your door and ask what is going on at your place on Life Group meeting night? Let’s pray that our lights are powerful enough to light up our neighborhoods.

**Pastor Andy Kovalchik,
Connections Minister**

**Upward Commences 2nd Decade at FBC
Saturday, September 8th**

Upward Flag-football, Soccer, and Cheerleading season is now upon us. We have approximately 300 kids and their families who will be on our property for the next 2 months. Life Groups will be finding a roster sheet in their folders soon with a team roster and practice day/time and game days/times. We encourage you to pray for the players, families, and coaches for the entire season. Remember this is the first step in blessing these families! If you can, please come out to a practice or game and introduce yourself and tell them they are so special that you are praying for them each day. It’s that simple!

**Pastor Jeff Bane,
Upward Commissioner**

Members’ Ministry

I met a man the other day as I walked through the neighborhood: his yard is always pristine, his grass manicured fully and green, his flower beds kept as though he were a king, and his home immaculate from all I could see. I struck up a conversation and told him how I admired his home, his diligence in taking care of it so well, and how he made the whole neighborhood look better. He smiled and told me thank you, and politely asked me in for coffee. He spoke so softly and then his voice began to break. He said, “it hadn’t always been the place you see today. At one time the yard was a mess, toys and bikes cluttered up the place, the flower beds looked like a compost, and my home seemed to be in a state of disarray.”

Then one day it all changed. His wife and children never came home. He said, “I never took time to appreciate all God had given me.” And now that they are all gone, all he had left was his home and some haunting memories of days gone by. He said, “what I would give for another day to see the kids laugh and play, to hear my wife’s voice or hold her hand, to trip over toys and not care where I land.” He smiled through the tears and softly said, “son, enjoy every day, everyone and everything God has given you. No matter what is going on, be thankful and grateful you have them. A yard filled with bikes and toys means that the home is filled with girls or boys who get to play, love and laugh. A yard that is not so perfect or flower beds with weeds among the flowers, just means Dad and Mom are just more concerned with the kids and each other. Things are not always what they seem; live a life filled with love and grace; slow down and run the race at your pace; ask God to help you every day, every time, in all things and thank Him always for He is good, no matter what a day may bring.” He finished his coffee and spoke these last words; “We seem to throw away anyone who is broken because they are replaceable, but God doesn’t seem to use anyone until they are broken. To God we are all irreplaceable.”

As I walked back home, I thanked God for my messy yard, for the weeds in the flower bed, and for our lives, and I asked for His help to live my life with an attitude of gratitude every moment from now on. “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His faithful love endures forever.” (Psalm 136:1, CSB)

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

Sign-up in FBC Lobby on Sunday, September 9th and 16th

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!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

From Our Children's Pastor

Phone Break

It's that time again. Summer is winding down and school is back in session. This time of year brings many challenges with it. Not only do we have to make sure that our kids make it to and from school safely, we also have to make sure that they make it to all of their "engagements." Kids today have busier schedules than most professionals could dream of. They have sleepovers, birthday parties, Upward practice, AWANA, and the list goes on and on. At times it feels that the only time we get with our children will have to take place in the car.

Since we are so busy in our lives, I suggest using car rides with your children as a phone break. The car can be one of the few places where we can eliminate many of life's distractions such as Fortnite and Roblox. Plus, since you are in the car, they can't run away! So, when you pick them up from school or sports practice, have everyone put away their phones and devices and just talk. You will be surprised how awesome the conversations will be and how much you will learn about your children during a simple car ride.

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

From Our Worship Minister

Several years ago, we began a verse-by-verse study of the Bible on Sunday nights. We started at the beginning with Genesis and recently completed 2nd Chronicles. I'm always impressed with how the scriptures come alive when we let God speak through His Word.

We get a living color look at the events that were relevant to Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Solomon, and many more. But they are just as relevant to us, today.

This fall we are starting our study on the Book of Ezra. He was a priest with a layman named Nehemiah. It's a book of history important to Israel, but so much more. Come join us on Sunday nights at 6 PM. We'll sing hymns. We'll have special music. And we'll study God's Word, verse-by-verse.

If you are like me, you learn something new from God's Word every time you read it.

**In Christ,
Pastor Bryan Corbett**

Notes of Appreciation

To Our Church Family,

Thank you so much for the flowers that were sent to my dad's funeral, and for the visit from Rob Stroup's Life Group. It was comforting to know we had so many people praying for us.

**Love in Christ,
Cindi and Tim Price**

Trustee Ministry Report

The summer has been slowly winding down. Vacation Bible School has come and gone, the recent Ladies' Tea was a huge success, and, along with the season, our FBC Trustees have been hard at work overseeing and finishing summer projects.

Emergency repairs were made on the high-pressure oil line of the 48-passenger bus. The Chevrolet 15-passenger van has been repaired to meet Day Care standards. The Ford 15-passenger van, however, could not be repaired to meet Day Care standards so the decision was made to transfer the bus to Ohio Changers to be used as an equipment storage vehicle.

The Trustees worked with Baptist Builders to install an additional speaker to the main auditorium along with the insertion of sound boards on the walls to facilitate reducing the echo from the public address system. In the main kitchen, the compressor in the refrigerator had to be replaced.

The Trustee Ministry met to give tribute to a long-time, faithful member who has served many years as Chairman of the Trustee Ministry, Bob Fulton. Bob and Joyce are moving to Florida at the end of August to live near their daughter. The Fultons have been members of The First Baptist Church of Grove City for nearly 50 years and represent the pure fundamental threads of its early members who wove into FBC history the vision and goals of FBC and their abiding faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. A tree was recently dedicated in their honor.

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**

FBC News and Notes

New Membership Class with Pastor Jerry Neal begins Sunday, September 9th at 6 PM, in Room G-104 [also known as the staff meeting room]. See the Next Steps Kiosk to sign up.

Christianity 101 led by Pastor Dave and Cathy Earley begins at 6:30 PM on Wednesday nights in Room G-104 [also known as the staff meeting room]. Join us as we study 20 favorite Bible events of the Old Testament.

Food Truck Sunday returns Sunday, September 2nd following the 10:45 services. It will again be held in the parking lot located behind the church. See you there!

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

Women of FBC

Book Club: We will meet Thursday, September 13th, from 7:00-8:30 PM, at Donatos on Stringtown Road. We will discuss the book, *The Masterpiece*, by Francine Rivers. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

Craft Day: Friday, September 21st, from 9 AM-9 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a project, a snack to share, and a dish for dinner. We hope you join us. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

Surviving Grief with Hope: This is a group to support those who are dealing with the grief over the loss of a loved one, one's health, a marriage, a job, and more. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 with questions and the time we will be meeting. We are starting a group on September 16th, at 4:00 PM, in room C-156.

Next Women's Fellowship Breakfast: Saturday, September 9th, at 9 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-879-7646 with any questions.

Beth Moore Simulcast will be hosted on Saturday, September 15th in the Genesis Auditorium. **TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!** Tickets are \$20.00. Stop by the Women's Ministry kiosk for more details and to purchase your ticket.

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. We will soon begin a 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. A six-week study, *Fool-Proofing Your Life*, by Jan Silverman will begin September 5th. This study will focus on how to deal with difficult people in your life through the wisdom found in Proverbs. 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**

FBC Family,

I hope you had a wonderful summer and are gearing up for the Fall! It's going to be a great fall here at FBC! We had a fantastic FALL Ministry Leaders' Kick-Off, and we are anticipating all of the good work that God is going to do in and through our church this fall! My hope is that, as summer comes to a close, and fall begins to take its shape, you'd pause and be thankful for the great work that God has done by revealing His mercy and grace to each of us. What a joy it is to be loved by the God of the Universe!

We have MANY really good things going on at FBC this fall. And especially in September! Sunday, September 9th, is our first *Marriage Builder*. And if you miss the first one — you're going to want to make sure that you register for the next one on October 14th. What is *Marriage Builder*? *Marriage Builder* is a 12-month Bible study in which you and your spouse will learn timeless principles from the Bible to help grow each of you in your walk with Christ, as well as in your marriage.

Marriage Builder meets generally on the 2nd Sunday of each month, in the Genesis Auditorium. We have lunch and about an hour of teaching and discussion. We hope you'll join us! Each individual must be registered. You can register with your spouse on the same registration, but please ensure that both you and your spouse are registered. *Marriage Builder* #1 registration closes on September 3rd, but you can always register for *Marriage Builder* #2 coming in October! More information can be found at www.firstgc.org!

Also, for our students, coming up at the end of September, on Wednesday, September 26th is our "See You At the Pole Rally" at the Grove City High School Baseball field! We will worship and pray together with several other churches in the area! It's going to be an incredible night. I hope you'll make plans for your students to join us!

Soli Deo Gloria,

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

AWANA Calendar of Events

September 5th—7-UP Slurpy Night!

September 12th—Double Points for Bibles Night!

September 19th—Visitor Treat Night!

September 26th—Pajama Night!

Help Wanted!

- 2 leaders for 3rd and 4th grade boys.
- 2 leaders for 5th and 6th grade boys/girls.
- Cubbies—Preschool volunteers!!



Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, September 1st at 7:30 AM. Mitch Bobo will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Wyman Westfall shared at the August breakfast.

I was born and raised on a Minnesota farm during the time period of the Great Depression with the benefit of strong Christian parents. As an infant, I was carried to a small, country Baptist church where the services were held in the Swedish language. Some time later, the church was relocated to town where the services were held in English. When I was 12, I accepted Jesus as my Savior and was soon baptized.

As a child, I attended a classic one-room schoolhouse which housed grades one through eight with one teacher and without the benefit of electricity or even running water. We did not gain electricity in our school until 1946. Conditions were not always pleasant or easy either. I recall the temperature being 40 below zero for one week during that time!

I met my future wife Jean as a result of attending a church youth rally. We were married in 1955. God blessed us with five children—three girls and two boys. We continued to work on the farm I grew up on until 1983. From my youth until this point in time, I actively served on and managed a dairy operation with more than 100 head of cattle at any given time.

In 1982, our only two sons, Brian and Paul, were tragically killed in an aviation accident while on a skiing vacation to Wyoming. This tragedy greatly tested our faith. Yet, through it all, we found God's grace to be sufficient!

In 1983, we moved to Fargo, ND, to be near our daughter, Karen, who was in college at the time. With the death of our boys, we felt we could no longer manage the production of the farm as each had been an integral part to the day-to-day operations. And so we decided to sell the farm and move to Fargo.

While in Fargo, I worked initially in service for an RV company and later as an over-the-road truck driver covering three states. In 1988, we decided to move to Mesa, Arizona, at the encouragement of some of our friends. This became an easy decision given the harsh winters of Fargo and the graduation and relocation of our daughter, Karen from that area. We resided in Mesa for nine and one-half years. While there, I did various construction work in addition to in-park mobile home sales.

In 1997, we decided to begin spending our summers back home in Minnesota and our winters in Florida. We could not have imagined this decision would last for the next eighteen years of our lives. During the summer I worked on a friend's farm in Minnesota. We decided to call Bradenton, Florida, our home during the winter. While there, I worked transporting RV's and also in the carpet and furniture cleaning business.

When our daughter Karen and her husband decided to relocate to Columbus, Ohio, to serve in the Lower Lights ministry, we chose to follow them in our retirement. A few months after arriving here, our daughter Karen died suddenly of pancreatic cancer. This was the third of our five children whom we have outlived. Again, our faith was greatly tested. And again, God's grace has proven sufficient!

After arriving here in 2016, we were led of God to First Baptist Church of Grove City and have been blessed beyond measure. We have been embraced, loved, and accepted by so many people, particularly at a very difficult time of our lives. We are richly blessed to call FBC our church home!

**God Bless,
Pastor David Berna**

My View From The Back Of The Pew

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

This past Sunday before church, I stepped outside with my dogs. They had things to do and I needed to be alone and cry. We had just moved Haley to college, and it was my first weekend without her. I missed her so much. I thought I had it under control, but by the time our second service started at church, Josh took pity on me. He didn't send me home with a Bible verse and a hug. Instead, he asked if I would serve in the infant room. Like the other pastors here, Josh is great at his ministry, but even better at seeing someone's hurt and trying to ease it. Whether through indoctrination here at FBC-GC or his own experience, he knows that serving others takes the focus off oneself.

Our church has been blessed with an abundance of sweet babies, and I rocked, held, and played with babies to my heart's content. Trust me when I say, serving is not always rocking in a comfy chair while little ones sleep peacefully in your arms. It is also picking up Cheerios from the floor for the eleventh time that day or having a toddler ask to wash her hands for the fourth time in ten minutes. How many times over the years has Jo Jones issued a reminder for her Kindergarteners to "share"? How many reminders to pray over their snack? How many toys have the teachers picked up after their class has left? God knows.

Just as He infinitely knows their hurts, He also sees our service. It is His plan and it is a good one. What are your gifts? Are you sitting on them every single Sunday? Teach or help in a Sunday School class. Maybe you work late during the week but have Saturday mornings free. *Upward* always needs referees. Are you feeling sad? Brighten someone's day along with your own by delivering baskets after church to new families. Maybe you believe you haven't attended church long enough to serve. Come a little early to meet and greet other families with a bulletin and a friendly smile.

When I got home from church, I took the dogs outside. Again, they had things to do and so did I. No tears. Just quiet thanks to God for His comfort. And for creating such beautiful babies.

**Cindy Matlock,
Preschool Coordinator**

