



First Baptist Church  
**Grove City**

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# THE LIGHTHOUSE

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## AUGUST NEWSLETTER

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Dr. Dave Earley  
Lead Pastor

Dr. Jerry Neal  
Pastor Emeritus

Bryan Corbett  
Worship Pastor

Dr. John Foster  
Discipleship Pastor

David Berna  
Visitation Pastor

Jeff Bane  
Outreach Pastor

Joshua Wright  
Children's Pastor

Brian Kinnett  
Members' Minister

Robert Stroup  
Business Administrator

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

Many of you folks have prayed for our grandson, Luke. He was coming home from work on I-670 when his vehicle developed a tire problem. Pulling onto the berm to check out the problem, he was hit by a truck that came across two lanes of traffic. His car was thrown into a circle, upside down, and demolished. Luke had no broken bones or cuts on his body! He did have a concussion but is healing more everyday. Sunday he was in church here at FBC. His girlfriend, Taylor, who was with him in the car, is healthy today.

When Luke was two, he was one of the first children to enroll in King's Kids Day Care. He found a way to be in my office everyday. He was either escorted by his teacher or escaped from his teacher. After a good hug and a short visit with his papa, he was ready to go back to class. But I had to say, "see you later alligator," so he could respond, "after while crocodile." From that time until kindergarten, I felt blessed to be able to watch over him. Now he is 22 and I don't see him as much. But the prayers my wife and I pray everyday has his name going up to God. Along with his father and mother's prayer, God has heard us all and has been faithful to protect Luke!

We live in dangerous times. Not only on the highway but now on the streets, in the stores, in the restaurants and wherever there are people, it is dangerous. There is this thing called the pandemic. In every country in the world, there is an unseen enemy—The Virus. We are tempted to hide in fear. This is not the Christian response. We are called to faith, to prayer, and to serve God. We want to practice the safe guidelines of our health officials but not be afraid of our shadows.

God has called us to serve, to witness, and to worship. That takes courage to move into the areas where we meet people. It requires faith to believe God is able to protect you and keep you safe. I wear a mask, I use sanitizer, and I practice social distancing. But my trust is in the Lord.

The God who saved Luke loves you just as much.

**Pastor Jerry**

## MEMBERS' MINISTRY

It has been 10 years since God changed the direction of our lives. In July 2010, I became very ill. My health went downhill overnight it seemed. I had never been really sick before, but those last few months were increasingly hard on me. I woke up and couldn't walk. I now had neuropathy, swelling in my feet and hands; I lost 80 lbs. in a couple months. I struggled to do anything and I was hospitalized for a couple weeks before our son was to be married, but the day before our son's wedding, I was released from the hospital. God showed great mercy to us.

God in His infinite wisdom changed my game plan, put me on my back, and asked me, "what are you going to do now?" He had been working in me a long time, but now I was held captive and He had my full attention. I had to stop working in my field where I had been working for 22 plus years. We had just come out of a major financial hardship. We had nothing left but God, each other and our church family, which is way more than anyone could ask for.

When God changed my plans, He revealed His perfect plan. Through His hand of grace, protection, and provision, God blessed our family and made a way when there seemed to be no way.

Our lives are not perfect; we have our struggles still; Ronda and I both have health issues. There are days when I cannot move and feel so bad I can't get out of bed, but in those days, God's grace and mercy are still more than enough. His perfect peace fills our lives. I thank God He is not finished with us yet, and He is not finished with you yet.

We all have various struggles we deal with every day. Some are financial, emotional, physical or spiritual. No struggle is exactly the same, and no struggle is ever to be taken lightly. Whatever your struggle is, my family and I can testify that God's grace is sufficient. His hands provide and protect, His love is perfect, and He will see you through. His love does not waiver. It is not given more to one person than He gives to another.

We can trust Him!

*Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.*

**Philippians 3:12-14**

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,  
Members' Minister**

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## UPWARD SPORTS REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for the Fall 2020 *UPWARD* sports season. You may register online at [firstgc.org](http://firstgc.org) for flag football, soccer, and cheerleading opportunities. Simply click on the *UPWARD* sports link to register. Please contact Pastor Jeff Bane at [jeff@firstgc.org](mailto:jeff@firstgc.org) if you are interested in coaching or serving as a referee.

## TRUSTEE MINISTRY

As you drive into the FBC campus, have you noticed the difference in the appearance of the lawn recently? Two mowers have been purchased: a 3 pt. Finish Mower and a Ferris Zero Turn mower. The additional mowers have already proven advantageous in providing an even more professional appearance to the campus grounds in a shorter time frame, which is proving most beneficial to the yard team.

The Trustees and volunteers laid mulch around 120 trees. The bleachers were moved from the UPWARD fields, as a result of COVID-19, as a safety precaution. An air conditioning unit was replaced in the Genesis Auditorium. Light fixtures are also being updated with LED bulbs.

Baptist Builders partnered with the Trustees in cleaning out and organizing the upstairs closet; building the Drive-in Church stage; building a streaming control center in the church balcony; and installing a new overhead projector.

Mulch was applied and shrubs trimmed at King's Kids Day Care this past month. A gate was also replaced inside the center. After consultation with the KKDC ministry team, approval was granted to KKDC for suspended rental payments until COVID-19 questions and concerns have been resolved.

**Phyllis McCloy,  
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

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## ISRAEL TRIP UPDATE

So, its official.

The Israel Trip has been postponed. The new dates are April 13th to April 21st of 2021. We are excited to be going to the Garden Tomb, Calvary, and other sites around the time of Easter. The weather should be great!



The cost of the land tour has increased by \$100. The total is now \$2,099. Airline rates vary from day to day. Usually, the sooner you book, the better your rates. Please contact Sharon Bower at 740-412-6532 to make your arrangements.

Most people who were scheduled to go with us in September are choosing to go with us in April, but there are still a few openings remaining if you are interested.

Please let me know if you have any questions. You may reach me at [bryan@firstgc.org](mailto:bryan@firstgc.org).

**Pastor Bryan Corbett,  
Worship Minister**

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## CHRISTIANITY 101 REGISTRATION

A new course session of Christianity 101 led by Pastor Dave Earley will begin on Wednesday, August 5th at 7:00 PM. Please stop by the *Next Steps* kiosk on Sunday mornings or contact the church office directly at 614-991-0205 for more information and to sign-up.

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# Women of FBC

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## WOMEN of FBC! YOU ARE NEEDED!

Single ladies, moms, and grandmas! School may be starting soon and with all the disruptions in the last several months, children and teachers need help to adjust to all the changes.

Join us at the next Women's Ministry Fellowship Breakfast on August 8th, at 9:00 AM, and learn how you can pray for our children and teachers as part of MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL!

Breakfast will be catered. Please RSVP by registering with Ronda Kinnett at [ronda@firstgc.org](mailto:ronda@firstgc.org) or 614-313-7871.

Let us show you how to be part of women from all over the world who pray for the children in their schools. Your prayers are vital!! Come and see!

### Blessings, Carol Middendorf

Dear Single Senior Ladies,

During this trying time when our activities were curtailed, you were not forgotten. Yes, we lost the Amazing Love dinner and the Mother and Daughter Banquet—but we also lost our July special Single Senior Ladies' Tea. And you were certainly not forgotten, and we grieved having to cancel things.

Our team planning the tea—chef Darla, decorators Linda and Cindy, coordinators Grace [our advisor] and Barb—had a menu in mind, our speaker booked, our entertainment started, decorations collected, door prizes gathered. So, what does that all mean? We are good to go next year, and we are looking forward to a new date in 2021 when things are safer.

You are all precious to us and we are here to serve—but during a safer time when we can enjoy each other's company.

### Yours in Christ's love, The Single Senior Ladies' Team

We have a few Bible studies meeting on campus throughout the week. We are social distancing and recommend you wear a mask if you attend. Considering the current mask mandate, we want you to be safe and comfortable but still enjoy fellowship and study with others. Please let me know if you have any questions.

God bless you and stay safe!

**Ronda Kinnett,**  
Women's Ministry Director



GriefShare here at First Baptist is resuming on Sunday, August 2nd, from 4:00-6:00 PM. We are meeting in the Fellowship Hall or on-line if you wish to join us that way. If you have suffered the death of someone special to you, let us join in your journey through the grieving process. You do not have to do this alone. We are here for you.

## Dave Johnson Testimony continued from Page 4

It became obvious that Jim knew his Bible and would show me what "The Word" had to say. We had a daily Bible study. I would go home and tell my wife what Jim and I had talked about each day. This went on for two months. Some of the men at work did not like me sitting at lunch with Jim and would say so. I began reading my Bible and would meditate during the day and at night on the words I had read. I believe that God was leading me to make a decision. I remember reading Matthew 7:7, where Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you." I began to seek and He opened His Word to me!

Then, on October 27, 1978, I went to work thinking about what I should do. God had been dealing with me and I knew what I needed to do. I went out the back door of the shop and walked over to a place where I could get down on my knees and pray. By faith, I asked Jesus to come into my life and save me. When I stood up, I didn't feel any different, didn't hear any trumpets going off, and for just a second, I thought I must have done something wrong. Did I truly believe who Jesus was? Did I sincerely repent? I came to the conclusion that I did everything right that I could do and that salvation is not about feelings, signs or emotions. I felt confident and believed that I was saved and sealed until the day of redemption.

I got up, walked back into the shop and started getting some tools out to go to work. One of the men I worked with came up to me and stood directly in front of me, and asked me "ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?" I looked him in the face and said, "YES, I AM!" Then he walked away and began telling all the other men I worked with what I had just said. God sure didn't waste any time giving me an opportunity to publicly proclaim my new commitment to Christ!

Our two-man lunch Bible study increased to about 8 men within a couple months and several years later, some of these tough men would also go on to give their hearts to Jesus!

**God Bless,  
Pastor David Berna**

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## NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

New membership classes are scheduled to begin on Sunday, August 9th. These classes will meet during our morning worship times to allow you to attend both the class and a worship service. Please contact Pastor Brian Kinnett at [brian@firstgc.org](mailto:brian@firstgc.org) to register.



## MEN'S CORNER

**The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be held Saturday, August 1st, at 7:30 AM. Dale Evans will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Dave Johnson from our July breakfast.**

I was born in 1948 at the old Mount Carmel Hospital in Columbus. The first years of my life were spent living on the near east side of Columbus, off Cleveland Avenue. It was not a very nice area for a young boy to grow up. When I was 8 years old, my parents bought a small house just outside of Grove City. Having lived in the inner city, I considered our suburban neighborhood to be country living and it was great.

I loved playing in the nearby woods and creeks. It was a good time to grow up. I had pretty good parents, except my dad worked a lot and would go out drinking with his friends on the weekends. This would change, however, later in his life. Mom was the rock of our family, small but mighty. She was about 4 foot, 8 inches tall and weighed about 80 lbs. She had a heart of gold and a lot of wisdom in a small package. She was slow to anger, but if she did get upset, you better watch out. My brother and I rode the bus to school everyday, but in the mornings, we liked to sleep in. My mom usually gave two warnings to get up and dressed before she'd toss a cup of cold water in our face! That always worked and we did not miss much school.

When I was 12 years old, my family began to attend the Grove City Church of Christ on Columbus Street. I remember Pastor Dunn coming to our home one particular Sunday. We sat in the living room as the pastor shared the Gospel with my mom and dad. I remember Mom and Dad prayed with the pastor and then accepted Jesus as their Savior. He then turned to me and asked me if I would like to pray and ask Jesus into my life. I remember thinking that I wasn't exactly sure about what that all meant, but I knew that if I should die, I didn't want to go to Hell, so I also prayed the prayer. I believe I was looking for fire insurance! Two weeks later, I was baptized in church, along with my family. There was, however, no real change in my life, and I was not truly committed and knew I was not saved. During my teen years, I made a lot of new friends, some of whom remain friends to this day.

There were also some friendships, however, that did not work out, and I began doing some things that I knew I shouldn't. I finished high school and the war in Vietnam was going on and most of my friends were drafted into the military and serving in Vietnam. Back home in the States, including Ohio, there were protests going on, "free love" and many friends turned to experimenting with drugs. The world I knew was quickly changing and I decided to enlist in the military. I had some experience in construction and thought the Naval Construction Battalion (Seabees) would be a good fit for me. Just a few months out of boot camp, I was sent to Vietnam, just like many of my friends.

I served about a year and a half in Vietnam, then got to go home before serving my remaining year of duty stateside. During this leave in 1970, I met my wife and we married in the fall of 1972 and soon bought our first home in Grove City. Life was good.

Two years into our marriage, my brother-in-law and his wife took a vacation to Florida, and invited my wife and me to join them. It involved a long drive to Florida and my wife and I rode the entire way in the back of a Chevy van that had no air

conditioning and no back windows. It was mid-July and it was HOT! We stopped along the way to get gas and I went into the store to look for something to read during the trip. I happened to come across a paperback titled, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, by Hal Lindsey. As I began reading, I was amazed by the facts about Jesus and his second coming and that these things were prophesied thousands of years before the birth of Jesus Christ. When we returned home from that vacation, I put that book on a shelf and there it sat for a couple years.

I worked in the sheet metal department of a large sign company in Columbus. Many of the men in this shop were pretty tough guys with shady lifestyles. Some were alcoholics and some used and even sold drugs. I would sit with these men during lunch and over the next couple years, I witnessed first hand how their lifestyles destroyed their families and the lives of these men. In June of 1978, when our first child was less than a year old, the sign company I worked for hired some new people and one particular guy seemed different from most of the men I knew. His name was Jim and one day I had lunch with him and we began to talk. I found out he was a Christian and an elder in his church that met in the student union on the OSU campus. Eventually I began to ask him some questions about Bible prophecy and the Bible in general.

**Dave Johnson testimony continued on Page 3**

### 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."*

**JESUS IS COMING AT 10:00 AM. MAKE SURE YOU ARE AWAKE AND DRESSED!**

This text message was sent to a new roommate concerning the Hispanic landlord coming to fix the toilet.

If only we had a more specific warning for when Christ returns. We do not know when He is coming back but, praise God, we know He is coming!

We have seen signs of his imminent return. We are certainly getting weary of this world and the craziness that seems to develop every day. More importantly, we know this is not our home. Some have been ready for Christ's triumphant return for years. Others have just recently made the most important decision of their lives.

Are you ready? Am I? I am because I accepted Christ. Still, the Holy Spirit tells me daily I need to do a better job of living like I am awaiting His return. Even if He doesn't come in my lifetime, wouldn't keeping my eyes fixed on heaven make my corner of the world better for it?

"I wish we'd all been ready" written and sung by Larry Norman was one of the first contemporary Christian songs I heard. While it is impossible to predict when Jesus is coming back, I am certain being awake and dressed will be the least of our concerns on that day.

**Blessings,  
Cindy Matlock**

