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FEBRUARY 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

Our new dog is named Chewy. What a dog. He can sleep more than any animal I've ever seen. His only exercise is running to his dog dish every morning. In three weeks, he has only barked once. Nearly scared us to death. We thought he was a mute. Sharon had always resisted getting another dog, but now she is in love. The year 2019 brings new things and new directions.

This year will bring new directions for FBC. This coming April we will have been on our property at Orders Road for ten years, and we are now ready to sell some of our 90 acres. We knew we didn't need 90 acres for our ministry, but that is how God blessed us. Since we have occupied our building, there have been many requests to sell some of our property to different companies for various reasons. After consulting with our Trustees and other leaders, this seems like the year to finally do it.

I will appoint a small steering committee to approach a realtor who will list 50 acres of our current real estate. He will be the broker to meet with and negotiate with all potential buyers. Nothing will be sold without a special business meeting and without the consent of our church family.

All monies from the sale of our 50 acres will go to pay off the remaining debt of 1.9 million dollars. We will keep 40 acres of our property for current and future ministries. For the time being, we are mowing about 25 acres including all the yards and Upward fields. Our leaders feel 40 acres will be more than adequate for our future plans and development.

During this year the steering committee will also be active consulting engineers and architects in regard to a permanent sanctuary. We hope to add this addition on to the west end of our existing building. This building would be a 900-1,000 seat auditorium. This is twice the size of the Neal Auditorium, but with multiple use on Sunday mornings.

Maybe you have some new things going on in your home this year. If not, stay involved in FBC and let's work for the glory of God in 2019. It's exciting. If you get tired, come by our house and take a nap with Chewy. Sleepy dog!

Pastor Jerry



“And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples,

exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God.’” Acts 14:21-22, NKJV

And there, dear brothers and sisters, you find part of the biblical basis for the visitation ministry of our church. With the Christmas season over, those of us involved in visitation have been out and about again, although we don’t travel quite as far as Paul and Barnabas did!

My visitation partner and I recently called on several families who had visited our church for the first time. Almost without exception, the first thing they tell us is how friendly our church is, and how they immediately felt welcomed. Well done, brothers and sisters!

Our children’s pastor, Pastor Josh, was warmly praised by one mother for the care and concern he showed for one of her daughters who has special needs. And both her daughters were still talking about the fun they had with their first experience in AWANA.

We always encourage visiting families to consider getting involved in a Life Group, always extend an offer for prayer, and always point out that they will never hear anything unbiblical preached from our pulpit. It is not uncommon to find that many families leave their former churches because they have indeed heard unbiblical preaching.

Those of us involved in visitation ask for your prayers as we carry on with this important ministry. And again, well done, brothers and sisters, for your friendly and welcoming spirit. It’s working!

**Pastor Andy Kovalchik,
Assistant Visitation Pastor**

AWANA Calendar of Events

February 6th—Double Points for Handbooks Night!

Wordless Book February!

February 13th—Wear Black Or Red Night!

February 20th—Wear White or Green Night!

February 27th—Wear Gold or Yellow Night!

(Or Your Uniforms)



Members’ Ministry

Prayer is not a substitute for obedience; prayer shows our love, trust, dependence, and submission to God. Prayer is not a religious exercise. It is at its core a basic human necessity, like the oxygen we will not survive without. We can never say there is nothing we can do; for we can always pray.

I used to pray only when I needed God until I realized I needed God only. Now I pray always!

While we are set free from the penalty of sin as Christians, we are not set free from our obligation to the obedience to Christ. Jesus said, “If you love me you will keep my word; if you love me you will keep my commands.” Our obedience to Christ is directly tied in with our prayer life.

God does not call us to perfection, He calls us to holiness. Holiness leads us to obedience.

We will mislead ourselves by doing good works, reading scripture, praying, or attending church, and then living our lives as if God’s word doesn’t apply to us. That is exactly what the Pharisees and Sadducees did.

We will also mislead ourselves when we do everything right and think God owes us something.

God owes no man anything, He gives His mercy and grace freely, He gives blessings freely, and He alone searches our hearts and knows our motives.

When we learn to walk in obedience with the Holy Spirit, our lives will be in His will and His will is where we need to live. When we pray “*thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,*” we must trust God’s will in our life.

God’s word says this:

“Then Samuel said: Does the Lord take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and defiance is like wickedness and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.” 1 Samuel 15:22-23, CSB

“This is how we know that we love God’s children: when we love God and obey his commands. For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands. And his commands are not a burden, because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith.” 1 John 5:2-4, CSB

In Christ,

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members’ Minister**

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

MATLOCK, Linda	02/01
BARBER, Kim	02/02
HILYARD, Terry	02/02
ROBINETT, Stephanie	02/02
JAMES, Steve	02/02
RAHMAT, Patras	02/03
HAYES, Kaleigh	02/03
BOWER, Sharon	02/04
SCOTT, Karen	02/04
MAYNARD, Christy	02/04
ACKISON, Damon	02/04
ACKISON, Keri	02/05
CURTIS, Terry	02/06
ALEXANDER, Martha	02/06
MULLINS, Jeff	02/07
REISER, Paul	02/07
HICKMAN, Betty	02/08
HUGGINS, Kay	02/09
WEEKLEY, Jean	02/09
FROST, Glenda	02/09
SLACK, Teri	02/10
GIFFORD, Sharon	02/10
EVANS, Janet	02/11
SLACK, Chip	02/11
WOLFE, Justin	02/11
CASTO, Carrie	02/12
HENDERSON, Trinity	02/12
OGUICH, Cathy	02/12
EARLEY, Dave	02/12
ERNST, Todd	02/12
STOLL, Anna	02/13
CARPENTER, David	02/13
BERRY, Bilenda	02/14
MCCOY, Beth	02/16
JOHNSON, Andy	02/16
RIZER, Caleb	02/17
CAMAQUIN, Nicholas	02/17
HITE, Charles	02/18
HALL, Karla	02/18
HEATH, Bethany	02/19
SOSA, Mercedes	02/19
CHADWICK, Rebekah	02/20
NEISWANGER, Darren	02/20
SIMMONS, Dillan	02/20
CUNNINGHAM, Martha	02/22
WATTS, Bennie	02/22
WESS, Heidi	02/22
ANGUS, Jim	02/23
HILL, Darrald	02/23
CAMPBELL, Karen	02/23
UPTON, Sharon	02/23
GREEN, Sarah	02/23
MAYNARD, Rachel	02/23
WESTFALL, Jean	02/23
HILDEBRAND, Bethany	02/24
CRAY, Joanna	02/25
CROPPER, Dianna	02/25
YOUNG-CHOCHARD, Ashley	02/25
TEAFORD, Steve	02/25
HIVELY, Ed	02/25

BOWMAN, Jeremy	02/26
IMBODEN, Kim	02/27
FEGAN, Lauryn	02/27
ROADCAP, Patti	02/28
ZELLER, Tammy	02/29
ZELLER, Mike	02/29

Notes of Appreciation

Dear Church Family,

Steve and I are so very grateful for the love and compassion shown to us during and since the illness and passing of my son, Dan Doyle. Needless to say, this has been a painful time for us, but many of you have walked with us, prayed for us, and shared in our grief. This has enabled us to process our sadness through the filter of God's love. Your prayers, cards, food offerings, hugs, and encouragement have been generous and provides us much needed comfort.

A special thank you to Jeff Bane, who visited Dan the afternoon of the day that he passed, then was willing to preside over the beautiful memorial service. Dan, in advance, had told his wife that he wanted his service at First Baptist, and although she was a member of another church, she agreed. He was baptized years ago at First Baptist and knew how much this church meant to me.

Our deacon/deaconess, Benny and Patty Faught were extremely kind and helpful, as was our Crusaders' Life Group.

Your continued prayers for our family will be appreciated, especially for my grandson (Ethan) and his mother (Kristie) and Dan's brother, (Scott). We are truly blessed by this church, our pastors, and the family of God.

**With Sincere Gratitude,
Beverly and Steve Stewart**

DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKETS YET?



**GREATER
VISION**

**Friday
March 22**

\$50 SEASON TICKETS

\$15 Each Concert in Advance at Welcome Center

GREATER VISION – Fri Mar 22nd

BRIAN FREE & Assurance – Fri June 14th

KAREN PECK & New River – Fri Aug 16th

TRIUMPHANT – Fri Nov. 1st

From Our Children's Pastor

Recently, my family did something that we never really got to do in South Carolina. We played in the snow! It was the first time that my youngest son Jameson had ever been in the snow and only the second time for my son Judson. It was incredible for me to see their enjoyment as they ran and dove into piles of snow or to see the look on Jameson's face when he realized that snow was cold. The sense of excitement that my kids had in having a new experience was awesome to me.

Too many times we can allow ourselves to get wrapped up in the lie that we are too busy to have new experiences with our family. My advice? Each month schedule out an hour or two to try something new together as a family. Go to a park you have never been to, look up a cool science experiment online to do together, or swing into a new donut shop. It doesn't have to be extravagant, but it will create new experiences and memories for your family that you will be thankful for.

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

From Our Worship Minister

Prime Timers are planning a trip to the La Comedia Theater on Thursday, March 21st, to see *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*.



The cost of \$65 includes the comfortable motorcoach bus ride, the delicious buffet lunch in the theater, and the show itself. Seats are first come, first serve. Payment must be received to insure your place. Please see Sharon Myers or me.

Don't forget our regular lunch and service on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. It's a wonderful time of fellowship, hymn-singing, testimonies, and great food for members and visitors over the age of 50. I hope to see you soon.

In Christ,

**Pastor Bryan Corbett,
Worship Minister**

Trustee Ministry 2018 Annual Report

The 2019 Trustee Ministry consists of Jim Bishop, Marshall Butcher, Jeff Carpenter, Allen Duncan, Don Estep, Jeff Grabill, Cliff Hauser, TJ Henderson, Bob Hohn, Greg Hollingsworth, Phyllis McCloy, Gordy Myers, Tim Roberts, Kipp Smith, Tina Smith, Randy Stroth, Walt Van Cleave, Ray Van Wagner, Dwight Ward, Don Weekley, Wyman Westfall, Joyce Williams, with David Berna, Ex-Officio, and Sophie Gephardt, Trustee Emeritus.

A special thanks to the large group of volunteers who can always be counted on to step up and assist with the numerous projects the Trustees and Baptist Builders work on throughout the year.

The flagpole on the FBC campus received a new flag, rope and hardware. New ceiling sound speakers were installed, and sound boards were attached to the walls, in the Neal Auditorium to reduce echo coming from the sound system. Work was also done on the sound system in Genesis. Cam lights were replaced in the Neal sanctuary and Genesis. The kitchen refrigerator compressor went out and was replaced. The parking lot 2018 budget remained the same for patching, resealing, and restriping. An extra sewage pump was purchased as a back-up. A new fountain was installed in the west pond on the FBC campus. For emergency purposes an AED "Automatic External Defibrillator" has been relocated to a more accessible location at FBC.

A memory plate and tree dedication was provided for Justin Butcher. A memory plaque for Barb Riley was installed on the Upward bleachers.

The Trustees received the report that Winkel, Green & Van Horn had notified FBC they were in receipt of everything needed to begin the Review Audit. The Review Audit was anticipated to be finished by the end of 2018. In two to three years a regular Audit will follow.

A new 4-wheel drive/three quarter ton pick-up truck was suggested to be put into the 2019 budget. A snowplow would be put into the 2019 Maintenance Budget.

In March, gutters had backed up at King's Kids Day Care and were cleaned out. The playground fence was moved out 15' on the King's Kids Day Care property.

Meetings with Long & Wilcox concerning the Brown farm property on FBC's west property line took place. The early conclusion was that Grove City Engineers were not agreeable on where the proposed sewer line is anticipated to cross the church property. The City is also leaning against some of the building ideas Wilcox has presented. The City of Grove City has requested that Long & Wilcox work with FBC in conjunction with a location on the east access to Orders Road. At this time negotiations have been tabled.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

Women of FBC

Book Club: We will meet Thursday, February 7th, from 7:00-8:30 PM, at Chick-fil-A. We will discuss the book, *The Sinners' Garden*, by William Sirls. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

Craft Day: We will meet Friday, February 15th, in the FBC Fellowship Hall, from 9 AM to 9 PM. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

Surviving Grief with Hope: We will begin a new class on Sunday, February 3rd, at 4 PM, in Room C-154. Come be supported on your journey through grief in dealing with the loss of a loved one, one's health, a family relationship, a marriage, a job, and more. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer with any questions at 614-875-4613 or 614-551-9781.

Women's Fellowship Breakfast: Saturday, February 9th, at 9:00 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite breakfast item to share and enjoy fellowship with the women of FBC. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.

Bible Studies:

- **Women's Bible Study:** Sundays, at 10:45 AM in Room A-194. Contact Sharon Myers at 614-562-2600 for more information.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Tuesdays, at 7:30 PM, in Room C-156. We are studying the book, *Bible Promises to Live By*, by Pastor Dave Earley. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201 for more information.
- **NEW Women's Bible Study:** Wednesdays, at 6:45 PM, in Room K-121, beginning February 27th. We will begin the book, *The 21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible*, by Pastor Dave Earley. Please contact DeeAnn Brown at 614-314-7847 for more information.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Thursdays, at 9:30 AM, in Room K-117. We are studying, *Job, A Story of Unlikely Joy*, by Lisa Harper. Please contact Pam Peters at 614-843-9279 for more information.
- **First Place 4 Health:** February 3rd is the last day to join. BUT, it's never too late to work on making healthy choices. Maybe you're struggling with losing 5 to 10 pounds or you're battling obesity, or want to increase your knowledge about nutrition, get help with implementing a consistent exercise plan, or learn how to develop a healthy lifestyle for your family. *First Place 4 Health* is a biblically-based, medically trustworthy wellness program that addresses the whole person—physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. For more information, contact Sherri Love at 614-871-3053 (please leave a message).

- **Women's Bible Study:** The Parables of Jesus will continue on Wednesdays, at 6:45 PM, in Room K-117. No book required. Bring your Bibles and a journal! Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.
- **REFIT** is a cardio dance class that will fit YOU, no matter your fitness level! It is a fitness experience using easy-to-learn moves and positive music for a fun and energizing workout—focusing on both the heart and the soul! We meet every Thursday from 7 PM to 8 PM in Genesis Auditorium. Please contact Carla Wells at 614-579-1237 for more information.

Ronda Kinnett, Women's Ministry Director

FBC Family,

I hope this newsletter finds you well, and enjoying the grace of our Lord! He has been so good to us. Often times, in my journal, I'll take some time and thank God for who He is and all that He has done in our lives and the life of our church. Do you find yourself thanking God often? It is one of the healthiest practices for the believer to constantly remind themselves of everything we have to be thankful for!

I hope you have seen God move and work in your life over the last month as we have focused in on 28 Days of Prayer and 7 Big Things. I am praying that God continues to reveal Himself to you, day after day!

We had a great month in January in our Student Ministry as we hosted our Annual Campy Awards! It was such a fun night! Nearly 100 people joined us as we celebrated last year's camp and looked forward to this year's camp. We had a blast! Camp is June 11th-15th, and we are always in need of scholarships. If you would like to sponsor a camper or two—please let me know!

Coming up in February is our Annual Camp Fundraiser—our Dinner and a Movie + Cake Auction, and I hope you have already bought your tickets! If you have not—you should! It is just \$10 a person, and it is a wonderful event to support our students who are going to camp! Last year, we raised nearly \$10K, and I'd like to beat that amount this year! If you've never been—it is sooo much fun!! The food is delicious, the movie is always a hit, and the Cake Auction—is just too hard to describe! YOU HAVE TO BE THERE, so COME!! The movie this year is: *Unbroken: A Path to Redemption*—the redeeming story of Louis Zamperini! It's an incredible film. I hope to see you there!

It is a blessing to serve you, Church.

Blessings,

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



Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be February 2nd at 7:30 AM. Pastor Josh Wright will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Joe Brandinger shared at the January breakfast.

I was born on Oct. 5, 1958, to Emanuel and Phyllis Brandinger, or so I thought. That comes later. Mom and Dad got divorced when I was one year old. Mom remarried in 1959 to Robert Wolf, my stepdad, so I thought. That comes later. There were six of us children.

As a young boy, I grew up in Riverside, CA. It should have been a really happy childhood because both my parents had great jobs except my stepdad was an alcoholic and my mom turned a blind eye to the physical and emotional abuse that seemed to occur daily.

By rights, I shouldn't be here today. My best friend and I went to each other's birthday parties until the 4th grade. That year, my mom would not let me go to Ricky's party and never told me why. I lost three of my friends that day. They were playing catch with a football when one of them threw the ball over the fence. The next door neighbor had hand grenades hidden under a tree where my friend found them. Instead of throwing the football, they played catch with a grenade. Two died immediately and one suffered for months until he succumbed to his injuries.

I was a member of the Arlington Foursquare Church and went to church and Sunday School every week because Mom said to. Mom and Dad went once in awhile. I found peace at church with people who seemed to care about me.

It seemed the harder I tried to make my parents happy, the more I failed. My stepfather was mean to all of us including my dog. In 1973, we moved to my grandparents' farmhouse, which at the time, I thought, was certainly a death sentence. I didn't have a clue how to "slop" pigs or milk cows, use a pick axe to dig up frozen pipes or just stay warm.

I joined the Baptist Church in the small town and enjoyed the time away from chores and the trouble that I always seemed to be in. I was saved the summer of my sophomore year and I will never forget the electricity that coursed through my body. I wish I could say that all that followed was milk and honey. I didn't realize how important being a child of God is. Life took over and God took a back seat to everything.

My senior year, I got into trouble with marijuana and alcohol. I went to jail for stealing and learned a powerful lesson sitting in jail for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's at 17 years of age.

My mother passed away when I was 28. She had cancer. She swore my sister to a death bed confession which was shared with me ten years later. It turns out that I was adopted. I don't know my biological family. Enough bad news. God is my Father and you are my brothers!

At 60 years of age, I am blessed! I have been married for 22 years. I have one daughter, one son, one stepdaughter and one stepson. I have four grandsons and four granddaughters.

I am a member of Men's Fraternity and try to attend every Wednesday. I serve at Feed My Sheep mission on Tuesday nights and hope that I can help those less fortunate than me. My wife and I enjoy coming to church on Sundays. I know some of you and hope to know the rest of you. I haven't met anyone at this church whom I didn't like. God has been more than patient with me, and I love Him dearly.

The more that I give, I get blessed back ten fold. The greatest gift I ever received was my salvation, and I want to help lead others to Christ. I love you, but more importantly, God loves you!

**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

I am tired of talking about winter already. The Christmas season is over, so bring on the spring. I don't like snow and ice. One of my big life goals is to stay cozy and warm. The best place to do this is in my bed. Thus, I struggle with going places I am not getting paid to go. Church falls into this category. I can have another cup of coffee or three and stay nice and snug in my home. I will fellowship with my dogs. Yet, this is not what we do, is it? We get up, get ready and sometimes have our first cup of coffee at the church's café.

Satan likes to keep us isolated. If we aren't actively listening in church, he can whisper his insane ideology that we are not good enough for God—that God doesn't really care about us and neither does anyone else. Our frustrations mount and our loneliness is amplified due to the lies we are being fed.

I'm not saying the only place we can worship and gather with Christian friends is church. For some, health and other issues prevent leaving home or coming to church. And, truthfully, we should be praising God all the time. We should always be filled with gratitude for what He has done. Church is only a couple hours a week, and so we read our Bibles and pray and worship much more often outside the actual building.

Yet, there is something about those few hours in God's house. They serve as a prompt to worship elsewhere and often. Church services and our Life Groups strengthen us for the hours until we come together again. Personally, I find the most important thing is how communal worship shuts up the enemy. The message and the music drown him out. Serving in our ministries and Life Groups together builds us up. We need church. Join us! Volunteers faithfully plow the parking lot and the building is heated.



**Blessings,
Cindy Matlock**