



First Baptist Church
Grove City

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Message



Dr. Jerry Neal
Senior Pastor

Dr. Dave Earley
Lead Pastor

Mike D'Attoma
Assistant Pastor

Bryan Corbett
Worship Pastor

Dr. John Foster
Discipleship Pastor

David Berna
Visitation Pastor

Jeff Bane
Outreach Pastor

Joshua Wright
Children's Pastor

Robert Stroup
Business Administrator

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www.firstgc.org

Sitting in my favorite chair, I was interrupted by a bird flying through the room. It went back and forth, and then disappeared. I had Sharon to help me find it, but we had no luck. She immediately concluded I was hallucinating. She enjoyed poking fun at me. A week later, she found it in a Christmas bag—not a bird, but a bat that scared her out of her shoes. She was brave enough to close the bag and set it out for me to dispose of. The mystery of the bat's entrance was solved when we retraced Sharon's routine. She had been leaving the door open in the morning for Chewy.

Twenty-eight days of prayer has passed. There have been many answers to prayer reported. One lady said, "I got my *28-Day Prayer Book* late, but it has been a daily blessing to me." Hopefully, we all have increased our Bible reading and prayer time during January. Now we have formed a habit and routine that will keep intruders out of our relationship with Christ. Just as a bat is a dangerous, unwelcomed intruder in our house, so is bitterness, gossip, jealousy, back-biting, and resentment detrimental to our hearts.

Through prayer, we can open our lives more to God and bring revival to our church. We can open our minds more to God's Word and our hearts to our church family. And the other thing, which is very important, we can, through prayer, "shut the door and keep out the devil."

Pastor Jerry

Members' Ministry

Jesus's prayer life was always about His Father's business. He did not pray as a philosopher, a theologian, or even a preacher, He prayed as the Son of God and He humbled Himself under the authority of the Father.

He prayed personally and passionately to the Father, and as Pastor Dave said, "This was a radical way to pray." And Jesus taught us to pray this way.

Do we approach God this way as His children, personally and passionately, or is He a distant being who strikes fear in us and is cold and callous?

Do we understand that there is really nothing that is beyond the realm of prayer, except that which is outside of the will of God?

"We have not because we ask not, or we ask with wrong motives," is what the Bible tells us. Are we forsaking God when we do life without praying? As His children our first, last, and everything we do throughout our day should be bathed in prayer.

But millions of people every day ignore God in their daily lives. Prayer is the language of dependence, confession, worship and love. It should come natural for us to pray. If we think of prayer from these standpoints, why wouldn't we want to pray?

We really don't know much about praying, for if we did, we would ask God to help us pray and not miss that connection with God.

Prayer unleashes the power of God in us, through us in our lives, and in the lives of those around us. As we finish up the 28-Days of Prayer, let's make a commitment to pray continually throughout this year, and the years to come, and see what God will do in our lives, our Church, our Community, our Nation, our World.

"You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and wage war. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures." **James 4:2-3**

In Christ,

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members' Minister**

AWANA Ministry Update

February 5th—Hat Night!

February 12th—Green Night (Wear Green)!

February 19th—KISS Night (Kids Invite Someone Special)!

February 26th—Double Points for Handbooks Night!



Trustee Ministry

Every year is a new blessing for us from God. Each New Year brings hope and promise of a year better than the last. It also gives us occasion to reflect on the past year and thank God for the blessings he has given us. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 4:17

Our grounds have been aeriated and TruGreen was out to treat the property. Fertilizer was ordered and has been applied to the Upward Field.

Mower blades were taken off/sharpened and the equipment converted to snow care. Training took place for the new plow and new salt spreader.

The nativity scene and lights were taken down and stored. Consensus was given to purchase and install ten to fifteen anti-scald faucets in the Children's Wing restrooms.

The timer associated with parking lot lighting has been reset to go off at 10:30 PM every night for those of you who are here for evening activities.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry**

When we bend our knees to pray, God bends His ear to listen.
Author Unknown

Make your plans to be part of our *Winter Mission Celebration* on Sunday, February 23rd, at 6:00 PM, in the Genesis Auditorium.

Join together for a time of worship, focused prayer, and reports from missionaries working among unreached people groups as well as mission highlights from our Mexico Mission Team.



Mark your calendars now! You won't want to miss it!

**Pastor John Foster,
Discipleship Pastor**

Notes of Appreciation

To Our Church Family at First Baptist Church of Grove City,

This past week (December) we received a wonderful gift of fruit and baked goods. Everything was delicious. The gift was delivered by two delightful young ladies: Ernestina Thompson and Junelyn Dunson. We want to thank everyone so much for your thoughtfulness.

Don and Bonnie Harvey

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

NHN is a volunteer-based initiative created to assist people in our area who are seniors and/or who are struggling with disabilities, with various projects around their 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 Grundei at 614-947-9296 or Sherri Love at 614-871-3053.

Women of FBC

Please visit the **Women's Kiosk** to find more information about our Groups and Events! Or you may contact Ronda Kinnett directly at 614-313-7871.

AMAZING LOVE OUTREACH DINNER: Would you like to be a part of a unique opportunity to have dinner with your unsaved or unchurched friends, family, and co-workers? You can sign-up to be a hostess of your own table and share the love of Christ with your guests. Hostess sign-ups begin Sunday, February 16th. Please contact Audrea Ratliff at 614-464-7982 for more information.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!! Join the new and improved Sisters of Encouragement Ministry (Secret Sister)! Look for forms on the "Secret Sister" table to join any time. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 or Tracie Cobb at 614-519-3377 or Tracie0220@gmail.com for more information.

Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 6th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Longhorn on Stringtown Road to discuss *Defined* by Alex Kendrick. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

Women's Fellowship Breakfast is Saturday, February 8th at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Marilyn Shaffer with ABWE Mission will join us to share their mission to build relationships with the Muslim community in Columbus. Bring your favorite breakfast food to share. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-507-6306 for more information.

Women of Faith Bible Study: We will meet again on Monday, February 10th and 24th, in room C-146, at 1:00 PM. We are studying *God, Our Great Encourager*. Please contact Mindy Stith at 614-871-4812 for more information.

Power in Prayer: If you desire to see more power in your prayer life, please consider joining with other women for 13-weeks. We will meet from February 12th to May 13th, on Wednesdays, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, in the Prayer Room. This class requires a weekly commitment and a weekly memorization verse. Please contact Marlene Bower at 716-704-5877 for more information.

Craft Day: Friday, February 21st, from 9 AM to 9 PM. Mark your calendar for the 3rd Friday of each month. Please bring a project, a snack or a side dish, and prepare for a day of fun and fellowship. For more information, contact Janet Swicegood at 614-572-5659 or KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953.

Girls Night Out is on Tuesday, February 27th, at 6:30 PM, at China Bell on Stringtown Road. Please contact Jodi Butcher at 614-620-6380 to reserve a seat and join us for dinner!

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study: We are studying *Red Sea Rules* by Robert J. Morgan at 6:45 PM, in room S-101, in the Student Wing. Please contact DeeAnn Brown at 614-314-7847 for more information.

M.O.M. (Moms on Mission): Beginning March 5th, we will be studying *The Six Truths of Motherhood* by Karen Stubbs. The study material is available on RightNow Media. We meet for encouragement with other FBC moms with children ages birth to 6th grade. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 8:00 PM in room S-106. Please contact Bethany Heath at 614-323-9721 for more information.

Tuesday Night Ladies Class: We are studying *I Never Thought I'd See the Day* by David Jeremiah beginning January 14th, at 7:00 PM, in room G-104. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-530-1463 for more information.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: Join us at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying *Trustworthy* by Lysa TerKeurst. Please contact Pam Peters at 614-274-9279 for more information. Childcare is available.

FBC Family,

I hope you are doing well and have had a wonderful beginning to 2020! It is still weird for me to say, or even write 2020, but I guess at some point it will have to catch on! I am so excited about everything that God is going to do in and through FBC Grove City this year! It is a great time to be a part of this local community of faith!!



I just wanted to personally invite you to our *Dinner and a Movie* on Friday, February 7th. If you have not picked up your tickets yet—please do so as soon as possible from our church office. This event is a fundraiser for our student ministry. The tickets are \$10.00 each and the event includes a cake auction in which we will auction off cakes that people have donated. It is a ton of fun and last year we raised \$10,500 for our students! I would like to beat that number this year! Please join us! It is truly a wonderful night!

Also, we are planning to take another student/adult team to Brooklyn/NYC this April. If you would like to join us, you can register online at: <https://firstgc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/350093> OR if you have questions, you can email me at mike@firstgc.org and I'd be happy to assist. The dates are April 4-9. It's going to be an incredible week!

Also, we are always in need of scholarships for our NYC Mission Trip. If you would like to make a donation to this trip—you may do so by marking your envelope NYC Mission OR by giving online here: <https://firstgc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/nyc-mission-trip>.

Thank you so much!! It is a blessing to serve you, church!

Sola Deo Gloria,

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

Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be held Saturday, February 1st, at 7:30 AM. Vern Meyer will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Ken McKinley, from the January breakfast.

I grew up in a Christian home where we attended a small Friends church and where I maintained a belief in God. After high school and electronics school, I obtained a job at Motorola in Quincy, Illinois. The company decided to move to Phoenix and I did not wish to go along.

I soon found a job with the Iowa State Penitentiary where I worked for two stressful years. There were a lot of bad things happening there. One day, after a bad event, an officer and I were talking about God. This topic seemed to come up a lot there. The officer was also a bi-vocational pastor. I told him that I believed in God just to be rid of him when he said, "Satan believes in God and trembles in His presence. Believing was not enough." But when I asked him if he would come over to our house and explain that, he told me that he gets tired of going to other people's homes. He said that I should come to his house and that was my last conversation on the subject.

Due to the stress of my job, my blood pressure became very elevated. My doctor told me I had three choices: change jobs, learn to maintain my blood pressure, or die. So Susan and I decided to return to Ohio where I obtained a job at a factory making car seats. We soon purchased a home and had a baby girl. My blood pressure was fine by then, but the economy soon turned down and I lost my job. I had to entertain odd jobs in order to make up for my lost employment. One day my brother asked me to be the catcher on his church softball team, so I said yes. We began attending that church and after awhile, in the quiet of my room, I asked Jesus into my heart. I had a good feeling but didn't notice any big changes in my life.

I eventually landed a job selling advertising. I would have to drive great distances trying to figure out how to sell to people. I soon decided that I was not a salesman. One day I stopped at a fast food restaurant and bought a sandwich and a soda. It began raining. It rained so hard, I could not get out of my car. My windshield fogged up, and I was stuck in my car. I felt so down and depressed that I looked up to God and said, "God, I shouldn't do this, but I need a job and I need it now!" After I sat for awhile, I made it home feeling defeated. As I began to explain my failure to my wife, she told me that the employment agency called and had a job listing for me. I asked her when they called and she said that it was about a half an hour ago, the same time I had prayed to God. I told her that I didn't know what the job was (Triplitt LCI), but I was going to have that job, and I did. We eventually relocated to northwest Ohio where we joined a church and attended with our family for forty years until we moved to Grove City.

Due to my troubles with high blood pressure I recently found out that I now have stage 4 renal diseases. I am currently in the process of trying to obtain a kidney transplant. I have given this concern over to God. And since then, He has been telling me, "Don't worry, I have this!"

**God Bless,
Pastor David Berna**



Provides help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. *GriefShare* is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Sundays 4:00 PM – 6:00PM
First Baptist Church

January 26th – May 3rd
Room A-190: Cost \$15.00

Call Barb Lovingshimer 614-875-4613 with any questions.

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 remember bringing my first child home from the hospital. The first night I prayed so hard, praying that God would help me to be the perfect mom. He did not! Praying that I would get my pre-baby figure back. I did not! Mostly, praying that she would stop crying and begin to sleep. She did not! It was a long night made up of sporadic groggy prayers from me and many tears from us both.

The first night she left for college was the same, except I am sure I was the only one weeping. Over the last eighteen years, I have spent many hours supplying heaven with my requests for this child. And though the second child has a few more years left at home, I may need a knee replacement from the many hours I have knelt by my bed praying for him. Now I get to be a bonus mom to two more sons, and the requests flowing from my lips to God's ear are seemingly unending—sometimes with tears, but always with gratitude for my four blessings.

Several weeks after the start of her classes, I received a very excited call from my college girl. She had received a care package from our church. She felt so blessed that someone had thought of her and taken the time to mail some goodies and an encouraging message with the promise of continued prayers on her behalf.

We watch each other's kids in the nursery and teach them in Sunday School and AWANA. Why should we be so surprised to learn that our friends continue to love on our kids when they are young adults? Ann Fulton is heading up a ministry specifically geared to our college kids. This year alone, Ann and her merry band of cohorts have been sending care packages to 55 kids!

If you are looking for a new ministry here at FBC, Ann would love to share with you what she does and how exactly she makes sure so many young adults from our church feel the love of FBC whether they are here in town or far from home. I've always believed God gives a little more of His grace and mercies to praying Moms.

I know He certainly does for their friends.

**Blessings,
Cindy Matlock**