



First Baptist Church
Grove City

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JULY NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Our backyard adjoins the frisbee golf course located on the Nazarene Church property. None of the “golf holes” are close to our property, but that doesn’t mean we don’t find our share of frisbees. This week a frisbee came whizzing under my fence and landed where I was taking a sun nap. When I awoke to give it back to its owner, I recognized he was Dale Benson, the pastor of the Nazarene Church. After I admonished him on his poorly aimed frisbee, we enjoyed a lengthy conversation. I found out he lives in the house adjoining our property.

Dr. Dave Earley
Lead Pastor

Dr. Jerry Neal
Senior Pastor

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

Getting acquainted with neighbors is an important project. I need to know my neighbors so I can pray for them, love them, and serve them. Jesus wants us to win our city for Christ, and the best way to do it is one at a time. The only way this works is if we find ways to meet our neighbors. I make sure I speak to their kids, throw balls with them, and buy from their lemonade stands. This week I paid \$5.00 for a Styrofoam cupful that was a little on the sweet side.

I also have some neighbors who attend our church. Bill, who recently moved to Florida, tells me every time he sees me that I am the reason he is alive. One day he showed up at my door for prayer. He had just found out that he had terminal cancer.

Get to know your neighbors in order to introduce them to Christ. If you find out they are Nazarenes or a preacher...well, just enjoy them. We are on the same team!

Pastor Jerry

MEMBERS' MINISTRY

God is never limited by our resources, our abilities, our mobility, our lack of any of these things, or even our location.

God moves mountains, parts the seas, and draws fire from the earth's core. He spoke into creation all the glorious things we see around us. He does not need you or me to accomplish what He wills, but He invites us to join Him.

God has a calling on the life of each of His children; His presence dwells within us. There is nothing impossible for God: there is no place He cannot reach, no person He cannot touch, no ruler He cannot move, no situation He cannot change.

We need to trust God to take care of all our needs, go where He leads, speak when He tells us, and love those around us as He does.

God is calling the Church to stand strong and be faithful in Him. We are put here now for such a time as this, to be a beacon of hope, a vessel of light, and a pillar of love in our community.

The greatest thing we can do for our community and our nation is to honor the Lord. When we live to honor Him, we will do our civic duty with a genuine willingness to bring glory to His name and make the best choices possible, for we are submitting to His authority over our lives.

Where is God calling you to go, to love, to lead, to surrender today?

God's Word declares this:

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members' Minister**

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the contribution to Mount Carmel Foundation (in memory of her husband, Larry Haldeman), but more than that, all the love and support you showed to Larry and me.

Patti Haldeman

Dear First Baptist Staff,

Thank you so much for the wonderful job that you're doing. Our congregation is truly blessed by your hard work and service for our Lord. Please know that you're in our thoughts and prayers.

**In Christ's Love,
Jeff and Darlene Cave**

TRUSTEE MINISTRY

With humble thanks may we give honor to our great men and women in uniform keeping the United States safe from harm. And to those heroes and first responders, who daily put their lives on the front lines to ensure our families remain safe from harm, our deepest respect. God bless and be with them.

The Trustees worked with Baptist Builders to build the stage used for the FBC Drive-In church. Parking lot attendant support was also arranged for church services.

The Trustees have been working with our volunteers fertilizing and treating the FBC campus lawns for weeds. They have tackled the vast job of maintaining and treating the mulch beds for weeds followed by the spreading of new mulch around the trees and in the beds.

On the King's Kids Day Care campus, air conditioners were serviced and repaired. Mulch beds were treated for weeds and new mulch spread, the lawn was fertilized and treated for weeds, and the hedges and trees have been trimmed.

The banks along the stream, located on the west side of the FBC campus, were treated for weeds. Aggressive treatment was also applied for weed control in our parking lot cracks and crevices.

The FBC farmland has been planted with soybeans this year.

The new zero turn mower arrived on campus just as the old John Deere zero turn mower began having mechanical problems and went into the shop.

Lights were replaced in various locations throughout the church by our volunteers.

We will soon be starting to prepare next year's budget.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Church Family,

Thank you for all the lovely flowers and many, many prayers (the passing of her mother, Becky Bushong). They were all very comforting and very appreciated. Be blessed.

**Sincerely,
Gail Bushong**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and food in the death of our mother, Wilda Jones.

**Bob Jones and family
Larry Jones and family
Joyce Blake and family**

FBC Grove City Members,

Thank you all for your prayers, food, flowers, and love expressed during the last months and ultimately the death of our beloved, Jimmie Buttrick. You are all very precious to us.

The Buttrick and James families

Women of FBC

Dear Women of FBC,

Every woman, because she is a part of the Body of Christ, has a role to play at First Baptist. Regardless of your gifts and talents, there are ministry opportunities for you to be a part of. As groups and events begin again, I would love to get you connected in serving.

Blessings!

Ronda Kinnett,
Women's Ministry Director

Ladies of First Baptist! Isn't it great to have the opportunity to be back in church? To see friends in their masks! To smile and wave to each other! I'm grateful we have the option of watching online too! And how fun was Drive-In church! Thank you to the pastors, staff, and volunteers for shepherding us through this eventful time! What a joy to be part of such a caring church! If you're part of a Women's Ministry Life Group, know that 14 Life Group leaders were and are in regular contact to encourage each other and stay focused on your needs. We serve an awesome God who uses difficult times to draw us closer to Him and to each other! Praise the living God!

Carol Middendorf,
Women's Ministry Life Group Coach

To the Ladies of the Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study: **Pam Peters, Barb Lovingshimer, and Kay Hardman** are missing you all so much. We are glad to keep in touch now and then and we love hearing from you. We still have no plans for a summer study, but we are making plans for the fall study. There is nothing definite yet, but we will be in touch with you. Take care, be safe, and stay in the Word.

Ronda Kinnett,
Women's Ministry Director



Our new GriefShare Sessions will begin Sunday, August 2nd, in the Fellowship Hall, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. We will also have online participation available. You may register online at www.GriefShare.com or feel free to call Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613. Let us help you on your journey through grief.

FROM OUR DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

FIRSTstudents is again meeting on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 PM at the church building! If you will be in the 7th grade this fall or have recently graduated from high school, we would love to see you! Please contact Pastor John if you have any questions at john@firstgc.org.



Attention On-Campus Groups... While we cannot meet on Sunday mornings yet due to space limitations for everyone to meet at the same time, you are encouraged to gather another time during the week. Rooms are available to accommodate the size of your Group and still allow for social distancing. Contact Pastor John at john@firstgc.org to schedule a day and time for your Group to meet.

Off-Campus Groups... please feel free to meet as you are comfortable. The summer months are a great time for a cookout or outdoor activities that naturally promote social distancing.

You can always reach me at john@firstgc.org or call or text me at 614-795-6637 for more information.

Our church family is staying engaged in worship! We hope you are too.

New Services: In order to accommodate social distancing, we have added two additional services. We now meet at 8:00 AM in Neal Auditorium and have resumed our Genesis service at 10:45 AM.

Sunday Morning Worship can still be viewed live on our *Facebook* page, on *YouTube*, and on our website at 9:15 and 10:45 AM. These messages are also available on-demand on our website the following Monday.

A Time of Prayer and Bible Study is also streamed on both *Facebook* and our website on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM.

Our Student Ministry posts daily video devotions on *Instagram* led by Student Ministry leaders and other students.

Our Children's Ministry, led by Pastor Josh Wright, also provides interactive lessons for kids on both *Facebook* and our website on Wednesday evenings.

Pastor John Foster,
Discipleship Pastor

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Thank you for the live broadcasts of online church. They are a blessing to Ron and I. God bless all of the ministers and staff who make this happen each week.

Sincerely and with God's love,
Diane Bowman

Thank you for the online services with worship team. We miss our church family.

Prayerfully,
Derrick and Ronda Maynard

MEN'S CORNER

Our next **Men's Fellowship Breakfast and workday** at Orders Road will be on Saturday, August 1st at 7:30AM. Tommy Davis will share his testimony. Since we have not been having the breakfast, we have had no testimonies to share so I will take this opportunity to share mine.

I have invited around 300 men to share their testimonies at the breakfasts over the past 25 years. I have said to the men I invited "tell where you were before you had a life changing experience" before you became saved, your life changing experience, and what happened after it. Please do this in 10 to 15 minutes. It is not a biography, Bible study or sermon. It is your personal experience."

My testimony is I grew up on a small farm in Southern Indiana. My parents were believers and members of the Bethel Baptist Church. I grew up attending church and Sunday school regularly. My folks had daily devotion and prayer. I knew about God but did not know Him personally. I was concerned about dying and going to hell. I saw others confess Jesus as Lord and Savior. I knew how but did not do it. Then one Friday night at the end of a weeklong revival, they were closing the service with the song "Just as I Am." I really wasn't paying attention to the service when I heard a voice say, "David isn't it about time we had a relationship?" I knew it was the voice of God! I answered in my mind "Yes, Lord, but it's a long way for a little 10-year-old boy to walk up front. If you would have someone go first, I would follow them." God had Joann Ritchie go forward and I followed her. I professed Jesus as my Lord and Savior that night.

After accepting Jesus, I had a sense of peace. Since then there have been many challenges and opportunities to serve the Lord. I have failed many times, but God has always helped and blessed me. In college there were many worldly challenges, but the Holy Spirit indwelt me. When I drifted, He lovingly drew me back.

God gave me a Christian wife and mother to our son and daughter, Jill Jones. After 32 years of marriage, God took her home to Heaven. He later led me to my present wife of 24 years, Nora, a Christian lady who had been a widow for seven years. Interestingly enough, she grew up as a member of the Grove City Baptist church beginning in 1957.

Through the years God has given me many opportunities to serve Him. I have been a Sunday school teacher, Trustee, and Deacon in Baptist churches in Colorado, Indiana, and here at FBC for 43 years.

After graduating from Purdue University with a degree in Forestry, I went to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a Forester. A little over a year after my first wife passed, I decided to retire after having worked for 33 years. My plan was to leave Ohio and move back to my farm in Indiana. God intervened and, totally unplanned by me, He led me to enroll in Boyce Bible School, an arm of Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY. After two years I graduated with an Associate Degree in Christian Ministry. Soon after I graduated, FBC invited me to be the Visitation Pastor and later added the duties of Facilities Manager and Men's Ministry. How much longer He wants me to serve is up to Him. James 4:15 says "For we ought to say, if the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." Right now, I am so

blessed to be able to serve with so many wonderful and blessed people.

**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*

Inspired watching my children learn over the internet, I signed up for a couple of remote classes this past spring. I've almost finished my cooking class. It is a beginner's class and I am learning to make some "hip" new recipes with several women, all in their early 20's. They call everyone "girl," including me. The way they chirp their "r's" had me checking my phone several times, though. I don't have the heart to tell them that my kids, who find spicy mustard daunting, may not find a "mean curry" as delectable as these ladies do.

I am also taking a beginner's sewing class. I have moved past the square table cloths and am now proudly making simple shirts and skirts; so long as they do not require buttons, zippers or sleeves. These exciting new skills will come soon enough according to our instructor.

I do love learning new things, more so when others, including the teacher, are kind and compassionate when I need one more "tutorial" or a little more explanation of the technique. Being a beginner in cooking and sewing has brought fresh grace from me for other beginners. While we may have benefitted from VBS, Sunday school, and regular church attendance, some in our Life Group or other Bible studies are "babes" in Christ. If they ask questions like they have never read a Bible, it may be because they have actually never read a Bible! If they curse in surprise when a passage of Scripture suddenly makes sense to them, it strikes me as the most honest of reactions. They are truly overwhelmed by God's love for them. What a joyous celebration when they finally accept Jesus—either with us, during an altar call or in the privacy of their own homes. Tears of gratitude flow to witness the start of someone's relationship with Christ.

Tears of laughter come when they ask how long it took me to memorize the entire Bible! Even mature Christians glean new insights from the Bible all the time and learn much from others, memorization of Scripture included.

I have so much to learn and depend on Christ minute by minute. His truth is revealed a little more with every Bible study and daily devotion.

This "girl" is still a work in progress!

**Blessings,
Cindy Matlock**

