



First Baptist Church
Grove City

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JULY NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Message



Sharon and I have been fortunate enough to attend the SBC annual convention for most of the past twenty years. They have all been rewarding—some unforgettable. In New Orleans, we crammed six people in a little compact car. We were squashed. Then a tropical storm hit. In Phoenix I got separated from our group at lunchtime. I found myself looking in restaurants for them. I took my name badge off when I peered into the window of Hooters. Maybe our favorite convention was in Dallas. Sharon and I got to worship at the historic FBC and heard the great W.A. Criswell preach.

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

Birmingham, Alabama was a great experience this year. David Platt asked hurting pastors to stand and thousands laid hands on them, praying out loud at the same time. That was a great deal of praying. Pastor Andrew Brunson, who was jailed in Turkey for over two years spoke. He was facing life in prison, falsely accused of being a terrorist. The struggles he faced were heart-wrenching, but the grace of God was real in that prison. God brought him home.

For me, some of the most moving testimonies I heard came from pastors in Birmingham. This is where Martin Luther King, Jr., was jailed. The racial tension is still very much an issue in this city. But Southern Baptist pastors who are black and white are joining together in fellowship and ministry to bring unity. They have joint VBS weeks and do mission projects together. They exchange pulpits and enjoy hanging out together. It is real.

The Southern Baptist Convention over the years have made Sharon and me proud to be Southern Baptists. It seems to only get better each and every year.

Pastor Jerry



I played little league baseball for five years when I was a boy. We would practice one night a week and play a game a second night. Our uniforms consisted of a t-shirt and a ball cap with our team's name on them (we

were the Daggers) and our sponsor's name on the back (Ken's Barber Shop in Livonia, Michigan, was ours. Ever heard of it? I didn't think so). There was one set of bats and gear the whole team used.

How things have changed! My granddaughter plays on a traveling softball team. All the team members have full uniforms and their own individual bats and gear. They practice a great deal more than I ever did, and they play not just one game a week, but several. And yes, they do travel; not just in Ohio, but also to Michigan and Indiana. They play three to five games most weekends, sharing even meals and lodging when traveling. They have become very closely knit, almost like family.

The thought hit me, "Are our Life Groups like that?" Do we "practice" enough together to become as closely knit as my granddaughter's traveling softball team? Do we play enough "games?" The church where Karen and I worshipped in Texas called our small in-home groups "home teams." Is your Life Group a team? If my granddaughter and her teammates can work together as a team to win softball games, surely we can work together as a team to grow in Christ and win others to Him.

Oh, and the choice of uniforms is up to you!

**Pastor Andy Kovalchik,
Assistant Visitation Pastor**

Notes of Appreciation

Dear FBC,

I have called you home for more than 18 years now. My family is a huge part of the church, and I feel like I am leaving behind a part of myself next year. Thank you so much for all your support and shaping the strong person I am today, and most of all, my love for Jesus.

Staley Heiby

To Our FBC Family,

Thank you for your prayers and support after the recent death of our son, David. The flowers sent to the funeral home were beautiful and we were touched by the many cards and texts.

Special Thanks to our New Covenant Life Group for hosting the luncheon after the funeral for our family. We can't imagine going through these last weeks without the love and support from our church.

Dave and Belinda Johnson

Members' Ministry

I recently started addiction counseling with Dr. Ron Routh at his clinic. One thing I have learned through this process is that eighty percent of the people who come in never used drugs before they were prescribed pain killers from a physician. They never thought that drug addiction would be a part of their lives, or knew the pain it would cause, or knew the lengths they would go to hide their addiction from others.

These people are from every walk of life, and they are men and women just like us for addiction has no prejudice. It consumes whomever it can. As I get to spend time with people, I see God working in them and on them. He has brought them to the *Hope of Jabez* for a reason—for spiritual, physical, and emotional healing. It is a long process that requires all three of these areas for healing, for we are all made up of mind, body, and soul.

But addiction goes beyond opioids, beyond alcohol, and beyond pornography. It goes beyond what we believe. It takes us further than we want to go; it makes us live in the shadows, hiding in our guilt and shame. Addictions deceive us into believing we cannot live without whatever chains us.

This I know, Christ Jesus has set us free from this bondage. It doesn't matter what our addiction is. Christ can break these chains. This is not a theory I have read about, for I have had my own addictions which Christ has set me free from, and I have seen Him set others free from their bondage. Christ died for each of us, and He meets us where we are and says, "Come follow me." He doesn't leave us there. He leads us into victory and freedom.

We, as followers of Christ, must learn the freedom we have in Christ. We receive help from the Holy Spirit and the power of God in our lives. We are dead to sin. It is no longer our master. We're rescued from its power by Christ. He declared, "It is finished," putting an end to its power over our lives.

We need to learn who we are in Christ and what it means to be free. If sin has you in bondage, know this—you are not the first one to be in bondage, nor will you be the last. Don't let the devil trick you into hiding in your guilt and shame. Jesus already knows what is going on and He declared, "Who the Son sets free is free indeed!"

If you want to walk in freedom from whatever holds you back, call the church office and we will pray with you and start the healing process. There is help available. There is hope!

"So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free." **John 8:36**

In Christ,

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members' Minister**

AWANA Ministry Update

Our AWANA club supports the AWANA "GO" missions program by assisting international AWANA clubs with their expenses. This past year our club contributed \$255.00 in their support. Thank you AWANA families, kids, and volunteers!

If you are interested in helping in AWANA or have questions about the AWANA ministry, please contact Pastor Josh at church or Sherri Love at 614-871-3053.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

BANE, Jeff	07/02	LAMB, Shannon	07/23
GOLDSMITH, Hannah	07/02	OVERMYER, Rick	07/23
O'NEAL, Cami	07/02	WHITE, Alandon	07/23
GOLDSMITH, John	07/03	FUHR, Butch	07/23
DAVIS, Thomas	07/04	LAITRES, Richard	07/24
SMITH, Brooklyn	07/04	LACY, Bonnie	07/24
CALDWELL, Jamie	07/04	REICHLE, Greg	07/25
RUCKER, Deanna	07/05	ALEXANDER, Russ	07/25
DEVINE, Nancy	07/06	WOLFE, Sam	07/25
SPARKS, April	07/06	HILL, Kathy	07/26
STAMBAUGH, Judy	07/07	BREECH, Chris	07/26
WILHELM, Katie	07/07	HARDMAN, Edward	07/27
CORBETT, William	07/08	NEAL, Patty	07/27
DYER, Taylor	07/08	BUTTRICK, Doug	07/27
WILHELM, Katie	07/08	LILLICO, Sabrina	07/27
RONE, Penny	07/08	LILLICO, Gabrielle	07/27
NELSON, Andrea	07/08	PRICE, Tim	07/27
GRIESHEIMER, Jeff	07/09	ALLEN, Billy	07/28
TEAFORD, Bradley	07/09	MARTIN, Dawn	07/28
RILEY, Jason	07/09	PAIGE, Justin	07/28
GIBSON, Misty	07/09	HEATH, McKenzie	07/28
HAWK, Nick	07/10	NEWCOMB, Ben	07/28
HAWK, Noah	07/10	FEGAN, Jared	07/29
ROBINSON, Devon	07/10	STRAWSER, Brian	07/29
HIVELY, Isabel	07/11	TERRY, Kelsea	07/29
NEAL, Jerry	07/11	THOMPSON, Allen	07/29
WATKINS, Dan	07/11	BOBO, LaVonda	07/29
RONE, Michael	07/11	GULLION, Tony	07/30
HAMANN, Roberta	07/12	HERDERICK, Grace	07/30
MCFARLAND, Joyce	07/12	WATTS, Nathan	07/30
ROBERTS, Ruth	07/12	EDWARDS, Rick	07/30
WELCH, Phyllis	07/12	WILT, Susan	07/30
WHITTINGTON, Theodore	07/12	HEIBY, Perry	07/30
HIGGINS, Nancy	07/13	HEIBY, Sylvia	07/30
SATTERFIELD, Gerald	07/14	COLEMAN, Shawna	07/31
ANDRICK, Cailyn	07/14	GRUNDEI, Daniel	07/31
ARLEDGE, Annetta	07/15	TYLER, Debbie	07/31
GRUNDEI, Ashley	07/15	WOLFE, Spencer	07/31
WARNER, Mason	07/15	ROMANS, Shane	07/31
CRANE, Linda	07/15		
HAUSER, Christine	07/15		
RICKETTS, Nancy	07/16		
THOMAS, Darla	07/16		
HALL, Robert	07/16		
CONTI, Gina	07/17		
NELSON, Brad	07/17		
MACKAN, Jessica	07/18		
WILLIAMS, Shannon	07/19		
SMOOT, Lisa	07/19		
COX, Ethan	07/20		
WOLFE, Connor	07/20		
CURTIS, Jackie	07/21		
FRASHER, Katie	07/21		
HUGHES, Shane	07/21		
STACY, Gail	07/21		
BONNELL, Vicki	07/22		
BERRY, Johnnie	07/22		
BOSO, Chris	07/22		
SHONK, Kevin	07/22		

Coming Soon!

New and Improved **First Place for Health** materials!

First Place for Health is a Christ-centered approach to discovering the best version of yourself. It is not a diet or a health plan, it is a decision and a lifestyle. Find freedom from the bondage of food, often entwined with our obsessive behaviors. With God all things are possible. Without God, nothing lasts. Experience radical change when you place Christ first in all areas of your life.

Information Meeting: Sunday, Aug. 11, 4:45 PM in room C-154 (Information meeting is required for new members.)

12 Week Fall Session: Group meetings begin September 8 and end November 24 and run from 4:45 PM to 6:00 PM on Sunday evenings at the church.

For more information and to RSVP, call Sherri at 614-871-3053 or email slove@columbus.rr.com

From Our Children's Pastor

July is here! You know what that means right?

It's almost VBS time! VBS is just around the corner and will be held July 7-11. This year VBS will begin on Sunday and end Thursday evening with a big family night where we will be inviting parents to come with their kids. We need your help though. We need you to pray. Here are a few specifics. Pray that we will clearly communicate the Gospel to every child who attends. Pray for everyone who will be giving their time to serve. Pray that God will continue to send workers to help make this week possible.

I am so excited for VBS this year and for the opportunity that it provides. Many lives have been changed due to VBS at this church in previous years and I believe that the same will happen this year! If you are willing to serve in any way we would love to have you.

Feel free to email me at josh@firstgc.org!

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

From Our Worship Pastor

Are we living in the last days? Will this generation see the rapture of the Church? What is going on with Israel with respect to the rest of the world?

We are excited to announce:

***Understanding
the Times 2019***

**Saturday, September 21st
8:45 AM to 5:00 PM**

Live streamed from Grace Church,
in Eden Prairie, Minnesota,
to First Baptist Church in Grove City.



Fea-

tured Speakers:

**Amir Tsarfati, Robert Jeffress,
J.D. Farag, Jack Hibbs,
Jan Markell, and Laurie Cardoza-Moore**
Learn more at olivetreeviews.org/

**Pastor Bryan Corbett,
Worship Pastor**

Trustee Ministry

With great respect in our hearts let's give thanks and honor this month, and always, to the great men and women in our military who make our land free. Wishing you a month of infinite blessings!

The Trustees discussed future plans, from the City of Grove City, which may take place in the next two to three years (a new I-71 South overpass, a sewer line under the same interstate, and infrastructure additions) and how these could impact First Baptist Church.

The Trustees reviewed Security procedures in the Children's Wing of the church.

The Trustees and Volunteers were busy working on miscellaneous maintenance projects last month on the FBC campus and KKDC.

On the FBC campus, broken siding on the back of the garage will be repaired; a broken gutter on the picnic shelter will be replaced with a seamless gutter, thereby avoiding future leakage; LED lights are to be installed in the parking lots, the FBC and KKDC parking lots have been sealed, striped and cracks/holes repaired.

The KKDC roof has fascia board on one of its peaks that is becoming detached on one side. It will soon be replaced. The Trustees are also working with roofing contractors to determine the best procedures in preparing for a new roof.

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:6

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

Prime Time Excursions



August 1-2

Tickets Still Available!

Join us for an exciting two-day trip to **Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA**. Trip includes deluxe motor coach transportation, one night hotel stay, and Amish-country shopping. Price is \$224 per person, double occupancy. Meals and gratuities extra.

Please contact Bryan Corbett at 614-991-0205 for additional information including reservations. Payment is due at the time reservation is made. Adults Only.

Women of FBC

Women's Fellowship Breakfast: Please join us on Saturday, July 13, at 9:00 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker is Kira Ray from Communities in Schools. Come and learn how you can be a blessing to children in Southwestern City Schools. Bring your favorite breakfast food to share! Contact Pam Leeth at 614-507-6306 with any questions.

The Living Stones: We are currently studying the teachings of Jesus in the book of Matthew. Matthew's portrayal of Jesus as a King means He has authority. But Jesus' authority is exercised with gentleness, humility, and service toward those who trust Him. Matthew gives numerous glimpses of the heart of Christ. Please join us on Sundays at 10:45 AM in room A-194. Contact Sharon Myers at 614-562-2600 for more details.

Women of Faith Bible Study: We study the Bible because God's Word is infallible, complete, authoritative, sufficient for all our needs, and accomplishes what it promises. We meet bi-weekly on Monday, July 1, 15, and 29, at 1:00 PM, in room C-146. For more information, please contact Mindy Stith at 614-871-4812.

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study: Our summer study will be through the Minor Prophets. Please join us at 6:45 PM in the Student Center. Just bring your Bible and a notebook for journaling. Contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more details.

M.O.M. (Moms on Mission): There is still room for you! Come together 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. For more information, contact Bethany Heath at 614-323-9721.

Book Club: We will meet July 11, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Olive Garden on Stringtown Road to discuss the book *With You Always* by Jody Hedlund. Join us again on August 1, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at Donatos on Stringtown Road, to discuss *Blue Ridge Sunrise* by Denise Hunter. Contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: Tuesday, at 7 PM, in Room C-145, we are studying *The Apostle's Creed* by Matt Chandler. During this study, we will discuss essential Christian doctrines and beliefs that make up the foundation of our faith. Contact Debbie Watts at 614-530-1463 for additional information.

Summer Thursday Morning Bible Study: Thursday, at 9:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall, we are studying *God of Covenant: A Study of Genesis 12-50* by Jen Wilkin. Discover how God orchestrates everything for His glory and the good of His

people, and see how the God of creation and covenant is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 for more information.

REFIT: Come for a fun cardio dance class that will fit YOU, no matter your fitness level! We meet every Thursday from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, in Genesis Auditorium. Contact Carla Wells at 614-579-1237 for more information.

Craft Day: We will get together again on Friday, July 19 from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM to work on any craft project you have. You can also come and watch someone create or learn a new craft. Contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 with any questions.

Single Senior Ladies' Tea: Save the date for Saturday, July 27, at 12:00 PM. Please join us for an afternoon of tea and a light lunch. Sign-up on Sunday mornings with Grace Herderick starting June 30 through July. Call 614-875-0366, for more details.

Women's Retreat 2019: You can now register for our fall retreat at Ogelbay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Mark your calendars for November 1-2 and be praying about whom you can invite! Bus transportation is available. Stop by the Women's Ministry Kiosk on Sundays or contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.

FBC Family,

How Glorious is our God!

Deuteronomy 32:13

"The moon will be put to shame and the sun disgraced, because the Lord of Armies will reign as king on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, and he will display his glory in the presence of his elders."

Isaiah 24:23



We have seen the glory of God as he has been moving in our student ministry the last month!

Last month, we had an incredible time at camp where we saw God work in amazing ways! Over the course of the week we got to see twenty-two of our students rededicate their lives to Christ and three of them trust in Him for salvation!

We also have eight students looking forward to baptism following camp. We are excited to watch God move after returning from camp and are dedicated to serving the students pointing them towards Christ to help make these decisions lasting life changes!

We are now moving towards VBS for the middle schoolers on July 7-11. You are able to register online now, and we are excited to watch God speak to our middle schoolers!

We eagerly await to see what God will do in our students' lives next!

In Christ,

**Caden Andrick,
Student Ministry Intern**

Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, July 6th, at 7:30 AM. Dave Cramer will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Dave Poole from the June breakfast.

I grew up on the West Side of Columbus in a Methodist church, where I was baptized and confirmed but never really got the message that salvation came by God's grace alone, not by my works. I regularly read devotionals, which gave me a good scriptural base, but I had a void in my soul, an emptiness that nagged at me. In high school and early in college, I became a selfish, potty-mouthed partyer.

I met my wife-to-be, Debbie, during our first quarter at Ohio State. She almost didn't go to OSU, attending only after much prayer and counsel. Somehow that year she wound up in every one of my classes at the largest university in the world, with its largest freshman class and its most class options ever. We even parked in the same commuter parking lot, and so we kept seeing each other. She invited me to her Christmas cantata at her Nazarene church—our first date. I began to like her and her church. I attended the college Sunday school class and began seeing God at work.

On April 10, 1978, at a college retreat, I heard a message about a father watching his young son get hit by a car, holding him in his arms in the street as his boy's life ebbs away, and pleading that he'd do anything to take the boy's place and save his life—which, the speaker noted, is exactly what the Heavenly Father did for us through His Son Jesus Christ dying on the cross and raised to life again, saving us for eternity, snatching us from certain death, THROUGH NO EFFORT OF OUR OWN. I finally, tearfully, understood and accepted Christ as my Savior.

My life has never been the same. The void was gone. My eternity was sure. And God's Word, His Son, the Holy Spirit, His people and His church became vital to me. Before college was over, I married that sweet girl who asked me to church, and I grew more dependent on the Lord.

Our two kids grew up partly in Lincoln, Nebraska, where I worked for the newspaper and earned my master's degree. On the heels of my thesis, God enabled me to qualify for a demanding seminar at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Florida. I was worn out and struggled to keep up with brilliant colleagues. Yet God helped me, and my wife and kids spent two of the most precious months of their lives together, a block from the beach. God blesses us when we submit ourselves to stress.

After much waiting, in 1991 I was hired by *The Columbus Dispatch*, my hometown newspaper. About a year in at *The Dispatch*, I was working nights on the news desk and missing much of life at home. God placed in me a holy dissatisfaction, and I prayed that He'd get me into a day position. Within a week or so, a spot opened on the Features desk where I could work days with weekends off. The Lord allowed me to get that job, and it worked well for two decades.

In 2016, I was among some "Dispatchers" whose positions were eliminated. I faced joblessness for the first time—at age 58.

About six months into my search, God brought me an opportunity as a proofreader at Nationwide. And it turned out to be EXACTLY the good thing God had for me in this season of life.

Last August, after 25 years at a Nazarene church, the Lord led us to First Baptist. God had been talking to us about a spiritual change. Then in a whirlwind, He worked it out so that Debbie's mom could move into a ranch home with us. Miguel and Elizabeth Sosa of First Baptist, who host a Life Group, lived on that street. We began attending their Group. They invited Deb's mom to FBC, and she loved it and said we would, too. And we do. And the blessings keep coming.

**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

It was a windy day. My hair and skirt were flying about in a most unattractive way as I quickly tossed my groceries into my car. I had just buckled my seatbelt when I felt a tug on my conscience. Heading back into the wind, I pushed my shopping cart into the closest corral. At least I hope I did as I was temporarily blinded by all the hair in my face. I was raised to understand that true character is revealed when no one is watching and manners matter. As kids, returning various shopping carts to the stores, Mom would remind us that the smallest courtesy can sometimes prevent bigger problems. The dings in our station wagon's faux wood showed other shoppers were not raised by our mother.

The tradition continues. When I visit my sister, her kids always come into the room to say "hello." It's quite endearing to see my adult nephew offer his chair to his aunts and Grandmother.

While proper etiquette doesn't seem to be a spiritual matter, if we are truly "kind, tender-hearted, and loving," then our lives should reflect that in the way we treat others. While we do not have to agree on everything, we should at least be kind and respectful. It seems to me Christians are a little more in tune with this. I believe it is because we strive to live selflessly. To give more than we take. To extend a helping hand to others. And, while others may not be watching, we know that God certainly is.

Some of you may be in the stage of constantly reminding your little ones about their manners. That is a painful stage. Chairs being pulled out for you at the table, and then promptly set on your toe. Little hands opening doors so quickly they narrowly miss your nose. Reminders that one doesn't yell, "You are welcome!" to anyone forgetting to respond "thank you" for any courtesy bestowed on them. Take courage and keep at it. I don't believe our world can tolerate much more in the way of incivility.

**Blessings,
Cindy Matlock**

