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MARCH NEWSLETTER

WE ARE A HEALTHY CHURCH!

In so many ways, the last twelve months have been brutal. A record number of churches in the US have permanently closed. Others are barely hanging on.

But because FBC is a healthy church, we have survived and are beginning to thrive again. Yay God!

Researchers tell us that the last 12 months have been especially brutal on many struggling churches. The Church Answers Team tells us that several types of churches have died during the past year. Many churches with a vast majority of older members, churches with a history of division, churches that have neglected their facilities, the churches that refuse to follow pastoral leadership, churches in changing neighborhoods, and brand-new churches have failed to survive.

But thankfully, First Baptist is coming through the pandemic very healthy. Despite it all, we still have a consistent number of people joining the church and people are following the Lord in baptism. New leaders are stepping up and new life groups are being launched. Our Sunday worship attendance, although smaller than our pre-COVID numbers, is well ahead of the national averages for churches our size. Plus, we have developed a healthy online ministry that ministers to hundreds of people every Sunday.

Our church is healthy because our members are committed. Thank you for your commitment to First Baptist Church. YOU are what makes US strong!

**Pastor Dave Earley,
Lead Pastor**

FBC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

There are plenty of areas where you can become involved in ministry activities at FBC and help to impact the lives of people for the cause of Christ.

Some areas of service include:

- Children’s Ministry including Kids’ Camp and VBS.
- Upward Youth Sports Ministry.
- Snow and Yard Care, Greeters, Ushers, Security, Welcome Desk, Office Volunteers, Stowe Mission, and Feed My Sheep (mission).

Those interested may contact the church office at 614-991-0205 or by email at info@firstgc.org.



**Men’s Summit
Friday, March 26th
Potluck Dinner 6:00-7:30 PM Fellowship Hall
Praise & Worship 7:30-9:00 PM Neal Auditorium
Featuring Pastors Earley, Neal, and Duane Floro
from SBCO, and more! No registration necessary!**

TRUSTEE MINISTRY NEWS & NOTES

The Trustee Ministry and its volunteers are preparing to undertake a number of spring projects around our campus including:

The addition of a new metal roof on the FBC garage.

The repair and resealing of our parking lots.

The replacement of arborvitae shrubbery along the eastside of our parking lot due to storm damage last fall.

The continued refurbishing of our West Wing annex (formerly known as Genesis) to include painting, lighting, and changes to the stage area, among other upgrades.

The Trustees would like to express their gratitude to the volunteers who comprise our FBC snow crew for their dedicated service under difficult conditions this winter.

For more information regarding the Trustee Ministry, please contact **Pastor David Berna** at 614-288-6337 or by email at dberna4808@aol.com.



**The FBC Quarterly
Business Meeting has
been rescheduled.**

**See you Monday night,
March 15th at 7 PM in
the Neal Auditorium!**

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS & NOTES

Men's Breakfast returns in March!

See you March 6th at 7:30 AM in our Fellowship Hall!
Toni Brown will be sharing his testimony.

Donuts and Devotions: Saturday, March 20th from 9:30 to 11:00 AM in the student center.

Men's Potluck and Summit: Friday, March 26th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

FBC Annual Car Show: Saturday, June 12th from 2:00 to 8:00 PM. More information coming.

Please contact **Pastor David Berna** at 614-288-6337 or by email at dberna4808@aol.com for more information.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS & NOTES

Women's Fellowship Breakfast returns in March!

See you March 13th at 9:00 AM in our Fellowship Hall!

Most Women's Life Groups plan to return in the month of March. More information will be forthcoming.

For more information on upcoming events and activities, please visit the **Women's Ministry Kiosk** in the FBC lobby. You may also contact **Ronda Kinnett** at 614-313-7871 or by email at ronda@firstgc.org.

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."*

I continually looked for my Crocus blooms throughout January. I get a little down after the excitement of the Christmas season. I needed some color! Instead, I came home daily to the same bleak empty flower bed. Beauty was nowhere to be found. I always assume "user error." Did I (again) plant my bulbs upside down? I am an avid gardener; not a good one. The snowfall only bolstered my belief that I had killed 43 bulbs. Sadly, it was not a personal best.

That's until a couple days ago. I saw color peeking through the blanket of white—vivid, beautiful colors emerging from the snow. On one of the coldest, gloomiest days of the year, a smattering of color. In my little corner of the world, I had something beautiful.

I wanted the beauty on-demand. I grew impatient. I fell deeper down into my winter doldrums, into myself. While I was spiraling into depression, I forgot a few things. I forget that He is able to do above what I can think to ask from Him. I forget that He does not work within my time frame. He knows the exact moment I need something and the exact thing I need. What a reminder on the dark, ugly days. My Creator loves me and His plans are for me. I need to remember to look closer at His creations and spend more time worshipping the Creator. I need to remember that only He can create beauty in the BLEAK.



**Blessings,
Cindy Matlock**



Registration NOW OPEN: \$75 per participant! Fee increases to \$90 on March 8th. **You may choose to register online at <https://registration.upward.org/UPW71428>**

Opportunities are still available for coaches for age groups beginning with age 4 through the 8th grade.

For more information on *Upward*, please contact **Pastor Jeff Bane** at 614-991-0205 or by email at jeff@firstgc.org.

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

How thankful we are to all who helped. Too many names to write down. But your outpouring of love was amazing. And Brian loved each and everyone of you. The food, the clean-up crew, greeters, flowers, and encouraging words—our entire family thanks you. Love through our Lord!

Fran Kinnett and family

We would like to thank the church body for their calls, cards, and help during our dad's illness and passing. He was loved by you and he loved you. He missed seeing you every week but your continuing to remember him with phone calls, cards, visits, and sharing meals with him this last year during the COVID crisis truly blessed his heart. Thank you as you continue to remember the Buttrick and James families as we navigate life without our precious dad, father-in-law, grandfather, and friend.

The Jesse Buttrick family

Prime Time Ministry

Bible Study
Fellowship
Lunch



Guest Speaker
Mark Wimbish

2nd Tuesday of each Month

**MARCH 9TH - 10:30 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Tickets Available at Welcome Desk

NEW ON-CAMPUS LIFE GROUPS SET TO LAUNCH SUNDAY, MARCH 7TH

1. Meeting Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in Fellowship Hall #2. This group is open to adults and will be led by Andrew and Andi Earley. Please contact Andi Earley for more information at andi@firstgc.org.
2. Meeting Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM in room W-104 (staff meeting room). This group is geared toward young adult/professionals. Please contact Pastor John Foster for more information at john@firstgc.org.