



First Baptist Church  
**Grove City**

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# THE LIGHTHOUSE

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## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Evelyn came up and grabbed me at the beginning of Bible Study. I was shocked so much, I didn't know her! We hadn't been in person for Wednesday night Bible Study for nearly 8 months. It is wonderful to be together.

During the summer we have been restarting all our Life Groups and mission projects. The four Sunday morning services have been doing well. Through it all we have had two new member classes with twenty-some new members, all of them excited about being involved at FBC. We have baptized several new believers and also hired a new student pastor. The worship services have been exciting, but the most powerful events have been our 7:14 prayer services. From 2 Chronicles 7:14 we are promised by God that if we humble ourselves, turn from our wicked ways and seek His face, He will heal our lands. We are asking God to heal us of COVID, racial division, political hatred, and economical hardships. These prayer services have been well attended and very effective. We are truly expecting God to heal our land. Pastor Earley is a man of prayer. Under his leadership our church has become more and more of a praying church.

FBC is not ignoring the COVID virus. However, if we crawl in a hole and hide until the danger has passed then:

1. People will not be saved.
2. New members will not be added to our church family.
3. Missions will not be ministering to those in need.
4. Our land will not be healed.

We have had some who have criticized our meeting together in this pandemic. We understand that we need to wear masks and social distance. But we also understand that we must worship together, pray together, serve together, study together, and find ways to be together. There's no way to be God's people and not be together. It is so wonderful when we get together with God's people. Sometimes we lose control and grab the preacher with a big hug.

Remember a fist bump during COVID is safer!!

**Pastor Jerry Neal**  
**Pastor Emeritus**

Dr. Dave Earley  
Lead Pastor

Dr. Jerry Neal  
Pastor Emeritus

Bryan Corbett  
Worship Pastor

Dr. John Foster  
Discipleship Pastor

David Berna  
Visitation Pastor

Jeff Bane  
Outreach Pastor

Mark Wimbish  
Student Pastor

Joshua Wright  
Children's Pastor

Brian Kinnett  
Members' Minister

Robert Stroup  
Business Administrator

Andi Earley  
Office Manager

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[www.firstgc.org](http://www.firstgc.org)

## MEMBERS' MINISTRY

## TRUSTEE MINISTRY

Just a few days before my 55<sup>th</sup> birthday, I began to feel worse than normal. Even though for 10 years I have been battling health problems, this felt different. I went for testing and a month later, on Tuesday, October 13th, my doctor called and said I have a form of cancer known as Myelodysplastic Syndromes. This fills in a lot of blanks for most of what I have been going through without any answers since 2016: multiple hospitalizations for fatigue, breathing problems, and pain. Not until my blood counts dropped and a bone marrow biopsy did God tell us what He knew the whole time.

I can tell you my response is not what my doctor expected. I told her this is just another part of my journey with God and He already has the details worked out.

When we believe that God is good and that whatever He does, He is going to perfect us and conform us into the image of His Son, then we are able to endure temporary setbacks, for they truly are temporary in light of eternity. After all, He works all things out for our good and His glory.

It is easy to get distracted and focus on our problems; it's human nature. But God's Word says to rejoice always, pray about everything, worry about nothing, and God's peace will fill our hearts and minds. These are not suggestions; they are words to live by, and with God's help, I do. I find it exciting to know that with God's help and wisdom I will be able to take His message of hope into a new clinic where I will be treated, to new people that I will get to meet.

There are things around us that are not in our control. Let's not focus on our circumstance. Instead, focus on Christ's goodness, love, and grace. This is all temporary and we are passing though on our way home; simply passing from death to life eternal with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I truly believe this.

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*  
**Romans 8:28-29**

In Christ,

**Pastor Brian Kinnett**

**Online Pastor and Members' Minister**



**Surviving the Holidays Seminar**

**Here at First Baptist Church**

**Sunday, November 15th, from 4:00-6:00 PM**

Sign up online at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) or call Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613. Don't struggle through the holidays alone when we can help you on your grief journey.

**Even though we are experiencing a time of turmoil, history changes, our values being taunted, medical issues, financial uncertainty, we, the children of the living God, are protected and richly blessed throughout every situation. We have the knowledge of knowing that living inside us is the light of the world, Christ's light, which will lead us in the direction He wants us to take. November is a special month for gathering with friends and family and giving thanks for all that He has done in our lives.**

For security lockdown capability, a remote auto-lock system was installed in the children's wings. Security film has also been installed on the two outside doors in the children's wings. A remote auto-lock system is in the process of being installed with lockdown capability on the four FBC front doors.

The Trustees are now in possession of two Ferris Zero Turn mowers. Consensus was given in August for the purchase, after the first of the year, of one more Ferris Zero Turn mower to be taken from the 2021 budget.

Seasonal maintenance has taken place on the yard equipment. Siding was also repaired on the shelter house.

The FBC audit has been concluded with the final report to be provided early in November; everything was reported to be in order. Going forward, the audit cycle will be for a budget review each year for two years running. The third year a new complete audit will be done. Then the audit cycle will begin again.

The Trustees were approached concerning the possibility of installing a Frisbee Golf Course. The course would follow along the outside FBC foot path already in place on the FBC campus. About 90% to 95% of the cost would come out of Youth's, Children's, and Mission's budgets. Permission was granted.

The Trustees assisted Baptist Builders with the KKDC drainage remediation problem. New landscaping was purchased and installed following the plumbing work around the foundation.

**Phyllis McCloy**  
**Trustee Ministry Secretary**

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## NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for your beautiful bouquet of flowers sent to the funeral of my dear husband, Ray. They were so appreciated.

**Love in Christ,**  
**Freda Williams and family**

Dear Church Family,

We wish to thank you for the gorgeous vase of the Lily of the Valley arrangement. The most beautiful expression of God's love to us with the loss of our son, Michael.

**With Love,**  
**Sandy and Tom Hendrickson**



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# Women of FBC

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Please visit the **Women's Ministry kiosk** for information about groups and activities. You can also pick up a family-life calendar or a declutter calendar. We are here to assist you in becoming connected and also to be supportive in prayer.

**LADIES' CLASS UPDATE:** Our Thursday night classes are continuing on November 5th and 19th (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> of the month) in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. If you wish to bring your dinner and eat there, you can. Or, you can come and listen to the lesson. We are finishing our study of *Love for One Another* using John, 1 John, and Acts. In January, we will begin to meet every Thursday. Our study will be on the Calls in our lives—as we study in the New Testament. We welcome guests and new members to these classes. Stay connected with us in class and at our 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday socials here at church. The next one will be November 28th. Contact Barb at 614-551-9781 for more information.

**Mindy, Kathy, and Barb**

**November Women's Fellowship Breakfast** will be Saturday, November 10th at 9:00 AM. Breakfast is catered, so be sure to call or email to reserve your spot. We will social distance at our tables. Our focus will be on missions. RSVP to Ronda Kinnett at [ronda@firstgc.org](mailto:ronda@firstgc.org) or 614-313-7871.

**Welcome back!** The Thursday morning Women's Bible study group started again on October 15th. We are using David Platt's study, *Counter Culture*. Join us to hear more about the issues in our culture today and how Christians are called to deal with them. For more information contact Kay Hardman at [kayhardman@gmail.com](mailto:kayhardman@gmail.com) or 614-323-6891.

**Girls' Night Out!** We would love to have you to join us on Tuesday, November 10th at 6:00 PM for fellowship and a devotion. Bring your favorite meal to the conference room behind the Genesis auditorium (G-104). Contact Jodi Butcher with any questions at 614-620-6380.

**The November Craft Day** is scheduled for Friday, November 20th from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There are only 5 spots open. Please refer to the Facebook group: FBC CRAFT DAY or contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information and to reserve your spot!

**Blessings,**

**Ronda Kinnett**  
**Women's Ministry Director**

## Tommy Davis testimony continued from page 4

In 2014, God answered our prayers again, giving us our third son, Aaron Moses. God has continued to bless my family. Through both good and bad, he is always there constant and steady. Never leaving me, walking with me, every step of the way. I must say that the congregation and pastoral staff at FBC have made my family feel so loved and welcome. I will always be thankful for the opportunity to serve here. I genuinely love each of you and look forward to what God has in store for us together. I love Psalm 131:1-2.

*Lord, I have given up my pride and turned away from my arrogance. I am not concerned with great matters or with subjects too difficult for me. Instead, I am content and at peace. As a child lies quietly in its mothers arms, so my heart is quiet within me.*  
**Psalm 131:1-2**

**God Bless,  
Pastor David Berna**

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## NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Dear church family,

This note is to thank you for your love and care for me and my family in the loss of my mother, Leah Berger. My family was so thankful and impressed by the love First Baptist showed them. Thanks for the ham and for the food provided by her Sunday Life Group. My church is amazing!!!

**Mindy and Steve Rucker**

Dear Pastor Neal and FBGC family,

Thank you for the beautiful floral basket of roses and carnations. Your kind expression in Honor and Memory of Bob touched our hearts as well as your kind words during his funeral service.

**God Bless You,  
Betty Hunt and Bob, Teri, Tammy, and Ron**

To my church family,

There are no words to express how thankful I and my sons are for the outpouring of love and care during Tom's last months and his memorial service. Special thanks to Pastor Jerry, Pastor Dave, Pastor Bryan, and Carl for the beautiful music, words and prayer during the memorial service. Also to all involved in food prep and service! We honor each of you!

**Linda Matlock  
Rick and Tom II**

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## OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

Fall Back! Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour Saturday evening, October 31st.

Due to the COVID pandemic, there will unfortunately be no FBC Christmas Card distribution box this year.

Coming in January, look for a new *Lighthouse* newsletter format featuring greater emphasis upon upcoming events and activities.

Missing anything? Check the FBC Lost and Found.

## MEN'S CORNER

**The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be held Saturday, November 7th at 7:30 AM. Jeff Arn will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Tommy Davis from our October breakfast.**

I am Tommy Davis. I was born July 4, 1963, in Columbus, Ohio, the youngest of three children. I was raised always knowing in my heart that Jesus was God, but I had not come to know him as savior. As a middle-schooler, I played violin at Pleasant View and there began singing in ensemble and drama. I soon also developed an interest in the guitar. My wonderful mother encouraged me, and unbeknownst to me, borrowed \$300 from her parents in order to afford a quality instrument for me to learn on.

Being a musician instead of a football player landed me plenty of criticism from my peers at school. In 1979, just before my 16th birthday, I released my first record with two original songs. I graduated from high school at age 16 at the top of my class and went to work full-time and began playing in the most prominent night clubs in the tri-state area in a band called *The Kicks*. By the mid-80s, I had made several recordings and formed an original rock band with some friends who had played in local bands as well. We called ourselves *St. August* and went on to become local celebrities doing benefits and radio shows. Doing all we could do to sell ourselves and our music, we performed with many very famous national bands. All of this, if you hadn't guessed by now, led to one massive effect in my life: PRIDE, PRIDE, and MORE PRIDE!

In 1988, we went to Nashville, Tennessee, to a famous recording studio to record our debut album. In preparation for the trip, I asked who else had recorded there and was told the list of stars was too long and I should get some Amy Grant recordings to hear what the studio sounded like. I thought, "Who was this Amy Grant?" I bought several of her recordings and began listening to them intently. The music was fantastic, the sound quality was superb, but the lyrics to her songs were also captivating. I began learning about the Jesus I had always known existed but never followed...again PRIDE. We went to Nashville and recorded a fantastic record that was received well and our following grew.

In the early 90's, I left *St. August* and opened a neon sign company. My company was contacted by a new youth pastor named Don Bowman from the Grove City Church of the Nazarene. He envisioned a modern place in the new school they were planning to build and they asked for my help in the design of these areas. Through the course of the project I became close with Don and Pastor Bob Huffaker. The love they showed overwhelmed me. I wanted more of that feeling; I wanted more of the peace they had.

Still hanging onto my pride, I resisted surrender, continuing with my music career, keeping invitations to church at arms' length. In 1998, I sold my business and became a Deputy with the Franklin County Sheriff's office. Through co-workers, I learned of a play called "Send us the Promise," presented by the Naz. I went and was so impressed. I learned there would be a new church service starting at the Naz with a pastor by the name of Steve Combs. It would be called "Saturday Night Church." I thought I would give it a try. As the praise band began to play, I soon noticed two of the members were prior band mates of mine from the 70's and 80's. They sounded so good and looked so happy. God was moving in my life. He was knocking, "beating down" my door. I expressed interest in the worship band and was

included for the next service. I went on to play at the Naz for about eight years, meeting so many wonderful people.

On June 18, 2005, my wife Rachel and I were married as part of the Saturday Night Church series "I do." In December 2006, God gave us our first son, Tommy. In 2007, I felt called to leave the Naz in order to be a part of the founding of Leave a Mark Church with Pastor Steve Combs where I also played in the worship band. In 2009, we were blessed with our second son, Jacob Elijah. I eventually left Leave a Mark and did not play in church for a time. I did not want to seek out a church; I wanted God to lead me, and prayed for such. Not long after that I received a call from another previous band mate, Tim Lamb who said he was playing at First Baptist and really needed a guitar player for the weekend to help with a new service called "Emerge." I said sure!

**Tommy Davis testimony continued on page 3**

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### 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 tend to stay pretty local. Once I am in Grove City for the night or the weekend, I do not like to leave. Eating, shopping, worshipping, and meeting up with friends can all be done from the comfort of Grove City. Maybe it is because I easily get lost. In my car I often believe I know exactly where I am and thus do not need my GPS. It is a lie. I do not ever know where I am and am in desperate need of the nice GPS lady telling me where to turn in 200 feet. I attended my son's football game in Pickerington a couple weeks ago. I had to call my husband at home to pick Enzo up from the school as I got lost on the way back to Grove City. Admitting defeat, I turned on my GPS. I was driving toward beautiful Cambridge, Ohio.

As local as I like to be, the Christmas boxes for *Samaritan's Purse* remind me that there is a big world out there, and we can be missionaries to that world's children without ever leaving Grove City. God has called us all to be His ambassadors. Some of us go to far-flung countries to build homes, schools, churches, and to preach the Gospel. Others of us have several discount stores near our homes with which we can fill up some boxes to be shipped abroad. Our mission field may be as close as our nearest nursing home, school or outreach ministry.

I may get lost while driving on occasion, but I know where I am heading for eternity. My mission field consists of filling some shoe boxes for *Samaritan's Purse*, serving the needy in Franklinton and teaching my kids about the Savior who loves them even more than I do.

I also get the privilege of sharing the Gospel with others, showing them how they can get to Heaven someday too.

Like a GPS.

**Blessings,  
Cindy Matlock**

