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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Message



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

For several years, Sharon and I lived next door to a family that was unchurched. When we moved in to the neighborhood, I was immediately aware of how rough the father was with his children. He was an Army Green Beret and barked at his two children like a drill sergeant. He seemed to enjoy watching his children fight and encouraged them to hurt each other. He was a terrifying man.

One day, our youngest son was attacked by his son. I ran out to stop the assault. About the time I stepped on his lawn, the father came running out of the house. He met me ready to fight. I turned to shake his hand, introduced myself, and told him how I was eager to meet his family.

"What about this fight?" he asked.

My response was that boys will be boys and I would talk to my boy. He asked, "Where do you work?"

I said, "I'm the new Baptist pastor in town."

Out of nowhere, he said, "I will be in your church Sunday morning."

That's how the meanest man in our town became a Baptist.

Sunday, December 1st, is *Neighbor Day* at FBC. The goal is for us to use this special day as an opportunity to invite our neighbors, friends, and family members to join us for church that morning. I challenge you to begin to pray for these people every day between now and December 1st. Show them love by having them in for a dessert or a dinner. Then, invite them to join you for church on Sunday, December 1st.

Research shows us that 49% of people in our neighborhood don't go to church. That's sad! But the good news is that of the 49% who don't go to church, 63% of them say they would go to church if someone would invite them!

This really works: **Intercede** by praying for your neighbors, **Invest** by serving them, and **Invite** by asking them specifically to join you in church.

Nothing will make you more excited than to see your neighbor... unless he is the meanest neighbor in town.

Pastor Jerry

FIRSTgroups/Discipleship

Jesus opens the doors for His disciples to tell others about His great love. The question is, will we, as His disciples, take advantage of these opportunities?

There are two immediate opportunities for *FIRSTgroups* to show the love of Jesus and share the Gospel message with people in our community:

Franklin Woods Intermediate School

We have the opportunity to provide 50 weekend food bags to students who attend Franklin Woods Intermediate School. Your *FIRSTgroup* will be provided a list of predetermined items, and then they will bag them, and deliver them to the school on a Friday before noon so these students will have food over the weekend. This is a great opportunity for your group to live on-mission together by packing bags and praying together for these students.

Here are the Fridays still available: February 21, March 20, April 3 and 17, May 1 and 15. Contact Pastor Brian Kinnett at brian@firstgc.org and let him know which date(s) your group will accept. He will then give you a “grocery list.”

ESL (English Second Language) Ministry

The ESL Ministry at FBC has seen over 70 adult students and over 35 children attending every Tuesday evening. These students and their children represent people groups from around the world. God is sending the nations to FBC, and we need your help! A majority of the kids come from homes where they have never heard about Jesus—Your *FIRSTgroup* can change this! We are asking for individuals to teach a Jesus-centered lesson to the kids on a monthly rotation. If you lead a children’s group, you can use your lesson from the previous Sunday. If you are part of an adult or student *FIRSTgroup* (this opportunity is not only for current group leaders), we will provide you with materials. You can contact Pastor John Foster by email at johncfoster4@gmail.com with any questions and to be part of this opportunity.

“Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.” **William Carey, missionary to India and the “father of modern missions.”**

**Pastor John Foster,
Discipleship Pastor**

AWANA Ministry Update

November 6th—Shoobox Night!

November 13th—Wacky Hair Night!

November 20th—Can of Food Night!

November 27th—No AWANA—
Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!



Members’ Ministry

We can concentrate so much on healing when we are sick or when we pray for healing of others that we forget to focus on our Healer. We can focus so much on our pain and suffering, that we don’t focus on the One who suffered pain beyond human comparison for you and me.

When we focus on the problems we incur daily instead of Christ Jesus, we start to dwindle and drawback spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Remember Jesus left everything in heaven, came and dwelt among us, was tempted in every way and more as we are, was crucified on a cross [the cruelest of ways to die], died, was buried, but rose again so we may live with Him because He loves us.

We can focus on the problems in life—pain, sickness, betrayal, finances, marriage, family, death, life—or we can focus on Christ and walk with Him and trust Him to see us through.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said it so well, and this is how I have learned to live through the trials.

“If the God we serve exists, then he can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and he can rescue us from the power of you, the king. But even if he does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up.”

Daniel 3:17-18, CSB

God can heal us anytime on this earth, and we can pray for His healing power. But if He doesn’t heal us or help us in the present moment like we feel He should, He is no less God.

We must trust Him and know that He is working for our good and His glory, and there is nothing He does to harm us. He is with us, He loves us, and He is still God.

I ask for healing and perseverance for myself and others daily at times, and I open my arms and surrender us all to Jesus. I am putting us into His hands, knowing that we are in the will of God, that He is with us, and that there is no better place we can be.

Come rest in Christ today, and see all that He has for you. Be encouraged, be renewed.

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens — Jesus the Son of God — let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.” **Hebrews 4:14-16**

In Christ,

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members’ Minister**

Notes of Appreciation

Dear FBC Church Family,

Thank you for the lovely flowers (in regards to the recent passing of Charles Berry). They were beautiful.

Brenda Berry and Family

From Our Children's Pastor

I love November. One of the reasons why is because I love Thanksgiving. It is a day to eat all of the best foods. Huge plates of ham, turkey, mac and cheese, and tons of dessert are eaten, and then I get to take an awesome nap. But my favorite part of the day is being with family and enjoying spending a fun day with one another and thanking God for different things He has done for us. I particularly thank Him for Who He is.

This November, teach your children about being thankful to God. Before you eat each night, go around the room and have everyone tell God what they are thankful for. When we model the ability to be thankful to our kids, it will help them to build a habit of being thankful to God.

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



A Trip to the Holy Land in 2020

We are planning a trip to Israel next September. Pastors Dave Earley and Bryan Corbett will be leading a group to Galilee, Capernaum, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Jericho, Masada, the Dead Sea, and more. You will walk where Jesus once walked! This is sure to be the trip of a lifetime.

We will be holding an informational meeting on Sunday evening, November 17th, at 6 PM, in the Neal Auditorium.

We hope you can join us.

**In Christ,
Pastor Bryan Corbett**

Trustee Ministry

Autumn is unmistakable. God blesses us with vivid colors, harvest skies, the aroma and rustle of crisp leaves, apple cobblers, pumpkin bread and, possibly the discovery of a certain homeless turkey knocking at your front door. Lord, thank you so very much for the many blessings we receive through your unconditional love.

The Trustees and volunteers have been working to ensure that both the FBC campus and KKDC are ready for fall.

Mulch has been placed around the trees on the Upward Field. The benches around the pond and the Upward Field were painted.

Consensus was given to a Valet Parking proposal which would add at least four handicapped parking spots in front of the church.

A wall in the rear of the Fellowship Hall had mold removed, and cracks were ground down and caulked. The area has since dried out and will be removed and replaced with green board. The closet in the Fellowship Hall also had additional shelving installed.

A set of handicap restroom doors was installed which resulted in positive feedback from those using walkers, canes, and wheelchairs. After reflection on the positive feedback the installed handicap restroom doors received, Baptist Builders made a donation which will permit the purchase and installation of a second set of Handicap Restroom Doors near the Cafe. Inquiry is also underway to research the cost of possibly replacing at least one set of exterior doors on the church—with one set of handicap doors on the east side of the building.

Concrete cracks around the church were dug out and sealed. Also, areas beneath the outside church doors have been sealed so that moisture will not seep in under the floors, freeze, and then raise the doors in the winter making them difficult to open.

Seamless gutters have been installed the full length of the picnic shelter.

A basketball hoop was installed in the south parking lot outside of Genesis. A Cyclone Rake (leaf vacuum) was donated to FBC.

The 2002 Chevy pick-up truck is to be used for snow plowing only on the FBC campus—the pick-up is not to be taken from the FBC campus due to liability. Unless it would be considered usable for 2021, it will be hauled away for scrap at the end of the upcoming winter season.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

Notes of Appreciation

Thank you all for lifting us up in your prayers, visits, delicious food, cards and gifts during Carolyn's continued illness.

The people at FBC are fantastic and great prayer warriors.

A special thanks also to our Life Group. "God Is Good."

**In Christ,
Ron and Carolyn Donley**

Women of FBC

Please visit the **Women's Kiosk** to find more information about our Groups and Events! Contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871, for more information.

Girls' Night Out—is on Tuesday, November 19, at 6:30 PM, at Olive Garden on Stringtown Road. Contact Jodi Butcher at 614-620-6380, to reserve a seat.

Women of Faith Bible Study—We meet bi-weekly on Monday, November 4 and 18, at 1:00 PM, in room C-146. For more information contact Mindy Stith at 614-871-4812.

Giving Christ First Place—A Christ-centered Life Group/ Bible Study designed to help us place, and keep, Christ first in all areas of our lives by focusing on health to improve our Christian walk, our financial condition, even our social and mental health. This is not a diet but a lifestyle change. We meet early on Tuesdays at 7:45 AM in room S-106. Contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953, for more information.

Prayer Life Group—Today's Christian woman often finds her strongest moments of prayer in a small group with a few other believers. You are invited to join us every Tuesday from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, as we read through, *The 21 Most Effective Prayers in the Bible*, by Pastor Dave Earley. Contact Gail Buttrick at 614-848-6255, for more information.

Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study—NEW study. *I Never Thought I'd See the Day*, by Dr. David Jeremiah begins November 5, at 7:00 PM. Our location has changed to room G-104 behind Genesis. Park behind the church and enter the conference room through the doors with the purple awning. Contact Debbie Watts at 614-530-1463, for more information.

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study—NEW study. We are reading through Elizabeth Elliot's book, *Suffering is Never for Nothing*. It's not too late to join the discussion! Our class has moved to the conference room behind Genesis in room G-104. Please join us at 6:45 PM, and bring your Bible and a notebook for journaling. Contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871, for more information.

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study—We will continue reading *Anxious for Nothing*, by Max Lucado. There's room for you at 6:45 PM, in room S-101, located in the Student Wing. Contact DeeAnn Brown at 614-314-7847, for more information.

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.

Thursday Morning Bible Study—New material beginning October 24, at 9:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying, *Gods at War*, by Kyle Idleman, which addresses the issue of idolatry in the lives of believers. Contact Kay Hardman at 614-323-6891 or kayhardman@gmail.com for more information. Childcare is also available.

Book Club—We will meet on Thursday, December 5, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at Donatos on Stringtown Road to discuss, *Don't Give Up*, by Kyle Idleman. Contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557, 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 to 8 PM, in Genesis Auditorium. Contact Carla Wells at 614-579-1237, for more information.

Craft Day—Looking for space to work on your fall projects? Come to the Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 15, from 9 AM to 9 PM, with your project and see what other creative activities are going on. Contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953, with any questions.

Church Family,

I hope you have begun to notice the leaves changing colors as we make our way through this wonderful, fall season! I hope you have enjoyed the weather as much as I have. I love this time of the year in central Ohio, and specifically Grove City. It brings me joy to drive up and down the road and see the beauty of God's creation! Next time you're taking a drive, just look around and notice how beautiful God's creation truly is!



October was an incredible month for our church and I expect November to be the same! We finished out October with an incredible night of *Trunk or Treat*. I am just so proud of our staff and volunteers, and the way we came together to make an incredible evening for our community. If you weren't able to be here, be sure to talk with someone who was and allow them to share with you how awesome it was!

Our student ministry, DNOW, is coming up on November 8-10. DNOW is an incredible weekend for our students to pull away from the busyness of life and connect with the real living God! We have amassed an incredible registration so far for this year's *Disciple Now* weekend, and I invite you already to begin praying for this time.

We are still in need of some scholarships, and if you are able to sponsor a student or two, please email me at mike@firstgc.org, as soon as possible! Thank you in advance for praying for this weekend!

It is a joy to serve the Lord with you!

Sola Deo Gloria,

Pastor Mike D'Attoma,
Assistant Pastor

Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, November 2nd, at 7:30 AM. Kip Smith will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Clark Bryant, Sr., from the October breakfast.

I must have been anxious to come into the world, because I was born on a sofa in a flat at the corner of West Broad Street and Souder Avenue in 1937. I was the baby of four siblings. I had two older sisters, and an older brother, all of whom were born at Mt. Carmel Hospital, just one block south of Souder Avenue.

When I was five, we moved to S. Princeton Avenue. West Park United Methodist Church, on the corner of West Park and West State, was just four houses down the alley. My mother made me go to church and often had to drag me down the alley to do so. I would throw a fit and cry all the way down the alley. Once they got me in the classroom, things changed. Seeing all of the pictures on the walls and hearing the soft voice of the teacher, Mrs. Helen McGuire, as she told us stories from the Bible, I just couldn't wait for the next Sunday to come. Did I say I was anxious to be born? Well, I was more anxious to go back to Sunday school. I fell in love with Jesus!

Often my mother would read the Bible to me and taught me many lessons—"Love one another," "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," "Honor your father and mother that your days would be long upon the earth." I must not have been a very good learner. One day, out of jealousy, I attacked another boy and sent him home crying. My mother made me walk to his house and tell him I was sorry. It was one of the hardest things I ever had to do.

So far, I have not mentioned my father. I do not remember my father ever spending a night at our house, although he did come and visit often. My parents would really argue and my mom would end up crying, and this hurt me very much. I did not know it then, but my father worked his way through law school and became an attorney. He always provided for us. Eventually he did remarry and, as a result, I chose not to see him again for several years. He tried, but I was not willing. When I graduated from West High School, he came, but I refused to see him or talk with him.

When I was fifteen, a new girl moved into our neighborhood. When I first saw her, I told my mother I was going to marry her. After my mother met her, she told me that I could never marry her because she was a Catholic. After high school, we eloped. The preacher who married us in Indiana tried for an hour to talk us out of it. He said it would never work. We have now been married for over 63 years. God gave us a daughter and two sons. I love her more now than when we first met.

One day my dad's wife called and asked me to come over, that my father was very sick. He had an appendicitis and it soon ruptured and peritonitis set in. Two days later we were informed by the doctors that it was too late. He had less than an hour to live. Standing in the hallway waiting, I prayed to God that if He would spare my father I would quit smoking. He miraculously did! I said to myself, "Wow God, You are real." Thanks be to God, he lived another 26 years, and God gave us a relationship. My life really changed after that. I quit smoking, developed a

new attitude regarding my work at Columbus & Southern Ohio Electric, and eventually became a Gideon speaker. I retired in 1999 after 42 years of service having received several promotions along the way. I didn't do any of it. God made it all happen.

In closing, there are many ways to serve God, and I congratulate those who are working with the Buckeye Baptist Builders and Ohio Changers for all they do in helping others. Brothers, keep up the good work!

**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

Every month when I take communion, I try to block everything out and focus on Jesus. And for a brief moment I think of Whitney.

I ran into Whitney on my very first day of college. Well, actually, she ran into me. Although Whitney has enough sight to get around, she is legally blind. She has developed some life tricks which are ingenious in helping navigate with limited vision. Still whenever our group of friends went anywhere for the first time, we made sure to point out curbs and discreetly read menus to her.

We went to a new church one Sunday to support a friend leading the worship. I quietly read the bulletin to Whitney and pointed out we would be having communion. We had shared several communions at this point, and I knew I would have to assist her as the cups and wafers were passed. Only this church didn't pass anything. The small congregation went to the front for communion. This was a new experience for me and, as we were close to the front, we were quickly "next." I saw them pull a small piece from a loaf of bread, dip it in the beautiful cup of wine being held by the Pastor, and then return to their seats. Unthinking, I told my poorly-sighted friend to "follow my lead." I turned back just in time to see Whitney grab the "cup" from the horrified Pastor and take a big swig.

Whitney is now married to a pastor and, despite any limitations, her husband rightfully boasts about her invaluable assistance during their years of ministry. As I take communion, I think of my friend. The humor of that long ago communion brings her to mind, but I quickly focus on the One who fixes my own stumbles. Jesus knew my sin and shame when He willingly went to the Cross. He went anyway. This is why we take communion in remembrance of Him.

What He did. For someone like me.

**Blessings,
Cindy Matlock**

