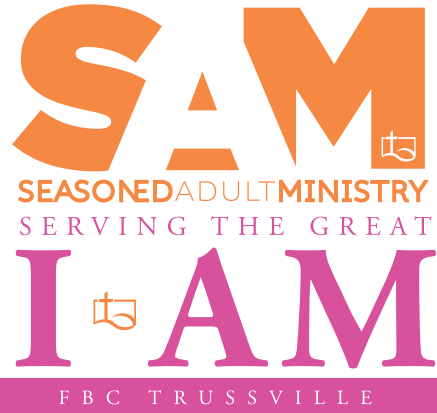


HE'S ALIVE!



APRIL 2023

EASTER AT FBCT

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 7 • 6:00PM

Worship Center

A night of worship focused on the cross at Calvary

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 9

8:00AM, 9:30AM, & 11:00AM

Don't forget to bring cut flowers to add to the cross and to get a family photo!

(NOTE: Small groups will not meet on Easter Sunday morning.)

Seasoned Adult Minister: Bob Smith
SAM Assistant: Debbie Arrington
SAM Newsletter Editor: Judy Bryant
Newsletter Design: Stephanie Entrup

This newsletter is prepared and emailed monthly by and for 55+ adults of First Baptist Church Trussville, Alabama. Suggested information to be included in an upcoming SAM newsletter may be emailed to sam.news@fbc-trussville.org. Printed copies will be available at the church Welcome Center and Events Center.

Spring is upon us ... my favorite season of the year because it means CELEBRATING new life! Our King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the ONE who was, and is, and is to come provided the Way for each of us to have new life. Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow! Our Joyful Hearts Choir and the SAM Vocal Band have had many blessed opportunities over the past four weeks or so to share with other churches the Wonderful Words of Life through the old hymns we love so much. The old hymns of this season tell the story and express the immense joy we believers celebrate. Sing with me as you read!

Celebrate Easter...

...remembering our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He made for all of us on The Old Rugged Cross.

...remembering When I Survey The Wondrous Cross. Were You There? Did you see The Nail-Scarred Hand?

...remembering that Up From The Grave He Arose! He's Alive! This 1970's hymn begins woefully from the point of view of Peter, but the intensity rises from the day Mary finds the empty tomb to the day He returns and Peter looks into His eyes. "...and every fear I've ever had just melted into peace!" Click [HERE](#) to listen as David Phelps sings.

...celebrating that Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia! He Lives!

...celebrating Him ... Behold! The Lamb. He Is Lord! Crown Him With Many Crowns! Philippians 2:9-11

...celebrating forgiveness ...I am free from the burden of sin! There Is Power In The Blood! Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.

...celebrating salvation ... Salvation comes from the Lord. Jonah 2:9. Jesus Paid It All. I Will Sing of My Redeemer. I Know That My Redeemer Liveth.

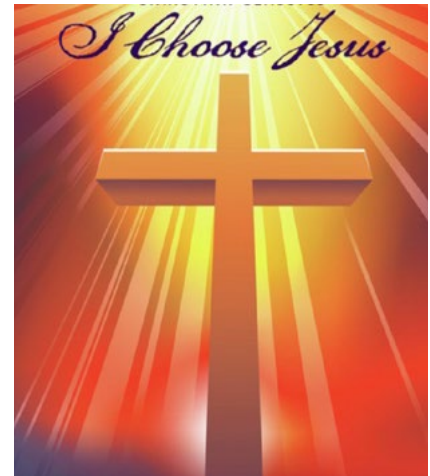
...celebrating the Victory, Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus Our Blessed Redeemer, Ever In Joyful Song. Read Isaiah 25. Oh God, How Great Thou Art!

...celebrating that I am Living For Jesus. In Christ Alone. It Is Well With My Soul. Without a solitary doubt, I Choose Jesus. I choose Him not for miracles, but for loving me; not for Bethlehem, but for Calvary; and not for a day but for eternity.

...celebrating that There Is Room At The Cross For You! Are You Washed In The Blood? It Is No Secret What God Can Do!

I Love To Tell The Story, don't you?

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob".



• HOW TO BE •

SAM with SATIONAL! with KEN LASS

Of course we've heard about him. Everybody's heard about him, this carpenter from Nazareth who claimed to be the son of God. He's been around some of our nearby towns preaching this Christianity religion. We heard he even performed what some are calling miracles, but others just say it was some sort of magic trick. We thought about going to hear him speak, but we've been so busy working our crops and repairing our home and stable, tending our livestock. Who's got time for that?

One thing's for sure. The guy had courage. He stuck to his story even when he knew the people who ran our synagogues got really mad and ganged up against him. I thought maybe he just enjoyed the attention, but good gracious, they convinced the government to beat him and kill him. Kill him in the most heinous way, the treatment reserved for only the worst of criminals. You'd have to be crazy to take your radical talk that far. Unless....

Unless you were telling the truth. Apparently he didn't sound crazy to his audiences. I heard he had amassed thousands of believers. Somebody even said one of the centurions at the cross was convinced after the ground shook when Jesus died. Guess that's why the Sanhedrin folks got so upset.

I have to admit it struck me as a little conceited when he claimed he had to die to atone for the sins of the world. And it got really bizarre when he predicted he would rise after his death and ascend to heaven! No wonder they killed him. They must have thought he was some sort of lunatic.

Except that, three days later, our whole town started buzzing. Word is the tomb where he was laid is empty! The body is missing! How could that happen? The army even

had guards in front of it. Some say his followers must have organized and stole the body. That doesn't make sense. What would they have to gain? They weren't getting rich off of his teaching. He preached selflessness and giving away what you had. Why would they want to stage his raising from the dead and ascension to perpetuate a lie? A lie that did not profit them?

There are whispers the Sanhedrin or the government are behind it. That makes even less sense. They would just be helping his cause by giving credence to his prediction. Then there are even those who say he never really died. Oh, right. So he bled out on the cross, laid in the tomb three days, recovered on his own, single handedly removed the huge boulder from the entrance and then subdued all of the guards and escaped. That's the craziest of all the theories.

His followers profess that they have seen him. Alive. Talked to him. Even watched him literally do just as he said he would, physically rise to the sky and ascend to heaven. Furthermore, his disciples say he is the only way for us to go there as well. We must believe in him and follow his ways. Guess we'll never get to ask him for ourselves. He's nowhere to be found any more.

I have a feeling they will be telling this story for centuries to come. Was he the son of God? What do we do with that? I guess everyone will have to answer that question for themselves.

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
(Matthew 16:15)

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

Monday, April 3 • 10:00 AM • Chapel

Meet in the Chapel or stop wherever you are and join us in prayer.

Email prayer requests to Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org



FIRST THURSDAY: MEN PRAYING for their ONE

First Thursday of every month
6:30 am • Worship Center

FIRST THURSDAY: LADIES PRAYING for their ONE

First Thursday of every month
12:30pm • Room D147

Share the first name of your "ONE" and any information you wish by email:

pray41@fbctrussville.org



JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

FIRST & THIRD Thursdays OF EVERY MONTH
10:30 AM • Fellowship Hall

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Room D144



CAMPUS CLEAN-UP CRUSADE

Tuesday, April 11 • 8:30AM-2:00PM

Jack Sittre & Mike Lowry our Facilities Manager will be coordinating the work (mostly inside, light clean-up projects) To sign-up to help, scan this QR code

C HOW 2 LIVE BETTER!

Wednesday, April 12 • 3:30PM • D143

Join our own Barbara Parkes as she shares helpful ideas and tips for the visually impaired.



MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, April 13 • 6:11AM • Gym

Invite a friend and join us.

EDIBLE EDUCATION

Thursday, April 13 • 11:30AM • Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Dr. Emily Keeton, discussing Quality Aging

Reservation required. • \$6

Register at [HERE](#) or call Kathy Bowman at 205-228-1000

TAX DAY

Tuesday, April 18

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, April 27 • 11:30AM • Gym

Our own Kevin Grigsby will be delighting us at the piano.

\$7 per person (if you did not purchase 2023 SAM meal ticket)

Reservations required.

Call SAM office at 205-228-1006 OR

Email sam.reservation@fbctrussville.org OR

Complete tear-off in Sunday April 23 bulletin.



PRAYER JOURNEY SCHEDULE 2023

My Next Prayer Journey • Mississippi April 23-27

I continue to covet all your prayers and thank you for them. Denny Rogers

FIFTH SUNDAY CONCERT OPPORTUNITY

Sunday, April 30 • 3:00PM -5:00PM

Sixth Avenue Baptist Church

The Warblers & Men of Distinction in Concert,
Benefitting Discovery Club.

We will leave the church at 2:00PM. Ride the bus or drive yourself, but please let us know which method of transportation you will be using.

We are limited to 15 tickets, \$15 each.

OCTOBER 16-19, 2023

CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

ANNUAL CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

Pigeon Forge, TN • October 16-19

The Lodge is booked for our stay! Make plans now to join us. Watch for more information coming soon!



'YA GOTTA LOVE THE HATS! (and the sunglasses!)

Complete with hot tea in china cups, fresh flowers on the tables, delicious delicacies, and 200+ ladies from 4 years to 90+ years all adorned in their prettiest hats, gloves, and jewels, the Annie Armstrong Tea on Sunday afternoon March 5 was wonderful. In fact, we were even blessed with a presentation by Annie Armstrong herself (a/k/a Kristy White). Kudos to Jamie Chappel and Sue Richards and their teams for all they did to pull this event off, including making little fancy hats for all the "little ladies" who attended; to all the ladies who decorated the tables; and to all who attended. The event was "sold out." \$4,000 was raised for our FBCT Annie Armstrong Easter offering 2023. A very special thank you also to the fine young men and ladies who helped table hostesses haul in heavy boxes of table settings, brought food to our tables, and helped with all they were asked to do. These kids were "tipped"; the money will go to help them fund their upcoming mission trip.

Click on [THIS LINK](#) to view pictures taken by Ron Burkett. The link will be "up" until about mid-May and any of the pictures may be downloaded for personal use. Ron Burkett





WOULD THE REAL GEORGE BUSH PLEASE STEP FORWARD!

President George W. Bush indeed has a look-a-like in John C. Morgan. Mr. Morgan even walks and talks like the real "W"! On Monday, February 20, President's Day, we SAMMERS had the opportunity to celebrate this important National holiday with a special appearance and lunch with John C. Morgan, well-known Bush impersonator. We were safe and secure with two Secret Service Agents (a/k/a our own Austin Marcum and David Livingston) throughout the impersonator's visit on our church campus. We were blessed with VIP's from our community in attendance, including Mayor Buddy Choat, our Pastor Buddy Champion, Representative Danny Garrett and wife Carol, City Councilman Alan Taylor, and Senator Shay Shelnett and wife Paige.

We in the audience expected funny, and that he was. Mr. Morgan's play on words (mimicking the real President) was clever. One he used was "misunderestimate." Ever heard that one?! Then there was "you better get right, or you'll get left" and about the Pope's visit, "he rode in a "pope-cycle"; he uses pope-pourri and I imagine Pope Frances uses Frank-incense!" What surprised us was Mr. Morgan's considerable musical talent. He played the guitar and sang several tunes, including a couple he wrote. Even danced a little himself and inspired the two Secret Service Agents to live it up a bit on stage! My personal favorite comment of the morning was when he spouted out right out of the blue when talking about how he has had to deal over time with his "Bush" looks ... "My favorite thing to do is sneak into a wax museum and just stand there! I did that once and a lady started touching my face, to which I immediately said stop that!" Bet she won't touch another wax figure!

There was much, much more to this John C. Morgan. Read about him in his books "My Life As a Bush ... and My Heart For Imitating Jesus" and "War on Fear." You can find his books for purchase on www.johncmorgan.com or Amazon.com.



TESTIMONY OF SHARON ISOM

In Ephesians 1:4 before the foundations of the world God hath chosen me in Him.

God said, Sharon before you were born "I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." Psalm 139:6

God has blessed me with a wonderful husband, Michael who has been with me every step of my illness. God has granted me many blessings. My children (Lauren, Daniel, Angela, and Benjamin) are a blessing and a gift from God. "Psalm 127:3-Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward."

God knows my current health needs. This is no surprise to Him. Scripture states "Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." Matthew 6:8

I must admit...I have been overcome by fear and worry during this time of sickness. I am learning to trust God on this journey. For God wants me to "Cast all of my anxiety on Him because He cares for me." 1 Peter 5:7

I must come to my Father with all of my fears, anxiety, hopes, and dreams. He already knows my thoughts from far away. (Psalm 139:2 You know when I sit down and when I get up; You understand my thought from far away.)

In the human flesh I want to be in charge. I want to do the planning and organizing. So it is hard to let go and trust someone to take care of the situation. But scripture states we are to "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

I praise my Father the great physician for the trials and tribulations in my life. It is through the breaking and reshaping of a clay pot I am perfected in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to me.

Isaiah 64:8 We are the clay, and You are our potter; And we are all the work of thy hand.

I am made perfect in Christ. Jesus took all of your sins and my sins upon Himself on the cross and gave me His perfection, His garment without spot or blemish, in return.

I want to thank the staff for your unconditional love and support. For each card and prayer sent upon my behalf. And I want to thank my Savior and Lord Jesus who is at my side in this journey. Psalm 66:20 Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me! But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. Psalm 86:15 I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore. Psalm 86:12

In life and in death, I serve a risen Saviour. Job 19:25 "For I know that my redeemer liveth."

We have God's promise in Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If you do not know Christ ...Take this day to know Him. Christ has a free gift for you.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:10 As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I challenge you to commit your life unto God. Will you accept this challenge today?



ELDER LAW SEMINAR

Friday, May 5 • FBCT Fellowship Hall • Tickets: \$10

Guest Speaker: Lynn Campisi

This informative seminar is open to the public and future caregivers are encouraged to attend.



ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL!

By Gail Stewart

I had the privilege of visiting with Eula Ingram also lovingly known as "Miss Eula" here at FBCT. Even though a few years separate us in age, we had one thing in common – the love of antiques. She has many beautiful family heirlooms.

Eula was born at the old Employee Hospital of Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad – later known as Lloyd Noland Hospital. She explained she was a "depression baby"... times were very hard for her family. Her dad was only able to work for 4 days a month and he was feeding a family of 6 on that money.

She has a great family heritage; she was in church even before she was born. Her family (grandparents, parents and 3 sisters) was active in Southside Baptist Church in Birmingham for many, many years. In fact, she grew up living next door to her grandparents, which was good for the 4 girls. One of Eula's fondest memories was receiving \$1 as a birthday gift each year. She also shared with me that as a child she would go with Mom to the farmer's market and sell the baskets for 5 cents each – which was her spending money. She then would assist her mom as she prepared and canned the vegetables and fruits from the market.

Eula recalled being a Sunbeam as a little girl. She was saved at age 9 and baptized (by Dr. John Buchanan) on Easter Sunday – and was given an Easter Lily! She has been leader of just about every committee in the church as an adult, was in the BYPU (Baptist Young People Union) as a teen, Sunday School, choir, etc. and later a teacher of 6 year olds. Eula loves the Lord and loves serving Him.

I will share one funny story she shared with me. She was just a little girl, and her mom gave her 1 penny each week for her offering. As she put her little penny in the plate each week, she noted that there were some shiny dimes in there – 5 cents bought a popsicle. Hum, so one Sunday when the plate came around, she swapped her penny for 2 shiny dimes! She bought popsicles for herself and her friends. Oh, it was fun, until Mom asked where she got the popsicles. Being a good little girl, she told the truth and apologized for the error of her ways. She and Mom had a good talk about the Lord and stealing and Eula would pull weeds in the garden for 1 week to pay back the change! Lesson learned.

Eula graduated from Ramsey High School and quickly found herself a job at National Biscuit Company in an administrative position. She did the interviewing and hiring. She managed to save enough to buy herself a car in 1 year and in the 2nd, year saved enough to attend Auburn University. Just before going to Auburn, a young man named Mark Ingram came to NBC to apply for a job. He was good looking and she typed

his application for him, asking age ? married ? He landed the job as bread delivery man. Then one day Mark invited her to go for a Sunday drive with him. She accepted that invitation, thinking they would go for ice cream or something nearby. Well, apparently, he really enjoyed her company because he drove her to Jasper, Cullman (Little Jerusalem}, Guntersville (to see the boats), Oneonta for a BBQ sandwich, and finally home so late! There were no pay phones and certainly no cell phones, so her mom was frantic when she finally arrived at home.



After a few years Eula and Mark got married. Some family members said it would never last because he was a country boy and she a city girl – their marriage only lasted 63 years! Eula had a 10-year career with the Social Security Administration, going from a secretary to a Claims Adjuster and then Reviewer. They saved to buy a house on Edwards Lake Road with a pond, 2 cows and some swans. Then finally one day she was notified there was a little boy for them to adopt. She turned in her notice immediately upon hearing she would be receiving a son the next day. (Steve has 1 son, Evan, who plays baseball for UAB.) A year later they adopted a little girl (Ann has 2 girls, 1 grandbaby and 1 due soon).

By this time Mark had purchased a Shell service station in East Lake, bought a wrecker for towing; Eula was doing the bookkeeping; and then began to be his "escort" driver as he moved mobile homes for people. She would back the trailers onto the lot while he was the spotter – he would tell her "Look at me, not at anything else and do exactly what I say" – she mastered that! Can you just imagine her in that big old wrecker with a straight shift maneuvering a great big mobile home between trees on a lot? After Mark sold the service station, moving mobile homes was his work. They both enjoyed traveling so it made for some fun times.

(continued on next page)

Eula's Mom died on October 25, 1990, and that night she penned this prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for taking my mother,
Thank you, Lord, that she didn't suffer,
Thank you, Lord, for preparing a place where she can see you face to face,
Thank you, Lord, for making a home where she will never be alone.
Thank you for the way she cared and all the things she and I shared.
My mother was like no other,
She always had time to help a brother,
Oh, to be that kind of Mother.

One last interesting thing: *The Ingrams were close friends with Ray and Frances Jones who just happen to be Spencer Jones' grandparents. They lived near each other, traveled, played cards, and ate together. Frances now lives in Auburn.*

WHERE DO THE BLESSINGS GO?

From your SAM Leadership Team.

Many of you have been so faithful in dropping "pocket change" into our SAM blessing baskets (baskets on the tables every month at our SAM Monthly Luncheons). We thought you would like to know that when we, the SAM Leadership Team, set up this fund there were "rules" set in place as well. Two of those are that first, every blessing given is done so anonymously, unless it would be appropriate to make it public; and second, the entire Team must vote on each blessing proposed to be given and the vote must be a unanimous "yes" in order for the blessing to be given.

If any of you have suggestions at any time for a possible blessing basket contribution, we invite you to contact Anita Aaron at 205-715-9445 or atina5647@gmail.com to make the recommendation (your suggestion will be kept completely confidential).

We thought that perhaps all of you would like to know about two of our recent blessings, with much appreciation to all of you for allowing us to administer this fund. What a privilege and a blessing!

After an entire year of learning lines, building a set, and rehearsing day after day, on February 23 our Independence Place students participated in a performance of The Lion King at NorthPark Baptist. It was a packed house, and the audience was not disappointed. All lines were on cue and Meghan's beautiful voice rang out. What a blessing for all who attended. The SAM ministry decided to return the blessing by providing a pizza lunch to the IP students on March 2. One good blessing deserves another. If all goes well, they will return to the stage in two years, and we will be blessed again.

On March 6 at our Team meeting, we were able to present Sharon Isom, a member of our custodial staff, with gift cards for much-needed necessities as she travels to and from MD Anderson in Houston for cancer treatments. She shared a bit of her personal testimony with us... "I am His; He is Mine." What a blessing she is!



Not receiving our SAM newsletters? How do you prefer to receive our newsletters each month? By email and/or paper copy mailed to you? If you haven't already or you need to update your preference, please contact Debbie Arrington in the SAM Office at 205-228-1006 or email at debbie@fbctrussville.org. Everyone for whom we have an up-to-date email address will receive the newsletters by email; however, if you prefer to have a paper copy mailed to you each month, let Debbie know. We will be happy to mail one to you!