

APRIL 2021

HOLY WEEK 2021

Palm Sunday, March 28

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Good Friday, April 2

FBCT Service 6:00PM

Holy Saturday, April 3

Resurrection Sunday, April 4

FBCT morning worship services:

7:30, 8:45, 10:00 & 11:15AM

Bring cut flowers from home to flower the cross!

I CHOOSE JESUS

Not for miracles, but for loving me
Not for Bethlehem, but for Calvary
Nor for a day, but for eternity
..Without a solitary doubt,
I Choose Jesus

Click HERE to hear I Choose Jesus.

Seasoned Adult Minister: Bob Smith
SAM Assistant: Debbie Arrington
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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@fbctrussville.org. Printed copies will be available at the church Welcome Center and Events Center.

OH, WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES

It all started in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. In one day, one moment, one decision, paradise was transformed to a fallen world. But God .. our Holy God set His redemption plan in place, including the birth, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of His sacrifice we can in one day, one moment, one decision choose a new life, transformed and living for Jesus. Oh what a difference our prayers of recognizing and admitting our sins, repentance, belief and commitment make in our days here on earth and our forever in Heaven!

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

Bob

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, BOB!
Celebrating three years here at FBCT as our Seasoned Adult Minister!



See if you can find Bob's easter egg friends!

Laughter in the Walls, by Bob Benson

It seemed to be his lot -
He was one of those
Unfortunate people
With a talent to be always
In the wrong place,
Always at the wrong time.
He was born wrong -
The declining Roman empire,
The broken home,
The conquered Jewish nation,
The poverty-stricken slums.
He lived wrong:
Others went to school -
He played hookey;
Others played ball -
He stole apples;
Others learned trades -
He learned to cheat.
Just a common thief,
He started wrong,
He lived wrong,
And it looked as if
he'd finish wrong -
The wrong place
And the wrong time -
A Roman cross,
A painful death,
A final shame.

When from the middle cross
Came words of redeeming love,
"You shall be with Me in paradise."
In all the stream of history
One and only one
Of the numberless
Sons of Adam
Could have said these words -
And he hung beside Him.
What tremendous fortune!
What wondrous providence!
In one instant, his life -
Given to evil,
Thoroughly misused,
Doomed to die -
Was changed and ended
In crowning glory.
It was the one sentence
Without which there is no Success.
It was the one sentence
Which redeems all failure,
And it was said to him
At life's final flickering Moment.
The one most important issue of
All was gloriously solved.
At long last, he was
In the right place
At the right time!

# NEW DAY

By Janice Shelton

As I reflect on our pastor's sermon series, "New Day," I remember that who I am is driven by Whose I am. Sixty years ago this past December, I became a Christian. As a 9-year-old child, I lay in my bed and I asked God to give to me what I knew I did not have, the relationship with Him that I had witnessed in and consistently experienced as I watched the life of two special people who took interest in me, Grandma Belcher and Mr. George Chadwick. Sixty years ago this Easter I was baptized, publicly acknowledging my trust in Him.

Grandma Belcher was a neighbor. She took time to talk to me and to introduce me to her family and to invite me and my mother and brother to church, Calvary Baptist Independent Church in Buffalo, New York, to where we had moved after my parents' separation. I was lonely and confused about being part of a fractured family. Grandma Belcher loved me, just as she did so many. She let me know that God wanted to be my heavenly Father and that He would not leave me. Loving and serving others was her ministry.

Mr. Chadwick was a deacon in the church and he loved young people. I was among the fortunate ones who benefitted each Monday as he would pick up several of us after school to take us to "Religious Training," as well as see that we were taken home afterwards. Loving and serving others was also Mr. Chadwick's ministry.

These two people were consistent in their faithfulness and testimony and especially their unchanging, unconditional love, serving as examples to me of God's love. Each took time to explain God's desire to save anyone willing to call on Him. Each spoke to my heart and I soon understood that I did not know Him as they did.

When I think about a "New Day," I think about my life's verse, II Corinthians 5:17: Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (KJV). I love that not only did I become new that night over 60 years ago, but that I also have the opportunity to experience newness each day, a newness that His birth and death and resurrection promise.



As a "Seasoned Adult," I look for opportunities to encourage others, especially younger people, with words and actions to show them that I care about them. What I do may be simple, but a kind word or a smile or a show of interest in something about which they care can open the door to telling them of the God Whose love for us is so great that it can secure eternal life with Him. Our age does not preclude our ability to impact others for Christ. I truly do not know where or who I would be today had two "Seasoned Adults" not taken an interest in me.

NOTE: Janice and her husband, Richard moved to Trussville and joined FBCT in February 2019. They had been visiting in Trussville for several months before the move to be closer to their daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons! Janice retired at the end of 2016 from a long career in education at various levels from middle school to community college in the classroom and in administration. Richard retired at the end of January 2019 from having been a local business owner and then the treasurer for their county in Virginia. Janice and Richard are members of the Jim Summers (previously Don Beasley's class) Small Group.

## 2ND ANNUAL LELAND DOCKERY TRIBUTE CRUISE-IN

**Saturday, June 5, 2021 at FBC Trussville**

Register your classic, hot rod, rat rod or show car  
Tell your neighbors!

No registration fees

There will be prizes, food vendors, entertainment

[www.fbctrussville.org/seasoned-adult/](http://www.fbctrussville.org/seasoned-adult/)

For more information, call John Patterson  
(205)337-5418





# 90 DAY PRAYER FOCUS

## SAM

SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY

We are now 8 weeks in to our 13-week prayer focus/spiritual journey with Dr. Johnny Fain. We've had an average of 200 on Live Stream each week, and we now have the opportunity to Live Stream or come "in person" to our designated pews! Dr. Fain's challenges to us continue:

### Session 5:

Consider: Do I really trust Him over these four areas of prayer: (1) The working of the Holy Spirit as He is involved in prayer. (2) The will of God in prayer. (3) The waiting on God in prayer. (4) The trusting in God in prayer.

### Session 6:

Enhance your prayer time; begin a prayer notebook. First page: List the five areas of a prayer.

Divide the rest of the pages into 5 sections; one section for each of the 5 areas of a prayer. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as He makes you aware of prayer notes / thoughts / requests and write them down in the respective sections. After you write, pray it all right back to God!

1. Adoration
2. Thanksgiving
3. Confession
4. Petition / supplication
5. Intercession

Recommended resource:

*2959 Prayer Plan*, by Peter M. Lord

### Session 7:

Adoration (worship, respect, reverence). When you start well you can finish well. Adoration allows you to start well!

Thanksgiving: In your notebook be sure to include the hard things you are thankful for:

--things you can't change; things that you could change but you can't change right now

Now, tell Him how thankful you are that you can't change things, but HE can!

--things you do not understand but you know HE is going to work them for HIS honor and HIS glory.

Now, tell Him how thankful you are!

Recommended resource: *An Hour With George Muller*, by George Muller, edited by A. Sims

### Session 8:

Confessions: When you pray ask "are my hands clean and my heart pure? Show me, Lord." The Holy Spirit will bring your sins to your mind. Then, repent (change your attitude about what you did), accept His mercy, and move on in the fullness of God!

## WHAT A CUTE EASTER BUNCH!



## • HOW TO BE • **SAM** with **SATIONAL!** **KEN LASS**

When I was a young boy, I loved to ride my bicycle. I grew up in the country so there wasn't much car traffic on the roads to be concerned about. The terrain was mostly rolling hills and long, sharp turns winding through farm fields and lake shore. I took great delight in feeling that brisk wind cascading over me as I coasted down those hills and then leaned around those curves as though I was leading the pack in the Tour De France. What could be better than that?

Then one day my Dad showed me how to attach a playing card to the wheel bar using a clothes pin. The card extended into the spokes causing the bike to make this awesome flapping noise as the spokes rotated through the card. At high speed down those hills, the sound elevated into a loud buzz that was identical to the noise made by a motorcycle. My bike had become a new creation! The simple adjustment changed my riding experience and made it even better than before!

You may be happy and content with your life as it is, but Second Corinthians teaches us that there is so much more. God is ready to show us a simple adjustment that will change your life and bring you more joy, more peace, more companionship. Just like that old bike, He's ready to take the old you and make you a new creation, one that puts God and Godly values first.

It's easy to give up on Godly values in our current culture. Christians sometimes feel as though we are fighting a futile, losing battle. But the verse tells us..... no, promises us, that the old ungodly ways around us will pass away, new things will come. Don't worry about the world. God will handle that. Make your personal adjustment. Put that spiritual playing card in the spokes of your life and make an awesome noise for Jesus. You'll be amazed at how much better your ride through those uphill and downhill will be.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come.*  
*2 Corinthians 5:17*

# HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

**Secrets from the Via Dolorosa by Andy Cook, paints a beautiful picture of Jesus' journey to the Cross.** Many had fled that night returning to life with great sorrow, but then there was Mary Magdalene. Didn't she know, hadn't Jesus prepared her? Why didn't she recognize Jesus immediately? I have so many questions. Jesus had cried "It is finished" and all of heaven was waiting for Him! He was on His way to Heaven, but first, one of His followers needed Him. He put Heaven on hold to share the secret with Mary Magdalene in a cemetery. Remember, I am the Resurrection and the life ... it was time for His followers to experience this fully. Refer to John 20; I paraphrase below.

Mary was overcome with grief, weeping at the empty tomb. She was one of Jesus' most committed followers. She was the last to leave the cross on Friday, and the first to reach the tomb on Sunday morning. The tomb was empty, and the only question in her mind was, where is His body? She truly did not know as she replied to two angels when they questioned her weeping. That even gives us pause ... did she know they were angels? Somewhere in the garden, Jesus was watching and listening to it all. After she had responded to the angels, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. She did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said, "Woman why are you weeping?" "Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him away." He then calls her by name, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Teacher! It's YOU. All of her emotions ran toward Him. Jesus said, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father and My God and your God."

There is a lot of teaching in that statement alone! But first He would ascend to the Father immediately, if only for a short time. He would reappear to multiple individuals later in the day, this time inviting them to touch His scars. Once again Jesus put Heaven on hold in full compassion to them in His resurrected body. There was more kingdom work to be done. All doubts would be removed. Jesus stayed with them 40 days until His final ascension. There is no perfect disciple just forgiven.

Jesus walked the Via Dolorosa first, so that we may walk in the newness of life that He gives us. Walk with courage down your own Way of Suffering. There will be scars along the way, but remember we are merely passing through just as Jesus did on His way to Heaven. May eternity be stamped upon your heart as we wait for our resurrected bodies. Acts 1:8

# 1821 – 2021: 200 YEARS

SAVE THE DATE ...

A WEEK OF CELEBRATION BEGINNING SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2021

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARY!

By Elaine Copham

“Long Time” church member Mary Swatzell Kennedy just celebrated her 90th birthday. She grew up on Lake Street, married and lived on Lake Street then moved to Snake Hill—how much more historic Trussville can you be? Mary is currently a member in Martha Jones’ small group class. She has seen many changes at First Baptist through the years.

Mary’s first comment about church was that she was baptized August 31, 1941 in the Cahaba River up by the rock bridge. [Refer to February 2021 SAM newsletter article on historical conditions leading up to the 1930’s and 40’s.) The river was deeper then because there was a dam down behind the library area. There were four girls baptized that same day. She believes it was after a revival.

Mary’s sharpest church memories as a child were walking across highway 11 from the church to a house for Sunday School in the house’s basement and back to church. She remembers vividly how hot the church was with the big windows open. Her legs would stick to the wooden pews. She also remembers how cold the water was for baptism.

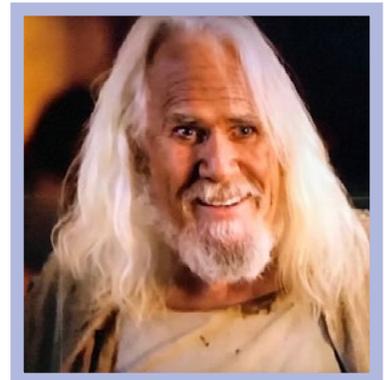
As we all are now thinking about vaccines, I asked Mary if she remembers scares from her early years. She remembered the polio scare and the sugar cubes we all took. Mostly she remembered the typhoid shots she had to take because of swimming in the river. Because of the cattle upstream, everyone had to get the shots and they really hurt. She recently learned of a scary thing that she didn’t know then. Her brother helped to make the swimming area deeper by using dynamite that may or may not have been taken from a construction site!



## ST. PAUL SPEAKS ... and brings scripture ALIVE!

*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21*

For our SAM monthly luncheon on February 25, we sat in front of our screens in awe as the talented Philip Smith presented his 30-minute dramatic performance of the letters of Apostle Paul to the Philippians. Yes, in awe! First, to memorize four chapters of any book of the Holy Bible ... no way could this old writer do such a thing! Not to mention, his powerful presentation ... his voice and expression, the set / background, music, etc. As he recited the book of Philippians, we followed right along in our Bibles. If you missed it, go to our website at [www.fbctrussville.org](http://www.fbctrussville.org), click into SAM ministry page, then click Livestream Luncheons. You will join the rest of us who want to experience more from Philip Smith’s ministry!



### ONE LAST NOTE

COVID has made us keenly aware of the value and importance of daily communication with our church family. Check out the new FBCT church-wide Facebook Group page [HERE](#).

If you have ideas or information you would like to suggest for any upcoming SAM monthly newsletter, email us at [sam.news@fbctrussville.org](mailto:sam.news@fbctrussville.org).

# SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, April 22 • 10:30AM

In the sanctuary

Our special guest will be **Debbie Childers**

Winner of the 2018 Jeanne Robertson Humor Competition, Debbie says she loves the Bible, loves to talk, and loves to have fun!



Lunch following in the gym • \$6 per person

**HEALTH  
& WELLNESS  
EVENT SAM**  
SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY



Complete and return the First Baptist 2021 & Beyond SURVEY emailed to us by Lance Pate.

Can't find it in your email?

Go to [www.fbctrussville.org/2021-survey/](http://www.fbctrussville.org/2021-survey/)

## THIRD ANNUAL HEALTH & WELLNESS EVENT COMING SOON!

### A VIDEO SERIES ... "Honest Answers to Covid Questions," facilitated by Ken Lass

A stellar line up including Dr. Jeremy Rogers; Nurse Practitioner, Frankie Crumb; Counselor, Kelly Moates; and Rev. James Long will answer questions we've all been asking about the effects of this year of COVID and what's ahead post-COVID. They will touch on medical and spiritual/psychological areas, and Zeke and Drew Smith will share with us a special testimony of their personal experience of their COVID journey. Many of you have been sending in your questions in response to Bob Smith's email to all us Seasoned Adults.

### What would you ask a doctor?

(Examples: Regarding vaccine myths/questions, convalescent plasma, COVID health)

### What would you ask a counselor?

(Examples: Loneliness, isolation, fear, etc.)

### What would you ask a pastor?

(Examples: Stay home vs attend church, anger at God, fear issues)

Susan Hornsby and her team have been working diligently to bring this important event to us. Watch for specific date and times in the near future.

**Not receiving our SAM newsletters?** If you haven't already responded to the letter mailed out last month by our SAM Leadership Team regarding your preference for receiving the newsletter, please contact Debbie Arrington in the SAM office at 205-228-1006 or email her at [debbie@fbctrussville.org](mailto:debbie@fbctrussville.org). Everyone for whom we have an email address will continue to receive the newsletters by email; however, if any of you prefer to have a paper copy mailed to you each month, let Debbie know. We will be happy to mail one to you!