

SAM

SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY
SERVING THE GREAT

I AM

February 2021

"I don't think our loved ones

make our lives,

But loving them does.

And death cannot take that away.

Love lasts forever."

Author Unknown



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@fbctrussville.org. Printed copies will be available at the church Welcome Center and Events Center.

IF EVER I LOVED THEE, MY JESUS 'TIS NOW!

February and LOVE go hand in hand ... can't miss that if you are connected to any form of media, most especially TV. And no doubt you are familiar too with the TV commercial trying to sell us on all the wonderful things a credit card can do for us (NOT!). You know the one ... WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET? Well, I've got a better deal for you.

WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART? Events of these last several months have left our hearts in all kinds of disarray from tired and weary, to broken, even to angry. Some can even relate to those dry bones we used to sing about as kids. It's an old spiritual song that goes, "Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones; Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones; Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones; O hear the word of the Lord. The foot bone's connected to the leg bone, the leg bone's connected to the knee bone ... the head bone's connected to the neck bone," etc. (I can hear you guys singing along!) I think the head bone's connected to the heart, don't you? Discover the prophetic, deep meaning and wonderful assurances to God's people in Ezekiel 37:1-14, the story that inspired Dem Dry Bones.

There is a more current song about Dem Dry Bones by Lauren Daigle. A part of the lyrics goes: "As we call out to dry bones, come alive, come alive, we call out to dead hearts, come alive, come alive; up out of the ashes, let us see an army rise. We call out to dry bones, come alive."

O hear the word of the Lord! Keep it in your minds and hold it in your hearts. Focus on THE One who breathes life into us and gives us hope. And remember after all, He IS Love! He loves you with an everlasting love!

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come. 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. Romans 8:38-39

Calling out, Come Alive!

Bob



168 signed up!
But there's still
room for you!

90 DAY PRAYER FOCUS

SAM
SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY

SIGN UP NOW

Our 90 Day Prayer Focus, led by Dr. Johnny Fain, promises to be an invaluable connection to our God and to each other through the power of prayer.

BEGINNING

Monday, February 1, 2021 • 10:00 AM (LiveStream only at this time)

SESSIONS

Each session will begin with a 15-minute teaching followed by a focused prayer time. Those who cannot join us online on Monday's can find teaching session videos on the church website or request DVDs from the church SAM office.

SIGN UP

Contact the SAM office

PHONE: 205-228-1006 • EMAIL sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org • or visit the church website www.fbctrussville.org/ministries/seasonedadult to enroll online (it only takes a minute!)

For more detailed information, including a word from Dr. Fain, please see the SAM Special Edition Newsletter sent out by email on Thursday, January 21. The Special Edition is posted at www.fbctrussville.org under the SAM ministry page or you can call the SAM office for a copy.

WE NEED TO KNOW THIS ...

DID YOU KNOW that we can update our personal directory information anytime during the year, but a special emphasis by our ministerial staff this time every year gives us a reminder to provide the church with an update? (Stuff like addresses, telephone numbers, email, and so on.) Please complete the pastoral care card you will find on the website www.fbctrussville.org and send it in to the church office.

ARE YOU MISSING from the church directory located on the FBC Trussville app (even though you have updated your information)? This app is the electronic version of the old printed directories we used to have and is so helpful to all of us when we need to get in touch with each other! Even if you have updated your information with the church office, if we do not have a picture, you are not included in the app.

Please consider sending us a picture. In a church the size of ours, your help with this is vitally important to our church staff. If you do not have a picture to share, call the church office and come by. We can take one here at the church.

BILL BOWSER

SAM DO Group Leader (Care, Service, Events)

My wife, Diane, and I are relatively new to FBCT. We joined the church in March two years ago; but, we both had been attending since the previous November and had joined a Small Group (Bobby Horsley), the Ministry of Praise Choir and the Joyful Hearts choir. We were so involved in activities that we realized we had forgotten to actually move our membership to FBCT...so in March we did! We both love singing and I also sing with the men's SAM Vocal Band. We are native Virginians but have lived many places during our marriage. We moved to Trussville from southern Florida to be closer to our oldest son, Brian, daughter-in-law, Corinne and especially our grandchildren, Xander and Amelia. Our youngest son, Phillip and his wife, Shevon live in Jacksonville, FL. Diane and I have been around each other literally our entire lives. We were born 4 days apart in June 1954 in the same hospital and had bassinets together in the same newborn hospital nursery. We were junior high and high school sweethearts and have been married for 45 wonderful years and counting. We have gone on multiple domestic and foreign mission trips and enjoy travel with our kids and grandkids. I am a graduate of, and we are both ardent fans of the Virginia Tech Hokies.

As a professional, I worked my entire career around government service. First as a civil servant, then as a contractor. Most of my career I was a "C" level executive where team building and group level achievements were paramount. After corporate life, I moved into an



individual consultancy advising small and mid-size corporations in mergers and acquisitions. As a manager and consultant I quickly learned that serving my teams and clients to help them meet their successes brought much greater results than attempting to serve my own career. I am now retired from full-time work but still serve on several Boards of Directors.

I was originally ordained as a deacon in 1998 at Far Hills Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio. I enjoy structured Bible study and have been a part of CBS and BSF. One of my favorite verses is James 1:17 – "Every good and perfect gift comes from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of change." God is eternal, the Alpha and Omega. His love for us is also eternal and never changing. Everything good in our lives comes from God. God gave us the utmost gift in His Son Jesus, providing us salvation and a way to spend eternity in heaven. AMEN!

HEALTH & WELLNESS UPDATE

At this writing, those 75 years of age and older are qualified to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Very soon, the next group, those 65+ will be eligible. This is just one of the sites where you can register ahead of time. There are many others coming open every day. Watch the local news media for more information. Word of mouth also works!



Coming Soon!

WANT TO SELF REGISTER FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINATION?



- GO TO WWW.JEFFCOEMA.ORG
- CLICK ON THE "VACCINE SELF-REGISTRATION FORM"
- ENTER YOUR INFORMATION

ONCE ELIGIBLE, SOMEONE FROM JEFF. CO. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL CONTACT YOU ABOUT APPOINTMENT INFORMATION.

MUST WORK OR BE A RESIDENT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY TO BE ELIGIBLE

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

Ah, February...the month of love. Here we find Valentine's Day, a day dedicated to expressing our love and affection for that special someone. Also the source of annual stress for husbands all over the world, as they feel the pressure to come up with a new, creative, romantic and inspiring way to tell their spouses how much they are adored. Failure to do so results in disappointment and heartbreak.

Really? Is this what it's come to? We need a special day to express love? Wrong on so many levels.

First Corinthians reminds us that love is not something we pull out of the closet on special occasions. It's something that we are, something that we have, something that oozes out of us beyond our control. If we exercise vigorously, the perspiration flows out of our bodies. We can't stop it. If we live our Christian lives vigorously, the love pours out of us, without limitation or qualification, all the time, every day. It's just a natural way of life that comes from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who made the ultimate act of love for us.

If the special people in your life have to wait for Valentine's Day to get an expression of love from you, you've got bigger issues. The verse says without love we are nothing, at least in the sight of God. Knowledge, money, popularity and security are nothing without genuine love for others. What have you done today to show God's love to someone in need?

Hopefully, the people in your life know that you love them because of things that you say and do every day. That takes a lot of pressure off of Valentine's Day, which is pretty SAM- sational for me!

"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing."

1 Corinthians 13:2

HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

AGAPE LOVE: A divine love, the kind we can only receive from God ... received from God to give to others.

"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels but I do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor; and if I surrender my body to be burned but do not have love, it profits me nothing." 1 Corinthians 13

We all have spiritual gifts, but without His love – agape love – the body of Christ is lifeless. He receives no glory. Gifts are good, but His love is superior. "Do not leave your first love." Revelation 2:4

"Love is patient, Love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bear all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails; Gifts will be done away with, but love endures forever. But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

This Agape love followed Jesus to the Cross, John 3:16. He lived a surrendered life of obedience. There is much here to reflect on in our personal lives. As Jesus told the Church of Ephesus, "remember from where you have fallen and repent." Take time to reflect on these things but also look ahead to eternity ... Love will meet you there.

Jesus prayed to the Father for His disciples before His death. "I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. John 17:23

1821 – 2021: 200 YEARS

Early 20th Century Marked Changes In Trussville Church and Nation

By Sandra Bearden

A census taken in 1890 shows that the town of Trussville had a population of 737 people. Trussville Baptist Church had 125 members by the turn of the century—a fairly hefty percentage of the population. However, the boom that had hit neighboring Birmingham had escaped Trussville, leaving it as a small, relatively obscure rural community. Just as many of its citizens struggled to make ends meet in the early 20th century, so did its Baptist church.



Picture from The Steeple Beckons, page 97.

Part of this struggle is pointed out in Katherine Hale Hamlin's book, *The Steeple Beckons*, published in 1973. Mrs. Hamlin says that M.M. Wood, called as the pastor of Trussville Baptist in 1898, and widely respected in the denomination, appointed a committee of three church leaders to conduct a study of Alabama Baptists and their work during the 19th century. But Wood never saw this project to fruition. He resigned in November 1900. His reasons for leaving are unknown, but it may have had to do with finances. Trussville Baptist owed Wood \$45 when he resigned, and it took the church four months to reimburse him. Wood's successor was hired for a salary of \$300 for preaching two Sundays monthly and other services, but members weren't able to come up with that amount either. At that time, many Alabama ministers held multiple pastorates or held other jobs. According to the 1900 census, the average Alabama annual income was \$449.80. So, \$300 may have sounded rather generous to the Trussville Baptist congregation.

In addition to careful monitoring of church expenses, a major recession hit the country during the 1890s, probably impacting even the flourishing Birmingham area. Costs were certainly low by 21st century standards. In 1903, Trussville Baptist built a baptistry for \$97. But historian Frances Dew Hamilton later reported that it was not used frequently, as water had to be brought by wagon from the river. Using the river for baptisms was easier. A new organ was installed for \$125 in 1906, and the entire church was painted for \$130.80 in 1907. But members had the right idea about how limited funds should be spent. When church rules of decorum and by-laws were updated in 1903, the congregation set aside the first Sunday of each month for giving to missions.

Late in the century's first 20 years, Trussville and the rest of the USA would feel from afar the impact of war. Although WWI began in 1914, the United States didn't enter the conflict until March 1917, after Germany sank three U.S. merchant ships. That provided a turning point, as the U. S. provided supplies, more than a million men, and the world's second-largest navy to assist the allies. Germany surrendered on November 11, 1918. Although Trussville Baptist minutes don't mention the war (the Civil War wasn't mentioned either), undoubtedly some friends or family members were involved.

Church minutes were lost or possibly not recorded between August 1918 and August 1925. One cause for this might have been a major tornado that hit the church, collapsed walls, and toppled the steeple in 1921. The information lapse also could have been based on results of a virulent pandemic, the "Spanish flu," which took between 20 and 50 million lives globally from February 1918 through April 1920. Trussville Baptist didn't record that event either, but the epidemic certainly raged in the U.S.



LOOKING FORWARD

- February 2** **Groundhog Day**
February 14 **HAPPY VALENTINES DAY**
February 15 **President's Day**
February 17 **Ash Wednesday**

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 25 • 10:30 AM
LiveStream Only
Special Guests: Phillip Smith as St. Paul
www.stpaulspeaks.com



Since 2010, Phillip Smith has brought the prison letters of the Apostle Paul to life through dramatic performances. He is an accomplished actor with over 30 years' experience.

Audience members become the first Century Church as we witness Paul in chains and hear him passionately share the Good News of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.



CarryTheLight.io

Elisabeth Elliot ~" If you dwell on your own feelings about things rather than dwelling on the faithfulness, the love, and the mercy of God, then you're likely to have a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. Our feelings are very fleeting and ephemeral, aren't they? We can't depend on them for five minutes at a time. But dwelling on the love, faithfulness, and mercy of God is always safe."

MY BEAUTY QUEEN/ MY VALENTINE

By Lee Houlditch
A tribute to Daris Houlditch
(March 19, 1950 - February 21, 2017)

*The girl I loved when we first met,
she was just fourteen,
Faded dress and glasses,
but to me a beauty queen.
There was something deep inside her,
That gave my heart a stir,
I had to find out what it was,
That made my mind a blur.
Through the years we loved and laughed,
And fought for one another,
Never wavered in our trust,
No matter what trials uncovered.
Through good and bad she never faltered,
Her strength came from within,
She trusted in the God she loved,
From beginning to the end.
This one I thought a beauty queen,
Showed me where real beauty resides,
It's not in outward appearance,
It's truly on the inside.*

