



January 2021

CHRISTmas ON MY MIND



*Christmas, my friend,
Is for everyone!
Pastor Buddy*

*"If you had been the only person,
We would still celebrate Christmas."
Alicia Williamson Garcia*

**I can still hear Alicia singing in our
Sunday, December 13 FBCT worship
service:**

*He Came for You! because He wanted
you to know Him.*

*He came so you would know how much
you are loved.*

*If you only knew that you are precious
in His sight,*

*You'd know that who you are is
enough.*

*It was something that He wanted to do.
He came for you.*

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*This newsletter is prepared and emailed
monthly by and for 55+ adults of First Baptist
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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.*

"It's January, Bob, Christmas is over." "Oh, I know," I say to myself, "but in my heart, Christmas is not over." Guys, let's keep CHRISTmas around for a few more weeks, or how about all year!

Of course, I am not talking about keeping 2020 and the months of hardship we have had on our minds. Of course, I am not talking about keeping the secular or commercial celebration of Christmas, which for some can be so happy and for others not so. What I'm talking about is keeping the transformation of our spirits, of our hearts and minds during this season. This time when our minds are on Christ! Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace. When our minds are on the birth of the Son of God, the Messiah. When our minds are on EMMANUEL, God with us. When our minds are on HOPE; the hope that only He gives us. When our minds are on JOY; the true joy of serving Jesus, Others, You, in that order. When our minds are on PEACE; knowing with confidence He holds our everyday and He holds our future. When our minds are on LOVE; accepting Jesus' love for us and, with thankfulness, showing others His love by our words and deeds.

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4: 4-8

Thinking on these things in 2021,

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, January 21, 2021 • 10:30 AM

Worship Center • \$6 per person (includes box lunch)

Special Guest: The Larry DeLawder Family, featuring a special guest appearance by "Deputy Bernie Phyfe"!

MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU

Mindfulness (mind.ful.ness): the quality or state of being mindful (bearing in mind; aware; paying close attention to, focusing on or being especially conscious of something).

Mindfulness is not a religion or a religious practice. Mindfulness is not multitasking. Simply put, it is “compassionate and intentional awareness ... the practice of paying attention.”

The key point is that mindfulness is intentional. “Think of a time when you were so engaged in an activity – creating a work of art, playing a sport, reading a good book – that your entire being focused on that one activity. That heightened state of attention is mindfulness.”

Stand in line at the grocery store and glance over the magazines for sale; chances are you will run across an article written on mindfulness. There is a plethora of research and written material on the subject. Maybe it has been around for a long time and I’m just now becoming aware that there is a name for the phenomenon of focusing our minds. Today, it’s called mindfulness.

Not all the practices, therapies, or skills recommended to help us get to mindfulness are bad. They can, in fact, be very helpful. Let’s just watch for the evil one who loves to play games with our minds!

Let’s be intentional about seeking out what God’s Holy Word says to us about who and what our minds and hearts should be focused on.

“Mindfulness: A Christian Approach” written by Focus on the Family is a very helpful reference. www.focusonthefamily.com. The writer says, “Secular mindfulness is horizontal. In other words, you pay attention only to yourself. However, that approach contradicts Scripture’s teaching to ‘have the mind of Christ’ and evaluate everything in light of our vertical relationship with God and Jesus.”

Our moments spent with loved ones or on our passions are precious, but there are no moments more precious than the ones we intentionally, mindfully spend in the presence of our God Almighty.

“Seek My Face continually throughout this day. Let My Presence bring order to your thoughts, infusing Peace into your entire being.” Jesus Calling, by Sarah Young.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

A BLESSING FROM GOD’S HEART

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee.

The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

MARY SAID, I AM THE LORD'S SERVANT.

LUKE 1:38



There is a wonderful article published in The Alabama Baptist, December 3, 2020, titled "Alabama Author Helps Young Readers Learn Spiritual Truths." Sally Blass Murray and her family moved across town to Trussville in 1991. She is a music teacher by profession.

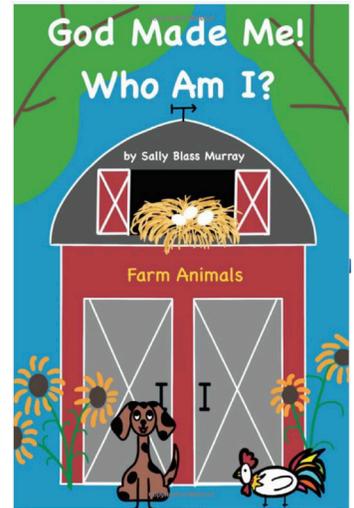
Here at FBCT she has been involved with church music, including singing in the sanctuary choir and teaching children's choirs. She is currently in Faye Summers' small group class. Sally is a Samford graduate, majoring in music with a concentration in piano. Although she taught music to young children for many years, her career was cut short with early retirement due to the physical challenges of rheumatoid arthritis. But, surprise! God had new plans for Sally!

You've heard "when God closes one door, another one opens." Sally said she did not anticipate the new doors God was opening for her ... the new ways to serve He called her to and equipped her for. She said there are so many ways we can serve and encourage others, but our life may not look like what we wanted it to! As we grow older, we will experience physical decline, our abilities change. He opens new avenues of service all along the way, even after 55+. That's exciting!

Sally grew up in Monroeville, Alabama. She comes from a family of ministers and missionaries. Sally has twin boys, now 31 years old, and 3 grandchildren. Her oldest son is deceased.

Sally's goal in writing children's books is to plant seeds in young hearts (ages 3 to 7); to encourage parents and grandparents to read these stories about the Lord to their young ones and engage in conversation with them in a fun way.

Readers can obtain her first published book *God Made Me! Who Am I?* at Amazon.com, Soncoastpublishing.com, or check out the book from our church library.



Sally's second book is ready to be published soon, and she is currently working on the remaining three books in the *God Made Me! Who Am I?* series.

Sally shared with me something she said is very important to her. She remembers seasoned adults in her church when she was young who ministered to her in specific ways, but also by their example. She believes it vital for our young to still see us as engaged and faithful. She refers us to Titus Chapter 2. It is important for our young men and women to see and hear how God has kept us through the years so they can know that He will keep them too! "I pray that God will use all of us to be that kind of example ... a testament to the faithfulness of God."



On December 21, we were standing in the church parking lot watching the night sky hoping to get a glimpse of the "Christmas Star." Very unexpectedly as we were about to leave, our eyes looked up to this. I'm no scientist, nor have I studied the stars, but isn't what this picture conveys ... that God is indeed still in control ... what we were all seeking that night? A little glimpse of God's Hope. I experienced an awesome opportunity at that moment to worship the One who put all the stars in order years and years ago! (Look closely at the little "dot" just below the branches under the Hope sign. That's Jupiter and Saturn converging.)

• HOW TO BE •

SAM with **KEN LASS** **SATIONAL!**

So now I urge you, not as if I was writing you a new command, but one that we have heard from the beginning, that we love one another.

January marks the beginning of a new year. We associate it with new beginnings, fresh starts. Want to lose weight? Start your diet in January. Quit smoking? Start walking? Begin a Bible reading schedule? Get on a budget? We are told that the new year is the perfect time to pull the trigger.

This new year has special meaning for many. Few of us will regret saying good-bye to 2020. Between the coronavirus and the acrimony over the elections, we are anxious to start over. 2021 can only get better, right?

Maybe, but the Bible reminds us that the basic challenges to our spiritual walk remain the same. A Covid-19 vaccine won't put an end to the sinful nature of man. No matter who is our president, or which political party is in power, the devil will still be trying to tempt you to live a life that doesn't honor God.

The Christian walk is a journey, and the dawning of a new year is no time to let your guard down. As John wrote, this is nothing new. The coming year may heal some of our problems, but it will no doubt bring us adversity, doubt, fear, and threats in other forms. Yet John assures us that if we continue to do our best to love Him through loving one another, we will thrive in the protection and provision of our heavenly Father.

The best way to do that may be to finally take action on that new ministry you've been thinking about, or contacting that friend you haven't heard from, or volunteering at that non-profit you've been giving to. Make 2021 the year you got even more SAMsational for Jesus!

I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning.

I ask that we love one another.

2 John 1:5

HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

Christmas is over, we've celebrated the birth of our Savior. We've received His divine grace as amazing as it is, how sweet the sound. We embody everything we need for life and godliness because of the gift of His grace, therefore we are to glorify God in our bodies. His kingdom is at work, in and through each one of us for the common good for the body of Christ. We see a variety of gifts being exercised everyday; some just seem to rise to the top, especially those with the speaking gift(s). But you may be very content to be behind the scenes serving quietly. Your name may not be called out, you may not even be recognized, but God watches and He knows. There is abundant honor waiting for you. For God has so designed the body just as He wills. He has placed you Beloved in His body as He chooses.

There are many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us exercising them accordingly.... the list of gifts goes on. Romans 12:3-6 gifts of His grace.

I Corinthians 12:1-6 is addressed to "all".

"There are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit, there are a variety of ministries and the same Lord. There are a variety of effects, but the same God who works all things in ALL persons. 12:7-11 to individuals, but to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... the list of gifts continues.

Continuing in I Corinthians 12:7-26 you will see an analogy of gifts and the body. "If you were all one member where would the body be? The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor and our less presentable members become much more presentable but God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to the members which lacked, so that there may be no division in the body but that we have the same care for one another. Now you are Christ's body and individual members of it.

"The saintliest souls are often those who have never distinguished themselves as authors or allowed any major accomplishment of theirs to become the topic of the world's conversations. No, they are usually those who have led a quiet inner life of holiness, having carried their sweet bouquets unseen, like a fresh lily in a secluded valley on the edge of a crystal stream." Streams in the Desert.

1821 - 2021: 200 YEARS

By Sandra Bearden

Trussville Baptist Grows As Village Becomes Town

Reconstruction after the Civil War occurred more rapidly in central Alabama than in many other parts of the deep South. One reason was that few Yankee incursions occurred during the war itself. Another was there wasn't much to reconstruct. Central Alabama was largely an area of small farms and wooded wilderness during the first half of the 19th century.

That changed when Northern capital began developing natural treasures beneath the cornfields soon after the conflict. Jefferson County's deposits of coal, iron ore and limestone attracted investors and accelerated area recovery, including the town already called "Trussville." Workers ranging from physicians to merchants provided services, an academy was launched by Professor R. G. Hewitt, and the Cahawba Church had moved to a location close to railroad lines.

One Trussville citizen representing both religious and economic development was Dyer Nicholas Talley, a Confederate Army veteran and owner of a general merchandise store. Talley had also been baptized in the Cahawba Church, becoming one of its most dedicated leaders. He was a member of what might be called the church's first building committee and elected its first Sunday School superintendent in 1873. Throughout his lifetime he served in offices that included deacon, church clerk, treasurer, and Sunday School leader.

Talley was also involved in Jefferson County's growing industrial development. The new city of Birmingham had quickly become labeled the "Magic City."



TRUSSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
1873 - 1946

Local landowners and business leaders formed land companies to meet the needs of out-of-state investors. By 1891, 53 blast furnaces operated in the state, including one that would be in Trussville. It would operate intermittently under varying ownerships between 1899 and the end of World War I.

Principal owners of the first land company in Trussville were Dr. John D.S. Davis, Dyer N. Talley, W. H. Mercer, and John E. T. Lathem. All were local civic leaders, and church minutes indicate that at least Davis and Talley were members of the Baptist Church. In addition, Talley was later involved in another land company, which had the objective of building a town or city called "Trussville."

Talley's descendants remained active in what became Trussville First Baptist until the 21st century, notably the late Frances Dew Hamilton, the Talley's' great-granddaughter, who many current members grew up with or knew well. Dr. Hamilton, who previously taught history at Samford University, later served as director of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission.

...AND JUST LIKE THAT, IT'S 2021

Your Response Requested

Each of you will be receiving a letter in January asking your preferences as to how you receive our Seasoned Adult Ministry (SAM) Newsletter. The newsletter is published monthly for all who are 55+ in our church family. We ask that you return the postage paid response card included with the letter. Please mark the card to let us know if you prefer to receive the SAM Newsletter by email each month; if you prefer to receive a copy of the newsletter mailed to your home each month; or if you prefer not to receive the newsletter. If you have any questions, call Bob Smith or Debbie Arrington. Thank you in advance for taking a minute to complete the response card and return it to us.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Rev. Dewey Corder, pastor here at FBCT from 1989 to 1996, went home to be with the Lord on Christmas Day 2020 after complications from COVID-19. Among the many things we loved about Brother Dewey and will remember about him is how he was always an encouraging friend. May he rest in peace. To his wife, Jackie and their family, and to the members of Central Baptist Church, his current church family, we extend our love and prayers for you all.

BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS 2020

A huge thank you to Dr. Dennis Swanberg, Minister of Encouragement, for the laughs he smothered us with at our December 6 SAM Christmas event! His stories and impersonations were incredible.

Loved the Andy Griffith segments: What should we do with sin? Nip it in the bud !

We witnessed John Wayne saying: Well that'll be the day! We heard from Billy Graham, Howard Cosell, Muhammad Ali, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, just to name a few!

And oh those two 95-year-olds "sittin and talkin." "Lester said to his buddy: Was it you or your brother that was killed in WWII?" Too funny!!!

The Swan (as Dr. Swanberg is affectionately called) also encouraged us with a message about the legacy we leave our children and/or grandchildren.

He said the best thing we can leave them is something of ourselves ... something unique that is ours, something that reminds them of our love ... something that we made. And, write a letter ... tell them about your life and about your life relationship with Jesus. He said some things that seem little will later be a great reminder to them of you and will remind them that He will meet their needs just as He met yours!

FBCT's own present Quilt Show on Sunday, December 6 in conjunction with SAM Christmas Event

By Faye Summers

Faye Summers, Gail Wright, Anita Aaron, Becky Summers, Linda Sims presented their own handmade quilts for our viewing pleasure. Our foyer never looked so colorful with 100's of beautiful pieces on show. Faye spoke with two of these ladies after the show.

Becky Summers had 35-40 quilts in the show. She has been quilting and sewing for many years. In fact, she used to make children's patterns for McCall's Patterns. She took some quilting classes and was in a quilting group for several years. She has one quilt she is working on now with two others cut out. She has done some hand quilting but prefers machine quilting now. Becky has some very intricate patterns on her quilts with many color combinations. Not surprisingly, in addition to her quilting, she is also an excellent painter, painting in oils. This is one talented lady!!

I also spoke with Gail Wright who had many quilts in the show. This was her first time to do a display, and she said she enjoyed it. One of her quilts, Lacy's favorite, was a Civil War reproduction. It was a favorite at the show with many people stopping to talk with her about it. She prefers hand quilting and has a frame set up in her home. Actually, she has three quilt frames, one that belonged to her mother, one that belonged to Etna Rhodes, and one of her own. She said she began quilting as a child with her mother, and she would sit under the frame while her mother quilted. For years, Gail was in a quilt group comprised of Eta Mae Tingle, Velma Daniels, Etna Rhodes, and herself. She helped her mother make 6 quilts for her grandchildren. Gail too is a very talented quilter!!

