

SAM

SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY
SERVING THE GREAT

I AM

JUNE 2021

Excerpts from PUZZLEMENT

The King and I, by Rodgers and Hammerstein

When I was a boy, world was better spot
What was so was so, what was not was not.
Now, I am a man, world have changed a lot
Some things nearly so, others nearly not.

There are times I almost think
I am not sure of what I absolutely know.
Very often find confusion
In conclusion, I concluded long ago.

Oh, sometimes I think that people going mad
Ah, sometimes I think that people not so bad.
But not matter what I think, I must go on
living life
As leader of my kingdom, I must go forth
Be father to my children and husband to wife
Etcetera, etcetera and so forth.

If my Lord in Heaven show the way
Everyday I do my best for one more day.
But, tis a puzzlement.

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.

TIS A PUZZLEMENT???

The King of Siam (now Thailand) had it just about right, don't you think? His life was good ... he was the wise King, just as his father before him; he was in control, the ruler of his kingdom; and everyone looked to him for answers. All the sudden he was confronted with the "outside" world ... his little world was rocked. Sounds too familiar to us given 2020!

Even Paul admits his humanity in Romans 7:15 when he laments confusion ... setting out to do the right thing but finding himself doing just the opposite. Why? Good question.

Questions, questions, questions. And answers are a dime a dozen. Some questions are answered with another question. If I were a betting man, I'd venture to say that most questions these days are answered with "just Google it!" Then there are the answers that deflect ... us dads understand this one: "go ask your mother!"

Where do we go when we need answers? If you've read "The Travelers Gift" by Andy Andrews you may remember this question (asked during the heat of a bloody battle) and the very wise answer that requires thoughtful reflection:

Question: "Do you believe that God is on our side?"

Answer: "To be quite honest, I haven't given that question very much attention. I am much more concerned with whether we are on God's side."

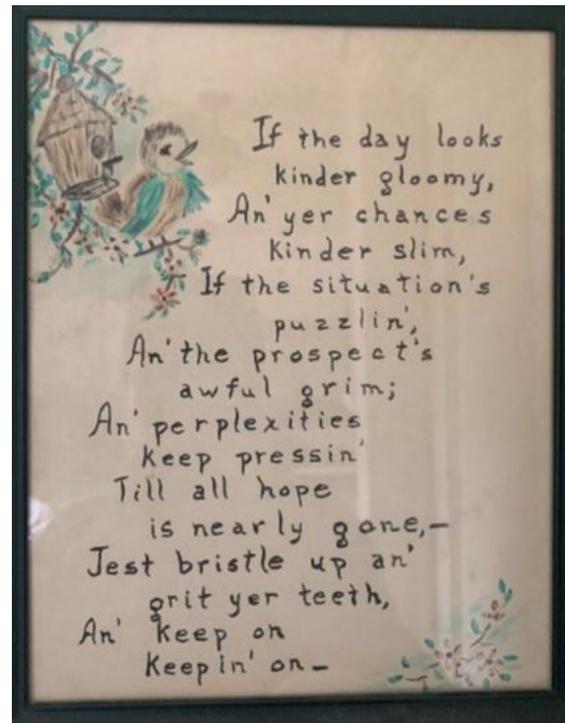
I can't help but refer back to Pastor Buddy's message a couple of weeks ago when he spoke from I Samuel chapters 1-3. These two verses resonate here with me. Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. I Samuel 3:10 We might even make this our life verse: He is the LORD; let Him do what is good in His eyes. I Samuel 3:18 That's some pretty good advice!

Bob

Approximately 100 SAMers attended the much awaited, rescheduled Sunday Dinner Stroll & Hymn Sing at Stonebridge Farms on May 2. When Bob Smith asked each of us to list a few song suggestions for the hymn sing, he asked us to include one contemporary piece. Now don't laugh at my suggestion ... this song WAS contemporary when it first came out in 1987! If you remember this, sing along!

I STAND IN AWE OF YOU

You are beautiful beyond description, Too marvelous for words, Too wonderful for comprehension, Like nothing ever seen or heard. Who can grasp your infinite wisdom, Who can fathom the depth of your love, You are beautiful beyond description, Majesty enthroned above. And I stand, I stand in awe of you, I stand, I stand in awe of you, Holy God to whom all praise is due, I stand in awe of you.



DEBBIE IS A DELIGHT!

If you haven't met the voice on the line when you call our FBCT Seasoned Adult offices, do come by the church offices and meet Debbie Arrington. Debbie just celebrated her 25th anniversary of service here at the church. She and her husband Craig came to FBCT in 1990 and she's been busy ever since. She volunteered in the preschool area under Jennifer Bain right off the bat, then took a one-year leadership training class led by Jim Vernon and others, before she took her first 5-day week, paid position in 1996 in the 4-year-old kindergarten and Mother's Day Out program.



Debbie continued to assist Jennifer Bain in the Preschool Ministry and picked up added responsibilities for the Link under Charles McCain and for Missions under Gene Ennis. She moved on to assist in the Student Ministry and after Larry Little left FBCT, she worked with the new student minister, Chris Chambers. When Chris moved into Missions Ministry, Josh Wisdom was hired as the Student Minister. She worked with Josh for a short time, then moved to work with Chris and with Bobby Erwin. Bobby Erwin who served as Senior Adult Minister also served as the interim Administrator after Charles McCain. Debbie continued to assist Bobby and also Roger Crew who was then our Education Minister. Bobby Erwin and Roger Crew retired, putting Debbie in her current position with Bob Smith, our Seasoned Adult Minister, and Jamie O'Dell, our Education Minister. Guess you could say those early years trained her well for the work she now does for us "youngsters" in SAM!

Debbie and her family have been a big part of our church history. She and Craig have three children ... Brandi, Blake and Brooke. Many of us have served alongside them in the children's and student ministries over the years. Debbie and Craig live on Lake Neely Henry now and she enjoys cooking, reading and swimming and of course spending time with their 7 grandchildren every chance she gets!

Bob Says...

It is an honor to say a few words about my Ministry Assistant Debbie Arrington. Twenty-five years in any office is quite an accomplishment, but to serve on a church staff for that many years is remarkable. When I arrived at FBCT three years ago I was anxious to get to know "my" people (seniors) and I quickly discovered that Debbie knew almost all of them by name. Her importance to me has been tremendous with her knowledge of our people and the understanding of the way things work here at FBCT. She is a valued member of the Seasoned Adult Ministry.

As we have worked together, we have learned a lot about each other. We have the same wedding Anniversary (day and year – June 3, 1977 - Her and Craig have been married a few hours longer than Vickie and I) and we both have a son named Blake. It just seems like our paths should have crossed many years ago. It is such a joy to work with Debbie. If you don't know her, make sure you introduce yourself to her at our next meeting. She will help me remember who you are!

CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE PIGEON FORGE

October 11-14

\$100 deposit to hold your spot

Registration begins June 1, 2021

Cost: \$280 per person

Speakers: Mike Pence, Karen Pence, David Jeremiah, Dennis Swanburg and Phil Waldrep

Musicians: The Gaither Vocal Band, The Collingsworth Family, Gordon Mote and Charles Billingsley
Meals and Transportation not included.



For more information, go to this website:

<https://celebrators.org/events/2021-10-11---2021-10-14---pigeon-forge-tn---leconte-center/117/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

June 3 & 17 (Thursday)

Joyful Hearts Rehearsal

10:30AM – Fellowship Hall

Saturday, June 5

The Leland Dockery Tribute Cruise In

9:00AM – 2:00PM – Front Parking Lot

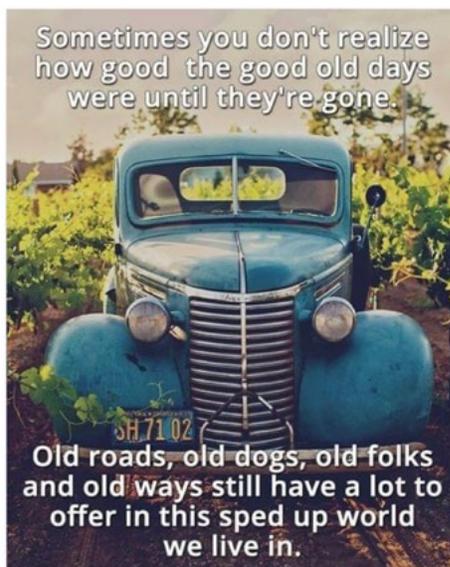
Thursday, June 24

SAM Monthly Luncheon

10:30AM • Homeland Trio

Outside near the Fountain

“Burgers, Hot Dogs & Watermelons”



LADIES & GENTLEMEN, START YOUR ENGINES!

Saturday, June 5, 2021

9:00am-2:00pm

First Baptist Trussville

Cruise on in to our Leland Dockery Tribute Cruise-In here at FBCT in the front parking lot. Great cars, good food, music, t-shirt sales, and prizes for the winning cars.

Please call John Patterson at 205-337-5418 or email at compclen@hotmail.com or call Bob Smith at the church if you need further information.

JESUS, THE ULTIMATE DISSECTOLOGIST

(a person who enjoys jigsaw puzzle assembly)

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

NOTE: I am a puzzler and offer portions from a story titled “The Jigsaw Puzzle of Jesus” that caught my attention years ago. The author is unknown.

When it comes to our spiritual lives ... we have this huge jigsaw puzzle.

...It does not matter how many pieces there are to your life jigsaw puzzle, and how many people there are that add to your spiritual jigsaw puzzle, there will always be one piece missing. That final piece is the one piece that you will miss the most. If you have ever built a jigsaw puzzle, and after hours or even days of building, you come to the final piece to add to the puzzle, and find that it is not there, it is gone, then that one missing piece will cause you more despair than the rest of all the pieces that you have combined. You start to search everywhere for that missing piece, and will carry on searching until one day you eventually find it, and when you do find it, you are so happy about that one final piece, and with a great sense of pride and joy you add the final piece to the puzzle and suddenly a sense of completeness comes over you.

...The closer we come to have the puzzle completed in our lives, the more urgent it becomes. ... We try everything to find that missing piece, possibly dabbling in things that we should not, trying out false religions etc., only to find that those pieces do not fit into the puzzle.

Suddenly there is a knock at the door, and in our worry about finding the missing piece to the puzzle, you do not open the door, the knocking continues and becomes more urgent. Eventually, out of sheer frustration, you go to the door and open it, and there stands Jesus, with the missing piece of your puzzle in His hand – His complete love, and He says to you, “Son, invite me in, and I will place the last piece of the puzzle into your life, and you will be complete, and we will rejoice together.”

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. 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!

• HOW TO BE •

SAM SATIONAL!
with **KEN LASS**

Teach a youth about the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

June is the month of Father's Day. It's hard to believe I lost my Dad to cancer 31 years ago. I still remember him so vividly. He was not a particularly spiritual man, but he was the unquestioned leader of our family. He worked hard every day to provide for us. As was typical of men in his generation, he was not openly emotional or affectionate. Yet he left no doubt that we were loved and cherished.

My Dad was a born leader. He didn't want to be involved in activities unless he could lead them. He was drafted into the Army during World War II and, despite entering as a rank private, quickly ascended to sergeant and led a tank destroyer squad. Upon retirement in Florida, he discovered the shuffleboard courts in his community were overrun with weeds from lack of use. Of course, he removed the debris, then organized and ran a tournament for all residents. I idolized him and wanted to be just like him. His approval meant everything to me.

One of my fondest memories was his attending the conference championship track meet my senior year of high school. I won the 100-yard dash that day. (Yes, I'm so old that track distances were then measured in yards, not meters.) He told me afterward that he was proud of me. I remember how incredible that made me feel. In fact, it still does more than 50 years later.

I am in awe of his influence on me to this day. Besides the physical resemblance, I find myself copying his good and bad. He was quick tempered and impatient. So am I. He also loved to talk, was strong in his convictions, and unafraid to step out front and lead toward something he believed in. I admired those qualities and have tried to emulate them.

It is impossible to overstate the influence a father or grandfather can have on his children and grandchildren. The verse in Proverbs 22 is trying to wake us up to our opportunity to do and say and model Christian values to our loved ones. We are never so old that they stop observing us. They are still paying attention to what you regard as important, and what you dismiss as non-essential. Tell them you love them. Tell them you are proud of them. Tell them Jesus loves them as well. Most importantly, model to them that submission to Jesus' will for their lives is the path to true joy and fulfillment. As the Bible verse says, even when they are old, they will not depart from it.

Which is the Bible's way of saying they will be SAMsational!

HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

Abraham "A Father of many nations have I made you." Matthew 1:1-2 "The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac...."

Genesis 15:5-6 "Now look at the Heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them, and He said to him "So shall your descendants be." Then he, Abraham believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "and to seeds," as referring to many but rather to one, "and to your seed," that is Christ. Galatians 3:16

"In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "So shall your descendants be." Romans 4:18

"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." Genesis 22. "He considered that God was able to raise him up even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type." Hebrews 11:17-19

Abraham, with the respect of the promise of God, did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able to perform. "Therefore, it was credited to Him as righteousness." Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sakes also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He who was delivered over because of our transgressions and was raised because of our justification. Romans 4:20-25

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval." "Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." Hebrews 11
Therefore, having been justified by faith, may you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2

1821 – 2021: 200 YEARS

SAVE THE DATE ... A WEEK OF CELEBRATION BEGINNING: SUNDAY, JULY 11

Depression, War Impacted FBCT Growth

In her book, *The Steeple Beckons*, Katherine Hale Hanlin says the 1940s and 1950s were accompanied by changes in Trussville faster than in any previous period in history. Inevitably, Trussville Baptist, the town's largest church, wasn't excluded from those changes.

Two major factors encouraged growth. One was the Great Depression, which melted into World War II, the other factor. Both lasted several years, affecting people all over the globe, including those in tiny Trussville.

Among the countless measures designed by the Roosevelt administration to aid Americans during the depression was the Cahaba Project, which later was abbreviated to "the Project" by locals. For years, this term has puzzled potential homebuyers or those moving into the neighborhood. Completed in 1938, the Project included 243 single-family homes and 44 duplexes on spacious lots, rented to qualified wage-earners. Although modest by today's standards, Project homes featured streets, running water and power in homes, a high school, a community building and a co-op store. To some of the Project's new residents, many amenities seemed downright palatial.

Another factor, tied to and following the first, was World War II, which brought veterans home to their families or to establish new ones. Project homes, built as rentals, were put up for sale after the war ended. Many returning veterans bought Project houses and stayed on. In the meantime, the little community of Trussville, just outside the Project, was incorporated as a town in 1947. On May 31, 1957, the town officially became a city.

Although Trussville Baptist Church had several pastors during the 40s, 50s and 60s, two of them – Grover Walker and Richard Francis—left especially strong impressions on generations of churchgoers.

Walker, who had left the business world to attend Southern Baptist Seminary and then pastor churches in Kentucky, arrived in Trussville in 1941, the year the U.S. entered World War II. Trussville church leaders had foreseen the need for a different location, so a building fund was already planned.

"Brother Walker became a source of strength in years of war and uncertainty," Hanlin says in her book. "But even with the war as a focus of concern, the church was growing." By 1945, with the war winding down, plans were re-activated and building began. By November 1946, the new church had opened in its present location.

Gloria Forehand, still active in the church today, walked from her home across the road from the Methodist church to attend many youth activities at Trussville Baptist. Later, the Forehand sons, Stan and twins Dave and Dale, would be involved in similar activities at the church. There were few momentous occasions in their family's lives that didn't involve their church.

"One exception was my baptism," says Gloria. "It took place at Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, because the baptistry in our church was in the process of being built. But when Sherman (Forehand) and I were married in 1956, Sherman's father, minister at another local church, officiated, but the ceremony was at what by then was named First Baptist-Trussville."



A gifted singer and musician, Gloria believes that she holds the record for long-term membership in the First Baptist choir. She also has served at numerous other paid and volunteer jobs during her lifetime at First Baptist. Her service has ranged from teaching third-grade children's choir to being financial secretary and later church treasurer. With a background in real estate sales, she's been on property acquisition committees for many years and also more recently on the building committee.

Grover Walker left Trussville in 1957 but stayed in touch with former members. The FBCT chapel is named in his memory.

Also leaving a strong imprint on FBCT was Rev. Richard E. Francis, who was pastor between 1965 and 1988. A graduate of Howard College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, he had previously served at Boyles Baptist Church, Tarrant City. During his time at Boyles he had already become active in state and local denominational causes. Beginning his Trussville ministry in June 1965, the next month he appointed a building fund committee to raise funds for a new sanctuary and educational building, as well as office and choir rehearsal space. The quick action was needed. Trussville's population had reached 2,510, and FBCT's membership was in the 900 range.

Beckie Nash attended another church as a child, but became a member of First Baptist after she and Irving "Chief" Nash married in 1958. Their three daughters, Kim, Kristie and Kellie, all grew up attending FBCT.

"Brother Francis had the reputation of being pretty strict with children," Beckie says. "So I was very embarrassed when he paid a visit one day and Kellie, who was 2 or 3 at the time, misbehaved. He was understanding, reminding me that he had three sons. But he didn't hesitate to publicly call down kids acting up in the church balcony or elsewhere during services. He may have struck fear sometimes, but he was also a good man who never hesitated to visit or help those who needed him."

Beckie has assisted teaching in children's Sunday School and for a senior adult class, and remembers Brother Francis setting a high standard for church adults as well as children. "After completing a leadership training class one time, I had to address the whole congregation about what I learned in the class to improve my service as a Christian," she remembers.

After suffering a severe heart attack in 1983, Brother Francis received a standing ovation when he was able to return to the pulpit. The recovery didn't last long, but long enough for the pastor to form another building committee so that work could begin again. He was to suffer a relapse in 1987 and died in 1988.

On July 22, 1988, the Richard E. Francis Educational Building was dedicated in his memory.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY, Sunday, June 20, 2021

Cindy Carroll and I have been back at it, this time to honor the father/son/grandsons duos here at FBCT. We've also heard from many more of you mother/daughter/granddaughters duos and honor you all as well this month. Who makes up these duos: at least one is a Seasoned Adult and all are active members of FBCT. Again, we'd love to know who we missed, so send me an email at jb5348@bellsouth.net and we will do an additional list in the July issue! *Judy Bryant*



Matt, Bobby & Evan Hornsby



Ken & Brett Lass



Danny & Nick Garrett



John & Andy Poole



Jerry & Jeff Moore



Chris & Buck Chambers



John, Craig, & Jacob Copham



Jim, Ross, Caleb & Seth Hickman



Bradley, Bobby & Andy Grogan



Glen & Steve Hicks



John & Andrew Kerns



Chad & Joe Summers



Richard Shelton / Addison and Aidan Lockhart



David, Eddie & Jonathan Stovall



Fred & Mike Mathews

Zeke and Drew Smith – Roy and Stephen Long – Bobby, Eric and Eli Dorr – Dan and John Sims – Harold and Butch Motley – John DeLoach and Brett -- Darrell Skipper and Darrell, Scott, and Carson -- Charles and Phillip Barnes – Charles and Anthony Blake – Randy and Kip Willoughby – Scott, Craig, Darren and Seth Robertson – Allen, Brandon and Tyler Elkins -- Tim and Jonathan Alvis – Gene, Les and Jzyk Ennis -- James and Jimmy Nabers -- Bobby, Tracy and Jeff Page – Dave and Jonathan Penuel – John and Greg Stack -- Bill and Scott Roberts -- Don and Chris Snuggs -- Gerald and Gerry Glenn – Lee and Zach Houlditch – Butch, Zane and Taylor Hyde – Mike and Tom Jones – Eddie and Allen Kennemur -- John and Chad Moore --



Susan Mathews / Ann Moore



Dianne Moore / Kristi Long / Sara Moore (not pictured)



Suzanne Minor / Betty Page



Melissa Bozeman/Emily Bozeman /Carolyn Horne

Janice Shelton / Ellen Rachel Lockhart -- Diane Summers, oops! last month we misspelled Shami's name! and omitted Diane's granddaughter Ivy Tidwell -- Rosemarie Zubler / Aria Monski -- Linda Martinez / Paige Hickman -- Wanda Campbell / Stacy Campbell -- Becky Warr / Kathryn Green