



SAM
 SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY
 SERVING THE GREAT
I AM
DECEMBER 2023

FAMILY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
 Saturday, December 9
 4:00 to 6:00pm
 Family fun at FBCT following the
 Trussville Christmas Parade

LET US ADORE HIM
 Sunday, December 17
 9:15 & 10:45am
 Join First Baptist Trussville Worship
 Ministry for a morning of musical
 celebration in the birth of our Lord!

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
 Wednesday, December 20 • 6:00pm
 Sunday, December 24
 3:00 & 5:00pm
 All the wonder and worship at
 Christmas by candlelight!

CHRISTMAS
 Monday, December 25

Seasoned Adult Minister: Bob Smith
SAM Assistant: Debbie Arrington
SAM News Editor: Judy Bryant
SAM News Assoc. Editor: June Mathews
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.

O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

What a great time of year! Time spent with family and friends makes us stop and realize how blessed we are. I'm grateful to be your Pastor! As your Pastor, I thank each of you for the love and support you show to my family and me.

As we begin our Advent season, our church grounds and inside our building are extraordinary. Thank you to our staff and volunteers, for the time and talents you have given to make our campus ready for the greatest birthday season of them all.

Thank you to all who are now preparing for the Trussville Christmas Parade and our float, followed by our Family Christmas Festival. Thank you to our choir and orchestra as they prepare for their annual Christmas presentation. Thank you to our SAM Joyful Hearts singers who will be caroling soon in neighborhoods all over Trussville. Thank you to all who are preparing for the SAM Christmas Banquet. Thank you to WMU for filling stockings for children. Thank you to all who are contributing resources through Lottie Moon, the Shoebox ministry, and so many other areas where needs are being met this Christmas season. And there's so much more!

I am reminded of something the Collingsworth Family said with reference to Christmas when they were here at First Baptist in concert a few months ago:

*Let's give 'em all the Jesus we got;
 after all, it is HIS birthday!*

Join your hearts together with me to thank our Father for giving us our Holy Lord Jesus. Only He is Worthy.

Merry Christmas!


SAM CHRISTMAS
Sunday, December 10, 2023
Two seatings:
11:30 AM and 4:00 PM
Special Guest Williamson Branch



SAM MINI WRITERS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 15, 2024 • ROOM NUMBER TBA • \$10

No this is not a conference for diminutive writers. It's a short (9:00am until noon) conference for those of our SAM family interested in improving their writing skills and gaining encouragement and inspiration for their writing journeys. Our keynote speaker will be Jennifer Rash, president and editor-in-chief of TAB Media Group, which publishes The Alabama Baptist and The Baptist Paper. Judy Bryant, our own SAM newsletter editor, will be sharing tips for writing and submitting items for the monthly newsletter, and conducting a fun writing exercise. We will have a used book exchange ... bring a book, take home a book. And much more!

Lunch will be served afterward. Reservations are required; space is limited. So reserve your spot today by emailing June at jmathews120@charter.net.



SAVE THE DATE! REGISTER NOW!

2nd Annual FBCT Ladies Conference

Friday night & Saturday morning

January 26-27, 2024

Guest Speaker: Whitney Capps

On God, His Goodness

(And What To Do When it Doesn't Seem So Good)

Early Bird Tickets: \$50 • (After December 1: \$60)



SMILE AWHILE

Shout out to all those getting coal this year for Christmas.

If we meet up we can start the grill!



A YEAR OF CHANGE FOR THE FBCT ORCHESTRA

By Faye Summers

Joey Harbison retired as our FBCT orchestra leader earlier this year. Also retired as a band director, Joey had been directing the orchestra for many years.

Though Joey has retired, the orchestra plays on and is now led by Steve Garrett, who had helped Joey out when needed. Steve played trombone, string bass and guitar and was drum major in his high school band. He has an MBA from Samford and is a church music sound system installer when not leading our orchestra.

Each Wednesday night, you will find the orchestra rehearsing in their spot for the upcoming Sunday. They have 23 members on roll, which fluctuates. The members come from all walks of life and include a former principal, a home school band director, a bond company owner and a former choir director. Many former high school band members play in the orchestra, as well as some college students, whenever available.

Another loss to our church orchestra occurred in December 2022, when Joe Summers, a member near and dear to me, went home to be with the Lord. Joe played in the orchestra for many years and was instrumental in Joey becoming our orchestra leader. Joey was Joe's student and drum major many years ago at Hewitt-Trussville High School.



Joe's great love was music. He was a band director for 33 years and could be found in his orchestra seat every Sunday morning, warming up on his trumpet before services started. Each Sunday as I walk into the choir loft, I look down to his seat in the trumpet section to see again that he is not there. I know he is in the Lord's presence and now hearing music incomprehensible to us.

The orchestra is not a closed group, so if you have played an instrument before and would like to join, see Steve Garrett.

JANUARY JUBILEE BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, January 31 • 10:00 to 11:00am

Bible Study in Ephesians 1 • Led by Gary Hollingsworth

Special Music by Scott Strickland and Bob Smith

No cost to attend • Location room (TBA)

For reservations, call or text Henry Ward at (205) 983-4149 by January 25.



• HOW TO BE •

SAM with KEN LASS **SATIONAL!**

I noticed that our church recently conducted evaluations for another season of Upward Basketball. This winter I will have two grandchildren playing. Those kids have been in the program since they were four years old. Watching them play has brought us a great deal of joy and laughter.

If you ever want to see an example of pure, unobstructed human nature at work, go see the little kids play Upward basketball. Whoever gets the ball will inevitably take it all the way down the floor by himself and shoot it, despite the coach's pleas to pass it off to someone else. Much of the time they don't even bother to dribble the ball. They just run down the court and launch it toward the hoop.

Passing is no fun. Why give the ball to someone else? They're never going to give it back. They're just going to steal your opportunity to score. Why should they receive the excited applause from all the parents and grandparents in the bleachers? They get the glory, the acknowledgement. Not you. No sir. I have the ball and I'm taking the shot.

As the younger children finish their games, and the older kids take the court, it's fascinating to see the change in play. Now they are working hard to get open when they don't have the ball. And when they do get open, someone will actually pass the ball to them. They shoot and score and then light up with pride as the spectators cheer loudly. The delighted coach claps his hands and shouts praises to the passer, more so than the shooter. What happened here? What changed?

Well, what happened is that basketball, in its own unique way, has taught these kids the joy and fulfillment of doing for others. By giving the ball away and allowing someone else to get the glory, you have sacrificed your own personal gratification to bring happiness to another. That unselfishness will come back to reward you with praise from those who really matter, such as the coach. Don't underestimate the value of this lesson. That concept will stay with that child the rest of his life. He or she may not understand what they are learning at the moment, but they will know at some level that sharing their opportunities makes them feel good. It will give them a sense of what is right. In the crazy, self-centered world in which they will grow up, such awareness is not only valuable, it's mandatory for their spiritual survival.

Sadly, some people reach all the way through to the seasoned adult stage of their life without fully grasping that concept. Yet it holds true more urgently for us than ever. We have had a lifetime of experiences and acquaintances from which to draw opportunities to serve. Many of us are able to be retired and enjoy the free time required for such service. All around you there are opportunities to volunteer and to minister to the sick and less fortunate. Your efforts may or may not be acknowledged and appreciated by those whom you helped, but you can be sure the Great Coach in heaven will be clapping his hands and shouting "Well done!"

So go ahead. Pass the ball. Life is a team sport, no matter your age. It's the best way to make sure you are always in God's starting line-up.





LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

Thursday, December 7

Remembering the 2,403 service members and civilians killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941



SAM CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Let's pack the gym!

Two seatings • 11:30AM & 4:00PM

Tickets go on sale now • \$25

Special Guest: Williamson Branch

"You'll love the high energy, pitch perfect family sound of Williamson Branch."

Guy Penrod

Invite family and friends; be sure they purchase a ticket. Sold at Event Desk or online [HERE](#)

If you purchased a 2023 SAM MEAL TICKET, you can exchange it for a ticket.

FIRST THURSDAY: MEN PRAYING for their ONE

December 7 • 6:30 am • Worship Center



NO EDIBLE EDUCATION IN DECEMBER

LADIES PRAYING for their ONE

12:30pm • Room D147

Share the first name of your "ONE" and any information you wish by email: pray41@fbctrussville.org

NO MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST IN DECEMBER

FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

November 6 • 10:00 AM • Room D142

Stop by wherever you are and join us in prayer. Email prayer requests to

Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org



2024 SAM LUNCHEON CARDS

Sign up for annual meal tickets at the SAM Christmas Banquet and at SAM events throughout the month of January. Cost remains at \$85.

JOYFUL HEARTS CAROLING

December 4, 7, 12, & 14

9:00am to noon (Meet back at the church for lunch)

No rehearsals for our JH singers this month, but there'll be a whole lotta caroling going on. Join us!

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

The fabulous display of photos honoring those in our church family who have served in the military over the years will remain in the library until the end of December.

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:30PM • Room D147





SAM GOES BANANAS!

If you missed the October 26 SAM luncheon, you missed a golden opportunity to see a bunch of fun-loving guys in Hawaiian-style banana shirts sing doo-wop songs from the 1950s and 60s. Sam Banana & the Bunch, a small group from the Warblers of Woodlawn High School have been performing for luncheons, reunions, and other events since 1992.

The luncheon also included a thought-provoking devotion by Lynda Wilson, and a short presentation from a representative of ExpectCare, a faith-based organization seeking to offer an advanced level of compassionate quality hospice care to senior patients through guiding biblical principles.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW CLASS OF STEPHEN MINISTERS

From Denise Dockery

We are very happy to introduce our new class of Stephen Ministers. These students have devoted some 50 hours of study and training during the months of August through October and were commissioned in Sunday services October 29. Please pray for these and all our Stephen Ministers as they walk with God in this ministry of love to those in our congregation and beyond who need someone to walk with them through hard times.

Becky Watson

Rita Penuel

Michelle Parsons

Anita Aaron

Hank Schild

Rebecca Huffstutler

Laura Brunson

If you would like to learn more about the Ministry, check out [THIS LINK](#) to read a well-written personal statement from a Stephen Minister.

stephen
MINISTRY®

SEE MORE NEWS IN THE ELECTRONIC VERSIONS (EMAIL AND CHURCH WEBSITE) OF THIS NEWSLETTER. CHECK IT OUT AT www.fbctrussville.org, ON THE SAM MINISTRY PAGE.

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