



MAY 2024

MYSTERY TOURS AND TREASURE HUNTS

As I was watching the final round of the Masters Golf Tournament a couple of weeks ago, some interesting thoughts came to mind. I reflected on my early years, starting about 9 years old, playing golf with my dad and going on to play on the high school golf team. Making a long story short... on one such golf outing with dad (I was about 15 years old), I was playing a par 4. Dad made me putt the ball in the hole from less than two feet for a 7. It was a shot I thought was a "gimmie". On the very next hole, another par 4, I had a HOLE-IN-ONE. Having a hole-in-one is like going from agony to ecstasy in one shot. My dad was so proud. His words of wisdom to me ... The goal of golf is to get the ball in the hole. Why would you stop when you get the ball less than 2 feet away!



Bobby Jones has been credited with saying about the game of golf: *Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots – but you have to play the ball as it lies.*

Robert Tyre Jones, Jr. a/k/a Bobby Jones was born in Atlanta and one of golf's greatest. Besides his winning amateur golf career and other achievements, he and a partner created the beautiful Augusta National Golf Course. He also co-founded the Masters Golf Tournament, which has been played for 88 years now.

As the tournament comes to a close, the winner makes his approach to the clubhouse, taking the "winner's walk," eager to collect that coveted Masters green jacket. Behind the ropes on the path, hundreds of fans were yelling, whistling and calling his name; hands outstretched just to get one touch of the winner's hand; smiles on everyone's faces. Family and friends were greeting and hugging him with such joy. The sun was shining brightly. You'd think he was walking the streets of gold in Heaven!

Thinking about it, life is just one big mystery tour and a few treasure hunts away from our approach into Heaven. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we may not get the green jacket, but we have something to treasure even more ... we can LIVE our Final Rounds full of joy, confidently expecting Jesus's return; confident that we will meet Jesus face-to-face, and that we will be rejoicing in Heaven with loved ones for eternity.

The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. Revelation 21:21-23

We look to every new morning with Jesus in our hearts. The sun rises, even if it doesn't. You know what I mean. Do you remember this little jingle?

**"Heavenly sunshine, Heavenly sunshine
Flooding my soul with glory divine.
Hallelujah, I am rejoicing
Singing His praises, Jesus is mine!"**

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY Sunday, May 12

She's the whisper of leaves as you walk down the street;
She's the smell of certain foods you remember, flowers you pick, the fragrance of life itself.

She's the cool hand on your brow when you're not feeling well.
She's your breath in the air on a cold winter's day.
She's the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep,
the color of a rainbow; she is Christmas morning.

Your mother lives inside your laughter.
She's the place you came from, your first home,
and she is the map you follow with every step you take.

She's your first love, your first friend, even your first enemy,
but nothing on Earth can separate you.

Not time, not space....not even death.

Submitted by Ann Havicus;
Author unknown

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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.

• HOW TO BE •

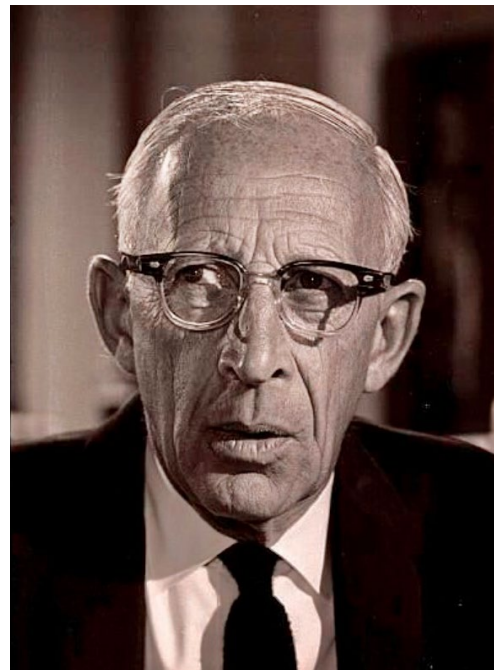
SAM SATIONAL!

with KEN LASS

Sharon and I are big fans of the old 1960s comedy shows. They were clean, clever, and very funny. If you remember these shows, no doubt you will recognize names such as Lucille Ball, Andy Griffith and Buddy Ebsen.

But you probably won't recognize the name of Charles Lane. You don't know the name, but you know him. For three decades Lane was the most famous grumpy old man in television history. Every time any script on any show called for someone to play the crotchety, bespectacled, unpleasant elderly character, Lane was the automatic choice for the role.

He was never a star or a headliner, but he appeared in hundreds of movies and TV shows, always playing the same grouchy old fuddy duddy. You saw him on I Love Lucy, Mr. Ed, Petticoat Junction, Beverly Hillbillies, Bewitched, Andy Griffith, Gomer Pyle USMC, The Munsters, and many, many more. When you saw him, you instantly knew what to expect. He was going to be irritable, ill-tempered, pessimistic, and of course he would be complaining about something.



Do you know real people that are like that? The minute you see them coming you know they are going to be grumping about something, or somebody? Or even worse, are you a Grumpy Gus? What's the first thing folks expect when they see you coming?

In the fifth chapter of Matthew's gospel, Jesus says His followers are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. That's a pretty good description of most of the SAMers that I know at FBCT. They lift folks up, they're good listeners, supportive, upbeat, positive, and always pointing toward Jesus as our strength and hope.

Charles Lane was a master at playing a grouch. It was a role for him. Let's make sure it's not a reality for us.

DO YOU ENJOY TAKING PICTURES?

This opportunity to serve is just for you! We are looking for a volunteer or two to take pictures at our SAM events. Oh, no, you do not have to plan to be at every event ... just take pictures at the ones you do attend. If you would be interested, please call or email Diane Poole at 205-478-2469 or dlpoole1225@gmail.com.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING



National Day of Prayer 2024 Thursday, May 2, 2024

Are you praying for a family member, a friend, a co-worker, or a neighbor? We invite you to come and pray with others. Oh, the power of prayer. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
Matt. 18:20

PRAYING for their ONE May 2 • Room D139

Men @ 6:30 AM • Ladies @ 12:00 noon

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

Praying for your



FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS May 6 • 10:00 AM • Room D139

First Monday Events following at 11:00AM
Email prayer requests to
Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org



FIRST MONDAY EVENT

May 6 • 11:00 AM • Lunch following

Guest: Dr. Gary Fisher
Pastor, South Roebuck Baptist Church



JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS Every 1st 2nd & 3rd Thursday • 10:30AM Fellowship Hall

If you're 55 and up, you are invited!

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS (Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:30PM • Room D139



SAM LADIES ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS

Thursdays • 9:00AM • D139



6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, May 9 • 6:11AM • Gym
For all men & boys; come join us!

EDIBLE EDUCATION

Thursday, May 9 • 11:30AM • FH • \$6

Guest speaker: Celeste Clarke, Medical Aesthetician

By performing a skin analysis, Celeste can decide what choice of treatment is best for your skin type, and what type of products will work best for your skin. Also, Celeste

will discuss different facial treatments and their benefits; such as...Chemical Peels or Anti-Aging Facials (Timeless Beauty Facial) or Diamond Glow (Dermalinfusion).

Please register [HERE](#)

SUNDAY STROLL

Sunday, May 19 • Tannehill State Park • \$10

Visit the park; sing in the Chapel; then join us at The Bright Star (\$10 does not include meal)
2:00PM departure • 3:00PM Sing • 4:00PM Visit
5:00PM Eat

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 23 • 10:30AM • \$7

Back by popular demand:
HOMELAND

Join us outside by the fountain as Homeland returns to inspire us with their Patriotic and fun musical genres!

Call SAM office for reservations.



MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 27

SAM SUMMER MISSION OPPORTUNITY

June 3-6 • Depart 9:00AM • FBC Union Springs

Our volunteers will lead an evening VBS.
Volunteers sign up with SAM office 205-228-1006

REGISTRATION OPEN: CELEBRATOR'S CONFERENCE 2024 October 14-17 • Pigeon Forge, TN

North Carolina Christmas Event December 2-5 • Biltmore Estate, The Cove, Billy Graham Library

Find all the details you'll need on the church website under Events.

www.fbctrussville.org/events

WHEN I WAS A KID

By Diane Poole.

A HANDSOME SISTER/BROTHER DUO! WHO IS THE PRETTY ONE?

She was born in Alabama.

You can find out who this SAMer is on the last page of the email or website version of this Newsletter.



HONORING ALL SEASONED ADULTS

Sunday, May 5 • 9:15AM Worship Service

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sammy Gilbreath

Alabama Baptist Director of Evangelism (Retired)

Special music by our Joyful Hearts Choir and SAM Vocal Band. Also introducing for the first time our SAM Ladies Ensemble Hearts in Harmony. Their name is inspired by Colossians 3:14: Love binds us all together with perfect harmony.

Followed by \$3 Noon lunch for all senior adults.

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER:

Register Online: SAM Ladies Trip: Beautiful: The Carole King Musical • August 10

May 1: CELEBRATOR'S CONFERENCE 2024 • October 14-17 • Pigeon Forge, TN • Register with SAM office

May 1: North Carolina Christmas Event • December 2-5 • Biltmore Estate, The Cove, Billy Graham Library
Register with SAM office

May 1: Trammel Concert Tickets Available • Online only

June 1: Atlanta Braves Tickets Available • Online only

June 1: Samercup Golf Registration Opens • Online only

Find all the details you'll need on the church website under Events. www.fbctrussville.org/events or pick up a copy of 2024 SAM EVENTS at the Event Desk

SMILE AWHILE

A little boy opened the big family Bible....

He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages.

Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?"

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered,

"I think it's Adam's underwear!"



WE NEED TO KNOW THIS

Kidney disease is the fastest-growing noncommunicable disease in the U.S. The number one cause is diabetes, followed by high blood pressure, heart disease, and obesity. Chronic kidney disease is more common in people ages 65 and older.

Of the 35.5 million Americans affected by kidney disease, over 800,000 are living with kidney failure, and around 550,000 are on dialysis.

FBCT member Barry Darden was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in 1998. He learned in 2015 that he was in stage 3 kidney failure. Despite lifestyle changes and a strict diet, his condition had advanced to stage 5 by November 2021. He has been on dialysis ever since.

Though dialysis has limited Barry and his wife, Pat, in terms of travel and church activities, he is currently undergoing treatments only twice a week.

“Dialysis is just a treatment and will never cure my kidney failure,” he said. “My only hope for a normal life is to get a live kidney donation. But because of my age, I am not eligible for a deceased donor donation, and finding a live kidney donor is not easy.”

Barry realizes, however, that the prospect of donating a kidney can be scary. So to bring awareness to the process – and hopefully ease some fears – he offers the following information:



- A person needs only one kidney to live a long healthy life. The Dardens have an 82-year-old friend who was born with only one kidney and is still going strong.
- A live kidney donation is a scheduled procedure, so a donor has time to plan ahead. Most donors spend two days in the hospital, and the recuperation period is usually fairly quick, less than two weeks.
- The cost of a donor’s evaluation and surgery is covered by the donee’s insurance. The hospital will provide extensive information on this.
- The donor has a separate team of healthcare professionals to evaluate him/her as a living donor. Their job is to help the donor understand the risks and benefits of live donation and to look out for the donor’s interests.

If you are interested in becoming a kidney donor, visit the UAB Living Donor website:

www.uabmedicine.org/donateakidney. Complete the living donor screening form, or call the Transplant Center at 205-975-9200 (option 4).

“Should potential donors be screened and find that they are not a match for me, they might be a match for someone else in need. If nothing else, I want to bring awareness to kidney disease and living donation,” said Barry. “I pray that my efforts might help me, but I also hope to encourage potential donors to consider helping one of the many people on the waitlist for a kidney.”

The Dardens have lived in Trussville since 1974 and have been part of the FBCT family since 2020. They are members of Phil Foster’s small group class.



FINDING TRUST WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES ARE HARD

A Great-Grandmother's Story by Sandra Vinson.



Our step-granddaughter, Samantha, was seven months pregnant with her first child, a child she had wished for, prayed for, and longed to hold. Her OB visit that day was supposed to be routine. Then her doctor told her that the little girl she carried had a rare genetic disorder called Trisomy 18, meaning the baby had three copies of chromosome 18 instead of the usual two.

The doctor explained that most Trisomy 18 babies are either stillborn or live three months or less. If they survive, they do not develop normally and will not walk or talk. In an era of pregnancy termination for any reason, it was not even considered. Then Samantha and her husband, Drake, along with their entire extended family, began to pray for the baby they had already named Paisley.

Charles and I were heartbroken.

I usually crochet afghans at the birth of our grandchildren but a still, small voice kept saying "This special little girl needs a special gown...you can sew it for her."

"What!?" I said. "I cannot sew well enough for such a gown!"

"Yes, you can!" said the voice. "Trust me."

I still wasn't convinced, but I put out two fleeces. To make the gown I had in mind, I could need two types of batiste fabric, one of them eyelet, and both fabrics had to be white. I would also need a pattern.

I called my friend, Gail Stewart, whose mom had been a wonderful seamstress, to ask if she might have some of her mom's old patterns.

"No, but I think Walmart still carries patterns," she told me.

I thanked her but thought to myself, "No, this is a beautiful little gown I'm thinking of. Walmart will not have this pattern."

But to cover all the bases, I went to Walmart and found the one drawer of patterns. Seeing only one pattern in the baby section, I thought I was home-free. There was no way that pattern would be the one I wanted. But I pulled it out and nearly fell to my knees. It was a pattern for the EXACT gown I had pictured!

One more fleece to go.

I headed to Hobby Lobby, thinking there was no way I'd find white batiste fabric in two different types. But when I got to the fabric department, I saw a BATISTE placard from a distance.

"But remember, Lord," I said. "Two different types, and it must be white! Remember, Lord!"

And there they were: Two kinds of batiste – one eyelet, one ripple – and both in white. I bought the fabric, took it home, and started to work.

Cutting the fabric was stressful. My hands shook, and I thought to myself, "What if I make a mistake? Ruin it? Help me, Lord!"

Seam by seam it all came together, the slip first then the gown and bonnet. A beautiful set.

I just kept looking at it and saying, "Did I sew this?" It was truly a God thing. I couldn't have done it on my own.

Although pleased with the end product, I realized the baby might never wear it. Or that it would serve as a burial gown. A beautiful burial gown for a precious loss.



But God had other plans...

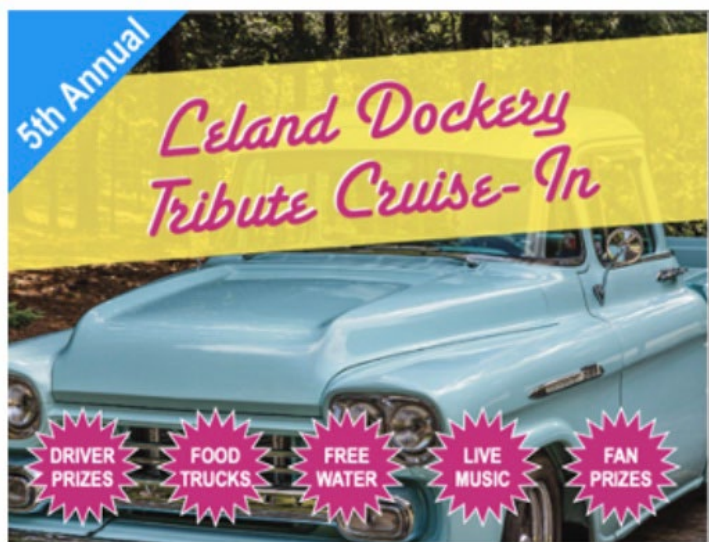
In November 2020, Paisley was born without blemish... perfect in every way. There was no answer other than we were granted a miracle. What else could it be? Doctors would never tell expectant parents of such a diagnosis without clear-cut evidence.

Through this experience, God allowed me to see His hand in my life by equipping me to do something beyond myself and then intervening in such a glorious way.

This picture of our precious miracle, healthy Paisley was made this past Christmas at their new home. Her baby brother, Maverick, was born in May of 2022.



TWO JUNE EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS ...



Saturday, June 1, 2024

Lot opens at 7:30 am

Open to the public at 8:00 am

Awards presentation begins at 12:30 pm

Free Admission for Fans

No Registration Fee for any Vehicle

(Registration is required ONLY if competing for awards.)

CLICK [HERE](#) to register your vehicle or serve as volunteer

Do you know how many horsepower one horse has?

No, that's like asking how much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?!

(Actually, one horse can exert up to 14.9hp for a short period of time. A woodchuck can chuck about 700 lbs!)

FIRST MONDAY (ON SUNDAY)!

Our guest speaker in services on SUNDAY, JUNE 2, will be Dr. Don Wilton. And yes, Dr. Billy Graham had a pastor. He was Dr. Don Wilton.

Dr. Wilton is the author of *Saturdays with Billy*; not a biography but a story of two friends, as he describes their "unlikely" friendship: *a picture of a nobody who thought he was a somebody sitting with a somebody who thought he was a nobody.*

"Everything was backwards. He was such a perpetual teacher to **me**," said Pastor and friend Wilton about their almost every Saturday meetings in Dr. Graham's home for about 15 years. In public, Billy Graham was always Mr. Graham; in private he was Brother Billy. They sat together and prayed, studied, laughed and teased each other, wept, fellowshiped, planned, ate together.

"In the early days, if Mr. Graham asked me a question, it would put the fear of God in me!, but I soon learned that every conversation was designed to help me become more like Jesus." They did a great deal of "soul searching" together.

Dr. Wilton was allowed, he said, to get to know the "soul spirit" of Dr. Graham. He was a "humble servant; a powerful instrument in the hands of a righteous God."

Dr. Don Wilton was the Pastor of First Baptist Church Spartanburg, South Carolina for over 30 years. He retired last year. We are privileged to have this inspiring man of God with us on June 2.





RESERVATIONS ARE STILL OPEN

If you've never had an opportunity to hear Dr. David Jeremiah speak, this is your chance. He reminds us in his video *What Does the Bible Tell Us About Heaven* to get our reservations ... FOR HEAVEN! We invite you to watch online (search YouTube and Dr. David Jeremiah; or [CLICK HERE](#) to view).

MARRIED 60+ YEARS?

Couples who are members of FBCT and have been married 60+ years (to each other!), let us celebrate with you this special achievement.

Please submit a picture of the two of you together. You choose the picture, whether you send us a wedding photo or a more recent picture of the two of you. Along with the picture, please give us your full names; when and where you were married; and how long you have been members here at FBCT.

We will publish your pictures and information in our June SAM newsletter. The month of June just brings out the brides, doesn't it!

Contacts: Judy Bryant jb5348@bellsouth.net or 770-377-1258
June Mathews jmathews120@charter.net or 205-901-2606

Deadline: Please get your picture and information to Judy or June no later than Friday, May 17.



THERE'S MORE...

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.

Not receiving our SAM newsletters? How do you prefer to receive our newsletters each month? By email and/or paper copy mailed to you? If you haven't already or you need to update your preference, please contact Debbie Arrington in the SAM Office at 205-228-1006 or email at debbie@fbctrussville.org. Everyone for whom we have an up-to-date email address will receive the newsletters by email; however, if you prefer to have a paper copy mailed to you each month, let Debbie know. We will be happy to mail one to you!

EASTER AT FBCT 2024

DEEP IN THIS MOTHER'S HEART, SHE KNEW

Friday, March 29 Good Friday Service

They all walked away, nothing to say
They'd just lost their dearest friend
All that He said, now He was dead
So this was the way it would end.

The dreams they had dreamed were
not what they'd seemed
Now that He was dead and gone
The garden, the jail, the hammer, the nail
How could a night be so long?



THEN CAME THE MORNING ...

Easter Sunday Morning

Then came the morning
Night turned into day
The stone was rolled away
Hope rose with the dawn

Then came the morning
Shadows vanished before the sun
Death had lost and life had won
For morning had come

The angel, the star, the kings from afar
The wedding, the water, the wine
Now it was done, they'd taken her Son
Wasted before His time

She knew it was true, she'd watched Him die too
She'd heard them call Him just a man
But deep in her heart she knew from the start
Somehow her Son would live again

Guy Penrod sings Gaither Music /
[Then Came the Morning](#)



HONORING THE CLASS OF 2024

Graduation Sunday @ FBCT! Sunday, May 19 • 4:00pm

HTHS Graduation • Tuesday, May 21

Abbie Gayle Argo

Trace Barlok

Samuel Christopher Bishop

Helen Ingram Browne

Ann Claire Bryant

Deshazo Mae Bryant

Rob Burttram

Alyssa Leigh Chesser

Ellie Margaret Christian

Jake Cochran

Kyle Crumpton

Tabi Dorsett

Mark Dukes

Mary Ann Dukes

Jennifer Dunn

Jennifer Bailey Dunn

Jack Erwin

Peyton Floyd

Ashley Fogg

Brooke Frederick

Lauren Alene Frederick

Jathan Fulmer

Aspen Riley Hall

Hannah Harbison

Kate Hicks

Clayton Hollis

Molly Elise Joganic

Sittre Paige Jones

Danica Quinn Linkis

Aidan Lockhart

Luke James Long

Kate Lowery

Carter Rogers Lybrand

Caroline Faith Mauldin

Hudson McMurry

Jacob Moore

Jacob Mullinax

Clara Joyce Nielsen

Harper Layne O'Brien

Will Owens

Sarah Partain

Aubrey Payne

Sophia Paz

Holden Brooks Reid

Sawyer Hudson Reid

Reece Ida Rutland

Jacob Sanders

Cody Benjamin Serena

Kylee Isabella Sisk

Savannah Grace Sisk

Gracie Smith

Brady Trammell

Colin Wadsworth

Finley Whisenhunt

Abigail Kathleen Wideman

Carson Wideman

Kaleigh Wideman

Grayson Williams

"Meredith" Reese Willingham

Amber-Lynn Elizabeth Wiram



THE MYSTERY MEMBER IS LYNNE LONG!

Diane Poole



How long have you been attending FBCT?

About 40 years

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A ballerina

What did you actually become when you grew up?

I worked several places: a heavy equipment company, a bank, a law firm, at a college, and in community theater. I was an editorial assistant at Southern Living for nearly 15 years and had the opportunity to pen several articles, so my best answer would be a writer.



Tell us about your family:

I was beyond blessed to start life with an amazing set of parents. My dad was a marine in WWII, a Boy Scout leader, a fanatic Alabama football fan, a huge jokester, a people lover, and one great insurance salesman! My mom was a lover of books and words, music, theater (so glad she passed those on to me), cooking, and was an even bigger Alabama football fan. I learned honesty, patriotism, positivity, and generosity from my dad. I learned tenacity, perseverance, and loyalty from my mom. They both taught me to work hard and trust God.

I lost my brother in 1976. I was five years his junior. I wouldn't say we were the best of friends when we were young, but his death was a blow to me because I felt as if we were just getting to know each other.

I also had a slew of fun, supportive cousins and caring aunts and uncles. During my childhood, I never doubted that I was loved, and that is a precious thing.

What is your favorite television show?

I'm a bit fickle on this. I really like British TV. My current favorite is a series called Doc Martin.

What is your favorite food?

Spaghetti

Other than the Bible, do you have a favorite book?

The Prince of Tides by Pat Conroy

Who or what has impacted your faith journey?

I think my maternal grandmother was the most influential. She was a bit of a beast, but a beast for Christ! She was adamant about church attendance and studying the Bible. She had extremely strong faith and resolve and made sure all grandchildren were in the pews on Sunday and saved by age 13, whether we liked it or not.

What is your favorite Bible verse:

Philippians 4:8 NIV

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

What ministries (at FBCT and elsewhere) are you involved in?

FBCT (and some other Bible study groups). I love kids! I helped with VBS and played softball in my younger years. At present, I am active in my small group; Charlie Philpot is our fearless leader. We call it a class but we are more like family. Lastly, I have just started writing a bit for the SAM newsletter. ;)

In 25 words or less, tell us what you are passionate about.

I'm passionate about living a Godly life and sharing what Jesus has done for me and what he can do for you. As I get older, I believe I have sometimes tried to make life too complicated. Live for Jesus and help others. I am also passionate about my family. I couldn't have been blessed more. My kind and clever husband of 31 years, Mike (still the one) and I have six grown children and eight grandkids—so far. I am so proud of who they are and the love they share. They fill all my days with joy, and I am so grateful to God that I was lucky enough to have been their mom and Gigi.

Is there anything else you want people to know about you?

I am very crafty. Hot glue and I go way back.

I have been involved in community theater for over 30 years: acting and directing. My favorite element is working with young people. Their evolution from "too shy to say their own name" to biggest ham on stage is nothing short of amazing. We have so many talented kids in our community!

I've written several children's books. I'm told they're not too bad—by my family, of course. I hope to find an illustrator and get them published soon. Stay tuned.

I love to garden, but a total tomato failure. Any hints?

I'm terrified of frogs, scared to drive on the interstate, and don't understand the metric system. If you feel qualified to help with any of these, you know where to find me.

