



# IT'S STILL THE CROSS

It's been a long time since a completely innocent young man was nailed to a cross, suffering unbelievable torture. The crowds were shouting words that just might have been more painful to Jesus than the nails. As He draws His last breath, He cries to His Father, "it is finished."

This story is true history, and it is GOD'S STORY. Why would Jesus suffer and die on that cross? Because the plan to save the sinful world was His Father's plan and He was obedient to His Father, even to the end. God loves all His creation, especially mankind. So much so that He gave His son's life. Why? Because we are all sinners; God hates sin (not the sinner). Someone had to pay the price for our sins. So, God provided for us the way to forgiveness and a more abundant life here on earth and life forever in eternity with Him. The way is Jesus ... if we accept Him.

You and I in the last 50 to 80 years alone have experienced many, many significant and far-reaching changes in our lives and throughout the world, but nothing so critical, so heart wrenching, or so personal to every human being throughout time than the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ thousands of years ago in history.

The profound message expressed on that cross was meant for those who stood before the cross as Jesus died and for all peoples since. That message extends to all until Christ returns.

*Bob*

## It's Still the Cross

*(written by Niles Borop, Mike Harland, Luke Garrett & Buddy Mullins. Made popular by Gold City in 1996.)*

It's not conservative or liberal, however they're defined;  
It's not about interpretation or the judgment of the mind;  
It's the opposite of politics, power or prestige;  
It's about a simple message ...and whether we believe.

We can water down theology and preach a word to suit our needs;  
We can justify sweet subtle lies that are wrapped in noble deeds;  
We can alter our convictions to adapt to social whims;  
But we cannot change the Gospel or the truth contained within.

It's still the cross! It's still the blood of Calvary  
that cleanses sins and sets the captives free.  
It's still the name ...the name of Jesus  
that has power to save the lost. It's still the cross.

Though some may say it's man's religion or ancient history,  
The cross of Jesus still remains the price for sin that sets us free.

CLICK [HERE](#) as Gold City sings:  
I Corinthians 1:17-18; Galatians 6:14; Philippians 2:8; Colossians 1:20; Hebrews 12:2

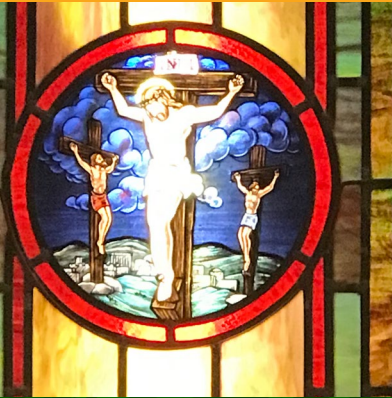
## EASTER AT FBCT

**Good Friday Service**  
Friday, March 29 • 6:00 PM

An evening focused on the Cross.

**Easter Sunday!**  
Sunday, March 31 • 8:00,  
9:30 & 11:00 AM

Celebrating the Risen King!  
Don't forget to bring your flowers for the cross outside by the fountain and plan to get a family picture there!



**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](mailto:sam.news@fbctrussville.org). Printed copies will be available at the church Welcome Center and Events Center.

# WHEN I WAS A KID

By Lynne Long

## CAN YOU GUESS WHO THIS MEMBER OF FBCT IS?

He was born in Alabama.

To identify him and learn more about his story, see the last page of both the email version of this newsletter or online on our SAM Ministry page on the FBCT website under SAM Newsletters.



# THANK YOU CHURCH FAMILY

**DR. LLOYD LIVINGSTON SMITH, JR.**

March 28, 1930 – February 7, 2024

My sincere thank you to First Baptist Church Trussville staff, SAMers and other members for all of your calls, cards and notes, flowers and so much more at the death of my dad. A special thanks to all of you who attended the Celebration of Life service on February 14 in Huntsville. There must have been 100 of you, and your presence meant the world to me and my family. Thank you. Bob Smith

# WE NEED TO KNOW THIS

## 1. Two 24-hour hospital emergency care facilities are now open in Trussville.

### Ascension St. Vincent's East

#### Freestanding Emergency Department

6670 Green Drive  
Trussville, AL 35173  
205-855-7717

### Grandview Medical Center

#### Emergency Department Trussville

5542 Vanlerberghe Lane  
Trussville, AL 35173  
205-971-3290



## 2. Here's a timely tip for seniors:

During tax season, scammers will often call elderly people claiming to be from the IRS and saying there's an issue with their tax return. The callers will collect information to "secure" their target's tax file, but in reality, they'll use it to file phony tax refunds and to commit identity theft.

*Rule of thumb: IRS employees never call taxpayers without trying to reach them first by mail.*

• HOW TO BE •

# SAM with KEN LASS **SATIONAL!**

I don't know how they do it. I really don't. They are blessed with a brand of patience and love that I am hard-pressed to find within myself. I'm talking about the staff and lay folks in our church who work with the kids. I get a glimpse of their challenge occasionally when I pick up my grandkids from children's worship.

Wow. Hundreds of little attention spans taking off in all directions. Loud chatter and sometimes even running around the room. To the observer it may look like chaos, but clearly it is not. My grands are always able to tell me what they learned about Jesus that session, and proudly display the projects, drawings and prizes they accumulated during their Sunday morning adventure.

Every week it seems to me there are more children than ever before. Turns out it's not my imagination. The Trussville area continues to grow like wildfire, and thanks to the God-driven leadership of our church, we have done an outstanding job of continuing to meet the spiritual needs of our community. Take a stroll around our youth areas on a typical Sunday morn and you'll see how incredibly the Lord has blessed our congregation. He continues to bring us new families, many with vibrant, curious children, pre-teens and teenagers, all hungry for answers to their questions about life and purpose. It is our function to provide them with biblical perspective. Heaven knows they won't get that from the secular community.

But it doesn't take a bible prophet to observe our situation and see that there are problems on the way. Good problems to be sure, but problems nonetheless. Our middle school space is already extremely overcrowded. Our high school area is getting close. Funny thing about middle schoolers. Before you know it they become high schoolers. Then there are all those kids in children's worship who will be growing up quickly. New subdivisions springing up all over and around Trussville. More families, more children. Get the picture? Oh, and by the way, more grandparents moving here to be close to those children. That means the potential for significant growth in our SAM ministry. How long will the gym, the fellowship hall and the current gathering space be able to hold our event crowds?

I hope you'll agree with me that staying the same is not an option. God is doing a special work in our church and we need to embrace it and grow with it. I don't have any inside information or scoop, but it seems inevitable we will have to embark upon some sort of major expansion in the near future, as well as figure out ways to multi-purpose what we already have. As seasoned adults, we should once again lead the way and be supportive of any such effort, just as the generations before us have.

In a crazy world, the children need us SAMers. But the truth is, we need them more. They are the discipleship leaders of the future. We won't give up this world without a fight, and we need to make sure they don't either.





# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

## FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

March 4 • 10:00 AM • Room D139

First Monday Events following at 11:00AM  
Email prayer requests to

[Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org](mailto:Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org)



## FIRST MONDAY EVENTS

March 4 • 11:00 AM • In the Worship Center

Dr. Bob Pitman, Evangelist, Muscle Shoals, AL  
Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary  
Professor (Retired)

## FIRST THURSDAY: PRAYING for their ONE

March 7 • 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](mailto:pray41@fbctrussville.org)

## JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

Every 1st & 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

First & Third Thursdays • 9:00AM • D139

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Sunday, March 10 • Set clocks forward one hour.

## ANNIE ARMSTRONG TEA

Sunday, March 10 • 3:30PM • Gym

Tickets \$20 (Supporting Annie Armstrong Easter Offering)

Ladies of all ages, put on your pretty hats and come join us!  
Contact: Sue Richards (205-305-6404 or 205-655-4526)

Our focus is on the importance of Missions. Annie Armstrong is the foundation of home missions; her efforts will be highlighted during the program.



## 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, March 14 • 6:11AM • Gym  
For all men & boys; come join us!

## EDIBLE EDUCATION RETURNS

Thursday, March 14 • 11:30AM • FH • \$6

Guest speaker: Kimberly Hazel Johnson

Discussing the importance of maintaining healthy skin, as well as a look at the science of skincare and how to choose a routine and products that work best for you.

Pre-register for the meal [HERE](#)

## LADIES PRECEPT CLASS

Begins Wednesday, March 20 • 9:00 AM • D142

Taught by Denise Dockery

Precept Upon Precept Inductive Studies...

*Job-When the Pain Is Great-Precept Workbook*

(NASB) Job asks big questions about pain, suffering, and God's sovereignty—and it shows us God is with us through everything.

## SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, March 21 • 10:30AM • Gym • \$7

Special Guest:

Comedian Debbie Childers  
Welcome Debbie back to entertain us with her funny stories!

Call SAM office for reservations



## SPRING BREAK 2024

March 25-29 Trussville Schools

I have never known a man who received Christ and ever regretted it.

—Billy Graham



Threads of Love is a national organization that provides NICUs and Labor and Delivery Units at area hospitals with handmade blankets and sleep positioners for the NICUs and gowns and blankets for the families experiencing the loss of their baby.



The Threads of Love workday on February 10 here at FBCT was well attended. The ToL chapter sponsored here at FBCT gave out almost 11,000 handmade items last year. Our goal is to match and even increase that number in 2024. Your help is needed!

In addition to sewing and crocheting, there are plenty of other ways volunteers can help. Our group meets every second Saturday at FBCT from 9AM to 2PM in the middle school space.

Call Gina Blankenship at 205-307-8448 or email [heartofalabamathreadsoflove@yahoo.com](mailto:heartofalabamathreadsoflove@yahoo.com) for more information.

## SEW SPECIAL TO GOD

*By Lynne Long*

Like many of you, I have been sewing for several years. I've learned a lot along the way- trust your pattern, buy the good thread, don't waste supplies, and RSTREE (It's an acronym on one of my first patterns. It stands for right sides together, raw edges even.)

Recently, I was working on a project using some pricey fabric, and I really bugged it up. The material was just too thick for my needs. And, with that came craft calamity. You know that feeling when you do something crafty for therapy and then you mess that up too, and now you feel twice as frustrated. I knew I was going to have to call on my best sewing buddy, Jack the Ripper (my trusty seam ripper) and start again.



I grabbed Jack and started to work when a comforting thought occurred to me. God has been called many things, but today, I thought of him as the ultimate seamster (I learned a new word. Apparently, this is the term most folks use for the male version of seamstress.) As I started the tedious task of pulling stitch after stitch out and breaking the thread's bond, I knew that soon (well, sorta soon) all evidence of my sloppy sewing would have been removed and when finished my cloth would look brand new and could be used later for something more suitable. I thought about how God does that with us. He can rip out every one of our bad stitches, even those tiny ones that are hidden and hard to reach. He doesn't give up, even though the task can take a long time. He can remove every trace and make the fabric of our lives whole again. He will provide our best unique spiritual pattern and we can trust him. He can use us for a project suited for His heavenly purpose.

I guess I learned something unexpected from my sewing session today. As I adjust my thinking, and start on my new handmade creation, I thank God for His faithfulness, new beginnings, and seam rippers.



# 2ND ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

By Diane Poole

Sometimes as we walk through this life, we find ourselves wondering, "Does God hear our prayers?" National speaker Whitney Capps of Proverbs 31 Ministries shared with the 400+ attendees at the 2024 FBCT women's conference about the "Goodness of God (And What to Do When It Doesn't Seem So Good)." Her scripture reference ... Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Featured speaker Whitney Capps is a writer for the new Bible app, First 5, with more than 1,000,000 downloads and users. Whitney's first book, *Sick of Me* (B&H Publishers) and Bible study with video curriculum, "We Over Me" (LifeWay), were released in March 2019. She is also the Founder and President of Simple Seminary, an online learning platform that helps women see the connections that make Scripture come alive.



Over her weekend with us, Whitney shared her journey with cancer. Whitney also shared some funny times and some hard times she and her husband, Chad, are experiencing while raising their four sons just outside Atlanta, Georgia.

The Friday evening and Saturday morning, January 26-27 agenda included meals from the Three Eared Rabbit and Chick-fil-A, breakout sessions led by church/community leaders, and dozens of door prizes. Our worship time praise music was led by Mary Thomas Queen. Mary Thomas is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina; she studied Worship Leadership at Samford University.

## Some of the points in Whitney's message included:

- General confession leads to general obedience. Specific confession leads to specific obedience. We should confess our sins every day and ask the Holy Spirit to convict us of our sins.
- His goodness is His **being** rather than His doing. That means God is good, not because of what He does but because of who He is.
- "Guard your heart out there. All are love-worthy. Not all are trustworthy. Authenticity with all. Transparency with most. Intimacy with some." This quote she attributed to Beth Moore.

Decisions were made during the conference, and many others learned much and grew in their faith. God is moving in our midst!





One of our younger attendees, Caroline Summers, had this to say about the conference: "I learned how important it is to recognize God's being over His doing, and to learn that alongside women who are building each other up is such a gift!"



"I loved the conference," said Georgia Harvey. "Whitney was a blessing to so many of us, and what I learned from her is that I have a story that was written for me. I just never looked at it that way but through God's grace and love, my story is one that makes me appreciate all the things and people God placed in my life! The door prize that I won reinforced His grace because there were hearts that had words of love and encouragement!"

Conference planning committee member Kimberly Johnson said, "I truly enjoyed working with and meeting many of the seasoned adult women in our church. Helping to plan this conference has been such a blessing to me!"

Members of the conference planning committee included Mary Beth Bacchus, Susan Hornsby, Katy Kinard, Kimberly Johnson, and Diane Poole. Next year's conference is tentatively scheduled for January 31 – February 1.

*Please remember in your prayers our speaker Whitney Capps as she enters the next phase of her journey with cancer in the days and weeks ahead.*

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## **BOBBY PAGE AWARDED DEACON EMERITUS**

Bobby Page has been recognized as Deacon Emeritus for all the years he has served faithfully as a Deacon here at FBCT, including his service and leadership with Men on Mission (he has not missed one MOM trip!). Congratulations and Thank You, Bobby!



## **BOB SMITH CELEBRATES 6TH ANNIVERSARY AT FBCT**

On March 11, Bob Smith will celebrate his 6th anniversary here at FBCT as our Seasoned Adult Minister. He has shared with all of us unselfishly his love for Jesus, family, friends, music, golf, card games, and yes, banana pudding (the way his family does it)! Bob, we love you and thank you! All us SAMers!

# PRAYER FOCUS

Please be in prayer for those who are preparing to travel on Mission to Thailand and Alaska.

**Thailand**  
June 16-29

**Wasilla, AK**  
June 21-18

**Anchorage, AK**  
July 20-27

**Wasilla, AK**  
August 30-  
September 6

# LAKE YALE SENIOR FEST 2024

By Judy Bryant

Our FBCT SAM Ministry Leadership Team had the awesome opportunity to travel to the beautiful Lake Yale, in Leesburg, Florida, February 5 – 7, to attend SENIOR FEST 2024. Conference Emcees and hosts again this year were our own Bob Smith and Jeff Cleghorn. What a team these two are!

Our first impression of the Conference Center was inspired. A huge, very old tree with limbs literally fingering out over a large area graced us as we entered the gates. We all gathered round for a picture at that tree.

We experienced beautiful sunrises over the Lake. We enjoyed the teaching presentations of Florida pastors and the music of The Voice Season 18 winner, Todd Tilghman, as well as Gold City. Tim Lovelace once again made us laugh til we cried!

We chose from an array of break-out sessions. The one I attended was particularly interesting. Pastor Paul Taylor led us through The Wilderness Way Bible Study, examining “twelve words (or stones) crucial to building a firm foundation in Jesus Christ.” We were given a copy of his journal “Wilderness 55+” and asked to walk down memory lane, journaling our beliefs and life experience at each word, beginning with the Cornerstone, then moving through the other words, in this order: **Truth, Obedience, Glory, Love, Wisdom, Discernment, Humility, Self-Control, Perseverance, Forgiveness, Repentance, Security.** By the time you’ve completed the journaling, you will have told your faith story to leave as a legacy for future generations!

Our last morning included a hymn sing, led by Bob Smith and Jeff Cleghorn. The old hymns, the piano at its best with Jeff at the keys, and, of course, the voice of our own Bob Smith! It doesn’t get any better.



**SEE MORE NEWS IN THE ELECTRONIC VERSIONS (EMAIL AND CHURCH WEBSITE) OF THIS NEWSLETTER. CHECK IT OUT AT [www.fbctrussville.org](http://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](mailto: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!



# JANUARY JUBILEE BIBLE STUDY

January 31



What a powerful Bible study kickoff of the book of Ephesians for the great crowd that met (the first group to meet there) in our newly renovated Chapel. Drop by and check it out if you haven't already. It is stunning. Henry Ward, who coordinated the Jubilee, did a great job with the program. Our own Scott Strickland sang "I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy" while Derrell Morrison accompanied on the piano.

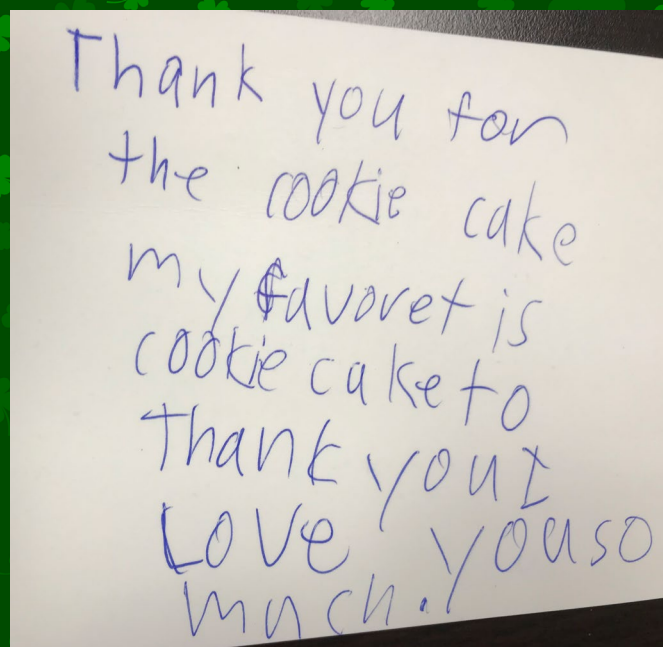
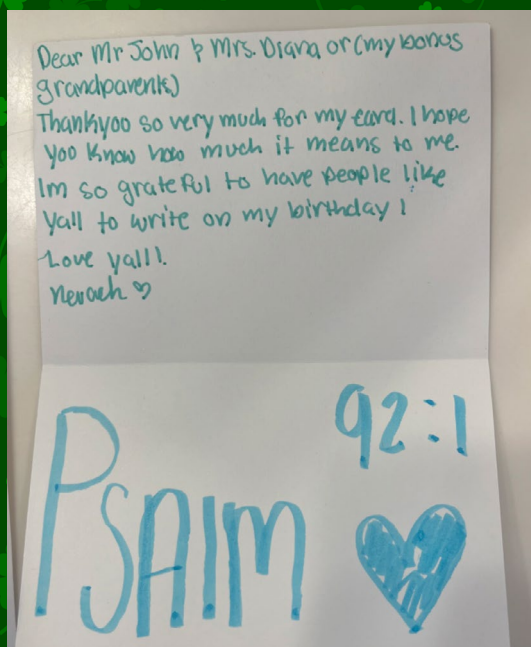
Our study leader, Gary Hollingsworth, fell ill and could not attend, but Alan Long jumped in at the last minute and would have made Gary proud. Alan spoke of and presented slides of his travels to Ephesus and area. That look at geography, history and peoples helped bring the book of Ephesians alive. Alan ended his teaching by reading out loud the entire book of Ephesians. What a meaningful way to present to the group.

The study concluded with Bob Smith singing "It's Still the Cross." We walked out with tears in our eyes and hearts filled with a reminder of what Jesus did for us on that cross.

#### NOTE:

Bible Book Studies are offered on Wednesdays @ 10:00AM  
Ladies, taught by Toni Sproull, Room D139  
Men, led by Henry Ward, Room D141

## THANK YOU BONUS GRANDS!



NOTE: We have received many such notes as this from the precious girls at Big Oak Girls' Ranch since we began the Bonus Grandparents program celebrating the girls' birthdays.

# THE BORDEAUS' STORY

By Suellen Edmondson

The SAM ministry has partnered with the Big Oak Girls' Ranch located in Springville. Sunday School classes at FBCT have committed to send birthday cards and take birthday cakes to the girls, house parents, and their children.

It was this ministry that allowed me to connect with Loren and Rebekah Bordeau and their children Shiloh (5) and Selah (22 months). There are ten homes on the ranch, and the Bordaues are house parents in one of these homes. This is their story.

"In the Fall of 2015, we felt God leading us to Omaha, Nebraska to care for troubled teens at Boys Town, fulfilling our lifelong dream. We opened our home one month before the pandemic. Close quarters with seven troubled teenage girls had its challenges, growth, heartache and joy.

In 2020, we learned that our son, Shiloh was going to be a big brother. At 20 weeks, our unborn baby boy was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder and if he lived, it would be only a brief time. We then resigned our position at Boys Town to be able to devote full-time care to Samuel for however long that would be. At birth he weighed a little more than one pound and lived for 99 days.



This brought us to a crossroads. Our dream was still caring for children who faced little or no hope for a healthy lifestyle. We began researching other children's homes. We were invited to come as prospective house parents at Big Oak for a weekend in a home with the children as part of a trial visit. After the weekend, we knew this was where God wanted us to be. In November 2021, we called the Big Oak Ranch our home.

Currently, we have four girls in our home along with our two biological children. Our girls are allowed to call us mom and dad—and they all choose to do so. They each have their own rooms and chores which include an assigned day to do laundry." Rebekah loves to cook and does all the cooking in their home. The girls also pitch in with kitchen duties.

Rebekah is a nurturer and a giver; her desire is for the girls to want to come to her with their challenges and celebrations. [As a side note from this writer, one can spend only a few minutes with Rebekah and sense her warm, lovingkindness nature.]

Rebekah shares this story. One of the girls was having some difficult issues and Rebekah asked to share with her. Rebekah took rocks and put them in the girl's backpack. The rock represented the girl's troubles; of course, she complained it was too heavy. Rebekah then had the girl take a few rocks out at a time and give them back to her. Each time, the load became lighter and much easier to handle. The lesson was that when you share your burdens with someone who cares for you and is willing to listen, your load is not so heavy.

Loren is assigned ranch work two days a week doing maintenance and building projects. In his free time, he is building a playhouse/treehouse in their backyard for the children. He loves being a full-time dad to all six children which includes a discipline part as well. He shared that his approach is "God loves-----God disciplines", and that is what he tells his children.

This is a calling and the Bordaues have answered that call.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: If your Sunday School class would like to serve in this birthday ministry, please contact Debbie Arrington in the SAM office.*



# SAM VOCAL BAND SINGS IN SELMA

By Grace McConnell

The SAM Vocal Band began the New Year with a performance at the Cahaba Ridge Retirement Center in Vestavia on Friday, January 12.

The next stop on the January schedule (1/15/24) was canceled due to icy roads and winter bad weather. Bayside Baptist Church, near Chattanooga, in Harrison Bay, Tennessee, is rescheduled for later in the spring.

On Monday, January 22, the SAM Vocal Band performed for senior adults at Selma First Baptist Church. This beautiful church was built in 1842 and was a delight to see, both inside and out.

The Selma Senior Adults, looking forward with excitement to the vocal band singing, had invited friends so their usual group had doubled for the performance.

There was an immediate rapport between the singers and those attending in Selma, resulting in an energy and excitement that made this performance one of the best to date.

Another request has already been received for a possible return engagement, suggesting our guys perform for even more of the Selma community.

Under the direction and guidance of Senior Adult Minister and Music Director Bob Smith, the SAM Vocal Band is meeting a need and lifting hearts wherever it performs!



## LAST MONTH'S MYSTERY MEMBER

*NOTE: Did you guess this precious FBCT member's name and read about her in the February newsletter issue? Her name is **Sarah Horton** and if you missed it, you can read her interview on the last page of the February e-mail or online versions.*



# THE MYSTERY MEMBER IS CHARLIE PHILPOT!

By Lynne Long

## How long have you been attending FBCT?

39 years

## In what state were you born?

Alabama

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

A basketball coach

## What did you actually become when you grew up?

An automotive parts factory sales representative and auto repair shop owner.

## Tell us about your family:

My mother and daddy shared a birthday on November 2nd, but my dad was seven years older than my mom. My dad passed away at 70 in 1981. My mother died in 1992 at the age of 75. I have two brothers, one older and one younger and two older sisters, of which the oldest is deceased. I have been married for 39 years to the love of my life. Our anniversary is on February 14, Valentine's Day! We have three children and five grandchildren who we love and are very proud of! God has truly blessed us!

## What is your favorite television show?

Everybody Loves Raymond

## What is your favorite food?

Steak or ice cream

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

Any book written by Tom Clancy

## Who or what has impacted your faith journey?

Three relatives took turns picking us up every Sunday morning. They took me and my siblings to and from a small country church where God saved us all! They drove about 20 miles over dirt roads in all kinds of weather. I am eternally grateful! Another huge influence has been and is my godly wife of 39 years!

## What is your favorite Bible verse:

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

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

Sunday School teacher, Men on Missions, homebound ministry

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

I am passionate about my Savior Jesus Christ and serving Him first and foremost. My other passions are my family, friends, golf, fishing, conservative politics, and Alabama Crimson Tide sports.

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

I grew up on a farm in south Alabama where we had a garden, cotton, corn, milk cows, pigs, and chickens. We hunted and fished to put food on the table. We were very poor, but we didn't know it! We were loved by our parents and God made sure we had what we needed. I attended the University of Alabama and served in the U.S. Army. I am a Vietnam veteran, who is very proud of my service and the service of all others.

