

HE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH!

He created us. Oh, how He loves you and me.

He created, provides, and sustains all we need and more to live in this awesome land we call earth and specifically, the United States of America.

He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and made the way for us to be with Him in Heaven one day. If He never did another thing for us, that's enough. Romans 5:8

He knows us, each of us, better than we know ourselves. Even so, He gives us the privilege to choose for ourselves. He forgives us and carries us when we mess it all up. He's always there for us.

He gave us a direct "line" to communicate with Him through the Holy Spirit. His line is never busy and He doesn't put us on hold ... ever! He gave us the privilege to pray, He listens to us, hearts and voices, and He always answers!

He inspired the writing of His Holy Word, our Bible, our history and our glimpse into the future, and our everyday guidebook. He teaches us.

He's our biggest fan, yours and mine. He guides us. He protects us. He carries us when we need His strength, and He always heals us in a way that He knows is best for us. He always makes a way.

That's all more than enough. His abundant love and pure heart put the smiles on our faces. Our hearts reflect His love, and we sing. God IS good all the time, and all the time God is good.

Bob

*With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God!*

SAM
SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY
SERVING THE GREAT
I AM
FBC TRUSSVILLE

NOVEMBER 2023

GREAT NEWS!



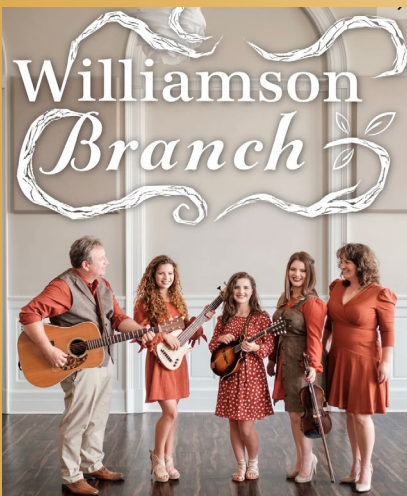
CONGRATULATIONS to Bob and Vickie on the arrival of their fifth grandchild, a boy!, Huey Smith, was born on October 13.



On November 16, Bob will be, let's just say one year less than 70!

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.



SAM CHRISTMAS IS COMING UP!

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Two seatings • 11:30AM & 4:00PM

Special Guest: Williamson Branch

Tickets: \$25

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

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

HOW DO WE RESPOND? WE PRAY

(excerpts from the last segment of Meyers' comments)

If there has ever been a time to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, this is the time.

Thousands of people on both sides of the conflict have lost their lives. Most of these people are lost; no matter what side they are on, these are lost souls. Pray that maybe war will finally open their eyes to their blindness of Jesus.

Pray for the missionaries who are in the field, on both sides, taking advantage of one last day possibly to share the Gospel. Pray for those Jewish people who are believers in Jesus (Messianic Jews) in the midst of the darkness of war.

Pray that the Gospel would go forward in spite of war and that men and women and boys and girls on both sides would come to know Jesus as their personal savior in spite of a land being shredded by war.

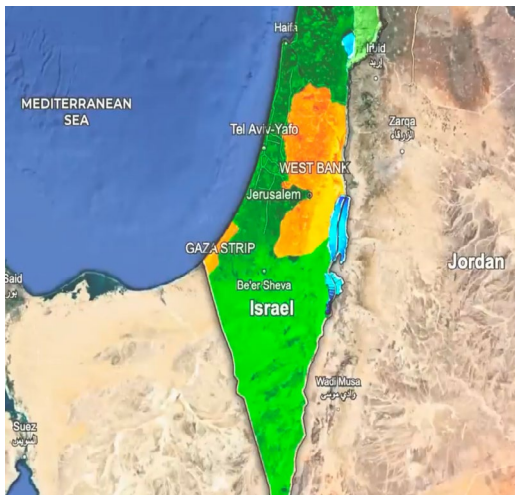
Pray for peace. Not just a military peace. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for the Romans 5:1 peace. Pray that the loss of life would be minimized on both sides.

Pray for all those rulers who are making decisions, whether they are prime ministers, presidents or kings ... that God gives them wisdom and that they would heed what the Bible says. 1 Timothy 2

Confess that we are all guilty of getting caught up in the news headlines. Thank Him that His Word has been true regarding this conflict every time in days past and it is going to be true every day in the future.

Pray that God would bring peace to the Place of Peace; pray that He would bring peace to the hearts of the Jewish people, even to the hearts of the Islamic people through the person of Jesus Christ. We know how this story plays out, but God commissioned us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

May God move mightily, supernaturally and divinely. These are His people and this is His place.



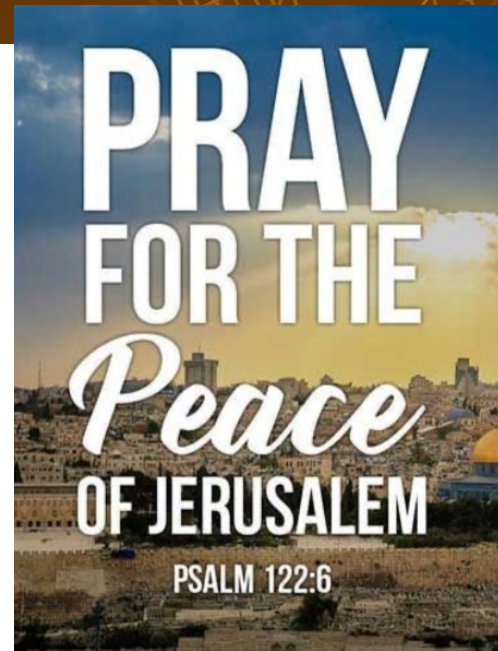
We know that there is opposition to God's Word, and to a biblical stance on these current events. We know from Ephesians 6 that we do not fight against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers and rulers of darkness. We know that God has the plan and He will finish what He started.

Oh God that sword, your Word, may we yield it as our only weapon in this war, in this conflict. Oh God help us to trust in your Word.

May we be people who say "Thus, saith the Lord." Now may we trust in the provision and the power of your Word.

I WILL PRAISE THEE WITH MY WHOLE HEART; BEFORE THE GODS WILL I SING PRAISE UNTO THEE. PSALM 138

Bobby Horsley shared with his Small Group Class a video of the Sunday, October 15 evening service at FBC Opelika. Pastor Jeff Meyers presents a theological response to the conflict in Israel. "He does an excellent job of describing the situation, why it exists, and how we should respond as Christians." Click [HERE](#) to see Pastor Meyers speak at the 13 minute mark.



A CAUSE FOR THANKS-GIVING

By Janice Shelton



"I will sing of the goodness of God!" This month's theme is definitely fitting to the season, but it can and does extend into areas that may not echo the Thanksgiving holiday as we may most often think of it. For me, this theme delves into a deep, secret part of my heart, a part which I have been reluctant to share with more than a few close friends.

At a recent Edible Education event, I sat at a table with some lovely ladies, a couple of whom I already knew and a couple of whom were new to me. One lady began speaking of her child, a prodigal child, and the questions that come with being the mother of someone who has wandered for whatever reason from both family and Biblical teaching. Another lady then spoke of a similar situation, not the exact circumstances, but the shared question of why and how did something like this happen.

I was taken aback as I realized the connection among the three of us and I opened up to tell of my own

heartache, as having a prodigal is a heartache. I remembered and I often refer to the Biblical account of the prodigal son (Luke 15-32). I believe that, even though she is not specifically mentioned, his mother has to be somewhere in the story, a story that has a wonderful ending and a reunited family.

So, why is our theme so connected to something that hurts so much? To remember that God's goodness is ever present, ever constant, ever promised no matter the trial is cause for thanksgiving.

Again to be reminded to turn over to Him our burdens is also a reminder to be willing to continue to celebrate His goodness and to continue to pray for the prodigal in our life should we have one and, for me, I now have at least two more people for whom to pray that God's goodness will translate into thanksgiving every day.

SMILE AWHILE ...

**Sister, when you
get on that scale,
remind yourself
that you are
wearing the full
armor of God, and
that stuff is
HEAVY!**



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)

• HOW TO BE •

SAM SATIONAL!

with KEN LASS

The other day I mowed my lawn for what I anticipate will be the final time for this season. The bermuda grass in my yard seems to have begun its winter nap, slowly turning a shade of light brown. Time for me to run some fuel stabilizer through the mower engine to keep the gas from going stale and clogging the carburetor. I'll then park it in a remote corner of the garage and forget about it until the sweet birds of spring begin to chirp in late February.

I've had that trusty push mower for about twelve years now. When it next sees the light of day in the spring it will need the usual rejuvenation. Fresh oil, new air filter, blade sharpening, new spark plug, the works. It still runs beautifully and cuts the grass evenly and accurately because I have taken good care of it.

Uh-oh. I feel another analogy coming on. Sorry, I can't help myself.

Sometimes, when our lives get busily preoccupied with activities and friends and commitments and travel and such, our Christian walk kind of goes into storage for a while. Our attention to spiritual matters gets put into a remote section of our minds, and may even become totally forgotten. This can be especially true during the coming holiday season, as we get distracted by gift buying, socials, meal preparations, and vacations.

Just like that ol' lawn mower, our Christian walk needs an occasional rejuvenation. A recommitment to prayer, perhaps more involvement in ministry (SAM provides plenty of opportunity for that). Getting back to studying the Bible, hanging out with our fellow Christian men and women. Refocusing on worship, both public and private.

Is it time your spiritual life gets a tune up? Your relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior will run smoothly if you take good care of it. Hey, I even found a couple of verses in God's word that sort of fit this analogy. They are in Isaiah chapter 40, verses 6 & 7: "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass."

Yeah, that works, right? Think of God as the lawn mower of your life. He grooms you to be his special creation, a holy example for those around you to see, just as a beautiful lawn is admired by the entire neighborhood. Only make sure your spiritual carburetor doesn't get clogged.

What's that? Oh, yeah, you're probably right. That's one too many mower references. Should have quit while I was ahead. Sorry.



REMEMBERING SANDRA BEARDEN

By June Mathews

My friend, former neighbor, and fellow writer Sandra Bearden passed away on September 25 after a short illness. Even though she had grown increasingly frail over the past few years, I had always considered Sandra a tough little cookie. So the news that she had left us took me somewhat by surprise.

I had not spent much time with her in a while, and another writer friend and I were looking forward to taking her a meal and enjoying a visit when she got home from the hospital. It turned out to be one of those hard lessons in not putting things off.

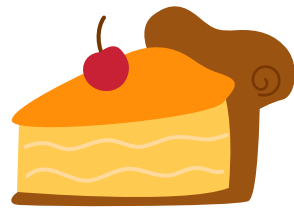
Sandra and I became friends through our mutual love of reading and writing. We were both members of the Friends of the Trussville Library and Alabama Media Professionals. We often attended the same meetings and served on the same committees together.

The two of us became co-authors in 2013 when we teamed up on a Trussville pictorial history book. With all the research and photo-collecting, not to mention the writing, the project took a lot of effort, but it was a great learning experience for both of us, and we were pleased with the results.

Early on, though, I learned that friendship with Sandra could be risky. Back then, she drove a humongous green car. I can't remember what kind it was – and I may not even be recalling the color correctly – but it was definitely big. When she offered me a ride to a writers' meeting in Pelham, I happily accepted. But a few miles down the road, I realized we had a problem. Sandra could hardly see over the steering wheel of that barge-like automobile and was largely guessing which lane was hers and which wasn't. My hair was standing on end by the time we got to our destination, and the thought of having to get back into that car for the return trip nearly made me ill. But despite a few bumps in the road – literally – we made it home in one piece.

Despite that one harrowing instance, however, I was privileged to know Sandra and will miss her quiet ways, giving nature, and the example she set for me as a writer and a friend. And knowing that she was a faithful believer and servant of God, I look forward to seeing her in Heaven one day.

But just in case God plans on sending Sandra to pick me up at the Pearly Gates, I'll be praying that her golden chariot isn't a green car.



Sandra Bearden was predeceased by her husband of 51 years, William "Bill" Bearden Jr. She is survived by daughter Ann Sutton, son-in-law Keith Sutton, granddaughters Jordan Sutton and Evan Sutton Carter, and grandson-in-law Matt Carter.

She earned her undergraduate degree and a master's degree with honors from the University of Alabama. After working as a writer for the Birmingham Post-Herald, she worked as a college professor at Samford University, as an editor at South Central Bell, and as a freelance writer.

An avid reader and writer, Sandra frequently volunteered at the Trussville Public Library as a member of the Friends of the Library group. She also enjoyed traveling.

Sandra was a member of First Baptist Church Trussville, where she faithfully served as church clerk and taught Sunday School for many years. Sandra was a constant contributor to our SAM Newsletter. In fact, the entire year prior to our 200th Anniversary Celebration she wrote a piece of our church's history each month for the Newsletter. The family suggested that donations in Sandra's memory be made to the church.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

Thanks giving

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Wednesday, November 15 • 4:30-6:00PM

Join us for our annual Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal here at FBCT.

FIRST THURSDAY: MEN PRAYING for their ONE

November 2 • 6:30 am • Worship Center



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

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



JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

Thursday, November 2

10:30AM • Fellowship Hall

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:30PM • Room D147



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

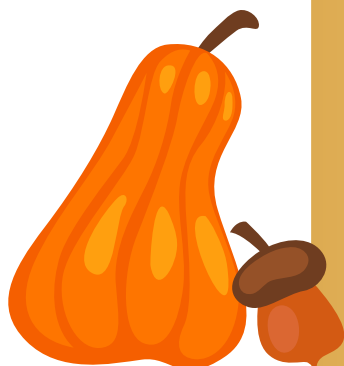
Sunday, November 5

(set clocks back one hour)

*What does a clock do when it's hungry?
It goes back four seconds.*

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 7



EDIBLE EDUCATION

November 9 • 11:30AM • Fellowship Hall • \$6

Guest: Abby McMurry Smith,

A fourth year resident at UAB in dermatology, will be joining us to talk about skin cancer, sun safety, and reveal a few tips about skin care.

Register [HERE](#)

MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, November 9 • 6:11AM • Gym

Invite a friend and join us.

VETERAN'S DAY

Saturday, November 11

Be sure to check out the display in our FBCT Library in honor of FBCT Veterans.

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

No regular monthly luncheon.

2024 SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

Annual meal tickets will go on sale in December.

Watch for details; coming out soon.

SMILE AWHILE...

Try this ... this is hysterical.

It is absolutely true.

Guess there are some things that the brain cannot handle.



1. While sitting in a chair, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.
2. Now, while doing this, draw the number '6' in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction.

I told you so! There is absolutely nothing you can do about it! You and I both know how stupid it is, but before the day is done you are going to try it again, if you've not already done so.

SAM 2023 YEAR – IN – REVIEW

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art. Eleanor Roosevelt

We endeavor here in our Year-in-Review to hit the highlights of 2023. It's been a good year, and, yes, a tough year for many. As our Joyful Hearts Choir has been leading us: we give our good, good God all the Glory, with grateful hearts. He has seen us through it all!

We are grateful for our new FBCT Homebound Care Ministry led by James Long. James, with the help of Chris Chambers and Jamie Chappell, have been working non-stop to get this ministry up and running. Thank you to those of you who has volunteered to serve in this ministry.

SAMers, because of your faithfulness in giving a total of \$2,200 to our blessing basket fund in 2023, our SAM Ministry has been able to bless so many in a variety of times of need and times of celebration this year. Thank you.

Bob



A LOOK BACK: 2023 PRAYER JOURNEYS

By Denny Rogers

To God be the Glory that because of God's Amazing Grace, and the faithful prayers of God's people, I was able to make seven journeys around the southeast in 2023. I would have made eight, but health issues made it impossible to travel. I did, however, put my hand on a map of the city of Atlanta and prayed scriptures over the city from my living room. Thank you Lord for 2023!

HEALTH & WELLNESS OPPORTUNITIES...

Many of our SAMers have taken advantage of opportunities throughout the year through our Health & Wellness and Edible Education programs here at FBCT.

The M3 Fall Prevention Program in March was one such information program. How many of us are aware of our fall risk or how that risk can impact our quality of life?

A "standout" from the Edible Education monthly programs was in September. Our own Dr. Drew Smith focused on mental health, including depression and anxiety, more common in all of our lives than ever before.



ELDER LAW ADVICE

By Susan Hornsby



This year in May, we were blessed to have Lynn Campisi as our guest speaker for our legal issues seminar on Elder Law. Ms. Campisi, specializes in Elder Law, Special Needs, and is an advocate for those with disabilities and people as they age.

She covered topics related to the role of caregiver for elderly parents or a child with disabilities. She clarified differences between a will, a living will, power of attorney, medical power of attorney and business power of attorney. She also covered the difference between a guardianship and conservatorship and when it is time to review or change your will.

The session was very well attended and many excellent questions were asked and answered. The program was organized by the SAM ministry but open to anyone; there were some "younger SAMers" in attendance.

We all enjoyed a nice lunch before the educational session began. Ms. Campisi was delightful to work with, and she refused an honorarium. So we made a contribution in her name to Alzheimer's of Central Alabama where she serves on the Board of Directors.

C HOW 2 LIVE BETTER

Our own Barbara Parkes began this ministry when she recognized that we have many who are visually impaired and might be in need of help and guidance. Sharing from her own experience with blindness, she brought helpful ideas and tips to groups who attended in sessions in April and August.

OUR SMALL GROUP CLASSES ENJOY LIFE TOGETHER.

If you are looking for a Small Group, check out www.fbctrussville.org/small-groups
OR speak with our attendants at the Event Desk on Sunday mornings.

Celebrating my Best Costume win at our FBCT small group's murder mystery party this evening. How 'bout that gigantic syringe? If it could squirt water, I would have gladly soaked Greg Key's back! 😂😂😂



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!

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

SAM Luncheons continue to provide us with outstanding special guests and the best meals around. Many thanks to our Mrs. Georgia and her team for feeding us so well!



- Our own **Kevin Grigsby** delighted us at the piano on April 27. What a great performance. At one point he played two songs at once: one with left hand, one with right hand. Wow!



The Homeland Trio: On Thursday, May 25 upwards of 200 of us enjoyed one of our favorites ... The Homeland Trio... and they enjoyed us: "We feel like we are at home here at FBCT." "We had a little "remember when" time, with golden oldies and Elvis and singing some good ole gospel songs. We were asked to "remember when He touched you and made you whole." "With an American medley, we remembered and gave tribute to all those who have served our country. "There is hope for America!" Then we had a time of remembrance in honor of those family and friends we've lost this past year here at FBCT. Thanks to those who prepared our burgers and hotdogs; to Clay Campbell for the yummy Smoothies; and also to Rachel Hill for giving our devotion. What a wonderful day outside under the "porta (whatever you call it)" by the fountain!



- We laughed alot this year! Couldn't help but laugh with **Comedians Brother Billy Bob Bohannon** in March; **Joe Hobby was HA-LAR-I-US!**; and **Kay DeKalb Smith** in September. Yes, EVERY LAUGH BEGINS WITH KAY!



SAM SERVES...

From Alaska to Thailand to Kenya and points in between.

SAMers worked a Campus Clean-up Day

on April 11. We washed walls, tables, moved furniture, and pressure washed outside, among other chores. We are so thankful for our church building and grounds!



SAMers VBS: Our SAMers continue to focus on building relationships with other age groups in our church. During VBS in June, we gathered in the church balcony and prayed for the children and youth during the time Matt Galloway shared the Gospel with them.

For the last 5 years our seasoned adults have provided breakfast and other snacks for the youth and adults working in VBS. It's also a time of fellowship with them.

We have our middle and high school students serve at our SAM Christmas banquet each year where our seasoned adults have opportunities to interact with them, and we tip them for their service. The money collected goes into providing assistance for them to pay for a youth mission trip or youth camp. We have also shared fellowship times with the Independence Place students.

Serve Our Schools: FBCT helps our schools prepare for the new school year. Our SAMers served alongside others in the church on projects at Chalkville, Magnolia, Grantswood, Cahaba, and Paine Elementary Schools.



CLCC Dinners: On the 4th Thursday of every month this year, our various SAM Small Group classes have served a dinner meal to the men at the CLCC.

SAM MISSION TRIP TO LOUISA AND BLAINE, KY, JULY 15-20.

"We just need to say yes to be used." A group of 25 SAMers said yes and travelled to serve in Kentucky with VBS, community picnic, and delivering food in Blaine. Donald Leopard has been saying yes, and thank you, to our Lord Jesus for many years

in this ministry to Blaine ... since 2004 to be exact.

The greatest need in that community is for food that can be sent home on the weekends with the children of Blaine Elementary School. We here at FBCT serve in this area through our missions ministry led by Chris Chambers. Chris and Donald have made several trips to Blaine to deliver food supplied by our WMU and others.

OH, THE GOODNESS OF GOD. God has supplied the money and needs have been met for these precious children.



JOYFUL HEARTS SINGERS & SAM VOCAL BAND

WE THANK YOU AND APPRECIATE YOU!



Writing about his dad, Ken said, "Music is what brought him to church. It's what connected him to God. Were it not for the wonderful choir, he might never have set foot in God's house and been exposed to biblical preaching.

*...
If you sing in a church choir or play an instrument during worship, it might bless you to know there are likely many people in attendance who are just like my dad. ... The music and the singing are the only things that pull their attention away from their problems and focus them on God. ... Your ministry through song is invaluable and irreplaceable. ...*

You smile and put your heart into each song. ... The preacher may bring the meal, but you set the table." Ken Lass "Lass Words – A Song for a Soul," October 4, 2023, The Alabama Baptist

All year, our Joyful Hearts Choir and the SAM Vocal Band have been singing God's music across our state and locally (including on April 29 as part of Trussville's Inaugural Heritage Days).



Kim Searcy, whose qualifications and experience in music make her the perfect fit, has come on board to assist Bob Smith in leading the Choir.

The Choir and SVB are grateful to John Davis for all the help he has been all year with the sound boards, stage set up, among many other tasks.

The Choir has just returned from what many in the choir tag the highlight of 2023 ... the Joyful Hearts choir tour. Suellen Edmondson and Barbara Patton write:

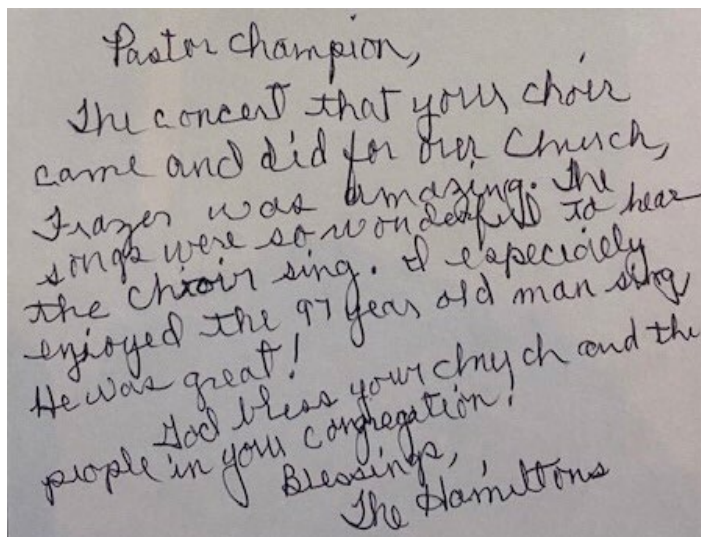
"We are all very grateful and feel very blessed to have been able to share the faithful love of God through music and testimony."

Fifty plus boarded a charter bus on Sunday afternoon, September 10. First stop was Webb Baptist in Webb, Alabama. After concert, the church provided supper and we then departed to Pensacola. We had a free day on Monday with some visiting a National Naval Museum, some visited the beach, and some just visited (cards were involved).



On Tuesday, we had a mid-morning concert at Olive Baptist followed by a gracious lunch from their senior adults. That evening we all went to dinner together at McGuire's Irish Pub which was interesting—they have over three million dollar bills lining the walls and ceiling of the restaurant. The IRS comes in every year to count it.

Then our marathon: we had two concerts, one in Bay Minette and one in Greenville on Wednesday, and two on Thursday in Montgomery.



One highlight of our trip was that many of our choir members had relatives and friends who lived close and came to our concert near them. We got to meet both of the Pattons' children and the grands. Our last stop was Frazer Church in Montgomery. We reconnected with Pastor John Ed Mathison who had been with us earlier in the summer. Frazer was the former home church of our own Bobby and Lynda Wilson.

Our sweet Gayle playing organ at 1st Baptist in Montgomery. She pulled out all the stops. Thank you, Gayle for all you do!



Another highlight of our concerts included our oldest member opening a song with a solo part—Eula Rose Ingram, age 93, and she nailed it every time.

We rolled into the welcomed sight of our church parking lot late Thursday night. It had been a good week ... we were fed well, we had ice cream, and we made Bob proud of us. Barbara Patton comments: Not sure, was this Don in prayer, or exhaustion!?

Joyful Hearts presented their homecoming music here at FBCT at Sunday morning services on September 24. Pastor Buddy read to us this message, mailed to him from a member of Frazer Church in Montgomery.



CONGRATULATIONS! AND THANK YOU, MIKE CARTER

By Judy Bryant

Mike Carter recently celebrated 50 years of teaching Sunday School. When I spoke with Mike he said, "Remember, Judy, the greatest pleasure in life is to join God while He is doing something."

I asked Mike if there were any special memories he would like to share. He said he truly enjoyed teaching the young married's classes. And he enjoys his current class of Seasoned Adults. Let's let some of them speak!



"Grace and I had the pleasure of meeting Mike and Wanda Carter about 6 years ago when we became members at FBCT. We were invited to attend their Sunday School class by friends who were long time class members. Mike is a warm and welcoming teacher with an offbeat sense of humor. Mainly, Mike has a passion to serve God and teach His word. We have been and continue to be blessed by the Carter class."

Don and Grace McConnell

"We were in Mike's college and career class and newly married class in the early 1990's. Mike was faithful and prepared to teach God's word every Sunday. He and Wanda were always investing their weekends taking trips to the beach, day trips and opening their home to us."

Jeff and Karen Roper

He had so many good lessons on finances, communication, temperament, and ways to love our spouse. He and Wanda would have our class over to their house for get-togethers, and it was always a special time of fellowship and fun. He was a wonderful teacher. My husband and I just got back from Greece, celebrating our 25th anniversary, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mike's heart for teaching and the foundation he helped us build in our marriage. "

Brad and Amy Crowe

"I remember Mike playing the Stevie Wonder song "For Once In My Life" in our young marrieds class to illustrate how we should feel about our spouses. I also remember him using a funny illustration about laundry, that he would put his dirty clothes in the laundry basket, and then magically in a day or so it would all reappear in his drawers, clean and folded. He was teaching us to appreciate the roles each spouse plays in the marriage, but it was a funny way to drive that point home."

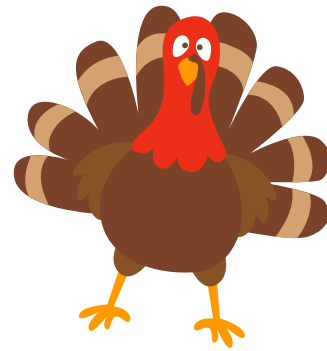
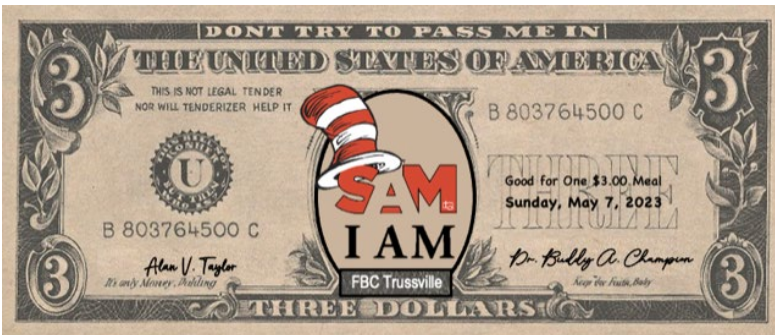
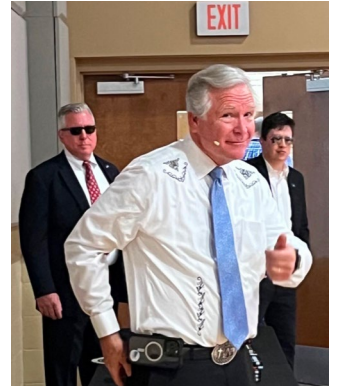
Chad and Monique Summers

SAM SPECIAL EVENTS AT HOME

- **W. Was Here:** "One of my favorite SAM Event speakers was John C. Morgan as George W. Bush on President's Day. February 20. He was funny, non-political and still had a message." ...Debra Roberts

- **Hosted ALABAMA SINGING MEN'S CONCERT** in April here at FBCT.

- **SEASONED ADULT DAY AT FBCT**, Sunday, May 7; our Joyful Hearts Choir and SAM Vocal Band lead in the morning service, then lunch was served in Gym for the terrific price of \$3.00!



- **FOURTH ANNUAL LELAND DOCKERY CRUISE-IN**

Here at FBCT on Saturday, June 3; what a beautiful day, 200 cars in show; and a great crowd.



- **JUNE MIDWEEK SERVICES** every Wednesday/Thursday in June were packed full of inspirational music by The Kellys, our own Kevin Grigsby on the piano, and our SAM Vocal Band; then the excellent preaching by Heath Harrelson, Dr. John Ed Mathison and Dr. Gregory Frizzell.

- **Hosted FRANK JONES MINISTRIES OASIS 2023** on Thursday, July 13 here at FBCT; Frank Jones, Allison Speer, and Dennis Swanberg were inspiring.

Go ahead and put the 2024 OASIS program on your calendars! It is scheduled for July 18, 2024 here at FBCT and will feature Karen Peck and New River.



SAM SUNDAY STROLL

Sunday, July 30 Picnic at Searcy Farms, Springville, AL

Despite the rather stormy day, the afternoon hosted by our own Stephen & Kim Searcy on their 150 acre Christian-based outdoor recreation area was great fun. We are never too old to have fun! The burgers were outstanding; dancing and singing along with the talented Highway 11 band was "swinging"; and we had the most elaborate "outhouse" you've ever seen, built by our own Donald Leopard. What a good day!

COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY CONCERT

Friday, September 8 • FBCT

Our Worship Center was full; folks travelled from cities in Alabama and from outside our state. The entire family blessed us with their God-given talents, not only for singing, but they all play a musical instrument. In fact, they played instrumental Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. Eight-year-old granddaughter, Emma, sang "Grandpa, tell me about the good ole days." It was easy to see that this family believes and lives the statement, "Where he is lifted up, people are saved." Matthew 6:33

The family's matriarch, Kim Collingsworth, asked Bob Smith to sing the National Anthem. He was magnificent. Kim was overjoyed to play on our Fazioli piano, and we certainly enjoyed the way her fingers danced across the ivories with such grace and power; her whole body was filled with the Holy Spirit. In addition to her tribute to Rogers & Hammerstein, her Medley from The Sound of Music was a standout. Kim's piano close, the Hallelujah Chorus was absolutely inspiring.



SAM ON THE ROAD AGAIN

SAM MEN'S GOLF RETREAT

September 24-26 • RTJ Cambrian Ridge, Greenville, AL

Pretty much says it all when all 16 golfers on this trip return only to be eagerly awaiting next year's event! For the tournament, they were divided into two teams: Team Courage and Team Strong. The team that won the tournament got steaks for the Champions Dinner, the losers got chopped steaks. Let's just say they all won ... they came home tired, happy, especially with the fellowship, well fed, and full of praise to Gary Hollingsworth for sharing a Bible study and to Bob Smith for setting up the trip.

Congratulations to Lynn Bonner! a/k/a ACE! Until next year, he holds bragging rights! Enjoy his story, in his own words.

My hole-in-one was on hole # 8 on the Canyon course. The hole was 139 yards completely over a lake with a sand trap with the hole located on the front of the green. I used a 4 hybrid to make sure I got over the water and sand trap. The ball went long and struck the ridge behind the hole. It popped up and then began to slowly roll back down the ridge toward the hole.

I could tell it was heading toward the hole ... I began to yell "Get in the hole." I saw the ball roll down the slope and disappear into the hole. That was very exciting because the only other hole-in-one I've made was to an elevated green; I didn't get to see it go in the hole.

It was great to have this happen with a group from my church. When I yelled "Get in the hole" two of the grounds keepers nearby looked and saw the ball go in the hole. They drove over to the green and joined our group to get the ball out of the hole. I think they were as excited as we were. One of them took the photo of the four of us on the green.

While getting a hole-in-one was great, the time spent with the SAM group of men, along with the Bible study with Gary Hollingsworth, was far more rewarding.



CELEBRATOR'S CONFERENCE

October 16 -19 • LeConte Lodge, Pigeon Forge, TN

By Diane Poole

With such names on the program as Candace Cameron Bure, Ricky Skaggs, Tim Lovelace, Charles Billingsley and others, how could one not be thoroughly blessed? Our group of almost 70 SAMers certainly was.

We heard a one-on-one interview with Candace Cameron Bure about her experience sharing her faith through The Great American Family Channel. We saw great entertainers such as Keith and Kristin Getty, Charles Billingsley, The Booth Brothers, the Thomas Road Baptist Church Choir with over 100 voices (from Virginia), comedian Tim Lovelace, and Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder.

We heard wonderful messages from Dr. Phil Waldrep, whose organization puts together this 4-day event. We stayed at the Grand LeConte Lodge, WOW! We appreciate our bus drivers who picked us up, dropped us off, everywhere we needed to go. At the Lodge we had a wonderful commercial kitchen, enjoyed all our meals, and enjoyed some awesome fellowship!! Thank you so much to our chefs, David Gay and David and Lisa Byars!

We were especially blessed when we were surprised with the opportunity to hang out with Tim Lovelace at the Lodge, including a little private showtime as well. He is hilarious. We enjoyed so much the opportunity to meet and talk with him.

