

SAM

SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY

SERVING THE GREAT

I AM

FBC TRUSSVILLE

OCTOBER 2023

FILL MY CUP, LORD

Words and Music by Richard E. Blanchard, Sr.

*Like the woman at the well
I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy
And then I heard my Savior speaking
"Draw from My well that never shall run dry"*

*There are millions in this world
Who are craving
The pleasures, earthly things of gold
But none can match the wondrous treasure
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord*

*Fill my cup, Lord
I lift it up, Lord
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul
Bread of Heaven, feed me 'til I want no more
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole
Here's my cup, fill it up and make me whole*

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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.

"GOD'S LOVE IS IMMEASURABLE! IT IS INFINITE!
GOD GIVING US THE HOLY SPIRIT TO FILL OUR
HEARTS WITH LOVE MAKES ME THINK OF
ATTEMPTING TO POUR THE VASTNESS OF AN
OCEAN INTO A TEACUP!"

Pastor Thom Fowler, November 16, 2022



Kids trick-or-treat and want to come back home with bags filled to the brim with their treats. So full that they would even share the overflow!

Starbucks lovers go for a cup (Grande size) of their favorite: PSL (Pumpkin Spice Lattes), and they want it strong, spicy and sweet. So much so that if others see how much that drink is spicing up their lives, they will want one too!

We golfers play and continue to play as often as we can just to achieve the elusive hole-in-one.

You can bet we'll be telling everyone about the joy of experiencing the ultimate!

Imagine that your cup is empty. Like the woman at the well, what are you thirsting for? Are you simply tolerating life?

Jesus said to the woman at the well after He asked her for a drink of water: If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, "Give Me a drink," you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water...Whoever drinks of this water [from the well] will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. John 4:10,13-14

What is this gift?

God's Grace

Author Phillip Yancey wrote in his book "What's So Amazing About Grace?" that grace is "the last best word."

And why is it so amazing?

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

...It will satisfy every longing, and it's more than enough; in fact, it will overflow into every area of your life.

...Despite who you are, what you look like, or what you've done in your life, good or bad, you can receive it. It's for everyone and anyone who will humble themselves before God and receive it.

...It's free; the heavy price has already been paid for your sin.

...It's not finite; it's infinite: It comes from our Almighty and Everlasting Father!

...This precious gift of God's great love to us undeserving earthlings trumps everything and anything anyone can offer.

For this Amazing Grace, I will surely go and share with the world that Heaven came down and glory filled my soul!

Bob

LET THE WORDS OF CHRIST ENRICH YOUR LIFE. Colossians 3:16

By Judy Bryant.

SAMers were treated to another amazing talent at our August 24 Monthly Luncheon. Shannon Smith claims Colossians 3:16 as he begins his performances. His family picture gives some clue as to why he refers to himself as self-proclaimed "vertically challenged" at 5'7". Don't let that fool you; he has a remarkable voice! He is most recently retired lead singer for the group Three Bridges, but also shared with us that in the 1960s he was lead singer in the top Christian group The Imperials (even sang backup with Elvis a few times)!



In addition to that voice, Smith has a sense of humor. Just ask Barbara Patton to tell you his dog at the bar joke!

At one point in his performance, Smith was joined by Pinson native Jeremie Hudson, who Smith referred to as "my brother from another mother." This talented duo has been singing together in different groups for 19 years.

Smith has had training in opera. He shined in his Italian rendition of "Nessun Dorma." He said he noticed that Derrell Morrison (at the table in front of the stage) sang along (quietly) every word. This song is an aria from Puccini's opera Turandot. The song brought to our memories our own choir and four tenors singing in 2019 Christ is Born (Nessun Dorma, English version).

The longest song, and one Smith says he does not sing in concert often (because of its length), came straight from his soul and has held me captive ever since he introduced it to us. Smith recorded "In the Early Morning" in the 1990s, and it is on his usb album He Has Something to Say. One of his former voice coaches wrote the song for a musical he was writing that was unfortunately never published, as far as we know. The music as Smith so passionately sang it, and the words written so profoundly, draws me into the place where Jesus went in holy communion with our Father.

Smith ended his program with God, Bless America. Well done!

Smith's personal testimony, usb albums, as well as his newsletter, can be found on his website: www.officialshannonsmith.com.

IN THE EARLY MORNING

Desperate times, desperate ways
Empty lives blown through endless days
Where's the calm in the storm
Evil preys, thoughts are torn
Battles rage, endless voices roar.
Where does peace ever come,
quiet peace ever come?

Restless minds, restless hearts
Wounded souls time has pulled apart
Where does healing begin?
When does healing begin?
From afar, from within
What we are, what we might have been
Where's the meaning in life?
Where's the glory in life?

In the early morning, in the darkness
He went to be alone with the Father.
Deep within He hungered for the holy
treasure of the presence
The hour ... there in blessed silence, lov-
ing union, Jesus worshipped
Praying with His Father in the place where
life begins
There in blessed communion, loving
union, Jesus worshipped
There He met the Father in the first hour
of the day
In the early morning, in the darkness
shone Glory!
In the early morning, in the darkness,
shone Glory!

MEN ON MISSION 2023

By Craig Copham.

There are three SAMers we recognize as having perfect, or near perfect, "attendance" serving on our Men on Mission construction trips since 1983, the first year FBCT became involved in the annual trips.

Bob Wood, who now heads the Men on Mission group, and George Peoples, who just this last December was recognized as Deacon Emeritus at FBCT, have missed very few of the 39 trips and have been strong, faithful workers and advocates for this ministry.

Bobby Page is at 100%; he's made every one of the 39 trips! In the 2023 MOM Yearbook, Bobby wrote: "As a professional builder, I was asked to oversee the construction activities of the Men on Mission that began in 1983 with 35 men. This was the first major leadership role I had taken in the church, and I realized through my God-given talents in construction I did have something to offer God in the realm of service. I also have repeatedly witnessed that everyone has some talent or ability that they can use in service to God. These spiritual gifts may not be teaching a Sunday school class or singing in the choir, but there is a place for everyone to serve."

This ministry is not only about serving God's churches on construction projects all over the US, but it is also about friends old and new connecting as they work side-by-side. That connection includes many of our young men and boys, learning and working alongside fathers, mentors and friends.

Men on Mission is about serving each other as well. What a great photographer we have in Ron Burkett, helping to memorialize these trips; and the group of men who cook the meals ... Wow!

On the construction project daily devotions are shared, and prayer together is a strength builder for each of the workers.

Why do these men give their time, energy and resources each year on these trips? They will tell you, "Because it is All About Him!" Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

Brothers in Christ, we invite any of you who would like to, to join us for next year's mission. Our trips are always the week before Father's Day. You can read more about our 2023 trip online at www.fbctrussville.org in the July SAM Newsletter.



A NOTE FROM CHRIS CHAMBERS:

Thank You Bobby Page, Bob Wood and George Peoples for your faithful service to lead the MOM for so many years. You have touched lives across the United States not only by your willingness to build but living out your testimony that has reached so many for the Kingdom. Thank You.



WMU BUSY AS BEES 2023

By Sue Richards.

We have all heard that phrase, "Busy As A Bee" to describe someone who stays busy – always doing something, never sitting still. Well, those glorious creatures that God made to pollinate our world perfectly describe our WMU ladies.

These are only highlights..... our WMU ladies are ALWAYS busy. They are smart shoppers and look for bargains so they can help more people with the money that is donated. They really are the hands and feet of Jesus.

Thank you to our leader, Shirley Lyle; to each of the ladies who serve; and to each and every one of YOU who contribute needed items and funds throughout the year!

Highlights for 2023:

January: Collected over 200 pairs of shoes, socks and underwear and sent to children in Blaine, KY; took blankets to TEAM; made and delivered 5 Sunshine baskets and collected several boxes of school supplies to share with a second grade class at Central Park Elementary.

February: Assembled and delivered 70 hygiene kits to Serving You Ministries; collected over \$1,200 in gift cards for the Miller House at Big Oak Ranch; made and delivered 10 Sunshine baskets.

March: Assembled 50 washcloth and soap bags to be used in hygiene kits and 40 make-up/hygiene kits for teen girls Christmas backpacks; made and delivered 3 Sunshine baskets.

April: Furnished, prepared and served the Holy Week meal at Trussville Methodist Church with 165-180 in attendance; donated to Positive Choices: 2 boxes of new clothes and shoes, 35 packs of baby wipes, 50 mini-hygiene kits, and a \$100 car seat.

May: General meeting where they assembled 50 special hygiene kits for Robison Youth Revival in Tarrant; furnished snacks for VBS group from our church going to Mississippi; collected and sent over 115 pairs of new shoes to Mississippi/Brother Joe Young; delivered 2 Sunshine baskets.

June: Put together 2 patriotic baskets for 3 Hots & A Cot to show love and appreciation for our veterans; also gave them a \$100 gift card to use for their needs list; Assembled 50 more hygiene kits for Robison Youth in Tarrant; delivered 100 hygiene kits to Brother Andy Crew for youth revival in August.

Since July: We have over 300 school backpacks ready to go.... more on the way!

Christmas Backpack Ministry to Mississippi Delta: food items, candy, Bible or devotion book, 2 items of new clothing and a toy. For most of these kids, this backpack is the only Christmas they have.

There is a NEW project this year: Christmas Hygiene Kits for Vets at 3 Hots. \$25 Walmart gift card, fun stuff, blanket and toys for them to give their grandkids. The ladies will really appreciate any \$25 Walmart gift cards you could donate.

In November, let's support our WMU ladies by participating in their Christmas Stocking program. They will supply a list of needed items to be included in stockings which are given to children in shelters at Christmas.



A NOTE FROM CHRIS CHAMBERS:

Thank You WMU for your willingness to always step up to help others. There has never been a time that when I called for help you ladies were not always ready and willing. Your faithfulness to "Reach the World" for Jesus is evident through your spirit of giving of your time and resources. It is an honor to serve with you in reaching the Kingdom for Christ. Thank You.

• HOW TO BE •

SAM ts SATIONAL!

with KEN LASS

It's nearly impossible for me to watch my favorite team play football without having some sort of issue somewhere along the way with the officiating. It's either "How could he miss that call?" or "How in the world could he make that call?" No matter what they decide, if it goes against my team, the officials are obviously incompetent or have been paid off to throw the game.

The job of the official has been made even more open to criticism since the advent of instant replay. Slow motion cameras everywhere, endlessly measuring frame-by-frame whether the player's foot was in bounds, or whether he had possession of the ball, or whether he has crossed the goal line. Yet the official has but a split second to make the same decision in real time.

Decisions that are subjective, such as personal fouls, are not reviewable by replay. The official's call stands, regardless. This can be even more frustrating for fans, who know there is no recourse if the judgment goes against their beloved players. This may cause them to vent even more venom toward the rule enforcers.

As a young man, I did some low level officiating, and I can tell you, it's a thankless job. No matter what you decide, somebody will be unhappy. You simply can't please everybody. Yet you must make a decision. There were times when I knew I had gotten the call correct, but the players and their supporters were still brutally critical. Eventually, I concluded I didn't have the stomach for it, and I abandoned officiating.

What the folks in the striped shirts go through on the field is a little bit like trying to live a Christian life in a world growing increasingly secular. There are times when there

is a moral decision to make, and we know if we make the right one, it won't fit with current cultural trends. We'll be ridiculed and called prudish, old fashioned, holier than thou, arrogant, condescending. We know we've made the right call, the godly choice, but the result is criticism, not praise.

A football official has to have a strong sense that justice has been properly observed by his decision, even if nobody in the stadium or on television seems to acknowledge it. As Christians, we must have a strong sense that God's will for our lives has been served when we go against the flow of popular thought to continue to live according to biblical principles.

Fortunately, God's word is full of such encouragement. In the 31st chapter of Deuteronomy, God says "be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." First Corinthians 16:13 states "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong." In Philippians 1:20 Paul writes "I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death."

So the next time you are tempted to stand up in your living room and throw a pillow at the football official on the TV screen, remember he is just trying to summon up the courage to do what he thinks is right. Give him some good ole Christian mercy and forgiveness.

Unless of course, his decision costs your team the game. In that case, he is obviously a bum.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FALL BIRTHDAYS

Submitted by Ann Havicus

Today Dear Lord, I'm 80 and
There's much I haven't done.
I hope Dear Lord, you'll let me live
Until I'm 81.
But then I haven't finished
All I want to do.
Would you let me stay awhile
Until I'm 82?
So many places I want to go,
So very much to see.
Do you think you could manage to make it 83?
The world is changing very fast,
There is so much in store,
I'd like it very much to live
Until I'm 84.
And then if I'm still alive,
I'd like to stay til 85.
More planes will be up in the air
So I'd really like to stick
And see what happens in the world
When I'm 86.
I know Dear Lord it's much to ask
(and it must be nice in Heaven),
But I would really like to stay
until I'm 87.
I know by then I won't be fast
And sometimes will be late,
But it will be so pleasant
To be around at 88.
I will have seen so many things
And had a wonderful time
So I'm sure that I'll be willing
To leave at 89 ... Maybe!!



THANKSGIVING SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE

Submitted by Debra Roberts

NOV 1	PSALM 107:1
NOV 2	1 CHRONICLES 29:13
NOV 3	DANIEL 2:23
NOV 4	PSALM 95:2-3
NOV 5	PHILIPPIANS 4:6
NOV 6	PHILEMON 1:4
NOV 7	PSALM 100:4
NOV 8	ISAIAH 12:4
NOV 9	1 THESSALONIANS 5:18
NOV 10	PSALM 106:1
NOV 11	COLOSSIANS 3:16
NOV 12	HEBREWS 12:28
NOV 13	PSALM 118:1-8
NOV 14	PSALM 69:30
NOV 15	PSALM 105:1
NOV 16	COLOSSIANS 4:2
NOV 17	PSALM 28:7
NOV 18	REVELATION 7:12
NOV 19	JEREMIAH 33:11
NOV 20	EPHESIANS 5:20
NOV 21	COLOSSIANS 3:15
NOV 22	LUKE 22:19
NOV 23	JONAH 2:9
NOV 24	REVELATION 4:9-11
NOV 25	PSALM 75:1
NOV 26	DANIEL 6:10
NOV 27	PSALM 136:1-3
NOV 28	2 CORINTHIANS 1:11
NOV 29	PSALM 30:12
NOV 30	REVELATION 11:17

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

October 2 • 10:00 AM • Room D142

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

Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org



FIRST THURSDAY:

MEN PRAYING for their ONE

October 5 • 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



JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

Thursdays, October 5 & 19

10:30AM • Fellowship Hall

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Room D147



COLUMBUS DAY

Monday, October 9, 2023

EDIBLE EDUCATION

October 12 • 11:30AM • Fellowship Hall • \$6
Guest: Dr. Drew Smith, speaking on the subject
of depression, anxiety, and the importance of
mental health.

Register [HERE](#)



MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, October 12 • 6:11AM • Gym

Invite a friend and join us.



CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

October 16 -19 • Pigeon Forge, TN

Let us know if you want to join us!

Call Debbie Arrington at 205-228-1006.



SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, October 26 • 10:30AM • Gym • \$7

Special Guest: Sam Banana & The Bunch

Don't miss this fun doo-wop group (from the
original Warblers of WHS) who have been together
singing and having fun since 1992.

Reserve your spot with the SAM office:

Debbie Arrington at 205-228-1006

OR use your SAM meal card

FIFTH SUNDAY COMMUNITY SING

Sunday, October 29

FALL FAMILY NIGHT

Tuesday, October 31 • FBCT



SAVE THE DATE!

2nd Annual FBCT Women's Conference
Friday & Saturday, January 26-27, 2024

Featured speaker: Whitney Capps

Watch for more info to come!

THANK YOU, PASTOR BUDDY!



On Sunday, August 27 our church recognized Pastor Buddy Champion on his 17th anniversary as our pastor. As Pastor Appreciation Day approaches on October 8, 2023, our own Susan Minor offers this prayer on behalf of all of us here at FBCT.

Father God, we come before You this day thanking you for the many blessings in our lives. One of the greatest blessings is placing us in the body of believers at FBCT. October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and we lift up our great pastor, Buddy Champion before You.

He is such a blessing to us all. Bless him, give him wisdom and knowledge as he shepherds us. Bless his family. Fill him afresh with your Holy Spirit as he preaches your Word, equipping us, the body of believers at FBCT for the work of Your ministry and the edifying of the body of Christ.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU...

“homily” (hom•i•ly): a religious discourse that is intended primarily for spiritual edification rather than doctrinal instruction.

The perfect example of a homily was a talk / speech given by Dr. Gary Fenton at a recent fundraiser luncheon held by the Legacy League. The program listed Dr. Fenton as bringing the Homily. At the podium, the first thing he said, “So, you are asking, what is a homily?!” His definition: a short sermon. A homily is a talk or speech given by a religious figure, not necessarily to a congregation in church, sometimes more casual. The talk is usually based on a certain scripture.

Dr. Fenton’s title was “Do I Have to Grow Up?” His answer: Yes and No. Yes, we must respect and handle our adult responsibilities. But also, look what Jesus says in Matthew 19:14.

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” In other words, we must also guard our hearts and minds not to become hard, but protect our childlike faith and humility before God. See also Matthew 18:3-4.

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

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