



AUGUST 2021



Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman walketh but in vain.

Psalm 127:1

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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.

NOW HIRING...

If someone asked me what the sign of our times would be, right now I would have to say **NOW HIRING!** These signs are everywhere! Have you seen the TV segments of Hometown Takeover? I had the pleasure to serve as the minibus driver for the ladies in Connie Boone's small group class a couple of weeks ago. We were off to check out the restorations made last year in the town of Wetumpka by Erin and Ben Napier (HGTV stars of "Hometown" from Laurel, MS) and other HGTV stars of home makeover notoriety. As part of the Wetumpka makeover, a new sign was painted at the Coaches Corner restaurant. The sign is intended to help draw people to the restaurant. (Couldn't help but include this sign here. Must've been designed by a Baptist!)



SIGNS are the THING these days. We find them all over walls with words, on billboards along the road, in yards and on streets, and murals are painted on the sides of buildings in cities and towns across America. Signs remind us or cheer us, entice us to buy something, make us laugh and even make us hungry! Reminds me of an old song (that should not surprise you): Sign, sign, everywhere a sign?! Blockin' out the scenery, breakin' my mind; do this, don't do that; can't you read the sign? ... And the sign said "Everybody welcome, come in, kneel down and pray"; but when they passed around the plate at the end of it all, I didn't have a penny to pay; so I got me a pen and a paper and I made up my own little sign. I said, "Thank you, Lord, for thinkin' 'bout me. I'm alive and doin' fine." ("The Five Man Electric Band" 1971)

Our own wonderful city, Trussville, Alabama, is going through a makeover right now. When I saw this picture of our new city clock, I was struck by a "sign." The hands on the clock read 3:25 pm and immediately my mind took me to 3:20, Revelation 3:20 that is. RESTORATION (or a makeover), both physical and spiritual, is also indeed relevant and a "thing" these days!

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20

No doubt, COVID is real and rises up amongst us once again. Make this your time to invite Him in and spend some time with Him.

Bob

"Put your energy into enjoying My Presence and looking for the good that can still be found on this earth. Use your gifts to shine My Light into all the places I lead you." Jesus Calling July 23, 2021

RON CARROLL TO BE HONORED ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

By Sue Richards

Play Ball! And that's exactly what Ron Carroll has been doing for over 53 years. Growing up at The Baptist Children's Home in Troy, Alabama, Ron liked baseball as a kid and enjoyed playing high school ball, but in 1968 he got "serious" about playing ball and joined an organized team.

Getting "serious" has meant playing in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina and Texas, just to name a few. Probably the longest distance travelled has been to Plano, Texas ... a bit over 650 miles.

His true calling is 'soft pitch' ball, and the position he enjoys most is pitching. His least favorite is playing outfield.

One of the most memorable tournaments was played in Plano, Texas – a National Tournament – held in 2001 – the year of 9/11. Very emotional time. They won!

Ron retired from Alabama Power in November 2010 with 46 years of service. He started out as a lineman and retired as a Troubleman. He played recreational softball on an Alabama Power sponsored team during his time with the company. A little over a year after he was employed by Alabama Power, he was drafted into the Army on his 21st birthday and served a year in Vietnam.

Currently Ron is a member of four different teams and plays at least three times a week. Two Senior Leagues, our church team, and an Over 75 Travel Team....sometimes with double headers. The Senior League has won 4 major Championships! Ron notes that the "Senior guys have a few different rules: Only 5 runs per inning are allowed, there are two home plates, there is no sliding, and 'no contact' plays. Each of these is intended to minimize possible injury. Regardless, there is still a 'friendly' level of 'rivalry' between the opposing teams; after all, it is still a competitive game."

Being a member of the team at FBCT, Ron plays with guys who are younger than he is....some in their twenties, thirties, forties, etc. He also plays with some men who are older than he is. On the Senior team, some guys are in their eighties.

When Ron attends reunions at The Children's Home, everyone brings bats and gloves, and they have a pick-up game.

The reason for his long-term dedication to playing softball is simple: he loves the sport and the camaraderie. There are all different types of personalities as well as occupations on the teams. Inside the lines, the professions disappear and they all become 'ballplayers' regardless of their background or occupation.

Playing in so many places has provided an opportunity to make many friends all over the Southeast. When games are over, sometimes 6 – 8 couples will go out to dinner. The size

of these tournaments provides an economic boom. In fact, Dalton, GA gives gifts to the wives at these tournaments. Ron and Cindy agree that they have met some of the nicest people in the world.

If he didn't play softball, what would he be doing? Ron chuckled and said, "A lot of "honey-do"! Maybe a little golf or fishing.

During the years of playing, Ron has been injured a few times but that didn't stop him. Probably the worst injury was when he took a line drive to his shin. Cindy had to dress the wound for nine weeks ... but he kept playing.

When the games are over, his teams have a Circle of Prayer out on the field. He and Cindy have seen this change over the years ... more and more opposing teams are now joining them on the field. In the past, there were some who just stayed in the dugout even though they were invited to pray. Softball has definitely been a tool for outreach. Some men who didn't come to church before softball, now attend!

Ron has been nominated to the Central Alabama Softball Association Hall of Fame. To receive this honor, one must be nominated by someone already in the Hall of Fame. Only 5 – 8 people are nominated. The men and their wives will be honored at a very nice banquet on August 21.

It goes without saying that Ron could not play without support from Cindy ... Ron feels blessed that Cindy "let" him play all these years. Even though sometimes it was not easy with 2 kids at home, she always supported him.

Once, the Travel Team was in Texas, and it was HOT. Some of the wives decided to go to the mall and cool off. Several of the ladies had worn their "Cheerleader Chicks" shirts. Well, as they were sitting in the mall, a man walked by several times and kinda stared at them. Finally, when Cindy got up to get a soft drink, the man approached and asked her "What is the deal with your shirts?" Cindy said, "It's really nothing – just several retired Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders getting together to shop." Needless to say, the gentleman was speechless.

Nowadays, the younger wives refer to the senior wives as "Bleacher Babes."

Ron and Cindy Carroll – to know them is to love them!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

THE ARK ENCOUNTER (9/13-15 in KY)

August 1, 2021

FINAL PAYMENTS DUE BY THOSE ATTENDING

We have secured an additional ten rooms and we have extended the "Early Bird Price" to August 15. After August 15 the Prices will increase \$50 and Registration will close on September 1. If you register after August 1, you will need to make full payment with registration. The August 1 date will remain for FULL PAYMENT and NO REFUNDS AFTER AUGUST 1.



AUGUST IS BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH

Thank you to all the Seasoned Adults who came to serve on June 30 and July 1 at Cahaba, Magnolia, HT Middle School, HT High School and the Alternative Learning Center (ALC), helping to open computers, clean and wrap power cord chargers and other chores.



THE CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

September 1, 2021

(10/11-14 in Pigeon Forge, TN)

JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

Thursdays, August 5 & 19 • 10:30AM

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, August 26 • 10:30AM • Worship Center

Special Guest: Guy Anderson, Associate Pastor Music/
Senior Adults

Elkdale Baptist Church, Selma, AL

Lunch following • \$6 per person

FIFTH SUNDAY NIGHT COMMUNITY SINGING

Sunday, August 29

4:00-5:30PM • Worship Center

Come join us for a fun time of singing. This is intended to be a SAM Community event. Please invite your friends and neighbors who are not a part of FBCT.



With the upcoming school year upon us, Bob Hicks shares with us an amusing story about a Fifth Grade teacher in a Christian school who asked her class to look at TV commercials (signs, if you will) and see if they could use them in 20 ways to communicate ideas about God. Here's one we really liked:

God is like.

DIAL SOAP

Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?

Not receiving our SAM newsletters? If you haven't already responded to the letter mailed out last February by our SAM Leadership Team regarding your preference for receiving the newsletter, please contact Debbie Arrington in the SAM office at 205-228-1006 or email her at debbie@fbctrussville.org. Everyone for whom we have an email address will continue to receive the newsletters by email; however, if any of you prefer to have a paper copy mailed to you each month, let Debbie know. We will be happy to mail one to you!



"I assure you," He said, "unless you are converted and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3

Sharon and I were recently blessed with the birth of a new grandchild. As I held the infant in my arms, I am always amazed at how babies enter the world in complete helplessness. When they open their eyes, they are seeing things for the very first time. I can only imagine how they must wonder what these strange people and objects all around them are. They have to learn everything from scratch, even the parts of their own body. I watch in wonderment as he explores his hands and fingers, and literally has to figure out how they work, how he can use them to actually grasp an object or squeeze your finger. His very existence is totally dependent on those who will love him and take care of him.

It strikes me that a newborn's condition is not all that different from us in our walk with the Almighty God. Upon accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior, we are promised to be filled with the Holy Spirit. For the first time, we open our eyes and begin to see the world through God's perspective. We see pain and suffering, loss of life, dishonesty, immorality and hate. It's all around us. Like that newborn, we don't understand any of it. Slowly, we begin to explore our own talents and abilities, figuring out how to use them, and, through the Lord's guidance, we begin to see how we can be of service to others in a way that honors Him. And we become profoundly aware that, just as with a newborn, we are totally dependent on God for survival. We can't succeed without his grace to rise up every day and continue on.

In terms of our earthly age, we may be considered "seasoned adults," but we are all just in the infancy of our potential to serve our Lord and Master. In Matthew 18, verse 3, Jesus tells us it's okay if we don't understand the world around us. In fact, He doesn't even expect us to. He just wants us to come to Him with complete trust and faith, in the way that a newborn baby trusts that there will be food and clothing and love from somewhere, though he surely doesn't understand from where.

I wonder what life will be like for my new grandson. I will pray every day that, no matter where fate takes him, he will find his way to Jesus. And I sincerely hope that you experience, in your walk with God, a newborn rebirth of your trust and faith in His path for your life, a path that does not end until He calls us home.

HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

Give us a sign!

When Jesus comes on the scene in His earthly ministry, the scribes and Pharisees said "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You," continually testing Him. Jesus would sigh in His spirit, "why does this generation demand a sign"?

We all want proof ... prove to us by a sign and we will believe. Makes one think of Gideon throwing out a fleece before He would trust God. His faith was imperfect; he was looking to feelings or some other sign instead of the Word of God.

We have taken a great step toward maturity when we trust God without relying on our feelings. It is more of a blessing when we believe without experiencing any emotion, for a faith that believes God and His Word when the circumstances, emotions, appearances, people, and all human reason all seem to urge something to the contrary. May God grant us faith to completely trust His Word, even when every other sign points the other way. Paul said it: "keep up your courage men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me." Acts 27:25 C.H.P.

There is no mention by name of the Scribes and Pharisees in Jesus's High Priestly Prayer to the Father in John 17, only those who had believed that Jesus was from God. The culmination of the 3 ½ years of Jesus's earthly ministry is summed up in this prayer. All those lives that He touched, and they were healed, they were forgiven like the woman of the city who was a sinner with no name. She showed great courage as she entered the home of a Pharisee, the most beautiful expression of repentance when she knelt at Jesus feet washing them with her tears, anointing Him with perfume and oil. The Pharisee couldn't believe it, and yet the sign that they had been looking for was right there, sitting in his home. Jesus had to go into detail to let Simon the Pharisee know that this woman whose sins were many was forgiven, for she loved much. This woman who has been identified as the sinner understood who was in her midst; she saw hope for her bondage, she was willing to come into a room filled with men to the One who could heal her. Jesus was the sign sent from God that says to the woman "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

THANKFUL FOR 200 YEARS, LORD WE WILL REMEMBER The work of your hands.

A word from Pastors Richard Francis and Buddy Champion

In the time capsule left to FBCT on July 14, 1971, to be opened on this our 200th anniversary July 14, 2021, Dr. Richard Francis enclosed a letter of challenge to our church today. His letter was dated July 11, 1971. In our Celebration services, Pastor Buddy presented Dr. Francis' challenge and his own challenge to us. It is not about us; it is all about HIM. Actually, he said, it is about them = those who need to hear about Jesus. Ends up, it is about us: we must remain faithful to our Sovereign God and we must continue to share the one true Gospel and God's love, wherever He leads us. Refer to the book of Jude. Verse 3 ... "Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Wow, we have been here a long time haven't we?!

The Legacy Luncheon held on Sunday, July 18 to recognize 50+ year members was so special. Lynn and I sat at a table with Rick and Belinda Davis, Julie Davis and Billy Morrison; we referred to ourselves as the youth group! But wait, when Frank Jones, who was our entertainment for the event, played a medley of old songs and challenged us to see how many titles we could remember, there was a group across the room who had NO clue of the identity of most of the songs! Of course, I'm referring to our younger staff members, who along with all the other staff members, served our lunch. Pastor Buddy gave a devotion and presented all of us with a Bible to commemorate this occasion. Thank you church and staff for the occasion. Lynn and I enjoyed so much seeing Katherine Hathaway, the McIntyre's, the Sims, and so many others. Mary Kennedy was recognized for 80 years at FBCT! She spoke and made it clear that she "is not old enough to ever have been at the cabin church!" We thought if you could see the list of those who were invited from our church rolls, you would surely take a walk down memory lane, recalling many you know and many you haven't seen in a long time. Many on the list for whatever reason were unable to attend the luncheon, but they are not forgotten! As we go forward now, perhaps this would be a good time to contact someone we haven't seen in years and catch up! Bobby Grogan

Thank you, Lance Pate and each one on the anniversary team

Job well done! We appreciate every minute each of you spent in prayer, planning and working. From the worship services, to the Birthday luncheon, the Anniversary museum, the Mission200 Saturday, to the Legacy Luncheon ... all were outstanding! A very special thank you to members of the team, to Amy Chappell, and to Sandra Bearden and June Mathews for doing all the design work, painting, research and writing to commemorate this occasion. NOTE: Commemoration items include: 200th Anniversary booklet "Celebrating His Faithfulness" (free); Christmas ornament (\$10 each); painting print by Amy Chappell "Celebrating God's Faithfulness" (free); and the book A Heart For Jesus, the compiled history of FBCT 1821 – 2020 by Sandra Bearden and June Mathews (\$10 each) may be purchased and/or ordered at the Event Desk.

The 200th Anniversary Team

Dianne Bobo	June Mathews	Gail Stewart
Brian Bozeman	Bobbie Roper	Eddie Stovall
Tom Maharrey	Paige Shelnett	Melissa Walker

**Many, many thanks to Lance's Executive Assistant
Rebecca Parker for her help and hard work!**

1821

2021

OUR PRAYER

One of my favorite memories from an earlier FBCT anniversary celebration is that several of us in the Choir sang "Bless This House." The House of The Lord! WE are the Church but the building in which we worship is the House of the Lord.
Jeannie Nabers

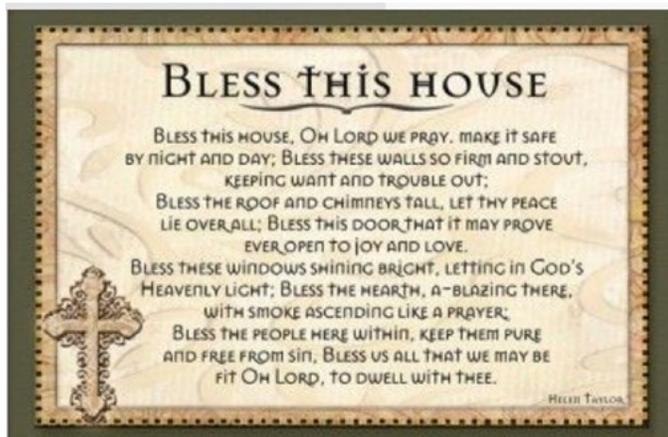
Listen [HERE](#)

Perry Como singing Bless This House.

And may all who come behind us find us faithful.

Read *Hebrews 11*

Through the years so many faithful and caring adult leaders have poured into our sons and invested in their lives. We are thankful that all three sons and their wives are believers, followers of Christ and active in their church. What a blessing! Happy Birthday, FBCT! May our ministries continue to impact families as they have ours. To God be the Glory! Danny and Carol Garrett



THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

This song was commissioned for our 200th Anniversary celebration services. Thank you Joe Estes, our choir and our musicians, for leading us throughout our celebration services with a very clear message through song: THE CHURCH IS ALIVE AND WELL. ALL GLORY TO OUR GOD FOR HE IS FAITHFUL!

NOTE: If you missed the Sunday, July 11 or Wednesday, July 14 services, pictures and videos are posted on our church website www.fbctrussville.org. Also, many pictures have been posted on the Seasoned Adult Ministry page on Facebook. If you have not already, I would encourage you to "friend" this page on your FB account.

FBCT IS ON MISSION!

On Saturday July 17 approximately 300+ people volunteered for about 3 hours to bag 38,000 lbs of sweet potatoes; give out SONshine Lemonade; and pack Jana's Kids School Supplies for area school children. That was just the beginning! Register at fbctrussville.org/helper and keep track of your mission hours ... the goal is to have members work 200 hours on mission serving others through the course of the year: July 14, 2021 through July 14, 2022.



Our FBCT Helper Helper app is up and running. Check out this app anytime to learn about mission opportunities in which to become involved. Contact: Jamie Chappell at (205)228-1014 or jamiiec@fbctrussville.org

WALKING IN GOD'S PRESENCE // WATCHING FOR HIS SIGNS

... just think of the times He has been walking with us, working for us, times we are not even aware He's doing a work in our lives, but after it's done, when we look back, we recognize that it was Him. I personally had an occasion recently of such an experience. So, watch for Him ... He's working in your life, too ... every.single.day! Look back and remember, but look forward ... He's already there! And oh how faithful He is! Nyla Massey