

SAM

SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY
SERVING THE GREAT

I AM

FBC TRUSSVILLE

AUGUST 2022

Where you tend a ROSE,
A THISTLE Cannot GROW!

Francis Hodgson Burnett



It is only a tiny rosebud, a flower of God's design; but I cannot unfold the petals with these clumsy hands of mine. The secret of unfolding flowers is not known to such as I; God opens each one so gently, but in my hands they die. The path that lies before me, only my heavenly Father knows. I'll trust him to unfold the moments, just as he unfolds the rose.

-Original Author Unknown

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This newsletter is prepared and emailed monthly by and for 55+ adults of First Baptist Church Trussville, Alabama. Suggested information to be included in an upcoming SAM newsletter may be emailed to sam.news@fbctrussville.org. Printed copies will be available at the church Welcome Center and Events Center.



I'll begin with a special thanks to all SAMers who are working at Cahaba Elementary School on Tuesdays, July 26 and August 2, helping to prepare the school grounds and facilities for the upcoming school year. And thank you to our Seasoned Adult Choir for leading our first morning service in worship on July 17.

"Leave Only Footprints." Isn't this a fabulous slogan adopted and on signs all over Gulf Shores, Alabama?! Here in the Birmingham area, several high schools, including Hewitt-Trussville and Clay Chalkville high schools, have adopted the "Litter Quitters" campaign. (Wish I had come up with that one! www.litterquitters.org) I've reflected on the Garden of Eden ... can you imagine how glorious it must have been? And imagine Jesus on his knees in the beautiful Garden of Gethsemane. Then, I think about the earth in Noah's day before, then after, the flood. And, what a mess Sodom and Gomorrah must have been in many ways. Our Father created the heavens and the earth and put man in the Garden of Eden to "dress it and to keep it." I encourage you to take just a minute and read the first two chapters of Genesis, and particularly Genesis 2:15. How well are we doing?

My "happy" places include playing on a golf course somewhere, or singing somewhere, or eating chicken livers or seafood. I cannot even imagine a golf course, for instance Augusta, GA for The Masters, trashed. We hosted Frank Jones' OASIS on July 28, with over 1,500 in attendance. I cannot imagine our own church trashed and not completely dressed up and ready for our guests. I am so grateful for the fine facilities provided for such programs as the Warblers 2022 at Samford University's Wright Fine Arts Center. We had about 35 from our church attend on July 23. Lastly, I sure do count on the chicken livers or seafood served to me to be clean and unspoiled!

Lieutenant-General Robert Baden-Powell, who served in the British Army and is attributed with beginning both Boy and Girl Scouts in the early 1900's, is cited with the quote "try to leave a place better than you found it." Whatever your garden is ... your home, garden, vacation spot, your family, place of business, schools, or talents or hobbies, indeed all God's creations ... tend them, grow them, protect them and love them ... leave only the footprints of your heart.

Bob

P.S. Vickie and I are proud to welcome the newest to our family garden... granddaughter, Tatum Ann Smith, born to on July 13, 2022, 8 lbs 13 oz. Tatum was born on July 13 and our pastor celebrated 60 years! I'll never forget Buddy's birthday!

WE NEED TO KNOW THIS

By Susan Hornsby

We have a workshop on understanding dementia, including a look at the differences between dementia and Alzheimers. WATCH for a date coming soon.

Here are just a few things we learned at our "Scam Alert" seminar on Sunday, June 12. The brochure handouts are quite useful as is the video made of the class. Check the video out from our Church library.

Many thanks to my team and to our guest speakers FBI Special Agent Felicia English and Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama ... their experience and knowledge were to our benefit. This class was offered in cooperation with the Trussville Area Chamber of Commerce. Thanks also to June Mathews who helped us promote the seminar. As a result we had two television stations come out for interviews, Fox News and CBS. They each did a short segment on the news that night. We were thrilled with the turnout! 106 attendees and honestly I'm afraid some may have left while we were trying to find extra chairs!



New scams are uncovered every day. There is a staggering amount of money lost each year in these scams.....in the hundreds of BILLIONS! And seniors are the primary target. This is partially due to the fact that the age group classified as "Over 60" represents 70% of the country's wealth AND we are the most trusting generation. BE AWARE! If you are suspicious even the least little bit, don't click, don't share, and don't pay!!

Here are a few of the scams most often used today:

Romance Scam: Criminals use social media and dating sites to pose as interested romantic partners; these interested partners always get around to asking for money. Stop communication immediately.

Grandparent Scam: Criminals pose as a relative – usually a child or grandchild – claiming to be in immediate financial need. Verify the validity of this call by hanging up and calling another family member, friend, etc. The criminals will be in a hurry. Do not send money, bank account, etc. over the phone.

Tech Support Scams: Criminals pose as technology support representatives and offer to fix non-existent computer issues. For instance, you may receive an email from a company saying your account is locked and you need to click on a link to re-open it. Delete the email; do not click on the attached link.

Sweepstakes/Lottery Scam: Criminals claim you have won a sweepstake or lottery, but ask you to pay a small fee to receive your prize. Don't fall for that!

There is no shame in being a victim, but there are very few victims who actually report the crime. One reason is that the victims do not believe they can recover anything that was stolen. It isn't easy, but it can be done occasionally if reported quickly enough. Another reason is that they may feel embarrassed that it happened to them. Don't be. Learn from it and take steps to protect yourself going forward. If you become a victim once, you are much more likely to be targeted again because these bad actors pass contact names around. So be extra alert if you have been a victim.

REPORT IT!

File a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Call the National Elder Fraud Hotline at 833-372-8311.

MY GRANDCHILDREN GARDEN

By Janice Shelton

I love my small garden of tomatoes and green peppers as the harvest brings delicious dishes to our table during the summer, but also in the winter as canned tomatoes flavor soups and chili and frozen stuffed peppers provide hearty cold weather fare. But, even more precious to me is the garden of my grandchildren. They are wonderful reflections of their parents from their youth as well as a heritage from the Lord. Proverbs 17:6 reminds us that: "Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers." These grandchildren are a bounty as no other can or ever will be.

While growing plants is fairly standard—plenty of sun, water, and nutrients—growing a garden of grandchildren is very particular to the child, recognizing and respecting the individuality which God has infused into each. As a "grower" grandparent, I some time ago began a practice that helps me keep in touch with our grandsons as well as leaves a message for them to read over and over again.

School is about to begin and each Sunday evening, as well as the night before the first day of school, I text each grandson, telling him of our love for him and reminding him of his being in God's hand and an example of God in his daily life. I encourage each to be his best and do his best in honor of the gifts God has given him. I let him know how thankful we are that he was chosen to be part of our family and what joy he has brought to us. I always close by telling him that we pray for him daily. Our older grandson will begin his freshman year at college this fall and I have told him to expect our weekly Sunday texts to continue.

We also text throughout the week about different topics, especially if a challenge has arisen or a particular test or project is pending; but Sunday evening texts are our special time, the time I believe I am watering and nurturing these young men as they go into the world each week to face whatever may come his way.

... IN THE GARDEN

This song holds a special place in my heart. My brother sings/plays in a little musical group called "One Accord." This song is on a CD they cut. We played the song at both my parents' funerals. Diane Poole

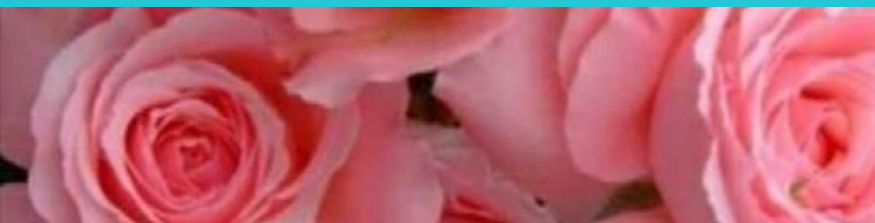
NOTE: This song was written by C. Austin Miles, a pharmacist by profession, in 1912. He was inspired to write these words from a vision he had as he was reading John 20:1-18. He said he felt as if he were standing at the entrance to a garden upon the arrival of Mary, Peter, and John as they gathered at the tomb, followed by the appearance of Jesus. Over the years many have sung this song, including Elvis Presley. Here's a link to his video in song on YouTube. [CLICK HERE](#)

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.

He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

I stayed in the garden with Him
Though the night all around me is falling
But He bids me go, through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.

**And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known.**



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

Monday, August 1 • Chapel

Meet in the Chapel or stop wherever you are and join us in prayer.

Email prayer requests to Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org

And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the Word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31



FIRST THURSDAY FOR PRAYING MEN

Thursday, August 1 • Worship Center

Praying for your



JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

Thursdays • August 4 & 18 • 10:30 AM
Fellowship Hall

PRAY for our Joyful Hearts Choir as we prepare to go on choir tour in September!

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)
Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Room D144



MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, August 11 • 6:11AM in the Gym

Invite a friend and join us.



SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, August 25 • 10:30AM

\$6 per person • Reservation required

Special Guest: Cheryl Rogers
Music and Comedy show
"Senior Trip with
Cheryl Rogers"
205-228-1006 or

sam.reservation@fbctrussville.org

**NOTE: August 21 is
National Senior Citizens Day!**



CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

October 10 – 13

LeConte Center • Pigeon Forge, TN

\$100 deposit at registration



NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS

November 30–December 2 (limited to 96)

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

Cost: \$575 (double) & \$725 (single)

\$150 deposit at registration

• HOW TO BE •

SAM with **KEN LASS** **SATIONAL!**

I am at the neighborhood pool with my four-year-old grandson. I'm standing waist deep in the water, trying to coax him into coming down the pool steps and joining me. He is hesitant. He explains he is afraid of going under the water. I assure him I will be there to catch him.

After much cajoling and encouragement, he slowly builds up the courage to go down two steps, reach out his arms, and leap toward me. I snatch him and pull him close to me, giving him a big hug and praising him for being such a brave boy. He is very pleased with his accomplishment, and immediately wants to do it again. And again. And again.

After several jumps and several catches and several big smiles, I decide it's time for him to take the next step. I want him to get past his fear of being underwater. If he's going to learn to swim, he has to get accustomed to holding his breath and controlling his body. This time, as he lunges toward me, I relax my arms just a bit. Just enough so that he lands in the water and sinks below the surface for just a second. Then I quickly yank him up and say "See? That wasn't so bad, was it?"

His face has a look of stunned surprise, as water runs down from his hair, and out from his eyes and nose. Uh-oh, I think. Is he going to cry and run away, never to trust me again? Thankfully, he recovers from the shock in a few seconds, and the big smile returns as he screams out "That was fun! Do it again!" Whence follows many, many more jumps, submergences, pull-ups and smiles. He's okay going under, just so long as I'm there to pull him up.

I guess life is kind of like that. We cruise along in our comfort zones, afraid to take that plunge, that leap into a new adventure, a new challenge. What if it doesn't work out? What if it leaves me twisting in the wind, embarrassed, my self esteem sinking. Sort of like being under water?

We're not inclined to be brave unless we can be sure of rescue, of someone there to catch us and pull us up out of our adversity. The book of Psalms mentions the word "rescue" 129 times. The whole message is summed up in 34:22. "The Lord will rescue His servants. No one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned."

Whatever your dilemma might be, just do the right thing. It probably won't be the easiest option, or the most desirable, or the most self-gratifying. If it was, it wouldn't be a dilemma. Just know that, if you put your faith in Him, he'll be there to catch you. He may let you go underwater for a while, just to get you prepared for the next step. You may be shocked and stunned at your unexpected circumstances, but in time you'll recover and realize you don't have to be afraid.

In fact, you may even break out a huge smile, and look for opportunities to do the right thing again. And again. And again.

HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

By Denise Dockery

The Law was a shadow of the good things to come because it points us to Christ, to His coming as the perfect sacrifice for sin for all times. When you see a shadow, there's substance behind it casting the shadow.

"For the Law, since it was only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year make perfect those who draw near." Hebrews 10:1

Leviticus – the Holiness of God. It is an interesting book, very detailed but vital for the Nation of Israel. The Tabernacle was built in Exodus, where God's presence dwelt. Now in the span of one month they were given specific instructions on how to approach God. Why? For God Himself said "for I AM Holy," He was to be treated as Holy. Unholy people approaching a holy God through the priests who offered daily their sacrifices and offerings, "he shall lay his hand on the head of the Burnt Offering that it may be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf." Leviticus 1:4

We gain more insight to all of this in Hebrews 10. Jesus was the substance behind the shadow of the Law.

"For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." "behold I have come to do your will, He takes away the first in order to establish the second." Jesus fulfilled the Law, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, and perfecting for all time those who are sanctified, that is, holy, set apart as a kingdom of priests to serve a Living God. That is us!

While God's nature has not changed His administration has through the administration of a new Mediator, Jesus. "for the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ." John 1:17. "The righteous man shall live by faith." Romans 1:17b

"Therefore, I urge you, brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God which is your spiritual service of worship." Romans 12:1 (Leviticus 1)

THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE!

By Judy Brynt

Thank you, Bob, for sharing your family with us. Our Sunday afternoon Stroll on June 26 at Classic on Noble in Anniston was delightful. The venue and the menu were truly excellent; so much so, that there were rumblings about returning. Our guest, however, stole the show! Dr. Lloyd Smith, age 92 (our own Bob Smith's father better known to Bob as "daddy") held the attention of all 100 of us with his humor, sweet-spirited stories, and piano playing. There was no doubt about his deep, deep love for Jesus. His opening: "I'm glad to be here ... I'm glad to be anywhere!" Dr. Smith is a man familiar with speaking to crowds and he loves to tell stories! He's been in the ministry and a Minister of Music all his life. Dr. Smith said he wanted to be a concert pianist in his early years, but God led him to surrender to fulltime service and into the music ministry. Over the years, he has written and composed over 500 songs, of which at least 300 have been published. Bob comments that his daddy "is the most influential person in my life."



Bob's sister, Shirley, played the piano, and brother, Lloyd Smith III, sang a duet with Bob. Where have you been hiding your brother, Bob? He, like you, has a wonderful voice! Sister, Shirley also has a beautiful voice, but under-the-weather and could not join her siblings. For inquiring minds, Bob is the baby.

Of all the stories Dr. Smith told, this has to be sweetest, and funniest. TMI for his son, Bob, however, who stood behind him with his hands over his face! After he lost his first wife, Helen (mother of Shirley, Lloyd and Bob), Dr. Smith realized he wanted a sweetheart ... he even made a list of "qualifications." He dated 20 ladies in 5 years and finally found one! He and his current wife, Faith, met on February 1 and married on February 28 (the same year!). Dr. Smith said it only took him 8 hours to meet and fall in love. He wanted to kiss her, he said, but at age 75 you know you don't kiss on the first date! But he kissed her and he said they kissed, and kissed, and kissed again! That was 17 years ago!

After more stories and laughter, Dr. Smith closed us in joining him to sing He Lives, one of his favorite hymns.

NEW MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

An in-depth Bible Study of Daniel Part 2, Chapters 7-12, for Seasoned Adult men, beginning Tuesday, August 23, 2022, in Room 204 above the Fellowship Hall.

This will be a 15-week study with homework, discussion, and presentations via DVD. Workbooks are \$22.50.

Synopsis of Part 2: Gaining Understanding of the Time of the End

Does the turmoil in our times, the uprisings and the spiritual decay of many have anything to do with the Book of Daniel? Daniel was a man who knew what God said about the end times. He focused on what God said, not the events of his own time. He had an impact on the people that God placed in his life.

Please contact Larry Payne, 205-601-2288, larrycpayne@gmail.com with questions.

"FOR HIS GLORY" PRAYER MINISTRY

Making a difference in the darkness through prayer

By Denny Rogers

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING MY MINISTRY

1. Who am I accountable to?

First, I am accountable to my Lord Jesus Christ who called me into this ministry. Second, I am accountable to my Prayer and Advisory Team, made up of four men, three who are members of FBCT, and one who is my former pastor. This team continues to lift my wife and me up in prayer and shares advice with me as the Holy Spirit leads them to share.

2. How are you supported financially?

My ministry is supported by believers in my ministry who desire to help us financially. I ask that no one share financially with our ministry until they have first shared their tithe to their local church.

3. What do you do in your ministry?

I take prayer journeys around the four states of the southeast, praying scriptures over these states. I have been taking these prayer journeys for several years. I ask people on my mailing list to pray for me and with me as I mail them maps of my journeys. They are so faithful pray. God always answers! Betty and I are also involved in what we call "First Tuesday," where we pray in agreement with fellow believers every first Tuesday of the month for lost loved ones. We meet at our prayer center near Verbena, Alabama.

4. What do you see as the future of "For His Glory Prayer Ministry?"

I am beginning to sense the Lord may be preparing us for a new phase of my ministry. In short, I believe our Lord is saying "prepare for a training ministry" to help prepare people who are called into the ministry of prayer to do what I do. I sense the Lord is saying "use your prayer center as a training center." I will be sharing soon all of what I am sensing the Lord is saying to me to my Prayer and Advisory Team.

Betty and I only want what God wants for our ministry concerning the future. Indeed, He has worked miracles to get us where we are today. We trust Him to continue to work miracles to take us into the future. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for us in this matter.

NOTE: When Bro. Denney completes his last two Prayer Journeys for 2022, he will have prayed 4 times around every state in the southeast since 2020. He credits this to the Grace of God and the faithful prayers and financial support from believers who share his heart for prayer. If you desire to receive Bro. Denny's newsletter that shares about his Prayer Journeys, please text our address to his phone at 205-258- 6096.

WATCH FOR PHOTO BOMB OPPORTUNITIES!

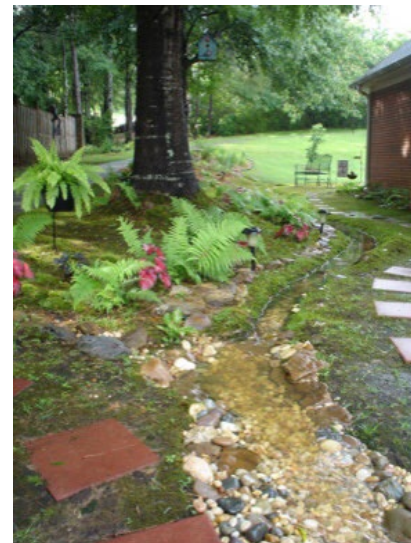
Coming soon at most of our SAM events and some regular services you will notice opportunities for all of us to have our pictures made "on the spot." The photos will be used in the church master directory for use by our staff and in our online church membership directory.

TAKE TIME TO SMELL THE ROSES!



CONGRATS! ...to our Pastor Buddy "SAM" Champion ... the big 60! SAM members presented 450 cards and a beautiful print of our church by artist Becky Watts, who works in our FBCT kindergarten. She does these type paintings from all over Trussville and all the money she earns goes to the NEXT program.

CONGRATS! ...to Sally and John Payne; Bill & Tricia Latham; Dianne Bobo; Jef & Regina Freeman; FBCT; Dobbs and Adkins, LLC; Dorothy Stephens; Pat & Bill Smith; Anita Eaves; and Jan Monski who were awarded 1st and 2nd places in 5 categories by the Trussville Beautification Board for 2022.

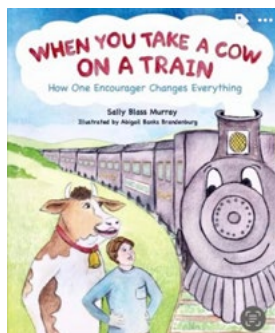


CONGRATS! ...to Anita Aaron (and other members of our church in their neighborhoods) for being awarded Yard of the Month in Calumet in July.



CONGRATS! ...to Peggy Springer. Peggy is the grandmother of 10-year-old twins Christian and Bridon Hassig. On June 14, the twins rescued dad, Brad Hassig from drowning in their pool. Neighbor Sam (11 yrs. Old) was there to help as well. Brad was doing some breathing exercises under water when he suddenly fell unconscious. The boys pulled him out, called 911, and began CPR with no training except what they saw done in the movies. See story at www.wbrc.com June 23 or www.southernliving.com July 7.

CONGRATS! ...to Ron Burkett for winning the 2022 Alabama Press Association Photo of the Year Award across all divisions of the competition with his photo "Overload."



CONGRATS! ...to Sally Blass Murray on the publication in June of her new book WHEN YOU TAKE A COW ON A TRAIN. The book, for ages 5 to 10, is about choosing to be kind, looking for the good in others, and being an encourager.

Visit Sally's website www.sallyblassmurraybooks.com for more information.

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!