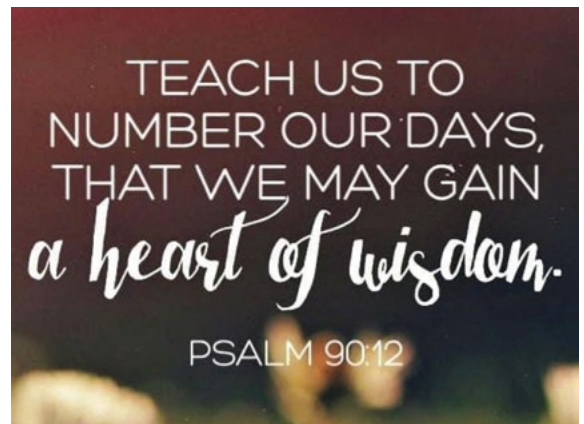


BE GOD'S WISE GUY



Summer break is quickly coming to a close, and I can't say I'm sad about that. It's HOT! But I do love me some cold ice cream on a hot day! Anyway, walk into any store and you'll notice all the school supplies and new kids' clothes filling the shelves. Everything from pencils and crayons, to lunch boxes, to very pricey backpacks and \$200 athletic shoes. (We used to call them tennis shoes.) Remember when your parents took you to buy new school supplies and school clothes? Remember when you took your own children shopping to get ready for school?



GOD'S CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR SALE!

A must-see in theatres this summer is the movie by Angel Studios titled "Sound of Freedom." This film is based on a true story of a Homeland Security Agent who works to save a very young brother and sister caught up in a child sex trafficking network.

Trafficking is real, it's heartbreaking; the movie is uneasy, as we are reminded that children are being torn from homes, or even living in homes, where abuse is rampant. And using the word "rampant" is putting the whole situation mildly.

One of the men in the movie said "when God tells you to do something, you cannot hesitate." This movie reminds us of the hope there is because all children are God's children and because there are people all over the world who know God's heart and serve Him, without hesitation, when they are called. That's when God saves His children, any age, from evil, both physically and spiritually.

Seasoned Adult Minister: Bob Smith
SAM Assistant: Debbie Arrington
SAM Newsletter Editor: Judy Bryant
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.

Those were exciting times for the ones of us who were fortunate enough to experience them. This last month, we've had the opportunity and blessing to share our time and resources with at least three areas where the need is great. Christmas in July for the kids of Fort Deposit; our trip to Louisa, Kentucky where our SAM Vocal Band led in music and we led kids in VBS during the week; and the school workdays right here in Trussville that began in July and will continue this month.

Thank you to every volunteer and contributor to these and other mission opportunities where we could help children in some small ways and help our local schools get off to a smart start this school year.

Everything is "smart" these days; we don't even have to think. Smart phones, smart tv's, smart watches, even smart lights where all we have to do is say "Alexa, turn on all lights" and bam, they're on! What will we tell our children and grandchildren when they ask "what is the difference between smart and wise?" We might even have to explain what a "wise guy" is and how to deal with them. Remember Eddie Haskell in the old TV show "Leave It to Beaver"? Young Eddie was a wise guy ... a "smart aleck." He thought he knew everything. Back then we thought Eddie was funny because we knew he was about to be in big trouble. There are plenty of smart alecks and even bullies today and it's nowhere near funny.

Let's all pray and search God's Word, seeking God's wisdom for ourselves, our school children and their leaders, teachers, parents and grandparents for this school year. That's the smart and wise thing to do!

Bob

SAM SERVES... AT HOME, AND AWAY

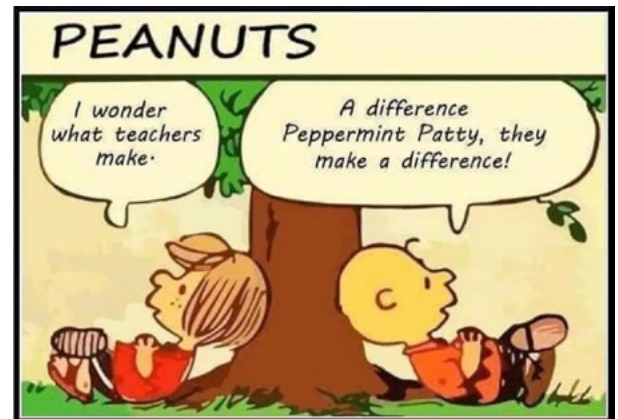
Join us! Our annual Trussville school clean-up projects are underway. Many already have been busy with projects at Chalkville, Magnolia and Grantswood Elementary schools.

AUGUST 1: Cahaba Elementary

AUGUST 5: Paine Elementary

For more information and to sign up, visit [HERE](#) and search "Serve Our Schools!"

Please reach out to Jamie Chappell at jamiec@fbctrussville.org if you have any questions.



THAILAND MISSION TRIP

By Suellen Edmondson

June 19-July 1

A team of 27 from our FBCT family (including 8 young people, who were worker bees!) made the 22 hour flight (plus connections and layovers!) to Thailand.

On Saturday, we drove up the huge mountain to do a medical clinic and play with children. La ool is a refugee village of Burma migrants on the Thailand/Burma border. Our medical team saw about 60 patients, from young children to the elderly.

On Sunday, we were at the church by 8:00AM, visiting Sunday School classes and witnessing Chris Chambers baptize 8 people. Chris also delivered the message. The service lasted 2 hours! After church, a big dinner was provided by church members. Attendance has tripled over the last few years. The people there are so kind, courteous and gentle. The Gospel is truly working there.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the school day begins with standing at attention and raising the flag, assembly and song. There are crafts, crazy games and a few tag team games. We taught things like nouns and adjectives. On Thursday, our last day there, the students did a program of singing and dancing in their native dress.



What means so much to me every time we go, in addition to teaching and sharing the Gospel, is the camaraderie with others from our own church who go. Having the opportunity to tour a gem factory wasn't too shabby either! If you ever have a chance to join us on this mission trip, GO!!



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

FIRST THURSDAY: MEN PRAYING

for their ONE

First Thursday of every month
6:30 am • Worship Center



FIRST THURSDAY: LADIES PRAYING

for their ONE

First Thursday of every month
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

Monday, August 7 • 10:00 AM • Chapel

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

Email prayer requests to

Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org



JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

Thursdays • August 3, 10 & 17

10:30 AM • Fellowship Hall

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Room D147



TCS Staggered START FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

August 9: Students with last names A through J

August 10: Students with last names K through Z

August 11: All Students attend school

EDIBLE EDUCATION

Thursday, August • 11:30AM

Speaker: Jennifer Cole Conn of Quality Kitchen

"Why are we a nation of snackers? Join us and learn the pros & cons of snacking plus easy ways to make & choose quality nutrient rich snacks."

Register [HERE](#)

MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, August 10 • 6:11AM • Gym

Invite a friend and join us.

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, August 24 • 10:30AM • Gym

Special Guest: Shannon Smith

Retired lead singer for Three Bridges
You won't want to miss this amazing voice and heart for Jesus!

www.officialshannonsmith.com

\$7 • Reserve your spot through the SAM office, Debbie Arrington at 205-228-1006 OR use your SAM meal card.



C HOW 2 LIVE BETTER!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Wednesday, August 16 • 3:30PM • D143

Join our own Barbara Parkes as she brings to us helpful ideas and tips for the visually impaired. There will be a packet available from the first April session held on April 12, plus information on how to access helpful information at no cost. Approximately 20 were in attendance in April; Barbara was asked to continue this ministry! She plans to hold quarterly sessions going forward. Contact: Barbara Parkes at 205-540-3066

SAM SERVE ...CLCC

Thursday, August 31 • 4:30PM Departure

Our Small Groups are volunteering to serve a dinner meal at the CLCC on one of the last Thursday's of every month this year. Will your class help with this ministry?



The CLCC offers transitional housing for men who desire to break the cycle of homelessness.

For details, contact: Our Missions Office or Jack Sittre at 205-810-9480.

Submit your pet photos by mid-August, to be published in our September SAM newsletter.

To Judy Bryant at jb5348@bellsouth.net
Include your name and your pet's name.

LOUISA, KENTUCKY MISSION TRIP

By Faye Summers

Twenty-four "Samers" left in several vehicles on July 15 headed for Louisa, Kentucky to hold VBS. Upon arrival, we enjoyed a delicious home cooked meal by the ladies of FBC Louisa. After resting, we set up our area for VBS: music, missions/Bible story, crafts, recreation and food. I bagged up the 100th snack bag of food for the kids!

On Sunday, the Sam Vocal Band sang and Bob preached the church's morning service. They did a fantastic job of presenting the Gospel. We met a family who formerly lived in Trussville at Stockton and the children went to Paine Elementary. Small world huh!! That afternoon, we (FBCT) held a cookout at the local park for the church and anyone else who was there. There were many homeless to whom we were able to minister with hamburgers as well as bags of food. Kim Searcy held a dance party and many of the kids as well as moms took part (me too).

Each day at lunchtime we fed the children who were at VBS. On Monday after VBS, we delivered leftover bags of food to Blaine, Kentucky (about 40 miles from Louisa up the mountain) to Tina Bevins who is the coordinator of FRYSC at the school. The kids there receive food, clothing, backpacks, school supplies and anything they need for existence. Many of you have had a part in this program over the years by providing coats, school supplies, etc. This is a very impoverished area with constant needs.



We are very grateful for Joyce Busby and Melanie Keith, who kept us fed well during the days. Bob was able to find us some good food sources for our evening meals! The food at each place was wonderful and plentiful and, of course, we had ice cream. This crowd had an insatiable need for ice cream. Our favorite place was a little store called Smittys that sold vape supplies, beer and ice cream. They were not doing well at all until they started selling ice cream!!

On Wednesday at VBS Bob gave an invitation and three boys received Christ. Later that afternoon we went to Huntington, West Virginia to have dinner with Eric Ramsey, West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Director. Bob, and Eric's wife, Gay serenaded us on the bus with He's More Than Wonderful.....what a treat!



I'm a multi-tasker. I can listen, ignore and forget, all at the same time!

• HOW TO BE •

SAM with KEN LASS

tb

My wife Sharon loves flowers. Our house is surrounded and encased by them. They are in pots, in the ground, on the porch, encircling the mailbox, and guarding the back door. Pansies, daffodils, impatiens, vinca, gerber daisies, tulips, Mexican petunias, azaleas, elephant ears, and others with names only God can pronounce.

There is a banana plant growing so high in the backyard that I swear it blots out the sun. From behind it looks like our house is located in the Amazon jungle. Sharon gets her quota of aerobic exercise every day just toting her watering can all over the premises trying to keep everything alive.

One day she emerged from the back porch jumping with excitement and delight. I asked her what was going on. "My hibiscus is blooming" she exclaimed, as though it was something to be announced on the TV news. I'm not really into flowers all that much, but I figured I had to see what the cause of all this unmitigated joy looked like. There it was, in a pot on the floor by the railing. And I must say, it really was quite stunning. An incredible fluffy yellow canopy of petals, with a deep red base, and a bright orange stem protruding from the center that resembled a queen's scepter.

But breathtaking blooms were common around our house. Why so much thrill over this one? Sharon explained that the bloom of the hibiscus only lasts for about 24 to 48 hours, then quickly withers and fades. So you can only enjoy its majesty for a short time.

Being a person who simply can't pass up a good analogy, I thought about that verse in the Bible that says "*You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.*" It's from James 4:14.

That really hits home for me. Our precious lives just fly by at lightning speed. Our minds can't comprehend how much time has actually gone past. One moment we're silly teenagers, the next we're getting married, raising babies, then walking our daughters down the aisle, then bouncing our grand babies on our knees. Now here we are in our senior years. How can that be? So many of our friends, our peers, have crossed the bridge. The whole adventure really does seem like a mist that has blown off over the horizon.



And it was beautiful wasn't it? Just like the short-lived bloom of the hibiscus, our short stay on this earth is, hopefully, sprinkled generously with wonderful memories. Those whom we loved and who loved us back. Our victories, our passions, and our footprint. Adversity? For sure. Without it, how would we know what salvation and divine providence look like?

Two days later I returned to the porch and, sure enough, the lovely hibiscus bloom was closing up and capitulating. But you and I are not there yet. We've still got time to enjoy the beauty and perfection of God's grace and plan for our lives. Still time to encourage others to experience the same exhilaration that comes with being a child of God. We will, one day, return to the earth, just like our flowers, but for now we've still got time to show we are in full bloom.

NEW BIBLE STUDIES COMING UP

STUDYING THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Men's Bible Study

Begins Wednesday, September 6
Room 141 • 10:00AM

Facilitators: Henry Ward & JW Wallis

Women's Bible Study

Begins Wednesday, September 6
Room 145 • 10:00AM

Facilitator: Toni Sproull

PRECEPT BIBLE STUDIES

Ladies Class studying Hebrews Pt 3.
August 23rd • 9:00 AM • Room 142

Discussion and video.

Books need to be pre-ordered by the August 6 deadline at the Event Desk.

Contact Denise Dockery dockerymom@gmail.com

SEASONED ADULT MEN'S CLASS

An in-depth study of the book of Hebrews

This is a three-part study, with light homework, discussion, and videos.

Begins August 22, 8:00-9:00 AM • Room E204
(above the Fellowship Hall).

We will continue until we complete all three parts, which will thoroughly cover the book of Hebrews.

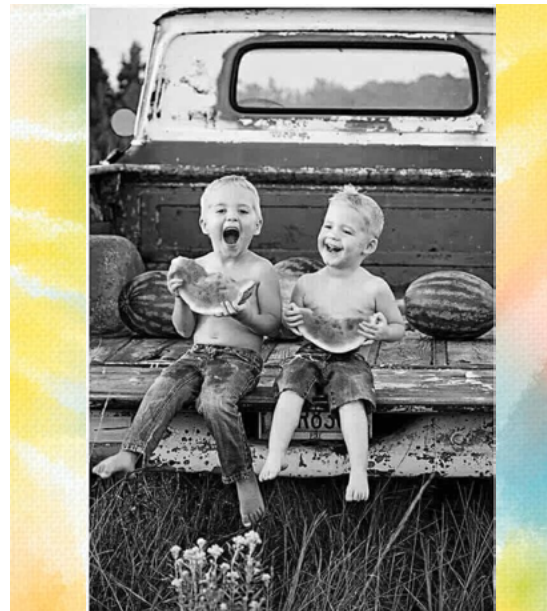
Workbooks are priced as follows:

Part 1 \$19.25; Part 2 \$15.75; Part 3 \$10.50

Contact Larry Payne: 205-601-2288

larrycpayne@gmail.com

I WONDER WHAT THE PART
OF MY BRAIN THAT USED TO
STORE PEOPLE'S PHONE
NUMBERS IS DOING NOW



THE GOOD OLE'
SUMMERTIME!

COMING UP!

COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY CONCERT

Friday, September 8 • FBCT Worship Center
Doors open 6:00PM • Concert 7:00PM

Tickets may be purchased [HERE](#).

SAM MEN'S GOLF RETREAT

September 24-26 • RTJ Cambrian Ridge

First pay • First play (Limited to 24 Seasoned Adult Golfers)

Online REGISTRATION IS OPEN at

www.fbctrussville.org/Events

OCTOBER 16-19, 2023

CELEBRATORS
CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION OPEN

Annual Celebrators Conference

Pigeon Forge, TN • October 16-19

Make plans now to join us.

CALLS TO PRAYER

JOYFUL HEARTS CHOIR TOUR

From Bob Smith

Please begin praying now for the 60+ members of our Joyful Hearts choir as we plan and practice for our second annual choir tour, which is scheduled for September 10 - 17. This year's tour will take us south to Pensacola, back up through southern Alabama to Montgomery, and back home. Pray that God will bless and touch the lives we encounter through the joy of song. And come join this choir. You'll love it!



PRAYER JOURNEY & UPCOMING PRAYER SERVICE

From Denny Rogers

My next Prayer Journey takes me back into Georgia for a second prayer journey there, August 27-31. Thank you to all Prayer Warriors who faithfully pray for my safety as I travel and who agree with me in Prayer. NOTE: If you would like to keep up with Bro. Denny's Journeys text your home address to 205-258-6096 (be sure to include your first/last name).

Please also continue to pray for the "If My People Will Pray" metro Birmingham worship and prayer service to be held at the Wright Center at Samford University in October.

Lastly, please join me in praying in our community. My challenge to you is to immediately begin praying over your local community, listening to, and agreeing with, scriptural prayers on a specially prepared CD or Flash Drive in your car as you drive. These CD's and Flash Drives are available at our church's Event Center and are free. This call to prayer, if you choose to accept it, will greatly multiply our prayers for the October event.

MORE OF OUR FURRY FRIENDS...



Susan McKinney loves her Princess Roxie!

Taco Patton with his daddy, Jim.

Bayley Grace Stewart, all decked out for Gail & Johnny Stewart

Cassie Moore's "precious boy" cat Charlie and his best friend Mercedes

Fred & Pepper Bowser say "Riding beats walking every time!"

WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO SPEND AN AFTERNOON!

By Judy Bryant.

Somewhere close to 1,000 people filled our Worship Center on Thursday afternoon, July 13 for Frank Jones Ministries' quite refreshing OASIS 2023. We heard from Debbie Childers, an Alabama native moving back to Alabama with her preacher husband Tim. They will live in Moody. Her stories about Tim were funny – sure do hope he has a sense of humor to listen to all that!

We never tire of hearing Bob Smith sing the National Anthem, which he did. Have you ever wondered why Bob likes to sing it so much? It's because he always gets a standing ovation!



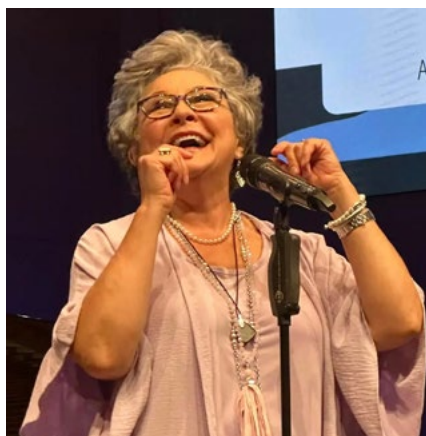
Alabama's much loved and favorite musician leader, Frank Jones took the stage. Our favorite ... his piano rendition of Jesus Loves Me! Frank introduced Allison Speer and for the next 45 minutes or so we were truly blessed with her story telling and Gospel in song. WOW! Can she bring us all to truly worship... because she does. You can see it in her face.

Allison's precious grandmother stories included this one: Every woman needs a good man ... there's just some things you can't blame on the government! The crowd was on their feet when she sang an old song ... Wayfaring Stranger (the Johnny Cash version most familiar to me).

Especially fun was "Out of Here." "I'll be moving up when the trumpet sounds; when that morning comes gonna be glory bound; and on that glorious day when Jesus appears; don't look for me, no, I'll be out of here!" Check out her website for video of this and other songs she sings at www.allisonspeer.com.

Dennis Swanberg came next with one of his best performances! I had the opportunity to talk with him before the program and asked him what his favorite is ... preaching, which he did for 20 years before he became a comedian, or his "star" performances in comedy? He said he enjoys and loves what he is doing now, but he does miss the in-depth, one-on-one relationships one has with his congregation as their pastor.

Stay tuned to an upcoming issue of our SAM Newsletter. We will share what Dennis taught us with laughter and sincerity in this OASIS program.



Jerry and I left today's OASIS with happy hearts and happy faces. He touched us through His faithful servants.



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.

OOPS! In last month's newsletter, in Nina's picture she was holding the precious pup of one of the drivers at the June car show. So, here's the real Topper Orr!

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!

SAMers ON THE ROAD AGAIN

By Debra Roberts

About 52 of us took to the road on June 1st to enjoy a day at the Huntsville Space & Rocket Center. What a fun day! We enjoyed two great meals. Lunch at Rosie's Mexican Cantina, service was excellent, food delicious, and Sammye Dunn says it's the prettiest Mexican restaurant she's ever seen. Then dinner later at the German restaurant at the Center. It was great and included live music by a local band while we ate.

Jane Maples (Susie Minor's sister) acted as our guide at the Space & Rocket Center. She had worked at NASA in Huntsville and shared lots of information. We heard from astronaut Dottie Metcalf about her experience. Some of us took advantage of rides related to the space program.

The presentation in the planetarium gave interesting information about planets in our galaxy and God's vast creation. Psalm 8:3-4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

A side note: *There is a Hallmark movie about a special needs group that went through the training at Huntsville called "A smile as big as the moon."*

I also mention the good news that the Huntsville landmark Saturn 1B rocket, which was being considered for demolition, will come down, be restored and returned to NASA. The rocket was donated 44 years ago and placed where it has been at the Welcome Center on the Alabama / Tennessee state line off I-65. Donations from the public will be accepted for the Rocket's restoration.

