



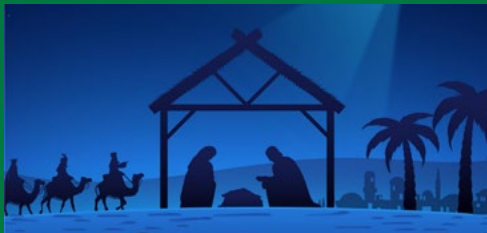
**DECEMBER 2022**

## C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S

"C" is for the Christ Child  
 Born upon this day  
 "H" is for herald angels in the night  
 "R" means our Redeemer  
 "I" means Israel  
 "S" is for the star that shone so bright  
 "T" is for the three wise men  
 They who travelled far  
 "M" is for the manger where He lay  
 "A" is for all He stands for  
 "S" means shepherds came  
 And that's why there's a Christmas Day

Songwriters: Eddy Arnold / Jenny Lou Carson

Sung by Jim Reeves [CLICK HERE](#)



**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](mailto:sam.news@fbctrussville.org). Printed copies will be available at the church Welcome Center and Events Center.

# HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS!

*Have yourself a merry little Christmas  
 Let your heart be light....  
 Have yourself a merry little Christmas  
 Make the Yule-tide gay....  
 Hang a shining star upon the highest bough  
 And have yourself a merry little Christmas now.*



We hear this song frequently this time of year. Judy Garland sang it first in the movie Meet Me in St. Louis (1944). While it can be very uplifting, some find the song to be a very sad song. So, I left out the "sad" parts ... some of our memories of "happy golden days of yore" are hard; some of our troubles seem to us they will never be "out of sight"; and many of our hearts are heavy with grief.

There's a story in one version of the *Streams in the Desert* devotions (by L.B. Cowman) about a minister who falls asleep pondering the question "what if Christ had not come?" Imagine what a dream that was ... a world into which Jesus had never come! Give that some thought, would you? I remember a song my dad wrote when I was a teenager. The truth of the first verse has never left my heart...

*My Savior came to earth one day  
 To take my sin and guilt away.  
 He was born to die on Calvary,  
 He took my sin and my disgrace,  
 And on the cross He took my place  
 The cross of Calvary.*

If Christ had not come, His substitutionary death on the cross would never have taken place. There would be no forgiveness, no redemption, no justification, no sanctification and therefore no salvation.

Now, hang that star upon the highest bough, and let that bright star remind us that **HE DID COME!** Out of God's goodness, His love for us, His grace and mercy to us, He gave to all of us the greatest gift ... His Son Jesus Christ.

**Great is He and greatly to be praised.**

(Deeper dive: I Chronicles 16:1-36; Psalm 96:4; Psalm 145:3)

Merry Christmas from our family to yours,

*Bob & Vickie*

# CHRISTMAS

By Jim Hickman

CHRISTMAS is a precious time to many as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. The present church services, parades, and programs range from commercial ads and movies depicting the 'good life' to the actual birth of Jesus, with the Star, the shepherds, wise men, manger, animals, and voices of angels.

Memory takes me to Christmas's of 1936 – 1940, and my age range from 5 -10 years old. We lived in the country, and I remember always receiving an orange and a small bag of red and white striped candy sticks from both school and church. I always was in a 'play' at church and at school because my Mother and Grandmother were both school teachers and Grandfather was the Pastor. One year I got a new pair of lace boots with a pocketknife (not a toy) in a scabbard on the boot, and I always got a new pair of mittens. Sometimes got a new cap with ear flaps. Always got a book including one about Christmas and Jesus. We always took food to some family who had no food, and we always sang Christmas Carols. Then I remember the Sunday they told us about Pearl Harbor and all changed. We still ALWAYS remember the CHRIST CHILD.



## WE LOVE YOU PASTOR BUDDY

Our Pastor, Buddy Champion, made us proud on November 15 at the Alabama Baptist Convention. His heartfelt message of love and kindness spoke loud and clear particularly as we enter into the Christmas season, as did the group of music ministers Buddy has served with who sang, twice no less!, their beautiful rendition of Midnight Cry. If you missed it, the message and worship in song can be found on several online sites including The Alabama Baptist and our SAM Facebook page.

*"It don't get no better." Richard Hitchcock*

*"Hearing Midnight Cry two times in one service; doesn't get better this side of heaven!" Suellen Edmondson*

*"We were blessed to be there. Thanks to everyone who made this Worship experience happen. And our respect and appreciation to Pastor Buddy Champion." Laura Henry*



# STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS

On Sunday, November 27 our new Stephen Ministry leaders were announced in both morning services. Please be in prayer for these as they begin their journey in His service through this very important Ministry.

**Ann Bentley**  
**Becky Grimmatt**  
**Brenda Ray**  
**Davilyn Smith**  
**Gail Stewart**  
**Jan Monski**  
**Joy Carr**  
**Judy Neely**  
**Judy Young**  
**Lynn Martin**  
**Sue Richards**  
**Suzi Philpot**

stephen  
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JESUS  
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January 13-15, 2023 Sign Up At [fbctrussville.org](http://fbctrussville.org)

With Special Guests



Dr. Jamie Dew



Sean Curran

## By Spencer Jones

We challenged our students that if 317 of them signed up for DNOW by September 2nd we would ride bikes from Atlanta to Anniston. Did we make it?? Yes! We currently have 455 students signed up to attend DNOW this year. In case you were wondering, Matt and I survived the 100-mile bike ride from Atlanta to Anniston.

Please join us in praying for our students at DNOW this year. We will be talking about living counter culturally in a world that screams for us to just accept things. Our passage of Scripture we will be focusing on is Romans 12:1-2. We will have a prayer chain sign up going out in December. Please be on the lookout for this sign up. If you or your Sunday school class would like to help provide breakfast on Sunday, morning January 15th, please email [Nicoles@fbctrussville.org](mailto:Nicoles@fbctrussville.org). We will be coming around to Sunday school classes in December to ask for some help!

Thank you for always being a church that supports young people! We are so excited to see what God is going to do at DNOW this year.

# MAKING SENSE OF MEDICARE

By Susan Hornsby

On Sunday afternoon, November 6th Steve Adlman met with our group to try to help us make sense of Medicare. You may remember Steve from last year when he did an excellent educational presentation on our various Medicare options for healthcare. Steve is an independent agent with over 30 years experience and clients throughout the state of Alabama. He is a member at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church.

This year once again we had excellent attendance for this class with a great deal of discussion and clarification of this complicated topic. We certainly now understand that these Medicare plans are not one size fits all. And they certainly are not for everyone. What is good for your neighbor or your brother-in-law is not necessarily your smartest choice. Your current health status and medication list will strongly affect your best choice. We learned that there is a very specific time frame where you have a once in a lifetime opportunity to make a decision that affects your premiums for the rest of your life. Timing really is important. And don't believe everything you hear on TV; some current commercials promise things not available in Alabama. Do your research and/or discuss with an independent agent. Steve Adlman can be reached at 205-290-8648. We were also blessed to have two of our own, Charles Barnes (205-527-8103) and Linda Springfield (205-506-1663) in attendance who can provide excellent guidance to help you make the best individual decision for your set of circumstances.



# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

## NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS...

**We had a GREAT time!**

Pictures and report coming in the Jan newsletter

## DEACON'S LUNCHEON FOR WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

**Sunday, December 4 • 12:00 Noon • In the gym**

Invitations from our Pastor have been mailed.

Please be sure your Deacon has included you in the count for the meal.

## FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

**Monday, December 5 • 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](mailto: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*



## PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

**Wednesday, December 7**

## FIRST THURSDAY FOR PRAYING MEN

**Thursday, December 8 • Worship Center**

Praying for your



## JOYFUL HEARTS

Singing songs of glad tidings, our JH singers will be caroling during the month of December to the homes of our homebound.

## SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

*(Men's Southern Gospel Group)*

**Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Room D144**



## MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

**Thursday, December 8 • 6:11AM in the Gym**

Invite a friend and join us.



## SAM CHRISTMAS

**Sunday, December 11 • In the gym**

**Special Guests: 321 Improv Comedy**

**UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU'VE EVER EXPERIENCED**

**Two options: 11:30AM (meal) with 12:30PM (show)  
3:30PM (show) with 4:30 (meal)**

Get your ticket for the show time you want to attend. Tickets: \$20 per person can be purchased from any SAM Leadership Team member or at the Events Desk. Or, if you have a SAM meal ticket, trade it in for your December ticket.

## FAMILY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

**December 10 • 4:00-6:00pm • FBCT**

A late afternoon celebration for the whole family!

## DAWN OF REDEEMING GRACE

**December 18 • 9:15 & 10:45am**

A Christmas presentation by the Worship Ministry

## CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

**December 18 • 5:00pm**

**December 24 • 3:00 & 5:00m**

All the wonder and worship at Christmas by candlelight!

## CHRISTMAS DAY

**December 25 • 10:00am**

One worship service; small groups will not meet on this day.



## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

**Friday, January 27 • 6pm - 9pm**

**Saturday, January 28 • 8am -12pm**

• HOW TO BE •

# SAM with KEN LASS

SAM with KEN LASS

It's never difficult for me to spot someone who is walking closely with God. There is just something about them. They draw people to them like some sort of spiritual magnet. You know people like this. There are several of them in our SAM fellowship.

In chapter 34 of the book of Exodus, we read about Moses ascending Mount Sinai, and disappearing into the holy cloud, where he meets with God and is given the stone tablets, upon which are written the law of the Old Testament. As Moses descends back out of the cloud to return to the Israelites, scripture describes his face as "glowing". My translation uses the word "radiant". In fact, his face was beaming so brightly that, at first, Aaron and all the other people were afraid to come near him. It was so noticeable, that after telling the people what God had instructed him to say, Moses had to put a veil on his face to calm people down.

There were more trips up the mountain into the cloud to encounter God. Each time, Moses would emerge with face glowing brilliantly. Each time the people were hesitant to approach him.

"But Moses called to them. So Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward, all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai." (Exodus 34: 31-32)

The glory and the influence of God was easy to spot on Moses, and I believe it is still true today. I see so many folks in our SAM group working very hard, devoting so much time and effort, praying so intensely, organizing, encouraging and facilitating our events and fellowships. They don't complain. To the contrary, they are always smiling, always ready with a warm greeting, always the first to volunteer when there is work to be done. They are.....glowing.

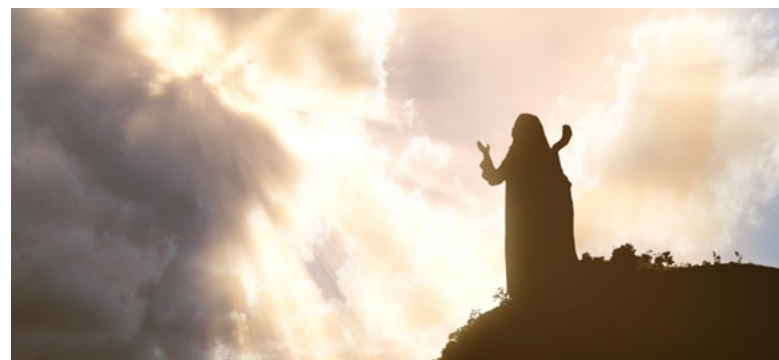
Anyone can see they have a rich prayer life. They communicate with God regularly, and, in His own unique way, He communicates back to them. Like Moses, they emerge from these encounters with a radiant outlook on life that is contagious to all around them. I don't have to tell you who they are. Indeed, they would be uncomfortable with any kind of public acknowledgement and praise, even though they deserve it. Yet I have no doubt you could sit down right now and make a list of several of our folks who fit that category. And if all of us were to compare our lists, I'm willing to bet the same names would be on all of them. It's no coincidence.

I've never felt worthy enough to "glow", but I'd like to get there. Maybe you would too. Guess what? There's hope for us. It's right there in second Corinthians.

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

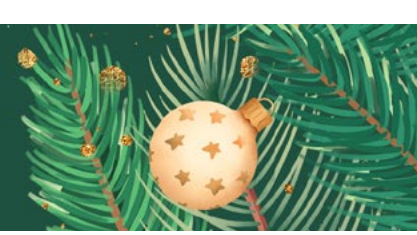
The weird thing about it is, those faithful Christians that are glowing? They're probably too humble to even realize it. Exodus tells us Moses didn't realize he was "radiant" until the people told him. God likes to operate like that sometimes.

Who knows? He may be lighting you up, and you don't even know it.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

By Judy Bryant



From your SAM Leadership Team, Newsletter staff and writers, a joyous Christmas to you all. Enjoy getting to know a little bit more about some of our writers below. What a joy it has been to serve with these and the many others of you who have contributed from time to time to our newsletter. Don't wait to be asked. If any of you have an interest in writing or have information to pass on for an issue of our SAM newsletters, email me (jb5348@bellsouth.net) or send to sam.news@fbctrussville.org anytime. We love to hear from you.

**Seasoned Adult Minister:** Bob Smith

**SAM Assistant:** Debbie Arrington

**SAM Newsletter Editor:** Judy Bryant

**Newsletter Design:** Stephanie Entrup

**SAM Leadership Team:**

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Bill Bowser     Debra Roberts

Diane Poole     Anita Aaron

Susan Hornsby     Denny Rogers

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Carol Garrett

Bob Hicks

Jim Hickman

Richard Hitchcock

Lee Houlditch

Ken Lass

Nyla Massey

June Mathews

Barbara Patton

Jim Patton

Sue Richards

Janice Shelton

Gail Stewart

Faye Summers

Sandra Vinson

## By Sandra Bearden

As a college freshman, I dreamed of a career in journalism as a writer of non-fiction, while my parents thought a more dependable source of employment would be teaching, backed with a degree in English. As things turned out, I did both during my 50 years of full- or part-time employment. Most of the time it's been fun, often challenging and rarely boring to teach, conduct interviews, organize and write for a daily paper, for specialized publications, or for diverse organizations.

As a lifelong Baptist and long-time Christian, I affiliated with a small church with my husband Bill when we moved to the Trussville area in 1976, later joining First Baptist when we moved into the big city of Trussville (which then had a population of about 3,000). How our church has expanded its mission, expanding from nine charter members in 1821 to more than 4,000 today! I am fortunate to be a member of the church and of the class taught by Martha Jones, a gifted and hard-working teacher, Bible student and friend. Those in her class greatly benefit from her dedication. That also goes for our pastor and a talented, faithful staff. I learned to know some of them while gathering information for a historical update written to celebrate the church's 200th anniversary. I hope that we and those who follow will continue to honor what's past, but also concentrate on how FBCT can continue to serve the Trussville area and its people.

## By Sue Richards

Writing for the SAM newsletter is definitely my "first rodeo". I've enjoyed each person I have interviewed. My small group is the GRACE class led by my husband, Mike Richards. We have a great, caring, praying class. Wonderful people. My "hobby" would be supporting several volunteer organizations... The Angel Squad at UAB; PEO, a philanthropic educational organization; Monthly Ministry Projects for our Sunday School class and our very own WMU. Missions have my heart.

## By Denise Dockery

"His Unfailing Word" Isaiah 40:8 has been my headline for our monthly SAM Newsletters for about 2 years. I've always loved to blog but the SAM Newsletter has allowed me to express in writing the impressions of God's Word.

I've been a member of FBCT since 1999, lead Precept Bible Studies, and serve with the Stephen Ministries as the Team Coordinator. My volunteer work includes "aTeam Ministries" for children with Pediatric Cancer, "Trafficking Hope" serving as an Advocate to bring hope to those trapped in prostitution, and "Radiant Ministries" ministering to those on the street.

I'm a member of a ladies small group class here at the church. I love spending time with my family and 4 grandchildren.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## By Jim Hickman

The first seventy years of my life were spent observing and being a part of the human race in different parts of the world and doing many different things. In 2003 this changed. We moved to Alabama, my wife passed away, my son Ross and his wife Paige and baby boy Caleb were here. Soon there was another baby boy, Seth. I commenced attending writing classes and started writing real-life short stories relating to those first seventy years and then the present. That's still my favorite writing.

For four – five years I submitted a story monthly to 'Family Living', a now defunct paper published in Birmingham. I put together a book of short stories 'You Smell Like A Grandpa', then published a historical novel, 'Mule Shoes To Santa Fe'. FBCT has been my home church since 2004, where I taught a small group class of older men. I was ordained a Deacon in 1971 in Virginia, was a youth leader in several different churches, was a member in SBC churches in KA, CO, UT, MT, AK, VA, CA, NM.

I am a US Navy Veteran, Private Pilot, and National Ski Patrolman. I love to be with my son Ross's family, met and married lovely lady, 'Gemma' here at FBCT, and enjoy her family. I love to travel, read, write and tell stories.

## By Gail Stewart

I write for the SAM Newsletter as my way of supporting the Seasoned Adult Ministry. It has been very rewarding to have the privilege of sitting down with people and learning interesting things about them which I can share with others. I think this can lead to many new and lasting friendships. I consider it an honor to have been asked to participate.



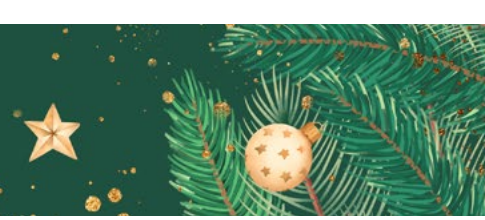
SAM Leadership Team. Members not pictured: Bill Bowser, Judy Bryant



## By Suellen Edmondson

I enjoy writing about trips and events. I have been at FBCT 30 years, attend Connie Boone and Mike Carter small group classes, plan SAM events, and love playing cards and games. I was the yearbook sponsor in my teaching life and directed many types of writings from sports to clubs to prom.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!



## By Diane Poole

I like to help with photos and occasionally write stories about the accompanying events. When I was in high school, I wrote a column for my high school for the local paper. Now, in my "day job" I write press releases summarizing the various events my chamber of commerce hosts.

Our family has attended FBCT since 2013. My husband and I are in Charlie Philpot's blended small group class. I serve on the SAM Leadership Team, and one of the projects I'm working on is a women's event to take place in January 2023! I also help address birthday postcards for SAMers, which is something a truly enjoy.

My hobbies: I'm a sports enthusiast and enjoy baseball, football, and basketball. My favorite teams are UAB, Auburn, Mississippi State, and whatever college baseball team my son Andy plays for! I am an amateur photographer and love creating Shutterfly books.

## By Susan Hornsby

Best I can figure, I have been a member of FBCT for 53 of my 65 years. Yes, I was on the cradle roll (remember that?) until after I got married at 18. Two brief periods away but both times I bounced right back to the "best church in the southern Baptist convention". FBCT was a great place for Bobby and me, but it was the very best place for our 4 children to grow up. I love inductive bible study and am always happy when we start a new study after a break. We are in the Booker/ Milam small group class. I love hanging out with grand babies and helping out their busy parents. I also love to travel.

## By Denny Rogers

First, I do not consider myself a prolific writer, but I so enjoy trying to put on paper what I'm sensing the Lord is putting on my heart.

As I look back on my over 45 years of ministry in which I have attempted to share my heart in writing, I must say most of the time those writings have revealed a passion for prayer. I have attempted to share this passion by means of newsletters, articles concerning my Prayer Journeys, and, last but not least, a few articles for our SAM Monthly Newsletters. I am so very grateful to be given the opportunity to continue to try to put on paper what I sense the Lord is saying to my heart.

My wife, Betty, and I are in Mike Carter's small group Bible study class. Many people in our small group have faithfully prayed for and supported my Prayer Journeys around the Southeast. We have been greatly blessed to be a part of this fellowship and are so thankful for their prayers and support.

In closing, my hobby, if you call it a hobby, is reading books on prayer and revival. I also enjoy reading history books.



**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](mailto: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!