



GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU THAN HE WHO IS IN THE WORLD. I JOHN 4:4

When it rains, it pours No kidding! We've had Winter days and rainy days. Precious lives have gone on to their homes in Heaven. The world around us is in turmoil. These dark days we are going through are temporary but they pack a big punch, leaving big holes or large footprints on our hearts, good and not so good. There are so many days when the sin and sadness in this world is overwhelming. We ask ourselves what do we do; what can we do? I ran across an old Billy Graham Crusade video with Andrae' Crouch singing the beautiful old song "Through It All" and share it with you [HERE](#).

We are reminded that through it all our trust in God, our dependence on His Word and Truth brings us "through it all." "I thank God for the mountains, and I thank Him for the valleys, I thank Him for the storms He brought me through. For if I'd never had a problem, I wouldn't know God could solve them, I'd never know what faith in God could do.'

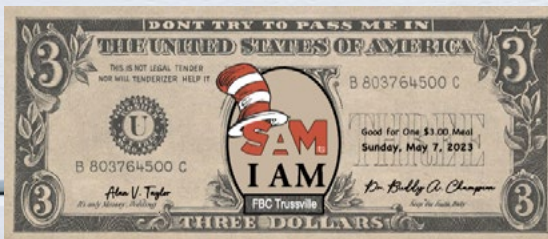
"I wish you could pull up a seat on my porch and we'd talk about this season of life that we're in..."

You may not be feeling like "this is your moment." I understand.

But here's what I do know... God will meet you in this moment, and God will use you in this moment. God will give you every dose of courage you need for today and hope for tomorrow. Just when you're about to give up, like Esther, you'll find your role in His story. And maybe we'll just discover that by God's grace, we were made to face a moment like this." Together.

Max Lucado, You Were Made for this Moment

Bob



MAY 2023

CREATION

By Jim Hickman

In the Beginning GOD created the heavens and earth covered with water, tossed it to make light and dark, tossed it again to make earth and seas, and added a lot of vegetation! Not satisfied yet, He split the lights for day and night. Still not finished, He flung a bunch of fantastic birds in the air, swarms of marvelous creatures in the seas, and a real zoo of creatures on land. He added a final topping of humans, both male and female, had them look around, told them it was all theirs, and to take care of it.

Then everything began to grow and reproduce, and be fruitful and multiply, and the Lord said "Spring is here." So now we (us Humans), can look around and see and enjoy the wonders of Spring as we watch what the Lord created for us. Isn't it marvelous and wonderful, and we should be thankful for the continued blessings of our lives – above all the Blessing of Eternal Life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

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.

SEASONED ADULT DAY AT FBCT SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023

Our Joyful Hearts Choir and SAM Vocal Band will be leading the morning service. Lunch served in Gym, 11:00AM to 12:15PM. \$3 lunch tickets available online or at the Event Center.

AND DON'T FORGET MONDAY, MAY 8 REVIVE (ALSBOM) EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

A special senior adult service First Baptist Church Birmingham
See details inside on Look What's Happening page.

• HOW TO BE •

SAM SATIONAL!

with KEN LASS

As I sit in our worship service on Sunday morning I am always drawn to the keyboardists. Watching Gayle play the organ and Kevin on the piano is always a blessing to me. For as long as I can remember I have wanted to learn to play keyboards. Somehow I just never had the time.

When I retired, I was determined to change that. I bought one of those down sized portable keyboards, along with a book titled "How to Play Keyboards, A Complete Guide for Beginners". I was so excited. It's only a matter of time, I thought, before I am up there alongside Kevin doing solos on the piano.

The book began by showing me how to place my right hand on the instrument, with each finger on a separate key. Thumb, index, middle, ring and pinky each had an individual job to do. It then guided me through the notes for Mary Had a Little Lamb. It took me awhile to read each note, find which finger to use, and strike it. After roughly half an hour, I could play the sequence fairly smoothly. Ma-ry-had-a-lit-tle-lamb, lit-tle lamb, lit-tle lamb.

The book explained I had to fight the tendency to use just one finger to hit all of the keys. I had to learn to utilize all five. Next was placing my left hand on the board. Same deal. All five fingers on separate keys. I'm severely right-handed, so this was more of a challenge. It took much longer to get that sequence down, but after what seemed like an eternity, my left hand could play it. Ma-ry-had-a-lit-tle-lamb, lit-tle lamb, lit-tle lamb.

I turned the page in the book. In the next step, it said "Now place both hands on the keyboard and play the sequence simultaneously."

You've got to be kidding me.

I have a very simple brain. Multi-tasking? Listen, I have enough trouble doing one thing correctly, much less several. Make both hands work together? I struggle to

pass my fork from right hand to left to cut my meat. The idea of having all ten of my fingers performing separate functions at the same time is about as likely as Baptists having a meeting without serving lunch. It ain't gonna happen.

It was then that I came to the crushing realization that I was never going to be a good pianist. Oh, I might get a little better with a lot of practice, but I was never going to be good. It's just not in me. Which fills me with even more admiration for Gayle and Kevin, the way they work the keyboard up and down, playing complex compositions, turning pages and reading the music on the fly, making it look so easy and natural and effortless. What a gift God has given them.

In fact, God's beautiful gifts are on plentiful display every Sunday morning. Few can sing like Lance. Few can organize and motivate (or sing) like Bob. Or preach like Buddy. Or lead Bible study like our Sunday School teachers. Or patiently take care of our grandchildren during worship. Not everyone has an incredible heart for prayer and ministry like so many of our church volunteers. Every example is a special gift from a loving God who keeps His promise to provide what we, as the body of Christ, need to survive.

Here's the good news. You're special too. God has blessed you with a gift. Everyone has one. God says so. I'm even willing to bet you already know what it is. You know what you're good at. Will you use it for His honor and glory?

As for me, if Kevin ever needs someone to fill in with a one-handed version of Mary Had a Little Lamb, I'm ready.

Happy
Mother's Day!



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

MAY DAY

Monday, May 1

FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

Monday, April 3 • 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



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



JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

FIRST & THIRD Thursdays OF EVERY MONTH

10:30 AM • Fellowship Hall

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Room D144



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 4

ELDER LAW SEMINAR

Friday, May 5 • 11:30AM • Fellowship Hall

\$10 per person • Register: fbctrussville.org/events

Guest Speaker: Attorney Lynn Campisi

Lunch and discussion about legal matters pertaining to seasoned adults.

SEASONED ADULT DAY

Sunday, May 7 • After 9:15 AM Service • \$3

Service of appreciation to our faithful Senior Adults

Lunch served 11:00AM to 12:15PM.

REVIVE (ALSBOM) EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Monday, May 8 • FBC Birmingham

Mini-buses depart FBCT 8:30AM • No cost

Speaker: Kevin Hamm (FBC Gardendale)

Music: Karen Beck and New River

A special senior adult service! Lunch together at Samford University Food Court following.

MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, May 11 • 6:11AM • Gym

Invite a friend and join us.

THIS IS THE FINAL 6:11 UNTIL FALL.



EDIBLE EDUCATION

Thursday, May 11 • 11:30AM • Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Kendell Jno-Finn

Reservation required. • \$6

Register at [HERE](#) or call Kathy Bowman at 205-228-1000

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 14

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 25 • 11:30AM • \$7 (or SAM meal pass)

Outside, by the front Fountain

Guests: The Homeland Trio

Bring a lawn chair; enjoy music, burgers, hot dogs, and smoothies!

Reservations required.

Call SAM office at 205-228-1006 OR

Email sam.reservation@fbctrussville.org OR

Complete tear-off in Sunday April 23 bulletin.

PRAYER JOURNEY SCHEDULE 2023

My next Prayer Journey • Georgia • May 21-25 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 Brother Denny's Journeys text your home address to 205-258-6096 (be sure to include your first/last name).

DAY OF PENTECOST

SUNDAY, MAY 28

For a deep dive, read Acts Chapter 2.



MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 29

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

May 4, 2023

We are reminded to pray fervently, urgently for our country, our world, and those who do not know Jesus as their personal savior.

A CALL TO PRAYER

By Denny Rogers

Why this call? In January of this year I was asked by my friend, Johnny Fain (he is a member of our church and has a great passion for prayer and revival), if I would be willing to begin making prayer journeys around the metro Birmingham area, praying promises of revival from God's Word over the city plus a 30-mile radius. I was honored to be asked and I gladly said yes.

The above explains why I am personally involved, but the following will explain why Brother Johnny is involved. His involvement began after meeting with Brother Jackie Connell, pastor of Eden Westside Baptist Church, who several months ago had an encounter with the Lord who revealed to him the following:

The Lord said that on October 1, call my people together for a time of praise and prayer across metro Birmingham. From 5:00PM to 7:00PM, the first hour is praise and the second hour is prayer. No name will be mentioned except the name of Jesus. No introduction will be made of people. No books sold. No CD's sold. You will worship for the first hour and then pray. There will be no direction given in prayer for man. The Lord said that He would direct His people on how to pray. This meeting is called "If My People Will Pray."

Sometime after this encounter with the Lord, the Steering Committee chose the Wright Center at Samford University as the venue because it was offered for free.

WILL YOU JOIN ME IN PRAYER?

I would like to challenge you to begin immediately 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 this October 1st event.

Thanks to all who will accept this challenge.

PRAY FOR OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS

From Spencer Jones

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023!

FBCT Graduation • Sunday, May 21

Please pray for each of these students:

...For Christ to be the center of their lives.

...For Community; for Godly community around them.

...For clarity in career.

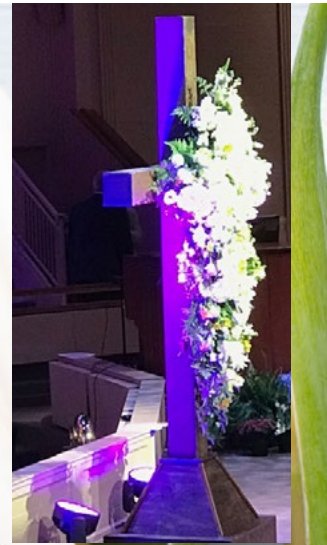
Jacob Alfano	AnnaBeth Hill
Will Argo	Jackson Johns
Dinah Bates	Rush Lachina
Hudson Bates	Savannah Limbaugh
Anna Blake	Kell Littlefield
Emily Bozeman	Garrett Long
Grace Brooker	Hopkins Long
Fulton Browne	Stacy Lovin
Olivia Browning	Anna Mathews
Sophie Bryant	Caleb Mitchell
Charlie Burns	Halle Parsons
Lexy Bush	Julianna Perez
Maggie Butterworth	Koen Pritchard
Ben Capps	Allie Richards
Will Cochran	Anne Stewart Rogers
Sarah Copham	Lacie Shelnutt
Ben Crawford	Samuel Simmons
Isaac Crawford	Berkleigh Sisson
Courtney Crowe	Allie Snuggs
Braden Deal	Ryan Stauffer
Hannah Dorr	Harper Stodghill
Katie Echols	Mitke Strickland
Joseph Filasek	Aaron Thimaras
Mallory Fowler	Ryan Thomas
Stephen Grigsby	Rex Usry
Isabella Hall	Sawyer White
Nakayla Hamlett	Abigail Wilkinson
Les Harbison	Reese Willoughby
Kaitlyn Hardy	Ella Grace Young
Seth Hickman	

EASTER 2023

FBCT Easter Morning Services attended by 4,000+
FBCT Annie Armstrong Missions donations exceed \$100K goal!
TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!

THE CROSS OF LOVE

Duet from FBCT's Lance Pate and Meredith Morgan
in Good Friday evening service, April 7, 2023
Find the service on our YouTube channel [HERE](#)
The duet starts at 28:24



PICK A DAY IN MAY AND PRAY!

COME ONE, COME ALL! Bring your classic, vintage, hot rod or really unique vehicle, or bring a friend and come enjoy.

NOW is the time to invite family and friends to our Fourth Annual Leland Dockery Tribute Cruise-In to be held on Saturday, June 3. It's FUN, it's FREE, and it's FOR EVERYONE!

NOW is the time to sign up to serve as a volunteer for the Cruise-In, whether volunteering to serve pre-event or the day of. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact us at the SAM office or contact us on-line in FBCT Ministries or Events as soon as possible!



NOW is the time for us to be praying a circle around the event. We will be seeing signs with directions for the prayer walk on the campus so PICK A DAY IN MAY AND PRAY! Please pray specifically for no rain!



GOD BLESS AMERICA!

As we celebrate Memorial Day on Monday, May 29, we remember and offer our thanks to all the men and women who have given their lives in service to our country and the values we hold dear. Thank you, dear ones, for your service, for your courage of conviction, for your bravery, and for offering up your very lives for our freedoms.

On Memorial Day, beginning at 2:00PM the City of Trussville will hold a dedication ceremony for the new Alabama Fallen Warriors Monument located at Trussville Veterans Park. The monument includes the 226 Alabama service members who have died since 9/11.

For more information, visit www.alabamafallenwarriorsproject.org

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

By Carol Garrett

My Mother has given me so many gifts. Too many to count. From my earliest memories, and through many years of life lived and experiences shared, I have only known her to be one thing. To me, she embodies all the best a mother should be. My sister Jane and I were given, by the grace and providence of God, a motherless little girl who grew up to become the Mother we strive every day to reflect.

The youngest of 12 children, little Peggy Ayres was only 3 years old when her own Mother died. She has no real memories of the woman who should have been the one most important person in her young life. Yes, she had six sisters. Yes, she was blessed with some Godly, good women in her small hometown of Fayette, Alabama; women who opened their homes and hearts to her. She had aunts and mothers of friends who loved and cared for her. And when she married my Daddy and became Peggy Sisson, she had his sweet Mother who drew her close and loved her as her own. My Mother gives these great women credit, lots of credit, for all they gave her. And to her credit, she listened and learned from all of them.

But I look at that beginning in wonder, amazed. Amazed at what she did with such a start in life. Although given many good things, she lacked the irreplaceable foundation of a Mother's love and guidance. Yet still she managed to give Jane and me the most important gifts. She gave us the bedrock security of knowing deep in our hearts that our Mother was without a doubt always present for us, and that nobody in the world would ever come before us. She continues to give us that security every single day.

How did she know to give us the gifts that she gave? We learned through her example the monumental importance of home and family, including fierce loyalty to and pride in both. We saw her love the unlovable, be kind to the unkind, and face every day with positivity, humor, and most of all, faith. She lived her faith, she took us to church, she worked in church. We knew the love of Jesus because she lived it before us day in and day out.

She has always loved our country with a depth of patriotism seldom seen in these times, and began a Fourth of July family reunion more than 40 years ago that we still carry on today. Per her example, the words "family reunion" have been expanded to include many others past just "blood." Everyone my Mother meets soon becomes family to her. She truly loves and is interested in the people around her. I don't think we ever celebrated a family holiday as I was growing up without any number of "extra" people with us. A wonderful Southern cook, Mother is happiest in her kitchen, surrounded by family and friends, serving fried chicken, macaroni and cheese or her signature carmel cake. There in her element, the food is an expression of love, the fellowship and laughter around the table all she needs in return. Her heart is big, her arms always spread wide, and I am so thankful for that example.

With great wisdom, my Mother taught me to consider the other person's side in any argument. How many times through my formative years she refused to jump to my defense or agree with my argument, patiently pointing out the other viewpoint or another's feelings! Frustrating as it could be at the time, today I am so grateful she gave me that instinctive voice in my head, the one that has helped me develop healthy adult relationships.



Jane and I were raised by a woman with a joyful heart and quick sense of humor. Anyone who knows Peggy Sisson knows she loves to laugh and have a good time. That good time was always best when shared with my Daddy. They were so different and yet so much a part of each other, both loving the other with such ease and completeness. They daily taught our whole family what great love and true partnership looked like in marriage. And oh my how they loved to dance! So when her partner of almost 70 years was suddenly ripped away from her, my Mother was devastated. She was lost but not destroyed, and worried more about all of us than herself. She showed and continues to show a courage and resilience that is teaching me new lessons even now.

Yes, my Mother has given me so many gifts. But one gift does stand out in my mind as unique. I can truly look at my Mother through the long lens of my life as a child, a teenager, an adult, a mother myself and now a grandmother, and say, "She got it right." In every way, as a mother, she got it right and continues to get it right, even now at 88 years old. Although she honestly doesn't see it and fiercely denies it, my Mother is my gold standard. I really cannot think of one thing I wish she had done differently or that I wouldn't want to recreate in my own life as a mother and a grandmother. What a rare gift, and what an amazing accomplishment for that little motherless girl who never knew for herself what she so freely gives to Jane and me, our husbands, our children and our grandchildren. Such abundant wisdom, love and grace. My example, my touchstone, my North Star, my Mother. She is perfect to me.

NOTE: Not only is Carol Garrett a proud daughter; she tells me she is "one proud mama!" If you missed the Monday, March 20 Jeopardy show, you really missed quite a performance by Jake Garrett, who ultimately won second place by a close margin! Congratulations, Jake Garrett!

JUNE 2023 MIDWEEK

(every Wednesday and Thursday in June)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7 • 9:00AM • Worship Center

GOAL: 200 Seasoned Adults in the balcony praying for the over 700 boys and girls as the Gospel is presented.

Then at 10:00AM our service ...TBA

Lunch Marco's Pizza • \$6 donation requested

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

THURSDAY, JUNE 8 • 9:00AM • High School Space

GOAL: Send a note to every parent expressing gratitude for allowing their child to participate in VBS and extending an invitation for them to join us for a service.

Then at 10:00AM ... Joyful Hearts Choir Rehearsal

Lunch Taco Mama • \$6 donation requested

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 • 10:00AM • Worship Center

Guest Pastor: Rev. Heath Harrelson

FBC Anderson, AL

Worship leadership: SAM Vocal Band

Lunch Chic-fil-A • \$6 donation requested

THURSDAY, JUNE 15 • 10:00AM • Worship Center

Special Guests: The Kellys, Southern Gospel Group

From Lawrenceburg, TN

Lunch Fox's Pizza • \$6 donation requested

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 • 10:00AM • Worship Center

**Dr. John Ed Mathison, Pastor Emeritus Frazer Church
Montgomery, AL.**

Worship Leadership: Kevin Grigsby

Lunch Chicken Salad Chick • \$6 donation requested

THURSDAY, JUNE 22 • 10:00AM • Worship Center

Dr. John Ed Mathison, Montgomery, AL

Worship Leadership: Kevin Grigsby

This service replaces our regular Monthly Luncheon

Lunch Full Moon BBQ • \$6 donation or use your 2023

lunch card

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28 • 10:00AM • Worship Center

**Dr. Gregory Frizzell, Global Spiritual Awakening
Oklahoma City, OK**

Worship Leadership: Joyful Hearts Choir

Lunch Jersey Mike's Subs • \$6 donation requested

THURSDAY, JUNE 29 • 10:00AM • Worship Center

Dr. Gregory Frizzell, Oklahoma, OK

Worship Leadership: Joyful Hearts Choir

Lunch Jim 'N Nick's • \$6 donation requested

SAM SERVES

By Jack Sittre

Dinner service by our Seasoned Adult Small Group Classes to the men at the CLCC once a month for the entire year is going well. Gaylon Freeman's class is serving dinner on May 25. We need a class to fill the June slot. Would yours be willing? Call church Missions office or SAM office for details and to sign up.

Many thanks to the 40 or so of our fellow SAMers who came to help with Campus Clean-up on Tuesday, April 11! Among other things, we pressure washed outside walkways, cleaned the under-side of 60+ tables, cleaned baseboards, wiped down the entire Worship Center, and gathered 100's of chairs in classrooms for cleaning and mending. Great job! Please watch for information on our annual Trussville school clean-up projects coming in July and August.

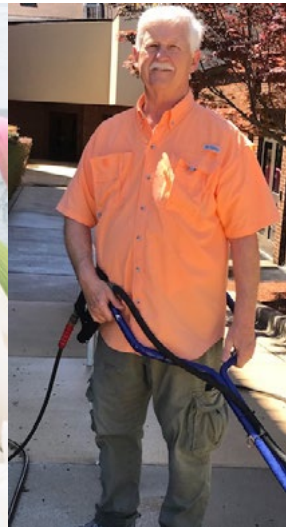
Good Morning Bob and SAMers,

We are so grateful for all the volunteers who came out and helped us with some of the deeper cleaning tasks and projects that get done only as time permits. With so many volunteers showing up, we were able to accomplish so much needed work. We can't thank you enough for all the hard work.

Again, thank you for volunteering your time and energy. We appreciate it very much.

Mike Lowry

Director of Facilities, First Baptist Church Trussville



SMILE, MOM, SMILE

By Grace Jones, 1982 © • For all her children

Did you ever often wonder
How a Mother's life would be
If the household went all smoothly,
And she felt so gay and free
That she didn't have to bother
'Bout a thousand things to do;
But just left them all to others?
Then you get to wondering "Who?"
And you smile.

It's Mother this and Mother that,
From morning until night.
The things that Mothers have to do
To keep their households right:
It's feed the kiddies, sweep the floor
Do the dishes, go to the store.
But through all this we're prone to say,
"Smile, Mom, smile."

I know that it would take a book
To name things one by one,
The things that Mothers have to do
To get their housework done.
But through all the things that happen,
And she has no time for nappin'
She just smiles.

If you want to make her happy
And you don't know what to do,
Just a little bit of kindness
Will help to see her through.
Though she's always awful busy,
And to watch her makes you dizzy,
Just remember how she loves you;
Then you'll smile.

Yes, it's the same old story:
That we never give her glory,
And a woman's work is never done.
Yet, I know she doesn't mind it,
'Cause there's happiness behind it,
And she always seems to find it....
In a smile.



Submitted by Jeannie Nabers (daughter of Grace and Everett Jones). On the bottom of Mom's handwritten original she wrote, "This is what all five of my children used to say to me all the time. I guess it did keep me going and kept them from a lot of spankings."

Mom was awarded an "Honorable Mention" for entering this poem in the World of Poetry contest. Later, the Board of Directors of the World of Poetry chose this poem for presentation at their 8th Annual Convention, thus honoring Mom as a Golden Poet, 1990.

The poem is published in Great Poems of Our Time, The National Library of Poetry, Watermark Press, Owings Mills, MD, 1993.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Willie Nelson just turned 90; happy birthday Willie, but you ain't got nothing on our own friend Bill Hawkins who just turned 96! And Bill can still hold his own in the singing department too! Happy Birthday to all of you Spring birthday SAMers! We love you!



BUT WAIT... THERE'S MORE

The SAM Newsletter is BURSTING with fascinating articles! Sometimes there is just not enough room to print all of them on paper. Don't fret, there is always room on our digital newsletter! Follow the directions listed below to get a full version sent straight to your email.

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!

NEW BOOKS ENCOURAGE QUALITY TIME WITH GRANDCHILDREN

By June Mathews

Sherry Crew is the grandmother of nine grandchildren, all living out-of-state. So whenever they come to visit or she and husband Roger visit them, making every moment count is a must. For Sherry, that means planning activities and experiences geared toward creating memories and fostering relationships with their grandchildren. "I love spending time with them and often think about things we would do together if they were here," she said. "Making memories with grandchildren opens doors for meaningful conversations as they grow."

Sherry eventually realized that sharing the things she and her grandchildren enjoy doing might inspire other grandparents to make the most of their time with their own grandchildren. And that's how her If You Were Here series of children's books, beautifully illustrated by the Crews' son, Richie, came to be. "Most every activity in the books, we actually do with our grandchildren when we are together," she said. "And since my grandchildren are the reason I'm writing these books, I wanted them to be able to see themselves in the books, and Richie's illustrations reflect that."

Sherry's first book, published in 2022 and simply titled *If You Were Here*, is filled with simple pleasures like taking a walk, reading a story, and playing catch in the backyard. The second title, also published last year, picks up on the theme of the first one. *If You Were Here When Autumn Leaves Fall* captures the simple pleasures associated with the season of colorful leaves and giving thanks.

Sherry's third book, *If You Were Here for Easter*, incorporates faith, portraying it as a normal part of life. "Easter is a holiday that easily affords opportunities for making memories doing festive activities with children," she said. "This Easter book shows grandparents taking the children to church and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus."

It's the potential impact of those kinds of activities, Sherry believes, that make spending time with grandchildren a crucial part of their growth. "Grandparents play an important role in the development of children," she said. "Time and perspective give the older generation something



valuable to teach the young ones. As Christ followers, we believe we have truth to pass on, providing a sure foundation children can build their lives on."

As time passes, and Sherry's grandchildren continue to grow, so does her list of *If You Were Here* book ideas, as well as her plans to add to the series. "I hope that wherever these books land they encourage grandparents to redeem the time with their grandchildren by investing in their spiritual development as they invest time doing the simple things of life," she said.

Sherry Crew's *If You Were Here* books are available on Amazon.com. For more on the series, visit @popsandnanabooks on Instagram.

To see more of Richie Crew's work, visit www.richiecrew.myportfolio.com



..... JUNE IS JUST ABOUT TO BE BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER!



THURSDAY, JUNE 1

**U.S. Space & Rocket Center • Huntsville
German Cuisine Night • \$100 person**

Includes: Charter bus transport & Lunch, Rocket Center & Planetarium Pass, movies & shows, entertainment and German dinner.
Depart church at 9:00AM

Register on-line at www.fbctrussville.org/events

no gas no electric and zero emissions these are the vehicles of the future



NOTE: Not only is Carol Garrett a proud daughter; she tells me she is "one proud mama!" If you missed the Monday, March 20 Jeopardy show, you really missed quite a performance by Jake Garrett, who ultimately won second place by a close margin! Congratulations, Jake Garrett!

CLICK [HERE](#) to enjoy The Phillips Family music video with lyrics "Because I Said So"

OCTOBER 16-19, 2023
CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW
Pigeon Forge, TN • October 16-19
The Lodge is booked for our stay! Make plans now to join us. Watch for more information coming soon!

TOLD YA THERE WAS MORE... WELCOME TO THE DIGITAL WORLD!