



SAM YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

This issue of the SAM Newsletter is the one we call the Year in Review. It's good to look back and celebrate victories and learn from things that were less than victorious. In life and in Ministry, there are always hills and valleys. As I think back over the last year, what lessons do I reflect upon? Though we may have personality, education, and experience. Though we have skills, talents and charisma, God is still the one in control, not us. God is the one who is sovereign, not us. "A person's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

NOVEMBER 2022

MORE THAN WONDERFUL

Written by Lanny Wolfe

I stand amazed when I think that the King of Glory
Would come to lie within the heart of man
Oh, and I marvel just to know He really loves me
When I think of who He is and who I am
For He's more wonderful than my mind can conceive
He's more wonderful than my heart can believe
He goes beyond my highest hopes and fondest dreams
He's everything that my soul ever longed for
Everything He'd promised and so much more
He's more than amazing
More than marvelous
More than miraculous could ever be
He's more than wonderful
That's what Jesus is to me

Click [HERE](#)

More Than Wonderful sung by Sandi Patty and Larnelle Harris

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.

Being comfortable is not always what God desires for us. Cruise-control is not how God wants us to move through life. He wants us to be alert and ready, for whatever comes our way. "Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour." (1 Peter 5:8). We must remember that a battle rages on. It's too easy to do things the way we've always done or to get too comfortable or to leisurely go through the motions.

In life, bad things happen but there will always be good things, better things, and the best things. I recently saw a bumper sticker that said, "the best things come to those who don't give up." I'm not really sure of the theological logic of a bumper sticker, but I'd like to see this one "Don't give up, look up!"

But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.
II Chronicles 15:7

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. I Cor. 15:58

I would never equate giving up with the routine of most senior adults, but we have been trained and conditioned to think that when we reach a certain age, we can do and say whatever we want, because we have earned that right. As citizens of heaven, we do not possess any intrinsic or essential rights. We have privileges that result from the grace shown to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

The perspective for all of us is from the prayer of Hezekiah before the Lord found in II Kings 19 ... "God show your glory in all of this." Does God show His glory when my attitude is all about what I want? Does God show His glory when my conversation is hateful or inappropriate? Does God show His glory when my actions are lazy and uncommitted?

In Choir rehearsal, Clay has referenced The Westminster Catechism which asks the question, "What is the chief end of man?" My translation ... If I know God's goal, what should my goal be? It answers, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." The ultimate goal of God in history from the beginning to the end, is the demonstration of His glory. Our responsibility is to bring our thoughts, cares, and actions in line with His ultimate goal. The way we glorify God is to delight in His glory - more than in anything else, and be thankful for it. Then as a natural result of the joy God gives, we experience freedom from a self-centered and selfish motive to a stirring within our hearts to seek the **best** for those around us. I challenge every Seasoned Adult to pray for that kind of stirring in your heart. If that happens, lives will be different and our church will be closer to what God wants His church to be. My prayer is that we never lose sight of His Ultimate Goal.

Bob

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING ...

AND THE SMITH FAMILY IS NO DIFFERENT!

(NOTE: THIS PICTURE IS NOT ACTUALLY BOB AND HIS SIBLINGS.)

But, yep, that one kid would be Bob Smith in his family! We learned that at our Sunday Stroll to Classic on Noble in Anniston on June 26, when 100 of us went to eat, of course, and to enjoy meeting Bob's family and hearing them sing and play the piano. What a talented family. Thank you, Bob Smith, for sharing with us here at FBCT your incredible sense of humor, amazing musical talents, your mind that never turns off and is always full of ideas, and your BIG, BIG heart of love for others and our Lord and Savior.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BOB SMITH, NOVEMBER 16!

Every family has that one kid



OUR CONGRATULATIONS GO TO KATHERINE!

We've learned that she was crowned Miss Jr. Teen United States on October 12 in Memphis, TN.

Katherine is in the 10th grade at Hewitt Trussville High School and is a Highstepper in the marching band. She plays clarinet in the wind ensemble during concert season.

"HELPING THE HELPERS"

By Sandra Bearden

"Helping the Helpers" is what I think of in regard to a "favorite" in 2022. Before going out to eat following our monthly class meeting, we prepare items for churchwide projects sponsored by the FBCT Women's Missionary Union. This month it was bringing and wrapping small gifts to include in Christmas stockings for deserving children.

Our WMU and Men on Missions teams are back in full swing after months of Covid and other challenges. Our WMU continues to provide meals; purchase and fill backpacks; and even honor our first responders with baskets filled with goodies. Our men were particularly blessed this summer to help with construction at FBC Ossian, Indiana.



LELAND DOCKERY TRIBUTE CRUISE-IN, SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022

By Denise Dockery

This past weekend at the Cruise-In, I met a man whose father sold Leland his first car for \$85. I believe this is the picture of it below, dating back to 1968. From what I've been told Leland's parents were very upset for the man selling this car to Leland thinking \$85 was too much money for a young man. The man offered to give the money back but instead his parents said Leland needed to learn a lesson.

Leland never stopped restoring cars. I have a list of all the cars he restored in his lifetime which total 54. As a wife I have to say many times I just shook my head in disbelief. He was continually on the search for the next car. Wives, husbands do need hobbies.



This past Saturday at the Cruise-In we saw the fruit of a man's love 54 years later when many a street rodder rolled in. When asked how did you hear about this Cruise-In many responses were "I was a friend of Leland."

FBCT's prayer will always be not about the cars nor Leland but about Christ and the image portrayed by the two trucks side by side ... a before and after picture. Never underestimate what God can do in you, when He puts you in the hands of the Master builder and brings you from death to life.

We look forward to another Cruise-In next year on June 3rd, 2023. Mark your Calendars!

TWO IDENTICAL TRIPS ... NOW THAT'S A FIRST!

N'AWLINS ... BETTER THE FIRST TIME AROUND (APRIL), OR THE SECOND TIME AROUND (MAY)?



Consensus is Café Du Monde never fails!

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!

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

FIRST THURSDAY FOR PRAYING MEN

Thursday, November 3 • 6:30AM • Worship Center

Praying for your



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Sunday, November 6 (set your clock back one hour)

SEMINAR ON MEDICARE

November 6

FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

Monday, November 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



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

ELECTION DAY FOR MID-TERM ELECTIONS

Tuesday, November 8

JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

Thursdays, November 3 & 17 • 10:30 AM
Fellowship Hall

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Room D144



MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, November 10 • 6:11AM in the Gym

Invite a friend and join us.

VETERANS DAY

Friday, November 11

NO SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON IN NOV.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Join us on Wednesday, November 16 for our Churchwide Thanksgiving meal and observance of the Lord's Supper.

NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS

November 30–December 2 (limited to 96)

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

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

\$150 deposit at registration



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.

FORE!

Pictured are just a few of our SAMers who played in the annual FBCT Golf Tournament on Friday, September 30 at Grayson Valley Country Club. The SAMers did not win the prizes, but they sure had a good time on a beautiful day to play.



• HOW TO BE •

SAM with KEN LASS **SATIONAL!**

We live in a relative world. It's in our nature to judge everything based on what we are comparing it to. That means judgements are going to change as circumstances change.

Are you a tall person? Well, compared to my little four year old grandson, I'm a giant. Compared to Kareem Abdul Jabbar, I'm a shrimp. It's relative. Are you a rich person? Compared to Bill Gates, you'd probably be considered a pauper. But compared to that unfortunate soul with all his belongings in a paper bag, sleeping under a highway overpass tonight, you are wealthy beyond measure.

Does Auburn have a good football team this year? Not compared to Georgia, who beat them 42-10. Yet compared to Mercer they were a super team, having whipped them 42-16. It's relative. Is it cold outside? Your answer might be different from someone who lives in Alaska or Bermuda. Any time we have to make a judgement, we ask ourselves, what is the current norm? And how do we compare to that?

Now, along comes God. The Bible tells us God is not relative. He is absolute. He never changes, nor does He adjust his standards to fit the culture. He has laid down His commands about issues such as abortion, homosexuality, profanity, and honesty. He did that thousands of years ago. They remain the Christian standard today. Despite the criticism and the estrangement from the mainstream, maybe because of it, the essence of what is pleasing to God, and what is against His will, is the same as it was for Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, David, Daniel, or Jonah.

This is hard for us. We're not used to dealing with absolutes. If the majority of good folks out there are now okay with teaching only evolution to our children, then it must be okay with God, right? Hebrews 13:8 states it clearly and simply. "Jesus Christ is the same today, yesterday and forever." But he's God, and we're just us! Surely He can't expect us to be as spiritually strong and unchanging as He? Or can He? Philippians 2:5 reads "In your relationships with each other, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."

The same mindset? But His mindset is so absolute. When He inspired Paul to write those words, He couldn't have taken into account that, one day, abortion would be common. Homosexuality would be glorified and openly promoted. Premarital sex would be a routine activity. Certainly those can't all still be sins? How could there be so much sin in the world?

Because humans are weak. Sin is in our nature, and the only way we can continue to recognize it, is if we can compare it to an absolute standard. Lucky for us it's right there. It's called the Holy Bible, and we need to be in it every day.

The world around us is never going to stop evolving. Human nature is always going to tempt us to stray. More than ever, we need to cling to the standard. We do that by praying passionately and frequently, by attending corporate worship and Bible study, by ministering to those around us in need. Yes, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, but He intends to reveal Himself through the faces, arms and legs of His church.

That will always be true. Absolutely true.

And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord, God show your glory in all of this ... that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord God, even thou only. 2 Kings 19:14-19



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

SO, BOB, WHAT'S NEXT?!

What a ride this year has been, literally! We've been in cars, vans, buses, and trains more times than we can count, and we've had a year full of "firsts." Our annual luncheon meal tickets were introduced. They've worked well this year for our SAM luncheons. You'll be hearing details for our 2023 meal tickets in the near future.

Bob started our Leadership Team off with a new structure he titled **SPICED**.

Scheduling **P**rayer **I**nstruction **C**onnection **E**ncouragement **D**evotion

"WHY DO YOU DO WHAT YOU DO?"

Each of our Team Leaders have answered the question Bob asked of us:



What serving on SAM has meant to me... I was not sure why I was initially asked to serve on the SAM Leadership Team, but it did not take long to be captivated by the synergy produced by the combination of gifts and talents so unselfishly contributed by the various members both past and present with whom I have served. Having been captured by witnessing what a small group of willing servants could accomplish on behalf of our membership, our church and our community, my heartfelt desire was to facilitate the opportunity for more of our SAM members to experience the special joy of serving our Lord and Savior together. My own spiritual life has been richly rewarded by the many new friends I have made in the process. Thank all of you!
By Steve Penuel, SAM Leadership, Team Leader.

Why do I do what I do... because God has given me the abilities He wants me to have and use for Him. Acts 17:28a For in Him we live and move and are. One of my favorite songs "Even the praise comes from You." Every prayer that I raise comes from You. Fill my mouth with words of worship and I'll give them back to You. O Lord, they are not my own, they come from You alone. Even the praise, every feeling and phrase, even the praise comes from You.
By Debra Roberts, SAM Leadership, Secretary.

God has been so good to me and blessed me over and over again. My church family has supported me in the good and bad circumstances in my life. I want to give back to others what I have received that has meant so much to me. Over the years I have watched the senior adults of FBCT and observed their faith and perseverance. Now, we are those senior examples being watched. James 1:18 says show your faith by your works, so while I have the opportunity I want to serve others especially those of the household of faith. The SAM Ministry is the perfect ministry through which to do that.
By Anita Aaron, SAM Leadership, Team Finance.

This year we have taken our songs of worship to those inside our church and out into other churches. We have received wonderful responses that through us God has touched people's hearts. I hope I can keep singing until the day I'm called home by my Lord and savior...and then singing praises will really begin!

SCHEDULING...

Our calendars have been FULL OF FUN in 2022. We have been entertained, we have laughed, we have travelled, and we have been blessed time and time again with the best meals this side of Heaven prepared by our own Mrs. Georgia! Thank you Georgia and your team!

What's been most impactful this year in SAM ministry to me has been the expansion of the Joyful Hearts Choir and the reemergence of the SAM Vocal Band. I personally worship and pray through singing. It lifts my soul like nothing else. And it's fun! I want to share that worship experience with others as much as possible. The Psalms are my guide as they teach us to worship through song; "I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High." Psalms 9:2 NIV; "I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands and voice." Psalms 63:4 NIV; "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." Psalms 100:2 NIV. This year we have taken our songs of worship to those inside our church and out into other churches. We have received wonderful responses that through us God has touched people's hearts. I hope I can keep singing until the day I'm called home by my Lord and savior...and then singing praises will really begin!

By Bill Bowser, SAM Leadership Team, Scheduling.

My hand just goes up automatically... I have always raised my hand freely to volunteer to work beside someone as well as take the ball and run with it. It's a part of my identity as I love people and being useful.

As a schoolteacher, these were my roles: FBLA sponsor, Yearbook sponsor, Senior Class sponsor (powder puff football organizer, Santa hats, Miss Lodestar sponsor graduation ceremony) to name a few; I also sold football tickets on Friday nights.

After I retired, I still wanted to be involved. Over the years, I have asked for volunteers to help with different things, with some positive and some negative response. Therefore, I know when someone needs help, "yes" is music to their ears while "no" is not the answer they want to hear. This is primarily why I usually say yes when asked.

When Bob came to FBCT, I told him I was not a senior adult. However, I went to one of his organizational meetings and persuaded some of my friends to go. The next thing I knew he showed me a chart and there was my name listed to plan events and monthly luncheons. It was right up my alley because I enjoy planning events. I will have to say words cannot express how I feel about the SAM program. It is continually growing, and I have been blessed to know so many of the SAMers (55+ in our church), and I have grown to love them.

People ask me all the time how I do so much but, in my mind, it isn't much—just an act of love for the Lord and our SAM ministry.

You see

*"when I stand before God
at the end of my life
I would hope that I would
have not a single bit of
talent left and could say,
'I used everything
You gave me.'"*

-Erma Bombeck

Thank you, Bob Smith, for allowing me to serve in this capacity and to all the faithful volunteers who have jumped on board when I asked. "You are the best!!!"

By Suellen Edmondson, SAM Leadership Team, Events.



HOW DID HE DO THAT?

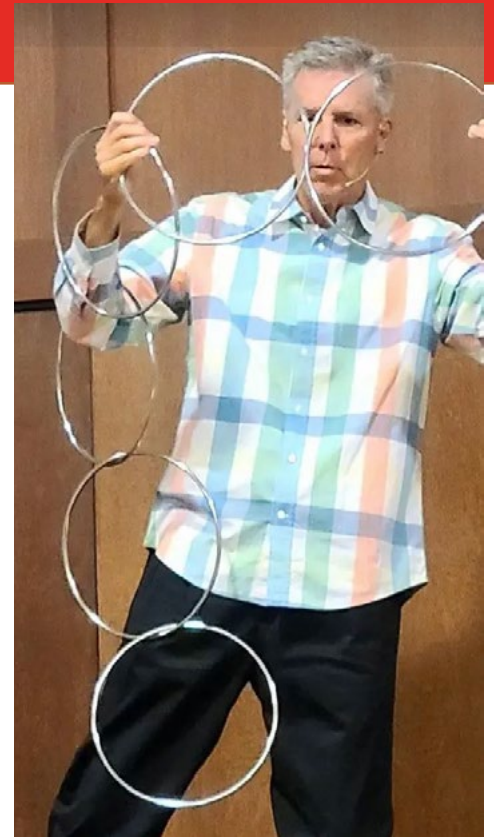
**He emphasized with a smile...
don't try any of this at home... I'm the Pro!**

Magician David Garrard joined us for our September 22 SAM Monthly Luncheon, but before he began to work his magic, our own John Patterson presented the devotion. Turns out they actually are friends, having attended Samford together. John's message fit perfectly into Garrard's magic and message.

John asked us to hold up 4 fingers and said, "we are in the final period – the 4th quarter. ... Not one of us play a perfect game." The 3 preceding quarters were full of successes and failures, but our influence on others will come in this 4th quarter. We will be remembered for this time and how we played it.

We've heard several who attended say "he's one of the best magicians I've ever seen." But David Garrard has what he called his "backup magic words," words we can all take to heart and pass on to others:

**GOD MADE ME, GOD LOVES ME,
AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL!**



LAUGHTER AND INSPIRATION

Don't forget laughter and inspiration with Rosie the Riveter and Steve Brogan and Friends, and Ridin' on the Freeway with Cheryl Rogers, not to mention, entertainment by concert pianist, Daniel Cason in April and the Homeland Trio in July! So many of us SAMers got to actively participate. Who can forget Steve Brogan's friend, Jack Sittre, and Cheryl Rogers and her Gladys Knight and the Pips!

LOOK WHO WE MET IN MONTGOMERY!

On March 24 our group headed to Montgomery Performing Arts Center for an Oak Ridge Boys concert. In the words of our own John Patterson "... oom bappa oom bappa oom bappa mow mow!" we met The Mountain Man himself William Lee Golden!



WHAT IF WE PRAYED...

By Denny Rogers, SAM Leadership Team, Prayer.

As I look back and reflect, 2022 has been a great year for me.

From the time Bob and I met together and he explained to me what the "P" in "SPICED" means, which is "prayer," I've been in the midst of many miracles. In that first meeting, he asked that Betty (my wife) and I pray about my serving as Prayer Team Leader of our SAM Leadership Team. After Betty and I prayed, we both felt the Lord desired me to lead in this area.

Here are some of the miracles that God has brought about this year:

- The honor and privilege of leading our First Monday Prayer Meeting.
- The launching in June of First Thursday for Praying Men, praying for our "One." Jack Sittre helped me to launch this on-going prayer event.
- The privilege of working with Brother Bob and Carl and Becky Grimmett to design and carry out a prayer walk for our annual Leland Dockery Tribute Cruise-In. Oh yes, God answered our prayers! No rain! Also, God's word was proclaimed to our community by our pastor, Brother Buddy.

Indeed, 2022 has been a wonderful year. Thank You Lord!

HOW TO TURN A ROAD TRIP INTO A PRAYER JOURNEY

By Denny Rogers

I had never thought of this concept until a few months ago when Brother Jerry Bain shared with me that he and his wife were planning a trip soon to visit their son in Boston, Massachusetts.

He expressed to me his desire to pray scripture over the states they would be traveling through on their journey. As we discussed what I do on my prayer journeys and the method I use, we both agreed a better and safer way to pray scripture would be listening to recorded scriptures either on a "CD" or a "Flash Drive" as you travel.

Thanks to John Davis and his expertise in this area, he made it possible for this to happen. What a joy it was to present recently to Jerry and his wife, Jennifer, on behalf of our Seasoned Adult Ministry, a "Flash Drive" containing scriptures on Revival and Spiritual Awakening, Paul's Prayers for believers, and spiritual warfare prayers against the demonic strongholds that rule the darkness in many of our large cities.

If you would also like to turn an upcoming road trip into a prayer journey, please text the words "Road Trip," your last name, and either "CD" or "FD" to my phone (205)258-6096. Please do this at least one week before you leave on our trip. Your "CD" or "FD" will be available for you free of charge to pick up at our church's Event Center desk on the Sunday morning prior to your leaving.

Thanks for being willing to turn your road trip into a prayer journey.



MAYBE TOMORROW?

By Nyla Massey

I was sitting and talking with two of my great-grandchildren one day. One of them brought up a family member who they knew of, but had never met. They asked me where he was and why they hadn't met him. I gently tried to explain to them what the problem was that this family member was not in fellowship of his own choice with his family.

The children were old enough to understand what I was saying, and I explained that he was not in fellowship with God the way he should be and that was what made it so hard. Then I explained that the family was praying for him and asking God to renew his heart and make our family whole again.

As they talked about it a little more, I reminded them that we always had to give God the chance to work on people's hearts, and while we waited, we just trusted Him, and that maybe it wouldn't be long before we'd be back together. My great-grandson thought about this for a few seconds, then looked at me and asked, "Maybe tomorrow?"

This question has stuck with me ever since that day, several years ago. Someone told me that I needed to share what it left in my heart. We all know that God does not always work on our timetable, but we must never doubt that He has not forgotten our prayers. Trusting God over a long period of time may be hard, but I feel that we can do that if we are serving Him and waiting for His timing. God does not force people into His will, but He works in ways we cannot see as the Holy Spirit gains access to a person's heart. God teaches us patience sometimes, through waiting and trust Him, even when we cannot see for ourselves what He is doing. My own faith has been tested by this whole situation and I am still believing in His love for us and his promises in His word that we study each day.

The children have had an opportunity to see that family member since then, and it seemed to please them, even though the relationship is still not what it ought to be, but "Maybe tomorrow?"

Our prayer lists have included our students all year.

We prayed for 2022 DNOW and lives were saved! We must begin to pray NOW for our students and leaders who are already planning and signing up for 2023!

DNEW 2023
JANUARY 13-15

JESUS

—MVMT 10:44—

WITH
SEAN CURRAN +
DR. JAMIE DEW

EARLY BIRD
SIGN-UP
OPEN NOW!
(\$60 UNTIL SEPT. 1st)

FBCT STUDENTS

For the first time, some 100 of us joined in the balcony to literally pray over the students in worship during VBS in June. We offered further prayer support during the August 20 Student back-to-school special worship services lead by Sean Curran (worship) and Shane Pruitt (messenger). We had the opportunity to hear Shane Pruitt's message in our Sunday morning services on August 21. What a powerful message and oh how God blessed not only our own church students, but others in our community.

Also, for the first time, for several days prior to and on the day of, we prayed a "circle" around our Leland Dockery Tribute Cruise-In. Many thanks to Carl and Becky Grimmatt for heading this up. We can highly recommend the book "The Circle Maker" by Mark Batterson. Batterson dives into how powerful physically circling around a prayer need can be, but explains also how powerful prayer is when we let the prayer go on full circle ... don't stop until we get God's answer. Pray all the way through, no matter how long it takes.

INSTRUCTION...

By Susan Hornsby, SAM Leadership Team, Instruction

I believe my gift from the Lord is administration. We are blessed with several who are good at leading bible study. I love the Word and have personally been in various almost continuous bible studies for decades. I love digging in the Word to discover exactly what the Greek or Hebrew word used really was saying. I love going from Genesis to Revelation for all the Bible has to say about a topic or phrase. Every word is divinely appointed and important and the whole Word is inerrant. Bible study is a privilege not offered everyone. This year our house flooded and among the damage was my bible, wrinkled swollen and misshaped. My precious bible study friends gifted me with another copy of God's Word just like the one I lost. I am loving moving my notes from my old, damp, swollen copy to my new one, reliving the "Ah-ha's" from studies from the past.



I have also enjoyed coordinating the plans for several classes this year that I felt our SAM members could benefit from. It is a fact that most scammers target older individuals because we are a more trusting generation and perhaps less prepared to detect fraudulent intentions. Our guests from the FBI and the Attorney General's Office were very informative of current scams being used today and how to detect and avoid them. Several of our folks voiced that they had been victims or have had attempts made to defraud them.

Nearing the end of every year most of us have an opportunity to change our Medicare benefit elections. But as our health evolves, the best option for coverage also evolves. Having an unbiased person available who is knowledgeable about the various plans to answer questions was helpful to many this year.

As life moves forward, our family structure sometimes changes as well. People come into our lives and unfortunately sometimes they leave us. It is important to plan for future decisions. This year we had a class on important legal documents such as wills, power of attorney, medical power of attorney, and advanced directives (living wills). Some folks already had these but they needed to be updated. Many were pleased to discover their documents were still valid and appropriate. Some newer laws were discussed as to how they might apply to our various situations.

I enjoy hearing from our SAM members when they have suggestions for new topics that interest them or that they may need covered.

SMILE AWHILE

Question: Who can jump as high as a building?
Answer: Everyone! Buildings can't jump!



CONNECTION...

By Judy Bryant, SAM Leadership Team, Connection

Why do I serve as Editor of our SAM Newsletter? Because I love it! I love the privilege I have had to get to know so many of you through this ministry. I love to read and research and learn, and there's been plenty of that to do! I love when I pray and ask God to give me the words, His words, the words He wants written and He responds every single time ... They are not my words ... I'm just a willing servant. Nor are they coincidences. I don't know why I'm so surprised every time He answers. I love encouraging others to write and watching them discover the joy of the connection with others and the work of God in the process. But most especially, I feel closer to Him ... I have to talk to Him a lot! Having a connection, indeed relationship, with God is the most beautiful one to have. We love because He first loved us! I John 4:19 That's why I do what I do.



AND SPEAKING OF CONNECTION...

Steve Penuel and others have been working hard to help get our FBCT online directory up to date. Our first-ever Photo Bomb Squad campaign began and ran through the month of September. Thanks to all 150+ of you who have stopped by to have your pictures made. Watch out for several opportunities in the new year to have your picture taken in the Gathering Space before, between, or after services and at various SAM events, then let our team walk you through uploading it to our church app!

ENCOURAGEMENT...

CARE AND SERVING AT HOME AND ABROAD

By Jack Sittre, SAM Leadership Team, Encouragement. Have you ever considered all of the activities, missions, ministries our church does on a daily basis? If I'm somewhat accurate, most of these function because of the spirited, unselfish cooperation of God's children, who choose to serve and encourage those who have needs. 1 Peter 4:11 tells us God has given each of us the ability and strength to serve others. Point made. From that, we can all be "Heavenly Soldiers" and express our love to others through serving as a reflection of what Christ has done for us. I've seen on many occasions where I felt my abilities didn't necessarily align with the task, and guess what, God matches my abilities to the task or needs of others every time! A recent example was installing several rooms of linoleum plank flooring at the Serving You office in Birmingham. I have to admit, I knew very little on how to lay flooring when I accepted the assignment. But God matched my unsure abilities with incredible men from our church, and the job was done timely, and in my opinion, looked pretty incredible! The people at Serving You were ecstatic! I would describe this particular serving mission as a contribution to something meaningful and with a vision.

As encouragement leader on the SAM team, I can assure you the opportunities are all around us, and there is always a spot open for anyone wishing to give back, share, and make a Kingdom impact in the lives of so many within our reach.

Let us "Be The Reason" we affect our church and Gospel through service and encouragement, motivated without reasons or thoughts, as we demonstrate God's grace through each of us in whatever situation. I ask God daily, please find a way to use me. Boy has He blessed me! Serving is actually FUN; there really is Joy in giving back! Hope to see you soon in the mission field!



WE CARE, GOD CURES!

By Denise Dockery

A "first" here at FBCT began earlier this year with several interest meetings for our church members (adult men and women). We will be having 2 Interest Meetings for Stephen Ministry on October 30 @ 6:00 PM Room D200 and also November 2nd @ 6:00 Room D201. (Yes, separate rooms.) This is an opportunity for those who are interested to know more about Stephen Ministry and details to apply for the 2023 Spring Training.

November 27th is Stephen Ministry Sunday where we will be commissioning our first 12 Stephen's Ministers in both morning services. These Stephen's Ministers have attended 50 hours of training that has equipped them to come alongside anyone within our congregation who is going through some type of life situation to provide emotional and spiritual support ... fulfilling the mission, We Care God Cures.

Our first 12 Stephen's Ministers are:

Judy Neely
Brenda Ray
Jan Monski

Joy Carr
Becky Grimmett
Ann Bentley

Suzi Philpot
Gail Stewart
Sue Richards

Lynn Martin
Judy Young
Davilyn Smith

stephen
MINISTRY®

FIRSTS IN 2022... WHERE DO I START?

By Sue Richards

I began helping Karen Jackson with the Condolence Committee in 2022 - a wonderful ministry. Our "first" born grandson, Joshua, moved away to Auburn to begin his "first" year in college. I was selected to be part of the "first" Stephen Ministry Class at FBCT. What an honor and a blessing! The depth and magnitude of this Ministry is truly amazing.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

By Diane Poole

On January 8, 2022, our church, including many of our SAMers helped with what I believe was our first-ever "build-a-bed" opportunity. The effort was led by Katherine Grigsby in support of her platform for the Miss Alabama Outstanding Jr. Teen pageant (which she won in April). Her platform is "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." Angela Grigsby, Katherine's mother, shares with us that there are now 6 chapters of SHP and Katherine is on the core team of SHP Birmingham South Chapter. The organization is made up of volunteers who want to provide beds and bedding for children whose families cannot afford them.

On Saturday, October 20, 2022, FBCT hosted Sleep in Heavenly Peace for another build-a-bed day. Church members helped to build another 100 beds. SAMers have been blessed to work alongside Katherine in helping this wonderful organization. Katherine has teamed up with Better Basics and they will be providing books to Katherine for every bed she builds. This Christmas, PetSmart will be providing her stuffed animals to go with the beds. Angela Grigsby said "We are very grateful to Lowes Trussville for facilitating the funding for the October Bed Build

TIES THAT BIND...

By Diane Bowser

The country of Ukraine and its people have been dear to the heart of our Joyful Hearts Choir member, Ginger Compton for many years. She and her first husband, Frank Martin, had a ministry to the people of both Russia and Ukraine, which continues today through a Seminary and 4 Bible Schools that they helped found.

Ginger accepted the Lord and was baptized as a child. She came from a long line of ministry minded family members. Her father was a minister. At one time, her Grandmother had 40 family members in full time ministry. In Frank's family history is a story of great significance to Ginger. Frank's Great Grandfather, Henry Martin fought in the Civil War. After very fierce fighting, he was the only one in his regiment who survived. The fact that he lived is the reason Ginger could tell this story of all the Martins in ministry, otherwise they would not have existed, and the world would not have been touched by their commitment to serve the Lord in ministry.



Frank and Ginger's two sons have followed in the family ministry footsteps. Monte Martin has spent 19 years in Thailand after graduating from Bible College. He established a Thai congregation in San Diego, California, and has been working with Messianic Jewish ministries in Birmingham. Monte has worked in Ministry in Odessa, Ukraine with the Jewish population. Ginger's younger son, Scott, has been a youth minister and pastored a church in Kentucky. Scott was in India for 11 years and has recently begun his 11th year ministering in Israel. All of the grandchildren are involved in some ministry work in churches, children's church, music ministry, worship leading and in the technical areas of running a church.

Frank and Ginger graduated from Bible College and were married in 1955. The Martins led ministries in Mountainburg, Arkansas; Mobile, Alabama; Montgomery, Alabama; and Memphis, Tennessee. At every church he pastored Frank emphasized mission work. They continued to pray for God's will and direction for the work He called them to do.

In 1988, they and 33 other pastors and their wives were invited to visit Russia. They made trips to Russia in 1991 and 1993. After the Iron Curtain fell in 1991, Frank was the first to be invited to preach in Russia in the first open public crusades held in theaters and cultural centers in three republics of the former Soviet Union. In 1993 they were doing outreach programs in local schools in Moscow.

In 1994, Frank and Ginger moved to Russia to continue ministry. They believed that every church they had previously pastored had been preparing them for this ministry to Europe. Frank became the Area Director for 9 of the 15 countries in the former Soviet Union. The other 6 countries were in Muslim Central Asia. Russia covered 11 time zones. They established 4 more Bible Institutes (4-year schools) and worked with the National Church. They worked with Bible School students after graduation and helped to plant 40 churches.

In 2000, Frank and Ginger moved to Ukraine to begin work on the Seminary to be established in that region. He was the Founder and First President of this Seminary to provide for 17 countries. Ministries were begun in Georgia and Armenia after 70 years of no missionary presence. Bible schools were also begun. The proposal for the Seminary to be built in the capital city of Kyiv was presented to the Bishops of each of the 9 countries, and received approval. The mayor agreed to let them select from 1 of 3 parcels of land for the site of the Seminary. The site close to a future Metro line and hotels was selected. The Lord providentially provided the money for the Seminary to be built!

(continued on next page)

After 2002, the Martins moved to Birmingham, Alabama, and began traveling the country raising funds for the Seminary's upkeep. During his career, Frank had preached in 40 countries of the world. Their children and grandchildren are in ministry and have added 10 more countries to this list! Before Frank's death in 2005, they went back to Kyiv in 2004 and 2005 to preach at Seminary and Bible Institute graduations.

Since the invasion that began in February of 2022, many Ukrainians have fled to neighboring countries. There is tremendous work being done in these countries to help Ukrainian refugees. Ginger's contacts in these countries tell many stories of the incredible outpouring of love, support, help and ministry being offered. One example is that Moldova built a facility specifically to aid the handicapped refugees as needed. St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee has admitted Pediatric cancer patients from Ukraine. The refugees are overwhelmed with the love and support of the Christians. Ginger said "when the war began I cried a lot for the safety of the people, but I soon learned that I had to trust God that He was aware, and this could be used for good and bear much fruit."

Don Compton and Ginger would marry 11 years after the death of her husband, Frank. As it happens, Don and Ginger in their younger years lived in the same area in Iowa. They even went to some of the same camps, but never knew each other. Don was a classmate and friend of Frank's at Bible College, but Don and Ginger never met in school. After Don's wife, Ann died, a mutual friend in Memphis called Don one day and told him he had a real "classy" lady he wanted Don to meet. They met and married in 2017. We are blessed to have both Don and Ginger here at FBCT; in fact, both are members of our wonderful Joyful Hearts choir and Don sings in the SAM Vocal Band.

Through all the experiences Ginger Compton has had in these years of ministry, she has felt the weight and importance of missions and fulfilling God's command to "go into all the world, and tell." And she has done it well.

NOTE: We include excerpts here, but there is so much more to this beautiful story. We invite you to [Click Here](#) to enjoy the story in its entirety.

DEVOTION...

By Diane Poole. SAM Leadership Team, Devotion.

I love sending cards. I like to think it brightens somebody's day to get a card in the mail. Maybe it's a birthday card. Maybe it's just to let somebody know I'm thinking of them. It could be a card of congratulations. Or it could be a sympathy card. Life can be hard sometimes, and I think the little things we can do to make it a little bit easier for someone is a good thing. Somebody told me once it's my ministry; it's the gift of encouragement.

OH, THE POWER IN A SONG...

SAMers 2022 favorite: Midnight Cry

Sammye Dunn said "We will never ever tire of listening to this wonderful song."

Click [HERE](#) to listen to our Pastor's sermon on Sunday April 24, which includes Lance Pate, Bob Smith and Ross Hickman singing Midnight Cry (song is at 13:10 into the video).



THIS WAS OUR FIRST "RODEO" ... OOPS, THAT'S CHOIR TOUR!

By John Stack

As new members of the SAM Joyful Hearts Choir, it was such a blessing to go on the "Fall Tour." It was really good to get to meet and spend time with and make new friends. The people we met at the churches we stopped at to sing were wonderful. They quickly made us feel at home; and the food was outstanding, especially First Baptist Anderson.

On Friday night at Belle Aire Baptist in Murfreesboro when we finished our program we went down among the people to visit with them before we had to leave. Two ladies came up to me and began to tell me how much they enjoyed our singing and the fact that you don't hear good old southern gospel music anymore. I told the lady that appeared to be the oldest that she could move to Trussville and join our SAM choir when she got old enough. Now I knew she was old enough to be in our choir, but she let me know real quick that she was 97 years YOUNG! She really didn't look like 97! By then, Carole came up to meet the two ladies and we thanked them for coming out to hear our performance. Well, I got me a hug from that little lady because it was time to load up and come to Trussville.



I want to tell you that Bob Smith did a fantastic job along with Suellen of taking care of everything that we needed. He stopped real close to Ice Cream shops. Sometimes I had to go off a short distance to find a Milk Shake (that is, get lost from the group!). One day one of my new best friends told on me for sneaking away to find a shake!

I hope the Good Lord will leave me here to make another trip with the Joyful Hearts Singers. They made Carole and me feel like we had been with them for years, and they made it easy to love them.

NOTE: The Joyful Hearts Singers travelled to Murfreesboro, TN on September 13 – 15 on choir tour, singing at First Baptist Decatur then two churches in the Murfreesboro area. They also presented at home in our morning service then travelled to FBC Anderson, Alabama (Heath Harrelson's church) on Sunday, September 18. Debra Roberts said she believes this choir tour was a "first" for Joyful Hearts. Debra recalls that someone said the experience reminded them of their teen years on choir tour!

SAM VOCAL BAND TOURS

This group of 12-15 men have outdone themselves this year with appearances from here in our own church for our SAM Monthly Luncheon on May 26 (followed by many SAMers loading buses for a trip to Atlanta to take in a Braves game – that was a "first") to other appearances in our state and even Tennessee and Georgia!



FIFTH SUNDAY HYMN SINGS BEGIN IN 2022



Talk about taking us way back ... we have thoroughly enjoyed Fifth Sunday Hymn Sings! Our first Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing was on January 30, 2022 ... oh the wonderful hymns of our faith:

Amazing Grace; Bringing in the Sheaves; Every Day With Jesus; I'll Fly Away; In the Sweet By and By; Just Over in the Gloryland; O, Why Not Tonight; Unclouded Day; and Wonderful Grace of Jesus; just to name a few.

Our FIFTH SUNDAY "RED BACK HYMNAL" SING, on Sunday, May 29 was held here at FBCT in the high school space. We were blessed beyond words by Kevin Grigsby, whose talent at the piano is remarkable. He can play anything ... well, almost. At one point he was asked to play a hymn even he couldn't recognize, but his mother could. She stepped up to the piano and showed us all how it is done!

On Fifth Sunday on July 31 at The Church at Grants Mill about 85 attended. Our SAM Vocal Band delivered, again!



SMILE AWHILE

TOP 10 HYMNS FOR PEOPLE OUR AGE:

- 10: It Is Well with My Soul (but my back aches a lot).
- 9: Nobody Knows the Trouble I have seeing.
- 8: Amazing Grace (considering my age).
- 7: Just a Slower Walk with Thee.
- 6: Count Your Many birthdays, name them one by one.
- 5: Go Tell It on The Mountain --- and speak up!
- 4: Give Me That Old Timers Religion.
- 3: Blessed insurance.
- 2: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (*I've forgotten where I parked*).
- And the number one hymn for people our age:**
- 1: Nearer, My God to Thee.

Psalms 100:1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.



OASIS 2022 RETURNS TO FBCT

Somewhere close to 1,500 people from churches all over Alabama and from Indiana, Mississippi and Florida as well gathered here at FBCT on July 28 for Frank Jones' annual OASIS event. The special guests were Mickey Bell, Comedian and Guy Penrod. We all know Guy Penrod has got the vocals, but at one point this writer heard a shout from the audience "Preach on Brother!" Who knew?!

Thanks to all our FBCT SAM volunteers for helping as greeters, at the merchandise tables, driving golf carts for folks in the parking lots, etc. Our volunteers were blessed with a few minutes to meet and speak with Guy Penrod before the program began.

Next year's OASIS 2023 will feature Frank Jones on the piano, with Comedian Dennis Swanberg and Allison Speer rounding out the program.

2022 CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

By Sandra Vinson



Eighty-two SAMers attended the Celebrators Conference in Pigeon Forge, TN October 10-13. The Great Smokey Mountains were beautiful. So...what happened? There were wonderful sermons by David Jeremiah and Phil Waldrep and there was inspiring music by Charles Billingsley, Sandi Patty, Michael W. Smith (backed by full orchestra), The Collingsworth Family, and Greater Vision and comic relief provided by comedian, Ken Davis.

Away from the LeConte conference center there was riding the vans/buses filled with laughter, napping and a lot of "one-liners." And there was eating, eating and more eating. Cards! Cards! Cards! And More cards!

There were movies at the Lodge in the in-house theatre ...oh, the Lodge! Wonderful accommodations where we could eat together, play cards together, soak in the beauty of the fall in the Smokies or play pool, or swim in the indoor pool or play games. This was a "first" for our Seasoned Adults, that is, renting an entire lodge! And how wonderful it was.

But there was more ... and the more was the interpersonal happenings.

Laughter!

Lots of laughter! Laughter at "one-liners." Laughter reflecting the joy of being accepted and loved by someone you just met.

Tears.

Some were tears that had been pent up...inside the soul. Tears that needed shedding. Tears of grief, not yet expressed. Tears of joy in worship that jumped from the heart in a yearning to see God like never before. Understanding. Understanding God's word in a way never felt before.

Beauty.

Beauty of the vastness of those Tennessee mountains. Beauty of the sun-washed striking yellow leaves with a sprinkle of deep reds in those "God-Given" hills.

Appreciation.

Gratitude to those who gave of their time to cook early morning breakfasts, late night meals or snacks. Gratitude to those driving us from place to place. These were examples of those giving of their time to serve others rather than spending time on themselves.

So what was the experience like, you may ask? The following are either one-word expressions or one to two sentences from the attendees when asked "What comes to mind when I ask you about Celebrators 2022?"

Being with God's Church. Worshipping my Lord and Savior with thousands. It is an awesome experience...just a little bit of heaven.

When hearing the Collingsworth Family sing, my experience was Euphoric!! Never expected to be blessed with music the way I was blessed.

Encouraging moments.

Awesome! ... Inspirational! ... Heavenly! ... a Blessing!

Lots of fun fellowship with friends and building new friendships.

Loved David Jeremiah.

I was amazed at how much I loved Charles Billingsley's singing and his direction.

I had a divine appointment this week.

I was caught up in the spirit.

I had 7 years of cancelled trips due to health reasons. It was wonderful. I needed it.

Words are not enough.

Then there was the negative...

I learned I will never play cards again with Sandra and Suellen!

We cannot express enough gratitude to Bob and his team who organized this trip and put in the effort to make sure that the time we had was the possible experience of celebrating our faith.

If you did not get to go this year, give strong consideration to going next year. There are blessings awaiting you. And, I understand Bob has already rented the Lodge for next year!





Barbara Parkes can attest to the blessings!

Story has it that she wanted some raspberry filled KK donuts and mentioned that she just might take off and go get them herself. Next thing she knows, Richard Hitchcock presents her with her donuts! Then, as a huge fan of Sandi Patty, Barbara has always dreamed of meeting Sandi. She was blessed with that very introduction to Sandi while at the conference!



Thank you, David and David for keeping us extraordinarily well-fed!

Seriously, is that ice cream on the BREAKFAST buffet!

Thank you to our bus drivers:

Bob Smith, John Davis, Don Taylor, Richard Hitchcock

