

SAM

SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY
SERVING THE GREAT

I AM

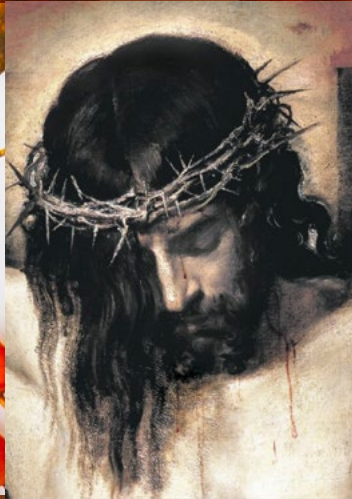
F B C T R U S S V I L L E

OCTOBER 2022

Behold, he cometh with clouds;
and every eye shall see him, and
they also which pierced him; and
all kindreds of the earth shall wail
because of him. Even so, Amen.

I am Alpha and Omega, the
beginning and the ending, saith the
Lord, which is and which was, and
which is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 1:7-8



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

SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT!

Her 70-year reign has ended. A new king now serves from Buckingham Palace. New generations of the royal family are being prepared in days to come for a time when they too may take their rightful positions in the Monarchy.



Queen Elizabeth II has been the Queen of the U.K. for most all of our lives. And she will be remembered. Recognizing Queen Elizabeth's many years of selfless service, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said after her passing: "People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer. ... But in all cases those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten."

This makes me smile. I am certainly not trying to compare Queen Elizabeth to Jesus ... there is no comparison ... but I smile because I am reminded that there is a King who has reigned for 2,000+ years, including a period of time right here on earth. He was the ultimate example of a servant leader. But His life here on earth ended at a young age and in pain and agony ... no royal pageantry. Yet, there are millions who continue to love and remain loyal to Him. And we all await His RETURN! We can only imagine what that will be like!

Bob

Jesus was accused of much, but he was never ever described as a grump, sourpuss, or self-centered jerk. People didn't groan when he appeared. They didn't duck for cover when he entered the room.

*He called them by name.
He listened to their stories.
He answered their questions.
He visited their sick relatives and helped their sick friends.*

He fished with fishermen and ate lunch with the little guy and spoke words of resounding affirmation. He went to weddings. He was even placed in charge of the wine list at a wedding. He went to so many parties that he was criticized for hanging out with rowdy people and questionable crowds. Thousands came to hear him. Hundreds chose to follow him. They shut down their businesses and walked away from careers to be with him. His purpose statement read "I came to give life with joy and abundance" (John 10:10 The Voice). Jesus was happy and wants us to be the same.

When the angels announced the arrival of the Messiah, they proclaimed "good news of a great joy" (Luke 2:10), not "bad news of a great duty." Scripture has more than twenty-seven hundred passages that contain words like joy, happiness, gladness, merriment, pleasure, celebration, cheer, laughter, delight, jubilation, feasting, blessing, and exultation. Our joy level matters to God.

This is no call to naivete or superficial happy talk. Jesus spoke candidly about sin, death, and the needs of the human heart. Yet he did so with hope. He brought joy to the people of first-century Palestine. And he wants to bring joy to the people of this generation, and he has enlisted some special agents of happiness to do the job.

You and me.

--Max Lucado, from his book titled "How Happiness Happens"

JOYFUL HEARTS ON TOUR

Monday, September 12: Willowbrook Baptist, Huntsville, AL

Tuesday, September 13: FBC Decatur, AL

Wednesday, September 14: Grace Baptist, Tullahoma, TN

Friday, September 16: Belle Aire Baptist, Murfreesboro, TN

Sunday, September 18: FBC Trussville morning service

Sunday, September 18: FBC Anderson, AL



Joyful Hearts is exactly the right name for our excellent Seasoned Adult Choir here at FBCT! We at home had the opportunity to experience some of their tour program in our morning services on Sunday, September 18. Oh, what sweet, smiling faces! If you wonder why, just ask the members of the choir and the SAM Vocal Band who went on the tour ... they are all "pumped"!

The churches visited were all welcoming and gracious. After hearing us sing in their own church, one couple came all the way from Murfreesboro to FBC Anderson on Sunday just to hear the music again! FBC Anderson is where Heath Harrelson serves as Pastor and they went all out to feed us with the best of Southern dishes. Even included 3 tables loaded with just desserts!

"All the riding in vans for days, loading and unloading equipment, etc. was so worth it every time we began to sing, sharing the love of Jesus in song and being so welcomed by the wonderful churches we visited."

There have been rumblings of all-night card games, a great "off" day on Thursday of the tour in Nashville, including TOP GOLF, a Broadway play, and more. There are videos of Ann Lee, Debra Roberts and Bob Smith riding some kiddie animals in the mall! Oh, and don't forget the ice cream stops! And people say the funniest things when they are having fun:

In Nashville, Ann Lee and Lynn Grogan are talking with some young British girls who were riding scooters. Ann asks if they could teach her to ride. Lynn interrupts saying "You can't try that because you have to sing tonight." The girls turn to Ann and gush, "Oh my gosh, are you famous?"

"So what prescriptions do you take?" "I take something to keep me from being crazy." "Well that's not working." Our hotel in Nashville served a complimentary breakfast with waffles, biscuits, gravy, sausage, etc., but only had spoons and knives. There were no forks until the last day. A comment overheard: "The gravy and biscuits needed a little salt and pepper... and a fork would have been good."

To the rest of us SAMers who are not yet singing with the JH, "It's never too early to start practicing for next year! Come join us!"



Bob says...

Guys, there are not enough words to express how much I appreciate your hard work and stamina over the week of our choir tour. Your considerable talents and love for Jesus were not lost on me or our wonderful host churches. I heard so many positive comments! We are all grateful to those choir members who made the extra effort to drive their own vehicles and meet us to participate in the portions of the trip where they could. I am so proud of and thankful for all of you! To God be the glory!

To all those who helped take care of the many details for the trip; to Bobby Page for building two new equipment storage containers for travel; to John Davis for keeping us from getting wires crossed; to Suellen Edmondson for making sure everyone had the correct JH and SVB wardrobe; and to those who drove the vans, including Jim Patton, Derrell Morrison, Bill Bowser, and Donald Leopard ... a HUGE thank you.

I am so thankful for our pastor and church family who support the SAM ministry on ventures like this. What a blessing for us to minister to other seniors, many in these churches and others who feel forgotten in their home churches. Our presentations were never perfect, but they were very good and there were plenty of warm smiles, covid fist bumps and even handshakes and hugs.

CHERYL ROGERS... SENIOR TRIP EXTRAORDINAIRE!



Our August 25 SAM Monthly Luncheon was one of our best! Cheryl Rogers took us down memory lane and had us laughing with her unique presentation in person and on the big screen with pre-recorded videos. Her theme for our trip was "GRAY MATTERS"!

We journeyed with her on the 55+ bus and began with that old song "We're goin' ridin' on the freeway." Remember, "in the back of a pink cadillac"! And that we did ... to the tunes of the decades. Remember the "She-Gees" and Gravity in the '70s (when you need a lift cause your parts have shifted!) Olivia Newton-John in the '80s "Let's Get Physical" ... no, no now it's I Hate Physicals! Then the '90s song How Am I Supposed to Live Without You? (now speaking of our gallbladders and other body parts!) We enjoyed a bit of Broadway with the live performance of a stellar cast in the senior adult version of the play known as SENIORELLA! The live cast included Suellen Edmondson, Rick Burton, Sandra Vinson, Betty King and Sheila Willoughby. Rick's part as the handsome prince was quite simple: all he had to say was "I am extremely handsome and I have a 401K!" Last, but certainly not least was our train trip "Leavin on the Midnight Train to Georgia." Eddie Stovall, Derrell Morrison and Bob Smith acted as the PIPS ... as in Gladys Knight and the Pips! Watch this video; it's sure to bring a smile or two. Be sure and turn on the sound.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Elaine Copham began our August 25 luncheon with her devotion: a 1 Thess. 5:18 Challenge:

Be thankful not just for the big things, but also for the little things ... like a toothpick!

Excerpts from a Letter from Elaine's Great-Grandfather to his mother, written at a Camp near Yazoo City. April 16, 1864

Dear Ma,

Once more I am spared to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I reckon we will leave here in a few days. I do not know where we will go to from here, but I reckon we won't go far. We have got a very pretty campground. All we like is good water. Ma, we have very bad water to drink on this side of Big Black. It is mineral water. I wish they would go back on the other Side.

Sunday 17. Well, Ma, I will commence again. We will move camp tomorrow ... about eight or ten miles from here. I am not anxious to leave here. Well, Ma, Summer will soon be here and I dread it on the account of so much dust and water. I know the water we will get to drink will not be fitting for a hog to drink and I do drink a heap of water any how.

Monday morning, April the 18. Dear Ma, I have just received a letter from you. Oh, Ma, you can't imagine how proud I was to hear from home and to hear that you was all well. Ma, the letter I got from you was dated the third of March. I have wrote you a letter every week since I have been here. Ma, I will write to you all as often as I can and you all must do the same. Tell all to write to me and not wait for me to write to them for I have a bad chance to write. Ma, I am very much abligde to you for sending me a toothpick and I am more than a thousand times ablige to you for sending me that song ballad. I was just thinking about writing to you for it. Ma, you wrote to me to pray and think of my God. I do for I know that he is my guide and my trust and in him I do believe and I do hope that he will carry me safe and sound through this wretched war. Ma, I will send this letter by Mr. Robinson. He is a going to start home this morning. Oh, Ma, how I do wish I could go home too, but God only knows when I will get to go home. But I live in hopes that the time will soon come when we all can go home to stay.

Your affectionate son until death,
William J. Lewis

Ma, do write soon, and often

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

FIRST THURSDAY FOR PRAYING MEN

Thursday, October 6 • Worship Center

FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

Monday, October 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



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

JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

Thursdays, October 6 & 20 • 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, October 13 • 6:11AM in the Gym

Invite a friend and join us.

CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

October 10 – 13

LeConte Center • Pigeon Forge, TN

\$100 deposit at registration



SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, October 27 • 10:30AM

\$7 per person • Reservation required

Special Guests: Guntersville FBC Pickers

A bluegrass gospel group

205-228-1006 or sam.reservation@fbctrussville.org

SUNDAY STROLL PICNIC

Sunday, October 30 • Bus leaves @ 3:00PM

Searcy Farms in Springville, AL • Cost \$10

Searcy Farms is a scenic 150-acre Christian-based outdoor recreation area owned by FBCT members Stephen & Kim Searcy.

Monday, October 31 Halloween Day

COMING UP!



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

Special Guests: 321 Improv

Tickets go on sale October 6!



There once was a man who was fortunate enough to vacation on the beaches of Alabama on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. He had long dreamed of spending days sitting in an inner tube, relaxing while the waves gently rocked him to sleep. Now, at last, he had earned enough money and accumulated enough vacation time to make his dream come true.

As soon as he arrived at his rented condo, he quickly changed into his swim trunks, grabbed his inner tube, and headed out to the ocean's edge. He walked about thirty feet out from the shoreline, and plopped into the tube in a sitting position, undulating with the infinite waves. Ah, he thought, this is the easy life. Maybe I can close my eyes and just take a little nap and forget my troubles.

But after a few minutes of floating, he opened his eyes and noticed the waves had taken him a considerable distance down the coastline, far away from his home base. He began paddling and flailing as fast as he could, trying to propel himself back to his umbrella and cooler. It was hard work fighting the current, but eventually he made it back, gave out a big sigh of relief, and relaxed again. His comfort didn't last long, as he quickly felt the waves sliding him down the shoreline again. He found himself constantly working to stay where he felt safe. By the end of the day, he was exhausted and wondered if it was worth the effort. He was thankful to return to his condo, a place he could rest without worry.

Our Christian walk is kind of like that. It's easy to just close our eyes, relax, and let ourselves drift along with the ungodly currents that are driving our culture today. Why fight it? Just go with the flow. But like that man in the inner tube, eventually you will wake up and realize you are way downstream from the life that God wants you to live. Getting back to it takes a lot of effort and work. Living against the current of the culture can be exhausting and seem futile. You may even wonder if it's worth it.

The book of Psalms offers the answer. Psalm 18:24 says "the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight." Psalm 58:11 states "Surely the righteous are still rewarded. Surely the Lord still judges the earth." And Psalm 62:12 reads in part "and with you, Lord, is unfailing love."

You're never going to find real peace floating away from God's will for your life. Staying the Christian course takes effort and energy, but at the end of the day you can feel secure, not only where you are now, but for your eternal future.

Are you there? Or do you need to wake up and start paddling?

HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

By Denise Dockery

The Removal of all Sin – the Ritual of the Day of Atonement

God, by His grace, provided His people with a great Day of Atonement.

Once a year, at the end of the year, all their sins and defilements were taken care of, and they could start anew. And so, in the fullness of time, God, by His grace, sent His Son to be the propitiation once and for all.

The Day of Atonement comes at the end of the section on purification, Leviticus 11-15. Those hard to read chapters that we all wonder why? The Day of Atonement was the climax and crown of Israel's theology of sanctification.

To enter into God's Presence required "holiness". Through the world's fallen nature, there are sicknesses, death, etc. and to be "holy" meant to be pure. Chapters 11-15 were laws and rituals that classified a person holy or unholy, with holy being permitted in the presence of God.

It was the holiest day of the year and remains so in Judaism to this day.

Yom Kippur as it is called, was that the blood of a sacrificial animal was sprinkled on the so-called mercy seat in the Holy of Holies by the High Priest to make atonement for himself and for the people, and the sins of the people were placed on a scapegoat that was taken out into the wilderness to die, signifying the complete removal of sin and defilement from the people.

During the course of the year, it was difficult for people to account for every defilement and every sin. Regular worship left too many things unresolved. And so here was a chance to have a general atonement for people, priests, and place of worship. The whole nation was involved, for the sins of the whole assembly were carried away by the goat, and the sanctuary was purified so that the people could continue to come into God's presence.

In the New Testament writers saw God's preparation for the atoning work of the Messiah. In view of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, the writer to Hebrews understood this event as a type of Christ.

The ritual of the law came to an end in Christ, not what the law revealed. The regulations were particularly for Israel and were temporary but the revelation of God's holiness and what it demands remains applicable for all. The sinful actions that rendered a person unclean in the Old Testament are still sinful in the New Covenant and still require repentance and confession and forgiveness in order to comply with God's stand of Holiness.

The sanctifying rituals foreshadow the atoning death of Jesus the Messiah on our behalf. The ultimate fulfillment of these purification laws will be the glorification of the people of God. All of our diseases and infirmities were taken by Christ to the Cross. He has sanctified us with His blood, and He will glorify us when the time comes.

LOCAL LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Jane Mathews

For lovers of libraries, there's no sight more satisfying than rows of books perched neatly on their shelves, no smell more intoxicating than the scent of the latest bestsellers mingled with the mustiness of old classics, and no sound more soothing than the low hum of patrons making use of a curated collection of resources.

If you read the previous paragraph, felt a jolt of identity, and thought, "Hey, that's me!", you just might have the makings of an Outstanding Library Volunteer (OLV).

At the Trussville Public Library, the shortest route to becoming an OLV is by joining Friends of the Library.

"The Friends is a volunteer group of 90 members, 30 of them active, who support the library with their time, toil and money," said Friends President Marcia Ward. "Members are often devoted readers, former teachers, retired librarians, and others who value libraries."

Becoming a member of the Friends is easy. Simply complete a basic application form and pay dues ranging from \$10 to \$100, depending on your level of membership. Then get involved.

"Friends of the Library provides money and volunteers for special projects," said Ward. "We run a small used bookstore in the library, stocked with donated books, with all proceeds going to the library."

While the Trussville Public Library is staffed with paid workers, the FBCT Library is a different matter. Its staff is totally made up of OLVs, who perform all the tasks related to running a library, said Librarian Connie Horsley.

The best volunteers, she said, have people skills, are detail oriented, demonstrate a willingness to commit time to the library, and perform their assigned tasks with care.

"Since we are a church library, the greatest joy for a volunteer is learning that a person was brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ by reading a book or watching a video they checked out from our library," Horsley said. "You also meet a lot of new people in the library, and that's always a plus."

The FBCT Library is currently fully staffed but occasionally needs volunteers to help with special projects. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Connie Horsley at (205) 228-0285.

Sept. 6: Lunch with Jim Hickman. Enjoy lunch with local writer Jim Hickman. He is the author of "Mule Shoes to Santa Fe" and "You Smell Like a Grandpa & Other Campfire Stories." A light lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Trussville Public Library. Registration required. Ages 18 and older. 11:30 a.m.

NOTE: What an honor for Jim Hickman. Jim said approximately 43 people attended the book review on September 6, and he truly enjoyed the review of his book and the discussions.



Photo **BOMB**SQUAD

SMILE, WE NEED YOU ON CAMERA

Helping to get our online directory up to date! FYI, since we began our Photo Bomb Squad campaign in September we have 150+ church members' pictures ready to be added to the directory! Thank you church for helping us out!

Watch out for several opportunities 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!

HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU

By Sue Richards

Shirley Lyle and our WMU ladies make me smile.

What's your favorite Bible verse? Mine is Proverbs 3:5-6. I had never met anyone whose favorite scripture is in the book of Zephaniah until I met Shirley Lyle, our WMU Director. Zephaniah 3:17 says "The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Isn't that beautiful? Zephaniah – what a name! One of the Minor Prophets but what he has to say is MAJOR. You can literally read the entire book in about five minutes. Give it a try!

Shirley's favorite Mission scripture is Matthew 25:37-45. This is familiar to most of us but she thinks verse 45 is extremely important. "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it NOT to one of the least of these, ye did it NOT to me." (Emphasis by the writer.)

Shirley and our WMU ladies minister to so many all during the year. Here's some insight into what they did in just one week in September! In remembrance of 9/11, they took goodies to all the fire stations in Trussville and the police department as well. Next, they packed and sent 20 Sunshine Baskets to an assisted living facility in Trussville. The ladies were able to send \$270 in gift cards to missionaries, David and Kathy, Winston-Salem, NC. In addition, they packed 40 more Christmas Backpacks. Whew! What a busy week. Last, but not least, you'll notice that just a few weeks ago Shirley had really long hair. She says she is a "short hair" person. She had let her hair grow for two years and has now donated it to Locks of Love ... for people who lost their hair and need a wig! Always giving!

When your Sunday School Class is looking for a Ministry Project, consider making a donation to our WMU so they can continue the excellent work they do being the hands and feet of Jesus.

SMILE AWHILE

Thailand is often referred to as the "Land of Smiles." Our church mission trips to Thailand have shown us why. You'll also notice our own Gwen Roper smiling on the motorcycle!



SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

Pastor Buddy asked our Deacons at their monthly meeting in September what these numbers have in common: **84, 36, 76, 75, 63, 32, 39, 31, 63, 59, 8**
Can you guess the answer?

ANSWER: These are the ages of people baptized here at FBCT on Sunday, September 18.



Our oldest female SAMer enjoying Trussville's City Fest. You go Miss Eula!

THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE OF OUR MIDTERM ELECTION

By Denny Rogers



As I have traveled during 2022 on my prayer journeys around states in the Southeast, a heavy burden has been on my heart:

- The upcoming midterm election; and
- The seemingly apathy of my fellow believers toward that election.

I'm sensing in my spirit (and I sincerely hope I'm wrong), that many Christians have given up on our great nation. Because of this attitude, there could be millions of good law-abiding, born again believers, who choose to sit this upcoming election out. This decision will be devastating and the results so tragic.

If this happens, spiritual darkness will continue to rule Washington and those who chose not to vote need not complain when (if darkness continues to reign) one of the 87,000 IRS agents knocks on their door to audit them, and, by the way carrying a weapon to ensure that they comply.

Because of this urgent hour, this is the way I have been praying:

1. Lord, do what you have to do to wake my brothers and sisters up to what we as a nation are facing (in my opinion, either liberty or socialism).
2. Convict everyone who has not registered to vote to go and register while there is still time and there is still hope.
3. Lead and impress strongly upon each voters' heart who to vote for.
4. Miraculously work bringing the largest number of believers out to vote in recorded history during the midterms.

A wise person many years ago said, "All that needs to happen for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing."

Please vote on November 8 as the Lord directs you and please pray with me that millions of our brothers and sisters in the Lord across this great nation will cast their votes also on that important Tuesday.

SMILE AWHILE

QUESTION: As a retiree what do you do all week?

ANSWER: Monday through Friday, **NOTHING**
....Saturday and Sunday, I rest.

Did y'all see this on the September 7 morning news!



VOTER REGISTRATION CARD READY AND UP-TO-DATE?

For any election, the last day to register to vote or update your voter registration is the 15th day prior to the election. That means the deadline for registering for the November 8 General Elections is Monday, October 24, 2022. Search Alabamavotes.gov for more information.

Not receiving our SAM newsletters? How do you prefer to receive our newsletters each month? By email and/or paper copy mailed to you? If you haven't already or you need to update your preference, please contact Debbie Arrington in the SAM Office at 205-228-1006 or email at debbie@fbctrussville.org. Everyone for whom we have an up-to-date email address will receive the newsletters by email; however, if you prefer to have a paper copy mailed to you each month, let Debbie know. We will be happy to mail one to you!