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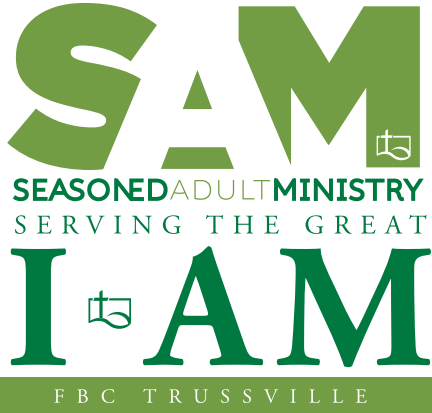
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SEPTEMBER 2022

Sweetly, Lord, have we heard Thee
calling,
Come, follow Me!
And we see where Thy footprints
falling
Lead us to Thee.

Footprints of Jesus,
That make the pathway glow;
We will follow the steps of Jesus
Where'er they go.

Then, at last, when on high He sees
us,
Our journey done,
We will rest where the steps of
Jesus
End at His throne.

Footprints of Jesus
Written by Mary B. Slade in 1871

1 Peter 2:21

For to this you were called, because
Christ also suffered for us, leaving
us an example, that you should
follow His steps.

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.



Well, a new football season is upon us, HERO Donuts is now open in Trussville, and even Jack's is introducing the new Wickle Pickle hamburger! We had an awesome kick-start on August 17 with the come-back of Wednesday night suppers and orientation for Discipleship University. The Student Ministry Back-to-School Bash on August 20 was outstanding. Shane Pruitt, Next Generation Evangelism Director for the North American Mission Board, and our own Spencer Jones led the worship service and there were 86 decisions for Christ! Thank you to all of you who prayed before and during the service. What a great kick-start to seeing a Jesus Movement in this Generation Z.

There have been days when I myself needed a "kick-start," both physically and spiritually. How about you?

My heart lately has been on those in our church family who are homebound and in Nursing Homes, along with those who care for them. How can we be the hands and feet of Jesus for them?

Jesus said, I am the alpha and omega, beginning and the end, the first and the last. Everlasting to Everlasting. (Rev. 1;8; 22:13; Psalm 90) Knowing what that means is humbling. So what must we do in this "in-between" time while we are here on earth? Jesus gave us the answer. Note, He said it more than once and it wasn't just an invitation or an offer of a bit of advice. It was a command of faith and obedience.

In John 21:18-22, Jesus says to Peter "What is that to you (in other words, mind your own business); YOU FOLLOW ME.

Why would we do that ... dare to follow Him? Can you just imagine what it was like for the first disciples when instructed to "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"? Matthew 4:19. The first thing they had to do was believe that He was who He said He was. Some of them trusted Jesus rather quickly; perhaps some of them hung around at first to check him out; and at least one of them forsook Him. Following Him meant that they drop everything, including family and their work, and focus on Him. Jesus drug them all over the place, showing them by example what it means to follow Him. He taught them to worship, pray, trust and obey. He invested in them and loved them. By the time Jesus was crucified and resurrected, His disciples knew Him, loved Him, trusted Him, and began following in His footsteps, GOing and TELLing others about Him first of all and loving and caring for others just as He did while He walked on this earth.

Jesus has already done what needs to be done. He died on the cross for our sins and rose again to one day return. We are all quite aware of how quickly time is passing by. The power of the Holy Spirit is ours to receive. We know the Way. The time is NOW.

We are being sent out with a "good word". Go, follow the footsteps of Jesus.

Bob

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

By Sue Richards

Every Second Tuesday of each month volunteers are needed at Serving You Ministries in Birmingham. The work we do there includes stocking the pantry and helping to give out groceries from the pantry to families in need who come to Serving You to pick them up; some labor such as laying floors, painting or some light handy-man duties as needed to the facilities. For more information if you would like to help out, please contact me, Jack Sittre, at (205)810-9480 or email at poppycorvette@yahoo.com

Here at FBCT our WMU ladies are filled to overflowing with LOVE. They go above and beyond on every project they do. Right now, they are working on backpacks....no, not school backpacks but **CHRISTMAS** backpacks. Collection week is October 22 – 28, and they have lots to do between now and then. These backpacks are distributed to children in the Mississippi Delta...one of the poorest regions in the United States. Many times, these backpacks are the only gift these children receive. We need help in putting these backpacks together, and we need funds to purchase items. On Sunday evenings at 5:00pm in Room E204, you can help us assemble backpacks!! Please consider joining us. For additional WMU information, please contact Shirley Lyle at 205-862-7544 or shirleydakota@gmail.com. This would be a great project for the ladies in your Sunday School class. Call Shirley and she will work with you on a date and time that works for your group. Wednesday, September 7, in D200 at 5:00pm is another option! You can keep up with what our WMU is doing by following them on Facebook ... wmu fbct.

A BENEDICTION

Written by Rev. John R. Claypool
(used in his services until his death in 2005)

Depart now

In the fellowship of God the Father,

And as you go, remember:

*In the **Goodness** of God*

You were born into this world;

*By the **Grace** of God*

You have been kept

All the day long,

Even until this hour;

*By the **Love** of God,*

Fully revealed in the face of Jesus,

*You.. are being .. **Redeemed.***

Amen

WE CARE, GOD CURES!

We have begun our training for our first 12 trainees. Please continue to pray for them and this new ministry in our Church. It is a Caring Ministry providing one-on-one care for emotional and spiritual needs. Our trainees are learning the "art of listening" and what it means to provide Christian Caring to people within our congregation. More to come next month in our newsletter about the meaning of "care receivers".

stephen
MINISTRY®

Used to be rock around
the clock, now it's
limp around the block.



September 11:
National
Grandparents Day

OOPS!

We sincerely apologize for misspelling Peggy Stringer's name in the August Newsletter. In my conversation with her, Peggy said she gets "Springer" all the time and was gracious to accept our apologies. I thanked her for sharing the story with us. She said the entire experience was a miracle from God.

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

By Jamie O'Dell



There are classes and activities for young and old on Wednesday evenings ... don't miss them!

Our orientation kick-off on August 17, led by Jamie O'Dell, was enlightening. Did you know that when Jesus said "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" our opportunity to serve didn't stop with leading them to Jesus? We continue to have the opportunity, indeed command, to pray for the lost and believers who need a "kick-start", to serve them in whatever needs there may be, and MORE. We must DISCIPLE them. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a disciple means "one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another." Are we up for that? These classes will help us in all kinds of areas to BE disciples of Jesus and MAKE disciples for Jesus. We are grateful for the panel Jamie introduced to further explain and share their experiences with discipleship ... James Long, Mary Kathryn Galloway, Ron Puryear, and Matt Mullinax.

We heard these statements:

- ...we must never reach a level where we stop growing
- ...we must invest in other people
- ...we are called to be make disciples of other people, not just converts
- ...the last command of Jesus to the 11 disciples was the Great Commission
- ... are we making the adjustment in our lives to join Him?

We love God ... the world is screaming "we want that"!

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Bible Studies For Sam Men And Women

Wednesday mornings beginning September 7 at 10:00AM

Classes last approximately 1 hour and class participation is encouraged in each. Both classes will be studying the book of Acts. There is no cost to attend.

Ladies will meet in room D145 led by Mrs. Toni Sproull.

Men will meet in room D141 led by Mr. Henry Ward.

If you have any questions for the ladies class, email tsproull@bham.rr.com or call Toni at 205-305-8904.

For the men, email hguard4748@gmail.com or call Henry at 205-983-4149.

Our New Ladies Precept Class

September 7 at 9:00AM • Room 204

We will be studying the book of Leviticus.

Please contact Denise Dockery at dockerymom@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Jennifer Rothschild's New Study Of AMOS

Sunday evenings at 5:00pm • Room E204 • Cost: \$22 (to cover book)

All FBCT ladies are welcome to join us! Shirley Lyle will be leading the study.

If you are interested, please contact Shirley at 205-862-7544 or shirleydakota@gmail.com.

The New SAM Men's Precept Bible Study, Daniel Part 2, Chapters 7-12

Tuesday, August 23 at 8:00AM • Room 204

Please contact Larry Payne with questions: 205-601-2288 or larrycpayne@gmail.com.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

NOTE: Wednesday, August 17 was the last Wednesday night for live-streaming here at FBCT. Sunday services live-streaming will continue.

FIRST THURSDAY FOR PRAYING MEN

Thursday, September 1 • Worship Center

Why I Pray With Others For My "ONE"

By Denny Rogers

...I am commanded in God's Word to pray for the lost.

(1 Tim. 2:1-4)



...My prayer for the lost is multiplied when I agree with a fellow believer. (Matt. 18:19)

...There is nothing worse than being lost and there is nothing greater than being saved. (John 3:18)

...There is a place called hell and people who go there do not get out. (Rev. 20:15)

...Satan has spiritually blinded all lost people and holds them captive. Only believing intercessory prayer delivers them from the power and persuasion of the devil. (2 Cor. 4:3-4; 2 Cor. 10:4-6)

FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

Monday, September 5 • Chapel

I know it's Labor Day, but we're still praying!

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, September 1 & 8 • 10:30 AM

Sunday, September 11 • 4 PM • Fellowship Hall

JH travel to Murfreesboro, TN on September 13 – 15 on choir tour, singing at First Baptist Decatur then two churches in the Murfreesboro area. They will also be traveling to sing at FBC Anderson, Alabama (Heath Harrelson's church) on Sunday, September 18. Please continue your prayers for safe travels, that God will be glorified and that we may be a blessing to all those who host us.

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Room D144



MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, September 8 • 6:11AM in the Gym

Invite a friend and join us.

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, September 22 • 10:30AM

\$7 per person • Reservation required

Program: The Magic and Message of David Garrard

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



ANNUAL FBCT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, September 30 • Grayson Valley Country Club

8:00AM shotgun start/4-man scramble

Cost \$110 (includes cart fees, green fees, range balls, lunch; 1st, 2nd, 10th and last place prizes, door prizes, prizes for Closest to Pin, Longest Drive, and Straightest Drive)

Register [HERE](#)

CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

October 10 – 13

LeConte Center • Pigeon Forge, TN

\$100 deposit at registration



celebrators
CONFERENCE



NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS

November 30–December 2 (limited to 96)

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

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

\$150 deposit at registration



"Lay down flat on your back", she said. "Put your hands on your chest and lay your head in the stabilizing helmet. Most importantly, try not to move in any way". Then she folded a covering over my face and locked it down. "Are you ready?" she asked. "Yes ma'am" I replied. "You'll be in there about fifteen minutes" she said as she slid me into the narrow tube.

I had been having issues with headaches. Kind of a constant pressure on my temples and forehead. The dull ache had been there for about a month and showed no sign of letting up. This was frightening to me because I'm not a headache person. I never got headaches. There's no reason for this, I thought. I'm not under a lot of stress or tension. I haven't fallen or suffered a concussion. I don't have eye strain. When I told all this to my neurologist, he immediately scheduled me for an MRI scan of my brain.

So there I lay, motionless, eyes closed, tightly stuffed into a narrow tube, a machine probing my skull, with only my thoughts to keep me company. I said a few prayers. Then, being a natural born pessimist, I chose to prepare myself for the worst possible scenario. What if they find a brain tumor? What then? I began to take stock of my life. I decided I'm not afraid to die. I know my eternal future is secure. I thought about how incredibly blessed I have been. Wife, kids, grandkids, career and friends. I've truly had it all.

I thought about regrets. People I wish I had treated better. Situations I could have handled with more love and patience. I thought about goals I had not yet accomplished. I thought about my grandkids growing up, wondering if I had established any kind of legacy in their minds, or if they would remember me at all. I thought about those who have crossed over before me, Mom and Dad, Grandma, a grandchild that was lost at birth, so many dear friends. I'm going to see them again! That gave me a warm feeling. I thought about that verse in the Bible where Jesus said "I go to prepare a place for you".

Suddenly, the nervousness was gone. I found myself at peace as the weird electronic noises around me stopped, and I felt myself being slid out of the tube. Whatever you want Lord, I'm ready to face it.

The next day the neurologist called to tell me my MRI was completely normal. No brain tumors. I'm on medication for the headaches, and they seem to be getting better. But I can't stop thinking about the feeling of security and tranquility I felt coming out of that tube. I scrambled to find that Bible passage. It's John 14:2-3.

"My Father's house has many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I have prepared a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so you also can be where I am."

Turns out I wasn't alone in that tube after all.

HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

By Denise Dockery

Atonement for all, all had a chance to believe God in the days of Noah, 8 chose to believe by entering the Ark. In the 601st year, the first month and the first day, the water was dried up from the earth and we see the same 8 people exiting the ark, a new beginning for mankind. They were protected from God's judgment upon this world.

The first mention of the word Atonement is found in the account of Noah and the building of the ark. "Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms and shall cover it inside and out with pitch." Genesis 6:14. The Hebrew meaning of "pitch" is Kaphar, another word for atonement, reconciliation, cover over with pitch, to cover over, pacify.

The account of Noah saved humanity from Judgment. We also see it with Moses in Exodus 2:3, "she got him a wicker basket and covered it with tar and pitch, then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile." Once again, we see protection from the waters.

The account of Moses saved humanity through Israel leading up to Jesus.

Atonement in reference to individual men coming before a Holy God. We see this word used in Leviticus "a soothing aroma to God" was His acceptance of a sacrifice, forgiveness therefore no judgment.

"Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices which can never take away sins." Hebrews 10:11

However, the last use is in Daniel 9:24, the audience is for the Jews, "to make atonement for iniquity", all in a timeline to Daniel's 70th weeks, leading up to Christ's 2nd Return, the final Day of Atonement when Israel will repent and look to the Messiah in one day.

The word atonement is an Old Testament word not a New Testament word. We have been given "reconciliation," restored into fellowship with Jesus and God. No longer do we need to see the word repeated "but He having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time sat down at the right hand of God." Hebrews 10:12

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

The account of Jesus saved humanity from judgment. Forgiveness is applied when you believe.

So, while the Church waits for His return, we have the ministry of reconciliation from atonement to friendship. Believers link to God and men are called to sacrifice themselves for others. Becoming "all things to all men so that I may by all means save some." I Corinthians 9:22

DONALD LEOPARD'S LOVE FOR JESUS AND HIS FAMILY IS EVIDENT

By Gail Stewart

If you don't know Donald Leopard, you are missing a blessing! He is a unique individual with many interesting life stories to share – like Fred Hunter on "Absolutely Alabama".

Donald and his wife Diane met when they were 12 and 15 at Springville school. They built a friendship that later turned into a marriage and family. They were married 57 years when Diane passed away last April following a battle with cancer. They were blessed with 3 sons and 1 daughter (Kim Searcy who is an FBCT member); Diane and Donald brought them up to know Christ. Today they are all still following the Christian path they learned as children. All are still involved in their churches and are tremendous blessings to Donald. They have also given him grandchildren who he loves very much.



Donald loves gardening and has what I consider a large plot - sure makes my little 4'x8' prefab look like a flowerpot. He makes the best homemade sauerkraut (like my grandmother used to make) and he instructed me in how to freeze fresh okra that fries up like the fresh stuff does. (The secret is to freeze it whole, take out of the freezer, rinse and then cut it up, bread and fry it). I asked him what method he used to prepare the soil to receive the seeds. He said he begins work in early Spring, tilling it a couple of times, cleaning it up and then uses fertilizer before he plants the seed. Then he "plants and waits" to see his harvest begin. These days he gives much of the harvest away, but not the cabbage, that becomes sauerkraut!

Our conversation was very informative; God has blessed Donald with many talents he has used during his career. He was a home builder for many years, having worked for my friend Bobby Page for some time. (Ask Donald sometime how that came about.) He could not tell me just how many houses he had built, but I did learn that he built some of the houses and the welcome center at the Springville Girls Ranch. He had yet another career installing microwave communication lines for the railroad.

While at another church, Donald became involved in a mission project (Backpack project) to deliver food to a school in Blaine, Kentucky – a very poverty-stricken area. This food was given to the children in a backpack to take home to eat on the weekends when school was not in session. He was so moved by what he saw there and how very appreciative they were that he is still carrying that project on, and he and Chris Chambers are going to make another trip up at end of August. Over the years the size of the community has decreased (only 2 trips per year now) but there is still a need, and he has a heart for the people there.

Donald has his lonely moments without Diane. Recently he told me of a tough day and at bedtime he prayed that God would send him something to do the next day. He said sure enough, he got a call from someone that morning who needed a handicap ramp built – his day was full helping others! Something that makes him happy.

Thank you, Donald, for sharing your story and for the special gift of okra and homemade sauerkraut!



REMEMBER WHEN...

From Faye Summers

Remember when we had school shoes, play shoes and church shoes and you could not mix any of them or find your church shoes on Sunday morning!!

HERE AM I, LORD; SEND ME!

A team of 16 flew halfway around the world this summer to **Thailand** under the leadership of Chris Chambers. Their mission was twofold: (1) to help prepare for a wedding of one of our partner missionaries and (2) to conduct an English camp at the local school.



On August 4 Chris Chambers, Donald Leopard, and Suellen Edmondson teamed up for FBC to deliver 180 boxes of school supplies to **Fort Deposit Elementary**. Mrs. Love, Principal, along with Assistant Principal Mrs. Gordon, and the teachers were all smiles and so appreciative of these supplies.

Grantswood Community School on August 6 To prepare for opening day of school. A fresh coat of paint on some inside walls and outside landscaping to spruce up the outside.



Richard Hitchcock's small group class served dinner at the Changed Lives Center in Birmingham in August.



Photo **BOMBSQUAD**
COMING IN SEPTEMBER
MAY WE TAKE YOUR FBCT
DIGITAL CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTO?



The SAM PHOTO BOMB SQUAD is making this service available to all church members every first Sunday in 2023. We are also working on direct contacts with Small Group Teachers to request the opportunity to schedule a date to come to their classrooms and take pictures as people arrive.

I GO TO THE ROCK ...

By Judy Bryant

I've heard over the years that "you can't go home again." Well, I just did. In July, Jerry and I flew to Santa Cruz, California to spend some time with my sister and to attend the memorial of her husband who died in January of this year. I also made sure to go sit on "my rock" while we were there.

Santa Cruz is on the top end of Monterey Bay some 50 miles from San Francisco. The coast drive south to the other end at Monterey is, to me, the most beautiful place in the world. The cliffs, the beach, the ocean with huge waves crashing on the rocks, and the sea lions and seals on one side of the road, then the huge, beautiful redwood and eucalyptus trees, deer, homes practically made of glass on the left side of the road at the base and all the way up the mountains. Along the Monterey coast there is Carmel, Pebble Beach, Monterey (home of John Steinbeck's famous Cannery Row in his book "Grapes of Wrath"), Capitola (home of the Painter of Light, Thomas Kinkaid, who we actually met in his shop several years ago unveiling his new painting of Capitola), and Salinas where the farms were covered with growing strawberries and artichokes.

All of this was just as beautiful this trip as is in my childhood memories. Of course, there were the changes that would be expected over 60 years ... more people, homes and hotel buildings, business and tourism, etc. The one change I didn't expect was to "my rock." Over the years the coastal erosion as well as environmental management along the coast have diminished the caves, and my rock! It's still there right on the beautiful Seabright Beach in Santa Cruz where it's always been, along with one of the caves we used to play in. My rock is much smaller, not much taller than me now. Funny thing is, when I sat down on the rock this trip just as I did when I was 6, I felt "home" as if nothing had changed over all these years. Completely safe and peaceful.

We had a very traumatic home life growing up. My father had (what I discovered later in life) PTSD from serving in WWII and was a very mean alcoholic. My mother was also an alcoholic. Some 60 years ago, Santa Cruz was my back yard. My siblings and I were very young kids. We roamed all over the beach, and climbed the cliffs and caves, with no adult supervision and absolutely no fear. We used to play a game to see who could run into the cave and get back out before the water came in when the tide was up. I was prone to run away. I ran home from kindergarten one day; I ran from home to my school in the first grade; and once I jumped out the window with my pillowcase full of my belongings, got about half-way down the street, and turned around and came back.

As I sat on my rock reflecting on life from 6 to 68, I realized that when I was running away, I wasn't running away from the horrors of home and places where I felt unsafe, I was running to find peace. And there is one big difference in then and now. This may remind you of familiar scripture! When I was 6, I thought and played as a child ... never feared the huge waves that could have consumed me. But as I became a woman, things began to become real, to change. All along the way there was a protection I felt but could not put my finger on. Then one day when I was a young teen I gave my life to Jesus. Ah, there's the difference. I met my rock! At 6 on my rock He was the one protecting me, at 10 when we moved to Alabama and my mother died, He was the one with his arms open wide for me, and I never even knew it. Ever since I built my house on "the" rock, I've gotten to know Him more and more. I know that if my rock in Santa Cruz disappears on the shoreline, no matter, because I know THE rock. My life verse and favorite song:

For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day. II Timothy 1:12



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!