SAM
SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY
SERVING THE GREAT
I AM
FBC TRUSSVILLE

JANUARY 2022

SEIZE YOUR SOMEDAY

It's a New Year!

Forget the "when this happens, then this can happen" syndrome. Seize your "someday" and work on those bucket lists! Do not put it off. But first, check the order of your priorities.

CHOOSE JESUS first.

J … Jesus
O … Others
Y … You

Go to the movies and be inspired by "American Underdog," a new movie out about the career and life of pro football player Kurt Warner. He gives all the glory to God for his life and successes.
"I believe everybody's life has a preparation period." I would never be the guy I am today had I not had the journey that went with it. "The relationships … the moments along the way shaped me and pushed me. … and the blessings, and the experiences, and the people that shaped my life … ultimately allowed me to get to where I ended up. … It's about being able to live life."
Excerpts from interview with Kurt Warner.

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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.

…BUT YOU PROMISED!

Indeed He did. I'm here to remind us that there is ONE who NEVER breaks His promises!

My quick research discovered discrepancies in how many promises there are in God's Word … anywhere from 800 to thousands, but one thing is certain: We can begin in Genesis and read all the way through the Bible, finding God's promises throughout. We are promised everlasting love, everlasting kindness, and yes, everlasting life! *Therefore, let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23*

I had the privilege to be a part of our Christmas Ministry of Praise presentation "Here With Us." We heard the story of the birth of Jesus. Consider this. People in the Old Testament times for years through many generations wondered is the King COMING and when. Today, thousands of years later, we ourselves wonder is the King RETURNING and when. We know the answers … unlike the first generations. We have scripture and the experiences of old confirming that God has been in control since day one with His plan in place and that He is faithful and does not break His promises. Our King did come, fulfilling prophesy and promise. Our King will return. We can believe and trust His promise! Because of Jesus … if we choose to believe, confess our sins, and commit to Him our lives, we have new life and the blessed assurance of all His "exceedingly great and precious" promises. 2 Peter 1:2-4

In 1886 Russell Kelso Carter wrote the old hymn "Standing on the Promises.". He suffered from poor health, specifically a heart ailment (remember that was in 1879 when the medical advances of today hadn't been discovered yet). He dabbled in "religion" as a young boy then into manhood, but it took this illness and near-death experience at the age of 30 to draw him closer to God … to trust in God's healing promises. He said "I was healed by the power of God alone. Praise the Lord!" He went on to write this hymn and others, also novels, and studied to become a medical doctor. He lived his life "standing on the promises."

It's a New Day … Carpe Diem!

Bob

SAM Spiced Intentionally Seasoned

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

TAKING CARE OF A LITTLE SAM BUSINESS

SAM Luncheons: Reservations Required

Beginning in 2022 we will require reservations for all SAM Luncheons. (Grace period through March 24, 2022.) In addition, we are unfortunately forced to add a dollar to the price of our Luncheon events. It will now be $7.00 per person for the meal and entertainment. Reservations can be secured in one of four ways.

1. EMAIL: sam.reservation@fbctrussville.org
2. CALL: 205-228-1006 (SAM Office) by noon on Monday of the scheduled Luncheon.
3. SUNDAY: Complete the tear-off in the Sunday Bulletin and place in the offering boxes.
4. MEAL TICKET: See below. *(Purchasing a meal ticket provides a standing reservation for the year.)*

In an attempt to simplify the reservation process, we will be selling MEAL TICKETS for calendar year 2022. Meal Tickets can be ordered beginning December 12 through January 31 at a cost of **$80** for one meal ticket. **If you purchase a MEAL TICKET you will have an automatic Meal Reservation for every Luncheon in 2022**, including each monthly SAM Luncheon, Game Days, and the SAM Christmas Celebration in 2022.

- A value of $100, saving you $20.
- Provides the convenience of not worrying about reservations each month.
- No waiting in line to pay for the event when you arrive.

Every Seasoned Adult is looking for a deal … this is the real meal deal! AND … no worries … if you lose your card, we will keep a list of everyone who purchases a meal ticket, so you can buy with confidence!

Meal Tickets can be ordered and paid for at the Event Desk, the church office (during Regular hours), online at fbctrussville.org, and at the January 2022 SAM Luncheon. Meal tickets are non-transferable and have no cash value after 2022.

You are NOT required to purchase a MEAL TICKET to make a reservation or attend a monthly SAM Luncheon. **No Meal Tickets for 2022 will be sold after 1/31/22.**

Blessings Baskets at SAM Luncheons

Beginning at our January SAM Monthly Luncheon there will be a little "Blessings Basket" at each table. If you are so inclined, drop some "pocket change" in the basket. Liken this to the benevolence funds taken up in your Small Group classes on a regular basis. This is not intended to become a giant missions fund. Our SAM Leadership Team finds that there are times when someone needs a little extra blessing (i.e., a thank you tip or a bonus; a little help with a specific need). Our Team will collect the funds and administer them through a church SAM account. The funds will be given spontaneously and quietly on behalf of FBCT Seasoned Adults but anonymous when appropriate.

SENIOR FEST – Heading south for the winter

February 6-9, 2022 - Leesburg, FL

SENIORFEST is a fantastic time for Seniors from across the southeast to gather together for worship, fellowship, inspiration and fun. Concerts from Karen Peck & New River and Joseph Habedank, engaging seminars and senior-focused activities. Our 10th year with Co-Hosts Jeff Cleghorn & Bob Smith.

Cost $365 Double occupancy. $445 Single occupancy – Includes Transportation (FBCT mini buses), meals, concerts and events. LIMITED to 30 participants.
Registration deadline Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

THIS GIVER IS A GIFT FOR MANY

Written by Sandra Bearden

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

"Bonnie Nash is a giver," says friend Pat Reed. "She loves doing things for people, especially those who can't do for themselves. Since cooking is another love, she often bakes a batch of blueberry muffins and delivers them to homebound church members or others."

Recipients sometimes include long-time friends George and Judy Bacon. "Sometimes Bonnie will pick up the phone and tell me that her husband Don will be delivering dinner," Judy says. On one occasion, this offer ran up against the pitfalls of Bonnie's own long-standing concerns with her eyesight. That night, the Bacon family—George, Judy, their son and grandson—dived eagerly into a delicious-looking chicken casserole, lifting tasty forkfuls of vegetables, sauce and pastry to their mouths. But try as they might, they never found a morsel of chicken. When this was reported to Bonnie, she searched her kitchen and discovered a container of fully cooked chicken. "The next morning, Don delivered a large bowl of chicken salad," Judy says.

Although Bonnie has a giving nature, her lifestyle has been somewhat altered by two serious forms of eye disease. Since her late 20s, she's had "keratoconus," which occurs when the cornea, the clear, dome-shaped surface of the eye, thins and bulges into a cone shape. This creates sensitivity to light and glare. Later, contact lenses or special glasses may be needed. In advanced stages, a patient may need a corneal transplant.

But then came along another eye problem: macular degeneration—a leading cause of severe vision loss in adults over 60. Symptoms often include less clear vision, dark, blurred areas in the center of vision and inaccurate color perception. There is no cure. However, treatments using drugs, laser therapy, retinal surgery or low-vision aids may help slow the disease down.

In Bonnie's case, this double whammy has altered her lifestyle, but hasn't slowed down her giving nature or dedication to her faith. "If anything," says Pat Reed, "she's become even more empathetic with those having health problems."

Bonnie stopped driving about a year ago, and she misses reading and attending the Precept Bible Study classes facilitated by Denise Dockery. "Keeping up with those studies is intensive and it began to give me too much stress," she explains.

Although eye problems prevent Bonnie from driving anymore, she has a faithful chauffeur (Don) who takes her to church services, SAM events, and Barbara Chapman's early morning Sunday School class. At church, she decorates tables for SAM luncheons, the Gathering Space, and special events, utilizing her love for another hobby—gardening. Don, who also has a part-time job, does most of the grocery shopping and some of the housework as well as the family driving. "I'm good at spotting cobwebs I want Don to take down," she says with a smile. There also are visits from and sometimes to their daughter Tonya, who lives in the Birmingham area, and their son Clay and grandson Cole, further away in Arkansas.

Last year Bonnie took on a new occupation: florist. "Suellen Edmondson, an active SAM volunteer who works with homebound members, was organizing the funeral arrangements and family meal for a member whose family could afford only a simple service," Bonnie says. "She asked me to design and make the arrangement for the casket. I never had done that sort of thing before, but I called my ex-sister-in-law in Texas who's a florist, got some instructions, and gathered flowers and greenery from friends and neighbors. The arrangement got several compliments."

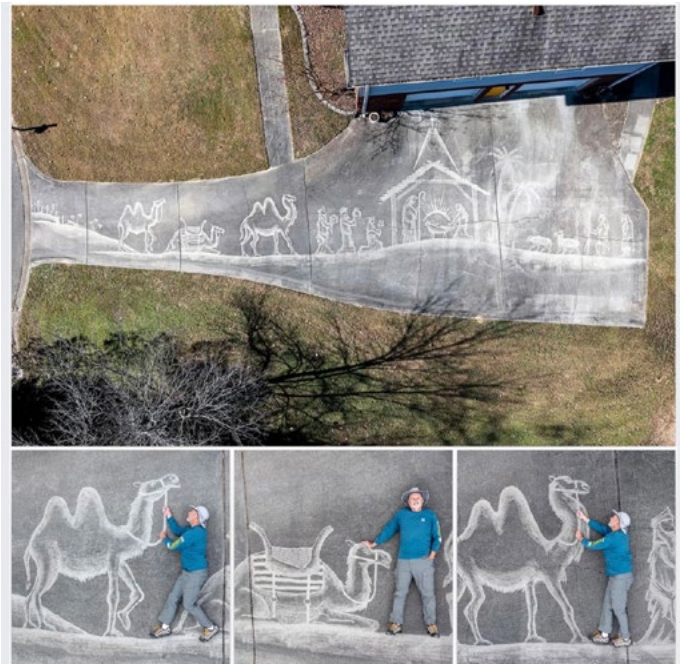
"Limited vision hasn't changed her basic sweet personality," says Judy Bacon. "That remains the same."

CHECK THESE OUT!

There were two stories posted in the Trussville Tribune in mid-December you might want to read. One is the story and video about our own Ron Burkett and his art on the driveway. Absolutely incredible! (Ron's story was also on WVTM 13 News on Christmas Eve!) See the video HERE.

The other, a story about SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE. This is the organization the Grigsby's are supporting, especially daughter Kathryn. Several of our small groups and many of you individually have contributed a total upwards of $2,500 so that many children will receive a real bed to sleep in for possibly the first time in their lives. Read the story (link below) and plan to join us on January 8 here at the church to build beds. No experience necessary. Just come ready to work (might want to bring a pair of gloves.) We will be hosting the build from about 7AM to Noon and could use the help!

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE ARTICLE HERE



Aerial view from a drone.

LAKE YALE SENIOR FEST

Registration deadline is January 5.

BIBLES OFF THE SHELF

January 9 – 30

Wondering what to do with that stack of bibles you have on your shelf at home? Bring them to the Missions wall during the month of January and let us get them to people who can use them. Not your keepsake Bible, but ones you just can't throw away or one that you can purchase at a local merchant.

DNOW (for our students)

January 14-16

Seasoned Adults are invited to assist our student DNOW event in two ways. PRAYER SUPPORT for our staff and students. BRING A BREAKFAST DISH to help feed our students in the Gym on Sunday morning, January 16.

MEAL TICKET DEADLINE

If you plan to purchase an annual MEAL TICKET for our monthly SAM Luncheons, the deadline for purchasing is January 31, 2022.

WE NEED TO KNOW THIS

Our church website at www.fbctrussville.org has a new look. If you haven't already, take a minute to peruse. It's surprising how easy it is to migrate and how much information you'll find packed on those pages.

He who was seated on the throne said "Behold, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5

Well, here we are at the doorstep of a brand new year. Feels like the right time to start something, doesn't it? Let's see. What could we start?

We could start eating better. Although we all know that will only last until that first ladle of banana pudding lands on our plate. We could start that exercise program. Unfortunately, after the first workout, you wake up the next morning feeling like your body has been embalmed, unable to move or smile without pain. We could vow to start saving money, to stop spending on silly, unnecessary things. But it's only a matter of time before we realize we can't live without our electric toe massagers and those funny looking white iPhone ear pods.

Here's a thought. Maybe we could start something that is less painful, requires minimum effort, and yet could have everlasting influence on our lives, and the lives of those around us. What could this be you say? Could be any number of things. You could start a daily prayer time. Start a diary of things you want to remember to pray for. You could start a greeting card ministry. Send a card (or an email) to someone in need every day just reminding them that they are not forgotten. You could start reading your Bible every day. Even if it's just a chapter at a time. You don't have to finish it in a year. What's the rush? You could resolve to end every visit with your sons and daughters and grandchildren with a prayer. Might seem a little weird to them at first, but they'll come to appreciate it, and might even emulate it.

You could make it a point to compliment and/or say something nice to everyone you meet today. Even your spouse, although he/she may get suspicious as to what you have done wrong to make you act this way. You could pick out your favorite Christian song and make it a point to listen to it at least once a day. You will find that the lyrics become burned into your brain and will brighten your day when you most need it. You could search for TV shows to watch that are a bit more wholesome and a bit less profane, violent, and sexually graphic. Maybe a little more Andy Griffith and a little less of The Bachelor and Desperate Housewives. Or you could turn the TV off. See previous suggestion about reading your Bible.

None of these ideas require huge effort or expenditure of time. Just a little refocus and determination. You don't have to go on a mission trip to Thailand to do Christian service (although that is certainly an admirable thing to do). Just concentrate on pointing yourself in the right direction.

But wait, you say. I'm already doing several of these things. Well, then your new year is already off to a good beginning. You don't need to start something. Maybe you just need to do it a little better.

HIS UNFAILING WORD … ISAIAH 40:8

By Denise Dockery

"Yet I have loved Jacob; but I have hated Esau." Malachi 1:2-3 This has to be one of the hardest verses to understand in the bible. But to understand you have to investigate the scriptures.

Have you ever questioned the story of Esau and Jacob? We wonder and sympathize with Esau and not getting a fair deal with God. But as you read and study the Covenant Blessings that began with Abraham, Isaac and then Jacob being fulfilled in Jesus we must consider exactly the true cost of that "red stuff" that Esau was so willing to sell his birthright to his younger brother. But yet in the midst of that was a prophesy given to Rebekah in Genesis 25:23 "The Lord said to her, two nations are in your womb; and two peoples will be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger."

Esau being the firstborn and having the birthright the promise of the Covenant blessing would come through him. The Covenant blessing goes back to Abraham, "in you all the nations of the earth will be blessed." Genesis 12:3. So we see the thread of Redemption coming through his seed, "The Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham saying, "All the nations will be blessed in you." This was the blessing Esau sold. Esau did not believe; "he despised his birthright." Genesis 25:34. Further definition says, "to despise, hold in contempt, disdain, to be vile, worthless."

Hebrews 12:15-17 "…immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance though he sought it with tears." (Genesis 27:38) 2 Corinthians 7:10 "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death." It's easy to see what Esau's choice was.

Esau's name was changed to Edom; Jacob's name supplanter was changed to Israel after he wrestled all night with the angel, "for you have striven with God and men and have prevailed." Genesis 32:28

We see this thread of redemption in the Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah: Jacob's name listed who became Israel. The new testament tells the rest of the story…. John 3:16.

God rules over all, He is Sovereign.
God's Providence is the working of his power to uphold, guide and care for His creation.
God grants to us all power to act. Freewill. We have the choice to choose good or evil.
God's providential plan: only He knows how all things will work together for His good.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

NOTE: Bob has emailed a calendar of SAM events coming up in the first quarter of this new year. If you would like a printed copy, please call Debbie Arrington at 205-228-1006.

JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS (Senior Adult choir)

Thursday • January 6 & 20 • 10:30 AM • Fellowship Hall

BUILD DAY

January 8 at FBCT Parking Lot

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)
Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Building D–Room 144

MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST RETURNS

Thursday, January 13 • 6:11AM • In the Gym
Invite a friend and join us. Grandsons welcome!

EDIBLE EDUCATION LUNCHEON RETURNS

January 13 • 11:30AM • Fellowship Hall • $6 per person
Jennifer Cole Conn will discuss "Why Diets Don't Work and What Does". REGISTER at www.fbctrussville.org/events

LEGAL ISSUES for SEASONED ADULTS SEMINAR

January 16 • 3:00PM • Building D–142 • Led by Bobby Hornsby
Join us as we discuss planning and provisions for living situations important for Seasoned Adults

SUNDAY WINTER STROLL HAS BEEN POSTPONED

Classic on Noble, Anniston, AL. Watch for new date soon.

STARTING POINT

Sunday, January 23 • 5:00PM
New and prospective members have the Opportunity to meet our Pastor and staff. Dinner and child care are provided.

JANUARY SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, January 27 • 10:30 AM • In the Gym
Special Guest: Carol Cain AKA Rosie the Riveter
$7 per person, or use your Meal Ticket

As Rosie, Carol dons overalls, work boots, and the iconic head scarf to tell the story of women workers onthe home front during World War II.

FIFTH SUNDAY COMMUNITY HYMN SING

Sunday, January 30 • 4:00PM • In the Worship Center

NEW BIBLE STUDY for ALL ADULTS

Begins January 17th • MONDAYS @ 1:00 pm
D Building Room 142 • Study of PHILIPPIANS
Guest Teacher: Dr. Gary Fisher
Pastor: South Roebuck Baptist Church

CLASSES FOR LADIES ONLY

Precept Bible Study facilitated by Denise Dockery
Begins January 5 at 9:00 AM • Room 142
We will begin EZEKIEL Part 1: Then you will know that I am the LORD. The cost of the workbook is $25.50. Order your book through the church office or the Event Center.

Priscilla Shirer study of ELIJAH facilitated by Shirley Lyle beginning Sunday, January 9 at 5:00 PM Building E Room 204.

CLASSES FOR MEN ONLY

A study of REVELATION facilitated by Henry Ward beginning Tuesday January 11 at 9:00 AM in E Building Room 203.

A Precept Bible Study of DANIEL

Begins Tuesday, January 11 • 8:00 AM • Room 204
This is a two-part study: Part 1 is 8 weeks, workbooks are $18.00; Part 2 is 10 Weeks, workbooks are $22.50. Please contact Larry Payne, 205-601-2288, larrycpayne@gmail.com with questions.

Synopsis of Part 1: Living Out a Biblical World-view Threatened with death

Daniel stuck to his guns and refused to adopt a pagan lifestyle. His worldview had God at the center and he lived it out even under extreme pressure to change. Learn to adopt a biblical worldview and adhere to it even when it's not the norm.

Synopsis of Part 2: Gaining Understanding of the Time of the End

Does the turmoil in our times, the uprisings and the spiritual decay of many have anything to do with the Book of Daniel? Daniel was a man who knew what God said about the end times. He focused on what God said, not the events of his own time. He had an impact on the people that God placed in his life.

WHAT IF WE PRAYED?
First Monday Prayer Focus

Begins February 7 • In the Chapel • 10:00AM
We invite you to join us for a time of praying together. Whether you join us in the Chapel or from home, we want every SEASONED ADULT to join us for prayer at 10:00 AM on the first Monday of every month. Please email prayer requests to sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org

first MONDAY

REMEMBERING CHRISTMAS 2021

NOW IT FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS!

My earliest remembrance of singing in a choir was when I was about 4 or 5 years old. We wore those little short white choir robes (I'm sure we looked like angels!) and we sang Away In A Manger in "big church." Many of you remember as do I singing in the Living Christmas Tree here at FBCT directed by Richard Hitchcock. Those times were Christmas for me. I knew on Sunday morning, December 19 when I walked into our Worship Center and saw our Ministry of Praise Choir, along with the orchestra, all dressed in the elegance of black and white that we were about to experience Christmas. From the beautiful rendition of The First Noel my heart began to fill with the spirit of Christmas. Tears rolled as we followed along with Lance Pate, Bob Smith and Ross Hickman singing "I have seen the light, whose holy name is Jesus." Closing with the newer hymn "Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery" was the perfect reminder of the perfect gift God sent us long, long ago. Many thanks to our choir and orchestra members for sharing your voices and talents and for the many hours you spent in preparing for the presentation. Congratulations Clay Campbell for directing an outstanding program … your first here at FBCT!

SAM CHRISTMAS 2021

On Sunday afternoon, December 12, two seatings of Seasoned Adults totaling approximately 400, gathered around tables where Musician and Comedian Tim Lovelace made us laugh and blessed us at the piano, guitar and harmonica as well. We laughed as Comedian Lovelace told stories of his love for coffee (C=Christ O=offers F=forgiveness F=for E=everyone E=everywhere) and drinking water out of a water hose versus today's water bottles and other things we used to do this generation would never dream of doing, noting that we are doing just fine! He mentioned how tai chi is a beautiful art form today, requiring slow, deliberate, concentrated, calculated movement … you know, poetry in motion … like going through a barbed wire fence! On a serious note, he said he has never had a piano lesson, but oh my, he played like Liberace! Thank you also to Mrs. Georgia and her team who fed us very well and the students who served our tables! Congrats SAM-ers, Rosemarie Zublar and Rick Burton, each taking home prizes for an $80 meal ticket covering all SAM Monthly Luncheons during 2022! In each of the two sessions, Kevin Grigsby auctioned his piano skills to the highest bidders for an event of their choosing and with individual contributions as well, approximately $1,300 was raised for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Thank you Bob Smith and your team for bringing this wonderful event to our Seasoned Adult Christmas 2021! A big thank you also to all you ladies who helped plan, set up and decorate beautiful tables for the event!

Thank you Pastor Buddy and Lynne, our Deacons, and Jamie Chappell

Our widows / widowers were greeted this Season with a lovely Christmas poinsettia and bags of goodies including bread from our friends at Great Harvest Bread Co. and homemade fruit spread from Mrs. Georgia!

"IT WAS LIKE STEPPING BACK IN TIME"

About 85 FBCT Seasoned Adults set out for The American Village in Montevallo on December 6. Bill Bowser said "it was quite Williamsburg-esque!" The acting was unexpected for many, but well done and interesting. George and Martha Washington were married on January 6, 1759. The group took in scenes of the preparations for the wedding which were humorous as well as historical. Skip forward then to the wedding celebrations. The old-time dancing, done in the center of the room while we ate lunch (a delicious meal, I might add) was really great, said Gail Stewart. She commented that the costumes were period appropriate … even down to the men's wigs! Read more about American Village and their schedule for 2022 beginning at January 3, 2022 at www.americanvillage.org.

The kids weren't the only ones who enjoyed the live camels at our Family Christmas Festival!
Yes, that's Janella Hollis!

One small group dressed for Sunday services. Look closely at Earl Tharpe's outfit. Did you notice that his arms are the mantle of that fireplace?!

NEW ORLEANS TRAIN Excursion

The TRAIN leaves the station at 1:03PM
Sunday, April 3-6

Tour of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Visit the WWII Museum in New Orleans Seafood and Beignets for the discriminating palate And Much More! (Limited to 50)

Joyful Jammers Joyfully Jam at Homestead Hollow In November

There are several practice groups in the Southern Appalachian Dulcimer (SADA) Birmingham group. There are two from FBCT who play with the SADA group.

REMEMBER WHEN…

Do you remember who the 6 month old baby Jesus in the manger was here at FBCT several years ago and who his mother was who sang a lullabye to him? If you said Chad Summers and his mother, Faye, you are correct!

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!