



JULY 2022

...and I'd gladly stand up
next to you

And defend her still today ...

Cause there ain't no doubt I love
This land ... GOD BLESS THE USA!



KATE AND WILL WATTS

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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.

IF MY PEOPLE...

May I speak candidly with you? Why would a person suddenly decide to go to a church supper and kill somebody? It doesn't make sense.

Yes, we have grave concerns about the "state of the union." Our hearts are broken with the loss of life over the last few weeks. The baffling violence in a Birmingham suburb stunned our community known for a family-centered lifestyle. It has also deepened the unease in our nation still reeling from recent slaughter created by gunmen who attacked a Texas school, a New York grocery store, and another church in California.

Our church has an excellent security plan, but nothing can be perfect. Our founding fathers declared "In order to form "a more perfect union." They did not say a perfect union. Neither our nation nor we the people are perfect. So what is needed to straighten out the mess things are in? God's Holy Word very clearly instructs us in II Chronicles 7:14.

If MY people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

At first glance this passage seems to suggest that the people of Israel had a lot to make restitution for. But the context of this story is when Solomon had just finished building the temple for God, the Ark of the Covenant was brought into Jerusalem, and the Lord's presence descended and filled the temple with fire. This message comes just as the temple has been fully dedicated and everything appears to be going very well. It was precisely in the midst of great success. The Lord appeared to Solomon. The Lord was incredibly gracious to warn His people of what would come (the heavens will be shut, locusts will devour the land, and pestilence will attack the people) and to give them clear directives and a choice for how to respond when the bad times came, as well as offering them a deeper relationship with Him, the freedom of forgiveness, and healing. The Lord's instruction was for "MY PEOPLE", His chosen people to ... Humble Themselves, Cry Out through Prayer, Seek God's Face, and Repent from Ungodliness. Sometimes we view circumstantial trouble as God forcing our hand, but what if God is inviting us to a deeper relationship, a greater experience of forgiveness, and transformational healing?

I read an article in USA Today (June 17) about a poll with the headlines ... Number of US adults who believe in God has dropped 6% since 2017. They were asked whether they believed in God and also about their perception of God. Admittedly, there is plenty of room for error in these kinds of polls, but my heart sank at one point. Of those 81% who said they believed in God, only 30% said they believed God can hear prayers and "intervene on their behalf." (I interpret that to mean, He can hear and answer prayer.)

Consider Hebrews 4:16. God invites us to come boldly before His throne. That means to pray with confident expectation because we are His children, and that made possible by the birth, life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. God's children have direct access through the Holy Spirit to God on His throne. What a privilege this is! And when we pray with that confidence; when we pray asking Him to provide us with His will in any situation, of course He answers our

(continued)

prayers. Sometimes His answers are not what we wanted. God Almighty is THE ONE who knows what is best for us. Please hear my heart. If any of you feel you cannot go confidently to God in prayer, please come talk to me. My door is open. "I don't trust God because nothing bad ever happens to me; I trust God because bad things have happened to me and God got me through them."

REMEMBER Ephesians 6:12: *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

In recent weeks God has given us wonderful opportunities to come together as brothers and sisters in Christ to share the gospel, to pray, and to serve. Openly and without fear. Our Men (and young men) on Mission have just returned from Ossian, Indiana where we worked to help build a church. As I write this, we have a group in Thailand, helping others across the world who need the Lord. Small Groups provided daily snack meals for our VBS workers and about 100 of us seated in the balcony watched 1,000 children in our sanctuary experiencing worship during VBS; we literally prayed over them. We bathed our students and adult workers (some 500+) in prayer on the day they set out for camp and then every hour of every day while they were away. We came together inside our church on Sunday afternoon, May 29, singing those old hymns in His name to the top of our lungs. For 30 days we walked our campus grounds praying circles around our third annual CRUISE-IN, then on June 4 gathered with folks from all over our community. Oh, the joys of freedom! What privileges we have been given!

Join us on July 4 at the Trussville Mall to CELEBRATE our great nation and give thanks for the many blessings we have as God's People and Americans. ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS. Fight the good fight of faith! I Timothy 6:12

Bob

ONE TRUE PATRIOT

By Janice Shelton

A patriot can fit the definition of that much-used word in many ways, some very evident and public, some very private and unsung. My father-in-law, William Raper Shelton, was a patriot, an unsung patriot, but one whose devotion is worthy to be celebrated. Born in 1909, he was too young to serve in the Armed Forces of WWI and he was considered by many to be a bit too old to serve in WWII, but he enlisted anyway.

A friend of mine often reminds me of Dada's (that's what the grandchildren called him and thus so did so many of the rest of the family) standing in church declaring that he loved his Lord, his church, and his country. He never mentioned his time in the army. So many of the "greatest generation" didn't talk of their service. We know, however, of several aspects of his service. He helped build the Burman Road, laboring in a very inhospitable environment, one in which he came down with malaria, an illness that came home with him and with which he battled a long time.

One story that our family loves is his taking time to befriend a young man from our Virginia hometown. The young man did not know how to write and struggled to read and he mourned his not being able to communicate with his sweetheart back in the States. My dear father-in-law wrote letters for this man while at the same time teaching him how to write. That man's daughter to this day attributes her parents' marriage to my father-in-law's caring enough about a lonely fellow soldier to help him keep in touch with her mother.

I imagine that many stories like the one above are still circulating among descendants of WWII and I would not only love to hear them, but also to collect them as they reflect a vital fiber of who we Americans should be and who our humble patriots were and are, men and women who love(d) this country and its foundation upon Christian principles. My father-in-law believed in our democracy and the one true God Who blessed us with this country. I can see Dada now, even into his 90's, sitting in his chair with his Bible in his hands as he daily read the Word. He was my example of a patriot of both our country and to our faith.



WE CARE, GOD CURES!

August 12th-13th will be our Stephen Minister's Training "kick-off" where we will come together with our new Stephen Minister trainees. Pray with us that God will "bless our trainees' learning, give them dedicated hearts and open minds, nurture the community they are forming, and walk with them now and throughout their ministry. In Your name we pray. Amen".

stephen
MINISTRY®

THAT THEY MAY COME TO KNOW JESUS

Would you pray:

...for our FBCT group serving in Thailand June 20 – July 2;

...for traveling mercies as they return home; and

...for those who are receiving God's love and care through His people.

Leigh Bennett

Jake Yates

Beth McKinley

Lori Robertson

Suellen Edmondson

Gwen Roper

Jack DeBlanc

Mandi Logan

Sadie Logan

Gay Jones

Larry Jones

Sophie Bryant

Daniel Jones

Brooks McRae

Chris Chambers

John Copham

Robin Mason



FBCT MEN ON MISSION CONSTRUCTION TEAM RETURNS

by Don Burkett

Thursday, June 16 – A final push today to get as much done before we wrapped up for the two-day drive home (for some of us). Drywall was started in the sanctuary and what looked like miles of wiring was put into place. The siding crew continued working even as we were packing up around them to finish before we left.

FBC Ossian is already making a difference in this community, now we know their impact will only be strengthened in the future as they continue doing God's work. It was an honor to serve alongside them as they grow.



View more stories and more photos, including our father/son teams, on my Facebook page and photos from this day and all week [CLICK HERE](#)

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING



Monday, July 4 • 6-9pm

On the Mall in historic downtown Trussville

Great Music, Food and Fireworks!

www.trussvillefreedomcelebration.com

FIRST THURSDAY FOR PRAYING MEN

Thursday, July 7 • Worship Center

1st Thursday
for PRAYING MEN
6:30am OR 6:30pm
FBCT WORSHIP CENTER

To pray and agree together for our "ONE" who is without Christ
To ask God to show us the "ONE" who He desires for us to pray for.

MORE INFO: Contact Jack Sitre (205-810-9480) or Denny Rogers (205-258-6096)

FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

Monday, July 11 • 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 • July 7 & 21 • 10:30 AM

Fellowship Hall

PRAY for our Joyful Hearts Choir as we prepare to go on choir tour in September!

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Room D144



SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, July 14 • 10:30AM • Outside around the Fountain

Special Guests: HOMELAND TRIO

\$6 per person • Reservation required

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

MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, June 16 • 6:11AM in the Gym

Invite a friend and join us.



CHANGED LIVES!

Our Sunday, June 19 services not only celebrated Father's Day, and welcomed beloved former staff member Gene Ennis to the services, but we recognized with all Glory to God answers to many prayers as Spencer Jones reported 43 salvations during youth camp the week of June 13. Thirty of those 43 were baptized in the second service. ALLEULIA! Ron and Carolyn Walters received a note from friend Katherine Warr after the Ocoee Camp. We'd like to share her comments with you.

"Wow! What an incredible week in the Lord for Harper and Jacob! I'm beyond grateful for those that gave their time and energy to help so many students grow in their faith this past week at Camp Ocoee. I can't imagine what it takes to organize and plan for over 500 students, but they pulled it off amazingly! And for those of us back home, it was so awesome to watch the worship services live and see the Spirit moving in such a mighty way! Thank you, FBCT, for investing in them!"

Thank you, Spencer Jones for your ministry here at FBCT! We also thank Mrs. Georgia for the WONDERFUL cookies given out to our fathers at our services. What a SWEET treat!

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY!

By John Kerns



...AND THE REST IS HISTORY

"Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines!" With those iconic words, spoken by Denise Dockery, over 200 participants in the 3rd Annual Leland Dockery Tribute Cruise-In, cranked up their engines. Everything from a 4-cylinder Willys Army Jeep to turbocharged V-8s were fired up in unison and allowed to fill the air with the sounds of automotive perfection. There was noise, but also an appreciation for the work and dedication that had gone into all the vehicles on display. The owners were justifiably proud of their cars and trucks and enjoyed having them on hand for the crowd to enjoy.

The Cruise-In began as the brainchild of Bob Smith, Seasoned Adult Minister. Bob had discussed the potential of having such an event with Leland Dockery. Leland was a long time FBCT member before his untimely passing in 2019. When Bob approached Denise Dockery with the concept, she readily agreed and offered her support. Bob then reached out to other church members and car fans and was greeted with enthusiasm and offers of help and encouragement.

At all the initial meetings, Bob stressed that while the event was to be fun, it was also to be an outreach to the community and a ministry to reach non-believers who might attend and hear the word of God, and to be done for the glory of God.

As happened to many things in 2020, our first date had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions, as well as our alternate date. We finally settled on a third date and were blessed with a beautiful day and a great turnout of fans and over 200 beautiful classic cars and trucks on display. That year saw a borrowed flatbed trailer used as a stage and 4 food trucks. The event was declared a rousing success and the decision was made to create an annual event.

The second year, we were able to secure a professional stage, additional parking spaces, 2 additional food trucks, and custom-made award plaques with a die cast replica of Leland Dockery's rebuilt classic 1958 Chevrolet Apache pickup truck. We also had a total of 256 vehicles on display and were able to enlist the Faith Riders motorcycle group to attend and have a tent on site. We know of six people who prayed to receive Christ as a result of the event. We were also fortunate to have Ken Lass, FBCT member and retired local news anchor to act as our Emcee.

Moving ahead to the 2022 Cruise-In, we again had the professional stage, 6 food trucks, and additional music provided by The Highway 11 Band and classic performances by the SAM Vocal Band. Both musical attractions received rave reviews.

For 2022, Ken Lass returned as our Emcee. He did another fantastic job. Our total car and truck count was 206 but our numbers indicated a larger fan crowd. We added a Military Vehicle classification to our awards line up. Once again, Bobby Page and Dale Beason were able to craft beautiful wooden award plaques with the die cast replica of Leland's truck and the addition of our FBCT 200 year anniversary coin mounted in the center of the trophy.





2022 FAN FAVORITES

FAN FAVORITE TRUCK // Dwayne Crawford 1955 Ford f100

FAN FAVORITE CAR // Norman Nix told John Patterson that his 1963 Mercury Comet belonged to his father and has been in the same family for almost 60 years!

FAN FAVORITE MILITARY // Brent Goodwin

MAYOR'S CHOICE // Greg England, 32 Ford Victoria

OVERALL FAN FAVORITE // THE HOKIE TRUCK

Part of our preparation for this year's event saw the creation of a Prayer Walk around the FBCT campus. Prayer Warriors walked the perimeter of the parking lot and stopped at the 6 locations to pray for good weather, the volunteers, and car drivers, the fans who would attend and other areas and groups critical to the Cruise-In.

We were able to recognize our prize donors and supporters with a special banner on our white 24-foot Christmas trailer beside the stage to show our appreciation for their generosity.

We have been blessed each year with incredibly beautiful days for the Cruise-In. Many prayers have been offered each year asking the Lord for good weather and He has answered each time in a wonderful way. Our blessings have been augmented by an anonymous donor who has come forward each year and donated significant funds to the Cruise-In to prevent the church body from having the financial burden.

An event like this requires weeks and weeks of planning, meetings, phone calls, e-mails and follow up. Bob Smith heads up the team, ably assisted by John Patterson, and John Kerns who served as Co-Leaders of the event. Many others, too numerous to mention, were involved in the preparation for the Cruise-In. We also had a tremendous showing on event day when over 80 volunteers from throughout FBCT came to perform all the various tasks necessary to make the event the success that it continues to be.

We have all endeavored to keep in mind that the Cruise-In is not about Leland Dockery, the cars or the drivers, or about the volunteers and the team that works to put it on each year. We are mindful that the Cruise-In is about an outreach to the Trussville community and surrounding areas to show a positive message from our church and to spread the good news of Jesus and the salvation He offers to us. Pastor Buddy sums it up in his message each year when he reminds people to look at the cars and trucks on display and remember that once they were old, rusty, unpainted, and not running, but look at them now. That is what Jesus can do for you and your life. John Patterson put it all in perspective last week at our post Cruise-In meeting when he said, "This is not really a car show; it is a church service disguised as a car show."



Annual Leland Dockery



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

July is the month we celebrate the birth of our nation and the freedom it provides. How blessed we are to live in a country where we can choose our profession, our spouses, our way of life, even our spiritual beliefs.

But freedom works both ways. It also gives us the opportunity to make bad choices. It's the abuse of freedom that has made the world a very scary place these days. We need look no further than the church shootings in Vestavia last month for an example. People have become afraid of other people, anyone they don't know. Parents dare not allow their children outside to play unsupervised. Reports of random shootings have become common place on our televisions. Even the entrance to our church office is protected by a locked door which has to be buzzed open by the receptionist.

We may not be able to change the world, but we have the freedom to change our role in it. That first verse in the fifth chapter of Galatians tells us we need not fear the sins of the culture. The atoning death of Jesus Christ on the cross frees us from the intimidation of evil. We don't have to conform to the new normals, those that embrace concepts that we know are contrary to God's word. We can boldly stand up for our Christian beliefs. We don't have to settle for something less.

What those of us in the SAM age bracket may struggle to fully comprehend, is that younger generations may not know what it looks like, to hold firm in one's faith in the face of creeping immorality. We, on the other hand, have seen it. Most of us grew up with it. When I was a child, Christianity was dominant. Everyone I knew went to church. Christians were respected and admired. A life of service to Christ and to your fellow man was something to aspire to. That was our normal. Hopefully, it still is.

But beginning roughly around the millennial generations, moral standards took a sharp downturn, as did respect and tolerance for Christianity and its believers. Young and even middle age adults have only known a world where Christians are increasingly portrayed as radical, intolerant, racist and homophobic. Some of this is political, as those running for office thrive on establishing stereotypes, so as to herd large groups of voters into their corner. We fight this by using our God-given freedom wisely, by breaking the stereotypes. We must show them we can love, serve and give without compromising the standards set forth by the Bible. They will see what it looks like. It will change them.

And who knows? It just may begin to change the world.

HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

By Denise Dockery

Midnight Cry!

The Parable of the Bridegroom and the 10 Virgins, 5 foolish and 5 prudent who took their lamps to meet the bridegroom. Why foolish? The word means godless, dull, sluggish, stupid; they were not prepared for when the bridegroom came. Asking the prudent virgins for some of their oil they are told to "go and buy for yourselves". While away the bridegroom comes and the prudent – the intelligent, wise, who were prepared for the bridegroom enter into the wedding feast with the door shut behind them. The foolish begging for the door to be opened, the bridegroom's response was "Truly, I do not know you". "Be on the alert for you do not know the day or the hour." Matthew 25:1-13

What makes a prudent, wise virgin? "At midnight there was a shout, 'Behold the bridegroom! Come out to meet him". The Midnight Cry, the song we all love to hear being sung at our church. These 5 wise virgins were expecting their bridegroom, they hear his CRY; waiting eagerly for his arrival, they were found diligent, alert for his return. Their lamps were filled with oil, so that the light of their lamps would lead them to the bridegroom, for it was midnight, where there was no light to light their pathway, except for the oil in their lamps.

What makes a foolish virgin? They knew about the bridegroom, and they knew he would be coming but yet in their complacency like in the days of Noah, they had left to go buy oil, so when the CRY was sounded, they were not there, they had no oil in their lamps and in their last-minute haste to go and purchase, they missed his CRY and arrival. When they do come it's too late and the door was shut and they were told, "I do not know you". Matthew 25:13

2 Peter 3:17-18 "You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen".

So the next time you hear the song "Midnight Cry" remember the context of the parable of the ten virgins... it's more than a song it's a CRY to be prepared, to be invited to enter in for the wedding feast that we read about in Revelation 19:7-9, "let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride, (the prepared virgins) has made herself ready. It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen; bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then He said to me, "Write, Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb". These are true words of God."

THE HOKIE TRUCK



Hi, I'm Bill Bowser, a member at FBCT. My wife Diane and I are proud SAM members. We both sing in the regular and Joyful Hearts choirs, and I also sing in the SAM Vocal Band. I started the journey with my truck in 2012 after I retired from full-time work. I was looking for a 1954 Chevy or Ford pickup (year I was born) with good bones that I could turn into a "statement hot-

rod" for tailgating at Virginia Tech football games. Diane and I lived in Dayton, OH at the time and I had a young man, AJ, and his shop lined up to do the mechanical and bodywork/paint. The best part of our deal was AJ allowed me to work with him and assist in the process without charging me extra!

I found my target '54 Chevy pickup in Ocala, FL and while it did have good bones, it was in pretty rough shape. It was not a frame-off restoration, but we did pull everything off but the cab. Working on the mechanicals included installing a Corvette rear end, Mustang II front clip and coil over independent suspension all around. Corvette spindles with disc brakes with Boyd Codington 18" wheels let it stop and look good. Next came a Chevy LT1 engine and 4L60E transmission from a donor 1995 Corvette. Luckily the LT1 came complete with stock PS, PB, AC, etc... so the engine compartment is stock Corvette for ease of maintenance. Plus it puts out 415hp in its current configuration. Then the interior was reworked with power bucket seats from a Jag S-type, Dolphin gages and custom-built console, carpets and headliner.

Next came the body and paint which required an artisan's touch which AJ provided. My part in that process was choosing colors, designing the graphics, layouts, flames and then watching as AJ made my ideas amazingly come to life. And of course it just screams VT Hokies!

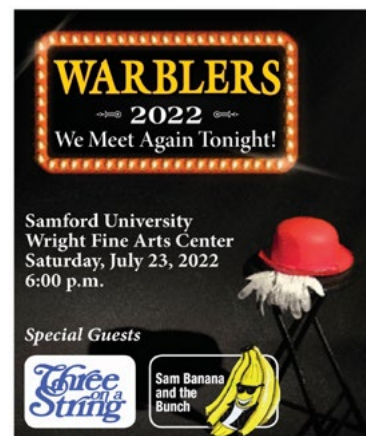
After about 14 months, the truck was finished in 2013 just in time for football season. Diane and I are a fixture at VT football games. We are a mainstay in parades and Homecoming festivities. We have also been featured on ESPN's College Gameday as well as several local Virginia TV spots. And while few people know me, it seems as though everybody at Virginia Tech knows the Hokie Truck. Enjoy the pics!

SAVE THESE DATES

THE WARBLERS IN CONCERT

Saturday, July 23 • 6:00PM
Purchase tickets at

www.warblersclub.org



OASIS 2022 RETURNS TO FBCT

Thursday, July 28 • 1:30PM • Worship Center

Special guests include: Guy Penrod and Mickey Bell

Frank Jones will host and perform our favorite Hymns and gospel songs.

Tickets (\$20) available on the church website, The Event Center or the SAM office.

NOTE: We will need about 25 volunteers for such jobs as greeters; merchandise table; driving golf carts. Please call Debbie Arrington in the SAM office if you can help.

CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

October 10 – 13, 2022

LeConte Center

Pigeon Forge, TN

Registration now open • \$100 deposit



NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS

November 30 thru December 2 (limited to 96)

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

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center
Watch for registration date coming soon.

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