

# SAM

SEASONED ADULT MINISTRY  
SERVING THE GREAT

# I AM

## MARCH 2022

### I Speak Jesus

Song by Charity Gayle

I just wanna speak the name of Jesus  
Over every heart and every mind  
'Cause I know there is peace within Your  
presence  
I speak Jesus

I just wanna speak the name of Jesus  
'til every dark addiction starts to break  
Declaring there is hope and there is  
freedom  
I speak Jesus

Shout Jesus from the mountains  
Jesus in the streets  
Jesus in the darkness over every enemy  
Jesus for my family I speak the holy name  
Jesus.

Cause Your name is power  
Your name is healing  
Your name is life  
Break every stronghold  
Shine through the shadows  
Burn like the fire

[LISTEN HERE](#)

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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.

# THERE IS ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO TURN THE LIGHTS BACK ON!

### ***Do you have a light?***

Oh, I'm not asking you to share a light for my cigarette.  
I am asking you to share the light for my life!  
You sing that you have seen the light; I've never seen this light.

### ***Do you have a light?***

Mine used to be bright; now it is so dimmed.  
I barely see it through my daily tears of grief; illness; pain; loneliness;  
hurt; depression; addiction; selfishness; greed; all the evil in this world  
that surrounds us.  
You sing that you have seen the light; how do you see it through  
the darkness? How can I see it again?

### ***Do you have a light?***

***Will you share it with me?***

***Must I go through the darkness alone?***

***Will you guide me to this light that you can see?***

The reality is, every one of us at one point in our lives or another, perhaps even now, could place ourselves in the lives described above. Let's not wait until Easter to guide others to THE light.

One of the most requested songs we are asked to sing these days is "I Have Seen The Light." Thank you for allowing me to sing this along with Lance Pate and Ross Hickman at our first Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing on Sunday, January 30 and other times here at FBCT. I so praise the Lord for the 300+ who joined us for the Hymn Sing! Many thank you's to our Joyful Hearts choir, our SAM men's Vocal Band, to Gayle Glenn (who could not be stumped), to Richard Hitchcock for sharing the history of a couple of the old hymns we sang, and to Heath Harrelson, our young intern who gave the devotion and who we all have grown to love. We cannot forget Mrs. Georgia and her team for the great baked potato meal after the singing! Watch for the next Fifth Sunday and another time to sing together praising our Lord.

He IS the light!

*Bob*

**From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, the Lord's name is to be praised.  
Psalm 113:3**



# AND SO MUCH MORE ... A CONVERSATION WITH HEATH HARRELSON

By Barbara Patton

Many SAM'ers know Heath. You've seen him in worship service, or speaking at a Thanksgiving service, or the Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing, or a Wednesday night Bible study. Jim and I had the pleasure of sitting down with him recently and discovered his passion and joy for God's ministry. He said, "You live forward, but whenever you look back, you can see how the hand of God directed your path," and so you will as you read on.

Heath's path began with, "You know, I was a year old when Brother Buddy became the pastor of my home church, First Baptist Decatur. I always thought that Brother Buddy was the pastor for my baby dedication service. It was only recently that I discovered he wasn't. What's so funny, my parents thought the same. Oh, and Lance Pate was my Children's Minister. We had some fun times."

When asked when he surrendered to God's call into ministry, "My Junior year at Troy State. I always wanted to be a minister. Even when I was little, I would tell my parents that I wanted to do what Brother Buddy did. I did not necessarily pursue the call through my teen years, but always felt it on my life. While attending Troy I had the opportunity to influence, counsel, and witness to my fraternity brothers. This had a major impact on my life after the tragic death of one of our fraternity brothers, "Bill" (name changed). At the time, I was filling in as interim pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Union Springs. "Bill's" best friend was distraught, grieving, questioning. On Sunday morning after a really bad night, the best friend called me and wanted to talk. I was on my way to church and did not have time for a sit down at the house, so I invited him to ride with me. He agreed and showed up as you might expect after a bad night -- disheveled, smelly, and miserable. We talked about life, death, and God's love all the way to Union Springs. He came into the church with me for the service. I changed my message to have a more evangelistic approach and during the invitation, he surrendered his life to Christ." Heath smiled, "Jesus calls us to be in the world (and prepared to minister) but not of it. My frat brothers always respected me for that stance."

Heath is completing his course work at Beeson Divinity School and will graduate April 29, 2022 with his Masters of Divinity which he has earned in three years! This achievement required a lot of study and a few miracles as



Beeson requires 4 courses each in Greek and Hebrew for this degree. (For any of you Sam'ers who want to read the Bible in its original ancient languages, I'm sure you can register on line.)

As part of his course work, Heath was required to "shadow" church administrative work for 30 plus weeks. Seminary is a great theological institution but runs a little shy teaching day-to-day church administration. He contacted Brother Buddy and Lance over a year ago to ask if he could shadow with FBCT staff. Most seminary students will not oversee a church the size of FBCT upon graduation, but a number are called to smaller churches where they will oversee the "whole" church, from preaching to administration to parking lot and possibly sanitation duties. Heath smiled, "Preaching is the icing on the cake after a week of admin duties." He described his time with FBCT staff as "a blessing and a breath of fresh air." He said, "every ministry plan is evaluated with the question: How will this reach people?" Several times he described the vision of the FBCT staff as "much has been done, but there is much more to do." This is Heath's vision as well.

**Please remember Heath with blessings and prayer as he continues to seek the Lord's will for his future.**

# JANUARY SAM LUNCHEON PROGRAM

## "A Memorable Program"

With her energetic personality and considerable talent in music and historical storytelling, Carol Crain aka Rosie the Riveter, both entertained and enlightened us. Women played a vital role right here at home in the United States during WWII, a contribution many of us did not realize. Some, however, do recall memories of hardworking grandmothers and mothers and others during those trying times. Thank you, Rosie for the memories.

Thank you also goes to our own Susan Minor for sharing with us her personal testimony as our devotion at the luncheon.



## BUT GOD ...

By Susan Minor

When I was asked to share the devotion at the January SAM monthly luncheon, I began praying asking God to show me what to say. I shared then and I share with you all here 2 things: 1. How and when I became a Christian, and 2. Why and when God led me to Trussville.

I was raised in a Christian home. I have been in church all of my life. I was a youth leader. I was a Sunday School teacher. I was a bus captain in a bus ministry. But, in 1976 God began convicting me. Did you notice in what I just said there were a lot of "I"s? God was showing me that the Christian faith is not a list of do's and don'ts (works); rather, it is a personal relationship with Him. Ephesians 2:6-9 says "...For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." In 1976, on a Monday morning in Anniston, Alabama, I got on my knees and surrendered my life to Christ. The same time that God was dealing with me, He was dealing with my husband, calling him into ministry.

My mother-in-law passed away in 1990 and we moved to Columbiana to live with my father-in-law and take care of him. My husband pastored a small church in Shelby County beginning as bi-vocational then full time. After about 5 years God led Tom to plant South Shelby Baptist Church. In 2016 God took Tom home to be with Him. In 2020 God began leading me in a different direction.

My children were encouraging me to move closer to them, but that was not in MY plans. BUT GOD showed me Proverbs 16:9. "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."

So ... on a Sunday afternoon, I came to Trussville with a friend to look at some neighborhoods my son Tim showed us. I had 2 appointments the following Tuesday. My youngest son Terry called on my way home and asked, "mom, did you like either house?" I said yes, but I have to sell my house before I can buy a house. He put a contract on the house, closed on the house in less than 4 weeks, and by May of 2020 I was living in Trussville.

This brings me to the second thing I want to share. That was 1 year before my daughter-in-law, Suzanne, Tim's wife was diagnosed with stage 3 inoperable brain cancer – 1 year to grow closer to Sue than I had ever been – to grow a bond of love that by 2021 was going to be needed!! A trust that only God could build. I close with these verses.

Proverbs 3:5&6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."



# • HOW TO BE • **SAM**<sup>®</sup> **SATIONAL!** with KEN LASS

So do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.   Isaiah 41:10

At the age of eighteen I went off to college with several of my high school friends. The campus was only an hour from home. I had plenty of companionship and went home on weekends where I dropped my laundry off and enjoyed my mother's home cooking.

But after two years, I became dissatisfied with where college was taking me. I made a life-changing decision. I chose to drop out of school and attend a vocational institution five hours away in frigid Minneapolis, Minnesota. My parents reluctantly drove me to this huge city, helped me rent a room within walking distance, and gave me a big good-bye hug.

I'll never forget the feeling I had watching them drive off. For the first time in my life, I was utterly alone. In a big city, without a car, not knowing a soul. It was terrifying. What will become of me, I wondered. No one cares about me here. No one loves me. Am I crazy to give up the comfort zone of family and friends to follow my dream?

Loneliness is a terrible thing. It can lead to depression. It can make you resentful of others who seem to have lives happier than yours. It can even make you debate whether it's worthwhile to go on. We are created with a natural need to feel connected. Connected to something. We crave meaning, purpose.

Certainly, as senior adults, we become more vulnerable to loneliness. Loss of a spouse, a family member, or a friend. Retirement, failing health, lack of a path or goal to pursue. Mortality. It can all make you feel hopelessly alone. No one loves me here anymore. No one cares about me. God knew this would be a problem for us. That's why, over and over again in His word, he assures us we are never alone. Isaiah 41:10 is one of many examples.

Don't accept loneliness. Fight it off. The SAM ministry is designed for just that. Our volunteer teams, under the leadership of Bob Smith, are constantly inventing ways for you to connect with others just like you. Get involved. Trust God to stay true to His promise. He will lead you to a new phase of your journey you thought was no longer possible.

Those first few weeks in Minnesota were dark and empty. But I fought the loneliness off. God was leading me to a new phase, a new life, a better life. Eventually, I made new friends at school, graduated, and found my first job, in a town where I met the love of my life. God took care of me then. He got me through. That's what He does.

I've never forgotten, though, what it's like to feel desperately alone. You don't have to surrender to it. Join us in the SAM program. We'll fight it off together.

# HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

By Denise Dockery

*He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in our heart, so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end. Ecclesiastes 3:11*

When time begins to draw to an end to leave this world, what would we give to live our lives again?

How diligent, watchful and serious we would be if we had the sense of eternity upon our hearts?

## Living inside His boundaries.

Faith is our best help in suffering, for it teaches us to counterbalance our temptations with our hopes.

*Faith is assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1*

When Satan tempts you to faint in the work of the Lord, faith reveals the present difficulty as temporary.

*James 1:3: knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*

If we are tempted to seek worldly honor, faith takes a look at the crown of righteousness that God will give us on that day.

*James 1:12: Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

When we are tempted to murmur under the cross, faith will assure that though your way is rough, the end of the journey will be sweet.

*Be patient; strengthen your hearts for the coming of the Lord is near. James 5:8*

Foretaste of heaven will bring such a strong influence in the heart of a believer, that all the reasons in the world cannot alter or break the force of our spiritual purpose.

*The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18*

His promises protect our hearts from poison and preserve the soul in a holy bravery for God.

*Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:22*

Faith is a response of your heart to God that completely alters the way you live your life. You don't think about faith you live by faith.

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

## FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

**Monday, March 7 • 10:00AM • Chapel**

All Seasoned Adults are encouraged to join together in prayer on the first Monday of every month. Meet in the Chapel or stop wherever you are and pray.

Email prayer requests to  
[sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org](mailto: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 March 3 & 17 • 10:30 AM • Fellowship Hall**

We will be singing at Legacy Ridge on Thursday, March 31

## SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS (Men's Southern Gospel Group)

**Wednesdays @ 4:55PM • D Building Room 144**

## MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

**Thursday, March 10 6:11AM in the Gym**

Invite a friend and join us.

## EDIBLE EDUCATION LUNCHEON

**Thursday, March 10 • 11:30AM • Fellowship Hall**

Ashley Lundy will be discussing Acupuncture and how it can help with such ailments as arthritis, hormonal imbalances, high blood pressure, and more!  
\$6 per person

REGISTER at [www.fbctrussville.org/events](http://www.fbctrussville.org/events)

## Daylight Saving Time: Sunday, March 13

(clocks "spring forward" one hour)

## St. Patrick's Day: Thursday, March 17

## First Day of Spring: Sunday, March 20

## SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

**Thursday, March 24 10:30AM Gym**

Special Guest: Guy Anderson

Retired Pastor Music / Senior Adults

Elkdale Baptist Church, Selma, AL

Use your prepaid annual meal ticket or

Make a reservation ... \$7 per person



## OAK RIDGE BOYS CONCERT IN MONTGOMERY

**Thursday, March 24 • Bus departs at 2:00PM**

Cost: \$70 (includes charter bus transportation, meal at Martin's Restaurant, and concert ticket (7:00 PM Montgomery Performing Arts Centre)



## THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR YOU ON THE AMTRAK TRAIN TO NEW ORLEANS!

**Sunday, May 15 thru Tuesday, May 18**

We will leave after morning worship; this trip is identical to the April 3 trip.

Due with Registration: \$100

Register online at [www.fbctrussville.org/events](http://www.fbctrussville.org/events)

## "SINGIN' THE OLD SONGS"

**March 22 - Valley View Baptist, Tuscaloosa**

An event of the Alabama Baptist State Convention Senior Adult Ministry. There is NO CHARGE for this event. FBCT Mini Buses will depart at 8:15 am. Singin' from 10:00 am to around noon. We will grab lunch before returning around 3:00 pm.

Reserve your spot by registering online or call the SAM office 205-228-1006

# IT WILL BE HERE BEFORE WE KNOW IT!

## OPYLAND CHRISTMAS

...yes, in Nashville U.S.A!

Save up those \$\$\$\$ for this after Thanksgiving trip!  
It's not too early!

## COMING UP ON JUNE 4 FBCT 3rd Annual Leland Dockery Tribute Cruise-In

A total of 120 volunteers are needed for all areas from planning now, to the day of the event, to those who will commit to prayer beginning now!

If you are interested contact John Patterson @ 205-337-5418 for information.

Watch for more information coming soon on early car registration for FBCT member cars only.

## SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY STROLL

Sunday, June 26 • Classic on Noble, Anniston AL

Meal, Charter Bus & Mystery Guest Entertainment for \$40 (departing at 2:00 pm)

Tickets available May 1: Online, Event Desk or the SAM Office

**THANK YOU BOB SMITH FOR STICKING WITH US ...  
LOVING, BLESSING, GUIDING, TEACHING HERE AT FBCT  
... 4 YEARS AND COUNTING!**

**MARCH 11, 2018 WAS A BLESSED DAY FOR FIRST BAPTIST AND TRUSSVILLE WHEN YOU SAID YES TO GOD'S CALL.**

We all know and love Bob for his enthusiasm and his never-ending flood of ideas. He's fooling around with that good sense of humor here, but this face makes one wonder "what has he got up in that head of his now?!"

-SAM Leadership Team

**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](mailto: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!

## CHECK THIS OUT!



Our own Jeff Gardner was featured in an article dated January 29, 2022 in The Alabama Baptist. The article, written by Michael J. Brooks, is titled "Trussville staff minister explains how making disciples 'consumes me'." Mr. Brooks begins this very nice article with the statement "Jeff Gardner has a unique illustration of discipleship." Find the article at [www.thealabamabaptist.org](http://www.thealabamabaptist.org). Thank you, Jeff for all you do for us and others in your service to our Lord!

## MEN ON MISSION

June 11-18 • Ossian, Indiana

Registration begins March 6th

PRICE: \$250 for adults, \$50 for students age 12+

MY GOAL is for the Seasoned Adult Ministry to have 75 SAMers committed to this trip and 75 prayer warriors who will stay here in Alabama and pray for the team in Indiana.

Contact the Missions Office at 205-228-1014 for more information.

