



AUGUST 2024

LIGHT*HOUSE

A structure (such as a tower) with a powerful LIGHT that gives a continuous or intermittent signal to navigators.

Oldest lighthouse in the world:

The Lighthouse of Alexandria (Island of Pharos, Egypt; built between 280 – 247 BCE; first ever built and prototype for all future lighthouses; destroyed by earthquakes; one of the seven Wonders of the Ancient World)

Oldest lighthouse in the U.S.:

The Boston Light (Massachusetts; still operational, though the original structure, built in 1716, was destroyed by the British during the Revolutionary War. Rebuilt as it stands today in 1783. Casts a light beam 27 miles into the Atlantic. The Boston is now the only manned lighthouse in the U.S. (pictured)

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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.

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW

It was a normal morning on my way to I do not remember where when suddenly the bottom fell out and rain was coming down so hard I could barely see four feet in front of me. The sky was dark and ominous. Just as suddenly, the sky cleared, the sun began to shine brightly, and the rain stopped. Whew, for a while there I felt like Jonah in the belly of the whale ... how would I ever get out of this situation ... dark and uncertain.

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12. Ponder this. The disciples in the ship (actually only a small boat) at sea during a violent storm ... the world was literally out of their control. How would they survive? How did they survive? Peter WALKED on water TO Jesus, as Jesus directed him. That's called faith. How did Jonah get out of the dark belly of the whale at sea? He PRAYED. Jonah admitted his wrongdoing and repented. That's salvation.

We have and will experience storms that pop up in the seasons of our lives, but just as these summer pop-up storms brought with them much needed rain and left a double rainbow over Trussville one early morning, when we seek Jesus and pray, following Him even on the dark days, we will see clearly. Jesus will show us the way. Like Noah when God sent the dove, Noah could see a light at the end of the tunnel, if you will.

Bob

THE LIGHTHOUSE

*Words & Music by Ronny Hinson
Written in 1970*

There's a lighthouse on the hillside
That overlooks life's sea
When I'm tossed, it sends out a light,
That I might see;
And the light that shines in darkness now
Will safely lead me o'er
If it wasn't for the lighthouse,
My ship would be no more.

It seems that everyone about us says,
Tear that old lighthouse down
The big ships just don't pass this way
anymore
So there's no use in standin' round.
Then my mind goes back to that one
dark, stormy night
When just in time I saw the light
Yes, it was the light from that old light-
house
That stands up there on the hill.



And I thank God for the lighthouse,
I owe my life to Him
Jesus is the Lighthouse,
And from the rocks of sin,
He has shown a light around me
That I might clearly see
If it wasn't for the lighthouse,
Tell me where would this ship be?

• HOW TO BE •

SAM with KEN LASS **SATIONAL!**

Let's talk about worms and squirrels. No, really, you can learn a valuable lesson by observing these interesting creatures.

Let's start with the worm. Ever since Covid, Sharon and I take regular walks, usually along the river walk in Veterans Park. During these hot summer months we try to get out early in the morning. As we stroll down the sidewalk, I can't help noticing all of the worms that are trying to cross the pavement. It takes so little to entertain my simple mind, so I wonder what motivates them to venture out on to this treacherous surface.

A worm doesn't have lungs so it breathes through its skin. The skin has to stay moist for this process to take place. If a worm's skin dries up, he is toast. Literally. So it would seem the silliest thing in the world for a worm to do would be to slither out on to a hot sidewalk in the dead of summer. Yet there are scads of them all along the walk, some wiggling hard as if their lives depend on it, which they do. Many others don't make it. Not only is there danger in the heat, but they could get stepped on or run over by bikes and baby strollers. Why don't they stay in the cool, damp grass? There must be something across the walk that attracts them, tempts them. Something that draws them away from what they know is safe.

It's the same with the squirrel. Have you ever been driving down the street, and you see a squirrel on the curb out front of you? It's obvious he wants to cross. It's equally obvious that he sees your car approaching. All he has to do is be patient for a few seconds and allow you to pass by. But no, he darts out in front of your car. Sometimes he makes it. Sometimes not. Why would he take that chance?

Maybe I'm reading too much into it. Maybe they're just plain dumb. But resisting temptation is challenging.



We should know. We are tempted by the devil every day. He puts things out there ahead of us that look inviting, attractive, shiny, comfortable. But to acquire them will always involve a journey away from God's safe harbor for us. The devil wants us to try to cross that hot sidewalk, or to run out in front of that car. He delights in our destruction.

Psalm 16 contains the plea: "Keep me safe my God, for in You I take refuge." In Psalm 27 there is a verse that says "For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in his dwelling. He will hide me in the shelter of His sacred tent and set me high upon a rock." Life may not always be smooth sailing, but if we can recognize temptation for what it is, and turn it away, we will stay safely under God's wing.

So don't be a worm or a squirrel. Eternal Life is too precious to be put in jeopardy by straying from God's love.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

Are you praying for a family member, a friend, a co-worker, or a neighbor? We invite you to come and pray with others. Oh, the power of prayer. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matt. 18:20

FIRST THURSDAY PRAYING for their ONE

August 1 • Room D139

Men @ 6:30 AM • Ladies @ 12:00 noon

Share the first name of your "ONE" and any information you wish by email: pray41@fbctrussville.org



FIRST MONDAY PRAYER

August 5 • 10:00 AM • Room D139

Email prayer requests to
Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org



JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

Every 1st & 3rd Thursdays • 10:30AM

Fellowship Hall

If you're 55 and up, you are invited!

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:30PM • Room D139



SAM LADIES ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS

First & Third Thursdays • 9:00AM • D139



ATLANTA BRAVES GAME

Friday, August 2 • Leave Church at 3:00PM

Game is at 7:20PM • Home by 11:00PM

Braves vs. the Miami Marlins

And it's fireworks night!

Register online or call SAM Office 205-228-1006

Trussville Back-to-School Schedule

August 7 Student with last names K-Z
August 8 Students with last names A-J
August 9 All students attend

EDIBLE EDUCATION

Thursday, August 8 • 11:30AM • FH

Special Guest: Kimberly Johnson

Kimberly will be helping us work on a makeup routine, offer tips, and answer questions.

Must register to eat. \$6

Please register [HERE](#)

SAM LADIES EVENT

"Beautiful" the Carole King Musical

Saturday, August 10 • Red Mountain Theatre

Bus will leave at 11:00AM OR you can meet at 11:30AM for lunch at the Fish Market (this is not included in the price of your ticket)

OR meet at Red Mountain Theatre for 2:00PM show.

Tickets almost gone. Call SAM Office for

Information. 205-228-1006

FBCT CROP DROP

Saturday, August 17 • 8:00AM

Sign up online on Helper Helper or
Contact Jamie Chappell at the church.

MEMORY SEMINAR

Sunday, August 18 • 2:00PM • Worship Center

SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON FEATURING SAM VOCAL BAND

Thursday, August 22 • 10:30AM • In the gym

Join us for a "concert at home" by our own
SAM Vocal Band

Reservations required for lunch. \$7

SERVING OUR SCHOOLS

Saturday, August 31 • Cahaba Elementary

8:00AM – 1:00PM • 30 people needed

Jobs include: Pressure washing sidewalks & awnings; painting awnings; Cleaning outside windows
Volunteers need to bring their water hoses; pressure washers (gas, splitters, etc.)

Contact the SAM office at 205-228-1006 or email darrington@fbctrussville.org or Jack Sittre at poppycorvette@yahoo.com

WHEN I WAS A KID

Have you noticed what cute "used to be kids" we have here at FBCT.
Can you guess who this precious young lady is?
She was born in Cullman, Alabama.

Find out on the last page of the email or website version of this Newsletter.



MEMORY SUNDAY, AUG 18 | 2PM



DR. DAVID GELDMACHER
DIRECTOR, UAB DIVISION OF
MEMORY DISORDERS &
BEHAVIORAL NEUROLOGY



Are you interested in learning more about the effects of Dementia?
Are you interested in learning about medical strides in Dementia research?
Have you experienced, or are you currently experiencing the effects of Dementia?
Do you have a family member or loved one living with the effects of Dementia?

THIS INFORMATIVE SESSION IS FOR YOU!

Registration is not required and there is no cost, but we would like to prepare for those who are attending. Please register with us through the SAM office 205-228-1006.

LOOKING AHEAD

SAM MEN'S GOLF RETREAT

Ryder Cup Style Tournament
Sunday – Tuesday, September 22 – 24 • Opelika, AL
Robert Trent Jones Grand National

\$500 for double occupancy room;
\$625 single occupancy
Cost includes: lodging, 63 holes of golf,
18-hole putting tournament, transportation,
And much more.

CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

Pigeon Forge, TN
October 14-17 • Register with \$100 deposit
FULL PAYMENT IS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1

Find all the details you'll need at
www.fbctrussville.org/events

FBCT MINISTERS IN THE ALABAMA BAPTIST



Our own June Mathews had a feature article in the June 30, 2024 online version of The Alabama Baptist titled "The family business: Father and son serve as co-workers in the ministry."

What a wonderful story of two of our favorites here at FBCT: James Long and his son, Alan Long. James has long been known among us as the one who "never forgets a name" and Alan has quickly become recognized as our "teaching minister."

Enjoy reading June's article [HERE](#)

NEW BIBLE STUDIES COMING SOON!

Ladies Precept Class

Wednesdays, beginning September 4 • 9:00AM • Room 142

Studying the book of Ecclesiastes

"Vanity under the Sun, but Hope is in God."

Contact Denise Dockery for information. dockerymom@gmail.com

Men's Precept Class

Tuesdays, beginning August 20 • 8:00AM to 9:00AM • Room E204 (above the Fellowship Hall)

We will be studying the Minor Prophets. The prophets in these books of the Bible are designated "minor" because the books are short compared to prophets such as Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and others. Although they are only a few chapters each, they all have a powerful message for the Hebrew people in their time, as well as for us today.

These studies will consist of light homework and discussion during class time, i.e., not a lecture or video.

Contact Larry Payne: 205-601-2288 or larrycpayne@gmail.com

This was Snap Chat when I grew up



WE NEED TO KNOW THIS

The Trussville Tribune reported in June that the I-59 rebuild in Trussville is set for Fall, with construction to last 16 months. Keep up with the construction plans and more details in the Tribune and other media as we move into Fall.

OH, THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!

By Richard Bailey

This is the time of year when the temperatures and humidity are high, along with the power bill. Hopefully, the end is in sight. According to the Farmer's Almanac, the Dog Days start yearly on the third of July and will go through August 11. We will see.

Like many, I have heard the term "Dog Days" all my life but never thought much about where we got that term from. I guess I always had this image of a bunch of dogs asleep on the front porch, seeking relief from the mid-day heat. Thus, the name "Dog Days" made sense to me.

It is a little deeper than that and is rooted in Greek and Roman astrology and mythology. Contemporaries described it as a time of intense heat, sometimes so hot that it was unbearable and capable of inducing madness or other maladies for some. Perhaps these were the ancestors of the people I see walking their dogs on the Mall in the middle of the day? I have always thought that someone had to be mental to do that!

I digress.

The yearly heat wave was believed to be due to the position of the star Sirius (the hunting dog of Orion or Dog Star) and other stars in the morning sky. The Egyptians used the position of those same stars to predict when the Nile would flood and the Summer Solstice, which determined when they would plant their crops. We now know that the heat wave is a product of the Earth's tilt towards the sun during the spring and summer months, thus providing total exposure to the Northern Hemisphere for a more extended period of time.

Eventually, the vernacular spread worldwide in different forms, but it would be in the 1500s before it reached English-speaking countries. Many things have changed during the interim of thousands of years. Those in ancient times were more concerned about survival when they looked at the sky, whereas our concern is how it will affect our vacation plans. How fortunate and blessed we are for that.

Many enjoy planting flowers, trees, and vegetables for their own pleasure and edification. What is more enjoyable than eating home-grown vegetables and sharing them with others? They have had to learn what to do each season to produce the best crop or have the prettiest blooms in the spring and summertime. Some are self-taught, while others learned it from their parents many years ago. Either way, it brings a special joy and contentment.

Not everyone aspires to be a farmer or to work in a garden, but we can still learn from them. Just as the farmer must tend to his or her crops and prepare for good times and bad, so must we tend to the garden that is our faith, our walk with God. We must be prepared for each season of life—through good times and bad, through times of calm, and when life seems to be one storm after another. He always provides.



Now He who supplies seed to the Sower, and bread for eating, may He supply and multiply your seed, and increase the fruits of your righteousness – 2 Corinthians 9:10

SAM'S SUMMER 2024 PART 1

(watch for Part 2 in next month's SAM Newsletter)

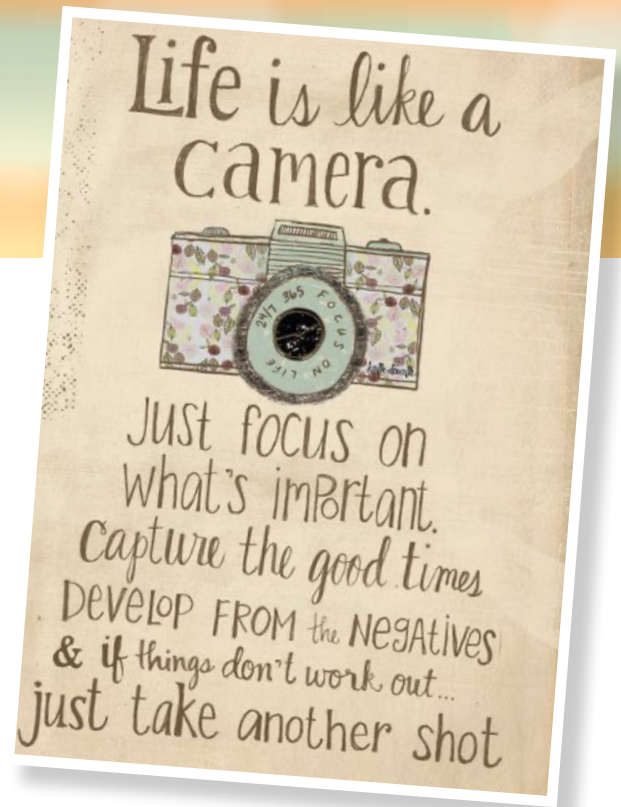
5TH ANNUAL LELAND DOCKERY TRIBUTE CRUISE-IN

Sunday, June 23, the rescheduled date, turned out to be a perfect day/date for this year's Cruise-In. Giving God all the glory, we are extremely grateful for the just under 200 drivers who came to share their vehicles and the great crowd of young and old alike who came to enjoy this event with us.

Thanks to Mayor Buddy Choat for coming out and to our Pastor Buddy Champion for his welcome and message; to Ronnie Foster, our DJ; to Ken Lass, our MC; and to Highway 11 Band for entertaining us so well. And to our crowd, thank you for coming! All the kids were having fun, and yes, even this amazing pet lizard attended again this year riding on his owner's hat! Judges did a great job awarding the prizes.

The food vendors offered a great variety, but the free cold water on this hot day was also much appreciated!

Let's do this Cruise-In again next year! Thanks to our excellent Cruise-In leadership team and all the 60+ volunteer workers this year. We anticipate changes in the day/date, format, and other improvements for a great Cruise-In 2025!



SAM Monthly Luncheon

On June 27 at our SAM Monthly Luncheon, we welcomed back to FBCT the talented JEFF CLEGHORN. Jeff is a full-time music evangelist, Georgia native and friend. As his good friend, Bob Smith puts it: Those fat fingers sure can tickle the ivories!

Jeff was joined on the stage by his daughter C.J. on the violin, and then by his niece Anna Leigh and nephew Parker in a couple of songs. What a talented family!



SAM Fifth Sunday Concert

For a SAM Fifth Sunday Concert on June 30, MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET (a/k/a four voices and the pianist) took the stage. This award-winning Southern gospel group can entertain like no other! They brought us to tears one minute and laughter the next. Mark Trammell celebrates 50 years in fulltime gospel music this year; he's one of the best. The group's excellent pianist, Trevor, from Arab, Alabama, blessed us with his rendition of Amazing Grace, which was indeed amazing, but then he played the Alleluia Chorus. Oh my! We SAMers agreed that we would love a command performance sometime in the future!



THERE'S MORE...

SEE MORE NEWS IN THE ELECTRONIC VERSIONS (EMAIL AND CHURCH WEBSITE) OF THIS NEWSLETTER. CHECK IT OUT AT www.fbctrussville.org, ON THE SAM MINISTRY PAGE.

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!

SAM Sunday Stroll

About 55 attended our Sunday Stroll on May 19 at TANNEHILL STATE PARK, enjoying a hymn sing in the old church, then dinner at the Bright Star. Many thanks to Gayle Glenn for introducing us to songs we had never heard but enjoyed!



Trussville Freedom Celebration

Our 16th annual JULY 4TH FREEDOM CELEBRATION goes in the history books as another great celebration and likely the best attended with reportedly 8,000 people on the Mall for the fun.

SAM volunteer Don McConnell hands out fans and nerf-style rockets to Jacob and Rachel Preston and their beautiful children. We've got to give these Chick-fil-A chics a shout out ... in that HEAT in those costumes with 8,000 other people, all wanting pictures! Whoa!

Our FBCT staff was out in force helping anyone at every turn. Those dart rockets given out as folks arrived were a big hit ... literally. The music by DJ Platinum and Acts of Congress was excellent. The selection of food trucks was awesome. But nothing could top the remarkable fireworks show, smiley faces and all!

Great job FBCT and all the sponsors for bringing this event to our community.





SAM Grands Birthday Picnic

On July 14, some 100 of us SAMers had the privilege of hosting a special GRANDS birthday picnic at BIG OAK RANCH. We celebrated birthdays and had such a wonderful opportunity to get to know the girls and house parents to whom our small groups have been bringing birthday cakes and sending cards with cash! this year.

Butch Hyde, Scott Robertson, and David Byars grilled burgers and dogs. Watermelon and birthday cake were also on the menu. From singing "Happy Birthday" to hearing inspiring words from House Parent and FBCT member Mike Miller, Programs Director Tony Osborn, and FBCT member Donald "Duck" Leopard, who built some of the first houses at the Ranch, it was a day filled with warmth and community. We also enjoyed some great tunes from the Highway 11 Band.

Did you know? Big Oak Ranch is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year! For five decades, it's been a

beacon of hope and family for children who just need a chance. Their model of care is simple yet profound: they treat every child as part of a family, providing not just a home, but also education and opportunities like dance, music, and horseback riding lessons.

What sets them apart? Big Oak Ranch is a private organization that relies solely on private donations—no state or federal funding. Every contribution goes directly to supporting these kids' futures. Interested in making a difference? Call the Big Oak Ranch office to learn how you can donate or get involved!

At Big Oak Ranch, it's not about labels; it's about love and opportunity. These kids aren't "bad;" they're kids who deserve a chance to thrive despite challenging circumstances. We're proud to be part of their journey.



Oasis 2024

Frank Jones Ministries OASIS 2024, hosted on July 18 here at FBCT, was packed with folks from all over Alabama and a few other states. If there was one word to describe the effect this OASIS had on us attendees, it would have to be ENCOURAGEMENT. From start to finish, we were delighted with the music of Frank Jones on the piano; special guests the Gunterville Pickers; and featuring Karen Peck & New River. The Gospel was most beautifully presented.

If you missed the Pre-Show, you missed a special worship time all its own. Frank Jones introduced Comer Allen, a member of Hunter Street Baptist, whom he referred to as "the Lou Rawls of Hunter Street." That is an understatement! What a voice. Jones accompanied him as Allen sang Mary Did You Know. Next was our own Bob Smith. Everyone was standing by the time Bob came to the last note of Down from His Glory. Well-deserved standing ovation; thank you, Bob. Frank Jones followed Bob with a How Great is Our God medley on the piano. Later in the program, Jones played an amazing rendition of the Lord's Prayer. We "felt" the song ... Amazing!

The Gunterville Pickers bluegrass southern gospel songs were fun! The crowd's laughter rang out when they sang Ghost Chicken in the Sky a/k/a The Chicken Song, followed with some silliness on how much this man loves opossums!

Karen Peck and New River have been together for 33 years. Karen, along with her daughter, son and sister, and a family friend who sings with them, moved us into worship. We were blessed with some old songs, along with their own new song Be Ready. They closed with a tribute to Veterans and the Star-Spangled Banner. Again, a well-deserved standing ovation. Frank Jones closed with Because He Lives, no one sitting and tears of joy for the blessing of Jesus in our lives.



WHEN I WAS A KID ... MEET LYNDA WILSON



How long have you been attending FBCT?

We have been attending FBCT for about 2 years. We moved from Montgomery where we had attended Frazer Church for almost 50 years.

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a detective. I loved reading Nancy Drew books.

What did you actually become when you grew up?

I was a teacher for 33 years. I taught elementary school PE, and the last 13 was an Adapted PE teacher working with special needs students.

Tell us about your family:

My husband Bobby and I have 2 sons. One son and his family live in Homewood, and our oldest son lives in the DFW area. We have 7 grandchildren ranging in age from 8 to 28 years. My 96-year-old mom still lives independently about an hour from here.

What is your favorite television show?

My favorite tv show is any show about remodeling homes, Fixer Upper, Home Town, etc.

What is your favorite food?

My favorite food is fresh veggies in the summer, especially tomatoes.

Other than the Bible, do you have a favorite book?

I love to read mysteries and books set at the beach. It is hard to pick a favorite: I love "Gone With The Wind" and more recently "Where the Crawdads Sing."

Who or what has impacted your faith journey?

My mom has probably influenced my faith journey most. Growing up we always had to get up for breakfast and daily devotion. I might or might not have slept through some of them but I was there. In my later life, my husband has influenced my faith journey. He has several health issues and has Aphasia but he is one of the most faithful people I know. His attitude and faith have been very inspirational to me.

What is your favorite Bible verse:

Psalms 56:3 and Jeremiah 29:11

What ministries (at FBCT and elsewhere) are you involved in?

We are very involved in the SAM ministry. We sing in the Joyful Hearts and love our small group, DeNovo. Richard Hitchcock is the teacher.

In 25 words or less, tell us what you are passionate about.

I am very passionate about making sure my family all know Jesus and will spend eternity in Heaven. And maybe a little passionate about Auburn sports.

Is there anything else you want people to know about you?

We are so thankful that God led us to Trussville and FBCT. We have met so many kind people and made friends who seem like we have known them forever.