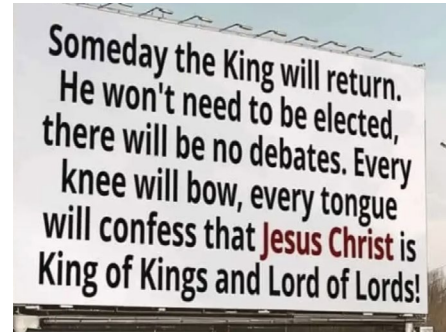




SING HOSANNA! OUR KING IS BORN



I was honored to be among friends and family a few days ago at the homegoing services for Lacy Wright. As I listened to his and Gail's youngest son, Gary, speak about his dad, my thoughts turned to my own dad, who has been with Jesus not quite a year yet. Among the thoughts he shared with us, Gary referred to Lacy's faithfulness to God and the church as the most important legacy his dad left him. Lacy had quite an impact on this young man, as my dad had on me. Gary went on to impress upon all of us the torch we must pass on to our children and grandchildren and generations to come, that is, living a life of faithfulness to God and sharing the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



The people of the Old Testament generations sang Hosanna as a plea for help ... "Save us, we pray, O Lord!" They prayed for God to send a Messiah. And He did. Many generations have come and gone and the definition of Hosanna has progressed. Today, we sing Hosanna as praise for the most perfect gift we will ever receive and the greatest gift we will ever pass on to our generation and those to follow. The birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, thereby making the Way for us to receive salvation from our sins and to have our names written in Heaven's Book of Life ... eternity. There is never a moment in any day when we shouldn't be singing Hosannas to our Lord!

Hosanna! To the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest! Mark 11:9-10

We join you in celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus and wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

BOB & VICKIE

FBCT Christmas Schedule

SMALL GROUPS

No small group meetings on December 22 and December 29th. We will have one worship service at 10:00AM on both of these dates.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

December 14, 4:00 to 6:00PM

JOY TO THE WORLD CHRISTMAS

Music Presentation by Choir and Orchestra
Sunday, December 15 in 9:15 and 10:45AM services

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Sunday, December 22 @ 5:00PM
Tuesday, December 24 @ 3:00 & 5:00PM

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Wednesday, December 25

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Tuesday, December 31

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wednesday, January 1, 2025



Seasoned Adult Minister: Bob Smith
SAM Assistant: Debbie Arrington
SAM News Editor: Judy Bryant
SAM News Assoc. Editor: June Mathews
Newsletter Design: Stephanie Entrup

This newsletter is prepared and emailed monthly by and for 55+ adults of First Baptist Church Trussville, Alabama. Suggested information to be included in an upcoming SAM newsletter may be emailed to sam.news@fbctrussville.org. Printed copies will be available at the church Welcome Center and Events Center.

He's Still the King of Kings

Written by the Gaither's, [CLICK HERE](#)

In the hills of Judea, the lone shepherds watched
Hope is gone, there's no call for singing
Then the angels proclaimed that a Savior is born
Heaven's loss echoes sweet Zion's ringing

He has walked by the graveside of earth's fallen kings
Who opposed Him and yet He's still reigning
Somehow love and compassion have conquered it all
Even foes join with Heaven, proclaiming

Hosanna, Hosanna!
The whole world is singing
The hope of all ages is born
Though sometimes, it may seem this old world is in control
He's still the King of kings and Lord of lords

At the sound of our trumpet, the skies blazed with fire
Mountains thunder with God's judgement ringing
But the saints have no fear, their redeemer has come
Praise the Lord, through all ages they are singing.

Hosanna, Hosanna!
The whole world is still singing
The hope of all ages is come
Though sometimes, it may seem this old world is in control
He's still the King of kings and Lord of lords!



• HOW TO BE •

SAM with KEN LASS **SATIONAL!**

It's funny how your perspective changes over the years. One of my most vivid childhood memories was of a Christmas gift given to me by my sweet grandmother. It was the 1950s and I did various chores around the house each day, for which my parents would pay me two dollars per week. You could buy a lot of candy bars, Popsicles and ice cream cones for two dollars in those days.

My grandma's age and physical limitations prevented her from doing a lot of Christmas shopping, so rather than toys and games, each year she would present me with an envelope which was brightly decorated with green and red holiday trim. The backside of the envelope had a vertical oval cut out of it, the exact size of the picture on paper money. I think she got them from her bank.

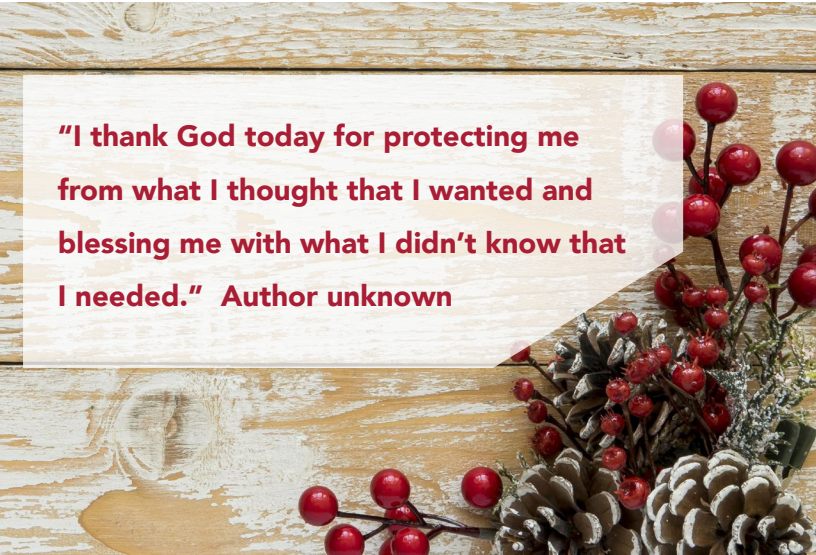
Each Christmas I would eagerly anticipate which former United States president I would see in the little oval window on my envelope. I actually learned a lot about recognizing our forefathers, and about American currency, from this process. I knew if it was Abraham Lincoln's picture, the envelope contained a crisp, new five dollar bill. If it was Alexander Hamilton's likeness, there was a ten dollar bill inside. On a really good year, it would be Andrew Jackson's face. Twenty dollars! That was the equivalent of ten weeks of allowances! We're talking new bike money now!

Then one year, Gram seemed to have a particularly wide smile on her face when she handed me her gift. I quickly flipped the envelope over and saw a picture I did not recognize. This figure had longer hair, down to his shoulders, a broad forehead and no beard or moustache. Puzzled, I asked Gram who this man was. "That's Benjamin Franklin," she said. "He was never a president but he was a great inventor and statesman."

I felt a rush of excitement. A new face meant a new bill. Maybe.....maybe even a fifty! I quickly pried open the top of the letter and lifted out the cash. Imagine my shock and awe as I discovered it was a one hundred dollar bill! I couldn't believe it! To my nine-year-old eyes, I was rich beyond my wildest dreams. It was so much money, I couldn't even imagine how to spend it all. Unfortunately, my parents solved that problem. They made me put it in my savings account.

I must confess, at that time of my life, my perspective on Christmas was the eager anticipation of seeing Gram come visit, armed with her annual envelope. It gave her such joy to watch me tear it open. Now, some seventy years later, I'd give back every penny, just to give her one more big hug and kiss on the cheek, and the chance to tell her how much I love her.

Perspectives change. Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, and expressing gratitude for another precious opportunity to gather with those you love, and who love you back. I don't care about gifts anymore. I don't need anything, except for a hug from my kids and grandkids. That will suffice until I see Gram again.



"I thank God today for protecting me from what I thought that I wanted and blessing me with what I didn't know that I needed." Author unknown

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 MONDAY PRAYER

December 2 • 10:00 AM • Room D139

Email prayer requests to

Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org



FIRST THURSDAY

PRAYING for their ONE

December 5 • 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



JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

Every 1st, 2nd & 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 • 4:30 PM • Room D139



SAM LADIES ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS

First & Third Thursdays • 9:00AM • D139



SAM CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Sunday, December 8 • 4:00PM • Worship Center

5:00PM Dinner • Gym

SPECIAL GUESTS: Gold City Quartet

Begin this special season with these friends from Gadsden, Alabama and be blessed by their hearts for Jesus and the best Christian gospel music around!

\$25 per person (Concert & Meal)

\$15 per person (Concert ONLY)

(Note: If you have a 2024 Annual Luncheon Meal Ticket, you can turn this in for your Banquet ticket. You do not need to purchase tickets online. Ticket SWAP available at the Event Desk or at the Church office.)



SAM TRIP TO MEMPHIS

Thursday, December 12

Elvis Experience Tour at Graceland

Friday, December 13

As of November 1 RESERVATIONS ARE CLOSED, But you may call SAM office to be placed on waiting list.

TRUSSVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday, December 14 • 2:00 to 4:00PM

Chamber of Commerce:

www.trussvillechamber.com

COMING IN JANUARY 2025

2025 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

Friday, January 31 beginning at 7:00PM

Saturday morning, February 1st

GUEST SPEAKER: Lisa Allen from Proverbs 31 Ministries

Lisa will lead us in sessions about "God's Handiwork," covering topics "Your Creative Wiring," "Your Kingdom Calling," and "How to Walk Out Biblical Community."

After the first session we will indulge our sweet tooth! A dessert bar! A river of sweets! A plethora of delights!



REGISTER [HERE](#) for yourself and a friend!

Tickets are \$65 per person.

WHEN I WAS A KID

From Gail Stewart

Can you guess who this handsome young boy is? He was born in Birmingham, Alabama in 1930. He has celebrated his 94th birthday this year!

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



Happy Birthday, Bob!

Wishing a very happy 70th birthday to our wonderful SAM Leader! Your wisdom, warmth, and love for others inspire us all. Here's to many more years of joy and blessings!



SMILE:
"The physical workout of the muscles around your mouth increases the positive enzymes in your brain chemistry."

Photos from Bob Smith's birthday celebration held on November 12 at FBCT.

We presented Bob with a look-alike bobble head. Pretty good resemblance, don't you think?

A THANK YOU NOTE from Bob

How do you say Thank You to people who have been so kind, loving and encouraging?

My words can never express adequately my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve with and for the people of FBC Trussville. It's hard to believe that almost seven years ago I became aware of an opportunity to serve at a place that would change my world. The reality is...FBCT leadership took a chance on a guy who had never served as a Senior Adult Minister but knew that God's calling to this specific ministry was real. Almost everybody I work with (seasoned adults) retired long before turning seventy. I hope you can put up with me for a few more years, because I really love this job!

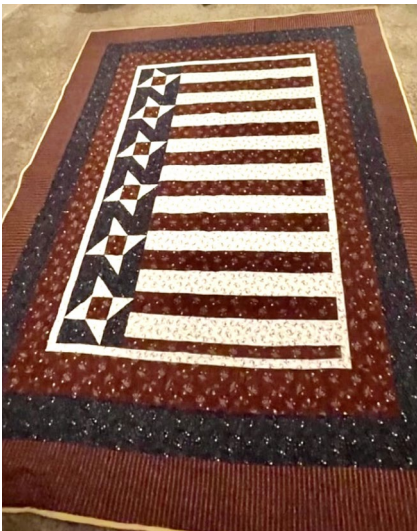
OUT & ABOUT

Republican Women of Trussville Honor Lacy Wright

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was written by Diane Bowser. Lacy Wright was able to accept personally the beautiful Quilt of Valor presented to him by the Trussville Republican Women just days before his passing in November. Diane said that Lacy was nominated for this award because of his great love for our country and his many years of exemplary service. He was a Christian who served his Lord and his country with steadfast love and deep devotion.

Lacy Wright came from a family with a rich history of love and service in the protection of our country. His father was one of 5 boys. During WW2 all 5 served in the military. All 5 came home. Lacy's father was in the Air Force during WW2 and flew B25's. On one mission, his father's plane, and the planes of 7 other pilots, crashed. His father walked away from that crash with only minor injuries. His father then served in the Korean conflict by flying jets.

Lacy began service by joining the ROTC. He was at Auburn University, taking final exams, when he was classified 1A. Following in his father's footsteps, he joined the Air Force in 1966.



He served for 4 years during the Vietnam War in Strategic Air Command (SAC). Because of his engineering education, he worked to keep the autopilot systems of the B52 bombers and the tankers in working order. The pilots flying these planes were the relief wing for pilots in direct combat. So he, in effect, was helping to keep the relief wing flying.

Over 60 years ago, Lacy married his high school sweetheart, Gail. He was assigned to Robins Air Force Base in Georgia, where their first child was born. He was assigned to the 19th Bomb wing of Air Force Command. His wing went on temporary duty assignments of between 10 to 60 days, and up to 6 months of service. They were the reliever wing for the flyers on 14-month assignments. His group kept the refuelers (tankers) and B52 bombers flying. Lacy went TDY (temporary duty) to various places, including Okinawa and Thailand.

Both Lacy and Gail spoke of the special thrill it was every morning to stop whatever they were doing to hear Reveille, and to hear Taps at the end of the day. They said it never got old to hear those calls and to reflect on our great country.

Lacy spoke of his pride in serving and what every man had to do to keep the wing mission alive. He appreciated the teamwork and the privilege to be assigned a special team to fix the B52's. He said there are so many stories he could tell of all the things the men did to keep the missions going

In 1970 when he was discharged from the US Air Force as a Staff Sergeant, he went to work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) where he worked for 35 years. He served in Macon, Georgia, Jacksonville, Florida, then Birmingham as the Chief of the Birmingham Tower. He then transferred to the Branch Manager of Operations in the FAA Southeast Regional office in Atlanta.

Lacy gave all credit to God for the numbers of opportunities he had been given. He was grateful that God's plan allowed him to do so many things in his career both with the Air Force and with the FAA to serve his country. Lacy stated it was the Air Force that enabled him to do everything he had done in his career. He was a licensed pilot, a commercial pilot, and flew a charter flight service for 7 years. He was certified to fly F18's. His "claim to fame" is that he had the opportunity to fly an F18 with the Blue Angels! The thrill of a lifetime!

After his retirement from military and government service in 2000, Lacy began working as a barber in Trussville, eventually owning the Husky Barber Shop, where he served the residents of Trussville for 21 years, becoming a stalwart figure in the small business scene in Trussville.



WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

This popular Christmas song has a rich history. As theory has it, it was written during a time when Christians were punished for worshipping openly; thus, the somewhat mysterious words represent hidden messages of our faith.

The weeks before Christmas are known as Advent. The "12 Days of Christmas" in the carol reference the 12 days following Christmas. The period begins with the birth of Christ on December 25th and ends with the coming of the Three Wise Men on January 6th, known as the Feast of the Epiphany.



My "true love" represents God and "Me" represents every Christian. The gifts given on each day help us remember the teachings of our faith.

DAY 1. A Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus, the Son of God

DAY 2. Two Turtledoves = Old and New Testaments

DAY 3. Three French Hens = Faith, Hope and Love and the Trinity: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

DAY 4. Four Calling Birds = The Four Gospels

DAY 5. Five Golden Rings = First Five Books of the Old Testament

DAY 6. Six Geese a-Laying = The Six Days of Creation

DAY 7. Seven Swans a-Swimming = The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:8-10)

DAY 8. Eight Maids a-Milking = The Eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)

DAY 9. Nine Ladies Dancing = The Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

DAY 10. Ten Lords a-Leaping = The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

DAY 11. Eleven Pipers Piping = The Eleven Faithful Apostles

Most think of the disciples in terms of the dozen. But when Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus and took his own life, only eleven men carried out the gospel message.

DAY 12. Twelve Drummers Drumming = A Listing of 12 Great Doctrines of our Faith in the Apostles' Creed.



JOYFUL HEARTS MUSIC CALENDAR (OPPORTUNITIES!)

Caroling!

Once again, we will be caroling to our FBCT homebound. ALL are invited to join us in this fun tradition of spreading joy to our members. Dress in your favorite Christmas colors and come prepared to sing many favorites, but most of all, be ready to share the Good News of Great Joy! All caroling days begin at FBCT in the fellowship hall, and will conclude with lunch, and/or an afternoon group performance. Whether you are able for all caroling dates, or just one afternoon, we would love to include you!

Email Kim Searcy to sign up: kimbershea@gmail.com

Caroling Dates: (meet at the church)

- 12/4 Wednesday
- 9:00 Caroling in Groups to FBCT Homebound, lunch @ FBCT
- 1:00 Caroling Concert @ Fairhaven Assisted Living Community
- 12/5 Thursday
- 9:00 Caroling in Groups to FBCT Homebound
- 12:00 Lunch and Caroling with Independence Place- FBCT Fellowship Hall
- 12/9 Monday
- 9:00 Caroling in Groups to FBCT Homebound, lunch @ FBCT
- 1:30 Caroling Concert at Legacy Ridge Assisted Living
- 12/10 Tuesday
- 9:00 Caroling in Groups to FBCT Homebound, lunch @ FBCT
- 12/11 Wednesday
- 9:00 Caroling in Groups to FBCT Homebound
- 11:45 Caroling Concert @ St Vincent's East, Lunch after @ Sherry's Cafe, Trussville

SAM Vocal Band (SVB) and Hearts in Harmony (HnH) Upcoming Performances

The FBCT SAM Vocal Band and Hearts in Harmony ensembles will be sharing their music in a few public concerts this Christmas Season! If you love listening to the harmonies of these groups, and would like to come to hear more, this is your invitation! In addition to sharing in a few assisted living facilities, the vocal ensembles will be performing on the following dates:

12/7	Saturday	4:30	SVB & HnH	Grace Community Church, Trussville
12/9	Monday	6:30	SVB	Gardendale First Baptist
12/17	Tuesday	11:30	SVB & HnH	St Vincent's East
1/9	Thursday	10:30	SVB	Eden Westside Baptist, Pell City

2024 has been a GREAT year for the Joyful Hearts Music Ministry, and 2025 will be filled with even more opportunities to sing and share God's love with others! Stay tuned to see what we have planned in the new year!

SMILE AWHILE

To others of my generation who still do not and cannot comprehend why Facebook even exists, maybe try the following, like I'm doing.

Here's what I'm doing to gain better understanding:

I am trying to make new friends without using Facebook, but while applying the same principles.

Every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later, and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dead dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, or fixing things, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, then give them the "THUMBS UP" and tell them I like them.

And it works!

I already have four people following me: Two police officers, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist.

NEW Spring DATE **Sunday, March 30**
3:00 pm to 7:00 pm (SUNSET @ 7:06 PM)
RAIN DATE: April 2



6th Annual Cruise-In

"Leland Dockery Champions Trophy"

Averaging over 225 Vehicles on the church parking lot

- Classic ▪ Hotrod ▪ Vintage ▪ Show Vehicles ▪
- Food Trucks ▪ FREE Admission ▪
- FREE vehicle registration ▪ Prize give aways ▪

NOTE: The Cruise-In will be 3 weeks prior to Easter Sunday each year with a rain date two weeks prior to Easter Sunday.



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!

WHEN I WAS A KID...

Meet William E. "Bill" Fleck

In what city and state were you born?

Birmingham, Alabama in 1930

How long have you been attending FBCT?

I have attended FBCT since 2014 – in Dan Sims Small Group Class.

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

When I was a kid I wanted to work in a Plant. like my dad did.

What did you actually become when you grew up?

After I graduated from Auburn University, I went to work for U.S. Pipe as a Process Control Engineer at the North Birmingham Plant. I later became Plant Manager of the Bessemer Plant, and then I became Vice President, Manufacturing.

Tell us about your family:

I have a daughter and a son, 3 Granddaughters, 1 Great Granddaughter, 2 Great Grandsons, and twin Grandsons on the way!

What is your favorite television show?

My favorite television show is Bluebloods.

What is your favorite food?

Whatever I can prepare quickly and will yield at least 2 meals.

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

I love any book about the U.S. Marine Corp as I was a Marine in my younger days. I spent 8 years in the Marine Corp and 6 years in the Reserve and an additional 2 years on active duty – one year training and one year overseas living in a tent in both Japan and Korea.

Who or what has impacted your faith journey?

My parents were strong Christians, and we were in Sunday School and/or Church most every Sunday. I attended Ensley High School in Birmingham and at that time it was possible to earn 1/10th of a minor credit for attending 15 out of 18 Sundays each semester. I managed to do this each semester. I had good teachers and learned a great deal by attending Sunday School regularly.

What is your favorite Bible verse:

No real favorite. I read my Bible daily and I really enjoy Billy Graham's Daily Devotions. I love them so much I just read them over again each year! One of my favorite quotes I particularly like is "When the devil knocks, I just send Jesus to the door."

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

I was participating in the refilling of pew pockets each week, but COVID ended that for me. After that I managed to have a 4-year period with no absences from Sunday School (perfect attendance).

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

My family! My children, grandchildren and/or great grandchildren check on me most every day and we spend quality time together whenever possible, but especially at the Holidays. They are the light of my life! I have tried to live and raise my family in a way that pleases God.

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

I love helping other people. In fact, I have had a garden since we moved to Trussville and the produce I grow, I share with my family and neighbors. I have great neighbors!

