

LET IT SNOW!



Have you ever wondered if the word snow is mentioned in God's Word? I sat down one day during our recent snows and Googled it. To my wonder, the answer is yes, 25 times, from Genesis to Revelation. Let me encourage you to take a few minutes to dive into the 25 "snow" verses in God's Word. Look and see what God speaks to you in these verses.

I noted in reading those verses, and share just a few with you here, that God has a plan, a purpose, and a promise for ALL He creates ... even snow! I was also reminded of who God is.

God is sovereign, the ultimate ruler who created everything that was and is created; He has the last word.

*Genesis 8:22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, **cold** and heat, summer and **winter**, day and night, shall not cease.*

Job 37:6 He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.'

Psalms 148:8 Lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding.

God is patient.

Wasn't God patient with Moses in Exodus 4:6? Moses felt himself inadequate to serve as God's spokesman as God told him to do. "Then the LORD said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous ... it had become as white as snow." God covered the hand with leprosy (the skin looks ugly and white as snow), then God healed the leprosy after He instructed Moses to put his hand back into the cloak and Moses obeyed.

God is He who provides and He is Faithful.

Isaiah 55:10-11 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Jeremiah 18:14 Does the snow of Lebanon ever vanish from its rocky slopes? Do its cool waters from distant sources ever stop flowing? (God is faithful to provide what His people need; so should we be faithful to Him.)

God is our sustainer, our comforter.

Job 6:16 Job is lamenting about how his friends have "hidden" their love from him in his time of such distress. Job is comparing his friends to the fickle stream that swells and overflows when the snow melts and dries up in the heat. Job consistently went to God knowing that He alone would be his help.

GOD IS LOVE and full of grace.

As we think of snow my mind is drawn to Psalm 57:1 and a great old hymn. God uses the image of "whiter than snow," which embraces purity that comes only from Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. He heals us. He cleanses us. He removes the stain of sin with his blood and makes us "whiter than snow".

**Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
 I want Thee forever to live in my soul;
 Break down every idol, cast out every foe—
 Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**o Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow,
 Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**The blessing by faith I receive from above;
 O glory, my soul is made perfect in love!
 My prayer has prevailed and this moment I know
 The blood is applied, I am whiter than snow.**

God is our Father.

He has prepared a place for us for eternity in Heaven.

Daniel 7:9 "As I looked," thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair on his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. (Matthew 28:3; Revelation 1:14)

May we live and love like Jesus! Let it snow!

Bob

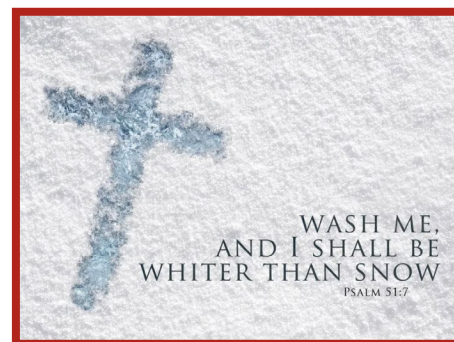
**I looked out my window
 And what did I see?
 A beautiful reminder of
 God's love for me.**

**It wasn't jolly Santa or
 His crew of eight reindeer.
 It was three inches of snow
 Reminding me that God is near.**



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.



• HOW TO BE •

SAM with KEN LASS

with KEN LASS

When I was a young man I remember my father trying to come to grips with the reality of growing old. He used to say "Son, you'll know you're old when you get together with your friends, and all you talk about is everybody's aches and pains."

I thought about that the other day. I was sitting with a group of fellow senior adults. One of them asked me how I was feeling, because I previously told them I had been sick over the holidays. I responded I was feeling better, but I was still having issues with reflux and hand tremors. Then one of the other guys said "I can relate to that. My arthritis keeps acting up, especially in my arms and shoulders. Sometimes I can't lift my arms above my head." Another chimed in "I just wish I could find a little energy. I'm so tired all the time. It's an effort just to get out of a chair."

For the next half an hour or so, it became a sort of panel discussion of the various afflictions that older folks deal with. Cancer, diabetes, shingles, dizziness, failing vision and hearing, carpal tunnel, skin lesions, knee and hip replacement, foot problems and dementia, just to name a few. Everybody knew somebody that had health issues. In Sunday School, our prayer list grows longer and longer, mostly because of sickness and injuries to our fellow seniors.

It suddenly occurred to me that Dad was right. These were my friends, and our main topic of conversation always seemed to circle back around to health issues. I guess I have officially reached that stage. Dare I say it? I'm getting..... old!

I used to think that a bunch of people sitting around, sharing medical problems with each other, would be depressing and sad, and kind of pathetic. However, now that I am an active participant in such discussions, I find the opposite to be true. Somehow, sharing my challenges with others, and hearing about their own trials, offers a kind of unique comfort. An uplifting sense of community. Turns out I'm not the only one who sometimes feels as though I'm falling apart. More importantly, It helps drive home the reality that so many others have it so much worse than I do, that I need to take the emphasis off myself and focus more on service to others.

In the Bible, Paul makes the point that it is truly a privilege to endure suffering and hardships. He says they are an opportunity, not an obstacle, to demonstrate our faith in God's providence over our lives.

Really? We should welcome and look forward to pain and adversity? Wow. I've surely got a ways to go to get to Paul's state of mind, but praying and caring for the needs of others seems to be a step in the right direction. I'm thankful to be part of a seniors group that recognizes the value of empathy, fellowship, prayer and service. So many of you have been terrific role models for me. We are truly stronger together, even when life becomes one big, major headache.

Speaking of headaches, the other day I had this sharp throbbing in my temples.....
Oh, never mind. I'll tell you about it the next time we get together.



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

GROUNDHOG DAY

February 2

FIRST MONDAY PRAYER

February 3 • 10:00 AM • Room D139

Email prayer requests to
Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org



FIRST THURSDAY

PRAYING for their ONE

February 6 • 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 • 4:00 PM • Room D139



HEARTS 'N HARMONY

REHEARSALS

(Ladies Ensemble Group)

First & Third Thursdays • 9:00AM • D139



MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, February 13 • 6:11AM • In the gym

Men and boys, come hungry and
Bring a friend!

EDIBLE EDUCATION

Thursday, February 13 • 11:30AM • FH

Must register [HERE](#) to eat. \$10

VALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH

Friday, February 14 • 10:00AM • In the Gym

\$10 per person • Pay at the door

SAM Ladies and Gentlemen, come "graze" with us through six food stations. At 10:45AM enjoy the music of Joe and Kim Stanley (Fayetteville, GA) Concert Ministry Team
REGISTER [HERE](#)



SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 27 • 10:30AM • In the Gym

Special Guest: Illusionist Alec Dixon

Join in the COMPETITION ... WIN PRIZES!

Online sign-up for Cook-Off / Bake-Off

There is no charge for this event!

I read somewhere that **February 28** has been designated **National Tooth Fairy Day**. You know, at our age teeth are like stars ... they come out at night! Does that count?

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, March 1

SAM LADIES EVENT



Red Mountain Theater – 2:00 pm

Featuring over 20 Donna Summer classic hits.

Lunch before the Concert – "The Original Pancake House"

Bus departs @ 11:00 am **NOTE: Early departure time!**

6th Annual
Cruise-In



Classic • Hotrod • Vintage • Show Vehicles

Sunday, March 30

3-7PM

First Baptist Church Trussville

Rain Out Date: April 6

**CRUISE-IN VOLUNTEERS
INTEREST MEETING**

February 2 • 4:00pm • Room D-142

WHEN I WAS A KID

**Can you guess who this precious child is?
He was born in Birmingham, Alabama.**

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



A WARM HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CLARENCE (C. B.) HAYNES

Our church's oldest/most seasoned male member C.B Haynes, celebrated his 99th birthday on December 27, 2024.

C. B. is the oldest resident at the Colonel Robert Howard State Veterans Home in Pell City, where he has been living since June 2023. His wife, Doris, passed away in July 2022, after 76 and half years of marriage. C. B. and Doris joined FBCT in August 2005. He was in Jim Hickman's small group until May 2018.

He was born in Gaffney, South Carolina; grew up in Inman; and graduated from Wofford College in Spartanburg. He earned a 4-year degree in business administration in two and a half years, while working full time, married and raising three children. The man who presented his college diploma said, "C. B., this diploma should go to Doris."

C.B. grew up going to Sunday School and church. It is just what his family did. His mother carried him, his two sisters and his brother every Sunday. He was saved as a young boy. Later however, during a preaching service led by Mordecai Ham, C. B. confirmed his salvation experience. Interesting note: It was under the preaching of Mordecai Ham in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1934 that Billy Graham was saved.

C. B. served our country during World War II in the Navy in both the Atlantic and the Pacific in three major campaigns. He served as a gunner mate on the SS Lot Whitcomb, SS Stan Vac Calcutta, and the SS Sandy Creek.

He had a long career as a salesman with Continental Diamond Fiber in South Carolina before being transferred to Birmingham in the early 1950s.

C. B. has one daughter, Rose Watkins, who lives in Clay and one son, Ronnie, who lives in Colorado. They, along with two grandsons and their families, surprised C. B. with a lunch party on his birthday at Perry's.

Although C. B. is legally blind and has much difficulty in hearing, his mind is extremely sharp. He loves to talk, and he is extremely interesting. He is very intelligent and loves music.

It is a real privilege and joy for Earl Tharp to minister to C. B. through our Homebound Care Ministry.



24 WAYS TO LOVE IN 2024

By Paul David Tripp

Editor's Note: Paul Tripp put this out last year in his February 14 Wednesday's Word. We thought it a good addition to our 2025 SAM Valentine edition. Mr. Tripp introduced the piece as actually written for husbands and wives, but encouraged readers to "put on your evangelist" hats and read it with those in mind you know who do not know Jesus.

- 1. LOVE IS** willing self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not require reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving.
- 2. LOVE IS** being willing to have your life complicated by the needs and struggles of others without impatience or anger.
- 3. LOVE IS** actively fighting the temptation to be critical and judgmental toward another while looking for ways to encourage and praise.
- 4. LOVE IS** making a daily commitment to resist the needless moments of conflict that come from pointing out and responding to minor offenses.
- 5. LOVE IS** being lovingly honest and humbly approachable in times of misunderstanding.
- 6. LOVE IS** being more committed to unity and understanding than you are to winning, accusing, or being right.
- 7. LOVE IS** a making a daily commitment to admit your sin, weakness, and failure and to resist the temptation to offer an excuse or shift the blame.
- 8. LOVE IS** being willing, when confronted by another, to examine your heart rather than rising to your defense or shifting the focus.
- 9. LOVE IS** making a daily commitment to grow in love so that the love you offer to another is increasingly selfless, mature, and patient.
- 10. LOVE IS** being unwilling to do what is wrong when you have been wronged, but looking for concrete and specific ways to overcome evil with good.
- 11. LOVE IS** being a good student of another, looking for their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs so that in some way you can remove the burden, support them as they carry it, or encourage them along the way.
- 12. LOVE IS** being willing to invest the time necessary to discuss, examine, and understand the relational problems you face, staying on task until the problem is removed or you have agreed upon a strategy of response.
- 13. LOVE IS** being willing to always ask for forgiveness and always being committed to grant forgiveness when it is requested.
- 14. LOVE IS** recognizing the high value of trust in a relationship and being faithful to your promises and true to your word.
- 15. LOVE IS** speaking kindly and gently, even in moments of disagreement, refusing to attack the other person's character or assault their intelligence.
- 16. LOVE IS** being unwilling to flatter, lie, manipulate, or deceive in any way in order to co-opt the other person into giving you what you want or doing something your way.

- 17. LOVE IS** being unwilling to ask another person to be the source of your identity, meaning, and purpose, or inner sense of well-being, while refusing to be the source of theirs.
- 18. LOVE IS** the willingness to have less free time, less sleep, and a busier schedule in order to be faithful to what God has called you to be and to do as a spouse, parent, neighbor, etc.
- 19. LOVE IS** a commitment to say no to selfish instincts and to do everything that is within your ability to promote real unity, functional understanding, and active love in your relationships.
- 20. LOVE IS** staying faithful to your commitment to treat another with appreciation, respect, and grace, even in moments when the other person doesn't seem deserving or is unwilling to reciprocate.
- 21. LOVE IS** the willingness to make regular and costly sacrifices for the sake of a relationship without asking for anything in return or using your sacrifices to place the other person in your debt.
- 22. LOVE IS** being unwilling to make any personal decision or choice that would harm a relationship, hurt the other person, or weaken the bond of trust between you.
- 23. LOVE IS** refusing to be self-focused or demanding, but instead looking for specific ways to serve, support, and encourage, even when you are busy or tired.
- 24. LOVE IS** daily admitting to yourself, the other person, and God that you are unable to be driven by a cruciform love without God's protecting, providing, forgiving, rescuing, and delivering grace.

A Prayer for Today: God, would you make me the kind of person who moves through this world as a living, breathing example of your love for others? Would you shape me into the kind of loving ambassador you want me to be in my neighborhood so that others might know you, Jesus, and be pulled toward an authentic, loving relationship with you, our God and King. Amen.

PRAYER FOCUS

Last month we asked you to pray for our church staff, naming them one-by-one in your prayers. Please continue those prayers in accordance with Colossians 1:9-11.

ON MISSION AT HOME AND ABROAD

Twenty of our own have been in Kenya on medical mission, January 18-30. Please continue to pray for the group as they make their way back home, and for those to whom they have ministered in Kenya. We'll have more on this mission in next month's newsletter.

Be sure and check out the Missions page on fbctrussville.org and the Helper Helper App for more information on all our FBCT Mission opportunities coming up.

Praying for your
ONE!

 **ONE!**

Are you praying for someone in your **family** who is **NOT** a follower of Christ?

Our desire is to agree with you in prayer for your **ONE** to accept Jesus, standing by faith on Matthew 18:19.

"If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."

Join with us
EVERY 1ST THURSDAY

MEN <i>pray</i>	LADIES <i>pray</i>
6:30 am Room D-139 <small>(Across from the Prayer Room)</small>	12:00 noon Room D-139 <small>(Across from the Prayer Room)</small>
LEADERS: Denny Rogers Jack Siltre	LEADERS: Susan Minor Jan Monski

If you are unable to join with us in person, please email the first name of your **ONE** and allow us to agree with you as we pray together every **FIRST THURSDAY**.
pray41@fbctrussville.org

It's all about the gospel

OUT AND ABOUT

CONGRATULATIONS to Clay and Penny Campbell, and thank you both for your service here at FBCT. Clay came to serve as our Worship Pastor, following Joe Estes, five years ago.

CONGRATULATIONS to Scott Robertson.

Recognizing his lifetime service to wrestling, right here in Trussville and others previously, Scott has been inducted into the Alabama Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame's Class of 2025! The induction Ceremony is scheduled for May 2025.



WE LEARNED TO "LIVE OUT" OUR FAITH

January 17-19 was a huge weekend here at FBCT for the 750+ students who attended the MVMT Weekend. To the leadership of Nate Hilgenkamp, Landon Wolfe, and our own Spencer Jones, and to all of those who taught, served, prayed, and helped us feed and lead in the worship, THANK YOU. Thirty-eight students have been baptized, and there will be more to come in days ahead. Praise God!

SMILE AWHILE

What can we say...

Pop Tart & Krispy Kreme donuts!



If you can't remember why you walked into the room, but you can remember the rest of these jingles...you are my people.

1. "My bologna has a first name"
2. "I don't wanna grow up"
3. "Gimme a break, gimme a break"
4. "The best part of waking up"
5. "Sometimes you feel like a nut"
6. "I'd like to teach the world to sing"
7. "Reach out and touch someone"
8. "If you dare wear short shorts"
9. "They're magically delicious"
10. "Meow, meow, meow, meow"
11. "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is"
12. "So kiss a little longer. Hold hands a little longer. Hold tight a little longer"

JOYFUL HEARTS NEWS

By Kim Searcy

New Year, New Music, New Opportunities!

Joyful Hearts Choir has kicked off the 2025 season! We have many opportunities to sing this year in our community and beyond, through local concerts, nursing home visits, Senior Choir Festivals, and 2 SAM Music Tours. (Local performances during the month of March, and a 5-Day Tour on the road in September.) If you love the LORD and love to SING, we have a place for YOU!



Instrumentalists Needed! (volunteers)

Joyful Hearts is expanding our choir this year with "live" music, and we are looking for instrumentalists to assist in our performances. We need experienced musicians to play guitar, drums, or other instruments that can be used in a worship setting with "live" music. If you are interested in playing for this exciting group of singers, please contact us!

Joyful Hearts Director: Bob Smith 205-767-9606

SAM Music Associate: Kim Searcy 205-447-9911

JOYFUL HEARTS DATES (February & March)

Rehearsals on the following Thursdays at 10:30AM in the Chapel (lunch following):
February 6, 13 & 20 • March 6 & 13

SAM Music Local Tour in March

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3/11 Tuesday | Sing Fest Choir |
| 9:30 am | Golden Springs Baptist, Anniston |
| 3/16 Sunday | Joyful Hearts Concert |
| 6:00 pm | Central Baptist, Argo |
| 3/18 Tuesday | Sing Fest Choir |
| 9:30 am | Northport Baptist, Tuscaloosa |
| 3/20 Thursday | Senior Choir Festival |
| 10:00 am | Lakewood Baptist, Phenix City |
| 3/23 Sunday | TBA |



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!

DANCING WITH JESUS

By Grace McConnell

Dr. Johnny Fain was the speaker at the SAM Annual Jubilee Bible Study on Wednesday, January 15, kicking off the 2025 year of special events for the SAM ministry at FBCT. His presentation was titled "Prayer that Bears Fruit," referencing James 5:17.

Dr. Fain told the audience that "Jesus, in John 15:8, spoke of three things that prayer produces: (1) Prayer glorifies God, (2) it produces fruit, and (3) it shows the world that you are a disciple." Always pray "His will be done" and "in Jesus' name," Dr. Fain instructed.

To achieve fruit-bearing prayer, one must be following God, must be "in rhythm with God." Think of it as "dancing with God." He then joked, can a good Baptist think of dancing?

Dr. Fain went on to explain, "There can be only one leader and that is God. He is in control." We must be willing to surrender ourselves and to submit to Him in our prayers.

So how do we discover the way to "fruit-bearing" prayer? How do we stay in "rhythm with God" to produce fruit?

In John 15: 4-14 are the principles of how to find and stay in the position for fruit-bearing prayer. The #1 Key Position is to abide in Christ. Paul told us we must be dead to the world, and the world dead to us, abandoning ourselves to the surrendered life.

The second important Position is to let Christ abide in you and rule in you. Our selfish nature has been crucified with Him. We must seek to lead a lifestyle with Christ as Lord and Ruler of our lives. This is done as we allow the Holy Spirit to fill us, to dwell and abide in us (Ephesians 5:18). As we yield to Him, the Holy Spirit produces the God-life, the correct lifestyle in us. As Christ prayed, "His will be done."

Third Position, His Word must abide in us. We let His Word (Jesus) fill us, we say Yes to it! The Holy Spirit within leads us to desire to know the will of God. We seek to pray in God's will and we pray in Jesus' name.

Fourth Position, we abide in His love by living, through the power of the Holy Spirit in us, an obedient life. We must obey Him to abide in His love.

So, are you in the right Position for Him to work through you for effective fruit-producing prayers? Heaven is waiting to open the door and provide fresh fruit.

If you have stepped away, you can get back in step with Him, stay close to Him and let Him lead. Get back in the dance!



SHE'S AS BEAUTIFUL ON THE INSIDE AS SHE IS ON THE OUTSIDE



Despite the cold weather we've been having, our SAM Monthly Luncheon on Thursday, January 23 was a great event thanks to Special Guest Kelli Dodd. Kelli sang and played the guitar portraying the story of the great Dolly Parton, and she did Dolly justice! Everyone loved her. Just look at the expressions on her face! In fact, the expressions on all the faces in all the pictures were full of smiles ... Kelli was contagious.

Mrs. Georgia and her team did another outstanding job on the meal ... Kudos to them. We would be remiss if we did not also thank the ladies who decorated the beautiful winter wonderland tables in a snowman theme for the event. Thank you, Ladies!



WHEN I WAS A KID...

Meet Don Snuggs

In what city and state were you born?

Birmingham, Alabama

How long have you been attending FBCT?

23 years

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

A fireman.

What did you actually become when you grew up?

An architectural designer and construction consultant.

Tell us about your family:

My beautiful wife, Janeene and I will be married 50 years this April. We have two sons and five grandchildren. We are blessed to have them living in Trussville and Meadowbrook are extremely blessed that all are Christians with the exception of our three-year-old.

What is your favorite television show?

Blue Bloods

What is your favorite food?

Mexican

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

Anything by Max Lucado

Who or what has impacted your faith journey?

My wife, my wife's late mom and her dad.

What is your favorite Bible verse:

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

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

I volunteer and participate in BSF (Bible Study Fellowship).

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

I'm passionate about home improvement projects from a manicured lawn, constructing a pedestrian bridge, to building a deck and installing a tray ceiling with fans and light features. On the interior, I enjoy painting, installing cultured stone fireplace surround, ceramic tile and hardwood flooring. I draw, design and saw to the construction of our current home.

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

I grew up in Roebuck. The day after my 12th birthday my dad passed away at age 46 in 1965. My mom passed away in 2022 at the age of 97. I attended North Roebuck Elementary, 2 years at Banks High School and 2 years at Huffman High School and Jefferson State Junior College.

