



THRIVE IN '25!!

The dictionary defines en.thu.si.asm as intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval. Synonyms include ardor, devotion, eagerness, emotion, energy, feeling, fervor, frenzy, fury, and intensity. The word enthusiasm comes from the Greek word *enthousiasmos*.

I read that ole St. Nick a/k/a Santa Claus caught on in the United States sometime in the late 1700's to early 1800's. For hundreds of years this legend has worked miracles in the lives of so many. How has Santa stayed so loved, so popular for so long, even today? I call it conscious enthusiasm. That term means a person's mindful awareness and joy over something he/she believes in. One person's conscious enthusiasm spreads to another ... it is contagious.

Have you heard and read the many, daily promises, advisories and ads all over the media for "prescriptions" about how to live a better life, a new life? The ads include such things as how to live better with chronic pain; what foods to eat to cure arthritis or what foods not to eat if you have arthritis; how much exercise does a 70-year-old really need and which exercises; how many hours a day is too many on our electronic devices; how to conquer your cluttered mind; how to alleviate depression; ways to lose weight; and it goes on, and on. I'm sure you've read some of these; you might even have tried a few? Oh, I'm aware that some of them just might help. And there's no telling how far and wide the news of any successes spreads. That depends upon the level of conscious enthusiasm emanating from those who spread the news of their experiences.

After we are saved and upon baptism we hear the words "buried with Christ in Believer's Baptism, raised to walk in newness of life." Can anyone receive "newness of life?" Yes, every day can be a new day with Jesus. We must believe in Jesus with all our heart, mind and soul to receive His gifts of newness of life, that forgiveness of sin, that love that only He can give us. We can and must develop a personal relationship with Jesus. But do we have that same conscious enthusiasm for spreading to others the Good News of Jesus that we have in spreading the news that Santa Claus is coming to town?

I did not write this poem but it was written in a Bible I was given in my college days. The author is unknown, but the message is clear... and I like it.

*If, as with Herod, we fill our life with things and again with things,
if we consider ourselves so unimportant
that we fill every moment of our lives with action,
when will we have the time to take the long slow journey
across the desert as did the Magi?
Or sit and watch the stars, as did the shepherds?
Or brood over the coming of a child, as did Mary?
For each of us there is a desert to travel,
a star to discover and a Being within ourselves to bring to life.*

*This is not the day you quit.
This is not the day you cry.
This is the day you stare down every naysayer in your life who doesn't get it yet.
Because you do. Finally. And now you know that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

This is the day you shout, for all to hear, "I Believe."

Believe

Song By Josh Groban

Listen [HERE](#)

Children sleeping
Snow is softly falling
Dreams are calling
Like bells in the distance
We were dreamers
Not so long ago
But one by one, we
All had to grow up

When it seems the magic slipped away
We find it all again on Christmas Day

Trains move quickly
To their journey's end
Destinations
Are where we begin again
Ships go sailing
Far across the sea
Trusting starlight
To get where they need to be

When it seems that we have lost our way
We find ourselves again on Christmas Day

Believe in what your heart is saying
Hear the melody that's playing
There's no time to waste
There's so much to celebrate
Believe in what you feel inside
And give your dreams the wings to fly
You have everything you need
If you just believe

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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.

• HOW TO BE •

SAM with KEN LASS **SATIONAL!**

I started to see the signs pop up around Trussville back in September. The effort was already under way to get young people to register for this year's (2025) version of Disciple Now, which the church is calling "Movement". Even though the event wasn't scheduled until this month (January), our staff members recognized the importance of getting teenagers to commit to it early.

Spencer Jones and Matt Dickey went so far as to agree to live in a box in the parking lot for 24 hours if enough kids signed up. They did and they did. Many hundreds of precious young souls were expected to pack the worship center to praise God and grow in their Christian walk. Some perhaps to be introduced to it.

It's hard to overstate the impact of this. As senior adults, we kind of look at ourselves as the standard bearers for the faith. But each of us can probably remember when we were those teenagers, with so many paths to choose from, so much input coming in from so many different voices, so much life to look forward to, dreams to achieve and hopes to fulfill. A time when our true priorities had not yet been established. When we were open to everything, just beginning to enjoy a bit of the freedom to make our own decisions. Making up our minds about who was worthy of being emulated, and who was a fraud.

We lacked the maturity to control our emotions then. We felt every little life event in a profound way, often soaring from deep depression to ecstatic joy, depending on whether that classmate you had a crush on smiled at you that day. We cared so deeply about what others thought of us. It was so critical to fit in. To have a group, any group, that we could feel a part of.

That was many decades ago for most of us, but those kinds of things never change for young people. Today's teens may have access to far greater technology than we ever dreamed of, but I'm betting their needs are still the same. They want to belong to something. And if the church environment doesn't accept them, they will look elsewhere and find a community that does. And in all likelihood, it won't be a positive one.

I am thankful to be part of a church that truly puts out the effort to welcome youth. A church that makes it a priority to make sure our young get a healthy dose of Christianity to go with all of the secular influences they are under. There are some who feel the world is on the verge of a vast revival and return to God. And many of these believe the revival will be led by youth, not by the elders. Amen! May it be so! And may the youth of First Baptist Trussville be on the front lines of the charge toward Jesus.



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

Bob's 2025 Calendar outline is in print. If you haven't yet, pick one up at the Event Desk or Church Office.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

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

January 2 • 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

January 6 • 10:00 AM • Room D139

Email prayer requests to
Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org



JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS

Every 1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursdays • 10:30AM

Chapel for Rehearsal / Fellowship Hall for Lunch

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

SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group)

Wednesdays • 4:30 PM • Room D139



HEARTS 'N HARMONY REHEARSALS

(Ladies Ensemble Group)

First & Third Thursdays • 9:00AM • D139

2ND ANNUAL JUBILEE BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, January 15 • 10:00AM • In the Chapel
Study Leader, Dr. Johnny Fain

MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST

Thursday, January 16 • 6:11AM • In the gym

Men and boys, come hungry and
Bring a friend!

EDIBLE EDUCATION

Thursday, January 16 • 11:30AM • FH

Must register [HERE](#) to eat. \$6

INAUGURATION DAY and MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Tuesday, January 20

ITALY MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING

Wednesday, January 22 • 12:00PM • D144



SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, January 23 • 10:30AM

In the gym

GUEST: Kelli Dodd

Dolly Parton Story & Music

Reservations required for lunch. \$7

FBCT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Friday, January 31 & Saturday, February 1

God's Handiwork

Leading us will be Lisa Allen of

Proverbs 31 Ministries

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

Online at fbctrussville.org/events

\$65 per person



LOOKING AHEAD



Sunday, March 30

3:00 pm to 7:00 pm (SUNSET @ 7:06 PM)

RAIN DATE: April 2



"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.

WHEN I WAS A KID

Can you guess who this adorable brown-eyed beauty is?
She was born in Selma, Alabama.

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



A WARM HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR SAMers BORN IN THE WINTER MONTHS

FOR FURTHER STUDY:



ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

**A poem and hymn written by
France R. Havengal
In the late 1800's**

Another year is dawning,
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting
Another year with Thee;
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness,
The glory of Thy face;
Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above;
Another year is dawning,
Dear Father, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee. Amen.

BRING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A BIBLE STUDY: BEGINNING IN JANUARY

We have the information below on two of the listed classes. For more information on any others, contacts are listed for each class.

Also published in the LINK or online is information on Wednesday evening Discipleship classes.

All FBCT Ladies (and friends) Precept Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday January 8 at 9:00AM, Room 142.

We will begin a study of the book of Daniel, Part 1. Contact Denise Dockery for information dockerymom@gmail.com

SAM Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Beginning Tuesday, January 14 at 8:00AM - 9:00 AM Room E204

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 those of prophets such as Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, etc. 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.
Please contact Larry Payne, 205-601-2288, or larrycpayne@gmail.com



In 2025 we will continue the process of requiring reservations for all SAM Luncheons. We are selling MEAL TICKETS for calendar year 2025 which will eliminate the necessity to make reservations for those who purchase an annual meal ticket. Meal Tickets can be ordered through **January 31, 2025**. Order today.

It will include all monthly SAM Luncheons, the Valentine Brunch, Game Days and the SAM Christmas Celebration in 2025.

SAM 2025 Calendar

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

group
LIFE

SMALL GROUPS / SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:15 am, 10:45 am

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday: 9:15 am, 10:45 am



MIDWEEK / DISCIPLESHIP
UNIVERSITY

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm
(Meal available 4:30 pm to 5:55 pm)

S.A.L.T. BIBLE STUDY for Ladies

Sunday @ 5:00 pm Room E-204
Taught by Shirley Lyle

PRECEPT STUDY for Ladies

Wednesday @ 9:00 am Room D-142
Taught by Denise Dockery



BIBLE BOOK STUDY for Ladies

Wednesday @ 10:00 am Room D-139
Taught by Toni Sproull

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY for Men

Monday @ 6:30 pm E building 203
Led by David Franklin



BIBLE BOOK STUDY for Men

Tuesday @ 8:00 am Room E-204
Taught by Larry Payne

BIBLE BOOK STUDY for Men

Wednesday @ 10:00 am Room D-141
Led by Henry Ward

PRAYER FOCUS

Please turn your hearts and eyes upon Jesus, lifting these in prayer:

Our Staff

In your prayers, please call each of our pastoral staff by name, one by one. Please also remember each Director, Administrative Assistant, Media & Public Relations, Library, Musicians, Maintenance & Facilities, Kitchen Personnel; Events, and Recreation; business & finance personnel; and our young team associates. It takes a small army to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a church our size.

Pastor Buddy Champion

Executive Pastor Lance Pate

Teaching Pastor Alan Long

Pastor Emeritus Gary Hollingsworth

Pre-School Ministers Kelsie Walk and Rachel Dickey

Children's Ministers Matt Galloway and Jonathan Robertson

Student Ministers Spencer Jones and Matt Dickey

Minister to University & Young Adults Jeff Gardner

Seasoned Adult Minister Bob Smith

Minister of Missions & Pastoral Care Chris Chambers

Minister of Homebound James Long

Worship Pastor Clay Campbell

Minister of Sports Outreach Jonathan Edwards



What do you think these two are talking about?

Our Students' MVMT Weekend 2025

January 17-19 here at FBCT will find 400+ Middle and High School students coming together to study and worship. They will be led by this year's speaker Nate Hilgenkamp; Landon Wolfe will lead in the worship. Students can still sign up at fbctrussville.org/events.

Our members on mission in coming days,

including 20 who will be on medical mission to Kenya, January 18-30. Be sure to check out the Missions page on fbctrussville.org and the Helper Helper App for more information on all our FBCT Mission opportunities coming up.

OUT AND ABOUT

CONGRATULATIONS and thank yous are in order.

TO **Chris and Michelle Chambers** celebrating 25 years of service on our church staff.

TO **Matt and Rachel Dickey** celebrating 5 years of service on our church staff.

TO two of our longtime deacons here at FBCT:

John Copham and Bill Roberts have been awarded Deacons Emeritus.



12 SYMPTOMS OF A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

1. An increased tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
2. Frequent attacks of smiling.
3. Feelings of being connected with others and nature.
4. Frequent overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
5. A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than from fears based on past experience.
6. An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
7. A loss of ability to worry.
8. A loss of interest in conflict.
9. A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
10. A loss of interest in judging others.
11. A loss of interest in judging self.
12. Gaining the ability to love without expecting anything in return.

From Mindful Christianity

BRAIN BUSTERS

There's a woman in a boat on a lake wearing a coat. If you want to know her name it's in the Riddle I just wrote.

What is the woman's name?



IN MEMORIAM

James ("Jimmy") Earl Carter, Jr., 39th United States President, serving in the White House from January 20, 1977 to January 20, 1981, died at the age of 100 on December 29, 2024. A National Day of Mourning has been set for January 9, 2025 in his honor. All flags will be flown at half-staff on that day. Thank you, Mr. President, for your service both in and out of the White House. May you rest in peace.

A GLIMPSE INTO SAM'S CHRISTMAS 2024



We departed our annual SAM Christmas Banquet on December 8 feeling full of excellent food (including grilled beef steak, and cheesecake!) and mesmerized by pure "Gold" as we experienced the beautiful music of the Gold City Quartet.

The 60 of us who travelled to Memphis on December 12-13, stood amazed at Bellevue Baptist Church's 43 foot Singing Christmas Tree with 100,000 lights. The tree holds about 150 people on a stage with 500 other volunteers, a 50 member orchestra, all totaling more than 700 people on stage. And, there were a few of those who flew from the rafters; yes, that's right, angels and all. With Broadway play excellence, the poignant story of a prodigal son's return home went from Santa Claus to Christmas and left us all with one crucial question, asked by the little girl to her daddy as he began his life change: "Daddy, do you believe? (in Jesus)"



Then, the next day, we were "All Shook Up" back to the 1970's inside the home of Elvis Presley, now owned solely by his granddaughter Riley Keough. The Graceland tour was enlightening and all those red velvet curtains were well ... red. The welcome sign "Merry Christmas to All" was one of Elvis's favorites and has been displayed at the home on every Christmas since they moved there in about 1957.

"Joy to the World" was exactly what our hearts experienced in Sunday morning services December 15. Our FBCT Choir and Orchestra, joined by members of The Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and directed by Clay Campbell brought us an outstanding Christmas musical presentation.

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!



Through cold and rain and time on the roads, our SAM Joyful Hearts choir and others who joined in, our SAM Vocal Band, and our Hearts in Harmony ladies ensemble spread that joy of Christmas as they went caroling to our homebound and to nursing homes and hospitals over the two weeks before Christmas.



We witnessed the fine craftsmanship of our SAMers who helped our Student Ministry design, build and decorate this year's FBCT Christmas float in the Trussville Christmas parade. Bravo! Well done. The float won the prize for best depiction of this year's parade theme. And on that same day, Saturday, December 14, many SAMers served our community at our FBCT Christmas Festival.

God continues to bless us so that we can bless others through our Missions and giving programs, including the Lottie Moon offering, providing a monthly evening meal to the men at the CLCC, and other opportunities.



WHEN I WAS A KID...

Meet Dianne Clark Bonner

In what city and state were you born?

I was born at Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Alabama, where my dad was stationed. As a baby, we moved to Pleasant Grove, Alabama where I spent the next 18 years growing up.

How long have you been attending FBCT?

Fifty years! My husband Lynn and I moved to Trussville as newlyweds and immediately joined FBCT. We attended a newlywed's Sunday School class taught by Bobby Horsley.

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

As a child I always wanted to be a nurse. When I would go to my childhood physician, I was fascinated watching his nurse, Rosemary at work in her white uniform.

What did you actually become when you grew up?

I was in the Future Nurses Club in high school and was a candy striper. Immediately following graduation, I attended the Ida Moffett School of Nursing, Samford University and became a Registered Nurse. I worked as a Cardiac nurse for 40 years at St. Vincent's East, 20 years in CVICU caring for patients following heart attacks and Coronary Bypass Surgery. Along with dedicated colleagues, the next 20 years were spent developing and coordinating the Cardiac Rehab program there.

Tell us about your family:

My husband Lynn and I have two sons and two wonderful "daughters"-in-law. We have also been blessed with two grandchildren. Our grandson, Cameron is a student at Auburn and our granddaughter, Valerie is a sophomore at Hewitt Trussville. Everyone lives nearby. Our parents are deceased.

What is your favorite television show?

My favorite television shows are most Hallmark presentations, especially "When Calls the Heart." I also continue to enjoy The Andy Griffith Show and The Waltons.

What is your favorite food?

My favorite food is pretty much any seafood, and I'll take a steak anytime!

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

I love to read books written by Billy Graham and novels by Nicholas Sparks.

Who or what has impacted your faith journey?

My parents and I always watched the Billy Graham crusades. Those sermons and my parents led me to know Jesus and along with teachers and youth leaders at church, I asked Him to be my Savior at a young age.

What is your favorite Bible verse:

My favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:6-7. "Be anxious for nothing but in ALL THINGS by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God and His peace which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

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

Ministry of Praise Choir, Homebound Ministry, SAM ministry, and various community mission endeavors supported by our church. I love our small group as well, led by Jim Summers.

As another ministry, I am privileged to serve on the Advisory Board for the Samford University Moffett Sanders School of Nursing. In this, I am able to give of my time, knowledge and support to promote quality Christian education and encouragement to our future nurses. I feel very blessed to be able to give back to this school that I graduated from and deeply love.



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

I have a deep concern and compassion for people who are suffering from illness and/or physical pain. I am also very concerned for those in need, especially the vulnerable, the elderly and children.

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

I LOVE MUSIC! Primarily Christian music and I like most of today's country music as well. I have music playing in our home the majority of the time. I love to play my piano; I so enjoy playing and singing hymns as my worship time at home.

My husband and I love to travel. We have now travelled to all 50 states.

Most of all we are thankful to God for leading us to Trussville to live, raise our sons and become a part of this great family of faith. We deeply love our church family and our amazing staff.

We also look back with appreciation and love to Dr. Richard Francis who was the pastor here at that time. He was the pastor at Cottage Hill Baptist in Pleasant Grove when I was small. It was his first pastorate I believe, and he led my parents to Christ. He had a great impact on their faith journey as well as ours years later. He, his wife, Jo, and their sons had Sunday lunch in our home frequently. (I'm quite sure it was my mother's fried chicken!) He also had gone through school with Lynn's mother. So, when he came to visit Lynn and I as we were moving into our first home, I remember well that smile when we opened the door and he quite simply said, "Well you know you two don't have a choice of where to attend church; I'll expect to see you Sunday." He did and was so right. God had already chosen this as our forever church home and family.

My husband Lynn and I met in the first grade. He sat in the old wooden desk in front of mine. One day as our teacher was leading us in The Lord's Prayer, he abruptly turned to me and said, "you're pretty". I said, "Shhh, we're praying!" Guess which one got sent to the corner for talking, ME!

We always wanted to be together in our class photos. That's how it all started and we have been talking and in love pretty much ever since!

