

**DECEMBER 2021**

*Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

*Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace  
Hail! The Son of Righteousness  
Light and life to all he brings  
Risen with healing in his wings  
Mild he lays his glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the lost on earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King!*

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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](mailto:sam.news@fbctrussville.org). Printed copies will be available at the church Welcome Center and Events Center.

# IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!!

## What does Christmas look like?

A very young couple obedient and willing to say "Yes Lord" amidst all the odds.

### Faithful obedience

A baby born, not as a prince, but a pauper, swaddled by earthly parents suffering the poorest of conditions yet so humble and grateful for this the greatest gift of all.

### With grateful and humble hearts

The beautiful music of angels singing Glory to God in the Highest. A celebration not just for the gift, but absolutely honoring the Giver!

### Worshipping our God Almighty

A star shining so brightly that it guides shepherds from far away to the newborn King.

### Shining His light in a dark world

Then hearing about all this, the three who came, bearing gifts yes, but seeking answers. THE answer was right before them.

### And seeking His face in relationship with Him

Christmas sure does look like JESUS to me! As it was then, we pray it is so today in all our hearts.

*Merry Christmas from our family to yours,*

*Bob & Vickie*



**HOPE** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and We beheld his glory the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

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# FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS *first* MONDAY

The Son He gave in human birth, that same Son also given up in human death as His redemption plan for all of us, made a way for us to have a precious, close relationship with our Heavenly Father. The Son taught us to pray as a vital part of growing our personal relationship with the Father. We accept this incredible gift of access from our Heavenly Father and delight in spending time with Him. We invite you to join us for a time of praying together. Watch for details of time and place coming soon.

It is definitely beginning to look a lot like Christmas! In fact, I have already received a gift, one for which I had not been looking but one that I most certainly needed. My second favorite Scripture is Ephesians 4:32: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you (KJV).

What do those words have to do with Christmas? For me, they have reminded me of the "Reason for the Season," the child laid in a manger Who came to offer me forgiveness, no matter the magnitude of my sin. In that verse I have again learned the lesson of loving and forgiving others.

A few days ago, we had contact with folks we had not seen for over 30 years and with whom I had connected again not too long ago somewhat "accidentally." Our last sighting of one another was not pleasant, not ugly but hurtful, and needs never again to be remembered. However, we came together—at a safe distance—and renewed our friendship, our kinship, our bond in Christ, the One Whose birth and life and death allows us to put aside differences and to value not only each other, but also to put into practice what He expects of us who are His.

Every Christmas is special in its celebration of the Christ child. This Christmas I know that our heart is rejoicing even more as we look forward to rekindling a friendship and to grow our relationship through Him as we have all forgiven as we were forgiven. Trees and carols and bright lights are wonderful, but having made peace where we realized there was not true peace is just one of the gifts His birth and example have afforded us.

*Written by Janice Shelton*

## MARY DID YOU KNOW

*Written by Mark Lowery & Buddy Green*

Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Would someday walk on water?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy  
Has come to make you new?  
This child that you've delivered  
Will soon deliver you.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear,  
The dead will live again.  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak,  
The praises of the lamb!

Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Is Lord of all creation?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Would one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy  
Is heaven's perfect Lamb?  
And the sleeping child you're holding  
Is the great I AM!

Listen [HERE](#) to our own Lance Pate  
Singing Mary Did You Know



PEACE



**PEACE** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.  
Luke 2:14

# FRIED CHICKEN, ANYONE?

By Sue Richards

If you are going to see Barbara Parkes and would like some delicious fried chicken, just tell her. But wait. Isn't Barbara blind? Well, yes she is.... But that doesn't stop Barbara. Darryl loves fried chicken and so she fries it for him! Simple enough, right?

Barbara was born and raised in Tarrant City, Alabama but moved to Trussville 41 years ago. She started her working career at age 17 as a hairdresser. She was a stay-at-home mom until her children were school age when she went to work for Sears. She helped customers with flooring, paint, drapes... everything to do with decorating a home. A few years later, she opened her own business, Against the Wall Interiors right here in Trussville.

Over the past 20 years, Barbara has lost her sight 3 times due to a very rare disease known as Pemphigoid. The disease has caused her all sorts of problems, but from 12/24/2015 until 12/15/2016 she had 23 surgeries on her eyes! The pain was horrible as the disease caused her eyelids to attach onto her eyeball. Any body movement caused her eyes to move and consequently the tissue would rip with excruciating pain. She could not stand for even the refrigerator light to be on... no night lights, no candles, drapes had to remain closed. Any light caused severe pain.

So, on 12/16/2016, Barbara had her eyes removed. Finally, she had freedom! No more pain.

Now, one might think she would be thinking "Oh, woe is me." "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why me, God?" But you will NEVER hear those words from Barbara. She believes that she received benefits from all the trauma and nothing negative. For you see, God supplies ALL her needs. Nothing can steal her JOY!



Barbara is an amazing woman who has been an inspiration to many. She cuts and styles her own hair, cooks, creates beautiful ceramic pieces, sews, journals. She has even started a "soup ministry" where she cans her

homemade soup to give to folks who want a tasty, simple meal when they are under the weather.

In August of this year Barbara was diagnosed with cervical cancer. She is currently receiving chemo and radiation treatments at the same time. She feels abundantly blessed – is totally at ease and has no fear. Doctors have told her she has a 90% chance of beating this!

Her favorite scripture is Psalm 46:10.... "Be still and know that I am God." Barbara is a lady who knows her GOD and knows how much HE loves her.

*NOTE: Sue's article is one of two stories we have been asked to write to honor two very inspiring ladies, Barbara Parkes and Bonnie Nash. Barbara and Bonnie suffer from two different diseases of the eye, yet both continue to love and serve our Lord, blessing all of us along the way. Bonnie's story will be in the January issue of our SAM newsletter.*

## A NEW "TWIST" ON EXERCISE!



If you missed the SAM October luncheon with special guests Kool Kats and Patsy Cline, you really missed something. This was not your average "exercise" class! The twisting and the roar of laughter was a blessing so needed and welcomed by the entire crowd. Thank you, Suellen Edmondson and your entire team for a delightful luncheon! Thank you, Kool Kats for sharing your love of Jesus and your considerable talents with us!



## JOY

**Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.**

# JOY





## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MUCH-LOVED PASTOR, BUDDY CHAMPION!

Buddy has been elected President of Alabama Baptist State Convention for the 2022 term! Thank you, Pastor, for leading and loving us well.



## IN LOVING MEMORY

*We remember those in our SAM family who have entered their eternal home this past year. Thank you, Nyla Massey, for sharing with us that George wrote this and wanted to share it with us after he was gone.*

### JUST OVER THERE

*By George Massey*

Now this mortal life must fade into the past;  
Sorrow fills our heart, a loved one's lot is cast.  
Death comes closer now to hand,  
And behold, it seems He understands.

There is no sadness beyond the sting,  
Death has become a beautiful thing.  
The mourners stand at his grave and cry,  
Forgetful that no man can die.

He has made the transition and has no fear,  
Now one last muster with loved ones dear;  
Ours an hour of sorrow and care,  
While He stands smiling, just over there.



Our Seasoned Adult Joyful Hearts singers rocked our Sunday morning November 21 service. Thanks to all of you, to Scott Strickland for leading in the solo, and to Bob Smith for directing this choir. What a blessing!

Our WMU ladies packed and contributed 660 backpacks to be given to needy children along the Mississippi River Delta for this Christmas season. Volunteers were featured in The Alabama Baptist the week of November 5. Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes have been packed and contributed, along with many online contributions to Samaritan's Purse. God bless the many boys and girls who will learn of the love of Jesus, perhaps for the very first time, through these ministries.



200,000 Christmas lights are installed and shining brightly from our church campus. A huge THANK YOU to the many seasoned adults who came out to help with the installation. We have a great time together doing this. Be sure to notice something different this year ... the added lights in the crepe myrtles. Beautiful! Any of you "younger," able-bodied seasoned adults interested in helping with future installations?

Contact Steve Penuel: 904-343-2987 [stevepenuel@gmail.com](mailto:stevepenuel@gmail.com)



**LOVE...** It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.  
Mother Teresa

LOVE





*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21*

I woke up one day recently and discovered that Christmas was missing. Where could it be? I looked for it on television, but all I saw were commercials for toys and tools and clothes and food and.....lawyers. I looked for it in front yards, but all I found were Santas and reindeer and penguins and toy soldiers and all manner of bright and colorful lights.

I listened for it on the radio, but all I heard were songs about rockin' around the Christmas tree, chestnuts roasting on an open fire, partridges in pear trees and grandmas who got run over by a reindeer. I looked for it on social media, but folks seemed too busy posting about politics and enquiring as to whether anybody knew of a plumber who would work cheap. I looked for it in my mailbox, but all I found were pamphlets from Joe Namath and Jimmie Walker and William Shatner trying to sell me a Medicare Advantage plan.

I looked for it on the internet, but instead I got emails from a nice fellow who wrote that he just inherited six million dollars and is willing to split it with me, if I will just send him a few thousand for legal expenses. I looked for it in the movie theater, but there were only films about superheroes, crazed serial killers and animated animals. Yes, Christmas was missing. It had been hijacked by the marketers. But then, one day, I went to church and I heard the preacher tell me where to find it. He said it's right there in the Bible. Always has been. It's not missing at all. It's just that I got too distracted to remember where it was. Where it's always been.

Sure enough. It's right there. In the Gospel of John, it says "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." Ah, now that sounds more like it to me. Welcome back, Christmas. I will try never to lose track of you again.

# HIS UNFAILING WORD ... ISAIAH 40:8

By Denise Dockery

*Hebrews 12:1-2a "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses, surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...."*

We see such a race for the Apostle Paul when he writes to a young man named Timothy whom he called his beloved son. Timothy was heavy on Paul's heart. It was Paul's 2nd and final Roman imprisonment, writing one last letter to his disciple, his final words reminding Timothy of crucial matters concerning his ministry and urging him to make every effort to come quickly before winter. He had one final message for Timothy before his departure from this world. Paul was about to pass the baton to Timothy. Timothy what you have received from me, pass on, "entrust" to faithful men.

Paul had been entrusted with what God had entrusted to Jesus.

John 3:35 "The Father loves the Son and has entrusted all things to His hand."

Jesus entrusted to Paul. "I received it (gospel) through a revelation of Jesus Christ." Galatians 1:12

Paul's last will and testimony "For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day." 2 Timothy 1:12 "Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me....the treasure which has been entrusted to you." 2 Timothy 1:13 "my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:1-2

This calling that Paul was passing on to Timothy was a holy calling according to God's purpose and grace. Before the foundation of the world God had a plan, a people, a message that would be the Great Commission that had been entrusted to faithful men, the original 12 disciples, and now with Timothy we see this same baton being passed from generation to generation until this day.

Surrounding the throne of God is a great cloud of witnesses, all the saints who have gone before us, that would be Paul and Timothy who endured much suffering even unto death for the cause of Christ. They are cheering us across the finish line. While the cross is costly the rewards are eternal. Keep your eyes on Jesus, remember He is writing your story.



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Monday, December 6—American Village Christmas 9:00am Departure**  
**Tuesday, December 7—Christmas Caroling – 10:00 am to Noon**  
    **Christmas Float Construction – 1:00pm to 4:00pm**  
**Wednesday, December 8—Christmas Caroling – 10:00 am to Noon**  
    **Christmas Float Construction – 1:00pm to 4:00pm**  
**Thursday, December 9—Christmas Caroling – 10:00 am to Noon**  
    **Christmas Float Construction – 1:00pm to 4:00pm**  
**Saturday, December 11—Trussville Christmas Parade**  
    **Trussville Family Christmas @ FBCT (after parade)**  
**Sunday, December 12—SAM Christmas Event - 12:15am and 4:15pm**  
**Sunday, December 19—FBCT Christmas Candlelight Service #1 at 5:00pm**  
**Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve**  
    **FBCT Christmas Candlelight Service #2 at 3:00pm**  
    **FBCT Christmas Candlelight Service #3 at 5:00pm**  
**Saturday, December 25—MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
**Friday, December 31—NEW YEARS EVE**  
**Saturday, January 1, 2022—HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



## SAM CHRISTMAS

**Sunday, December 12 • 12:15 & 4:15 PM**  
**Guest: Musician / Comedian, Tim Lovelace**  
**Meal & Concert: \$20 per person**

Tickets available at Event Center and from any SAM LT member or call 205-228-1006

**JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS** resume on January 6, 2022.

# COMING SOON IN 2022!

## SENIORFEST

**February 6-9, 2022 • Leesburg, FL**

A fantastic time for Seniors from across the southeast to gather together for worship, fellowship, inspiration and fun. Concerts from Karen Peck & New River and Joseph Habedank, engaging seminars and senior-focused activities. Our 10th year with Co-Hosts Jeff Cleghorn & Bob Smith.

Cost \$365.00 Double occupancy. \$445.00 Single occupancy – Includes Transportation (FBCT mini buses), meals, concerts and events. LIMITED to 30 participants.

Registration deadline Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

## Looking for a Bible study?

There is a new ladies Precepts bible study lead by Denise Dockery beginning January 5 at 9:00 AM in Room 142. We will begin Ezekiel Part 1 -Then you will know that I am the LORD. The cost of the workbook is \$25.50. You can order your book through the church office or the Event Center.

A new men's study for January will be announced soon so stay tuned!



**THE AMERICAN VILLAGE CHRISTMAS**  
Monday, December 6, 2021  
Departure at 9:00 am, returning around 3:30 pm.  
**Cost: \$40**

**Fifth Sunday**  
**Community Sing**  
**Sunday, January 30 • 4 PM**

**Special Luncheon Event**  
**Sunday, February 20**

**Not receiving our SAM newsletters?** If you haven't already responded to the letter mailed out last February by our SAM Leadership Team regarding your preference for receiving the newsletter, please contact Debbie Arrington in the SAM office at 205-228-1006 or email her at [debbie@fbctrussville.org](mailto:debbie@fbctrussville.org). Everyone for whom we have an email address will continue to receive the newsletters by email; however, if any of you prefer to have a paper copy mailed to you each month, let Debbie know. We will be happy to mail one to you!