



First Baptist Church Pelham, Georgia

# The Crier

Volume 61 Issue 4

Phone: (229) 294-8073

www.pelhamfbc.org

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Historical figures come and go. But only one came, and went, and still stays. That is the verified authenticity of the person of Jesus Christ. That is the audacious report of scripture. That is the overwhelming agreement of honest scholars and historians. Debate on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ only comes from sources that choose to believe lies over reality.

Even non-Christian writings, not too distant from the life of Christ confirms the reality of the life of Christ. Roman names like Flavius Josephus, Tacitus, Pliny the Younger, and Suetonius all give historical verification of Christ's life. Tacitus for instance, in chronicling the burning of Rome in 64 A.D. mentions the blame being placed on the followers of "Christus" who was previously put to death by Pontius Pilate. These historians took seriously their task to research and present sound and solid accounts of history. I highlight this, because the same cannot be said for many of today's historians. These extra-biblical accounts shout, "Jesus of the bible is authentic and verified".

The death of Jesus was also among the historical writings of these Romans. Tacitus example above includes Jesus' execution. Flavius Josephus wrote in his work called **Antiquities**, "*He was Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.*" Although some historians through the ages think that scribes may have smoothed over Josephus' account, it still authenticates a Christ that lived, died, and lived again.

But the main proof of all of this does not lie in the hands of men, but in the Hand of God. God ordained simple witnesses to walk with and to "*write of a narrative of the things which have been fulfilled among us.*" (Luke 1:1) These witnesses gave up their lives standing firm in the accounts they reported. Their lives were changed while they lived, and their deaths were testimonies of the things they knew. A man will not die for a lie! And the Hand of God gave Christ into the world to live among man, to die for the sin of man, and to resurrect and ascend for salvation of man that the glory of God might be known. The continued proof of the Hand of God includes the changed lives of people throughout the ages. Men and women are still dying for the truth. Maybe not on a cross upside down, or in a fire on a stake (although that is happening), but to self and sin. And those changed lives wherein they do not live for themselves are proof that the Hand of God is still ordaining simple witnesses to walk with Christ and tell the wondrous story of the work of God.

Jesus came, and went, and still stays. Have you met Him? Have you had the Hand of God verify the authenticity of Christ in your life? God can prove more in one second of the reality of the Savior than all the historical Roman writings can through years. A changed life that dies to self and lives for God is evidence not created by natural things. It can only be created by the Hand of God. This Easter, make sure the celebration of the resurrected Christ is really your belief. Make certain there is no debate in your heart and mind concerning the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. How do you do that? Ask God to show you truth. He records not only the historical perspective correctly, but He writes the future exactly. Let God be the author of your story.

*Pastor Leroy*

<https://bigthink.com/thinking/was-jesus-real/>

**Golden Age will meet at the church on April 1 at 2:00 pm with Bingo and refreshments!**

Annie Armstrong Prayer Week will begin Marchh 3rd through March 10th. We will collect for this Mission through April 14th.



**As of 3/17/24, we have collected \$2849.00**

A Study of Six Prayers in the Bible

**WHEN  
YOU  
PRAY**

Ladies' Bible Study  
7-Sessions

Starts Sunday, April 7th @ 5:00pm  
in the Old Fellowship Hall

KELLY MINTER  
JACKIE HILL PERRY  
JEN WILKIN  
JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD  
JADA EDWARDS  
KRISTI MCLELLAND

**There will be NO  
MoMEntum lunch  
on April 2**

From the Youth Pastor, Harold Smith

What are you passionate about? What is it that you love so dearly?

As James continues his letter to the believers scattered from persecution, we come to chapter 4 where he addresses the root of the problem they were having, quarreling. Evidently even during their difficulties of persecution as believers, they decided to turn on each other and fight amongst themselves! We easily can relate to that today, we seem to love to argue and quarrel amongst one another. The church today can spend more time and energy trying to make sure things are done the way we want them to be done!

James tells us from the Lord that the root is our passions! The war within our own lives between the new man we are as believers and the sin nature that we still have to live with, is coming out in our dealings with those around us! It is such a bad situation that we will covet and even murder one another, not physically murder, but as Jesus stated in the sermon on the mount of Olives, when we hate someone we are guilty of murder! What a horrible testimony for any group of believers to have! James tells us again in 4:1,3 that the problem is our passions are wrong.

Now, how do we correct our passion desires? In verses 6-12 James writes that our submission to God is the key> We need to come before God in humility knowing that we don't know everything God is doing in the lives of others, realizing that we will have different desires than others around us, and that the devil is to be resisted when we see him using us for discord amongst the believers!

Oh what a testimony to the world we will be when we love one another to the point that we will fight for each other's desires more than our own desires! Is that not what Jesus left as an example to us in the garden before his crucifixion?

*In Christ, Harold*

## **Never Look Back**

*I finally rearranged my closet  
And took those old books off the shelf  
I ran across my high school annual  
And saw that awful picture of myself  
And I happened on your note there  
I wondered at the wisdom you had*

*You said, Never give up, Never give in  
Never forget me when you need a friend  
Never give out, never turn back  
Never let hard times push you off your track  
Never look back*

*And isn't it just like God's wisdom  
To put grace where He plans to lead  
Today I needed grace to find me  
And your words were there to meet my need*

*(Lyrics from the Song "Never Look Back" by Degarmo & Key, Benson Records, 1993)*

These lyrics written by the Christian band, Degarmo & Key have always given those who walk with Christ, hope. Especially to me because I never thought that a decision that I made many years ago would come back to haunt me. It was made at a moment of desperation and at a time while trying to keep up with the demands of ministry, family, and employer obligations. That choice reappeared only to put myself in a position that would possibly end my ministry and alter my relationship with co-workers, friends, and others. When I was approached about the issue I knew immediately I was in the wrong and wanted to do whatever it took to make amends. My heart was in the right place, my actions were not intentional, but there was no doubt I had crossed a line, and I would have to accept the consequences.

Just as King David responded when Nathan the Prophet confronted him of his sinful actions in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12 - I also fell to my knees seeking the Lord's forgiveness and mercy. It felt like a gut punch to my soul. Many thoughts and scenarios ran through my head about the possible repercussions or outcomes from my actions. I cried out like King David in Psalm 51, "**Create in me a clean heart, O God! Renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.**" And just like the writer of the song quoted above, Jesus reminded me of a note that He left for me in His Word, "**Come to me you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest.**" (Matt 11:28)

We all have decisions and actions in our past that can return and haunt us. As the lyrics state in the song above; "...And isn't it just like God's wisdom, to put grace where He plans to lead. Today I needed grace to find me and your words were there to meet my need." God knows the moments in our lives when past sins will find us again. This is why it is so important to have a close relationship with Him and hide His Word in our heart like **Psalm 130:3-5** or **1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9-10** (Please look up these verses). So that we will never give up, never give in, never give out, never turn back, and never let hard times push us off our track. And never look back.

***"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."*** (Luke 21:28)

*Bro. Andrew*

**Our Members Birthdays in the Month of February**

April 3	Lenora Jo Butler	April 24	Travis Hussey
April 3	Jana Humphries	April 24	Abigail Martin
April 3	Gary Treat	April 25	Amy Palmer
April 3	Shaina Edenfield	April 25	Andrew Chaffer
April 4	Carl Aldridge	April 26	Verlyn Fenn
April 4	Jackie Monday	April 28	Des Harris
April 4	Chase Edwards	April 28	Gene Sellers
April 5	John Rich	April 28	Caroline Snellgrove
April 8	Venson Bentley	April 29	Melea Bentley
April 8	Jessie Norman	April 29	Laurie Walton
April 9	Walt Bernier	April 30	Courtney Hilliard
April 9	Cindy Drury		
April 12	Lisa Walton		
April 13	Betty Davis		
April 13	Daniel Smith		
April 13	DJ Palmer		
April 14	Tom Harper		
April 14	Olivia Palmer		
April 16	Parker Satterwhite		



Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Closed on Friday

**Activate The Prayer Chain**



Tina Sellers 294-8443  
Helen Schmidt 294-2818  
Sandra Peck 294-8073

**Deacons of the Month:**

**Duane Bentley (229) 336-3457**

**Matt Hilliard (229) 269-2339**

**Staff at Home**

Rev. Leroy Williams Pastor	321-292-9650 leroy.j.williams43@gmail.com
Rev. Harold Smith Minister of Youth	229-221-1565 harold@pelhamfbc.org
Rev. Andrew Chaffer Minister of Music	229-319-0472 revchaffer@gmail.com
Sandra Peck Ministry Assistant	229-327-6026 eshiver@pelhamfbc.org
Wesley Palmer Deacon Chairman	229-403-2340 wesdawg02@yahoo.com

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**“In God We Trust”**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
P. O. Box 287  
Pelham, GA 31779

## Prayer List

### MEMBERS

Don & Jean Bodin	medical
David Drury & Family	Father passed away
Verlyn Fenn	medical
Larry Frosteg	medical
Bette Frosteg	medical
Jimmy Godwin	medical
Mary Grant	medical
Hiram Hendrix	medical
Shirley Humphries	medical
Janice James	medical
RayJean Leggett	medical
Amy Lock	medical
Carl Long	medical
Susan Long	medical
Ross NeSmith	medical
Judy Sherrod	medical
Chris Singleton	medical
Sue Strickland	hip replacement
JT Thompson	father passed (3/10/24)
Christine Wallace	surgery (Mar. 3/25/24)
Kellie Wilson	father passed (3/4/24)

### FRIENDS AND FAMILY

April Bessinger (Amy Lock)	pregnancy problems
Mark Bodin	medical
MaryHelen Bostwick & babies	medical
Buddy Campbell	cancer
David Chapman (Nan)	medical
Sharon Dixon (Maloy)	medical Heart
Connor Fielder (Theressia)	coma (wreck)
Alton Harper (White)	medical
Ken Harper (V Thomas)	cancer
Randy Harris (James)	cancer
Nick Hilliard	hospital (Moultrie)
Tommy Howze	passed
Travis Hussey (Theressia)	medical
Harley Johnson (Fenn)	melanoma
Chris Leggett (Feagin)	medical
Chris Mobley (Campbell)	cancer
John & Jean Murphy (Monday)	medical
Kyle Nixon (Annie Lee Wells)	back surgery (scoliosis)
David Parr (Anderson)	medical
Gay Radney (Hilliard)	breast cancer
John Rich	medical
Dorothy Sizemore	medical
Rick Strickland (Earlean)	Passed away 2/28/29
Brenda Taylor (Lenora Butler)	cancer
Candace Trimble (Monday)	medical
Cindy Warren (Bishop)	cancer
Eddie Wilson	passed away (3/4/24)
Walt Younkin (Godwin)	cancer

### NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Lane Butler, Mitchell County Convalescent Center  
 Buddy Campbell, Magnolia Manor, Moultrie  
 June Carter, Legacy Village, Rm 208, Thomasville  
 Leon Davis, Parkway  
 Eunice Hatcher, Parkway  
 Gary Hurst, Bainbridge Healthcare  
 Carl & Susan Long, Savannah Court, Camilla  
 Lula Scott, Savannah Court, Camilla  
 Joyce Walton, Southern Pines  
 Bill Willis, Parkway

The Fellowship Hall has been retained for the evening of April 27th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

## *First Baptist Church - Pelham*

### SUNDAY

9:15 am	Morning Mingle - Breakfast
9:40 am	Children's Sunday School Opening Rally
9:45 am	Adult & Teen Sunday School Classes meet
10:00 am	Children's Sunday School Classes meet
11:00 am	Morning Worship Service and on Facebook @First Baptist Church Pelham
5:00 pm	Ladies Bible Study Resumes on April 7th

### Monday

6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study
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### Tuesday

12:00 Noon	Men's Lunch/Bible Study - There will be NO Lunch on APRIL 2; will resume 4/9/24
7:00 pm	Men's Prison Ministry

### Wednesday

5:00- 5:30 pm	Kid's Choir
5:00- 6:00 pm	Supper
6:45- 7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
5:00- 7:30 pm	Children Program
5:45 -7:30 pm	Youth Meeting
6:00 - 6:45 pm	Choir

**Staff Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 9**  
**Tuesday, April 23**

**Deacon's Meeting**  
**Sunday, April 14 at 8:30 am**

**Roundtable will be on April 16, 12 Noon**  
**at the home of Marlene Bishop.**

**Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 18**  
**At 5:00 pm at the Office**

### **Nursery Volunteers**

<b>April 7</b>	<b>Kimberly &amp; Jamie NeSmith, Melodie Chaffer</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Melea &amp; Duane Bentley, Lynn Aldridge</b>
<b>April 28</b>	<b>Kristy &amp; Wesley Palmer, Marlene Bishop</b>

**There will be a Business Meeting on**  
**Sunday, April 28, after morning**  
**Worship Service.**

