



First Baptist Church Pelham, Georgia

The Crier

Volume 61 Issue 1

Phone: (229) 294-8073

www.pelhamfbc.org

January 2024

What is the primary goal of the church? It is the same as the primary goal of the believer: To know Christ and make Him known. We are to make much about Christ. That is our calling. The very first use of the word “church” in all of scripture was Jesus statement that He made to Peter in Matthew 16:18. In this verse Jesus tells Peter, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” The Greek word used for church is *ekklēsia*. That word literally means “a gathering of the called out”.

The “gathering” belongs to the Lord Jesus as He identifies it as “My” *ekklēsia*. The church is under ownership and management of the Lord Jesus Christ. And as owner, the Lord Jesus is building His church as He sees fit. Our role is to first gather. To be the assembly of saints called out of the world and together with each other to hear from the Master Builder Himself. And as we Hear from Jesus through His Word, we discover He has given us the blueprints of His building plans.

The Spirit of God is crucial to the gathering in of the *ekklēsia*. God’s Holy Spirit clears our conscience (Rom. 9:1). Holy Spirit brings peace and joy through righteousness (Rom. 14:17). Holy Spirit imparts hope (Rom. 15:13). Holy Spirit teaches us spiritual truths (1 Cor. 2:13). Add so many more works of the Holy Spirit that we don’t have room for in an article and I would say the number one weakness in much of the “Gathered” of God is a lack of the works of the Holy Spirit in that gathering. True, every believer is inhabited by the Holy Spirit of God, but we can limit God’s work through us by binding the effects of the Holy Spirit in us (Eph. 4:30). When we give the devil a stronghold in our life or act in the old ways of the flesh, we’ve chose to have more of the world’s activities and less of God’s. And as such, we will not know Christ more nor make Him known more in that state.

Scriptural prayer, true biblical fellowship, evangelistic fervor, and so much more the *ekklēsia* would do through the power of the Holy Spirit is weak and wanting in so many churches today. Is it because Jesus has quit building His church? Absolutely not! It’s because His church has looked away from His blueprints. My challenge is to bring us closer to a spiritual work than we are to a physical work. God can do more with us in one day, through the power of His Spirit, than we can do in a church lifetime through planning and plotting. Any planning we do must be originated in the throne room of God if it is going to accomplish His will. So that’s where we must reside.

To grow more spiritual, more scriptural in our gatherings, we need more of God. All of us can use that. This year, I hope to engage us all in the reading of His Word more consistently. In prayer more genuinely. In love more naturally. And in lifestyle evangelism more confidently. A weekly bible reading will be part of our endeavor together to read through the whole of scripture in 2024. Prayer gatherings for bold prayers will be set up. Evangelistic discipleship will be engaged.

In other words, the aim of gathering must become more than just gathering. It must be a meeting of us with God. The devil wants to rob the *ekklēsia* of power and vigor. God so richly wants to bless His bride with such. Let’s gather to know Him and to make Him known. Let’s gather to see Christ building project of His called out, grow. Let’s gather to know His blueprints and to be used for His glory. That’s why we gather.

Pastor Leroy

If We Are the Body

*It's crowded in worship today
As she slips in trying to fade into the faces
The girls' teasing laughter is carrying farther than they know
Farther than they know*

*Jesus paid much too high a price
For us to pick and choose who should come
And we are the body of Christ*

*If we are the body - Why aren't His arms reaching?
Why aren't His hands healing? - Why aren't His words teaching?
And if we are the body - Why aren't His feet going?
Why is His love not showing them there is a way?
Jesus is the way*

(Lyrics from the Song "If We Are the Body" by Casting Crowns, Beach Street Records, 2003)

I've been interested in the history of my favorite rock bands for as long as I can remember. Some of my favorite bands broke up at the height of their popularity. Fans everywhere were disappointed because the music they loved had ceased. In the interviews with these bands before their split, they all expressed how great the lifestyle was, and the only thing that mattered was the music. Why does this happen? If they're living the dream, what could have made them decide to split up?

Most of the time, these people who all share the same goals, separate because they couldn't agree on how to achieve those goals. Maybe one wants to play one style of music, and another wants to stay with what has worked in the past. But, in the end, even though they all wanted the same result, they all lost because they couldn't agree on how to get there.

"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you may agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."

1 Corinthians 1:10

Paul writes in **1st Corinthians 1** that we should try to put aside our differences and remember that at the end of the day, even though we disagree about things, we all believe that Jesus is our Savior, and that the only way to heaven is through Him (**John 14:6**).

Exalting the Savior, Equipping the saints, and evangelizing the sinner are the church's foundational principles. We all believe that we need to spread the Word of God and do His work (**Matthew 28:19-20**). It's just little things that divide us and cause many distractions. We must keep our eyes on the Lord and remember what's important; not to interrupt God's intervention and to remember that we are the body of Christ.

"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

Lottie Moon Offering

Our Goal: \$10,000
Total Receipts: \$2,490

Will collect donations thru
January 31st

All Committees will Meet on

Jan. 21st from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

**In America, there are
approximately 98 abortions every
hour!**

Join us on Sunday, January 21, 2024 as we set aside a special day to celebrate the Sanctity of Human Life and stand in opposition to the culture of death promoted by the abortion industry.

The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name.
Isaiah 49:1

GIVING ALL LIFE A CHANCE TO LIVE



**Pastor Neal Hagar from
Southside Baptist Church is
Retiring. There will be a
Retirement Party at the
Southside Baptist Church on
January 28 at 3:30 pm**

From the Youth Pastor

What makes the believers different from the world of unbelievers? How do we appear different from the world?

In answer to the first question, there are many things starting with our relationship with Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, our assurance of that salvation, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and many more, but the one that we want to focus on today is the power and privilege of prayer!

In Matthew 6:5-15 Jesus gives his disciples a pattern of prayer. Notice in verses 5-8, Jesus describes the ineffective prayers of the unbelievers and his instruction is "don't be like them."

First thing Jesus teaches us is the importance of praying privately. Now is it wrong to pray publicly? No, we see Jesus praying in public before He raised Lazarus from the grave. What Jesus is emphasizing is the power of prayer when we are alone, undistracted, and focused on who He is and listening as much as talking! That sometimes is the hardest thing to do in our prayer time is to listen. I often have told my children when they were young that they cannot listen if they are talking! Yes there is a time of public prayer but it is to bring God the honor and glory, not us!

Second thing Jesus teaches us is the importance of the content of our prayer. I call it "being real" with God! He wants us to have a real conversation with him. It's both recognizing His majesty as Lord God and combining that with the father / son relationship we have together. God already knows our hearts, so why try to put up a false front? So be real in our conversations with Him!

So, how does that make us different in the world's eyes? When we gather together for church prayer in large numbers, we testify of the importance of prayer. When we ask others how we can be praying for them, we show the importance of prayer in our own lives. When we have joy in our lives through difficult times they know we have been praying because that is "joy that passes all understanding"!

In Christ, Harold

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

2nd Shirley Nazworth	27th Tony Adams
2nd Kristen Edwards	28th Marilyn Jackson
3rd Gloria Anderson	30th Margaret NeSmith
4th Cheryl Howell	30th June Carter
4th Jayden Feagin	
5th Sydney Singleton	
5th Linda Kitchens	
8th Mary Grant	
8th William Ross	
10th Leann Bentley	
10th Courtney Herndon	
13th Jan Godwin	
19th Mary Culbreth	
20th Charlotte White	
21st Linda Norman	
25th Kimberly Bolen	



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 January

Donnie Palmer 221-8907
 Wesley Palmer 403-2340

Deacons of the Month February

Duane Bentley 336-3457
 Matt Hilliard 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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 Pelham, GA 31779
 Return Service Requested

“In God We Trust”

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

Prayer List

MEMBERS

Don & Jean Bodin	medical
Larry Frosteg	medical
Mary Grant	medical
Shirley Humphries	medical
Janice James	medical
RayJean Leggett	medical
Amy Lock	medical

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Mark Bodin	medical
MaryHelen Bostwick & babies	medical
David Chapman (Nan)	medical
Carrie Evans (Smith)	Thyroid cancer stage 5
Alton Harper (White)	medical
Randy Harris	cancer
Lincoln Humphries	medical
WC Kinard	cancer
Chris Leggett (Feagin)	medical
Chris Mobley (Campbell)	cancer
John & Jean Murphy (Monday)	medical
David Parr (Anderson)	medical
Gay Radney (Hilliard)	breast cancer
John Rich	medical
Lincoln Rogers	cancer
Curt Sadler	colon cancer
Dorothy Sizemore	medical
Rick Strickland (Earlean)	lung cancer
Sonny Thompson (JT)	medical
Candace Trimble (Monday)	medical
Rick Walker (Monday)	medical
Cindy Warren (Bishop)	cancer
Eddie Wilson	needs liver transplant
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

**Family First
 Prayer Walk
 Sunday, Jan. 7th 5:00 pm**

**Golden Age
 Jan 8th 2:00 pm**

**Tucker Association
 Executive Committee Meeting
 Thursday, Jan. 11th**

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 TBA

Monday

6:00 pm Men's Bible Study Resumes on 1/8/24

Tuesday

12:00 Noon Men's Lunch/Bible Study Resumes 1/9/24
Call church office to order lunch

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

**Office is Closed for New Year
 Monday, Jan. 1st & Tuesday, Jan. 2nd**

Staff Meeting

**Tuesday, Jan. 9th at 4:30 pm
 Tuesday, Jan. 23rd at 4:30 pm**

Nursery Volunteers

Jan 7	Amdrea Feagin, Barbara Feagin
Jan 14	Lori Williams, Lydia, Marlene Bishop
Jan 21	Kimberly & Jamie NeSmith, Melodie Chaffin
Jan 28	Melea & Duane Bentley, Lynne Aldridge

**Deacons Meeting
 Sunday, January 14th at 8:30 am**

**Round Table
 Jan. 16th at 12:00 Noon
 At the home of Laura Jane Gray**

**Council Meeting
 Jan. 18th at 5:30 pm**

