

The Crier



Volume 61 Issue 2

Phone: (229) 294-8073

www.pelhamfbc.org

February 2024

Matthew 16:18 is one of the most comforting verses in scripture as it pertains to the continuity and permanence of the New Testament church. On the heels of a spiritually given confession by Peter about the deity of Jesus Christ, Jesus pronounces Peter a rock. Remember, Jesus had just asked, “whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” To this question, the disciples supplied the opinions of men that they had heard lobbied about in meeting places and in homes they had visited. People are never short on opinions. It’s been said where 2 or 3 Baptist are gathered, there will be 10 opinions. Check out social media. Listen to the entertainment industry. Watch the different news outlets. Listen to our politicians. Various opinions grasp to define reality. And everyone is right – in their own eyes.

Jesus then turned the question straight to the disciples. “But whom do you say I am?” (Mt. 16:15). Here is the test. Jesus is not looking for opinion. He is testing the truth the disciples would hold in their heart. He is ascertaining whether these disciples are believing winds of words or shifting sands of opinions or have they gained the unmovable truth of God.

Peter supplies a solid answer. He does not give some flippant opinion. What he says is eternal truth encased in syllables of pronunciations that form words. But those words are not man’s words, they are God’s words revealed to man and repeated by man. Jesus pronounces Peter “blessed”. To be blessed is to receive something from the blesser. And Jesus states Peter was indeed a recipient. “Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven” (Mt. 16:17). In other words, what Peter received and repeated was not the product of man’s imagination. It was not simply an opinion. It was a revealed truth of God.

And that is, in my estimation, the object of Jesus’ next statement. We get to the “rock” statement of Jesus. He called Peter a rock by using his full Greek name, Petras. And then Jesus said, “on THIS rock, I will build my church.” Was Jesus saying He would build His church upon the Apostle Peter? A cursory reading of Peter’s actions, both in the gospels and in Acts, would paint a picture of an uncertain, insecure, impetuous type of person at times. Surely Peter is not the foundation of the church. 1 Corinthians 3:11 says “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” If Jesus is the foundation, when He addressed Peter, was Jesus talking about Himself? In a way, yes. But more directly, Jesus was talking about the truth Peter had just spoken. The words, that are spiritually given and spiritually discerned, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”, is the solid rock. It is the truth of God that is not shifting nor sinking sand. It is the truth of God that is solid, which stands as the foundation for the church which Christ will build.

This is why this verse is the most comforting verse in scripture regarding the permanence of the church. God’s truth is the stable and secure foundation that His church is still being built upon. And Christ is still in the building business. As Christians are spiritually led into, and given the truth of God, Jesus builds His church through such. The comfort? He can use messed up people like Peter. He can use us despite our faults.

We’ve got decisions to make. Our families? Our church? Our association? Ahh. Maybe that’s the first step in “our” decisions. If it’s Christ’s church which Christ is building, perhaps the solid, rock-like answer we need to give is one we find from God. And the comfort I have in the direction we go in decisions; Christ will do what He needs to build. I want to be of those that seek the truth of God in the questions before us. I don’t want opinions to rule the day. I want God given answers and directions. That never happens in the physical realm alone. That only comes by receiving from the Father. And that comes by listening. And listening comes by spending time with God. Then, and only then, can we give “rock” solid answers.

Pastor Leroy

A Time For Every Purpose Under Heaven

*A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep*

*A time to build up, a time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones
A time to gather stones together*

*To everything - turn, turn, turn
There is a season - turn, turn, turn
And a time for every purpose under heaven*

(Lyrics from the Song "Turn, Turn, Turn" by The Byrds, Columbia Records, 1965)

These lyrics are taken from the book of Ecclesiastes, as found in the KJV of the Bible (**Ecc. 3:1-8**) though the sequence of the words were rearranged for this song. Ecclesiastes is traditionally ascribed to King Solomon and the Biblical text views there being a time and place for all things. We follow and prepare for all kinds of seasons in our lives. There is the spring, summer, fall and winter season. We have different kinds of sports seasons (Baseball, Football, Softball, etc.). As believers we have the seasons of Christmas, Easter and outreach. As a Minister of Music I deal with the worship Season. Yes, in my years of experience I have come to recognize this season that comes year after year in leading the music ministry. Like any ministry it has its season of highs and lows, with mountain top experiences and valleys of meandering. The seasons of worship used to cause me great stress and anxiety (**Phil. 4:7-8**), but not anymore.

King Solomon starts the Book of Ecclesiastes in chapter 1 with these words: ***"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?"*** As a servant of Christ I completely understood his frustration. When it came to choir ministry I used to let things like attendance, participation, and commitment bother me. Will they approve of this anthem, or that musical, or this hymn or that chorus? Will they approve of this style of music or the direction of the worship service? I could go on but I believe you understand.

After much prayer, the Lord revealed to me that it's not about approval, it's all about Him. He helped me realize that I cannot control or judge members of the choir (or the church) about their level of commitment or participation. That is between them and the Lord. He showed me to be grateful for all who participate (whether it is 5 or 25), to be attentive more to worship and not entertainment, and to rejoice whether on the mountain top or walking through the valley. My role as Minister (of Music) is to exalt the Savior, equip the saints, evangelize the sinner, and encourage, support, and be prepared for all seasons.

King Solomon continued in chapter 3:1 saying: ***"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*** And in verse 11 he states: ***"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."*** I believe this to be true with our seasons of worship. Many people believe they cannot sing well enough to be in the choir but I often remind them that throughout the Psalms (KJV) we are called to ***"Make a joyful noise..."*** It's not about perfection. It's about worshiping in spirit and in truth! (**John 4:23**) All are welcome to join our church worship ministry and together we can work on the timing and tuning. I am grateful to all who are involved and God is at work from beginning to end for His time, and for every purpose under heaven.

"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: \$8,007.00

Giving Statements are ready and have been placed in the middle front pew in the Sanctuary. If you wish to have yours mailed to you, please let the office know.

Family First Tech Night on Feb. 4 at 5:00 pm.

Tucker Association Meeting will be held Feb 8 @ 6:30 pm @ Union Grove Baptist Church with Ricky Thrasher, GBMB, to discuss possible merge with Grady County Association.

DNOW (disciples Now Weekend) will take place Feb. 9-11th. We need Bus Drivers, Host Homes, Drinks (sodas & Juice), Snacks (Chips, donuts, pop tarts, cookies, fruit, trail mix, popcorn)

Ethan Carlson will be preaching on Sunday, Feb. 11th. There will also be a Church-wide covered dish breakfast as we will have forty DNOW students and counselors with us. Please bring casseroles, muffins, fruit, etc. We will meet in the new Fellowship Hall.

Please join us for a Bridal Shower for Leah Williams, Bride-elect of Joshua Brathwaite on Sunday, Feb. 11 from 2:00-3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. She is registered on Amazon.

There will be a Valentine's Dinner with games, crafts & fellowship on Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 5:30-7:30 pm. Join your church family for a Valentine Evening!

Golden Age will have their Valentine's Luncheon on Feb. 15 at 11:30 am at Waldon's home. Bring a homemade valentine.

COUNCIL MEETING
 FEBRUARY 15
 @5:30 PM (OFFICE)

STAFF MEETING
 FEBRUARY 20
 4:30 PM (OFFICE)

From the Youth Pastor, Harold:

FBC Youth Schedule 1/31/24
 7 - 12 Grades

Sunday	9:30	Breakfast
	10:00	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
Wednesday	5:00	Dinner
	5:45	Youth Meeting

Feb.
 4th Youth Tech Night 5-7 pm
 9th-11th DNOW! 6-12 Grades
MUST SIGN UP!
 23-25th Teen Camp 7-12 Grades \$80
 @ Camp Crosspoint

Mar
 8th-9th Baxley Children's Home Mission Trip ?
 10th-13th FBC Revival Meetings 6pm
 10th Youth Extra TBA
 15th-17th Teen Camp 5-8 Grades \$80
 @ Camp Crosspoint
 21st-23rd Truett College Visit \$50
 Sign up online [https://](https://truettmconnelluniversity4.my.salesforce-sites.com/events/targetX_eventsb_events#/esr?eid=aln8c00000GcMmoAAF)

truettmconnelluniversity4.my.salesforce-sites.com/events/targetX_eventsb_events#/esr?eid=aln8c00000GcMmoAAF

24th Family Picnic 1pm

Apr
 14th Youth Extra 1pm
 27th-28th Senior Trip ?

Questions: Harold 229-221-1565 Cindy 229-221-2336

In Christ, Harold

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

1st	Shirley Pauley	27th	Hal Marshall
7th	Debbie Jones	28th	Robin Singleton
7th	Leslie Lauderdale		
8th	Tony Humphries		
9th	Kylie Layton		
11th	Rebecca Cranford		
16th	Kristen Palmer		
18th	Celia Ledbetter		
19th	Edward Puzakulics		
20th	Melodie Chaffer		
20th	Lynne Aldridge		
20th	Jodie Scott		
20th	Janice Williamson		
21st	Dee Treat		
24th	Jessie Scott		
26th	Sarah McBee		



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 February

Duane Bentley 336-3457	Matt Hilliard 269-2339
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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
Larry Frosteg	medical
Bette Frosteg	medical
Mary Grant	medical
Shirley Humphries	medical
Janice James	medical
RayJean Leggett	medical
Amy Lock	medical
Carl Long	medical
Susan Long	medical
Ken Newton	medical
Charles Yates' Family	passed on 1/16/24

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Mark Bodin	medical
MaryHelen Bostwick & babies	medical
David Chapman (Nan)	medical
Sharon Dixon (Maloy)	medical Heart
Carrie Evans (Smith)	Thyroid cancer stage 5
Alton Harper (White)	medical
Ken Harper (V Thomas)	cancer
Randy Harris (James)	cancer
Travis Hussey (Theressia)	Hospital (Moultrie)
Harley Johnson (Fenn)	melanoma
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 (I Strickland)	cancer
Curt Sadler	colon cancer
Dorothy Sizemore	medical
Rick Strickland (Earlean)	lung cancer
Dorothy Sizemore	medical
Debboe Spencer (Godwin)	personal
Rick Strickland (Earlene)	lung cancer
Brenda Taylor (Lenora Butler)	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

Golden Age will have their Valentine's Day lunch on Feb. 15th @11:30 am at Marsha Walton's Homewith soup, sandwiches. Bring a homemade valentine

Deacons Meeting
Sunday, February 11, at 8:30 am

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

Giving Statements are ready and have been placed in the middle front pew in the Sanctuary. If you wish it mailed, please call the office.

Staff Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 4:30 pm
Tuesday, Jan. 23rd at 4:30 pm

Nursery Volunteers

Feb. 4	Nichole & Neal Hilliard, Amy & Donnie Palmer
Feb. 11	Kristy & Wesley Palmer, Marlene Bishop
Feb. 18	Katie & JT Thompson, Lucy, Tina Scott
Feb. 25	Erica & Matt Hilliard, Jessie & Will Norman

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