



First Baptist Church Pelham, Georgia

# The Crier

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Phone: (229) 294-8073

www.pelhamfbc.org

August 2024

Should we be surprised? As a panoramic view of society is taken into one's field of vision, it often brings a gasp of disbelief from a God-fearing, truth-seeking person of faith. We can't believe our eyes as a table of cross-dressing homosexuals depicts the Lord's Supper in a mockery of Christ at the 2024 Olympics. We squint to understand how elected leaders can legislate laws opposed to the nature and character of God. We can't see or understand how anger and malice is part of our day-to-day experiences as we encounter society.

There is an old song entitled, "*Mama Said (There Will Be Days Like This)*". Mama, in the song, was not speaking of the moral depravity and societal decay we witness. But there is a timeless God who warned us through His inspired revelation, "*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.*" (2 Timothy 3:2-4). It's not as if Jesus has not been blasphemed continuously on TV and in movies for a long while now. Maybe it took an international display on the Olympic stage to wake Christians up to the fact that the world really does hate us. The world hates us, because the world hates God. [John 15:18 NKJV] "*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.*"

Yes, the 1900's were a time of societal assimilation into the morals and embracement of Christianity. Perhaps, many well-intentioned Christians thought we were turning the tide of the world towards Christianity and all the Earth would praise God in our lifetime. We could clearly envision the fall of false religions and the rise of "one world, under God". Hopeful saints believed that the gospel going to the ends of the earth meant that everyone would eventually believe the truth and accord their lifestyles towards behaviors becoming to Christ-followers. Those beliefs and dreams of glory did not originate from the pages of scripture nor faithful preachers of the truth. They originated from earnest believers who hoped for the best for the world around them.

God's Word has always exposed the truth. Pertaining to these last days, the days you and I are appointed to live in, God has not hidden His plans. Our expectations can not be shaped by our wants nor our experiences of the past. Expectations must be in line with God's exposed Word. During the tribulation period, Jesus teaches, "*And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold*" (Matthew 24:12). Lawlessness and the loss of love in the world will reach its fullness during the tribulation period. A slide in that direction will begin before that period.

So, we should not be surprised when we see Godlessness on display, when blasphemy broadcasts on the airwaves, when men love themselves and despise God, or when they hate Christians. God is not surprised, and even told us about these things before they happened.

What then should we do? Give up? Quite trying? That depends. What are we "trying" to do? If we are working and trying and wanting to make culture and society like us, you know, like what we want it to be, then that has never been a directive of scripture. Rather, scripture has directed us to be light in the midst of a sin-darkened world (Matthew 5:16). Scripture has directed us to love our enemies and to do good to those who hate us (Luke 6:27). Scripture has directed us to glorify God through our life. Evangelizing, discipling, gathering as the church, no matter the direction of the world would be faithfulness to the things directed by scripture. Those are a few things we can never give up and must be "trying" to do consistently and continuously.

"But you just wrote that the world is going to get darker, not turn to Christ, and will continue to hate God and Christians. Why would we work when we aren't guaranteed success through our work?" Because success is faithfulness. Success is doing what God says for the glory of God alone. Success is obedience through love while leaving the results up to God. Success is endurance. That's why Jesus says, "*And you will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved*" (Matthew 10:22).

Do I want to see the whole world saved and rightly loving God? YES! But reality is not what you or I want. Reality is what God authors. God has presented us with the reality of the state of the world. Our calling is to do what God says no matter how crooked or perverse the world grows. Stay the course, Christian! God's calling on your life is not changed. Keep worshipping God. Keep evangelizing the world. Keep discipling the saved. By all means, keep your courage. *"For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls"* (Hebrews 12:3). Strengthen your soul and keep marching towards Jesus.

[1John 2:17 NKJV] *"And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."* Always remember, you were saved to abide forever. Not to make this world your home and your hope.

*Pastor Leroy*

## BIBLE READING PLAN FOR AUGUST 2024

August 1	2 Kings 20-21
August 2	2 Chronicles 32-33
August 3	Nahum 1-3
August 4	2 Kings 22-23; 2 Chronicles 34-35
August 5	Zephaniah 1-3
August 6	Jeremiah 1-3
August 7	Jeremiah 4-6
August 8	Jeremiah 7-9
August 9	Jeremiah 10-13
August 10	Jeremiah 14-17
August 11	Jeremiah 18-22
August 12	Jeremiah 23-25
August 13	Jeremiah 26-29
August 14	Jeremiah 30-31
August 15	Jeremiah 32-34
August 16	Jeremiah 35-37
August 17	Jeremiah 38-40; Psalm 74, 79
August 18	2 Kings 24-25; 2 Chronicles 36
August 19	Habakkuk 1-3
August 20	Jeremiah 41-45
August 21	Jeremiah 45-48
August 22	Jeremiah 49-50
August 23	Jeremiah 51-52
August 24	Lamentations 1; Lamentations 2; Lamentations 3:1-36
August 25	Lamentations 3:37-66; Lamentations 4; Lamentations 5:1-22
August 26	Ezekiel 1-4
August 27	Ezekiel 5-8
August 28	Ezekiel 9-12
August 29	Ezekiel 13-15
August 30	Ezekiel 16-17
August 31	Ezekiel 18-19



**YOUTH BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**  
**August 7 from 5:45 to 7:45 pm**  
**At the Youth Building**  
**There will be water games and Fellowship**

**Staff Meeting, Tuesday, August 6 & August 20**  
**At 4:30 pm**

**Council Meeting, Thursday, August 15**  
**at 5:00 pm**

*Her PLAN invites you to an*  
**OPEN HOUSE**



Come by the Alpha Pregnancy Center anytime between 3pm and 4pm

**8.11.24**

23 N Ellis Street,  
 Camilla, GA 31730

Join us for ice cream immediately after and hear about how we can build a culture of life here in Mitchell County.

First Baptist Camilla  
 27 E. Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia 31730

For more information contact:  
 Celeste Vernon | Georgia Coordinator  
 470-259-9763 | cvernnon@herplan.org

**FBC Fall 24 Youth Schedule**

All 7 - 12 Grades Welcome!

**Weekly Schedule**

- Sunday** 9:30 Breakfast  
 10:00 Sunday School  
 11:00 Worship Service
- Wednesday** 5-5:45 Dinner (in fellowship hall)  
 5:45-7:30 Youth Meeting (youth rooms)

**Teen Ministry Opportunities**

- Sunday** 11-12 Nursery workers
- Wednesday** 4-5 Dinner prep & Meal delivery to shut ins
- Thursday.** 5:30 Feed the Hungry @ Pelham Depot
- Wildlife Festival** Face painting  
 Balloon animals
- Children's message** Sunday morning service
- Puppet ministry** Sunday school opening

**Questions?** Harold Smith 229-221-1565 [harold@pelhamfbc.org](mailto:harold@pelhamfbc.org)

Cindy Smith 229-221-2336  
[www.pelhamfbc.org/youth-ministry](http://www.pelhamfbc.org/youth-ministry)

**Fall Events**

- Aug 2-4** Senior Trip - Pine Mountain / Six Flags
- 7** Hawaiian Night! Youth Fall Kickoff  
 Water games!
- 11** Youth led worship song!
- 11** Youth Extra - **6-8 pm**  
 Canoeing @ Camp Crosspoint
- 18** Family First Night - Game night **5-6:30 pm**
- 24** Canoe Trip! **10-5 pm \$ for 1 meal**
- Sept 13-15** Teen Camp 5-8 grades **\$40**
- 22** Family First Night - Concert **6-7 pm**
- 28** Tubing @ Blackshear **9am-6pm \$ for 1 meal**
- 29** Youth Rally @ Camp Crosspoint **5-8 pm**
- Oct 5** Wildlife Festival - **9 am-4 pm**
- 9** No Youth
- 13** Youth Extra - Bowling **1-4 pm**
- 25-27** Teen Weekend 7-12 grades **\$40**
- 30** Fall Festival @ FBC **5-7 pm**
- Nov 3-6** Revival Services TBA
- 10** Youth Extra - Skeet shooting **1-4 pm**
- 27** No Youth
- Dec 1** Family First - Movie Night TBA
- 18** No School
- 25** Merry Christmas
- 29-30** MOVE Conference @ Wild Adventures  
 More info coming!

*In Christ, Bro. Harold*

## **Listen the Watchman Cries**

*Oh hear the watchman cry - The bridegroom is coming  
Oh hear the watchman cry - From the midnight's lonely tower  
Listen the watchman cries - The wedding feast is dawning  
Keep watching the eastern sky - For the chosen day and hour*

*Cry out that time is near - When in clouds of glory He'll appear  
Sing for the end of fear - From the midnight's lonely tower  
Oh hear the watchman cry - Oh hear the watchman cry*

*Will you come and join the people - Standing on the heights  
Holy people brave enough to carry the fight  
And the cry goes out - And the cry goes on and on and on  
Crying out from the east - Shouting out from the west  
All across the land, the time is at hand - So listen for the cry*

*(Lyrics from the Song "The Cry" by WhiteHeart, StarSong Records, 1993)*

There are many passages in the Bible concerning watchmen. The definition of a watchman is one who guards against possible harm to people or property, often during the night, and who sounds an alarm in the face of threatened danger. Watchmen were stationed on the city walls and/or in towers to observe those approaching in the distance. I served as a watchman in the military but was then called a guard or a sentry. Prophets of the Bible figuratively served as watchmen to the nation of Israel with warnings of impending destruction or prophecies of future events. The question to ask ourselves is; are we listening for the watchman's cry? ***"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them this warning from me." Ezekiel 3:17***

Bible scholars have referred to this time in our church history as the Era of Laodicea. It is based on the church referred to in ***Revelation 3:14-22*** characterized by their tepid water and lack of evangelistic enthusiasm, they became known as the "lukewarm apathetic church." The Church of Laodicea was rich, prosperous, but spiritually dead. They revolted spiritually against God by allowing His Word and commandments to be changed and twisted in the name of tolerance and inclusiveness. Have we descended into the same characteristics?

The recent Covid pandemic was successful in severely crippling three important aspects as believers in Christ. The first was the devastation of church Fellowship. Our fellowship was severely affected because of the temporary closing of the church, limited group meetings, and lack of contact and visitation. Depression and loneliness took over and our growth in Christ (both as a church and personally) suffered greatly. The second was our Worship. Worship is not limited to just Sundays, it also includes our personal time, prayer, and study of God's Word. It has become more of a trend for individuals to worship the Lord on their own terms instead of on God's principles. "I cannot or will not worship unless...(fill in the blank)". Worship has become more "lukewarm" and less important.

The third aspect that was affected; our Relationship with the Lord. For some, they have become so engaged in ministry that burnout and "works" have taken the place of fellowship with God. For others their relationship has become a distant memory. Jesus said in ***Revelation 3:20*** – ***"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."***

After the destruction of the nation of Israel the prophet Jeremiah in ***Lamentations 3:21-24*** wrote, ***"Yet this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him."*** Our blessed hope is in the return and saving grace of Jesus Christ. Listen for the watchman's cry, the Bridegroom is coming!

***"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***

**Members Birthdays in the Month of August**

_August 6	Bobby Bolen
August 7	Aileen Breland
August 12	Tommy Palmer
August 12	Barbara Feagin
August 12	Richard Willis
August 15	Harold Smith
August 19	John Bullington
August 26	Leland Butler
August 28	Rayjean Leggett
August 29	Nan Chapman
August 29	Keith Norman
August 31	Donald Bishop
August 31	Kurt Chaffer



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: August, 2024**

**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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*“In God We Trust”*

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

## Prayer List

### MEMBERS

<b>The Drury Family</b>	<b>spiritual</b>
Larry Frosteg	medical
Jimmy Godwin	medical
Shirley Humphries	medical
RayJean Leggett	medical
<b>Amy Lock</b>	<b>surgery (8/14)</b>
<b>Judy Sherrod</b>	<b>medical</b>
<b>John Rich</b>	<b>dementia</b>
<b>Sue Taylor</b>	<b>medical</b>

### FRIENDS AND FAMILY

<b>Family of Mark Bodin</b>	<b>passed away</b>
David Chapman (Nan)	medical
Mark Davis (son-in-law of Brims)	cancer
Sharon Dixon (Maloy)	medical Heart
Connor Fielder (Theressia)	coma (wreck)
Randy Harris (James)	cancer
<b>Tommy Hatcher (Gill)</b>	<b>liver transplant</b>
Rick Herren (nephew Hurst)	brain tumor
Harley Johnson (Fenn)	melanoma
<b>Family of Grant Martin (Drury)</b>	<b>passed away</b>
Jeanine Mellow (Lock)	cancer
Chris Mobley (Campbell)	cancer
John & Jean Murphy (Monday)	medical
David Parr (Anderson)	medical
Dorothy Sizemore	medical
<b>Lynn &amp; Chris Struck (Wallace)</b>	<b>both have cancer</b>
Brenda Taylor (Lenora Butler)	cancer
Candace Trimble (Monday)	medical
Cindy Warren (Bishop)	cancer
Walt Younkin (Godwin)	cancer

### NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

**Don Bodin, @ Parkway, #307**  
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  
Lula Scott, Savannah Court, Camilla  
Joyce Walton, Southern Pines  
Bill Willis, Parkway

Deacon's Meeting, Sunday, August 11

Business Meeting, Sunday, August 25  
**Please bring a covered dish for lunch**

**Baptism will take place on Sunday,  
August 4 during the Worship Service for:**

**Addilyn Norman  
Addison Leigh Hilliard  
Annaleigh Nicole Barrentine  
And  
Kinsley Rayne Gill**

**The new Fellowship Hall will be in use on  
August 18 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 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 <b>Resumes on September 8</b>

### Monday

6:30 pm Men's Bible Study **(Will resume 9/9/24)**

### Tuesday

12:00 Noon Men's Lunch/Bible Study  
7:00 pm Men's Prison Ministry

### Wednesday

5:00- 5:30 pm	Kid's Choir
5:00- 6:00 pm	<b>Supper (RESUMES ON AUGUST 7)</b>
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

### **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**We will observe the Lord's Supper on  
Sunday, August 4**

### **FBC Prison Ministry**

<b>August 6</b>	<b>Neal Hilliard, Gene Sellers</b>
<b>August 13</b>	<b>Harold Smith, Donnie Palmer</b>
<b>August 20</b>	<b>Leroy Williams, Gene Sellers</b>
<b>August 27</b>	<b>Andrew Chaffer, Keith Norman</b>

### **Morning Mingle Breakfast**

**Please come and join us @9::15 am**

### **Breakfast Teams**

<b>August 4</b>	<b>Dianne Fenn Class</b>
<b>August 11</b>	<b>David Drury Class</b>
<b>August 18</b>	<b>Children &amp; Youth Teachers</b>
<b>August 25</b>	<b>Nichole Hilliard Class</b>

### **Nursery Volunteers**

<b>August 4</b>	<b>Katie &amp; JT Thompson, Lucy, Tina Sellers</b>
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Erica &amp; Matt Hilliard, Jessie &amp; Will Norman</b>
<b>August 18</b>	<b>Andrea Feagin, Barbara Feagin</b>
<b>August 25</b>	<b>Lori Williams, Lydia, Karen Moltz</b>

