



First Baptist Church Pelham, Georgia

The Crier

Volume 61 Issue 7

Phone: (229) 294-8073

www.pelhamfbc.org

July 2024

As I've expressed before, the Southern Baptist Convention is not a denomination. Mirriam-Webster defines a denomination as: "a religious organization whose congregations are united in their adherence to its beliefs and practices". As Baptist, we are not a "creedal" people. In beliefs, we have no higher human authority that prescribes what each local church must adhere to. Rather, each local church searches and forms her beliefs from scripture. And having done so, her practices flow from those beliefs. Then, many of these independent, autonomous local churches chose to "associate" together in order to accomplish greater works together than alone. Missions, theological education, church health are just a sampling of some works accomplished together.

A "denomination" on the other hand seeks to create conformity. A dollar bill is a denomination of money. It holds the same expression and value everywhere. When it comes to a denomination of churches, each church would be overseen by a central group to ensure that the same beliefs and practices were being adhered to by every church within that denomination. That is not how it is with Southern Baptist.

Rather, each independent, autonomous local church can choose to agree and walk with, or associate with, the essentials esteemed by the whole. Baptism by immersion and the regular observance of the Lord's Supper, essential theological views such as salvation in Christ alone by grace alone, and practical expressions of our belief as exhibited in resolutions as agreed upon when the local church messengers convene together are examples of what local churches agree to walk with. That is why we are a "convention" as we "convene" to agree together and not a denomination in the strictest sense of the word.

Now, let's bring the 2024 SBC Convention Indianapolis to view. From all the local churches scattered throughout the country, 10,946 messengers registered at the check-in desks. Messengers hailed from all 50 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico, representing 3,988 churches. But what did these messengers do?

The greatest achievement God gave us was the commissioning and sending of 83 missionaries. After all, that was, in my view, the primary and overarching reason the Southern Baptist Convention formed and created the Cooperative Program. The main mission of our alignment and cooperation is to evangelize together. Add these 83 new missionaries to the almost 3500 currently serving around the globe and you should get excited. Lost in all the articles and concerns is this move of God in our midst to win souls and change lives.

The biggest disappointment was the failure of the messengers to ratify the Law Amendment. This amendment was brought as a motion from the floor during the 2023 New Orleans SBC Convention by a Virginia pastor, Mike Law (thus it's name) and passed that year easily. However, it needed a consecutive year's affirmation of 2/3's to become an amendment. It garnered 61.45%, falling just 3.55% short of the needed votes.

It was an attempt to safeguard the convention against liberal drift. I'll be the first to say that the SBC is wholly complementarian in our view of men and women. Our Baptist Faith and Message 2000 clearly demonstrates that. But there are already churches that have expressed the egalitarian view as societal pressures have come in and theological standards have eroded. Many SBC churches have used the designation of "pastor" in hiring women in roles of their church, including lead pastors. The drift is already present.

Many that voted against the Law Amendment did not do so because they are egalitarian. They became convinced that we just did not need it as the complementarian view is so well espoused in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Of the nearly 3200 that voted against the Law Amendment, many expressed that the tool to deal with churches that go against the complementarian stance are already in place as evidenced by disfellowshipping 2 churches last year (including Rick Warren's Saddleback Church) and one this year who have female pastors.

But my concern is the future. As society continues to tilt hard left and culture seeks more conformity to their humanistic standards, what will the SBC do in the year 2045? 2060? The amendment would have set a biblical standard that we are not like the world. We hold to Godly counsel, not humanistic whims. It would have said, “this is who we are. Churches holding like standards are welcome to associate. Our umbrella will be as big as biblical truth.” Maybe those voting against it will come around, but for now, we are still people of the book and we do still value God’s order of roles and responsibilities for men and women and the intrinsic value God created each with.

Clint Pressley, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC was elected President of the SBC. From a crowded field of 6 candidates that required 2 run-offs, Pressley became the choice.

It would be impossible to tell of the more than 50 motions from the floor or the debates on the Resolutions that were passed. But I will say there were several key resolutions that can be found at <https://erlc.com/resource/key-resolutions-from-the-2024-sbc-annual-meeting/> including the Resolutions “On Defending Religious Liberty”, “On Just War and the Pursuit of Peace”, “On Justice and Peace in the Aftermath of the October 7th Attack on Israel”, “On the Ethical Realities of Reproductive Technologies and the Dignity of the Human Embryo” (Ami Mejia will write on this next month), and “On the God-Given Rights and Responsibilities of Parents”. Your messengers favored all these above resolutions. They are necessary voices from biblical perspectives in our world.

The operating budget was approved by the messengers of the convention as follows:

Convention operations — \$10,235,000
International Mission Board — \$284,000,000
North American Mission Board — \$137,320,000
Lifeway Christian Resources — \$309,500,00
GuideStone Financial Resources — \$127,000,000
Gateway Seminary — \$12,900,000
Midwestern Seminary — \$35,340,000
New Orleans Seminary — \$24,896,500
Southeastern Seminary — \$33,177,000
Southern Seminary — \$53,328,964
Southwestern Seminary — \$35,600,000
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission — \$3,351,340
Historical Library and Archives — \$507,100

Another synopsis can be found at <https://www.bgav.org/blog/recap-of-proceedings-at-sbc-2024-annual-meeting> .

All in all, I’d say the meeting was less concerned about what the world sees us as and more focused on what God sees us as. I’d say there was a better presence of God’s Spirit and a clearer grasp of keeping the main thing the main thing.

Next years Southern Baptist Convention will be in Dallas, Texas. A small number of additional messengers could have tipped the Law Amendment to pass. Start considering now if you could make yourself available as a messenger from FBC Pelham for the 2025 SBC Convention next year. If so, mark your calendars for June 9-12 and let’s convene together.

Pastor Leroy

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR JULY, 2024

July 1	2 Kings 1-4
July 2	2 Kings 5-8
July 3	1 Kings 9-11
July 4	2 Kings 12-13; 2 Chronicles 24
July 5	2 Kings 14; 2 Chronicles 25
July 6	Jonah 1-4
July 7	2 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 26
July 8	Isaiah 1-4
July 9	Isiah 5-8
July 10	Amos 1-5
July 11	Amos 6-9
July 12	2 Chronicles 27; Isaiah 9-12
July 13	Micah 1-7
July 14	2 Chronicles 28; 2 Kings 16-17
July 15	Isiah 13-17
July 16	Isiah 18-22
July 17	Isaiah 23-27
July 18	2 Kings 18:1-8; 2 Chronicles 29-31; Psalm 48
July 19	Hosea 1-7
July 20	Hosea 8-14
July 21	Isiah 28-30
July 22	Isaiah 31-34
July 23	Isaiah 35-36
July 24	Isiah 37-39; Psalm 76
July 25	Isaiah 40-43
July 26	Isaiah 44-48
July 27	2 Kings 18:9-37; 2 Kings 19:1-37; Psalm 46, 80, 135
July 28	Isaiah 49-53
July 29	Isaiah 54-58
July 30	Isaiah 59-63
July 31	Isaiah 64-66

**SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY
JULY 14, 2024**

We will be having a Senior Adult Sunday at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Please join us to hear guest speaker, Ken Cloud and for great fellowship.

Transportation to and from the morning and the evening services, **INCLUDING** Sunday School, will be provided for those who wish it. You can call the church office if you wish to be placed on the transportation list.

**Staff Meeting
July 9 & July 23 at 4:30 pm**

**Council Meeting
July 11 at 5:00 pm**

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

FROM YOUR YOUTH PASTOR

In a recent devotional we are reading as camp staff, the author brings out a very interesting view on oppression in the Bible. In studying the book of Daniel, we see a different means of oppression used by King Nebuchadnezzar; the tactic of blessing!

Now how is blessing a form of oppression we may ask? Well the definition of oppression is the means a ruler or governing force brings a person or group of people under their control. We see this played out in Daniel's time as well as ours today! Daniel, Hannaniah, Mischal and Azariah had their names changed and were given the best of the food, education and most everything they wanted in order for them to like where they were now. To give them more than they ever had in their home land, to intoxicate them with the pleasures of Babylon, to change their dreams of going home to wanting to stay. To change their identity from God's people to Babylonians!

"The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and the wine that he drank." Daniel 1:5

As we see this story unfold, we can see the plan and attempt Satan has on our own lives. He wants to get us so wrapped up in the things of this world that we lose sight of why we are here, to bring glory to God! Yes we can give God the glory for earthly blessings but we must be aware of the distraction these things can bring to our lives.

A couple simple questions to ask ourselves; Are these things keeping me from my quiet time with the Lord? Are they keeping me from fellowshiping in church? Are they used just for my pleasure or a means to reach the unsaved with the gospel? If I had less, would I be spending more time doing the work of the Lord?

This was an eye opening look at "blessings" for me, maybe it will be for you also!

In Christ, Bro. Harold

WORTHY
*Worship of the
Ancient of Days*

SUNDAY - 28 JULY @ 6:00 PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PELHAM, GA

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION OF OUR SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE AGES.

pelhamfbc.org

In God We Still Trust

*You place your hand on His Bible, when you swear to tell the Truth
His name is on our greatest Monuments, and all our money too
And when we Pledge allegiance, there's no doubt where we stand
There is no separation, we're one Nation under Him*

*Now there are those among us, who want to push Him out
And erase His name from everything, this country's all about
From the Schoolhouse to the Courthouse, they're Silencing His Word
Now it's time for all Believers, to make our Voices heard*

*In God We Still Trust - Here in America
He's the one we turn to every time - The going gets rough
He is the source of all our Strength - The One who watches over us
Here in America - In God We Still Trust*

(Lyrics from the Song "In God We Still Trust" by Diamond Rio, Arista Nashville, 2006)

Patriotism: it has many different definitions depending on what country you live in. We have many friends and family members who have served and died in defense of the freedoms founded by our constitution. For 18 years I experienced military life with my father, and then served in the U.S. Air Force for six years. I have a strong patriotic streak. I believe in life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness; I believe our nation is one nation under God. President Ronald Reagan's words still echo in my heart, especially today:

"If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under!"

Some would have us remove God from the heritage on which this country began and many have attempted to do so. Our country was forged from Christian principles, a strong belief in God, and established by people of strong faith and character. But like other countries from history, individuals are motivated to try to remove God from our society. Remove God and the opportunities of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness will disappear.

As members of the body of Christ we need to stand on our Christian principles and God's Word when it comes to our political beliefs. We have a responsibility to pass this heritage on to future generations.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same..." President Ronald Reagan

Compare your political beliefs to the standards given to us through God's word and then pray. Pray for your country, for our leaders, and pray for God to heal our land. We need to return to be a nation and a people for whom In God We Still Trust!

"If my people, which are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."
2nd Chronicles 7:14

"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 July

- July 1 Dianne Fenn
- July 2 Kelli Wilson
- July 3 Donnie Palmer
- July 5 Erica Hilliard
- July 5 Grant Miller
- July 10 Suzanne Anderson
- July 10 Karen Motlz
- July 12 Debbie Hurst
- July 16 Stephanie Davis
- July 25 Debra Winters
- July 26 Pryor Connell
- July 28 Matthew Hilliard



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:

Ken Newton 220-1750
 Donnie Palmer 221-8907

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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit # 46
 Pelham, GA 31779
 Return Service Requested

“In God We Trust”

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

Prayer List

MEMBERS

Don Bodin	Rehab @ Parkway, #307
Verlyn Fenn	heart
Larry Frosteg	medical
Jimmy Godwin	medical
Shirley Humphries	medical
RayJean Leggett	medical
Chris Singleton	liver/losing blood

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Mark Bodin	medical
Buddy Campbell	cancer
David Chapman (Nan)	medical
Mark Davis (son-in-law of Brims)	cancer
Sharon Dixon (Maloy)	medical Heart
Connor Fielder (Theressia)	coma (wreck)
Tamaya Fedd (Hilliard)	fire in apartment
Ken Harper (V Thomas)	cancer
Randy Harris (James)	cancer
Tommy Hatcher (Gill)	liver transplant
Rick Herren (nephew Hurst)	brain tumor
Harley Johnson (Fenn)	melanoma
Chris Leggett (Feagin)	medical
Ayla Little (Norman)	knee surgery 5/31
Leslie McDowell	pace maker
Jeanine Mellow (Lock)	cancer
Chris Mobley (Campbell)	cancer
John & Jean Murphy (Monday)	medical
David Parr (Anderson)	medical
Ann Sherman (Sherrod)	cancer
Dorothy Sizemore	medical
Lynn & Chris Struck (Wallace)	both have cancer
Brenda Taylor (Lenora Butler)	cancer
Candace Trimble (Monday)	medical
Cindy Warren (Bishop)	cancer
Gayle West (Sandra)	Parkinson's disease
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

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY

When: July 14, 11:00 & 6:00 pm

We will be having a Senior Adult Sunday at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Please join us to hear guest speaker, Ken Cloud and for great fellowship. **Transportation** to and from the morning and the evening services, including Sunday School, will be provided for those who wish it. Please call the office if you wish to be placed on the transportation list.

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 September 8

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	Supper (Will resume after summer)
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 (No Choir practice for July)

Staff Meetings July 9 & July 23 @ 4:30 pm

Council Meeting July 11 @ 5:00 pm

FBC Prison Ministry

Week 5, July 2	Gene Sellers, Neal Hilliard
Week 1, July 9	Neal Hilliard, Gene Sellers
Week 2, July 16	Harold Smith, Donny Palmer
Week 3, July 23	Leroy Williams, Gene Sellers
Week 4, July 30	Andrew Chaffer, Keith Norman

Morning Mingle Breakfast
Please come and join us @9::15 am

Breakfast Teams

July 7	David Drury Class
July 14	Children & Youth teachers
July 21	Nichole Hilliard Class
July 28	Laura Jane Gray Class

Nursery Volunteers

July 7	Kimberly & James NeSmith, Melodie Chaffer
July 14	Melea & Duane Bentley, Lynne Aldridge
July 21	Nichole & Neal Hilliard, Amy & Donnie Palmer
July 28	Kristy & Wesley Palmer, Marlene Bishop

