



First Baptist Church Pelham, Georgia

The Crier

Volume 62 Issue 1

Phone: (229) 294-8073

www.pelhamfbc.org

January, 2025

."We have a tendency to become enamored with good things. Good things are just that, good. I like good things. They are so much better than bad things. But good things are not the best things.

When Jesus was calling His disciples, some immediately left fishing nets, and homes, and familiarity and followed Jesus. Some of the disciples, however, had to see the reason. Nathanael was one disciple who was not so easily drawn to follow Jesus. When Phillip invited Nathanael to join him in following Jesus, Nathanael doubted that anything worthy of following would originate from Nazareth.

The conversation begins in John 1 as follows:

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote-- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Nathanael's response can be seen as doubt, and I am sure there was that underlying thought. But I also see Nathanael as one who did not want to waste his time. He did not want to just settle for any old endeavor or hitch his wagon to just any movement. Nathanael's doubt would have been born from the stock that generally comes from Nazareth and his view of those people. So, in Nathanael's mind, why would he want to invest time and allegiance to a lesser thing?

But Philip's persistence can be seen in his urging:

Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Philip knew that Jesus was the real deal. He knew that there would be nothing better than who Jesus was or what Jesus had to offer. So, he persisted in his invitation to Nathanael.

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

In Jesus first encounter with Nathanael, he highlighted a character trait of Nathanael. Nathanael is a straightforward man. He is one who says what he means and means what he says. He does not beat around the bush or sugar-coat things. It was not so much a compliment as it was an indication that Jesus knew Nathanael's character and disposition.

Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?"

A no-nonsense man usually knows this much of himself. But how would a stranger know it? Nathanael's question back to Jesus was not in challenge to Jesus' statement, but verification of its truth. And knowing that no-nonsense men don't usually welcome others to pry into their lives, Nathanael probably laced his "how do you know me" question with a bit of defensive and incredulous tone.

Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Jesus gives a response that let's Nathanael know that Jesus, Himself, is indeed the real deal. He showed His knowledge of Nathanael's location and Philip's invitation to follow even though Jesus was nowhere in the vicinity when the event happened. At such supernatural knowledge, Nathanael was left with validation that Jesus was for real.

Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

And that's good! Right? That's a good thing that Nathanael recognized the truth about Jesus. It is a good thing that Nathanael confirmed the truth about Jesus. This good thing though, was not to be the final result. It was only the beginning. It was meant to only be a piece of the process. Jesus' response shows this.

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

You see, there were "greater things" in store. There were heavenly encounters to be realized. There would come spiritual treasures to discover. The "greater things" would make this "good thing" that just happened pale in comparison. Jesus' uninhibited knowledge on display would soon give way to His unveiled glory. And as Nathanael witnessed healings, and life where once death was and multiplication of loaves and all the power that attended Jesus, then Nathanael would know that this first encounter would be just a "good thing". "Greater things" were yet to be experienced.

In our walk together as the church, there are many "good things". The saved people, the nice building, the delicious meals, the sound bible lessons, the wonderful songs we sing, the traditions we keep, and the list of good things we could keep listing. But what are the "greater things"? What are the things that are better than good?

I think Jesus answered that for us when He answered it for Nathanael. The "Greater Things" would be heaven's visitation. The very presence of heaven on earth in our midst. You see, the physical and spatial elements we enjoy are good. But we need the spiritual, the supernatural! We need the movement of the Holy Spirit. We need inexplicable works of God in our midst. At the least, we should desire these "greater things".

How do we make the "good things" we do "greater things". How do we see heaven open? How do we experience the spiritual invade our space?

I am not going to give the "how to" in this article. I am only going to present the question. Why? Because I want you to ask it yourself. I want you to at the least, think about the question and hopefully, wrestle with it.

Have we settled for the "good things" when God very much has "greater things" in store? And what are those "greater things" and how do we discover them? Ponder with me if you will.

In Christ,

Bro. Leroy

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR JANUARY, 2025

Jan. 1	Genesis 1-2; Matthew 1
Jan. 2	Genesis 3-5; Matthew 2
Jan. 3	Genesis 6-8; Matthew 3
Jan. 4	Genesis 9-11; Matthew 4
Jan. 5	Genesis 12-14; Matthew 5:1-26
Jan. 6	Genesis 15-17; Matthew 5:27-48
Jan. 7	Genesis 18-19; Matthew 6
Jan. 8	Genesis 20-22; Matthew 7
Jan. 9	Genesis 23-24; Matthew 8
Jan. 10	Genesis 25-26; Matthew 9:1-17
Jan. 11	Genesis 27-28; Matthew 9:18-38
Jan. 12	Genesis 29-30; Matthew 10:1-23
Jan. 13	Genesis 31-32; Matthew 10:24-42
Jan. 14	Genesis 33-35; Matthew 11
Jan. 15	Genesis 36-37; Matthew 12:1-21
Jan. 16	Genesis 38-40; Matthew 12:22-50
Jan. 17	Genesis 41; Matthew 13:1-32
Jan. 18	Genesis 42-43; Matthew 13:33-58
Jan. 19	Genesis 44-45; Matthew 14:1-21
Jan. 20	Genesis 46-48; Matthew 14:22-36
Jan. 21	Genesis 49-50; Matthew 15:1-20
Jan. 22	Exodus 1-3; Matthew 15:21-39
Jan. 23	Exodus 4-6; Matthew 16
Jan. 24	Exodus 7-8; Matthew 17
Jan. 25	Exodus 9-10; Matthew 18:1-20
Jan. 27	Exodus 13-15; Matthew 19:1-15
Jan. 28	Exodus 16-18; Matthew 19:16-30
Jan. 29	Exodus 19-21; Matthew 20:1-16
Jan. 30	Exodus 22-24; Matthew 20:17-34
Jan. 31	Exodus 25-26; Matthew 21:1-22

FROM YOUR YOUTH PASTOR

I thought for an article this month you might want to hear some testimonies of the teens from our MOVE conference! I asked the teens for 2 things; one thing that they learned and how they have been challenged through the conference, here's their responses!

"While at Move, Dr Jeff preached great and I learned a lot from him. I learned that God will always be with you and when you decide to repent is when you get the satisfaction in life you want and the glory's God gives you. Also that God has a plan for all of us and wants all of us to do something to serve him and it may look different for everybody. I was challenged by God because I prayed to save a person I know who does not know the Lord. I prayed for my heart to tell me what to say and for them to listen with open arms."

"When you're walking with Christ good things happen and when you have a good relationship with him he will guide you and help you. He has challenged me by testing my faith."

"1. I learned that when we have God in our lives, we are happier and better than if we didn't have God in our lives.

2. God has challenged me with a lot of stress, and disliking my friends when I should be loving them as Christ would"

"I learned from the past three sessions that God is always chasing us, disciple to others, and that I have an individual purpose. God has challenged me to bring my friend Lexy to church and to be that bright light and example to her. I have really enjoyed the past two days and hope to come back next year."

"1: that we shouldn't say we are the fav because we aren't the prodigal son. Being a missionary all the time. God is always moving us whether we like it or not.

2. God has moved me to always be a better person to others. To invite them to church if we want to or not, because they might not have the opportunity as us to hear God's word."

"I learned this weekend We need to have compassion for the lost. God is always pursuing us no matter what we do. We need to be moved into what God is calling us what to do.

God has challenged me with making sure I make time for him and being the light at school and learning to always put others first before myself."

"The main thing I learned from this weekend is that we can never be lost from God. It makes me think of the people who have turned away from God, that no matter how far they try to run he will always be there when they return. That we should throw a party when they do return instead of judging them from when they were lost. God has challenged me to truly be the light for my Roommate who is Jewish. Because sometimes it is difficult to see eye to eye with each other because we don't have the same religion. I feel like God has Challenged me to have more grace for her because I may be the only Jesus she ever sees."

"1 not to give up on my walk with Christ and to help bring others closer to him. 2: I have been challenged by having bad influence and people I shouldn't be around in my life"

"Today I learned that as Christians we go through tough times in our walk with the Lord, but it's important to remember to turn back to Him and continue to remain steadfast in our faith. "Make a 180 not a 360" the analogy with Inside Out also helped me to understand that concept a lot. I've been challenged by God a lot recently in my walk with the Lord with many temptations from the devil and other sins that a lot of christian's go through in their walk. my biggest one has been my words not being of God"

In Christ,

Bro. Harold

Women's Bible Study

By Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Adorned

Begins Sunday Jan 12th

4:00 pm in the Old
Fellowship Hall

14 week study

Childcare Provided


The *Lord*
bless you and
keep you.

May *He*
grant you a
blessed

New Year



Members Birthdays in the Month of January

Jan. 2 Kristenn Edwards
Jan. 3 Gloria Anderson
Jan. 4 Cheryl Howell
Jan. 4 Jayden Feagin
Jan. 5 Sydney Singleton
Jan. 7 Callie Hilliard
Jan. 8 Kinsley Gill
Jan. 10 Leann Bentley
Jan. 13 Jan Godwin
Jan. 18 Sandy Hasick
Jan. 19 Mary Culbreth
Jan. 20 Charlotte White
Jan. 21 Linda Norman
Jan. 25 Kimberly Bolen
Jan. 27 Tony Adams
Jan. 30 Margaret NeSmith
Jan. 30 June Carter



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

Activate The Prayer Chain Tina Sellers 294-8443



Sandra Peck 294-8073

Deacons of the Month: JANUARY

Donnie Palmer (229) 221-8907
Reggie Feagin (229) 393-6770

Staff at Home

Rev. Leroy Williams 321-292-9650
Pastor leroy.j.williams43@gmail.com

Rev. Harold Smith 229-221-1565
Minister of Youth harold@pelhamfbc.org

Sandra Peck 229-327-6026
Ministry Assistant eshiver@pelhamfbc.org

Donnie Palmer 229-221-8907
Deacon Chairman donnienamy@yahoo.com

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“In God We Trust”

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

Prayer List

MEMBERS

Jimmy Godwin	medical
Shirley Humphries	medical
RayJean Leggett	medical
Amy Lock	cancer
Carl Long	medical
Linda Norman	medical
Betty Sellers	broken him/torn ligament
Phillip Strickland	cancer
Sue Taylor	medical

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

David Chapman (Nan)	medical
Ann Davis(daughter Brim)	cancer
Mark Davis (son-inlaw Brim)	cancer
Sharon Dixon (Maloy)	medical/heart
Jamie Green (Wilson)	medical
Randy Harris (James)	liver cancer
Rick Herren (nephew Hurst)	brain tumor
Brian James (J. Jam,es)	medical
Robby Jarvis (Monday)	PTSD
Harley Johnson (Fenn)	melanoma
Briar Jones, son of Alexis & Britt Jones (Gill)	leukemia
Jeanine Mellow (Lock)	cancer
Chris Mobley (Campbell)	cancer
Lance Morrell (Moltz)	cancer
John & Jean Murphy (Monday)	medical
David Parr (Anderson)	medical
Anthony Petty (Monday)	cancer
John Rich	dementia
Riddley Family (Hussey)	All family in bad wreck
Lynn & Chris Struck (Wallace)	both have cancer
Brenda Taylor (Lenora Butler)	cancer
Candace Trimble (Monday)	medical
Cindy Warren (Bishop)	cancer
Tommy Wells (Ms. Annie Lee)	heart problems
James Whitfield (Hussey)	dementia
David Wright (White)	medical
Walt Younkin (Godwin)	cancer

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Don Bodin, @ Parkway, #307
 Buddy Campbell, Magnolia Manor, Moultrie
 June Carter, Legacy Village, Rm 208, Thomasville
 Leon Davis, Parkway
 Eunice Hatcher, Parkway
 Gary Hurst, Bainbridge Healthcare
Carl & Sue Long, Archbald Liviing, Rm. 6, Camilla, Ga.
 Joyce Walton, Southern Pines
 Bill Willis, Parkway

**Tucker Baptist Association
 Executive Committee Meeting
 Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 pm
 At Hinsonton Baptist Church**

**Below is the Search Committee that was
 voted on in December to look for a Worship/
 Family Pastor. Please pray for them and
 their search!**

**Rick Winters, Duane Bentley, Ken Newton,
 Tommy Palmer, Jessie Norman,
 Jan Godwin, Erica Hilliard, and
 Kristen Edwards**

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
4:00 pm	Ladies Bible Study

Monday

6:30 pm Men's Bible Study

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
6:00-7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
5:00- 7:30 pm	Children Program
5:45 -7:30 pm	Youth Meeting

**Staff Meetings
 January 7 & January 21 @1:30 pm**

**Deacon's Meeting
 Sunday, January 12 @ 8:30 am**

FBC Prison Ministry

1st Tuesday, 1/7	Neal Hilliard, Gene Sellers
2nd Tuesday, 1/14	Harold Smith, Donnie Palmer
3rd Tuesday, 1/21	Leroy Williams, Gene Sellers
4th Tuesday, 1/28	Andrew Chaffer, Keith Norman

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

Jan. 5	Children & Youth Teachers
Jan. 12	Neal Hilliard Class
Jan. 19	Laura Jane Gray Class
Jan. 26	Dianne Fenn Class

Nursery Volunteers

Jan. 5	Kristy & Wesley Palmer, Marlene Bishop
Jan. 12	Katie & JT Thompson, Luucy, Tina Seller
Jan. 19	Erica & Matt Hilliard, Jessie & Will Norman
Jan. 26	Andrea & Barbara Feagin, Courtney Hilliard

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are placed in the front middle row of the Sanctuary or
 you can pick them up at the office. We DO NOT use
 "numbers" anymore.

DECEMBER

MISSIONS
MOMENTS



Lottie Moon

PRAY FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARIES
Our church goal is \$10,000.

We will be collecting for Lottie Moon through the month of January!

As of January 5, 2025, we have collected \$3,125.44!



Please join us for a

Bridal Shower

HONORING

Courtney Hilliard

Sunday, January 26th, 2025

2pm-4pm

FBC Pelham Fellowship Hall



GAME NIGHT HOLLYWOOD SQUARES

SUNDAY | 6 PM | JANUARY 19 2025

**FAMILY FIRST NIGHT AT FBC PELHAM
HOSTED BY THE YOUTH**

Finger Foods Will Be Provided.