



6344 North Highway 29

P. O. Box 860

Palmetto, GA 30268

Church Office: (770) 463-4642

Fax: (770) 463-1079

www.palmettobaptistchurch.com

palmettobaptistchurch1@yahoo.com

Postmaster: Return Service Requested

Church Staff

Pastor

Dr. Jimmy F. Orr

**Traditional
Worship Leader**
Damon Skelton

**Contemporary
Worship Leader**
Clay Coley

Minister of Children
Rene' Milner

Interim Minister of Students
Jon Torrenaga

Senior Adult Minister
Jess Wilbanks

Weekday Preschool Director
Dina Duffey

Hispanic Minister
Alfonso Illidge

Office Manager
Kathy Wood

Facilities Manager
Dwayne Knox

CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS CONTACT: RENÉ MILNER 404-661-0862 DECEMBER

9:00 A.M. — NURSERY THRU 4 YEAR OLDS - Room 107

02 Leslie Cannon, Michelle Gaddy
09 Michelle Gaddy, Rene' Milner
16 Michelle Gaddy, Trey Cochran
23 Gwen Brightman & Sharon Johnston
30 Virginia Aycock, Michelle Gaddy

11:00 A.M. — INFANTS – ROOM 107

02 Jan Singleton, Jenny Eidson, Maria Henry
09 Kathy Wood, Jessica Tallant, Grace Aldridge
16 Keri Coley, Mindy Miller, Janice Hale
23 Whitney Grubbs, Maria Henry, Mallie Potter
30 Charlie Koehl, Clara Roberts, Sherry Blanchard

11:00 A.M. — TODDLERS – ROOM 109

02 Wendy James & Megan Hendrick
09 Karen Lambert, Dawn Loughney, Crystal Gaj
16 Lisa Grace & Clara Roberts
23 Debbie Crespo & Michelle Gaddy
30 Judy Kearns, Rachel Nestlehutt

11:00 A.M. — 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS – ROOM 110

02 Lisa Skelton, Grace Katherine James
09 Karen Davis, Fe Aldridge
16 Gary Milner, Melissa Lambert
23 Sharnell White, Tammy Sensing
30 Amy Lee, Olivia Sims



December 2018

The Elephant in the Room (Guest Editorial)

Recently our church has experienced a challenge common to most groups from the beginning of the world. It appears that nearly everyone is aware of a situation that needs to be confronted, but almost no one is willing to talk about it. Believing that this is more common than we would like to admit, I offer the paragraphs below in hopes of opening an avenue of discussion.

It does not help that our church's problem comes during a period in our nation's history when dissension and disagreement are addressed with acrimony and argument instead of with dialogue and discussion. Whether in the political or financial or doctrinal arenas, groups on opposite sides of any issue seem unable to engage in reasoned and intelligent conversation to attempt to draw others to their point of view. Instead, what we hear are accusations and misdirections that focus on personality and perceptions rather than on facts and causes and solutions.

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In our church, the primary issue (at this time) seems to be dwindling attendance. Conversations that I have participated in have revealed three or four potential causes for the "disappearance" of fellow worshippers from weekly services. It reminds me of the old joke about four blindfolded men trying to identify an elephant, each reaching a different conclusion depending on whether they touched the trunk or tusk or leg or tail. Their limited perspectives prevented accurate identification of the elephant in the room.

Let's begin with the intrusion of politics... perhaps the most poisonous of church problems. Nearly everyone believes that they have the right to support the liberal or conservative position of their choice. I find no argument with that belief. As Americans we are guaranteed that right... and as Christians we are obligated to respect that right. When an individual or a group, are honest in expressing their position it is our responsibility and our privilege to continue loving and working with our fellow Christians of all persuasions. Only in this way can we have discussions that may change their (or our own) minds. We cannot and should not expect that everyone will agree with our convictions as a basis for serving alongside each other.

C.S. Lewis once concluded a review of the various Christian denominations with an observation that they agreed on

from choosing to focus on minor differences and using those as a reason to break fellowship. (What a shame!)

Programming or activities... a pair of issues that will never go away! The challenge is to offer the correct number of scheduled (not too many – not too few) and well-run events; and to ensure that we provide the appropriate support services (child care, etc.) to maximize participation.

We would find it difficult to complain of dwindling attendance if we were not providing things to attend! Coordination between the various age groups is critical as we consider "when" to schedule these opportunities to allow as many family members as possible to have something to do while at church together.

Church staffing problems cover a wide range of areas. Managing expectations for appearance and demeanor and attendance and performance must always take account of personality traits and skill sets and allow freedom to serve within a flexible framework. When a staff member isn't meeting "perceived expectations", the best solutions include open discussions and patience to allow time for changes to occur. Under our current bylaws and practices, it requires a 90% "yes" vote from the congregation following a unanimous recommendation from the search committee to hire a new staff member. Until and unless that policy is changed (if it should be), perhaps we need to find ways to work with and pray for our staff more effectively.

Finally let me close with the issue of communication. Yes, something even as simple as a schedule of events for the week so that everyone can know "when to be where". But it also includes actual personal conversations ... a deliberate and intentional exchange of ideas and viewpoints. These sometimes can (and should) be one-on-one chats over a cup of coffee. But we cannot exclude group discussions. For these conversations to succeed, we must commit to refrain from finger-pointing and name-calling.

I was recently introduced to a concept that bears repeating here. We all believe what we believe; and we believe that what we believe is true...because if we believed it wasn't true, we would believe something else. Challenging ourselves to consider changing what we believe is crucial to engaging in meaningful conversations with people who hold different beliefs. Simply finding a comfortable set of beliefs shared by "my" group is not a valid confirmation that those beliefs are true.

So please, join me in NOT IGNORING the elephant in the room. If we do, we face danger on one end from tusks able to poke holes and on the other end you may find a smelly pile ... both ends capable of ruining your day.

Jack Wooddall



Damon Skelton Traditional Worship Leader

Christmas is quickly coming upon us. One of the reasons Christmas is so special to us is the music we sing at Christmas. Those old familiar carols always remind us of family and the love of the season. Singing about our Savior's birth helps us reignite the light in us, and reminds us to let our light shine on the outside, so others can see God's love in us. So come join us at Palmetto as we sing in the Christmas Season.

Please make a special effort to be at our joint Christmas Service on Sunday, December 16th at 10:30. Our Dramatic Christmas Musical, Under a Starry Sky will be a blessing to all. Come support all the people who put in many hours to make this Christmas Season something special. Also make plans to attend our Children's Christmas Musical on Sunday evening, December 16th at 5:00 p.m. Make it a celebration for our PBC kids by filling up the church.



One of the things this season reminds us to do is Share the Light. "The Light began as one Candle, Jesus, the Light of the World." We have been commanded to take His Light to the corners of the world. So help share the Light this Christmas by sharing the Light of Jesus, the Hope of the Gospel, so that people around us will know they are loved.

With much love and God's blessings,

Damon Skelton

damon.skelton@cowetaschools.net

678-378-1604

René Milner PBC Children's Minister

It was a quiet night in the small town. Every home was full as family from all around were visiting. The sky was beautiful and full of twinkling stars. Animals were resting and enjoying the quiet. The air was full of anticipation. But what were they waiting for?

A young couple entered the town in search of a place to sleep, but none was found. Eventually, an innkeeper took pity on the young couple as it was evident the woman was with child. Though all rooms in the inn were full, the couple was offered the use of the stable. There in that barn full of warm hay and animals, the young woman gave birth to a baby boy. This tiny baby was placed in the manger to sleep, totally unaware of the change he was bringing to the world.

As his birth took place, those who tended to flocks of animals in the nearby area were suddenly surprised to hear angels singing! They told the shepherds that the Messiah had arrived. They were directed to Bethlehem to see him. The angels told them they would find him under the new star and lying in the manger. The shepherds left their flocks and went to see this special baby boy.

This baby was so special that an angel told Joseph what to name him long before he was born. His parents were chosen by God to bring forth the Messiah that would save the world. The location of his birth was such a simple spot for the birth of a king, but it was perfect for this King.

This story is one familiar to us all. Each Christmas it is shared in a wide variety of ways in churches, schools and homes. This Christmas, I invite you to hear the PBC Kids Choir present the story from the view of a few special angels and a little star.

**Join us on Sunday,
December 16th at 5:00 PM
in the Worship Center to see and hear**

Angels Say What?!

Jess Wilbanks Minister of Senior Adults

December is an exciting time of year for many of us with Christmas coming, seeing family, and the bustle of wrapping up a calendar year. For some of us, December isn't as much fun as it once was. The feelings that go along with loss, change, illness, and financial strain are often more acute as winter begins.

I'd like to share a glimpse into one of my Christmas pasts. When I was 16, my parents separated Dec. 21st, just a few days before Christmas; we were struggling through a rough patch. 20 years later, Christmas is still difficult for some members of our family. I share this to help others who aren't feeling cheerful or who dread certain days on the calendar.

**Christmas is an
exciting time of year
for many of us...
but not for all.**

As your family prepares for Christmas and a New Year in December, be aware and kind to those less fortunate. Invite widowers/widows over for a meal, to your festivities, send a note of encouragement so they know they matter to you. Talk to them about what happened that makes them feel sad, talking helps so much! Say the name of the person who died, don't belittle a parent who makes bad choices. Choose to share your joy this Christmas as Jesus would, gently with dignity and love.

Blake and I will be celebrating 11 years of marriage this year, December 20th. Eleven years is important to me because that's how long my parents were married. I feel like we've made it past a major milestone. Not many people celebrate such an odd year, but it's a big one for me. Did you notice anything else? I chose to get married December 20th, on a Thursday night to help reframe my memories. I wanted to take something very sad and give it new meaning, a fresh start. I'm so glad the Lord is in the details and loves us through adversity. Eleven has turned out to be very special for Blake and me with Atticus joining us for the celebration.

Jon Torrenga PBC Interim Student Minister

Where has the time gone?!?! Another year is almost over. School started, Fall Break, and Thanksgiving Break have all come and gone. The question I have for you is have you taken advantage of the time God has given you? My prayers every day include "May I glorify You in all that I say and do." I don't just say it and forget it. I mean it. Whether you are a student at school or out with friends or an adult at work or just with family, we have all been given a certain number of days. Matthew 28:19-20 tells us "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Making disciples can take place in many ways. It can be outright discussion with others about Christ and their relationship with Him. It can also be living a life pleasing and honoring to God so others see you and wonder what it is that makes you different. As we come to Christmas and the end of 2018, I challenge you to consider what it is God is calling you to do with the time He has given you. Do not waste it. Young or old, God can and WILL use you when you say yes to His calling. May we all glorify You in all that we say and do!





December Birthdays

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 WMU Women's Dinner
2 Baptism Vote on Eric Patterson	3 Upward practice	4 Upward practice	5	6	7	8
9 Youth chili cook off	10 Upward practice	11 Upward practice	12 Preschool Christmas Party	13	14	15 Upward game
16 Adult Christmas Musical Combined Service Senior Adult Luncheon Kids' Musical	17 Upward practice	18 Upward practice	19	20	21	22
23 Youth bake sale 30	24 Lord's Supper 5 p.m.	25	26 No activities	27	28	29

Lee Cunningham	01	Haley Potter	20
Martha Chester	01	Annette Stamey	21
Robbie Blanchard	01	David Creel	21
Adam Hembree	02	Harley Rainwater	21
Caleb Koehl	02	Buddy Squires	22
David Grubbs	05	John Crespo	22
Michelle Carlisle	05	Mike Johnson	23
Hailey Smith	05	Sherry Johnson	23
Jean Waddell	06	Gail Byars	24
Will Robertson	06	Chris Beatty	24
Gary Andriate	07	Melissa Todd	24
Wendy James	07	Cathy Hagen	24
Jeff Cannon	07	Mary Prior	25
Mary Richardson	07	Tommy Wood	25
Andreen Hylick	08	Nicholas Davis	25
Janet Moroy	10	Tom Carpenter	27
Lisa Nicholson	10	Shane Belcher	27
Carlyn Freeman	12	John Lambert	27
Sandra Henefield	13	Juan Terrell	27
Georgette Robertson	13	Tommy Bentley	27
James Nicholson	13	Roger Smith	28
Church Crespo	13	Hailee Sieli	28
Tammy Sensing	14	Morgan Bass	28
Haley Haselden	14	Richard Munn	29
John Hughes	15	Mike Gibson	29
Jessica Hagen	15	Kelly Creel	29
Olivia Spears	15	Kyle Self	29
Carla Mendelson	16	Richard Grace	30
Callie Watson	17	Megan Hendrick	30
Doug Kearns	18	Brayden Smith	30
Jason Peace	18	Leighton Cannon	31
Baylee Grubbs	18	MacKenzie Lewis	31

December Deacons

December 02-08
Gary Wright, Erv Carter, Bobby Koehl, Terry Hale, Casey Aycock

December 09-15
Randy Blanchard, Jeff Cannon, Alton Powell, Mike Johnson

December 16-22
Eric Johnston, Scott Farr, Richard Munn, Toby Potter, Frank Lambert

December 23-29
John Lambert, Bo Bohannon, Brent Coley, Cary Chester, Kellen Moore

December 30-Jan 5
Mike Gibson, Merriell Jenkins, Warren Ward, Jack Sims, Morgan Brooks

Sunday Mornings

Traditional Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings

Super Supper 5:00 p.m.
PBC Kids' activities 6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Momentum Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.
PBC-YOU Classes 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Handbells 6:00 p.m.
Adult Choir Practice 6:45 p.m.

Additional PBC Ministries

PBC Deaf Ministry My Brothers Ministry
PBC Food Pantry Men's Ministry
PBC Media Ministry
PBC Hispanic Ministry
PBC Ladies' Fellowship/Ministry
PBC Mission Trips
Upward Basketball & Cheerleading
January & February
Palmetto Baptist Weekday Preschool
September-May
Love in Buttons Clothes Closet