

First Baptist Church Pelham, Georgia

The Crier

Volume 58 Issue 4

Phone: (229) 294-8073

www.pelhamfbc.org

April 2021

Legend of the Donkey's Cross

A poor farmer near Jerusalem owned a donkey far too small to do much work at all. He felt that he could not afford to feed a worthless animal like this, one that could do him no good whatsoever, so at the supper table he told his family that he was going to kill the donkey.

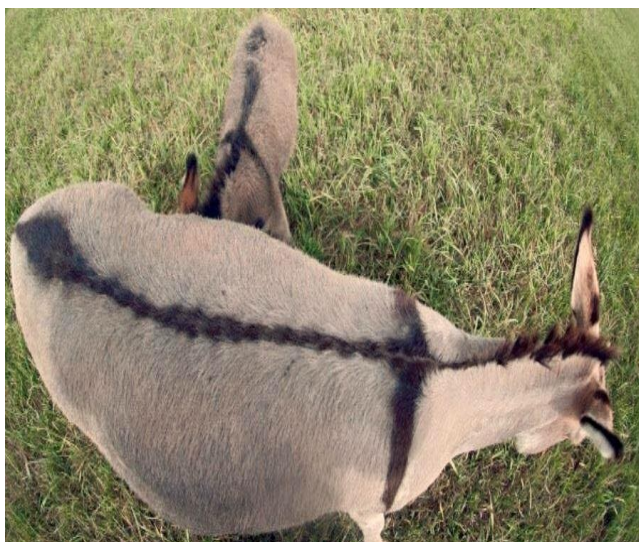
His children, who loved the little donkey, begged him to sell it rather than harm it. But the farmer said, "It is wrong to sell an animal that can't do a good day's work."

Then his oldest daughter suggested, "Father, tie the donkey to a tree on the road to town, and say whoever wants it may take it for nothing." And the next morning, that's what the farmer did.

Soon, two men approached and asked if they could have the donkey. "It can carry almost nothing," the farmer warned them. "Jesus of Nazareth has need of it," replied one of the men. The farmer couldn't imagine what a great teacher would want with such a worthless donkey, but he handed it over.

The men took the animal to Jesus, who stroked the grateful donkey's face and then mounted it and rode away. So it was on the day we call Palm Sunday, Jesus led his followers into the city of Jerusalem riding on the back of the small, common donkey.

The donkey so loved his gentle master that he later followed him to Calvary. Grief-stricken by the sight of Jesus on the cross, the donkey turned away but couldn't bring himself to leave. As the sun came across the sky the shadow of the cross fell upon the shoulders and back of the little donkey, and there it stayed. All donkeys have borne the sign of the cross on their backs since that very day.



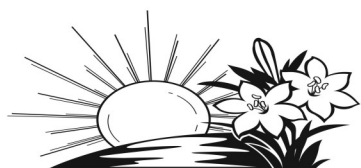
True to a donkey's spirit once they befriend you, they are yours for life. In the legend the donkey refused to leave Jesus. On that day the donkey stayed true to Jesus as they will with you. It is known, when a donkey loses a life-long mate they will often stand in the spot where the other donkey died for hours at a time. Even months or years after they have passed. Donkeys are amazing animals.

They
are
here!

Bro. Leroy
will be in
the pulpit
this
Easter
Sunday
April 4th



Welcome
Pastor Leroy & Sis Lori
Lydia, Jeremiah, Asher



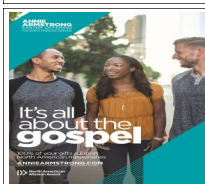
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Sunday, April 4
7:30 am
Camp Crosspoint
breakfast to follow

Happenings in April for the Youth

April 7-9 PCC College Trip 9-12 Grades
You **MUST** sign up

Questions: Harold 221-1565 / Cindy 221-2336



**Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering**

**Our Goal: \$5000
Receipts: \$3155**

Kid's Spring Bible School



Preschool thru
6th Grade

Wednesday nights
beginning **April 14th**

Dinner @ 5:30 pm

Bible school
6:00 -7:30 pm

Oven Roasted Parmesan Zucchini

Ingredients

4 large zucchini or summer squash
2 teaspoons garlic powder
1/3 cup parmesan cheese, grated
2 tablespoons olive oil
Kosher salt & black pepper to taste

Preparation

Preheat oven to 400
Slice squash 1/4 in. rounds in large bowl. Add olive oil, garlic powder, salt, and pepper toss to coat
Arrange squash on a baking sheet in single layer. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese.
Bake 9-10 min. Turn broiler on high and broil until golden brown 2-3 min.



I know my redeemer lives!

First Baptist Church Family,

It was so good to see everyone after being absent for a whole year. Mama has been miserable not being able to attend church. She listened to the services on the phone, but she said it was just not the same as in-person worship.

Thank you so much for the "Mary T. Strickland Day" on March 28, 2021. Mama was so touched by the service. Also, thank you for the beautiful corsage and large floral arrangement, both done in her favorite colors. She is now displaying it proudly in her den.

Thank you to all who have called, visited, brought food, flowers, candy and many other things...too numerous to name. She has appreciated every act of love and kindness. Most importantly, we thank you for the prayers. She is presently doing well (thanks in no small part to prayer and we thank God for his presence and mercy).

Thank you so much for being there for her as she continues on her journey. God Bless you all. In Christian love,

The Mary T. Strickland Family

Our Members Birthdays in the Month of April

2	Preston Lock	15	Karson Harrell
3	Lenora Jo Butler	16	David Bodin
3	Jana Humphries	22	Kathy Adams
3	John Adam Singleton	22	Tad Williamson
3	Gary Treat	24	Travis Hussey
3	Shaina Edenfield	24	Abigail Martin
4	Carl Aldridge	25	Amy Palmer
4	Jackie Monday	25	Andrew Chaffer
6	Caitlin Harper	26	Verlyn Fenn
7	Theda Layton	28	Leah Humphries
8	Venson Bentley	28	Des Harris
8	Jessie Norman	28	Gene Sellers
9	Walt Bernier	29	Melea Bentley
9	Cindy Drury	30	Courtney Hilliard
13	Betty Davis		
13	Daniel Smith		
13	DJ Palmer		
14	Tom Harper		
14	James Sizemore		
14	Olivia Palmer		



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

Alternates:

Earlean Shiver 294-8073



Deacons of the Month

David Bodin
757-977-2499

Robert Wilson
912-271-4164



Staff at Home

Rev. Leroy Williams 321-292-9650
Pastor

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

Rev. Andrew Chaffer 229-319-0472
Minister of Music
revchaffer@gmail.com

Earlean Shiver 336-3445
Ministry Assistant
eshiver@pelhamfbc.org

Jean Walters 294-7632
Nursery Assistant

Wesley Palmer 229-403-2340
Deacon Chairman

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"In God We Trust"

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

Prayer List

MEMBERS

Jean Bodin	medical
John Bullington	medical
Lane Butler	medical
Teresa Butler	medical
Harriet Braswell	medical
June Carter	medical
Deborah Anderson Hall	medical/heart
Leah Gurley Humphries	medical
Travis Hussey	medical
Charles Lauderdale	cancer
Amy Lock	medical
Susan Long	recovering knee surgery
Gene Sellers	medical
Mary Strickland	medical
Tasha Wall (Sherrod)	foot
David Wells	medical
David Willis	medical

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Edwin Adams (Wells)	bone cancer
Eula Beckwith	medical
Michael Bernier (Walt)	brain tumor
Benny Britt (Monday)	bladder cancer
David Burt (Smith)	cancer/spiritual
James Cooper (Rich)	throat cancer
Anne Davis (Brim)	medical
Larry Evans	recovering lung transplant
Bobby Faircloth (Ami Mejia)	medical/Tallahassee hosp
Peggy Gilliard	cancer
Randy Harris (James)	liver cancer
Shelia Hatcher	cancer
Ricky Marshall (Lock)	medical
Jeannie Mellow (Lock)	medical
Denise Bozeman Miller	cancer
Addison Mitchell	needs kidney/10 yrs old
Hayden Moyer	medical
Jean Murphy (Monday)	medical
John Murphy (Monday)	medical
Mark Pollock	bladder infection
Greg Shiver (Earlean)	brain tumor/cancer
Dorothy Sizemore	bone cancer
James Sizemore	medical
Randy Sizemore (Strickland)	leukemia/home
Rev. David Smith (Mejia)	cancer
Candace Trimble (Monday)	medical
David Trimble (Monday)	medical
Kim Wall (Sherrod)	surgery 4/1

Our World City of Pelham City of Camilla Our Schools
Spiritual needs in our community Pregnancy Center

First Baptist Church - Pelham

SUNDAY

9:40 am	Children's Sunday School Opening Rally Choir room
9:40 am	Teens will be assisting in the in Opening Rally
9:45 am	Adult Sunday School Classes meet
10:00 am	Children's Sunday School Classes meet
10:00 am	Teen classes meet in rooms 204 & 206 upstairs
11:00 am	In-person service in New Fellowship hall and on Facebook @First Baptist Church Pelham
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Youth Ministry (skits, puppets & music)

Monday

6:00 - 7:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study "Seamless"
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Tuesday

12:00 Noon	Men's Lunch/Bible Study <i>Call church office to order lunch</i>
7:00 pm	Men's Bible Study "Dare To Be Uncommon" Begins March 30th

Wednesday

6:00 - 8:30 pm	Youth Meeting
6:30 - 7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting

Announcements:

PLEASE, contact your deacon or the church staff if you need anything at all, especially our elderly, we want you to stay safe from this virus!

Offerings may also be dropped off at the church office mailed to P.O. Box 287 Pelham or on-line at our church website (pelhamfbc.org) follow the link

Deacons Meeting Sunday, April 11th @ 6:00pm
Time may change, look for info!

Pastors & Church Leaders Breakfast
Saturday, April 24th 8:30 am Southside Baptist
Community involvement with drugs & gangs

Weekly Bible Reading for April

April 5 - 11	April 12 - 18	April 19 - 25	April 26 - May 2
Matt 26: 1-13	Matt 27: 11-31	Mark 14: 26-42	Luke 22: 1-30
Matt 26:14-30	Matt 27: 32-56	Mark 14: 43-52	Luke 22: 31-53
Matt 26: 31-46	Matt 27:57-66	Mark 14: 53-65	Luke 22: 54-71
Matt 26: 47-56	Matt 28: 1-10	Mark 14: 66-72	Luke 23: 1-49
Matt 26: 57-68	Matt 28:11-20	Mark 15: 1-19	Luke 23: 50-56
Matt 26:69-75	Mark 14:1-11	Mark 15: 20-47	Luke24: 1-35
Matt 27: 1-10	Mark 14:12-25	Mark 16: 1-20	Luke 24: 36-53

WNS Volunteer SIGN-UP SHEET

Will be on the back table or you can call the office for days and times.

See Andrea or Katie for more info

Memory Verse

.....that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Luke 24:7 ESV

Lord, Prepare Me
Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You

The chorus above has been a favorite among church worship services since it was written in 1982. At the end of May of 2020, after following recommendations of suspending our church services and providing virtual services for two months, we started public worship services again by meeting in the Fellowship Hall by following the protocols of social distancing and guidelines to meet safely due to the recent Covid-19 outbreak. Recent conversations concerning the return to our church sanctuary has caused me great concern, but not because of Covid-19. Let me first state I fully look forward to the day we return to worship in our church sanctuary. We are blessed with a beautiful place of worship, but will we return with the right focus. The word sanctuary means, *"A place set aside as sacred and holy, especially a place of worship."* The meaning of this song now becomes, Lord prepare my life to be a sacred and holy place of worship!

I am one who believes that worship takes place wherever the spirit of the Lord is worshipped, His name is praised, and the Holy Spirit is present. It is not based on conditions of a place, personal preferences, the right technology, or a great speaker. God can speak to the heart even in faulty worship services, if we prepare to worship. I have even experienced worship while driving my car. Recent comments such as "I can't worship because (the seats are uncomfortable, it is too hot/cold, of the technology issues, the message is not feeding me, the songs they sing, etc.)." These complaints were about our church sanctuary but now they have become about our present location in the fellowship hall. One person even joked that worshipping in the Fellowship Hall was like having church in the cafeteria.

Have we made our church sanctuary an idol? Do we truly believe we can tell God "these are my conditions for worship?" The Bible gives us the history of the Israelites failures to honor, worship, and follow God, and we are doomed to repeat their mistakes if we don't repent. In **Isaiah 5 and Jeremiah 5-6** the prophets warn the nation of Judah of their sins and called on them to repent or face the consequences of their rebellion. **Isaiah 5** speaks of their injustice (**vs.7**), greed (**vs.8**), pleasure seeking (**vs.12**), blasphemy (**vs.19**), moral perversion (**vs.20**), pride (**vs.21**), intemperance (**vs.22**), and political corruption (**vs.22**). **Jeremiah 5-6** states the same but adds three more to the list with immorality (**5:7-8**), religious corruption (**5:30-31**), and closed minds (**6:10-11**).

How did the people respond to Jeremiah's warning? We read in **Jeremiah 7:3-4**, ***"This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!'"*** The people of Judah believed that God would never allow His Temple (sanctuary) to be destroyed because His Glory resided in there. They had placed their acts of worship and faith in a building. Both prophets called on the people to repent, but in the end they rejected to follow and obey the Lord. Soon thereafter, just as prophesied, the Temple was utterly destroyed and the Israelites were conquered, captured, and scattered by the Babylonian Empire.

There can be no greater ambition for a follower of Christ than to be a living sanctuary. With a true understanding of eternity and the saving grace of Jesus, our life only has real purpose as we live each day to bring Him glory and honor – by living each moment in praise and worship, no matter what circumstances may come. The way we walk through our trials as well as how we accomplish our daily tasks, ministry activities, or times of prayer and study should all be done through a heart devoted to worship. Let's allow our soul to sing out with praise and worship – not just for a few set hours each week, but every day with every word, thought and deed. Let's patiently trust Him in all areas of our life (**Proverbs 3:5-6**) and ask our Father to teach us to live as a living sanctuary.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Fight the Good fight,

Bro. Andrew



As the easter season approaches each year, we focus on different aspects of the crucifixion story a little closer as we share to others. As I was reading in Luke chapter 22, I came to verses 39-46 where we read of Jesus's prayer on the mount of olives. We read how Jesus takes Peter, James and John into the garden to pray and He commands them to "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." When Jesus comes back to them, He finds them sleeping and asks them "Why are you sleeping?" and again tells them to "Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Was Jesus asking them to pray on his behalf? No, He told them to pray that they would not enter into temptation. What temptation? They were about to face a test of their loyalty to Jesus as His disciples. They were not prepared for what was about to happen. They had enjoyed life up until this point with things going well with Jesus by their side. They had watched His miracles and had been a part of doing miracles under His authority, now they were about to face an turn of events that Jesus had told them about, but they didn't understand. They were given an opportunity to take a stand with Jesus as His disciples, as His friends and His followers and they didn't. They gave into the temptation of denial.

In looking at this for us today, I believe Jesus is telling us the same as Paul writes in 1 Thess. 5 about the coming "Day of the Lord" and the judgement that will come upon the unsaved and he Follows this with simple but direct commands of how we as believers are to live our lives in order to be a testimony to the world, including verse 17, "pray without ceasing."

We do not know the all that we will face as believers in the coming days and years of our lives, but we do know that if we do not "Rise and Pray," we too will not be ready to be a testimony to the unsaved world we live in!

In Christ,
Harold

