

PELHAM VISION

*First Baptist Church Pelham Monthly
Newsletter*



A Word from our Pastor

Dear FBC Pelham Faith Family,
Happy New Year! We are starting 2024 with several top-shelf significant events! For starters, on January 7, during the morning worship services, we will commission one of our own alongside her husband and their child as they begin their service as IMB Missionaries with the Southern Baptist Convention! That evening, we will have our next Man-Up event and all men of the church are invited to attend. Also, the weekend of January 19-21, 2024, we will host our EXECUTIVE PASTOR CANDIDATE in view of a call. More details will be forthcoming about the events of that weekend but please begin praying for this significant decision. Plus, that same weekend, we will have Mission Sunday on January 21 where we will reveal our 24 mission trips in 2024 during the morning services and return that evening for our House of Prayer with our Mission Partners at 5:00 PM. Pastor Peter DeArruda, President and Director of the New York School of Urban Ministry (NYSUM) will be our preacher for that evening. You won't want to miss this! Finally, we are hosting the Alabama Baptist Convention State Evangelism Conference on January 28-29, 2024. The evening service will begin at 5:30 PM and the entire church is encouraged to attend (please note that we will not have any other events or activities or groups that Sunday evening on campus). Dr. Reginald Calvert and Dr. Charles Carter will be preaching that evening and our worship ministry will be leading us in worship! The Monday morning session will begin at 8:30 AM. If you would like to volunteer to help us host, please contact Pastor Donnie Sisk. Below you will find the names of 89 individuals God added to this church in 2023! To God be the Glory!!!



Dr. Daven Watkins

New Members 2023

Gwin Akins
Carol Atkins
Sherry Boone
Dianna Cagle
Kobe Carlisle*
Monica Carlisle*
Londyn Claridy
Michael Cloyde
Jeremy Crowe
Madeline Crowe
Barbara Dodson
Mike Dodson
Cheryl Eames
Joe Eames
Caroline Etheredge
Briana Faison (Bri)
Emma Grace Glass
Meagan Glass
Austin Green
Trent Green
Sharis Harper
Nathan Hernandez

Matthew Hoekstra
Bella Claire Holland
Jesse Jones
Steve Kirschenman
Vicky Kirschenman
Alissa Landrum
Annabelle Landrum
Chris Landrum
Savannah Landrum
Carter L'Eplattenier
Chantrice Lyons
Kennedy Lyons
Laura Masters*
Scott Masters*
Larissa Middleton
Linda Miller
Debbie Milton
Doc Milton
Gail Mitchell
Glenn Mitchell
Ashley Murray
Matthew Murray

John Myrick
Drew Narrell
Jennifer Narrell
Mike Narrell
Ernest "Skip" Parvin
Mackenzie Pickering
Katie Raymond
Ronnie Raymond
Sydney Raymond
Nathan Reid
Stan Ritter
Barbara Rivers
Denson Rivers
Lois Roberts
Barry Robinson
Claire Robinson
Jennifer Robinson
Connie Rogers
Aaron Roy
Autumn Roy
Alexis Sapp
Cory Sapp

Millie Sapp
John Sieweke
Susan Sieweke
Lara Smitherman
Brodie Spann
Brittany Stegall
Dan Stegall
Taylor Stinson
Elizabeth Stoud
Madison Swinson
Jackson Taylor
Anna Terpo
Maggie Thompson
Tricia Thompson
Ali Tutak
Becky Vaughn
Ken Vaughn
Lydia Vorster
Betty Washington
Hudson Whittaker
Aydin Williams

Kids Kids Kids Kids

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome to 2024! It seems like we just began 2023 a few short months ago, but here it is January of 2024. We pray it is a wonderful and blessed year for each of our families as you faithfully attend and serve in the Children's Ministry. We are excited to have the opportunity to teach and lead your kids to their very special friend, Jesus, and we do that on a regular basis each Sunday and Wednesday, so please be diligent in bringing your child to each event so they can grow in knowing their Lord.

The first event we kick off in January is on Wednesday, January 10, when we will resume our usual C&C beginning at 6:15 PM. This is a combination of choirs for both preschool and elementary children and learning activities from the Bible to teach them the Word of God.

On Sunday, January 14, we start back our Kid's D-Groups from 5:00-6:00 PM. You will have the opportunity to register your child if they are not already registered.

On Monday, January 15, there will be a Kid's Winter Event for our 1st-5th graders. Be watching for the opportunity to register your child for this. We are still working out the details for this activity, but specifics will be given at a later date.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above events, or about our ministry, please call Jonathan or Linda at 205-664-0237 or email us (see below).

Jonathan Williams jwilliams@fbcpelham.org
Linda Bentley lbentley@fbcpelham.org
Crystal Purkapile cpurkapile@fbcpelham.org

God is Able!
Jonathan

Women's Ministry Updates

Greetings! I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy new year! Be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming events. We can't wait to fellowship with you!

On January 5th, we will have a movie night! The women's ministry will provide dinner while we fellowship and watch War Room. Doors open at 6:00, and we will begin the movie at 6:30. Be sure to make plans to attend!

We will have an ice cream social in February - specific date TBD. Be on the lookout for more details about this event later in January!

Save
the
Date

- Jan. 5th
War Room Movie Night
- February (date TBD)
Ice Cream Social



Women's Ministry Team
Nikki Gantt, Lori Goodwin,
Jackie Spann, Debbie Blackwelder,
Brenna Ferrell, Meredith Whiten,
and Laura Leigh Holland

Movie Night Registration

Use the QR code
to let us know
you are planning
to attend by 1/3.





donniesisk@fbcpelham.org
mwalker@fbcpelham.org

Upward Basketball is underway! Upward Basketball games will continue through the month on January 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 11th for the Upward Basketball Awards Celebration. Thank you so much to the Sunday School classes and D-Groups that have or that will be serving our Upward families in the concession stand. We ask that you please continue to pray for our Upward league.



Discovery Class: If you are new to FBC Pelham and want to know more about who we are, I hope you will join us for the next Discovery Class on Sunday, February 4th. It includes lunch and information on our church and our ministries. If you want more information, please email me. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, January 28th.

WMU

Our first WMU meeting for 2024 will be January 8 in the Quad Room at 10:00 AM. Our speaker this month will be Matt Wright, Student/Mission Pastor, who will speak to us concerning the youth programs and activities planned for 2024. Our love offering will go toward camper and/or youth funds so all youth can participate in the activities.

Light refreshments will be served.

We look forward to seeing each of you at WMU!!!

Mary Wlfers



Senior Adult Plans and Activities

2023 is recorded in history now but is filled with much accomplished, wonderful memories and growth especially in faith and spiritual maturity. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this experience and thanks so much for all who pray for us, support and get involved!!!

Over 2 months ago, several of our group attended CELEBRATORS in Pigeon Forge. From all accounts, this was a wonderful experience of worship and fellowship. This trip has become an annual event and priority for several from our church. Many of us participated and served in the statewide conference hosted by our church called ABUNDANT LIVING. We welcomed folks from more than 100 miles away and the attendance for this one day event was easily over 400. I am so grateful that we could let folks from other churches see our seniors in action, welcoming, serving and worshipping. In early December, 38 of us traveled to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Processing Center in Atlanta for one day of missions, service and fellowship. This is the largest group we have ever had to participate and the day was worth all the sacrifice, time, and work. If you went this year or have been in the past, you will surely want to go again this year in December. If you have never gone, pray about it and schedule yourself to take part to see this process in action and to get under God's shower of blessing for all who attend. We ended the year with around 120 in attendance for our December luncheon and program. As usual, all in attendance had plenty to eat, enjoyed rich fellowship, and ultimately we were reminded in a fresh way of the meaning and beauty of Christ's birth!!!

In addition, in December CHEERGIVERS made visits to many homebound and those in need of encouragement, being valued and remembered. These visits take place throughout the year but especially at Christmas and Easter. Those who minister share an extra special gift and time of encouragement in the home or facility where they go.

One other developing and growing outreach of missions and service from FBC Pelham is trips to Selma, AL to serve with Sonlight Ministries in food & clothing distribution all the while seeking to share the gospel with those who are served. The largest of these trips for 2023 took place just before Christmas and Mrs. Betty, the leader of Sonlight has requested that we continue and increase our efforts in 2024. Once again, if you have already been on these one day mission excursions, you will definitely want to go again this year as often as possible. If you have never been on this trip, plan to give one or more days throughout 2024 and go to be blessed and to be a blessing!!!

As 2024 develops, we will meet January 9 for a potluck meal of pots filled with warm winter fixin's and side items to round out this "crockpot" festival. February 13, we will meet at night to allow several who are tied up during the daytime hours to enjoy a meal and program. "SPOKEN FOR" Trio will return to minister and this year they plan to be in full force with all three of the group able to attend and minister. March 12, will find us cleaning out the freezer for all the fish caught since our last fish fry. Everyone always seems to enjoy this menu and fellowship. This year, a sermon and several song selections from special guests will round out the program. March 23-29, we travel to New Orleans for the annual Senior Adult sponsored and lead Mission Trip. NOTE: "lead by" Senior Adults, but open to all who are called to go. April 9, we will gather once again at Indian Springs Village for a "Low Country" boil. Then May 3, the annual Senior Adult Appreciation event will take place in the evening with your choice of steak or chicken. The entire menu and program is provided to express appreciation for the lives, contributions, examples, encouragement and spiritual leadership from seniors provided to and through FBC Pelham. Michael Facciani will return to minister and bless us with his personality and talents. Note also at Christmas, we dispensed with 20 or so door prizes and we will do that again in 2024 at the two evening events in February and May.

It's gonna be a great year filled with God's blessings. Be sure to receive all HE has in store!!!

Bro. Randy

Counselors Corner

Melanie Howard

AVOIDING THE BLUES AFTER THE REDS AND GREENS HAVE BEEN PACKED AWAY

Whether you call it a "post-Christmas let-down" or a "holiday hangover", many people experience a "slump" when the holiday celebrations end and there's a return to the "ordinary". The "post holiday blues" may include struggles such as loneliness, emptiness, fatigue, disappointment, low energy, difficulty concentrating, and/or irritability. Many people experience some degree of "let-down" after having spent a few days (or even a few weeks) with activities and events that are very different from their usual ones.

For some, the holidays may have been stressful as they might have included extra financial burdens, difficult extended family dynamics, and/or reminders of loved ones who are no longer with us. But even if your holidays were mostly joyful celebrations, there's still the fatigue that comes from traveling, hosting, and a general departure from "normal".

Here are some tips for avoiding the blues after the reds and greens of Christmas have been packed away:

- **Take care of your physical health:** With a busy schedule of holiday events, your regular exercise routine may have gotten left behind. Late-night festivities and long to-do lists may have cut into your sleep time. Sugary snacks may have replaced your normal diet. Be purposeful about resuming (or introducing) healthy habits. Quality sleep, regular exercise, and a healthy diet are among the best ways to keep the post-holiday blues from turning into clinical depression or clinically significant anxiety.
- **Extend the celebration and enjoy the season just a little bit longer:** a) Many "Christmas" attractions (such as seasonal light displays) remain open until sometime in January. Save a fun holiday event until after Christmas to help keep the holiday spirit alive and to have something to look forward to. b) There is NOT a rule that says you must put away all your Christmas decorations on December 26. If you enjoy sitting in the dark with only the light from the Christmas tree, give yourself permission to leave your tree up until after Epiphany (January 6) or until a later time of your choosing. Take some time to soak in the beauty of the Christmas lights and the holiday decorations after the business of the season has passed. Take time to reflect on the richness of the Christmas story. And just be still. c) Of course, if your Christmas tree becomes a constant reminder of the big task of un-decorating rather than a source of stillness and joy, go ahead and take it down. If you are like my Mom, who says that if you leave your Christmas decorations up past New Years Day you will be behind, you certainly have "permission" to take down your decorations as soon as it suits you.
- **Consider what you enjoyed about the holidays** and how to incorporate that into the rest of the year. If you notice your favorite thing about Christmas is the opportunity it affords to connect with extended family and friends, create and plan ways to enjoy this connection at other times of the year. If you discover that Christmas often brings you into a place of spiritual renewal, be purposeful about practicing spiritual disciplines year-round. If you find joy in being generous (with your time or your money during Christmas, explore options for on-going generosity.
- **Have something to look forward to after the holidays end.** You likely spent a great deal of time planning and preparing for Christmas. Sometimes, the anticipation is as much fun as the event itself! When the Christmas holidays end, this can be a great time to start thinking about future fun events. Get started on planning your next date night with your spouse, a get-together with a group of friends, or your summer vacation. Having some plans set on the calendar keeps us accountable to do the things that help us to feel better. When you are looking forward to future fun events, the post-holiday shift back into the daily grind won't feel as intense.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

31	1 <i>Happy New Year!!!</i>	2	3 No Activities	4	5	6
7 Man-Up, 4 PM	8 WMU, 10 AM	9 Senior Adult Luncheon 11AM	10 Wednesday Night Activities Resume	11	12	13
14 D-Groups Resume	15 Children's Swim	16	17 Wednesday Night Activities	18	19 Executive Pastor Candidate in View of a Call Weekend	20
21 Executive Pastor . . . Mission Sunday House of Prayer/Pastor Peter 5:00 PM	22 NYSUM Luncheon for Local Pastors	23	24 Wednesday Night Activities	25	26	27
28 Alabama Baptist Evangelism Conference @ FBC Pelham	29	30	31 Wednesday Night Activities	1	2	3
4	5	<i>January 2024</i> TEMPLATETROVE.COM				