

# ***PLEASANT VALLEY SOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH***

Senior Pastor Candidate Packet



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# ***Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!***

We are excited to announce the beginning of our search for a Senior Pastor at Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church. As a community of believers committed to worship, fellowship, and missions and outreach, we believe that this is a pivotal time in our church's journey, and we are prayerfully seeking a leader who will guide us in fulfilling our mission.

To assist in this process, we have prepared a comprehensive search packet that includes valuable information about our church, the role of the Senior Pastor, and the vibrant community we serve. In this packet, you will find:

- **About Our Church:** An overview of our history, core beliefs, and the ministries we offer.
- **Role of the Senior Pastor:** A detailed description of the expectations, responsibilities, and opportunities for spiritual leadership within our congregation.
- **Community Insights:** Information about the Pleasant Valley area, including demographics, local culture, and community needs.

We invite you to review this packet and consider if God is calling you or someone you know to this important role. Our prayer is that this process will lead us to a pastor who is not only a great fit for our church but also deeply committed to serving our community.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to email us at **[Searchcommiteepvsbc@gmail.com](mailto:Searchcommiteepvsbc@gmail.com)**. We appreciate your prayers and support as we embark on this important journey together.

In Christ's love,

**The Pleasant Valley South Pastoral Search Committee Team**

[www.pleasantvalleysouth.org](http://www.pleasantvalleysouth.org)



# Who We Are

Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church is in Silver Creek, Georgia, just south of the city of Rome. Our church campus is located on 46.5 acres. We are known as a friendly, welcoming and loving church with a sweet spirit. The members are known to be generous and supportive. We have members of all ages, and we would describe our church as Bible-based and Spirit-led. We have been blessed to have only two pastors in the last fifty years (1974-2024), which has provided stability and direction. We have never experienced a church split. We have steadily increased in membership, Sunday School attendance, and giving all throughout our years. We reached our highest attendance around 2005-2015. However, in the last 6-8 years, we have slowly declined in attendance for several reasons.

## *Two Services, One Time*

Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church (PVS) offers both a traditional and a contemporary service simultaneously at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings. The traditional service features a choir and orchestra, while the contemporary service showcases a praise band. Both services are under the teaching of the senior pastor who delivers his message in the traditional service and is simulcasted live in the contemporary service.



# Our Covenant

- **Faith in Christ:** Acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Savior, leading to baptism and commitment to the Christian faith.
- **Covenantal Community and Accountability Rooted in Christian Love:** Enter into a solemn and joyful covenant with one another, recognizing our unity as one body in Christ and walking together in love, supporting and encouraging each other in our spiritual journeys. We commit to watching over one another in love, remembering each other in prayer and providing support in times of need.
- **Support of Worship and Ministry:** Sustain the church's worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.
- **Generosity and Stewardship:** Contribute cheerfully and regularly to the church's ministries, community needs, and the spread of the gospel.
- **Family and Personal Devotion:** Maintain personal and family devotion to God, fostering a culture of prayer and worship.
- **Religious Education:** Commit to educating our children in the faith, instilling biblical values and teachings.
- **Evangelism:** Actively seek the salvation of our family and friends, sharing the gospel message with others.
- **Integrity in Conduct:** Walk cautiously in the world, being just in our dealings and faithful in our commitments. Live in a manner that reflects Christ's love, avoiding gossip, anger, and conflict. Cultivate sympathy and courtesy in our interactions, fostering a spirit of unity and respect.
- **Kingdom Advancement:** Be zealous in efforts to advance the kingdom of Christ, actively participating in mission work.
- **Reconciliation:** Be slow to take offense and quick to seek reconciliation, following Christ's example of forgiveness.

These values guide our church community, reflecting our commitment to live in accordance with the teachings of Scripture and the principles of the Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist Faith and Message. Together, we strive to fulfill our mission as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

# *Our History*

Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church was established in 1856. The church had several buildings, but the one built in 1939 still exists and is bricked in as the old chapel. The church grew steadily throughout the years and by the early 1970s the membership had grown to 347. Floyd L. Battles, Sr., the first long-term pastor, became pastor in 1974. He would serve 22 years. Battles came from Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Alabama, a much larger church, and was known for church growth. During his tenure, a new 11,000-square-foot sanctuary was built, as well as a new educational building. The Family Life Center was added in 1987, and 17 acres of land were added. The church grew from the 25th largest church in the Floyd County Association to the 2nd largest. In November of 1995, Reverend Battles announced his retirement.

It took two years for the pastor search committee to find our new pastor, Dr. Philip May, from First Baptist Church of Warrenton, Georgia. Dr. May was the right man who God had called to lead the church into its next phase of growth. After he came in September of 1997, the urgency to build a new sanctuary was acted upon quickly. The crowded worship services caused the church to begin two consecutive morning services in 1999, with Dr. May preaching and the choir singing in both services. In 1999, the church voted to build a new 900-seat Worship Center and Music Suite as Phase 1 of a master plan for our then 20-acre campus. By 2002, both worship services were full in the old sanctuary. On the last Sunday in the old sanctuary, there were 669 attending both morning services and 610 in Sunday School. The new Worship Center opened in February of 2002, with a 750-seat auditorium, a 150-seat choir loft and space for a 50-seat orchestra. By this time, worship attendance was averaging over 600, and Bible Study averaged 525. Sunday evening attendance was 300-400. Annual receipts were \$1.3 million. In 2004, the remodeling of the old sanctuary into the new children's building was complete. By February 2003, the first anniversary of the new Worship Center, the building was 95% filled, and there were 784 in Sunday School. By 2005-2006, the total membership was 1827, with an average weekly attendance of 567. In 2006, the church celebrated its 150th anniversary. In 2009, an education building was added to the Family Life Center, which has several large adult classrooms and an Awana Game Room. The church also acquired approximately 26 more acres behind the church. The church is 100% debt-free today.

# Our Ministries

We now have Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services. On Sunday mornings, we have a simultaneous contemporary service in the Family Life Center with a Praise Band and Traditional Service in the sanctuary with a choir and orchestra. We have D-Life classes on Sunday evenings. We have Bible Studies for all ages on Sunday mornings. We have Team Kids on Wednesday night for children, while the prayer meeting is in the sanctuary for adults. The youth meet on Wednesday night with Bible Study, prayer, games and food. We also have Women on Mission (or WMU) and Baptist Men. The Baptist Men sponsor a Wild Game Supper in March that draws at least 600 men, women and children. The Women's Ministry sponsors Fall and Spring Brunches, Bible studies twice a year, and an Arts and Crafts Ministry. The Prime Timers, the senior adult ministry, sponsors a monthly luncheon, day trips and overnight trips. Our Vacation Bible School, usually the first week in June, is a huge event involving over 250 volunteers and children. In June, our music minister leads a Music Camp. Our children's department sponsors an Easter Egg Hunt in the spring and a Trunk or Treat event in October.



Wild Game Supper



Missions



Trunk or Treat



Operation Christmas Child

# Our Ministries

## Children

Children's ministry is a core part of Pleasant Valley South's investment in the future generation and our community. Kids Church during the Sunday morning service, Team Kids on Wednesday nights, as well as Vacation Bible School, Music Camp each summer, an Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat are just a few of the ways we engage with kids in the church as well as the community.

## Adults

Pleasant Valley South provides a variety of opportunities for adults to grow in their faith together, including Sunday School at 9 AM, D-Life classes on Sunday evenings.

## Prime-Timers

Prime-Timers is a space for those in their "golden years" to fellowship with one another. This includes Sunday School classes, monthly luncheons, Bible Studies, and group outings.

## Youth

Youth ministry, known as Student Fusion, includes weekly gatherings, community groups, community service opportunities, DNOW, summer and winter camps and a summer mission trip. Middle and High School students meet in large gatherings on Sundays and Wednesdays and small groups each week to grow in the Word.

## Young Adults

College Core focuses on reaching college students in and around Floyd County for Christ. Sunday Core Groups are focused on growing in Christ, applying The Word of God to their lives, and making disciples by sharing The Gospel with those around them.



# Our Ministries

## Men

The Baptist Men's Ministry at Pleasant Valley South allows men in the church to grow spiritually together through Bible Studies and events throughout the year. The largest event is the Wild Game Supper, which draws over 600 people each March.

## Music Ministry

The Music Ministry at Pleasant Valley South has something for all ages, whether it's singing in the choir or praise band, playing handbells or an instrument in the band or orchestra, children's choir, or summer music camp.

## Homebound

To continue caring for our members who are unable to attend church anymore, we ensure they are continually ministered to as each Sunday School Class "adopts" a few members. Each class sends cards, Christmas gifts and regularly visits their homebound members.

## Opportunities and Challenges

As the Apostle Paul said, we also must boast in our weakness. At this time in our history, we are experiencing a period of decline in our Sunday School and worship attendance. The reasons may include the pandemic, a cultural shift away from church attendance, and turnover in staff. We have experienced turnover in the children's ministers and youth ministers that have affected continuity in the last 10 years. The decline began around 2016 and 2017. As of 2023, our Sunday School enrollment had decreased from 1005 in 2016 to 773 in 2023. Our Sunday School average attendance dropped from 482 in 2016 to 295 in 2023. Our average worship attendance decreased from 710 in 2016 to 407 in 2023. Amazingly, during this same time period, our church membership dropped very little, from 2346 in 2016 to 2263 in 2023. Our designated receipts have remained stable also, from \$1,765,184 in 2016 to \$1,714,478 in 2023. Our church has committed and dedicated Sunday School teachers and children's workers. However, it is increasingly difficult to fill new roles for these positions. **The challenge for a new pastor would be to inject new life and vision into our church community.**

## Women

In addition to Bible Studies and an Arts and Crafts Ministry, the Women on Mission (WMU) Ministry hosts a fall and spring brunch for women of all ages to grow in the Word together.

## Missions

Pleasant Valley South is a missions-minded church. We are involved in missions at the local, state and global levels with one purpose—to spread the Gospel. Our ministry partners include the local food pantry and children's home, as well as international missions partners.

## Media

With two services at one time and services regularly posted online, the media team helps run cameras, sound and other technical elements of the services.

# Our Staff

Pleasant Valley South is known for longevity in its staff as those who serve the church stay for years, if not decades, serving the church. Our staff has a combined 150+ years in ministry, and the church body is dedicated to investing in them, their families and their ongoing education and growth in the ministry.

Below are our pastors, ministers and worship leader.



**Richard Brown**  
Associate Pastor



**Mark Winstead**  
Minister of Music



**Eric Gargus**  
Minister of Students



**Barry Saunders**  
Children's Minister



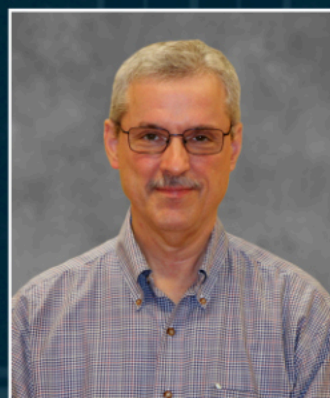
**Tom Pilcher**  
Minister of Media



**Bill King**  
Orchestra Director



**Jennifer Pilcher**  
Contemporary  
Worship Leader



**Jeff Byrd**  
Business  
Administrator

# Our Community

Floyd County has a population of just over 100,000, and the city of Rome has 37,000 residents. 64% of households in the immediate church area are married. **The projections show a growing population of single-family households, which is expected to reach 40% in the next 10 years. PVSBC currently draws members from a 5-county area, and the population of all surrounding counties is 440,000.**

Floyd County has a **diverse economy with a large focus on health care, manufacturing, and higher education.** Shorter University, Berry College, Georgia Highlands College, and Georgia Northwestern Technical College make this area a hub for higher educational opportunities for a large college-age population. The immediate area demographics are 73% White, 17% African American, and 6% Hispanic. The median age is 41, and the median income is \$44,000. 46% of our population has some education beyond high school. We do have a higher percentage of divorced, single-family, and widowed households than the state averages.

Although Georgia has seen an overall decline in student population, the Rome City School System and the Floyd County School System are experiencing growth. Both systems enjoy a graduation rate well above the state average. Excellent private school options are available including Darlington School, Unity Christian School, Montessori School of Rome, St. Mary's Catholic School, and Berry Elementary School.

Rome and Floyd County have an amazing quality of life that is very community and family-oriented. There is a vibrant arts community with local theatres, a symphony orchestra, multiple museums, a Shakespeare festival, and the Rome International Film Festival. Known for outdoor concerts, multiple fairs, and air shows, there is always an event happening. Rome has a thriving downtown with shopping and restaurant choices from BBQ to tablecloth dining. Rome has world-class tennis at the Rome Tennis Center and a trail association (TRED) that has connected nearly the entire community with a trail system that rivals any in the country.



# Future Growth

Overall, Rome and Floyd County are experiencing growth, and Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church is uniquely situated both physically, financially and spiritually for growth in the immediate future and for many years to come.

***There is no church in Floyd County more poised for potential growth.***

The area immediately surrounding Pleasant Valley South Baptist has a tremendous amount of housing growth coming in the near future. ***There are three major new housing developments totaling 2000 new homes being built within 5 miles of the church. A development directly across the street from the church will build 1000 homes in the next 5 years.*** A new Rome bypass is planned to be built within a half mile of the church, with the right of way already purchased. Twenty years ago, this was a rural church. Now, the city limits are across the street, and the church is easily connected by infrastructure.

***New neighborhood  
of 1,000+ homes to  
be built here***



***Proposed  
new bypass***

# Our Budget and Finances

Each year, the Senior Pastor and Deacons propose a budget to the church body for a vote. Below is an outline of the 2024 proposed budget by category.

In March 2023, the church became debt-free through a series of capital campaigns which freed up resources for ministry, missions and investments in future growth.

## 2024 Budget

<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	\$964,727.10
<b>Administrative/Operating Expenses</b>	\$263,400.00
<b>Missions</b>	\$147,995.00
<b>Ministries</b>	\$272,100.00
<b>Facilities &amp; Grounds Expenses</b>	\$97,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,745,222.10</b>

# Senior Pastor Role

PVSBC is searching for a senior pastor who will be a preacher, teacher, shepherd, overseer, servant, and steward of Christ's church and its members. He must believe that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God. He must believe there is only one true God who reveals Himself to us through the Bible. A man who believes that all scripture is a testimony to Christ. He must believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was crucified as a sacrificial atonement for all sin, was resurrected, and now sits at the right hand of God. He must believe and adhere to the statements of faith in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. He must believe that salvation is only found through faith in Jesus Christ. That salvation is by God's grace and a free gift available to all who believe in Jesus and profess Him as Lord.

This man must possess the qualities and meet the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:2-7.

He must believe in Christian baptism and the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and believe this is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior.

He must be mission-minded and follow Christ's commandment to spread the good news of the Gospel to everyone making disciples of all nations. He must believe that every person of every race possesses full dignity, has the opportunity for salvation, and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

He must be a good steward of the church's resources while professing that every good and perfect gift is from above and that all our possessions and talents are gifts from God to be used for His glory. He must believe that God ordained marriage between one man and one woman to represent the relationship between Christ and the church and through Christian marriage, children are a gift and heritage from the Lord.

Our next pastor must be easily approachable, a man who is skilled in relationship building. He must lead our staff as a servant leader using a team-based approach, but steward well the authority of the office of pastor for all matters of final say. He will value the insight of church members, but not cater to any one person's desire to the neglect of another's. He must seek the Holy Spirit to make biblical decisions concerning the direction of the church and communicate them with grace. He must love and appreciate his congregation and seek to disciple them, minister to them, pray for them, and seek fellowship with them.

He must be called by God to the ministry and to preach His Word. God Himself does the calling, and a pastor must respond by not only being willing to serve but also willing to train, pray, seek, and, at times, sacrificially suffer for Christ's sake in pastoring the church. Matthew 22:37-40 will ever be his guide.

# ***Thank you!***

Thank you for your interest in the Senior Pastor position at Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church. We are excited to welcome candidates who are passionate about serving our congregation and community. ***If you feel called to join us in this important ministry, please submit your resume to [searchcommitteepvsbc@gmail.com](mailto:searchcommitteepvsbc@gmail.com) or by mail to PO Box 48, Rome, GA 30162-0048.***

We look forward to reviewing your application and potentially welcoming you to our church family.

Blessings,

***The PVSBC Pastoral Search Committee Team***

[www.pleasantvalleysouth.org](http://www.pleasantvalleysouth.org)



SCAN FOR MORE



# ***GET IN TOUCH***

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