

Spreading

the

Good News

EDITOR
ELDER LLOYD WILKINSON



Elder Lloyd Wilkinson

Pastor of Sandy Springs PBC, Sandy Springs, GA

Freedom and Liberty

Galatians 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

Freedom and liberty!

Two hundred and fifty years ago we declared our freedom from the tyranny of Great Britain and our liberty to pursue happiness. We formed the United States of America out of this declaration and the proposition that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. We are still in the throes of this experiment to prove whether or not man can govern himself in this system of government Of the People, By the People and For the People.

Benjamin Franklin weighed in on this when asked by a citizen during the 1787 Constitutional Convention about what sort of government we would have. "A Republic, if you can keep it," he replied.

John Adams famously said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

And indeed, the Bible teaches us that we are to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free. Will we use that liberty to stand fast where Christ has made us free, or will we become entangled again in the bondage of sin?

Modern political philosophers often use the terms freedom and liberty interchangeably, but they may be distinguished and some do. Freedom is the condition of being free from constraint. Liberty is the rightful exercise of freedom within a legal or moral framework.

There are other definitions, but these fit well with Biblical teachings about freedom and liberty. Our founding fathers often related to and referenced the emancipation of the children of Israel from Egypt when they discussed our plight with Great Britain. They saw us in bondage to England and oppressed by a monarchy far away, just like the Israelites were under the rule and thumb of the Pharaoh.

God called and used Moses in a powerful way to free His people from Egypt. This is recounted in the book of Exodus. After their release, Moses met God on the mount and received the Ten Commandments. God had freed the children of Israel from **(Page 2)**

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Pharaoh, and now He wants them to live in the liberty of his moral framework.

The Jews and Christians number and group the commandments differently. Christians refer to them as the Ten Commandments. The Jews call them the Ten Statements or Ten Words. We start in **Exodus 20:3** with ***"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."*** But the Jews start with **verse 2: *"I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."***

Regardless of how you number or group these commandments, verse 2 is significant. God is revealing Himself to them and us today. I am the LORD thy God. I have brought you out of bondage in Egypt. I have freed you from slavery. Now that you have freedom, this is the liberty you should live in: Don't have any gods before me, don't make any idols or worship them, don't take my name in vain, remember the sabbath and keep it holy, honor your father and mother, don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't bear false witness, don't covet. If you obey these commandments you will live in liberty. You will not put yourselves back into slavery. Slavery to sin.

The Israelites had been freed from slavery in Egypt. We also have been freed from slavery

to sin.

Patrick Henry famously said, *"Give me liberty or give me death!"*

Jesus gives us liberty instead of death. **Luke 4:18-19, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."***

How about that -- Jesus tells us explicitly what He came to do. The Father anointed or appointed Jesus to 1) Preach the gospel to the poor, 2) Preach deliverance to the captives, 3) Recover sight for the blind, and 4) to set at liberty them that are bruised.

Our Lord Jesus came to tell all of us who are poor in spirit, who are sorry for our sins, the good news of our salvation. He came to tell all of us who know we have been slaves to our sins that we will be delivered from sin and death. He came to give sight to the physically and spiritually blind. And He came to give us liberty, unshackling us from our chains and the misery of sin and the fear of death.

Now that's liberty!

Just like God delivered the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt into the liberty of the

Freedom and Liberty

(Cont)

Promised Land, Jesus delivers us by telling us the good news of our salvation. We are no longer slaves to our sins. Now we can know liberty and the joy that we will someday be saved from sin and death at the resurrection. Just like He provided the Promised Land, Jesus provides the church in our time so that we can enjoy this liberty and joy with our brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:21, *"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."*

The liberty we have in America is precious, and I'm thankful for it. We should not take it for granted. God has richly blessed us in this country. But the liberty we have in Christ is so much better. Whatever our circumstances are in this life, whether we are living a life of luxury or poverty, whether we are free or in prison, whether we are sick or well, there is a liberty that we have in our hearts, knowing that God has saved us by His grace. We are free from the chains of legalism and the law, knowing that there is nothing we can do or will do to save ourselves. We are at liberty from the shackles of man-made doctrines that tell us we must do something to earn our eternal salvation, or we have to do something to prove to ourselves and everyone else that we are really saved.

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Pastor of Sandy Springs PBC

Freedom and Liberty

(Cont)

God doesn't want you to be shackled to these ways of thinking. You are free!

Liberty is not to be used as an excuse to live any way you want to. Liberty is not license. You can put yourself back in the bondage of sin by your own choices. Don't do it! ***"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."***

Instead, turn your energies to love others, not to serve only yourself. **Galatians 5:13, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."**

And finally, let us pray that our Lord will bless our country and send His spirit to live amongst us, to be with us, and comfort us and remind us daily of the riches of His grace.

2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

May the Lord richly bless you. Happy 4th of July!



Singing School Schedules



See below for dates and churches hosting singing school. The top schedule is taught by Elder Bryce Lowrance. You may visit his [website](#) for updates.



July 9-11 · [Lexington Primitive Baptist Church](#) Singing School (KY)

July 24-25 · Midwest Singing School hosted at [New Liberty Primitive Baptist Church](#) (MO)

July 30-Aug 1 · Tuscaloosa Area Primitive Baptist Singing School hosted at [Tuscaloosa Primitive Baptist Church](#) (AL)

TBA · Pilgrim's Praise Singing School at [Mt. Carmel Primitive Baptist Church](#) (MD)

TBA · [Fair Haven Primitive Baptist Church](#) (GA)

Other Singing Schools

TBA · [Old School Primitive Baptist Church](#) (Kennedale, TX) – Bro. Daniel Montgomery and others.

TBA · [Grace Primitive Baptist Church](#) (Pearl, MS) – Bro. Joey Lowrance

July 19-24 · [Harmony Plains Singing School](#) (Cone, TX) – Various Instructors

TBA · [Union Primitive Baptist Church](#) (McKenzie, TN) – Elder Gary Barrington

Sunday Meetings



Flat Shoals PBC
2052 FAIRVIEW ROAD,
STOCKBRIDGE, GA

WORSHIP: 2PM

- JUL 5** - Eld Brad Hansard
- JUL 12** - Eld Silas Ford
- JUL 19** - Eld Kevin Kennedy
- JUL 26** - Eld David Smith



Nancy Creek PBC
1685 8TH STREET,
CHAMBLEE, GA

WORSHIP: 10:30AM

- JUL 5** - Bro Jackson Walsh
- JUL 12** - Eld Ken Still
- JUL 19** - Eld Roger Campbell
- JUL 26** - Bro Mike Deas



OBITUARIES



EMILY JANE BRADLEY

Emily Jane Bradley, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother entered into the presence of our Lord on June 6, 2026, at the age of 82. Emily was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 13, 1944 to Manuel and Margaretha (Schaich) Messer. She loved the Lord Jesus from an early age and served him all of her life. Now, she praises Him in glory.

Emily embraced her parents' work ethic, learning to be the quintessential eldest daughter by following the rules, serving diligently, and helping to care for her two younger sisters, Joni and Mary, as well as babysitting numerous neighborhood children.

As a young woman, Emily caught the eye of her young pastor, Lasserre Bradley, who was enchanted by her sparkling blue eyes. He patiently pursued her while spunky, independent Emily wasn't so sure she liked the idea of dating her pastor. Lasserre never waived, eventually declaring his intent to marry her. His persistent charm eventually moved Emily to seek the Lord in prayer on the matter, and her heart finally softened. She was then willing to quit nursing school to marry Lasserre on June 30, 1964 at Cincinnati Primitive Baptist Church, a church they would serve for the rest of their lives. This nearly 63-year love story, committed marriage, and partnership of tireless service would impact the lives of so many across **(Page 8)**

CLYDE DAVID SPRAGUE

It is with both sadness and gratitude that Camp Creek Church announces the passing of our beloved Deacon, **Clyde David Sprague**, who departed this life on June 21, 2026, at the age of 83.

Brother Clyde was a faithful member of Camp Creek Primitive Baptist Church and a dear friend to so many. For decades, he quietly and faithfully served both his family and his church with a spirit of dedication, humility, and love. Whether mowing the church grounds, maintaining the facilities, hauling trash, repairing equipment, or helping with a new project, Clyde's hands were rarely still. His craftsmanship, attention to detail, and commitment to doing things well left a lasting mark on our church home.

Above all else, Clyde was devoted to his family. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He is survived by his beloved wife of sixty years, Sharon Sprague; daughters Laurie McKinney (Lee) and Susan Murphy (Greg); numerous grandchildren; brothers; sisters; and many nieces and nephews.

Most importantly, Brother Clyde loved the Lord and loved the worship of God. Even during his final days, as his strength failed, his love for the hymns of Zion remained evident. During a recent song service at his bedside, he could only mouth the words, but tears streamed down his face as he joined in the songs he cherished.

We thank God for the blessing of Clyde's life, his faithful service, and his enduring example. While we mourn his passing, we rejoice in the hope of the gospel and look forward to that day when all of God's children shall be gathered together in the presence of their Savior. Please remember Sister Sharon and the entire Sprague family in your prayers during the days ahead.



Prayer Requests

Brother Mac Aldrige - *brain tumor*

Sister Aileen Hood - *breast cancer*

Pray for our churches without pastors

Pray for our nation and leaders

SAVE THE DATE

SEP 4-5 (Fri-Sat)

Fall Meeting - Mount Paran PBC,

3749 Mt Paran Church Rd, Social Circle, GA

Elder Dolph Painter will be with us.

Worship: Friday 7PM (6PM Supper),

Saturday 10AM (lunch) and **1:30PM**

SEP 17-20 (Thr-Sun)

100th Anniversary - Bethany PBC,

5101 Old Atlanta Rd, Suwanee, GA

Worship: Thursday 7PM

Friday 10:30AM, 2PM, and 7PM

Saturday 10:30AM, 2PM

Sunday 10:30AM

If you have specific memories or photos of Bethany Church, we'd love to hear

from you via email at

silas_ford@yahoo.com.

NOV 19-21 (Thr-Sat)

2026 Preachers Meeting

Hosted by **Boiling Springs PBC,**

1200 Birmingham Rd, Milton, GA

THEME: How Firm a Foundation

Meeting is open to all. Details to follow.

WEEKLY/MONTHLY MEETINGS

Boiling Springs PBC

1200 Birmingham Rd, Milton, GA

We meet every **Tuesday** at **6 PM** for our midweek meeting/Bible study.

Camp Creek PBC

310 Camp Creek Rd SW, Lilburn, GA

The **1st** and **3rd** **Wednesdays** each month we have night service by Zoom at **7:15 PM**. To obtain the link please email pastor@campcreekchurch.org

Flat Shoals PBC

2052 Fairview Road, Stockbridge, GA

We will have our **Sunday** service at **2PM** until further notice. For more info: 770-262-9254

Forsyth PBC

6010 Shiloh Road, Alpharetta, GA

We have Bible Study via Zoom on **Wednesday** at **6:30PM**. Please text Sister Kathleen Heard at 270.535.9284 to join.

Mount Paran PBC

3749 Mount Paran Church Road, Social Circle, GA

We meet every **Wednesday** at **7 PM** for our Bible study in person and online via Zoom.

Rock Springs PBC

ZOOM Meeting ONLY

Worship at **7 PM** each **Thursday**. Send email to Elder Herb Newsome (hnews01@comcast.net) for the link.

Sandy Springs PBC

940 Mt Vernon Hwy NW, Sandy Springs, GA

Bible Study **Wednesdays** at **7:45 PM** via Zoom. Text Bro. Lloyd Wilkinson 770.633.8420 to join.

Union PBC

335 Cox Road, Roswell, GA

We have Bible Study **Wednesdays** at **7 PM**, also via Zoom. The **Preachers' Meeting** is via Zoom only the **second Sunday** each month at **7 PM**. Text Bro. Marty Smith 770.401.7982 to join.

Special Meetings

JUL 4 (Sat)

July 4th Meeting - Shoal Creek PBC, 65 Shoal Creek Church Road, Mansfield, GA
All are welcome to worship with us. **Worship: 10AM** (lunch) and **afternoon**.

JUL 11-12 (Sat-Sun)

2026 Southeast GA Fellowship Mtg - 2195 Old Jesup Rd, Brunswick, GA
Hosted by Zion PBC. **Worship: Saturday at 10AM** (lunch), and **afternoon; Sunday at 10:15AM** (lunch) and **Communion**. All are welcome to worship with us.

JUL 17-19 (Fri-Sun)

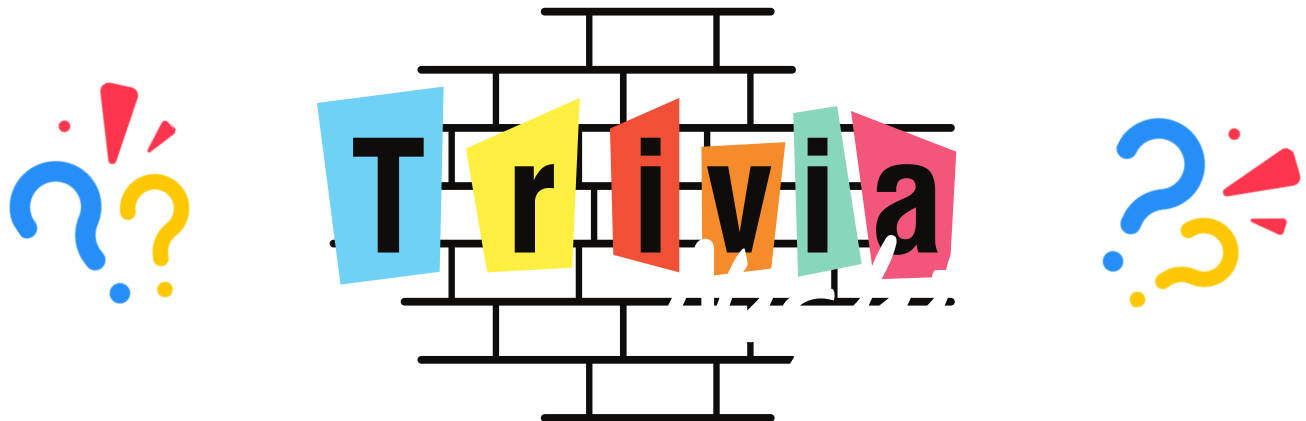
Oak Grove PBC - 1440 Birmingham Rd, Milton, GA
Elders Clayton Nowell and Kenneth Nowell will be with us for our **Summer Meeting**. **Worship: Friday at 7PM** (pizza before); **Saturday at 10:30AM** (lunch), and **afternoon; Sunday at 10:30AM**, **Communion**, and (lunch).

JUL 24-25 (Fri-Sat)

Old School Original Towaliga Association - 1008 Main Street, Forest Park, GA
Flat Shoals PBC is hosting (at Forest PBC) **The 188th Session of the Old School Original Towaliga Association of the Primitive Baptists**
Worship: Friday at 10AM (lunch) and **afternoon**; and **Saturday at 10AM** (lunch), and **afternoon**.
We invite all to come worship with us.

JUL 26 (Sun)

Little River Monthly Mtg - 335 Cox Road, Roswell, GA
Union Church will host the meeting. **Worship: 4PM**



- 1) Who wrote the most books in the New Testament?
- 2) What was Paul's occupation when he wasn't preaching or writing letters?
- 3) Which book of the Bible does not mention the word "God" at all?
- 4) How many days was Lazarus dead before Jesus arrived and raised him from the tomb?

Answers on Page 10

EMILY JANE BRADLEY OBITUARY

the country and even around the world.

“Pastor’s wife” was a role Emily would fill with grace and determination for the next six decades. Pastors’ wives often serve in a role that extends far beyond any formal title or job description. Hospitality was the first duty she would adopt as a pastor’s wife when out of town company was waiting on their porch when they arrived home from their honeymoon. From that day forward, Emily served meals to countless numbers of church members, extended family, neighbors, and friends. She organized meals for large groups, cooked meals for the sick and the homeless, and visited the infirmed. She provided a comfortable place to stay for hundreds of visitors over the years. Her table was filled with delicious home-cooked meals while visitors enjoyed pleasant conversation and even, from time to time, lively debates, often sparked by one of Emily’s innocent yet challenging questions—a testament to the sharp mind of a woman who, had she not been so busy otherwise, could have pursued a successful career as a prosecuting attorney.

Emily and Lasserre were excited to welcome their first baby in the summer of 1965. Sadly, their baby girl, Elizabeth Bradley, was born with severe birth defects and lived only 18 hours. This loss was heartbreaking, but the Lord allowed it to shape their lives. Emily and Lasserre were able to use this experience to comfort countless grieving couples over the years who experienced the same bereavement. In God’s mercy, He blessed them to raise three children and build a family that grew to 21 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren (with one more expected this summer). Emily adored her family above all things on this earth and treasured the time she was able to spend with each one.

While praised by many as a wonderful hostess, Emily also took the role of Christian hospitality to heart, and many times over the decades she offered her home as a temporary shelter for those in need both financially and spiritually. One of those needing a home was her own sister-in-law Jo Cook. Jo’s young husband had been drafted to fight in the Vietnam War, and she came to live with her brother, Lasserre, and Emily while expecting her first baby. Jo gave birth to her daughter, Tara, while she lived with Emily and Lasserre, and Emily cared for Tara while her mother worked until Tara was five years old. Tara would later return the love and care she received from her “Auntie Em” by becoming her faithful caregiver for 5 years until Emily passed.

As a mother, Emily was intentional and conscientious. Many joke that Generation X raised themselves, but that was not true in the Bradley household. Emily constantly took her children, along with nieces and nephews, to museums, zoos, historical sights, conservatories, plays, and performances. The world was fascinating to Emily, and she made it fascinating for her children. She faithfully read to her children, always using animated voices and appropriate accents, and later supplied them with great literature to read on their own. Emily was always curious and looking for answers, and by example taught her children to do the same. She required excellence of herself and excellence from her children. She was a gifted communicator and story teller, teaching her children to write, communicate their ideas, and equipping them to share and defend their faith. She faithfully corrected our grammar even to her last days, but I’m not sure any of us truly use “lie” and “lay” correctly every time.

As Emily’s children grew, she was able to spend more time helping Lasserre with his radio ministry, the Baptist Bible Hour. Emily slowly took over the administrative side of the BBH in the 70’s and saw the ministry through the technological advances of reel-to-reel tapes, cassettes, CD’s, and finally the digital age. She ran the office with precision, efficiency, and integrity, yet she would readily take a call in the middle of a busy day from those needing spiritual help and guidance. She diligently served her husband and the Baptist Bible Hour until infirmities prevented her in her last year.

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EMILY JANE BRADLEY OBITUARY

As the years passed, Emily became known for her insight and biblical perspective. She counseled and mentored younger women, fulfilling the instructions of Titus 2. Those seeking her wisdom and encouragement often admitted they came to her because they knew she would tell them the truth. Her thoughtful questions and honesty exemplified **Proverbs 20:5-6 "Counsel in the heart of man is like the deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out. Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"** Her husband, a counselor of many himself, often sought wise input from his virtuous wife. She loved the Lord, studied His word, and applied it to her life. Her understanding of doctrine made her the iron that sharpens iron for her husband as well as many preachers who visited in their home throughout their marriage. As the wife of a pastor, she made many sacrifices for the good of others, sharing her husband's time and attention while also bearing his burdens discreetly. She was the perfect helpmate for her husband and his ministry, and he loved and cherished her dearly.

"Grandchildren are the crown of the aged" (Proverbs 17:6) and her crown is full of jewels. One of Emily's most joyous roles was that of "Grandmommy"! Her grandchildren adored her, and she adored them. In her younger years she would take them on outings, do crafts with them, help homeschool them, and host them for pool parties and sleepovers. Every out-of-state grandbaby was welcomed with a 2 week visit from Grandmommy who expertly ran the household and allowed the young mothers to recover. She was always careful to choose just the right gift for every single grandchild and later great-grandchildren for birthdays and Christmas. When you add up all her descendants the number totals 45. She could tell you the birthday of each one, but more importantly, she knew each one. She knew their personalities, their quirks, and their hopes. She was excited for their achievements and mourned their losses. Emily and Lasserre prayed together every night for each of those 45 souls and spouses by name.

When you hear about the life of this energetic woman, it's hard to believe that she spent much of it in physical suffering. She was plagued with an autoimmune disease that caused pain and discomfort from her mid 30's. Emily marched on, determined not to let it get the best of her. Pain may have obligated her to give up her love for tennis and at times may have landed her on the couch for an evening, but she was always ready to face the next day with dignity and a resolution to not let pain win. As the years progressed, the autoimmunity affected her lungs which left her vulnerable when Covid infected both she and her husband in December of 2020. We almost lost her that winter, but the Lord was merciful, and after 100 days in the hospital, she arrived back home to begin her recovery. Her strength and stamina never fully returned, but the determination to love her family and serve her Lord always remained. She lost her dear husband on May 9th of this year. She told him on his deathbed that she would be joining him soon. The Lord brought her home just 28 days later on June 6th while she was surrounded by her loving family. We will miss her greatly, but rejoice that her pain and suffering are ended. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Ps 116:15

She is survived by her three children, Leanna Tomlinson (Lyle), Peggy Stewart (Mike), and Lasserre Bradley III (Marsha), and their families including 21 grandchildren Emily Freeman (David), Abigail Tomlinson, Luke Tomlinson (Kaitlyn), William Tomlinson (Abigail), Jonathan Tomlinson (Ashleigh), Caroline Kimball (Lucas), Charlotte Tomlinson, Peter Tomlinson, Caleb Stewart (Joanna), Victoria Stewart, Elizabeth Stewart, Adrienne Hunt (Paten), Isaac Stewart, Benjamin Stewart, Phebe Stewart, Kathryn Weaver (Noah), Thomas Bradley, Lydia Dominguez (Alberto), Joseph Bradley, Paul Bradley, and Ethan Bradley, 21 great grandchildren, and her sisters Joni Stewart and Mary Sophie Godbey. She was preceded in death by her husband Lasserre Bradley Jr., parents Manuel and Margaretha Messer, and infant daughter Elizabeth Bradley.

SANDY SPRINGS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

940 MOUNT VERNON HWY NW

SANDY SPRINGS, GA 30327

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Email announcements,
prayer requests,
praise reports,
and other news to:

MYRAMEDLIN77@GMAIL.COM

by the 20th
of each month.

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*Your contributions are
appreciated - please
mail to the
address above.*

Memo: Newsletter

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1) The apostle Paul, who wrote 13 books; 2) Tentmaking; 3) Esther; 4) Four days