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WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014

PEOPLE

## Pastor arrested after domestic dispute

Andy Pittman, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas, was arrested after police responded to a 911 call from his home.

By Bob Allen

A well-known Texas Baptist pastor was charged with misdemeanor assault after police responded to a domestic disturbance call at his home Tuesday morning.



Andy Pittman

Andy Pittman, 43, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas, was taken to jail at about 7:30 a.m. on May 6 after allegedly pushing his wife into a door during a verbal argument.

According to the *Lufkin Daily News*, the woman did not want Pittman to go to jail but under Texas law police have no other choice when calls involve family violence. Police say she did not have visible injuries but complained of pain in her arm. She went to a local emergency room to have her arm checked out and was released around 10:30 a.m.

Pittman, pastor at the church affiliated with the [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#) and [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship](#) since 2006, posted a \$1,500 bond and was released from the Angelina County Jail early Tuesday afternoon.

Pittman was a [member](#) of the first graduating class at George W. Truett Theological Seminary in 1997. In 2008 he [co-chaired](#) a Baptist General Convention of Texas Future Focus Committee which recommended rebranding the 123-year-old organization as Texas Baptists.

A *Lufkin News* columnist recently [mentioned](#) Pittman among local clergy "who want to make this a better place for all of us."

Church leaders declined to comment to local media prior to learning all the facts.

"We're all caught off guard right now," Education Pastor [Aubrey Knox](#) told ABC affiliate KTRE television in Pollock, Texas. "Our biggest concern is to pray for them. Hopefully there can be restoration in this. At this point we don't know what to do."

KTRE said a second family member who was home at the time made the 911 call.

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Tagged under: [Crime](#) [Domestic violence](#) [Andy Pittman](#)



**Bob Allen**

Bob Allen is [news editor](#) of ABPnews/Herald.

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scottpresnell · 24 days ago

Regardless of what he has or has not done, this man needs a friend. I hope someone is willing to be that for him. If I wasn't three hours away, I'd nominate myself.

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Steven Thornton · 25 days ago

It is best to let the dust to settle before pointing fingers. The way the domestic violence laws have been written in most states, an individual may be charged by the officer on site for simple battery for refusing to step out of the partner's way, raising his or her voice, slamming a bedroom door shut, hiding the car keys, or knocking over an item of furniture. In like manner if one partner says to the other, "You need to leave and go cool off and spent the night somewhere else," and the other partner chooses not to, that partner may be charged with trespassing in his or her own home. After separating the couple the officers interview each one, then compare stories before deciding what to do. In some cases, they make the right call. In some cases they do not. In a few cases one partner will step forward and take responsibility to protect the other partner from consequences for his or her actions. How do I know all of this? In my county, first and second time offenders are sentenced by the judge to a class in exchange for having all charges dropped. I used to teach these classes.

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Alice Carleton → Steven Thornton · 18 days ago

1 in 3 women will be physically assaulted in their lifetime; churches still are ignorant about abuse.

Physical abuse usually begins with verbal abuse (soul murder)...education is the key....abuse statistics are staggering. The Verbally Abusive Relationship by Patricia Evans is a book, which I believe should be required reading for everyone on the planet.

I am, Moderator of An Abused Survivors group.

One of my recent radio interviews on the subject: www.1430kykn.com.....archives, podcast, April 19th, emotional abuse...Alice Carleton

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Steven Thornton → Alice Carleton · 17 days ago

What is really amazing is that we had an almost equal number of women in domestic violence classes. Women are much better at "soul murder" as you call it. When I was teaching, we were running about 58% men and 42% women with women catching up fast. Plus women were doing the "okay you need to come over and get your stuff routine before I throw it out" during the time of the restraining order and when the husband shows up, they would have him arrested. This is a complicated issue and it is no longer a male power over female situation. About 25-40% of the men in each of my classes had never been violent in any way toward their spouses or girlfriends. They were guilty of refusing to leave the house or apartment or some other provision of the Georgia Domestic Violence Law.

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AvatarMax\_T — Dr. Mohler's reformed doctrine of total depravity is showing through in his assessment of little sinners. In his ...

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Avatarcaudle — As a pastor whose spouse is a physical therapist, I can understand this connection. PTs are sometimes ...

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...

1 comment · 10 days ago

Avatarbjonestuba — Everything in this article is absolutely on point. Though implied in many of the comments, it needs to be ...

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AvatarCharles Deweese — Congratulations on Matt Cook's nomination. He is a superb choice.

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*A two-day event celebrated the appeal for help from a small group of colonists to Baptists in Great Britain.*

Presidents of two Baptist-affiliated universities in N.C. to retire

*Jerry Wallace of Campbell University and Jerry McGee of Wingate University both announce they will step down in 2015.*

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THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014

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### COLUMNS



**Molly T. Marshall**

Is feminist a Baptist word?

Baptist identity over the past several decades cannot be understood without paying attention to the rise of women in leadership and ministry.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014

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Alan Rudick

"Daddy long-leg spiders are one of the most poisonous spiders but their fangs are..."

Know thy neighbor  
Brandon Hudson

The Wave Recently as I was driving into the neighborhood of the church...

Is your denomination slowly committing suicide?  
George Bullard

For decades we have known that persons who smoke multiple packs of cigarettes...

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*RNS*

Prof. says beard, beer got him canned at CSU  
*Post and Courier (Charleston, S.C.)*

Jack Graham celebrates 25 years as pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church  
*Dallas Morning News*

North Korea sentences missionary to life of hard labor  
*AP*

Did the Southern Baptist 'conservative resurgence' fail?  
*The Daily Beast*

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2. SBC leader enters Twitter fray
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*By Molly T. Marshall*
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