

Troup Baptist Association

Lucy

Today, I want to start this Pastoral Nugget with an excerpt from the book: "All I Ever Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" - by Robert Fulghum. "Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in Kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox at nursery school. These are the things I learned: Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life - learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some. Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like

that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup - they all die. So do we. And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all: LOOK. Everything you need to know is in there somewhere - The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation Ecology and politics and sane living. Think of what a better world it would be if we all - the whole world - had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true; no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together."

I want you to re-read a small portion of what Robert Fulghum said, "Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the

little seed in the plastic cup - they all die. So do we." The most sobering thought in all of life is that we do NOT have and infinite amount of time - we have a very finite amount! Lately, I have been poignantly reminded of this fact by, of all things, my dog, Lucy. She came into mine and Marianne's lives about seven years ago. She blessed us with two dog children, Blaze and Sweet Pea. They became family. Even our children joke about their dog brother and sisters. Sadly, Lucy has been diagnosed with cancer and is in the waning days of her life. February 27, 2015, I had to have her humanely put down to relieve her of her suffering. Funny, I never thought I would feel this way about a dog - but I do.

As I pondered what Lucy has taught us, I realized there are some Spiritual lessons all of us can learn from her. Think of what a better world this would be if we, each of us, learned to act a little more like Lucy. We would model unconditional love toward each other - loving each other just because we exist - period. We would model excitement at the prospect of being with each other.

We would model forgiveness - no matter how grievous and hurtful the infraction against us - and we would learn to forget the past and "live in the moment." Carpe Diem: Seize the Day. We would model interest in the lives of others, placing their interest above our own. We would learn to model trust - just to name a few of the lessons she taught us!

I close this column today with an observation & confession: I wish I was the husband my wife thinks I am, the father my children and grandchildren think I am, the brother my sister and brothers think I am, and the person others think I am. I am not there yet. I have not arrived. Hopefully, with your prayers and help, God will get me there. You know, I just wish I was the man Lucy thinks I am!

"Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup - they all die. So do we."

Brother Aaron

News

Troup Baptist Association

Mission Statement:

The Troup Baptist Association is a Spiritual, educational, and community resource that, through cooperative fellowship, equips pastors, staff, and churches as they seek to fulfill The Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

News From Churches

Association - Monday February 23, 2015, a group of over twenty pastors and laymen met at the Troup Baptist Association Missions and Ministry Center to discuss the upcoming Association Men's Day that is being planned for Saturday April 25, 2015. We are asking all our churches to participate in this. We will sponsor three men's recreational events that day: Turkey hunting, golfing, and fishing. We will then have an awards banquet at 6pm that evening at Callaway Baptist Church. Stacy Dyer, Georgia Baptist Convention Outdoor Ministry Consultant and TV personality with X-treme Christian Outdoors will be our guest speaker. We are also going to have an association-wide revival April 26-29 at the Missions and Ministry Center. We are asking all churches to move their Sunday night service and join us at 6pm on the 26th. More information is available at: www.troubaptist.org.

Association - Most every Monday morning our pastors gather at New Macedonia Baptist Church at 111 Johnson Street in LaGrange, Georgia for a time of fellowship, prayer, and preaching. If your pastor is not attending these meetings, please encourage him to do so! Our format is quite simple. From 11-11:30am we drink coffee, eat donuts, and lie about how good we preached Sunday! (Joking!) At 11:30am, we gather in the sanctuary for prayer requests. Then we gather in the pulpit around the speaker of the day, lay hands on him, and pray for him and the other requests. After this, the speaker preaches whatever God has placed on his heart. Then we go eat again! On Monday, February 23, 2015, almost twenty pastors gathered to hear one of the most respected pastors in Troup County, Pastor Olin McClain. He didn't pull any punches! It was an excellent sermon! Then Pastor Bobby Robinson shared a hilarious personal story with the preachers. Then he immediately threatened me within an inch of my life if I told it in *The Messenger*. So, all I have to say about that is, "Y'all will have to ask Bro. Bobby what happened!" But Bro. Bobby - **YOU KNOW!** (Lol!) ~ Brother Aaron



Associational Men's Day Planning Meeting



Pastor's Prayer Fellowship at New Macedonia



Pastor Olin McClain speaking at the Association Pastor's Prayer Fellowship



The Messenger

is now available
for viewing online

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[www.troubaptist.org/
online-newsletter-messenger](http://www.troubaptist.org/online-newsletter-messenger)

News (continued)

Bethel Baptist - Attendance From 0 to 100 in Three Years!
 On Sunday morning, February 22, 2015, the congregation of Bethel Baptist Church in West Point, Georgia celebrated the three year anniversary of Pastor Steve Sexton and the successful completion of a two-year Church Restart Program with the Georgia Baptist Convention. Bethel is one of the huge success stories in the GBC Church Restart Program. For the past two years, Cooperative Program dollars have been used to help fund the ministry of Bethel Baptist Church. Not only have financial resources been brought to bear, but training and other resources have been made available as well. In a strategic alliance of cooperation with the Troup Baptist Association and the Georgia Baptist Convention, Pastor Steve Sexton and the congregation of Bethel have taken advantage of these resources and are experiencing both a great revival and the resurgence of Bethel Baptist Church. The celebration service, which consisted of 100 worshipers, featured speakers from Bikers for Christ, Titus Seminary, the Troup Baptist Association, and the Georgia Baptist Convention. Bethel was especially honored to have Dr. Bobby Boswell, Assistant Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Convention there to preach the morning service. He did an outstanding job! It was a great day of upbeat worship and celebration of what God has done and is doing at Bethel. Of course, we had a meal afterward! Congratulations Bethel Baptist!

Baptist Tabernacle - had 7 saved and received 13 new members during the month of February. Our God is great! The Food Closet served 1,063 individuals which included 318 boxes of food, 322 meals and 60 backpacks. The Clothes Closet served 230 people with clothes and gave away 87 coats during the month. Twenty-eight ladies attended God's Helping Hands on February 9. Everyone signed cards for each Deacon for Deacon Appreciation Month. Valentine gift bags were delivered to shut-ins during the week of Valentine's Day. The Cookie Ministry is doing great! Members of the Sunday School Classes continue to support this ministry for Hospice in LaGrange. The cookies and other treats are gratefully appreciated by all the family members while they are at Hospice with their loved ones.

Callaway - has been richly blessed with 14 new members! Sunday, Feb. 15 was Pastor Brad and Katie's second anniversary at Callaway! God is using Pastor Brad in a great way to minister and preach to the church. The WOM night group sponsored a ladies breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 7. The speaker was Mackenzie Stover who shared her call to the mission field. The Leisure Timers met on Tuesday, Feb. 17 with special guests, Ann Wielder & the Dulcimer Players. The Men's Night Out quarterly meeting was held at Captains Cove restaurant with 25 men attending. The youth served a "BIG MEAL DEAL" after the church service on Feb. 22. Proceeds will be used for future youth projects. Thank you to our great group of youth, their awesome leaders and volunteers!

Davidson - The youth group attended the Winter Jam on February 21 and thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Once again, Prayer Night attendance was low. However, prayers for healing, strength, peace and guidance were said. We know that God heard and will respond to each and everyone in accordance with His will. Praying that we will have more people on bended knees at the next one! Our Food Closet served a total of 62 families (163 people) during February. Praises to God!

East Vernon - Baptist Church Pastor, David "Bernie" Pasley, is pictured in the baptismal pool with Danny Yarbrough. Danny is the fourth person to give their life to Christ at East Vernon since January. Praise God for the good things that are happening at East Vernon Baptist Church in LaGrange, Georgia!

Grace - received two new members in the month of January. The Ladies of Grace sponsored their annual Valentine Banquet in February. Charles and Becky Smith were crowned Valentine King and Queen. The ladies went all out with the decorations, games and wonderful food for those who attended. Melissa Jennings sang some old Patsy Cline songs while Jerry Nix sang some Elvis songs.



The Congregation of Bethel Baptist Church



Dr. Bobby Boswell
 Assistant Executive Director
 Georgia Baptist Convention



Dr. Jimmy Baughcum
 Church Planting Ministries
 Georgia Baptist Convention



Pastor Bernie Pasley
 Baptizing Danny Yarbrough

News (continued)

Highland - Men's Fellowship was held on Saturday morning, February 21. The WMU began collecting items for Project Joy to be packaged and donated to God's Bread Basket in December. Toothbrushes were collected in February.

Lakeview - Valentine's Party was held on February 14. The fellowship hall was full of adults and children. Games, prizes and treats were especially geared to the children. A Gideon speaker visited on February 15 and a love offering was received to help the Gideons purchase Bibles for use in spreading the gospel. WMU meeting was held on February 16. The hostess, Louise Steele prepared delicious soup and chili and other attendees contributed lots of fixings and desserts. Mrs. Louise presented a devotion about Valentine's Day and gave a demonstration to teach the ladies how to make the scarves that are so popular now. Jenny Ledford has volunteered to teach computer classes for those members who are interested. Judy King is the Chairman of the Troup Baptist Association's WMU Leadership Team. Several Lakeview members are helping her with arrangements for food for the annual WMU luncheon that will be held at Rosemont on March 21.



Lakeview Baptist Fellowship Hall decorated for the Valentine's Party for the youth and their dates (a parent or grandparent).

Mountville - Both Pastor Dwayne Perdue and the Mountville church have taken a step of faith. Brother Dwayne is now serving the church full-time. Congratulations Mountville & Brother Dwayne!

Stovall - On February 14, 2015, Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough had the privilege of sharing his comedy routine, "Things Happen to Me That Don't Happen to Other Preachers" at the Stovall Baptist Church Valentine Banquet. All those present gained a deeper understanding of Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones."



Pastor Billy Allen of Stovall Baptist "loading" his plate at the Valentine Banquet

Announcements

Association - Camp Rockridge offers summer employment for college students beginning the first week in June through the first week in August. Volunteer positions are also available for high school age students on a week to week basis. In addition, they are seeking volunteers for service projects. For more information, call Jody & Jennifer Thrower at (706) 675-3494 or (678) 877-7018 or email them at CampRockridge1@gmail.com. The deadline for all employment applications is April 30, 2015.

Association - Church Prayer List

For March 2015, please pray for following churches:

Week of March 1, 2015 - Lakeview Baptist Church
Week of March 8, 2015 - Long Cane Baptist Church
Week of March 15, 2015 - Mountville Baptist Church
Week of March 22, 2015 - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
Week of March 29, 2015 - New Heaven Korean Baptist Mission

For April 2015, please pray for following churches:

Week of April 5, 2015 - New Hope Baptist Church (LaGrange)
Week of April 12, 2015 - New Hope Church (Greenville)
Week of April 19, 2015 - New Macedonia Missionary Baptist
Week of April 26, 2015 - Northside Baptist Church

**Please pray for God to bless these churches
and meet their needs.**

Brother Aaron's Suggested Reading

The Red Sea Rules

10 God-Given Strategies for Difficult Times

By Robert J. Morgan

"The same God who led you in will lead you out"

Announcements (continued)

Association - Wide Men's Day

Saturday, April 25, 2015

**Fishing, Golfing
Turkey Hunting**

Awards banquet: 6:00pm Callaway Baptist Church

Guest Speaker: Stacy Dyar

We are asking all our churches to participate in this.

More information available at: www.troubaptist.org.



Men's Day Guest Speaker - Stacy Dyar
Co-founder of Xtreme Christian Outdoors
Georgia Baptist Convention Outdoor Ministry Consultant

Association - The WinShape Camp Road Crew will make a stop in LaGrange from 5 to 8pm Tuesday, March 3! The summer camp staff will be at Chick-fil-A on Commerce Ave. with inflatables, games & crafts. If you register your child at this event in LaGrange, for camp June 8-12, you'll get a \$49 discount per child and only have to pay a \$25 deposit. For more info, contact Sherri Brown at sherrib100@aol.com or at (706) 402-6423.



Chick-fil-A Connect Race to benefit WinShape Camp in LaGrange will be Saturday, March 7, beginning at the downtown square. Choose to walk/run 1 mile, 5K, or 10K. Both the 5K and 10K races include ChronoTrack chip timing and a USATF certified course. Register at: cfaceseries.com

Association - Wide Spring Revival

April 26 - 29, 2015

Sunday night 6:00 pm

Monday - Wednesday nights 7:00 pm

at

Troup Baptist Missions & Ministry Center
1301 Washington Street, LaGrange, GA 30240

Speaker: Stacy Dyar
GBC Church Revitalization

Creation & World View Conference March 21 - 24, 2015



Speaker: Eric Hovind - President of Creation Today
www.creationtoday.org

Creation vs. Evolution Debate
@ Troup HS Fine Arts Building
Saturday 7:00 pm

Regular Sessions @ Oakside Baptist Church

- Sunday 9:45 am *Age of the Earth*
- Sunday 10:45 am *God's Glory*
- Sunday 6:00 pm *They're Both Religions*
- Monday 7:00 pm *Fact vs. Faith*
- Tuesday 7:00 pm *The Truth*

All churches are invited to participate. Those who would like to be more involved and help sponsor this debate are welcome to do so. Churches are also invited to send a choir on Monday or Tuesday night, and/or participate in a multi-church choir. For more information, please call Pastor Tim Tidwell at Oakside (706) 882-7728 or (850) 261-4896.

Announcements (continued)

Woman's Missionary Union Lunchzon

Saturday, March 21, 2015
11:30 am to 1:30 pm

At

Rossmont Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
94 Hamilton Road
LaGrange, GA

Registration begins at 10:30 am.

Everyone is Invited!

Speakers:

- Randy Pręslę, missions pastor - Rossmont
- Carol Cain, local comedian and story teller

Please RSVP by March 13 to Judy King by email at lilose@att.net or by phone (706)882-0371.

Association - Ministers Wellness Retreats will be:

- Sept. 10-12, 2015- Conference Center Toccoa, GA
- Oct. 8-10, 2015- Conference Center, Norman Park, GA
Call Mrs. Ruth Smith at 770-936-5364 for both.



Children's Camp Rockridge



June 22 - 25



For children age 8 through rising 6th graders



Baptist Tabernacle - Hunters for Christ will hold a turkey hunt March 14 and 15 for disabled persons. This is a great ministry for sharing the love of God with others. Hunters for Christ is open to all men, women and kids. If you know anyone who is disabled that would like to come to the hunts, please call Brian Huckleberry at 706-616-2001 or Kerry White at 706-523-2087. Our HUB youth group is selling barbeque tickets for March 15 and the proceeds will go toward funding of their mission trip this summer. The HUB youth are having a fantastic year learning about God, praying and fellowshiping together.



Baptist Tabernacle - HUB Youth Group

YOU'RE INVITED!

TO ATTEND:

**The Faith Communities Response
to Domestic Violence**

FOR:

Faith Community Leaders

WHEN:

March 16, 2015, 5:30-7:30pm

WHERE:

**LaGrange Memorial Library
Fackler Room**

Dinner will be provided

**Please R.S.V.P. to Amanda Jeter at
[Harmony House alj@harmonyhousega.org](mailto:alj@harmonyhousega.org)**

Callaway - The Ladies Bible Study began Feb. 12th. They are studying the book entitled *What Love Is* by Kelly Minter (letters of 1,2,3 John). The meetings are on Thursdays at 6:30pm. The Leisure Timers group is making plans for a trip to Colorado & the Rocky Mountains May 29 - June 8. Contact the church office / Bobby Whitten for details.

Davidson - welcomes everyone to join them:

Sundays: Breakfast - 8:45am, Sunday School - 9:45am,
Morning Worship - 11am, Evening Service - 6pm

Wednesdays: Food closet 12-2pm, Bible Study - 6:30pm

2nd Friday of the Month: Karaoke "Sing-A-Long" - 6pm

3rd Friday of the Month: Prayer Night - 7:00pm

5th Sunday: Singing - 5pm

Announcements (continued)

Grace - The Brotherhood is making plans for a mission trip in May to Kentucky. They will be helping to make home repairs. Grace is preparing for Homecoming, which will be held on Sunday, March 22. The hand bell choir is growing! A beginner group will start rehearsals Thursday, Feb. 19.

Highland - Men's Fellowship is scheduled for Saturday morning, March 21 at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. Highland will attend Ebenezer Presbyterian Church on Sunday night, March 29 for their Palm Sunday service.

Hilyer - will hold Revival March 1 - 4. All are invited!

- Sunday 11:00am & 7:00pm
Speaker: Bro Woody Woodard
- Monday - Wednesday 7:00pm
Speaker: Bro. Alan Carr from Lenoir, NC

Lakeview - The movie "Facing the Giants" will be shown on Saturday, March 7 at the church at 6 pm. All visitors are welcome to participate in the movie, popcorn, and cokes. On Saturday, March 28 at 4 pm at the church, an Easter Egg Hunt & Cookout will be held. Everyone is welcome; please RSVP by March 21 to Pastor Lamar Truitt at 706-882-3579 or Judy King at 706-882-0371. Plans have been made for a fundraising project to raise funds for paving the church parking lot. Members are requested to turn in suggestions on how to "GROW LAKEVIEW" and questionnaires were distributed to solicit input from members. Members are asked to continue bringing nonperishable food items for the food closet. Lakeview WMU Leader Peggy Reese has made plans for collection of the Annie Armstrong offering for North American missions during the Easter season.

Mountville - will have a Spring Revival beginning Sunday, March 22 at 6pm and continuing Monday through Wednesday at 7pm nightly. Bro. Aaron McCollough will be the guest speaker. Special music will be provided each night.

Mountville - will be presenting the re-enactment of the Live Crucifixion on Good Friday, April 3 beginning at 5pm at Preacher Dwayne's house - 3785 Greenville Road. Food and fellowship will follow. Everyone's welcome!

The Mountville Women's Group will be participating in Relay for Life on Friday, April 24. MBC has several survivors of cancer and will honor them as they walk and raise money for a cure! MBC will also have a BIG Yard Sale and Chicken-Q on Saturday, May 2 from 8am - 2pm at Preacher Dwayne's house - 3785 Greenville Road. All proceeds will benefit the Land/Building Fund.

Rosemont - Please be in prayer for the Spring break mission team going to Guatemala. WMU Association Luncheon will be held at Rosemont on Saturday, March 21. Come join us on Easter Sunday at 8:30am or 10:30am at the Troup High Fine Arts Auditorium for the Easter Services. Childcare for ages birth to 4 years will be provided at Rosemont Baptist Church for both services.

Wehadkee - Wehadkee is spearheading **Prayer on the Square** events in LaGrange, GA. Plans are to meet on the square every fifth Sunday at 3pm to pray for Troup County and our Country. **The next meeting will be March 29, 2015.** Brother Aaron encourages all churches to participate.

Western Heights - Steve Vickery invites everyone to join him and his wife Wanda on a trip to Israel with Dr. J. Robert White and the Sons of Jubal on Oct. 5-14, 2015. It will be the opportunity of a lifetime - a journey to the places our Lord lived, traveled, ministered, died, and rose again. You can register now and pay installments each month. It is recommended to register by Sept. 30 (\$300 deposit) and pay \$400 monthly with final payment June 30, 2015. There are several price options for the trip. The trip cost is all inclusive. The sons of Jubal will have opportunities to share the gospel through music at several venues along the way. Please e-mail Steve Vickery at stevev@westernheights.net or call 706-333-7838 to receive a brochure/information about registering for the trip.

APRIL CALENDAR

- 3 Association Office & GBC closed for Good Friday
- 5 Easter Sunday
- 6 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 13 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 20 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 21 Church Planters' Network Association Office 9am-12 noon
- 23 Executive Committee Meeting Troup Baptist Association 7pm
- 25 Association-Wide Men's Day
- 26-29 Association-Wide Revival Troup Baptist Association
- 27 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia

Note: Prayer Team meets at the association office at 6pm on Mondays.



Happy Birthday April



- 6th Rev. Paul Blair, First Baptist on the Square
- 6th Rev. Clay Snyder, Dunson
- 9th Rev. Aaron McCollough, Association
- 9th Rev. Donnie Benefield, Grace
- 11th Rev. Nick Pilgrim, Wehadkee
- 23rd Rev. Randall Foxworth
- 27th Rev. Steve Vickery, Western Heights
- 28th Rev. Hugo Oropeza, First Hispanic
- 29th Rev. Frank Sledge

MARCH CALENDAR

- 2 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Bobby Bozeman
- 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins - Spring Forward
- 9 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Boyd Miller
- 16 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Wendell Brown
- 17 Church Planters' Network Association Office 9am-12 noon
- 21 WMU Luncheon Rosemont Baptist 11:30 - 1:30
- 23 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Lamar Womack
- 30 NO Pastors' Prayer Fellowship

Note: Prayer Team meets at the association office at 6pm on Mondays.



**Happy Birthday
March**



- 1st Rev. Glenn Perkins, Faith Believers
- 8th Bro. Donald Boyd, Northside
- 8th Rev. Claude McGavic, Retired
- 9th Rev. Benjie Dukes, Concord
- 11th Rev. Don Ellison
- 13th Rev. Neil Stich, Second Baptist
- 16th Rev. James Yu, New Heaven Korean Baptist Mission
- 20th Rev. Randy Warren, Flat Shoals Salem Road
- 22nd Dr. Tom Tucker, First Baptist/West Point
- 31st Rev. Ron Daniel

Welcome Spring! & Daylight Savings Time!

On The Lighter Side

A Southern Baptist and a Methodist crashed landed on a deserted island and they are the only ones there. The Methodist got real worried and said, "I don't think they'll ever find us. We didn't have a chance to radio where we were. They'll never find us." The Baptist just looked at peace. The Methodist asked, "How are you so confident they are going to find us?" And the Baptist said, "Well, I make \$400,000 a year and I'm a tither. My preacher is going to find me."

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