

Troup Baptist Association

Deadbeat Christians and Churches

Not long ago, I attended a meeting where I met one of the nicest young men I have met in a long time. Maurice and I come from different generations and different cultures. Yet, it didn't take us long to discover we had a common point of interest. We both love Jesus.

As Maurice and I talked, somehow the conversation turned to churches and the benevolent ministries they perform. He told me a story about one such benevolent request in his church and how his pastor handled it. He said, "There was a young lady in the church who had fallen on hard times. She sent a note to the pastor telling him about her hard times and requesting four hundred dollars from the church. The pastor took the note and read it to the deacons and then asked them what they thought. Seeing as the young lady had been a member of the church all her life, the deacons told the pastor they thought the church should give her the four hundred dollars. The pastor then said, 'No. Let's give her six hundred

instead. However, I am going to instruct the treasurer to give her the check first and let her be blessed by that and then, after she has received her blessing, to give her a copy of her financial giving statement.' As instructed, the treasurer handed her the check. When she saw the amount she began to weep for joy and gush about how thankful she was, how much she loved her church, and how good her church had been to her. Then, as instructed, the treasurer handed her a copy of her financial giving report. As she looked at it her countenance fell and she said, 'I need to do better.' Then, in hushed tones she mumbled, 'My church has been better to me than I have been to my church.'" And the sad truth is that her statement could be repeated thousands of times over right here in Troup County, Georgia! "My church has been better to me than I have been to my church."

There is a term used in divorce situations when a father refuses to pay child support. That term is: Deadbeat Dads. It signifies that the father,

who willingly chose to enter into the parental partnership with the mother of his child, isn't willing to step up and meet his obligations regarding the results of that partnership. In other words, his wife and child are better to him than he is to them.

I am afraid we are perpetuating this culture in our churches. We allow or validate the actions of deadbeat Christians and church members who continually take more than they receive. Now, I know that from time to time, all of us, including me, take more from our church than we give. This is not what I'm talking about. What I'm talking about is when it becomes our standard practice! We come to the church and enjoy its comforts. We like the beautiful building, the heat in the winter, the air conditioning in the summer, and the padded pews. But we don't give financially. Let's be clear. Under the permissive will of God, churches exist because of two things:

1. Somebody prayed.
2. Somebody paid!

I'm afraid we have allowed this mentality to

go far beyond the church. It has permeated every fiber of our society. We want government benefits – without paying our fair share for them. We want a healthy family – without paying the price. We want good jobs – without paying the price of educating ourselves and or training ourselves. We want to start at the top of the ladder – without paying our dues at the bottom of the ladder. And on, and on, and on I could go.

As I close this column, I do so by stating that I'm afraid we have allowed this secular entitlement mindset to permeate the church. We think we should receive without giving. And the truth of the matter is that if nobody gives, then nobody receives.

I wonder what would happen if every church posted in their bulletins a list of deadbeat Christians and church members who attend church to receive – but never give.

She said, "My church has been better to me than I have been to my church."

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 - The Troup Baptist Association / Georgia Baptist Convention Church Planters Fellowship meets monthly at the Troup Baptist Association office. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 14.



Pictured (L-R) at the March 24th meeting are Danny Townsend, Pastor Frank Abrahamson (Prayer & Praise), Larry Kelley, Pastor Steve Sexton (Bethel) and Dr. Jimmy Baughcum, GBC Church Planting Consultant.

Association - On Sunday, March 22, With One Accord Church used the baptistry in the sanctuary portion of the Troup Baptist Association Missions & Ministry Center to baptize about fifteen people.



Pastor Anderson (facing camera) and Minister Woodard (back to camera) are shown above baptizing one of the candidates.

Association - The WMU held its annual Spring Luncheon on Saturday, March 21 at Rosemont Baptist Church. The ladies of Rosemont's WMU did a great job of decorating the tables with items from previous mission trips. There were 72 in attendance. A love offering of \$412.75 was collected for the Georgia Baptist Children's Home. Speaker Randy Presley, Rosemont's Associate Pastor spoke about missions. Storyteller Carol Cain shared stories from her childhood. Both speakers were excellent! The meal was prepared by WMU members from different churches. Thanks to all who helped make this event possible.

In Christ,

Your Troup Baptist Association Leadership Team:

Judy King - Chairman, Dottie Henson,
Kelli Colley, Linda Scott,
Gina Spradlin & Marcia Gorman.



Above: Women from churches across the association gathered at Rosemont Baptist Church for the Annual WMU Luncheon. The Association WMU Team, led by Judy King, did a wonderful job. Thank you ladies!



WMU Spring Luncheon
Speaker/Storyteller Carol Cain
with Judy King in background



WMU Spring Luncheon
Speaker Randy Presley
Associate Pastor - Rosemont

Brother Aaron's Suggested Reading

The Awesome Power of the Listening Ear

By John Drakeford

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle - Four were saved, four were baptized, and nine new members were added during the month of March! The Food Closet continues to serve a lot of people. This month, 751 individuals were served and 257 boxes of food and 217 meals were distributed. The Clothes Closet served 88 individuals and gave away 17 coats plus lots of clothing. The Hub Youth Ministry did a Huckleberry's BBQ fund raiser on March 15. The proceeds will go toward funding the mission trip this summer. AWANAs had Pastor Appreciation Night on March 25.

Callaway - Saturday, March 14, was the "Couple's Outing"! It was a fun evening which included a scavenger hunt in downtown LaGrange, a trivia game, prizes, and a delicious meal! Couples of all ages really enjoyed the event. The Ladies Bible Study continues each Thursday night at 6:30pm. The study, by Kelly Minter is entitled *What Love Is*. It has been a wonderful study led by Ann Blalock. The WOM Ladies Group met twice this month and went visiting their church members who are shut-in and not able to attend church regularly. It was such a blessing, not only to the people visited, but especially for the ladies who did the visiting! A special little treat was given to those visited. The AWANAs group had a work day on March 7 to build their cars for the upcoming AWANAS' Grand Prix which was held at 7:00pm on Wednesday night, March 25. The AWANA program has enjoyed a great year and the boys and girls have learned so much. Thank you AWANA leaders! The Callaway kids were treated to a Fire Department Field Trip recently. They loved touring the firehouse, having pictures made sitting in the fire truck and having a picnic lunch. Thanks to the local fire department for making it a super fun day for the kids!

Davidson - The Food Closet served a total of 34 families (89 individuals) during February. God was listening and answering every prayer during Prayer Night on the 20th of March! They are so blessed that God is an 'always' presence, not just a 'sometimes' presence. Please join them for their next Prayer Night on April 17.

Grace - celebrated Homecoming on Sunday, March 22. They enjoyed a concert by 'Old Paths Quartet' and a covered dish luncheon after the service. On March 28, the Ladies of Grace will hosted a pancake breakfast at Longhorn Restaurant in LaGrange. Also, the Ladies of Grace sponsored a blood drive on Saturday, March 28 at Grace Baptist church.

Highland - Men's Fellowship was held on Saturday March 21. The Children's Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, March 28. Highland joined Ebenezer Presbyterian Church on Sunday Night, March 29 for their Palm Sunday Service.

Hilyer - The WMU sponsored a Valentine dinner February 8, at 6pm in the Activities Building. The men of the church were invited to participate in the missions for WMU for the month. The men baked desserts and donated \$5.00 to enter the contest. The grand prize winner was Mr. Larry Bible. The 2nd and 3rd runner ups were Levi Bailey and Brandon Parrott. The judges had a very hard time making decisions on the 17 desserts that were entered in the competition! Money raised from the contest was used to purchase blankets for the warming shelter in LaGrange. Revival services were held beginning Sunday, March 1 with Bro. Woody Woodard preaching the morning and evening services. Bro. Aaron McCollough preached Monday thru Wednesday nights and they had a very good meeting each night. There was special music each night and a nursery was provided. Several ladies attended the WMU luncheon on Saturday, March 21 at Rosemont Baptist. Bro. Presley gave an interesting talk about how he became interested in missions. He invited the ladies in attendance to get a book listing their mission trips and to ask their church about joining Rosemont in the mission field. Ms. Carol Cain gave a very interesting life story which reminded the ladies of their childhood in Sunday School.

Lakeview - A large group of members enjoyed the movie night with popcorn and cokes on March 7; the inspirational movie "Facing the Giants" was shown. Thanks to Jenny Ledford for teaching computer classes that were very helpful to the members who attended. Several ladies attended the Troup Baptist Association's annual WMU Luncheon at Rosemont on March 21. Lakeview member Judy King is the association's WMU Team Leader and she puts much work into the luncheon each year; Thank you, Judy! The Men's ministry also met on March 21 at the church for breakfast and a discussion about fundraisers for paving the parking lot. An Easter Egg Hunt & Cookout was held March 28 at the church. Ministry to Poplar Creek Assisted Living continued with members providing devotions and music for residents.

Association - Church Prayer List

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

For May 2015, please pray for following churches:

Week of May 3, 2015 - Open Range Cowboy Church
Week of May 10, 2015 - Praise & Prayer Ministry
Week of May 17, 2015 - Reeds Chapel Baptist Church
Week of May 24, 2015 - Roper Heights Baptist Church
Week of May 31, 2015 - Rosemont Baptist Church

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

News (continued)

Roper Heights - had a blessed month, one was saved! Praise the Lord! There were eleven ladies that attended the WMU Luncheon at Rosemont Baptist. The speakers were great! Roper Heights had a fellowship breakfast on March 22. The speaker, Bo Huerta brought a great message. Their hearts were saddened at the loss of a loved one, Lucy Lott. She will be missed greatly.

Teaver Road - celebrated their Word of Life Ministry on Sunday, March 22, 2015.



Word of Life - Children



Word of Life - Youth

Wehadkee - Valentine Banquet was well attended. The fellowship hall was decorated very pretty and the food was enjoyed by candlelight. Thanks to all who worked so hard. On Sunday, March 15 they enjoyed a Gideon speaker. He told about how the Gideons operate and told stories of how their Bible Ministry has changed so many lives. The Gideons do a great job! A fellowship lunch was held at a local restaurant at 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 21. Food and fellowship was enjoyed by a good group. Sunday nights have been movie nights for the month of March. Finger food and popcorn were enjoyed on those nights.

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.

Announcements

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.

Association -



Faith Bible Institute
The Troup Baptist Association serves as a satellite campus of **Faith Bible Institute**, a ministry of Rowland Road Baptist Church in Monroe, Louisiana.

**Early Registration for Fall Semester:
(By June 30, 2015)**

- New Student: \$126
- Returning Student: \$86
- FBI Graduate: \$53
- Second Family Member; \$53

For more information go to www.troubaptist.org
Contact Jane Gottshall - director at (706) 957-7443
or by email: jane.gottshall@gmail.com



Children's Camp Rockridge
Franklin, Georgia

June 22 - 25, 2015

For children age 8 through rising 6th graders

Cost: To be announced

Registration: Applications available at Troup Baptist Association office or at www.troubaptist.org

For more information:
contact Angela Maddux at (706) 884-1975
or by email angela@troubaptist.com



Association-Wide Spring Revival & Sportsman's Day April 25 - 29, 2015



**TROUP BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONAL
SPORTSMAN'S DAY
& BAR-B-QUE
April 25, 2015**
Events all day • Awards Banquet 6pm

**AWARD'S
BAR-B-QUE
6:00pm**

Callaway Baptist Church
Family Life Center
310 John Lovelace Rd



**TURKEY
HUNT**

Weigh-In/Measure
1:00pm @ Pine Rd Park or
Callaway Baptist Church

Hunt your own property OR
site's will be available!

Prize for Biggest Turkey &
Longest Beard

Call 706-884-1975 to register!
Must have valid license!



**FISHING
TOURNAMENT**

6:30am-12pm
Check-In at 6:00am

West Point Lake
Pine Road Park Pavillion

Bass & Crappie Divisions
2-man teams

Total Weight / Biggest Fish



**GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

Orchard Hills
Golf Course
(Newnan)

11:00am Start **\$40** per player
Pay at Course

4-man Scramble

Call 706-884-1975 with players!
DEADLINE: Monday, APR 20
Senior Tees for ages 70+

STACY DYER Special Guest Speaker



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

* 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 Dyer *
* GBC Church Revitalization *

Announcements (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle - God's Helping Hands will have a Spring Yard Sale on April 18 from 8am to 1pm at Baptist Tabernacle Church. Come and join them for the Easter Cantata. The service will begin at 10:30am on April 5. AWANAs will have their Grand Prix April 8 and then April 29 will be Fire Truck Night. The Guardians are hosting a motorcycle ride and the entry fees will be donated to the Youth Group for their mission trip. The HUB Youth Group will have a car wash at Lee's Crossing Piggly Wiggly on April 25. The Youth Group would greatly appreciate everyone who comes out to get their car washed. The BT Cruisers, Relay for Life Team are selling T-shirts as a fund raiser. The T-shirts are \$15 each. To purchase one, call the church office at (706) 882-0087. They urge everyone to support Relay for Life & the American Cancer Society. The Relay for Life of Troup County event will be held April 24 at 6pm at the Chris Joseph Track Complex, 1700 Whitesville Street, LaGrange, GA.

Callaway - The Ladies Bible Study continues each Thursday night at 6:30 pm. The study, by Kelly Minter is entitled *What Love Is*. Vacation Bible School - Journey Off the Map, will be held June 7 through 11 from 6:15 - 8:30 pm. 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 - Please join them for any of their services:
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
The Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 4 at 11am. Food, games and Christian fellowship are available to all. The book of Romans is being studied on Wednesday nights and is led by Billy Roberts. They would love to have you! Davidson Baptist is located on Highway 18, West Point, GA.

Grace - Grace Baptist will have an Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast. The choir will perform an Easter Cantata.

Highland - will have Sunrise Service at 7:30am on Easter Sunday. Also on Easter, the choir will present "My Chains Are Gone" during the Morning Worship Service. Also, The Lord's Supper will be observed during this service. There will be a Deacon Ordination Service in April for newly elected Deacon, Chuck Trim.

Hilyer - WMU is gathering business attire for the Emmaus Women's Shelter for those ladies who are going back to work. The deadline for these items will be in May. An Easter egg hunt will be held April 4 at 2pm in the church yard. It will be for all ages. Finger foods and desserts will be served in the Family Life Center immediately following the egg hunt.

Lakeview - Members are asked to continue bringing donations for the food closet to help those in need of food. Plans are being made for a yard sale to benefit the parking lot project. The movie "Fly Wheel" will be shown in April; arrangements will be announced. Members are planning to make donations to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering during the Easter season.

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.

Roper Heights - will have an indoor yard sale on April 11 beginning at 8am. The money made will be used to buy a unit of food warmers. Pastor Jackie Taylor and Associate Pastor Jim Chesnut invites everyone to come worship with them at Roper Heights. "May God Bless!"



Happy Birthday
May



4 th	Rev. Jimmy McMillian, Baptist Tabernacle
7 th	Rev. Chuck Anderson
16 th	Rev. Dwayne Perdue, Mountville
18 th	Rev. Terry Prestridge, Mt. Pleasant
21 st	Mrs. Marianne McCollough, First Lady of Troup Baptist Association
24 th	Rev. Anthony Hovey, Shoal Creek
25 th	Rev. Cleve Moore, Hilyer
26 th	Rev. Randy Gilbert, Long Cane

Safe Families for Children
Host Homes for Short-Term
Child Placement



Faith Forum



Date: Thursday, April 30, 2015 Time: 5:30 PM

New Community Church
1200 South Davis Road
LaGrange, GA

For more information contact Candi Gibson at
cgibson@twincedar.org or (706) 298-0050 ext 1073

Announcements (continued)

Rosemont - Come join them on Easter Sunday at the Troup High Fine Arts Auditorium. There will be two services: 8:30am and 10:30am. Childcare for ages birth to 4 years will be provided at Rosemont Baptist Church for both services. Rosemont will host "Empowered to Connect Simulcast" on April 10 - 11. This is a conference for adoptive and foster parents, ministry leaders, and other families and professionals to better understand how to connect with children from hard places and to help them heal and become all that God desires for them to be. You can register on the church website www.rosemontchurch.org (ministries tab) or call the church office at (706) 882-6234.

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 May 31, 2015.** Brother Aaron encourages all churches to participate. Easter Sunrise Service will be held with Stateline Church this year at 7:00 am. They have a beautiful view of the sun coming up over the water. A Gospel Singing will be held Saturday, April 25 at 6pm. All proceeds will go for the Children's Miracle Network in memory Hubert Ogle.

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.



Relay for Life of Troup County

Survivor Luncheon

**April 11, 11:00 AM
at Baptist Tabernacle**

Relay for Life

Date: Friday, April 24, 2015

Event Times:

- 6:00 PM Opening Ceremony
- 7:00 PM Survivors Lap
- 7:15 PM Caregivers Lap
- 10:00 PM Luminaria Ceremony
- 11:30 PM Closing Ceremony

Location: [Chris Joseph Track Complex](#)
(Whitesville Road Track)

Contact: Lynn Howard, Event Chairperson
(706) 523-2308 or email lhoward@troupc.org

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement symbolizes hope and our shared goal to end a disease that threatens the lives of so many people we love. If cancer has touched your life, participating in a Relay For Life event is a way to take action and help finish the fight. This is your opportunity to honor cancer survivors, remember those you have lost, and raise funds and awareness to fight back and help end cancer forever!

MAY CALENDAR

- 4 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 7 National Day of Prayer
- 10 Mother's Day
- 11 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 18 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 19 Church Planters' Network Association Office 9am-12 noon
- 25 Association Office & GBC closed for Memorial Day
- 25 No Pastors' Prayer Fellowship

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

APRIL CALENDAR

- 3 Association Office & GBC closed for Good Friday
- 5 Easter Sunday
- 6 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Sam Wood
- 13 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Bobby Bozeman
- 14 Church Planters' Network Association Office 9am-12 noon
- 20 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Tom Tidwell
- 23 Executive Committee Meeting Troup Baptist Association 7pm
- 25 Association-Wide Sportsman's Day & Bar-B-Que
- 26-29 Association-Wide Revival Troup Baptist Association
- 27 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Lincoln Anderson

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

Happy Easter from your Association Staff

On The Lighter Side

Maria came home from Sunday School on Palm Sunday and told her mother that she had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly. It took her mother a while before she realized that the hymn Maria had been singing was really: "Gladly The Cross I'd Bear."

**Troup Baptist Association
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