

Troup Baptist Association

Through the Filters of Our Own Prejudice

I heard a story about a banker who continually told folks, "Given the right set of circumstances, everybody will cheat and lie – everybody." And I also heard about a pastor who was continually telling his male pastoral staff, "You've got to watch the women in the church. They'll get you in trouble." It was no surprise to learn that the banker was caught embezzling funds and the pastor was caught having an affair. It's amazing how as human beings we justify our actions by our own prejudices.

I write a weekly Pastor's Column for several newspapers. Recently, I published an article on Same Sex Marriage. I received two responses from two ladies. The first lady told me that I had hatred in my heart, that I was an unhappy person, and that reading the article made her feel sad for me. She also said that she was going to pray that I learned how to be happy. The second lady told me that she

appreciated the article, what I said was the truth and needed to be said, and that I chose my words so as to state my point without being mean spirited or offensive. She went on to say that the article blessed her and she was going to pray that I kept doing the good work of the Lord. What was the difference? Both ladies read the same article - through the filters of their own prejudice!

I am reminded of another story. A pastor went to visit one of one of his parishioners. He knocked on the door and waited to be recognized. A little five or six-year-old girl opened the door. The pastor noticed she had a large piece of red cellophane stretched over her eyes. She went running through the house shrieking, "Mommy! Mommy! We've got a red preacher! We've got red walls! The ceiling is red! The floor is red! Mommy, everything is red!" Was everything red? Of course not. But it was to her! Why? Because she was seeing everything through a red

cellophane filter. Likewise, our core beliefs color us. No wonder Proverbs 23:7a (KJV) states, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he ..."

What we are at the core of our innermost being - determines what we see and do. A buzzard will fly over a beautiful field of lilies and never see the first lily. However, from hundreds of feet in the air, he'll spot the carcass of a dead animal. It will captivate his attention and control his actions. Why? Because he's a buzzard. It's his nature.

Phillipians 2: 5(KJV) says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." As a Christian, this verse tells me that the mind of Christ should control my actions. 2 Corinthians 5:17(KJV) says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." As a Christian, this verse teaches me that my old nature cannot control me. If something is dead – it doesn't control anything! And Romans 12: 2(KJV)

says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." As a Christian, this verse teaches me that my personal walk with Jesus is an on-going work of transformation.

Abraham Maslow said, "If your only tool is a hammer, then every problem looks like a nail!" Again, we see things through the filters of our own prejudice. Consequently, what we are - determines what we see and do.

As Christians, it should be our goal to make Jesus our life filter. He and He alone should determine what we see and do. Sadly, far too often, my humanity is the filter that controls what I see and do. I have a feeling I am not alone. Here is truth: What we are determines what we see and do! Let's make sure we are Christians!

Brother Aaron

News

Association - June 29, 2015, Pastor Jerome Shipman prepared his world famous ribs for the Bi-vocational Pastors and Wives. (Plus special guests: Pastor Cade Farris from First Baptist on The Square, Pastor Boyd Miller, Covenant Presbyterian, and Pastor DeWayne Majors, Solid Rock Baptist Church. Solid Rock is the church meeting in the sanctuary of the association office. A big **Thank You** to Jeff & Mary Higgins from Higgins Funeral Home in LaGrange for your wonderful financial gift that made this possible!



Pastor Jerome Shipman serving his world famous ribs to Pastor Cade Farris of First Baptist on the Square and Associate Pastor Richard King of Lakeview Baptist.



Rev. Farris, Rev. Richard & Judy King, Rev. DeWayne Majors of Solid Rock Baptist Church

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.

Association - Good News! During April of this year the **Gideons International** placed their Two Billionth Scripture since being founded in 1908! The local Troup County Gideon Camp sends a **Big Thank-You** to all Troup County Baptist Association members that contributed in the past 12 months. Contribution by TBA members enabled the distribution of 2597 Bibles or 10,390 Testaments somewhere in the world. Thank you again to you and all of your member churches that so warmly welcomed the Gideon Presenters. In Christ,
Jeb Brantley, LaGrange Gideon Camp Ministry Chair

Association - Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough preached at the Homecoming services Sunday morning, July 26 at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Franklin, Georgia. The Gospel/Bluegrass group, The Servers, from Villa Rica, Georgia were the guest singers. "They were good. And of course, the food was superb! Thank you Pastor Terry Prestridge for inviting me!" ~ Brother Aaron



The Servers from Villa Rica, Georgia were the guest singers at Mt. Pleasant's Homecoming.

Mark your calendars for...
The Annual Max New Singing
Sunday, October 25, 2015
5:00 - 7:00 pm

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle - had two people saved during the month of July. "What a blessing from God!" • The Food Closet continues to help a lot of individuals. During the month, 240 boxes of food and 265 meals were distributed. A total of 684 people were served. • The Clothes Closet continues to serve a lot of people. With school starting soon, children's clothes are needed. If anyone has any that you would like to donate, you may drop them off anytime at the drop box in back of the church. • The HUB college students enjoyed a trip to Laguna Beach, July 20 - 23. The HUB students (grades 6 - 12) will be going whitewater rafting August 14 - 16. • On July 26, Baptist Tabernacle honored Georgia Vietnam Veterans during the morning worship service. There were 26 veterans signed up for this ceremony. • The Lighthouse Keepers met on Monday, July 27 and went to dinner at Milanos. A great time was had by all the attendees.

Creeside - baptized 5 and added 2 new members during the month of July. They also had a great VBS!

East LaGrange - recognized Mr. Billy Pope for over 50 years of dedicated service as their song leader as well as service in the area of church finances. He has been a member of East LaGrange Baptist since he was a young boy.

Davidson - had the joy of seeing one more lost person accept Jesus as their savior! "Hallelujah & Praises to our Heavenly Father!" • The yard sale / bake sale / hamburger sale / car wash was a huge success. Proceeds will be placed into their children and youth funds for future use. • The newly formed Youth Group Singers now have a name... "The King's Kids". Please join us in praying that these children will continue to grow in God and his plan for them. • Approximately 65 - 70 children and adults had a fantastic time during Vacation Bible School June 22 - 26. It was a time filled with hearing God's Holy Word and having fun while doing so.



Davidson Baptist children enjoying Vacation Bible School



Davidson Baptist Children singing during VBS



Mr. Billy Pope (above right) receiving an award from Rev. Bobby Robinson (left) for over 50 years of dedicated service to East LaGrange Baptist.



All ages enjoyed VBS at Davidson Baptist.

News (continued)

First Baptist on the Square - recently called the Rev. Cade Farris as their new senior pastor. Rev. Farris follows Dr. Paul R. Baxter, who retired after 32 years of ministry to First Baptist. Rev. Farris is a native of Russellville, Alabama, and has earned degrees from the University of North Alabama and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as minister to adults, college students, and singles, and has held the position of minister of music in various churches located in Alabama and Indiana. Prior to coming to First Baptist on the Square, Rev. Farris was the senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Wedowee, Alabama. Rev. Farris is married to Jennifer Cobb Farris, who is also a graduate of the University of North Alabama. She enjoys serving the church through music and women's ministries. Rev. and Mrs. Farris have three children, Lauren, age 11, Carson, age 8, and Andrew, age 2. • A reception was held on May 2nd to give church members the opportunity to meet Rev. Farris and his family. The following day the congregation voted overwhelmingly to call Rev. Farris as the 30th pastor of the church. His employment at First Baptist on the Square began in June, and his first official sermon was given on June 7th. Already, the congregation has been enriched by Wednesday night Bible Studies on 'The Names of God' and a sermon series on 'Spiritual Warfare - Putting on the Armor of God' on Sunday mornings. Rev. Farris and family will complete their move from Wedowee to LaGrange in early August. Rev. Farris looks forward to serving as pastor of First Baptist on the Square and to being a part of the LaGrange community.



The Farris Family (clockwise from left)
Jennifer, Carson, Pastor Cade, Lauren & Andrew.

Highland - had a good VBS this year. Classes were held on July 10 & 11. Parents and friends joined them for a program on July 12, during which the children showed what they learned in VBS. Following the program, everyone was invited to stay for a cookout, which also served as the annual Independence Day celebration.

Highland (continued) - Beloved church member and long-time Deacon, Charles Prather went to be with the Lord on July 16. People packed the church to pay tribute to a humble, Godly man who loved the Lord and served Him at Highland for more than 50 years. Charles was a true servant who cared about others and gave of his time and talents to help wherever he could. He will be greatly missed and will be long-remembered. • The blood drive originally scheduled for July 19 has been postponed until a later date.

Lakeview - "Outback Rock" VBS was held July 13 - 15 and was enjoyed by a large crowd of children and plenty of adult volunteers who handled Bible stories, crafts, recreation, and delicious meals each night. Many parents & grandparents were on hand for the special VBS program and meal held on July 15. Many thanks to all the workers and special thanks to VBS Director Carol Truitt for all her planning and hard work. • WMU met on July 27 with Sally Pike serving as hostess and planning the program. The ladies always enjoy the fellowship, food, and interesting programs.

Wehadkee - The ladies had a meeting on July 14. The food & fellowship was enjoyed. • Their pastor, Rev. Nick Pilgrim was out of town on July 26. Rev. Woody Woodard preached in the morning service.

Brother Aaron's Suggested Reading

Life on Mission Joining the Everyday Mission of God

By Dustin Willis & Aaron Coe

Association - Church Prayer List

For August 2015, please pray for following churches:

Week of August 2, 2015 - Unity Baptist Church
Week of August 9, 2015 - Wehadkee Baptist Church
Week of August 16, 2015 - Western Heights Baptist Church
Week of August 23, 2015 - With One Accord
Week of August 30, 2015 - Anointed By Faith

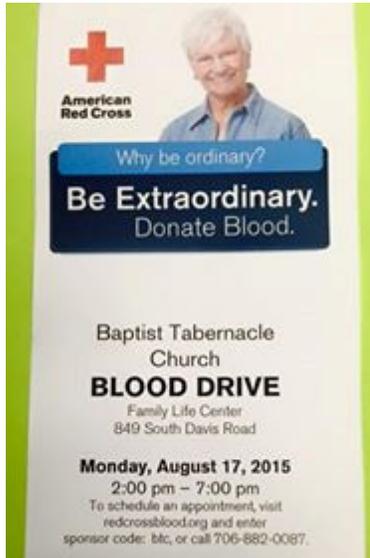
For July 2015, please pray for following churches:

Week of Sept. 6, 2015 - Antioch Baptist Church/Hogansville
Week of Sept. 13, 2015 - Antioch Baptist Church/LaGrange
Week of Sept. 20, 2015 - Baptist Tabernacle
Week of Sept. 27, 2015 - Bethel Baptist Church

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

Announcements (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle - August 7 has been designated for family day and it will be a trip to the Braves baseball game. Baptist Tabernacle Church will be partnering with Whitesville Road Elementary again this year for school supplies. School will be starting soon, so please keep the students, bus drivers, teachers and everyone involved with schools in your prayers.



Blood Drive

at Baptist Tabernacle

Monday, August 17, 2015
2pm to 7pm

They encourage everyone to come and give blood as so many lives depend on this.

Davidson - Please join them for Homecoming on August 16 with "The Ward Family". They are expecting a "Spirit Inspired Message" followed by lots of good food and fellowship! • After much prayer, everything has been arranged. The Tent Revival begins on Monday, August 17 at Davidson Baptist. They are so excited and are looking forward to being "Revived". They hope to share this revival of their faith and spirit with anyone in need of God's Word. The Holy Spirit is sure to be there. "Please come!"

Davidson invites you to join them for any of their services:

Sunday: Breakfast - 8:45 am

Sunday School - 9:45 am

Morning Worship - 11:00am

Evening Worship - 6:00pm

Wednesday: Bible Study - 6:30pm

1st & 3rd Wednesday: Food Closet 9:30am - 12:00pm

2nd Friday: Prayer Night & Karaoke "Sing-A-Long" 6:00pm

Davidson Baptist is located on Hwy 18, in West Point, GA.

Dunson - will be holding a revival with Evangelist Jon Reed from August 16 - 19. Services will be 11:00am & 6:00pm on Sunday and 7:00pm Monday thru Wednesday. Everyone is welcome.

East LaGrange - will be having their 94th homecoming in October.

Highland - will join other churches in their community for a 5th Sunday Singing at Hogansville Church of God on Sunday, August 30 at 6:00pm.

Lakeview - A Faith Bible Institute Graduation Ceremony will be held at Lakeview on Sunday, August 9 at 3pm. A reception with light refreshments will follow. The special speaker will be Dr. Paul Baxter. Graduates are J. R. Elliott, Brandon Swanson, and Lakeview's Pastor Lamar Truitt. All friends and family of the graduates are invited.

First Baptist on the Square - is hosting the Georgia Baptist Regional Growing Groups Conference for all Sunday School leaders and Small Group leaders on Saturday, August 29 from 7:30 - 3:30. (see additional information below)



First Baptist on the Square
100 Broad Street
LaGrange, GA

Training for Sunday School & Small Group Leaders
Saturday, August 29 • 7:30am - 3:30pm

- 16 different breakout sessions
- Lifeway Store, curriculum display & representative
- Worship & Plenary Speaker - Dr. Lawrence H. Phipps, Leader of *It's Life Ministries*
- Continental Breakfast & Lunch provided

Early Registration - \$25 (until Monday, August 24)

Late Registration & Walk-Ups - \$35

Online registration:

<http://gabaptistgroups.org/2015-growing-groups/>

or call 1-800-746-4422 ext. 290

Mountville - looks forward to partnering with Callaway Elementary & Callaway High School for the 2015-16 school year. Prayer walks will be held at CES & CHS before school starts. Please be in prayer for all schools in Troup County. The Mountville Women's Group will begin a Beth Moore Bible Study on Monday, August 17. The study will be "Children of the Day" (Thessalonians). It is a 9 week study. The group will meet at 6pm on Mondays. For more information, please contact Danna Perdue at (706) 881-8001. MBC AWANA will kick off on Sunday, September 13. The club will meet on Sundays from 5:30 - 7:30pm. There are classes available for all age groups! "Please come join us!"

Rosemont - AWANA & Youth activities on Wednesday nights will start back August 19. • Please join us for our Global Impact Conference to be held August 21 - 23. There will be a banquet on that Friday night. Tickets go on sale at the church on August 2. This is a special event to highlight available mission opportunities and needs. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (706) 882-6234.

Announcements (continued)

Wehadkee - Homecoming and Revival will be Sunday, August 2 - 5. **Nothing But Grace** will be singing at Homecoming. "We pray for a great revival service." • On the fifth Sunday in August, they will have lunch. Prayer on the Square will be at 3:00pm. "Please join us as we pray for our nation, state, city & county."

Wehadkee - Wehadkee Baptist Church 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 our Country, State, City and Troup County.

The next meeting will be August 30, 2015.

Brother Aaron encourages all churches to participate.

Literacy Volunteers of Troup County

Literacy Volunteers of Troup County is a non-profit program whose mission is to enable adults to achieve personal goals through improved literacy. Free tutoring is available in the areas of reading, math, computer skills and ESOL. We have seen tremendous growth in our student population which has increased our need for volunteer tutors. Tutors receive free training and have the ongoing support of a mentor. If you or someone you know is interested in receiving tutoring or volunteering as a tutor, please contact Karen McClain at (706) 883-7837. It only takes a couple of hours per week to help change someone's life forever!

Community-wide Intercessory Prayer on the Square

September 11, 2015
8:00am until 10:00am

There will be 2 minutes of silent prayer at 9:11 am.

All businesses, government agencies, churches, schools, families and media are asked to attend.

If you are unable to attend, please join us in prayer at 9:11am on 9/11.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 1st Senior Adult Rally Rosemont Baptist Church 11am - 1:30pm
- 7th GBC & TBA closed for Labor Day Holiday
No Pastors' Prayer Fellowship / No Prayer Team Meeting
- 14th Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Lamar Womack
- 21st Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Lincoln Anderson
- 22nd Church Planters' Network Association Office 9am-12 noon
- 24th Executive Committee Meeting Association Office 7pm
- 28th Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Jeff Duran

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

Discover Georgia Baptists

(Formerly New Ministers' Orientation)

September 24 - 25, 2015

Georgia Baptist Conference Center
4243 Highway 319 North
Norman Park, GA

Who can Attend?

New Ministers since September, 2014 who are:

- Newly Ordained
- New to Georgia
- Presently serving a GBC Church

Speakers:

- Dr. J. Robert White, Executive Director, GBC
- Dr. Don Hattaway, President, GBC
- Dr. Larry Wynn, VP Church Revitalization Ministries

Music provided by Music and Worship Ministries, GBC
Lodging & Meals provided

For more information contact Phyllis Anderson at
panderson@gabaptist.org or call (770) 936-5381

2015 WMU Regional Equipping Conferences

Saturday, August 15
9:00am - 2:00pm

3 Locations:

- Savannah - Bull Street Baptist Church
- Thomasville - Dawson Street Baptist Church
- Demorest - Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

To register: call 1-800-746-4422 ext 326
or visit: www.georgiawmu.org

This training is for new or experienced leaders and will be an inspiration as we prepare for a new church year in missions.



**Happy Birthday
September**



- 2nd Rev. Michael Reeves, Open Range Cowboy Church
- 4th Rev. Tom Farr, First Baptist on the Square
- 16th Rev. Randy Presley, Rosemont
- 24th Rev. Olin McClain, Pastor Emeritus, Wehadkee
- 30th Rev. Lamar Truitt, Lakeview

AUGUST CALENDAR

- 1st WMU Annual School Prayer Walk
 3rd Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Jerome Shipman
 10th Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia John Rich
 17th Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Bobby Robinson
 18th Church Planters' Network Association Office 9am-12 noon
 24th Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Bobby Bozeman
 31st Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Olin McClain

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



Happy Birthday August



- 5th Rev. Lamar Womack, Gray Hill
 6th Rev. Bobby Robinson, East LaGrange
 10th Rev. Bernie Pasley, East Vernon
 10th Rev. Mike Watson
 22nd Rev. Jerome Shipman, New Macedonia
 22nd Rev. Danny Geter
 23rd Rev. Tifton Dobbs, Anointed By Faith
 29th Rev. Billy Allen, Stovall

Pray for our Schools, Students & School Staff!

On The Lighter Side

A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The Pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - Remember that God is watching."
 On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all the cookies you want - - God is watching the apples."

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USPS341-040

Periodicals Postage Paid LaGrange, Georgia 30241

Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Messenger, P.O. Box 550 LaGrange, Georgia 30241