

Troup Baptist Association

Water Pipe Moments

As I was thinking about Christmas and the cycle of life, my mind wandered back to the days of long ago that I spent growing up at 38 Borders Road in LaGrange, Georgia. God knows it was a simpler time way back then. We were the “poster family” for being poor. However, everybody else in the neighborhood was poor too, so we didn’t know the difference. But that was then and this is now. Life has a way of happening. Momma has gone to be with Jesus now and my ninety-five year old father joined her on December 5, 2011. All of my siblings and I have raised wonderful families and enjoyed very successful careers. Life took us a long way from that simple home on a dirt road we all call home. But somehow, it is the memory of the joys that were discovered in the simple things way back then that has captivated my attention this Christmas.

My momma was a stickler for traditions. After the meal on Christmas Eve we would all retire to the living room. The ritual began when momma would take the piano stool and drape a white cloth over it. Then she would carefully place the Bible and a

candle at the center. Daddy would then take his Bible and read to us Luke’s version of the Christmas story. Then they would carefully explain to us that Christmas was not about Santa Claus, but about the birth of our Savior, the Christ Child. Then, as a family, we would kneel around that piano stool and each, in turn, would pray to this Christ Child and express our gratitude to Him. And I will always remember my mother, reserving herself to be the last to pray, would always close her prayer, with tears running down her cheeks, asking God to, “Bless the little boys and girls who wouldn’t have any presents on Christmas morning.” And it was at one of these tender, touching moments that made one of the most indelible memories I have of Christmas at 38 Borders Road.

I remember one bitterly cold Christmas Eve. The house was plumbed with galvanized pipe. Remember, we were poor. So, this meant the pipes had no insulation and the underpinning of the house left somewhat to be desired. As a result of this the water in the pipes had frozen. Momma was all in a titter! Horror of horrors! The unadulterated joy of Christmas Eve at 38

Borders Road was being threatened by no water for cooking. Daddy took an old kerosene blow torch and for hours on end worked in the bitter cold trying to thaw the water. Finally, toward early evening, the pipes began to belch and make a gurgling sound. Then, joy of joys, the water began to flow! Daddy had saved Christmas!

As our family tradition played out that Christmas Eve, we knelt around the piano stool adorned with a Bible and began to pray. When it came my time to pray, I prayed as any five-year-old would pray – straight from my heart. I thanked God for momma & daddy, my brothers & sister, Jesus for Christmas, and who knows what else. But as I closed my prayer, with all the heartfelt gratitude and sincerity that only a five-year-old could muster, I prayed, “And thank you God for letting the water come up the pipes!” After I said amen, there was a long moment of awkward silence. Then somebody, I don’t know who, snickered - then another and another snickered. Soon my two brothers, my sister, my daddy, and even my momma were laughing hysterically at me. Well, I for one failed to see the

humor in the situation. But what a moment it was in the life of our family. Now, many years removed from that scene, my mind is lasered-in on the fact of just how little it took to make a young boy happy – water coming up the pipes!

I am proud of all the accomplishments God has allowed me to realize in my life. He has taken me to heights of success that I never dreamed I would reach. But I have begun to notice that these days it doesn’t take as much as it once did to bring me joy. I have reached a place in my life where “water pipe moments” are once again cause for great joy, celebration, and thanksgiving.

As you think about the things that really bring you joy this Christmas season, most likely it is not the expensive toys you have received. Most likely it is your own “water pipe moments!” So, my Christmas wish for all of us is really quite simple: Let’s all make more “water pipe moments” this Christmas. And by the way, Merry Christmas! (Not Happy Holidays!)

Brother Aaron

News

Troup Baptist Association - Wednesday, November 4 was Lafayette Christian School's annual volunteer workday. The Troup Baptist Association was very fortunate to receive volunteer help from a group of 8th grade girls, some parents and their teacher, Darlene Shaw. They all worked hard, had a great attitude, and much work was accomplished. The volunteers helped get the newsletter, "The Messenger" ready for mailing. They also cleaned windows, blinds, bathrooms and trash cans and vacuumed the sanctuary. The biggest task of all was cleaning and organizing the music library and they did an amazing job! "Thank you Lafayette Christian School volunteers!"



Shown above in no particular order are:
Raven Hart, Judy Corban, Taylor Akers, Paytn Bailey,
Hayleigh Clarke, Claire Corban, Debrae-zsa Hart,
Yuna Jeong, Hannah Kohler, Mary Francis Trimeloni,
and teacher Darlene Shaw.

Association - Church Prayer List

For December 2015, please pray for following churches:

Week of December 6, 2015 - Faith Believers Ministries
Week of December 13, 2015 - First Hispanic Baptist Church
Week of December 20, 2015 - First Baptist Church on the Square
Week of December 27, 2015 - First Baptist Church - West Point

For January 2016, please pray for following churches:

Week of January 3, 2016 - Flat Shoals Baptist Church
Week of January 10, 2016 - Flat Shoals Salem Rd Baptist Church
Week of January 17, 2016 - Fountain Baptist Church
Week of January 24, 2016 - Franklin Road Baptist Church
Week of January 31, 2016 - Glenn Baptist Church

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

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.

Troup Baptist Association - Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough and Mrs. Marianne delivered several Backpacks for Appalachia at the Georgia Baptist Convention on Tuesday, November 10.



Shown above on left is Mrs. Marianne McCollough delivering several "Backpacks for Appalachia". On the right is a very helpful volunteer. Not all backpacks delivered are shown.

Brother Aaron's Suggested Reading

WIN

The Key Principles to Take Your Business
From Ordinary to Extraordinary

By Dr. Frank I. Luntz

News (continued)

The Church on The Rock - Sunday morning November 22, 2015, I had the privilege of worshipping with Pastor Ray Tarwater and the congregation of The Church on The Rock (Formerly Northside Baptist) in West Point, Georgia. Brother Ray is donating his services as their Interim Pastor. And I'm here to tell you that he preached a fine sermon on November 22. I encourage you to go hear him! (And the Thanksgiving meal following the service wasn't too shabby either!)

As you will remember when you see the photo, The Church on The Rock is the church that had the roof of their sanctuary collapse this summer. Currently, they are meeting in their fellowship hall and have four active members plus visitors. The Sunday I attended there were around twenty adults and children in attendance. The cold hard truth regarding their situation is, humanly speaking, it looks very bleak. Their insurance company has denied their claim and will not pay. And while there are many things that can be said regarding this, the bottom line is – they aren't going to pay. The county has sent a letter telling the church that they have to remove the debris and rubble from the collapsed building and clean up the site. However, the financial situation of the church is also very bleak. Therefore, they cannot afford to do this.

So, what you are reading today is a Macedonian Call! (See Acts 16: 9) I want to encourage you to pray about what God would have you or your church do regarding this situation. Perhaps you own a company that has the necessary heavy equipment and manpower to demolish what remains of the sanctuary and to haul away the debris and rubble. And just maybe you would be willing to donate all or a portion of these resources. Maybe you only have one piece of equipment you would donate. Maybe the men of your church would be willing to donate their time toward this as a Men's Ministry project. Maybe God has blessed you financially and you would be willing to pay a contractor to come in and just do the entire project. Maybe you can't pay for all the costs associated with this, but would be willing to donate financially to cover a portion of

the costs. I don't know who God may speak to regarding this, or how He will speak. But I do believe that there will be those who will read this article and realize that God is speaking to them about helping. So, if God is speaking to you regarding this project, please contact me at:

aaron@troubaptist.com, or 706.302.9162.

The members of the church have not let this catastrophe stop them from "having church." They are currently meeting in their fellowship hall. So, aside from needing help regarding the collapsed building, they are also in need of volunteers to help in all aspects of doing a church. They need those who will visit in the community, lead worship, teach classes, and pull alongside of them for a while to do whatever is necessary to help. So, maybe you cannot do anything about the collapsed building but can help otherwise. Again, if this is you, please contact me. Whatever you do, please pray for Brother Ray and The Church on The Rock in West Point, Georgia. What a blessing this will be when, as the Phoenix, God raises His church from the rubble! ~ Brother Aaron



Pastor Ray Tarwater, Interim Pastor of The Church on The Rock, West Point, Georgia



Remains of the Sanctuary of The Church on The Rock



Thanksgiving Meal, November 22
The Church on The Rock, West Point, Georgia

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle - Last month the Food Closet served 1,031 individuals by disbursing 407 boxes of food, and providing 466 meals and 150 snacks. The Food Closet is open every Thursday, except holidays, from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. for anyone in need of food. • The Coat Closet is in need of coats of all sizes. You may donate coats at anytime by placing them in the church drop-off box behind the church.

• The Awana Kids collected enough money to buy Thanksgiving meals for 17 Whitesville Road Elementary School families. "Thank you Awana Kids for blessing these families!!" • Baptist Tabernacle hosted its annual Veterans Day Dinner on November 5 at Whitesville Road Elementary School. There was a great turn out and we would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a success. "God Bless America!!" • Baptist Tabernacle hosted another Blood Drive on Monday, November 16. Giving blood gives life to so many people. There were 62 donors. "Thank you to all who saved a life!!" • Hunter's for Christ did their annual fundraiser of selling smoked turkeys and Boston butts. The proceeds will help fund the hunts for the handicap.

Davidson - There were approximately 200 people who came to Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 31. It was a good opportunity to witness to the community. Of course they had some delicious "Dawgs" grilled by their pastor, Howard Longshore as well as other good eats. • Some of the WMU ladies went on a retreat, titled "Amazing Love" held on November 7. The Lead Encourager was Becky Guinn, who lost both arms and legs in 2003 and with God's intervention is now traveling to spread God's Word throughout the South and Southwest. The most moving moment came at the end of the seminar when you could feel God's Holy Spirit roaming the aisles as over 100 people blessed and praised God with prayers for 20 to 30 minutes. • The Food Ministry at Davidson is beginning its 3rd year, having fed 570 families - 1,547 individuals during this past year. "We thank God for bringing us all the workers that are so faithful in their efforts and time dedicated to this ministry. Praises to God! Pray that we continue to bring glory and honor to Him in everything that we do." They served a Thanksgiving meal in the Ivy Building for any and all who wanted to join them in giving thanks to God and enjoying fellowship and great food!

East Vernon - has accepted several new members to God's Glory • They had a very good turnout of about 100 for Trunk or Treat. • In observance of Pastor Appreciation Day, they gave their pastor, Rev. Bernie Pasley a gift certificate, many candy bars, and a poem to reassure him that he is loved very much. • They had a Storm Trooper come to see them. He amused the adults and entertained the children. Then he preached a good sermon for them.

Hilyer - completed 100 Christmas shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child, and delivered them to Lafayette Christian Academy. • Thanksgiving dinner was held on November 15th at 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The devotional was brought by Bro. Cleve Moore, pastor. Jeff Brown blessed the food, which was enjoyed by each and every one. • Fruit bags were made and delivered to church members and their families, who are sick and shut in, following the morning services of November 15th. • Michael Overton, from Living Waters spoke on Sunday, November 22, presenting his desire for missionary work. He and his family are raising money to be missionaries to Africa. • Hilyer would like to express their congratulations to the Sparks who completed their first book in Awanas: Daegan McGourick, Kaden Bishop, Abi Fleming, Aiden Bryant and Audrey Murphy. They would also like to invite children who are 2 years old thru 18 years old to come join them in Awanas on Wednesday nights beginning at 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Highland - had their annual "Hanging of the Green" service on Sunday, November 29, during which they sang Christmas carols and decorated the sanctuary with beautiful Christmas colors. • Also on November 29, they joined other churches in the community for an evening of singing and thanksgiving. The service was held at First United Methodist Church of Hogansville.

Lakeview - member Debbie Jackson has been nominated for Teacher of the Year for the Troup County School System; congratulations to Debbie! • A WMU-sponsored church wide Thanksgiving feast was enjoyed by all on Nov. 11. • Members are turning in backpacks stuffed with toys and school supplies for needy children in our community.

Teaver Road - assembled 51 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes in the month of November!



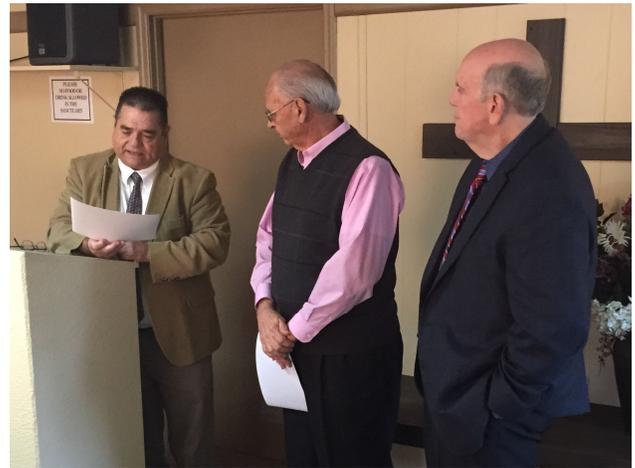
A group of children and adults from Teaver Road Baptist Church with their Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes

News (continued)

Praise & Prayer Ministry - Sunday afternoon November 22, 2015, Marianne and I had the privilege of worshipping with Pastor Frank Abrahamsen and the congregation of the Praise and Prayer Ministry in LaGrange, Georgia. We thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship, and the singing provided by Brother Danny, Sister Patti, and other members of the congregation. We were embraced warmly and made to feel right at home. Praise and Prayer is one of our church starts. They are located in the brick building across the street from Wal-Mart. They meet Sunday afternoons at 3pm. Pastor Frank, his wife Patti and their ministry team have identified and are meeting a ministry opportunity for people who, for whatever the reason, are not attending "traditional" church worship services. I was there to lead in the ordination and installation service for two deacons, Brother Danny Townsend and Brother Larry Kelley. I enjoyed getting to charge the church and the candidates! And I believe these two men will set the bar high as the first two deacons at Praise and Prayer Ministry. I anticipate hearing great things from Praise and Prayer Ministry in the future. And if you, or somebody you know, may not feel comfortable in a traditional church service, then I encourage you to give them a try! ~Brother Aaron



The congregation at Praise & Prayer Ministry



Above L-R: Praise & Prayer Pastor Frank Abrahamsen, Deacon Danny Townsend and newly ordained Deacon Larry Kelley.



Leading worship in song at Praise & Prayer are Pastor's wife, Patti Abrahamsen and Deacon Danny Townsend

Lanett First Church of the Nazarene
1306 South Jennings Ave - Lanett, Alabama

Live Drive-thru Nativity
December 11 - 13
7 - 9 p.m. ET

Troup Baptist Association Ministry Assistant, Angela Maddux is a member of Lanett First Church of the Nazarene and will be a part of the "Live Drive-thru Nativity" For more information go to www.lanettnazarene.com.

TIPS FOR MANAGING HOLIDAY STRESS

FREE WORKSHOP
DECEMBER 10 @ 6:00 PM

COUNSELING SERVICES, INC.
610 RIDLEY AVENUE
LAGRANGE, GA 30240

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT CALL 706-884-5050

Embrace the holidays with all the happiness and joy that you desire. The holiday season is always characterized as "the most wonderful time of the year". However, for some people the stress of the holidays is overwhelming and anything but "the most wonderful time of the year". This year do something different. Come learn **TIPS FOR MANAGING HOLIDAY STRESS**. Let your inner being relax so that you can find happiness and joy this holiday season.

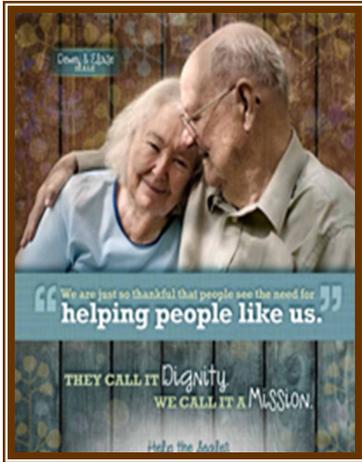


Faith Bible Institute

Late registration is open for
Spring Semester
which begins **January 19, 2016**

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

In the Spotlight - Mission: Dignity



Since 1918, GuideStone Financial Resources has been on a “Mission” to provide “Dignity” to retired Southern Baptist ministers, workers and their widows. These are men and women who have faithfully served God’s people and now find themselves struggling to meet even basic needs. Many served small, rural churches that paid only modest salaries and couldn’t afford to contribute to their pastors’ retirement. Often, these loyal soldiers of the cross had to work extra jobs just to make ends meet.

Mission: Dignity currently helps almost 2,000 people with extra money needed for housing, food and vital medications. It has also ensured a well-deserved dignity, independence and, often, the ability to continue serving.

Notes from the Heart:

Bobbie and Patricia M., pastored 25 years in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming: We are so appreciative of Mission: Dignity and the support we receive from you all. You have truly saved our lives and we would like to offer you and all of GuideStone a heartfelt thank you!

Betty H., widow of a pastor who served 50 years in Georgia: Many thanks and appreciation for all you are doing and have done for me. Words are not adequate enough to be expressed. May God continue his richest blessings on each of us. Pray for me as I continue my journey until God is finished with me. We will then know the joys of Heaven and the souls we have helped to win for Christ.

Patricia A., widow of a pastor who served 35 years in Illinois: Just a note to thank you so much for the good work you are doing to help others. I lost my husband 13 years ago. I have been able to stay in our home, and God has blessed me with a roof over my head, shoes on my feet and food on my table. I am 85 years of age, and still drive and take others to church. Words cannot express my thanks for the help you have been.

Marianne and I support this ministry financially on a monthly basis. We want to encourage you and your church to do this too. To donate you may do so online at: www.GuideStone.org, or send a check to: Adopt an Annuitant, 2401 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas, TX 75201-1498, or call them at: 1-800-262-0511. Again, I encourage you to join Marianne and me in financially supporting those who gave unselfishly of themselves to the work of the Lord! ~ Brother Aaron

Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle - Tuesday nights have been set aside for extra prayer nights. So many of their church people are fighting cancer or other sickness, that a “Circle of Prayer” has been started. They meet at the home of the person fighting a battle, circle their home and pray for God’s touch in their lives. “There is POWER in Prayer!!” • The Awana Program continues each Wednesday night, except holiday weeks, at 6:30 pm for children ages 3 thru 6th grade. Awana programs help develop spiritually strong children who faithfully follow Jesus Christ. Hub Ministry is also on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm for 7th graders & up. All children are welcome to join in the fun & get on board for Christ!! • The Christmas Cantata will be held December 20 during morning worship service. “Come and enjoy our worship service of singing and praising the Lord”. • The Baptist Tabernacle Church will be hosting the Troup Baptist Association Pastors’ & Wives’ Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 8. • Baptist Tabernacle Church would like to wish each one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Flat Shoals of West Point - wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Davidson - has a new Men’s Visitation Outreach program They ask that you pray with them that it grows, that they follow God’s will and that they honor God in all they say and do. Davidson invites you to join them for any of their services:

Sunday: Breakfast - 8:45 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. (Revelations)

Wednesday: Food Closet 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

2nd Friday: Prayer Night & Karaoke “Sing-A-Long” 6 p.m.

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

Highland - The choir will present “An Unexpected Christmas” on Sunday, December 20. They will have their annual Christmas Eve Communion Service at 5:30 p.m. “Everyone is invited to join us for these special services.”

Announcements (continued)

Hilyer - invites children who are 2 years old thru 18 years old to come join us in Awanas on Wednesday nights beginning at 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

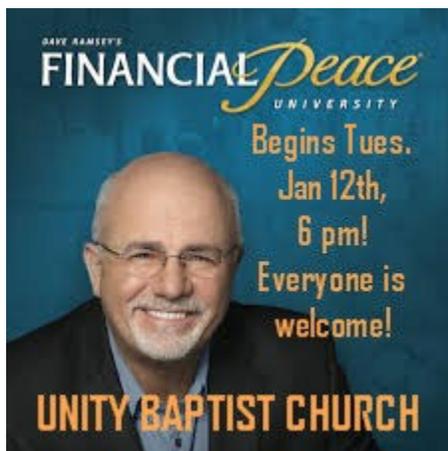
Lakeview - members are reminded to participate in current mission projects: donations to the food closet, collections for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and donations to Gideons International to help purchase Bibles due to the increasing number of requests for Bibles that the Gideons are presently receiving.

Rosemont - The Adult Choir will present "Love Came Down" Christmas Musical on December 13th during the 9:30 & 11:00 worship service. The Candlelight Christmas Eve service begins at 5:00 pm. There are two services available. The Family Service in the Fellowship Hall is designed for families with younger children and the Traditional Service will be in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to join us for these special services.

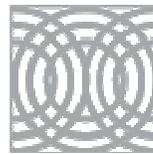
Teaver Road - will have their Candle Light Christmas service to honor and remember loved ones on December 6.

- On December 20 they will have breakfast with Santa during the Sunday School hour and the Children's Christmas Program during the morning service. They will also be taking up a Lottie Moon offering.

Unity - is excited to announce that they will be offering Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* beginning on Tuesday, January 12th at 6 pm; this is open to everyone!



Wehadkee - The ladies met and prepared all the Christmas decorations to be put up and enjoyed the fellowship. On Wednesday night they volunteered the men to help put up the decorations in the church sanctuary. "Thanks to all who helped make this possible. All the greenery is very pretty." On the fifth Sunday, they observed Communion during the morning service with a good message from their pastor. Afterwards they enjoyed a good meal and fellowship. Instead of going to the square for prayer for our nation, county, state and city they met in the church and had prayer. "Please continue to pray for our country." Their pastor has started a tract ministry to tell others about Jesus. The Christmas party will be held on December 12 at a local restaurant. We always enjoy this get together. Conference will be held in December. "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Wehadkee Baptist Church!"



Circles
TROUP COUNTY

- Circles of Troup County is collecting books for a parent-child reading program in January.
- Books for all ages - from picture books to young adult books - are appropriate.
- Books can be dropped off at the Troup Baptist Association, or Mike Daniel Parks and Rec. Center, or by calling Sherri Brown at (706) 403-6423 to arrange for pick up.

Praise & Worship Leader

Mountville Baptist is looking for a part-time praise & worship leader - someone with a passion for Jesus Christ and a desire to serve Him through music & song!

If interested, contact Preacher Dwayne at (706) 881-4003.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 GBC & Troup Baptist Association closed for New Year's Day
- 4 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Jim Butler
- 11 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 18 Martin Luther King Day
- 18 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 25 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 28 Executive Committee Meeting 7 pm at Troup Baptist Association

**Note: Prayer Team meets at association office Mondays at 5 pm.
Faith Bible Institute meets at association office Tuesdays at 6:30 pm.**

Happy Birthday January



- 3 Rev. Howard Longshore, Davidson
- 4 Rev. L. W. Booker, True Love
- 5 Rev. Bryan Geter, Creekside
- 9 Rev. Tom Owensby, Evangelist
- 9 Rev. Jack Sapp
- 17 Rev. Lincoln Anderson, With One Accord
- 17 Rev. Craig Marshall
- 18 Rev. Terry Rainwater, Highland
- 24 Rev. Chad Bishop
- 24 Rev. Willie Edmondson, Bethlehem & Antioch

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 7 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Marion Hammond
- 8 Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Party at Baptist Tabernacle 6-9pm
- 14 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia 5 Preachers/5 Minutes
- 21 No Pastors' Prayer Fellowship
- 21 No Prayer Team Meeting
- 28 No Pastors' Prayer Fellowship
- 28 No Prayer Team Meeting
- 24 - 31 GBC & Troup Baptist Association closed for Christmas

**Note: Prayer Team meets at association office Mondays at 5 pm.
Faith Bible Institute meets at association office Tuesdays at 6:30 pm.**



Happy Birthday December



- 5 Mrs. Stacey Hardigree, Rosemont
- 6 Rev. James (Jamie) Kelley, Glenn
- 9 Rev. Doug Bingham, Unity
- 20 Rev. Andy Buchanan, Franklin Road
- 22 Rev. Bill Bryant
- 31 Rev. Wesley Boatman

Merry Christmas!

On The Lighter Side

There were two blondes who went deep into the frozen woods searching for a Christmas tree. After hours of subzero temperatures & a few close calls with hungry wolves, one blonde turned to the other and said, "I'm chopping down the next tree I see. I don't care whether it's decorated or not!"

It was a cold and misty Christmas morning in the very depth of Winter after a heavy fall of snow and only one farmer and the minister managed to arrive at the church for the morning service.

"Well", said the clergyman "I guess there's no point in having a service today."

"Well that's not how I see it," said the farmer. "If only one cow turns up at feeding time, I still feed it."

**Troup Baptist Association
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