The Messenger

Volume 51 Issue 2

February 2016

Troup Baptist Association

Secrets to Happiness

To say the least, we live in a crazy, mixed-up world. We are living in the time Isaiah 5:20 speaks about when it says, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" We are also living in the time William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army spoke about when he said, "The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell." Sadly, we're there!

Because we are constantly being bombarded by social media and 24/7 news cycles regarding everything that is wrong in our world, it's easy to get disheartened, depressed, and to develop a sour attitude toward life as we know it. When this happens, as Christians we need to pull back and refocus on what is really important. At best, little to nothing of major earthshaking cataclysmic consequence will change as a direct result of the time you and I spend on this planet. And believe it or not, the story of humanity is still unfolding via God's script. Now, that's not to say we shouldn't do our part. I firmly believe we should stand for what is right and against what is wrong. I'm just saying that sometimes we get so involved in things - that we cannot see the forest for the trees. Often, we need to pull back, reflect, refocus, and regain proper perspective.

I ran across an article from a Quaker newsletter that I think we all need to read and reflect upon. It is entitled: "Secrets to Happiness." It says, "Live beneath your means. Return everything you borrow. Stop blaming other people. Admit it when you make a mistake. Give clothes not worn in three years to charity. Do something nice and try not to get caught. Listen more, talk less. Take a 30 minute walk every day. Strive for excellence, not perfection. Be on time. Don't make excuses. Don't argue. Get organized. Be kind to people. Be even kinder to unkind people. Let someone cut ahead of you in line. Take time to be alone. Reread a favorite book. Cultivate good manners. Be humble. Realize and accept that life isn't always fair. Know when to say something. Know when to keep your mouth shut. Go an entire day without criticizing anyone. Learn from the past. Plan for the future. Live in the present. Don't sweat the small stuff. It's all small stuff."

In his book, "All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," Robert Fulghum said, "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." Kinda puts things in perspective, doesn't it?

I truly believe that the secret to happiness is not found as much in changing the world as it is in personally learning to live a God-changed life! Change begins with us. You see, only changed people can change the world! I believe Gandhi had it right when he said, "Be the change you want to see in others." I believe that's one of the secrets to happiness!

Brother Aaron

We encourage you to "like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/troupbaptist

News

Troup Baptist Association - in partnership with Jimmy Pruitt of WOAK Radio 90.9 FM hosted the January 20th meeting of the local American Cancer Society Leadership Team. The meeting was held at Troup Baptist Association Missions & Ministry Center. The team enjoyed a delicious barbecue meal including banana pudding from Sloppy Pig Catering owned & operated by Taffee & Donald Smith.

Association - In January, two new leadership mentoring groups were started; Group I (morning) & Group II (evening). "We have some fine pastors & preachers and I am honored that they have given me the opportunity to work with them regarding leadership." Brother Aaron

Leadership Mentoring Group I
(L-R) Pastor Bernie Pasley, Pastor Kenny Heinzel, Pastor Jamie Kelley, & Pastor Dwayne Perdue
(not pictured: Pastor Steve Sexton)

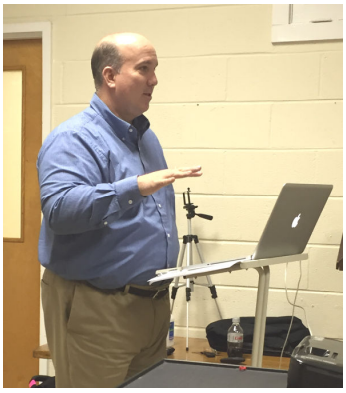
Leadership Mentoring Group II
(L-R) Associate Pastor Durley Gates, Minister Deshawn Maddux, Minister Jonathan Pike; Pastor Tommy Jeter
(not pictured: Minister Ben Turner)

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 - Illuminate: A Technology in Visual Worship Workshop was held at the Troup Baptist Association Missions & Ministry Center on January 25 with Andy Buchanan of Franklin Road Baptist presenting the workshop. Topics covered were Rationale & Principles of Presentations, PowerPoint Basics and Beyond, Pro Presenter and other Presentation Software.



Pictured above are those who attended the Illuminate workshop.

At left:
Rev. Andy Buchanan presenting the workshop

Association - Church Prayer List

For February 2016, please pray for following churches:

Week of February 7, 2015 - Grace Baptist Church
Week of February 14, 2015 - Gray Hill Baptist Church
Week of February 21, 2015 - Highland Baptist Church
Week of February 28, 2015 - Hilyer Baptist Church

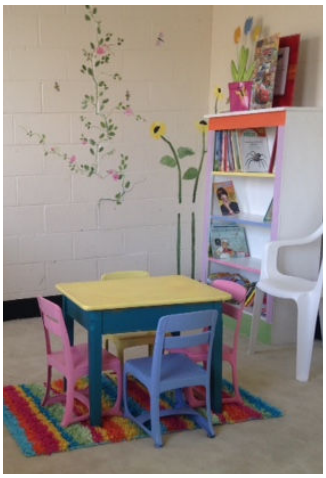
For March 2016, please pray for following churches:

Week of March 6, 2016 - Lakeview Baptist Church
Week of March 13, 2016 - Long Cane Baptist Church
Week of March 20, 2016 - Mountville Baptist Church
Week of March 27, 2016 - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

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

News (continued)

Association - A group of girls from DNow under the guidance of Sherri Brown completed some much needed cleaning and organizing in the preschool playroom at the Troup Baptist Association. They also created a quiet room for reading or doing homework. In addition they spot-cleaned the carpet, vacuumed and did some organizing for Circles of Troup.



(above) DNow volunteers cleaning and organizing at Troup Baptist Association Missions & Ministry Center.

Sunnyside - Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough brought the morning and evening messages at Sunnyside Baptist Church on Sunday, January 24.

Miss Sarah Adams on violin & Mrs. Deanne Fain on piano playing "Trust & Obey" at Sunnyside Baptist Church.

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - has been blessed with three new members. "Praise God!" • During January, the Food Closet distributed 353 boxes of food, 500 meals, and 60 backpacks containing weekend food for children. They served a total of 919 individuals. They also gave away 350 hens. • The Clothes Closet continues to serve a lot of people. They are in need of coats. If you would like to donate coats or clothes, there is a drop-box at the church. You may drop off items at any time. They appreciate all donations of clothes & coats. • Hunters for Christ of BTC held their disabled hunt on January 15 & 16 at Amity Park, West Point Lake. There were 20 volunteers from BTC to manage the camp, cook and get hunters in and out of the stands. Nine hunters attended and 7 deer were killed. Overall the hunt was a success and the hunters enjoyed the food, fellowship and the hunt. • The Awanas had Store Night on January 13. On January 25 they held Pajama Night . This was a great and fun way for the children to learn about Jesus. They are thankful to have wonderful teachers and helpers. • On January 26, BTC hosted the Annual Agency Training Meeting for Feeding the Valley Food Bank.

Davidson - The Food Ministry Program served 34 families & 102 meals during the month of December. "We are so thankful and praise God that He has allowed us to serve Him in this capacity and pray that He will continue to guide and direct us in this endeavor." • Pastor Howard Longshore and his wife Debbi hosted a bonfire for the youth of Davidson on January 3. "Our Heavenly Father intervened; the flooding eased up & the rain stopped!" Approximately 29 people attended. The children gave testimony of the things God had done for them. "What a blessing!" A special thanks to God for Pastor Howard, Debbi and all of the workers who helped this to be a success.

Juliette Amayo on left and and Angel Gerra enjoying the bonfire hosted by Pastor Howard & Debbi Longshore of Davidson Baptist.

If you would like to be added to **The Messenger** mailing list:

Call Angela @ Troup Baptist Association (706) 884-1975
or email address additions/changes to angela@troupbaptist.com

News (continued)

The Church on The Rock - On January 17, Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough had the honor of preaching at The Church on The Rock, Givens Circle in West Point, Ga.

Association Music Director Stephanie Walker leading congregational singing at The Church on The Rock, accompanied by Teresa Barber on the piano.

The congregation of The Church on The Rock, West Point, Georgia

East Vernon - Pastor David "Bernie" Pasley emphasized the word "hope" on Sunday, Jan. 17 from Hebrews 11 and said East Vernon Baptist Church was alive and well. He expects us to move forward this year with God's leadership. • On Saturday, January 16, East Vernon had the pleasure of hosting a great singing by Brian Free & Assurance. They also enjoyed special music by Stephanie Walker. • EVBC had ten in the choir last Sunday and invite others to join. Sharon & Paula have reported that the Children's Church is growing & going strong. • On January 31 they will have a 5th Sunday Night Singing. They invite all to come and sing or just listen and enjoy the music.

Brian Free & Assurance

Grace - has been busy! Their teens spent New Year's Day working with the Oakside Baptist Church Reformers Unanimous group by feeding them dinner. After the first of these monthly visits, stories of all the blessings reached the Ladies of Grace. The Ladies of Grace group purchased jackets of various sizes for the children of the participants at Reformers Unanimous, while members of the group purchased socks and undergarments for these children. • Over 20 women attended the new Beth Moore Bible Study (Esther - It's Tough Being a Woman) last Thursday at 6 pm. • Ten women from Grace Baptist Church attended the Women of Faith Conference in Atlanta the weekend of January 22. A group is also planning to attend a Beth Moore Conference in Mobile, Alabama in August. Anyone interested in going may call the church for more information. • WMU visited shut-ins last Thursday with goodies for each. WMU is also gathering hygiene items for the Emmaus House. • Giving Grace Meals delivered over 50 meals in January. Meals are home cooked prior to the delivery. • January 24 brought another successful church conference.

Ten Women from Grace attended the Women of Faith Conference in Atlanta.

Gray Hill - Bro. Aaron and Mrs. Marianne McCollough visited with Pastor Lamar Womack and the congregation of Gray Hill Baptist on Wednesday night, January 6. Brother Lamar preached an excellent sermon from Genesis 24 on Isaac, The Waiting Servant.

At Right:
Rev. Lamar Womack, pastor of Gray Hill Baptist.

Brother Aaron's Suggested Reading

<u>The 5 Levels of Leadership</u>

Proven Steps to Maximize Your Potential

By John C. Maxwell

News (continued)

Highland - began working on a new church directory in January, verifying and updating information on church members' addresses, phone numbers, etc. Photos will be taken in February. • Highland hosted the 5th Sunday Night Community Singing on January 31. Other churches in the community joined them for a night of singing and praising the Lord, followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

Lakeview - Men's Ministry Meeting was held on January 16 at the home of Bill & Charlotte Cobb. Those attending enjoyed a delicious steak & egg breakfast and a program presented by guest speaker Jim Cheyne. • Several members provided music and devotions for residents of Poplar Creek Assisted Living. • WMU ladies met on January 25 for a program, fellowship, and delicious food; Judy King was the hostess for the evening.

Mountville - was blessed to have a group from FBC Youth lead worship on January 13. The team consisted of Erin Lee, Landon Sledge and Bailey Deavers. The group was led by Mary Beth Pelt. "The Holy Spirit was present and these young people were truly remarkable!"

New Hope - had five new members on Sunday, January 3. They look forward to seeing two of them baptized very soon. "We praise the Lord for giving us a wonderful beginning for the new year." • The shoe boxes from the children went to Mali, a country in West Africa. "We are so proud of the work they did and for our director, Melissa Hughes in leading the endeavor." • They met their goal for Lottie Moon of $3,000. In fact, they exceeded it by $600. "Thank you New Hope family for your generous giving. To God be the glory!" • The Sisters of Hope met on Monday evening, January 11 to eat together, pray, and plan for future ways to serve our church and community. They will help supply refreshments for Special Olympics on January 22 - 24. They meet the second Monday night of each month at 6:30 pm. • The children had a skate day at Red's on January 24. Everyone had a great time. • The CrossEyed Fellowship time in our Family Life Center was held on January 30. This is a great time of food, fun, fellowship, and getting to know each other better. "Our thanks to all the ones who plan and lead this time of fellowship, especially Randy & Christie Holland." • The Grapevine Ministry was started on Sunday, January 10. This is a new ministry designed to get all the church family committed to getting to know one another, to pray and care for the needs of each other. "Thank you Tim and Carrie Mills, Jeff and Patti Manion, and Troy and Rita Karr for their prayer and work that went into assigning families to their groups."

Roper Heights - had a quiet month compared to December. Their pastor Jackie Taylor was in LaGrange Hospital for several days. He appreciates all his visitors and telephone calls. Currently he is receiving therapy at Florence Hand in LaGrange and hopes to be home soon. • They were blessed to have Bro. Mark Peek, Rev. S.T. Janney and their own Rev. Jim Chesnut filling the pulpit. They have enjoyed good preaching and teaching. Please join them on Sundays for Sunday School at 9:45 am and preaching at 10:45 am and 6:00 pm. "God Bless."

Reeds Chapel - enjoyed revival January 10 - 13 with the New Desire singers and Rev. Dan Robinson. Bro. Aaron & Mrs. Marianne McCollough joined them on Wednesday night.

New Desire Singers @ Reeds Chapel
with Rev. Dan Robinson on right

Teaver Road - Ground Zero Student Ministries attended DNOW in January. The youth were able to serve in many areas of the community including packing food for Backpack Buddies, lake clean up from the floods, and going door to door in neighborhoods to share Jesus' love and invite others to church!

Teaver Road high school girls, Beth Duram,
Maggie Johnson, and Courtney Webb giving away
their only sack lunch to a man in search of food.

Wehadkee - "We are so thankful for Jerry Alford to be one of our deacons." He was ordained on January 3 with Rev. Olin McClain taking part in his ordination. • On Sunday, January 10, Rev. Olin McClain preached for them and did a great job! • They observed communion on January 31 and had a fellowship lunch after the morning service. About 1:00 pm, they joined in prayer for our leaders and our country. • Fellowship supper was enjoyed by a good group with salads and soups and of course, desserts. • Ladies meeting was held on Tuesday, January 12 with good attendance. • On January 31, Leon Wessinger was voted to become a deacon. He is already ordained.

Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle - Mark your calendars for February 12. BTC will host a singing featuring *Heirline* beginning at 7 pm. There is no admission charge, but a love offering will be taken. • A blood drive will be held on March 14 from 2 - 7 pm at BTC in the JC McMillian Life Center, 849 South Davis Road, LaGrange, Georgia.

Church on The Rock - is hosting a benefit singing on Feb. 20 from 12:00 until 6:00 pm. Proceeds from the singing will be used to remove debris from their collapsed sanctuary.

Benefit Singing for

The Church on The Rock

33 Givens Circle, West Point, Georgia

Saturday, February 20
12:00 until 6:00 pm

BBQ Sandwich Sack Lunch
(with drink & dessert)

Featuring "Grace Abounds",
"Nothing But Grace", & "Eloise Maddox"

Grace - Ladies of Grace is working on a Valentine's Dinner for February 12. Childcare will be provided for those attending the dinner. Tickets are available until February 7 for $10 per person. Everyone is welcome! Please call the church at (706) 882-9263 and leave a message. • Homecoming is planned for April 10th. Visitors are welcome! • Grace's Brotherhood is coordinating another mission trip to Kentucky. After last year's first trip, all the men and women who participated returned with great stories and countless blessings.

Grace Baptist Church

is looking for a part-time Youth Ministry Intern with experience working with middle and high school students.

An application can be found at www.gbclagrange.com or interested applicants can email Denise Giddens at deniseg@gbclagrange.com for more information.

Hilyer - will have a church-wide Valentine's Dinner and Men's Dessert Contest on February 14. There will be a $5 fee to enter which will go to missions. Impartial judges will be chosen. Bro. Aaron McCollough will present his comedy performance for the night's entertainment. • Brother Alan Carr will be with them for revival services from February 29 through March 2 at 7:00 pm nightly. "Make plans to attend!"

Highland - Photos will be taken February 26 & 27 for the new Church Directory.

Lakeview - Members are reminded to continue shopping for non-perishable items to donate to the church food closet. The Ladies' Exercise Class meets every Monday & Friday at 10 am in the church fellowship hall.

The Ladies Exercise Class from Lakeview Baptist
(Front row L-R) Sally Pike holding Sawyer Hays,
Judy King and Ginny Helton
(Back Row L-R) Frankie Hadden and Nancy Davis.

Mountville - will have homecoming on Sunday, February 14 at 10:00 am. Lebron and Brooke Cason will bring the special music and Bro. Udell Addison will bring the message. Lunch will be served after the service. "Everyone's Welcome!"

New Hope - The Children's Department will sponsor a Valentine Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 7 in the Family Life Center at 8:30 am. They will be making Valentine cards to take to Emmaus House. • The church Valentine Dinner and Movie will be Sunday, February 14 at 5:30 pm. The move "War Room" will be shown. They hope to have a big crowd in attendance. • A group from New Hope will attend the Decision America 16 rally with Franklin Graham in Atlanta on Wednesday, February 10 at 10 am, at Liberty Plaza, across from the Georgia State Capital. Please be in prayer for the Billy Graham Association as they travel to all 50 states this year to pray for our nation and to challenge Christians to live out their faith at home, in public, and at the ballot box.

Teaver Road - Acts 1:8 Missions will kick off the New Year by baking goodies to take to Ark Refuge Ministries in February as a Valentines project.

Wehadkee - On February 12 at 6:30 pm, Wehadkee will have a Valentine Banquet. They always enjoy the fellowship and food. • At the next Ladies Meeting, they will have a guest speaker along with good food and fellowship. While the ladies are meeting, the deacons and pastor will be enjoying a meal out.

Announcements (continued)

Open Range Cowboy Church - Bring a Friend in February!

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
The month of February
Sundays at 10:30 am
6130 Mooty Bridge Road
Near the Troup/Heard County Line

Fresh Start Fresh Water Campaign
Helping the Residents of Flint, Michigan

"Bottled Water Drive"
Through February 18

Sponsored by Anointed By Faith Ministries
& Minister Randy Mays

Find out how you can help:
Contact Minister Randy Mays (706) 518-3595

The Sock Hops

Troup High School Fine Arts Auditorium
Saturday, February 13 @ 7:00 pm

Tickets are $15.00

For tickets call Sandra West (706) 812-7957 extn 4733
or Ellis Cadenhead (706) 884-5546.

Sponsored by the Troup High Alumni Association
For more information: www.sockhops.com

MARCH CALENDAR

7 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Steve Johnson
10 Leadership Training: Group I Troup Baptist Assoc. 10:30 am
10 Leadership Training: Group II Troup Baptist Assoc. 6:30 pm
13 Daylight Saving Time begins - Spring forward
14 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
18 Church Planters' Meeting Troup Baptist Assoc. 10 am - Noon.
21 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
25 Association office & GBC closed for Good Friday.
27 Easter Sunday
28 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia

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

For more information, contact Judy King at (706) 882-0371

Children's Ministry Training Seminar
February 29, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
at
East Vernon Baptist Church
2918 Roanoke Rd, LaGrange Ga.

- How to Do Children's Ministry
  (presented by Shannon (Cruz) Williams)
- Children's Ministry Safety
  (presented by Bro. Aaron McCollough - TBA)
- How to Draw Children to Church
  (presented by Jenni Carter - GBC)

Hosted by East Vernon Baptist Church & Troup Baptist Association
Please RSVP to Angela @ Troup Baptist Association (706) 884-1975

Why Churches Behave & Misbehave as They Do
(A Seminar for Church Leaders)

February 22, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Troup Baptist Association

Led by Dr. Benny Pate, former GBC Leadership Specialist

Happy Birthday
March

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

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

1 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Tim Tidwell
2 Pastors' Day at the Georgia State Capitol 10 am - 2 pm
8 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Olin McClain
11 Leadership Training: Group I Troup Baptist Assoc. 10:30 am
12 Church Planters' Meeting Troup Baptist Assoc. 10 am - Noon.
15 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Lincoln Anderson
15 No Prayer Team Meeting
18 Leadership Training: Group II Troup Baptist Assoc. 6:30 pm
22 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Jim Cheyne
29 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Randall Foxworth

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

Happy Birthday
February

5 Dr. Greg Brown, Western Heights
11 Rev. Jamie Duran
16 Rev. Ronnie Jordan
18 Rev. Lenn Martin
18 Rev. Jeff McCartney, Reeds Chapel
22 Rev. Michael J. Jackson, Confidence Missionary
22 Rev. Kenneth Whitlock, New Hope - Greenville
24 Rev. Jerry Parkerson, Franklin Road

Happy Valentine's Day!

On The Lighter Side

At the pearly gates, a taxi driver and minister are waiting in line. St. Peter consults his list and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven." St. Peter next greets the minister saying, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."
"Just a minute," says the minister. "That man was a taxi driver, and he gets a silken robe and golden staff while I get a cotton robe and wooden staff. How can this be?"
"Up here, we work by results," says St. Peter. "While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."

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