

Troup Baptist Association

Atmospheric Dirt and Dust

Not long ago, while on vacation in Pigeon Forge Tennessee, I was in service with my good friend, Pastor Chuck Simpson of Williamsburg Baptist Church. Like me, Chuck wears glasses. He took off his glasses, held them in his hand and said, "Occasionally, in order to continue to see well, I have to clean these." He continued, "It's not because I have done something to get them dirty. They get dirty because of the dirt and dust that occurs naturally in the atmosphere." As soon as he said that I immediately knew that I would use it in a pastor's column, a sermon, or both! So, here it is!

Chuck is a bi-vocational pastor. In conjunction with serving as the pastor of a church, he works as a butcher for a local grocery store. He said, "Aaron, the health inspector came by my store the other day. I had my meat cut and on trays. The trays were stacked in a mobile cart

inside the cooler waiting to be placed into the display coolers inside the store. The inspector told me that he wanted me to remove the top tray of meat from the cart and replace it with an empty tray turned upside down. When I asked why, he told me it was to prevent atmospheric dirt and dust from settling onto the meat below."

Now, why am I telling you about atmospheric dirt and dust? To make the point that as we travel through this thing called life, we don't necessarily have to do anything to get dirty. The atmosphere in which we reside is contaminated and it contaminates us! This is true in the natural realm, and especially true in the Spiritual! While here, we reside in satan's domain. Ephesians 2:2 (KJV) teaches us that satan is, "... *the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.*" And Isaiah 64:6(KJV) teaches us that, "... *we are all as an unclean thing, and all*

our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." At our best, or our cleanest – we are filthy!

God gave up on redeeming our physical bodies in the Garden of Eden when he declared to Adam, "... *for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*" (Genesis 3:19KJV) But thank God that in his letter to the Corinthians, 2 Corinthians 4:16(KJV) Paul declares, "... *but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*"

The point I'm trying to communicate in this column today is simply this, as we have traveled through 2017, regardless of how "good" or "clean" we have tried to live, we have been contaminated by the very atmosphere in which we reside. Sin abounds all around us. We are bombarded by it on a daily basis. Every sin imaginable to mankind is

now modeled before us. Nothing is sacred anymore. Addictions, perversions, and abominations are now touted as normal while Christianity, morality, and commonsense are touted as abnormal. It's a sad day in which we live!

So, as we stand on the precipice of a New Year, just maybe we need to do as Paul instructed the Corinthians to do and to renew our inward man. Just maybe we need to take off the Spiritual lenses of our lives and remove the atmospheric dust and dirt of sin that has accumulated. And while we're at it, just maybe we need to get under the protective covering of Jesus, His Word, and the Holy Spirit. This just might prevent some of the atmospheric dust and dirt of this world from settling on us in the first place!

Happy New Year!

Brother Aaron

News

Association - The annual Pastors' and Wives' Christmas Party hosted by Baptist Tabernacle Church was held on Tuesday, December 5. There were close to 100 pastors and wives in attendance. Everyone enjoyed a great meal prepared and served by men and women of Baptist Tabernacle. Following the meal, the guests enjoyed a fun game of 'Dirty Santa'. Rev. Jamie Kelley of Glenn Baptist was the winner of the Pastor's Grand Prize of \$300. Mrs. Heather Pasley of East Vernon Baptist Church was the winner of the Pastor's Wife Grand Prize of \$250. Sherri Brown was available to take photos of each couple. Hunter-Allen-Myhand Funeral Home is the corporate sponsor of the Christmas party. Thank you to Mr. Eddie Lucas and Hunter-Allen-Myhand!



Above: We were honored to have Rev. Olin McClain in attendance at the Christmas Party.
Above Left: Rev. Jamie Kelley of Glenn Baptist receiving the Pastor's Grand Prize from Mrs. Marianne McCollough
At Left: Mrs. Heather Pasley receiving the Pastor's Wife Grand Prize.



Association - The Volunteers' Christmas Luncheon was held on Tuesday, December 19 at Cracker Barrel restaurant in LaGrange. The group enjoyed a meal together and did a little window shopping in the Country Store prior to being seated. The youngest volunteer, Lara-Anne age 2, was in attendance and kept the group entertained. Volunteers not present were Ruby Crayden, Jeanelle Daniel, Sue Crenshaw, Herb & Joyce Gandee and Barbara Demry. See photos at right.

Below: Baptist Tabernacle Men & Women who prepared and served the meal for the Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Party



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.



Clockwise from left front: Clyde Moore, Mona Gamble, Judy & Richard King, Lara-Anne, Lucinda Deitman, Marianne McCollough, Sylvia Smith, Dottie Henson, & Angela Maddux (Administrative Assistant) Not shown: Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough



Above: The volunteers at work getting *The Messenger* newsletter ready for mailing. Clockwise from left front: Lucinda Deitman, Herb Gandee, Judy King, Mona Gamble, Sylvia Smith, Ruby Crayden, Richard King, and Joyce Gandee.

News (continued)

Back-to-School Breakfasts

Association - The Troup Baptist Association sponsored two Back-to-School Breakfasts on January 3 for the teachers and staff of Berta Weathersbee and Long Cane Elementary Schools. The breakfast for Berta Weathersbee staff was held at the Troup Baptist Association office. Pastors in attendance were Rev. Doug Bingham (Unity), Rev. Paul Botica (Cedarcrest Community), Rev. Jim Butler (Hillcrest), Dr. Dennis Farr (Freedom Church), Rev. Cade Farris (First Baptist on the Square), Rev. Tim Tidwell (Oakside), Rev. Dan Woltmann (Oakside), and Dr. Lamar Truitt (Lakeview). Those who served and helped with clean-up were Jane Gottshall, Dottie Henson, Richard & Judy King, Angela Maddux and Marianne McCollough. Marianne also served as master of ceremonies in place of Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough who was hosting the Long Cane breakfast. Rev. Doug Bingham brought the devotion for the Berta group. His message was 'Faith, Hope and Love, but the greatest of these is Love'. He encouraged them to love all the children, have faith in who they can be, not who they are today and in turn, each child can have hope for a successful future. Mr. Willie Cooks is the Principal of Berta Weathersbee Elementary School.

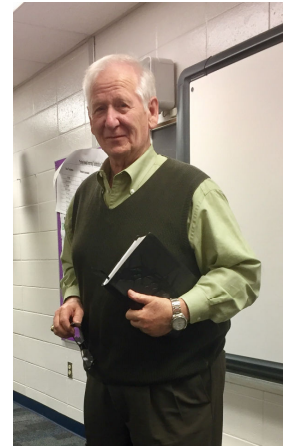


L-R Mrs. Marianne McCollough presenting the four winners from Berta Weathersbee with \$50 each, Rachael Egli, Stephanie Walker, Jaketa Hardnett, & Sharon Robinson.

Meanwhile at Long Cane Elementary, Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough served as master of ceremonies. Pastors in attendance were Rev. Donnie Benefield (Grace), Rev. S.T. Janney, Rev. Bernie Pasley (East Vernon), Rev. Steve Vickery (Western Heights), Rev. Jason Jones (Western Heights), Rev. Mike Hornsby (New Hope), and Rev. Ben Turner (Teaver Road). Servers at Long Cane Elementary were Irene Cook, Melissa Jennings, Brandi Murphy, Destinie Murphy, Stephanie Barley, Evelyn Sanders and Missy Garret all from Grace Baptist Church. Rev. Donnie Benefield of Grace Baptist Church brought a devotion titled "Leaders being Led by God" to the teachers and staff of Long Cane Elementary. Dr. Linda Wood is Principal at Long Cane Elementary School. Thank you to Sloppy Pig Catering for preparing and delivering the delicious breakfast meal to each location.



Above left: Rev. Doug Bingham of Unity Baptist Church



Above right: Rev. Donnie Benefield of Grace Baptist Church



Above L-R: Long Cane Principal Linda Wood with winners Allison Batchelor, Jessica Mayfield, Aaron McCollough presenting \$50 bills to each winner, Joan Smith, and Amy Goodson.



Above L-R: Grace Baptist Servers Irene Cook, Melissa Jennings, Brandi Murphy, Destinie Murphy, Stephanie Barley, Evelyn Sanders and Missy Garret at far right.

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - During the month of December, the Food Closet gave away 425 boxes of food and 490 meals. In addition, 120 backpacks were given to children for weekend food. The Clothes Closet was extremely busy giving out 140 coats and serving 275 individuals. • On December 5, BTC hosted the Pastors' and Wives' Christmas Dinner for the Troup Baptist Association. There were close to 100 in attendance. They enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship together. Afterwards, the pastors and wives enjoyed receiving gifts by playing the 'Dirty Santa' game. The tables were beautifully decorated. BTC and Troup Baptist Association thanks all volunteers who helped to make this event a successful one.

- On December 13, the Awanas went to Hospice to spread good cheer.
- On December 20, Santa came and the children were given fruit and candy.
- The Christmas Cantata was held on December 17. It was a beautiful service of preaching and singing. The children also performed a skit.
- The J.C. McMillian Christmas Eve Men's Breakfast was held on December 23 at 8am. Approximately 70 men attended. They enjoyed a delicious meal, fun, and fellowship together. This is an annual men's breakfast that was started by Rev. J.C. McMillian.
- Around 200 Christmas gifts were given to Whitesville Road Elementary School students. God truly blesses BTC with people who purchase these gifts each year to share with the school!

Creekside - prepared and delivered 95 meals to the senior citizens of the church and community in November. Creekside does this on a bi-monthly basis. They also prepared 80 fruit baskets and delivered them during the Christmas season. In addition, 50 fruit bags were prepared and given to the children of the church. • On December 17, the children of Creekside presented a wonderful play entitled "The Sole of Christmas" which was directed by Sharon Geter. A large crowd was in attendance for the play and enjoyed finger foods and fellowship afterwards. • Also on December 17, Santa made a visit and gave gifts to all children and teens present in the service.

- Creekside enjoyed a wonderful New Year's Eve Singing and all were at the altar at midnight.
- Creekside welcomed one addition during December.

Davidson - The true meaning of Christmas was revealed to us through the retelling of Christ's birth and what it means to us! The Cantata, children's presentation, fellowship and the delicious food were all blessings of God; we pray that all brought glory and praises to Him and that He continues to lead us as we follow Him during this new year! • Glenda Strong assisted the children as they decorated cookies and went caroling. "We thank God for our youth and their leaders!"



Davidson Christmas Dinner



Above: Davidson Youth Choir presenting their Christmas program

Dunson - The Dunson Baptist Church Choir truly blessed our hearts with their Christmas Special and got our hearts and minds in the Christmas spirit. We appreciate our youth's participation in the program with Addie, Shaynia and Lilly singing *Away in a Manger* and Adreanna and Isaiah as Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus. The program ended with a flying basket of candy canes bringing an exciting ending to the wonderful presentation. The M-Pact Girls Ministry sang Christmas carols at the LaGrange Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Our Church welcomed the families of our Wednesday night Royal Rangers and M-Pact Girls Ministry by cooking and serving more than 50 steak dinners. It was an honor to serve these families and express our love for allowing us to minister to their children. The Dunson seniors enjoyed lunch at Whistling Pig in Pine Mountain, visiting with Mrs. Betty Bailey and a trip to Dowel's Knob on Pine Mountain. WMU members made Christmas goody bags and delivered them to our shut-ins and nursing home members.



Dunson Baptist

Above Left: Members delivered goody bags to the nursing home.

Above Right: M-Pact Girls Ministry sang for the LaGrange Nursing & Rehab residents. At Left: Christmas Program & Steak Dinner.



News (continued)

Grace - The Children's Department at Grace Baptist has been involved in several ministries during the last few months. The children collected canned goods and delivered them to the Feeding the Valley Distribution Center where they enjoyed a tour from Brother Jimmy Pruitt. The children packed 65 boxes for Operation Christmas Child and prayed over the boxes before sending them out. The church enjoyed a special performance of *Manger Tales* for our Children's Christmas production.



Highland - The choir gave an outstanding performance on the Christmas Cantata. "It was beautiful!" A large crowd enjoyed the Cantata as well as the Christmas Fellowship Lunch.

- Highland held two services on Christmas Eve; a morning worship service and a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service that evening. There was a large turnout for both services.

Lakeview - Members made donations to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering in December. • WMU activities included a trip to the Biblical History Center (formerly Explorations in Antiquities) and a fellowship meal on December 2. WMU members also sent a care box to Andy Norred who is serving in the Air Force. They received a heartwarming thank-you letter from him. • Devotions and music were continued for residents of Poplar Creek Assisted Living. • A Christmas Cantata was held on December 17 and a Christmas fellowship was enjoyed by all on December 20. • "Thank you to all who decorated the church so beautifully and to all who participated in the Christmas Cantata."



At Right: Lakeview WMU members visited the Biblical History Center

New Hope (LaGrange) - December was a very busy month for activities and ministry. • The youth went Christmas caroling and also attended the MOVE Conference in Macon, GA.

- The children visited the Christmas Carousel in Valley, AL and had a lot of fun.
- Blakely Emily Fendley, age 13 months, was dedicated to the Lord by her proud parents, Rich and Jan Fendley on December 10. Blakely is the grand-daughter of Helen Floyd.
- Anna Bella Freeman accepted Jesus as her Savior in December and will be baptized in the near future! "We are all so proud of this sweet little girl, Bella, and the care she receives from her foster parents, Harold and Sue Mulkey."
- The Christmas dinner was a wonderful celebration with food and fellowship. The food, prepared by Susan Lewis and Rita Karr and all their good helpers, was out of this world! "Thanks ladies for your dedication and love for your church family."
- The children presented a thought provoking Christmas musical that was outstanding. "We applaud their hard work in preparing this program and thank God for all their leaders."
- Santa found time to make a visit and found many excited children waiting for him.
- "As another year closes out, we praise the Lord for His goodness and mercy to us. We pray the Lord will guide and bless us as we begin a new year. May His name be lifted up and magnified in our hearts."

Wehadkee - "Greetings from the little church in the woods." "Happy Birthday Jesus!" "Let us remember the reason we celebrate this time of year. Take a minute, as you read this, to reflect on what Jesus has done for you."

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Red Rooster for our Christmas fellowship. Games were played and an exercise class was involved in one of the games! The Christmas play was enjoyed by all; as was a fellowship meal of chili and soup after the program.



Wehadkee Christmas Play: The cast front row L-R: Larry Jennings, baby doll as Jesus, & Brenda Jennings. Angels L-R: Brittney Fields, Raleigh Cliett, Emma Cliett, & Celeste Cliett Back row L-R: , Jeremy Hewitt, Dan Shea, Will Fields(in front of Dan), & David Cliett, .

News (continued)



L-R: Singing at the Community-Wide New Year's Eve service are Rev. Tim Tidwell (Oakside), Rev. Kenneth Cole (Dunson), and Rev. Cade Farris (First Baptist Church on the Square)

Several of the Troup Baptist Association churches participated in the second annual Community-Wide New Year's Eve service hosted and held at Oakside Baptist Church on Sunday evening, December 31. There were seven featured speakers representing seven different churches in the community:

- First Baptist Church on the Square - Pastor Cade Farris
- Unity Baptist Church - Pastor Doug Bingham
- Freedom Baptist Church - Dr. Dennis Farr
- Cedarcrest Community Church - Dr. Paul Botica
- Oakside Baptist Church - Pastor Tim Tidwell
- Dunson Baptist Church - Pastor Kenneth Cole
- Troup Baptist Association - Rev. Aaron McCollough

Each speaker was challenged to bring an eight minute message. There was special music following each message. One of the music specials was a trio including Rev. Tim Tidwell, Rev. Kenneth Cole and Rev. Cade Farris. See photo above.

Association - Church Prayer List

For January 2018, please pray for following churches:

Week of January 7, 2018 - First Baptist Church, West Point
 Week of January 14, 2018 - First Baptist on the Square
 Week of January 21, 2018 - First Hispanic Baptist Church
 Week of January 28, 2018 - Flat Shoals Baptist Church

For February 2018, please pray for following churches:

Week of February 4, 2018 - Flat Shoals Salem Road Baptist
 Week of February 11, 2018 - Fountain Baptist Church
 Week of February 18, 2018 - Franklin Road Baptist Church
 Week of February 25, 2018 - Glenn Baptist Church

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

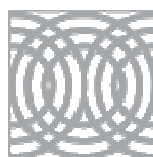
Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - Awana will be starting back on January 10. • God's Helping Hands is a ministry of ladies. They meet the second Monday of every month. • The Lighthouse Keepers, seniors age 55 and up, meet on the third Monday of each month. • BTC wishes everyone a happy and blessed new year and also encourages everyone to begin the new year with God, worshiping and praising His Holy Name.

Davidson - Please join us for any of our services:

Sunday Breakfast at 9:00 am / Sunday School at 9:45 am
 Sunday Worship Service at 11 am / Evening Service at 6 pm
 Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 pm (Book of Hebrews)

Lakeview - Some of the window panes in the sanctuary are damaged and members are making donations to help with replacement panes and repairs. The cost is approximately \$25 per window pane for anyone who wishes to help with this project.



Circles[™]
 TROUP COUNTY

Circles of Troup County is taking applications for its next class of participants.

Circles is for people who:

- struggle to pay their bills on time.
- want a job that fits their skills and interests which also provides a livable income.
- are looking for friends that encourage them to get ahead.

Applications are online and mobile friendly at www.circlesoftroup.org/participant-application/

Visitors are always welcome at our weekly meetings in LaGrange on Thursday or in West Point on Monday.

More information at www.circlesoftroup.org or contact Sherri Brown at sbrown@troupc.org or (706) 402-6423. Sherri is also available to speak at your church or host a poverty simulation.

Dunson Baptist Church is currently seeking a music director to lead singing and direct the choir. Please contact the church at 706-884-7814 if you feel God leading you in this direction.

Announcements (continued)



Winter Renewal Conference

with Rich & Angela Tozour Family
Oakside Bapt. Church Feb. 4-7

- Strong Emphasis on Family & Teens -
- Children's Classes Each Service -

M-W: 6 pm meal; 6:30 prayer meeting; 7 pm service

Teen & College Student Bonfire/Cookout in the Woods

Sat. Feb. 3

Leave from Oakside @ 4:30 pm
1921 Hamilton - across from Troup HS



Unity Baptist Church is seeking a bi-vocational Minister / Director of Music. We have a wide range of talented singers and an outstanding choir; we require someone who reads music well and is experienced in directing both choral music and leading congregational singing in a blended worship setting. We hope, in the future, to involve our children and youth in our musical ministry, as well.

Interested, qualified individuals may direct their resumes to one of the following contacts:

Church email: admin@ubclagrange.org

Pastor Doug Bingham: dbingham@ubclagrange.org

U.S. Mail: Ben Towler (Personnel Committee Chairman)

Unity Baptist Church, PO Box 1031,
LaGrange, GA 30241

Church Phone: (706) 882-7714

Church Fax: (706) 882-7715



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.

Spring Semester Late Enrollment through Jan 22

(late fee of \$24 applies after Nov 15)

Classes begin January 23, 2018

- New Student: \$126
- FBI Graduate: \$53
- Returning Student: \$86
- 2nd 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

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 5 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 5-7 Associational Missionaries' Workshop
- 12 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day
- 19 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia
- 19 Presidents' Day
- 26 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia

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

Exercise Classes offered at Rosemont Baptist Church

There are two classes available for women. The morning class is a Senior Fitness Class that meets on Monday & Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:30. Classes are designed to improve flexibility, balance and muscular strength. Wear loose comfortable clothes and shoes with good support.

The evening class is designed for all ladies and meets on Mondays & Thursdays from 5:30-6:30. Bring a mat or towel and light hand weights. There are no fees for these classes.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Troup Baptist Assoc (TBA) & GBMB closed for New Year's Day
- 8 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Lamar Womack
- 8 Leadership Group 3 TBA office 6:30 pm
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 15 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Paul Botica
- 18 Leadership Group 1 10:30 am; Group 2 6:30 pm at TBA
- 22 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Derek Williams
- 23 Faith Bible Institute - Spring Semester Begins 6:30 pm
- 25 Executive Committee Meeting 7 pm at TBA
- 29 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Aaron McCollough

Faith Bible Institute meets at association office on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm



**Happy Birthday
January**



- 3 Rev. Howard Longshore, Davidson
- 4 Rev. L.W. Booker
- 5 Rev. Bryan Geter, Creekside
- 9 Rev. Tom Owensby
- 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

Happy New Year!

On The Lighter Side:

Jemima was taking an afternoon nap on New Year's Eve before the festivities.

After she woke up, she confided to Max, her husband, 'I just dreamed that you gave me a diamond ring for a New Year's present. What do you think it all means?'

'Aha, you'll know tonight,' answered Max smiling broadly. At midnight, as the New Year was chiming, Max approached Jemima and handed her a small package. Delighted and excited she opened it quickly. There in her hand rested a book entitled: The Meaning of Dreams.

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