

Troup Baptist Association

What Can We Do?

I think it goes without saying that any reasonable person in America today is deeply troubled at the state of our nation. School shootings, gang related violence, alcohol and drug abuse, the decay of the traditional family unit, the lack of discipline, disrespect for authority and the rule of law, the lack of manners and morals, and the all-out war against anything even remotely resembling Christianity and Christian values - are as bad as I have ever witnessed. America is polarized and deeply divided. Sadly, society is degrading from "we the people" and is moving at light speed toward "us and them." Jesus clearly warns in Mark 3:25(KJV) that "... if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Therefore, as Americans and Christians, the question that begs an answer is: What can we do?

Any answer must be formulated upon the realization that all the horrific things I named in the preceding paragraph - are not the problem! They are only the symptoms of the problem. And problems aren't solved by

attacking the symptoms. America will never get better until she deals with the root cause of her problems: Sin! Let me be clear. Civil laws are necessary for any society to function properly. However, passing new legislation is not the cure for America's problems. Besides, you cannot legislate morality. Regardless of what law is enacted, if people desire to do so, they will find a way to be unGodly, immoral, and "less than intelligent!"

Judges 2:10(KJV) teaches us that after Joshua and all his generation died, the Children of Israel raised, "... another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel." This is where America is today! We are reaping what we have sown!

So, what can we do? I have a novel idea. I think that as individuals, couples, families, households, churches, society, and communities at large, while not neglecting anybody, we should shift our focus for change to our babies and our children. For too long we've given too much attention to what the youth and senior saints

want. And while there's nothing inherently wrong with this, instructing and modeling Godly Biblical principles and standards before our children must become our priority. Ponder what America would look like twenty-one years from now if every baby born in American today was raised in a Christian home, by Christian parents, who fleshed out the teachings of the Bible. What if we declared, and meant, what the prophet of old said in Joshua 24:15(KJV), "... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."?

You can call me an ole fuddy-dud, Bible-thumping-preacher, who is out of touch with reality, if you so desire. But here's the truth. What we've been doing is not working! So, I say it's time we go back to what worked and start teaching Biblical principles to our babies and children.

Years ago I served as the pastor of Roper Heights Baptist Church. We had many babies, children, young adults, young married couples, single adults, middle age adults, and senior adults. However our youth department was woefully

lacking. The decision was made that, while we would continue to love the youth we had, we would shift our focus and resources to our children's ministry. In essence, we started over. Four or five years later, as those children grew into teenagers, we had a robust youth ministry! You see, change is made by relentlessly applying gentle pressure over a long period of time. We didn't get where we were overnight and we wouldn't change overnight. But we had to start somewhere! So does America. We have raised several generations that don't know the Lord. Sadly, our best hope may be to cut our losses and start over.

America will not change until every one of us makes the commitment to change. Change doesn't begin somewhere else with somebody else. Change begins with you and me. It starts with our life, our family, our workplace, our church, and our community! What can we do? Personally commit to, "... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."!

Brother Aaron

News

Troup Baptist Association

Mission Statement:

The Troup Baptist Association is a Spiritual, educational, and community resource that, through cooperative fellowship, equips pastors, staff, and churches as they seek to fulfill The Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Association - The Leadership Mentoring Groups I and II enjoyed a guest speaker and mentor, Rev. Don Ellison, during their February meeting. The leadership groups meet monthly at the Troup Baptist Association. Groups I and II cover the same topic each month; Group I meets in the morning and Group II meets in the evening. There is also a newly organized Group III that meets in the evening but covers topics already covered in Groups I & II. Brother Aaron welcomes any pastor or church leader who wants to improve their leadership abilities to join one of these groups. For more information call 706-884-1975.

Association - Rev. Jason Jones of Western Heights Baptist Church was the featured speaker at the Monday morning Pastor's Prayer Fellowship held at New Macedonia Baptist Church. Each Monday morning, our pastors gather for a time of prayer and fellowship with one pastor given the opportunity to speak to the group. While the speakers vary from week to week, the time and place is always the same - Monday mornings at 11 am at New Macedonia Baptist Church on Johnson Street in LaGrange. This is open to any and all pastors who would like to attend. For the schedule of speakers, check our website calendar: www.troubaptist.org/calendar/. Please note that the group will not meet on April 2 (Easter Monday).



Above: Rev. Jason Jones of Western Heights speaking at the Monday Morning Pastors' Prayer Fellowship.



Above: Rev. Don Ellison speaking to Leadership Groups I & II.

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - During January, the Food Closet served 395 individuals with 229 boxes of food and 570 meals. The Clothes Closet served 101 individuals and gave away 22 coats. "We are so thankful for our volunteers who come every week to work in these ministries." The Food Closet and Clothes Closet are opened every Thursday from 9-11 am.

- BTC hosted the meeting for Feeding the Valley Food Bank on February 7. There were approximately 175 people in attendance.
- On February 10, the Silent Hope Ministry held a Valentine Banquet as a fundraiser for their ministry. Over 100 people were in attendance. The dining hall was beautifully decorated and Cindy Bucheger did a photobomb shoot of people attending. The prime rib dinner was superb! Those attending were entertained by our own BTC entertainer, Mr. Craig Marshall, who did an awesome job. This event was truly a blessing to everyone who attended.
- Awanas continue their busy schedule this year of learning about Jesus. On February 7, it was Love Night. Each child was encouraged to bring a parent or someone they love to share this night. February 21 was Let Your Light Shine night. The children brought a flashlight or glow stick to let their light shine for Jesus. "Our teachers are doing a remarkable job with these children."
- The 20+ Bible Study Group made Valentine bags and gave them to the widows/widowers for Valentine's Day.

Creekside - Pastor Bryan Geter of Creekside Baptist Church, along with Brother Robert Burnette, Worship Leader at Creekside, Pastor Mike Reeves of Open Range Cowboy Church, and Bailey Moon, Equine & Media Ministry team member of Open Range Cowboy Church, helped Brother Robert's son, Jesse, celebrate his birthday at Creekside with horse riding. • Creekside Baptist Church held a Valentine's Dinner after services on Sunday, February 11. All enjoyed games and a spaghetti dinner.



Above L-R: Bailey Moon, Robert Burnette, Rev. Bryan Geter of Creekside, and Pastor Mike Reeves of Open Range Cowboy Church

News

Davidson - had a wonderful time "Fellowshipping" on Valentine's Day. "It is such a blessing to have Christian brothers and sisters to share the fun and great food."

- Brother Bobby Kent has begun teaching us about Prophecy during our Wednesday night Bible Study. He shared a lot of interesting information with us during the first study on February 11. We are looking forward to the rest of the study.
- On February 17, the Youth had a "movie and taco" night under the leadership of Larry and Ginger Strong. Eight children enjoyed the movie and ate almost 5 lbs of hamburger meat (which proves they are true Baptists!) "We are so thankful for our youth and the dedicated leaders of our church!"
- Some of our singers participated in The Church on the Rock benefit and were indeed blessed with the worshipful music and awesome testimony. Please keep this sister church in your prayers.

East Vernon - February 16, Stephanie Walker and Alexandria Pasley from LaGrange, assisted featured performers Colin Elliott and Paul Silcox from Ireland, accompanied on the violin by Tabitha Fleenor from Cedartown, Georgia, as they gave a wonderful concert at East Vernon Baptist Church.



Above L-R: Colin Elliott, Tabitha Fleenor, and Paul Silcock performing at East Vernon Baptist Church



Above Left: Alexandria Pasley performed a song complemented with sign language. Above Right: Stephanie Walker leads the congregation in singing prior to the concert at East Vernon.

Highland - The choir began working on an Easter Cantata entitled "There is A Redeemer". • The WMU ladies have begun collecting items for Project Joy boxes to be given through God's Bread Basket in December.

Lakeview - A church-wide Valentine's party was celebrated on February 14 with a delicious spaghetti meal and all the trimmings. • WMU ladies met on February 19 with hostess Judy King presenting a devotion and WMU Leader Ginny Helton discussing potential projects with the group. The next project will be to improve the ramp leading into the fellowship hall so that it will be safer and will be preserved. Plans are to also continue sending care boxes for military personnel serving overseas. • Music and devotions continue for residents of Poplar Creek Assisted Living. • Men's ministry met on February 17 with a fellowship breakfast and a discussion of projects to improve the church. As a result, a new cross to go in the yard has already been built and erected.

Mountville - MBC had a wonderful Homecoming and Revival in February! Jim and Nicole Turner brought special music on Monday and Tuesday night, and Whitney Scott had special music on Wednesday night. "It was a great week of renewal and refreshment!" • Team Kids had a great lesson on a Wednesday night about how Jesus makes us "White as Snow!" After the lesson, the kids wrapped their group leader, Cody in toilet tissue to demonstrate this. • Mountville held a "Souper Bowl" mission project in January/February. Families brought canned soup items to stock the food the food closet and to provide for several elderly people who are home bound. • A Soup and Cornbread supper was held on Wednesday, Feb. 21. "What a great time of food and fellowship!"



The Mountville Team Kids learned how Jesus makes us "White as Snow". Afterwards they wrapped their group leader in toilet tissue to demonstrate! See Cody above in white!

*Everything that is good - is not God,
But everything of God - is good.*

News



Mountville kicks off the "Souper Bowl!"

The Mountville "Souper Bowl" Mission Project was held to stock their food closet with canned soup and other items for the elderly and home bound in their community.

New Hope (LaGrange) - The Axis Youth of the Month for February was Andre Mills, a freshman at Springwood School in Lanett. He loves Jesus and football. He is a thoughtful and loving "bear" of a guy who is always smiling and helpful. "We are very proud of Andre and his accomplishments."

- There were a good group of ladies at the Sisters of Hope meeting on February 5. They shared finger food and enjoyed guest speaker, Susan Belcher. They were blessed by her personal testimony of encouragement to trust the Lord in all circumstances of life no matter what.
- The Valentine banquet was enjoyed by all. The "church cooks" outdid themselves for the food was "out of this world." Many went back for seconds! There was a local "talent" show and names were drawn for gifts. "It was great fun!"



NEW HOPE



Roper Heights - had another great month! God blessed them with three additions to the church: Steven Milner, Chelsi Adams, and Cole Scott. Cole Scott and Steven Milner were also baptized.

The Church on the Rock - has received seven new members during the month of February. See photos below.



Above L-R: Pastor Terry Gray of The Church on the Rock with new members Kimmee McKeehan and Rocky McKeehan



Above L-R: New members of The Church on the Rock, Miracle Newton, Jeff Newton, John Carter, Sherry Carter and Josh Reese

PJ & MOVIE NIGHT



The children of New Hope Baptist in LaGrange enjoyed a PJ and Movie Night on January 31. Pictured at left are Maris Mayfield and Skylar Cash. Above L-R are Tearria Tucker and Izzy Smith.

Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - Baptist Tabernacle will be hosting a blood drive on March 12 from 2-7 pm in the JC McMillian Life Center of Baptist Tabernacle.

If you can donate, please give so someone's life may be saved.

- Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11. "Please set your clocks ahead on Saturday night so that you are not late for church services on Sunday. Please continue to pray for our schools."

Blood Drive

Davidson - An Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 31 at 12:00 noon. There will be sandwiches, chips and drinks available for everyone. "Please join us."

Please join us for service and fellowship:

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 (Prophecy)

Highland - The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the church on Saturday, March 24 at 2:00 pm.

Easter Egg Hunt

- The Easter Cantata entitled "There is A Redeemer" will be presented during Morning Worship Service on Easter Sunday.

Lakeview - Donations are needed for the food closet; nonperishables with future expiration dates and especially kid-friendly foods are recommended. • Damaged window panes in the sanctuary have been repaired but donations are still being accepted to help cover the cost. The cost is approximately \$25 per window pane for anyone who wishes to help with this project. • A representative from the Gideons will be at Lakeview on March 4 during the 11 am morning worship hour. A love offering will be received to help the Gideons purchase Bibles for their ministry.

- An Easter Egg Hunt is being planned and the date will be announced.



Mountville (MBC) - MBC will hold prayer walks at our schools around the county to pray for the safety of our students, teachers, and staff.

New Hope (LaGrange) - Sisters of Hope will meet on Monday, March 5 at 6pm at the Walmart in LaGrange. We will shop for baby and maternity items for First Choice Women's Center. Afterward we will go to Country's BBQ for dinner. All ladies are invited to join us as we serve the Lord and our community in various ways. • On Sunday, March 18, after the morning worship service, there will be a soup lunch in the Family Life Center for Annie Armstrong. "Please make plans now to stay and eat with us." • The family night supper will be Wednesday, March 28 at 6:30pm. There will be an egg hunt for the children. • Practice has started for the Easter Cantata. If you like to sing, please join us for practice each Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.

New Hope (continued) - The Easter celebration will be Easter morning, April 1. There will be an early service at 8:30am, breakfast at 9:00am in the Family Life Center, Sunday School at 10:00am followed by the Easter Cantata "I Know My Redeemer Lives" at 11:00am. "We invite all to come and worship with us as we hear God's message through music."

- The February children's mission offering will go to Harmony House. "Thank you Patti Manion for the wonderful stories and prayer you have with the children after the offering."

- VBS is on the way! Our dedicated director, Rita Karr, announced it will be held June 24 thru 28 from 6:00pm till 8:30pm. Mark your calendars now and pray about where the Lord wants you to serve.

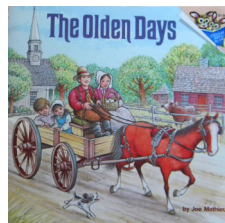
Please let Rita know as soon as possible. • You are invited to join us each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm as Preacher Mike Hornsby continues the study on Baptist Doctrine after our prayer time.

Vacation Bible School

Rosemont - Join us as we celebrate Easter with two services on April 1 at 8:30 and 10:30am at the Troup High School Auditorium. There will be childcare for children ages birth to 4 years at Rosemont Baptist Church.



Roper Heights - There will be an "Old Fashioned Day Service" on March 18 with a special singing by *The Sanders Family* of Fredonia, AL. There will be a covered dish dinner following the morning service. "All are welcome!"



- The choir is practicing for the Easter Morning Service and they meet for practice on Sunday afternoons at 5:00.

- Pastor Eddie Striblin extends an invitation to all to come join us.

Association - Church Prayer List

For March 2018, please pray for following churches:

Week of March 4, 2018 - Grace Baptist Church
 Week of March 11, 2018 - Gray Hill Baptist Church
 Week of March 18, 2018 - Harvest Baptist Church
 Week of March 25, 2018 - Highland Baptist Church

For April 2018, please pray for following churches:

Week of April 1, 2018 - Hillcrest Baptist Church
 Week of April 8, 2018 - Hilyer Baptist Church
 Week of April 15, 2018 - Lakeview Baptist Church
 Week of April 22, 2018 - Long Cane Baptist Church
 Week of April 29, 2018 - Mountville Baptist Church

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

Announcements (continued)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

*"Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another."
- Jesus Christ*

**A solemn service of repentance, remembrance and communion.
March 29 | 6:30pm | franklinroad baptist church, LaGrange**

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, March 29, 6:30 PM
Franklin Road Baptist Church
1424 New Franklin Road
LaGrange, Georgia

Join us for a special Maundy Thursday service, including a "hands-on" experience beginning at 6:30pm. The formal service will begin at 7:00pm and will be a solemn service including the Lord's Supper to remember the suffering servant, Jesus Christ, and His final meal with the disciples.

Pastor Andy Buchanan

Higher Hope

13th Anniversary Concert
Saturday, April 28 @ 6:00 PM EST

Callaway Baptist Church
310 John Lovelace Road
LaGrange, Georgia

Featuring: Higher Hope with their special guests,
The Perrys of Gallatin, TN.

Sheepdog Seminars - A Response to Violence



May 18-19, 2018
Friday: 8:30am - 3:30
Saturday: 8:00am - 12:30

Faith Baptist Church
552 Hammett Road,
LaGrange, Georgia

For Church Staff Personnel, Ushers, Church Security Team,
Pastors, Youth Leaders, Church Leaders, etc.

Early Registration \$49
Pre-register at www.sheepdogseminars.com
For information call 817-437-9693

**Dental Assistance
for Ministerial Staff
and Their Spouses**



**Georgia Baptist
Mission Board**
Baptist Mobile
Health Ministry

April 16-18

Ethnic Ministers & Spouses, Intercultural Church
Planting and Mission Ministry Leadership Conference
Georgia Baptist Conference Center, Toccoa, Georgia
Contact Mrs. Carlene Cooper at 1-800-746-4422 extn 217
or by email at ccooper@gabaptist.org

May 17-19

Open to any Georgia Baptist Convention ministerial
staff & spouses who do not have dental insurance.
New Providence Baptist Church, Smarr, Georgia
Contact Ted Kandler at 1-800-746-4422 extn 217
or by email at tkandler@gabaptist.org

September 12-15

Ministers Wellness Retreat
Georgia Baptist Conference Center, Toccoa Georgia
Open to any Georgia Baptist Convention minister and
spouse who do not have preventive health insurance.
Contact Mrs. Laura Gray at 1-800-746-4422 extn 364
or by email at lgray@gabaptist.org

Dunson Baptist Church is seeking to fill these positions:

- Bi-vocational Youth Director
- Music & Choir Director

For more info, contact the church office at 706-884-7814.

www.RenovateMyChurch.org



RENOVATE May 1-3
Alabama/Georgia Church Revitalization Conference 2018

Helping Today's Churches Succeed Tomorrow!

Location: Morningside Baptist Church,
6065 Morningside Drive, Columbus, GA 31909

Four Main Sessions Featuring:

Thom Rainer, H.B. Charles, John Ed Mathison, Rick Collins,
Micah Fries, Tom Cheyney, Bill Purvis, and Larry Wynn

**Exciting Music / Worship
Great Door Prizes**

35+ Breakout Learning Sessions

Cost: 5 months out \$59, 3 months out \$79, Walk-Ups \$99

For more information, call Columbus Baptist Association
at 706-322-7757 or email: Info@RenovateMyChurch.org

Announcements (continued)

East Vernon Baptist Church

EVENT: Annual Birthday Bash
NEW DATE: **Saturday, March 24**
TIME: 2 - 4 PM



Great Food, Good Fun, and Fantastic Fellowship!

Georgia Baptist Women's Spring Event April 13-14

Atlanta Evergreen Marriott, Stone Mountain

Gather with other Georgia Baptist Women to build relationships, and be a part of something bigger than ourselves as we see how God is moving in our state and around the world. *Christ Alive and At Work* will be the focus of each worship session where missionaries will connect us to their stories. You will be inspired!



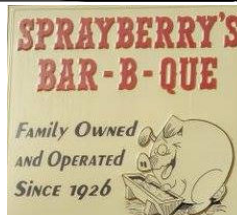
Debbie Wohler Reasoner is the missionary who you help to collect enough soup labels to purchase a van for her ministry! She will be sharing stories of how God is transforming lives in Tahoe, CA.

Albert & Grace Faircloth are both graduates of the University of North Georgia. You will learn how God used them in Central Asia to communicate the Gospel and reach the art community in their city.



Register online and view details at gabaptistwomenspringevent.com

Bi-vocational Pastors' & Wives' Night Out



Saturday, March 17 @ 6 pm

All bi-vocational pastors and their wives are invited to come out and join the group at

Sprayberry's Bar-B-Que
1060 Hwy 34 E (Exit 47)
Newnan, GA

Please RSVP to Carol Truitt at 706-882-3579 or Judy King at lilose@outlook.com.



Kids Holy Week Adventure Camp

Saturday, March 24 from 9 am—3 pm
Franklin Road Baptist Church

The children will be learning all about the last week of Jesus' life and its significance to us. It will prepare them for a greater celebration of Easter. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to Shannon Williams by calling 706-882-3482 on or before March 18.

Children's Camp Rockridge 2018

June 18-21



Rockridge Baptist
Assembly
Franklin, Georgia

Early Registration thru June 10: \$155
After June 10: \$180

Children ages 8 years thru rising 6th graders

Online Registration begins April 2

www.troubaptist.org/childrens-camp-rockridge-2018/



Happy Birthday
April



- 6 Rev. Paul Blair, First Baptist on the Square (retired)
- 6 Rev. Clay Snyder, Harvest
- 7 Rev. Cade Farris, First Baptist on the Square
- 9 Rev. Aaron McCollough, Association
- 9 Rev. Donnie Benefield, Grace
- 11 Rev. Nick Pilgrim, Wehadkee
- 23 Rev. Randall Foxworth
- 27 Rev. Steve Vickery, Western Heights
- 28 Rev. Hugo Oropeza, First Hispanic
- 29 Rev. Frank Sledge, Northside (interim)

MARCH CALENDAR

- 5 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Stanley Woods
- 8 Leadership Group I Troup Baptist Assoc. 10:30 am
- 8 Leadership Group II Troup Baptist Assoc. 6:30 pm
- 11 Daylight Savings Time begins - "Spring Forward"
- 12 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Tifton Dobbs
- 17 Bi-vocational Pastors' & Wives' Dinner Sprayberry's BBQ 6 pm
- 19 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Bob Tidwell
- 19 Leadership Group III Troup Baptist Assoc. 6:30 pm
- 26 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Tom Kennedy
- 30 Good Friday GBMB and Troup Baptist Assoc. office closed

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



Happy Birthday **March**



- 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
- 20 Rev. Randy Warren, Flat Shoals Salem Road
- 22 Dr. Tom Tucker, First Baptist - West Point



Welcome Spring!



On The Lighter Side:

At a Wednesday evening church meeting a very wealthy man rose to give his testimony. "I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I can still remember the turning point in my faith, like it was yesterday: I had just earned my first dollar and I went to a church meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who told about his work. I knew that I only had a dollar bill and had to either give it all to God's work or nothing at all. So at that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today." As he finished it was clear that everyone had been moved by this man's story. But, as he took his seat, a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over and said: "Wonderful story! I dare you to do it again!"

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