

## Troup Baptist Association

### The Barracks Called Church

I am writing this column on November 5<sup>th</sup>, just one day ahead of the midterm elections. To say the least, this election season has been a particularly mean-spirited one. And to tell you the truth, I hope it is over tomorrow. I sure hope there isn't a runoff for governor. I'm just ready for it to be over! And I don't want to hear or see another political commercial for a long, long time!

As I have stated in previous columns, the level of incivility to which America has risen - is mindboggling! There's no longer a sense of respect for our fellow human beings, with whom we may disagree politically, religiously, or morally. Somewhere along the way we lost our ability to have civil discourse with those who hold different opinions and to be able to disagree without being disagreeable. Civility has degraded to an "us and them" proposition! Hatred is real; commonsense has died, and the level of hypocrisy among our leaders is unbelievable. And this election cycle has certainly taken all of this

hatred and incivility to a whole new level! I don't know about you, but I'm embarrassed by and ashamed of the way we've been acting! We're better than this!

The question that begs an answer is: How did we get here? In my opinion, a great deal of the blame for the condition in which America finds itself today can be laid squarely at the feet of the church. There was a time, not that long ago, when the church in America stood for what was right and against what was wrong. Biblical truth was her mooring and morality was her compass. Morality was believed, taught, modeled, and expected! Biblical truth and morality produced the courage to take the tough moral stands. All of this, coupled with manners and commonsense, was the expected norm of the day. Ah, but not so much today!

The trouble began when the church started shifting its focus from winning the lost to Jesus, teaching absolute moral standards, and standing against sin in whatever form it manifested itself, and started preaching some perverted, sociably acceptable form of the

gospel. In so doing, the fight in which we were engaged shifted from outside the four walls of the church to inside. Michael Youssef said it this way, "Soldiers on the battlefield fight the enemy, while soldiers in the barracks fight each other." And this is exactly what happened! Outside we were fighting Satan and the ills of sin and evil on every front. But when it came inside we started fighting each other over things that don't make one iota of difference. The truth is that while mothers are slaughtering their babies in their womb, divorce is running rampant, couples are cohabitating, the family unit is tattered, homosexuality is being touted as the norm, the muslim faith and other false religions and cults are being accepted in main stream America, addictions of all kinds are at epidemic levels, and there is a seething cauldron of evil boiling just beneath the surface ... we are inside the walls of the church fighting amongst ourselves over some really important stuff! You know, stuff like the color of the new carpet, whether we sing contemporary worship songs from words projected onto the wall or

traditional hymns from a hymnal, whether we have a choir or a praise team, whether the pastor preaches from the King James Version of the Bible or a New King James Version, whether he wears a suit and tie or a golf shirt and khaki pants when he preaches, and most importantly, his stance regarding Calvinism. And while we're so engaged in all of this inside the church - outside the world has been turned upside down by sin and is dying and going to hell in a hand basket!

The time has come for the church to shift the battle from inside her four walls back into the real world! For too long the church has been distracted. It is time to refocus our time, talents, and energy onto the only battle worth fighting - the battle against sin! Again, Michael Youssef said it best when he said, "Soldiers on the battlefield fight the enemy, while soldiers in the barracks fight each other."

Let's get out of the barracks called church!

*Brother Aaron*

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# News

**Association** - The 81st Annual Meeting of the Troup Baptist Association was held on October 15, 2018. Faith Baptist trio members, Canaan Looney, Holly Martin and Erica Whitney opened the meeting with inspiring music. Moderator Jeff McCartney called the meeting to order. During the business portion of the meeting, Hillcrest Baptist Church (Rev. Jim Butler) was welcomed into the association after one year of watchcare membership. Two churches received certificates of appreciation from the Georgia Baptist Mission Board; First Baptist Church on the Square and Franklin Road Baptist Church. Rev. Terry Rainwater of Highland was elected to serve as Moderator for the upcoming year. Rev. Derek Williams of New Macedonia was elected to serve as Vice-Moderator. There were 21 churches represented at the meeting with about 83 people in attendance. Rev. Rick Jenkins of Baptist Collegiate Ministries gave an encouraging report of a weekly Bible study called Hillside 805 at LaGrange College. Rev. Bobby Boswell, Assistant Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board spoke on the importance of the Cooperative Program. He asked us to consider what would happen if it went away. The Cooperative Program is our means of support to world-wide missions. We can't do it individually or even church by church, but we can do it together. The offering taken will be used for Hurricane Michael relief. Congregational singing was led by Stephanie Walker and accompanied by Shirley Posey on piano. Rev. Michael Stiggers of Eastside Baptist Church brought the message using Acts 1:6-8 as his text. He pointed out things we are to do while we wait. He reminded us that while we wait we have His presence, His power, and His purpose to fulfill, as we wait.



Above L-R: Rev. Michael Stiggers, Rev. Bobby Boswell, Stephanie Walker, Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough, Shirley Posey, Rev. Terry Rainwater, Rev. Derek Williams, Rev. Jeff McCartney and Rev. Rick Jenkins



Above: Receiving Certificates for Franklin Road Baptist is Rev. Andy Buchanan (L) and Mr. Daves Nichols (R) for First Baptist Church on the Square.

## 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** - Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough preached revival services at Hogansville First Baptist Church October 21 through 24. The Special Music on Sunday night was provided by Rev. Aaron McCollough, Rev. Lamar Truitt, Rev. Randall Hodge and Mrs. Marianne McCollough.



Above L-R: Rev. Aaron McCollough, Rev. Lamar Truitt, Rev. Randall Hodge, and Mrs. Marianne McCollough providing special music at Hogansville First Baptist

### Message from Dr. J. Robert White

As I approach retirement after 26 years serving the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, there is no emphasis that has touched my heart during these years more than Reaching the Next Generation. We must dedicate ourselves to the future generations of leadership to assure having a bright and fruitful history in the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and in each of our churches. I also encourage you to be faithful in our support for your local association and the ministries of Georgia and Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program. Thank you for the honor of serving you through these years. I continue to stand by to help each of you in any way I am able.



# News (continued)

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - Nine new members were welcomed to the Baptist Tabernacle Church family. "God is truly blessing our church family. God is good, all the time."

- The Food Closet served 674 individuals and distributed 750 meals. "Thanks to all the volunteers who help in this ministry."
- October 7 was Homecoming. Pastor Jimmy McMillian delivered a great message from God. David Looney gave a history of the church and its' founders. After worship service, lunch was served. A wonderful time of fellowshiping and eating was had by all who attended.
- October 21 was set aside for Pastor Appreciation Day. No amount of gifts, dinners or money could show how much we love and appreciate our pastor, Rev. Jimmy McMillian and Merle. He is a man of God and preaches from God's Holy Word. He is a blessing to everyone he meets. BTC Student Ministry had a lock-in on October 19 at Brandon & Kim Scott's home. A great night of worship, fun and fellowship was had by all who attended.

**Dunson** - October was busy and full of fellowship and fun. The month started with Homecoming. They also celebrated Pastor Appreciation for Bro. Kenneth with a luncheon, money tree and cards. "We certainly love our Pastor, Pam and Kennedy. The senior group went to Ellijay for apples and also to Columbus to see Chonda Pierce, a Christian comedian. "We are keeping our new bus busy!" • Dunson had a booth in downtown LaGrange for trick or treating.

**Grace** - A Deacon Ordination and reception for Sam Cordero was held on October 7th. Sam and his wife Cindy Bell are such a blessing to our church. They are pictured with Pastor Donnie Benefield. • What a wonderful and inspirational worship service we had on Sunday, Sept. 30th with our special guest singer, Steve Ladd. • The Fall Festival had over 300 people in attendance. Thank you to all that helped and donated and especially to Britney Buchanan for organizing it.



Above L-R: Cindy Bell, Deacon Sam Cordero & Pastor Donnie Benefield



Grace Fall Festival



2nd Place Booth



3rd Place Booth



Above at Candyland Trick or Treat booth: Reba Bonner, Rikki Hale & Kathy Pattillo.



Dunson



Above: Pastor Kenneth Cole assisting Ruby & David Thompson off the bus at Mercier Orchard in Ellijay.



Grace Fall Festival - 1st Place Booth



Above: waiting in line to see Chonda Pierce in Columbus



# News (continued)

**Highland** - held the annual Trunk 'N Treats on October 31 in the church parking lot. Each year a large group of children come by and enjoy treats given from trunks of decorated cars lining the parking lot. Bible tracts are also given to all who came by, making this a great time to reach children in our neighborhood with the good news of Jesus. • Highland observed Pastor Appreciation Month on Sunday, October 28 with a fellowship luncheon following Morning Worship Service. "We love Pastor Terry and Cookie, and we appreciate the many things they do for our church and our community."

**Lakeview** - Homecoming was October 14 with Reverend Randall Hodge providing special music as well as the morning message. A covered-dish meal followed morning services. A large crowd enjoyed all the special activities. • WMU met October 22 with hostess Carol Truitt serving delicious soups and providing an interesting devotion.

**Mountville (MBC)** - MBC was honored to provide the Callaway High School Football team with a pre-game meal on Friday, October 5. Preacher Dwayne and Bro. Cody shared a few words and prayed with the team before the meal. MBC has been a long-time partner in education with Callaway High School and are thankful for the relationships they have formed over the years with the faculty and athletic staff. We continue to lift CHS and all our Troup County Schools in prayer.

• A mission team from MBC traveled down south to Cuthbert, GA on Tuesday, October 17 to feed and fellowship with the Diverse Power workers and other utility workers from other states that are helping to restore power to South Georgia after Hurricane Michael. The team was able to serve a hot meal and homemade desserts to about 150 workers. "We are so thankful for all the hard work that these men and women have done! Also, a big 'Thank-You' to Mountville's own Matthew Costley, Jacob Rice, Derrick Snelson, Justin Townsend, James Hembree, Blayton Scott, and Hunter Webb for their sacrifices as they have worked countless hours to help restore power to South Georgia and Florida.

**Mountville (continued)** - Mountville held a "Pink Out" on Sunday, October 21! The Youth decorated the sanctuary and members were asked to wear pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Several members of MBC congregation are survivors of this disease or have loved ones who have been affected by breast cancer. "We continue to pray for a cure!"

• Sunday, October 28 was Youth / Pastor Appreciation Day! Mountville Mpack was in charge of the service as they honored Preacher Dwayne. Jacob Walker, grandson of Aaron & Marianne McCollough, brought the morning message. What a blessing the youth are to our church! The congregation showered Pastor Dwayne with love and goodies! Lunch was enjoyed by all after the morning service. • MBC held a Fall Festival on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 3-6pm at the church. They enjoyed bouncy houses, a cake walk, games, and a hayride.



Above: Mountville members who served the Callaway High Football Team



Above: Utility Crews who helped restore power after Hurricane Michael



Above: Mountville members who served Utility Crews in South Georgia



Above: Mountville Youth decorated the sanctuary for a "Pink-Out" in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Mountville Mpack  
Youth Sunday

At Right: Mountville Mpack took charge of the service for Pastor and Youth Appreciation Day.



## News (continued)

**New Hope (LaGrange)** - was excited to see four new members baptized on Sunday, October 7. Congratulations to Rebecca Burnette, Gracie Cash, Ava Hughes and Skylar Cash. "We are very proud of you." • On Sunday, October 14, Pat and Kathey Deming were welcomed as new members. • New Hope church family mourns the passing of member Jack Smith on October 8. "Our thoughts and prayer to his wife, Brenda and their son, Shannon and his family." • The Children's Department is collecting items for Operation Christmas Child through Sunday, November 11. You may also donate money to help with the shipping cost. • The Fall Festival on October 24 was a huge success. There were games, trunk-or-treat, a cake walk, train rides and food. "A big thank you to all who helped, especially Troy & Rita Karr and Melissa Hughes." • A soup lunch sponsored by Sisters of Hope was held on November 4 after the morning worship service. Proceeds will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. • Also on November 4, the International Day of Prayer for the persecuted church was observed during morning worship service. • The church family is praying for and helping Bill, Kathy and Gabriel Clegg who lost everything in a home fire. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Preacher Mike Hornsby at 706-812-0120.



New Hope  
Trunk-or-Treat



Above: New Hope children in costume and ready for Trunk-or-Treat at the Fall Festival



The Train Ride at New Hope's Fall Festival

**New Macedonia** - Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough held a deacon training class on October 3 at New Macedonia. During October, the church recognized their eldest deacons for their dedication and service to the church and the ministry. • On Sunday, October 7, Derek L. Williams was installed as the pastor of New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. • On Saturday, October 6, New Macedonia was joined by other community churches to share the love! They provided a free lunch as well as outreach on this day. Two souls gave their lives to Christ during the event!



Above L-R: Lady Stephanie Williams and Pastor Derek L. Williams



Above L-R: Sis. Hayes, Deacon Hayes, Deacon West, Sis. West



Above: New Macedonia Community Outreach Day

**Roper Heights** - had another great month! Dennis and Susan Lindsay, and Emily Akins joined our church family by letter. "We are very blessed and welcome them very much."

- Dwayne Morris was ordained as a deacon on October 21.
- The Fall Festival was held on November 4 with a cake walk, trunk-or-treat, hot dogs and games.



# Ministry Spotlight

**Unity Baptist Church** is pleased to announce that they have called Derek Ehlers as their Minister of Youth and Children. Derek grew up here at Unity and is an active part of 808 Ministries. Derek and his wife, Ansley, will celebrate their third anniversary in December and they have a son, Keagan, who is 15 months old. "We are excited to see what the Lord will do through this family here at Unity!" (see photo below)



**Unity / Callaway** - In response to the devastation that resulted from Hurricane Michael - Unity Baptist Church, Callaway Baptist Church, Troup County Board of Realtors and affiliates, and numerous residents of LaGrange and West Point gathered much needed supplies and traveled to Donalsonville, GA, (the hardest hit area in Georgia) on Sunday, October 21 delivering the supplies to First Baptist Church of Donalsonville.

# Announcements



Above & Below left: Items donated included four chain saws, chain saw blades, oil and gas, diapers, wipes, toiletries, food, water and clothing. The devastation was incredible but so was the spirit and gratitude of those receiving these gifts. A big thanks to those who donated!

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - The Lighthouse Keepers is open to all senior adults (55 or older). The purpose of the Lighthouse Keepers is for the senior members of the church to continue doing the work that the Lord would have them to do for the church and the community. Each month they prepare a meal for family and friends of those in Hospice care. They also donate bottles of water to Hospice. They host Bingo at Florence Hand Home on the third Thursday of each month. Each year they do a project for the Battered Women's Shelter.

- Sunday, November 11 is Veteran's Day. Please remember to say "thank you" to those who have served and are serving today.
- BTC will be hosting a Blood Drive on November 26 from 2-7pm in the Life Center at BTC. "Please donate so others may live."
- Hunters for Christ will have their annual Smoked Turkey and Smoked Boston Butt Sale during the month of November. If you are interested in purchasing a turkey or Boston butt or \$30 each, you may contact Brian 706-616-2000 or Kim 706-616-2001. Pick up will be Wednesday, November 21 from 5-8pm. Proceeds are used to take handicapped veterans on hunts.
- Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Baptist Tabernacle Church. May God bless you and your family. *"O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever."* Psalm 107:1



Above: The Lighthouse Keepers (plus one junior member) from Baptist Tabernacle

# Announcements (continued)

**Davidson** - Please join us for service and fellowship:  
Sunday Breakfast 9am / Sunday School 9:45 / Worship 11am /  
Evening Service 6pm / Wednesday Bible Study 6:30pm

**Dunson** - will have a Hoedown on Saturday, November 10 from 5-7pm. There will be singing by Jimmy McMillian and his group. "Come join us around the campfire for singing, fellowship and enjoy chili and hot dogs with us."

**Flat Shoals West Point** - wishes for everyone the most blessed Thanksgiving of all. It is good to give thanks unto the Lord. Be thankful unto Him and Bless His Holy Name!

**Grace** - Ladies Bible Study from Beth Moore's book, "Living Beyond Yourself, Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" will be Thursdays at 6pm beginning October 25 for 11 weeks.

- The Senior's Group meets the first Tuesday of each month.
- Giving Grace Meals are held every third Saturday.
- Men for Christ and Ladies of Grace meet every third Monday night at 6:30 with a meal followed by a meeting at 7:00. Each group's main focus is community missions.
- RU Recovery meets on Fridays at 7pm.
- Grace Family Fellowship Parenting Class meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

Childcare is provided and all parents are welcome.

**Highland** - will join other churches in their community for the annual Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 6pm. • They will observe the annual Hanging of the Green service during Morning Worship Service on November 25. This is a beautiful service that kicks off the Christmas season.

**Lakeview** - On Wednesday, November 14 at 6:00 pm a church Thanksgiving dinner will take the place of evening services. The meal will be catered by Hog Heaven. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. Carry-out plates will also require a ticket. Please see Ginny Helton or Judy King to purchase your tickets. • Please see Audrey Holloway if you would like to be involved in organizing Wednesday night activities for children.

**New Hope (LaGrange)** - Operation Christmas Child packing party will be held on Sunday, November 18. • A church-wide Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Wednesday, November 14 at 6:00pm. "Come and enjoy the good food and fellowship!"

**Roper Heights** - There will be a church yard sale on Nov. 10 beginning at 8:00 am. • Bro. Harold Burkett will be coming in December to gather things needed in Mexico. Please join us for worship services on Sunday at 11am and 6pm and Bible Study on Wednesdays at 6pm. "May God bless all."



## 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 Online Enrollment through Nov. 15**  
(late fee of \$24 applies after Nov 15)  
**Classes begin January 22, 2019**

- **The Beginning & The Hebrew Fathers**
  - **The Life of Christ I** (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John)
  - **Doctrines of God & The Bible**
- New Student: \$126
  - FBI Graduate: \$53
  - Returning Student: \$86
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Family Member; \$53

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

## Association - Church Prayer List

**For November 2018, please pray for following churches:**

Week of November 4, 2018 - Bethel Baptist Church  
Week of November 11, 2018 - Bethlehem Baptist Church  
Week of November 18, 2018 - Callaway Baptist Church  
Week of November 25, 2018 - Concord Baptist Church

**For December 2018, please pray for following churches:**

Week of December 2, 2018 - Confidence Missionary Baptist  
Week of December 9, 2018 - Creekside Baptist Church  
Week of December 16, 2018 - Davidson Baptist Church  
Week of December 23, 2018 - Dunson Baptist Church  
Week of December 30, 2018 - East LaGrange Baptist Church

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

Save the Date...



## Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Party

**Tuesday, December 4, 2018**  
**6:00 pm**

**Hosted by Baptist Tabernacle Church**  
**849 S Davis Rd, LaGrange**

(Invitations will be mailed)



## Happy Birthday December



- 1 Rev. Michael Stiggers, Eastside Baptist
- 6 Rev. James (Jamie) Kelley, Glenn Baptist
- 9 Rev. Doug Bingham, Unity Baptist
- 20 Rev. Andy Buchanan, Franklin Road Baptist
- 22 Rev. Bill Bryant
- 31 Rev. Wesley Boatman



## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 4 Daylight Saving Time Ends - Fall back 1 hour.
- 5 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Sam Warner
- 8 Financial Seminar for Churches & Pastors at TBA, Lee Wright
- 12 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Doug Bingham
- 19 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Edmund Coffee
- 21-23 Troup Baptist Assoc. & GBMB closed for Thanksgiving
- 26 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Wendell Brown

TBA refers to Troup Baptist Association office  
 Association Prayer Group meets on Wednesdays at 11am @ TBA  
 Faith Bible Institute meets on Tuesdays at 6:30pm @ TBA



## *Happy Birthday* November



- 2 Rev. Jerome Hicks
- 6 Ms. Jane Gottshall, Association Clerk
- 15 Bro. Terry Gray, The Church on the Rock
- 16 Rev. Steve Sexton
- 22 Rev. Steve Johnson, Bethel



## Happy Thanksgiving!



### *On The Lighter Side:*

Several years ago we headed to a nearby town to visit some relatives. I had a new car and was having fun driving fast on the twisty country roads. As we zoomed along, I noticed a three-legged chicken keeping pace with me. I slowed to get a better look at the speedster when it turned and went down a dirt road. I stopped, turned around and followed it. After a short ride, we came upon a house with an older couple sitting on the porch and dozens of three-legged chickens in the yard. I asked them, "Are these your chickens? They're the fastest I've ever seen." The old man said, "Yep." So I asked him where they came from, and he replied, "When the kids were younger, they always fought over the chicken legs, so we decided to breed a three-legged chicken." I nodded and said, "Well, they are fast, but what do they taste like?" He admitted, "Not rightly sure; we never could catch one."

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