

Troup Baptist Association

Dancing in Your Hurricane

A portion of the lyrics to the song, "The Eye," by Brandi Carlisle, state, "You can dance in a hurricane, but only if you're standing in the eye." That lyric is a poignant reminder that even in the fiercest of storms, there is usually an eye – a respite, if you will. Regrettably, I fear that we expend exorbitant amounts of time, energy, and resources trying to simply survive the storms that blow into our lives. So much so, in fact, that we lose sight of the hope that with every hurricane there is an eye – a time, if only for a short window of time, when we can dance in our storm!

As I was writing the paragraph above my mind defaulted back to a story I heard many years ago about the famous Scottish minister, Alexander Whyte. He was known for his uplifting prayers in the pulpit. He always found something for which to

be grateful. One Sunday morning the weather was so gloomy that one church member thought to himself, "Certainly the preacher won't think of anything to be thankful for on a day like this." However, much to his surprise, Whyte began his prayer by saying, "We thank Thee, O God that it is not always like this." Whyte knew that storms don't last forever.

The news of late hasn't been very encouraging. Wars are raging; soldiers are dying; terrorism is running rampant; increasingly, innocent people are being killed; morals have become non-existent; sin is on public display; disease is rampant; factories like GM are closing their doors; our nation is becoming more polarized than I have ever witnessed in my lifetime, and perhaps as a nation we mutter: "Won't this nightmare ever end?"

I wonder, on that fateful night so long ago, if the shepherds were having some of the same thoughts and concerns as

I outlined above. Then, right in the middle of their storm, angels declared, (Luke 2:10-14KJV) "... *Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*" Heaven interrupted them and they began, metaphorically speaking, to dance in the midst of their hurricane.

For some of you, 2018 has been an awful year. Your heart has been broken as never before. Death, sickness, and a thousand other things have invaded your world. It broke you! But Christmas is a good time to experience the eye of

the hurricane - and dance! You see, if the Lord tarries His coming, the sun will rise in the morning; the world will continue to spin in its orbit; night will continue to follow day, and the seasons will appear at their appointed times. And somehow, God will see you through your hurricane. God has not relinquished control of His world, nor is He about to. He is still working His plan, and the good news is that you and I, as messed-up as our lives get sometimes, are still a part of His plan!

Let me encourage you, regardless of your life situation, to start thinking and praying like Minister Whyte, "We thank Thee, O God, that it is not always like this!" Thank God there is an Eye in the midst of your hurricane (Jesus!) where you can experience peace on earth – and even dance!

Brother Aaron

News

Association - Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough and Mrs. Marianne attended the annual Associational Missionaries Breakfast on November 13 in Warner Robins, Georgia.



Above: Associational Missionary Breakfast.
At far left is retiring Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, Dr. J. Robert White.

At Right L-R: Georgia Baptist Executive Director-elect Rev. Thomas Hammond, and retiring Executive Director Dr. J. Robert White. Dr. White who retires on Dec. 31 was elected President and CEO of the Georgia Baptist Foundation effective January 1, 2019.



At Left: Rev. Lee Wright of the Alabama State Board of Missions presented two Church Financial Compliance Seminars on Nov 8 at the Troup Baptist Association. These were geared toward church administrators and pastors. There are a lot a tax law changes coming in 2019!



At Right: The Church Financial Compliance morning group enjoyed lunch together following the session. The delicious meal was catered by Sloppy Pig BBQ of LaGrange.



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.



Above are Lafayette Christian School Volunteers: Debraezsa Hart, Hunter Stephens, Mae Snyder, Lexi Stitcher, Sydnie Guizar, Hayleigh Clarke, Taylor Akers, Taylor Dollar, Rich Willimon and Carla Jenkins(Teacher) spent the day at the Troup Baptist Association doing some much needed "Spring Cleaning" on Oct. 30.

At Left: Sam Warner of the Georgia Baptist Foundation presented a program on Wills and Estate Planning to the Monday Morning Pastors' Prayer Fellowship on Nov. 5.

The pastors were offered private appointments for will and estate planning at a later date.



At Left: The Pastor's Prayer Fellowship meets each Monday morning at 11am at the Troup Baptist Association office for fellowship, prayer and preaching. All pastors are invited to attend. The group will not meet on December 24 & 31, but will resume meeting on January 7. Shown here is the group that met on December 3. Dr. Dennis Farr (far left) Pastor of Freedom Baptist Church brought the message.

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Food and Clothes Closets continue to serve the community. The Food Closet served 833 individuals and gave away 476 boxes of food and 1,074 meals. The Backpack for Weekend Kids is packing and giving away 120 backpacks to help feed children on the weekends. The Clothes Closet was equally busy serving 160 individuals and distributing 28 coats. The Clothes Closet is in need of coats.

- The Awana children collected donations for Thanksgiving Feed a Family. The children made cards and helped to pack the boxes. They were able to give out 20 Thanksgiving boxes. Most of the boxes went to Clearview Elementary School families. The boxes included a turkey and everything needed for a great meal. Thanks for the donations and hard work to make this project successful. *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

Proverbs 22:6. "Our Awana leaders and parents are following God's Word and we thank them." • Trunk or Treat was held on October 31 and was a very enjoyable and safe time.

Approximately two to three thousand people came! There were games, cake walks, hotdogs, popcorn, nachos, soda and water. Many people lined the parking lot with their cars and gave candy to all the children. • On November 11, Pastor Jimmy McMillian recognized the veterans in attendance and thanked them for their service to our country. • On November 26 a Red Cross Blood Drive was held at JC McMillian Life Center. "Giving blood saves lives. Thanks to all who participated."

- The Hunters for Christ 9th Annual Thanksgiving Smoked Turkey and Boston Butt sale was a huge success. This is a Hunters for Christ fundraiser which provides an opportunity for physically handicapped individuals to hunt and fellowship. They thank all of you who supported this fundraiser. • Baptist Tabernacle hosted the Troup Baptist Association Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Party on December 4. There was a lot of fun, food, and fellowship for the pastors and their wives.

Creekside - A large crowd attended Creekside's Fall Festival. There were games for the kids along with hayrides, a cake walk and good food. A good time was had by all. • Creekside enjoyed a "Spirit-filled" service on Thanksgiving Sunday with Brother Danny Geter bringing the morning message. Several people gave their testimony on what they were thankful for. A delicious meal was enjoyed following the service. • Creekside prepared 100 plates of delicious food on November 27 as a bi-monthly "Feed the Community" event for senior citizens.

- Creekside traveled to Thomaston, Ga. on Sunday evening, December 2 to watch the Christmas play "From Christ Child to the Judgment." The play is an annual event by Clarks Chapel Baptist Church. Creekside also enjoyed looking at the lights on "Christmas Tree Lane" after a fellowship meal at McDonalds.

Dunson - was blessed with two new members and had youth respond to the gospel message in Sunday School. • The youth basketball tournament yielded six teams and resulted in two youth responding to the gospel message. • Dunson's choir has been filling up the loft and it is a blessing to our worship services. (see Dunson photos at right)



Above L-R: Pastor James Srodulski of First Baptist on the Square and Pastor Kenneth Cole of Dunson, working Hurricane Michael clean-up in Colquitt, Georgia.



Above: Dunson members and guests are enjoying a pre-HoeDown meal together.



Above: Pastor Jimmy McMillian and gang from Baptist Tabernacle bringing the music for Dunson's HoeDown



Scenes from Dunson's HoeDown



News (continued)

Grace - welcomes new members: Brittany Garrett, Shirley Hosack, Keith Lynch, Ashley Pollard, Leigh Skipper, Rod & Karen Thompson, Renee Lindsey and Diane Crumpton. "You have a place at Grace." • Grace sponsored a Pop-Up Market at Feeding the Valley to give free produce to all who popped-up.

• Thanks to Men for Christ, Ladies of Grace, and all who helped with the smoked Boston Butt BBQ sales.



Left: Pastor Donnie Benefield cutting the cake at the combined Pastor Appreciation Fellowship and Thanksgiving Dinner. "We are so blessed to have such a God fearing and loving leader. We love you Pastor Donnie and Brenda Benefield"

"You have a place at Grace"



Above: Children of Grace with their Operation Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse shoebox gifts for the children around the world. "Thank you to all who donated and helped pack the boxes."



Above: The youth went on an all night retreat to bond, have fun and learn about Jesus. They attended a Gladiators' hockey game, then an indoor trampoline park and last a recreation center filled with games. As daylight broke they were thankful for their beds!"

Highland - recognized their Retired School Teachers during Morning Worship Service on Sunday, November 4. "We appreciate the hard work and dedication of each of these teachers: JoAnn Massengale, Jean Crocker, Cathy Keith, Elizabeth Brummett, and Louis Brummett." • There was a great turnout for the community-wide Thanksgiving Service at Hogansville Church of God. Several churches joined together for a night of singing and thanksgiving. Rev. Greg Morris, Pastor of Hogansville First Baptist Church, delivered the message. • The annual Hanging of the Green service was held during Morning Worship Service on November 25. This is a beautiful service that kicks off the Christmas season.



Above: Highland recognized their Retired School Teachers. Shown above with Pastor Terry Rainwater (L) are JoAnn Massengale, Jean Crocker, Cathy Keith, Elizabeth Brummett, and Louis Brummett.



Above: Grace's **Making Home Work** parenting class at their cookout and campfire fellowship.



Above: The Pop-Up Market at Feeding the Valley Food Bank was sponsored by Grace Baptist Church.

News (continued)

Lakeview - Thanksgiving dinner and fellowship were enjoyed on November 14. Thanks to all who decorated the sanctuary so beautifully for the Christmas season.

New Hope (LaGrange) - The Children's Department filled 127 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! "Thank you church family for your donations of money, items and time to bring a merry Christmas to children around the world." • The church family mourns the death of deacon, "Bo" Wilson. "Our love and prayers go out to his wife, Lucy and all the Wilson family. We also convey our condolences to Dwayne and Gail Thrash in the death of Dwayne's mother, Inez Freeman."

New Macedonia (NMMBC) - On November 18, NMMBC publicly baptized four youth: Janella Fletcher, Tamarcus Washington, Xariah Grady and Bianca Johnson. (Photo below)



Above L-R: Janella Fletcher, Pastor Derek Williams and Tamarcus Washington. Not pictured: Xariah Grady and Bianca Johnson.

Roper Heights - had a blessed month! Shane & Tabby Whitten will be baptized on December 9 during the morning service. "Praise the Lord!"

Wehadkee - would like to wish Mr. & Mrs. Shaun McClain congratulations on their recent marriage. • Last month was pastor appreciation month. Wehadkee Baptist Church presented Pastor Nick Pilgrim with a day off and special gifts every Sunday. His wife, Janet was recognized for all the hard work she does for him and for the church. A dinner was held the last Sunday of November in honor of Pastor Nick. ("A valuable lesson was learned that Sunday: Do not be on a diet during those days!")

Ministry Spotlight

Faith Bible Institute



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 Open Online Enrollment
Through January 21 (Late fee of \$24 applies)
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
 - 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

The Faith Bible Institute curriculum is a three year program consisting of a total of six semesters. Students study chronologically through every Bible Book & Doctrine in the weekly class. New students may join at any semester and continue until all six semesters have been completed. Semester one will start on January 22, 2019. If you have considered enrolling in Faith Bible Institute, this would be a great time to start - at the beginning! Faith Bible Institute courses are undergraduate college level classes. Basic textbooks are the Bible and Willmington's Guide to the Bible (included). Graduates receive a Faith Bible Institute diploma.



The Fall 2018 Faith Bible Institute class celebrating Director Jane Gottshall's birthday on Nov. 6. The class surprised her with cards, flowers, cake, ice cream and a gift card. Students above L-R are: Dr. Joe Almand, Lee Ray, Dennis Massey, Rev. Tommy Jeter, Director Jane Gottshall, Phillip McMillan, Sheila Dean, and Teresa Todd. Not shown are Doris Almand, who was taking the picture and Tabitha Daniel-Gates.

Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Christmas Cantata will be held on December 23. If you are in need of a church, we invite you to come and join us. Baptist Tabernacle wishes each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. "May God bless you and your family."

Creekside - will hold its annual Christmas event on Sunday evening, December 16 at 6pm. Santa will give out presents to all the children after a Christmas program musical and scriptures. A light fellowship meal will follow in the fellowship hall. • Creekside will have its annual New Years Eve Singing on December 31 at 7:30pm. Featured singers will be the *The Segos - The Next Generation* along with *Trinity* of Reynolds, Ga. and *Just Forgiven*. Breakfast will be served at 10:30pm. At midnight all will join together in the altar thanking God for 2018 and praying for a prosperous 2019.

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 - The youth are planning a Christmas play. The adults are planning a trip to see Christmas lights at Rock Ranch in Thomaston, Ga. in December. • The Sunday evening service has been blessed with visitors from our fellow churches. Dunson invites anyone who is looking for a Sunday evening service to come and join them at 6pm. "We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

Flat Shoals (West Point) - wishes for you and yours a special very Merry Christmas. Sing unto the Lord a new song; for God is Great and greatly to be praised. "Happy New Year!"

Grace - The Christmas Cantata will be held December 23 at 10:50am. The Belles of Grace hand-bells will play that evening at 6:00. • The Ladies Bible Study from Beth Moore's "Living Beyond Yourself, Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" will be every Thursday at 6pm for 11 weeks which began October 25.

- 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.
- The Senior's Group meets the first Tuesday of every month.
- The RU Recovery Program meets each Friday at 7:00pm.
- The Grace Family Fellowship Parenting Class meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. Childcare is provided and all are welcome.

Highland - The choir will present a cantata on Sunday, December 16 at 11:00am. • The annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held at 5:30pm. This is a beautiful service and everyone is invited.

Lakeview - On Wednesday, December 12 at 6:00pm, the church Christmas party will be held with finger foods being served. • On December 30, a fifth Sunday night singing with Rev. Randall Hodge will be held at 6:00pm. Light refreshments will be enjoyed by all.

Mt. Pleasant - will present their children's play, "Great News" on December 15 at 6pm. There will be fellowship afterwards. • During the morning service on December 16, A Christmas musical will be presented by local talent from within the church. "We invite anyone who is looking for a place to visit." "Merry Christmas!"

New Hope (LaGrange) - A Christmas "gift tree" will be located in the church foyer with ornaments stating a specific gift for New Hope's adopted children. Please take one of the ornaments and purchase the gift requested. Bring the gifts to the church by Sunday, December 16. • On Sunday, December 16, at the morning worship service, we will celebrate Christmas with the choir presenting "*Good News From Home*." "As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, may God's gift enrich your spirit during this joyous season and throughout the coming year. Happy New Year!" • The annual Christmas Dinner will be Wednesday, December 19 at 6:00pm. The children will present a Christmas program and lead in a sing-along.

New Macedonia (NMMBC) - On December 8, NMMBC will host a Christmas Community Festival from 12-3pm.

Roper Heights - Bro. Harold Burkett will be coming in December to gather things needed in Mexico.

- On December 16, the choir and youth will have charge of the morning worship hour. There will be a fellowship dinner following the service.
 - On December 23, Roper Heights will have communion during the morning service.
 - There will be no evening service on December 30.
- "We wish all a Merry Christmas. May God bless all."

Association - Church Prayer List

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

For January 2019, please pray for following churches:

Week of January 6, 2019 - East Vernon Baptist Church
 Week of January 13, 2019 - Eastside Baptist Church
 Week of January 20, 2019 - First Baptist Church-West Point
 Week of January 27, 2019 - First Baptist Church on the Square

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



Announcements (continued)



Financial Peace University - A Nine Week Course that could change your life!

will be offered by Troup Baptist Association.

The course will begin on **Monday, January 14 at 6:00 PM**
and will meet weekly through March 11
at the association office - 1301 Washington Street, LaGrange Ga.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University
is a Biblically-based course on personal finance.

Cost of the nine-week course with one month online access: **\$69**
(Plus \$9.99 per month for continued online access - optional)

or

Cost of the nine-week course with one year online access: **\$109**

To enroll, visit: <http://fpu.com/1078326>

For more information call Troup Baptist Association (706) 884-1975.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 3 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Dennis Farr
- 4 Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Party, 6pm at Baptist Tabernacle
- 10 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Tom Owensby
- 17 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Michael Stiggers
- 20-31 Troup Baptist Assoc. & GBMB closed for Christmas
- 24 No Pastors' Prayer Fellowship
- 31 No Pastors' Prayer Fellowship

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 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



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



On The Lighter Side:

As we were putting out cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve, I accidentally dropped one.

"No problem," I said, picking it up and dusting it off before placing it back on the plate.

"You can't do that," argued my four-year-old.

"Don't worry. Santa will never know."

He shot me a look. "So he knows if I've been bad or good, but he doesn't know the cookie fell on the floor?"

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