

Troup Baptist Association

Marianne

Note: I write a weekly pastor's column for several newspapers. Recently, I have been writing a series I have entitled, "The Stories of My Life." This is one of those stories..

In a previous column, I mentioned that before giving my life to Jesus I was part of the House Band at a local nightclub. I continued playing after giving my life to Jesus; I just changed bands and venues. I was now part of the House Band for the church I was attending.

It was Christmastime and the youth of the church were practicing for the play. We needed a piano player in order to pull it off correctly. The problem was – we didn't have one. One girl spoke up and said, "I know somebody. She only lives one street over. I'll go get her." As we waited, my best friend and I were standing in the pulpit of the church, guitars strapped across our shoulders, facing the entrance. When she returned with her friend in tow, she opened the sanctuary doors and it seemed as though sunbeams began to

emanate from everywhere. There before my eyes stood the most gorgeous creature I had ever seen. I looked at my buddy and whispered, "Who is that?" He replied, "I don't know." I said, "I don't either, but I'm going to get a date with her!" (I later discovered she was scoping me out too. She asked her friend who that fine specimen of a hunk of man was! (Or some reasonable facsimile thereof! J) And it was me she was talking about!

When I went to pick up Marianne for our first date, I was unaware of the fact that her mother was Pentecostal Fire Baptized Holiness. She would shout at the drop of a hat, and sometimes she'd throw the hat down just so she could shout awhile! You need to understand that Marianne is adopted. Her parents were older when they got her as an infant. At this point in her life, her daddy was in his late seventies and her momma was in her late sixties. Now, being Fire Baptized Pentecostal Holiness, her mother wasn't supposed to have a television in the house. However, due to the fact that Marianne's daddy was NOT Pentecostal Fire Baptized Holiness, her

momma had a loophole! And she loved watching wrestling on Saturday afternoon. In fact, it was one of those Saturday afternoon's when I walked up on the porch to pick up Marianne. The front door was open, so I peered through the screen door and knocked. Without even looking up from her wrestling, her mother told me to come in. For what seemed like an eternity, I waited to be recognized. However, she was pre-occupied weaving, bobbing, and body-slamming with the wrestlers on TV. Finally, she glanced at me and then promptly turned right back to her wrestling. Suddenly, she shook her head, as if to clear the cobwebs, looked back up at me, threw both hands in the air, and began shouting, "Glory hallelujah! Thank you, Jesus! You're the one!" By this time, I'm backing up. I asked, "Ma'am, I'm the one what?" She said, "You're the one who is going to marry my daughter; God has already shown you to me!" I said, "Uh-uh! Noooooo! I'm just here for a date!" Six months later we were married. Forty-four years, four children, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild later, I'm

still married to the love of my life!

So, what is the Spiritual application of my life story today? It's simple. Even when we don't see it, God has a plan for our lives. God gave me what I didn't realize I needed. I was barely in the market for a girlfriend, much less a wife! But God gave me one. And she is without a doubt the best thing, aside from Jesus, that has ever happened to me. I wasn't a preacher, yet He gave me the best pastor's wife that has ever been. I wasn't a father, but He gave me the best mother He ever created to be the mother of my children. He gave me a best friend, a life-partner, and a love story that consists of the stuff of which books are written and movies are made. In fact, I look at her quite often and say, "Baby, me and you are 'The Dynamic Duo.' We're 'Fatman & Robin!'" (misspelling intentional!)

If God has a plan for my life, surely, He has a plan for yours. Let's flesh-out that plan in 2019!

Brother Aaron

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

News

Association - The Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Party was held on Tuesday, December 4 at Baptist Tabernacle Church. The group enjoyed a delicious holiday meal prepared and served by men and women of Baptist Tabernacle. Higgins LaGrange Chapel was the corporate sponsor for the Christmas party. Jeff & Mary Higgins were in attendance as well as their sons David and Jeff, Jr. Jeff Higgins sang a number of Christmas songs to put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

- A very special gift presentation was made by Rev. Jim Butler of Hillcrest Baptist Church on behalf of the Troup Baptist Association to Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough. He was presented keys to a Toyota Highlander!



It was a total surprise. After a trip outside to see the new car, the party resumed with a lively gift exchange in which some gifts were exchanged more than others! Rev. Benjie Dukes of Concord Baptist Church won the Pastor's Grand Prize of \$300. Mrs. Stephanie Williams of New Macedonia Missionary Baptist won the Pastor's Wife Grand Prize of \$250.



Above L-R: Rev. Benjie Dukes receiving the Pastor's Grand Prize from Mr. Jeff Higgins and Mrs. Stephanie Williams receiving the Pastor's Wife Grand Prize from Mrs. Mary Higgins.



Above L-R: Rev. Michael Stiggers, Judy King and Rev. Richard King being served by the men and women of Baptist Tabernacle. Thank you Baptist Tabernacle for the delicious meal!

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.

Christmas Luncheon - The Messenger Volunteers gathered at The Captain's Cove on Tuesday, December 11 for their annual Christmas Luncheon. This is the only time during the year that this group meets just for fun, food and fellowship. Other times the volunteers meet monthly to assemble the Troup Baptist Association's newsletter, "The Messenger". The newsletter is then mailed to over 2,000 homes, primarily in the Troup County area. Jane Gottshall helps each month with the proofing and folding of the newsletters. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please call Angela at (706) 884-1975 and ask to be put on the mailing list. "The Messenger" is also available on the website: troubaptist.org. (look for the Newsletter tab)



The Messenger Volunteer's Christmas Luncheon

Above L-R: The Messenger Volunteers are Barbara Demry, Mona Gamble, Jane Gottshall, Angela Maddux, Dottie Henson, Marianne McCollough, Judy & Richard King, Herb & Joyce Gandee, Sylvia Smith, Sue Crenshaw and Ruby Crayden. Not shown is Aaron McCollough (taking the picture), Clyde Moore, Lucinda Deitman, Bonnie Reed and Alexandra Pasley who were unable to attend.

Association - The Faith Bible Institute class celebrated the end of Fall semester with a Christmas Party following their final exam. Director, Jane Gottshall was presented a Christmas gift by graduating student, Rev. Tommy Jeter on behalf of the class. Everyone brought finger foods to enjoy and had a great time of fellowship with no homework for the holidays! Rev. Aaron McCollough and Mrs. Marianne joined in the festivities along with the spouses of several students. Spring Semester classes will start on January 22. (see photos on next page)

News (continued)

Association - A breakfast for the teachers and staff of Berta Weathersbee Elementary School was held on Friday, January 4 at the Troup Baptist Association office. Pastors and Prayer Team members were on hand to sit at each table, converse with the teachers & staff members, hear their concerns and pray for them all while enjoying breakfast together. Kevin Dunn was the speaker for the morning. He brought a short but powerful message using three Scriptures: Romans 10:17 *"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."* Dunn said, "It is good to hear scripture on a daily basis." *"The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me..."* Psalms 138:8 and finally Isaiah 40:31 *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."* He says while we wait, we gain strength but we can't allow the weight of waiting to weigh us down! We are impatient! Watching others receive blessings can cause extra weight and stress. Being around others who are receiving blessings means that "God is on your street!" Continue to do good and in due season you will reap a harvest. In closing he sang *"My Tribute."* At the end of the breakfast, a drawing was held to give away four \$50 bills. The winners are shown below receiving their envelopes from Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough. The breakfast was catered by Ms. Dorothy Cameron and her granddaughter. Volunteers Marianne McCollough, Richard & Judy King, Jane Gottshall, and Dottie Henson assisted with serving and cleanup. Pastors and Prayer Team members in attendance were Rev. Tim Tidwell, Rev. Richard King, Rev. Michael Stiggers, Rev. Dan Woltmann, Dr. Dennis Farr, Rev. Frank & Patti Abrahamsen.



Above L-R: Winners were Berta Principal Willie Cooks, Deb Revis, Tiffany Porter, & Timothy Cutwright with Rev. Aaron McCollough



Above: Kevin Dunn speaks to the Berta teachers & staff members

At Right: Faith Bible Institute Director Jane Gottshall with graduating student, Rev. Tommy Jeter.

Far Right: FBI Class Christmas Party



Faith Bible Institute Christmas Party

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - During the month of December, God blessed our church family with two new members. "Praise God, for He is always good." • December was a busy time for the Food and Clothes Closets. The Food Closet gave away 339 boxes of food, 715 meals, and 120 backpacks. The Clothes Closet gave out 51 coats and served 165 individuals. On December 4, BTC hosted the Pastors' and Wives' Christmas Party for the Troup Baptist Association. There were about 140 in attendance. They enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship along with a Christmas gift exchange. The tables and dining area were beautifully decorated. Thanks to all volunteers who helped make this event a success! • On December 19, Santa came to Awana and the children were given fruit and candy. • The Christmas Cantata was held on December 23. The children also sang. It was a beautiful service of preaching and singing. • The JC McMillian Christmas Eve Men's Breakfast was held on December 24 at 8am. Approximately 50 men attended. They enjoyed a delicious meal, fun, and fellowship together. This is an annual men's breakfast that was started by Rev. JC McMillian. • Around 200 gifts were given to Clearview Elementary School students at Christmas. God truly blesses our church each year with people who purchase these gifts for the school children.

Bethel - During Christmas week, Bethel had the opportunity to participate in two different Christmas projects. One for a family and the other, an opportunity to partner with a local nursing home. "We thank God for the opportunity to be a blessing." Pastor Steve and Becky (Johnson) thanks the church for their willingness and generosity to help with these projects.

Creekside - had a busy and blessed month preparing and delivering 75 Christmas bags filled with fruit and candy to the seniors in the church and community. • Two souls were saved and baptized during the month! • Everyone enjoyed the Christmas program with the choir singing and the pastor and first lady reading the Christmas Scriptures found in Matthew and Luke. All the children received a gift from the church handed out by Santa along with a fruit and candy bag. • Creekside had a wonderful Spirit-filled New Year's Eve singing with *Segos The Next Generation* from Macon, Ga. and *Trinity* from Reynolds, Ga. The crowd enjoyed breakfast at 10pm and the altar was full of people praying in the New Year at midnight.



News (continued)

Dunson - Dunson Baptist was blessed with a busy December. An adult Sunday School party was held at the beautiful home of George and Clara Andrews with 17 in attendance. • The church bus was decorated and placed in the LaGrange Christmas parade. • A fellowship trip on the bus was taken to Riverbend Restaurant in Thomaston and then on to see the Christmas lights at the Rock Ranch with forty people, representing 3 churches in attendance. It was a night filled with great fellowship and a lot of caroling on the bus. Please plan to join us as we take our next adventurous trip. • The youth presented a wonderful Christmas play which brought in many guests. A Christmas fellowship meal was held afterwards. • The youth and children took a special trip to the Christmas Carousel in Valley, Alabama and also to do some Christmas Caroling at the LaGrange Rehabilitation Center. The church was beautifully decorated for Christmas with poinsettias, wreaths, greenery, candles, ribbons and even a special "Gideon tree" to raise money for Gideon Bibles. • A special Christmas communion was served and the true meaning of Christmas filled our hearts. Christmas love certainly filled the church!



Above: The Dunson Adult Sunday School Party was held at the beautiful home of George and Clara Andrews.



Above: Grace Children visited the Christmas Carousel in Valley, Alabama

Grace - won First Place Church Division for their float in the Christmas Parade. Thanks to all that put in the hard work to make it happen. The truck broke down hours before the parade; Bubba Barber came to the rescue and pulled the float with his truck! • The choir and Belles of Grace did an exceptional performance the Sunday before Christmas.



Above: Grace kids waiting on a special guest to arrive for their Christmas party.



Reformer's Unanimous Christmas Party at Grace

News (continued)

Highland - The choir presented a beautiful cantata, "Breath of Heaven" on December 16; It was an outstanding performance! Christmas dinner was served following the service. • There was a great turnout for the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. Many from other churches in the community joined us for this beautiful service.

Lakeview - The church Christmas party was enjoyed on December 12 with delicious food; everyone played the "Angels" game (a bingo-like game) and winners received prizes.

- The Fifth-Sunday Night Singing was December 30 with more delicious refreshments and special music by Rev. Randall Hodge and his daughter Alice Charron.

- December was a month for missions: entertainment for residents of Poplar Creek and Florence Hand; Lottie Moon offerings; "Bibles for Jesus" offerings for the Gideons; and the ladies Sunday school project of putting together 17 blankets for the children in Lynn Hadden's first grade class at Berta Weathersbee School. The blankets were made in Berta's school colors of blue and yellow and were given to the children at their Christmas party. They immediately wrapped up in them. Hopefully the blankets will help them to stay warm all winter.



Above L-R: Rev. Randall Hodge and daughter Alice Charron

Mountville (MBC) - December was a busy month for MBC! Hanging of the Green was held on Sunday, December 2 at 6pm. It was a beautiful service to decorate and usher in the Christmas season. • The congregation of Mountville was blessed to be able to sponsor 14 families, 29 kids, and 5 foster children for Christmas. Each family was provided a food gift card and a Bible, and the children were provided toys from their wish list. "What a wonderful way to share the love of Jesus during the Christmas season!" • The 3-5 Grade Sunday School class enjoyed a trip to "Fantasy in Lights" at Callaway Gardens on December 3. • The Adult 2 Sunday School class enjoyed a Christmas party on Friday, December 14 hosted by Bruce and Lisa Heath at their home. Food, fun, games and lots of laughter was had by all! • The church Christmas dinner was held on Saturday, December 15. Steak, baked potatoes, salad and dessert was on the menu. "A big thank you to Kimble's for catering!" • Mountville Mpcat generously adopted a family to sponsor for Christmas. They also held their class party on Friday, December 21. They enjoyed games, food, and a gift exchange. "We are so thankful for our Youth group and their leaders." • The Ladies Group of MBC enjoyed special fellowship at their Christmas outing to the Country Store in Pine Mountain on Monday, December 17. • Mountville Baptist Church wishes everyone a very "Happy New Year!" Mountville's theme for 2019 is "Keep our Focus on Jesus!"



Above: MBC Grade 3-5 SS Class



Above: MBC Sanctuary at Christmas



Above: Lakeview members Carolyn Jones (left) and Frankie Hadden (right) attended the party where the children received the blankets.



Above: MBC Ladies Christmas Fellowship

MBC Congregation



News (continued)



Mountville
Mpack Team
Class Party

New Hope (LaGrange) - welcomed a new family: Jeff and Monica Wilson and their two children, Rachel and Brooke.

- December was a busy month as we celebrated the birth of our Savior. Chase Golden, Youth Minister at New Hope began the month with an inspirational message, "The Importance of a Gift."
- The deacons and their wives entertained the widows of our church with a Christmas dinner.
- The Children had a Happy Birthday Jesus party.
- Sisters of Hope along with the Ladies Sunday School class enjoyed a Christmas dinner together.
- The Youth department had a Christmas cook-out.
- The choir presented a Christmas Cantata, "Good News From Home" to a packed-out congregation. It was beautiful and a blessing to everyone.
- The church Christmas "finger food" party was exciting as the children presented a Christmas program and sang. They also enjoyed a surprise visit from Santa.
- Christmas gifts were bought for the children that were "adopted" by church members.
- On Sunday, December 23, the congregation worshipped with special singing from different members of the church family and were especially blessed as Lily Prestridge, a 5th grader, read to them the Christmas story from her Bible.

Wehadkee - As we celebrate this Christmas let us not forget the reason; Let's not forget whose birthday it is. As a birthday challenge, when you celebrate your birthday, think of a way to spread God's love with a gift of kindness to someone else.

- Wehadkee had their Christmas social at the Red Rooster on December 7. The meal was great and all who attended had a fine ole time celebrating our Savior's birth. Mr. Chris Studdard had games for everyone and all had a joyful time.
- The Christmas tree and all the decorations in the church were beautiful but the tree had a special meaning: Each ornament that hung on the tree represented one Gideon Bible. It was simple and beautiful and above all it helped to spread God's love and His kingdom.
- A great big "Thank You" to Mrs. Leona Mulkey for supplying the door prizes this year. All prizes were handmade by this crafty and amazing lady. "I pray that the New Year will be a happy, healthy, and above all that it will be renewing for some and life changing for others." Until next time, Wehadkee wishes health and happiness and God's love to all.

Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - Awana will be starting back on January 9 after the holiday break.

- God's Helping Hands is a ministry of ladies. They meet the second Monday of every month. Again this year, they prepared and gave away gift bags to the shut-ins.
- The Lighthouse Keepers meet the third Monday of each month. Lighthouse Keepers are seniors, age 55 and over.
- The third Friday of each month at 10 am, a group from BTC goes to Florence Hand Home to sing and fellowship with the residents.
- BTC encourages everyone to begin the New Year with God, worshipping and praising His Holy Name. The end of the year is a time for reflection of the past and the New Year is to begin anew. BTC wishes everyone a Happy and Blessed New Year.

Creekside - Join Nathan Worthy every Thursday evening at 7 pm with the First Step Addiction Recovery program.

Grace - A blood drive will be held on January 26 from 10am until 3pm at the church.

- Giving Grace Meals are held every 3rd Saturday.
- Men for Christ and Ladies of Grace meet the 3rd Monday night of each month 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 each month.
- Reformer's Unanimous recovery program meets on Fridays at 7pm.
- Grace Family Fellowship Parenting Class meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Childcare is provided and all are welcome to attend.

Highland - will celebrate Pastor Terry's and Cookie's birthdays on Sunday, January 20 with a luncheon following morning worship service.

Lakeview - Donations of nonperishable foods with future expiration dates continue to be needed for the Food Closet.

New Hope (LaGrange) - A Sunday School breakfast will be held on Sunday, January 13 at 9am. Food will be provided so just bring yourself and enjoy the fellowship before Sunday School begins at 10am.

- On Wednesday, January 30 at 6pm, the children will have a PJ and movie night.
- Sisters of Hope will meet on Monday, February 4 at 6pm. All ladies are invited. Bring a finger food to share.
- "We look forward to what God has in store for our church in 2019. Be blessed and grow in Christ by getting involved in Sunday School, Worship, and Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study. Have a blessed New Year!"

Isaiah 43:18-19 (KJV)

¹⁸ Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

¹⁹ Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Announcements (continued)



Tickets:
\$30
All Ages

Ambassadors for Christ

New Desire's

27th Annual Women's Bible Conference
The Real Jesus- Living the Gospel
2 Corinthians 5:20-21
February 8-9, 2019

Fairview Baptist Church
5295 Fairview Road
Gadsden, Alabama 35904

Doors open:
Friday, 5:00 PM CST
Saturday, 8:30 AM CST



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
 - Returning Student: \$86
 - FBI Graduate: \$53
 - 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

2019 Youth Gospel Explosion January 19 at 3:00 PM

New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
111 Johnson Street, LaGrange Ga.

This is a fundraiser to create a scholarship in the late Pastor Jerome Shipman's name so as to continue his legacy of investing in the youth of our community.

All Praise Dance Groups, Soloists & Choirs
are invited to participate.

For more information, contact Wanda Cotton (706) 333-0868
To donate, make checks payable to New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church with "2019 Gospel Explosion" in memo line.

First Baptist Church on the Square Bus for Sale

1998 Blue Bird 45 Passenger
Rear Engine Cummins Diesel
with Allison Transmission



Sealed bids will be accepted through January 21.

For complete information and inspection,
please contact Paul Barnes at 706-402-0678.

VOICES

An Event for Women

Cedarcrest Community Church

MARCH 9, 2019 2:00 PM

Come and worship, pray, & hear testimony of God's faithfulness.

Association - Church Prayer List

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

For February 2019, please pray for following churches:

Week of February 3 2019 - First Hispanic Baptist Church
Week of February 10, 2019 - Flat Shoals Baptist Church
Week of February 17, 2019 - Flat Shoals Salem Rd Baptist Church
Week of February 24, 2019 - Fountain Baptist Church

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

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 4 Breakfast for Berta Weathersbee Staff
- 7 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Andy Buchanan
- 8 Faith & Freedom Coalition with Josh McKoon, 10:30am at TBA
- 14 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Greg Morris
- 14 Financial Peace University, Class #1, 6pm @ TBA
- 21 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Tom Kennedy
- 21 Financial Peace University, Class #2, 6pm @ TBA
- 22 Faith Bible Institute Class #1 of Spring Semester, 6:30pm
- 24 Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm @ TBA
- 28 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA
- 28 Financial Peace University, Class #3, 6pm @ TBA

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 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

On The Lighter Side:

Two very active seniors (Jacob, age 92, and Mary, age 89), living in The Villages, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and on the way they pass a drugstore. Jacob suggests they go in. Jacob addresses the man behind the counter, "Are you the owner?" The pharmacist answers, "Yes."

Jacob says, "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?" The Pharmacist: "Of course we do."

Jacob: "How about medicine for circulation, rheumatism & arthritis?" The Pharmacist: "All kinds."

Jacob: "How about suppositories, vitamins, sleeping pills, & Geritol?" The Pharmacist: "You bet!"

Jacob: "Medicine for memory problems & Alzheimer's?" The Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety."

Jacob: "Everything for heartburn & indigestion?" The Pharmacist: "We sure do."

Jacob: "Do you sell wheelchairs, walkers, canes & adult diapers?" The Pharmacist: "Sure, how can I help you?"

Jacob: "We'd like to use this store as our Bridal Registry."

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