

Troup Baptist Association

He Fights

During the Civil War, one of the biggest problems President Lincoln faced, was finding a Commanding General who would actually fight. Along with his support, Lincoln gave his Generals both the men and materials they needed to be successful. These Commanding Generals spent much time training their troops and strategizing about war. However, to borrow a cowboy term, they were all hat and no cattle! Consequently, President Lincoln went through a string of Commanding Generals, such as Scott, McClellan, and Halleck, before he found one who would actually fight: General Ulysses S. Grant. At the Battle of Shiloh, Grant fought one of the bloodiest battles of the war. Things didn't go well for him and there were numerous calls for Lincoln to replace him. President Lincoln fended off demands for his removal by saying, "I can't spare this man - he fights!"

In the Bible, in the book of 1st Samuel chapter 17, you will find the story of David & Goliath. You know the story. Goliath was a Philistine giant who had King Saul and his army cowered down and afraid to fight. King David, who was just a shepherd boy at the time, came to visit his brothers on the battlefield and bring them supplies from home. He sees how King Saul and his army are terrified of the giant and asks, "Is there not a cause?" And when nobody else would take up the fight, he did! After refusing all the armor King Saul tried to dress him in, he went to the brook, selected five smooth stones, and went out onto the battlefield to face Goliath. Armed only with his sling, those five stones, and his belief that his cause was just and that he was anointed of God to be there, he engaged in the battle. In other words, he fought! And not only did he engage in the battle, if you will read the story closely, you'll find that when he engaged Goliath, he was actually running toward him! And of course, you know that the rock from David's sling

hit Goliath in the forehead and knocked him out. David then took Goliath's own sword and cut his head off. Again, he fought! You see, you don't win if you don't fight!

It was President Theodore Roosevelt who said, "Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty ... I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life. I have envied a great many people who led difficult lives and led them well." Wow! Reread that quote. He envied people who lived difficult lives - but lived them well! In short, to live a life worth living means we have to fight for some things!

2019 has quickly faded into history. And with it, an entire decade of life fades away. Therefore, we find ourselves standing on the cusp of both a New Year and new decade. In retrospect, I suppose that during the last year and decade all of us have faced and lived through times and situations when we were like President Lincoln's Commanding

Generals and King Saul's Army - all hat and no cattle, cowered down before the giants of our lives, refusing to fight. (The truth hurts, doesn't it?)

As we face a New Year and a new decade, we need to do some self-examination and determine which battles in our lives are worth fighting for. We need to stop cowering before our giants, take a trip to the brook, gather our ammunition, boldly step out onto the battlefield, knowing our cause is just and we are anointed to be there, and engage the enemy in the battle by running toward him, letting our flip rip, knocking out our enemy, and cutting off his head!

Oh yeah, just as with General Grant at Shiloh, there will come times when the battle doesn't go so well. But let us purpose in our hearts that God will say of us, as President Lincoln said of Grant, "I can't spare him - he fights!"

Brother Aaron

News

Association - On January 1 of 2001, Marianne and I started a new adventure as I started my new calling as the Associational Missionary for the Troup Baptist Association. That's right - my first day of employment was a holiday! Today, I start my twentieth year! Wow! What a ride it has been - and continues to be! Thank you Troup Baptists for your prayers and support and for allowing me to do what I am called to do and absolutely love doing. I'm excited about year #20 in 2020! And Happy New Year! ~ Bro. Aaron

Association - Lessons 11, 12 and 13 of the Bible-based Baptist Beliefs video series taught by Dr. Paul Baxter have been uploaded to our website. I hope you will use these videos for your personal Bible study time, or in a small group setting. These videos are short and I believe they are well worth your time to watch. These lessons are entitled: "How God Saves Us and Transforms Us Into the Person He Wants Us to Be" (2 parts) and "How God Lives Inside Us." ~ Bro. Aaron
To view the all the videos in the Troup Baptist Association Video Library, go to: <https://www.troubaptist.org/videos>.

Association - On Monday, January 6 the Troup Baptist Association sponsored a back-to-school breakfast for the teachers and staff of Berta Weathersbee Elementary School. There were about 60 teachers, staff, pastors and servers in attendance. Mr. Willie Cooks, Principal welcomed the teachers and staff back to school. Following a full breakfast catered by Sloppy Pig Catering, prayer requests were heard and prayed for by pastor volunteers who sat at each table. Bro. Aaron brought a motivational message to the group using I Samuel 17 (David & Goliath) as his text with emphasis on verse 29, "Is there not a cause?" He made the following points in his message:

- The battle was not David's idea.
- Ask, "Is it a battle worth fighting?"
- The discouragers will come.
- David knew his ability and said, "The Lord will deliver me."
- He chose offense over defense.
- He prepared for battle.
- He engaged in battle.

Bro. Aaron reminded everyone that our greatest battle today is for our children. He said, "You (teachers) are our heroes, you are on the frontline in this battle." Following the message, four fifty dollar bills were awarded to those whose names were drawn at random. The winners were: Stephanie Hernandez, Barbie Whitley, Nyshunda Welch and Amy Combs. Pastor volunteers were Rev. Richard King (Lakeview), Rev. Doug Bingham (Unity), Rev. Frank Abrahamsen (Praise & Prayer), Rev. Bernie Pasley (East Vernon), Rev. Jim Cheyne (Hillcrest), Rev. Derek Williams (New Macedonia), Rev. Dan Woltmann (Oakside) and Rev. Jason Jones (Western Heights). Those volunteering to serve the breakfast were Robin Cheyne, Stephanie Williams, Marianne McCollough, Jane Gottshall, and Angela Maddux (Administrative Assistant). "Thanks to all of our volunteers!" Berta Weathersbee Elementary School is the Troup Baptist Association's Partner in Education. Many of you have contributed toward this partnership during our summer backpack and school supply drive. Without YOU, events like this would not be possible! Thank you for partnering with us to help the teachers, staff & students of Berta Weathersbee Elementary School.

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 - Church Prayer List

For January 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of January 5, 2020 - East LaGrange Baptist Church
Week of January 12, 2020 - East Vernon Baptist Church
Week of January 19, 2020 - Eastside Baptist Church
Week of January 26, 2020 - First Baptist Church-Hogansville

For February 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of February 2, 2020 - First Baptist Church-West Point
Week of February 9, 2020 - First Baptist on the Square-LaGrange
Week of February 16, 2020 - First Hispanic Baptist Church
Week of February 23, 2020 - Flat Shoals Baptist Church

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



Above L-R: Winners of the \$50 bills are Stephanie Hernandez, Barbie Whitley, Nyshunda Welch & Amy Combs.

Presented by Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough at center.

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - A new member was welcomed into the church family in December. "God is great!"

- During December the Food Closet gave away 267 boxes of food, 470 meals, 90 weekend backpacks and 240 snacks.
- On December 3, BTC hosted the Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Dinner for the Troup Baptist Association. There were over 100 in attendance. They enjoyed a delicious meal, singing, fun, games and fellowship. The tables and dining area were beautifully decorated. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this event successful.
- A Happy Birthday Jesus Party was held on December 4 for Awanas and their parents. Santa and Mrs. Claus surprised the children with fruit & candy.
- The children's Christmas program was presented on December 15.
- The Christmas Cantata was presented on December 22. It was a beautiful service of preaching and singing.
- The JC McMillian Christmas Eve Men's Breakfast was held on December 24 at 8 am. Approximately 70 men attended. They enjoyed a delicious meal, fun and fellowship together. This is an annual men's breakfast that was started by Rev. JC McMillian.
- Around 200 Christmas gifts were given to Whitesville Road Elementary School students. "God truly blesses our church each year with people who purchase these gifts and share with the school."

Creekside - On December 22, Creekside had a wonderful time at the Christmas program. Ms. Janet read the Christmas story to the children gathered around her. Ms. Janet explained to the children that God sent us the most wonderful gift of all in Jesus and that is why we celebrate Christmas. The children received a visit from Santa and every child received a gift. Finger foods and snacks were enjoyed by everyone afterwards.

- On December 31, a good time was had by all in attendance at the New Year's Eve singing. There was a packed house but more importantly, the Spirit of the Lord was there as *The Chris Studdard Trio*, *Living Water* and others presented the music.

Davidson - In December, the youth went to the animal park.

- John Lanier returned for a night of worship.
- The Christmas Party was held on December 14. The choir and youth did a great job on the Christmas music.
- Construction is now complete on two new restrooms in the reception hall and a handicap accessible restroom near the sanctuary. "God is blessing us in so many ways!"



Dunson - Members representing four different churches enjoyed a trip on Dunson's bus to the Fantasy in Lights at Callaway Gardens. "It was a wonderful trip on a nice dry, warm bus. We invite others to share in our future trips." Call 706-884-7814 for more information.

First Hogansville (FBCH) - Rain dampened the Christmas Parade in Hogansville a bit, but it didn't dampen the children's spirits. They had a great time riding on their float of the manger scene. Working on the float as it came to fruition was an experience in love. Many thanks to all who assisted our children on this project. Next year we hope for better weather.

- Several group Christmas parties were hosted by members of the church. Sondra and Joe Lee welcomed the Prime Timers into their home where wonderful fellowship, good food, and Christmas joy were felt. The Youth were entertained at the home of Brandy and Allan Duncan, and they also reported a fun-filled and successful celebration of this joyous time. Many of the Prime Timers had opportunity for a double dip of celebration by enjoying a buffet lunch at the Bullock House in Warm Springs. The Grape Vine Sunday School Class celebrated at Roger's Bar-B-Que in Hogansville.

- "We plan to take the spirit of love and warm fellowship into the New Year and we wish everyone a blessed 2020."

- Three former members of First Baptist Youth Group who are currently serving in the armed forces came home for Christmas. They surprised the congregation by leading the scripture and prayer portion of the service. "We were delighted to have Airman Amberlyn Tuggle, PV2 Skylar Burnham, and PV2 Jeffery Toney take part in the morning worship. It was a blessing to have them in our midst and we thank them for their service."
- The Children's Christmas Play entitled "The King's Birthday" was presented at First Baptist Church on Sunday evening, December 22. The play was an act of love, and the participants hope that everyone understands in their hearts that the true meaning of Christmas is Jesus. Those in attendance received a blessing and appreciate all the hard work which went into this production. We trust that the meaning will stay in our hearts throughout the coming year. "Thank you to all who participated and attended."

- FBC Hogansville has been blessed with many new members over the last quarter. "We look forward to worshipping with these newcomers in our midst and trust that their Christian experience will be blessed as we grow together. Welcome to new members: Jasmine Allen, Michael Allen, Gary Blanks, TaylorGrace Carnes, Jamison Carnes, Steven Cohran, Aaron Fincher, Owen Furlow, Kayleigh Pruitt, Kimberly Weir, Amanda Whiston, Wade Whitlock, Ashley R. Whitt and Christian Wilson."



Dunson's Trip to Fantasy in Lights

News (continued)

First Hogansville (FBCH) - continued.



Home for Christmas: PV2 Skylar Burnham, PV2 Jeffery Toney and Airman Amberlyn Tuggle



FBCH

Hogansville First Children's Parade Float



Hogansville First Baptist

Children's Christmas Play

The King's Birthday



Grace Thanksgiving Fellowship

GRACE

Grace - The congregation of Grace enjoyed a Thanksgiving Fellowship in November and a Choir Special in December.



Grace Christmas Choir Special

Highland - welcomed three new members in December. "Praise the Lord!" • The annual Hanging of the Green ceremony took place on December 1. They enjoyed a great service singing Christmas carols and decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. • They had a special treat during Morning Worship Service on December 8. Clyde Woempner played several songs on the accordion. "It was beautiful!" • On Sunday, December 15, the choir presented "Christ Was Born For This" followed by a covered dish luncheon. • The annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service was a blessing to all who attended! • The Grapevine Sunday School Class presented a gift to Mildred Robinson, who will be leaving their class on January 1 to teach the Ladies' Friendship Class. Mildred will be missed in the Grapevine Class, but has many years of Sunday School teaching experience and will be a blessing to the Friendship Class. Ms. Crocker, current teacher of the Friendship Class has decided to retire effective January 1. She has taught Sunday School at Highland for many years and has been such a blessing to everyone. She will be missed as a teacher, however we look forward to seeing her in services each week as well as in the choir.



Above L-R: Jean Crocker with Sunday School Director, Sybil Harrison

HIGHLAND

News (continued)



HIGHLAND

Above L-R: Sybil Harrison with Mildred Robinson

Lakeview - Thanks to the Decorating Committee and others who helped to decorate the church so beautifully for Christmas.

- The men had their meeting on December 10 at Marco's Pizza.
- WMU met December 13 at Captain's Cove for fellowship and a gift swap; thanks to Ginny Helton for all the time and work she puts into being Lakeview's WMU leader.
- Lakeview participated in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Gideon's Bibles for Jesus project.
- The Children's Department enjoyed a Christmas party on December 22 during the Sunday School hour.
- The choir presented an inspiring Christmas Cantata during morning services on December 22 and a candlelight communion service was held on the evening of December 22.

New Hope (LaGrange) - welcomed two new members into their fellowship in December.

- The New Hope congregation met their goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering due to the children's offerings in December, the Sisters of Hope soup lunch, and the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner offerings. "To God be the glory for all those who participated in giving."

- Several children enjoyed a blessed and happy Christmas due in part to the Christmas Gift Tree. "Thanks to all who participated in making this ministry a great success."
- Some of the 100 shoe boxes packed by New Hope children went to Burkina Faso, a country in Africa. "We thank the Lord for all who helped in this vital ministry for children in other nations."
- Sisters of Hope met Monday, January 6 to plan their mission work for the coming months. A snack food basket was made for the McConnell family as Kathy prepares for major surgery on January 15. Please pray for this family.
- "As we begin a new year, we praise the Lord for His blessings in the past year."

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ,
he is a new creature: old things are passed away;
behold, all things are become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17 King James Version (KJV)

Unity - CMG (Current Mission Group) had their Christmas party on December 10. They enjoyed a nice supper and played the Dirty Santa game. All had a great time. CMG organized with the help of many others to provide eight children with Christmas gifts. The Soup and Chili Luncheon was held on December 15 following the Christmas program. Donations went to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

- The children participated in the Adult Christmas program on December 15. They were dressed as angels, shepherds and wise men. They sang one song with the Adult Choir.
- The Awana children bought Christmas presents for their families with the Awana bucks that they earned this year. The Awana Christmas party was held on December 18. During the party they enjoyed finger foods and Brian Alpin shared the Christmas story with the children. They had a surprise guest who came and gave each child a gift. Awana started back on January 8 at 6pm with Wacky Hair Day.



Unity Christmas Program: Angels, Shepherds and Wise Men



Unity Awana Christmas Party
Children are listening to the Christmas story.

Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - Awana will start on January 8.

- Every third Friday, volunteers go to Florence Hand to sing and socialize with the residents.
- God's Helping Hands is a ministry of ladies who meet the second Monday of every month.
- The Lighthouse Keepers, seniors age 55 and up, meet on the third Monday of every month.
- The end of the year is a time for reflection of the past; the New Year is to begin anew. BTC encourages everyone to begin the New Year with God, worshipping and praising his Holy name. BTC wishes everyone a Happy and Blessed New Year.

Davidson - Breakfast every Sunday at 9:00 am, Sunday School at 9:45, Worship at 11:00 am. All are welcome!

East Vernon - has been selected to host the 2020 VBS FunShop for Rocky Railway VBS Program. If you are planning to use this program for your 2020 VBS, please see the link below and get registered today! The class will be held on Saturday, February 29 from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm. Details are noted in the registration information. If you have questions, please call Mary Goodrich at 334-558-1047. Please leave a message for a return call. To register, visit <https://group.regfox.com/rocky-railway-funshop-lagrange-ga>.

- Colin Elliott, Christian singer / songwriter from Northern Ireland, will perform at East Vernon as a part of his USA Tour 2020 on Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM. For more details visit: www.colinelliottmusic.com.

Grace - Every Wednesday at 7 pm: Adult Bible Study, Young Disciples program (PreK - 5th grade) Youth Group (6th-12th grade)

- Reformer's Unanimous & Teen Full Throttle meet every Friday at 7pm with a meal at 9pm.
- Senior's Group meets the first Tuesday of month at 6:30pm.
- Parenting Class meets the first Wednesday at 6:45pm.
- WMU meets the second Friday of each month at 1:00pm.
- "Giving Grace Meals" is every third Saturday.
- "Grace Men for Christ" and "Ladies of Grace" meet every third Monday night at 6:30 for a meal followed by a meeting.
- Esther Women's Prayer Group meets the last Monday of every month at 6:30pm. More info at www.gbclagrange.com

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

New Hope (LaGrange) - HIS Club (Hope Inspired Seniors) will meet Thursday, January 23 at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall. Plans will be made for future projects. Please bring a covered dish to share. All seniors are invited.

- Chase Golden, Youth Minister, will meet with the youth on Sunday, January 12 after the worship service to discuss future plans for their activities. Pray for Chase as he leads our youth to grow in their faith, and to reach out to others their age to introduce them to Christ.
- Sisters of Hope will sponsor a Valentine program and spaghetti supper in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, February 12 at 6 pm. "Make plans now to be there for a great time of fun and fellowship."

Stovall - The third Saturday Night Singing featuring *Praise His Name* will start at 6pm at Stovall Baptist Church. Food and fellowship will follow the singing.

Unity - The VBS team will be going to Ridgecrest January 9-11 for the VBS Conference. Unity is getting ready for VBS in June.

- CMG (Current Mission Group) will meet next on January 21.
- The youth meet every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. All youth are welcome!

Mission Spotlight



December 16, 2019, I had the opportunity to attend the Open House for the new ministry of Fountain Church - Still Waters. Fountain Church was blessed to have been given ownership of a house in their community that was being used as a drug house. The members of the church completely renovated the house and converted it into a very nice duplex apartment. Their ministry goal is to provide safe transitional housing for families in crisis, in a Christian environment. The church will seek to minister to the Spiritual needs of the residents, while simultaneously partnering with individuals, inside and outside the church membership, and other agencies, who will teach life skills and meet the physical needs of these families.

While this ministry is currently administered and funded by Fountain Church, they are seeking to partner with other churches, para-church groups, agencies, and individuals who can help them meet the ministry needs and the financial needs associated with Still Waters.

I applaud the ministry efforts of Fountain Church, one of our Troup Baptist Association Sister Churches! If you would like to partner with them, or have any questions, please contact Pastor Kevin Stringham at: kstringham@fountainchurch.us or: 706.524.8811.

I wholeheartedly endorse this ministry! ~ Brother Aaron

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. **Isaiah 43:18-19**

Announcements (continued)

Financial Peace University

A nine week biblically-based personal finance course

January 27 through March 30
Meets weekly on Monday evenings at 6:30
 (class will not meet on Feb. 3)

Location: Troup Baptist Association
 1301 Washington Street
 LaGrange, GA 30240

Contact Troup Baptist Association (706) 884-1975
 or email angela@troubaptist.com to register.
 Cost per couple \$100 (limited availability at this rate)

The Sock Hops

In Concert

January 25, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Troup High Fine Arts Auditorium
 1920 Hamilton Road - LaGrange, Georgia

Advance Tickets \$15.00

Ticket Information: Ellis Cadenhead 706-884-5546
 Troup High School 706-812-7957
 Tickets available at Troup High School and Lagrange Toyota
 Sponsored by Troup High Alumni



Faith Bible Institute

The Troup Baptist Association is a
 –satellite campus of **Faith Bible Institute**,
 a ministry of Rowland Road Baptist
 Church in Monroe, Louisiana.

Enroll Online NOW for Spring Semester
Classes beginning January 21, 2020

- The Judges & The Single Kingdom of Israel
- New Testament Epistles
- Hebrew Wisdom Literature

New Student: \$139 + \$28
Returning Student: \$97 + \$28
Graduate: \$61 + \$28
2nd Family Member: \$61 + \$28
Late fee of \$28 applies Nov. 16 - Jan. 21

For more information go to www.troubaptist.org
 Contact Jane Gottshall, Director at (706) 957-7443
 or by email: jane.gottshall@gmail.com

EXIT 18 Disciple Now Weekend
 February 14-16, 2020

PRODIGAL
 welcome home

sign up the entire month of January for **\$55**.
 COST INCREASES FEBRUARY 1st

exit18dnow.org

Be sure to sign up with your church*

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHL Sunday)

happens every year in January (**January 19, 2020**),
 marking the anniversary month of Roe v. Wade.
 In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision made
 abortion legal in this country. SOHL Sunday is an opportunity
 to focus our time and attention on God's true plan and
 purpose for each and every human life.

Bahamas Mission Opportunity

Georgia Baptists have adopted Shiloh Baptist Church in
 Freeport, Grand Bahamas. They need significant help with
 reconstruction of the church, parsonage and members' homes.
 For more information,
 visit www.baptists4haiti.com/bahama-rebuild



Happy Birthday February



- | | |
|----|--|
| 5 | Dr. Greg Brown |
| 11 | Rev. Jamie Duran |
| 16 | Rev. Ronnie Jordan |
| 18 | Rev. Lenn Martin |
| 18 | Rev. Jeff McCartney, Reeds Chapel |
| 22 | Rev. Michael J. Jackson, Confidence Missionary |
| 22 | Rev. Kenneth Whitlock, New Hope - Greenville |
| 24 | Rev. Jerry Parkerson, Franklin Road |

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 New Year's Day, TBA and GBMB offices closed
- 6 Breakfast for Berta Weathersbee Teachers & Staff 8am
- 6 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA
- 13 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA
- 20 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA
- 21 Faith Bible Institute Class #1 of Spring Semester, 6:30pm
- 23 Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm @ TBA
- 27 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA
- 27 Pastors' Day at the Capitol
- 28 Financial Peace University, Class #1, 6:30pm @ 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
- 17 Rev. Craig Marshall
- 18 Rev. Terry Rainwater, Highland
- 24 Rev. Chad Bishop
- 24 Rev. Willie Edmondson, Bethlehem



Happy New Year!



On The Lighter Side:

Two hunters were dragging their dead deer back to their truck. Another hunter approached pulling his along too. "Hey, I don't want to tell you how to do something ... but I can tell you that it's much easier if you drag the deer in the other direction. Then the antlers won't dig into the ground." After the third hunter left, the two decided to try it. A little while later one hunter said to the other, "You know, that guy was right. This is a lot easier!" "Yeah, but we're getting farther from the truck," the other added.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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