

## Troup Baptist Association

### The Regular Things of Life

My good friend, Rev. Stacey Dyer, recently stated in a Facebook post, “It’s the regular things of life that bless this old preacher – faith, family, and friends. Wow! What a great life God is giving me every day.” His post set me to thinking. The more I thought the more I realized that there is an unfathomable truth contained in his brief statement. Indeed, it’s the regular things of life that make it worth living.

I am rapidly approaching the completion of my 65<sup>th</sup> trip around the sun. And the older I get the more importance I place upon the ordinary things of life. Where I once thought I had to engage in every fight, run in every race, and champion every cause, lately I find myself deriving great pleasure from the simpler things in life. You know, things like peace and quiet, a good cup of coffee, a good book, a relaxed visit with a good friend, a good meal, and a nap in my recliner.

I find myself understanding and relating

more and more to something Will Rogers once said. He said, “Not everybody can march in the parade, because somebody has to stand on the street corner and wave as they come by!” That’s me! These days, I find myself perfectly content to sit peacefully on the porch, so to speak, and just wave, and smile, and wave some more as all those things I used to deem so important - pass by. In fact, on those rare evenings that I’m not preaching somewhere, writing a Pastoral Nugget, preparing a sermon, editing a radio program, attending some sort of church meeting, leading some sort of training event, or dealing with some upheaval in the life of a church or pastor, Marianne and I take great pleasure in just sitting in our living room doing absolutely nothing! (Waving!) You’ll find me in my recliner and her sitting in her spot on the sofa. The TV may or may not be on. And hey, we’re probably spending way too much time looking at our phones! We take turns napping. We may even go several hours without speaking. But that’s okay!

Why? Because I can see her, and she can see me. We’re together. We’re okay. There’s no drama. And all’s right in our world. (Waving’s fun!)

There is a rhythm to life. That rhythm is not maintained by the irregular or “out of the ordinary” things that occur in our lives. In fact, they disrupt it. This rhythm is maintained by the regular things of life. I’m afraid that in our quest to be the biggest and the best we have somehow developed a measuring system that measures success by the amount of disruptions we are encountering regarding the regular things of life. Quality time with our spouse, with our children and grandchildren, our parents, and our friends is disrupted by having to attend one more meeting, make one more call, or take one more business trip. We surmise that there will be time later for Little Johnny and Little Susie’s ballgames, music recitals, and other things. Sadly, families today are built around the disruptions of normalcy. However, as I near the completion of my 65<sup>th</sup> trip around the sun and look

back, I have decided that while there is nothing wrong with striving to excel in life, the strongest marriages, the happiest families, and the healthiest churches are those who have captured the magic of and realize the value of the regular things of life. As I’m typing these words, memories from long ago flood my mind. I see people who long ago left this world. I see kids on a red dirt spot playing ball, and other games. And I see my own children, screaming in sheer delight, while being attacked by the Tickle Monster! (me)

As I have traveled my lifepath, God has blessed me with many successes and accolades. But the greatest joy of my life is not in titles, accomplishments, or accolades – it’s in the rhythm of the regular things of life that were, and will forever remain, mine to have and hold. Yes! It’s the regular things of life that matter most!

*Brother Aaron*

# News

**Association** - Pastors Day at the Capitol was held on Monday, January 27. Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough attended along with several local pastors. Those attending with Bro. Aaron were Rev. Derek Williams, Rev. Robert Bagley and Rev. Edmond Coffey. While there, they had an unexpected blessing of meeting the fired Atlanta Fire Chief, Kelvin Cochran. The purpose of Pastors Day at the Capitol is to help church leaders communicate the issues of our day with a voice of hope and reason. This event is held each year in January and is sponsored by the Georgia Baptist Mission Board - Public Affairs Ministry.



Above L-R: Rev. Edmond Coffey, Rev. Derek Williams, Kelvin Cochran (former Atlanta fire chief), Rev. Robert Bagley and Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough

**Association** - On January 30, the Public Affairs Committee of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board presented Governor Brian Kemp with its First Annual Public Service Award. Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough serves on that committee as well as Pastor Greg Morris of FBC Hogansville. They also attended a Legislative Prayer Breakfast where they met and prayed for Georgia State Senators and Representatives.



Above: Governor Brian Kemp with GBMB Public Affairs Committee Pastor Greg Morris (2nd from left) and Bro. Aaron (3rd from right)



Above L-R: Senator Matt Brass, Representative Vance Smith, Pastor Greg Morris (FBC Hogansville), Bro. Aaron McCollough, Representative Randy Nix, and Senator Randy Robertson.

## 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 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

#### For March 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of March 1, 2020 - Flat Shoals Salem Road Baptist Church  
 Week of March 8, 2020 - Fountain Baptist Church  
 Week of March 15, 2020 - Franklin Road Baptist Church  
 Week of March 22, 2020 - Glenn Baptist Church  
 Week of March 29, 2020 - Grace Baptist Church

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



### Our Oldest & Youngest Volunteers

Above L-R: Mrs. Clyde Moore, Mrs. Lucinda Deitman and her new granddaughter, Alyson. Mrs. Clyde (Age 99) and Alyson (age 2 months) are our oldest and youngest (volunteer in training) Messenger volunteers. The volunteers meet for one hour per month to assemble the newsletter. If you are interested in volunteering, call Angela at Troup Baptist Association - 706-884-1975.



# News (continued)

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - There were 3 people saved and 4 new members added to the Baptist Tabernacle Church family. "Praise God!" • During the month of January, the Food Closet served 606 individuals, giving out 322 boxes of food and 470 meals. 90 backpacks were given to children for weekend food. There were also 340 snacks given. • The Clothes Closet served 312 individuals and gave away 82 coats. They are in need of coats, all sizes, adults and children. • Charlie Williams was ordained as a Deacon by Pastor Jimmy McMillian on Sunday, January 26. "Congratulations to Charlie and his wife Melinda." • The youth group went to Winterfest on February 1.

**Dunson** - recently added four new members. Mike, Kay and Ruth Ann Hamry, and Daniel Meadows were welcomed to the church. • Rhonda Broach and Kay Abrams were honored for their hard work as church secretaries. • Carolyn Woods was honored for serving over 15 years as Dunson's organist.

- Josh Pendergrass held a guy's lock-in at the church.
- Pastor Kenneth had the youth over for a cookout and hike.



Above L-R: Rhonda Broach, Kay Abrams and Pastor Kenneth Cole



Dunson: Youth Hike

**Eastside** - Congratulations to Eastside's Pastor Michael Stiggers, who has been named Chaplain for Chattahoochee Hospice. Rev. Stiggers has an extensive background serving as hospice chaplain in neighboring areas. He will now be serving much closer to home. In addition, he also serves as Pastor of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church near LaFayette, AL and Pastor of Eastside Baptist Church of LaGrange.



Above L-R: Rev. Mark McGee, former Chaplain of Chattahoochee Hospice, Connie McGee, Cheryl Stiggers and Rev. Michael Stiggers, incoming Chaplain.



Dunson: Guy's Lock-In



Above L-R: Mrs. Carolyn Woods and Pastor Kenneth Cole



## News (continued)

**First Hogansville (FBCH)** - On January 2, eleven members of the Youth Group enjoyed an outing to Valley, Alabama for bowling and, of course, eating. Youth Director Monica Johnson and Melanie Baswell accompanied the group, and to quote Monica, they "had a blast!" A good opportunity for fellowship and who wouldn't enjoy bowling and eating!

• FBCH held a Fresh Start Revival on Sunday, January 5 through Wednesday, January 8. Dr. Bennie Tate of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia was the guest speaker on Sunday evening. Rev. Aaron McCollough, Troup Baptist Associational Missionary brought the messages Monday through Wednesday. Both pastors were inspiring and attendees were encouraged by their enlightening words. Special music was provided by the Jeremy Coleman Family, Dewey Skidmore and his daughter from Change Church, Grantville, Georgia, Stephanie Walker, and FBCH Choir. Attendance was good each evening, and it was an excellent way to begin the new year. • Members of the Prime Timers group visited Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia on January 16. Dr. Benny Tate, Pastor, greeted the group. Several volunteers gave them a tour of the facilities and information about the church's history and current activities. Rock Springs is passionate about growing local churches, and the volunteers explained how they work to accomplish this goal. The group found this visit to be quite inspiring. Following the tour, they enjoyed a meal at Buckner's Family Restaurant in Jackson, Georgia.



The Jeremy Coleman Family provided special music for FBCH's Fresh Start Revival



FBCH Youth Group Bowling Adventure

**Grace** - held ordination for their new Youth Pastor.

- The Senior Group went to Auburn for dinner.



Grace: Youth Pastor Ordination



Grace: Senior Group Dinner Outing



FBCH Prime Timers toured Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia.



# News (continued)

**Highland** - The congregation enjoyed a special lunch following morning worship service on Sunday, January 19. Chili and fixins were served to celebrate the birthdays of Pastor Terry as well as Cookie Rainwater, whose birthday was in December. "We love Pastor Terry and Cookie and wish them many more happy birthdays."

**Lakeview** - On January 1, 2020, Pastor Lamar Truitt and his wife Carol treated church members to a New Year's celebration at the church. Those who attended enjoyed and appreciated it. "Thank you, Pastor Lamar and Carol." Some Lakeview members continue to provide devotions and music to residents of Poplar Creek Assisted Living.



Mountville: Deacon & Wives  
Breakfast at Cracker Barrel

**Mountville (MBC)** - The months of December and January were very busy at MBC! The Deacons and their wives enjoyed breakfast at Cracker Barrel on Saturday, December 21. (photo) • The children of MBC blessed the church with "The Light Has Come" on Sunday, December 22. It was a wonderful celebration of what Jesus has done for us! (photos). This production was led and directed by Stephanie Walker. • A group from MBC traveled to Glenloch Baptist Church in Franklin, GA to see "One Night in Bethlehem". It was a wonderful portrayal of what was going on in the town of Bethlehem the night Jesus was born. • MBC was so blessed to be able to provide Christmas gifts, clothes, and food for several families for Christmas!

**New Hope (LaGrange)** - HIS Club (Hope Inspired Seniors) met Thursday, January 23 for a time of fellowship and planning for future activities. • Sunday, January 26 was Baptist Men's Day with special guest Mike Phillips who spoke on "Persistent Faith". The men's choir did a wonderful job in presenting a message in song. Youth Director Chase Golden shared a story with the children and had prayer with them. "Thank you to all the men who participated in this special service." • Sisters of Hope donated baby wipes, diapers and baby food to Sue and Harold Mulkey to help with their care of foster children in their home. The Sisters of Hope met on February 3 at 6pm at Hog Heaven for a time of food and fellowship. • The youth along with some adults, had a wonderful experience in Atlanta at the Youth Jam on February 1. Afterwards they had a lock-in at the church till Sunday morning. "We thank the Lord for Chase and his ministry to our youth."



At left & below:

Mountville  
Christmas Play  
"The Light  
has Come"



New Hope's  
Mens' Day Choir

**Roper Heights** - hosted a Sunday night singing with Randy & Sherri Miller on January 26. The husband and wife duo sang a number of selections and Randy showcased his God-given talent on a variety of musical instruments. In addition to their music, Randy brought a message from the book of Jonah and gave an invitation for salvation. Several people responded!

Any church desiring to hear about Honduras missions, planning a trip, or partnering with others for a mission trip, may contact Nicky Freeman at Reeds Chapel Baptist Church.  
Email address: [freemanjn@troup.org](mailto:freemanjn@troup.org)

This is through new Desire Ministries Honduras Missions.





## News (continued)

**Unity** - The Awana children met and enjoyed Wacky Hair Day on January 8 and Mystery Guest - Dress like a Detective on January 15 and LOL Night - Bring your favorite joke on January 22. The children are having fun in Awana with recreation, learning Bible verses and learning about different people in the Bible. In Children's Church, the children are learning stories thru the Bible - currently in the Old Testament. CMG (Current Mission Group) met on January 21 and discussed several missions for the coming year including a Mystery Guest Dinner for all ladies of the church.



Unity Awana's Wacky Hair Day



Unity Awana's Dress like a Detective Day



Unity: Saying the pledges in Awanas

## Announcements

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - Silent Hope Ministry will be hosting a Valentine Fundraiser on February 8 at 6 pm. There will be door prizes, entertainment, good food and lots of fun. The proceeds will go the Silent Hope Ministry. This ministry helps those in need at our church. • Lighthouse Keepers go every third Thursday to Florence Hand Nursing Home to play bingo with the residents. They also support the Battered Women Shelter. The Lighthouse Keepers (age 55 +) meet every third Monday of each month. They also take bottles of water to Hospice and cook a meal once a month for Hospice families. • February is Deacon Appreciation Month and we wish to thank all our Deacons and their wives for the service they do for our church. Our church would not run as smoothly as it does without these Deacons. • Feeding the Valley will be holding a meeting on February 13 from 8 to 12 in the JC McMillian Life Center. • Mark your calendars for March 2 from 2-7 pm and join us for our Blood Drive. Please donate if you can; give so someone else may live.

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

**Dunson** - The annual WMU Valentine's Banquet will be held on February 14. Tickets are going fast. Call 706-884-7814 if interested. • Dunson's new contemporary service, "Thrive Alive" will be held on Thursday, February 20 at 6pm downstairs in the fellowship hall. "You are invited!"

**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](http://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](http://www.gbclagrange.com)

# Announcements (continued)

**Hillcrest** - Brian Free and Assurance will be at Hillcrest Baptist Church on Sunday, February 16 at 6pm for the evening worship service. Unity Baptist Church will join them for this service. Everyone is welcome! There is no admission charge. A love offering will be received for the group. • On February 23 at 6pm Hillcrest will host a joint service with Rocky Mount Baptist Church also in the Hillcrest area. There will be special music and the message will be brought by Pastor Terry Barnes of Rocky Mount Baptist Church. "Anyone wishing to participate in this worship service is welcome."

**Lakeview** - A Ladies' Valentine's Day Appreciation Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 22 at 5pm in the church fellowship hall. All ladies are invited and should RSVP to Bill Cobb. The ladies are looking forward to having the men of the Brotherhood cook, serve, and clean up.

**Mountville (MBC)** - will celebrate Homecoming on Sunday, February 9. Randy and Sherri Miller will be bringing special Music beginning at 10am and then morning worship will begin at 11am. Lunch will be served on the grounds after the service. "Everyone is welcome!"

- MBC Spring Revival will begin on Sunday, March 22 at 11:00 am, followed by services at 7:00 pm Sunday through Wednesday nights. MBC will be partnering with Reed's Chapel for this revival. There will be a different speaker each day. "Please come join us in this joint worship event!"

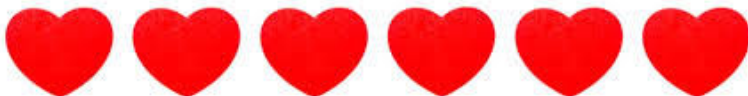
**New Hope (LaGrange)** - HIS Club (Hope Inspired Seniors) will attend the New Horizon Community Theater in West Point on Saturday, February 29 at 2pm for the presentation of "The Hollow." Afterwards they will dine at Johnny's Pizza. New Hope's Youth Director Chase Golden will have a part in this play. Tickets are \$16 and anyone is welcome to join them.

- A Valentine Banquet will be held Wednesday, February 12 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Plan now to come and enjoy entertainment, food and fellowship. The cost will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (10 & under), with a \$15 maximum per family. "We look forward to seeing you."

**Unity** - CMG (Current Mission Group) will meet next on February 17 They are planning a "Mystery Guest" dinner for the coming year. • The Lifeline Youth Ministry meets every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. They have many upcoming events planned such as a paintball trip, tubing trip, game days, and many more. They are starting a new series called "Why I'm Single", during which they will find out what the Bible says about dating and relationships. All youth are welcome!

- Unity Baptist will show the movie, "Overcomer" on February 9 at 5pm in the old Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited.
- Unity members are selling BBQ (Sloppy Pig) tickets for a VBS fundraiser. The BBQ will be held on March 20.

- VBS will be held June 7 - 11.



## WMU Spring Luncheon

Saturday, March 7, 2020  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Registration begins at 10:30 am

Location: Grace Baptist Church  
3731 West Point Road, LaGrange, Georgia

Please RSVP by February 27 to Judy King  
by Email: [lifose@outlook.com](mailto:lifose@outlook.com)  
or by phone (706) 882-0371

**All women are invited!**




Colin Elliott

Christian singer / songwriter from Northern Ireland


East Vernon Baptist: Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM

For more details visit: [www.colinelliottmusic.com](http://www.colinelliottmusic.com)

**Disciple Now Weekend (for youth)**  
 February 14-16, 2020  
**PRODIGAL - Welcome Home**  
 To register: go to [Exit18dnw.org](http://Exit18dnw.org)



## Happy Birthday March



|    |  |
|----|--|
| 6  | Rev. Adam Camp, Rosemont                   |
| 9  | Rev. Benjie Dukes, Concord                 |
| 11 | Rev. Don Ellison                           |
| 13 | Rev. Neil Stich, Second Baptist            |
| 16 | Rev. James Yu, New Heaven Korean Baptist   |
| 20 | Rev. Randy Warren, Flat Shoals Salem Road  |
| 22 | Dr. Tom Tucker, First Baptist - West Point |

## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

- 3 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Derek Williams
- 3 NO Financial Peace University class this week
- 3-5 Associational Missionaries' Workshop
- 10 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Stanley Woods
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day
- 17 Presidents' Day
- 17 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Bob Tidwell
- 20 Leadership Groups, 10:30am and 6:30pm at TBA
- 24 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, J. J. Washington

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

## ***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



## **Happy Valentine's Day!**



### ***On The Lighter Side:***

A couple of elderly men were venting their frustrations about the woes of modern technology. "I just can't ever seem to remember my passwords," grumbled one of them. The other one smiled. "Oh really? I can never forget mine!" "How do you manage it?" asked the first guy curiously. "Well, I simply set all my passwords to 'Incorrect' so that whenever I'm told that my password is incorrect, I'll remember it!"

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