Troup Baptist Association

Everybody in Mayberry Was a Sinner

A week or so ago, I had lunch with one of my pastors. While we were eating and conversing, our conversation turned to on the Andy Griffith the great decline and decay of morals in America today. I made the statement that, while America has always had people on the extreme fringes regarding moral issues, there used to be a vast middle who adhered to acceptable moral standards. I'm talking about people who may not call themselves Christians, or for that matter, even attend church. Yet, they were still morally good people. Why, you would even let your children spend the night with theirs and not be concerned about their safety. Sadly, that vast middle has all but disappeared. Now we practice "identity politics," where you're either "for us" or "against us." Sadly, we've lived to You see, he was always see the definition of the word "evangelical" changed. It is now used as a political designation instead of a Spiritual designation or practice.

In the course of our conversation, I used Otis Campbell, the town drunk Show, as an example. I said something to the effect that while Otis was the town drunk, even he had enough morality about himself, that when he got soused, he'd lock himself in the jail and sleep it off. My friend said, "I'm gonna give you some pushback on what you just said." He continued, "Otis wasn't the only sinner in Mayberry. In fact, everybody in Mayberry was a sinner. But the difference between Otis and every other resident of Mayberry is that their sins were acceptable; Otis's wasn't!" I sat up straight and said, "You know what? You're right! And the biggest sinner in the whole town was Andy, the sheriff! telling little white lies, or running some deceptive scheme for Barney's benefit!" And others in the town were guilty of gossip, pride, envy, and a

myriad of other things! But here's the difference: Society viewed their sins as acceptable – and we tend not to seek forgiveness for our "acceptable" sins. Poor Otis!

In Proverbs 29: 18, the Bible, the Word of the Living God, teaches us that where there is no prophetic vision, a goal, or a supreme standard that governs their lives, people will lose focus on what really matters. Subsequently, they cast off all restraint. This leads to their destruction. Play make believe with me. Picture in your mind a train traveling on the railroad tracks. Suppose this train says, "These tracks are just too confining for me! With all the power I have I should be able to determine where I go. I'm tired of going only where these tracks compel Redeemer, He's the me to go. Therefore, I'm jumping these tracks and going my own way!" Quite naturally, you know that the moment the train breaks free from the tracks that constrain it, its destruction is eminent.

The truth of the column today is this: Sin derails us. It is not big sins or little sins that separate us from Jesus. It's not acceptable or unacceptable sins that separate us from Jesus. It is sin period! Romans 6:23(a) states, "For the wages of sin is death ..." You see, the smallest, most minute sin you can think of, is enough to send you to hell for eternity. Jesus didn't just die for big sins, little sins, acceptable sins, and unacceptable sins; He died for sin, period!

In my lifetime I have been Otis; I have been Andy; I have been other Mayberry citizens, and I have been the train that cast off all restraint, jumped the track, and was headed for certain destruction. But praise the Lord, my Redeemer lives. And He's not just Otis's Redeemer for everybody in Mayberry, regardless of their sins – and that includes you and me!

Brother Aaron

News

Association - Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough and Mrs. Marianne attended the Georgia Baptist Mission Board's Annual Associational Missionary's Conference in Toccoa, Georgia February 3 - 5. (Photo below)



Association - Bro. Aaron & Mrs. Marianne attended the Valentine's Banquet at Western Heights Baptist Church on February 9. Bro. Aaron entertained the crowd with his comedy routine, "Ten Things I Have Learned About Women." Also, Erica Looney from Faith Baptist Church sang for the group.





L-R: Marianne & Aaron McCollough, Erica Looney

Association - On February 16, Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough and Mrs. Marianne traveled to Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Butler, Georgia, where he preached on "The Doctrine of Regeneration" for their Annual Bible Conference. Rev. Fitz Brown is the pastor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church.

- On February 22, Bro. Aaron McCollough spoke at the Brotherhood Meeting at Shiloh Baptist Church in Penton, Alabama. Mrs. Marianne attended as well since the women were invited to join them. They enjoyed a breakfast feast with fresh sausage and bacon. Thanks to the men who cooked it!
- Bro. Aaron & Mrs. Marianne worshiped with the congregation of Shoal Creek Baptist Church on February 9. Rev. Anthony Hovey is the pastor.
- On February 23, Bro. Aaron & Mrs. Marianne worshiped with Franklin Road Baptist Church where Rev. Andy Buchanan is pastor. Rev. Frank Sledge is Pastor Emeritus there.

Association - Rev. J.J. Washington, West Central Region Missions Consultant, GBMB preached at the Monday morning Pastors' Prayer Fellowship on February 24. Area pastors meet each Monday morning at 11am at the association office for a time of fellowship, prayer and a message from one of the pastors. All pastors are welcome to attend. (photo at right)

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

Association - Church Prayer List

The Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

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

For April 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of April 5, 2020 - Gray Hill Baptist Church Week of April 12, 2020 - Harvest Baptist Church Week of April 19, 2020 - Highland Baptist Church Week of April 26, 2020 - Hillcrest Baptist Church

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

The Gideons hosted a Pastor Appreciation Banquet on Feb. 11 at the Del'avant Event Center in LaGrange. A great number of area pastors and their wives were there and enjoyed this time together and the meal. Thank you to the local Gideons organization for hosting this banquet each year.

Association - Two new videos series are in the works. "What's Your Story" will be a series of videos giving pastors an opportunity to tell their story. The first one is the story of Dr. Tom Tucker of First Baptist Church in West Point. A second video series titled, "Church Polity & Practices in Plain English" has begun. To view these, visit www.troupbaptist/videos





Rev. J.J. Washington (GBMB), Rev Frank Sledge, Bro. Aaron, Rev. Andy Buchanan

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Food Closet gave out 321 boxes of food and 496 meals and 120 backpacks were also given to children for weekend food. The Clothes Closet also served 173 individuals and gave 49 coats. The Food and Clothes closets are open every Thursday from 9 until 11 am.

- Silent Hope's Valentine Banquet was held on February 8 and was a big success. The ribeye steak dinner was superb! Great entertainment was provided by member Craig Marshall. The banquet was a fundraiser for Silent Hope Ministry which helps members in need. Flock gave out Valentine gifts to BTC widows. Awanas collected approximately 30 coats for the homeless, teaching our children to serve others. Awana Store Night was held on February 18. Awana clubbers get to spend their Awana bucks that they proudly earned for learning Bible verses, handbook time, game time and good behavior. At Baptist Tabernacle, we are reaching boys and girls with the gospel of Christ every Wednesday night. "We love our kids!"
- The Blood Drive will be March 2 from 2-7 pm in the JC McMillian Life Center of Baptist Tabernacle Church. "Come give blood and save lives." The Relay for Life Bake Sale will be held March 8 after the morning worship service. Baptist Tabernacle's 2nd annual Relay for Life Bike & Jeep Ride will be March 28. Registration begins at 8am and KSU at 10am. Cost is \$25 per bike and \$5 per rider and \$25 per Jeep. Food will be available on site for purchase. All proceeds will go to Relay for Life. Spring ahead on Saturday night, March 7 before going to bed. Daylight saving time starts on Sunday, March 8. "Don't be late for Sunday School and Worship Service. Remember, God is always on time."

Davidson - had *Meadow Lane Trio* back on Sunday, Feb 2. "What a great time in the Lord!" • A representative from the Gideons came and spoke. • The new restrooms in the Ivey building are complete and the handicap restroom in the church is under construction. "God's been good!"

First Hogansville (FBCH) - A group of Prime Timers, accompanied by Pastor Greg, Emilee, and Dixon, enjoyed a visit to Chick-fil-A headquarters on January 27. The Chick-fil-A Backstage Tour was a fascinating experience. The guide gave an excellent tour as she explained the history, culture, and values that Mr. Truett Cathy instilled in the company from the beginning. We saw everything from the kitchens to Mr. Cathy's private office and his collection of vintage cars. We came away with renewed admiration for the Chick-fil-A work ethic and an appetite for a Chick-fil-A sandwich. (photo next page)

• Various groups held planning meetings to organize for the new year. The Prime Timers met at Rogers Bar-B-Que on February 11 and decided on activities for the next four months. Joyce Williams led the meeting and shared a devotional before the planning began. Upcoming outings are lunch at the Historic Green Manor Restaurant in Fairburn and a visit to the Biblical History Center in LaGrange. "We welcome seniors who are interested in joining this group."

First Hogansville (FBCH) - Youth Director Monica Johnson and Jonathan Brown joined Cody Binger from Mountville Baptist Church to take a group to Classic Paintball in Lithia Springs on January 20. It is open only to church groups on that date. Ten young people made the trip and enjoyed a time of paintball fun. Cody shared a devotional from Joshua 1:9 about being strong and courageous when life hands you battles. It was a great time of shared Christian fellowship.



- The Women's Ministry met on February 18 to plan the Pampered Princess Pajama Party and other activities. The Men's Ministry has a Prayer Breakfast monthly on Saturday morning. There were 24 men in attendance on February 22 as they discussed ideas for local missions and a possible upcoming camping trip for outreach. There are many opportunities to share in doing God's work. "We welcome people to join with us in this endeavor."
- On February 22, the Women's Ministry sponsored a Pampered Princess Pajama Party for girls between the ages of 4 years and early teens. The Fellowship Hall was beautifully decorated with a number of stations set up for games, crafts, and karaoke, as well as delicious refreshments. The stations were designed to help the girls learn how God loves each of us just the way we are, how we should treat one another and that each one has a purpose. There were 37 girls and 27 youth and adult volunteers in attendance. "Everyone had an amazing time and we thank God for His blessings!" See photo below.



First Hogansville's Pampered Princess Pajama Party for Girls

News (continued)



Grace - The Youth Group sold donuts and coffee to raise money for Terry Posey who was out of work due to an injury. Photos above and at right.







Grace - Reformer's Unanimous Full Throttle Youth went to Turnaround Skate Center.



Highland - The Choir began working on an Easter Cantata to be presented at the 11:00 am service Easter Sunday. Everyone is invited to join them for this service. • Highland was invited to join the First Methodist Church of Hogansville in their Lenten Lunches. Highland Pastor Terry Rainwater was the speaker at the first luncheon held on February 26.

Lakeview - On February 1, Lakeview Pastor Lamar Truitt spoke at the American Legion Post on Jenkins Street. This was an annual meeting to honor the "Four Chaplains" who gave their lives in World War II. All Lakeview members were invited and several attended the annual meeting. • WMU met on February 10 with hostess Nancy Heflin planning a BBQ meal and presenting a devotion on Sarah. Peggy Reese also gave all the ladies some hand lotion that she had made herself.

• On February 22, the men of the church hosted a Ladies' Valentine's Day Appreciation Banquet. The men cooked a delicious meal and did all the serving and cleaning up. There were interesting activities that helped members to learn more about each other. The ladies are thankful to the men for this wonderful show of appreciation.

Mountville (MBC) - MBC was honored to have Colin Elliott in concert on Wednesday, February 19. • MBC also had a visit from Claudia McLean, their adopted/sponsored missionary from India. She shared some updates on their ministry.

- Mountville Mpact enjoyed a "Snow Day" at Stone Mountain Park on Saturday, February 22.
- MBC was honored to donate items including canned goods and paper products to the Warming Center this month.



Mountville's Mpact Group on Stone Mountain

News (continued)

Mountville (continued) - enjoyed a wonderful Homecoming on February 9! Randy Miller provided the special music. (Sherri was sick and we missed her) We were also honored to have Sheriff James Woodruff and his family in worship with us. Mountville Baptist is where he accepted Jesus as his Savior many years ago! "We continue to pray for him and his staff and we appreciate all that they do for our community!"





Claudia McLean & Colin Elliott

Mountville: Randy Miller

New Hope (LaGrange) - welcomes their newest member, Linda Mizzell to the fellowship at New Hope. • Sisters of Hope had a wonderful time of fellowship at Hog Heaven on February 3. On March 2, Tina Eturralde from Hills and Dales spoke to the group about container gardening. • The Valentine Banquet was an evening of delicious food and lots of laughter. Thanks to all the ladies (and a few men) who made this possible. • The Legacy SS Class held a birthday party for Rosealie, foster child of Sue and Harold Mulkey on Feb. 16. She turned one year old and her mama, Brittany was so excited. She and Sue expressed love and appreciation to the class for all the nice gifts. • The church family extends our condolences to Pastor Mike Hornsby and family in the loss of his Aunt (Mom) Lavelle Morrison on February 19. She was beloved by all at Hew Hope. She was a servant saint of God who lived for 95 years. She will be missed. • HIS Club (Hope Inspired Seniors) attended the New Horizon Community Theatre in West Point on Saturday, Feb.20 for the presentation of "The Hollow." New Hope Youth Director, Chase Golden was cast in the play. Afterwards the group enjoyed a meal at Johnny's Pizza.



New Hope's Valentine Banquet L-R: Ken Foster, Don & Kathleen Jones

Roper Heights - Pastor Eddie Striblin had surgery during the month, but is back and serving the pulpit. "God is good!" Bro. Eddie thanks everyone for their prayers and support during this time. They were blessed to have Rev. Bobby Bozeman as a supply pastor during the month. • On February 1, the Little Lambs (children) went bowling and to Burger King.

• On Saturday morning, February 29, the children (5th grade and up) had a paint party at the church.

Unity - Awanas met every Wednesday during the month and enjoyed Valentine Night, Baseball Night and Inside/Out Night.
The Food Closet was held on February 25. Food was served to members of the community. Socks, scarves, toothpaste and tooth brushes were offered to each person.
The movie "Overcomer" was shown on February 25. There was a great turnout. There will be another movie night in April.

Dunson - added six new members recently and will be baptizing two in March. • Dunson's Valentine Banquet welcomed a full house with guests from several churches. Pam Cole led the Valentine games and Dunson youth served the meal. • Dunson's Choir has begun practice for an Easter Cantata. • Pastor Kenneth spoke at Dunson's new service called "Thrive Alive." "If you are looking for a loving church home, come visit us at Dunson!"



Above: Dunson's Valentine Banquet & Youth Servers



Announcements

Youth Extravaganza!

Where:

Red's 2 Skate Center

When:

March 21st, 2020 7pm-11pm

What:

Come skate with us and help BT Youth Ministry raise money for

Our mission trip this summer!

Teen guest speaker

\$6.00 admission
Will include
Regular skate rental

I Corin. 12:14
For the body is not one member, but many. KJV

Baptist Tabernacle Youth (BT) - The BT Student Ministry is hosting a Youth Extravaganza to raise money for their summer mission trip. This mission work sends them out with TEAM EFFORT, to places in GA that have families in need of assistance in various areas. This trip helps BT youth grow closer to GOD through mission work to help families less fortunate, and it also brings them closer together as a group. (see above information)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The 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 the third Monday of each month. They also take bottles of water to Hospice and cook a meal once a month for Hospice families.

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

Grace - Homecoming will be March 22 at 10:30 am. The *Diplomats Quartet* will sing. Lunch will follow. 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 continue to be needed for the Lakeview Food Closet.

Mountville (MBC) - MBC will have Spring Revival beginning on Sunday, March 22 at 11:00 am, followed by services at 7pm Sunday through Wednesday nights. This will be a joint worship event with Reeds Chapel Baptist Church (West Point). "Everyone is welcome!"

New Hope (LaGrange) - The Youth will welcome guest speaker, Lori McClung on Wednesday, March 11 at 5pm. Her topic will be "The Vaping Crisis." All youth are urged to attend and hear the truth about this crisis in our community.

- The choir will present "Worthy Is The Lamb" on Easter Sunday, April 12. There is still time for anyone to join practice on Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm.
- VBS is on the way, June 24-July 2. Mark your calendars! There are some positions still open and help is needed. Please see Rita Karr if you can help in any capacity.
- Don't forget! Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 8.

Roper Heights - will begin practice for their Easter musical on Sunday, March 1.

• "We invite all to come join us. May God Bless!"

Unity - Lifeline Youth are having a game day on Saturday, March 14 from 10am until 1pm. There will be volleyball, basketball, gaga ball, and more! This is part of a church-wide game day for all ages in the gym at Unity. As always, Lifeline Youth Ministry meets every Wednesday at 6:30pm for a weekly Bible study, game time, and awesome worship. All youth are welcome! • Ukids are having a Kite Flying Day on March 22 following the morning service. All kids are welcome to come! Upcoming events are Build a Sundae summer day and a Six Flags trip! Children's Choir for grades 2-6 meets on Sunday nights at 6pm. Awanas meets every Wednesday night. • BBQ tickets are being sold as a VBS fundraiser. The BBQ will be March 20. VBS will be June 7-11 with VBS Kickoff on June 6.

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 8



is hosting

LaGrange Winshape Camp 2020 June 15-19

at LaFayette Christian School

\$100 discount available to first 100 kids to register as 1st thru 8th graders during the week of March 2-8, 2020.

Only 25 spots open to kids who have completed Kindergarten. \$50 discount for early registration (March 2-8)

To register visit: winshapecamps.org
We need volunteers!
Email info@fbclagrange.org or
Phone: 706-884-5631

Announcements (continued)



New Volunteer Training!

First Choice Women's Center provides Compassion. Hope and Help to women in our community facing unplanned pregnancies. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Lisa Ellen at 706-884-3883

> Wednesday, March 18 9-5pm Thursday, March 19 9-5pm Friday, March 20 9-2pm

First Baptist Christian Preschool Open House Carnival

Tuesday, March 3 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Preschoolers can enjoy a bounce house, face painting, popcorn and snow cones while parents learn about the biblically-based morning preschool program, visit classrooms, meet teachers, and register for fall.

Children's Center entrance is on Broad Street to the left of sanctuary entrance.

For more information: Contact Beth Smythe 706-884-5547 or church office 706-884-5631



Circles of Troup is accepting applications for the next class. Circles works with low-income families who want to become self-sufficient. Participants make their own goals and Circles, along with community volunteers, help them reach those goals which often include creating and keeping a budget; an emergency savings account; getting certification for a job; going to college/technical school; getting a better job; getting a driver's license; finding affordable housing; navigating health issues (including insurance and mental health resources) and more.

Weekly meetings are held on Thursday evenings at the Troup Baptist Association and are open to anyone interested in the program or becoming a volunteer.

5:30-6:15 Dinner served

6:16-7:45 Circles meeting and Circles Kids program To apply online: circlesoftroup.org/participant-application/ For more information: circlesoftroup.org or contact Sherri Brown at sbrown@troupco.org or 706-402-6423

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

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Joy Burnham

Mission Speaker: Rev. Joe Frye

Special Music:

Rev. Aaron & Mrs. Marianne McCollough

A love offering will be received for Georgia Baptist Children's Homes.

All women are invited!



Children's Camp Rockridge June 22-25

Ages 8 thru 6th grade

Online registration will open in April Visit troupbaptist.org



Happy Birthday **April**



- Rev. Greg Morris, First Baptist of Hogansville
- Rev. Paul Blair, First Baptist on the Square, (retired)
- Rev. Clay Snyder, Harvest 6
- 7 Rev. Cade Farris, First Baptist on the Square
- 9 Rev. Aaron McCollough, Association
- Rev. Donnie Benefield, Grace
- 11 Rev. Nick Pilgrim, Wehadkee
- Rev. Tommy Gilbert, Antioch LaGrange 16
- 23 Rev. Randall Foxworth
- 27 Rev. Steve Vickery, Western Heights
- 28 Rev. Hugo Oropeza, First Hispanic
- 29 Rev. Frank Sledge, (retired)

MARCH CALENDAR

- 2 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA
- 7 WMU/WOM Spring Luncheon, 11:30 at Grace Baptist Church
- 8 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 9 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Rev. Mike Taylor
- 16 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA
- 19 Leadership Groups, 10:30am and 6:30pm at TBA
- 23 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA
- 30 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA

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 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



Welcome Spring!



On The Lighter Side:

During a visit to a hospital for the mentally infirm, a visitor asked the Director what the criterion was that defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

"Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub; then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup.

"No," said the Director, "a normal person would pull the plug.

Do you want a bed by the wall or near the window?"

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