

## Troup Baptist Association

### A Blank Sheet of Paper

For the first time in my lifetime, maybe even since the formation of the New Testament Church on the Day of Pentecost, the Lord has given the church a blank slate. I liken it to a lecturer standing before a group of people lecturing. He is using one of those easel mounted paper pads and a marker as a teaching aid. And when he fills the page upon which he is writing, he grabs a corner of the page and rips it from the pad, revealing a clean, unspoiled, blank sheet of paper beneath. And it is totally up to him as to how he fills that blank sheet of paper.

The paragraph above describes exactly what the church is experiencing because of the Coronavirus. For years and years, or centuries and centuries, people, well-meaning people, good people, Christian people, have written line after line of their belief, religious rules, religious practices, culture, tradition, morals, doctrine, understanding, and preferences upon the sheet of paper we call, "Church." And with one tiny invisible virus, Jesus reached up, tore off the

paper called Church, handed us a marker and said, "Start over!" Wow! Chew on that one for a while!

I have heard pastor after pastor and church leader after church leader opine about how difficult it was to make the decision to close the doors of the church in the face of the Coronavirus. However, I feel that decision will pale in comparison to the decisions that must be made regarding reopening the doors of the church.

The question is not if we reopen the doors and restart the church. The question is how we will do so, what will we bring back into this thing we call, "Church," and what we will leave out? More is not always better! Coronavirus stripped us back to the basics of church. And in so doing, we discovered some church programs and practices - we can do without! I will verbalize what many pastors and parishioners are thinking but dare not say. Many programs, customs, practices, and traditions affiliated with our churches before Coronavirus, need to be taken off life support and be allowed to die!

And we dare not place their names back on our blank

sheet of paper! And regarding church, we can no longer say, "We've always done it this way." Nope! Mr. Coronavirus forced us to do things differently and took that argument away from us.

April 27, 2020, I got to do something I have never done. Pastor Jeff McCartney of Reeds Chapel Baptist Church in West Point, Georgia had scheduled revival. He scheduled a different preacher each night. He called me after Mr. Coronavirus hit. He said, "I've been thinking about it. Instead of canceling revival, what do you think about doing a 'Virtual Revival?'" I said, "Sure! Let's do it!" So, along with his sound guy and three members of his Praise Team, we met in their otherwise empty church sanctuary for revival services. But hey! God showed up! We were broadcasting on Facebook Live. Ordinarily, I may have preached to fifty people that night. But the last time I looked, that sermon had been viewed over 1,000 times! And Danny Geter, who preached Monday night, has more views than me. (But he had a 24-hour head start! Lol!) So, while I

realize that Jesus left the ninety-nine sheep to rescue the one, and that He indeed taught us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, the fact remains, if you give me the choice of preaching to fifty people, or over a thousand, I promise you I'm going to write a thousand on the Blank Sheet ... every time!

I have heard person after person expressing how ready they are for their church to, "get back to normal." I am not! I am kind of excited about these new things we are experiencing. And in fact, I encourage every pastor, church leader, and church member to insist that the things that have been unproductive in the church for years, that are dead, stinking, and cannot be justified, be buried! Do not allow them to soil this fresh, new, blank sheet of paper God has given us called, "The Church!" Most likely, we will never have this opportunity again. God help us not to squander it!

*Brother Aaron*

*We encourage you to "like" us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/troubaptist](http://www.facebook.com/troubaptist)*

# News

**Association** - For the latest corona virus updates regarding Troup Baptist Association churches, please visit our website [troubaptist.org](http://troubaptist.org) and click on "Virus Resources & Ministry Opportunities" and "Resources for Church Re-Openings."

- Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough and Administrative Assistant Angela Maddux have been in the office attending to necessary business of the association. Although the Prayer Team is not meeting, you may still submit a prayer request by phone (706-884-1975) or via our website. ([troubaptist.org/prayer-request](http://troubaptist.org/prayer-request))

- The Pastor's Monday Morning Prayer Fellowship has been meeting via Zoom video conference. If you (pastors) would like to join and need the conference information, please call the association office. (706-884-1975)

- Faith Bible Institute class has transitioned to online classes. Registration is open now for fall semester. Visit our website ([troubaptist.org](http://troubaptist.org)) and look for Faith Bible Institute tab.

- No decision has been made yet regarding Children's Camp Rockridge (June 22-25). Once a decision has been made, it will be announced on our website (Tab: Camp Rockridge 2020), Troup Baptist Association Facebook page, and by email.

**Association** - Several volunteers made and donated over 150 masks to the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes. Special thanks to volunteers Alex Pasley, Stephanie Walker, Linda Dukes, Virginia Nelson, Lindsey Morris, Angela Maddux and Patrick Crews. An additional 70 masks were made and sent to the Georgia Baptist Children's Home in Meansville, GA. Those were made and donated by Robin Cheyne and Angela Maddux.

**Association** - Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough preached one night of Reeds Chapel's "Virtual Revival" on April 27. If you missed it, you can still view it on Facebook. Search for Reeds Chapel Baptist Church or use this link, <https://www.facebook.com/rcbcrbc/videos/229749315016844/>

**Association** - Administrative Professionals Day was celebrated on Wednesday, April 22 at the Troup Baptist Association office. Mrs. Marianne McCollough was gracious and willing to pick up and deliver to the office a great meal from Longhorn Steakhouse. It was very much appreciated. Those enjoying the meal were Bro. Aaron and Mrs. Marianne, Jane Gottshall and Angela Maddux. All were in agreement that Bro. Aaron needs multiple assistants, so we all celebrated and social distanced!



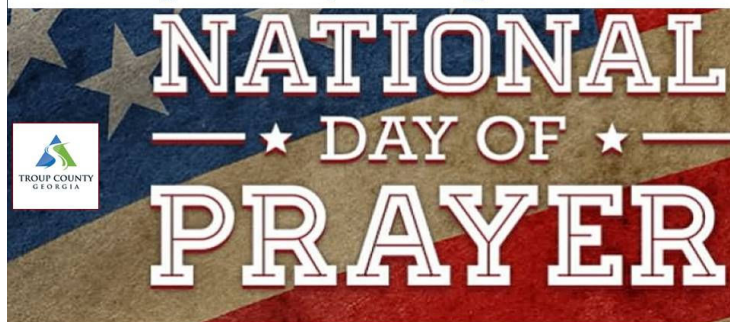
## Troup Baptist Association

### 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.

Due to meeting restrictions, only one sheet was published with no photos. The online version will include photos that were submitted.

## Troup County Georgia Virtual



Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. via Facebook

## Faith Bible Institute

Troup Baptist Association—Satellite Campus

Fall Semester Enrollment through July 1

Tuition & Fees:

Returning Students: \$97 / Spouse \$61

New Student \$139

Late Enrollment July 2 through August 18 (Late fee of \$28)

For more info: [www.troubaptist.org](http://www.troubaptist.org) or call 706-884-1975

## Association - Church Prayer List

**For May 2020, please pray for following churches:**

Week of May 3, 2020 - Hilyer Baptist Church

Week of May 10, 2020 - Lakeview Baptist Church

Week of May 17, 2020 - Long Cane Baptist Church

Week of May 24, 2020 - Mountville Baptist Church

Week of May 31, 2020 - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

**For June 2020, please pray for following churches:**

Week of June 7, 2020 - New Heaven Korean Baptist Church

Week of June 14, 2020 - New Hope Baptist Church (LaGrange)

Week of June 21, 2020 - New Hope Baptist Church (Greenville)

Week of June 28, 2020 - New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church

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



# News (continued)

**Grace** - Picture below of Grace members that helped distribute 500 drive-thru boxes of food from Feeding the Valley sponsored by and located at New Community Church. Grace would like to give a special thank you to Adri Jooste who has sewn masks and distributed them to our members for free. Adri is visiting her son Desmond Frick from Worcester, South Africa. Friends of Desmond's from Sweden and Philadelphia gave money to make the masks and Ms. Betty Cook donated some of the fabric. • All activities are canceled until further notice. Services will be streamed live on our Facebook page (Grace Baptist Church LaGrange) on Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. and on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

• Reformer's Unanimous will stream live on Friday nights at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook (ReformersUnanimousCh1087) Jimmy Pruitt also does a RU Sunday School service on his Facebook page at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. • Please check our Webpage for updates <http://www.gbclagrange.com/> Links to our Facebook pages are available on our webpage or search Grace Baptist Church LaGrange Georgia. Some sermons can also be viewed on our webpage.



At Left: Grace members helped with Feeding the Valley food distribution of 500 boxes of food at New Community Church.

**Highland** - held Sunday Services by conference call and Facebook Live. They also held Prayer Meeting and Bible Study by conference call. In addition, Pastor Terry did a weekly Facebook Live message called "Wednesday's Word". "We look forward to a time when we can gather in the church again, but we are also reaching a lot of people thru social media, some who may not otherwise hear the Word." Also, Pastor Terry posted online a crossword puzzle and word search puzzle based on scriptures to provide a fun and different way of studying the scriptures. • During May, they will continue to hold services on Facebook and conference calls. They hope to start meeting at church in June. "We are all ready to get back to church, but we also need to follow safety guidelines so no one is put at risk."

**Lakeview** - Drive-in church services were held on Easter Sunday and on April 26 and were well-attended. Drive-in services, weather permitting, will continue from 11:30 am until 12 noon on Sundays and will begin on Wednesday evenings starting at 6 pm. Wednesday night studies will be from the book of Revelation. "We are thankful for Pastor Lamar Truitt, who not only does the preaching and teaching, but also provides the music for our drive-in services." • Lakeview members participated in the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

**Mountville (MBC)** - continues to stream their services via Facebook Live every Sunday! Sunday School is at 10am and Morning Worship at 11am. Please LIKE us on Facebook and join us! • Preacher Dwayne and Mrs. Danna, along with the Deacons and their wives/children, have had a Prayer Parade / Drive By for their members. It is so good to see sweet faces, even if from a distance! "We miss everyone so much!"

• Team Kid workers also surprised the pre-schoolers with an egg hunt at their homes! They were EGGED! Just a sweet reminder about Easter and the Resurrection; Some of the eggs were empty and so was the TOMB! • Mountville was honored to provide lunch for the staff at the Urgent Care Clinic on West Point Road and the staff at Florence Hand Home on Friday, April 24. "We are so thankful for all of our healthcare workers that are putting their lives on the line for us everyday! We continue to pray for them and their families!"

• The Yard Sale scheduled for May 2 was cancelled. Plans are to re-schedule later in the summer.

• Mountville continues to pray for everyone affected by this pandemic. May the love of Jesus surround us all and may we never forget how truly blessed we are. "Love and prayer to everyone!"



Some of Mountville's Children who were "Egged".

**Unity** - Church services are being posted on Facebook Live and on YouTube. Children's Awana lessons are on Facebook Live on Wednesday evening at 5pm. Some of Unity children dressed up like their heroes. Unity is mailing their children a Sunday School lesson each week. Guest speaker, Meagan Brannan, from Midway Church in Villa Rica, recorded reading the Easter Story and this was shown on Facebook. Since they couldn't have the egg hunt, each child received a bag with candy filled eggs delivered to their home. In May, crafts will be delivered to the children so that they can make something for their mothers.

## MAY CALENDAR

- 4 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:20 am on Zoom
- 7 National Day of Prayer 12:00 pm on Facebook  
Search for @troupcountynationaldayofprayer on Facebook
- 11 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:20 am on Zoom
- 18 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:20 am on Zoom
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday GBMB & TBA offices closed  
GBMB refers to Georgia Baptist Mission Board  
TBA refers to Troup Baptist Association office
- Faith Bible Institute Spring Semester  
will conclude with online classes and finals.
- Association Prayer Group is not currently meeting but accepting  
prayer requests by phone (706)884-1975 or [www.troubaptist.org](http://www.troubaptist.org)

## *Happy Birthday May*

- 4 Rev. Jimmy McMillian, Baptist Tabernacle
- 7 Rev. Chuck Anderson
- 16 Rev. Dwayne Perdue, Mountville
- 18 Rev. Terry Prestridge, Mt. Pleasant
- 21 Mrs. Marianne McCollough,  
First Lady of Troup Baptist Association
- 24 Rev. Anthony Hovey, Shoal Creek
- 25 Rev. Cleve Moore, Hilyer
- 26 Rev. Randy Gilbert, Long Cane



## Happy Mother's Day



**My three-year-old daughter stuck out her hand and said, "Look at the fly I killed, Mommy." Since she was eating a juicy pickle at the time, I thrust her contaminated hands under the faucet and washed them with antibacterial soap. After sitting her down to finish her pickle, I asked, with a touch of awe, "How did you kill that fly all by yourself?" Between bites, she said, "I hit it with my pickle."**

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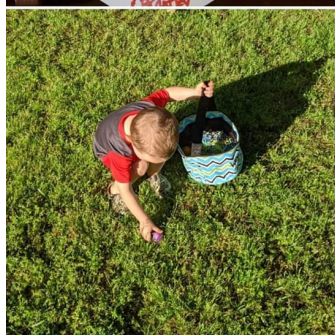
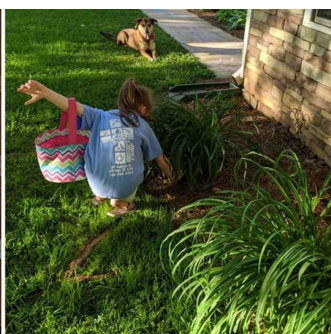
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# Photos

Photos below are from **Mountville's** Pre-school Egg Hunt. Eggs were hidden at each child's home by the Team Kid workers. Some eggs were purposely left empty to represent the empty tomb. (This was not a group egg hunt)



## Troup Baptist Association Activities



Administrative Professionals Day



Above: These masks were donated and sent to the Georgia Baptist Children's Home in early April. A total of 150 masks were sent at this time.



Above L-R: Robin Cheyne (Hillcrest Baptist) and Angela Maddux (Troup Baptist Association) with 85 masks that were shipped April 28 to the Georgia Baptist Children's Home in Meansville, GA. Masks were made and donated by Robin and Angela.