

Troup Baptist Association

The Autopilot

In many modern aircraft there is a feature called the, "Autopilot." And it does exactly what its name implies; it automatically flies the plane. Usually the autopilot is engaged after takeoff when the plane has reached its minimum engagement altitude. Then it remains engaged until just before landing. This device is most helpful to pilots during long flights, or for help during the ascent and descent stages of the flight. And in theory, once the autopilot is engaged, it will continue to maintain the designated altitude, course, and speed until the plane either crashes into something, (like a mountain) or simply runs out of fuel.

Like most anything, the autopilot can either be a useful tool, or a destructive tool. It is useful if the pilot is controlling the autopilot. However, it becomes destructive when the pilot allows the autopilot to function without his oversight.

I am a Baby Boomer. This means I was born during the post-WWII baby

boom. (1946-1964.)

During this time following WWII, Americans were struggling to restore some sense of normalcy to their lives. For soldiers returning from foreign battlefields, this normalcy meant a home, a wife, a family, a career, and a sense of community. Churches of that era became a vital part of the "community" these returning soldiers were seeking to build. They wanted a place where they and their families could congregate, fellowship, and be taught about God, morality, decency, and all the good things that were 180-degrees opposite of the literal hell they had just experienced in the war. As a result, churches of all sizes and denominational stripes sprang up everywhere. Healthy vibrant churches became the norm. And it was a good time for Christianity and the church in America.

My entire childhood was lived under the premise that the church, and the values it stands for and teaches, were important. And hey, we attended every service – no questions asked!

However, somewhere along the way something

tragic happened. While occupying its place of importance and acceptance in the communities of Mainstream America, somebody engaged the autopilot. And year after year churches just kept on doing what they had been doing. Strange thing about being on a plane when the autopilot is engaged - all it can do is maintain the programmed coordinates. Nobody gets on; nobody gets off, and nothing changes - that is - until the plane either crashes into a mountain or runs out of fuel.

Early in 2020 an event occurred that forced churches in America to disengage the autopilot. That event was: Coronavirus. Pilots, i.e., pastors, deacons, church leaders, and lay members as well, were forced to take control and somehow navigate their churches through the most turbulent times imaginable. They had to make decisions and take steps they were ill-prepared to make and do. But failure to do so meant certain destruction. And thankfully, by God's grace and anointing upon them to do so, so far, they have navigated their churches safely. Praise God!

Granted, most churches do not resemble what they did pre-Coronavirus. (We found out we can do without some things – and that we can do some things differently!) Yes, leaders are still struggling to regain control, speed, course, and cruising altitude. And while I do not pretend to know exactly how all of this will play out, I can relate to the 2nd verse of the old Hinson's song entitled, "He Can." It states, "What can cause an old man that's about to say good bye, to lift up both of those dying hands with a tear running from His eye, with his loved ones gathered all around him, he can smile and say don't fear, **for the One that's brought me through the storm will lead me on from here!**" (Ain't that good?)

And hey, once He brings us through – let us resolve to never again engage the autopilot in our churches - or for that matter, our personal walk with Jesus!

Brother Aaron

News

Association - During September, Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough filled the pulpit for several churches, created new videos, held Administration Team meetings and traveled to the mountains for a much needed vacation. • The new videos are part of the series “Faith, Fun and a Touch of Foolishness” with Dr. Paul Baxter. Video #13 answers the question, “Do people in heaven know what is happening on earth?” Part B of the same video covers the “ABC’s of Biblical Christian Voting.” Video #14 of this same series continues the topic of the “ABC’s of Biblical Christian Voting.” You may view these videos by visiting the Troup Baptist Association website: www.troubaptist.org/videos/.

• There have been a number of Administration Team meetings as we prepare for the beginning of a new fiscal year. It has also been a time of making difficult decisions with regard to when and how to re-open your association office for outside groups and larger meetings. For now, the team has determined that it is best to keep the building closed through Dec. 31, with the exception of the Annual Meeting, which is required by law. This meeting will be held on Monday, October 19 at the Troup Baptist Association location. In order to accommodate safely those who would like to attend, the meeting will be a “hybrid” with some attending in-person and others by Zoom video conference. Because of limited seating for the in-person meeting, we will need to take reservations. Emails explaining the details will be forthcoming. Each member church of the Troup Baptist Association is granted a number of duly elected messengers based on their church membership as follows:

<u>Membership:</u>	<u>Messengers</u> (including Pastor)
1-149	5
150-199	6
200-249	7
250-299	8
300-349	9
350 & up	10

The Annual Book of Reports will be available for viewing or downloading from our website: www.troubaptist.org. To request a printed copy, please call 706-884-1975.

Association - The Faith Bible Institute / Troup Baptist Campus celebrated two graduates following the Spring Semester. Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Almand were presented with their Faith Bible Institute diplomas at a retirement celebration in their honor on Saturday, September 26. Due to meeting restrictions at the Troup Baptist Association, no graduation ceremony was held. Faith Bible Institute Director, Jane Gottshall, presented the diplomas to the Almands at their retirement party which was held at the home of their granddaughter in West Point, Georgia.

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 October 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of October 4, 2020 - Western Heights Baptist Church
 Week of October 11, 2020 - Anointed By Faith
 Week of October 18, 2020 - Antioch - Hogansville
 Week of October 25, 2020 - Antioch - LaGrange

For November 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of November 1, 2020 - At The Cross
 Week of November 8, 2020 - Baptist Tabernacle Church
 Week of November 15, 2020 - Bethel Baptist Church
 Week of November 22, 2020 - Bethlehem Baptist Church
 Week of November 29, 2020 - Callaway Baptist Church

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

Attention: Church Clerks

Please complete your Annual Church Reports online or on paper by October 7.

If you did not receive your forms or if you have questions, please call Angela at 706-884-1975



Circles of Troup continues to meet weekly on Zoom, working alongside families who are moving toward financial stability. We need volunteers who are willing to develop a friendship with a family to encourage them and support them as they work toward their goals. If you are interested, our current training is virtual and has no commitment attached!

Contact Holly Roberts for more information at hroberts@troupc.org or at 770.380.5021

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Food Closet served 477 individuals giving away 269 boxes of food along with vegetables, bread, meat, fruit, and pastries. Their shut-ins were given 406 meals. Partnering with Clearview Elementary, a total of 120 backpacks were given to children for week-end food. Our Food Closet and Clothes Closet are open every Thursday from 9am until 11am. BTC is blessed to have volunteers who come out every week to make these ministries possible. "God is good." • BT Prayer Warriors continue to meet on the Square in LaGrange at 10am on Tuesdays. "Come and join us. Social distancing is practiced." • BTC will observe Homecoming on Sunday, October 4 at 10:50 am. The church building is sanitized at least 5 days a week, masks are required and social distancing is practiced. • Pastor Appreciation Day is Sunday, October 11. Please remember to thank your pastor and his wife and pray for them. • Please remember to vote on November 3. "Let your voice be heard." "May God bless each one of you."

First Baptist on the Square - added two new members to their Next Gen Team. Jake Murphy will serve as the High School Minister, and Chris Daniel will serve as Middle School Director. They will be working with Cody Turner, the Next Gen Pastor. Jake Murphy, earned a Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies and Preaching Ministry from Point University, completing three church internships throughout the degree. Currently, he attends Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary online, pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. He and his wife Paige have served in the Next Gen ministry as volunteers for almost two years, and Jake has also previously served two years as Youth Minister at Grace Baptist Church. Jake and Paige have two children, Mattison and Judah. Chris Daniel joins the team as Middle School Director. Chris has served as Youth Pastor at Clearview Chapel for six years, with DNow, and on mission trips to Haiti with Clearview as well as First Baptist on the Square. He is a teacher at Greenville Middle School and previously taught elementary ages in Troup County School System. Chris is married to Angel, and they have a son, Mason. (photos available in online version)

Flat Shoals Salem Road - On Sunday, September 6, Rev. Randy Warren had the privilege of baptizing his three grandsons in Pole Cat Creek behind his house. Those baptized were Thompson Warren, son of Spencer and Ann Warren, and Jacob and James Warren, sons of Bryon and Rebekah Warren. All three are grandsons of Rev. Randy and Carolyn Warren of Flat Shoals Salem Road Baptist Church. This creek location holds special meaning for the Warren family as several of their family members have been baptized there over the years. Brother Randy says that baptizing his three grandsons has been the pinnacle of his experience as a pastor. (photos available in online version)

New Macedonia - will hold a Drive-thru honoring Pastor Derek Williams and First Lady Stephanie Williams on Sunday, October 4 at 12 noon in recognition of their second pastoral anniversary at New Macedonia.

Grace - enjoyed ice cream after church to say farewell to Adri Jooste. She came to visit her son Desmond Frick in March and is leaving to go back home to Africa. Mrs. Jooste made and donated masks while here. • The Ladies of Grace had a good turn out for their first meeting back. • Reformer's Unanimous will start back in person on Friday, October 16 at 7:00 pm. You may join Grace for Sunday School at 10:00 am, morning worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 am and Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. Grace follows the CDC guidelines for meeting. • All services and Reformer's Unanimous (Fridays at 7pm) are streamed live on Facebook and available on YouTube. Please check the website www.gbclagrang.com for updates and links to Facebook and YouTube pages. (photos in online version)

Highland - The WMU has begun to collect the pocketbooks filled with ladies items such as hair brushes, etc., which were donated by ladies of the church. These pocketbooks will be delivered to Harmony House in LaGrange. • Highland is holding Sunday morning services in the Church Sanctuary and will also continue with the Sunday morning teleconference and Facebook Live. Wednesday night Prayer and Bible Study will be by teleconference at 6:00 pm for the present time.

Lakeview - Sunday services at 10:00 am and Wed. services at 7:00 pm will resume in the sanctuary on October 4. The speaker will be on the front porch for those who want to listen from their cars. People may also listen from their car radios. • Homecoming will be Sunday, October 11 at 10:00am. The fellowship hall, stove and refrigerator (no ice) will not be available. Those attending should bring a picnic lunch for their family that doesn't require heating nor cooling. We will social distance on the shady side of the church. Pastor Lamar Truitt will bring the message. • Sunday sermons are posted on Lakeview's Facebook page. • The WMU met at Sally Pike's home on Sept. 19 for an end-of-summer get together by the pool. Sally presented an interesting devotion about Jewish traditions and served Challah bread and apples with honey to go along with the theme.



It's Time for Operation Christmas Child!

Get your shoeboxes ready, go shopping, write a note and include a photo, stuff those boxes with goodies, put a big rubber band around it, and turn in to your church or nearby drop-off center.

Local Drop-Off Location: First Baptist on the Square
New Life Center November 16-23

Annual Meeting

of the Troup Baptist Association
Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:00 PM

In-Person or Online attendance options
Annual Book of Reports will be available on
www.troubaptist.org one week prior to meeting.
To request printed copies call 706-884-1975

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 5 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 11 Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- 12 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 19 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 19 TBA Annual Meeting, 6:00 pm In Person & Zoom
- 26 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 29 Church Financial Workshops, 10:30 am & 6:30 pm Tony Neal

TBA refers to Troup Baptist Association

Association Prayer Group is not currently meeting but accepting prayer requests by phone (706)884-1975 or www.troubaptist.org
Faith Bible Institute Fall Semester is underway with online classes.



Happy Birthday **October**



- 2 Rev. S. T. Janney
- 8 Rev. Kevin Stringham, Fountain
- 14 Rev. Anthony Criswell, First Baptist on the Square
- 17 Dr. Mike Brandenburg
- 20 Rev. Kenneth Cole, Dunson
- 26 Rev. Marion Hammond
- 31 Rev. Clifford Anderson



October is Pastor Appreciation Month



On The Lighter Side:

Little Ben came into the house with a new harmonica. 'Grandpa, do you mind if I play this in here?' 'Of course not, Ben. I love music. In fact, when your Grandma and I were young, music saved my life.' 'What happened?' 'Well, it was during the famous Johnstown flood. The dam broke, and when the water hit our house, it knocked it right off the foundation. Grandma got on the dining room table and floated out safely.' 'How about you?' 'Me? I accompanied her on the piano!'

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USPS341-040

Periodicals Postage Paid LaGrange, Georgia 30241

Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Messenger, P.O. Box 550 LaGrange, Georgia 30241

Photos



Above: Chris & Angel Daniel,
and their son, Mason
Next Gen Middle School Director



Above: Jake & Paige Murphy,
and their children, Mattison & Judah
Next Gen High School Minister

First Baptist Church on the Square has added two new members to their Next Gen Team. Jake Murphy will serve as the High School Minister, and Chris Daniel will serve as Middle School Director. They will be working with Cody Turner, the Next Gen Pastor.

- Jake Murphy, the High School Minister, earned a Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies and Preaching Ministry from Point University, completing three church internships throughout the degree. Currently, he attends Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary online, pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. He and his wife Paige have served in the Next Gen ministry as volunteers for almost two years, and Jake has also previously served two years as Youth Minister at Grace Baptist Church. Jake and Paige have two children, Mattison and Judah.
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Photos

Flat Shoals Salem Road Baptist Church

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James Warren



James Warren,
Grandson of Rev. Randy Warren (above)



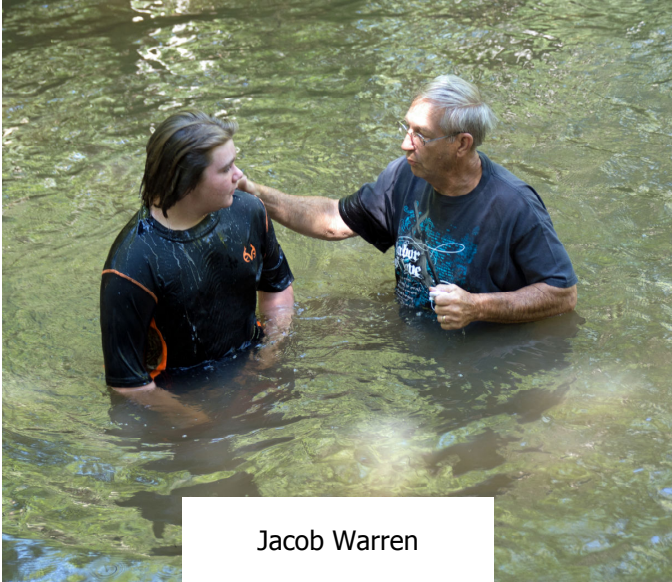
James Warren



Jacob Warren,
Grandson of Rev. Randy Warren

Photos

Flat Shoals Salem Road Baptist Church



Jacob Warren



Jacob Warren being baptized by his grandfather, Rev. Randy Warren



Thompson Warren

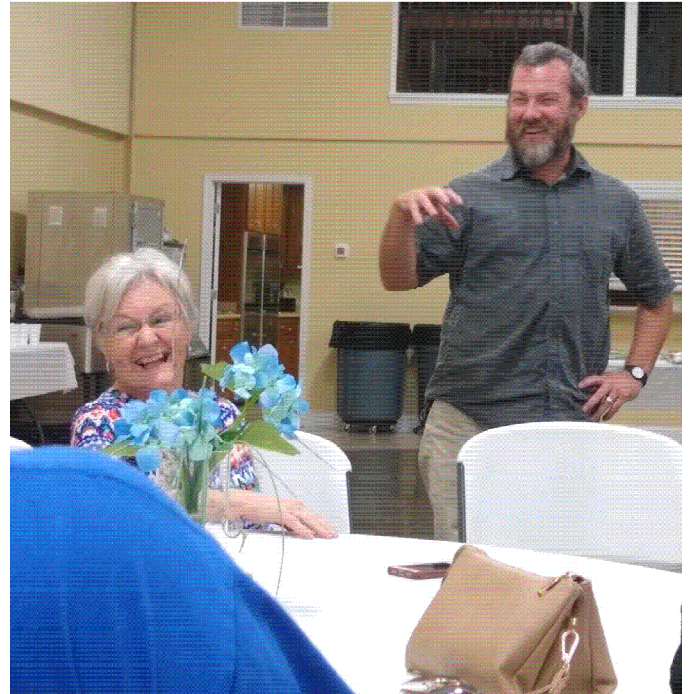


Thompson Warren being baptized by his grandfather, Rev. Randy Warren



Photos

Grace Baptist Church



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Camp Rockridge / Rockridge Baptist Assembly, Franklin GA



Camp Rockridge has new staff quarters! They are about 80% finished with the new building. Camp Director Jody Thrower is doing much of the work!

Photos

Camp Rockridge / Rockridge Baptist Assembly, Franklin GA



The wood for the window frames and sink is actually wood from Rockridge.

Pictured in one of the rooms is Marianne and Dan Dockery, Associational Missionary for the Carrollton Baptist Association.
(Below Left)

Also pictured are Camp Director Jody Thrower and his wife, Jennifer.
(Below Right)

