

Troup Baptist Association

A Year and Two Decades in Review

The year 2020 will soon be in the record books. And oh my, what a story some future historian will read! All of us have lived a lifetime of heartaches, hurts, confusion, bewilderment, loss, and frustration ... in just twelve short months. The Coronavirus/Covid-19 shut down America and the world ... including our churches. As never before, we have been forced to embrace new realities, adapt our methods, and make potentially life-altering decisions that we have been ill-equipped to make. Pastors have been forced to “Play Solomon,” and lead their congregations in areas where they have zero expertise or experience. And for those my age and older, you will understand when I say that the Maytag Repairman is no longer the loneliest man in the world. It is the pastor of the local church! And on a personal note, seemingly, Marianne and I have had more friends and loved ones die this year than all the other years put together! In short, in all aspects, Spiritual, personal, and civic, by and large, 2020 has been a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad year! The best thing about it is ... it is about to be over!

Since March of this year, for all intent and purposes, the association office has been closed to all outside visitors and ministries. Circles of Troup has not met in the facility, nor has Faith Bible Institute. For several months, the Monday Morning Pastors Prayer Fellowship did not meet at the facility, nor did we sponsor any onsite, in person, training events. Other than what we have done virtually and through our Video Training Ministry, we have basically been dead in the water. However, after consulting with the Association Administrative Team, we plan to start phasing-in the reopening of the facility for ministry. Right now, we are planning for Circles of Troup and Faith Bible Institute to be back in the building starting in January. I also plan to have Beth Dow, a Certified Dementia & Alzheimer’s Consultant, come to the building for personal consultation and group sessions for Caregivers of loved ones suffering with Dementia or Alzheimer’s. (Please call us at: 706.884.1975 for more information. Also, watch your email, Facebook, and the Association Web Site:

www.troubaptist.org for more details.) I also have plans for a Church Financial Workshop, along with others. However, all of this is in a state of flux and is dependent on Covid-19.

On another note, if God allows me to make it to December 31st, 2020, I will complete twenty years as your Associational Missionary. What a ride it has been! Do you all realize that this is two decades I am talking about? Wow! In my mind it was just a few months ago that the Associational Missionary Search Team approached me about taking this position. (To which I laughed in the Chairman’s face. But that is another story for another time!) Now, here I am twenty years later still trying to figure out what it is that I am supposed to be doing! But know this, I have had, and continue to have, the time of my life serving God as your Associational Missionary! I tell people that for twenty years I have not worked a single day. You see, it is not work when you thoroughly enjoy everything about what you are doing. I turned sixty-five on April 9th of this year. And I have had a few folks ask me if I have any plans concerning retirement. I tell them that

if there is breath in my body, and I can do so, I will never retire from preaching. It is in my bones; I must preach! And y’all know that I would rather preach that eat when I am hungry – and I am a fat man! As to the association, most likely I will retire one day. And when that day comes, I envision God placing me as the pastor of a little church somewhere, with a flock we can love on, and Marianne and I will pastor off into the sunset. However, today is not that day. I am still having way too much fun doing what I do. And more importantly than that, I still feel called to this ministry!

In these past two decades I have had the privilege of meeting, loving, and working with the finest people God created. I look forward to meeting, loving, and serving with more! It is funny, 2020 has been a year I would just as soon forget. But the last two decades have defined my life. I will never forget them! And I will be eternally gratefully for the privilege of serving you!

So, onward into 2021!

Brother Aaron

We encourage you to “like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/troubaptist

News

Association - There are several new videos available on the website, www.troubaptist.org / instructional videos. As a part of the ongoing video series, "What's Your Story?", Evangelist Tom Owensby and Rev. Terry Rainwater shared their stories of salvation and their calls to ministry. Also, there is a new training series entitled, "What is a Deacon Anyway?" This is a two-part series taught primarily by Rev. Terry Rainwater of Highland Baptist Church and assisted by Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough.

The Merry Makers were entertained during their November meeting by Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough. He presented his new comedy routine entitled "Help!; I'm a Recovering Baby Boomer.", which included lots of humor related to being raised and disciplined by parents who took the task seriously.

During the month of November, Brother Aaron preached at First Baptist Hogansville and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Franklin, Ga.

The association office will be closed for Christmas and New Years from December 23 through January 3 and will re-open on January 4. Plans are being made now to start back with "in-house" meetings in January to include Faith Bible Institute and Circles of Troup along with some other training sessions that are in the works.

Association - Faith Bible Institute Director Jane Gottshall presented Rev. Kenneth Whitlock his Advanced Diploma in Biblical Studies on December 3 at New Hope Baptist Church in Greenville, Ga. Rev. Whitlock is the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church. (Photo below)



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 December 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of December 6, 2020 - Concord Baptist Church
Week of December 13, 2020 - Confidence Missionary B. C.
Week of December 20, 2020 - Creekside Baptist Church
Week of December 27, 2020 - Davidson Baptist Church

For January 2021, please pray for following churches:

Week of January 3, 2021 - Dunson Baptist Church
Week of January 10, 2021 - East LaGrange Baptist Church
Week of January 17, 2021 - East Vernon Baptist Church
Week of January 24, 2021 - Eastside Baptist Church
Week of January 31, 2021 - First Baptist Church, Hogansville

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

Operation Christmas Child Drop-Off Center Update:

Many thanks to the individuals, groups and churches who brought their 3,050 filled shoeboxes to the LaGrange Center.

Have a blessed Christmas knowing 3,050 children will have the opportunity to hear of Jesus' love for them and to choose Him as Savior because you were obedient to His call.



Faith Bible Institute

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

- New Student: \$139
- Returning Student: \$97
- FBI Graduate: \$61
- 2nd Family Member; \$61

Spring Semester Online Enrollment through Nov. 15

(late fee of \$28 applies Nov 16 - Jan 19)

Classes begin January 19, 2021

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

News (continued)

First Baptist Hogansville (FBH) - At the invitation of Pastor Benny Tate, a group of about 20 people attended Rock Springs Church in Milner, GA on November 15 to join their Praise and Worship Service. It was a celebration of the release of their album "Sundays at Rock Springs Vol. 2". Those attending thoroughly enjoyed the evening. • On November 16 the Secret Sister Reveal Party was held at The Depot on Main Street in Hogansville. The purpose of this ministry is to encourage each other with prayer and small remembrances throughout the year. Each participant draws the name of one individual which is kept secret all year. The participants are blessing a specific individual, especially with prayer, as they too are being blessed by someone. Discovering your secret sister at the end of the year is a lot of fun, but keeping it a secret for a year is a challenge! • Pastor Greg and Mrs. Amy celebrated their wedding anniversary on November 16, and we wish them many happy returns of this special day. While they were away, Bro. Aaron McCollough delivered the Sunday morning sermon. Bro. Aaron always brings a timely message in a humorous, practical manner. He was accompanied by his wife Marianne and other family members. We are always pleased to have them worship with us. • During November, FBH welcomed new members Jessyka and Randy Brady by baptism and Heather Gresham by transfer of her church letter. FBH is honored they choose to worship with our congregation.



First Baptist Hogansville - Secret Sister Reveal Party

Grace - The Senior Group took a trip to Auburn for a seafood buffet. (photo below) • Christmas Dinner will be after morning service on Sunday, December 20. All are invited; bring a dish. Grace Service Schedule: Sunday School at 10:00 a.m., morning worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 a.m. and Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. Grace follows the CDC guidelines. All services will be streamed live on their Facebook page and available on their YouTube page. Reformer's Unanimous meets every Friday night at 7:00 p.m. and streams live on Facebook at 8:30 p.m. and available on their YouTube page. Please check the Webpage <http://www.gbclagrange.com/> for updates and links to Facebook and YouTube or search Grace Baptist Church LaGrange Georgia and RU Recovery Ch. 1078.



Highland - held their annual Hanging of the Green service on November 29. They decorated the sanctuary for Christmas while singing Christmas carols celebrating the birth of Jesus. This is such a sweet service and one that Highland looks forward to each year! Plans are being made for a Christmas Eve Service.

Lakeview - On December 6, Sunday School will resume at 10:00 am with social distancing precautions in place. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available. Sunday morning worship will begin at 11:00 am, also with Covid precautions in place. Nursery will be available if needed. Wednesday evening services will continue to meet at 6:00 pm. • Lakeview enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving luncheon on November 22; many thanks to Church Hostess Carol Truitt for all her work and planning for this enjoyable event.

Mountville - The Mountville Jr. Children's Church was busy during November. The children learned a lot about blessings and that Jesus loves them! (photos) • Mountville celebrated their first graduating class of Faith Bible Institute on Sunday, November 29! Graduates are: Glynis Perdue, Gena Lockhart, Tony Whisnant, Caleb & Kathy Whisnant, Shannon Shelton, Cody & Mikki Jo Binger. Mountville became a Faith Bible Institute campus in 2017. • MBC has some good used sound equipment available at a good price to anyone who may be interested. The equipment is in good condition and is as follows: Mixer-24 Yamaha, Amps-Peavy 1500(2), and Equalizer-215b. Please contact Carrie Gatens @ 706-594-4513 if interested. • MBC will have "Sunday School with Santa" on Sunday, December 20 at 10:00 am. Santa will share the Christmas Story with the kids and everyone will enjoy Christmas cookies!



Mountville Children's Church

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.
And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.
He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Luke 1: 30-33

News (continued)

New Hope LaGrange - All groups are now meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm for worship. Pastor Don Ellison is leading the adults in the study of Ruth. • Sisters of Hope met on Monday, November 9 and packed 100 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. "Thank you to all who gave for this worthy project." • The Thanksgiving Dinner was a time of good food and fellowship. "We truly appreciate those who cooked and served the food as we observed the safe practices of Covid-19." • The Legacy Sunday School Class teacher, Tim Mills delivered Thanksgiving baskets to some home bound and nursing home members. "They were so happy to be remembered! Thank you to those who prepared the baskets of fruit, cakes and candy." • A soup lunch was sponsored by Sisters of Hope on Sunday, November 29 after the worship service. The pots of soup and all the trimmings were delicious. Donations will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Also on November 29 was "Youth Takeover Sunday". Chase Golden, Youth Minister, preached on "The Power of One: One Body, One Love, One God, One Decision." Emma Prestridge and Spenser Smith, members of the youth group, sang a duet.

• The youth Christmas party was held Saturday, December 5 in the Fellowship Hall. • Sisters of Hope met on, December 9 at the home of Patti Manion for their Christmas party.

• The Christmas Fellowship Dinner will be Wednesday, December 16 at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Building. This meal will be cooked and served by New Hope's faithful kitchen team. There will be gifts for the children in attendance.

• Sunday, December 20 at 11:00 am will be a service of Christmas music. Anyone who would like to sing, play an instrument, read a poem, etc., please notify Troy Karr as soon as possible. • There will be no Wednesday night service on December 23. • A Christmas tree will be in the foyer with gift tags for children the church has adopted for Christmas. Select a tag, purchase the gift and return it by December 20 with the tag attached. • Our prayers and condolences go to Grace Crowder in the loss of her mother to Covid-19 on November 23. • Please pray for the Pastor Search Team as the work toward finding a pastor for New Hope. Sunday morning services are available on Facebook. "Have a blessed Christmas season and a happy new year as you celebrate the birth of our Savior."

Unity - On November 4, Awanas had a Food Closet night and movie night on November 18. They watched the children's movie, "Star". • Current Mission Group (CMG) met on November 15 with a "Chili Drive-by Luncheon". They took donations for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. On Nov. 19, they assembled 24 fruit baskets for their shut-ins. CMG is sponsoring four foster children for Christmas. • The Food Closet was held on November 17 and several boxes were distributed to those in the community. • Wednesday morning Worship Service is held at 10:00 am. On Sundays, Sunday School begins at 9:00 am and Worship Service and Children's Church begin at 10:00 am. "Everyone is welcome!" • The Christmas Cantata will be December 13 at 10 am. The Food Closet will be December 15 at 8:30 am. Awanas will have Crazy Sock Night, Christmas Store Night and the Christmas party on December 16.



At Left: Pastor Eddie Striblin of Roper Heights Baptist Church in West Point, GA. The church celebrated Old Fashioned Day on November 14.



Photos on right, top to bottom:
New Hope Packing Shoeboxes, New Hope Youth Sunday,
Roper Heights - Old Fashioned Day
Unity Awanas Group

Photos & Announcements

PLEASE SUPPORT THE

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

for international missions

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 New Year's Day, TBA and GBMB offices closed
- 4 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 11 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 18 Martin Luther King Day
- 18 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 19 Faith Bible Institute Class #1 of Spring Semester, 6:30pm
- 25 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at 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



Mountville Children's Church

An Open Letter to Pastors & Churches

I once asked my mother, as a member of the greatest generation, if Americans knew about the shocking and shameful concentration camps and the torture and murder of millions of Jews going on during WWII. She told me sadly she was unaware. Communication was still in its dinosaur phase as compared to now, so it probably was not widely known during the war. Our generation has also been facing a holocaust of a different kind which is the murder of 61 million unborn babies since 1973—a class of humans, who like the Jews, were fearfully and wonderfully made. In the United States, there are more than 2,362 abortions performed daily and 98 abortions every hour. Do we have the “excuse” of the former generation that we are unaware of this ongoing atrocity? We all know too well what is going on in Planned Parenthood and abortion clinics worldwide. Our society embraces the right to snuff out the life of a preborn child in the name of convenience and unfortunately want us American taxpayers to pay for this atrocity. We at First Choice Women's Center have been battling the evil of abortion since 1987. So far this year 12 babies (and even more which we have not been able to document) have been saved from the claws of abortion. And 13 women have made a decision for Christ. We are grateful for God's sustaining hand on our ministry. But we do sometimes see ourselves as an unpopular, rather lonely ministry. Abortion makes people uncomfortable—“let's just look the other way...it IS legal you know!” We are grateful for the churches and individuals who have been bold to stand with us for the life of the preborn.

You may be wondering if your church is one that has taken the stand against this horrific practice by supporting First Choice Women's Center. Of over 125 churches in Troup County, we are disheartened to report to you that only 14 churches support us monthly. This is not meant to guilt or shame our brothers and sisters in Christ—it is meant to send out an SOS for the preborn in our community and allow more saints to have the privilege to join us in our ministry. God, would you wake up the sleeping churches in our community and help us fight the good fight?

How can you as pastors help First Choice?

- Support us monthly. You know how it feels to have a monthly budget to count on.
- Share our site for our one-hour virtual banquet with your congregation. Consider showing it on a Sunday or Wednesday night. <https://lagrangepregnancy.banquetstream.com>
- Preach on this topic - especially on January 17 – Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. We have an awesome 3-minute video of a client testimony and/or speakers to make a short presentation
- Pray for us

How can you as church members support First Choice?

- Watch our virtual banquet and share the site with your friends via text, email, or Facebook. <https://lagrangepregnancy.banquetstream.com>
- Be a church liaison for First Choice which means bringing news of our center to your church and helping our clients integrate into a new church home where they will find true Christian relationships.
- Become a client advocate volunteering in our center
- Include us in your family budget and support us monthly
- Pray for us

When we look at the dark times we Christians face in today's world, we must remember that all is not lost. God still governs the world. But let us be intentional of not consuming the culture but instead creating it. The actions above are a start.

When your children ask you, years from now, what you knew about the outrageous number of abortions performed in the United States, what will be your answer?

Pam Rogers
 Board Chair, First Choice Women's Center
 Contact at us at:
 First Choice Women's Center
 PO Box 2201
 LaGrange, GA 30241 706-884-3833
<http://www.lagrangepregnancy.com>



DECEMBER CALENDAR

7 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
 14 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
 21 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
 28 No Pastors' Prayer Fellowship
 Dec 23-Jan 3 GBMB & TBA office closed for Christmas
 & New Years Holidays

TBA refers to Troup Baptist Association
 GBMB refers to Georgia Baptist Mission Board

Association Prayer Group meets by conference call and accepts
 prayer requests by phone (706)884-1975 or www.troubaptist.org
 Faith Bible Institute Fall Semester is underway with online classes.

Happy Birthday December

1 Rev. Michael Stiggers, Eastside Baptist
 6 Rev. James (Jamie) Kelley, Glenn Baptist
 9 Rev. Doug Bingham, Unity Baptist
 20 Rev. Andy Buchanan, Franklin Road Baptist
 22 Rev. Bill Bryant
 31 Rev. Wesley Boatman

Merry Christmas!

My mother cast one of her students as the innkeeper for the Christmas pageant. All the third grader had to do was tell Joseph, "There is no room at the inn." But during the performance—after Joseph begged for a room for his pregnant wife—the boy didn't have the heart to turn him down. "Well," he said, "if it's so urgent, come on in."

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