

Troup Baptist Association

The Past Ten Weeks

It is Sunday afternoon, February 28, 2021, as I sit at my computer writing this column for the March 2021 edition of The Messenger. I am taking a point of personal privilege using this column to bring you up-to-speed regarding the events of the past ten weeks. Please indulge me.

Toward the end of December 2020, mine and Marianne's oldest daughter Heather, her husband Bernie, and their youngest daughter, Alyssa, were all diagnosed with COVID-19. While Alyssa was asymptomatic, Bernie was hospitalized, and COVID gifted Heather with an ongoing condition called P.O.T.S. December 20, 2020, Marianne and I received the horrific news that our precious twenty-three-year-old granddaughter, Abbie McCollough, had very unexpectedly died. The preliminary report indicates that she died from a blood clot caused by COVID-19. So, here we are, simultaneously dealing with two unimaginably hard and difficult situations. No sooner had I returned to work when my Administrative Assistant, Angela, her husband

Randall, and their daughter, Andrea, were all diagnosed with COVID-19 and were quarantined. Andrea was hospitalized and placed in the ICU on a ventilator. Tragically, she died. Shortly after this, our youngest daughter, Stephanie, her husband Jeff, and our grandson Jacob were all diagnosed with COVID-19. Following this, Marianne was diagnosed with COVID-19. And although I never had a symptom, she and I were quarantined for fourteen days. Following our quarantine, we returned to work. I then received my second COVID Vaccination. The next day the side effects of the shot hit me like a ton of bricks. Then, while dealing with those side effects, I somehow contracted a very severe Urinary Tract Infection. In all my sixty-five years of life I have never had one of those – and trust me, I never want another! I was down for the count!

As I sit here writing and looking back over the past ten weeks of our lives, I realize that, without question, Marianne and I have come through the most difficult time we have ever experienced. I made the statement at Abbie's funeral that

horrific situations in life will always do one of two things: They will push you toward your faith in God, or they will push you away. We chose to allow them to push us toward our faith in God. One of the most amazing things we experienced through all of this was the prayers of friends, family, and even strangers. I told people that in the past when somebody told me they were praying for me about a certain issue, I would glibly, and almost flippantly reply, "Oh yes, I can feel your prayers." Trust me, as long as I live, I will never be guilty of that again. Marianne and I both could literally, physically feel the prayers of those who were praying. It was as if a warm blanket was placed around us. It held us, led us, directed us, gave us understanding and comfort, and carried us when we could not walk. I have never experienced anything remotely like it. There was and is a peace that passes all understanding.

The truth is that life has a way of happening to everybody, regardless of who you are. Life took a shot at us. It hit the bullseye. It staggered us; it stunned us; it hurt us, and for a while it even

stopped us dead in our tracks. But we are still here; we are still standing; God is still good, and we are reengaging in the battle. But please, do not stop praying for us – and do not stop being kind to us when we do or say things that maybe just do not make sense. We are still trying to find our footing.

I had one person tell me, "We wanted to be with you more but were afraid we would say or do the wrong thing." I told him, "Aside from your prayers, the thing I need most from you is to just treat me like you would have before all this happened. Cause if you are ill at ease, it will make me ill at ease. If you say or do something wrong, I will understand. I will deal with it. And it will not be a problem. Just be yourself. That is what I need from you."

Whoever you are, for every act of kindness, for every prayer, for every tear, and for every warm embrace, please feel my heart as I say, "Thank you!" for all of us.

Brother Aaron

News

Association - Due to our Covid-19 quarantine time in January and February, the office was closed except by appointment only. Bro. Aaron and Angela are both back in the office maintaining regular office hours of 8:30 am until 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. If you visit the office, we suggest that you wear a mask and keep a safe distance. As always, if you have questions or need more information about upcoming events, you may call Angela at 706-884-1975 or email: angela@troubaptist.com.

Faith Bible Institute class is currently online with each student working independently to view the weekly video lessons online, do homework and take the end-of-semester tests online. We are hoping to bring this back in-house by Fall Semester which will begin on August 17. You may enroll on or before July 1 for Fall Semester to avoid late fees. For more information, you may call the Troup Baptist Association office at 706-884-1975 or you may call the class director, Jane Gottshall at 706-637-8424.

The Pastors' Prayer Fellowship is currently meeting in-person at the Troup Baptist Association office or by Zoom conference on Monday mornings at 11:00. This is open for any and all pastors including retired pastors. If you would like to get the email invitation to join by Zoom please call the office at 706-884-1975 or email Bro Aaron (aaron@troubaptist.com) and request the Zoom meeting information.

The Prayer Team continues to meet weekly at 11 am on Wednesdays. Instead of meeting in the office, they meet via conference call to pray for all of the requests. If you would like to submit a prayer request, you may call the office, send an email to angela@troubaptist.com or visit the website www.troubaptist.com (prayer request) to enter your request.

Re-Opening - In the coming months, we plan to gradually open the Troup Baptist Association office for meetings and events, while taking all necessary safety precautions.

Due to meeting restrictions,
only one sheet was printed with no photos.
The online version will include all photos submitted.

The WMU Spring Luncheon will be held at a later date this year due to Covid-19 concerns.

Remember to set your clocks forward 1 hour
on Saturday night, March 13.
Don't think of it as losing an hour of sleep;
Think of it as being one hour closer to breakfast
and Sunday worship time!

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.

SPRING EVENT

April 24, 2021

3 Ways to Attend: In-Person, In Your Home, At Your Church

Featured Speaker: Kristi McLelland
Jesus & Women in the First Century & Now

Questions? Call (770) 936-5320
georgiabaptistwomen.org/springevent

WinShape Camp 2021

at Lafayette Christian School

June 21-25 Cost \$219 per camper

Register at camps.winshape.org/day-camps/110

Camp Rockridge is ON for 2021!

(Covid-19 permitting)

Save the date: June 21-24

Online Registration will open March 29
www.troubaptist.org

Association - Church Prayer List

For March 2021, please pray for following churches:

Week of March 7, 2021 - Fountain Baptist Church, LaGrange
Week of March 14, 2021 - Fountain Baptist Church, Hogansville
Week of March 21, 2021 - Franklin Road Baptist Church
Week of March 28, 2021 - Glenn Baptist Church

For April 2021, please pray for following churches:

Week of April 4, 2021 - Grace Baptist Church
Week of April 11, 2021 - Gray Hill Baptist Church
Week of April 18, 2021 - Harvest Baptist Church
Week of April 25, 2021 - Highland Baptist Church

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

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - During February, the Food Closet served 590 individuals giving away 299 boxes of food and 276 meals and 120 backpacks. The Clothes Closet served 64 individuals and gave away 26 coats. • The Blood Drive will be March 1st from 2-7 pm in the JC McMillian Life Center of Baptist Tabernacle Church. Come give blood and save lives.

• Spring ahead on Saturday night, March 13 before going to bed. Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 14. Don't be late for Worship Service. Remember, God is always on time. • BTTC Student Ministry is meeting every Wednesday at 7 pm. • Please join our Prayer Warriors every Tuesday at 10 am on the square for prayer.

First Baptist Hogansville (FBH) - The Men's Ministry had breakfast at the church on Saturday morning, January 23, to plan their activities for the year. Among their projects is a men's choir, and they lost no time in singing "Victory in Jesus" at the morning service the next day. Everyone enjoyed their performance. Another immediate project was a Valentine's Day meal at Roger's Bar-B-Que in Hogansville on February 14. • A Fresh Start Revival was held February 7 - 9 with Dr. Benny Tate of Rock Springs Church bringing the messages on Sunday and Monday and Dr. Paul Baxter bringing the message on Tuesday. The Men's Choir also sang one night. The services were well attended. • Mrs. Debbie Dollar is leading a Women's Bible Study at the church on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm. All ladies are invited to attend.

Highland - held Facebook Live and conference calls for Sunday services in January and did not have in-church services due to high numbers of Covid-19 cases in Troup County. Sunday morning in-church services were resumed in February, along with continued Facebook Live and teleconference options. Discussions are in progress about the possibility of resuming Sunday School in March. • Pastor Terry Rainwater also serves as Chaplain of the Hogansville Police Department. On February 15 during City Council Meeting, Pastor Terry was honored with a Community Service Award from the City of Hogansville and Hogansville Police Department for outstanding service to our community. "Pastor Terry does so much for the people of our community and this award was well-deserved!"

Lakeview - Sunday School continues at 10 am with social distancing precautions in place. Masks and hand sanitizer are available. Sunday morning worship will be at 11 am, also with Covid precautions in place. Nursery will be available if needed. Wednesday evening services will continue to be at 6 pm. Bill Cobb was installed as a deacon on January 17; his wife Charlotte passed away on January 27. She was a faithful member of Lakeview and will be missed. WMU ladies met for a wonderful time of fellowship and food on February 6 with Carolyn as hostess. Thanks to the Men's Ministry for sponsoring an enjoyable church-wide Valentine's banquet on February 13.

Mountville (MBC) - was blessed to be able to sponsor seven families including nineteen kids and seven senior adults for Christmas! The children were provided with gifts from their wish list. Senior adults were given baskets full of household items! • The children of MBC enjoyed a visit from Santa on Sunday, December 20. Santa read the Christmas Story from the book of Luke and the children enjoyed Christmas cookies!

Mountville continued - Little Children's Church was super busy during December. They learned all about the greatest gift of all.....JESUS! • The congregation enjoyed a Soup and Cornbread Supper on Wednesday, February 10 in celebration of Valentine's Day. • Mountville MPact packed 20 blessing bags on Wednesday, February 17. These bags will be passed out in the community to those in need. "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh ; rather, serve one another humbly in love" Galatians 5:13 • The Wednesday night Team Kids group raised over \$50 for the Children's Lighthouse Homes Ministry. They collected quarters and packed envelopes.

New Hope LaGrange - is now having regular in-house services on Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings. We continue to miss members who are unable to attend because of the Covid-19 restrictions but so glad they are able to watch the service on Facebook at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. • Sisters of Hope met in February to plan ministry activities. They collected individually wrapped goodies for the staff of the ER and Covid floor of the hospital. Thank you to all who gave. It was truly appreciated by all of the workers. The next Sisters of Hope meeting will be Monday, March 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a finger food to share. • New Hope reached their goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. "Thank you to all who gave." • Mark your calendar for these upcoming events: Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Dinner on Wednesday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m.; Easter Sunday "Sunrise" Service on April 4 at 8:30 a.m. in the worship center, followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School classes at 10:00 a.m. and the regular morning Easter service at 11:00 a.m. Anyone who would like to have a part in the 11:00 a.m. service please let Troy know by March 28. • We have been blessed by Spenser Smith singing some of the older hymns in our worship service. It's very encouraging to see our youth use their talent for the glory of the Lord. • We are so sad to report the loss of a charter member of New Hope, Jackie Foster. Our condolences to her family and other families who lost loved ones also, Susan Hornsby and Keith Smith. • Remember our members in the nursing home at Easter, Cicily Keeble, Lou Sanders and Sally Price and also members who are confined at home. Please continue to pray for the Pastor Search Team. Don't forget to set your clock up one hour on Sunday, March 14.

Unity - Morning worship services are being held on Wednesday and Sunday at 10 am. • Awana started back on February 24. • The Food Closet was held on February 23 and the next one will be on March 23.

First Baptist Church on the Square in LaGrange has an opening for Building Superintendent.

Those interested should contact Tom Farr by email tom@fbclagrange.org for more information.

HIGHER HOPE 16th Anniversary Concert
with Special Guest - The Bowling Family
Saturday, April 17 at 6:00 PM EST
at Callaway Baptist Church
310 John Lovelace Rd, LaGrange, GA

MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 8 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins - Spring Forward One Hour
- 15 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 22 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 28 Palm Sunday
- 29 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom

TBA refers to Troup Baptist Association office
 Association Prayer Group meets by conference call Wed. at 11am
 Faith Bible Institute is doing online classes this semester

Happy Birthday March

- 6 Rev. Adam Camp, Rosemont
- 9 Rev. Benjie Dukes, Concord
- 11 Rev. Don Ellison, New Hope (Interim)
- 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!

A woman by the name of Gladys Dunne was visiting my church for the first time. After the service, as the congregation was exchanging greetings, she extended her hand to another congregant and said, "Hi, I'm Gladys Dunne."

The man replied, "I'm glad he's done, too!"

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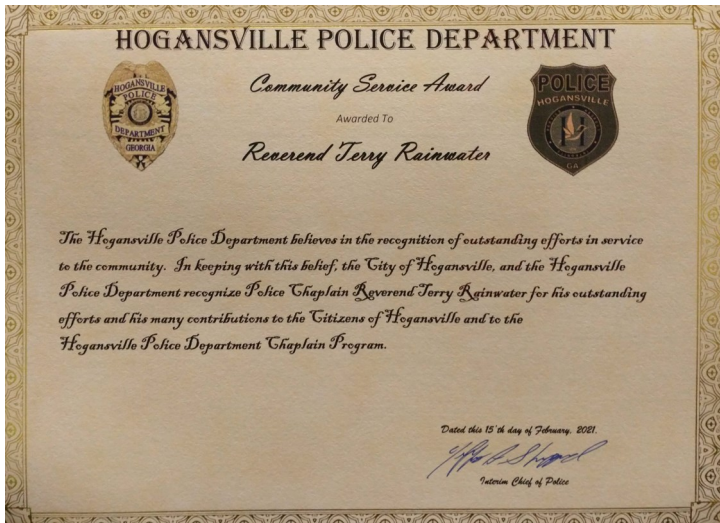
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Photos



Rev. Terry Rainwater, Pastor of Highland Baptist Church was awarded the Community Service Award for his outstanding service as Chaplain of the Hogansville Police Department.



First Baptist Hogansville's Pastor Greg Morris on left with Evangelist Benny Tate at their Fresh Start Revival last month.



Mountville Mpact group with their "Blessing Bags" for members of the community in need.



Mountville Little Children's Church learned about the greatest gift of all...JESUS!



Santa visited the children at Mountville Baptist Church on Dec. 20.



Mountville Wed. Night Team Kids raised over \$50 in quarters for the Children's Lighthouse Ministry. Photo at right.