

Troup Baptist Association

Philosophical Ponderings

In my older age, I find myself becoming somewhat more philosophical about life. In a more logical, calmer, deeper thinking sort of way, I am coming to the realization that life, as we know it, is just not that complicated. Is it confusing? Yes! Is it frustrating? Yes! Is it always fair? No! And even though it is not complicated - often, we are the ones who complicate it! As the cartoon character Pogo once said, "We have met the enemy and he is us!" Amen! I am my own worst enemy. I have died a thousand deaths from self-inflicted wounds! But even so, life as we know it, is just not that complicated.

I want to encourage you to think of life as a party. There are three great uncomplicated truths regarding the Party of Life. First, every one of us arrived late. You see, unless you were with God when He stepped out onto the middle of nothing and said, "Let there be..." and it was, then the party was already going when you made your arrival. (Even Adam & Eve were late comers!) Secondly, unless

Jesus comes before we die, all of us will leave the party before it is over. The Bible teaches that all of us must die. And finally, the party will continue without us. Now, that hurts my feelings! Why, I thought that when I die, God will surely tell the angels to strike the tent, break camp, and go home. After all, how could life possibly continue without me? Right? But He will say nothing of the sort to the angels, and the party will continue without me! So, hear a philosophical truth: Life is just not that complicated:

1. We arrive late.
2. We leave early.
3. It continues when we are gone.

I encourage you to think of life as an Interstate Highway. Every Interstate has a beginning and an end. However, seldom does anybody travel the entire length. There are ramps all along the way. Some are used to enter, and some are used to exit. To enter, we must merge with the existing traffic. We must travel at a minimum speed. We must maintain our lane. We must travel in the correct direction. And we must

not exceed the posted speed limit. And while, at any given moment-in-time, we may share the Interstate with thousands of fellow travelers - few share our destination. Think about it. We share a common road but not necessarily a common destination. Therefore, when we take our exit, many will keep right on going! So, I have come to another philosophical truth, that being, it is what we do "Between the Ramps" that defines life as we know it.

I am reading a book by Robert Fulghum entitled, "Uh-Oh!" I like that title because those words come out of my mouth a lot! In it, he tells of a time when he was purchasing some items from a grocery store. This was back in the day when cash was king and before everybody had credit cards. The cash register had one of those "bowl like" attachments made onto it, so when the clerk made your change, all of your quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies dropped into the cup. Fulghum said he noticed a handwritten note on the cup that said, "Here is your change. Be sure to take it with you." It was an ah-ha moment for him!

He thought, "This is the secret of life. It gives you change, but you must be sure to take it with you." As Fulghum took his change and began to walk toward the exit, fate handed him another life-lesson. As he looked at the automatic exit door, there was a big sign on it that read, "Exit door broken. The only way out is in." It was another ah-ha moment. As with Fulghum, sometimes, due to no fault of our own, we find ourselves facing situations in life that force us to adjust and to embrace the reality that our only way out - is in!

Again, life is just not that complicated. Life is a party to which we arrive late, leave early, and it continues after we leave. What we do "Between the Ramps" defines life as we know it. Life gives us change; we must take it with us. And sometimes we must adjust - as we face the reality that our only way out - is in!

Just some philosophical ponderings by Brother Aaron

Association News & Announcements

Association - Beth Dow, Certified Alzheimer's Educator and Geriatric Case Manager, will be offering a support group for those who are caring for a loved one with dementia. This will be held at the Troup Baptist Association office. The day and time of meetings will be decided by the group. If you are interested, please call the office at 706-884-1975. To watch a video interview with Beth Dow, visit Troup Baptist Association Facebook page (March 23) or www.troubaptist.com/videos and look for the Alzheimer's & Dementia button.

Association - Several new videos have been added to our library since last month. In the ongoing series, *Faith, Fun and a Touch of Foolishness* with Dr. Paul Baxter and Bro. Aaron, a two-part video titled, *When God is Silent* was added. Bro. Aaron also interviewed Christian Counselor, Kim Neese of Counseling Services of LaGrange. The title of that interview is *The Spiritual, Physical and Mental Effects of Covid-19*. This video can also be found on Troup Baptist Association Facebook page on March 18. The most recent video interview as detailed above was with Beth Dow, Certified Alzheimer's Educator. All of these videos and more can be found on the website, www.troubaptist.org/videos. If you have suggestions for future videos, please call 706-884-1975 or email Bro. Aaron aaron@troubaptist.com

Association - Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough preached at the following churches during the past month: Mt. Pleasant in Franklin, GA, Bethel East in Woodland, AL and Bethel in West Point, GA.

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. Following the fellowship on April 5, there will be a Pastors' Peer Learning Event with lunch included. This is open for any and all pastors. Please RSVP if you would like lunch by calling the office at 706-884-1975.

Association - The Spring Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 pm at the Troup Baptist Association. Each association church is entitled to the pastor plus two duly elected lay members as their representation on the Executive Committee. Pastors and church leaders: Please save this date and plan to become an active member of your Troup Baptist Association.

Sam Warner of the Georgia Baptist Foundation will provide a luncheon and presentation for pastors on Tuesday, May 4 from 12 until 2 pm at the Troup Baptist Association office. Please call the association office to register. 706-884-1975

The annual **National Day of Prayer** is being planned and will take place on Thursday, May 6. Save the Date!

Camp Rockridge is ON for 2021!

(Covid-19 permitting)

Save the date: June 21-24

Early Registration \$185

Online Registration will open soon
www.troubaptist.org

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.

Tony Neal, CPA and former State Missionary for Church Finances with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, will present a Church Finance Workshop on Thursday evening, May 20 at the Troup Baptist Association. This will be very informative and will cover tax laws & deductions as related to pastor's salary packages and all things related to church finance.

Faith Bible Institute - Fall Semester classes will begin on August 17. The class meets at Troup Baptist Association on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. This is a three year course that covers the entire Bible. Registration will begin soon for Fall Semester. First semester tuition and fees are \$139 and remaining semesters are \$97 each. You may visit www.fbiclass.com or www.troubaptist.org. You may also call Troup Baptist Association office for more information at 706-884-1975 or you may call the class director, Jane Gottshall at 706-637-8424.

FBC Hogansville - On February 28, Celebrate Recovery had an amazing treat. His Place from LaFayette, Alabama, TJ Boyd and Change Church all joined us for a wonderful experience of Fellowship, Praise and Preaching. Join us every Sunday at 3:00 for Celebrate Recovery. Anyone with a hurt, habit or hang up is welcome! • Salvation Sunday on March 14 was a special event for children/youth in our community. They had a great time fellowshiping together during breakfast, followed by a time of worship and testimonies. While it was fun, the purpose was to explain the plan of salvation to ensure these young people know how much God loves them and how precious they are. There were 54 students and teachers in attendance and 11 Bibles were given out. Eight of the young people accepted Christ as their personal Savior and others experienced a rededication. • We will celebrate Easter Sunrise Service on the church steps at 7 am on April 4. This will be followed by breakfast, Sunday School at 10 am and Morning Worship at 11 am. • Arise-Amania is coming on April 17 at 9 am! This is a free event sponsored by Arise Ministry of Celebrate Recovery. There will be a car show, wrestling, food & fun in the Piggly Wiggly lot in Hogansville. Open registration. Everyone is welcome.

Association - Church Prayer List

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
Week of May 2, 2021 - Hillcrest Baptist Church

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

Church News & Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Food Closet served 453 individuals, giving out 213 boxes of food, 336 meals and 120 backpacks to children for weekend food. God continues to bless this ministry. • The Clothes Closet served 99 individuals and gave away 39 coats. • The Blood Drive was held March 1 and was a success. Approximately 26-30 people donated blood so that someone else could live. "Thanks to all our volunteers and those who donated. God is great!" • BTC re-opened Sunday School and Sunday night worship service on March 21. Awana and BT Student Ministry re-opened on March 24. Brotherhood had their meeting on March 13 at 8 am and will continue each second Saturday of the month. Lighthouse Keepers began meeting on March 15 at 6 pm and will continue every third Monday. CDC guidelines are being followed. "God is truly blessing us and what a blessing to be able to attend church once again." • Prayer Warriors continue to meet on LaFayette Square each Tuesday at 10 am for prayer. Everyone is invited to attend. • Easter Services will be held on April 4 at 10:30 am. Everyone is invited to attend. You will definitely hear the word of God preached and you will receive a blessing. As we celebrate Easter let's remember the reason. *"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."* Matthew 28: 5-6

Dunson - has remained active throughout all of the Covid virus pandemic with drive-in services, local mission projects, and baptisms. Their most recent project was an Easter Bunny Hop Trail which included the reconstruction of the Easter story and the Easter Bunny. Dunson welcomes you to come and worship with them at 5 Barnard Ave., 11 am on Sunday mornings. God bless!

Grace - welcomed two new members and baptized one. Grace Baptist celebrated their 18th birthday on March 28. • RU Kidz Club members: Roscoe, Kinley, King and Faith accepted Jesus into their hearts. Roscoe was baptized at Grace Baptist. • On March 20, Grace and Feeding the Valley gave away 50 boxes of food. This will be an ongoing food giveaway at 10 am on the third Saturday of each month at Grace Baptist Church parking lot. • Easter Sunrise Service will be April 4th, followed by the regular services. • Join us for Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., morning worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 a.m. and Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. Beginning April 11 we will have Sunday evening service at 6:00 p.m. Children PreK-5th grades and Teen Ministry will meet in the George Harris Building during Sunday and Wednesday services. The CDC guidelines will be followed. All services will be streamed live on our Facebook page and available on our 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. Visit our Webpage www.gbclagrange.com/ for updates and links to our Facebook and YouTube or search Grace Baptist Church LaGrange Georgia and RU Recovery Ch. 1078.

Highland - During Morning Worship Service on March 28, Pastor Terry and Cookie Rainwater were presented a gift from the church to celebrate 10 years of pastoral service at Highland. "We are so blessed to have them serving as our pastor family." • Highland will host an Easter Sunrise Service, on April 4 at 6:45 am with Guest Speaker, Pastor Collier Starks of Springfield Baptist Church in Hogansville. Weather permitting, the service will be outside, and face masks are required.

Highland (continued) - Everyone is welcome to join us for the Easter Sunrise event. We will also be on Facebook Live for this service. There will be no Sunday School on Easter morning, but Morning Worship Service will begin at 11 am, with teleconference at 11 am and Facebook Live at 11:12 am.

Lakeview - was closed for two weeks in March due to some members contracting the Covid-19 virus and other members having been exposed to the virus. Sunday School at 10 am and morning worship at 11 am resumed on March 21 and will continue. Wed. night services are canceled until further notice.

Mountville (MBC) - Mountville Mpact enjoyed a great time of worship at Winter JAM on Saturday, March 20 in Woodstock, GA. • Cody Binger taught the Children's Church group about building their life upon a firm foundation which is Jesus! He also shared a powerful message about St. Patrick with the kids on St. Patrick's Day! The kids enjoyed green cookies and punch. • Easter Services will be held at MBC as follows on Sunday, April 4: Sunrise Service at 7:30 am, Sunday School at 9:45 am, Morning Worship at 11:00 am. Everyone is invited to attend the greatest celebration of the year at Mountville Baptist!

New Hope LaGrange - Sisters of Hope had a joyous time on March 1 packing snacks and goodie baskets for the ER, Covid floor and hospice staff to show appreciation for all the good work they do in caring for the sick. They also sponsored a breakfast and house warming shower for Kim Hundley on Sunday, March 21. The next meeting will be Monday, April 5 at 6 pm. All ladies are invited. • The Easter family night supper was Wednesday, March 24. It was a great time of food fellowship and also fun watching the children hunt and find the eggs. Thanks to those special ladies who cooked the delicious meal, decorated the tables and to those who prepared the eggs for the children. • On Palm Sunday, the congregation participated in the communion of the Lord's Supper - remembering the death, resurrection and new life in Christ Jesus. • Easter Sunday services on April 4 will begin at 8:30 am with a short worship service in the auditorium followed by a 9 am breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. (Please bring a breakfast item to share). Sunday School will begin at 10 am. The Easter worship service will begin at 11:00am for in-person and Facebook. • There will be a Youth lock-in on Saturday, April 10 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All youth are invited to attend and bring a friend. Pizza and snacks will be provided. • The quarterly business meeting will be Sunday, April 25 after the morning service. A soup lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Donations will be received for the Annie Armstrong ministry. • Please encourage those in the nursing homes and those confined in their own homes by sending a card or making a phone call.

Unity - CMG had their Salad and Sandwich luncheon on March 21 with donations going to the Annie Armstrong offering. The next meeting will be April 12. They will be starting the Bible study: "Elijah" Faith and Fire by Priscilla Shirer. Following the luncheon, the children enjoyed an egg hunt at the Clock Tower. • The Food Closet was held on March 23 and several families in the community were served. The next Food Closet will be April 27. • Sunday School begins at 9:00 am followed by Worship Service and Children's Church at 10:00 am. Wednesday service is at 10 am and Awana and Youth meet from 6:00 until 7:30 pm. • VBS will be June 6-10 and kickoff will be June 5. More information to come!

APRIL CALENDAR

- 4 Easter Sunday He is Risen!
- 5 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 5 Pastor's Peer Learning Event & Lunch @ Noon In Person
- 12 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 19 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 26 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom

Association Prayer Group meets by conference call Wed. at 11am



Happy Birthday April



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

An exercise for people who are out of shape:

Begin with a five-pound potato bag in each hand. Extend your arms straight out from your sides, hold them there for a full minute, and then relax. After a few weeks, move up to ten-pound potato bags. Then try 50-pound potato bags, and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-pound potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. Once you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

Troup Baptist Association
P.O. Box 550
LaGrange, Georgia 30241

Phone: 706-884-1975
Fax: 706-882-8574
Web: www.troubaptist.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

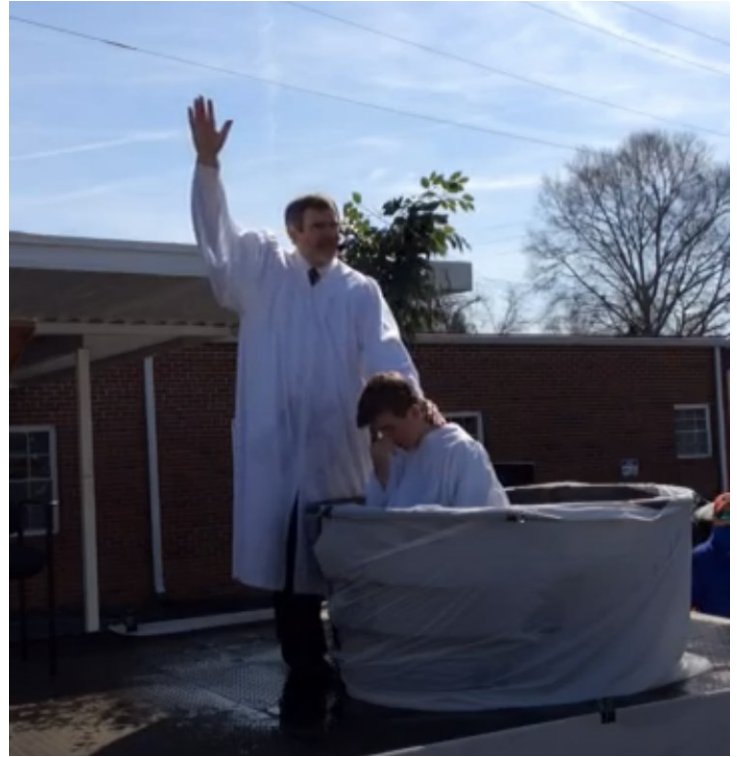
The Messenger is a Monthly Publication of The Troup Baptist Association
 P.O. Box 550, 1301 Washington St., LaGrange, Georgia 30241
 Office: (706) 884-1975
 Fax: (706) 882-8574

Web Address: www.troubaptist.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/troubaptist

Rev. Aaron McCollough, Associational Missionary: aaron@troubaptist.com
 Angela Maddux, Administrative Assistant: angela@troubaptist.com
 Rev. Terry Rainwater, Moderator: rainwater001@outlook.com
 Rev. Derek Williams, Vice-Moderator: derrickw309@gmail.com
 Mr. Daves Nichols, Treasurer
 Mrs. Dottie Henson, Assistant Treasurer
 Mrs. Jane Gottshall, Clerk

USPS341-040
 Periodicals Postage Paid LaGrange, Georgia 30241
 Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Messenger, P.O. Box 550 LaGrange, Georgia 30241

Photos



This page: Dunson Baptist Church has remained active throughout all of the Covid virus pandemic with drive-in services, local mission projects, and baptisms. Their most recent project was an Easter Bunny Hop Trail which included the reconstruction of the Easter story and the Easter Bunny. Dunson welcomes you to come and worship with them at 5 Barnard Ave., 11 am on Sunday mornings. May God bless!



Photos



Grace - RU Kidz Club Members



Above Left: Grace Baptist RU Kidz Club members, Roscoe, Kinley, King and Faith accepted Jesus into their hearts

Above Right: Roscoe was baptized at Grace Baptist.

Below: Grace Baptist held a food giveaway on Saturday, March 20.

**50 boxes of food to give away.
Every 3rd Saturday.
Drive through at 10:00 a.m.**



**Grace Baptist Church
3731 West Point Road
LaGrange, GA**



Photos



Above: Mountville Baptist Church MPact went to Winter JAM on Saturday, March 20

Below: Cody Binger taught the Children's Church group about building their life upon a firm foundation - Jesus!



Below: Cody Binger teaching the kids about St. Patrick on St. Patrick's Day.



Photos



Above: New Hope LaGrange members enjoying their Easter Family Night Supper.

At Left: The Sisters of Hope sponsored a house warming shower for Kim Hundley.



Above: Unity Baptist Church - The Children enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt at the Clock Tower on March 21.

Photos



First Baptist of Hogansville

Above: Salvation Sunday for Children and Youth in the Community.

Left: Celebrate Recovery meets every Sunday at 3:00 pm Anyone is welcome.