

Troup Baptist Association

Redemption

In his response to President Biden's speech to a joint session of Congress on April 28, 2021, Senator Tim Scott said, "Original sin is never the end of the story. Not in our souls and not for our nation. The real story is always redemption." It has been a long time since I have heard a statement quite that poignant and powerful. He hit the proverbial nail squarely on the head! When you boil Senator Scott's statement down to its lowest common denominator, he is reminding us that the "original sin," regardless of what it is, or how vile it may have been, is never the main subject of the narrative; redemption is - period! I think we need to be reminded of this!

Unfortunately, there have been times in my personal life, secular career, and even my ministry, that I have sinned sins so egregious, gotten so far off track, just flat missed the target, and have failed so badly,

that I thought God would never use me again. I thought I had totally blown it. However, I was humbled beyond belief to discover that my sins and failures were not God's main focus. His main focus (as with all of us) was my redemption and restoration. It always has been and always will be. If you have any doubt of that, just read Galatians 6:1, (KJV) *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."*

We all have painful stories of personal failure. Romans 3:10 (KJV) teaches us that, *"... there is none righteous, no, not one."* And Romans 3:23 (KJV) teaches us that, *"... all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* So again, without exception, we all have painful stories of personal failure. Brene Brown said, "Owning our story can be hard but not nearly

as difficult as spending our lives running from it. Embracing our vulnerabilities is risky but not nearly as dangerous as giving up on love and belonging and joy - the experiences that make us the most vulnerable. Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light." So, as painful as our stories of personal failure are, our stories of personal redemption and restoration are exponentially more powerful.

One of the greatest failures we can experience in life is the failure to dream. While speaking to a contestant on American Idol, Katie Perry said, "Your child does not understand dreams - if you do not dream!" Lionel Ritchie said, "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone." When we fail, it is our natural tendency to stop dreaming and retreat into our comfort zones. (To settle for a settled for life.) Often, this is because we tried something once and it

did not work out. So, how could we possibly put ourselves out there and try again, right? We lose our ability to dream about what can be! But we must learn to push through this and get out of our comfort zones. Lionel Ritchie also said, "There is no such thing as failure. When you win, you win. When you lose, you learn." And the most critical part of that learning process is believing, knowing, and experiencing the beautiful redemption and restoration that can follow our greatest failures!

I close the column with this: Your failure is never the center of God's attention. It is not the main narrative of your life story. Your redemption and restoration, as well as mine, always have been, and always will be, the focus of our gracious, loving Savior!

Brother Aaron

Association News

Association - Beth Dow of Solutions by Beth hosted a kickoff lunch for a monthly Dementia Support Group at the Troup Baptist Association on April 22. The group will meet monthly at the association office on the first Thursday of each month at 10 am. The next support group meeting will be on Thursday, June 3. This is for anyone who is a caregiver or who has a family member or friend with dementia. It is also for anyone with early stage dementia. There is no cost for this service.

Association - A Pastor's Peer Learning Lunch was held on April 5 at the association office. The topic of discussion was "How to get the Church off of Defense and Back on Offense Following Covid-19". There was a good attendance for this event with a lot of discussion and great ideas being voiced.



Pastors' Peer Learning Lunch

Association - The Troup Baptist Video Studio saw a lot of activity in April with three videos produced during the month. Sherri Brown and Holly Roberts of Circles of Troup recorded a video to be used in conjunction with their annual Empty Bowl Dinner. This year the fundraiser was held in individual homes with small groups enjoying a meal together while watching the informational video about the Circles of Troup organization and poverty in the Troup County area. Another video and Facebook Live topic was Domestic Violence. Brother Aaron interviewed Michele Bedingfield of Harmony House. They discussed ways that a church should or should not handle domestic violence among members, and how to recognize it.

On April 29, Brother Aaron interviewed Joy Shirley, Aging Director, Emily Rogers, Aging Deputy Director, and Toni Williams, Education & Resource Specialist of the Three Rivers Regional Commission / Area Agency on Aging. This agency has many resources and funding for a wide variety of services all related to aging. Their toll free number is 1-866-854-5652. This was on Facebook Live as well. All videos are available for viewing on our website, www.troubaptist.org / videos.

Association - On April 27, Bro. Aaron traveled to Duluth, Ga to attend the Georgia Baptist Mission Board Public Affairs Team meeting with our Public Affairs Representative/Lobbyist/GBMB Voice at the Capitol, Mike Griffin. Mike does an outstanding job representing our interest regarding moral & civic concerns in Georgia and in keeping us informed.



GBMB Public Affairs Ministry Team

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.

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 \$157 and remaining semesters are \$115 each. You may visit www.fbiclass.com to register. 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.

Association - Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough had a busy month. He preached two services of Creekside's Revival on Sunday, April 18. The following Sunday, he delivered a homecoming message titled "Back to Bethel" at First Baptist Church of Hogansville on their 153rd homecoming. Both of these services can be viewed on the Troup Baptist Association Facebook page.



Support Group for Loved Ones with Dementia

Association - Church Prayer List

For May 2021, please pray for following churches:

Week of May 2, 2021 - Hillcrest Baptist Church
Week of May 9, 2021 - Hilyer Baptist Church
Week of May 16, 2021 - Lakeview Baptist Church
Week of May 23, 2021 - Long Cane Baptist Church
Week of May 30, 2021 - Mountville Baptist Church

For June 2021, please pray for following churches:

Week of June 6, 2021 - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
Week of June 13, 2021 - New Heaven Korean Baptist Church
Week of June 20, 2021 - New Hope Baptist Church (LaGrange)
Week of June 27, 2021 - New Hope Baptist Church (Greenville)

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

Church News & Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - During the month, the Food Closet served 453 individuals, with 156 boxes of food and 364 meals. In addition, 120 backpacks were given to children for weekend food. The Clothes Closet continues to be very busy. Thanks to all our volunteers who work at these two ministries.

- On Easter Sunday, April 4, the Cross was beautifully decorated to honor our Savior. The Easter service was a blessing to all.
- Awana is going strong. April 21 was Cowboy Night and everyone was asked to wear their best cowboy or cowgirl attire. This is always such a fun night. Horses even showed up for the event and they were a big hit with all.
- Mother's Day is May 9. BTC will be honoring all mothers attending that day. We would like to wish each mother a very happy and blessed day.
- Congratulations to all those who are graduating this spring. BTC will honor graduates on May 23. "We wish you the best as you continue on your life's journey. Remember, with God all things are possible."
- Memorial Day is May 31. Remember the ones who have served and the ones who are still serving today.
- The date for Summer VBS will be announced later.
- Women of the church are making lap blankets to be given to nursing home patients. "God is good!"

FBC Hogansville - Sunrise Service on Easter morning was well attended and it was a blessed way to start Resurrection Sunday. Regular services followed on that day.

- The Church Council surprised Pastor Greg on his birthday, April 3, following their meeting. "It is always time for a good cupcake!"
- Arise Ministries presented ARISE-A-MANIA on Saturday, April 17. The event included a car show with trophies, wrestling, food, raffles, and activities for kids. It was a fun time with a good crowd, and most importantly, it provided an opportunity for outreach in the community. Arise Ministries is part of Celebrate Recovery at First Baptist of Hogansville.
- On Sunday, April 25, they celebrated 153 years as First Baptist Church, Hogansville. Rev. Aaron McCollough, Associational Missionary of the Troup Baptist Association, was the guest speaker and, as always, brought a timely message about Jacob and homecoming delivered with his unique brand of humor. It was wonderful to have the choir back in action and their special music blessed us all. A delicious meal was catered by Roger's Bar-B-Que in deference to Covid safety. As it was a beautiful day, people were able to visit over their meal at tables set up outside or inside as they preferred. "Thanks to all who came to celebrate with us as we begin our 154th year serving the Lord." During the Homecoming Service, Pastor Greg mentioned that April 21 was National Administrative Professional's Day and presented their Church Secretary, Mrs. Lynn Campbell, with a lovely plant and gift envelope. He thanked her for keeping everything running smoothly in the church office.
- We are so pleased to welcome the following new members who have been baptized this year: Dillon Gamble, Christopher Davis (Chris), Emily Davis, and Mylee Irvin. We are all blessed by their decisions.

Grace - During the month of April, nine new members were received and six were baptized.

- Grace and Feeding the Valley gave away 60 boxes of food in April.

- Join us for Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., morning worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 a.m., evening Discipleship Training at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. Children PreK-5th grades and Teen Ministry will meet in the George Harris Building during Sunday and Wednesday services.

Grace (continued) - We will follow the CDC guidelines. 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. Please check our Webpage <http://www.gbclagrange.com/> for updates and links to our Facebook and YouTube or search Grace Baptist Church LaGrange Georgia and RU Recovery Ch. 1078.



FBC Hogansville's Easter Sunrise Service



Happy Birthday to Pastor Greg Morris of First Baptist Church in Hogansville!

Highland - had a good turnout for Easter Sunrise Service in spite of the cold weather. Pastor Collier Starks of Springfield Baptist Church in Hogansville sang a beautiful song prior to delivering a wonderful message. We were happy to have some of his church members join us for this service. It was a very special time of worship.

- Highland has returned to in-church services and will have a special Mother's Day service on May 9 at 11:00 am. They will, of course, follow basic Covid-19 guidelines and are looking forward to having everyone come back into the church for worship service. The service will also continue to be on teleconference at 11:00 am and Facebook Live at 11:12 am. Also, Pastor Terry's "Wednesday Words" can be seen on his Facebook page every Wednesday.

Lakeview - All services continue: Sunday School at 10 am, morning worship at 11 am, and Wednesday night at 6 pm.

- Congratulations to high school senior Dylan Hays who will graduate from Troup High with honors.
- Sunday, May 9 is Mother's Day and back-to-church Sunday. Everyone is welcome to attend either inside or outside services for morning worship.

Church News & Announcements

Mountville (MBC) - VBS will be held June 7-11 from 5:30 - 8:00 each night. Dinner will be served at 5:00. The theme will be "Destination Dig". Early registration can be completed on Mountville Baptist Church Facebook page.



Mountville's Children's Church Lesson

Unity - Sunday School is at 9 am and Worship at 10 am. There are Adult, Youth, and Children's classes. The children are doing a 9 week Bible study on "Fruit of the Spirit". Children's Church is at 10am and the program theme is "Dig In".

- Current Mission Group (CMG) met April 12 and discussed plans for the coming months. They plan to do a 7 session Bible study on "Elijah: Faith and Fire". The next meeting will be on May 11.
- The Awana group meets on Wednesdays from 6:00 until 7:30 pm. They had Backwards Night, Basketball Night, and Show Some Love - Wear Red Night.
- VBS will be June 6 - 10 with the Kickoff on June 5. More information will follow.



Unity Baptist Church
Awanas

New Hope LaGrange - celebrated Easter with joyful and thankful hearts and with a dinner and egg hunt on Wednesday evening. On Easter morning they had an early service, a breakfast, Sunday School, followed by a beautiful and worshipful service at 11:00 am. "To God be the glory for the way He is working to bring us back together again for worship as a family even though the service is also on Facebook Live at 11:00 am." • Sisters of Hope met April 12 to plan ministries and activities for the coming months. Patti Manion shared the story of how the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering began. Many who give to this special offering have not heard this inspiring story. Sisters of Hope will meet again on Monday, May 3. • Wednesday night meetings are in full swing for children, youth and adults at 6pm. Pastor Don is leading the adults in the book of Esther. • On Sunday, April 25, the church accepted the revised edition of New Hope's Constitution and Bylaws and a copy was given to each family. The Sisters of Hope sponsored a delicious soup lunch after the worship service. All donations went to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. • Mother's Day / Back-to-Church day will be Sunday, May 9. "Happy Mother's Day! Please join us in celebrating our Mothers and worshipping the Lord."

• To Pastor Don Ellison: "We express our love and appreciation for your ministry to our church family for the past eight months. You have blessed us, challenged us, exhorted us, and encouraged us by your messages. Thank you for your leadership in our church and within the Pastor Search Team. May God continue to bless and keep you in His care. We love you." • On Sunday, May 16 at the 11:00 am worship service, a prospective pastor from Louisiana will bring the morning message. A pastoral call vote will be taken following the service. In addition, on Saturday, May 15 at 12 noon, there will be a Meet & Greet for this pastor and his wife in the Fellowship Hall. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 12:30. Please continue to pray about this special occasion for our church. Mark your calendars and plan to be with us on Saturday & Sunday.



FBC Hogansville honored Mrs. Lynn Campbell for Administrative Professional's Day. Shown above with Pastor Greg Morris



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

Announcements

Georgia Baptist Children's' Homes

Truckloading Event At Troup Baptist Association

Monday, June 21 9am until 3pm
Tuesday, June 22 9am until 3pm
Wednesday, June 23 9am until 12 noon

Items Requested: Canned Fruit, Little Debbie Snack Cakes, Boxes of Single Serving Assorted Chips, Canned Green Beans & Sweet Peas, BBQ Sauce, Cooking Spray, 13 Gallon Trash Bags, Paper Towels, Non-aerosol Spray Kitchen/Bath Cleaner, Gift cards: VISA or Walmart

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**



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

Grace Baptist Church
3731 West Point Road
LaGrange, GA

**Saturday May 15, 2021
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Appointments are needed. Schedule online at
www.redcrossblood.org or call
1-800-RED CROSS.

Dementia Support Group

With Beth Dow of Solutions by Beth

First Thursday of each month at 10 AM

For family members, caregivers and friends of those suffering from dementia.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 3 at 10:00 am

Location: Troup Baptist Association,
1301 Washington St, LaGrange GA

Children's Camp Rockridge June 21 - 24, 2021



For: Boys & Girls ages 8 years through rising 6th graders.

Location: Rockridge Baptist Assembly, Franklin, GA

Cost: \$185 per child for early registration thru June 10.

Register soon! Space is limited!

Registration: Applications should be entered online at www.troubaptist.org. Payments can be made thru PayPal, credit/debit card, personal check or cash

Get your "DUCKS IN A PEW"
and make

Mother's Day

your family's
"Back-To-Church" Sunday!



**BACK-TO-CHURCH
♥ SUNDAY ♥
MAY 9, 2021**

**Pastors' Lunch & Estate Planning
with Sam Warner of Georgia Baptist Foundation
Monday, May 24 @ 11:00 AM
RSVPs are needed! 706-884-1975**

Church Finance Seminar with Tony Neal

Thursday, May 20, at 6:30 pm

Troup Baptist Association
1301 Washington Street, LaGrange, GA

MAY CALENDAR

- 3 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 6 National Day of Prayer
- 9 Mothers' Day - Back to Church Sunday
- 10 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 17 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 20 Tony Neal Church Financial Seminar at 6:30 pm
- 24 Pastor's Luncheon with Sam Warner of GA Baptist Foundation
11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 31 Memorial Day

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

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
- 28 Rev. Jim Butler, Hillcrest



On The Lighter Side:

A man once asked God, "What's a million years to You?" God said, "A second."
Then the man asked God, "What's a million dollars to You?" God said, "A penny."
The man asked God, "Can You do me a favor?" God said, "Sure!"
So the man asked God, "Can You give me a penny?" God said, "Sure. In a second."

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