

Troup Baptist Association

Making Long-term Investments

Somewhere around 1982 I became the fulltime pastor of Stovall Baptist Church. I had already served there for several years as their bi-vocational pastor. I felt led to resign and take the pastorate at what was then the Mount Calvary Baptist Church, located on Whitesville Street in LaGrange, Georgia. I served there for six months. However, I never really felt that deep-down-settled-peace that I should have felt. During this time, the pastor search committee at Stovall set out to get me back - and they never gave up. I also had another church wanting me to be their pastor. To say the least, this was a time in my life where I was as confused as a termite in a yo-yo! During this time, I attended an evangelism conference with three of my "preacher boys." While there, God used the testimony of Pastor Ike Reighard, who at that time was serving as the pastor of New Hope Baptist in Fayetteville Georgia, to speak His will into my life with absolute clarity. When I returned, I spoke with the search committee at Stovall. I told them specifically what God had

instructed me to tell them – which included me becoming their first fulltime pastor. God even gave me a specific salary package to tell them. I felt a great sense of relief after that meeting! In obedience, I had told them what God had instructed me to tell them. And I knew they could not afford to do it, and furthermore, they would not do it! I was off the hook scot-free! But there was one tiny problem. They stepped out on faith and did it! And the rest, as they say, is history. We never looked back, and God blessed us tremendously!

I shared the story above to bring out one specific point. Part of the salary package God instructed me to give to them included health insurance for me and my family. Back then the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (Now Guidestone) had a rule stating that for a pastor to purchase health insurance through them, he must also enroll in their 403-(b) retirement plan. So, keep in mind, I did not want to enroll in the retirement plan. They forced me! All I wanted was the insurance! But God knows what we need long before we do. And often, we are oblivious to the

wheels He has set into motion to meet our future needs. Back then, the required minimum level of financial participation for the retirement plan was something like \$17.50 per month. This is one of those cases where, with my lips poked out, I just went ahead and did what I had to do.

The Spiritual and commonsense point of the column today is something along the line of: Sometimes it takes us investing into something over a long period of time for God to provide us with what we need. This means we commit to the long haul of the process, endure, celebrate the market swings along the way, and consistently make the required investments. The wild market swings will come and go, but consistency is the ticket! Through the years, as God moved me to different places of ministerial service, I stayed committed to the retirement plan. It went with me wherever I went. And as was appropriate to do so, the contributions were increased again, again, and again. Consistency over the long haul is the key.

As you may have already figured out by now, I

looked online at the value of my 403-(b) before I sat down to write the column. I am now somewhere around forty years removed from that fateful day when God, against my will, forced me to start investing into a 403-(b). However, there was no complaining from me today! I am now rejoicing over the fact that God forced me to do what He knew I needed to do! I am thankful that He gave me the good sense to continue making consistent contributions and gave me the "stickability" to weather the wild market swings along the way. I am thankful that He always, and I did say **ALWAYS**, has my best interest at heart! (Even when I am oblivious to what He is doing.)

I believe that we will have somewhat of a similar feeling when we make our way into heaven and hear God say, "Well done my good and faithful servant," and we see the ROI (Return on Investment) that awaits us in heaven for all the consistent contributions we made through the years into our heavenly retirement plan!

Brother Aaron

Association News

Association - Ricky Thrasher, of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, delivered 50 cases of hand sanitizer to the association office on May 19. Each case has 48 bottles. That's a lot of hand sanitizer! We have a case for each association church. Please send someone by the office to pick up a case for your church. They're free!

- Tony Neal, CPA, formerly with GBMB, conducted a Church Finance Workshop at the association on May 20. There is a video available on our website. There are a few booklets left from the workshop. Please call the office if you would like one of these.

- Sam Warner of the Georgia Baptist Foundation spoke to the Pastors Prayer Fellowship on Monday, May 24. A great BBQ lunch was provided by the Georgia Baptist Foundation and catered by Sloppy Pig Catering of LaGrange. He is available for wills and estate planning assistance for pastors.

- On May 12, Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough met with the Georgia Baptist Public Affairs Representative, Mike Griffin at Longhorn in LaGrange to strengthen their relationship while enjoying a good meal together. Mike does an outstanding job representing our interest regarding moral & civic concerns in Georgia as well as keeping us informed.

- On May 15, Bro. Aaron & Mrs. Marianne had the opportunity to present Jane Gottshall, Faith Bible Institute Director and Clerk for the Troup Baptist Association, with \$40 in quarters. These were donated to Miss Jane, by Mike Phillips from the Callaway Baptist Church Cancer Ministry. This particular aspect of the ministry is to provide cancer patients and caregivers with coins to operate the vending machines while they are receiving treatments. Thank you Callaway Baptist Church for this most thoughtful and useful ministry. Please continue to pray for Miss Jane as she continues to fight the good fight on her cancer recovery journey.

- On May 27, the association hosted a breakfast for the Berta Weathersbee School Teachers & Staff to celebrate the end of a difficult but successful school year. Rev. Terry Rainwater shared a great message challenging everyone to be like a dandelion. He noted the characteristics of a dandelion: They are persistent. They have purpose. They are consistent. They bloom where they are and they are productive. As always, we held a drawing for four \$50 dollar bills. The winners were Jaquasia Pollard, Molly Allen, Amanda Moncus and Principal Willie Cooks. Thank you to volunteers Richard King, Joyce & Herb Gandee, Stephanie Williams, Dottie Henson, Marianne McCollough, Rev. Dan Woltmann and Rev. Terry Rainwater.



Above L-R: Berta Winners of the \$50 bills were Jaquasia Pollard, Molly Allen, Amanda Moncus, Rev. Aaron McCollough and Principal Willie Cooks.

Troup Baptist Association

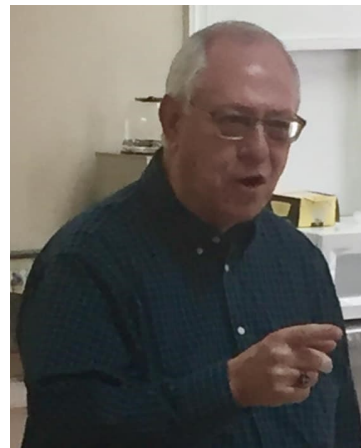
Mission Statement:

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. Faith Bible Institute is a three year course that covers the entire Bible. This is for anyone who wants to learn more about the Bible. Registration is open for Fall Semester. First semester tuition and fees are \$157 and remaining semesters are \$115 each. Early registration ends July 1 and late fees will apply. 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 director, Jane Gottshall at 706-637-8424.



Above L-R, Rev. Aaron MrCollough, Ms. Jane Gottshall & Mrs. Marianne McCollough presenting Jane with quarters from the Callaway Baptist Church Cancer Ministry.



L: Rev. Terry Rainwater, Highland Baptist Church
R: Sam Warner, Georgia Baptist Foundation

Church News & Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - Two were baptized and one new member joined the church family last month. • The Food Closet gave out 210 boxes of food and 364 meals serving a total of 381 individuals. A total of 120 backpacks containing weekend food were given to local children. • The Clothes Closet served 127 individuals. • BTC recognized and congratulated graduates from LaGrange High School: Will Alford, Alison Baker, Caleb White, Miller Williamson, from Troup High School: Tyler Cardwell, from Folds Academy: Makayla Folds, from LaGrange College: Kaylee Bailey, Savannah Barnett, Colby Darda, from University of West Georgia: Sarah Kate Cadenhead, from Kennesaw State University: Marianna Reeves, from Georgia Piedmont Technical College: McKenzie Williams. "We wish these graduates much success and happiness; May God bless all of you." • Awanas year-end Celebration & Water Night was held on May 26. • June 14 is Flag Day. BTC urges you to display the American flag and show your patriotism. Please pray daily for our country and may God bless the USA.

• The Blood Drive will be held on July 19. Please give if you are able to do so. • Baptist Tabernacle wishes everyone a safe and happy summer.

FBC Hogansville - The Woman of Virtue Award was presented to Mrs. Melanie Baswell on Sunday morning, May 9, by Mrs. Sondra Lee and Mrs. Debbie Dollar. This award is a reference to Proverbs 31, and each year First Baptist Church Women's Ministry selects a woman who represents the ideals described in these verses. Melanie's daily actions certainly honor these ideals and more as she is active in church, community, school and home. She wears many hats, gives every activity her best, and always with a smile. (photo below)



The Arise Ministry of FBC Hogansville held a car wash on May 15 to benefit Celebrate Recovery. It was a beautiful day to get your car cleaned and they did a steady business. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery ministry which meets at church every Sunday afternoon at 3pm. We all struggle with something; Anyone with a hurt, habit, or hang-up is welcome to come be a part of this group.

FBC Hogansville - Graduation Celebration was May 23. Three young ladies were honored at a special breakfast fellowship and later recognized at church for completing an important step in their education. Brianna Neese earned her Nursing Degree at LaGrange College School of Nursing and will begin work this summer. Merideth Baswell and Josie Mulliniks graduated from Callaway High School and will soon be starting college to continue studies toward their professional goals. Youth Director, Monica Johnson, prayed for these young ladies as she charged them to love God and follow His path for their lives in order to be successful and fulfilled. "We are proud of what they have accomplished and wish them every success as they move ahead with their further education plans / careers."



Above L-R: FBC Hogansville honored graduates
Brianna Neese, LaGrange College,
Merideth Baswell & Josie Mulliniks, Callaway High School.



FBC Hogansville Youth Director Monica Johnson (R)
prayed for the graduates during the Sunday Service.



Arise Ministry of FBC Hogansville held a
Car Wash to benefit Celebrate Recovery.

Church News & Announcements

Grace - will hold VBS: The Epic Journey for PreK-12th Grades on Friday, June 25 from 5:30 until 9:30 pm, Saturday, June 26 from 10am until 2pm & Sunday, June 27 from 9am until 2pm. All are welcome. • Grace and Feeding the Valley gives away 60 boxes of food every 3rd Saturday at 10:00 am.

• Ladies of Grace are making prayer quilts for those going through medical procedures. The church prayed over one given to baby Cooper Darda on Sunday, May 16th. His parents are Joseph and Jill Darda.

• 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. 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.



GRACE Pastor Donnie Benefield helping with their monthly food give-away.

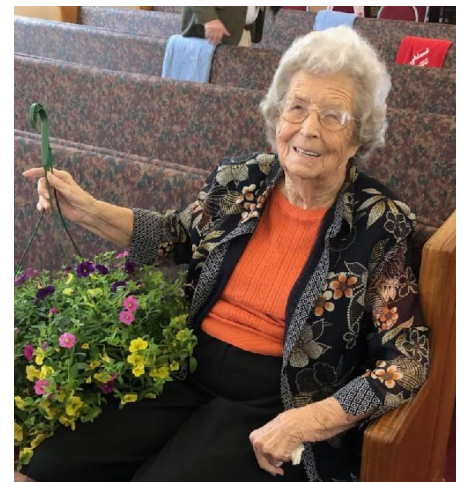
Highland - Celebrated Mother's Day by honoring the oldest and youngest mothers attending Morning Worship Service. Ginger Woodruff was the youngest mother and Jane Hubbard was the oldest mother. Each of them received a very nice hanging basket. • A Deacon Ordination Service was held for Stephen Ott on Sunday, May 23. It was a sweet service with a large crowd present for the event, which was also on Facebook Live. "We appreciate Stephen's willingness to serve and we rejoice with him and commit to pray for him as he serves as Deacon at Highland Baptist Church. • Father's Day recognition will be held during Morning Worship Service at 11:00 am on June 20.



Above: Highland Deacons with Pastor Terry Rainwater (L) Deacon Ordination of Stephen Ott (L) with Pastor Terry.



Cooper Darda with his Prayer Quilt



Highland Mother's Day honorees Ginger Woodruff (L) and Jane Hubbard (R)

Church News & Announcements

Lakeview - Lakeview celebrated two new college graduates! Patricia Spradley received her diploma from Southern New Hampshire University on May 4; her goal is to obtain a teaching position in the Troup County School System. Tiffany Dae Ragland graduated, with honors, from the University of West Georgia on May 15 and will begin her teaching career at Hillcrest Elementary in the fall.

- A dynamic and inspirational foreign missionary spoke at the morning service on May 23.
- Carol Truitt will provide a light lunch after services on June 27; RSVP's are required.
- Those fully vaccinated for Covid-19 may stop wearing masks beginning June 6, but others need to wear masks. Social distancing and hand sanitizing are still recommended for all.

Mountville (MBC) - The MBC Mission Group was honored to hold a couple of work days at Camp Viola to help prepare the campus for the upcoming Summer camps! Bunk rooms were swept and cleaned, fishing rods/supplies were put together and organized, basketball nets replaced & playground was cleaned.

• MBC surprised Preacher Dwayne with a surprise party for his 60th birthday on Sunday, May 16. He loves BBQ and good fellowship and that's exactly what he got! A great time was had by all and he was completely surprised!!

• Mountville honored their 2021 graduates on Sunday, May 23. Houston Gaddy will graduate from Callaway High School and will attend LaGrange College in the Fall. "We are proud of Houston!"

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



Mountville's Pastor Dwayne Perdue at his Surprise Party



Mountville honored Callaway Graduate Houston Gaddy

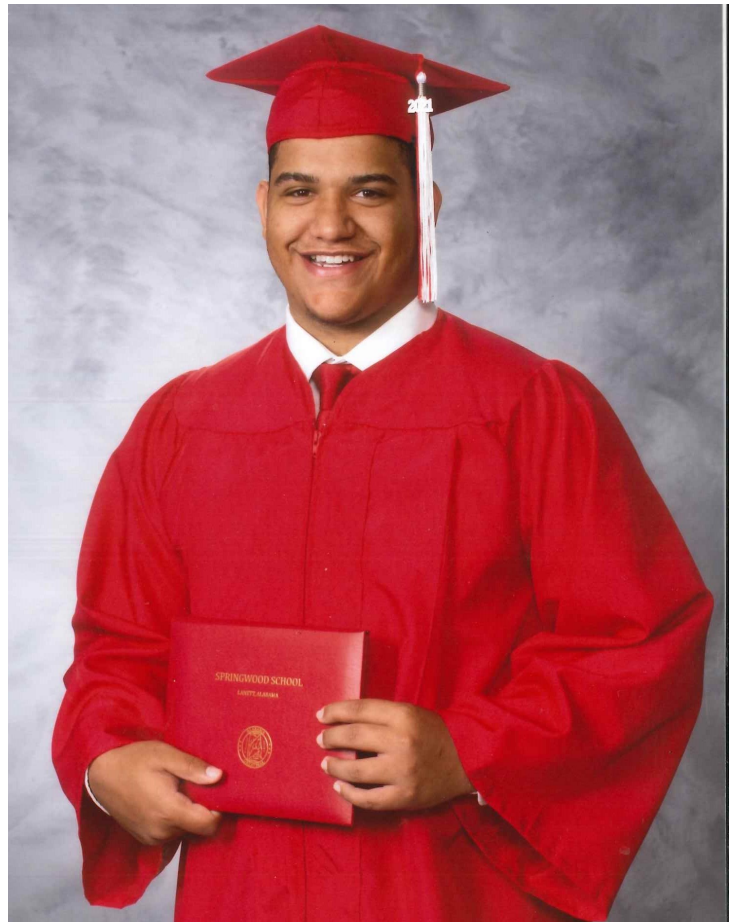
New Hope LaGrange - is very excited to announce and welcome their new pastor, Rev. Steven Cheek and wife, Megan from Slidell, LA. "We give God all praise and glory for His guidance in answering our prayers." A "Meet and Greet" was held on Saturday, May 15. Following the meal, Rev. Cheek shared with them about his life and ministry and what his vision would be if called to New Hope. He answered questions from the audience. On Sunday, May 16, He preached a message from Colossians 1:24-29, entitled "Christ In You." Following the service, a vote was taken to call him as Pastor and he has accepted. He will begin his ministry at New Hope in July. Please pray for the Cheeks as they transition to a new church and town.(see photo next page)

• All New Hope Mothers were recognized on Mother's day and were given a carnation and a small pack of candy. Thank you Mothers for the sacrifice and love you give for your children.

• On May 30, the Youth conducted the worship service with the youth minister, Chase Golden, leading them. "Thank you Chase, for the great work you do with our youth."

• Congratulations to Andre Mills on his graduation from Springwood School in Lanett, AL. "We pray God's blessings on you as you journey toward your future. We love you, Andre."

• Sisters of Hope will meet Monday, June 7 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a craft time and all ladies are encouraged to come and enjoy the fellowship. Please bring a food to share.



New Hope (LaGrange) honored Springwood School Graduate Andre Mills

Church News & Announcements



Above: Megan & Rev. Steven Cheek
New Hope in LaGrange has called Rev. Steven Cheek
to be their Pastor.

Pineview Baptist Church
located on Whitesville Road
in LaGrange welcomes a
“new” pastor, Rev. Joel
Scott. He had a very
successful pastorate there
several years ago and is
looking forward to what God
has in store for him and
Pineview Baptist Church.

At Right:
Rev. Joel Scott,
Pastor of Pineview



Association - Church Prayer List

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)

For July 2021, please pray for following churches:

Week of July 4, 2021 - New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
Week of July 11, 2021 - Open Range Cowboy Church
Week of July 18, 2021 - Pine View Baptist Church
Week of July 25, 2021 - Praise & Prayer Ministry Baptist Church

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

Unity - Awanas held Campout Day on May 5, Store Night on May 12 during which the children were able to buy items with their Awana bucks earned during the year, Awards night on May 19, and Year-end party on May 26 at the Skate Park Playground. Awanas meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

- CMG (Current Mission Group) met on May 11 at Vicki Utley's house. They had a good group with great food. They had their second lesson in the “Elijah; Faith & Fire” study. The next meeting will be on June 15 for the third lesson in the study.
- UKIDS will start meeting on Wednesdays in June from 6:00 until 7:00 pm in the OFH for the UKIDS Summer Program. They will do “Destination Dig” and other activities during the summer. Everyone is welcome to come and bring your friends.
- Sunday School meets at 9am and Worship service at 10am. Children's Church is also at 10am.
- The youth meet on Wednesdays from 6:30 until 7:30 pm.



Above: Unity Awana
Kids at Awards Night

Right: Unity Awanas
at Campout Day
enjoying S'mores.



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

Dementia Support Group with Beth Dow of Solutions by Beth

First Thursday of each month at 10 AM

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, dementia or Alzheimer's, this group is for you.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 1 at 10:00 am

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

Circles of Troup is Back!

Circles is meeting on Thursday evenings twice a month at Troup Baptist Association.

- They need volunteers to cook and serve meals (food can be provided) and also volunteers to work with the children (activities & resources provided).
- If you are interested in getting on the schedule to provide a meal, contact Margaret at Margaret.mn@gmail.com or at 706-416-7788.
- If you are interested in volunteering for the children's program, contact Tyler at ctylermartin@gmail.com or at 678-850-8399.
- Circles can also speak to your church - Wednesday night, small groups, youth groups, adult Sunday School - about biblical perspectives on poverty as well as other topics. For information, contact Sherri Brown at sbrown@troupcountyga.gov or at 706-402-6423.

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

Mountville Baptist Church

is looking to hire a piano player
for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

If interested, please call
Preacher Dwayne Perdue at 706-881-4003



Troup High Alumni Association
Presents

ERNIE HASSE & SIGNATURE SOUND

Live in Concert
Sunday, June 27, 2021 - 7:00 PM

Troup High School Fine Arts Building
1920 Hamilton Road, LaGrange, GA

\$30.00 per Ticket

Tickets sold at:
LaGrange Toyota, Landscape Supplies of LaGrange,
Weathers Honda, & Troup High School.

For more information: Ellis Cadenhead 770-713-4564

JUNE CALENDAR

- 3 Dementia & Alzheimer's Support Group 10am In Person
 - 7 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
 - 10 Last Day for Early Registration-Camp Rockridge
 - 14 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
 - 17 Last Day to register for Camp Rockridge
 - 21 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
 - 21-24 Children's Camp Rockridge
 - 21-23 Georgia Baptist Children's Home Truck-loading Event
 - 28 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- Association Prayer Group meets by conference call Wed. at 11am

Happy Birthday June

- 2 Rev. Allen Smith, East LaGrange
- 3 Rev. Ronnie Puckett
- 8 Rev. Wendell Brown
- 13 Dr. Paul Baxter, Pine Mountain A.M.
- 14 Rev. Robert Burnett
- 15 Rev. Ellis Freeman
- 29 Rev. Tommy Jeter, At The Cross

Happy Father's Day

On The Lighter Side:

An eight-year-old girl went to the office with her father on "Take Your Kid to Work Day". As they were walking around the office, the young girl started crying and getting very cranky. Her father asked what was wrong with her. As the staff gathered around her, she sobbed loudly: "Daddy, where are all the clowns that you said you worked with?"

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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