

Troup Baptist Association

Miracles

Some would argue that the day of miracles is over. And in the context of how the miracles recorded in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and other books of the Bible look ... maybe miracles today do look differently than those. I dare say that none of us have ever watched as somebody stopped a group of pallbearers, commanded the dead person inside the casket to get up, and they did. But let me be clear – the day of miracles is not over! Miracles today just sometimes look differently than those recorded in the Bible!

My wife and I enjoy watching competition shows on television. The other day we were watching America's Got Talent. The last performer for the evening, a thirty-year-old young lady, walked onto the stage. Howie Mandell began to question her. Her asked her name, to which she responded, "It's Jane, unless I'm singing. Then it's Nightbird." He then asked if she made her living singing. She replied, "I haven't sung professionally in a couple of years." She was then asked what she did for a living. She replied, "I haven't worked anywhere

for several years." Then she opened up and told the judges that she had been busy battling cancer. They asked if she was in remission. She replied, "No, I have some cancer in my lung, liver, and some other places." They asked her what song she was going to sing. She replied, "I'm doing an original song I wrote about my cancer journey. It's entitled, 'It's Okay.'" The song was beautiful. Afterward, when asked how she could sing like she did and have such a tremendous attitude while battling cancer, she replied, "You can't wait until life isn't hard anymore before you decide to be happy." She continued, "The type of cancer I have has a 2% survival rate. But 2% is not 0%! 2% is something! It's not nothing!" It was evident that she had discovered that attitude makes all the difference in the world!

You regular readers of my ramblings have read about my youngest daughter, Stephanie, and her 8-year battle with Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome. It's exactly what the name indicates. It started when she was pregnant with her baby daughter – and didn't stop for eight years. She saw every specialist imaginable – from LaGrange, to Piedmont in Atlanta, and Mayo in Florida. All to no avail. She told her mother,

"If this is my cross to bear, I will gladly bear it for my Jesus." (Attitude!) She was never one to complain. However, she called us one day and told us she was on her way to the E.R. in LaGrange. The nausea had become unbearable. The on-call doctor was from Africa. He told her he was very familiar with her disease. He asked if any doctor had ever prescribed Prozac for her. She said, "No." He said, "I don't understand why. Prozac controls the nausea center of the brain. I am going to prescribe it for you, and it will help you." Stephanie says, "Miracles come in all shapes and sizes. My miracle is in a tiny pill that I take every morning!"

Our oldest daughter, Heather, is a COVID-19 long hauler. As a result of it, she developed Sudden Stuttering Syndrome. She quickly lost her ability to speak. Eventually, she recovered a little. Several weeks ago she had a particularly upsetting visit with her speech therapist. She and her husband came to my office. She's always been a Daddy's Girl. She saw me and literally fell into my arms and came totally unglued. Her husband and I talked with her for an hour or more calming her. The next day she posted to Facebook about what had happened. In her post she made the

statement, "I have made the decision to be happy, despite my circumstances." (Attitude!) A speech therapist who used to live in LaGrange read her post and contacted her. She told her about, of all things, an app. you can load onto your cellphone that will help. Somehow, and only God knows how, she puts the earbuds in her ears, turns on the app. and it tricks her brain and makes it where she can speak fluently. Well, I never! **I mean, I NEVER!**

Miracles come in all different shapes and sizes. True, they may not look like the ones in Biblical times! One may look like a pill, while another looks like two earbuds. But make no mistake - they still come! And one of the biggest contributing factors is - our attitude. As Nightbird said, "You can't wait until life isn't hard anymore before you decide to be happy." Just maybe the biggest miracle is not when God physically heals us, rather when He heals our attitude! Just maybe the healing you/we seek cannot come until our attitude gets healed! I'm just saying!

Brother Aaron

Association

In life, I have discovered that people who have the most profound affect on you, are often the most ordinary people. Seldom has a dignitary had a profound affect upon me. However, quite often, ordinary people have! In my mind's eye I can see a multitude of ordinary people who have left a profound mark on my personal life and ministry. Their names would mean nothing to the majority of you. But their presence in my life means everything to me. God has used them to cover the entire gamut of my life, pouring into me what I needed at the moment. Jane Gottshall was one of those ordinary people.

My first memory of really getting to know Jane was when I organized an association-wide trip to Duluth to see the newly completed Georgia Baptist headquarters building. Pastor Bobby Robinson volunteered to take all of us there on the Unity Baptist Church bus. I later learned that thing was demon possessed. It would be running fine - and just quit! Regardless of what you did to it, it would not crank again for about thirty minutes. I think they spent thousands of dollars on that thing trying to fix it. They fixed it when they sold it! We were on the Interstate in Atlanta when it shut down. I was on the aisle side of the seat where Marianne and I were seated. Jane was on the aisle side adjacent to me. So, for thirty minutes, sitting on the side of the Interstate, we conversed across the aisle and got to know each other. From that encounter, Jane was a part of the first Faith Bible Institute group with Marianne and me. Three and a half years later, when we graduated, I needed someone to coordinate the next class.

Jane volunteered. I was the Director, and she was the Coordinator. Next thing I knew, she had taken my job! (Thank you Jesus!) I think she was about to start her third three-and-a-half-year journey through the course when she died in June. Along the way she became the Clerk for the association and a volunteer extraordinaire! And in the process, she left her fingerprints all over everything and everybody associated with her. This ordinary person poured herself into me and made me better than I am! Jane Gottshall was my friend! I am thankful God allowed her to cross my lifepath!

We will continue with Faith Bible Institute with the Fall semester. Rev. Tommy Jeter will be the director, and Rev. Bernie Pasley will be his assistant. One big change we will implement in the Fall is that we will have a day class along with our traditional evening class. Classes will meet on Tuesday at the association office, 1301 Washington Street LaGrange, Georgia. The morning will start at 9am and the evening at 6:30pm. The classes are around two and a half hours in length.

Fall semester classes begin on Tuesday, August 17. You may register and pay for classes on www.fbiclass.com. Tuition and books for first semester are \$157; Semesters 2-6 are \$115 each. Family discounts are available. Late fee of \$30 applies after July 1. For more info, contact Angela Maddux at: 706.884.1975 or angela@troubaptist.com.

Brother Aaron



Above L-R: Jane receiving her Faith Bible Institute Diploma from Rev. Aaron McCollough several years ago.



Above L-R: Jane Gottshall with Rev. Tommy Jeter.

Association News

Association - June was a very busy month at the Troup Baptist Association. Children's Camp Rockridge was held June 21-24 at Rockridge Baptist Assembly in Franklin, GA. There were more than 150 children in attendance for the four day camp. Pam Murphy said this was one of the best camps in her 27 years of serving as camp director. Philip McClung served as the Camp Pastor. There were a number of decisions made for Christ during the week of camp. Boys and girls ages 8 through 11 enjoyed a wide variety of activities including swimming, fishing, paddle boating, canoeing, archery and a variety of arts and crafts. Thank you to Robert Riley for donating a number of rod & reel combos for the campers. A big thank you to Dobbs Transportation (Rev. Tifton Dobbs) who provided two charter buses and drivers to transport children to camp. Thanks also to First Baptist Church of Hogansville and Rosemont Baptist Church for providing their church vans for the trip to camp. Thank you to First Baptist Church on the Square for allowing us to use their facilities for Monday morning check in and bus assignments & loading. Lost and found items left behind from camp may be claimed at the association office during office hours M-F, 8:30 am until 3:30 pm.



Above: Dobbs Transportation provided two buses and drivers to get the kids to Camp Rockridge.
L-R: Mr. Randall Brooks and Pastor Lamar Johnson.



Above L-R: Ann Ellington Camp Counselor and Pam Murphy Camp Director

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 - Truckloading for Georgia Baptist Children's Homes was held Monday, June 21 through Wednesday, June 23. A large amount of groceries, paper products and \$1,235 in gift cards were donated by ten churches and 14 individuals. In addition to these donations, God's Breadbasket of Hogansville in conjunction with the Feeding the Valley food bank donated over 1,000 pounds of groceries for this event! These items were loaded by a number of eager volunteers from the Troup County Sheriffs Department: James Robson, Joy Burnham, Samantha Duran and Anthony Hixson. Jalen Williams, son of Pastor Derek (Stephanie) Williams came early to help with sorting and boxing the items and also helped with loading the trailer. Other volunteers were Rev. Bernie Pasley, Bro. Aaron McCollough, Angela Maddux and Jason Carol of the Meansville campus of Georgia Baptist Children's Homes.



Above: Those helping with Truckloading for the GA Baptist Children's Home are (L-R) James Robson, Joy Burnham, Anthony Hixson, Jaylen Williams, Angela Maddux, Bernie Pasley, Jason Carol, and Samantha Durand.



Swimming is a favorite activity at Camp Rockridge. Lifeguard Jacob Walker (at poolside) is Bro. Aaron & Mrs. Marianne's Grandson.

Church News & Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - "God is Great! We added another member to our church family during the month."

- The Food Closet was busy serving 432 individuals, giving away 185 boxes of food, 364 meals and 180 backpacks. The Clothes Closet served 192 individuals. "Thanks to all the volunteers who help these ministries run smoothly."
- BTC Children will be doing mission projects from June 2 through July 21. This program focuses on getting God's Word out and helping to serve others. One of their projects was to bake cookies and give to people who needed some love. This brought lots of smiles to those individuals showing them they are loved.
- The BTC Blood Drive will be held on July 19 from 2-7 pm. Please give if you are able to do so. Your donation may save someone's life.
- Vacation Bible School will be Monday, July 26 - Friday, July 30 from 6 to 8 pm. The theme is Destination Dig - Unearthing the Truth about Jesus (Jeremiah 29:33).
- The Prayer Warriors continue to meet every Tuesday at 10 am on the Square. All are welcome to attend.
- Baptist Tabernacle wishes everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July.

Creekside - received two new members into their fellowship.

- On June 20, Father's Day, two were baptized! "Praise the Lord!" In addition, the two oldest and two youngest fathers were recognized and each father present received a gift.
- On June 5, Creekside hosted a benefit singing for the homeless shelters in LaGrange.
- Creekside started full time services beginning in June: Sunday School at 9:45am, Worship at 11:00am, Choir practice at 5:00 pm on Sunday evening with Worship Service at 6:00pm. Wednesday evening Bible study at 6:00 pm. "All are welcome to join us."

FBC Hogansville - The Backyard Bible Club is meeting at 6pm every Wednesday, June 9 through July 28 with family night on August 4. There are two locations, so you may come to the church at 500 East Main Street or to the Green Patch at the corner of Green Avenue and Dickinson Street. Dinner is served at both locations, but at church the meal starts at 5:15pm. Children ages 4 and up and adults are welcome. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about God's love and to have good fun.

- Arise Ministry of Celebrate Recovery has rescheduled the Cruise-In Car Show at Calvin Hipp Park for July 17 from 4 to 7 pm. The entry fee per car is \$10, which will benefit Celebrate Recovery. Please plan to come out, participate, and enjoy the fellowship.
- Be sure to tune in to the Arise Ministry Podcast which airs a new program every Sunday at 5:30 pm. Gary Blanks, Randy Brady, Kevin Folds, Bill Dollar, and occasional guests talk about life in recovery. They talk about serious issues with humor and joy, and it will be well worth your time to listen and learn. The podcasts may be found on Facebook, Spotify, or YouTube.
- The Men's Choir provided special music, "Just a Little Talk with Jesus" on Father's Day. Song Leader Darrell Neese said we should listen with our hearts and not our ears, but it was a sweet sound for both. "Thank you men."

What did one flag say to the other flag?

Nothing. It just waved!



Above & Below: FBC Hogansville Backyard Bible Club



Above: FBC Hogansville Men's Choir sang "Just a Little Talk with Jesus" on Father's Day.

Association - Church Prayer List

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 - Pineview Baptist Church
 Week of July 25, 2021 - Praise & Prayer Ministry Baptist Church

For August 2021, please pray for following churches:

Week of August 1, 2021 - Reeds Chapel Baptist Church
 Week of August 8, 2021 - Roper Heights Baptist Church
 Week of August 15, 2021 - Rosemont Baptist Church
 Week of August 22, 2021 - Second Baptist Church
 Week of August 29, 2021 - Shoal Creek Baptist Church

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

Church News & Announcements

Grace - added one new member in June. • VBS "The Epic Journey" was so much fun! PreK through 12th graders walked the Roman Road. • Grace and Feeding the Valley gives away 60 boxes of food every 3rd Saturday at 10:00 am.

- Ladies of Grace and Men for Christ raised over \$1,000 at their hamburger plate fundraiser to help children at Christmas. They will have a BBQ fundraiser in November.
- There will be an American Red Cross blood drive on Saturday, July 10 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm at Grace Baptist Church, 3731 West Point Road, in LaGrange. • Join us for Sunday School at 9:45 am, morning worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 am, evening Discipleship Training at 6 pm. and Wednesday service at 7 pm. 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 pm. and streams live on Facebook at 8:30 pm. and is available on their YouTube page. Please check the 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.



Above: Grace Hamburger Fundraiser to benefit children at Christmas



Above: Grace VBS "The Epic Journey"

Highland - gained a new member in June. Austin Walker made a profession of faith in Jesus as his Lord and Savior and was baptized on Sunday, June 13! "We welcome Austin into our fellowship." Highland celebrated their fathers on Father's Day and gave special recognition to their oldest and youngest fathers. Chris Boyd was the youngest father and Lewis Brummett was the oldest father present during morning worship service. • The Grapevine Sunday School Class enjoyed a cookout on June 18 at the home of Sammy and Ellen Hubbard. A large crowd enjoyed hamburgers, hotdogs and all the trimmings, including homemade ice cream. It was a fun event!

- To celebrate Independence Day, there will be a lunch in the fellowship hall immediately following morning worship service on Sunday, July 11.

At Right:
Highland Pastor
Terry Rainwater
baptizes Austin
Walker



Below Left:
Oldest Father,
Lewis Brummett

Below Right:
Youngest Father,
Chris Boyd



Lakeview - On June 6, gifts were presented to Lakeview's graduates: Dylan Hays, Patricia Spradley and Dae Ragland.

- Missions for June included donations to Georgia Baptist Children's Homes, monthly donation to Troup Baptist Association and monthly donation to the special counseling ministry of Troup Baptist Association.
- Brotherhood met at IHOP on June 19. WMU met in the home of Sally Pike on June 26.
- On June 27, with a luncheon and gifts, Lakeview honored Mrs. Frankie Hadden for her twenty-five years as pianist and her work with the choir, as well as celebrating her upcoming birthday. (photos on last page)

Church News & Announcements

Mountville (MBC) - Mountville was so blessed to receive three new members by salvation & baptism and two new members by letter! • MBC had a wonderful VBS in June! Average attendance was 90 each night. The students learned a lot about seeking and finding JESUS! The kids also collected items for the Troup Baptist Association's Annual Truckloading Event for the Georgia Baptist Children's Home! • Mountville MPact held a lock-in at Camp Viola June 25-27. The students spent time in the Word of God and shared precious time together and created great memories. MBC is so thankful for our Youth and Youth Leaders, James & Katie Hembree!



Mountville's MPact



Above: Mountville's Vacation Bible School

Below: Mountville's VBS Bible Study



New Hope LaGrange - Sisters of Hope had 16 women present on craft night, June 7. They enjoyed good fellowship and fun while making wooden welcome signs. Thanks to Melissa Hughes for her work in preparing for this project. The next meeting will be Monday, August 2 at 6 pm. • The children and youth enjoyed an end-of-year pool party at the home of Troy and Rita Karr on June 9. They had a splashing good time and ate delicious hot dogs. Parents: Please bring your children on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for Bible lessons and recreation.

• VBS will be Saturday, July 17 from 9:30 am until 3:00 pm and Sunday, July 18 from 12:30 pm until 3:00 pm. There will also be a class for adults. You must register your child online at vbspro.events/p/nhbcvbs21. There will be no paper registration forms this year. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this time of reaching our children for Jesus • Our love and condolences go to Betty Sue Parmer in the loss of her son, Joe Parmer, and to Joyce Laster, in the loss of her mother, Helen Thompson. "May the Lord continue to comfort your hearts."

• New Hope has been blessed to have Rev. Don Ellison as their Interim Pastor for the past 10 and 1/2 months. Sunday, July 11 will be his last message to our congregation. After the worship service, there will be a covered dish lunch in his honor and to express our love and appreciation for his ministry to us. Please bring a covered dish of food or a dessert to share.

• Excitement is growing! Pastor Steven Cheek will preach his first message as our new pastor on Sunday, July 18. Please come and welcome him and his wife, Megan to our church family. "We pray everyone had a blessed and safe July 4th." Please remember to pray each day for our country.



Church News & Announcements

Lakeview Photos



Above L-R Lakeview Graduates: Dylan Hays, Patricia Spradley and Dae Ragland with Pastor Lamar Truitt



Lakeview honored Mrs. Frankie Hadden for 25 years of serving as pianist and choir leader.
Above: Mrs. Frankie Hadden with Pastor Lamar Truitt

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, August 5 at 10:00 am

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

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

Unity - On June 5, Unity held VBS Kickoff and Community Mission Day. The children enjoyed a waterslide. Hamburgers and hot dogs were served and they enjoyed a guest speaker and singing. VBS was held June 6-10 with "Concrete and Cranes" as the theme. The children had a great time! • UKIDS are having a summer program on Wednesdays in June from 6:00 until 7:30 pm. They will do "Destination Dig" for five weeks, go to the playground, go swimming and visit Noah's Ark in Locust Grove. • Current Mission Group (CMG) will meet on July 12 at 6:30 pm. They will have the fourth lesson in the bible study, "Elijah - Faith and Fire". • The youth meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. They will be going rafting in July. • Unity has Sunday School at 9 am and Worship service at 10am. Children's Church is also at 10 am. The Children's Sunday School classes are studying the Bible starting with God's creation through Revelation.



Unity VBS "Concrete and Cranes"



JULY CALENDAR

- 1 Dementia & Alzheimer's Support Group 10am In Person
- 5 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 12 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 19 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 26 Pastor's Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom

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

Happy Birthday July



- 6 Rev. Michael Hornsby
- 13 Rev. Bobby Bozeman, Baptist Tabernacle
- 20 Rev. Billy McCollough
- 20 Rev. Eddie Striblin, Roper Heights
- 23 Rev. Max McCord
- 24 Rev. Fred Buchanan
- 24 Rev. Chris King
- 27 Rev. Robert Bagley
- 27 Rev. Brad Thompson, Callaway



Happy Independence Day!



On The Lighter Side:

A pastor was called to a local nursing home to perform a wedding. An anxious old man met him at the door. The pastor sat down to counsel the old man and asked several questions.

"Do you love her?" The old man replied, "Nope."

"Is she a good Christian woman?" "I don't know for sure," the old man answered.

"Does she have lots of money?" asked the pastor. "I doubt it."

"Then why are you marrying her?" the preacher asked. "Cause she can drive at night," the old man said.

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