

## Troup Baptist Association

Cassie

A week or so ago, I preached revival services at Shiloh Baptist Church in the Penton area of Wadley, Alabama. Something happened Tuesday night that really resonated with me. I want to share it with you. Maybe it will resonate with you as well.

Her name is Cassie. She looks to be around thirty years old. Unbeknownst to me, for many years, God had been arranging the events of Cassie's life that would culminate this past Tuesday night. As you know, for some years now I have written a weekly pastor's column for several newspapers. Around ten years ago, I wrote an article that was published by the Troup County News. (I no longer write for them.) This particular column was about the children's story: "The Velveteen Rabbit." (Google: The Velveteen Rabbit.) The story explains what it means to "become real," and to be loved. This column resonated with Cassie to the point that she cut it out of the newspaper

and has kept it with her for ten years.

Tuesday night, I used the story of The Velveteen Rabbit as a sermon illustration. Needless to say, this "coincidence," ten years in the making, immediately caught Cassie's attention! After all, what are the odds of her having the column I had written ten years earlier with her - and then hearing me use the same illustration in a sermon - in a small rural church on the backside of Wadley Alabama? Only God can arrange these divine appointments! Tuesday night, the Holy Spirit of God used this "coincidence" to arrest Cassie and cause her to give her heart and life to Jesus Christ! Coincidence? No! Divine appointment? Yes!

As wonderful as the story above is, something else resonated even more with me about Cassie. As she came forward during the altar call, I asked her if she knew Jesus as her personal Lord and Savior. She said, "No." Then, through broken sobs, she blurted out, "And I don't want to die a 'religious'

person and go to Hell!" Wow! It was as if God splashed cold water in my face! You see, saved, or lost, one day we will all launch from somewhere into our eternity - heaven or hell.

God got a hold of me and began to make me realize: We are all going to die! (It is appointed to man once to die!) We are all going to die "somewhere!" And regardless of where that "somewhere" is - it will be our launching pad into eternity - heaven or hell! We may launch from our home, our workplace, a Bible college, a church in the country, a hospital room, a hospice center, a wreck on the highway, or from a foreign battlefield. And while we will most likely not be able to determine from where we will launch, we can determine our final destination! So, for the first time in a long, long time, this past Sunday I preached a sermon devoted 100% to salvation! And yes, every sermon I preach has an element of salvation in it, but seldom is it devoted 100% to salvation. I was preaching Sunday at Trinity Baptist Church in Roanoke, Alabama. So, I

entitled my sermon: "Don't Die a 'Religious' Person and Go to Hell from Trinity Baptist Church in Roanoke, Alabama!"

If you died right this moment, where would you spend eternity: heaven or hell? Note: I did not ask if you: attend church, have been baptized, pay tithes, are a good moral person, sing in the choir, keep the nursery, or if you are a preacher, teacher, deacon, or some other officer in the church. I asked if you know Jesus as your personal Savior. So, again, if you died right now, where would you spend eternity: heaven or hell? There is no in-between! And know this - a "hope-so," "think-so," "maybe-so" salvation - will get you a front row seat in Hell! It has to be a "know so" salvation experience with Jesus! Tuesday night Cassie had her "know so" salvation experience with Jesus. Have you had that experience? Please! Don't die a "religious" person and go to hell!

*Brother Aaron*

# Association News

**Association** - Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough and Mrs. Marianne took vacation time and traveled with Fred and Judy Walker to see several historic sites. They visited the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky and the Creation Museum. They also visited a more recent historic site, Crittenden Baptist Church in Kentucky where Dr. Paul Baxter began his pastoral career. Also while in Kentucky, Bro. Aaron filled in for Pastor Scott Russell, at Jamestown First Baptist Church, in Jamestown, Kentucky. Scott is on a much needed vacation with his children, Abbie & Ben, following the death of his wife Debbie.



**Association** - For thirty plus years, Pastor Wendell Brown and his sweet wife Ann, faithfully served as pastor of the Flat Shoals Baptist Church located in West Point, Georgia. Last year, before COVID-19 hit, Pastor Wendell approached me and informed me that his health had declined to the point where he just couldn't continue. He told me that it was the desire of the congregation to close the church and donate the building and property to the Troup Baptist Association, with the understanding that we would retain ownership of the property, insuring it remained a Southern Baptist work, either by starting a new work there, or by allowing an existing Southern Baptist work to utilize the property. A month or so ago, I posted photos of the church on Facebook seeking someone to plant/start a work there. Through this, God brought Pastor Patrick Turner across my path. Unbeknownst to me, he had already been diligently trying to start a work in West Point. He is from West Point and has a heart to reach it for Jesus! In fact, he had specifically prayed for God to give him a building with "a steeple on it" to start his new work. After meeting with the Association Administration Team, and agreeing to join the association, the team gave me the greenlight to proceed to do what I needed to do to get Patrick and his church into the building. The new church will be named: True Believers Ministry Baptist Church. And as a note of interest, I was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in 1978 to become the pastor of Flat Shoals. It was mine and Marianne's very first pastorate! We have very fond memories of this place! Please join me in thanking Pastor Wendell Brown, Ann, and the congregation of Flat Shoals for their selfless act of kingdom generosity, and in wishing Pastor Patrick Turner and the congregation of True Believers Ministry Baptist Church all the success in the world! I am excited to see what God will do! ~ Brother Aaron

## 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.



L-R: Rev. Dennis Farr, Pastor of Freedom Baptist Church, Rev. Patrick Turner, & Rev. Aaron McCollough passing the keys to the Flat Shoals Baptist Church building. The new church name is True Believers Ministry Baptist Church. Rev. Turner is a member of Freedom Baptist Church and Rev. Farr is his pastor and mentor.

**Faith Bible Institute** - Fall Semester classes will begin on August 17 at the Troup Baptist Association office. Faith Bible Institute is a three year course that covers the entire Bible. This course 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 but can be reimbursed with receipt. Visit [www.fbiclass.com](http://www.fbiclass.com) to register or call the Troup Baptist Association office for more information at 706-884-1975

### Office Volunteers Wanted!

If you have an hour or two to spare once a month and would like to help assemble the newsletters for mailing, Please call Angela at the association office for more information 706-884-1975.

If you or someone you know would like to be added to the mailing list for this newsletter, please call the Troup Baptist Association at 706-884-1975 and give your name and mailing address.

# Church News & Announcements

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - God is truly at work in this church. They added nine new members to the church family! "God is good all the time." • The Food Closet served 341 individuals, giving away 145 boxes of food and 350 meals. The Clothes Closet has been equally as busy. • VBS was July 26-30 from 6 to 8 pm. The theme was Destination Dig (unearthing the truth about Jesus-Jeremiah 29:13). • The Blood Drive was held on July 19 from 2 to 7 pm collecting 36 pints of blood. "Thanks to the volunteers and everyone who donated blood." • School will begin August 9 and BTC will be partnering with Clearview Elementary School to supply some of their school supplies. Please be careful as school starts back to watch out for all of the children. May God keep all the staff and children safe through this school year. • Relay for Life will be Aug. 20 from 6 - 10 pm at Chris Joseph Track (290 Fort Dr). • BTC Prayer Warriors continue to meet on the Square in LaGrange for prayer on Tuesday mornings at 10 am. Everyone is invited to come and pray.

**Creekside** - had a great time on July 3 during Family Fun Day. The children enjoyed a water slide and other games. Some of the adults had fun with corn hole and horseshoes. Everyone enjoyed hotdogs and hamburgers. Later that evening they all had a great time watching fireworks. • On July 17, the Brotherhood resumed their monthly breakfast. Dr. Joe Almond was the guest speaker. They enjoyed a great breakfast cooked by Lea Billingsley and her daughter-in-law. • Creekside participated in the first annual Freedom Gospel Festival in Hogansville on July 24 and had a great time! • The ladies of Creekside had a bake sale raising funds for the building fund and the youth fund. • On July 25, they hosted the Old Paths Gospel Quartet. They had a great time listening to some wonderful singing and Praising the Lord! Afterward, everyone enjoyed cake & coffee. • On August 14, Creekside will be holding a fundraiser gospel singing and yard sale for Angie Richardson.



Above: FBC Hogansville Pastor Greg Morris baptizes one of three youth from their Back Yard Bible Club.

**FBC Hogansville** - On July 8, First Baptist Youth took a day trip to Helen, GA to go tubing. The weather was perfect for a day of food, fellowship, and fun in the Lord. The teenagers were accompanied by Monica Johnson, Jonathan Brown, and Cody and Mikki Binger. • On July 10, the Men's Ministry enjoyed a day of fishing and fellowship at Bro. Joe Felder's farm. Among the ten men, they caught a few fish, ate some good food, and experienced a time of fellowship in a relaxed outdoor environment. This group hopes to expand and be a Godly influence on young men in the community. They meet once a month and the meetings are open to any man whether he is a church member or not. Please contact Darrell Neese with any questions by calling 706-302-9220. • The Backyard Bible Club met at 6pm each Wednesday from June 9 through July 28 with family night on August 4. There were two locations which made it convenient for people to gather. Children ages 4 and up as well as adults experienced the opportunity to learn more about God's love and to have good fun. There were a number of decisions and baptisms resulting from this ministry. Thank you to all the leaders who made such a difference in the lives of others. • Arise Ministry thanks those who participated in the Cruise-In at Calvin Hipp Park on July 17. In addition to a fun day, the purpose of these gatherings is to introduce people to Celebrate Recovery (CR). Everyone has something in life that is a struggle. CR is a Christ-Centered Recovery Ministry which meets every Sunday afternoon at 3pm at FBC in Hogansville. The next Cruise-In will be August 21 at the same location from 4-7 pm. • On Sunday, July 18, First Baptist Church Hogansville celebrated Pastor Greg Morris on his 4th anniversary as their pastor. He preaches Bible-based sermons every Sunday and has a strong conviction to minister to the community of Hogansville. He has a special heart for teaching young people how much Jesus loves them and is happiest when baptizing a new believer. Appropriately, he baptized three young people (Savonquez Bolton, Landon Hildebrand, and Aubrey Thacker) from the Back Yard Bible Club on this occasion. We are thankful for and blessed by his leadership. To celebrate in true Baptist fashion, there was a covered dish meal after church followed by games of corn hole on the church grounds. It was a special time of fellowship. "Thank you Pastor Greg!" • On Sunday, July 25 Ms. Linda Wright and Mr. Keith McIntyre were married following the morning church service. Pastor Greg Morris officiated at this happy occasion. "We offer them our best wishes in their life together." • FBC participated in stocking the school with clothes and supplies in support of Elementary, Middle, and High School students of Hogansville. It was our joy to work with the community in this effort. • FBC will have Awesome Sunday Nights in August. There will be a guest speaker each Sunday night at 6pm and special music as well. The speakers are all pastors in Troup County, and your hearts will be blessed by their words. On August 1, Dr. Paul Baxter will preach. Following on subsequent Sundays are Pastor Terry Rainwater(8<sup>th</sup>), Pastor Tim Tidwell (15<sup>th</sup>), Pastor Andy Buchanan(22<sup>nd</sup>), and Pastor Doug Bingham (29<sup>th</sup>). An uplifting message to start your week is a good way to get ready for a new church year as well as a new school year. "We hope you will join us for this time of revival."



# Church News & Announcements

## FBC Hogansville - (continued)



Above: FBC Hogansville Youth traveled to Helen, Georgia for a day of tubing.



Above: FBC Hogansville's Arise Ministry Members with Pastor Greg Morris in back



Above FBC Hogansville celebrated Pastor Greg Morris' fourth anniversary with a meal and corn hole games.

**Grace** - welcomed two new members in July! • An ice cream social was held after evening service. • Grace & Feeding the Valley gives away 60 boxes of food every third Saturday beginning at 10 am. • Teen Worship will be held in August in the George Harris Building each Sunday morning for those in 6th - 12th grades. • 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 Pre-K through 3rd Grade and Teen Ministry will meet in the George Harris Building during Sunday and Wednesday services. All services will be streamed live on Facebook and on YouTube. Reformer's Unanimous meets every Friday night at 7 pm and is on Facebook Live at 8:30 pm and on YouTube. Please check their webpage [www.gbclagrange.com](http://www.gbclagrange.com) for updates and links to their Facebook and YouTube pages.

**Highland** - had their annual 4th of July celebration with a fellowship lunch. A large crowd gathered in the fellowship hall to enjoy a delicious meal and great fellowship. • The Prayers and Squares group delivered several quilts to the church to be used for members who are sick and in need of special prayer. Each quilt, when needed, is placed in the church for members to pray over and then tie a knot in the quilt. It is then delivered and the recipient is told that each knot represents prayers that were lifted on their behalf. • Highland members will take part in a Prayer Walk at Hogansville Elementary School on Saturday, August 7.

**Lakeview** - Congratulations to the newest Lakeview Board of Directors member Eddie Tankersley. • Lakeview lost charter member Nancy Heflin on July 8; She will be greatly missed. • The men met on July 17 for food, fellowship, and planning. • Gideon Steve Logan spoke of the work of the Gideons on July 25. A love offering was collected to help the Gideons purchase Bibles. • Homecoming will be held on October 10 with Rev. Don Ellison as the homecoming speaker.

**New Hope Greenville** - will hold Revival Services Wednesday through Friday, August 18, 19 & 20 at 7 pm nightly. Homecoming will be Sunday, August 22 beginning at 11 am, followed by a covered dish meal. The Dixie Sounds will sing after the meal. New Hope is located at 7719 Callaway Road in Greenville, Georgia. Rev. Kenneth Whitlock is the pastor.

### Association - Church Prayer List

#### 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

#### For September 2021, please pray for following churches:

Week of September 5, 2021 - Stovall Baptist Church  
 Week of September 12, 2021 - Teaver Road Baptist Church  
 Week of September 19, 2021 - The Church on the Rock  
 Week of September 26, 2021 - Troup Baptist Association

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

# Church News & Announcements

**New Hope LaGrange** - An appreciation lunch was held July 11 in honor of Rev. Don Ellison for his time of ministry to New Hope Church. "Thank you Pastor Don for your faithfulness to our church family." • VBS was very well attended on Saturday, July 17 and Sunday, July 18. All of the activities were geared to dig deeper into the truth of God's word using Jeremiah 29:13 as the theme. "We praise the Lord for all the volunteer workers and for the children and adults who participated. We also thank Rita Karr, VBS Director, for all her time spent organizing and planning VBS."

• On Sunday, July 18, they welcomed Pastor Steven Cheek as he preached his first sermon at New Hope. He used Psalm 34 as his text to proclaim how we need to praise God for all things He has given us. "We look forward to what God has in store for our church." • Sisters of Hope met on Monday, August 2 to plan future missions. "Thank you to the church family for the mission offering given during July for the Georgia Baptist Children's Home." • Love and condolences go to Troy Karr, Music Director, in the death of his mother, Shirley Karr. • Please remember to pray for church members and friends in nursing homes and those confined to their homes. School will begin in August; Pray fervently for teachers, children, and all school personnel for the challenges they will face this year.



Above: New Hope LaGrange Vacation Bible School



Above: Rev. Don Ellison (with wife Candy) served as Interim Pastor at New Hope LaGrange.

## Dementia & Alzheimers Support Group

Looking for Support, Answers, & Resources?

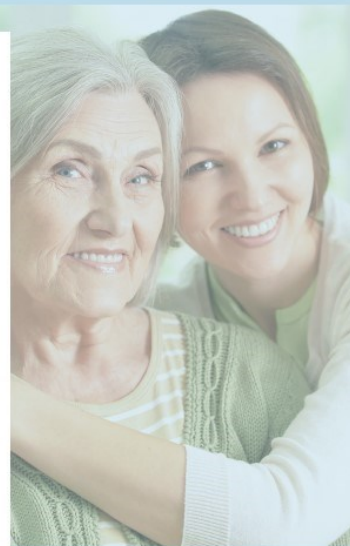
Are you a friend or family member of someone who has been diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment, Dementia, or Alzheimer's?

Join Others Like YOU!  
You are not alone.

The First Thursday of Each Month  
10:00am

Troup Baptist Association  
1301 Washington St.  
LaGrange

For More Info, Call the  
Association Office at  
706-884-1975



### Save the Dates!



Upcoming Medicare Insurance & Drug Plan Education & Free Consultations.

Belinda Meadows of Three Rivers Commission on Aging will be conducting the consultations.

Private Appointments will be taken for  
October 19 and November 18

Call Troup Baptist Association 706-884-1975

### Upcoming Men's Ministry Event (Postponed / Will be rescheduled) First Baptist on the Square New Life Building

This event will be for men and their wives to enjoy a delicious meal, wonderful fellowship, and a program of fun and laughter! The special guest speaker for the evening will be the Hon. Allen Keeble. You will not want to miss this! Tickets will be \$15 each and will be available soon in the church office and online or call 706-884-5631. Stay tuned for the date & time!



## AUGUST CALENDAR

- 2 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 5 Breakfast for Berta Weathersbee School Teachers & Staff
- 9 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 16 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 23 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 30 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom

TBA refers to Troup Baptist Association

Association Prayer Group meets by conference call Wed. at 11am  
Prayer requests by phone (706)884-1975 or [www.troubaptist.org](http://www.troubaptist.org)

Faith Bible Institute Fall Semester begins August 17  
with day and evening classes at TBA.

## *Happy Birthday August*



- 5 Rev. Lamar Womack, Gray Hill
- 10 Rev. Bernie Pasley, East Vernon
- 10 Rev. Mike Watson
- 13 Rev. Jerry Johnson, Stovall
- 17 Rev. Frank Abrahamsen, Praise & Prayer
- 21 Rev. Derek Williams, New Macedonia
- 22 Rev. Danny Geter, Long Cane
- 23 Rev. Tifton Dobbs, Anointed By Faith
- 29 Rev. Billy Allen



# Pray for our Schools, Educators, Staff & Students

### *On The Lighter Side:*

I was driving when I first saw the flash of a traffic camera. I figured that my picture had been taken for speeding, even though I knew I wasn't. Just to be sure, I went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly. But again the camera flashed. Thinking this was pretty funny, I drove past even slower three more times, laughing as the camera snapped away each time I drove by at a snail's pace. Two weeks later, I got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seatbelt.

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