

Troup Baptist Association

Because You Are His

Today, the news is seemingly nothing but bad! Front and center are the stories of hospitalizations caused by the COVID-19 Delta Variant, the debate over whether to vaccinate or not, or to mask or not. Death is on a scale I haven't witnessed in my lifetime. We see the loss of life and property damage caused by Hurricane Ida. Then there is the shameful abandonment of American citizens behind enemy lines by the Biden administration, along with millions, possibly billions, of dollars' worth of military equipment abandoned to our enemy. And on the top rung of the ladder is the senseless death of thirteen brave Marines in Afghanistan! In the light of all this bad news, my Administrative Assistant, Angela Maddux, suggested that I make this column uplifting. So, I went back into the archives and found this column that I wrote in 2001. I truly hope you find it uplifting!

The Fall 2001 Edition of Leadership Magazine contains an article about the 1995 Disney Movie, "Toy Story." The article

deals with a particular portion of the movie where Woody, the toy cowboy, has to tell his friend Buzz Lightyear, an astronaut, that he is only a toy. You see, Buzz Lightyear thinks he is a Space Ranger.

Early in the movie Woody, having the Spiritual "Gift of Encouragement," shouts to Buzz, "You're not a Space Ranger, you're an action figure ... a child's plaything!" However, Buzz refuses to believe Woody, and it is only after failing to fly that Buzz realizes the truth of Woody's statement. Dejected and disillusioned, Buzz hangs his head in resignation, declaring, "I'm just a stupid, little, insignificant toy."

At this point, Woody, evidently being a good Baptist, falls under conviction and attempts to comfort Buzz by reminding him of the love of the little boy who owns them both. Woody states, "You must not be thinking clearly. Look, over in that house, there's a kid who thinks you're the greatest, and it's not because you're a Space Ranger; it's because you're his."

As Buzz lifts his foot, he sees a label affixed to the bottom of his boot. There

in black permanent ink is the name of the little boy to whom he belongs, Andy. Seeing the name of his owner, Buzz breaks into a smile and takes on a new determination.

As I read the article, I realized that all too often, instead of my name being Aaron McCollough, it could be Buzz Lightyear. All too often I think myself to be something that I am not. Too often I won't listen to those who, in love, try to speak into my life. In my naivety and bull-headedness, I crash and burn. Then, dejected and disillusioned, I hang my head and walk away thinking that I'm just a stupid, insignificant nobody. But then, in my dejection and sorrow, God always arranges the events of my life to remind me that my value is not based upon what I can or cannot do, or what areas in my life have or have not been successful. My value is determined by the fact that I belong to Him.

Perhaps you are dejected, disillusioned, and have convinced yourself that you are an insignificant nobody. Well, let me change a few words in Woody's dialogue to Buzz and address it to you: "You must not be thinking clearly. Look, up in

heaven, there's a Savior who thinks you're the greatest, and it's not because you're a Super Christian; it's because you're His."

Christian friend, I don't care how dark the Spiritual valley is you are walking through right now. I don't care how bad the issues of life seem to be. Let me assure you that if you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, then your value (joy) is not derived from what you can or cannot do, or your successes or failures. Your joy is derived from the fact that your soul has been both redeemed and sealed by the Blood of Jesus Christ. His name is written across your life! You know joy - because you are His!

What a powerful statement Woody makes to Buzz: "You must not be thinking clearly. Look, over in that house, there's a kid who thinks you're the greatest, and it's not because you're a Space Ranger; it's because you're his."

Christian friend, kinda makes you want to shout, doesn't it?

Brother Aaron

Association News

Association - On Thursday, August 5, the Troup Baptist Association treated the Berta Weathersbee Elementary School teachers and staff to a full breakfast prepared by Sloppy Pig Catering. Volunteers serving the breakfast and helping with cleanup were Judy & Richard King, Dottie Henson, Joyce & Herb Gandee, Marianne McCollough and Mary Harmon Jordan. Pastors who volunteered to hear prayer requests and pray with those at their table were Rev. Greg Morris, Rev. Jason Jones, Rev. Richard King, Rev. Dan Woltmann and Rev. Aaron McCollough. Rev. Greg Morris, Pastor of First Baptist of Hogansville gave the devotional entitled, "Painting the Pump." It was a very emotional time as he shared the events of his life for the past 2 years. The group laughed together and cried together as he shared the story of a town who painted their well pump to cover up the unsafe drinking water. In telling this, he encouraged us to be more transparent in dealing with our own life disappointments while showing love and kindness to others who are hurting.



Above L-R: Winners of the \$50 bills were Kimberly Mitchell, Shaunita Strozier, Bro. Aaron (presenting the \$50s), Ela Kaye Eley and Courtney Smith.



Above: Pastor Greg Morris of FBC Hogansville speaking to the teachers and staff of Berta Weathersbee School.

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.



Above L-R: Belinda Meadows of Three Rivers Regional Commission and Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough

Association - On August 18, Belinda Meadows of Three Rivers Regional Commission (Area on Aging) was in the studio at the Troup Baptist Association to record a video announcing upcoming private Medicare consultations that she is offering free of charge in the association office on October 19 and November 18. Please call the office soon at 706-884-1975 to schedule your appointment with Belinda. You may view the video from our website, troubaptist.org or from our Facebook page, Troup Baptist Association.

Association - Church Prayer List

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

For October 2021, please pray for following churches:

Week of October 1, 2021 - Unity Baptist Church
Week of October 8, 2021 - Wehadkee Baptist Church
Week of October 15, 2021 - Western Heights Baptist Church
Week of October 22, 2021 - Anointed By Faith
Week of October 29, 2021 - Antioch Baptist Church (Hogansville)

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

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) - Three were baptized this month. "Praise God! He is working at our church. With God all things are possible." • The Food Closet continues to serve the community and BTC is thankful for all volunteers. The Food Closet is open every Thursday from 9 am until 11 am. Last month they served 318 individuals and provided 153 boxes of food and 343 meals. • The Clothing Closet is also open every Thursday from 9 am until 11 am. A total of 214 individuals were served. "We are very thankful for these volunteers."

- BTC donated school supplies to Clearview Elementary School. Thanks to all who participated by donating supplies.

- BTC participated in the Troup County Relay for Life events. Troup County set a goal of \$56,000. As of the event Friday night, they had raised \$50,854. Eight teams were in attendance with three team members from Baptist Tabernacle: Alex Smith, Brenda Leverett and Karen Smith. Janice & Sid Shellnutt donated a handmade quilt and it brought \$250 and was won by Rhonda Bailey. • Awanas is scheduled to begin on September 8 at 6:30 pm. It is for children age 2 years through 6th grade. • "Let's all remember to pray for our country and each other. Have a safe and happy Labor Day weekend."

Creekside - On August 14, Creekside held a Benefit Yard Sale and Singing for the family of Angie Richardson. Hamburger plates, popcorn, and snow cones were available as well as homemade cakes. John Lanier was with them as well as other local groups. The benefit was a huge success! John Lanier was also with them on Sunday, August 15.

- The Brotherhood met on August 12 with special speaker Lance Dorrough, Deacon at Springhill Baptist Church.
- Creekside Baptist received four new members this month!
- Creekside will host a Labor Day singing, September 4 - 6. Eagles Wings will be singing at 6:00 pm on September 4th. Then on Monday, September 6, the singing will start at 1:00 pm and continue until 6:00 pm with the Back Porch Pickers, Young Spirit, Mercy's Grace, All For Him, and New Reason Quartet. There will be food, drinks and door prizes.



Above: Terry Searels celebrates his 80th Birthday with his family & church family!

FBC Hogansville - Backyard Bible Club Family Night was held on Wednesday, August 4. This was a special time when the attendees could share with their families all they have learned during the summer. The Club evenings were spent studying the Bible and developing a relationship with God, all while having a good time. Thank you to Mrs. Melanie Baswell, Mrs. Sondra Lee, and the many able assistants who made this program possible. • On August 4 the church prepared lunch for the teachers at Hogansville Elementary School. "It is a privilege to serve the teachers in any way we can, and we hope this tradition is an encouragement to them. We appreciate everything they do, especially under the current circumstances." A few days later on August 7, members from several local churches joined together for a Prayer Walk around the school asking God's blessing and guidance for all that happens here this year. • A group of members went out into Hogansville neighborhoods to visit on Friday evening, August 20. They were telling people about Jesus, inviting them to church, and keeping things cool by passing out popsicles. Just out spreading God's love. • On Saturday, August 21, the youth of FBC Hogansville had a Back to School Bash that included a pool party and hamburgers and hotdogs. They had a great time of fun, food and fellowship! Thank you to hosts Darrell and Mandy Neese and chaperones Jonathan Brown, Cody Binger and Youth Director, Monica Johnson. • Terry Searels invited the church to join him and his family for a catered lunch to celebrate his 80th Birthday! Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, reminiscing, and good food. "Thank you, Terry, for allowing us to be part of this milestone in your life. Many Happy Returns!" • The Awesome August Sunday night services were a blessing to all who came. Each Sunday night in August a local pastor brought a message of revival and encouragement. It was a privilege to have these men of God come to our church to share the Word, and it



reinforces the good work that is being done in Troup County. We thank each pastor and each musician who took part as well as all visitors who met with us. • Pastor Greg baptized four young people during the month of August: Myles Allen, Porter Allen, Jordan Jones, and Cole Smith. What a privilege to welcome them into the Kingdom of God!

Additional photos are on page 5.

Above: Cole Smith (center) with Cody Binger who led him to Christ and Pastor Greg Morris on right.

Church News & Announcements

Grace - added one new member and distributed 72 boxes of free food in August! • Missionaries from Brazil, South America, Scott & Donna Allen visited Grace while on furlough visiting their son in LaGrange. • A Prayer Walk was held at Long Cane Elementary School by the children's ministry. • RU Car Wash was free as an outreach to the community. • A prayer quilt was made by the Ladies of Grace for Jim Rutledge. • A Farewell Luncheon was held for Melissa Jennings who will be moving to Florida to be with her grandchildren. The pastor's nickname for Melissa is "Vestal" because she sings like Vestal Goodman.

Join Grace for Sunday School at 9:45 am, morning worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 am, evening Discipleship Training at 6:00 pm and Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. Children PreK through 3rd grades and Teen Ministry 4th grade through age 20 will meet in the George Harris Building during Sunday and Wednesday services. All services will be streamed live on Facebook and will also be available on YouTube. Please visit the website www.gbclagrange.com for updates and links to their Facebook page and YouTube channel. Search for Grace Baptist Church LaGrange Georgia & RU Recovery Ch. 1078.



Grace Car Wash by RU Recovery



A Prayer Quilt for Jim Rutledge

Highland - will not have Homecoming service in September this year due to the increase in Covid cases in Troup County. You may view Pastor Terry Rainwater's Sunday Sermons and Wednesday Words on Facebook - search for Highland Baptist.

Lakeview - WMU met at Sally Pike's home on August 14 and enjoyed "Salads at Sally's." • Homecoming will be October 10 with former pastor Don Ellison as the guest speaker.

• Lakeview weekly services are: Sunday School at 10 am, Sunday morning worship at 11 am, and Wed. services at 6 pm.

Gray Hill - honored Pastor Lamar Womack with a birthday celebration after the Sunday night service on August 1. It was to be a surprise, and was until he wandered into the fellowship hall at 5:30! He was still ecstatic to say the least. He said it was one of the best birthdays he had ever had. The church gifted him with a suit, shirt, ties, and shoes. "We all love our pastor and he loves his church people!"



Above: Bro. Lamar Womack tries on his new jacket and inspects his two birthday cakes!

Mountville (MBC) - Randy and Sherri Miller were at MBC on Sunday, July 25. "It was a wonderful night of worship! We love Randy and Sherri!" • MBC held a "Back to School Bible School" at Camp Viola on Sunday, August 1. The students spent the day learning about the love of Jesus and showing that love and compassion to our neighbors. The kids also painted a mural reflecting that message. The day ended with fun, fellowship, and swimming! • Mountville held a Prayer Walk at Callaway Elementary School on Wednesday, August 11. "What a blessing it is to be able to pray over our TCSS schools!" • Just a reminder that MBC is a satellite campus for Faith Bible Institute. If anyone is interested in attending this awesome study of the Bible, please contact Preacher Dwayne at 706-881-4003 for more information. Fall semester began on August 22. • MBC is in need of a pianist! If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Preacher Dwayne at 706-881-4003. Additional photos are on page 5.



Mountville's Back-to-School Bible School at Camp Viola

Church News & Announcements



Left: Grace Baptist Church held a Farewell Luncheon for Melissa Jennings who will be moving to Florida.

At Right: Mountville kids learned about the love of Jesus and painted a mural reflecting that message at Camp Viola.



Mountville Kids Back-to-School Bible School at Camp Viola.



FBC Hogansville Back to School Bash & Pool Party

Dementia & Alzheimers Support Group

Looking for Support, Answers, & Resources?

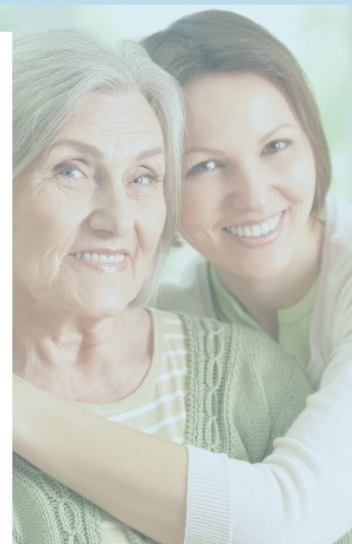
Are you a friend or family member of someone who has been diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment, Dementia, or Alzheimer's?

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



Call Now for Appointment!

Upcoming Medicare Insurance & Drug Plan
Education & Free Consultations.

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

Private Appointments are being taken for
October 19 and November 18

Call Troup Baptist Association 706-884-1975

Life Chain 2021

October 3 at 1:00 PM

200 Lafayette Parkway, LaGrange
St. Peter's Catholic Church (side parking lot)

Abortion Kills Children!

This is an outdoor event
and social distancing will be maintained.

Contact: Theresa Shane (309) 635-2712

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 2 Dementia Support Group, 10:00 am with Beth Dow
- 6 Labor Day Holiday, No Pastor's Prayer Fellowship
- 12 National Grandparents Day
- 13 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 20 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 27 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 30 Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm Zoom Meeting Only

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

Faith Bible Institute Fall Semester is in session
with online and day classes at TBA.



Happy Birthday September



- 2 Rev. Michael Reeves, Open Range Cowboy Church
- 4 Rev. Tom Farr, First Baptist on the Square
- 20 Rev. Jason Jones, Western Heights
- 29 Rev. Richard King, Lakeview
- 30 Dr. Lamar Truitt, Lakeview
- 30 Rev. Ben Turner, Teaver Road



Happy Grandparents Day – September 12



On The Lighter Side:

"A grandparent's love knows no bounds. It does not recognize bedtimes or curfews, and agrees that dinner can be cookies and ice cream. It can provide unlimited cuddles and kisses, and always has time for one more story."

— Unknown

"The reason grandkids and grandparents get along so well are that they have a shared adversary."

— Sam Levenson

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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