# The Messenger

**Volume 56 Issue 10**

**October 2021**

**Troup Baptist Association**

## The Importance of Faith

Have you ever read a particular passage of scripture, studied it, and thought you had it "down pat," only to have God, as if He was peeling back the layers of an onion, peel back a new layer of understanding for you? This happened to me the other day while preparing a sermon about faith. In fact, this has been happening to me a lot lately. The more I study the Bible, the dumber I realize I am! And I suspect I am not the only dog named, "Rover" running in this pack!

Hebrews chapter eleven has been referred to as the "Faith Hall of Fame." It contains a rollcall of names of the "Heavy Hitters of the Faith" in the Bible. People, who because of their faith in God, were used by Him to do miraculous things. But tucked in the middle of all these names and miraculous stories, is Hebrews 11:6. (KJV) It states, *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*

Pay close attention to the first part of this verse, *"But without faith it is impossible to please him …"* I don't know how many times I have read this verse. I had a working knowledge and understanding of it. But somehow, it just never resonated in my spirit as it did this time. This is a tremendously powerful passage of scripture!

If I understand this verse of scripture as I think I do, then I must accept the fact that without a personal faith in God, there is absolutely nothing I can do to please Him. Period! Now, don't run by that! Stop and let that sink in! Reread it several times. *"Without faith it is impossible to please Him."* This means that without faith, my morality, as important as it is, my good works, my church attendance, my tithing record, my politics, (as correct as they are) and my service to Him - do not please Him! In short, without faith, there is absolutely nothing I can do to please Him - nothing!

Christian Faith means that when we give ourselves to Jesus Christ completely and without reservation, we put our "yes" on the table before He even asks the question. Christian Faith equates to us signing, dating, and notarizing a "blank contract for our life," giving it to God, and trusting Him to fill-in the terms of our service. He reserves the right to send us where He wants and to use us as He sees fit - without asking our permission first! (Or ever!)

I read an illustration the other day about a grandfather who asked his young grandson, "Son, do you want to go with me today?" The lad replied, "Yes sir! Where are we going?" The grandfather replied, "Oh, just forget it; you don't really want to go with me!" The lad replied, "Grandpa! Why would you say that?" To which he responded, "If you really wanted to go with me, then 'where' we are going wouldn't matter!" Wow! This is faith! If we really love Jesus, and are committed to Him, then where He is taking us really doesn't matter! We just want to be with Him!

In the Bible we are reassured of God's presence with us. Two such passages of reassurance are Hebrews 13:5(b) (KJV) *"… for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee,"* and Matthew 28:20 (b) (KJV) *"… and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*

I fear that the turmoil and loss of peace that many Christians are experiencing today can be traced back to their lack of understanding of the importance of their personal faith in God. We place great importance on church attendance, morality, careers, raising a family, climbing the corporate ladder, being good providers, being good parents and spouses, and a thousand other things - none of which are bad within themselves. But remember what Hebrews 11: 6(a) says, *"But without faith it is impossible to please him …"* Therefore, a personal faith in Jesus Christ is the most important thing in our lives - period!

So, how's your faith?

*Brother Aaron*

*We encourage you to "like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/troupbaptist*

# Association News

**Association -** Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough was featured in The Christian Index on September 17 in an article entitled *State's largest religious group standing against push to bring casinos to Georgia.* Bro. Aaron is a member of the Georgia Baptist Public Affairs Committee which guides the convention's legislative agenda, and has always included opposition to the expansion of gambling. Bro. Aaron stated, "It's the only industry I know of that's built on somebody losing. The last statistics I heard, for every dollar of revenue it generates, it costs $3 on the backside in social services to deal with the broken lives and broken families. Now is the time for churches, small groups, and individual Christians to start having conversations to raise awareness of this issue - and to formulate a plan as to how we will oppose this initiative. Quite simply, Georgia does not need casino gambling!" Mike Griffin, the legislative agent for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, said the arguments that casinos provide economic benefits fail to consider that when gambling increases so, too, does crime, addiction and bankruptcy.

**Association -** Missions Pastor Joe Frye of Rosemont Baptist Church spear-headed a community mission project for the Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center staff. This was a two part event. First churches prepared "tubs of goodies" consisting of purchased individual snacks. These were distributed throughout the hospital on Tuesday, Sept. 28. The second event was a Prayer Vigil held outside the hospital on Tuesday, October 5 at 7pm. Churches participating in the "tubs of goodies" were Rosemont Baptist, First Baptist on the Square, Baptist Tabernacle, Faith Baptist, Franklin Road Baptist, Unity Baptist, Teaver Road Baptist, East Vernon Baptist, Mountville Baptist and Fountain Baptist.
"Thank you to all who participated in these events!"

Above & At Right: Tubs of Goodies being delivered to Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center in LaGrange.

## 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.

**Annual Meeting of the Troup Baptist Association**

Monday, October 18 at 11:00 am
at Troup Baptist Association
1301 Washington St., LaGrange GA

Special Speaker: Dr. Paul Baxter
BBQ Lunch following the meeting

Please call to make a reservation for lunch!
(706) 884-1975

Each church in the association is entitled to voting members (messengers) at the annual meeting per the following guidelines:

| Church Membership | # Messengers including Pastor |
|---|---|
| 1 - 149 | 5 |
| 150 - 199 | 6 |
| 200 - 249 | 7 |
| 250 - 299 | 8 |
| 300 - 349 | 9 |
| 350 or more | 10 |

# Church News & Announcements

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) -** One person was baptized in September. "Praise God!" • The Food Closet served 309 individuals giving away 121 boxes of food and delivering 308 meals and gave 90 backpacks of food to children. • Awanas is off to a good start. It began on September 22 and will meet each Wednesday evening from 6:30 until 8:00 pm. AWANA stands for **A**pproved **W**orkmen **A**re **N**ot **A**shamed. • Prayer Warriors still meet every Tuesday at 10 am on LaFayette Square for prayer. After the prayer service on Tuesday, September 21, they came to the church for mission work. They packed tubs filled with goodies for the hospital staff. "Thanks for the awesome work." • On October 3, BTC observed Homecoming. "Have a happy and safe Autumn!"

**Creekside -** hosted a God's Labor Day Weekend Singing with Bluegrass group, "Eagles Wings" on Friday. It was a wonderful Spirit-filled evening! John Lanier sang during the Sunday morning worship service and also on Monday along with several other groups. In all, it was a great Spirit-filled weekend at Creekside. • Grandparents Day was celebrated on September 12 with a gift bag for children. • The Brotherhood met on September 18 with guest speaker Lamar Huber.
• Creekside started a WMU group with their first meeting on October 4 at 6 pm. The speaker was Joyce Grable.
• Brotherhood will not meet this month and will instead support the March for Jesus on Saturday, October 16.
• Homecoming is Sunday, October 17 beginning at 10:30 am. The singing group will be SEGOS The Next Generation. Dennis Sego will be the guest speaker.

**FBC Hogansville -** Friday Night Visitation: All are welcome to join this group as they go into the community to spread the Word of God and invite people to church. They meet at 6 pm. These folks have fun and fellowship as they share Jesus and make new friends. • Building Godly Men and Ladies Under Construction: On Tuesday nights from 6 until 7 pm, men and women gather at church for a time of prayer and Bible study. These groups offer the opportunity to dig into God's Word and discern His plan while encouraging one another. As a bonus, Ladies Under Construction will dedicate the third Tuesday of each month for a Women on Mission study. • Gary Blanks gave God the glory when sharing his testimony at Sonrise Baptist Church in Newnan on September 16. Others from Arise Ministry (Celebrate Recovery) accompanied him and all were blessed by the experience. • The Men's Ministry provided special music directed by Darrell Neese on Sunday morning, September 19. They sang "Victory in Jesus" and then joined soloist Randy Brady in singing "All My Hope" which touched hearts. "We look forward to more of this good singing." • On Saturday, September 25 the Clothes Closet was open to the public providing free clothes and shoes for men, women, boys and girls. "It is a privilege to serve the community in various ways, and many were welcomed on this occasion." • Pastor Greg Morris was honored to baptize the following people: John Courier, Blake Barentine, Jonathan Lynn, Braylen Cooley, Mayson Cooley, Stephanie Stafford, Ashbi Alford and Rosemary Griffin. They also welcomed new member, Doris Lassetter by church letter.

Gary Blanks of Arise Ministry sharing his testimony at Sonrise Baptist Church in Newnan

FBC Hogansville: Randy Brady, on front left, soloist with the FBC Hogansville Men's Choir

**Grace -** Prayer was held in front of WellStar Hospital for Makenzie Bleemel and all the patients fighting Covid. Makenzie received a miracle and after over a month she got to come home and off the ventilator! "Praise God!"
• In September, 82 boxes of free food was distributed.
• Walk Through Jerusalem will be held on October 31 from 7 until 9 pm. This is a way to spread the gospel on Halloween night. The kids will get treats, but also learn about the Bible at each booth. If anyone wants to participate in sharing the Word on Halloween by having a booth based on a story from the Bible , dressing up in Biblical costume, and giving out candy or bookmarks with Bible verses or church brochures, please call or text Phyllis Powell 706-412-0120. If Covid numbers are still high, we will "Drive through Jerusalem" and give a bag of treats at the end of the drive. • 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's Church PreK through 3rd grades and Teen Ministry 6th through 12 grades will meet in the George Harris Building. Generation Now will meet every 1st & 3rd Sundays during Worship for PreK - Age 20. Reformer's Unanimous meets every Friday night at 7:00 pm 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.

# Church News & Announcements

Grace above: Makenzie Bleemel is at home with her family.
Below: Grace Prayer Vigil at Wellstar LaGrange Hospital

**Highland -** As a Mission Project, the WMU has asked church members to help with donating large purses or totes filled with various items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, notepads, pens, make-up, hairbrushes, shampoo, etc. to be delivered to Harmony House in LaGrange. • A 5th Wednesday Hymn Sing was held on September 29 with congregational singing as well as special music. • The Prayers and Squares group provided a quilt to be prayed-over by members of our church. It was then delivered to Tray Tucker, who is battling a serious illness to let him know that many are praying for him.
• The annual Trunk 'n Treat will be held in the church parking lot. Candy and Bible tracts will be given to children as they trick-or-treat. There is always have a large crowd for this event. • Pastor Terry Rainwater goes on Facebook every Wednesday with his "Wednesday Words". "Be sure to check this out; it is always a blessing!"

**Lakeview -** Church was closed for two weeks due to some members having the Covid virus. On Labor Day, Carolyn Jones and Jean Shirley delivered home-baked cookies to all members; thank you Carolyn and Jean for all the time and thoughtfulness you invested in this project. • WMU met September 25 with Peggy Reese serving as the hostess and presenting a program on "Faith." New church officers were elected on September 26. • Homecoming is October 10 with former pastor Don Ellison as the special speaker.

Highland: Tray Tucker admires his prayer quilt.

**New Hope LaGrange -** In August they were excited to welcome Peter and Mary Nelson into the church family.
• Sisters of Hope held a Sunday morning breakfast and baby shower before Sunday School for Chase and Hanna Wilson. "Congratulations on your coming baby boy." The Sisters of Hope, along with the church family, collected breakfast items for Sherrie Smith to give to the children at Clearview Elementary School as needed. "Thanks to everyone who donated." Pastor Steven Cheek was the guest at the Sisters of Hope meeting in September. He spoke to them about his vision for and the work of each church team in sharing the gospel in different ways in our community. "We appreciate and thank the Lord for you, Pastor Steven." • On August 30, two new deacons, Tim Mills and Eddie Wilson, were elected to serve on the Deacon Board. • "Our love and condolences go out to Maugene Herren in the death of her husband, Wallace and also to Shelly Wilson, in the death of her mother, Sally Price. May the Lord continue to comfort each of you."
• On September 19, Youth Pastor Chase Golden brought a message of challenge to everyone using Matthew 10:5-7 "There is No Limit." "Thank you Chase for the work you are doing in leading our youth." • The quarterly church business meeting will be Sunday, October 17 after the morning worship service. • Mark your calendar now for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 17 at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Building. Everyone is encouraged to bring a guest with them. • Please note that the church has a new phone number, 706-443-5134 and a new mailing address, New Hope Baptist Church, P.O. Box 3685, LaGrange, GA 30241.
• Fall is here and daylight saving time will be over on Sunday, November 7. "Enjoy the fall weather!"

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 & address.

# Church News & Announcements

**CIRCLES** Troup County
Building Community to End Poverty

Circles of Troup County was recognized with two national awards during the national Circles USA Conference.

**Deb Brown**, a bus driver for Troup County Schools, received the "Most Powerful Circle Leader Success Story" award. Deb has been with Circles for almost two years and has met many of her goals including purchasing a house. **Calvin Neely**, a member of Rosemont Baptist, received the "Outstanding Ally" award. Calvin has volunteered with Circles for seven years in numerous positions. In 2019, he initiated a process that resulted in a collaboration between Circles of Troup and Center State Bank to provide low-interest loans to Circles leaders.

FIRST CHOICE WOMEN'S CENTER

## New Volunteer Training!

First Choice Women's Center provides
***Compassion, Hope and Help***
to women facing unplanned pregnancies.
To learn more about volunteer opportunities,
contact Lisa Ellen at 706-884-3833

Wednesday, November 3 9am-4pm
Thursday, November 4 9 am-4pm
Friday, November 5 9am-1pm

### College Scholarship Opportunity for Students

This fall, Georgia Baptist Bible Drill and Speakers, Inc. is sponsoring High School and College Essay Contests. This essay provides the opportunity for students to grow as they write about their faith.

The winners in each category will receive a $500 college scholarship to the school of their choice.

Visit: bibledrillandspeakers.com/essay-contests/

ThreeRivers REGIONAL COMMISSION

## 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 November 18 with only a few openings left!

Call Troup Baptist Association 706-884-1975

### Dementia & Alzheimer's Support Group for Caregivers

Meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am
October 7, November 4, December 2

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

Looking for Support, Answers & Resources?
You are not alone - Join others like you!

For more info, call the association office at 706-884-1975

Samaritan's Purse OPERATION Christmas Child

It's that wonderful
**Operation Christmas Child**
time of the year!

Get your shoe-boxes ready, go shopping, write a note and include a photo. Stuff those boxes with all the goodies you bought, put a big rubber band around it, and it's ready to turn in to your church or take to the Drop-Off Center at First Baptist Church on the Square in LaGrange.
Or you may "Build a Shoebox Online" and Operation Christmas Child will do all of the work for you.
Children around the world are waiting to hear about Jesus, please don't let them down.
**Drop-Off Location: First Baptist on the Square**
**New Life Center November 15-22**

### Association - Church Prayer List

**For October 2021, please pray for following churches:**

Week of October 3, 2021 - Unity Baptist Church
Week of October 10, 2021 - Wehadkee Baptist Church
Week of October 17, 2021 - Western Heights Baptist Church
Week of October 24, 2021 - Anointed By Faith
Week of October 31, 2021 - Antioch Baptist Church (Hogansville)

**For November 2021, please pray for following churches:**

Week of November 7, 2021 - Antioch Baptist Church (LaGrange)
Week of November 14, 2021 - At The Cross
Week of November 21, 2021 - Baptist Tabernacle Church
Week of November 28, 2021 - Bethel Baptist Church

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

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

4 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
7 Dementia Support Group, 10:00 am with Beth Dow
10 Pastor Appreciation Sunday
11 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
18 Annual Meeting of Troup Baptist Association 11:00 am
19 Medicare Private Consultations / Three Rivers, by appt only
25 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.troupbaptist.org

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

## Happy Birthday October

2 Rev. S. T. Janney
8 Rev. Kevin Stringham, Fountain
14 Rev. Anthony Criswell, First Baptist on the Square
14 Rev. Patrick Turner, True Believers Ministry
17 Rev. Jason Bennett, Hope Fellowship Hogansville
17 Dr. Mike Brandenburg
20 Rev. Kenneth Cole, Dunson
31 Rev. Clifford Anderson

# October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

## On The Lighter Side:

Three friends decided to go deer hunting together. One was a lawyer, one a doctor, and the other a preacher. As they were walking, along came a big buck. The three of them shot simultaneously. Immediately the buck dropped to the ground and all three rushed up to see how big it actually was. Upon reaching it they found out that it was dead but had only one bullet hole. Thus a debate followed concerning whose buck it was.
A few minutes later a game officer came by and asked what the problem was. The doctor told him their reason for the debate. The officer told them he would take a look and tell them who shot it.
Within a few seconds the game officer said with much confidence, "The pastor shot the buck!"
They all wondered how he knew that so quickly.
The officer said, "Easy. The bullet went in one ear and out the other."

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