

## Troup Baptist Association

### Welcome the Unexpected

My wife and I were lying in the bed the other morning listening to the late Christian comedian, Jeanne Robertson. She's a hoot! Do yourself a favor and Google her and listen to her. You can thank me later! She was talking about her husband, "Left Brain," as she affectionately referred to him, and how she was learning to continue with her life and ministry after his death. In her presentation, she talked about how she had struggled all of her life trying to learn how to "welcome the unexpected." Wow! I suppose we all struggle with that one!

A couple of weeks ago, Marianne and I went on vacation with my sister and brother-in-law. We vacation together often. We like doing the same thing: Nothing! I don't understand people who go on vacation and have every minute of every day planned with outings, excursions, etc. No! Vacation is a time to unplug and do nothing. I have a strict rest schedule while on vacation that necessitates me getting up at "the crack of noon!" Oh well! But one thing we

like to do on vacation is to visit antique shops, thrift stores, and pawn shops. We went into a particular thrift store, where on a whim, I purchased Zig Ziglar's book, "Ziglar on Selling, The Ultimate Handbook for the Complete Sales Professional," which was copyrighted in 1991. And hey, it was in my price range: \$1. And much to my elation, when I went to the checkout counter, I discovered that every Tuesday everything in the store is 25% off the listed price. And guess what - it was Tuesday! So, I got this jewel of a book for \$0.75! Oh, happy day!

When we got back from vacation, Marianne had put the book on our kitchen table for me to take to my office. As I walked by it, I picked it up, opened it, and just randomly began to read. Much to my surprise, Zig was telling about the brand of underwear he wore! What? He said, "One of my favorite gifts this past year was Jockey underwear from 'The Redhead.'" (His wife) He continued, "As I started to open the package of the Jockey Classic, I looked down and read the printing.

Here is what got my attention, 'You spend two-thirds of your life in underwear; spend three minutes reading why it pays to buy the best.' Then they began to give a beautiful description of why theirs is the best. In the world of sales, you lead with the need." He concluded with, "I'll confess that had the opening not grabbed my attention, there is no way I would have finished reading their 'sales talk.'" And to you my readers, I can honestly say that reading about Zig Ziglar's underwear was not what I expected when I opened his book and began to read. Not a mental image I wanted! But to state the obvious, evidently, I welcomed the unexpected, as you are reading about it in this column.

So, let's begin to connect the dots here and see if we can make a Spiritual, or at a minimum, a practical application out of what we've read so far. The late Christian comedian, Jeanne Robertson, led a very successful life and career by learning to welcome the unexpected. Zig Ziglar made his point about learning to be a successful salesperson by welcoming and using a very

unexpected story about his favorite underwear. And even I contributed to this story today by welcoming an unexpected purchase of a book, at an unexpected price, at an unexpected place, and at an unexpected time.

It is early January 2022, as I sit at my computer musing over these thoughts and writing this column. It appears to me that there is a very poignant Spiritual life-lesson here that we should learn. I promise you that 2022 will be filled with many unexpected things, both good and bad. I think the Spiritual lesson here is to learn how to welcome the unexpected in our lives. And if we do somehow master this ability, for sure, it will be the toughest thing we will ever learn to do. I don't believe in making New Year's Resolutions, but if I did, I think mine would be to endeavor to learn how to better "welcome the unexpected" in 2022.

Happy New Year!

*Brother Aaron*

# Association News

## 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** - The Search Committee of the Troup Baptist Association has met on several occasions and has received guidance from the Georgia Baptist Mission Board regarding the search for and filling of the position of Associational Missionary of the Troup Baptist Association. The search committee is a subgroup of the Administration Team and other Association leadership members. Please pray for this committee as they endeavor to search for and find the man that God has called for this position of leadership.

**Association** - The Pastors' Prayer Fellowship continues to meet both in person and via Zoom meeting on Monday mornings at 11:00 am at the association office. This is open to any pastor who would like to attend. The meeting is led by Moderator Derek Williams. Each week a different pastor shares a message with the group. If you would like to join by Zoom and do not get the invitation by email, please call the office and request an invitation. 706-884-1975

**Faith Bible Institute** - will begin Spring Semester classes on Tuesday, January 18 at 9:30 am at the association office. Registered students may choose from in-person or online classes for this semester.

**Circles of Troup County** - will resume weekly meetings on Thursday, January 13 at 5:30 pm at the Troup Baptist Association building. Circles of Troup County empowers people to make their own plans and reach their goals to move out of poverty with the encouragement of others. For more information visit [circlesoftroup.org](http://circlesoftroup.org).

### Association - Church Prayer List

#### For January 2022, please pray for following churches:

Week of January 2, 2022 - Creekside Baptist Church  
Week of January 9, 2022 - Davidson Baptist Church  
Week of January 16, 2022 - Dunson Baptist Church  
Week of January 23, 2022 - East LaGrange Baptist Church  
Week of January 30, 2022 - East Vernon Baptist Church

#### For February 2022, please pray for following churches:

Week of February 6, 2022 - Eastside Baptist Church  
Week of February 13, 2022 - First Baptist Church Hogansville  
Week of February 20, 2022 - First Baptist Church West Point  
Week of February 27, 2022 - First Baptist Church on the Square

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

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - During December, the Food Closet gave away 119 boxes of food, 322 meals and 90 backpacks filled with weekend food for school children.

• On December 4, the Awanas held a Happy Birthday Jesus Party for the children and their parents. Awanas went caroling on December 15. They started back meeting on January 5 after the holiday break. • The children's Christmas program was presented on December 19. • The JC McMillian Christmas Eve Men's Breakfast was held on December 24 at 8 am. Approximately 70 men attended! They enjoyed a delicious meal, fun and fellowship together. This is an annual men's breakfast that was started by Rev. JC McMillian.

• About 300 Christmas gifts were given to Whitesville Road Elementary School for students who attend there. "God truly blesses our church each year with people who purchase these gifts and share with the school." BTC encourages everyone to begin the New Year with God, worshipping and praising his Holy name. BTC wishes everyone a Happy and Blessed New Year.

**FBC Hogansville** - On December 5 a dessert auction was held to raise money for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. The Youth provided a hot dog supper and desserts were donated. The effort was a great success, and \$1,394 was raised which helped in exceeding the goal for the special offering.

• Ladies Under Construction celebrated at the Hogan House Bed & Breakfast enjoying a delicious meal and reading of the Christmas Story. The surroundings were beautiful and added to the festivities. This group meets for Bible study at the church every Tuesday at 6 pm and all ladies are welcome. The Prime Timers visited Hills and Dales in LaGrange and were given a well-informed tour by Mrs. Joanna Baxter. The estate is always impressive and even more so when decorated for the Christmas season. • The evening of December 15 found many happy carolers going around to spread God's love in song. They serenaded special friends who are not always able to get to church. The singers and those they sang to all received a blessing and shared the joy of music. • Pastor Greg led an inspirational candlelight service on Christmas Eve. Young Willow McGhee recited verses from the Christmas Story in Luke. Our guest pianist, Mark Ladd, led the music and sang a beautiful duet with Mrs. Sondra Lee. After communion, the service ended in a blaze of candlelight that set everyone's spirit in the true meaning of Christmas.

• The Leadership Team will meet on January 8.  
"We wish everyone a Happy New Year!"

**Highland** - had a great December, starting with the Hanging of the Green Service and the beautiful poinsettias placed in the sanctuary by members in memory or honor of their loved ones. They also had a Christmas Card exchange for a small donation, which was placed in the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. • The Christmas Program was a wonderful service with The Christmas Story scripture read by Chris Boyd, and Christmas carols sung by the choir. The service was followed by lunch in the fellowship hall. • There was a great turnout for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. It was another beautiful Christmas Eve Service. • The WMU is continuing to collect hygiene items in January to be distributed through God's Bread Basket ministry.

# Church News & Announcements

**Highland (continued)** - A "Read Through the Bible Encouragement Group" was started in January and will meet weekly.

**Lakeview** - Thanks to all who contributed to a joyful Christmas season at Lakeview. The Decorating Committee created a beautiful atmosphere for worshiping. Several members sang Christmas specials which were enjoyed by all. Church hostess Carol Truitt and her committee planned a wonderful luncheon for December 19. The Lord's Supper was celebrated on December 26. The church is making plans to obtain city water and donations are being accepted. Missions for December included the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Gideons' Bibles for Jesus Project.

**Mountville (MBC)** - Mountville honored and remembered our Jenny Marterella on Sunday, October 31. Jenny passed away on September 4. Her niece created a t-shirt in her memory that said "LOVE LIKE JENNY". Jenny was a true example of a Christian and she showed the love of Jesus wherever she went. Everyone wore their shirt in her memory on this special day. Mountville misses her so much but we know that we will meet her again one day thanks to the precious gift of salvation through our savior, Jesus Christ! • Mountville Baptist was honored to provide Christmas gifts/clothing for 15 children in foster care, 4 families/7 children, and 7 senior citizens. Members of the congregation chose gift tags from the Giving Tree and provided that gift for a child. "We are so thankful and blessed!" • The Mountville Ladies Group enjoyed an outing to Griffin on Saturday, November 13. A great time of fun and fellowship was had by all. Also, the Mountville Ladies hosted a Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 6. There were 31 ladies in attendance! Nicki Freeman was the guest speaker and brought a wonderful message titled "Life is Hard, but GOD is Good!" It was truly a wonderful night of worship and fellowship. • Mountville MPact was busy during the Christmas season! They went to Fantasy in Lights and had a lock-in at the church on Friday, December 3. They continue to lead worship often during the morning worship service and share their talents for the Lord. • The Children's Ministry was busy, too! They learned a lot about the birth of Jesus and also painted Christmas cookies during Children's Church!

• MBC continues to be a satellite location for Faith Bible Institute. Our Spring semester will begin on Sunday, January 23 at 5 pm. If you would like to join us, please contact Preacher Dwayne at 706-881-4003 for more information. "Happy New Year! We pray that 2022 will be a great year for everyone!"

**New Hope (LaGrange)** - The Thanksgiving Dinner was so very special this year. There was a great turnout with many guest who enjoyed the delicious meal prepared by our dedicated kitchen "crew". At the end of the meal Pastor Steven spoke briefly about the love of Jesus for all of us and how we can come to trust Him as our Savior. • Thank you to those who decorated the sanctuary for Christmas. It was beautiful for our worship services. • The Legacy Adult Sunday School class and the Ladies class enjoyed a Christmas party together in the Family Life Building. Everyone brought delicious food to share. They also shared stories and played

games. They wrapped two of their men for the ugliest Christmas present and had a belly-laughing time! Thank you to Don Carter and Tim Mills for being good sports. They also presented gift cards to a family to help with food and gas.

• The church family enjoyed sharing gifts for families in the Special Enrichment Program of LaGrange. What a joy and blessing it was to wrap all the gifts requested by the children and give the parents a gift card and a Bible. Pastor Steven and Meagan presented these to the families along with a message about the love of Jesus for all people. "Thank you church family for your love and support for others in our community."

• Sisters of Hope enjoyed their annual Christmas Party at Los Napoles. They enjoyed a delicious meal, chatted and exchanged Christmas ornaments. They finished with singing Silent Night around the table and thanked God for the gift of Jesus to the world. • We extend condolences to Mauge Herren in the death of her dear husband, Wallace. He was a special man to all of us at New Hope. Please keep in prayer those who had Christmas for the first time without their loved ones. • For the past three weeks, many have been sick with the terrible virus. Please pray for all to recover and be restored to good health. • Congratulations to our four families with new babies. • In January we will be collecting bottled water for the Head Start Program. "Have a blessed new year."

**Roper Heights** - has a new pastor! Brother Eric Rice has accepted the call to pastor this church. His first sermon as pastor was December 15. Deacon Chairman Bo Huerta along with Brother Eric filled the pulpit during the time they were without a pastor. Please pray for this church as they move forward and for the family of former pastor, Rev. Eddie Striblin who passed away last October.

**Wehadkee** - "We at Wehadkee Baptist Church would like to thank Mr. Don Mahaffey for his visit to our church and the ministry he has as 'The Cross Man.'" His visit on December 5th was both joyful and exciting. • On December 11, they held a "Happy Birthday Jesus" celebration dinner. The guest singers were Cannan and Whitney Looney, Greg Nichols with special guest Brittney Fields. It was a beautiful celebration, praising our Lord and Savior in worship, music, songs and fellowship. "Thank you, Cannan, Whitney, Greg and Brittany for a wonderful night. Happy Birthday to Sharon Mickle, Dot Newton, Bobby Brewster, Eddie Mastin, & Beverly Brewster. Happy Anniversary to Leon & Debbie Wessinger and Bobby & Beverly Brewster.

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.

## JANUARY CALENDAR

3 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
10 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
17 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
24 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
31 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)

# Happy New Year!

## Happy Birthday January

3 Rev. Howard Longshore, Davidson  
4 Rev. L. W. Booker  
5 Rev. Bryan Geter, Creekside  
9 Rev. Tom Owensby  
9 Rev. Jack Sapp  
15 Rev. Sam Wood  
17 Rev. Lincoln Anderson  
17 Rev. Craig Marshall  
18 Rev. Terry Rainwater, Highland  
24 Rev. Chad Bishop  
24 Rev. Willie T. Edmondson, Bethlehem

### *On The Lighter Side:*

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, 'Stop -Acts 2:38!' (..turn from your sin...). The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, 'Why did you just stand there? All she did was yell a scripture to you.' 'Scripture?' replied the burglar, 'She said she had an AXE and two 38's!'

**Troup Baptist Association**  
**P.O. Box 550**  
**LaGrange, Georgia 30241**

**Phone: 706-884-1975**  
**Fax: 706-882-8574**  
**Web: [www.troubaptist.org](http://www.troubaptist.org)**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

The Messenger is a Monthly Publication of The Troup Baptist Association  
P.O. Box 550, 1301 Washington St., LaGrange, Georgia 30241  
Office: (706) 884-1975  
Fax: (706) 882-8574

Web Address: [www.troubaptist.org](http://www.troubaptist.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/troubaptist](http://www.facebook.com/troubaptist)

Associational Missionary: (open position)  
Angela Maddux, Administrative Assistant: [angela@troubaptist.com](mailto:angela@troubaptist.com)  
Rev. Derek Williams, Moderator: [pastorderekwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:pastorderekwilliams@gmail.com)  
Rev. Andy Buchanan, Vice-Moderator: [andy@frbclagrange.org](mailto:andy@frbclagrange.org)  
Mr. Daves Nichols, Treasurer  
Mrs. Dottie Henson, Assistant Treasurer  
Mrs. Stephanie Williams, Clerk

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# Church Photos - FBC Hogansville



The Prime Timers visited Hills and Dales in LaGrange & were given a well-informed tour by Mrs. Joanna Baxter.



Ladies Under Construction celebrated Christmas at the Hogan Bed & Breakfast. They meet for Bible Study at the church on Tuesdays at 6pm. All ladies are welcome.



A Dessert Auction was held to raise money for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The Youth provided a hot dog supper and desserts were donated. They raised \$1,394!



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Young Willow McGhee reciting verses from the Christmas Story in Luke.



## Church Photos: FBC Hogansville



On Left: FBC Hogansville Carolers spread God's Love in song as they serenaded special friends who are not always able to get to church. The singers and those they sang to all received a special blessing as they shared the Christmas Story in song.

## Church Photos: Mountville BC



The Mountville Ladies Group Christmas Dinner and Program with Guest Speaker Nicki Freeman  
Message: "Life is Hard, but God is Good!"



The Mountville Ladies Group outing to Griffin on Nov 13.



Mountville BC honored and remembered Jenny Marterella on Sunday, October 31. Everyone wore shirts in her memory that said, "LOVE LIKE JENNY". She was a true example of a Christian who showed God's love wherever she went.



## Church Photos: Mountville BC



The Mountville MPact went to Fantasy in Lights and had a lock-in at the church on December 3. They often lead worship during the morning service and share their talents for the Lord



The Mountville Children's Ministry learned a lot about the birth of Jesus. They also painted Christmas cookies.

## Church Photos: Wehadkee



Wehadkee Guest Singers were Cannan and Whitney Looney, Greg Nichols with special guest Brittney Fields.

# Announcements



## *The Sock Hops*

*In Concert*



**January 29, 2022 - 7:00 P. M.**

**TROUP HIGH FINE ARTS AUDITORIUM**

*1920 Hamilton Road - LaGrange, Georgia*

*Sponsored by*

*Troup High Alumni*

**Advance \$15.00**

**Ticket Reservation Information:**

**Ellis Cadenhead**

**770-713-4564**

**Tickets Available at: Troup High School, LaGrange Toyota,  
Landscape Supply of LaGrange and Weathers Honda**