

Troup Baptist Association

Don't Disqualify God's Chosen Vessels

In the Bible, Acts 15: 36-41(KJV), we find the story of Paul and Barnabas planning their second missionary journey. On their first journey, they were accompanied by a young man named, John Mark. He was Barnabas' cousin. We know him simply as Mark. He is the author of the Book of Mark in the Bible. Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them on this second missionary journey. But Paul did not think it wise to take him - because he had deserted them in Pamphylia on their first missionary journey and had not continued with them in the work. In short, Mark couldn't cut it on the mission field; so, he packed his bags and went home. There was such a sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas regarding taking Mark with them, that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus. Paul chose Silas and went a different way.

As we fast forward to the waning moments of Paul's life and ministry, we see something very interesting. In 2nd Timothy 4: 9-11 (KJV), we find where,

with the exception of Dr. Luke, Paul is alone. Consequently, he instructs Timothy to come to him. But in verse 11 Paul gives Timothy a surprising instruction. He instructs him to, "... Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry." Wow! Who saw that one coming? It is glaringly evident that somewhere between Paul's rejection of Mark and his command to Timothy to bring Mark with him when he came - that reconciliation and forgiveness had occurred between these two men. Now, don't miss this! For that reconciliation and forgiveness to occur - Paul had to realize that in his rejection of Mark - he had "thrown away" a "Vessel of Honor" to the Lord! But in Paul's defense, how could he have known that the one he "threw away" would go on to write the Gospel of Mark and would end up journeying across the Mediterranean and founding the Coptic Church in Egypt - the oldest Christian body of believers in the world? There's a great lesson here: Be careful who you throw away!

As Christians, there are some powerful lessons we can learn from Paul's rejection, reconciliation, and forgiveness of Mark:

- First, if the great Apostle Paul made a misjudgment regarding the character of a co-laborer in the faith, odds are that somewhere along the way you and I will as well - or worse, we will be the victim of somebody's misjudgment.
- Secondly, rejection by one does not equate to rejection by all. Barnabas didn't reject Mark. In fact, he showed compassion and grace to him, forgave him, and gave him a second chance by taking him with him. Hummmm! Isn't second chances what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about?
- Thirdly, Paul's rejection of Mark did not equate to God's rejection of Mark. In Romans 11:29(KJV) we find, "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." This means that God does not call us into a ministry - only to say, "Whoops! Changed My mind! I didn't really mean it!" It means that before God ever saves us and calls us - He already knows our worst failure - and chooses to save us and

call us anyway! Wow! Chew on that one!

• Fourthly, sometimes short-term rejection is both appropriate and necessary for us to achieve the desired long-term results God expects. So, was it appropriate for Paul to reject Mark? Yeah! It was. You see, actions have consequences. And often, it is those consequences that produce the necessary course corrections we need in our lives.

• And finally, as evidenced by Paul's reconciliation and forgiveness of Mark, we should never be so high and mighty that we refuse to offer grace and a second chance to those who have fallen. Restoration, not retribution, must always be our motive when dealing with a fallen brother (or sister) in Christ. In the end, Paul extended restoration to Mark!

I close with this encouragement: Be careful who you "disqualify" and "throw away!" They just may be a Chosen Vessel of Honor to the Lord.

Brother Aaron

Association / Church News & Announcements

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 continued to meet regularly regarding the search for and filling of the position of Associational Missionary of the Troup Baptist Association. Several applicants have been interviewed to this point. The Troup Baptist Association churches will be notified by letter of an Executive Committee Meeting to take place once they have a recommendation. Please continue to 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

Circles of Troup County - Volunteers from Rosemont Baptist Church have been providing a meal at Circles of Troup every month for four years! Their meals feed participants, volunteers and children coming to Thursday night meetings at Troup Baptist Association. Circles works with low-income families to help them reach their goals to become financially stable. For information about volunteering or participating with Circles, see circlesoftroup.org or call Sherri at 706.402.6423.



Rosemont Baptist Church Volunteers

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - During January, the Serving Heart Food Closet served 317 individuals giving out 137 boxes of food and 322 meals. Also, 90 backpacks were given to children for weekend food. • The Clothes Closet served 107 individuals and gave away 33 coats. They are in need of all coats, especially children's coats. • February is Deacon Appreciation Month and we wish to thank all our Deacons and their wives for the service they do for our church. Our church would not run as smoothly as it does without these Deacons.

• Women's Bible Study will begin Tuesday, February 1 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm and will be held every Tuesday through March 22. • Prayer Warriors meet every Tuesday at 10 am on the Square in LaGrange. Everyone is invited to attend.

• Awanas are staying really busy. On January 5 they had Pajama Night, January 12 a sock collection for the homeless was held and January 19 was Fisherman Adventure Night. On February 2 they will have Jersey Night. The Awana store will be held on February 9 and February 16 will be Parent Olympics night. These children are learning a lot about Jesus and his word. Thanks to all our teachers and volunteers who make Awanas a success each year. • Mark your calendars for March 7 from 2-7 pm for our Blood Drive. Please donate if you can so someone else may live. Please continue to pray for our country. May God bless each and every one of you.

Creekside - On December 31, Creekside had a great time at the New Year's Eve Singing with Mike Moore and Perfect Vision. • On January 2, they hosted the Old Paths gospel group for the evening service. Food was served afterwards. In honor of Pastor Bryan Geter's birthday, they "Socked the Preacher". Those participating gave the preacher crazy socks. A good time was had by all! • On January 10, the Sisterhood met. They enjoyed a Winter Wonderland theme with soup, chili and hot chocolate. The hostess was Amber Wisener. Brandy May gave a moving testimony to the women.

• The Brotherhood met on January 15 with Neal Billingsley as guest speaker. • On January 21, they enjoyed Karaoke night hosted by Amber and Justin Wisener. Everyone got in on the action by singing along to old and new hymns.

Announcements: Creekside Sisterhood will meet on February 14 with a Couples Night Dinner hosted by Jamie and Valerie Clary. • The Brotherhood will meet on February 19 at 8 am.

• The annual Laddie Yates singing will be February 19 at 6:00 pm. New Reason will be the guest group.

Association - Church Prayer List

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

For March 2022, please pray for following churches:

Week of March 6, 2022 - First Hispanic Baptist Church
Week of March 13, 2022 - Flat Shoals Salem Rd Baptist Church
Week of March 20, 2022 - Fountain Baptist Church
Week of March 27, 2022 - Franklin Road Baptist Church

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

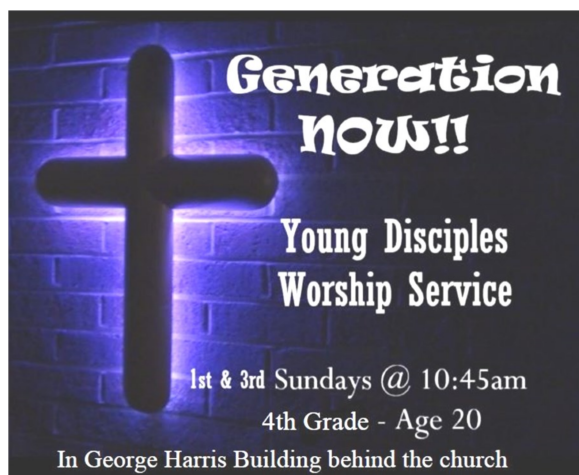
Church News & Announcements

FBC Hogansville - In this new year they are continuing the study of the Word and personal growth with the groups Building Godly Men and Ladies Under Construction which meet every Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm. Then Wednesdays are always exciting times at First Baptist with a meal from 5 to 5:45 pm, children's classes from 6 to 7 pm, and adult Bible study from 6:30 to 7 pm, followed by choir practice for our singers. We have a place for everyone and everyone is invited to join us. • Celebrate Recovery meets at 3:00 pm every Sunday afternoon. There is always encouragement to be found and fellowship to be enjoyed at these meetings. Don't forget to tune in to their podcasts for timely, constructive comments delivered with down-to-earth humor. • Excitement is in the air about Revival at First Baptist Church coming on Monday, February 7 at 7 pm. On that night Pastor Benny Tate of Rock Springs Church, Milner, Georgia will be the guest speaker. Pastor Tate always delivers a powerful message, and he will bring the Rock Springs Choir to bless us with music. We hope everyone will come that evening to take part in a mighty revival.



Wednesday Evening Meal at First Baptist Hogansville

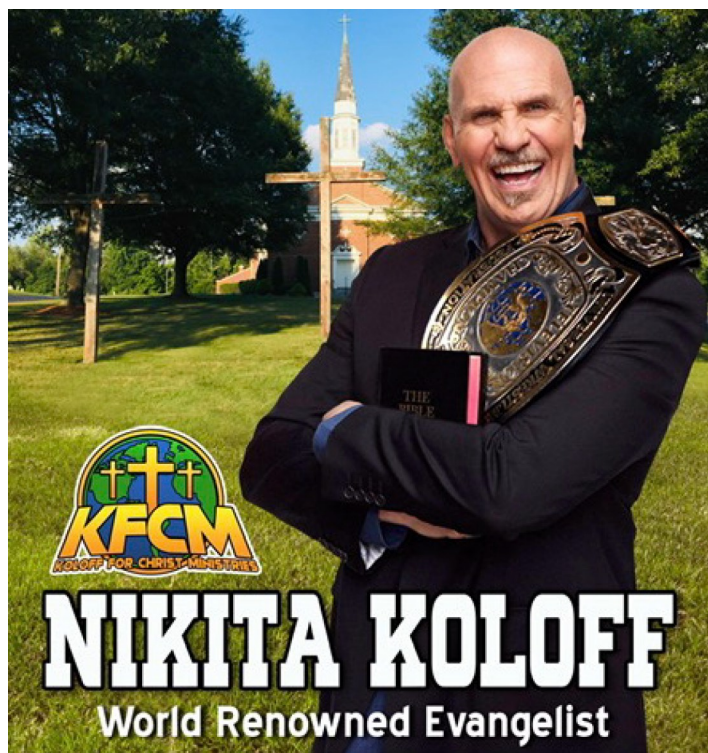
Grace - Every third Saturday at 10:00 am, Grace distributes 84 boxes of free food. • Committee chair persons met to discuss Homecoming and Easter celebrations. Everyone is excited for a new year at Grace! • Parents Night Out will be Saturday, March 5 from 5:30 until 8:00 pm. All are welcome. • Homecoming Service will be Sunday, March 27 beginning at 10:45 am followed by a covered dish meal.



Grace Baptist Church Youth Services

Grace - Join them for Sunday School at 9:45 am, Morning Worship at 10:45 am, Discipleship Training at 6:00 pm and Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. Children's Church (PreK-3rd Grades) and Teen Ministry (6th - 12th grades). Generation Now will meet every 1st and 3rd Sundays during Worship for 4th grade up to Age 20. Children and Teen Ministries will meet in the George Harris Building. The services are streamed live on their Facebook page and are available on their YouTube channel. Reformer's Unanimous meets every Friday night at 7:00 pm and streams live on Facebook at 8 to 8:30 pm. Visit their webpage www.gbclagrange.com for updates and links to their Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Highland - Highland's Prayers and Squares group presented a quilt to the church for members to pray over and tie a knot on. This quilt will be given to Janis Davison, lifelong member of Highland, who has recently been unable to attend services due to health issues. "Janis was a faithful church member for many years, loved by all, and we miss seeing her every week." The knots tied on the quilt are a reminder that someone prayed for her. • There will be a Valentine's Lunch following Morning Worship Service on February 13. A Spaghetti meal will be served for a small donation. • On March 20, there will be a special worship service at 11:00 am. Nikita Koloff, World Renowned Evangelist, will be the speaker. Everyone is invited to join them for this service.



SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE
HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday March 20, 2022
11:00 a.m.

409 Askew Ave - Hogansville, GA 30230

Contact: Terry Rainwater
706-637-4217

Church News & Announcements

Lakeview - Members and visitors are asked to wear masks to all services due to the increase in Covid cases. • The church is making plans to obtain city water and donations are being accepted. • Hostess Judy King, with assistance from Jean Shirley, planned a WMU meeting for January 29 with delicious food and a fun activity.

Mountville (MBC) - held a special "Love Like Jenny" day to honor Jenny Marterella who passed away on September 4. Everyone wore "Love Like Jenny" t-shirts in her memory.



"Love Like Jenny" Day at Mountville Baptist Church



Mountville Baptist Church Ladies Group

Pastor Dwayne Perdue and Mountville Baptist Church have volunteered to do some much needed landscaping at the Troup Baptist Association office as soon as the weather breaks. They also spruce up the grounds prior to Easter and again each Fall prior to the Annual Meeting. "Thank you Preacher Dwayne & Mountville Baptist Church!"

New Hope (LaGrange) - The church family donated over 60 cases of water to the Enrichment Service Program in LaGrange. They were very appreciative of the love and care for them. "Thanks to all who participated." • The youth enjoyed fun, fellowship and games at a bonfire on Wednesday evening, January 26. "Please continue to pray for our youth."

• Saturday, January 29 was work day at the church. Donuts and coffee were enjoyed before the work began. "Thanks to all who came out and helped." • "Our hearts rejoice and praise God that those who were sick have recovered and are back in worship with us again!"

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.

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. (Wehadkee's news was inadvertently left out of the January newsletter. My apologies to our Wehadkee friends and family. ~ Angela Maddux)



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



First Baptist Church of Hogansville Prime Timers were given a tour of Hills & Dales in LaGrange by Mrs. Joanna Baxter.

Announcements

Lisa Harper to Speak at First Baptist Church on the Square on April 21

Lisa Harper
Encouraging women through wit, authenticity and biblical wisdom
April 21, 2022 | 6:30 PM
100 Broad Street, LaGrange, Georgia

TICKETS
fbclagrange.org
OR

DEVOTED Women's Ministry
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE
SQUARE

LaGrange, GA – Lisa Harper, well known Christian author and speaker, will be speaking at First Baptist Church on the Square on Thursday, April 21, in the Sanctuary located at 100 Broad Street, LaGrange, GA. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased on EventBrite.com. Early bird tickets are available at \$30 until March 15, then the price goes up to \$40. VIP tickets are also available at \$75, which gives ladies 45 minutes with Lisa prior to the event as well as reserved seating. Worship will be led by Jourdan Johnson and an ensemble from Passion City Church. For more information, see fbclagrange.org/women.

“We are very excited to be hosting Lisa Harper at First Baptist,” states Amy Foss, the Devoted Women’s Ministry leader at the church. “Our hope is that all women throughout Troup County and our region will attend and be blessed by this amazing teacher. I have personally participated in several Bible studies Lisa has written, and I always come away with not only more knowledge about our Savior, but a closer walk with Him as well. We will also have some amazing worship. It’s going to be a night you don’t want to miss!”

Lisa Harper encourages women through wit, authenticity, and biblical wisdom. She’s spoken at hundreds of national and international women’s events, as well as in churches around the world. For ten years, she also toured with “Women of Faith,” where she spoke to over a million women about the unconditional love of God.

She’s also had fourteen books published, including the recent best-selling devotional, *Life*, and has written and filmed six well received Bible study video curriculums, including *Job: A Story of Unlikely Joy* and *How Much More: Discovering God’s Extravagant Love in Unexpected Places*. Yet, she went on to describe her greatest accomplishment to date as becoming Missy’s mom in 2014 through the miracle of adoption after a difficult journey and several adoption losses.

Lisa Harper’s style combines sound biblical exposition and exegesis with engaging anecdotes and comedic wit. She has been lauded as a compelling communicator, whose writing and speaking emphasize that accruing knowledge about God pales next to a real and intimate relationship with Jesus. Pastor Max Lucado calls Lisa one of the “best Bible tour guides around,” and author/actress Priscilla Evans Shirer adds, “Her God-given ability to not merely teach the Word but package it in a way that stirs the heart and calls to action is incomparable. When she speaks, ears perk up!”

On The Lighter Side: Wife Goes Hunting

It was Saturday morning and John, an avid hunter, woke up ready to go bag the first deer of the season. He walks down to the kitchen to get a cup of coffee, and to his surprise he finds his wife, Mary, sitting there, fully dressed in camouflage.

John asks her, “What are you up to?” Mary smiles, “I’m going hunting with you!” John, though he has many reservations, reluctantly decides to take her along. They arrive at the hunting site. John sets his wife safely up in the tree stand and tells her: “If you see a deer, take careful aim on it and I’ll come running back as soon as I hear the shot.” John walks away with a smile on his face knowing that Mary couldn’t bag an elephant -- much less a deer.

But not 10 minutes pass when he is startled as he hears an array of gunshots. Quickly, John starts running back. As John gets closer to her stand, he hears Mary screaming, “Get away from my deer!” Confused, John races faster towards his screaming wife. And again, he hears her yell, “Get away from my deer!” followed by another volley of gunfire. Now within sight of where he had left his wife, John is surprised to see a cowboy, with his hands high in the air.

The cowboy, obviously distraught, says, “Okay, lady, okay! You can have your deer! Just let me get my saddle off it!”

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

7 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
14 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
21 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
28 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

Happy Birthday February

3 Rev. Jim Cheyne
5 Dr. Greg Brown
11 Rev. Jamie Duran
16 Rev. Ronnie Jordan
18 Rev. Lenn Martin
18 Rev. Jeff McCartney, Reeds Chapel
22 Rev. Michael J. Jackson, Confidence Missionary
22 Rev. Kenneth Whitlock, New Hope - Greenville
24 Rev. Jerry Parkerson, Franklin Road



Happy Valentine's Day!



On The Lighter Side:

On the way to meet my husband at a restaurant, I realized that I didn't have my phone and immediately panicked. I needn't have worried. He saw my phone on the couch at home and brought it with him. When he arrived, I checked my texts. There was only one, and it was from him:
"I'm on my way, and I have your phone."

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Periodicals Postage Paid LaGrange, Georgia 30241
Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Messenger, P.O. Box 550 LaGrange, Georgia 30241