

## ***The Pit of Trials, Pain, and Evil***

Corrie Ten Boom, after emerging from a Nazi concentration camp said, "There is no pit so deep but that God isn't deeper still." A pit is a good way to describe the state of so many things in our world right now. One of the most horrifying elements of this pit is the lack of value for **LIFE**. *You don't have to look far or listen carefully to see the evidence for this devaluation of life. It's everywhere.*

Life of the unborn is casually dismissed as worthless, an inconvenience, and then murdered by abortion. Children are murdered by evil people driving recklessly into parades, firing random bullets, or targeting schools to carry out their evil intentions. Murders, mass killings, abuse of the innocent, and the taking advantage for personal gain of the young, old, hurting, and less fortunate are all signs that we've lost the God-given value for human life.

I've called attention to many tragic events going on all around us in the world, but I haven't mentioned your particular trial, pain, or pit. I don't know where you are suffering "particularly" but I know that just before Jesus prayed for His disciples in John 16:33 he said these words,

***"These things I have spoken to you,  
that in Me you may have peace.  
In the world you will have  
tribulation; but be of good cheer,  
I have overcome the world."***

Jesus knows the pain of living in a world broken by sin's impact. He knows trials, betrayals, and senseless killing. He has not forgotten us nor has He left us alone in our pit. He has given us His peace. He has overcome the world with all of its injustice and pain – for us.

I also have no magical saying or 1,2,3 formula to get you out of your pit immediately. Having a "helper" personality type, I sure wish I did have that ability. What I do have is some insight to help you better handle the burden as you go through it. Or, if you're not in a pit presently, I have some perspectives to share with you as you brace for the next news story, tragic event, or bad news in this broken world.

First, ***God is working in you and through you even during the most difficult days.*** All the way back to Joseph's mistreatment in Genesis 37-50, God has worked through struggles to put people in the right place at the right time. Joseph is the perfect example of that and because of God's good intentions, many were saved.

*I praise Him that He has used trials to put me in "just the right place" so that He could use me for His glory in the life of someone else. God is deeper than any pit.*

Second, ***trials (and pits) give us the opportunity to develop a deeper faith and dependence on God.*** Many, if not most, people are naturally independent and self-sufficient. Through trials, God brings us to a place where we realize we are fragile, weak, and have a lot less control over things. That's when we realize our great need for Him— an ever-present, loving, omniscient, and omnipotent God. God is greater than the deepest pit.

And last, ***trials and pain remind us that our home is in Heaven, not here in this world.*** I've been singing this tune for many years now because I'm convinced that THIS world, with its enticing pleasures, has lulled many of us to sleep regarding our real home. With all the pleasure, prosperity, technology, and information available to us, many are thinking less and less of God and less and less of their need for Him. We are amassing much while growing more empty each day. Why? ***Because we've homesteaded on land for which we aren't made.*** We are made for God. We are made for eternity. This world, as much as it claims it can, will never satisfy our soul that was made for God.

So Jesus said to His disciples and He says to us today, "Take heart because I have OVERCOME the world." That's great news in the face of difficult times.

*Bro Andy*

### **Children's Camp Rockridge**

**June 20 - 23, 2022**

Children should meet at  
First Baptist on the Square,  
Monday, June 20 at 8:00 AM.

They will be transported to Camp Rockridge by buses provided by Dobbs Transportation. Parents should pick up their children on Thursday afternoon at Camp Rockridge, 13200 HWY 100, Franklin, Georgia. Additional camp information can be found on the website: [www.troubaptist.org/rockridge2022/](http://www.troubaptist.org/rockridge2022/)  
**Please pray for our children, camp counselors and camp director during this week of camp.**



# Association News

**Association** - On Monday, May 9, a group of pastors from Troup Baptist Association churches as well as other area churches, met in a round-table format at the association office. The topic for discussion was "Guests: Greeting, Meeting, and Keeping Them". The meeting was facilitated by Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan. This format offered each pastor an opportunity to share with the group what has worked for their church and maybe what has not and in the process gather new ideas for their respective churches.



Pastor's Round-table Discussion on May 9

**Association** - Our Partner in Education is Berta Weathersbee Elementary School and we helped them to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week May 2-6 by providing teacher and staff snacks for the week. Field Day was held on May 20 and the association provided bottled water for all of the students. The end of the school year was celebrated with a Teacher & Staff Breakfast at the association office on May 27. The breakfast was catered by Sloppy Pig Catering. Servers were Judy & Richard King, Joyce & Herb Gandee, Dottie Henson, Stephanie Williams, and Angela Maddux. Several pastors attended including Dan Woltman, Lamar Truitt, Richard King, Tim Tidwell and Jerry Parkerson. After the meal, Associational Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan spoke to the group of educators and provided them "seeds" of encouragement and a little humor by comparing teachers to farmers. He reminded them not to tire of doing good and that they will reap a harvest if they don't give up. The grand finale was a drawing for \$75 in cash for four lucky staff members.



Above: Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan with Ms. Joy Moore receiving the snacks for Berta Weathersbee Teacher Appreciation Week.

## 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: AMS Andy Buchanan with winners of the Berta \$75 cash drawing: Carson Grier, Shanita Strozier, Danny Daniel, & Lynn Hadden

**Association** - Associational Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan preached at First Baptist on the Square on May 1, Rosemont Baptist Church on May 15, and Wehadkee Baptist Church on May 22. In addition, he spoke at the Lakeview Brotherhood meeting which was held at Johnny's Pizza in West Point, Georgia on May 12.

**Association** - The Monday morning Pastors' Prayer Fellowship met at the Local Goundz Coffee Shop on Monday, May 23. The program and lunch was sponsored by the First Choice Women's Center. The Pastors' Prayer Fellowship meets every Monday morning at 11 am at the association office. All pastors are invited to attend.

### Association - Church Prayer List

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

Week of June 5, 2022 - Long Cane Baptist Church  
Week of June 12, 2022 - Mountville Baptist Church  
Week of June 19, 2022 - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church  
Week of June 26, 2022 - New Heaven Korean Baptist Church

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

Week of July 3, 2022 - New Hope Baptist Church (LaGrange)  
Week of July 10, 2022 - New Hope Baptist Church (Greenville)  
Week of July 17, 2022 - New Macedonia Baptist Church  
Week of July 24, 2022 - Open Range Cowboy Church  
Week of July 31, 2022 - Pineview Baptist Church

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



# Church News & Announcements

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - Three people were baptized in the month of May. "Praise God! We serve an awesome God." • During the month of May, the Food Closet gave out 115 boxes of food, 294 meals, and 120 backpacks with weekend food for children. • BTC recognized mothers on Mothers' Day, May 8th with a gift of a prayer journal. • BTC recognized the following Class of 2022 graduates: Bryson Ryan Bunn- THS, Jacob Hadaway-LHS, Taren McGhee-LC, Shane Colton Nave-CHS, Lanie Beth Prather-LHS, Seth Prather-LC, Anna Scott-THS, Carlee Turner-WGT, and Ava Walls-LHS. "Congratulations! May God bless each of you with much success as you continue your life's journey. • BTC has a new bell choir, called the "Glory Bells", being taught and led by Sherri Watts and Denise Giddens. This is a great addition to our choir. Great job to Sherri, Denise and the ladies who belong to the Glory Bells! • Memorial Day was May 30 and we need to remember why we celebrate this day. Memorial Day is an American holiday observed on the last Monday in May, honoring men and women who died while serving in the US military. • June 14 is Flag Day. We urge you to put the American flag out to show your patriotism to the United States of America and pray for our country daily. God bless the USA. • Awanas ended on May 18th, with certificates being awarded to children, followed by an ice cream social. • BTC Blood Drive will be Thursday, July 28, from 2-7 pm in the JC McMillian Life Center. • Baptist Tabernacle wishes everyone a safe and happy summer.



Baptist Tabernacle's Glory Bells

**Dunson** - Mary James invites you to come to hear her at Dunson Baptist Church on Sunday, July 10th, at 6 pm. Mark your calendar because you won't want to miss this. (A love offering will be taken.) Her accomplishments are:

- 6 time Female Vocalist of the Year - Inspirational Country Music Association
- 9 #1 Inspirational Country singles
- 2016 Video of the Year Award. Pro-Life video "Fearfully, Wonderfully Made"
- She has provided special music at events with such speakers as Dr. David Jeremiah, Kay Arthur, Ruth Graham, Sheila Walsh, Kirk Cameron, and Tim & Beverly LaHaye.



**Dunson (continued)** - participated again this year in Troup County Relay for Life on April 29. Pastor Kenneth Cole walked in Relay this year for the first time as a cancer survivor. He was also able to do the opening prayer for the Luminary Service. The booth this year was "Wheel of Hope" and the puzzle was scripture Psalms 7:15. If attendees could solve the puzzle, they got a 100 Grand Candy Bar. Everyone had a good time celebrating survivors and sharing Hope through Jesus Christ.



Dunson's Pastor Kenneth Cole in Relay for Life



Dunson's "Wheel of Hope" in Relay for Life



# Church News & Announcements

**FBC Hogansville** - is pleased to welcome Warren Call as a new member. Mr. Call comes to us from Jonesboro First Baptist Church. • The Men's Ministry Golf Tournament on April 30 was a 4-person golf scramble with nine teams participating. The top two teams both finished 10 under par. As a result of the tournament, the men generated some visitation to unchurched homes, and over \$3,000 was raised for further outreach. We hope to make this an annual event.

• On Mother's Day the **WOMAN OF VIRTUE AWARD** was presented to Mrs. Marie Call by Mrs. Debbie Dollar and Ms. Amy Stretch. This award is given annually to a woman who represents the ideals described in Proverbs 31. Among the attributes mentioned in this chapter are faithfulness to God, family, church, and friends and being hospitable, generous, and kind. Marie demonstrates these qualities in abundance, and it is a privilege to honor her as our Woman of Virtue for 2022.



WOMAN OF VIRTUE Marie Call

• Celebrate Recovery held a car wash on Saturday, May 21, so our parking lot was full of clean cars on Sunday morning. They always do a great job, and the money raised goes back into service for the community. • On Sunday, May 22, the church recognized our graduates at an early breakfast and again during the morning service. Youth Director Monica Johnson spoke briefly reminding them to seek God to find His purpose for their lives and to live in His will. Their High School graduates are Jessie Bruce, Xavier Janney, Emilee Morris, and Carson Wheeler. Emily Johnson is a graduate of Columbus Tech. "We are proud of their accomplishments and wish them success in their next endeavors."



FBC Hogansville Graduates

**Grace** - The Spring Fling sponsored by the Youth Department was on April 30. • Boxes of Free Food was distributed in May. Free boxes of food are available to anyone that wants it every 3rd Saturday. Drive through starts at 10:00 am.

• One of their students was baptized last month.  
• On Mother's Day, Grace honored the oldest and youngest mother and the two mothers with the most children (four children each). • Reformer's Unanimous students and Sunday School class had a cookout on May 14th at Jimmy and Robbie Pruitt's house. Reformer's Unanimous meets every Friday night at 7:00 p.m. Visit [www.gbclagrange.com](http://www.gbclagrange.com) for updates and links to our Facebook and YouTube sites. • Pick 'n Grin Ice Cream Fellowship was held on the Pavilion.



Above: Grace Baptism



Graces Children's Ministry had a community outreach the first of May and delivered goodies to firemen



GRACE

Grace: Pick 'n Grin Ice Cream Fellowship on the Pavilion.



# Church News & Announcements

**Gray Hill** - Gray Hill Baptist Church members excitedly watched as Pastor Lamar Womack baptized four candidates on Sunday, May 15, after he preached a powerful message on Baptism. What joy to behold 13-year-old Grace Waldroup descend into the watery grave, followed by Debbie Keller, Steve Keller, and Lanny Browning. Our prayers are with them as they continue serving Jesus!



Gray Hill: Grace Waldroup, Debbie Keller, Steve Keller, and Lanny Browning were baptized by Pastor Lamar Womack.

**Highland** - celebrated their Mothers on Mother's Day. All Mothers attending were presented with a gift. Special recognition was given to their Youngest Mother, Celeste Spates, and their Oldest Mother, Gloria Prather. Each of these ladies was given a nice plant. • The Thru-The-Bible reading group, led by Cookie Rainwater, continues to meet each week and discuss things we read that week, as well as things we had questions about. Cookie does an outstanding job of helping us understand what we've read. • There was a special recognition for Graduates on May 22 during Morning Worship Service. Highland graduates this year are Ashton Wright, graduating from LaGrange High School, and D'anna Gray, graduating from Callaway High School. "Congratulations to both graduates and Best Wishes in your future endeavors!" • Highland will recognize all Fathers attending Morning Worship Service on Father's Day. Special recognition will be given to the Youngest and Oldest Fathers in attendance. Everyone is invited to join us for this special service. • The annual July Celebration will be held on Sunday, June 26th, with an afternoon cookout.



L-R: Highland Graduates Ashton Wright and D'anna Gray with Pastor Terry Rainwater



Above: Pastor Lamar Womack's grandson, Ryan Boyd, graduated cum laude from Columbus State University.



L-R Highland Mothers: Gloria Prather & Celeste Spates

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

**Lakeview** - Brotherhood met at Johnny's Restaurant in West Point on May 12 with a good turnout. The guest speaker was Associational Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan. WMU met at the home of Jean Shirley on May 14 and enjoyed good fellowship and good food. Jean led the ladies in decorating water cups with their initials. Faithful member Nancy Davis is moving to Florida to be with family and she will be greatly missed.



Above: Lakeview's WMU Ladies with their personalized cups.

**New Hope (LaGrange)** - We praise the Lord that several in our church family are healing at home from sickness and surgery in the past month. • All mothers received a beautiful rose to celebrate their special day on Sunday, May 8th. We appreciate and love all our mothers. • The church wide picnic at Hardley Creek Park was enjoyed by all on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, May 15. Many families with friends and visitors attended and enjoyed the delicious pork sandwiches and the side dishes that were brought. It's great to gather with God's people and enjoy the fellowship outside.

• The children's ministry is up and running again. Volunteers are needed to help with this ministry. Please contact Melissa Hughes, our Children's Director, if you believe the Lord has called you to serve in this area. • We are excited to have many new families visiting with us each Sunday. Pastor Steven Cheek will lead new membership classes on Sunday, June 5 and June 12 following the morning worship service. Please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer and mark it to attend. Lunch will be provided. • Words just cannot express enough the love and gratitude for Troy Karr's music ministry to New Hope church. His faithfulness, his influence, and his work is very evident and will always be remembered. We love you Troy and Rita (his loving sidekick) and may God bless you as you enter a new phase in your life and ministry for the Lord.

• We wish all fathers a wonderful and blessed Father's Day on Sunday, June 19. • Many of our children and youth received rewards for their faithfulness in doing their school work this year. Congratulations to each of you, we are proud of you and wish you a wonderful and safe summer as you continue to grow in your trust in Jesus.

• VBS will be July 18 thru 21 from 9:00 am till noon. All children thru 5th grade are invited. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer for you to mark if you would volunteer to help either indoors or outdoors. The leader will be Shane Wilbanks from Newnan, GA.

**Roper Heights** - Mother's Day was wonderful! Judy Swinford put together a WOM Mother's Day luncheon on May 7th. The food was great. God sent us some beautiful ladies. Thanks to our wonderful speakers Susan Terry Lindsay and Erin Steele. They shared some wonderful testimonies of what God can and will do. Each lady received a potted light. As mothers, we are to shine for Jesus and be a light for our children and others.

**Wehadkee** - We at Wehadkee Baptist Church would like to say HAPPY FATHER'S DAY in June. "May God bless each and every dad this month."

June Birthdays: June Ogle on June 16 and  
Phillip Parmer on June 21.

June Anniversary: Nick and Janet Pilgrim on June 6

## ANNUAL TRUCKLOADING

Benefitting  
The Meansville Campus of



### Collection Dates & Times:

**July 25-26 9am - 3pm**

and

**July 27 9am - noon**

Location:

Troup Baptist Association Office  
1301 Washington Street  
LaGrange, GA 30240



### Items Requested:

- ◇ Disinfectant Spray & Wipes
- ◇ Tide Pods
- ◇ Disposable Divided Plates
- ◇ Plastic Cups
- ◇ Paper Towels
- ◇ Toilet Paper
- ◇ Gift Cards: Walmart, Mastercard, Visa





# VBS & WMU Announcements

## Creekside Baptist Church

1589 Stovall Rd, LaGrange 30240

### Surf's Up

**June 11**, 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
4:00 - 6:00 pm Family Fun & Meal

## Roper Heights Baptist Church

507 Poplar Street, West Point 31833

Kickoff: **June 11** 3:00-6:00 PM

**June 12-16**, 6:00 - 8:45 PM

Family Night: **June 17**, 6:00 PM

## Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

2227 Mt. Pleasant Road, Franklin 30217

### Spark Studios

VBS: **June 13-17** 6:30 - 8:30 PM

## Western Heights Baptist Church

2382 West Point Rd, LaGrange  
30240

### Spark Studios

VBS: **June 17-21**, 6:00 - 8:45 PM

## Unity Baptist Church

715 S Greenwood St, LaGrange 30240

### Spark Studios

Kickoff: **June 18** 10:00AM - 1:30  
PM

VBS: **June 20-24** 6:00 - 8:30 PM

## First Baptist on the Square

100 Broad St, LaGrange 30240

**July 11-15**, 9:00 AM - Noon

Ages: Completed K5—5th Grade

## Baptist Tabernacle

849 S Davis Rd, LaGrange 30241

**July 18-22**

## New Hope Baptist Church

4050 Roanoke Rd, LaGrange 30240

**July 18-22**, 9:00 AM

Ages: thru 5th grade

## Association-Wide WMU Luncheon

Saturday, August 27

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Grace Baptist Church

Guest Speaker: Tera Melber

Save the Date



For nearly two decades, Tera has dedicated her life to mentoring and educating foster and adoptive parents across the United States. She initially began training families within her church community, leading to the launch of a ministry serving hundreds of families through pre and post-adoption/foster care education and support. Tera has been married to her husband, David, for 31 years and together they are the proud parents of six children, three of whom joined their family through intercountry adoption. Tera currently serves the Georgia Baptist Mission Board as a foster care advocate. She is raising awareness for foster care and helping churches, ministries, and people within Southern Baptist churches take their next missional steps to serve the vulnerable in their community in the name of Christ.

## JUNE CALENDAR

6 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
13 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
20 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
20-23 Children's Camp Rockridge  
27 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
Speaker: Jamie Works, IMB

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 Birthday June*

2 Rev. Allen Smith, East LaGrange  
3 Rev. Ronnie Puckett  
8 Rev. Wendell Brown  
8 Rev. Steven Cheek, New Hope LaGrange  
13 Dr. Paul Baxter, Pine Mountain A.M.  
14 Rev. Robert Burnett, Second Baptist  
15 Rev. Ellis Freeman  
29 Rev. Tommy Jeter, At The Cross



# Happy Father's Day



### *On The Lighter Side:*

A guy takes his parrot to the vet. The vet says that it will be \$50 to look at it.  
The guy says okay and lays the parrot on the table. The vet looks at it and says, "It's dead."  
The man doesn't believe him and asks for a second opinion. The vet goes out and comes back with a black Labrador retriever. It sniffs the bird up and down, turns to the vet and shakes his head.  
"Yep, he's dead," says the vet. The guy still doesn't believe it so the vet leaves and returns with a Siamese cat. It looks the bird all over, turns to the vet and shakes his head as well.  
The vet says, "Definitely dead." The man finally accepts the news and starts to pay the vet the \$50.  
The vet says the bill is now \$200, what with the lab test and the cat scan...

**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

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

Rev. Andy Buchanan, Associational Mission Strategist: [andy@troubaptist.org](mailto:andy@troubaptist.org)  
Mrs. Angela Maddux, Administrative Assistant: [angela@troubaptist.org](mailto:angela@troubaptist.org)  
Rev. Derek Williams, Moderator: [pastorderekwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:pastorderekwilliams@gmail.com)  
Rev. Terry Rainwater, Vice-Moderator: [rainwater001@outlook.com](mailto:rainwater001@outlook.com)

Mr. Daves Nichols, Treasurer  
Ms. Dottie Henson, Assistant Treasurer  
Mrs. Stephanie Williams, Clerk

USPS341-040  
Periodicals Postage Paid LaGrange, Georgia 30241  
Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Messenger, P.O. Box 550 LaGrange, Georgia 30241