

The Right Bus

There's an old rusted-out bus in my neighborhood on the route that I walk. It has always captivated my interest and imagination, causing me to wonder what it used to be and where it used to go. As I walked past it the other day and considered the purpose and usefulness of busses, I realized that even though this is most definitely a bus, it can't take me to school, to work, to lunch, to a high school football or basketball game, or to the Braves game. Unlike the many other bus rides I've taken in my life with my church group or family, this bus ride is destined for nowhere. While standing there looking at it last week in the terrible heat of an evening walk I even thought, I need to get on that bus and sit down and stick my head out of the window so I could feel the wind in my hair, but then I remembered that the bus isn't moving and I don't have enough hair to blow in the breeze anymore. I could go on about the bus, but you get the picture.



My thoughts then turned to the image of so many who have chosen the wrong bus. Not for getting to and from work, but for getting them on the road to a healthy, vibrant relationship with God. Jesus was clear that He is the **ONLY WAY** to God the Father. He made it clear that obedience to His Word and following Him is the right bus to get home. I can choose the wrong bus, board the wrong bus, pick a seat on the wrong bus, and feel the excitement of riding the wrong bus — but in the end, it's still the wrong bus. It won't get me where I want to go or help me make progress toward my goal. At best, it's a distraction. At worst, it will take me into downtown despair and to a deadline of destruction.

Here's what I'll call my **RIGHT BUS** paraphrase of Romans 5:1-5:

The right bus is **FAITH** in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through faith, my ride is paid in full (justified) by Jesus. Because of that, I can ride in **PEACE** and have full **ACCESS** to His **GRACE** all the way to my blessed destination. And even when the ride gets bumpy, I'll rejoice, because I know (hope) that I'm a little closer to **HOME** and I'll arrive safely at His House, in His time, to dwell in His Glory.

Take a moment to read Romans 5:1-5 and make sure you're on the **RIGHT BUS**!

Bro Andy



Association News

Association - The Truck-loading for the Georgia Baptist Children's Home in Meansville, was a HUGE success! The churches and people of the Troup Baptist Association along with members of the community really came together for this cause. We collected a large assortment of requested items, plus \$2,720 in gift cards to be used for perishable food items! AND 5800 pounds of food and hygiene items were donated by the food closets of God's Bread Basket (Hogansville), Grace Baptist Church, and New Community Church (both of Lagrange) in corporation with Feeding the Valley Lagrange. These items will go to both the Meansville and Warm Springs Children's Homes. That's 5 pallets of food and supplies. What a blessing! Praise the Lord and thank you so much! We are better and stronger and more generous together! By the way, your church can also help any time of year by collecting cleaning items for the children's homes including disinfectant wipes and general house cleaning items.



Truckloading for Georgia Baptist Children's Homes (GBCH)
Top photo: Large assortment of items donated.
Middle photo L-R: Bill George (GBCH), Rev. Robert Burnett (Second Baptist) and son Jesse, Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan, Jason Carroll (GBCH) and Rev. Terry Rainwater representing God's Bread Basket in Hogansville.



5,800 Pounds of Food & Supplies for GBCH Truckloading Event

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 - Church Prayer List

For August 2022, please pray for following churches:

Week of August 7, 2022 - Praise & Prayer Ministry
Week of August 14, 2022 - Reeds Chapel Baptist Church
Week of August 21, 2022 - Roper Heights Baptist Church
Week of August 28, 2022 - Rosemont Baptist Church

For September 2022, please pray for following churches:

Week of Sept 4, 2022 - Second Baptist Church
Week of Sept 11, 2022 - Shoal Creek Baptist Church
Week of Sept 18, 2022 - Stovall Baptist Church
Week of Sept 25, 2022 - Teaver Road Baptist Church

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

Association - Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan, brought the Sunday morning message on July 3 at New Hope Baptist Church for Pastor Steven Cheek who was away on an Amazon mission trip. • Brother Andy enjoyed a week of family vacation time in Myrtle Beach with his wife Kim and their sons, Dallas and Caleb. While there, Brother Andy and Caleb played in a Father & Son Golf Tournament. • On July 31, Brother Andy brought the Homecoming message for Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Franklin, Ga. Mt. Pleasant is celebrating their 122nd year! Rev. Terry Prestridge (Jo Ellen) is the pastor at Mt. Pleasant.



Mt. Pleasant's Homecoming: Pastor Terry Prestridge (L) and Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan (R)

Church News & Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Food Closet served 378 individuals, giving away 166 boxes of food and 350 meals. The Food Closet and Clothes Closet are both open every Thursday from 9 am to 11 am. • The Blood Drive will be Thursday, July 28 from 2-7 pm in the JC McMillian Life Center. If you are able to donate please do so. You could be the one that saves someone's life. • School will begin on August 5, and BTC will be partnering with Clearview Elementary School to help supply some of their back-to-school supplies. As school starts back, be careful to watch out for all those children. May God keep all the children and staff safe throughout this school year. • BTC Prayer Warriors continue to meet on the Square in LaGrange for prayer on Tuesday mornings at 10 am. Everyone is invited to come and pray. • The 5th Sunday Night Singing was held on July 31 and the Puppet Ministry took part in the singing. • VBS was held July 18-22nd. There were approximately 60 children attending. There were lots of volunteers to help make this a successful and fun time of learning about Jesus. The theme was Sparks Studio-Created for Christ Designed for Purpose. At the beginning of every night, the children would all gather in the sanctuary and Charlie would be hiding and the children would yell where is Charlie? They were all excited to see where he was hidden. He would pop out from his hiding place and then lead the children in prayer before their classes started. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday there were game nights for the older children and they all loved it including learning about Jesus. Water night on Thursday for the older ones consisted of throwing water balloons and all were soaked. The small children also had activities and one of their favorites was drawing with chalk. On Thursday night, they had water night with a small pool and fishing. The children were excited to say how many fish they had caught. Each night the Bible Verse was Ephesians 2:10- *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* Each child who learned the verse and said it was given a prize. There were also crafts and snacks every night. Friday night was performance night for the parents. Every child who had attended all week got to put their name in a drawing for a prize. There were 2 winners who each received a Bible, tickets to Water Whiz, and a toy. An awesome time was had for all! Thanks again to all who volunteered. • Please remember to keep the children and school staff in your prayers as they begin school on August 5th.

Creekside - On July 3 Creekside celebrated Independence Day with food, games, singing, and fireworks. A good crowd turned out. • Creekside sisterhood met on July 11 hosted by Irene and Becca Wisener. The ladies enjoyed a poem read by Jennifer Demerest. Everyone brought their favorite dip or desserts. They all had fun playing a game of unwrapping the saran wrap led by Ms. Irene. • The Brotherhood met on July 16 with guest speaker Rev. Charlie Harbuck from Temple, Ga. • Creekside members served the concession stand at Central Valley Baptist Church in Columbus, Ga. for the Chattahoochee Valley Southern Gospel Music Association meeting. Proceeds went to their building fund for the Pavilion.

Creekside (continued) - Brother Gene Ferrell has accepted the call to preach. On July 24 he was licensed at Creekside. "Congratulations Gene may God richly bless you!"

- Donations of school supplies are being collected. The Sisterhood will put bags together at their meeting on August 8. Christy Adams will be hosting. • On Aug 13, they will have a Back-to-School party from 5 pm -7 pm. They will give out bags of school supplies and there will be snacks, music, and games. • The Brotherhood will meet on August 20 at 8 am. Rev. S.T. Janney will be the guest speaker.
- Creekside Choir has been invited to sing at Fellowship Baptist Church on Saturday, August 20 at 6 pm.

Dunson - Dunson Baptist and visitors enjoyed and were blessed by Mary James in concert and by her sharing her personal testimony. • They welcomed two new members, Joe and Shirley Thrower, to their Dunson family last month. • Saturday VBS "African Safari - God is Good", was planned for July 30 from 1-5 pm but had to be cancelled because two workers got Covid. • On Sunday, July 31, they had outside church service because of Covid but hope to be back inside by Sunday, August 7. • For the July service project, Dunson Baptist WMU took snack baskets to LaGrange Hospice. • Dunson also participated in the truck-loading mission for Georgia Baptist Children's Home. • WMU ladies and guests enjoyed a fun evening of fellowship, devotion, and food at their paint party, on July 24.



The Dunson WMU July service project was baskets of snacks delivered to Hospice workers. Dunson's Kathy Pattillo (right) presenting one of the many baskets.



Dunson WMU Paint Party

Church News & Announcements

FBC Hogansville - Vacation Bible School was held July 10-14, with Family Night on July 15. The church facility was transformed into Spark Studios which was just the place for special music, crafts, recreation, and, most importantly, learning about how we are designed for God's purpose in each life. About 130 children and workers participated in VBS, and we appreciate all who shared their children with us this week. A love offering was taken each evening totaling \$324. This amount was donated to God's Bread Basket which is a local food-aid ministry of the Hogansville Ministerial Association. Highland Pastor Terry Rainwater, Director of the Bread Basket, accepted the check from Mrs. Melanie Baswell and Mrs. Sondra Lee. (See photo on next page)



VBS Workers



VBS @ FBC Hogansville

- On Saturday, July 23 the church held a Free Back-to-School clothes giveaway which was well attended. "We are grateful to be able to help our community in this way."
- On the same day Celebrate Recovery sponsored a Car Wash to raise money for their outreach programs. They do an excellent job cleaning cars inside and out, so don't miss out when they do it again. They raised over \$600 for their program.
- The Men's Ministry met for their monthly breakfast meeting on July 30.
- The Backyard Bible Club met again on the last Wednesday in July.
- The Ladies' and Men's Bible Study continue to meet on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.
- FBC welcomed Pastor George Bailey, the Choir, and church members of White Oak Grove Baptist Church, Senoia, as they joined together in morning worship on Sunday, July 17. The Choir blessed them with their songs of praise, and Pastor Bailey delivered a stirring sermon based on Matthew 5:16: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. It was a wonderful time in God's House. "We thank them for worshiping with us and look forward to the next time."



Pastor George Bailey
&
White Oak Grove Choir



Above: FBC Hogansville welcomed Pastor George Bailey, the Choir, and church members of White Oak Grove Baptist Church, Senoia, as they worshiped together on July 17.

- Grace** - In July, 189 people were served with boxes of free food. The free boxes of food are available to anyone who wants it on the 3rd Saturday. The drive through pick-up starts at 10 am at Grace Baptist Church.
- VBS was in July and \$800 was raised to be matched by the church to help kids get a bed from Sleep in Heavenly Peace. VBS ended with Children's Directors, David and McKenzie Bleemel being slimed!!
 - A time of Picking & Praising was enjoyed in the Sanctuary on Sunday evening, July 31.
 - Reformer's Unanimous meets every Friday night at 7 pm.
- 3rd Talk streams live on Facebook at 8:00-8:30 pm.
Visit www.gbclagrange.com for updates and links to our Facebook and YouTube sites.



VBS Directors being Slimed!



Grace Baptist Vacation Bible School

Church News & Announcements

Gray Hill - Honored Mozelle Fuller on her 99th birthday on July 10 with a birthday meal after church! Pastor Lamar Womack sang her favorite song "Beulah Land" and preached on Faithfulness that Sunday, mentioning that Ms. Mozelle has been a faithful follower of Jesus Christ for many, many years! She attends church almost every Sunday and has since her two children were small.

"Ms. Mozelle is a role model for the rest of us!"



Gray Hill: Mozelle Fuller on her 99th birthday, July 10 with her pastor, Rev. Lamar Womack

Highland - Highland will sponsor a Prayer Walk, Saturday, July 30, at Hogansville Elementary School. We will be joined by other churches in our community to walk around the school and up and down the hallways praying for the students, teachers, and staff as they begin a new school year. We will start at 8:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to join us. We will have a 5th Sunday Hymn Sing at 11:00 a.m. on 7/31, with congregational hymns, as well as solos and duets from several of our church members. It is always a good time to come together and sing praises to the Lord. Highland's WMU continues to collect items for Project Joy to be distributed through God's Bread Basket later this year. God's Bread Basket was blessed with a financial gift of \$324 from the Vacation Bible School of First Baptist Church of Hogansville. This will provide approximately 1705 pounds of food!

Lakeview - The Lakeview brotherhood had their July meeting at Milano's on July 16. • For their WMU July meeting, several Lakeview WMU members attended "A Journey through Psalms" on July 23 at Fountain Baptist Church. • In July, Lakeview members thoroughly enjoyed some special music presented by visitor James Hadaway while he and his wife were visiting Troup County.



Above: Melanie Baswell and Sondra Lee present \$324 from Hogansville First Baptist Church Vacation Bible School to God's Bread Basket Director Terry Rainwater (center).

New Hope LaGrange - is very grateful to the Lord for the safe return of Pastor Steven and Megan Cheek, and Chase Wilson from their Amazon mission trip. Chase shared some of his adventures and impressions on Sunday, July 17, as they shared the gospel with villages along the Amazon River. What an amazing God we have that desires all people to be saved. "Thank you, Andy Buchanan and Jerry Parkerson for your Sunday messages while Pastor Steven was away. It was a joy to have you."

• **YOUTH** take notice! SPARK 2022 for all youth will be September 3 thru 5 in Blueridge, GA with Chase Wilson, the Youth Director. For more information about this camp please call Chase at (706) 350-0025. • July 9 marked one year that Pastor Steven and Megan have been with us. We love you Pastor Steven and Megan and thank you for your devotion to God and to New Hope. We pray God will continue to guide you as you shepherd New Hope into new and wonderful ways to reach out and minister to the community in the years ahead. Just a shout-out to the music team as they prepare our hearts for worship each Sunday morning. You are doing a great service for the Lord and we thank you. • Continue to pray for those recovering from illness and for those facing surgery.

If you would like to be added to or removed from The Messenger mailing list, please let us know. You may call the office at 706-884-1975 or send an email to angela@troubaptist.org

Church News & Announcements

New Hope LaGrange (continued) - What an amazing God we serve! VBS, July 18 thru 22 was a wonderful success. What a great time of fun activities and learning about Jesus. Our Bible teacher, Shane Wilbanks certainly kept the kids' and adults' attention with his special illusions that illustrated the gospel. It was just a, "WOW, how did he do that?," time. But the most important happening was that two children and one adult prayed and asked Jesus to come into their hearts. To God be the glory! Thank you to the many volunteers that served the children in crafts, music, recreation, and Bible class.

- Back to School day is August 5th. Please take time to pray for the children, teachers, administrators, and all county schools that it will be a safe and good year.



Above L-R: New Hope LaGrange VBS with Speaker Shane Wilbanks and Pastor Steven Cheek



New Hope LaGrange: Kids singing VBS songs.



Roper Heights - The month of July has been all about our youth here at Roper Heights. On July 2, they went to "Rock the Ridge" with David Crowder. On July 15, they spent the day at Callaway Gardens. The Back-to-School Bash was held on July 30 with hot dogs, a waterslide, free book bags, and school supplies. "Also, I heard a rumor about maybe going skating next. Y'all come and see what's happening at Roper Heights. Everyone is welcome!"



Roper Heights: Our little lambs love church! On Wednesday night after the meal, they helped clean the fellowship hall. I think we need more carpet sweepers!

Wehadkee - HAPPY 4TH OF JULY to our NATION
 Psalms 113:4 *The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.*
 Dear Lord God,
 Your word says that You are "high above all nations, and [Your] glory above the heavens." We live in a nation of many different creeds, and convictions, ethnicities, and backgrounds, but we know that You love and reign over all of us. Thank You for Your Love!!!

WEHADKEE HOMECOMING & REVIVAL AUGUST 7 - 10

Sunday Morning Service, Aug. 7, 11:00: Pastor S.T. Janney

Monday Aug. 8, 6:30 pm: Pastor Scott Whaley

Tuesday Aug 9, 6:30 pm: Pastor Daryl Yarbrough

Wednesday Aug 10, 6:30 pm: Pastor Andy Buchanan

Please come and be a part of our family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July 2 Suellen Shea

July 4 Jimmy Massey

July 15 Jacob Sams

July 18 Carol Mastin

July 26 Essie Pilgrim

Aug 18 Dan Shea

Aug 24 Renate Massey

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

July 24 Susan Gebhardt

Aug 6 Larry & Brenda Jennings

Aug 7 Tim & Kim Sams

Announcements



WMU Luncheon

Sponsored by Troup Baptist Association

Saturday, August 27, 2022

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Registration begins at 10:30 am

*Location: Grace Baptist Church
3731 West Point Road, LaGrange, Georgia*

*Guest Speaker: Mrs. Tera Melber
Foster Care Advocate, Georgia Baptist Mission Board*

Special Music: Rev. Kenneth Cole

All women are invited!

Please RSVP to Judy King by August 13

by Email: lilose2567@gmail.com

or by phone (706) 333-2197

or call Troup Baptist Association (706) 884-1975.

The Luncheon is free.

*A love offering will be received for
First Choice Women's Center, LaGrange GA*



Men's Night with Rick Burgess

First Baptist Church, LaGrange, GA
Sunday, August 21 @ 7:00 p.m.

For more info
or to purchase tickets,
scan QR or go to
fbclagrange.org/men



Rick Burgess is the co-host of the nationally syndicated Rick and Bubba Show, heard across the nation on 70 plus radio stations and seen daily in over 100 markets via the Heartland Network. Rick has appeared numerous times on Fox News and has co authored several New York Times bestsellers and charted two comedy cd's on Billboards comedy chart.

All men are invited to come and hear Rick share his comedy with the message of the power and peace found only in Jesus Christ. Rick's eulogy from his young son's memorial service became the most viewed video in the world for 1 week on YouTube.

Tickets are available as follows:

VIP: \$50 (Meet and Greet with Rick at 6:00 & VIP seating)

General Admission: \$20

General Admission at the door: \$25

Students: \$5

For more information or to purchase tickets visit
fbclagrange.org/men.

Attention: Church Leaders

Annual Church Reports

will be mailed to each church from the Georgia Baptist Mission Board near the end of August. Instructions on how to complete and return the reports will be included. They may be returned to the Georgia Baptist Mission Board by US Mail, email or they may be entered online.

The **VBS Reports** may be entered online through
Lifeway's website:

vbs.lifeway.com/vbs-2022-church-report/

The **Other Church Information** form should be completed and returned to the Troup Baptist Association.

The completed form may be scanned & emailed to
angela@troubaptist.org or mailed to

Troup Baptist Association
P.O. Box 550, LaGrange, GA 30241

As always, please call Troup Baptist Association for assistance or more information. 706-884-1975



SPARK CHURCH LEADER CONFERENCE LIVESTREAM

Thursday, August 25 | 9am—3pm

The TBA is sponsoring a FREE Live-stream of The Spark Church Leadership Conference here in our building for all church leaders. Keynote speakers are Rev. Fred Luter, Robby Gallaty, Michael Catt, and Tod Bolsinger along with many breakout sessions.

Call or Email our office (angela@troubaptist.org) to register.
More information at thesparkconference.com

AUGUST CALENDAR

1 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
8 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
15 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
22 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
25 Spark Church Leader Conference 9 am-3 pm @ TBA
27 WMU Luncheon, 11:00 am @ Grace Baptist Church
29 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 August



5 Rev. Lamar Womack, Gray Hill
10 Rev. Bernie Pasley, East Vernon
10 Rev. Mike Watson
13 Rev. Jerry Johnson, Stovall
17 Rev. Frank Abrahamsen, Praise & Prayer
21 Rev. Derek Williams, New Macedonia
22 Rev. Danny Geter, Long Cane
23 Rev. Tifton Dobbs, Anointed By Faith
29 Rev. Billy Allen

Pray for our Schools, Educators, Staff & Students

On The Lighter Side:

Jesus, Moses, and an old man go golfing. The first one to tee off is Moses. He smashes the ball and it is heading right for the water hazard before the green. Moses raises his club, the water parts, and the ball makes it to the green. Jesus gets up to swing, cranks it out, and it is headed for the water hazard. Jesus closes his eyes and prays. The ball skips across the water and lands on the green two feet from the hole. The old man's turn comes and he drives the ball. The ball looks like it is going to drop directly into the water. A fish jumps from the water hazard swallowing the ball, as an eagle drops from the sky, grabbing the fish. As the eagle flies over the green, a bolt of lightning strikes the eagle, making it drop the fish. As the fish hits the green, it spits out the ball and the ball falls into the hole, making a hole in one. Jesus looks at Moses and says, "I really think I'm leaving Dad at home next time!"

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