



The Messenger Header this month honors the many Troup Baptists that came out to help with the Disaster Relief Clean-up. Thanks to all of you.

Love of God & Love for God

1 John 4:7-12

John 14:15-21



I'm always amazed at the Love of God. Are you? During this time of year everyone's buzzing with talk of love, but I'm afraid that most

have no idea about the greatest love of all. Nor do they really understand the depth of the "Love of God."

The Bible tells us that God **IS** love. It's in His character and nature to love. It's His starting place with each of us. It also tells us that "*God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*"

Here's the good stuff: **God's Love begins with Him, not with me.**

Unlike the "love" of our world and culture, God's love begins with Him and is extended to us. Most of the time, if you will look at nearly all of the cards at the store you will see this, our love is in response to something someone does for us. While we were sinners and opposing God at every turn, HE LOVED US and Jesus DIED FOR US. While this world was hopeless and dead in sin, God sent His one and only Son to die for us.

I hope you can see the difference clearly. We can only move forward in our LOVE for GOD if we realize the depth of His love for us. Also, if we are going to LOVE like CHRIST, which we are called to do, then we must move from the world's "love in return" mentality to a "love no matter what" mentality. That's AGAPE. That's the Love of God. Now let me turn to our LOVE for GOD. Because love is such an overused term in our culture, we are quick to say, "Yes, I LOVE GOD." But what does that really mean? It could mean that I get the *warm and fuzzies* when I think about God's love for me. Or, it could

mean that I follow the cultural "DO" and "DO NOT" lists for my community. Maybe it means that I'm religious and do everything that is expected of me like go to church and do nice things. While these are all good things, they fall short of backing up the declaration of "I love God."

Before you give up, I want you to know there is a Biblically correct and measurable answer for this. The answer to the question, "Do I LOVE God?" is found in His Word in several places. Let me give you two quickly and then I've put a ONE QUESTION EXAM ON LOVING GOD on the next page of The Messenger.

First, DO YOU LOVE OTHERS?

Since love generates from the very nature of God, then the more we love Him then the more we will love others. The two go hand-in-hand and are evidence of each other. According to 1 John 4, if we don't love others, we don't know God, because God **IS** love.

Second, ARE YOU OBEYING HIM?

Jesus said, "If you love me, obey my commandments." So, to OBEY is to LOVE. And in order to OBEY we have to KNOW Him. We know God through the Holy Spirit, His Word, and prayer. Keep that in mind as you take the ONE QUESTION EXAM on the next page.

I'd like to wish each of you a special Valentine by telling you how thankful I am to get to serve Troup Baptists and that I love you. I pray you will grow in your knowledge of God's Love **FOR** you and practice of LOVE **FOR** others.

Bro Andy



Everything hinges on the resurrection!

1 Corinthians 15:13-14 says, "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." (1 Cor 15:13-14)

But don't stop there. Keep reading.

"But Christ **has indeed been raised from the dead**, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." (1 Cor 15:20-22)

Because He is ALIVE, I live life through Him!

Because Resurrection Sunday is so important, we should prepare for it well. The Journey of Lent is that preparation. 40 Days of walking with Jesus to His Death and Resurrection.

Find out more on the TBA Website:

<https://www.troubaptist.org/lent-2023/>

Then, consider joining me in this journey of preparation for Easter through daily email devotionals. Follow this link to find out more and subscribe to receive the emails each day from Wednesday, February 22, until Easter on Sunday, April 9, 2023.

Use your phone camera to go to our website for more information and to subscribe.



Association News

MINISTRY NEWS

January was a great month of ministry and excitement. Started the month preaching at Teaver Road (Pastor Ben Turner) to begin the year. January 8 Kim and I attended East Vernon (Pastor Bernie Pasley) and enjoyed worshipping with the good folks there. January 15 we were at Callaway Baptist (Pastor Brad Thompson) and then on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 22, I brought the message at Western Heights (Pastor Jason Jones) and was privileged to speak to the Rosemont Student Ministry with Student Pastor John Oliver. We closed out the month at East LaGrange (Pastor Allen Smith).



I love meeting so many wonderful Troup Baptists and experiencing the Lord's presence in our churches. In the middle of all that I am honored to serve on the Board for the New MIRACLE LEAGUE here in Lagrange. Mary Beth Pelt is the director of this wonderful baseball league that will have its inaugural season here in Lagrange. Let me encourage you to discover how you can give, volunteer, and be a part of this wonderful venture.

We continue to pull together all of our churches who are providing GriefShare groups. This wonderful small group ministry is helping people all over Troup County. Mrs. Beverly Gardner and I were on Wanda Walker's television show on BeeTV.



Following the tornado disaster on January 12 Troup Baptists became a big part of the initial clean-up and recovery. Pastor Dwayne Perdue and I toured the damaged area with the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief leadership and were briefed on ways Troup Baptists can help those needing assistance. Special thanks to Pastor Michael Jackson (Confidence Missionary Baptist) and Pastor Tim Tidwell (Oakside) for their great help. Also, thanks to all of the churches who were represented at the clean-up on Friday, Jan 20. More than 200 people came out to help their neighbors and so many of them were from TBA churches. Everyone of you are heroes. Thank you!



Finally, Saturday, February 4th was a day I'll never forget. Pastor Steven Cheek invited me to attend and serve at the Breakfast of Champions hosted by New Hope Baptist. This is a monthly breakfast of the Empowerment 3D Inc. Ministry led by Jerome Cofield where boys from several schools are encouraged and built up mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. They gathered for powerful testimonies and were able to share and get support for the things that they've suffered and the scars in their life. Pastor Steven shared a great word with the boys and the church provided an incredible breakfast for them of pancakes, biscuits, eggs, bacon, sausage and grits. You'll be hearing more about this ministry in the future.

Saturday afternoon Kim and I were amazed at the support of GOOD SAM ministry as we packed food bags for the children in the Troup County School System. More than 300 bags are delivered each week provided by the donors and volunteers of Good Sam.

Needless to say, our hearts are full as we serve along side Troup Baptists to bring the Gospel to so many through the love and help by all of you.



Here is your long awaited, **ONE QUESTION, SELF EXAMINATION** mentioned in the article on the front page. It's a simple way to evaluate how well you are showing your love for God so that you might grow in your love for Him in the future. Hold this page up to a mirror to see the question.

DO YOU PRAY?

Isn't that simple? It is, yet it also will reveal much about your love for God. When we PRAY we show our LOVE for God, our dependence on God, and our willingness to OBEY Him.

Let me encourage you to PRAY MORE. Love and Blessings!

Association - Church Prayer List

For **February 2023**, please pray for the following churches:

Week of February 5, 2023 - Dunson Baptist Church
Week of February 12, 2023 - East LaGrange Baptist Church
Week of February 19, 2023 - East Vernon Baptist Church
Week of February 26, 2023 - Eastside Baptist Church

For **March 2023**, please pray for the following churches:

Week of March 5, 2023 - First Baptist Church, Hogansville
Week of March 12, 2023 - First Baptist Church, West Point
Week of March 19, 2023 - First Baptist Church on the Square
Week of March 26, 2023 - First Hispanic Baptist Church

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



BCM at LaGrange College meets each Monday at 8pm in Turner the TBA to sign-up your church or group to provide this lunch for about 25-30 college students. They love "home-cooked"

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.

Church News & Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BT) -During the month of January, the Serving Hearts Food Closet served 418 individuals giving out 151 boxes of food, 154 meals and 120 backpacks to children for weekend food. • The Clothes Closet served 103 individuals and gave away 38 coats. They need all sizes of coats. If you have one to donate, please do so.

• February is Deacon Appreciation Month and BT wishes to thank all of 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." • Prayer Warriors meet every Tuesday at 10 am on the Square in LaGrange.

Everyone is invited to attend. • Awanas are staying very busy. On January 4, they had pajama night and were served pancakes. January 11 was the Awana store. They earn Awana bucks for learning their Bible verses and then can buy gifts from the store. January 25 was Glow in the dark/ neon night. February 1 was Quarter Night and February 8 was Heart Night (parents were invited). February 25 will be Jersey night. They will be learning about Jesus and having fun doing it. "Thanks to all the volunteers for making Awana a success." • On February 5, BT had a Valentine's Dinner for the Widows/Widowers of the church.

• Mark your calendars for March 6 from 2-7 pm for the Blood Drive. Please donate if you can so someone else may live. • Please continue to pray for the storm victims and our country. "May God bless each and every one of you."

FBC Hogansville - was grateful to be able to join in relief efforts following the tornado which caused damage in LaGrange. A group of members packed and delivered 220 lunches for those affected and the volunteers who were working on-site. Each lunch bag also contained a note of Christian hope and encouragement. • Ladies Under Construction Bible Class is studying Mrs. Priscilla Shirer's book *Fervent*, which is a battle plan for prayer. The class is normally at the church on Tuesday nights, but on January 24 they met at Mrs. Sondra Lee's house for a cozier atmosphere.

• Building Godly Men also meets at the church on Tuesday evenings. They are studying *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby. All are welcome to join at any time.

• The Men's Ministry met for their monthly breakfast on January 21. This is an opportunity for fellowship as well as making plans for their upcoming activities. That same morning the Prime Timers enjoyed fellowship over breakfast at the Golden Corral in Newnan.

• Church Hostess, Mrs. Marie Call makes sure meals are provided on Sunday mornings at 9 AM and Wednesday evenings at 5 PM. On the FBC Facebook page every Wednesday, Mrs. Marie gives a few comments about meal planning and what her experience has been. She always has some interesting tidbits to share, so tune in to hear her.

• We are honored to welcome Ms. Cynthia Deisher into our fellowship and look forward to serving with her.

• We are saddened by the passing of Ms. Brenda Tackett. She will be missed.

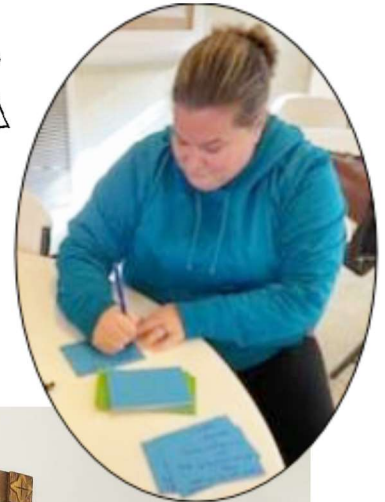
• Coming Soon!! Celebrate Recovery is planning its 3rd Annual Car Show on April 29. Details will follow.



FBC Hogansville: Members packed 220 lunches for tornado victims and for volunteers working on-site.



FBC Hogansville:
Mrs. Marla McKeehan wrote encouraging notes to be put in each of the lunches for the tornado relief effort.



FBC Hogansville: Mrs. Marie Call, Church Hostess



Church News & Announcements

First Baptist on the Square - is excited to host some amazing events coming up in February and March.

- Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation will be Friday, February 10, 2023! Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. 200 volunteers are needed for Night to Shine – will you be one? If you would like to volunteer or register a guest, please head to the website, fbclagrange.org.
- Ladies, come enjoy an evening with Jennifer Rothschild, as she shares God's truths with her substance, signature wit, and down-to-earth style. In addition, you will be blessed by worship led by Jourdon Johnson and an ensemble from Passion City Church. This event will take place at 6:30 pm on March 2 in FBC's New Life Building. Please visit our website to purchase your tickets at fbclagrange.org/women/. Childcare is available by reservation.
- Families will be amazed and entertained by explosions, colored foam, liquid nitrogen, and glow-in-the-dark solutions during The Amazing Chemistry Show and Family Experience. Founded by Josh Denhart, The Amazing Chemistry Show is an educationally entertaining stage production using fast-paced and engaging science experiments to captivate kids and adults while sharing what the love God has for them. Join us at 5:30 pm on March 3 in the CFLC. If you have any questions, please email Paul Knight at paul@fbclagrange.org.



FBC: The Amazing Chemistry Show, March 3 @ 5:30 pm

- Grace** - About 206 people were served with free food in January. Boxes of free food are available to anyone who wants it on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The Drive-through starts at 10:00 am in the parking lot of Grace Baptist Church.
- The Clothes Closet helps anyone in need.
 - Ladies of Grace presented two members with a prayer quilt. Prior to the presentation, everyone said a prayer as they tied a knot on each of the quilts.
 - On the Fifth Sunday evening, they had a fellowship in the George Harris Building.
 - Grace welcomes their new pianist, Bryan Elliot.
 - Grace invites everyone who does not have a church home to join them for Sunday School at 9:45 am, morning worship at 10:45 am, evening service at 6:00 pm and Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. Children's Church is for PreK-5th grades and Teen Ministry is for 6th - 12th grades. Van Pick-up is available by request. Children and Youth are served a meal every Wednesday. Services are streamed live on their Facebook page and available on their YouTube page.
 - Reformer's Unanimous meets every Friday night at 7 pm. and 3rd Talk streams live on Facebook at approx. 8:00-8:30 pm and is available on the YouTube page.
 - Please visit the webpage <http://www.gbclagrange.com/> for updates and links to their Facebook and YouTube sites.

- Highland** - A new year has begun for the Thru-The-Bible study group. They meet every Tuesday morning to discuss what they've read that week and get insight from their leader. Every week the members read things in the scriptures that they don't remember from the year before, and they are continuing to learn. "This has been a great experience."
- They started a new Bible Study in January called, "Finding Jesus in the Tabernacle." It has been very interesting, informative, and enjoyable. They meet every Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.
 - The choir has begun working on the cantata, "Amazing Grace", to be performed on Easter morning.
 - The WMU is collecting items for Project Joy Distribution at God's Bread Basket next December. During February they will collect disposable razors.
 - The Grapevine Sunday School Class held a Social on Saturday, January 21. A large group gathered for good food and fellowship. Several games were played including "Name That Tune." "It was a fun evening!"
 - They had a song service on the 5th Sunday in January. Everyone was given the chance, the week before, to submit their favorite hymns to be sung during the service. The response was so overwhelming that there was only enough time to sing about half of them, so they will have another song service soon. "It's always great to gather and sing hymns about Jesus and His Amazing, Saving Grace."



Above: Grace members enjoyed a Fifth Sunday Fellowship Meal following the evening service.



Ladies of Grace presented prayer quilts to two members.

Church News & Announcements

Lakeview - Members continue to enjoy delicious refreshments every Sunday morning from 9 to 10:00 am.

- A Wednesday night meal furnished by the Brisendine family was enjoyed on January 27.
- A Valentine's banquet will be held on February 15 at 4:30 pm; Troup Baptist Association's Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan will be the guest speaker.
- The next Wednesday night meal will be on February 22 at 5 pm with Bible study to follow at 6 pm.
- Lakeview Baptist Church is seeking a piano player for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. This is a paid position. If interested, please contact Judy King at 706-333-2197 or email Judy at lilose2567@gmail.com.



Mountville (MBC) - MBC is excited to welcome Colin Elliott from Ireland on Wednesday, February 15 at 6:30 pm! Colin Elliott's Christian faith influences his life and music.

He gave his life to the Lord when he was only 8 years old through the ministry of evangelist, Dick Saunders and is currently one of the hardest-working Gospel singers in the United Kingdom.



Colin has been involved in Gospel music both in groups and as a solo artist for over 30 years. He started singing at the age of fourteen and has been 'on the road' ever since. Colin is both a solo artist and also sings with the Country/Gospel band, Live Issue.

New Hope (Greenville) - is seeking a piano player for Sunday morning services at 11:00 am. They sing traditional hymns from a hymn book. For more information, contact Rev. Kenneth Whitlock at 678-603-5055. New Hope Baptist Church is located at 7719 Callaway Road in Greenville, Ga.



On The Lighter Side



There was a Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi and a Baptist minister. One day the priest went to get a haircut. After the barber cut his hair, the priest wanted to pay him. The barber said, "Oh no, I will not accept any money from a man of God." So the next day when the barber went to open his shop, he found a loaf of bread with a thank-you note.

Well the rabbi came for a haircut. Again, the barber said, "Oh no, I will not accept any money from a man of God." So the next day, the barber went to open his shop and found a bottle of wine and a thank-you note.

Well the Baptist minister came for a haircut. Again, the barber said, "Oh no, I will not accept any money from a man of God." So the next day, the barber went to open his shop, he found ten other Baptist ministers and a thank-you note!

New Hope (LaGrange) - What a joyous celebration on Sunday, January 22, as three of our youth who accepted Christ at the DNOW gathering at Rosemont Baptist were baptized. "Congratulations to Hayden, Nathan, and Tyler." Please continue to pray for them and all those in the youth department.

- The church-wide mission project for January was collecting water and food items for Clearview Elementary to help those affected by the tornado. Also, some volunteers helped with the Community Disaster Relief in Lexington Park on Friday, January 20. Boxed meals were provided, and clothes, toiletries, and canned and packaged foods were distributed. Work is still going on to help these folks so please keep them in your daily prayers.

- The Sisters of Hope soup lunch for Lottie Moon Missions was a great success. There were 12 varieties of soup and delicious desserts that everyone enjoyed. Our goal was met! Thanks to all who attended and donated.

- The next Sisters of Hope meeting will be Saturday, February 11 at 9:00 am. Judy King, president of WMU for Troup Association will be our guest speaker. A light breakfast will be provided. All ladies are encouraged to attend, enjoy the fellowship, and plan mission projects.

- A busy group of folks cooked breakfast on Saturday, February 4 for the Empowerment program for Clearview Elementary School's monthly meeting. "Thanks to all who helped with supporting this ministry."

- A Children's Workers Training session, led by Kim Fitch, will be held on Sunday, February 19 right after the worship service. Anyone interested in working with children or even thinks they might be is invited to attend. Lunch will be provided.

- Pastor Steven will be conducting Connect classes on Sunday, February 12, and February 19 after the worship service. This class is for those interested in learning about our church, its core values, and ministry opportunities. Please go to our website to register - newhopelagrangec.com/connect. A meal and childcare will be provided.

- "We all extend our love and prayers to the Smith family, Shannon, Sherrie, Spenser, and Ms. Brenda as they embark on a new place of ministry. We will miss you but know you are being obedient to God's will. That's a good thing!"

- Love and prayers to all of you on Valentine's Day.

Wehadkee - *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

Happy Valentine's Day, February 14th. May God's Love be with you.

- On January 29, we had our 5th Sunday Service followed by fellowship and food.

Happy Birthday:

February 1	Randy Mickle
February 13	Wendy Parmer
February 18	Tim Yarbrough
February 19	Freddie Traylor



Happy Anniversary:

February 12	Philip and Wendy Parmer
February 17	Jimmy and Renate Massey





Save the date for
CAMP ROCKRIDGE
 Children's Camp
JUNE 19-22, 2023



Church Financial Conferences 2023

Register at gbfoundation.org/CFC23

Dates & Locations include:

- March 21 5:00 - 8:15 pm Columbus Calvary Baptist Church
- March 30 5:00 - 8:15 pm Jonesboro First Baptist Church

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Creative Tools for Fueling Your Mission • Reporting Revenue Above Reproach • Budgeting to Build the Kingdom • Don't Let Your Pastor Labor in Vain

Happy Birthday

FEBRUARY

Feb 3 Rev. Jim Cheyne
 Feb 5 Dr. Greg Brown
 Feb 11 Rev. Jamie Duran
 Feb 16 Rev. Ronnie Jordan
 Feb 18 Rev. Lenn Martin
 Feb 18 Rev. Jeff McCartney
 Feb 22 Rev. Michael J. Jackson
 Feb 22 Rev. Kenneth Whitlock
 Feb 24 Rev. Jerry Parkerson

MARCH

Mar 6 Rev. Adam Camp
 Mar 9 Rev. Benjie Dukes
 Mar 11 Rev. Don Ellison
 Mar 13 Rev. Neil Stich
 Mar 16 Rev. James Yu
 Mar 20 Rev. Randy Warren
 Mar 21 Rev. Eric Rice
 Mar 22 Dr. Tom Tucker

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