



# BACK TO School



## THE MESSENGER

August 2023 • Volume 58 • Issue 8

### You Can Always LEARN Something!

The old saying, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks," is rarely true. I think a better statement is, "You can't teach a stubborn old dog new tricks." The truth is, we have the capacity to learn something new every day – and even many times during every day.

I've learned a few things over the years. Dad gave me some great advice when he told me, "When you're in a room of older, wiser men, listen more than you speak." I've practiced that over the years and it has paid off in a lot of learning. Let me share with you some things that will help you both in your family life, your friendships, your professional life, and most importantly – your spiritual life.

Learning requires **LISTENING**. If you're not listening you will miss much of what you need to learn. Not listening isn't just closing your ears off to sound, either. It's not paying attention to your spouse, children, friends, God, or your pastor. It's thinking about what you're going to say in response while another is speaking. It's tuning out another because you think you know more than them or you've already learned that item. Listening requires humility and love, AND it shows respect for the one speaking. Practice listening and you'll learn something.

Learning also requires **HUMILITY**. Like listening, if you are unwilling to acknowledge that you don't know everything, then you'll never learn anything. When we bury our pride we put ourselves in a place to learn from others. I've even learned things from people I didn't necessarily agree with on many issues. Sometimes we'll even learn from our enemies when we practice what Jesus said and pray for them. It's amazing.

Lastly, learning requires **ACTION** and

many times a **CHANGE** in course. At times we don't learn because we're not willing to put in the practice. God tells us to be "DOERS" of the Word, not just hearers. I don't learn a new thing when I just hear my spouse, parent, child, friend, pastor, or God. No, I learn it when I put it into practice.

So where is all of this going? Well, learning is important in every area of our life, but it's of **ULTIMATE** importance

when it comes to our spiritual life. **EVERY TIME** we encounter God's Word in our personal study time, in a small group, or in a worship service – we must **LISTEN**, **HUMBLE** ourselves, and **CHANGE**.

I realized many years ago that when I open God's Word, the One Who created all things will be speaking to me. The God of the Universe has come to speak. How prideful and arrogant of me to think that I can hear it and not adjust my life to what He is saying?

God has given us all that we need in His Word to know Him and follow Him in our life. The questions is:

**Will I LISTEN, HUMBLY receive, and ACT on what God has given me?**

I challenge you to adjust the way you respond to God's Word. When you hear it read, listen intently. When you've heard it, humbly receive it. And when you've received it, ACT on what He has said.

When my boys were little and I really wanted them to listen carefully I would say, "Look at my face..." When they did, I knew they had heard clearly. Each day and each Sunday, let's focus on the face of God as we hear His Word so that we can learn something new for the life He's called us to.

*Bro Andy*  
andy@troubaptist.org



### YOUR TOTAL CHURCH EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

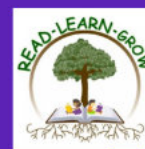
**Sat, Aug 19 | 8:30a-12:30p**  
Roopville Road Baptist Church  
Roopville, GA

#### Who is SPARK for?

Any Lay Leader including Childrens', Womens' Ministry, Mens' Ministry, Missions, Students, Worship Leaders, Sunday School Leaders, Small Group Leaders, Pastors... anyone involved in ministry and equipping.



<https://www.thesparkconference.com/>



Would you like to make a difference in the life of a child?

**GET TROUP READING AND THE TROUP COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE READ-LEARN-GROW PROGRAM FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!**

Volunteers will be placed in 1st grade classrooms in the following elementary schools:

Berta Weathersbee  
Callaway  
Clearview  
Ethel W. Kight

Franklin Forest  
Hogansville  
Hollis Hand  
West Point

#### Choose **one** training session

August 22nd @  
12 noon or 5:30 p.m.  
August 23rd @ noon  
or August 24th @ 5:30 p.m.  
Troup County School System  
Administrative Services Building  
100 North Davis Road

- All volunteers in the program will be approved and vetted through a background check conducted by the Troup County School System.
- Volunteers will commit to working with 1st graders on literacy skills for one, hour-long session each week.
- Training and materials will be provided.

To register contact **Kim Myers** at [Kimmyers@gettroupreading.org](mailto:Kimmyers@gettroupreading.org)



# MINISTRY NEWS

July 1<sup>st</sup> marked 34 years of marriage for Kim and me. I am so thankful that God brought us to LaGrange College back in the 80's and through serving together in the BCM, I fell in love. It took her another year and her mother's encouragement for her to learn to love me! Makes perfect sense, doesn't it. Thank God for His guidance in our lives over these years in Texas, Alabama, and Georgia, God has blessed us so much!

We enjoyed being back home with the sweet folks at Franklin Road Baptist and then up with the loving church family at Highland Baptist in Hogansville this month. Wonderful times of worship and fellowship at both places.

Another highlight this month was the scripture reading day on July 14. All over the state people met at 7:14am on 7/14 to read the entire Bible out loud on the courthouses in Georgia. The Troup County assignment was Jeremiah, chapters 4-8, and it was a powerful word for our current culture. I'm thankful for the group that was present to read and we will get the word out again next year so that more of us can stand together on this special day.



*<sup>1</sup> "If you return, O Israel, declares the Lord, to me you should return. If you remove your detestable things from my presence, and do not waver, <sup>2</sup> and if you swear, 'As the Lord lives,' in truth, in justice, and in righteousness, then nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory." Jeremiah 4:1-2*



I want to once again recommend a couple of local and effective ministries to you. I have been so impressed with the ministry of GOD'S BREAD BASKET and GOOD SAM MINISTRY for the work they do to help students in our schools. These ministries have a special place in mine and Kim's heart because of our contact with students around the county.

GBB and GSM provide children in the Troup County school system with food bags/backpacks each weekend during the year for ANY child in EVERY school (Elementary, Middle & High) in the TCSS that Counselors identify the need to support. GBB focuses mainly on Hogansville Elementary and GSM offers help to every school of TCSS.

You can give to either of these organizations by contacting the TBA and, you can volunteer as well. I have included packing days below for GSM.

## GOOD SAM MINISTRY 2023-24 PACKING CALENDAR

August 5th	January 6th
September 9th	February 3rd
October 14th	March 2nd
November 4th	April 13th
December 2nd	May 4th

GSM Bag packing is each Saturday above at 1:00pm at 1032 Youngs Mill Road. It's at Shoal Creek Baptist Church in the building in back.

## GOD'S BREAD BASKET

GBB is open on Thursdays from 9am-Noon at 407 Church Street in Hogansville. Behind the Hogansville Active Life Center.





# Church News & Announcements

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - The Food Ministry served 558 individuals, giving away 214 boxes of food with 154 meals being delivered. • On August 6 during the evening worship service, a prayer walk will be held specifically for praying for the upcoming school year for all students, teachers, parents, bus drivers, etc.

• The Awana Program will start back up on Wednesday, August 9. "We are excited to see the Lord work in the lives of our children." • The youth group will be having a back-to-school party which serves as a time to welcome the rising 6th graders into the youth group. They will enjoy food as well as entertainment with inflatable slip-n-slides!

• Baptist Tabernacle sponsored a blood drive on July 27.

• Twists and Turns VBS was held on July 17-21 with more children than in the past. Everyone had a GREAT time!

• On July 30, BTC had a 5th Sunday Night Singing with their very own Glory Bells hand-bell choir performing.

**Creekside** – Creekside had another great month! God blessed them with three new members in July.

• Sisterhood and Brotherhood meetings were well attended.

• Congratulations and special blessings go to David Daniel and Becky Hicks on their recent marriage at Creekside.

Announcements: Sisterhood meets on August 7 at 6:00 pm.

Brotherhood breakfast will be August 19 at 8:00 am.

Creekside will host God's Labor Day Weekend Gospel Sing at the Laddie Yates Pavilion. On Saturday, September 2, Bluegrass Gospel Night will begin at 6:00 pm with the Back Porch Pickers and the Burning Bush Family. On Monday, September 4, the singing will begin at 1:00 pm with Nothing But Grace, Denny Grimes, Renee Barton, Young Spirit, C.J., Hunter Simmons and the Praise Boys, All For Him, and ClearVision. Everyone is invited!

**Dunson** - has been blessed with three new members.

• Dunson is very excited to announce that they have a new piano player, Jaye Copeland! Mrs. Carolyn Woods, Dunson's former piano and organ player for many years, was able to attend church and hear Jaye play, and gave her a heartfelt thumbs-up! "We love and thank Mrs. Carolyn for her many years of service at Dunson through music, as well as serving as WMU president, and Sunday School teacher."

• The Sunday night informal service remains very popular and they invite visitors to join them for this time of worship and praise.

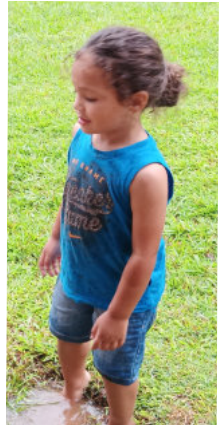
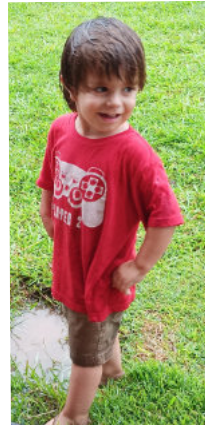
• A group of members will meet for breakfast and then participate in the Saturday prayer walk of our local schools.

• WMU is spearheading a collection of school supplies for their Wednesday night children and youth.

• Dunson has a group of approximately 10 people signed up to attend the SPARK conference at Roopville Baptist and they are looking forward to this opportunity.

**Davidson** – God is moving at Davidson Baptist! They had three to join on July 1. They have seen five saved in five weeks! They baptized six on July 9. This is a total of eight new members! • Davidson's End-of-Summer Bash was a huge success! There were over 35 in attendance. The kids loved the bouncy house. They enjoyed pizza and ice cream and played a lot of games. "The Lord truly blessed us."

• Davidson had a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday night singing on July 30.



Davidson's  
End of Summer  
Bash on July 22



**FBC Hogansville** - Vacation Bible School was held the week of July 9 - 13 with Family Night being celebrated on the 14th. This was a busy week including Bible study, music, crafts, recreation, and dinner each night. The theme this year was Twists & Turns, a celebration of games of all kinds. The participants learned that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of life, and they can always count on Him even when they mess up. The offering this week was designated for God's Breadbasket, Hogansville's local food pantry, and \$400 was raised to go toward this good cause. Well over 100 children and adults came every evening, and the week was illuminating for all in attendance. Mrs. Melanie Baswell, VBS Director, thanks all those who participated and worked hard to make this week a blessing for the community. VBS photo below.



**Moving?** Please let us know if you are moving and would like to continue receiving this newsletter at your new address. To request an address change, call Troup Baptist Association office at 706-884-1975 or visit our website: [www.troubaptist.org](http://www.troubaptist.org), select Newsletter and Subscription Preferences.





# Church News & Announcements

**FBC Hogansville** (continued) - Pastor K. G. Bailey, Orchestra, Choir, and members of White Oak Grove Baptist Church, Senoia led the morning service on July 16. The music was uplifting, and the sermon was a blessing to all. Pastor Bailey says when the two churches come together in worship, we blend into one fellowship. Pastor Greg says, "We try to put forward a fellowship that isn't Black or White and bring the spirit of unity with prayer and fellowship." Both churches look forward to continuing this tradition when First Baptist goes to White Oak Grove in December.



Left: White Oak Grove Baptist Choir  
Above L-R: Pastor K.G. Bailey, Rev. Greg Morris

- On Sunday afternoon, July 23, the Clothes Closet was open to minister to families in the community. The clothes giveaway is very helpful to many who are relying on this resource when preparing for the new school year. We appreciate the donations as well as those who helped to organize and who assisted the families who came.
- Feeding the Teachers and Staff at Hogansville Elementary School is an event we look forward to each year. In addition to a meal, we have prayer and a time of fellowship as they enjoy lunch. This is one way to support and encourage these community leaders as they begin a new school year. "We greatly appreciate all their good work."



Above: Hogansville Vacation Bible School



Above: Grace VBS Floor Games

**Franklin Road** – Franklin Road Baptist Church wants to send out a big "Thank You" to all volunteers who helped with the Mission Serve Project including Pastor Trace Lasher and Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan. It was a great opportunity for the team at Franklin Road to fix lunches, meet the team, pray with them, and fellowship together. Our town of Lagrange is honored and blessed to have a team of young adults serving through Mission Serve to assist in repairing damaged homes for the community.

## **First Baptist Church on the Square (FBC) –**

Registration is open for the FBC Christian Preschool 2023-2024 school year! Lunch bunch will be offered for ages two and up. Fill out the application today by going to [fbclgpreschool.com](http://fbclgpreschool.com). First Baptist Christian Preschool and FBC seek to provide each child with the best opportunity to discover God's love and His importance in their lives by offering experiences that will enhance his/her development mentally, physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually in a safe, secure, nurturing Christ-centered environment.

- The Women's Ministry at First Baptist Church exists to help women deepen their relationship with Christ as they fellowship with one another. Join them for the fall Women's Ministry event, Answering the Call, on August 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the New Life Building. Jessica Bowden will be the guest speaker and share about her recent trip to an orphanage in Uganda. Women's Bible studies are starting back up in August and will be available for sign-up!
- FBC offers kids, students, men's and women's fall bible studies. They are starting back up August 16 through the beginning of September. Please visit the website, [fbclagrange.org/ministries](http://fbclagrange.org/ministries), to sign up for a Bible study.

**Grace** - Served 208 people with free food in July. Free food is available every 3rd Saturday. The drive-through starts at 10:00 am. • The Clothes Closet helps anyone in need. • Twist & Turn VBS was lots of fun. There was a great turnout. • Visit Grace's webpage for more info on service times: <http://www.gbclagrange.com/>.



VBS LESSON TIME

GRACE VBS





# Church News & Announcements

**Highland** - had a 5th Sunday Hymn Sing during the Morning Worship Service on July 30. Members of the congregation suggested the congregational songs they wanted to sing during this service. There were also choir selections and special music. "We always enjoy the song service."

- The WMU gathered individually wrapped snack items for Hogansville Elementary School teachers and staff to enjoy as they prepare for the new school year.
- The Through-The-Bible Encouragement Group continues to meet each Tuesday to discuss what they've read that week. Cookie Rainwater continues to lead the group and does an exceptional job of helping them understand more about the scriptures each week. She is very knowledgeable and is a blessing to the group!
- Homecoming will be Sunday, September 10. Rev. Kenneth Cole, Dunson Baptist Church, will deliver the message and will also provide the special music. Lunch will be served following the service. "Everyone is invited to join us for this special day!"
- Highland WMU members Ellen Hubbard and Becky Carden delivered individually packaged snacks to Hogansville Elementary School Principal, Dr. Hanna Beall, for teachers and staff to enjoy while preparing for the new school year to begin. "It's just a token of our appreciation to the teachers and staff for their dedicated work all year."



Highland WMU with snacks for Hogansville Elementary staff



**Mountville (MBC)** - MBC welcomed two new members by statement in July!! ♥ • Mountville enjoyed Watermelon Wednesday and the Youth washed the van and trailer before their trip to FL on July 5! They also enjoyed a little water balloon fun! (see photo below)

- Mountville enjoyed a Back to School Bash/Family Night on Sunday, July 30 from 5-7 pm. Great fellowship was had with a giant water slide, volleyball, and good food!



Mountville Youth washed their van & trailer in preparation for their July trip to Florida.

**Lakeview** - On Wednesday, June 28, church members enjoyed a delicious dinner provided by Charlotte and John Brisendine.

- Several ladies visited long-time member and church pianist Frankie Hadden at Lagrange Nursing and Rehab in honor of her birthday.
- WMU ladies met at the home of Sally Pike on July 15 for good food and a good time.
- On June 9, Gail Drennan joined by letter. On July 17, new members Hudson and Jill Keener were received by baptism. The Keeners have two children, Maggie and Keeton.
- Breakfast is served every Sunday morning at 9:15 in the fellowship hall. Sunday and Wednesday night messages are on Lakeview's Facebook page.



Above: Lakeview Ladies celebrating long time member Ms. Frankie Hadden on the occasion of her birthday.

Left: Lakeview new members Hudson & Jill Kenner, and children Keeton & Maggie with Pastor Lamar Truitt.



# Church News & Announcements

**Roper Heights** - On Saturday, July 22, Roper Heights had a Back To School Bash for all the kids. A great time was had by everyone. They played water games and ate hot dogs. Each child received a book bag with school supplies.



**Roper Heights  
Back to School Bash**

**Second Baptist** - will have Homecoming on Sunday, August 20 at 10:30 am. Their guest speaker will be Reverend Fred Thompson. Fred Thompson got saved at Second Baptist when he was 14 years old and later went to seminary. He then became a pastor in North Carolina where he served for several years. The guest singers will be Higher Hope from Lagrange, Ga. Everyone is invited and don't forget there will be lots of good physical food after we enjoy the Spiritual meal.

## On The Lighter Side

A cat died and went to Heaven. God met the animal at the Pearly Gates and said, "You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking."

The cat thought for a moment and then said, "All my life I lived on a farm and slept on hard wooden floors. I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on."

God said, "Say no more." Instantly, the cat had a huge fluffy pillow.

A few days later, 12 mice were simultaneously killed in an accident and they all went up to Heaven together. God met the mice at the Pearly Gates of Heaven, with the exact same offer that He made to the cat.

The mice said, "Well, we have had to run all of our lives from cats, dogs, and even from people with brooms. If we could just have some little roller skates, we would never have to run again."

God answered, "It is done." All the mice had beautiful little roller skates.

About a week later, God decided to check on the cat. He found her sound asleep on her fluffy pillow. God gently awakened the cat and asked, "Is everything okay? How have you been doing? Are you happy?"

The cat replied, "Oh, everything is just wonderful! I've never been so happy in my life! My pillow is always fluffy and those little 'Meals on Wheels' that You have been sending over are delicious."

D E V O T E D

*Dwelling Place*

Answering the Call

Women's Ministry Night!



FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH ON THE SQUARE

August 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the New Life Building

First Baptist Christian  
Preschool

Register Today for our  
2023-2024 School Year

LUNCH BUNCH  
will be offered for  
ages 2 & up  
12:00-1:00pm

FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH ON THE SQUARE

### Association - Church Prayer List

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

Week of August 6, 2023 - New Macedonia Missionary Baptist  
 Week of August 13, 2023 - Open Range Cowboy Church  
 Week of August 20, 2023 - Pineview Baptist Church  
 Week of August 27, 2023 - Praise & Prayer Ministry

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

Week of September 3, 2023 - Reeds Chapel Baptist Church  
 Week of September 10, 2023 - Roper Heights Baptist Church  
 Week of September 17, 2023 - Rosemont Baptist Church  
 Week of September 24, 2023 - Second Baptist Church

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



HAPPY  
*Birthday*  
TO YOU



### AUGUST

- 5 Rev. Lamar Womack
- 10 Rev. Bernie Pasley
- 10 Rev. Mike Watson
- 13 Rev. Jerry Johnson
- 17 Rev. Frank Abrahamsen
- 21 Rev. Derek Williams
- 22 Rev. Danny Geter
- 23 Rev. Tifton Dobbs
- 29 Rev. Billy Allen

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Rev. Michael Reeves
- 4 Rev. Tom Farr
- 20 Rev. Jason Jones
- 29 Rev. Richard King
- 30 Dr. Lamar Truitt
- 30 Rev. Ben Turner

# CELEBRATING A SUMMER OF MINISTRY IN THE TROUP BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Think for a moment about what all of our churches in the TBA have done to share the Gospel this summer. Locally, county-wide, state-wide, across the country, and world. Can you imagine? How many people have heard the Gospel because of what your church has done. Now, multiply that by 53.

VBS, Mission Trips, Children's Camp, Youth Camp, Revivals, and a bunch of creative things have happened this summer and I don't want to imagine what the impact has been any more. I want to know!

We have developed a couple of ways you can respond with what your church has done to impact the world this spring and summer:

First, you can go to [troubaptist.org/celebrate23](https://troubaptist.org/celebrate23) and fill out the simple form there and we'll compile the data and publish it.

Second, you can complete the similar form below, by hand, tear it off and send it to us, or better yet, drop it off and visit with us a while. Either way, get that info in so we can celebrate what has happened this spring and summer.



## LET'S CELEBRATE!

### EVENT INFORMATION

**CHURCH NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT PERSON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EVENT:**

- |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> VBS             | <input type="radio"/> REVIVAL         |
| <input type="radio"/> MISSION TRIP    | <input type="radio"/> COMMUNITY EVENT |
| <input type="radio"/> CHILDREN'S CAMP | <input type="radio"/> OTHER EVENT:    |
| <input type="radio"/> YOUTH CAMP      |                                       |

**TOTAL ENROLLED (including volunteers):** \_\_\_\_\_

**AVG ATTENDANCE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRICULUM USED:**

- ☐ Twists & Turns  
☐ Stellar  
☐ Keeper's of the Kingdom  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### IMPACT & DECISIONS

**SALVATION DECISIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CALL TO MINISTRY DECISIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CALL TO MISSIONS DECISIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REDEDICATIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER DECISIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CELEBRATION TESTIMONY:**



# Lagrange College BCM

We're excited about the new "Baptist Collegiate Ministry" (BCM) year at Lagrange College. Last year was such a great year of rebuilding and this year there is a lot of excitement in the new Leadership Team that we've put together. Here's how you can help:

- 1 - PRAY for the team, the campus, and for sensitivity to the Gospel
- 2 - SUPPORT by your church providing lunch or snacks for a meeting
- 3 - GIVE to help us reach the campus with the Gospel

## The 2023 BCM Leadership Team



**Journey Oden**  
**PRESIDENT**



**Parker Lovett**



**Meredith Orten**



**Madelyn Orten**



**Trystin Merson**



**Jacob Broome**

This team has been meeting by conference call over the summer and are excited to get involved in serving, sharing, and leading the Lagrange College campus in a revival this year. Please join me in praying for each of them as we set out on this mission August 21, 2023 at our first meeting. Thanks!

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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