

THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2023

VOLUME 58 • ISSUE 9

better together! 2

Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

- Colossians 4:12

As I visit the TBA churches and speak with so many of you each week, I just can't get away from the vision of what it would be like if we were all working together as we have been called to do. We are excelling in some areas, but have a long way to go in others. Let me warn you that I'll continue to pray, share, and write about our cooperation for months and years to come. We can always grow closer, stronger, and better together.

This month I want to focus on the value of each of us having some other believers around us that are close enough to help us as we serve, but also stand with us and keep a watch over us to make us stronger.

In Colossians 4, while Paul is finishing up his letter the church at Colossae and Laodicea, he launches into somewhat of a list of his teammates of life.

You need a friend like Tychicus. Paul describes him as a "beloved brother," "faithful minister," and "fellow servant." That's high praise coming from Paul. When their paths crossed, they became closer than close. And while Paul gets a lot of recognition for his work and ministry, he couldn't have done it without Tychicus.

Tychicus wasn't concerned about who got the glory because he was as committed as Paul to GOD GETTING ALL THE GLORY. He contributed much to Paul's life and ministry but was content being a servant. We all need that kind of friend and we all need to be that kind of friend, too.

You also need an Onesimus friend. This guy was labeled in an earlier time as "useless" by Philemon. He had once stolen and abandoned Philemon but while he was

running, Christ found him and redeemed him. He was forever changed. "Onesimus had been revolutionized by God's grace!"

Now, the new and grace-improved Onesimus is called "faithful" and "beloved" by Paul. If Paul had pinned the label from the past on Onesimus, he would have missed a valuable teammate and friend. I hope you have a friend that can testify of the transformation of Jesus Christ and I hope you have welcomed them onto your team for life. What a story they have to tell.

Paul had a diverse group of teammates, too. And he was better off because of it. There was the all-star, all-Jewish, backfield of Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus. Mark was the "comeback" friend that had once left Paul but came back and here was commended. He was young, full-of-energy and idealistic. You need at least one of those friends.

Aristarchus was a fellow prisoner of Paul's. I like to think he met Paul in prison one day and Paul shared the Gospel with him. He listened, was convicted, and received Christ that day and became a believer. He also became a life-long friend. A friendship forged in difficult times and a common faith will endure.

Then, there was the offensive line of Gentiles made up of Epaphrus, Luke, and Demas. While Demas turned out to be a draft day bust, Epaphrus and Luke made up for him.

Paul writes that Epaphrus was "always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God." He was a

PRAYER WARRIOR. I hope you have a friend like Epaphrus on your team. One who will struggle in prayer on your behalf and hold you up before the Father.

Finally, there was Luke – I like to call him "the smart one." We all need a friend and teammate who's smarter than us. One who remembers or writes down everything. While they may get on a "free spirit's" last nerve, they are God's gift to holding us together. I married my "smart and organized" friend and I am sure glad I did. Luke was loyal and wrote the adventures of Paul down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He was a good friend.

I hope you have a team around you like Paul did. There were others but these are the ones I wanted to mention today. As I read the passage again and again I jotted down these three kinds of friends we need on our team:

Faithful Friends we can **LEAN** on.

Loving Friends we can **LEARN** from.

Loyal Friends to carry on our **LEGACY**.

I hope you have a good team around you because you are "better together" than you would be as a loner. Have a blessed month of September! Let us know if *The Messenger* is a blessing to you! As you read about the TBA, please pray for each of our churches and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will go out through us.

God bless you.



Bro Andy

andy@troubaptist.org

MINISTRY NEWS

It's been an exciting month in the TBA! I've enjoyed celebrating and speaking in several of our churches, Troup High School's gathering at the flag, Wehadkee, Unity, and Mt Pleasant churches. Couple these gatherings with our Pastor's Fellowship meetings on Monday at 11am and all of the things happening with the LaGrange College BCM and I am busy but BLESSED to serve the TBA!

I want to use the column today to make you aware of several things that I need your help on or invite you to participate in:

1 MINISTRY INFORMATION

Send us the information on what your church has done this summer in ministry and evangelism. We are still collecting data from all of the VBS's, camps, retreats, mission trips, revivals, and any other ministry events from across the TBA this summer. Find out if your church has sent in their information yet, and if not, be a catalyst for getting that information in to me. Find the report form on our website at troubaptist.org

2 DISASTER RELIEF

We have the opportunity to get trained to provide better disaster relief in case of any kind of disaster that may come our way in the future. The training will be in Jonesboro on October 6-7. It's a Friday evening for a couple of hours and then Saturday morning for a couple of hours. This training will certify you to help as a Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief team member here in Troup County as well as all over the State and southeast when we are called upon. There is a need for all kinds of help beyond the labor of cleaning up trees and such. There's something for everyone to do. See the back page and call us for more information.

3 PRAY, SERVE, & HELP

There are so many things going on in our community that need our prayers and need believers to take our place and stand in the gap. Crime, shootings, murders, and various kinds of evil are here among us. As God's people, we need to pray and lead the way by being ready to serve and help! I am calling on all of our churches and members to set aside extra time each day to pray for these problems that only GOD can solve. We need to pray for our schools (administration, teachers, staff, and students) and be available to serve as we hear of needs. There are needs for helping our elementary students with reading and mentoring. There are prayer gatherings at our middle schools and high schools that we need to be supporting. There are ministries that serve our students that need our help and our financial support. Let's not just discuss and fuss about these issues, let's be a helping hand to solve them.

I hope you sense my burden for our community and world as well as my vision that the churches of the TBA would be on the frontline helping and sharing the Gospel as the main part of any solution to the problems of mankind. Let me know how you would like to serve.

✉ andy@troubaptist.org

☎ (706) 884-1975



"Healthy Churches in An Unhealthy Culture"

September 28 at 12noon

I'll be speaking at the FBC on the Square monthly men's luncheon on September 28. You can make a reservation for the lunch by calling the FBC office and join us as I share about how churches can help and remain healthy in our world today.



LaGrange College BCM is up and running for the fall 2023 semester at LC. Our regular meetings are:

- Sunday Chapel - 8pm
- Monday Bible Study - 8pm
- Tuesday Lunch - 12noon

Please pray for our leadership team and for our meetings AND if you'd like to get involved, your church can help us by sponsoring a lunch to feed 25-30 on a Tuesday or snacks for 25-30 on a Monday night at our regular meeting. Call me and get involved.



SEPTEMBER 17

Take advantage of this great opportunity to have a special INVITE DAY at your church.

Do something special to make a fresh splash in your community!

You can find more information and some great ideas at

www.backtochurch.com

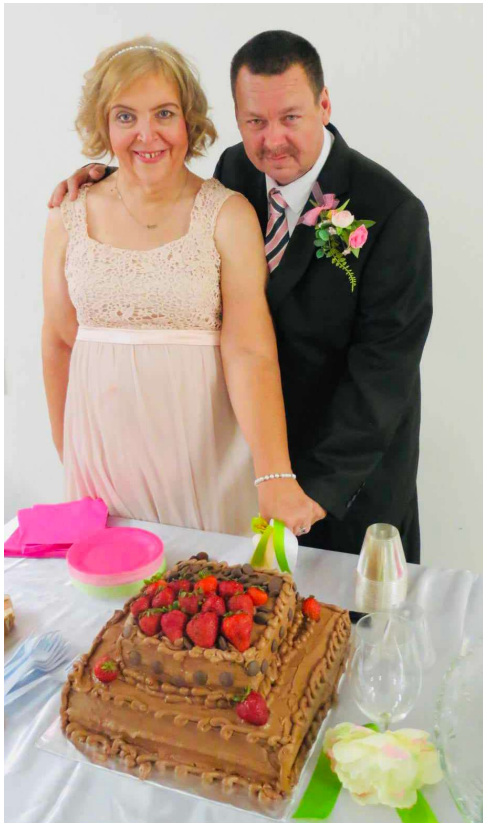
Church News & Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Food Ministry served 396 individuals, giving away 124 boxes of food with 140 meals being delivered.

- The Awana Program will start back up on Wednesday, September 6. "We are excited to see the Lord work in the lives of our children."
- The Youth group will be having a rising 6th graders welcoming party on September 13 to give them an exciting night with all of the older youth kids. They will have food and an inflatable water slide for that Wednesday evening.
- The Sunday School program will be having a contest to see who can bring the most guests for Sunday School throughout the month of September. The person who brings the most visitors will win a new bike!

Creekside – It was a great month at Creekside! The Spirit of the Lord is moving in each service.

- An overflowing crowd attended the wedding of David Daniel and Becki Hicks.
- We send out our love in the passing of one of our members, Mr. Doug Matthews.
- "Thanks to the Sisterhood for the nice welcome benches in front of the church."
- Labor Day Sing: Saturday, September 2 beginning at 6pm and Monday September 4 beginning at 1pm.
- Trip to Buckners Restaurant will be on September 9.
- Sisterhood will meet on September 11 at 6 pm.
- Brotherhood will meet on September 16 at 8 am.
- Friday, October 27 at 7 pm will be "Under the Pavilion at Night" with the Kingdom Express and Gold City Quartet. Bring lawn chairs. Some will be provided.



Mr. & Mrs. David Daniel

Dunson - Eleven members attended the Spark Conference August 19 in Roopville, including Pastor Kenneth Cole and Pam, Music Minister Steve Vickery and Wanda, Sunday School and Wednesday night children and youth workers, and WMU representatives. They received valuable information and came back and enthusiastically shared it during the Sunday night informal service.

- The Wednesday night kickoff of the 8-week "Bee-Attitudes" lessons was a Back to School Bash where the kids went from room to room, played a game, reviewed the scripture and character word, and received a different school supply in their backpack from each game. This was a fun night for the kids and volunteers at each of the ten stations.
- WMU hosted a shower for Ruth Anne Hamre and Daniel Meadows for their upcoming September wedding.
- WMU is planning several local and state projects to support September Mission Georgia month such as ministering to our shut-ins, enhancing children's literacy, donating to a local church destroyed by the tornado, and donating to Georgia Baptist Children's Home helping children through their Breaking Down Barriers program.
- Homecoming will be Sunday, October 1 at 10:30 am. Brother S. T. Janney will be the speaker. Lunch is served immediately following the service. "We extend a special invitation to come and join us at Dunson."



Dunson: Back-to-School Bash focused on the "Bee Attitudes"



Above: Dunson's Group at the Spark Conference

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, select Newsletter and Subscription Preferences.

Church News & Announcements

FBC Hogansville - Feeding the Teachers and Staff at Hogansville Elementary School is an event that FBCH looks forward to each year. In addition to a meal, they have prayer and a time of fellowship with them. This is one way that FBCH can support and encourage these community leaders as they begin a new school year. "We enjoyed being with them on August 2 and wish them a successful school year."

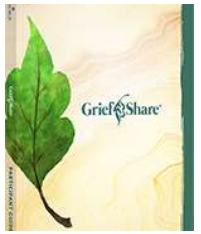
- A group from the Men's Ministry has been going out and about in the neighborhoods of Hogansville praying with people and telling them about Jesus. They invite people to church and encourage them to come and be a part of our fellowship. All men are welcome to be a part of this effort.
- The Ladies' Bible Study group meets each Tuesday from 6 to 7 pm for prayer and a program. Currently, they are discussing "He Speaks to Me, Preparing to Hear from God" by Priscilla Shirer. All ages and stages of life-prayer warriors are making it happen, and they would love to see this group grow!
- The Youth Group had a Back to School Bash on Sunday, August 20, at Lake Jimmy Jackson in Hogansville. They enjoyed food, fun and fellowship at the lake to welcome the new school year! Mrs. Monica Johnson is the Youth Director.
- Mr. Judd Holderfield from His Place, Opelika, AL, has provided special music on several occasions this month. "We are pleased to have him travel to join us and we are blessed by his music."



Above Top to Bottom:

- FBC Hogansville Ladies' Bible Study Group
- Youth Group's Back-to-School Bash at the lake
- Mr. Judd Holderfield from His Place, Opelika, AL
- FBC Hogansville provided a meal for Hogansville Elementary School Teachers and Staff on August 2.

Franklin Road – will be hosting a fall session of Grief Share on Sunday afternoons from 5 - 7 pm beginning on September 10. This is for anyone who has lost a loved one. For more information or to register, contact Jerry Parkerson at 706-573-2035 or email: jerryparkerson@yahoo.com.



You may register online at fribclagrange.org/grief.

First Baptist Church on the Square (FBC) – Do you love to sing? Are you available on Monday mornings? Then you'd be the PERFECT member of the New Horizons Mission Choir! The New Horizons Choir is made up of men and women who love the Lord and who love to sing. They meet each Monday morning at 11 am at First Baptist Church on the Square. You do not have to be a member of First Baptist to participate - we have folks from all over Troup County and we would love to have your church represented! We begin rehearsal each year on the Monday after Labor Day, and we conclude in mid-May. We do take a break during the summer. The most exciting part of this group is the ministry we are able to do together throughout the year - we sing at various nursing homes, retirement centers, and senior centers throughout Troup County and surrounding counties on Monday mornings when we are not rehearsing. We hope to be a blessing to the folks we sing for, but generally, we are the ones who are blessed the most! We indeed have a wonderful time together! If you are interested in joining us, please do! We will meet for the first time on Monday morning, September 11, 2023 at 11 am in the adult choir room at First Baptist. Please call Anthony or Rebecca Criswell at 706-884-4832 with any questions you may have or simply to let us know you plan to join us. Tell your friends! We are looking forward to a wonderful year of ministry together!

- Each Thursday morning at FBC, will be an Operation Christmas Child prep day from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who wants to volunteer for OCC this year, please join (even if you can only make it to one or two prep days). We will use this time to organize the school supplies and put boxes together while having fun and enjoying fellowship with one another! If you would like more information or to volunteer, please contact us at 706-884-5631 or go to fbclagrange.org/operation-christmas-child.



Operation Christmas Child Prep Day

Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall



Church News & Announcements

Highland - • Homecoming will be Sunday, September 10 beginning at 10:30 am. Rev. Kenneth Cole, Dunson Baptist Church, will deliver the message and will also provide the special music. Lunch will follow in the fellowship hall. There will be no Sunday School that morning.

“We invite everyone to join us for this special day!”

- During September, the WMU will be collecting purses for Harmony House. Each donated purse should include personal items such as a hairbrush, comb, lotion, crackers, Chapstick, shampoo, etc. to be delivered to Harmony House for distribution to those who need them. Also in September, the WMU will begin collecting individually wrapped candy for Trunk-N-Treat, which will be on Tuesday, October 31, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the Church parking lot.

Lakeview - Breakfast is served in the fellowship hall every Sunday morning at 9:15 am.

- Judy King and Jean Shirley hosted a delicious dinner on Wednesday, July 26.
- Church attendees enjoyed a Wednesday night meal on August 30 at 5:00 pm followed by church at 6:00 pm.
- WMU ladies met for lunch on Saturday, August 26 at Doodlum's, a new barbecue restaurant in Woodbury.
- Sunday and Wednesday night messages are posted on Lakeview's Facebook page.
- Homecoming will be on Sunday, October 8 with Rev. Andy Buchanan as the guest speaker.



Lakeview WMU Ladies L-R: Kay Davis, Charlotte Brisendine, Carol Truitt, Peggy Reese, Martha Holloway, Sally Pike, Judy King, Audrey Holloway, Carolyn Jones and Jean Shirley.

New Hope Greenville - celebrated their 176th Homecoming on Sunday, August 27. Shown below is Pastor Kenneth Whitlock (left) receiving a certificate from AMS Andy Buchanan in recognition of this special occasion.



New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (NMMBC) - Pastor Derek Williams will celebrate his Fifth Anniversary as Pastor of New Macedonia on Sunday, October 1. Guest speakers will be Rev. Andy Buchanan at 10:00 am and Pastor Michael Winston at 2:30 pm.

- New Macedonia held a Youth Service on Sunday, July 30. Youth speakers for the service were Ayriel Martin, 10th grade and Jaylen Williams, 10th grade. Following the service, church members gave out book bags and school supplies to the students in their church and community.



NMMBC Above L-R: Special Speakers for Youth Sunday were Ayriel Martin and Jaylen Williams.



Above: All ages participated in the Youth Service at NMMBC.



New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (NMMBC) gave out backpacks full of school supplies to students in the church and community!

Church News & Announcements

Roper Heights - A group from Roper Heights went bowling at Valley Bowl on August 12. Bowling balls were flying all over the place; in the gutters and the pit. "We need more practice!" See photos below



Above: Roper Heights at Valley Bowl on August 12

Wehadkee - would like to thank everyone who came to celebrate our Homecoming on August 6. A big "Thank you" to Rev. S.T. Jennings, for bringing a great service and Homecoming message on Sunday morning. "We enjoyed a fellowship lunch afterward with the presence of our Lord, good people, and good food." "It was a wonderful day!"

Thank you to the pastors who brought our Revival services:
 Pastor Jacob Walker: Monday, August 7.
 Pastor David Pasley: Tuesday, August 8.
 Brother Haywood Cliett: Wednesday, August 9.

As we go into September, we would like to give a BIG SHOUT OUT to ALL Grandparents!!!
 Sunday, September 10 is "GRANDPARENTS DAY."
 May Your day be blessed with Family Love. ❤️

August & September Birthdays:

August 18 Dan Shea
 August 24 Renate Massey
 September 15 Buck Hurt

August & September Anniversaries:

August 6 Larry & Brenda Jennings
 August 7 Tim & Kim Sams
 September 2 Eddie & Carol Mastin
 September 20 Buck & DeDe Hurt

On The Lighter Side

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman tending her garden. He shouted down, "Excuse me, I promised to meet a friend an hour ago but I don't know where I am." She replied, "You're in a hot air balloon about 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees latitude and 59 and 60 degrees longitude." The man says, "You must be an accountant." "Yes, how did you know?" She replied. He said, "Well, everything you've told me is technically correct but I have no idea how to use that information and the fact remains that I'm still lost. You've just wasted my time." The woman looks up and says, "You must be in management." "Yes, How did you know that?" She responded, "Because you don't know where you are or where you are going. You've risen to where you are due to a lot of hot air. You made a promise you can't keep and expect those beneath you to solve your problem. You're in exactly the same position you were before we met but somehow it's now my fault."

Association - Church Prayer List

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

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

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

Week of October 1, 2023 - Second Baptist Church
 Week of October 8, 2023 - Shoal Creek Baptist Church
 Week of October 15, 2023 - Stovall Baptist Church
 Week of October 22, 2023 - Teaver Road Baptist Church
 Week of October 29, 2023 - Troup Baptist Association

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



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

OCTOBER

5 Rev. S.T. Janney
 8 Rev. Kevin Stringham
 14 Rev. Anthony Criswell
 14 Rev. Patrick Turner
 17 Dr. Mike Brandenburg
 17 Rev. Jason Bennett
 20 Rev. Kenneth Cole
 31 Rev. Clifford Anderson

Announcements

Annual Meeting of the Troup Baptist Association

Monday, October 16 at 11:00 AM

Location: Troup Baptist Association
1301 Washington St., LaGrange, GA
Special Speaker: Rev. Rhodes Skinner
Lunch following the meeting.

Troup Baptist Association

Executive Committee Meeting

will be held on Thursday, September 28 at 6 PM
at the Troup Baptist Association office.

Each church may be represented by their pastor plus
two members. Please support Troup Baptist
Association with your attendance and participation.

Annual Church Reports

Each church should have received the Annual Church Report
forms and instructions during the month of August.

Please complete Annual Church Reports by October 2.

If your church did not receive them or would like assistance,
please call Troup Baptist Association 706-884-1975.



35th NATIONAL LIFE CHAIN – OCTOBER 1, 2023



WHO: Christians who want to see an end to the horror of killing babies!

WHAT: 35th NATIONAL LIFE CHAIN being held in LaGrange, GA

WHEN: October 1, 2023 - 1:00 – 2:00 PM

WHERE: St. Peter's Catholic Church parking lot. We will silently stand along LaFayette Pkwy. and Morgan St. with our signs for one hour.

- On October 1st, throughout America and Canada, National Life Chain Sunday will again draw Christians of all congregations to their local sidewalks for prayer and public witness. The mission, now in its 35th year, will focus our minds on the at-risk preborn children in each local area and will join our hearts in prayer for an end to the horror of abortion.
- Georgia abortionists kill an estimated 30,000 babies annually, approximately 82 babies every day! A powerful LIFE CHAIN will offer strong encouragement and hope for reducing that number.

Please join us for this prayerful event. Let us invest one hour to save a lifetime.

Contact Theresa Shane for additional questions at 309-635-2712 or tscsjoblate@gmail.com.

TROUP BAPTIST
Association



Better Together!

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, October 16

11:00am

Join us for the TBA Annual Meeting as we gather to report on what God has done in 2023 and look forward to what He will do in the year ahead. Following business session we will be uplifted in worship and hear a message from the Word from Rev. Rhodes Skinner, our new Rockridge Camp Director.



REV. RHODES SKINNER
ROCKRIDGE CAMP DIRECTOR

After the meeting we have a catered lunch together here in the fellowship hall for a suggested donation of \$5. Call or email us to make our reservation today!

"Better Together!"

DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

OCTOBER 6-7 | JONESBORO



Get your initial training as a Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief Volunteer at this Friday evening & Saturday morning intro training session.

Be ready & trained to help in case of a disaster.

Visit the TBA Website for more info - <https://troubaptist.org>

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

GRANDPARENTS



DAY

CELEBRATE FAMILY!
CELEBRATE LOVE!
CELEBRATE HERITAGE!

Troup Baptist Association
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LaGrange, Georgia 30241

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TROUP BAPTIST
Association



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