

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2023

VOLUME 58 • ISSUE 10

Putting **GOD** first means Trusting **GOD** most.

THE PROBLEM is a lack of trust.

In Genesis 2:15-17 we see God telling Adam and Eve, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Which tree was off limits? "The knowledge of good and evil." Every other tree was a GO, but not this one. The problem was they they had a lack of trust in God. There's also a pivotal principle here for all of us right here:

We weren't made to determine GOOD and EVIL.

We were made to live in a right relationship with God, follow Him, and obey Him. But like Adam and Eve, we get out of our lane and into GOD'S dominion and start making decisions for ourselves on what is GOOD and what is EVIL. God can handle that! He doesn't need to know what we "think" is good or what we "think" is evil. In fact, the world is out of control and spiraling toward disaster because people have decided it's their job to decide good and evil. It was a disaster for Adam and Eve and it's a disaster for each of us, too. God has laid out for us what is right and good in His Word. We just need to follow and obey.

PUTTING GOD FIRST is trusting His way is the best way.

Proverbs 3:5-6 shows us what it means to Put God First.

"TRUST in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

I look at that phrase "do not lean on your own understanding and I think about how I hear people saying to others, "You need to stay in your lane." We need to stay in our lane and stay out of God's lane and lean on Him instead of self-wisdom or the best earthly wisdom. And by the way, God "making our paths straight" doesn't mean making our way easy. It means that by leaning on Him we can walk straight through even the most difficult times because of His power that is working in us.

PUTTING GOD FIRST is a way of life.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "But **SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD** and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Where do you turn first? Better yet, "WHO" do you turn to first? By turning to them first, you prove that you trust them most. In the context of this passage we see that Jesus listed out many of the things in which people place their trust. In verse 32 He says directly, "those who haven't put their faith in God **CHASE** all the worldly things..."

But a BELIEVER in Jesus Christ **SEEKS GOD FIRST**. A believer **SEEKS the RIGHTEOUSNESS of JESUS** (right way of living). Then, by living that way all the things we truly **NEED**, will be added to us.

TRUST GOD.

STAY IN YOUR LANE.

SEEK JESUS FIRST in everything.

*Putting God First is the Proof
that you Trust Him Most!*

Bro Andy



andy@troubaptist.org

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 the 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!"

MINISTRY NEWS

School is back in full swing and fall is blowing in as I write today. This is a wonderful time of year and I hope you are fully engaged at your church and are praying for your Pastor and leadership as we move toward the end of the year.

The exciting news right now is that Bethel Baptist (Pastor Chris Hendricks) is seeing their new building come up out of the ground and take shape in the last few weeks. Bethel was destroyed in the tornado back in March so they are making great progress. They have also ordained 2 new deacons and are scheduled to ordain 1 more in the weeks ahead. Pray for Bethel and Pastor Chris.



I have been honored to visit with the good folks at Mt Pleasant (Heard), Reeds Chapel, Hope Fellowship in Hogansville, our home church Franklin Road, and First Hogansville this past month. God is blessing in many ways.



Special thanks to the churches represented at the Executive Committee meeting on Sep 28: Lakeview, Unity, Franklin Road, Highland, Mountville, New Macedonia, Creekside, First Baptist LaGrange, New Hope (Greenville), and First Hispanic Baptist.

I hope you will plan to be with us on October 16 at 11am for the Annual Meeting. We will move through our business session and then hear a good word from our new Rockridge Camp Director, Rhodes Skinner, before having lunch together in the fellowship hall. Make plans to join us for this special meeting.

As always, let me hear from you! You can reach me by email, phone, or text. Or stop by if you're in the area.

✉ andy@troubaptist.org

☎ (706) 884-1975



Pastor Jason Bennett, Hope Fellowship



Bro. Andy at Mt Pleasant (Heard)



Pastor Jeff McCartney, Bro. Steve Sexton and the Praise Team at Reeds Chapel. (above)



Bro. Andy preaching at First Hogansville. (right)



LC Baptist Collegiate Ministry is enjoying a move of God on the campus this year. Pray for God to continue to work through our student leadership team at each of our weekly meetings.

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

This month we've had record attendance in our Monday Bible Studies and are seeing new students each week added to the group. I was honored to bring the message to Chapel on Sep 10 and we had a wonderful time of worship and study of the Word. Then, it was a thrill to introduce many of the students to the JIM BOB'S Chicken fingers and fresh chips at Soul Food Cafe on Sep 19. I've never seen 150 chicken fingers be devoured so fast!

Bro. Mike Jackson of Confidence Missionary Baptist Church brought a powerful word at Chapel on Sep 24 with a great crowd attending. Keep praying for our students and the campus as we keep spreading the good news of the Gospel.

If your church would like to provide snacks for a Monday Bible study, please contact us at the office. 706-884-1975



ONLINE GIVING



to the

TBA+

is now available!



troubaptist.org/give

Support the TBA by giving online.
Fast and secure with no fees or charges.

Church News & Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Food Ministry served 436 individuals, giving away 158 boxes of food with 175 meals being delivered. • The Awana Program has been off to a great start so far this year with many new leaders volunteering and new kids coming each week. • The Youth group had their party welcoming up the rising 6th graders with a night full of fun on September 13. There was an inflatable water slide set up as well as pizza provided for the youth, so it ended up being a night of great fellowship with many visitors participating. • The Sunday school contest for bringing visitors is still going on until the end of September. There have been many new visitors coming to a variety of Sunday school classes so far this month! • The Lighthouse Keepers met on Monday, September 18 to finish out the summer with a luau. The fellowship and fun were wonderful! • The annual Trunk-r-Treat fall festival will be on Halloween day. Baptist Tabernacle is excited about serving the kids in our community this year and giving them a safe place to come and get their candy and more importantly a place to hear about the Lord.



Baptist Tabernacle Lighthouse Keepers Summer Luau

Bethel - held a Deacon Ordination Service on August at Davidson Baptist Church. Pictured at right (L-R) is Deacon Joseph Simmons and his wife Jodi and Deacon Steve Smith with his wife Louise. • On September 15, Bethel poured the foundation for their new building and on September 26, construction began! These are exciting days for Bethel as they build back better from the March tornado.



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.

Creekside – had another great month! Thanks to everyone who made the Labor Day weekend a great success.

- On Saturday, September 9, 16 members traveled to Buckners and enjoyed a wonderful meal together.
- On Sunday, September 10, they had a baby dedication for Sawyer and proud parents, Brett and Kaitlyn Nixon.
- The Sisterhood will meet on October 20 and Brotherhood will meet on October 21.
- Creekside will join Stovall Baptist Church for a 4-day revival October 17 - 20.
- Homecoming will be on October 22 at Creekside beginning at 10:00 am with the Segos Next Generation singing. The morning message will be brought by Rev. Scotty Fowler.
- The Fall Festival will be on November 4 from 4 - 7 pm.



Creekside Baby Dedication L-R: Pastor Bryan & Janet Geter, Baby Sawyer, Kaitlyn & Brett Nixon



Creekside members enjoyed a meal together at Buckners Restaurant on September 9.

Dunson - Dunson Baptist Homecoming was October 1. They always love seeing old and new friends, getting to hear Bro. S. T. Janney preach, and enjoying exceptional singing. • Jamie Johnson accepted Christ and was baptized. "We want to encourage Jamie in her Walk and praise God for bringing her and her mom to Dunson." • The Wednesday night youth and children programs continue to grow, and we solicit your prayers for these young people. • A dear church member, George Andrews, is now walking with Jesus and he will be missed. Please remember his wife and family in your prayers. • On September 23, Dunson celebrated the marriage of Daniel and Ruth Anne Meadows. The week before, they gave them an old-fashioned "pounding" or stock the pantry event at our informal Sunday night service. "Please pray for many blessings for this young couple."

Church News & Announcements

FBC Hogansville - A group from Celebrate Recovery traveled to the Atlanta City Baptist Rescue Mission on August 29. They had a wonderful night of preaching the gospel and giving testimonies, resulting in 9 men accepting Christ as their Savior. They also discovered that the pallets the men sleep on were in dreadful shape. Following an appeal to the church, a total of 37 sleeping mats were donated to the Mission. The Director expressed his appreciation for this generous contribution to help meet the physical needs of the Mission. The Celebrate Recovery group has plans for regular visits to the Mission.

- Some students from the Children's Department treated the congregation to special music during worship on September 17. They provided motions to the hymn "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," and their enthusiasm was contagious.
- First Baptist Church Hogansville held its annual picnic on Sunday afternoon September 17 at the Hogansville Splash Park. There was food aplenty, lawn games to play in friendly competition, face painting, and time to relax and enjoy good conversation. Thank you to those who planned and executed the logistics that went into this special occasion. Judging by the contented smiles, everyone had a wonderful time.

- Honoring the ten-year anniversary of Celebrate Recovery was a highlight of the picnic. Bill and Debbie Dollar have led the program for the entire ten years and continue to follow new avenues to minister to attendees and the community at large. CR meets at the church every Sunday afternoon at 3:00. All are welcome; and, as many will attest, lives have been changed for the better by becoming a part of this group. We congratulate all those who have had a part in Celebrate Recovery over the last ten years and look forward to their impact in the future.

- FBCH welcomes three new members. Ryder Crawford who was baptized on September 3, and Lori and Kevin Dollar who were previously baptized and are moving into the area.
- The church was pleased to have Bro. Andy Buchanan, our Troup Baptist Association Mission Strategist, bring the sermon on September 24. His presence allowed Pastor Greg and Mrs. Amy Lynn to have a few days of well-deserved vacation. "Thank you, Bro. Andy, for your efforts on behalf of all churches in the Troup Association."



FBC Hogansville celebrated the 10 Year Anniversary of Celebrate Recovery, Pastor Greg Morris baptized Ryder Crawford. The Annual Picnic was held on September 17 at the park.

First Baptist Church on the Square (FBC) – First Baptist Church on the Square will have its annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 28. It will take place on Church St. next to the church from 1 to 4 pm. There will be a great family photo opportunity, popcorn, "candy" apples, face painting, trunk or treat, and even inflatables! So come hang out downtown for all the city's festivities and then come on over to the church and be our guest!



TURNING *Everyday* CONVERSATIONS
INTO *Gospel*
CONVERSATIONS

Sundays
4:30 - 6:00 PM



IT'S AS EASY AS DRAWING 3 CIRCLES

Lost people matter to God. Many of us care, but we just aren't comfortable sharing or don't know how to go about it. "Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations" will be offered each Sunday, Oct. 15-Nov. 19 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in Room 304N at First Baptist Church on the Square. You will learn some easy techniques to help you turn conversations to the gospel message. You will also learn a simple method of sharing that's as easy as drawing three circles and how to share a 15-second testimony in everyday conversations.

Lost people matter to God, and they should matter to us. To sign up, please go to fbclagrange.org/evangelism.



The Children of FBC Hogansville provided the Special Music on September 17.

Church News & Announcements

Grace - served 255 people with free food in August and 245 in September. • Long Cane Elementary School teachers were treated with Dilly Bars on Monday, July 31. The day before school started Grace provided breakfast to the teachers and staff consisting of cheese grits casserole, breakfast casserole, biscuit and gravy casserole, fruit, banana bread, cinnamon rolls, donuts, tea biscuits with ham, water, and apple and orange juice. They also provided them with a case of book bags, tissues, Lysol wipes, and many school supplies. "We love Long Cane Elementary!!" Our prayers are with them and all schools. • Grace baptized eight children and one teen in July and August.

- The Fall Festival is Oct 28 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm.
- Vendors are needed for the Craft Fair on December 2.
- See webpage for more info: <http://www.gbclagrange.com/>



Highland - had a wonderful Homecoming Service in September with Rev. Kenneth Cole, Dunson Baptist Church, not only delivering an inspiring message, but he also performed some beautiful music. Following the service, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship.

• The WMU collected Purses for Harmony House in September. Each donated purse was filled with personal items such as a hairbrush, comb, lotion, crackers, Chapstick, shampoo, etc. They are also accepting donations of individually wrapped candy to be given out during Trunk N Treat. • Trunk N Treat will be held on Tuesday, October 31, from 6:00 until 7:00 pm. at the church. Everyone looks forward to seeing the excited children and giving them candy and Bible tracts from decorated trunks of cars lining our parking lot. All children are welcome!



Above: Highland celebrated Homecoming on September 10.



Grace (above) provided breakfast for Long Cane Elementary School Teachers. (Below left) school supplies for Long Cane. (Below Right) Ellie being baptized at Grace Baptist Church.



Rev. Kenneth Cole (L)
Rev. Terry Rainwater (R)

The Fellowship Committee (above left) always does an outstanding job. Front row: Linda Ayers, Linda Purgason, Sybil Harrison, Karen Shelnutt, Ellen Hubbard. Back row: Mike Norwood, Lynn Chapman, Mike Chapman.



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

- WMU ladies met at the home of Sherry Tankersley on Sept. 23.
- Homecoming will be Sunday, October 8 with Associational Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan as the guest speaker. A covered dish luncheon will follow the morning service.
- Lakeview Pastor Lamar Truitt, a military veteran, was presented with a Quilt of Valor at the Sunday morning service on September 24. (Photo at left)
- Sunday and Wednesday night messages are posted on Lakeview's Facebook page.

Church News & Announcements

Mountville (MBC) - welcomed four new members by salvation/baptism in August/September!! "Thank you, Lord!" • MBC had two baby dedications in September! Hallen Townsend- Proud parents are Justin and Maegan Townsend, and Hardin McMillian- Proud parents are Hunter and Emmie McMillian "It is such a blessing to see young parents acknowledging their gift from God and dedicating them back to the Lord!"

• The Mountville Baptist Ladies Group held their kickoff meeting on Saturday, September 16 at 1:30 at the home of Rhiannon Costley. They enjoyed a great devotion, skit, and fellowship!! The group discussed and planned several service projects for the upcoming year and other ways to serve the Lord and the church! (see photo below) Trunk or Treat will be held at the church on Wednesday, October 25 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm!! Come join us!



New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (NMMBC) - Pastor Derek Williams celebrated his Fifth Anniversary as Pastor of New Macedonia on Sunday, October 1. Guest speakers were Rev. Andy Buchanan and Pastor Michael Winston.

Roper Heights - The Son Shiner's Group at Roper Heights enjoyed a game day on September 26. When you can't see the dominoes, but still want to play... you break out the binoculars!



Wehadkee - October is Pastor Appreciation Month. "We would like to recognize our Pastor Nick Pilgrim and say thank you for following God's plan. We are so blessed. May God always bless you and your family Pastor Nick."

October Birthdays:

October 12	Debbie Cliett
October 12	Wanda Treadwell

October Anniversary:

October 11	Dan and Suellen Shae
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Western Heights Baptist Church

seeks volunteers or interns to serve on their Sunday morning Worship Team. The need is for skilled instrumentalists who play piano, keyboards, guitar, bass, drums, and other instruments that can be used in a contemporary praise and worship setting. There is also a need for vocalists even if they do not play instruments. The scheduling requires 3 hours of rehearsal divided between one evening during the week, typically Tuesday or Thursday from 6:30 -8:00, rehearsal Sunday morning at 8:00, and the service from 10:45 - 12:00. Interested persons, please get in touch with Gregg McLeroy at 706-668-7468.

On The Lighter Side

A DEA officer stopped at our farm yesterday. He said, "I need to inspect your farm for illegal growing drugs." I said, "Okay, but don't go in that field over there." The DEA officer verbally exploded saying, "Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me!" Reaching into his rear pants pocket, the arrogant officer removed his badge and shoved it in my face. "See this badge?! This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish.... On any land!! No questions asked or answers given!! Have I made myself clear? Do you understand?!!!"

I nodded politely, apologized, and went about my chores. A short time later, I heard loud screams, looked up, and saw the DEA officer running for his life, being chased by my big old mean bull.... With every step, the bull was gaining ground on the officer, and it seemed likely that he'd, sure enough, get gored before he reached safety. The officer was clearly terrified. I threw down my tools, ran to the fence, and yelled at the top of my lungs, "Your badge, show him your BADGE!!!"

Association - Church Prayer List

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

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

Week of November 5, 2023	- True Believers Baptist Church
Week of November 12, 2023	- Unity Baptist Church
Week of November 19, 2023	- Wehadkee Baptist Church
Week of November 26, 2023	- Western Heights Baptist Church

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

Announcements

The 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
Director of Rockridge Baptist Assembly

Lunch following the meeting.

Please call or email before noon on October 13
to make a reservation for lunch.

Phone: 706-884-1975
Email: angela@troubaptist.org

Annual Church Reports

Churches: Please complete your annual church reports as soon as possible. The deadline is November 15 for online submissions or October 9 to have your information included in the Troup Baptist Association Annual Reports.

For information or assistance, please call Troup Baptist Association at 706-884-1975.



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

NOVEMBER

2 Rev. Jerome Hicks
15 Rev. Ray Tarwater
15 Brother Terry Gray
16 Rev. Steve Sexton
22 Rev. Steve Johnson



Operation Christmas Child
First Baptist Church on the Square

Shoebox Collection is November 13-20.

The Drop Off Center needs volunteers from November 13-20 to help with moving boxes from the cars/trucks, counting, praying, cartonizing, etc. We would appreciate any time you can help us during our hours of operation.

Volunteers can sign up at fbclagrange.org/occ

Drop Off Center hours:

Monday	11/13	10 am - 12 pm
Tuesday	11/14	4 pm - 6 pm
Wednesday	11/15	10 am - 12 pm
Thursday	11/16	10 am - 12 pm
Friday	11/17	10 am - 12 pm
Saturday	11/18	10 am - 12 pm
Sunday	11/19	1 pm - 3 pm
Monday	11/20	7:30 - 9:30 am

MARCH FOR JESUS

Saturday, October 28 at 8:00 AM



Join us for our 8th Annual March.

The March for Jesus will start at Sweetland Amphitheater and end on the Square.

The purpose and objective for the march is to lift up the name of Jesus and thank Him for His numerous blessings. Come stand with other Christians and let yourself be seen and heard; proclaiming your love for our precious savior Jesus Christ!

Please share and help spread the word.

Plan to attend. Everyone is welcome. For those not able to march, meet us on the Square. There will be plenty of seating and bottled water will be provided.

Admission is free.

Contact persons: Doris and Joe Almand
706-333-7799 or 706-333-6336

Through the years people have marched for various reasons. People, it's time we take a stand as Christians!!!! It was a moving experience the last 8 years just knowing you were there to make a statement for the Lord. America seems to be consumed with everything except what is most important, our precious Jesus Christ. He came to this vile cruel world and willingly endured torture and the crucifixion. He offered Himself as a sacrifice for every single human being, even those who don't believe, because He loves us that much. Come to Sweetland Amphitheater in LaGrange, GA at 8:00 am on Oct. 28 and march with other Christians that believe the United States of America needs Jesus Christ more now, than in the history of our nation. Let others watch as we stand together and march in His name.

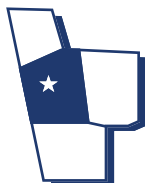


The LaGrange Chapter of TOPS

is now meeting at the
Troup Baptist Association office
each Tuesday at 5:30 pm.

Anyone is welcome to attend and there is
no fee for the first meeting.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) is a nonprofit, noncommercial network of weight-loss support groups. TOPS offers tools and programs for healthy living and weight management, with exceptional group fellowship and recognition. TOPS was established in 1948 and has helped millions of people live healthier lives.



I'm asking you to join me in **PRAYING** for our new initiative to **REACH TROUP COUNTY**. I am putting together a team of Pastors and Lay Leaders to help me strategize on how we can be more intentional and strategic in taking the GOSPEL into our mission field over the next few years. Will YOU pray for the lost in the counties we are called to reach? Will YOU join us in making this a reality? Let me know: andy@troubaptist.org

TBA+ NXTGEN

Our second new initiative that I want you to be **PRAYING** for is our **NXTGEN TEAM**. This team will have the task of expanding the great things already happening in our association among students and young adults. Students are gathering and praying weekly at their schools, they are taking the Gospel to their peers in truth, and God is moving even in the face of the demonic forces trying to steal them and destroy their lives.

We want to help your church reach students! Pray for this team of Student Ministers and myself as we work on this initiative.

OCTOBER IS Pastor Appreciation Month

OCTOBER is a time to say "Thank You!" in a special way to your Pastor and the staff of your church. We encourage you to do something very special this year to let your ministers know how much you love and appreciate them.

**Troup Baptist Association
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LaGrange, Georgia 30241**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TBA+
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