



THE MESSENGER

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In the book of Galatians, the Bible gives powerful instructions on “walking in the Spirit.” I think in terms of pictures so my word picture for that phrase is a group of people marching “IN STEP.” It’s a beautiful thing to see a well-rehearsed marching band walking in step and formation while they play music at half-time of a game. When they are hitting their marks it is an amazing thing to see. It’s always amazed me because I sometimes have trouble walking and chewing gum at the same time without hurting myself.

These instructions are clear and can help us because, essentially, we will be walking as Jesus walked if we are “in step” with the Holy Spirit. I saw these truths and principles as I studied the passage:

There’s a rhythm to keeping in step.

Can you imagine what it would look and sound like if the members of a 100-person

band were marching to whatever song they wanted to at the same time? What if the lead soldier varied his 1, 2, 3, 4, count? Either of those situations would make for a very unpleasant experience for everyone.

For a group to be in step, there must be a rhythm to create the mark. Our rhythm as believers is our connection to the Holy Spirit of God through prayer and His Word. With the world and our flesh vying to set our rhythm, we must pay careful attention to the things of God.

Keeping in step takes practice.

What we see on the field at half-time is the result of hours and hours of practice, discipline, correction, and perseverance. It’s not a chance happening or showing up one time a week for the performance. It’s a daily practice.

In the old A-Team television show, when everything fell into place, the leader would say, “I love it when a plan comes together.” Let’s not rely on “chance” to keep in step with the Spirit, instead let’s purposefully stay in close contact with God through prayer and Bible study. Then we can watch Him work in us, through us, and around us.

Keeping in step brings fruitful results!

When you keep in step with the Spirit you’ll see the fruit of the Spirit growing in you. Galatians 5:22-23 is one of my

favorite passages in the Bible. Just like a crisp, sharp, march gives evidence that a band or troop is together; the fruit of the Spirit growing in my life reveals the evidence that I’m in step with the Holy Spirit of God.

Let me remind you that fruit grows from a seed and it grows in healthy soil. Since there’s nothing wrong with the seed—because it’s from God—if there’s a fruit problem, it’s with the soil of our heart. Don’t let the soil of your heart keep you from growing. Work it, nurture it, and keep it free of weeds so that the Spirit can do the wonderful work that God has given Him to do.

Take a long look at the list of the fruit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

Please take a healthy check on the soil of your heart and make the wise choice to ***keep in step*** with the Spirit.

I’m thankful & grateful to serve with you!

Bro Andy

andy@troubaptist.org

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2023 WEEK OF PRAYER DEC 3-10

Every year, Southern Baptists collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® where 100% of the gifts collected send and support missionaries.

Reaching the nations together.

Find out more: imb.org/lottimoon



TBA Pastor/Staff & Wives Party



December 5
6:30pm

Camp Viola

RSVP to TBA
by Nov 29

Special thanks
to
Jeff & Mary
Higgins &
family of
Higgins Funeral
Home

A casual, country Christmas setting with finger foods, gifts, and much appreciation & fellowship.

MINISTRY NEWS

TROUP BAPTIST
Association



Better Together!

2023 ANNUAL MEETING



Our Annual meeting was a wonderful time of reporting, encouragement, worship, and fellowship. After our short business session, Rev. Rhodes Skinner, our new Rockridge

Camp Director, brought a great message from Luke 15 on the Prodigal Son regarding the three phrases people love to hear: I love you, I forgive you, Let's eat dinner. We did just that with a catered meal from Sloppy Pig. Many commented what a great spirit was in the place and how wonderful it was to fellowship over lunch.

Our officers are Moderator Terry Rainwater and Vice Moderator Dwayne Perdue who will both be serving their 2nd term in leadership at the TBA.



I was privileged to preach in several places this past month. Men's Luncheon at FBC on the Square (9/28) with a message on "Healthy Churches in An Unhealthy World." The answer is each one of us in fervent prayer.



On OCT 1, New Macedonia celebrated Rev. Derek & Stephanie Williams' 5th Anniversary with 2 wonderful services and a party in their honor. My message was "How To Show Love to Your Pastor." Thank you Derek and Stephanie for your faithfulness in service to NMMBC.



On OCT 8 Lakeview Baptist celebrated their homecoming and Pastor Appreciation for Dr. Lamar & Carol Truitt. It was a great service and a wonderful lunch afterwards.



Finally, we had some sweet workers from LCS on Oct 24 as they were serving in the community. Thank you LCS!



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Monday's @ 8pm

SOUL FOOD CAFE

Tuesday's @ 11am

CHAPEL

Sunday's @ 8pm

It's been a great month of ministry and growth in the BCM at LaGrange College. We had a Panel Q&A time at one of our meetings with Pastor Matt Dellinger, Pastor John Oliver, and Bro. Andy answering questions the students had turned in for several weeks. We were able to share the Gospel as we fielded the heart-felt questions from the students. It was a powerful night.



We closed out the month of October with a Pumpkin carving contest and a lot of fun. Our winners are below and our new AMS assistant, Phil Pumpkin, sporting his very own Georgia Baptist Missions cap.



Continue to pray for our students as they finish out the final 6 weeks of this semester. Pray for Reeds Chapel Baptist as they provide Soul Food Cafe lunch on NOV 14. Contact the TBA if your church would like to provide a meal next semester.



MARCH FOR JESUS

The 8th Annual March for Jesus Rally was OCT 28 on the square. We had a wonderful time on a beautiful day hearing

great music and several preachers. I was honored to close the morning out challenging everyone to keep in step with the Spirit in their daily life. Thanks to Dr. & Mrs. Almond!



Church News & Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) -The Food Ministry served 469 individuals, giving away 175 boxes of food.

- The Awana and Youth group had a Fall Festival on October 25, with a bonfire, s'mores, and a hayride for the 100 kids in attendance.
- The Trunk n' Treat was held on Halloween. There were 3,000 - 4,000 people in attendance. There was a cake walk, concession stand, and of course, candy was given out to all trick-or-treaters.

Creekside – Creekside had another great month!

Homecoming Day, October 22 was wonderful with the Segos Next Generation singing.

- Creekside was blessed by Kingdom Express and Gold City Quartet as Creekside presented the first JNC promotion gospel sing on October 27 at the Laddie Yates Pavilion.
- The Fall Festival was held on November 5 from 4 -7 pm.
- Sisterhood will meet on November 13.
- Brotherhood will meet on November 18.

Come and join in on our services: Sunday school at 10 am, morning worship at 11 am, Sunday night service at 6 pm, and Wednesday night service at 7 pm.



Creekside Above: There was a large group in attendance for the gospel singing featuring the Gold City Quartet (above) and Kingdom Express (not pictured).



Above: Dunson participated in the Walk for Jesus by setting up their Living for Jesus "Bee Attitudes" booth.

Dunson - Pastor Kenneth was showered with love, cards, a money tree, food, and an amazing red velvet cake by Amy Parnell for Pastor Appreciation Month and his birthday at our informal Sunday night service. Steve Vickery touched our hearts by singing "Thank You for Giving to the Lord." "Thank you, Lord for sending Pastor Kenneth and his family to Dunson!" • Dunson was blessed this month with two baptisms: Janice Lorrow and Koda Hall. Koda was especially excited to follow Christ and be baptized.

- The Fall Festival for our Wednesday night kids was meaningful and fun! Pastor Kenneth did a message in the fellowship hall titled "Are You Afraid" and everyone had pizza before heading out to play games. The adults had fun getting to know the kids and working the games.
- Dunson was represented downtown at the Walk for Jesus and their Living for Jesus through our "Bee Attitudes" booth that afternoon. Pam Cole was so creative in putting our booth together and making use of materials and signs that we already had.
- The Thanksgiving luncheon of soup and chili will be November 19 immediately following the morning service. Everyone is invited.
- The Christmas Cantata will be December 10. "Please join us and get in the spirit of Christmas."



Dunson Above Left: Pastor Kenneth Cole baptized Koda Hall. Above Right: Pastor Appreciation and Birthday with a money tree, lots of cards and a red velvet cake.



Dunson

There was a large crowd for Dunson's Fall Festival on Wednesday night. Everyone enjoyed the food and games.



DUNSON FALL FESTIVAL

Church News & Announcements

FBC Hogansville - Kathy and Joe Felder hosted the Prime Timers for lunch at their beautiful lake home on October 7. It was a gorgeous, if chilly, October day; just right for celebrating with good food, good friends, and good fun.

Many thanks to our gracious hosts. This group always has a good time on their outings, and today was no exception. All seniors are encouraged to join them on their next adventure.

- The church sponsored a Block Party at the Green Patch Basketball Court on Sunday, October 15. There were hot dogs, music, a bouncy house, and more food and games. In addition, Trunk or Treat was incorporated into the fun. Many people came to be part of the excitement, and everyone had a wonderful time. This was an outreach to the community as we strive to share the Word of God. Thank you to all who participated.

- Celebrate Recovery made a return visit to the Atlanta City Baptist Rescue Mission on October 31. They preach, give testimonies, and generally encourage the men in attendance with conversation and friendship. It is a meaningful time for all of them.
- Pastor Greg will be preaching at White Oak Grove Baptist Church in Senoia on December 3. He and Pastor K. G. Bailey trade pulpits twice a year in the interest of blending into one fellowship and worshipping together in the spirit of unity, love, and prayer.



FBC Hogansville - October 29 was Pastor Appreciation Day at church. Everyone enjoyed a covered dish meal after the morning service, and had a time of fellowship as they honored Pastor Greg and Mrs. Amy Lynn (above left). It was an opportunity to thank them for the many ways in which they lead and guide our church. "They are a blessing to us."



FBC Hogansville - On Saturday, September 30, members of the Youth Group went bowling at The Bowlin' Alley in Valley, AL. They had fun bowling, playing arcade games, and teaching Ms. Sondra how to moonwalk! Memories were made on this fun excursion. (photos above)

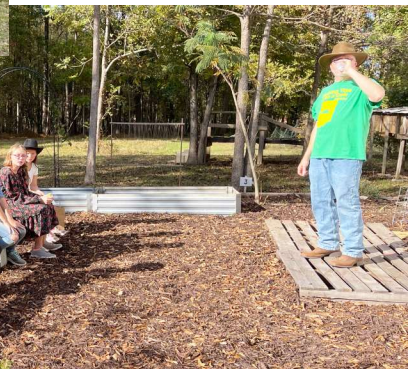
First Baptist Church on the Square (FBC) – has a new Senior Pastor! First Baptist Church on the Square has called Rev. Marty Carnes to be its next Pastor. Marty has served First Baptist Church as Interim Pastor for slightly over a year. After much prayer, the congregation overwhelmingly approved the call on October 29, and Marty accepted the call. He will preach his first sermon as Senior Pastor on November 12. The full article and photo are on back cover.

- FBC and Western Heights are the two drop off points for Operation Christmas Child boxes. Please see the announcements page for the full drop off schedule.

Franklin Road - Members and guests enjoyed a Western Fun Day on Saturday, October 28 at Big Trees Farm hosted by Pastor Trace Lasher and family. The theme was "Western" and everyone was encouraged to wear western wear and cowboy-style outfits. The outdoor activities included target shooting, panning for gold, lasso training academy, and story time. There were about 60 in attendance and everyone enjoyed the sunshine and fun things to do. Thanks to all volunteers who made it all possible.



FRANKLIN ROAD



WESTERN FUN DAY

Church News & Announcements

Grace - will be selling smoked Boston butts whole for \$40, chopped for \$45, or 2 sandwiches, chips & dessert for \$8 on November 3 & 4, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.

- Reformers Unanimous Sunday School Class bought games and door prizes and took them to Florence Hand Home for the patients to play on October 5, 2023.
- Mark Peak's Sunday School class went to Milano's.
- Grace celebrated Pastor's Appreciation with finger foods and cake. "We love our Pastor Donnie Benefield!"
- The Fall Festival was held on October 28 and there was a good turn out. Grace also sponsored a Parents Night Out, a Blood Drive and a Family Movie Night in October.
- During the month, they had a baby dedication for Nora Claire Bleemel and a family of 6 joined their church family.
- Grace is hosting a Craft Fair on Dec. 2 from 10 am - 2 pm.
- See webpage for more info: <http://www.gbclagrange.com/>



Above: Pastor Donnie Benefield
Top Right: Fall Festival Face Painting
Right: Sunday School Class at Milanos
Below Right: Reformer's Unanimous taking games to Florence Hand Home.



Lakeview - Everyone enjoyed a great homecoming service on October 8 with Associational Mission Strategist Andy Buchanan as the guest speaker.

- There was a delicious soup and salad supper in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, October 25.
- A baby dedication was held for Miss Everly Annette Pickron on October 22. Her parents are Julie and Russel Pickron. (photo at right)
- Breakfast is served at 9:15 am every Sunday in the fellowship hall.
- Brotherhood will meet on November 2 at Doodlum's BBQ in Woodbury. Those wishing to carpool may meet at the church at 10:30 am.
- Thanksgiving dinner will be Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 5 pm in the fellowship hall.

Highland - Highland's Prayers and Squares group presented Gloria Prather with a beautiful prayer quilt while she was in rehab after a broken hip. • The church made a birthday card and delivered it to Mrs. Janis Davison.

- They welcomed new members Dan and Teena Skidmore and Dwight Murrell to Highland in October.
- Highland member, Jeanne Lowery, was instrumental in making, quilting, and organizing Hummingbird Festivities benefiting God's Bread Basket.
- Trunk N Treat was held on October 31, in the church parking lot. Everyone looks forward to seeing the excited children and giving them candy and Bible tracts.
- The WMU began wrapping gifts to be distributed thru God's Bread Basket before Christmas.
- Highland choir has begun working on a beautiful Christmas Cantata, "The King is Born".



Highland: Gloria Prather with Prayer Quilt (L), Trunk 'N Treat (R)



Highland's New Members, Dan and Teena Skidmore (center), with Pastor Terry and Cookie Rainwater.



Lakeview

celebrated a baby dedication on October 22. Photo on left shows Julie and Russell Pickron and Pastor Lamar Truitt holding baby Everly.

"But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 19:14 NKJV

Church News & Announcements

Mountville (MBC) - broke ground on their new Family Life building on Sunday, October 15! The Lord has been so faithful!! It has been a long journey for sure. "We have learned a lot about patience and obedience! We are so excited to see what else HE has in store for us and our sweet little community as we continue to share the gospel!"

- TeamKids enjoyed painting pumpkins on Wed., Oct. 18.
- The Mountville Ladies Group will meet at the home of Diane Ealy on Saturday, November 11. The group is hard at work on several local mission projects!
- Mountville will have a Thanksgiving Luncheon right after church on Sunday, November 12! The menu will consist of Ham and lots of yummy sides! "We have so much to be THANKFUL for!!" • MBC will have The Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 26 at 6:00 pm as we prepare for the upcoming CHRISTmas season!



Mountville celebrated breaking ground on their new Family Life Building. Below is Pastor Dwayne Perdue with the future of MBC and at left is Pastor Dwayne with current leadership of MBC.

♥ *But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*
Matthew 19:26



Above: Mountville Groundbreaking for their new Family Life Building

Left: Team Kids Wednesday Night Pumpkin Painting

Roper Heights - On October 8, Roper Heights celebrated their pastor, Rev. Eric Rice on Pastor Appreciation Day. He received gifts and everyone enjoyed a chili, soup and dessert lunch. • On October 22, Roper Heights kids went to the Punkin Patch for a day of fun.



Above: Roper Heights Kids enjoyed a trip to the Punkin Patch

New Macedonia - Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Leroy (Elsie) Hayes, Sr. of LaGrange as they celebrate their 73rd wedding anniversary. Deacon and Sister Hayes were married on November 4, 1950, in LaGrange, Georgia. They are the proud parents of five, grandparents of 13, great-grandparents of 23, and great-great-grandparents of 12. Deacon and Sister Hayes are members of New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. "May God continue to bless Deacon and Sister Hayes as they celebrate this momentous occasion."



Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Hayes, Sr.

Second - Pastor Robert Burnett and members of Second Baptist Church would like to express a special thank you to Lafayette Christian School for including them as part of their community work day. "They sent such a wonderful crew to our church on their community work day! The students worked very well and we had a good devotion time, too."



Lafayette Christian School Work Day at Second Baptist Church



Wehadkee - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Let us come before his presence with Thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms, for the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. Psalms 95: 2-3

- On October 15, Wehadkee had the pleasure of Mr. Jacob Walker leading their morning service. "We appreciated him taking the time to come and praise the Lord with us."
- On October 29, the congregation showed their love and appreciation to Pastor Nick Pilgrim with a fellowship lunch after the Sunday Service.

November Birthdays:

November 8	Ruby Yarbrough
November 11	DeDe Hurt
November 15	Tim Sams

Announcements



Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox Collection is November 13-20.

First Baptist on the Square Drop Off Center hours:

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

Western Heights Drop Off Center Hours:

Monday	Nov. 13	5 pm - 7 pm
Tuesday	Nov. 14	5 pm - 7 pm
Wednesday	Nov. 15	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Thursday	Nov. 16	5 pm - 7 pm
Friday	Nov. 17	5 pm - 7 pm
Saturday	Nov. 18	11 am - 1 pm
Sunday	Nov. 19	1 pm - 3 pm
Monday	Nov. 20	8 am - 10 am

On The Lighter Side

Charley, a new retiree-greeter at Walmart, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp-minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their "Older Person Friendly" policies.

One day the boss called him into the office for a talk.

"Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang-up job when you finally get here, but your being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes sir, I know, and I am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear."

"Yes sir, I understand your concern and I'll try harder."

Seeming puzzled, the manager went on to comment, "It's odd though, you coming in late. I know you're retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say to you there if you showed up in the morning so late and so often?"

The old man looked down at the floor, then smiled.

He chuckled quietly, then said with a grin,

"They usually saluted and said, "Good morning General, can I get your coffee sir?"

Association - Church Prayer List

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

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

Week of	December 3, 2023	- Anointed by Faith
Week of	December 10, 2023	- Antioch Baptist Church, LaGrange
Week of	December 17, 2023	- Baptist Tabernacle Church
Week of	December 24, 2023	- Bethel Baptist Church
Week of	December 31, 2023	- Bethlehem Baptist Church

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



NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

1	Rev. Michael T. Stiggers
5	Mrs. Stacey Hardigree
6	Rev. Jamie Kelley
9	Rev. Doug Bingham
20	Rev. Andy Buchanan
22	Rev. Bill Bryant
31	Rev. Westley Boatman

Annual Church Reports

Churches: Please complete your annual church reports as soon as possible. The deadline is November 15 for online submissions. Enter online at ga.sbcworkspace.com.

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

The following churches have completed their reports:

Antioch - LaGrange	First BC, LaGrange	Mountville
Bethlehem	First BC, West Point	Mt. Pleasant
Callaway	Flat Shoals Salem Rd.	New Hope, Greenville
Concord	Fountain	Roper Heights
Creekside	Highland	Rosemont
Dunson	Lakeview	Shoal Creek
First BC, Hogansville	Long Cane	Unity

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 or to be added to our mailing list, call Troup Baptist Association office at 706-884-1975 or visit our website:



www.troubaptist.org,

select Newsletter and Subscription Preferences.



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.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE SQUARE

Welcomes New Pastor & Family!



First Baptist Church on the Square has called Rev. Marty Carnes as Pastor. Marty has served First Baptist Church as Interim Pastor for slightly over a year. After much prayer, the congregation overwhelmingly approved the call on October 29, and Marty accepted the call. He will preach his first sermon as Senior Pastor of FBC on November 12.

Rev. Carnes has served Georgia Baptists at Truett McConnell University since July 2020 as Vice President for Advancement/Chief Strategy Officer. Prior to his work at Truett McConnell, he served as Pastor of Thomasville First Baptist for ten years.

Marty and his wife Cindy will be moving to LaGrange very soon, and they look forward to the work God has commissioned in LaGrange and Troup County. Marty and Cindy have two grown children, and they recently became grandparents. The members of First Baptist Church on the Square are delighted to share this news, and we invite the community to get acquainted with Marty in the coming weeks.



November 28 - December 25

Advent is the season of expectation for the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love leading up to the celebration of the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ! I hope you will join with me in celebrating this as the reason for the season and the meaning behind the holidays approaching.

Sunday, NOV 26 - 1st Sunday "HOPE"

Sunday, DEC 3 - 2nd Sunday "PEACE"

Sunday, DEC 10 - 3rd Sunday "JOY"

Sunday, Dec 17 - 4th Sunday "LOVE"

Sunday, DEC 24 - Christmas Eve

Monday, DEC 25 - Christmas DAY

Joy to the World the Lord has Come

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TROUP BAPTIST
Association



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