



# The MESSENGER

JANUARY 2024

VOLUME 59

ISSUE 1

## 2024 Our MISSION for the New Year!

Happy New Year! 2024 is off and running and I pray it will be a great year for you personally, for your family, and for our TBA Churches and every church in our area.

I love the start of a new year and looking at all the opportunities for ministry and the possibilities for growth. Growing up as a PK (preacher's kid) I learned that going to a new city for ministry was an opportunity to let God stretch me to learn new things, learn new ways and methods in which to do those new things, and learn to love the new people with whom I would get to do those new things in new ways. All that to say,

### HERE WE ARE in a NEW YEAR. What are we going to do with it?

Here are some things I'd like to suggest that we do to make the most of this year that we've been graciously given.

### See LOSTNESS.

What is the greatest problem in our world and in our community? Lostness. There are many problems we can help solve and many things we can do for others but the greatest need of humanity is Jesus Christ!

In Mark 6 Jesus responded to a crowd of people by looking on them with compassion because they were lost without a shepherd. Is compassion your common response to the crowds you see in town? Is that your

response when you see people who are different from you, bothersome, or even troubled?

Sadly, our response is very often not the same as Jesus' response. In Mark 6, you'll see that Jesus was trying to give His disciples a rest because they had been out doing the work of ministry for some time. They needed peace and quiet but all of these people were pressing in on them and bothering them. Yet, Jesus was filled with compassion — because they were LOST.

I look at reports from the Georgia Baptist Mission Board (GBMB) and the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and see the solid evidence that LOSTNESS is growing all around us. It's time for us (the Church) to see those "sheep without a shepherd" with a Christ-like compassion and do all that we can to reach them.

### Share the Gospel.

What's the first thing that comes to your mind when I challenge you to SHARE the Gospel? It's been my experience that most people respond with, "Invite them to church." That's a good thing and a good plan, but first — before you share or invite or anything else — PRAY.

Pray for people that you know personally. Someone in your home or at work. A neighbor or friend. And while you're at it, pray for an opportunity to meet someone each day with whom you might share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Then, all you have to do is be ready with the Good News, your testimony, a "seed," or an invite to your church.

Let me advance this thought a little more and encourage you to not look or target someone who is involved in another church. I read recently that while we have been

busy swapping members from this church to that church, LOSTNESS has increased exponentially. Let's focus specifically on the mission of reaching the LOST.

### Serve HIS Church.

Finally, you can make the most of this year by SERVING the Lord's Church where you attend. Notice I didn't say just "attend" church. That's a given. This year, do more than attend — SERVE! Let me explain this with a "what if" scenario.

What if you went to church each week this year with the attitude that you were going to serve someone, meet someone new, minister to those sitting around you, pray for others, bless others, or just be a shining light of the love of Christ to everyone at church that day. Wow! That would change our churches.

Too often we are attending church with the thought that others should speak to me, others should notice my needs and attend to me. The Pastor should come around and speak to everyone and put on a good preaching performance so that the church will grow and all of LaGrange will come to our church. That's nice but it's not reality, nor is it Biblical. According to 2 Corinthians 5, we have ALL been given the "ministry of reconciliation." Our church growth is up to every one of us. Lock arms with your Pastor and staff and SERVE AWAY!

I hope you will join me in praying for Troup County and actively sharing the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In 2024, let's **SEE**, **SHARE**, and **SERVE** like never before and with the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, we can make a difference! Have a blessed January!

Bro. Andy  
andy@troubaptist.org

# MINISTRY NEWS

December is always an exciting month for me. I get to celebrate another birthday each year along with the wonderful Advent Season. Gathering with friends and family as well as my church family around Christmas is always a special time.

We started the Advent Season off this year at Callaway Baptist on Nov 26 where I preached on the HOPE of Advent. Then, the first Sunday and December we worshipped at our home church, Franklin Road, where I preached on the subject of the PEACE of Advent. December 10 we worshipped with the good folks at Hilyer Baptist with a great message from Pastor Cleve Moore. On December 17 I was privileged to share the wrap up message in a tag-team service at East Vernon with Pastor Bernie Pasley, Pastor Tim Tidwell, Pastor Paul Botica and Dr. Ricky Luke. It was a joy to share the Christmas Story with several churches worshipping together.

December was also a time of celebrating the TBA Family of churches and volunteers. December 5<sup>th</sup> we held the annual Pastor's and Wives party. This year we held it out at Camp Viola and it was a great time! We had some Christmas table games to play and then a catered dinner together followed by the fun of guessing which fact was false out of the 3 each pastor shared. Our biggest problem was the pastors not being able to remember which facts they shared and which one was false! It was one of the funniest nights I can remember enjoying with this crowd! Thanks to Camp Viola for the venue and to everyone who came out to celebrate. Pictures are on Page 7 of this month's messenger. Thanks to Doug Flor for the photography!

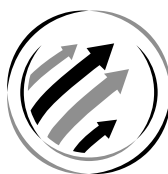
We also celebrated our Messenger volunteers with a nice lunch at Nutwood. Pictured below are most of those who help us fold and put together the Messenger each month.



Left to right are: Kirby McCartney, Judy King, Richard King, Bonnie Reed, Dottie Henson, Angela Maddux, Joyce Gandee, and me.

Richard and I even found a new friend as the dog in the picture to the right knew where to find some crumbs and stayed for a photo op.

Thanks to everyone who serves and helps us make things happen at the TBA. It's a joy to serve all of you as the AMS!



## TROUP BAPTIST TRAINING

### Church Media Insights and Training Monday, February 5 @ 6:30pm

*Our first of several Church Media Seminars this year will cover basics on presenting lyrics on the screen in church. Insight on software, hardware, and basic principles will be covered. There are quite a few "good techniques" to practice as you choose the background, font, layout, and breaks in songs that will help everyone enjoy their experience better.*

*Sign-up and come enjoy the fellowship and share your ideas as well. Bro Andy will be facilitating this workshop at the TBA Building in the main Meeting Room.*

*Call 706-884-1975 or email name, phone, and number attending to  
[andy@troubaptist.org](mailto:andy@troubaptist.org) / [angela@troubaptist.org](mailto:angela@troubaptist.org)*



### Spring semester 2024 is underway!

Please pray for our Baptist Collegiate Ministry and get involved personally, or with your Class or small group, if you can.

### SOUL FOOD CAFE

This ministry offers lunch and a short devotional to 30-40 students each Tuesday at 11:30am. It's a great time to share about your church and offer love through a home-cooked meal to the students. We have two open dates this semester. Call me to reserve one.

Tuesday, February 6 - available

Tuesday, April 23 - available

### Monday Night Snacks

Each Monday night at 8pm we meet for Bible study, sharing, and praying in the Spiritual Life Center. Would your church like to provide light snacks (fruit, cookies, brownies, etc...) for the group.

This is a simple way to support and show the students some love during the busy semester. God is blessing the group and they are working and serving to reach other students with the Gospel.

Your class can provide the snacks at the meeting, get them to our office at the TBA and I will take them, or give a donation to help with the expense each week.

If you would like for a group of our students to come and share with your church or ministry, please let me know and we will arrange it.



# Church News & Announcements

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - The Food Ministry served 457 individuals, giving away 196 boxes of food.

- BT Youth Group had an amazing time on their Winter Trip to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The verse for the week was Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.* They were able to live the verse out by handing out tracts and speaking to people about their faith while they were out and about in Pigeon Forge the entire trip.
- The Awana Program started back on January 3, 2024.
- The Men's Brotherhood Breakfast met on Saturday, January 8 for a great time of fellowship among the men of our church and community.
- Baptist Tabernacle is looking forward to the things God will do in 2024!

**Creekside** - December was a very busy month!

- The Lord's Supper was observed on December 3.
- A special ornament service was held on December 3. It was a moving service with members hanging ornaments on the tree in memory of someone special or to give thanks to our Lord and Creator.
- The choir went Christmas caroling at Warm Springs Nursing Home, Country Side Assisted Living in Warm Springs, and to Florence Hand Home in LaGrange.
- Church members traveled to Clark's Chapel in Thomaston on December 10 to enjoy the Play "From the Christ Child to the Judgement."
- Creekside members enjoyed a good breakfast prepared by the Brotherhood, then everyone had a good time fellowshiping and preparing 99 fruit bags for the seniors of the church and community which were then delivered. They also prepared 40 fruit sacks for all children attending the Christmas program.
- The choir presented a Christmas program of carols on December 17. They also had a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Each child present received a gift and a Gideon Bible. Fellowship followed with finger foods in the fellowship hall.
- Creekside held a great New Year's Eve singing with local talent. A Candle was lit in memory of Chris Studdard who passed away in November; He is greatly missed. (Chris served as the Messenger correspondent for Creekside.) They ended the evening by praying at the altar at midnight.

## On The Lighter Side

Just as the pastor began the New Years Eve service, the electricity in the church went out. The ushers found some candles and placed them around the sanctuary. Then the pastor reentered the pulpit, shuffled his notes, and muttered, "Now, where was I?"

A voice called out, "Right near the end!"

**Dunson** - December was a busy month with many blessings.

- The Wednesday night kids enjoyed a fun time celebrating Christmas and learning about Jesus' birth and how the tradition of Santa and gifting came to be. "Thank you, Santa and Mrs. Claus for your ministry." The kids were so attentive. They also enjoyed crafts, edible crafting, and gifts from the church. The Wednesday night kids also enjoyed their annual trip to the Carousel in Valley, AL. "Thank you, Pam, Kathy, and Wanda for making this happen."
- On Sunday night, December 10, Christmas on the Farm at Preacher Kenneth's campsite was rescheduled to the Fellowship Hall due to rain. Adults enjoyed fellowship, games, singing, and finger foods.
- WMU made goodie trays for their shut-ins and they were delivered along with caroling on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 17. "We received such a blessing from this mission project."
- December ended with a special Christmas Eve communion service.



Dunson: Wednesday night kids learning about Jesus' birth and the tradition of Santa Claus from Santa and Mrs. Claus  
Below: riding the carousel in Valley



Above: Dunson members delivered goodies prepared by WMU.



# Church News & Announcements

**FBC Hogansville** - What a joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord, during December! On Sunday Morning, December 17, the Adult Choir presented their Cantata, *Christmas...the Story of His Love*. The music was lovely, and the Choir sang beautifully. All in attendance were blessed to hear the message of Christmas in song. The Choir is under the direction of Mrs. Lynn Campbell, and we recognize with appreciation the time and effort she and all members of the choir gave to enhance our Christmas experience.

- The Children's Group presented a Christmas Nativity Play based on Luke 2. They did a wonderful job and learned that Jesus is our King and is the true Reason for the Season. The play was well attended, and the audience was so appreciative and impressed with their good work and joyful spirit. Thanks to the directors Sondra Lee, Alyson McGhee, Mary Jo Furlow, and Stuart Lee for teaching the children so well.

- Dr. Johnny Hunt was welcomed as guest speaker earlier in the month. Dr. Hunt is a former senior pastor of First Baptist Church Woodstock, in Woodstock, Georgia, and has previously served as the president of the Southern Baptist Convention. It was a privilege to have Dr. Hunt bring the morning sermon. The Ward Family, gospel singers from Columbus, Georgia, gave the service a rousing start with their music as they brought the message in song.

- Caroling is always a highlight in December. A group went into local subdivisions and also visited some shut-ins over a two-night period, December 19 and 20. The singing was well received, and the singers were pleased to share the blessings of Christmas with the community.

- The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is always a special time. The intimate service of song and message reinforces the love that abounds during the Christmas season and is an encouragement to keep this feeling year-round. Special music was presented by Pianist Mark Ladd, Mrs. Sondra Lee, and Miss Willow McGhee.

- Of course, there were parties: The Ladies Under Construction enjoyed fellowship in the beautiful setting of the Hogan House. The Youth had an After Christmas party where they enjoyed games and good food, and the cast of the Nativity play was treated to a morning of bowling. Nothing beats good Christian fun.

- It is a privilege to welcome Miss Anna Rahn as a new member of First Baptist Hogansville through baptism.

- First Baptist Hogansville looks forward to the coming year with enthusiasm and wishes everyone a Happy New Year!



FBC Hogansville: Children's presentation of the Christmas Nativity.

**Grace** - served 328 people with free food in December.

- The Craft Fair held by Ladies of Grace had several vendors. The proceeds were used to help provide Christmas presents for 25 children.

- Family Movie Night in December featured the movie "Star."

- Long Cane Elementary teachers were furnished breakfast the Thursday before Christmas break.

- Grace children sang Christmas carols for the Wednesday night service on the December 13.

- A Christmas Meal was enjoyed after the service on Dec. 17.

- The Candlelight service was on Christmas Eve morning.

- Please visit the webpage for more info:

<http://www.gbclagrange.com/>



Grace: Children sang Christmas Carols for the Wednesday night service on December 13.



FBCH Choir

Cantata



Above L: Youth Christmas Party, R: Pastor Greg with Anna Rahn



Grace: Members enjoyed a Christmas Meal together on December 17.



Grace: Craft Fair to benefit Children at Christmas



# Church News & Announcements

**Highland** - The annual Hanging of the Green was presented on Sunday, December 3. The Sanctuary was beautifully decorated with Christmas wreaths, bells, poinsettias, etc., as everyone sang carols and welcomed the Christmas season.

- The choir gave an outstanding presentation of *The King Is Born* on Sunday, December 17, followed by a church-wide luncheon.



Highland's Candlelight Communion Service was held on Christmas Eve. There was a great turnout and it was a beautiful service. (above)

At Left: Highland's Sanctuary decorated for Christmas during Hanging of the Green service.



**Highland** - Pastor Terry Rainwater along with Jim Maxwell and Mike Chapman doing ministry in their own backyard at God's Bread Basket in Hogansville. (above left)

- The WMU ladies gathered, wrapped and distributed gifts to God's Bread Basket during December. Above right, WMU members Cookie Rainwater and Becky Carden giving to their Hogansville friends through God's Bread Basket.



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

- Dr. Paul Baxter preached an informative gospel message and an entertaining sermon on December 3 while Pastor Lamar Truitt, his wife Carol, and members Steve and Jean Shirley enjoyed a trip to Germany.
- A finger food Christmas celebration was enjoyed by all on Wednesday, December 13.
- On December 27, a pizza feast and a time of fellowship were enjoyed by members.

**Mountville (MBC)** - welcomed one new member by letter in December! December was a very busy month!!

- MBC ushered in the Christmas season with a beautiful "Hanging of the Greens" ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 26. The church was absolutely beautiful!
- Mountville has always had such a generous and giving fellowship!! This Christmas MBC helped 27 children and 7 families for Christmas!! This also includes 5 foster children through the Troup County Foster Parent Association.
- Mountville Mpcat had their Christmas party at Milano's on December 15 and then came back to church for fellowship and devotion.
- MBC had a special visitor on Wednesday, December 20! Santa came and visited with the children and shared some fun but he always reminds them of the true meaning of Christmas which is JESUS! The kids also enjoyed a trip to the Valley Carousel!
- The Ladies of Mountville enjoyed a Christmas outing to Auburn Mall and Buc-ees! They also visited Pruitt Health Nursing Home in Greenville and delivered 67 goody bags to the residents there.
- The Deacons and Wives breakfast was held on Saturday, December 23. "We are so thankful for the leadership team at Mountville! We had great food and fellowship together!"
- The building project is moving along!! The concrete has been poured and walls will be coming up this week. "Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to move forward!!" "We wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy 2024!!!"



Above L: MBC provided Christmas gifts for families & foster children.  
Above R: Mpcat Christmas Party

Above:  
Ladies of Mountville enjoyed a Christmas outing to Auburn Mall and Buc-ees

**MBC**



Mountville Kids visited the Christmas Carousel in Valley, AL



# Church News & Announcements

**Reeds Chapel** - The church family provided Christmas gifts for 10 local foster children through the Troup County Foster Parent Association.

- They held a Lottie Moon Christmas lunch and collected donations to help support international missionaries.
- WMU had a fun evening at their Christmas party. Each lady brought a food item that began with the letter of her name. There was quite a variety! Everyone enjoyed games and building gingerbread houses.
- The highlight of the Christmas season was sponsoring the first community candlelight service on Christmas Eve. Approximately 80 people attended. Associate pastor Blake Alford shared a wonderful message. Hot chocolate was served, and it was a great time of worship and fellowship.



Above: Reeds Chapel Christmas Eve Community Candlelight Service

**Roper Heights** - On December 4, Roper Heights WOM and Brotherhood had their Christmas party at Milano's in Valley. A great time was had by all.

WOM & Brotherhood



Roper Heights



Christmas Party at Milano's

## Association - Church Prayer List

For **January 2024**, please pray for the following churches:

Week of January 7, 2024 - Callaway Baptist  
 Week of January 14, 2024 - Concord Baptist  
 Week of January 21, 2024 - Confidence Missionary Baptist  
 Week of January 28, 2024 - Creekside Baptist

For **February 2024**, please pray for the following churches:

Week of February 4, 2024 - Davidson Baptist  
 Week of February 11, 2024 - Dunson Baptist  
 Week of February 18, 2024 - East LaGrange Baptist  
 Week of February 25, 2024 - East Vernon Baptist

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



## JANUARY

- 3 Rev. Howard Longshore
- 4 Rev. L. W. Booker
- 5 Rev. Bryan Geter
- 9 Rev. Tom Owensby
- 15 Rev. Sam Wood
- 17 Rev. Lincoln Anderson
- 17 Rev. Craig Marshall
- 18 Rev. Terry Rainwater
- 24 Rev. Chad Bishop
- 24 Rev. W. T. Edmondson

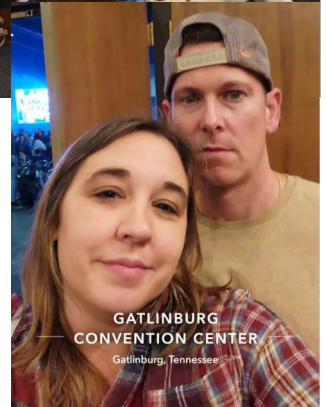
## FEBRUARY

- 3 Rev. Jim Cheyne
- 5 Dr. Greg Brown
- 16 Rev. Ronnie Jordan
- 18 Rev. Lenn Martin
- 18 Rev. Jeff McCartney
- 22 Rev. Michael Jackson
- 24 Rev. Jerry Parkerson

## Roper Heights Youth

went to Extreme Winter 2023 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, December 27-29.

Above: Roper Heights Youth  
 At right: Roper Heights Pastor Eric & Nikki Rice



**Wehadkee** - Happy New Year! "May God Bless you in this new year."

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*

Psalms 103:2

*Seek the Lord and his strength, Seek his face continually.*

*Remember his marvelous works that he hath done, his wonders and the judgement of his mouth.*

1 Chronicles 16:11,12

January Birthdays:

- January 3 - Kim Sams
- January 6 - Haywood Cliett
- January 12 - Jimmy Massey
- January 19 - Deborah Wessinger



# TBA Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Party



Kim & Andy Buchanan with Pastor Doug Bingham, (R) (Unity BC), the winner of the Pastor's Grand Prize Drawing.



Stephanie Williams, center (New Macedonia BC) was the winner of the Pastor's Wife Grand Prize Drawing.



## On The Lighter Side

Two old friends met one day after many years. One attended college, and now was very successful. The other had not attended college and never had much ambition.

The successful one said, "How has everything been going with you?"

"Well, one day I opened the Bible at random, and dropped my finger on a word and it was oil. So, I invested in oil, and boy, did the oil wells gush. Then another day I dropped my finger on another word and it was gold. So, I invested in gold and those mines really produced. Now, I'm as rich as Rockefeller."

The successful friend was so impressed that he rushed to his hotel, grabbed a Gideon Bible, flipped it open, and dropped his finger on a page.

He opened his eyes and his finger rested on the words, "Chapter Eleven."



Above: Each table worked together to solve the Christmas puzzles.

Above Left: Camp Viola was beautifully decorated for Christmas.

Lower Left: Ms Peggy Shipman, Rev. Derek & Stephanie Williams

# CHURCH MEDIA

## WORKSHOP

**MONDAY, FEB 5 @ 6:30PM  
TBA MEETING ROOM**

## EFFECTIVE ON-SCREEN PRESENTATIONS

This workshop is free and will be very practical help for your church media team or anyone working on presenting to groups on screen. Our main focus will be the best practices for text, song lyrics, and sermon notes. More info on page 2.

Please register by emailing or calling the TBA Office.  
angela@troubaptist.org  
706.884.1975

## troup baptist association DESIGN & PRINT MINISTRY

**CARDS & FLYERS**

**THEMES, POSTERS,  
BACKGROUNDS**

**LOGO or BRANDING**

**WEBSITE LAYOUT**

Creativity running low? Thinking about a new outreach card or website design? Give us a call at the TBA and we can help you brainstorm, design, layout and even print your next graphic project.  
706.884.1975

**We want to help you get the Good News out!**

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TROUP BAPTIST  
Association**



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Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Messenger, P.O. Box 550 LaGrange, Georgia 30241