

Permeate

I love it when a word captures my attention. I'm not entirely sure why it happens, but I've learned that God usually tries to teach me something when it does, so I spend some time listening and learning. It happened again a few weeks ago. The word this time is **PERMEATE.**

I often walk into the house and am greeted

with the newest scent Kim has purchased from B&BW for the plugins throughout. That new scent gets my attention, and I soak it in for a moment before trying to guess what it is and what it triggers in my memory bank of life. The sweet smell "permeates" the room.

Another way of thinking about permeation is mixing colors to paint or ingredients in a recipe. When the new color or additive works into the mix, it impacts what you see and taste. It does this in such a way that

once it works through, you can't remove it. There is almost always a permanent bond when permeation occurs in a mixture.

But I'm not smart enough to be a scientist, patient enough to be a cook, and, as Kim says, "too messy to be a painter." So, I'll stay in my lane and write to you about how incredible the impact is when the Spirit of God permeates a life. It is a powerful thing!

Inwardly, when we stop what we can call compartmentalizing or segmenting life into what's ours to control and what is God's to control, we begin to take a giant step toward living and experiencing what God truly wants for us. His desire is for all of me and all of you. So, when I resist His loving work in every part of my life, I'm the one that's missing out. I'm the one who suffers from powerlessness and frustration. I miss out on being a part of what God wants to do around me, with me, and through me.

l've learned, and I hope you have, too, that God is not holding out on me. Instead, He's waiting for me to surrender to Him and allow the Holy Spirit to permeate my life in a way that makes a real impact.

My purpose in writing this month is this: What happens when the LOVE OF GOD permeates my life?

What the world defines as "love" leaves a terrible taste in my mouth. It's a counterfeit of what God says, that love is in His Word and what He shows us in His nature and character.



Let me give you a couple of examples that the Lord has laid on my heart in the last few weeks related to my word "permeate" and the concept of "love."

First is the story of Mary and her jar of expensive perfume in John 12. The Bible says that at a dinner, "Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."

Jesus' love for Mary had so permeated her life that she took her greatest treasure and poured it out on Jesus' feet. The fragrance "permeated" the room! While all of this stirred those in the house, Jesus responded in love because He knew that in just a few days, He would pour out His love for Mary and all of humanity when He was broken and spilled out for us on the cross.

The second example was that day in the upper room when the Holy Spirit fell on those gathered. They were still trying to understand what had transpired over the last 50 days, but they were obediently waiting in the upper room as Jesus told them to. Then, power-filled by the Holy Spirit of God, they went from an unsure crowd to a bold bunch of Gospel-preaching believers taking the love of God to the world. The same Spirit of God that permeated their life resides in me, you, and everyone who has trusted in Jesus as Savior and Lord for their salvation.

When the LOVE of God permeates our lives, we will show the same love He has already shown us. We will know what it means to love others like Jesus taught us.

What is that love like? Jesus reveals the answer to that question as He showed TRUE LOVE through His obedient life and in His sacrificial death. It's stated clearly in 1 Corinthians 13 when it tells us that LOVE is...

Patient and kind.

Not envious or boasting.

Not arrogant or rude.

Not selfish, irritable, or resentful.

It does not rejoice in wrongdoing but instead rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never fails.

This month, I pray that you will allow the Love of Christ to PERMEATE your life and live in the power of the Holy Spirit. Love and blessings to you!

Make a special effort to express your love to those closest to you this year. Like the great coach said, "Leave no doubt" that they are loved by you!

Bro. Andy

MINISTRY NEWS

January was a great month of ministry and service in the Association. All of our ministries at the TBA Ministry Center are up and running which include: Circles of Troup County (Thursdays), Strengthening Families (Tuesdays), and TOPS - Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (Tuesdays). It's good to see our facility being used to have a direct impact on the community through these ministries and groups. If you'd like to know more about any of them, or be involved, let us know and we will let you know how you can plug in.

Kim and I enjoyed worshipping with the good folks at Hillcrest Baptist (Jim Butler), Franklin Road Baptist (Trace Lasher), Grace Baptist (Donnie Benefield), and Shoal Creek Baptist (Anthony Hovey). I also was privileged to speak on the work of the TBA at Dunson Baptist's (Kenneth Cole) Sunday evening service. On a personal note, I've enjoyed filling in as a Sunday School teacher at Franklin Road during this month and working with our English as a Second Language group on Sunday evenings. I attended the Men's Ministry Lunch at First Baptist late in the month and was inspired and challenged by Pastor Marty Carne's powerful message on Biblical Leadership from Joshua's life.

I closed out the month at the GBMB AMS RETREAT in Forsyth, GA, with the other AMS' around the state. It was a powerful time of inspiration, prayer, and learning and I'm thankful for your giving toward making these type of opportunities possible. We were privileged to have two days with North American Mission Board's church revitalization specialist John Mark Clifton, the leading voice in championing normative* churches. (*churches under 200). The latest statistics tell us that 90% of SBC churches are 199 or under in attendance. Also, 78% of SBC churches are under 100. These churches are vital in the work of God in reaching people to Christ.

It's also been a great month in our Pastor's Fellowship Meetings on Monday mornings. First Choice Women's Center was kind enough to provide a Venucci's lunch for us on January 8 as they shared with us information about the great work going on at FCWC here in LaGrange. Special thanks to Director Michelle Thompson and Board Members John Oliver (Rosemont) and Jason Jones (Western Heights) for sharing with us about LIFE.













At this month's Camp Rockridge Board Meeting we welcomed in our new Trustees for the next 3 years and heard a great report of all that is going on at the Camp. Our new Director (Rev. Rhodes Skinner) and our Camp Manager (Noah Skinner) are doing a great job and moving us into the year with optimism and excitement. Updates will be taking place to several of the buildings and the other cabin so things will have a touch of newness when Summer camp gets here.

Do you have construction skills to donate? Would you like to donate toward camp for scholarships or construction? Give me a call at the office and let's talk about ways YOU can help.



Your TBA Trustees:

Pam Murphy Trace Lasher Curtis Wallace



God is at Work on the LaGrange College Campus!

Please continue to pray for our Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

TESTIMONIES

This semester our Leadership Team has been sharing their testimony during the BCM Monday Night Bible Studies and it has been a powerful time. Students are responding each week and sharing how God is bringing them out of times of depression and darkness and into JOY and the LIGHT! Please keep praying as the Lord continues to bless with His presence each week.

ADOPT-A-WEEK

I still need a few churches to ADOPT-A-WEEK for snacks on Monday night at 8pm. Special thanks to East LaGrange Baptist and Franklin Road Baptist for helping so far.

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.





Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Food Ministry served 156 individuals, giving away 192 boxes of food.

- Baptist Tabernacle will be ordaining two new deacons this month. "We are so thankful for men who are stepping into what God has called them to do!"
- Youth Minister, Jeremy Ham, will be starting full-time with BTC this month. "We are thankful for what he has done with our youth and will continue to do with the Lord's guidance!"
- The Men's Brotherhood Breakfast will be meeting on Saturday, February 10, for a great time of fellowship among the men of our church and community.

Creekside - January was a quiet month for Creekside.

- Everyone who attended the New Year's Eve singing had a great time. "It was such a blessing to be able to pray in the New Year."
- The ladies surprised Pastor Bryan for his 70th birthday with a lovely dinner.
- Several Creekside members went to Grace Baptist for a benefit singing for Gayle Studdard to assist her financially after Chris Studdard's death.
- The Sisterhood met on February 5 at 6 pm. Everyone brought a covered dish and enjoyed their time together.
- On Saturday, March 2, Creekside will host the Tribute Quartet for an evening of singing. "Everyone is welcome to join us at 6 pm."
- Stay tuned... more events are being planned for the year.

Dunson - started the year off with a church planning meeting on the afternoon of January 7. Attendance was very good and it was good to have group discussion and to make plans for the upcoming year.

- On Sunday, January 21, Dunson observed Sanctity of Life Sunday. Amy Parnell shared concerning her involvement as a volunteer with the ministry "First Choice", giving everyone a better understanding of the services offered and the opportunities to minister to these mothers-to-be.
- Sunday, January 29, was Bring a Friend Sunday and Dunson was blessed with so many new friends.
- The Sunday night informal services in the fellowship hall remain strong with lively singing, fellowship, and great speakers sharing what God has laid on their hearts. "What a blessing!" In January, guest speakers were Andy Buchanan, Terry Rainwater, Brian Parnell, and Cookie Rainwater. Visitors are welcome!
- "Come join us as we grow our Sunday School." David Edmondson is the adult teacher and Jaye Copeland is the children's teacher. Sunday School starts at 9:45 am.
- The Valentine's Banquet is February 17, from 5 until 7 pm with the theme "All Things Loved." Tickets are \$10 each and they usually sell out before the event. There will be individually decorated tables, amazing food, entertainment, and door prizes. "Come and enjoy a great time!"

Are you receiving The Messenger? To be added to our mailing list, call Troup Baptist Association office at 706-884-1975 or visit our website: www.troupbaptist.org, select Newsletter and Subscription Preferences.



Dunson L-R: Mrs. Pam & Pastor Kenneth Cole with AMS Andy Buchanan and Mrs. Kim.





Dunson: Rev. Terry Rainwater (L) and Mrs. Cookie Rainwater (R) of Highland Baptist Church, were guest speakers at two of Dunson's Sunday Night Informal Services in January.





Dunson: Amy Parnell (L) shared with the congregation regarding services offered and ministry opportunities through First Choice Women's Center during Sanctity of Life Sunday.

Brian Parnell (R) was a guest speaker in January at one of the Sunday Night informal services.



Dunson Adult Sunday School Class taught by David Edmondson

FBC Hogansville - During November and December 2023, First Baptist Church of Hogansville Prime Timers held a fundraiser selling RADA cutlery. The purpose of the project was to support Country Critters Pet Grooming and Skye's Rescue in Hogansville. On Friday, January 12, Ms. Lynn Campbell presented a check in the amount of \$1,425 to the owner, Ms. Sandy Lumm. These funds will assist Sandy in her ongoing efforts to rescue fur babies and find them a loving home. The Prime Timers group is very grateful to everyone who participated in this fundraiser. "Thank you for your support; and thank you, Sandy, for helping those who cannot help themselves."

- The Prime Timers enjoyed breakfast at Golden Corral in Newnan on Saturday, January 13. Eating out is always enjoyable, and the opportunity for fellowship is not to be missed. This group always welcomes new members.
- Ladies' Bible Study and the Men's Prayer Meeting meet at the church on Tuesday nights at 6:00 pm. The prayer meeting is open to everyone, men and women. Church Bible Study is held on Wednesday at 6:30 pm preceded by a meal at 5 pm. The Children/Youth activities are at 6 pm. There is something for everyone.
- The church hosted a Valentine's Party on February 4 from 5 to 7 pm for our girls of all ages, from child to senior. It was a fun evening.
- There will be a meal at Roger's Bar-B-Que on February 18 from 5 to 7 pm for couples and friends. Tickets will be sold for this Valentine Celebration.



Above L-R: Ms. Lynn Campbell presented a check in the amount of \$1,425 to Ms. Sandy Lumm, owner of Country Critters Pet Grooming and Skye's Rescue in Hogansville. The money will be used to rescue fur babies and find loving homes for them.

First Baptist Church on the Square will welcome Jada Edwards for their annual spring Devoted Ladies Event on Thursday, March 7. This annual event is hosted by the church's women's ministry team, and all are welcome. "The goal of our ministry is for all women to grow closer to Christ and one another. We invite ALL women to come and experience an evening of worship and fellowship as we glean what God has prepared for us through this wonderful and Godly speaker," said Amy Foss, leader of FBC on the Square women's ministry. Jada is an experienced author, speaker, Bible teacher, and mentor. Teaching the Bible is one of her greatest joys. She is a huge advocate of discipleship and living on mission. She is even nerdy about personality and motivation assessments. She has committed her life to equipping women of all ages with practical, biblical truths to help them live more genuine lives.

In addition to Jada's teaching, the musical worship will be led by Jourdan Johnson and her ensemble who frequently sing at Passion City Church in Atlanta. This will be their third time to lead worship for the Devoted spring event and they are favorites among those in attendance.

At the end of the evening, Jada will host a meet and greet, take photos, and sign any merchandise that can be purchased at the event. Tickets are \$30 and groups of 10+ are \$20. Tickets can be found on Eventbrite or at fbclagrange.org under the events tab. The event begins at 6:30 pm and the doors open at 5:30. Anyone needing additional assistance should email women@fbclahgrange.org.



First Baptist Church on the Square will be an official host church for this year's Night to Shine on February 9, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. On one night, hundreds of churches of different denominations from all over the world will come together to celebrate people with special needs!

Highland - The WMU met and approved mission projects through June. They also signed Valentines to be sent to shut ins and to others in the church. Becky Carden is WMU president and her sister Ellen Hubbard is secretary/treasurer.

- In addition, Prayer Meeting on Wednesday night is taught by Pastor Terry Rainwater. They are studying different subjects. Currently they are learning about the Sermon on the Mount.
- Pastor Terry Rainwater and his wife, Cookie were each guest speakers at Dunson's Sunday night informal services in January. (See photos under Dunson news)





Lakeview WMU Tea Party: All the ladies and our newest WMU member, baby Everly Pickron with her mother Julie. (above)

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

- On January 13 Peggy Reese was the hostess for a WMU tea party with wonderful food and with many of the ladies wearing hats and pearls. Peggy presented a very interesting devotion about tea cups.
- The monthly Wednesday night supper was scheduled for January 31 with a variety of soups being prepared for everyone's enjoyment.
- On Wednesday, February 21 a Valentine's Day supper will be hosted by the Brotherhood and Carol Cain will be providing an entertaining program.
- A Gideon will speak at the morning service on Feb. 25.

Long Cane Baptist Church is hosting a Revival from February 25 - 28, 2024. Guest Speakers are as follows:

- Sunday, February 25 at 11:00 am Bro. Jacob Walker (youth evangelist) will bring the message with the youth from Mountville Baptist Church singing.
- Sunday, February 25 at 6:00 pm Bro. Bryan Geter, pastor of Creekside Baptist Church, LaGrange, GA
- Monday, February 26 at 7:00 pm Bro. Ricky Lipp, pastor of Community Baptist Church, Pine Mountain Valley, GA
- Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 pm Bro. Jimmy McMillian, pastor of Baptist Tabernacle, LaGrange, GA
- Wednesday, February 28 at 7:00 pm Bro. Dwayne Perdue, pastor of Mountville Baptist Church, LaGrange, GA There will be special singing each night.





Mountville: Faith Bible Institute Graduates with Pastor Dwayne Perdue, Jacob Rice (L) and Jennifer Snelson (R) Graduate Jacob Walker is not pictured.

Mountville (MBC) - is honored to announce their recent graduates from Faith Bible Institute - Jennifer Snelson, Jacob Rice, and Jacob Walker. They completed the three year course which covers the entire Bible. Mountville Baptist is a satellite location for Faith Bible Institute. Class is held on Sunday evenings from 5-8 pm. If anyone is interested in joining this excellent study of the Bible, please contact Preacher Dwayne for more information! (706-881-4003)

- MBC collected pocket change for several months and raised \$1,200 to purchase bibles to send to our missionaries to disburse in Thailand and India!!
- The MBC Ladies had their January meeting at the home of Phil & Alice Thompkins on Saturday, January 20. The group enjoyed a great lunch and wonderful fellowship. A skit was also performed by Robert, Alice, Diane, and Glynis. They shared a powerful message about salvation!
- Mountville will host Valentine Dinner and Movie night on Friday, February 9 at 6:30 pm! ♥
- The MBC Ladies were honored to prepare and serve a meal to the participants of Circles of Troup County on Thursday, January 25. What a blessing it was to serve them!! See photos below on left.







Above: Colin Elliott and Paul Silcock from Ireland will be at Mountville Baptist Church on Wed, **March 20 at 6:30 pm!** They will be sharing their heart for Jesus through song!

Reeds Chapel - Ryan Walls was ordained as a deacon in January.

- Everyone enjoyed a pancake breakfast which was a WMU fundraiser.
- The current local mission project is collecting nonperishable foods for LaGrange Personal Aid.
- A Valentine's Dinner & Game Show is planned for February 18 at 6 pm.
- The WMU January meeting was hosted by Madison Alford. The ladies enjoyed a BBO dinner followed by a devotion and discussion of upcoming mission projects.
- The men look forward to their breakfast fellowship and Bible study on the first Saturday of every month, 8-10 am.





Above: Reeds Chapel WMU leader Madison Alford shares God's Word at their monthly meeting.

Above: Reeds Chapel's newest deacon, Ryan Walls with his wife, Jessica.



What did the French chef give his wife for Valentine's Day? A hug and a quiche!

Pine View - November and December were busy months for Pine View Baptist Church.

- Church members prepared and served 200+ Thanksgiving meals to first responders and those less fortunate who were without the ability to have a Thanksgiving meal with their family.
- Pine View entered a float in the 47th Annual LaGrange Christmas parade held November 30. "Everyone had a great time."
- On December 16. Pine View held a Christmas dinner with food, fellowship, and a crazy White Elephant game where everyone walked away with a fun gift.
- Pine View sponsored a "Christmas Angel Tree" where members selected a stocking with a child's name and helped make their Christmas a little brighter.
- On New Years Eve they had a "Watch Night" service. Lots of singing, praising our LORD, and preaching made for a memorable night welcoming in 2024.
- The annual Valentine dinner will be February 17.
- Pine View has fellowship every Sunday morning at 9 am, with Bible Study immediately following at 10 am, then church service at 11 am where Pastor Joel Scott brings the word. Sunday evening service at 6 pm is lead by Associate Pastor Daryl Yarbrough and, on occasion, by our Deacon Chairman Travis Hudson.
- Pine View wishes everyone a very "Happy New Year" and may the LORD continue to bless each and every one!!

Wehadkee - wants to acknowledge, there is no love greater than the Father's Love for His son (Jesus Christ) and for us.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3: 16,17

February Birthdays:

1 - Randy Mickle

5 - Leona Mulkey

13 - Wendy Parmer

18 - Tim Yarbrough

19 - Freddie Traylor

February Anniversaries:

12 - Phillip and Wendy Parmer

17 - Jimmy and Renate Massey

Association - Church Prayer List

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

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

Week of March 3, 2024 - Eastside Baptist Week of March 10, 2024 - First Baptist, Hogansville

Week of March 17, 2024 - First Baptist, West Point

Week of March 24, 2024 - First Baptist on the Square

Week of March 31, 2024 - First Hispanic Baptist

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

Announcements

Grief Share

Franklin Road Baptist Church 1424 New Franklin Rd., LaGrange, GA 30240

Franklin Road Baptist Church will begin a new series of GriefShare sessions on Sunday, February 18 from 5 until 7 pm at Franklin Road Baptist Church. The group will meet weekly on Sundays at 5pm. This is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one.

This is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. The cost for the 13 week series is \$15 which includes a workbook.

For more information, contact Jerry Parkerson 706-573-2035 or email jerryparkerson@yahoo.com

On The Lighter Side

A man walking along a California beach was deep in prayer. Suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, the Lord said, "Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish."

The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over anytime I want."

The Lord said, "Your request is very materialistic. Think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking, the supports to the bottom of the Pacific, the concrete and steel it would take! It will nearly exhaust every natural resource I have made. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that would honor and glorify me."

The man thought about it for a long time. Finally he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand my wife. I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, and how I can make her truly happy."

The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four lanes on that bridge?"



MARCH

- 6 Rev. Adam Camp
- 9 Rev. Benjie Dukes
- 11 Rev. Don Ellison
- 13 Rev. Neil Stich
- 16 Rev. James Yu
- 20 Rev. Randy Warren
- 21 Rev. Eric Rice
- 22 Dr. Tom Tucker
- 28 Mrs. Kim Buchanan

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
- 22 Rev. Kenneth Whitlock
- 24 Rev. Jerry Parkerson





Unity Baptist Church

715 S. Greenwood St., LaGrange, GA 30240

Spring RevivalApril 14-17

Guest Evangelist: Tim Williams

Special Music:

Sun 10:30 AM - Higher Hope

Sun 6:00 PM - Hillcrest Worship Team

Mon 7:00 PM - Freedom Sound

Tue 7:00 PM - Mandy Brown, Callaway BC

Wed 7:00 PM - Unity Youth Worship Team

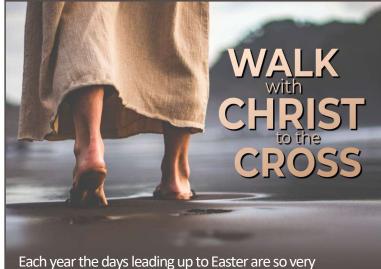








The AAEO is the primary way SBC funds missions in North America. 100% of gifts given go to the field to support more than 2,900 missionary families serving across the United States and Canada.



Each year the days leading up to Easter are so very important. It's our prayer for you that you will focus and make an intense effort to spend extra time in prayer, Bible study, and worship to prepare your heart for all that Christ did for us in His ministry, His suffering, His Death and His Resurrection.

We will have our Walk With Christ to the Cross webpage to go live on February 14 with resources and recommendations during the days leading up to Easter.

> https://troupbaptist.org/WalktoEaster24 www.facebook.com/troupbaptist

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