

# The Messenger



SEPTEMBER 2024

VOLUME 59

ISSUE 9

## Someone New?

In light of "Back to Church" Sunday, that's coming up this month, I want to share some ideas to encourage you on how to respond when you realize there is **someone new** in your church service.

You would think that we all know how to respond to a guest in our service, but the truth is that we aren't as gifted at this as we think. Most churches would say, "We are a friendly church!" But while it's true that we are very friendly with those we know, we are probably not as friendly as we believe to those we don't know or those who are **NEW** to our church. One thing to remember is that people aren't just looking for a "friendly church." They are looking for "friends" at church. Be that friend to someone this week.

Here are some quick hints for you on this topic.

### Someone sitting alone in your church service is an emergency.

In our world today, people need relationships more than ever. Even with our technological advances in communication these days, we are a lonely society. Be alert to those around you in church. Make the first move to meet them and take a personal interest in them. You might make a new friend, and you just might be the

lifeline that they need to take the next step toward Jesus Christ.

### Close friends can wait

It's such a blessing to get to see all of our friends at church. And that's really my point this month. Friendships and relationships are important, but the moment our circle of friends closes, or we begin to exclude someone new from our circle of friends, we've stepped out of what God wants for us. Make room for someone new, they may soon be a brother or sister in Christ!

### Introduce them to someone else in the service.

Finally, don't just shake a hand and move on, spend some time getting to know a new person and even introduce them to someone else in the service. Beyond that, sit with them, show them around, or invite them to sit with you and your friends. If you're really feeling "holy" that day, invite them to lunch after church and get to know them.

I want to encourage you to be on the lookout for those who are new in your service or seem to be lonely in your church. Everyone wants to BELONG somewhere, and if we can help them to belong in the family of God, then we've done more than just make a new friend; we've been a part of changing their eternal future.

You are loved...love others!

Bro. Andy

## NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2024



Pictures above of some little Troup Baptists. Thanks to Creekside Baptist and Reeds Chapel Baptist for submitting them.

*Sunday, September 15, is an opportunity for you to make a special effort and invite someone in your community to join you at church. Take advantage of it!*

*Did you know that only 5% of Americans have received an personal invitation to church?*

*Did you know that 80% of Americans have said that they would be open to attending church IF invited by a friend?*

*Let's capitalize on this "getting back on a schedule" time of year and invite someone to church.*



Dwain Carter, our Missions Mobilization/Director of the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief, has had a busy month sending crews out across the southeast to clean, help, and share the Gospel along the path of several storms. You are a part of this important work when you give, support, and participate in the work as a Georgia Baptist. Training in many areas of Disaster Relief is available by attending an upcoming seminar around the state. Call us at the TBA or go to <https://gabaptist.org/ministries/disaster-relief/>

*Georgia Disaster Relief went to Spencer, Iowa to repair flood damaged homes. We stayed at Good News Community Church in Lake Okoboji, Iowa while repairing them. The construction on homes was as much a blessing to the team as it was to the residents living there. They tore out sheet rock, pressure washed and sprayed shock wave. We had many opportunities to pray with families and spread the good news of Jesus.*

*- Lonnie & Jo Smith, Franklin Road Baptist*





# MINISTRY NEWS

Back to school events were happening all over our association as churches prayer-walked and kicked-off the new year with great support. I had the opportunity to join Highland Baptist at Hogansville Elementary for prayer, prayer walking, and lots of goodies! Then, we provided a special Chick-fil-A breakfast at Berta Weathersbee for their first day back for the year.



< Highland at Hogansville Elem for Prayer.



Breakfast for Berta Teachers on their First day >>

The first full week of August was filled with Revival at Wehadkee Baptist with Pastor Nick Pilgrim. I enjoyed getting to hear a great message delivered by Jacob Walker on night 2 of the revival and we had a great week.



I was blessed to be invited by Pastor Doug Bingham to take part in their Deacon Ordination service on August 11. It was an honor to lay hands and pray over their two new deacons. I was especially honored to be able to pray for Tim & Anya Looney. I grew up at Southwest LaGrange Baptist standing next to Anya as much as possible to hear her sing alto. It helped me learn harmony that I still lean on today. Thanks Anya!



Homecoming at Second Baptist on August 18 was a special blessing filled with good singing and preaching about what it means to truly be at home. They say "home is where the heart is" and when our heart is fixed on Jesus Christ we can be at home and filled with peace and joy. We ended the month at New Hope (Greenville) with Pastor Kenneth Whitlock. A joyful service in their beautiful sanctuary and fellowship hall made for a great day of celebration of 177 years serving in their community. What a blessing!

Pictures to the right >>



## Women on Mission Retreat

Launching off the empowering theme "Unleashed," this year's Women on Mission Retreat is designed to inspire and equip women of all ages to embrace their role in God's mission.

Location: Pinnacle Retreat Center

Date: September 13-14, 2024

Keynote speaker: Lori McDaniel

Registration deadline: August 30

At the Women on Mission Retreat, you'll experience meaningful worship, insightful breakouts, and large and small group activities all focused on gaining a deeper understanding of God's mission and your role in it.

## BCM NEWS

We've had an amazing start to the semester with over 40 students at our first meeting. We will be studying what it means to BELONG to Christ and to BELONG in the family of God over the first few meetings so please pray for the Gospel to go out in a powerful way.

If you would like to be involved or help, please call or email me at the office  
706-884-1975 | andy@troubpapist.org





# Church News & Announcements

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - Every Thursday morning from 9:00 – 11:00, Baptist Tabernacle gives away free food and clothes. To donate unwanted clothes, you may drop off items in the drop-off building behind the church.

- BTC provided school supplies to Clearview Elementary School for Troup County's Back-To-School Bash. On Sunday night, August 4, the church did a prayer walk to pray for the upcoming school year.
- The Puppet Ministry is finished for the summer but will start back on Sunday nights beginning September 1 at 6 pm.
- The Awana program starts back on Wednesday night, September 4, at 6:30 pm. Awana is for children 2 years old to 6th grade.
- Tickets are now on sale for the BBQ Fundraiser. BBQ plates will be ready for pick up on September 28, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm at Baptist Tabernacle. For \$15 you will get BBQ, stew, slaw, bread, dessert, and water. You may call the church office at 706-882-0087 to reserve a ticket.

**Creekside** - On August 5, the Sisterhood met and enjoyed a covered dish meal. They planned an End-of-Summer get-together for August 18. Everyone enjoyed the End-of-Summer get-together. They had fun on the hayride. The children especially enjoyed the bouncy house and water slide. Then they all enjoyed hot dogs with trimmings and homemade ice cream for dessert. Each child received a bag of school supplies. Music was supplied by their guitar players.

The Labor Day singing will be on Saturday, August 31 with "God's Anointed", "Until Then" and other local singers. The Singing starts at 5 pm.

On August 4, Creekside started children's Sunday school again. "We are praying for growth in this area."



Creekside: End of Summer Hayride & Singing (L)  
Above Right: Children's Sunday School has started back

**Dunson** - Dunson is planning a trip to Auburn on their big bus in September for a buffet luncheon at Ole Times Buffet and time to fellowship together. They also plan to attend the Sons of Jubal concert on September 12 in Carrollton. Dunson's music minister, Steve Vickery, sings with this group and everyone is looking forward to this opportunity to hear them. (continued in next column)

**Dunson** - Dunson's Sunday night fellowship joined Faith Baptist Church on August 18 to support their Revival and hear Preacher Bennie Tate.

- In August, the Wednesday night children's program and Sunday School class enjoyed a trip to the GA Aquarium and a back to school party with games and school supplies.

**FBC Hogansville (FBCH)** - In late July the First Baptist Youth had an evening of visitation, knocking on doors to tell people about Jesus. They are spreading the word in this community and having fun doing it. (photo below)



- On July 27, Pastor Greg Morris of First Baptist Church, Hogansville baptized 21 people in rededication! The ceremony took place at the baptismal pool of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia. This is a heated pool at the foot of their 120 foot cross. On August 11, Rusty Brown and Dusty Keagan were baptized in rededication at church. Pastor Greg said it was a wonderful thing to see so many people rededicate their lives to Christ.



L: Rededication at Rock Springs  
Pastor Greg and Davey Fogarty  
Above: Pastor Greg & Dr. Hunt

- FBCH was privileged to have Dr. Johnny Hunt as their guest speaker on Sunday morning, August 11. Pastor Hunt is an evangelical Christian pastor and author. He is the former senior pastor of First Baptist Church Woodstock, in Woodstock, Georgia and has previously served as the president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Hunt's sermons are always inspiring and instructive.



FBCH served a meal to Hogansville teachers



# Church News & Announcements

**FBC Hogansville (FBCH)** - had the opportunity to offer encouragement to the teachers and staff at Hogansville Elementary School by providing lunch on July 31. They are excited about the new year and have provided a wonderful environment for their students. "We wish them every success as they work with these young people."

- A few days later, a group of adults visited the Atlanta City Baptist Rescue Mission to preach the word and have Christian fellowship. As a result, seven individuals received Jesus as their Savior that evening. A group visits the Mission on a monthly basis.

- Some of FBCH ladies and daughters enjoyed an amazing night of learning, fellowship, and connection at Fountain Church in LaGrange on August 9. In a hectic world it is a treat when moms and daughters have time for recreation and Bible study together in a worshipful setting. "Our thanks to Fountain Church for the invitation."

- On August 16, several members went to Branches of Hope in LaGrange. "We thank them for allowing us to come share God's word, prepare a meal, and enjoy good fellowship." Following that visit, seven people received salvation! "It is a privilege to have these opportunities to minister to our neighbors."

- We give a joyful welcome to Tanner and Tristen Harden who were baptized on Sunday, July 28. Tanner and Tristen received Christ at Vacation Bible School this summer. The church also had the honor of witnessing a family of five being baptized on August 18. We share in the joy with this family: Jimmy Shawn, Jimmy and Shylae Reagor, and Lila and Sky Haire.

- A block party for outreach will be held at Pop's Grocery in the Corinth area beginning at 3 pm on Saturday, August 24. It will be a good time to meet new friends, eat grilled hot dogs, and share God's word.

- FBCH is excited to announce a new College and Career Sunday School Class beginning Sunday, August 25. Mr. Bart Christian will be teaching and has plans for some innovative techniques for Bible study. Mr. Christian is a motivational speaker as well as the author of many Christian books. The class is sure to be a good place to experience Christian growth.

**Grace** - served 187 people with free food in August! This is available every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 9 am at Grace Baptist. Also, the Clothes Closet helps anyone in need.

- Grace, Teaver Road, and Long Cane Baptist Church joined forces for a Prayer Walk at Long Cane Elementary and Long Cane Middle School. They prayed for God to put a hedge of protection over the children, teachers and staff.

- School Supplies were delivered to Long Cane Elementary School at the end of July and breakfast was provided for Long Cane Elementary staff during the first week of school.

- RU Recovery #1078 meets every Friday night at 7:00 pm.

- Visit website for more info: <http://www.gbclagrange.com/>

- At right: RU had a free car wash at Holmes Pharmacy as an outreach to the community.



(L) Grace served breakfast to Long Cane Elementary Teachers & Staff  
Above R: Prayer Walk for Long Cane Elementary & Middle Schools

**Highland** - The Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry of Highland Baptist Church in Hogansville, Georgia presented two prayer quilts during the month of August. Highland Baptist Church is a member of Prayers & Squares, The Prayer Quilt Ministry. They are officially Chapter Number 1285. Prayers & Squares is an interfaith outreach organization that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. The purpose of Prayers & Squares is to promote prayer through the use of quilts. We are a prayer ministry, not a quilting ministry. Our motto is: "It's not about the quilt; it's all about the prayers." Each knot represents a prayer. As each knot is tied, a prayer is offered for a person in need – someone who has asked us to pray for them. The finished quilt goes to that person as a silent testimony to our belief in the power of prayer. These quilts truly can be called "comforters." "We are thankful for each opportunity the Lord provides us with this ministry."



Highland's Prayers & Squares Presented these two quilts in August.

**Lakeview** - Breakfast is served in the fellowship hall every Sunday morning from 9:15 to 9:45 am.

- The Ladies' Sunday School class honored teacher Sally Pike for her birthday by presenting her with a picture featuring a hummingbird and flowers.

- WMU ladies met on August 17 and surprised Lakeview member Merry Kennedy with a birthday party. Everyone enjoyed delicious food and birthday cake. The next WMU meeting will be Saturday, September 14 at noon in the church fellowship hall.

- Homecoming will be the second Sunday in October with Rev. Kenneth Cole singing and preaching.



Lakeview (L) Sally Pike with her Hummingbird picture  
Above: Merry Kennedy (seated) with WMU Ladies celebrating her birthday



# Church News & Announcements



Lakeview's Merry Kennedy with her birthday cake and cards

**Mountville(MBC)** - MBC held a prayer walk at Callaway Elementary School on Wednesday, July 31. We are honored to be a partner in education with Callaway Elementary and Callaway High School.

- Mountville celebrated Back to School by recognizing all of their school students including college students and school employees on Sunday, August 4. Scripture cards were given to each one to carry with them throughout the year. "We pray for a great school year for everyone!"
- The MBC Ladies enjoyed a Flower Swap on Saturday, August 10. Ms. Tammy from Flowering Friendships shared a sweet message and then each lady was able to pick a flower or bulb from the table to take home! What a sweet time of sharing and fellowship!
- MBC also held a Back to School Bash for everyone at Camp Viola on Sunday, August 11 right after the morning worship service. They enjoyed pizza, swimming, and fellowship!
- The MBC Men continue to have bible study every other Thursday at 6:00 pm at the church.
- Mountville will have work days on Saturday, Sept. 14 and Sept. 21 to finish up work on the new building and grounds! "WE ARE SO EXCITED TO OPEN OUR NEW BUILDING!! The Lord is truly at work in Mountville, GA and has blessed us beyond measure! Please continue to pray for MBC as we continue to move forward and share Jesus with our community!!"

**Pine View** - held a Family Day on Saturday, August 3 to close out VBS. The children were treated to a bounce house and they had so much fun! Pine View's wonderful staff BBQ'd hot dogs for lunch. Snow cones and popcorn were also offered. A blast was had by all!

- On Sunday, August 4, the congregation was blessed by the beautiful singing group, "Guiding Light." If you haven't heard them, they are highly recommended. Such a spirit-filled hour of song was enjoyed by all in attendance.
- Come and join Pine View Baptist in Lagrange on Saturday, September 28 from 4-8 pm for food, music, and fellowship at a benefit concert for Beech Springs Baptist. All proceeds will go towards the new roof at Beech Springs Baptist Church. "We look forward to seeing you there."
- Pine View would love to give a "shout-out" to our quartet singing group "Forgiven." The members are Joel & Misti Scott and Joel & Kerrie Richardson. They are blessing churches in the area with their beautiful voices. If you have any questions or are interested in booking them for an event, please contact them at (706) 443-8962 or (706) 957-3939.



Above: Pine View's Family Day on Saturday, August 3



Above: MBC Back to College



Above: MBC Back to School



Above: Mountville Back to School



Above: Mountville Back to College



# Church News & Announcements

**Roper Heights** - On August 10, Roper Heights kiddos had a fun morning at the Opelika Sportsplex! (Photos below)



Roper Heights' Kids enjoyed a trip to the Opelika Sportsplex Splash Pad.



Reeds Chapel: Look how attentive the SPROUT nursery kids are as they listen to Tandie Taylor, aka TT, as she reads to them about how God loves when we share with others.

**Second** - Second Baptist wants to thank everyone for the wonderful blessings they received at Homecoming 2024. Brother Andy brought a perfect message that flowed with what they had been studying and "Until Then" did a spectacular job with the music. As always, the food was the best and God provided much more than we needed. "Thank you, Jesus, for the reminder that soon we are going to a Homecoming that will never end." (photos below)



Second Baptist Homecoming Rev. Andy Buchanan, "Until Then", and the front row attendees.

**Reeds Chapel (RCBC)** - received four new members into their church family and also celebrated a baptism last month!  
 • The local mission project for August was a success! Members collected personal hygiene items for the West Point Elementary nurse and counselor to have on hand for students in need.  
 • Reeds Chapel hosted wedding showers for two of their recently married couples, Justin & Hilary Carlyle and Josh & Cami Goddette.

**Reeds Chapel Upcoming Events:**

- Men's Fellowship Breakfast, September 7, at 8 AM
- Homecoming, September 8, at 10:30 AM
- Family Game Night, September 20, 7-9 PM
- WMU meets at Pokey's, September 26, at 6 PM
- Trunk or Treat, October 26, 6-8 PM

**Stovall** - Stovall Baptist Church is having a benefit singing for the church to help the needy. It starts at 5 pm on Saturday, September 21. There will be singing, eating, and a silent auction. Stovall's Pastor, Rev. Jerry Johnson welcomes everyone. Stovall Baptist Church is located at 14 Hardy Street in Greenville, GA.

**Wehadkee** - PRAISE the LORD

*From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised.*  
 PSALMS 113:3

September Birthday:  
 15 - Buck Hurt

**Western Heights** along with **Unity Baptist** and **Harmony Church** are planning a big men's ministry event, "What's at Steak for Men" on Friday, October 11 at 6:00 pm. This event will challenge men to be godly leaders in their home and will be followed by seven weeks of discipleship. This is for men and boys ages 12 and up. Tickets can be purchased at [realmomentum.men/western-heights](http://realmomentum.men/western-heights). See more information on the back page.



At a recent RCBC fellowship, we captured this precious moment of two of our children. Cohen was sharing a verse that he had learned in Sunday School with Emberleigh. What a blessing!

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

# Announcements

## Volunteer Opportunities Available at Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center

During the height of the COVID Pandemic, our auxiliary program was suspended, but over time our volunteers came back, and we are now in full force and looking for new volunteers to help fill the needs of our patients. Volunteers provide valuable services at Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center and our two nursing homes, Florence Hand Home and Twin Fountains Home. There are numerous opportunities to match individual skills and interests, such as assisting patients to treatment areas, delivering flowers, providing complimentary books, delivering and reading mail to nursing home residents, assisting customers in the gift shop and more. Individuals who are interested in volunteering should visit our website for more information at <https://www.wellstar.org/community/volunteer/west-georgia-medical-center>. Thank you!



## SEPTEMBER

2 Rev. Michael Reeves  
4 Rev. Tom Farr  
20 Rev. Jason Jones  
29 Rev. Richard King  
30 Dr. Lamar Truitt  
30 Rev. Ben Turner

## OCTOBER

8 Rev. Kevin Stringham  
14 Rev. Anthony Criswell  
14 Rev. Patrick Turner  
17 Dr. Mike Brandenburg  
17 Rev. Jason Bennett  
20 Rev. Kenneth Cole

## Save the Dates... Troup Baptist Association

### Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 26 at 6:00 PM

### Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 20 at 6:00 PM

Annual Church Reports are due by October 7 for your churches' statistics to be included in the TBA's annual report.

Both meetings will be held in the Sanctuary portion of the Troup Baptist Association facility  
1301 Washington St., LaGrange, GA 30240



Sunday, September 8

## On The Lighter Side

A doctor, a nurse, and the top executive of an HMO have died and are in line together at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter speaks with them and asks them what good they have done in their lives.

The doctor says, "I have devoted my life to the sick and needy and have had a part in caring for and healing thousands of people."

St. Peter replies, "That's great. Go ahead into heaven."

"And what about you?" The nurse states, "I have supported the doctor and his patients my entire life as an adult, have taken time to explain things to patients, and have helped them lead healthy lives."

"Wonderful. Please proceed in with the doctor."

"And what about you?" The HMO executive says, "I was the president of a very large Health Maintenance Organization. I was responsible for the health care of millions of people all over the country."

St. Peter says, "Oh, I see. Please go on in ... but you can only stay two nights!"

## Association - Church Prayer List

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

Week of September 1, 2024 - Reeds Chapel Baptist Church  
Week of September 8, 2024 - Rockridge Baptist Assembly  
Week of September 15, 2024 - Roper Heights Baptist Church  
Week of September 22, 2024 - Rosemont Baptist Church  
Week of September 29, 2024 - Second Baptist Church

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

Week of October 6, 2024 - Shoal Creek Baptist Church  
Week of October 13, 2024 - Stovall Baptist Church  
Week of October 20, 2024 - Teaver Road Baptist Church  
Week of October 27, 2024 - Troup Baptist Association

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

## Long Cane Baptist Church

### Trade Day

Saturday, September 21 8 am until 1 pm

Contact Sharon at [dsgeter@me.com](mailto:dsgeter@me.com) for more information

## Franklin Road Baptist Church

### Arts & Craft Sale

Saturday, October 12 9 am until 2 pm  
Setup will be Friday, October 11 1 pm until 4 pm.  
Final date to register: September 30.

For information on tables call: Karen 828-342-8315  
Dale 706-443-4674 Beverly 404-325-3493





**WHAT'S AT STEAK FOR MEN**  
POWERED BY **RM**


Friday, October 11, 2024 | 6:00 PM

**\$25** individual | **\$125** table of 8

SCAN ME





Western Heights BAPTIST CHURCH  
REAL MOMENTUM MINISTRIES - BLAINE, TN  
KEITH BOGGS  
Get Tickets at: [realmomentum.men/western-heights](http://realmomentum.men/western-heights)



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE SQUARE**  
LAGRANGE, GEORGIA

**COMMUNITY-WIDE SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP**  
Thursday, October 17, 2024 • 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Gather with seniors from across our community to praise the Lord and enjoy fellowship with other Christians!

Al Holley, Guest Vocalist & Dr. Gerald Harris, Guest Preacher



New Desire Christian Ministries presents  
**"Girls Glorifying God"**  
September 13-15  
Camp Viola  
LaGrange, GA 30240

**\*\*Limited Spots\*\***  
**REGISTER TODAY!**  
We invite all girls ages 11-20 that are seeking to strengthen their relationship with the Lord to a fun-filled weekend of enriching their walk with Christ led by Dr. Brenda Robinson from Aragon, Georgia.

\$100 per girl which includes meals, lodging, 4 favors, T-shirt, & session materials

**Tentative Times**  
**Check In: 6:00**  
Friday: Session 1 @ 8:00  
Saturday Session 2 @ 10:00 am  
Saturday Session 3 @ 7:00  
Sunday Session 4 @ 10:00  
Team Building after lunch on Saturday

Follow us on instagram @newdesireofficial





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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TROUP BAPTIST Association**  
**TBA+**  
ASSOCIATION  
706-884-1975 | [troubaptist.org](http://troubaptist.org)

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