

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## Dr. Fred Lodge

**The Rev. Stacy Dyer has an important announcement to make. To aid in that mission, I turn my column over to the Rev. Stacy Dyer.**

It is my pleasure to announce that my dear friend and mentor, Dr. Fred Lodge, is allowing his name to be placed in nomination for presidency of (Georgia Baptist Convention).

I have known Brother Fred for 12 years. When I pastored, I benefited from his servant leadership style and wisdom. While I was at the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, I saw him demonstrate caring, effective leadership that embraced all Georgia Baptists.

In his testimony he shares how God's grace captured his heart the very first time he heard the Gospel. He has been passionately passing it on ever since.

Brother Fred is committed to the Cooperative Program. He has led all his churches to increased giving, and most to a minimum of 10 percent. First Baptist Church Blairsville gives 18 percent to the Program and then 5 percent to associational and area ministries. Translated into dollars, only seven Georgia Baptist churches give more to the Cooperative Program than does this church, First Baptist Church Blairsville.

Fred Lodge and his wife Valeria have been blessed with three sons: one pastor and two student ministers. Two serve Georgia Baptist churches and one is in the state of Washington. I have witnessed and benefitted from the way he lovingly pours into young ministers as a leader of leaders.

Dr. Lodge is a gifted preacher and teacher. Evangelism and discipleship are his passion. For decades he has mentored young men and disciples them. He also has a heart for church planting. He has planted Egyptian, Korean, Sudanese, and Anglo churches.

Throughout his career in Georgia, Brother Fred has served twice on the Executive Committee, as Trustee of the Children's Home, and many committees. He presently serves on the Administration Committee, as Trustee for GuideStone Financial Resources and is particularly involved in Mission Dignity.

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### Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



## Heaven

Most of us probably don't think about Heaven as oft as we might. Much about it, as a real place, is revealed to us in the Bible. But if we only associate such thoughts with funerals, no wonder we don't dwell on it much.

Playwright George Bernard Shaw said, "Heaven, as conventionally conceived, is a place so inane, so dull, so useless, so miserable, that nobody has ever ventured to describe a whole day in heaven, though plenty of people have described a day at the seashore." But here's the thing: just as you might rather be at the seashore, heaven is a place where the troubles of life are left behind. Conventional isn't Biblical in this case.

Heaven seems much more interesting when you consider what is not there. In fact much of what is absent in heaven are the things on earth that make life hard. You have endured burying your loved ones and mourning with the grief of separation, but no death or mourning in heaven. You have cried over hurt, betrayal, loss. You've experience pain from sickness, injury, or distress, but no crying or pain in heaven (Rev. 21:4). You have been wounded by lies, but no lying in heaven (Rev. 21:27). Imagine life without those!

Some things that are not in heaven are a surprise. God told King David that Solomon would build the Temple in Jerusalem, a place associated with worship of God. Stephen was martyred when he claimed that God doesn't need a temple (Acts 7:48-50). In fact, there will be no temple in heaven, "for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple" (Rev. 21:22). That suggests worship is not limited to a place, and that no place in heaven is apart from God's presence. The Lamb is a reference to Jesus.

It also surprising that heaven "has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it." Our earthly lives are regulated by the 24-hour daily cycle, and we take for granted that the sun shines by day, and the moon by night. Why does heaven need no sun? "For the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Rev. 21:23).

Heaven is a place of excitement and adventure because

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### All Things New

Wayne Fowler



## Commissioner's Questions

**Q. We saw an article in the paper last week saying the 4-H Shotgun Range is no longer a feasible project. Can you elaborate on this?**

A. There are so many different aspects involved in constructing a shotgun range, or any kind of shooting range. There are many different environmental studies, cultural studies, sound studies, and shot fall studies. Completing all the required studies takes a lot of time and each time we thought we were done with the studies, something else would need to be done. Ultimately, the final straw was that the property failed the shot fall study.

**Q. What is a shot fall study?**

A. It is when actual tests are performed on the property with shotguns being fired from the exact location of where the firing line will eventually be located once the grading and project is completed. In this case, we had to rent a scissor lift so that the shotguns could be fired about 15 to 20 feet off the ground, which is where the actual level of the ground would be after construction. Then white sheets are scattered on the ground of adjacent property to catch any lead shot that might fall from a gun firing.

**Q. How did the property fail the shot fall study?**

A. The property failed this test on two sides. On the East side, the actual shot just barely landed off the property, onto adjacent property, but on the West side, there was a significant amount of lead shot that fell onto the adjacent property. Under normal firing conditions this would not have been a problem, but with the shot fall study, the gun is aimed in all directions including almost perpendicular to the actual firing line, as they must simulate someone firing in the wrong direction.

**Q. Why was the problem with the property not being large enough to contain the shot fall not discovered before purchasing the property?**

A. That is an excellent question and something that I certainly wanted to know. The county was given a set of drawings showing the engineers' concept of the property and clearly showing that there was no problem with shot falling on adjacent property. The county would have never purchased the property otherwise.

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### Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



## Letters to the Editor

### Perfect way to honor vets

Dear Editor,

I would like to share an experience that happened on Tuesday, Sept. 26. I had the honor of going with my father, Bill Eckstein, on an Honor Flight from Conyers to Washington, D.C. There were 55 of us on the tour. I was my Father's companion along with others that accompanied their Veterans. My Dad happens to be a World War II and Korean War veteran.

When we left Conyers for Hartsfield Airport at 5:15 a.m., the bus was escorted by police, the sheriff's department, and motorcycles with the lights and sirens blaring all the way to the airport. We were greeted with lots of cheers, and waving flags. When we arrived in Washington, there were approximately 200 people with lots of cheering, saluting, flags waving and children singing *God Bless America*. It was beyond awesome and very emotional.

We toured Washington by bus. We attended the Vietnam, Korean, WWII, and Airforce memorials, and then onto Arlington Cemetery, witnessing the Changing of the Guard, ending the day in Washington with a USO dinner, and returning to Conyers that night at 10:30 p.m.

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"It's time all this overspending on charter jet flights stopped! I say we appropriate a few billion to study that problem!"

## Learn Before You Burn

Over the last month, severe storms have hit our community resulting in many downed trees. Those downed trees, along with the usual fall of the leaves this time of year, have presented us with a great deal of debris.

Many people dispose of this debris by burning. Unfortunately, these fires can get out of control and start a wildfire. Union County Fire Department and Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) want people to burn safely and to understand the responsibilities when burning debris. The following is some information provided by GFC on safe burning practices and information needed for burning debris.

When burning debris, you must first obtain a burning permit from the Georgia Forestry Commission. It is illegal to burn without a permit. The burning permit is easy to obtain by calling 1-877-OK2-Burn or by going on line at GaTrees.org. They will need some basic information and will issue a burning permit number if burning is allowed that day. There may be times where burning is not allowed and in those cases, permits will not be issued. Outdoor burning permits are for the burning of natural vegetative materials. It is also unlawful to burn man made materials such as tires, shingles, plastics, lumber, household garbage, etc.

Once you have a permit, it is time to prepare for safety and burn the debris pile. Check the weather to know conditions. Make sure that you have enough time to commit to burning the debris pile. Advise your neighbors that you will be burning. Prepare tools that may be needed to help control the fire such as shovels, rakes and a water hose. Wear the proper clothing including long pants, long sleeves, boots, gloves and safety goggles. When preparing the debris pile, make small piles and clear 25 feet or more around the pile. You should never use any flammable liquids to start the fire. Remain with the fire until all debris is burned. If small embers remain, extinguish them with the water hose before leaving the fire.

Landowners who burn debris are responsible for fire safety, what they burn, the smoke, and maintaining the fire on their property. Always remember to get a permit and practice all safety tips. Knowing your responsibilities and using sound safety practices can keep you safe and may prevent wildland fires. For more information on burning safety or on the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources please visit [www.GATrees.org](http://www.GATrees.org).

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

### Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief

David Dyer



## Veto and Barbra

Due to previous encounters, Veto should have known better than trusting my father and his cousin Junior. However, he began to like the two Cummings boys and so he continued to hang out with them on Friday evenings. Prior to one Friday the boys were a literature class and they were discussing the story of Romeo and Juliet. Veto asked Junior if he could introduce him to any girls.

The larger Cummings boy told him about Barbra Lauderdale. He told Veto that Barbra was a beautiful young lady that lived out around Spruce Pine. He further stated he was sure Barbra would like to go out with Veto and that she enjoyed smooching very much.

Junior explained to Veto that Barbra's dad did not like him. However, he thought

Lonnie Paul (my Dad) was a very good boy. So, it was decided that Dad would take Veto to Barbra's house to introduce him to Mr. Lauderdale. So, the boys made their plans to meet Friday evening about 7:30 and drive out to the Lauderdale house at Spruce Pine.

Unknown to Veto, Dad and Junior were setting him up for a practical joke. The Lauderdale house was an old abandoned house that was actually lived in by the Lauderdale family prior to this event. Junior was to be present in the house when Dad and Veto arrived.

So, Dad met Veto in town at the Pool Hall. Veto showed up wearing enough hair tonic to wet the whole baseball team. Dad said that Veto was very nervous because he had never been on a date.

Anyway, Junior was in the house with a coal oil lamp lit and burning when the boys arrived. Dad knocked at the door and Junior answered with a gruff voice, "Who's there."

Dad responded by saying, "Mr. Lauderdale it's Paul Cummings here with Veto Gore to see Barbra."

Junior answered again, "Who? Speak louder. You know I am hard of hearing."

Dad yelled this time. "Mr. Lauderdale, it's Paul Cummings here with Veto Gore to see Barbra." Junior answered a third time. "Cummings? Junior Cummings I told you to never come back to my place again." Before Dad or Veto could answer Junior stuck a shotgun out the window of the house and fired. Dad grabbed his chest and hit the ground yelling out "I'm hit Veto."

Veto spun and jumped from the porch his feet hit the ground and he began running.

Veto ran through the front yard and jumped off a 15-foot-tall bluff into thicket of plants called the Devil's Walking Stick. These

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### Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



## Spring Bulb Planting

The end of the growing season may be drawing near, but the time for planting spring flowering bulbs is just beginning. Flowers such as daffodils, hyacinth, tulips, and other plants that bloom before tree canopies start to fully form should be planted from October to early December.

Though the bulbs themselves may not look like much, if they are planted in a well-prepared site and maintained properly, they will produce a multitude of large, beautiful flowers as the temperatures begin to warm.

One of the most important aspects to planting bulbs is the site selection and preparation. Full sun is often best, but flowers will still form with light shade. If there is less than eight hours of sunlight at the site, you run the risk of decreased flower.

The site must also be well drained. You can tell if your soil is well drained by digging a hole that is one foot deep, filling it with water and letting the water absorb. The next day, fill it with water again, and if the water disperses after eight to 12 hours, the soil has adequate drainage. If not, you may want to consider adding amendments to the soil to promote drainage.

Appropriate amendments include compost, perlite, peat moss and other alternatives. Certain bulbs may do better with certain amendments, so always carefully check the care guide for the bulbs you are planting. Spring bulbs are most productive in a soil pH of 6.0 to 6.8, so always remember to test your soil before establishing these plants. Typically, one to two pounds of 10-10-10 per hundred square feet is an acceptable fertilizer rate.

When purchasing your bulbs, always check for mold, blemishes or cuts. If any of these are present, the bulbs are much more likely to rot or be susceptible to disease after they are planted. Planting bulbs at appropriate depths can also prevent disease and damage. For large bulbs (greater than two inches), plant them to a depth two to three times their diameter. For smaller bulbs, they should be planted three to four times their diameter deep. Different bulbs require different spacing, but planting a few smaller bulbs together in a large hole a few inches apart usually gives a better landscape effect than planting all bulbs individually. When placing the bulb in its hole, always be sure to plant it upright, with the fibrous roots down.

For spring flowering bulbs, not much continued maintenance is needed until they become crowded. Mulching keeps weeds down and helps protect them in hard winter weather, and normal

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### UGA Extension From the Ground Up

Melissa Mattee



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