

Thoughts From Doug

The Scriptures are filled with stories of *journeying*. Adam and Eve had to journey outside of the garden. After murdering his brother Abel, Cain was forced to journey away from his home. Abraham and Sarah followed God's call on a journey to "a land that I will show you." The Israelites who were escaped slaves from Egypt journeyed in the wilderness for two generations. Hundreds of years later, they were taken on a journey of captivity to Babylon. Jesus journeyed throughout Galilee, teaching and healing. Paul took several missionary journeys. But during Advent, our thoughts turn to other journeys. There is the journey that Mary took soon after she discovered she was pregnant—a journey to be with her older and wiser relative Elizabeth, who was expecting her own version of a miraculous conception. There is the long and arduous journey that Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem. There is the journey the shepherds took to see the newborn Messiah. There is the journey the magi took—a much longer journey, following a star, seeking the promised one of old. And there is the journey which turned the Holy Family into refugees, fleeing to Egypt to save Jesus' life.

During this Season we especially think of the very deliberate journey that God took—coming to the world to be one of us. What an amazing story! What a world-changing journey. During Advent we are encouraged to understand the spiritual significance of "journeying with intention." Just as God made an intentional journey, made possible by the covenant agreement of Mary to be used as a vessel **by** God and **for** the world—so we are called to be intentional in the way we journey this Christmas.

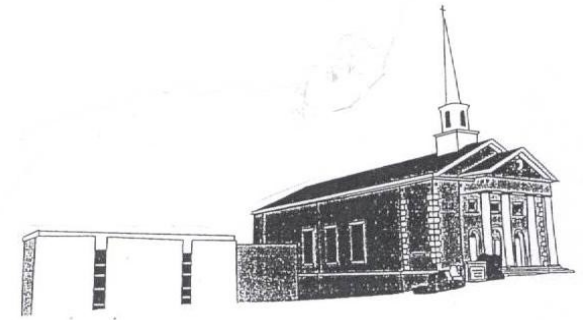
Where are you journeying during this season of your life? Are you just traveling in circles, the same old routine, moving as if a machine on auto-pilot? Have you been on a journey that is just taking you through the motions of discipleship—now and then attending worship, sometimes Sunday School, but never moving close enough toward the Light to experience any real spiritual growth? Are you on a deliberate journey away from God because you have been disappointed, disillusioned, or disheartened? Are you wandering in a wilderness? Or are you journeying with Jesus, going toward the people who are on the margins of society—people who are overlooked and undervalued?

It is not too late to journey with purpose. To be attentive and receptive to God's call to journey toward the Center, which is Christ. To respond, like Mary, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) Come join us for worship the two remaining Sundays of Advent, and Christmas Eve, as we journey further—as together we prepare to receive the Word made flesh anew.

Love and Blessings!
Doug

Offering envelopes for the new Church Year are now available in the upstairs hallway of the Education building. Please pick yours up as soon as possible.

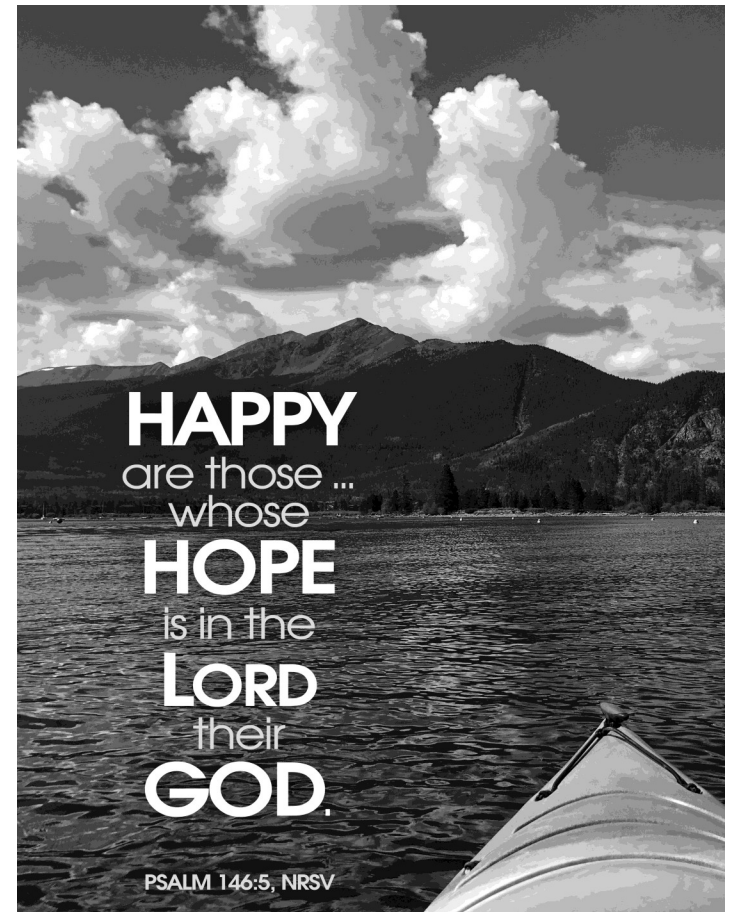
Hardwick Herald



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December 11, 2019



Prayer List

Henry/Vivian Andrews	Sharon Ezell
James Armstrong	Lamar Guy
Mack Atchison	Kenny Huff
Kenneth Babb	Martha Huff
Katie Bainbridge	Jim Jennings
Anne Bayne	Michael/Sharon Lord
Joyce Blizzard	Nell Maddox
Harriett Braddy	Jeff McMullen
John Cooper	Marcus McMullen
Josephine Davis	Marlene Peavy
Eugenia English	Bonnie Stafford
Sandra English	

In Military Service: Rudy Webb



**Prayer Meeting/
Bible Study
Wednesdays , 12 noon
In Fellowship Hall**

You are invited to bring a sack lunch if you like and we will study and eat together.



**Choir Rehearsal
Every Wednesday
At 7:00 P.M.
No rehearsal
this week**

**Wednesday Night Program
For Children & Youth
Caroling this Week
Soup & Sandwiches at 5:30
Caroling following**

**Scripture Readings for
December 15:**

**Psalms 146:5-10
Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11**

The Church Office

Will be closed the week of Christmas for the holidays and staff vacations. In case of emergency or need, please call the Secretary at 456-7129. Publications for that time frame will be done ahead next week.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec 15: Lindsey Hornsby
Dec 16: Karen Brooks
Dec 17: Marurice McNeal, John Webb,
Kellie Whipple
Dec 18: Pat Williams
Dec 21: Amber Ellington, Nell Maddox

**Nursery Workers
Sunday Morning, 12/15/19
Babies
Taria Crump, Hope Pennington**

**Bus Ministry, 12/15/19
Ken Turner**

**Children's Church, 12/15/19
Ken Turner**

**Counting Committee, 12/15/19
Mack Atchison, Miles Whipple**

**Worship Coordinator, 12/15/19
Mack Atchison**

**Deacon of the Week, 12/15/19
Cindy Folendore, 719-4059**

**HBC Family
Christmas Caroling
Fellowship
Wednesday, December 18**

**5:30 P.M.
Soup & Sandwiches
6:00-7:00 P.M.
Caroling to Green Acres
& Chaplinwood
7:00-7:30 P.M.
Cookies & Hot Chocolate**

The **HBC Food Pantry** served 42 households, 109 people and had 6 new applicants. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers!

**Check out the HBC Website
www.hardwickbaptist.org**

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15th:
(3rd Sunday of Advent)
9:45 P.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
6:00 P.M. Called Business Meeting

Tuesday, December 17th:
6:30 P.M. "Healing" Prayer Service

Wednesday, December 18th:
12:00 P.M. Bible Study/Prayer Group
5:30 P.M. Soup & Sandwiches
6:00-7:00 P.M. Caroling
7:00-7:30 P.M. Cookies & Hot Choc.

There will be a **Called Business Meeting** this Sunday evening, December 15th at 6:00 P.M. for the purpose of adopting the proposed 2020 Budget.



**Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Communion
Service
December 24th
6:00 P.M.**

*An offering will be received
for our Dinner Church Ministry.*

**Lottie Moon Post Office
Is now Open**

Once again you may bring Christmas Cards to be delivered "in house" to attending members. The cost is 25 cents per card all of which goes to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Place your cards in the mail box provided and they will be distributed. Please be sure that cards are for members who attend regularly. Open through 12/29.

Annual Budget 2019.....	\$280,579.00
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,395.75
Contributions 12/08/19.....	\$ 3,621.00
Budget Contributions through 12/08/19.....	\$202,011.84
Total Budget Expense through 12/08/19.....	\$199,627.68