

Thoughts From Doug

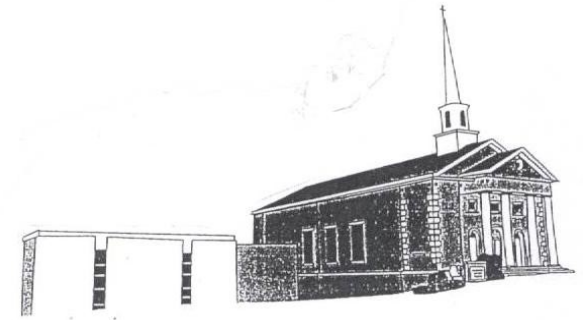
It is hard to believe we are in the last full week of Advent. It has been a shortened season this year due to the calendar. I pray that, regardless of the length, you have been able to experience a meaningful period of waiting for God...however you may practice your waiting, and whatever you may be waiting for God to do. As we learn from the lives of Mary and Joseph, we cannot make plans as if we know God's surprises ahead of time, we simply have to be open and receptive to follow as faithfully as we know how, trusting God to take care of the rest and trusting the people of God to accompany us as we step forward.

I believe that stance of openness and receptivity, and then stepping out in faith, is a lesson we are learning as a congregation as we move forward with Dinner Church. Early in 2019, I began discussing Dinner Church with our deacons, the folks at Wednesday night Bible study, and Cindy Foilendore, our Minister with Community. As we continued to discern a leading from the Holy Spirit, we gradually made steps toward a Dinner Church gathering. We studied a book and video; we visited a Dinner Church in Douglasville; we applied for, and received, a Missional Congregation Grant from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia; we formed a Community Ministry Team to begin doing the ground work; and we prayed a great deal. We twice postponed earlier start dates due to fine-tuning. Cindy ordered table cloths and plastic ware and other supplies. We did a lot of planning, believing that this was an opportunity that God was leading us to pursue to engage folks in our community who do not attend church, and others who simply could use a hot, home-cooked dinner a couple of times of month.

Finally, last Saturday we began. And it is an understatement to say that we were overjoyed at the response and the attendance. Over 60 folks came. The amazing turnout for the first service was the result of several years of seed planting by Hardwick Baptist in this community. Some folks came because they benefit from our food pantry ministry. Some folks came because of the ministry of Sharon and Michael Lord in this neighborhood. Some folks came because they were connected to our Wednesday children's program. Some walked, some came on bicycles, some were transported by a church member. Regardless of how every one arrived, it was an amazing sight. It was thrilling to me, as pastor, to see members of our church working together to see that everything was covered. We sat at the tables and ate with our guests. We worshiped and took Communion beside them. We all were blessed and encouraged and are making preparations for the January 25 Dinner Church. We will continue to work and pray, and expect hope to grow in unseen ways, as we move forward. Thanks be to God for it all! Merry Christmas!

Love and Blessings! Doug

Hardwick Herald



Hardwick Herald is published weekly by the Hardwick Baptist Church, P.O. Box 39, Hardwick, GA 31034. Periodicals postage paid at Hardwick, GA, POSTMASTER. Send address changes to Hardwick Herald, P.O. Box 39, Hardwick GA 31034-0039.

Volume XXXX No. 51

December 18, 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. No Bible Study 12/25 or 1/1/20. Resumes January 8th, 2020.



**Wednesday Night Program
For Children & Youth
Will resume
January 8th, 2020**

**Scripture Readings for
December 22nd:
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Isaiah 7:10-16
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25**

Special Thanks to all of you who purchased poinsettias. You may pick your plants up following Morning Worship December 22nd or at the Christmas Eve Service.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec 22: Sarah Josey, Kaitlin Tollison
Dec 24: Amanda Gregg
Dec 25: Marcus McMullen,

**Nursery Workers
Sunday Morning, 12/22/19
Babies
Susan Taylor, Becky Adkins**

Bus Ministry, 12/22/19
Cindy English
Children's Sermon, 12/22/19
Cindy English
Counting Committee, 12/22/19
Cindy Folendore, David Lewis
Worship Coordinator, 12/22/19
Mack Atchison
Deacon of the Week, 12/22/19
Sharon Lord, 452-7742

Thank You!

To all of you who helped with our first Dinner Church Saturday. God really blessed our efforts as we had between 60 and 70 people come. We look forward to many more and would love to have any of you who would like to help — just contact Cindy Folendore.

Our 2nd Dinner Church is scheduled for January 25, 2020.

*"Christmas began in the heart of God.
it is complete
only when it is
in the heart of man."*

*"The Son of God became a man
to enable men to
become sons of God."
-C. S. Lewis-*

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22nd:
(4th Sunday of Advent)
9:45 P.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Tuesday, December 24th:
6:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, December 25th:
Merry Christmas!
Church Office Closed



**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
Open through 12/29.**

You may bring Christmas Cards to be delivered "in house" to attending members through 12/19. 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.

**The Church Office
Will be closed December 23-
27 for Christmas and staff va-
cations. In case of emergency
or need, please call the Sec-
retary at 456-7129. Publica-
tions for that time frame will
be done ahead.**

**Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering
Our Goal: \$3,500.00
Offering to Date: \$1,674.78
Lottie Moon Mailbox: \$18.00**



**Adult Discipleship
Opportunities**

Tuesday, January 7, 2020
Taize Prayer Service
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Healing Prayer Service

**2nd HBC Dinner Church
Scheduled for
January 25th, 2020**

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.

Annual Budget 2019.....	\$280,579.00
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,395.75
Contributions 12/15/19.....	\$ 4,943.40
Budget Contributions through 12/15/19.....	\$206,955.24
Total Budget Expense through 12/15/19.....	\$202,816.33