

Thoughts From Doug

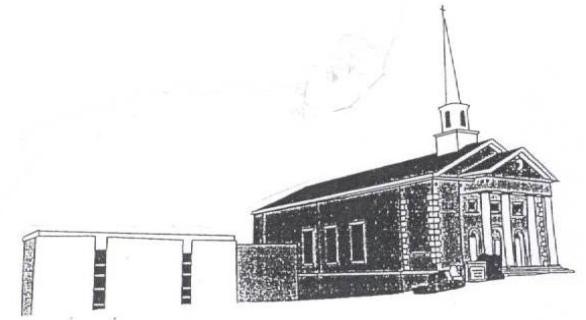
At the heart of our Christmas spirituality is the mystery that God of very God became man of very man to destroy the power of evil and to restore creature and creation to God's intention for the world. Christmas as the fulfillment of our Advent expectation teaches that the work of restoring creation has begun.

So wrote Robert Webber in his 2004 book *Ancient-Future Time*. Words ultimately fail when we try to describe what observing the seasons of Advent and Christmas can teach us, but Webber's descriptions are as accurate as I have found. The Hardwick Baptist Family has been encouraged to faithfully walk through the past few weeks of Advent. We have sought to listen; to wait with expectation; to sit in the darkness, whether that darkness is in ourselves, our loved ones, or our world. We have followed the Advent and Christmas readings in our *Resource for Daily Prayer and Scripture Meditation* and in Sunday worship. We have given offerings designated for international missions. We have shared our First Dinner Church with the Hardwick community. We have sung carols to residents at Green Acres Health & Rehabilitation. We have watched the Advent wreath gain a little more light each Sunday. And we have gathered as a family on Christmas Eve to hear the lessons, sing the carols, and share in the sacred meal of Communion. We have done **all of this** in faith and hope, believing in the miracle of the Incarnation — that, in Jesus Christ, *the Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood*. We live out our faith in the Incarnation every time we seek to follow the life and teachings of Jesus. Because of Christmas—*God of very God became man of very man*—we believe that the Word becomes flesh in us, and that we are joining in work of making God's will on earth as it is in heaven. Indeed, what a wonderful mystery we celebrate this Christmas: we are participants in the work of restoring God's creation. Let heaven and nature sing!! Alleluia!! Merry Christmas!

Love and Blessings!

Doug

Hardwick Herald



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December 23, 2019



A Christmas Blessing

*May You Have
The Spirit of Christmas which
Is PEACE.*

*The Gladness of Christmas
Which is HOPE*

*The Heart of Christmas
Which is LOVE*

*The Gift of Christmas
Which is CHRIST.*

*Merry Christmas!
From Your Church Staff*

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 1/1/20. Resumes January 8th, 2020.



**Choir Rehearsal
Every Wednesday
At 7:00 P.M.
No rehearsals
Until January 8th**

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

**Scripture Readings for
December 29th:
Psalm 148
Isaiah 63:7-9
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23**

**If you were unable to pick up
your poinsettia yet, please
pick it up this Sunday.**

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec 29: Angie Jennings
Dec 31: Jim Jennings
Jan 01: Dudley Johnson, Bill Overman
Jan 05: Ashley Parham

**Nursery Workers
Sunday Morning, 12/29/19
Babies
Celia Turner, Tina Roberts**

Bus Ministry, 12/29/19
Ken Turner
Children's Church, 12/29/19
Ken Turner
Counting Committee, 12/22/19
Mack Atchison, Miles Whipple
Worship Coordinator, 12/29/19
Mack Atchison
Deacon of the Week, 12/29/19
Danny Roberts, 706/485-5624

**Next Dinner Church
Scheduled for
January 25, 2020**

If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Cindy Folendore.

Christian Sympathy
To the Bayne family in the tragic loss of their loved one, Diane Bayne. May God stay close to you and comfort you in the days that follow your loss.

**Lottie Moon Post Office
closing 12/29.**

Please take time to check to see if you have cards for pick up. No cards may be mailed.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 29th:
9:45 P.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Wednesday, January 1st:
Happy New Year!
Church Office Closed
Wednesday Activities resume
Regular schedule
January 8, 2020

**The Church Office
Will be closed December 23-27 for Christmas and staff vacations and on January 1st, 2020 for New Year's. In case of emergency or need, please call the Secretary at 456-7129.**

The Legend of the Sand Dollar
There's a pretty little legend that I would like to tell of the birth and death of Jesus found in this lowly shell.

If you examine closely, you'll see that you find here four nail holes and a fifth hole, made by a Roman's spear.

On one side the Easter lily, its center is the star that appeared unto the shepherds and led them from afar.

The Christmas poinsettia etched on the other side reminds us of his birthday, our happy Christmas tide.

Now break the center open, and here you will release the five white doves awaiting to spread good will and peace.

This simple little symbol, Christ left for you and me to help us spread his Gospel, through all eternity.

-Author unknown-



Adult Discipleship Opportunities

Covenant Group: 6:30 P.M.

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.

*"Jesus did not come
To make God's love possible,
But to make God's love visible.
-copied-*

12/22/19 totals were not available at press time.

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