

Thoughts From Doug

Last month, a friend from Madison came down for a “training session” with the faithful volunteers for our Wednesday evening children’s and youth ministry. Her name is Angelia Bellebuono, and we have been friends ever since I took a storytelling class that she taught in town 19 years ago. She currently works with the students who have been sent to the alternative school in Morgan County—which means they are students who have been dismissed from the local school for a period due to inappropriate behavior. Angelina spends time with these students weekly. Her focus is group process—though she prefers to call it *heart work*. She facilitates small group interaction and sharing of feelings—helping students learn how to use their words and minds **first** to communicate feelings of anger, frustration, hopelessness. Many of these young people have been modeled behavior that acts out physically (hitting, fighting) when such feelings arise—so that is the only way they know how to react.

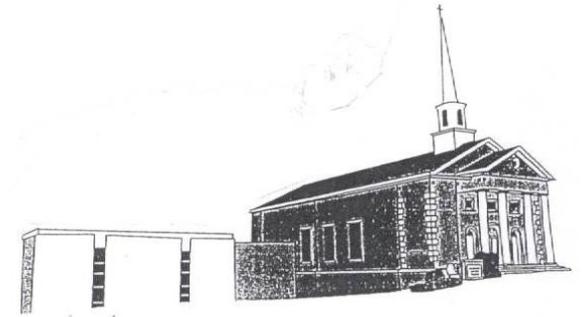
Angelina has been able to witness some powerful breakthroughs with these students. She makes sure each student knows that she truly sees them, values them, hears them, and loves them, and helps create a space where they feel valued and respected. I asked Angelina to come down and share with our group—in large part because our Wednesday night interactions can sometimes be challenging. She shared a ritual she uses to begin each group conversation: Roses and Thorns. Everyone in the group is asked to share a rose they have received recently. A rose is something beautiful—something that warms their heart—something that has made them smile. A thorn is something that has hurt them, or caused anger or fear or loss of hope. Sharing Roses and Thorns has helped to bring unity and cohesion among students who are fearful, jaded, and defensive. As they hear their peers share about their lives, they learn to listen to each other, and to empathize. They learn how much more they have in common.

Angelina encouraged us to incorporate Roses and Thorns with our Wednesday night students—or some version thereof. A big key to the effectiveness is our adults sharing our own Roses and thorns—so that the students learn about our lives outside of church, and so that we can model honest open conversation and trust. I was reminded that Becky and I used to ask our girls to share Roses and Thorns as part of bedtime prayer when they were small. And I was reminded that we are never too small to share our joys and hopes, as well as our hurts and fears, with each other. Unfortunately, the way we have traditionally done church for generations, we have little opportunity (outside of Sunday School classes) to really know the people we worship with. For a church to grow, it needs to be an obvious place where folks who have not grown up in church are convinced that they can be *honest*, *real*, and *transparent*. They need to know that they can ask questions as they begin the process of investigating who Jesus is and what the Church is about. If they hear us sharing our Roses and Thorns deeply and honestly, it will go a long way toward attracting spiritual seekers to our faith community.

So I am encouraging everyone—Sunday. It will be a lot more meaningful than spending ten minutes or so engaging in small talk like discussing the weather. We began this ritual in the Wednesday lunch time Prayer Meeting and Bible Discussion recently. It has provided moments of deepening community and encouragement. It will do the same for you, I am sure.

Love and Blessings! Doug

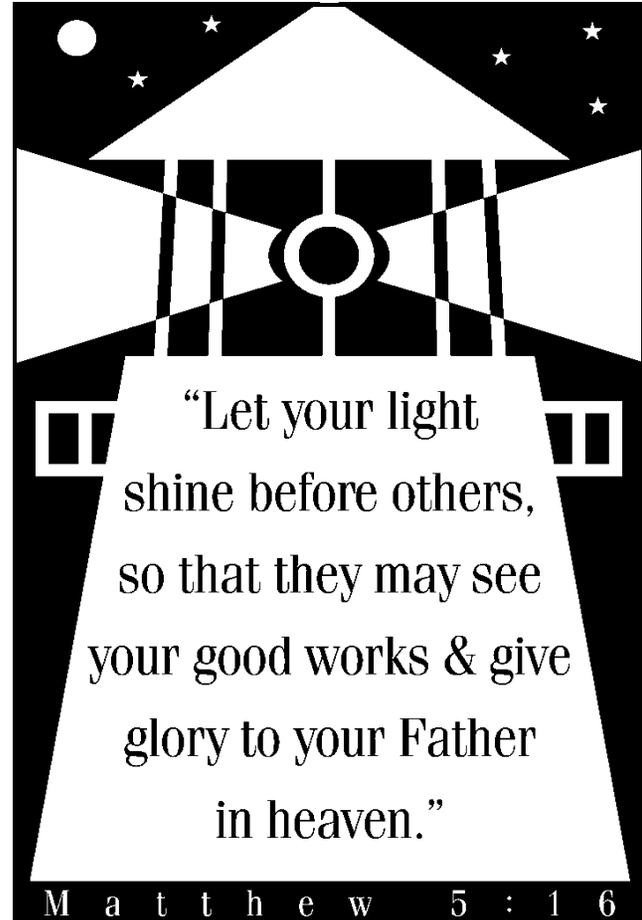
Hardwick Herald



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February 5, 2020



Prayer List

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

In Military Service: Rudy Webb



Adult Discipleship: "Companions in Christ" 6:15 P.M.

"Companions in Christ" a Bible-study that focuses on spiritual growth and deepening community continues on the second and fourth Mondays of the month with Doug Adkins facilitating the group. Dates of the remaining sessions are: February 10 & 24, March 9 & 23.

Dinner Church News

Our next Dinner Church is scheduled for Saturday, February 15th at 5:00 P.M. Please pray for the Dinner Church Team as they prepare for this important ministry to our community.

March Madness

Youth in grades 7-12 will be attending **March Madness March 13-15**. The event will be at First Baptist, Athens, and mission sites will be throughout the city. Cost is \$50. See Doug or Cindy for details.

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.

Wednesday Night Program For Children & Youth 5:30 P.M.

Scripture Readings for February 9th Psalm 112:1-10 Isaiah 58:1-12 I Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20

Christian Sympathy to Mrs. Nell Maddox, Rhonda Whipple and family in the loss of their brother/uncle last week.

Sons of Jubal Concert February 27, 2020 At Rock Eagle Van leaves at 4:30 P.M. Sign up at the Bulletin Board in the upstairs hallway.

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$287,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions 2/02/2020.....	\$ 4,363.50
Budget Contributions through 2/02/2020.....	\$ 29,145.72
Total Budget Expense through 2/02/2020.....	\$ 20,219.65

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb 10: Kevin Cooper
Feb 11: Doug Adkins, Lauren Deen
Feb. 13: Josephine Davis
Feb 15: Helen Ray

Nursery Workers Sunday Morning, 2/09/2020 Babies Susan Taylor, Becky Adkins

Bus Ministry, 2/09/2020 Ken Turner

Children's Message, 2/09/2020 Ken Turner

Counting Committee, 2/09/2020 Mack Atchison, Miles Whipple Worship Coordinator, 2/09/2020 Mack Atchison

Deacon of the Week, 2/09/2020 Marilynn Skinner



Valentine Banquet Sunday, February 16th 5:00 P.m.

\$10 Per Person-Pay At Door By Reservation Only

Call the Church Office or complete and turn in a reservation form by **February 10th**. Reservation forms are available in several places throughout the church.

Menu: Ham, Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Congealed Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Tea/Coffee

Check out the HBC Website
www.hardwickbaptist.org

CALENDAR

Sunday, February 9th:

9:45 P.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Monday, February 10th:

6:15 P.M. Companions In Christ

Wednesday, February 12th:

12:00 P.M. Bible Study/Prayer Mtg.
5:30 P.M. Children & Youth Groups.
7:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

There will be a brief **Called Business Meeting** following the morning worship service this Sunday, February 9th, to vote on the Nominating Committee's 2019-2020 report.

Soup & Sandwich Lunch Fundraiser For 2020 Children's Camp Re-Scheduled for February 23, 2020 Following Morning Worship

We need 7 crocks of soup for the lunch. Please contact Taria Crump at [288-6362](tel:288-6362) if you can bring a crock pot of soup. If you are not bringing soup, please bring a dessert dish or 10 sandwiches (20 halves) and let Taria know what you are bringing.

Coming Saturday, March 21 Annual Yard Sale for Missions

You may begin to bring items for the sale now. Please no clothes, shoes or non-working electronic items. If you would like to volunteer to help with preparation for the sale or the sale, please contact Tina Roberts.