

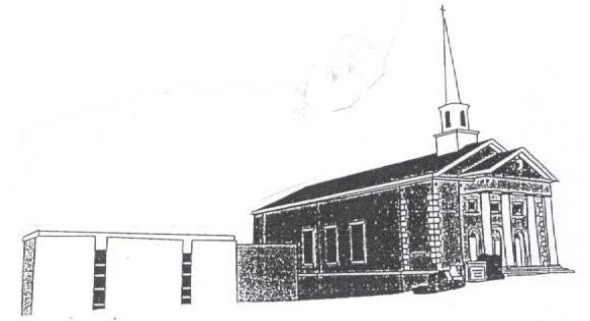
Thoughts From Doug

It has been almost two weeks since most of us have seen each other. I trust everyone is doing as well as they can, and taking care of one another. I am trying to make telephone contacts with folks this week, just to check in. I trust that you will call me if you need to speak with me before I contact you. We all are learning how to navigate the specifics of this physical distancing as each day passes. Perhaps, in some strange way, this experience will remind us of the reality of the mystery of the communion of the saints—that amazing bond that we share through the Holy Spirit. Just as we cannot physically see God, or Christ, we realize by faith and experience how we are connected to them through the gift of the Holy Spirit. That is a connection that we cannot see with our eyes, but we first claim by faith, and then understand the reality of it as we live into the life of being part of the Body of Christ. We are not only connected to fellow church members at Hardwick Baptist in a mystical way; we are connected to followers of Christ throughout the world, the large majority of whom we will never meet. And, even more miraculously, we are connected to all of those saints who have gone before us, and all who will come after us.

Experiences in life often give us sight to “see the unseen.” Receiving the love of our birth family enables us to see love as a very real and beautiful presence. Seeing the love of God through God’s people (the Church) enables us to respond to that love by committing our lives to follow the author of that love. Falling in love convinces us of love in a very real and personal way. And the birth of a child shows us the reality of love that we play a role in creating. When we see the reality of love in the beauty of life, it helps strengthen our faith in the reality of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. So, while our lives are being drastically altered for awhile—and many questions about life and God arise—because of a virus that we cannot see—we can only see the effects of it after it has already begun its work; let us all hold even more securely to that Great mystery that may be unseen to many. Let us all be encouraged, and encourage one another, to deepen our faith in this time, realizing more than ever that the unseen things of God in this world have overcome the unseen forces of creation. And let us continue to show forth, in our lives, the effects of the unseen Holy Spirit, so that its reality may be seen by those who are watching.

Love and Blessings! Doug

Hardwick Herald



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March 24, 2020

A graphic illustration with a sunburst on the left and a large, stylized letter 'D' on the right. The text 'I WAIT FOR THE LORD,' is arched over the sunburst. Below the 'D' is the text 'MY SOUL WAITS, AND IN HIS WORD I HOPE.' At the bottom, a black bar contains the text 'Psalm 130:5, NRSV' in white.

I WAIT FOR THE LORD,
MY SOUL WAITS,
AND IN HIS WORD
I HOPE.
Psalm 130:5, NRSV

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 Baddy	Nell Maddox
John Cooper	Jeff McMullen
Josephine Davis	Marcus McMullen
Eugenia English	Marlene Peavy
Sandra English	Bonnie Stafford
	Ben/Jackie Watson

In Military Service: Rudy Webb

**Prayer Meeting/
Bible Study**



In accordance with executive orders by the President of the United States and Georgia's Gov. Brian Kemp and local officials asking that we not have activities for groups of 10 or more people to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we will not have Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study until further notice.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar 30: Shirley Etheridge
 Mar 31: Wayne Fulford, Jedidiah Jones
 April 1: Madison Bloodworth
 April 2: Glynn Sirmans
 April 3: Cailey Pennington, Chandler Pennington
 April 4: Bonnie Stafford

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 29th:
 No Sunday School
 Morning Worship live streamed

Wednesday, March 31st:
 No Wednesday Activities
 Until further notice

Watch Your Herald

Be sure to follow your weekly "Herald" for schedule changes and cancellations in these uncertain times. We will try to keep you updated as changes occur. You will find several schedule changes in this issue.

In compliance with state, national and local officials and for the well being of our church membership, Hardwick Baptist church is closed until further notice. In case of emergency or need, please call the Church Secretary at 456-7129 for assistance. Pray for our members and their families, all health care workers as they work to care for those affected and to contain this pandemic, and our state and nation. Stay home if possible, practice social distancing, no groups of 10 or more, stringent hand washing.

Scripture Readings for the week are posted on page 2. Spend time reading these passages and in prayerful meditation.

Please know that your church staff is praying for you as "we all are in this together."

**Nursery Workers
 Sunday Morning, 3/29/2020
 No Services/No Nursery**

Bus Ministry, 3/29/2020

Our Sunday Bus Ministry must be discontinued until such time as restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 virus are lifted.

**Deacon of the Week,
 3/29/2020**

Cindy Folendore, 719-4059

**Annie Armstrong Offering
 For North American Missions**

**Our Goal: \$1,000.00
 Received: \$ 475.00**

**Wednesday Night Program
 For Children & Youth**

We will not have the Wednesday program for Children and Youth until further notice. The safety and well-being of the children must be our main concern during this time of uncertainty with the COVID-19 virus. Local schools are closed at this time and we must follow guidelines for prevention as well. Please pray for the children and youth who participate in this program as well as the leaders. We will resume the regular schedule when it is deemed safe.

**Scripture Readings for
 March 29**

**Psalm 130
 Ezekiel 17:1-14
 Romans 8:6-11
 John 11:1-45**



Please remember to mail your tithe to: Hardwick Baptist Church, P.O. Box 39, Hardwick, GA 31034, give online, or slip your check in an envelope through the front door to a drop box. Offerings will be deposited and records of giving posted accordingly. Stay safe...pray... and remember to give.

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

**Adult Discipleship:
 "Companions in Christ"**

Those participating will be notified at such time as the group will meet for its last session.

Dinner Church News

Our Dinner Church Ministry has been temporarily put on hold due to the repair issues with Fellowship Hall. Please continue to pray for this ministry and the Dinner Church Team as we await clearance to resume.

Fellowship Hall Issues...Because of continuing repair issues with Fellowship Hall and presently COVID 19 restrictions, please do not plan activities that require its use without checking with the Church Office for assistance.

"Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world." -Kraft-

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$287,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions through 3/22/2020.....	\$ 1,400.00

Contributions received through the mail will be counted, deposited and posted as received.