

## Thoughts From Doug

As I write this, it is Monday of Holy Week. It has been such a teachable Lent this year, has it not? The first half of the Holy Season felt similar to every other Lent. We were focused on our annual spiritual spring cleaning, seeking to be in honest conversation with God about those things that we need to throw away, and those things that we need to pay more attention to and cherish. You know—the spiritual version of deciding which things we need to go to put in a yard sale or Goodwill, and which things we need to sit down with, and reflect on its meaning in the story of our family. Those latter things are things that we are called to tend to: to place in a proper family photo album or keepsake chest, or pass on to our children or grandchildren. What is it that causes us to qualify one or the other? What is it that causes us to label one thing as disposable, and the other as a family treasure? The truth is, it is not always the easy answer of monetary value. Often those things that we choose to keep are things that have significance to our story. The very presence of those things help us to remember our story. They may remind us of a memorable family trip. They may help us to recall when our children were young, and the things they did that brought them joy and taught them about life and love. They may be things that most people would consider worthless—but, because of who gave them to us (or made them for us), they are priceless to us.

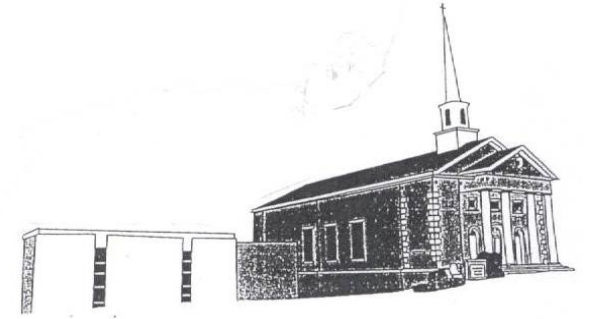
The point I am trying to make is we cannot make the decision about what to throw away, or what to keep, just by looking at something. We have to involve all that we are. We involve our memories, our emotions. We need to pause, to sit down and reflect (pray, even)—to study for a minute. And as we do, the story comes back to us. We recall the people and places and life events that were part of us when the item was given to us—or when it sat perched on a prominent bookshelf or our nightstand. When we take time to listen to our lives, we can then make the best decision—whether it is time to throw something away or not. And when we choose to keep that item, we need to not just put it back in a box in the attic or basement. We need to leave them out and tell our children and grandchildren the story involved. When we do that, it will help them to know more of their family history—to know more about us, and what has shaped us in our lives. And when we are gone, and people are looking over those things that were ours, they will be able to treasure what we treasured—because they loved us, and they want to hold onto the lessons that we leave for them.

I hope this Lent has been some of this spring cleaning for you—only on a spiritual level. I hope you are remembering the story of how and why you came to follow Jesus in the first place. I hope you are recalling why Hardwick Baptist is your spiritual home, and how its people have loved and shaped you. I hope you have received wisdom and insight about things that have cluttered your life and are preventing you from treasuring the things that are of God—the people in your life whom God has given you, and the people in Hardwick whom we are called to love and share God's kingdom with. Even though we will not be together in the sanctuary Easter morning—I hope you will shout “Alleluia, He is Risen!” with your words wherever you are. And I hope you will be reminded of the treasure we share together as a family of faith, and that we all will re-commit ourselves to shouting “Alleluia” with our lives each and every day,

He is Risen—He is Risen indeed!! Amen.

Love and Blessings! Doug

# Hardwick Herald



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April 8, 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 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

## Christian Sympathy

To the family and friends of Margaret (Pounds) Rodimon, former member and custodian who passed away last weekend. Cards may be sent to the family in care of Kim Tanner at 326 Doles Blvd, Milledgeville.

To Mack Atchison and family in the loss of his cousin, Barbara Atchison.

## Wednesday Night Program For Children & Youth

We cannot have the Wednesday program for Children and Youth until such time as it is deemed safe. The safety and well-being of the children must be our main concern during this time of uncertainty with the COVID-19 virus. We are monitoring all updates from local and national officials and pray for the safety of all the children and youth we minister to.

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$287,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions since 3/31/2020.....	\$ 5,088.00
Total Budget Contributions through April 5, 2020.....	\$ 59,320.14
Total Budget Expenses through April 5, 2020.....	\$ 57,001.12
Annie Armstrong Offering through April 5, 2020.....	\$ 1,248.01



## Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study

You may follow our pastor's instructions in last week's newsletter to download Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>) for free. If you have a smart phone, you can download this on it as well. That way, you will be able to participate in Bible Study on your computer or phone. Doug will be hosting a Zoom meeting Bible Discussion each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. We will discuss one or more of the lectionary readings—so the *Resource for Daily Prayer and Scripture Meditation* which was distributed at church the last Sunday of February will come in handy.

These Wednesday evening Zoom meetings will begin April 15th, which will give you plenty of time to download the Zoom format. This will also give you time when you can share prayer requests to add to our church prayer list. I will send a link to the April 15 meeting, along with a code to those on the church email list.

**Scripture Readings for  
April 12**  
**Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24**  
**Jeremiah 31:1-6**  
**Colossians 3:1-4**  
**John 20:1-18**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Apr 12: Priscilla Hooks

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

**Deacon of the Week,**  
**4/12/2020**  
Danny Roberts, 706/485-5624



**Thank You!**  
Hardwick Baptist Church people are truly responding by using all avenues possible to get your tithes and offerings in. Even though we cannot have services right now, you are supporting this church just like you always have. We look forward to the time when we can worship again in person and your gifts now will prepare us for that time. Keep praying, stay safe and keep on giving.

## Food Pantry News

The **HBC Food Pantry** served 33 households, 94 individuals, and 15 new applicants from the parking lot, Tuesday, March 31st. Volunteers worked from a tent in the parking lot and some worked inside filling bags. You are all very special...thank you for taking the risk and serving those who came. You are a true example of HBC Christian love and ministry.

**Check out the HBC Website**  
[www.hardwickbaptist.org](http://www.hardwickbaptist.org)

## CALENDAR

**Sunday, April 12:**

11:00 A.M.

Morning Worship Livestreamed

**Wednesday, April 15:**

7:00 P.M.

Bible Study on Zoom

## 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 may watch our 11:00 A.M. Sunday morning services on the Facebook Livestream as well as special Holy Week services daily this week at 12:00 noon as well.

In case of emergency or need, please call the Church Secretary at 456-7129 for assistance any time.

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, practice social distancing, no groups of 10 or more, stringent hand washing.

## Celebrate Easter

Even though this Pandemic limits our celebration together, Easter is still coming—**our Lord lives** and we can celebrate from our homes. Whether you go outside to shout, "He Is Risen", or sing your favorite Easter Hymn, simply pray quietly, watch the livestream church services and music—take time to celebrate "Resurrection Sunday." Times are crazy right now, but always remember—our Lord is alive and in control! Hope in the Lord—this time will pass.