

Thoughts From Doug

I hope everyone had a meaningful observance of Mother's Day—even with social distancing—this past Sunday. Please stay vigilant in caring for yourselves, and in showing love for your neighbor "above and beyond" by wearing your facemask in public. We continue to pray for all of our church family, including the youth and children from the neighborhood, as well as their families.

Sunday Sharings for This Week's Bible Readings

Please join us for our "quarantine retreat" sharing of insights from the Scripture passages for the week. You are encouraged to use your "Resource for Daily Prayer and Scripture Meditation" to guide you, along with the questions listed below to spur your time of listening prayer with the Bible.

Psalm 66:8-20

According to the psalmist, God brought the people through trials, tests, burdens, and pain to a spacious life, breath, and salvation. God heard their prayer and opened them to deliverance.

- Where have you felt such a spacious place?
- What story do you tell of the ways that God is blessing you?
- What story does Hardwick Baptist Church tell of the way in which God is blessing us—even during a pandemic?

Acts 17:22-31

- What sacred symbols would you remove or re-imagine to better communicate in today's culture?

I Peter 3:13-22

Peter is telling his readers this: if we obey and follow Christ, who was persecuted on the cross, we should expect to share in his suffering. This message is radically different from what is usually preached about the consequences of being a follower of Christ. For many people, to be a Christian is not a life of suffering, but one of worldly rewards. Often we hear preachers on television who preach a prosperity gospel: the belief that Christians are blessed with material rewards and good health if they are faithful. The author of I Peter contradicts that; he says that suffering and persecution are inevitable for those who follow Christ.

- When you made your profession of faith and were baptized, did your church teach you that being a Christian meant sharing in Christ's sufferings?
- If so, how have you experienced aspects of that suffering because of your faithfulness?
- If not, did you experience a faith crisis whenever you, or someone you know, experienced suffering that was the direct result of their faithfulness to Christ?

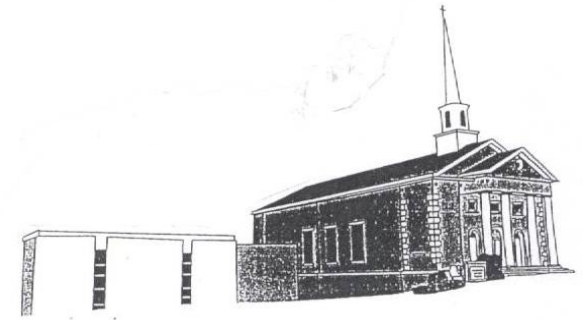
John 14:15-21

- Have you ever been lost or abandoned? If so, how did you feel and what did you do?

I encourage you to spend some time during your "Quarantine Retreat" contemplating these passages this week, and I hope you can join us for our Zoom discussion Sunday, May 17, 4:30 PM. You can use the same Zoom link that was emailed last week; however, I will send a reminder with the link on Thursday. And don't forget our prayer service via Zoom Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.

Blessings from a distance—Doug

Hardwick Herald



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Volume XLI No. 20

May 13, 2020



Prayer List

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|------------------------|---------------------|
| 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
All Healthcare Workers



**Prayer Meeting/
Bible Study**

Doug is hosting a Zoom meeting Bible Discussion each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. The *Resource for Daily Prayer and Scripture Meditation* which was distributed at church the last Sunday of February will come in handy.

Time To Share
(Quarantine Retreat)
4:30 P.M. Sundays
Via Zoom
 Pastor Doug, Facilitator

**Scripture Readings for
May 17th**
Psalm 66:8-20
Acts 17:22-31
I Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Our Hats Are Off

To our school teachers and students as they complete this most unusual school year. Teachers have worked extremely hard to provide online learning for students as they kept in touch from a distance. Students who have had access to online learning have worked hard to do the work and send it back to teachers. In person graduations couldn't happen and Back to School Dates for next year are indefinite. Pray for teachers as they close their classrooms and anticipate a time when they can teach students in person again and students who miss that personal touch and their friends.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 17: David Ellington, Eugenia English, Davey Garner
 May 21: Michelle Brown, Joyce Hudson

**Deacon of the Week,
5/17/2020**

Danny Roberts, 706/485-5624

Literature Available

We have April, May and June *Home Life* and *Mature Living* magazines and would like to make any or all of these available to you if you would like them. Please call the secretary at 456-7129 or the Minister of Community at 719-4059 to receive them. Someone will be happy to bring them and leave them in a sheltered area outside your home. June 1st we will also have *Open Windows* and Sunday School literature. Until such time as we can worship together on site, please don't hesitate to call either of these numbers for assistance.

Face Masks Available

Doers of the Word has contracted with someone to make 125 face masks. We are offering them (free) to our church families first and the remainder will go to Masks for Milledgeville, Please call or text Gloria Burke (478-804-1678) if you want to order some and she will make arrangements to deliver them to you.

Check out the HBC Website
www.hardwickbaptist.org

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 17th:

11:00 A.M.
 Morning Worship
 See Video on HBC Facebook Page

4:30 P.M.

Weekly Sharing Time via Zoom

Wednesday, May 20th:

7:00 P.M.
 Bible Study on Zoom

Thank You!

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving, checking on each other, praying for those who are sick or have special needs, volunteering to feed the hungry through our Food Pantry, participating in our video-taped worship services and keeping us informed as needs occur. As our pastor wrote in last week's *Herald*, after reviewing re-opening plans in several churches and considering the large number of confirmed COVID-19 diagnoses in our area, the deacons met via Zoom May 3rd and recommend that we continue to conduct worship and other meetings virtually through Sunday, June 14. Deacons will have a Zoom meeting June 7 to discuss updated decisions for the rest of June and July. Keep Praying...Stay Safe!

The **HBC Food Pantry** served 26 families, 53 individuals, 14 new applicants and gave out 9 masks from the church parking lot Tuesday, May 12th. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who cheerfully serve.

"He departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find him. For he departed, and behold, he is here" -St. Augustine-

**Wednesday Night Program
For Children & Youth**

We continue to monitor all updates on the Covid-19 pandemic and pray for the safety and well-being of all the children and youth we minister to. We look forward to the time we can resume this important ministry.

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

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| Annual Budget 2020..... | \$287,729.67 |
| Needed Per Week to Meet Budget..... | \$ 5,533.27 |
| Contributions May 10, /2020..... | \$ 4,792.00 |
| Total Budget Contributions through May 10, 2020..... | \$ 75,224.76 |
| Total Budget Expenses through May 10, 2020..... | \$ 72,257.32 |
| Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020..... | \$ 18,685.00 |