

I hope you were able to watch John Lepper's video during last Sunday's morning worship on Facebook. I regret that there was an issue with the focus and sound of the footage that was recorded in the sanctuary. When our worship leadership team records this Friday, we will make sure there is clarity in video and audio before recording. Regardless of the technical issues, I trust that you were blessed by John's words of memories, as well as encouragement for the present. What a wonderful reminder about the impact of its beautiful fellowship and community that has been a hallmark of Hardwick Baptist. We hold onto those memories and that encouragement, especially during this time when we are not meeting in person.

The deacons held their May meeting this past Sunday via Zoom, and I wanted to update you on their conversation. After reviewing plans in several other churches, and considering the specifics of our congregation and the large number of confirmed COVID-19 diagnoses in our area the deacons are recommending that we continue to conduct worship and other meetings virtually through Sunday, June 14. The deacons will have a Zoom meeting on June 7 to discuss updated decisions for the rest of June and into July. This means that we will continue to have the current two weekly virtual meetings:

1. Sunday morning worship, viewed on the Hardwick Baptist Church Facebook page
2. Wednesday evening prayer service and discussion of one of the week's Scripture readings (via Zoom)

**However we will also be offering a third weekly meeting via Zoom.** I discussed the idea with the deacons yesterday I will attempt to describe it here. I have been thinking a lot recently about the image of a spiritual retreat, as I have been considering ways for us to grow spiritually during this time of quarantine. I have been fortunate to have experienced several spiritual retreats which have nourished me and stretched me in my faith journey. During a spiritual retreat, there usually is a theme, but not always. The purpose, though, is to have some extended time in quiet prayer, solitude, reflection on Scripture—all as opportunities to listen for the Holy spirit's guidance, insights, or revelations. Usually, for a retreat to be meaningful, a facilitator is needed.

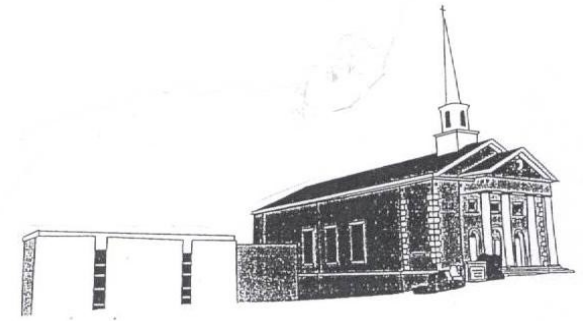
What I want to encourage—challenge—you to do is to begin thinking of this time apart as an opportunity for you to experience aspects of a spiritual retreat. I will serve as the facilitator. I will provide questions to help you reflect on the Scriptures and how they speak to your current life. We will begin by using the lectionary readings for the week. I encourage you to spend time with the readings and the questions, and to ask God to speak into your life through them. **We will have an hour Zoom meeting on Sundays at 4:30 PM to share insights from our "at home retreat."** I will send the Zoom invitation via email on Thursdays. You can consider this as an *evening Sunday School* time as we walk through this quarantine.

Here are this week's readings, along with a question for you to spend time in prayer with:

- Psalms 31: When was a time you were desperate to be rescued, saved, or freed from a situation?  
Acts 7:55-60: When have you forgiven someone whom others would have wished harm or vengeance?  
1 Peter 2:2-10: How do you relate personally in your daily life to people who are "nones" or unbelievers?  
John 14:1-14: Is the "dwelling place" of which Jesus speaks a place for us after we die, or does it include our life in the present? What does Jesus mean when he says that his disciples "will do greater works"? What does it mean to pray "in Jesus' name"? I hope you will join us for this valuable time of sharing and fellowship at 4:30 PM via Zoom.

Love and Blessings from a distance—Doug

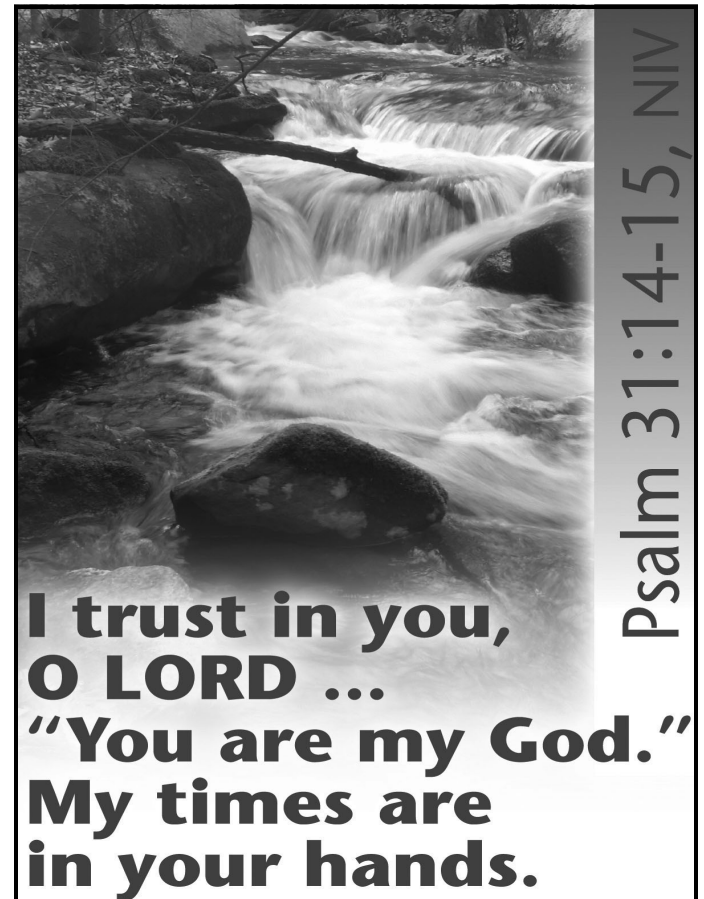
# Hardwick Herald



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Volume XLI No. 19

May 6, 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

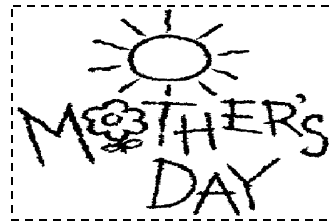
**In Military Service:** Rudy Webb  
**All Healthcare Workers**



**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.

**Scripture Readings for  
May 10th**  
**Psalm 31:1-5; 15-16**  
**Acts 7:55-60**  
**I Peter 2:2-10**  
**John 14:1-14**



**This Sunday, May 10th**

*A mother is a person who, seeing there are only 4 pieces of pie for 5 people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.*

**Happy Mother's Day  
To all our HBC Mothers!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

May 10: Foy Stevenson, Nancy Veal  
 May 13: Karen Babb  
 May 14: Drew Deen  
 May 15: Jamie Moody, Jean Towns  
 Bill Wall

**Deacon of the Week,  
5/10/2020**

Sharon Lord, 452-7742

**We Need to Know**

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

*"No man stands taller than when he stoops to help a child."*  
 -Abraham Lincoln-

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

**CALENDAR**

**Sunday, May 10th (Mother's Day):**

11:00 A.M.  
 Morning Worship  
 See Video on HBC Facebook Page  
 4:30 P.M.  
 Weekly Sharing Time via Zoom

**Wednesday, May 13th:**

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

**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 John Lepper said in the video he shared with us during our virtual Sunday morning service, there's no better Christian love, willingness to share and fellowship than is found at Hardwick Baptist Church. Take care, stay in, be safe. Pray for those who are sick, those whose source of income has been cut off and those healthcare workers who are on the frontlines battling to save lives! God bless you all!

**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. Their safety and well-being must be our main concern during this time of uncertainty. We look forward to the time we can resume this important ministry.



*He prayeth best who loveth best all things, both great and small;  
 For the dear God who loveth us, He made and loveth all.*

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$287,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions 5/0/2020.....	\$ 1,410.00
Total Budget Contributions through May 3, 2020.....	\$ 70,432.76
Total Budget Expenses through May 03, 2020.....	\$ 70,584.92