

## Thoughts From Doug

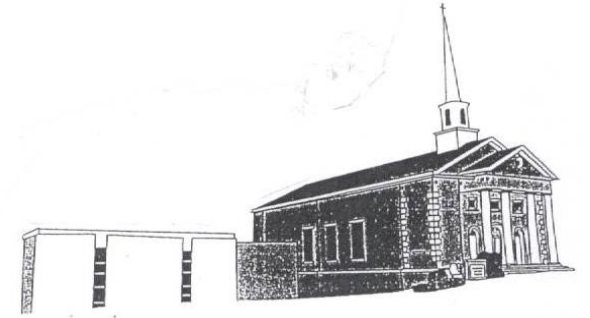
I trust that, if you have a Facebook account, you have continued to join our church family virtually by watching our worship services these past weeks. The worship team has been gathering on Friday afternoons to video the services. It has been challenging to lead worship in an empty sanctuary, and to talk to people as if it is Sunday morning instead of Friday. If nothing else, I think the experience has reminded those of us who lead the service of the fact that the Church is the people. While we pray that the videos have helped you to feel somewhat connected, it is not the same as being in the presence of our family of faith. I may make the following remarks in a sermon in the near future, but I feel they are worth mentioning now. Within the past week, two different people (one in Kentucky, one Hardwick Baptist servant) have shared this concern with me: "I hope that people have not gotten too comfortable staying at home and watching church in their pajamas during this pandemic. I hope everyone comes back." The family member in Kentucky asked whether I, as a pastor, was worried about this. My answer, in a word, is no. I have not had any serious worries about this, and here is my reasoning. If someone has been in the habit of attending church regularly throughout their life (or, at least since they became a follower of Jesus, however old they may be); if they have been coming to Sunday worship and possibly Sunday School; if they have made the baptism commitment to be a faithful member of the Body of Christ (the Church) as part of their allegiance to Christ; if they have done all these things, and a four-month break from attending Sunday worship has caused them to forsake their commitment, then the Church deserves to lose those folks, because the Church obviously has not kept its covenant of partnering with that individual to mature them into a follower of Jesus. If all people have been doing is "attending church" out of habit and tradition, and a few weeks have tempted them to lose that habit, then that is all it ever was: a habit, a routine. And if a few weeks away from gathering with flesh-and-blood followers of Jesus, then the Church might as well close its doors, sell its property, and give the money to missions or other ministries that are involved in changing people's lives.

So, no, I am not worried about this. The folks of Hardwick Baptist have shown that they are committed to being the Body of Christ—not just attending church as a habit or routine. And, of course, even as we do begin to gather in-person again, we need to respect the fact that some of our membership will need to continue to stay at home on Sundays, out of proper caution and care for self as well as others. As always, we will seek to be a faith family which tries to hold each other accountable, while realizing that everyone has to make decisions that are unique to themselves and their state of life. We will continue to seek to love one another as we love ourselves. We will rejoice to see each and every one, whenever they discern is the appropriate time for them to gather in our sanctuary. And we will trust the promise of our Lord, that God's Spirit will use us to be the Church when we are scattered as well as when we are gathered.

NOTE: Remember this Sunday, June 28 the service will not be recorded in advance We will be on Facebook Live, beginning at 11:00 A.M.

Love and Blessings from a distance—Doug

# Hardwick Herald



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June 24, 2020

...the **free**  
gift of God  
is **eternal life**  
in *Christ Jesus*  
our **LORD.**

Romans 6:23

### Prayer List

Henry/Vivian Andrews	Marguerite Folendore
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
Gloria Burke	Jeff McMullen
John Cooper	Marcus McMullen
Josephine Davis	Marlene Peavy
Eugenia English	Bonnie Stafford
Sandra English	Ben/Jackie Watson
Sharon Ezell	

**In Military Service:** Rudy Webb



### Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study

Doug is hosting a Zoom meeting Bible Discussion each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. The *Hardwick Baptist Weekly Scripture Readings for personal Prayer and Sunday Worship/Sharing* will come in handy.

#### Time To Share

*(Quarantine Retreat)*

Sunday, June 28th, 4:30 PM  
Pastor Doug, Facilitator

### 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.



Thank you for your faithfulness in giving through our online giving and by mail. The spirit of HBC continues to be strong during these uncertain times as we continue to check on each other and give. Be safe...We look forward to the time approaching when we can worship together again.

### Wedding Announcement

*May 5, 2020 was the most beautiful day for us to say, "I do!" We hated that we were unable to have all of our family and friends there, but out of concern for the health and safety of everyone we felt it was the best choice. We love each of you and are so blessed to have you as a part of our lives! We have loved month 1 of married life!*  
Mr. & Mrs. Rogers (Amanda & Isaac)

### Scripture Reading for June 28

**Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18**  
**Jeremiah 18:5-9**  
**Romans 6:12-23**  
**Matthew 10:40-42**

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

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$ 28,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions June 21, /2020.....	\$ 1,950.00
Total Budget Contributions through June 21 2020.....	\$ 92,904.43
Total Budget Expenses through June \21, 2020.....	\$ 91,054.22
Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020.....	\$ 18,685.00

Our first planned Sunday for resuming in-person worship is July 12. Below are the precautions we will follow according to insight from health officials and other churches:

- For the first two weeks, we will only resume Sunday morning worship.
- According to how things go, after those two weeks, we will consider having one big adult Sunday School class in the sanctuary, taught by one of the Sunday School teachers.
- For the first few weeks, we will not run our bus ministry for our children. We will continue to monitor things, as we discern when the appropriate time is to resume the bus ministry.
- We encourage all worshipers to wear a mask. We will have masks available if you do not have your own. If we all wear masks, we will be able to sing hymns. Hymnals have been removed from the pews for now; we will use the screen to project lyrics.
- We encourage you to arrive early for worship and to enter by the doors at the rear of the sanctuary (front steps of the church).
- We ask you to bring your own hand sanitizer, so that multiple people are not pumping from the same bottle.
- The water cooler and cups will be removed, for now.
- A box will be available for offerings, to deposit as you arrive or depart. You may also continue to give online or mail contributions to the church.
- *Physical distancing* will be modeled on the platform.
- We will ask our custodial service to do a deep clean in the sanctuary each week.
- Every other pew will be blocked off.
- Families will be encouraged to sit together; all others should be six feet apart
- Please observe one person at a time in the bathrooms, and only use those on the same level as the sanctuary.
- Bulletins will not be handed out, but will be set out on a table for worshipers to pick up as they arrive.

Ushers will dismiss by rows, so that distancing can be maintained as we depart.

### Calendar

#### Sunday, June 28th

11:00 A.M.  
Morning Worship  
(Video on Facebook Page)  
4:30 P.M.  
Time to Share via Zoom  
(Meeting 2 more Sundays)

#### Wednesday, July 1st:

7:00 P.M.  
Bible Study via Zoom

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 01: Harriett Braddy  
July 02: Lamar Guy, Hunter Watson

**Deacon of the Week,**  
6?28/2020: Marilyn Skinner

#### I Am the Bible

I am the Bible, God's wonderful library.  
I am always—and above all—the truth.

- To the weary pilgrim, I am a strong staff.
- To the one who sits in darkness, I am glorious light.
- To those who stumble beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.
- To him who has lost his way, I am a safe guide.
- To those who are sick in sin, I am healing strength and forgiveness.
- To the discouraged, I am a glad message of hope.
- To those who are distressed and tossed about by the storms of life, I am an anchor, sure and steadfast.
- To those who search for salvation, I reveal the Savior of the world.  
I am the Bible.

The **HBC Food Pantry** served 26 families, 72 individuals and had 9 new applicants Tuesday, June 23rd. Volunteers advise that they need donations of Pancake mix before the next open date, July 14th.