

Thoughts From Doug

I am writing this on June 29; we are halfway through 2020. For some folks, it may seem like the year has gone by in the blink of an eye. For most, though, I would imagine it seems like the year is dragging by—because of the drastic changes in our life as we try to protect ourselves and love all people (especially “the least of these”) during the COVID pandemic. If anything, this time should be teaching us new lessons about persistence and intentionality. As followers of Jesus, we have to be persistent in our commitment to love God with all our heart, mind, and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. And we have to be persistent in disciplining ourselves to learn, study, pray and serve, if we hope to mature in our likeness to Jesus. It is easy to think, “I’ve got this Christian thing down; I’ve been doing it for decades. There is nothing new I need to be doing.” Whenever that lie enters our mind, we start to atrophy spiritually—just as a muscle atrophies and weakens when it is not used for a long period of time. And when it comes to our daily life during this time of pandemic, it is easy to get comfortable and think we no longer need to be extra cautious. Loving all people in the manner of Jesus requires us to be persistent and intentional in going out of our way to serve others—to “wash their feet”—by modeling behavior that takes their health and wellbeing into consideration. So we wear face masks whenever we are out in public because we want to be living messages that state, “My main concern is not whether I want to wear a mask or not; my main concern is the wellbeing of everyone, including people I do not even know. That is the kind of love My Savior showed, and it is the kind of love I am committed to showing. As I posted on Facebook last week, we all need to take heed to these reminders by Rev Ken Braddy:

WHY I WEAR A MASK TO CHURCH

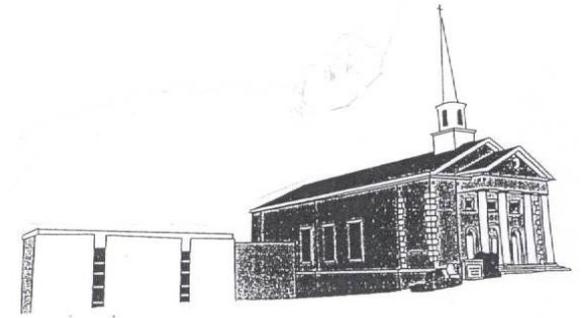
1. Jesus has called me to love my neighbor.
2. There are vulnerable people in my congregation.
3. The virus is real and it is dangerous.
4. If I’m wrong, there’s no harm. If you’re wrong, and you choose not to wear a mask, people could get sick and possibly die.
5. So, I will relinquish my “rights” in order to serve others.

These are all things to be committed to as we prepare to meet on July 12. Please note the plan and procedures our deacons have approved, re-printed in this newsletter.

On another note, you should have received the emailed letter from the Properties Committee and the Stewardship Committee last week concerning the plan for the Fellowship Hall roof. As the letter stated, the company that put the metal roof on in February has agreed to remove the metal (no expense to us), and we are not responsible for paying them anything for the work done. Miles Whipple, Stewardship Chair and Trustee, has done a great deal of work in this matter, and we are grateful for that. The Properties Committee met Sunday afternoon and agreed to make a recommendation for a new roof to be put on by Joe’s Roofing, LLC, out of Eatonton. This company is insured and bonded, and Miles knows the owner personally. The total cost is more than the metal roof put on in February. However, we have more than enough to pay for it when we combine the \$10,000 grant we received in March with the money we had budgeted for the previous job. There will be a called conference for the church to vote on the recommendation from the Properties Committee at the conclusion of the July 12 worship service. If you have any question about the matter, please call Miles Whipple at 363-2608.

Love and Blessings from a distance—Doug

Hardwick Herald



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July 1, 2020



Come to me,
all who labor and
are heavy laden,
and I will
give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

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.



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.

Scripture Reading for July 5, 2020

Psalm 145:8-14
Zechariah 9:9-12
Romans 7:14-25
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Men On Mission
Tuesday, July 14, 2020
7:00 P.M.
Ridgeland Heights Baptist
Dinner provided.

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, July 5th:

11:00 A.M.
Morning Worship
(Video on Facebook Page)

Wednesday, July 8th:

7:00 P.M.
Bible Study via Zoom

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 07: David Ivester
July 08: Mildred Tanner
July 10: Marlene Peavy

Deacon of the Week,

7/5/2020
Glenn Abbey, 456-4305

Independence Day Lessons for Church Life

- **Return to the Basics**—On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and of course, Jesus.
- **Honor the gift of freedom**—"For freedom Christ has set us free... (Gal 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom just as citizens of God's kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
- **Enjoy Community**—July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and special events.
- **Be Light in darkness**— As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel's unique light in a dark world. Through God's power in us, we share Jesus, the light of the world, with others.

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.

Food Pantry Need

Our Food Pantry volunteers have advised that the pantry is in need of Pancake Flour. You may bring donations by the church office Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or early Thursday mornings or call the office or the secretary (456-7129) to arrange a time for pick up or to bring it by.

Check out the HBC Website
www.hardwickbaptist.org

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$ 28,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions June 28, /2020.....	\$ 4,336.00
Total Budget Contributions through June 28, 2020.....	\$ 97,240.43
Total Budget Expenses through June \28, 2020.....	\$ 92,164.43
Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020.....	\$ 18,685.00