

Thoughts From Doug

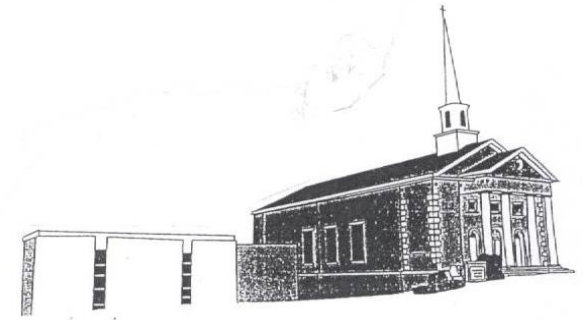
After morning worship August 23, I ate lunch from my “Lunch box” I brought from home as I have been doing since we resumed in-person worship. I worked in my office for about 45 minutes, then left, heading to visit Lamar and Sallie Guy. I decided to drive down Park Avenue—towards Swint—just to see if I might see any of our Hardwick kids. And I was so glad I did. I noticed three of them walking up the street toward me. I stopped, with my window rolled down, and spoke to the first one. It was Chris, who used to “stay” not far from the church on Hardwick Street. He acted surprised to see me—since it had been so long. He reached his hand to shake mine (one of those times when I just had to put COVID precautions aside) and asked, “Pastor Doug—when are you all going to open the church back up?” There was part of me that was just heartbroken to hear that question. Heartbroken that we haven’t seen our kids, for the most part, since the last week of February. That is six months—a whole half of a year! Heartbroken that they haven’t been able to talk with their teachers/mentors at Hardwick Baptist about all that is going on in their minds and hearts during this pandemic. Heartbroken that we have not been able to provide our regular safe space for them to ask questions, to share their worries about their families and friends, to hear encouragement from us, and to help them recognize God’s faithful presence in the midst of so much uncertainty and fear.

But there was another part of me that was so encouraged—that the first thing I heard was, “When is the church going to open back up?” I explained to them that we were having morning worship, but that we were not sure when we could start back our Wednesday night program and bus ministry. I told them that we would have to wait and see how the spread of the virus impacts the first weeks of school. But I also told them how much we missed them, how good it was to see them; and that we hoped to be together with them at church soon. Seeing them was a highlight of my day, if not the entire week ahead. It reminded me about the reality of what I said in Sunday’s sermon. That is, the Church is to be driven by faithfulness to Christ. We are to be Spirit-driven, not market-driven.

If Hardwick Baptist Church had been a market-driven, mighty-dollar-worshipping congregation, we would have voted to move to market-friendly greener pastures over a decade ago. And if we had, we would be one of several churches on “church row,” vying for folks on the lake who think they have everything they need, and would want us to impress them enough to convince them to cast their lot with us. Instead—thanks be to God—Hardwick Baptist had enough members years ago who cared more about following Jesus than following the money. If we had moved to Log Cabin Road, I can almost guarantee you, on a Sunday afternoon after pulling out of the church parking lot, I would not have run into African-American young men walking on the street who stopped and recognized me, and asked, “When is the church going to open back up?” I am thankful for the neighborhood in which we are located; for the faithful work that has been done in that neighborhood; and for the opportunities that are before us. It is our task to be faithful to that work. It is also our task to be intentional in telling about our ministry in the Hardwick Community, so that God’s Spirit can speak to other Christ-following hearts and call them to come join us. We do not have to wait until there is something closer to normalcy to be faithful. All we need to do is listen to that voice that tells us, “Why don’t you take a different route home from church today and see what I put in your path?”

Love and Blessings from a Distance, Doug

Hardwick Herald



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“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Matthew 16:24, NRSV

Prayer List

Henry/Vivian Andrews	Lamar Guy
James Armstrong	Rider Hill
Mack Atchison	Kenny Huff
Kenneth Babb	Martha Huff
Anne Bayne	Jim Jennings
Joyce Blizzard	Michael/Sharon Lord
Scott Blizzard	Nell Maddox
Harriett & Henry Braddy	Jeff McMullen
John Cooper	Marcus McMullen
Josephine Davis	Marlene Peavy
Eugenia English	Danny Roberts
Sandra English	Bonnie Safford
Sharon Ezell	Ben/Jackie Watson
Marguerite Folendore	

In Military Service: Rudy Webb

All Healthcare Workers, Teachers, school support staff and students.

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.

Change of Heart: *"God has nothing but the best and He offers it to us, weeds us, sustains us, and cares for us through His Son. That's the way our hearts are changed to follow Jesus."*

-Martin Luther-



Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study

Doug will continue to conduct a Zoom meeting Bible Discussion each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. Bible passage for September 2nd is Exodus 12:1-14, "Protection From Death"

Scripture Reading for August 30

Psalms 26:1-8
Jeremiah 15:15-21
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-18

School Supplies for Children



I am so blessed to be a part of such a loving, supportive church family! We were able to provide seventeen children with the needed school supplies and bookbags. Six of our children are doing virtual school, and eleven of them are doing in-person school. We even have enough money left for some uniforms and more supplies throughout the school year if needed. Thanks so much for your prayer and financial support in this ministry. Thanks also to Ken, Celia, Cindy Folendore, and Doug for their help with purchasing and distributing the supplies this year!

-Cindy English-

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$ 28,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions August 23, 2020.....	\$ 1,105.00
Total Budget Contributions through August 23, 2020.....	* \$ 122,525.42
Total Budget Expenses through August 23, 2020.....	** \$ 137,898.62
Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020.....	,\$ 18,685.00

*Includes \$12,729.67 from closing of Youth House Renovation Fund and Fellowship Hall Bldg. Fund on 1/23/2020 to go toward Fellowship Hall Roof Repair.

** Includes \$12,729.67 That was paid toward Fellowship Hall Roof Repairs on 8/20/2020.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aug 30: Karen Prescott
Sep 02: Greg Lewis
Sep 04: James Armstrong
Sep 05: Michael Baker

Deacon of the Week

8/30/2020

Marilyn Skinner

Virtual Sunday School Access

- **Online:** (<https://meet.google.com>). Click *Enter* or link and enter code for class.
- **Smartphone app:** Go to the App store and download the *Google Meet* App Follow instruction for set up. Open and click *enter code* (same as above).

Bible passage 8/30/2020:

Proverbs 5:3-11, 15-18

Questions:

- What if you ignored the blueprint and just followed your heart as you built a house? How would that decision affect the construction process?
- What warnings about charming and empty flattery has Solomon's instruction provided for you?
- When do people caught up in sexual sin usually come to see that they have been foolish? How can we warn others about the disturbing consequences of sexual immorality?
- Who are our role models in marriage? Why?

HBC Food Pantry served 18 households, 49 individuals, and 1 new applicant in the church parking lot Tuesday, August 24th. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who assist those who come.

Check out the HBC Website
www.hardwickbaptist.org

Calendar

Sunday, August 30th:

9:00 A.M. Virtual Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
In-person worship in Sanctuary
(Live streamed for those who don't feel comfortable in a crowd setting yet.)

Wednesday, September 2nd:

7:00 P.M. Bible Study via Zoom



Thank you for your faithfulness during these uncertain times as you continue to support HBC by giving online, by mail and by placing your offerings in the offering plates as you enter or depart in-person worship

CDC precautions must continue as we come to worship together. Please remember to wear your mask and enter by the front doors, bring your personal hand sanitizer, and continue *physical distancing*. The building is cleaned thoroughly following each service and all touch points disinfected.

Stay safe and continue to pray for those who are sick, for the healthcare workers who are working so hard to save lives, for teachers, administrators, school support staff and students as local schools open again.

Fall Quarter Literature Now Available

Home Life, Mature Living, and Open Windows are available now in the church vestibule if you are attending in-person worship. Sunday School Literature is available as well. If you are still sheltering in but would like to receive any of these, you may call the church office, tell us what you wish to receive, schedule a time to come to the Church parking lot Monday-Friday mornings till noon and someone will bring them out to you.