

## Thoughts From Doug

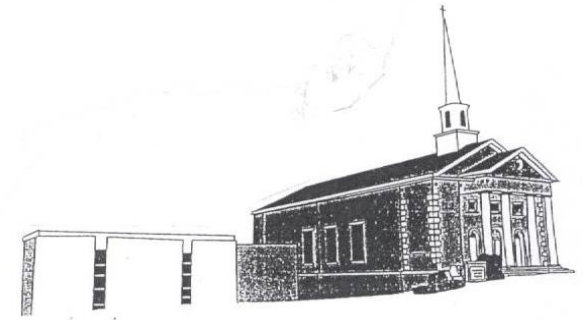
While it seems like we, in many ways are still stuck in early spring when life drastically changed, the calendar says that the unofficial end of summer is this coming weekend. I hear several people say, "I can't wait for 2020 to be over!" Indeed, I know we all long for the time when we can look back on this time and talk about it in past tense. But obviously that time is not yet here. *Vigilance*, *persistence*, and *selflessness* are words that come to mind as we find ourselves almost a half year into this pandemic. Of course, those are words that followers of Christ should not be needing to **develop** during a pandemic. Rather, those should be character traits that have long been developing in us as we have followed in the way of Jesus, allowing the Holy Spirit to form us in the image of the One who lived a life of vigilance, persistence, and selflessness.

So let's encourage each other to remain *vigilant* in doing those extra things to take care of each other during this time. It can be so easy to let our guard down, to get comfortable or overconfident, to think that we will not be touched by the virus just because we have not yet. Just as we have to remain vigilant in prayer, worship, Bible reading, practicing our faith, and serving others—no matter how long we have been a follower of Jesus—we need focus and vigilance in being cautious and acting out of love for others. And let's remain *persistent* in our practices of simple things that can lower the likelihood of exposure to, or spread of, the virus. We are called to be stewards of all of God's creation, and to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. No matter how other people act, no matter how some may mistreat us, we are to be faithfully persistent to the end. Only as we keep our hearts focused on Christ and pray to live out our baptismal vows to God and to one another, can we be so persistent and not give in to our passions or weaknesses.

Finally, let us continue to pray for, and live out, the *selflessness* that our Savior demands. As last Sunday's Gospel Lesson reminded, Jesus said, "*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*" (Matthew 16:24) This is the point where Jesus tells his original followers, and his followers today: "Okay, I have shown you by the example of my life and love how you are to live and love people; how you are to forsake yourself in pursuit of my kingdom. I have done my part. Now, the ball is in your court. This part is dependent on you. I will help you, but you have to commit yourself. I am taking up my cross; you have to take up **your** cross." As we seek to be faithful during this continued pandemic spread, let our questioning prayer be, "God, what does it mean for me to take up my cross and follow Jesus during these days? How do I practice that in my daily life? Help me to be vigilant, persistent, and selfless, and may you use all of that for your glory. Amen"

Love and Blessings from a Distance, Doug

# Hardwick Herald



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September 2, 2020



## Monday, September 7, 2020

*"Work willingly at what ever you do,  
As though you were working for the  
Lord rather than for people."*

Colossians 3:23

### 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
Javaraus Dennis	Danny Roberts
Eugenia English	Bonnie Safford
Sandra English	Brenda Tollison
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.

### Thank You!

*Thank you all so much for the cards, food, calls, prayers and other expression of love and concern as I recuperate from my fall and surgery. I am doing well and progressing as expected. It means so much to be a part of such a loving "Family of God". I miss you and hope we can all worship together soon.*

Marguerite Folendore



### 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 9th: Exodus 14:19-31... "Deliverance From Bondage".

**Scripture Reading for  
September 6  
Psalm 119:33-40  
Ezekiel 33:7-11  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 19:15-20**

**Deacons' Meeting 13  
2:00 P.M.  
Via Zoom**

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**Church Council Meeting  
Sunday, September 13  
4:00 P.M.  
Via Zoom**



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sep 11: Ben Braddy  
Sep 12: Jonathan Paulish

**Deacon of the Week  
September 6, 2020  
Glenn Abbey, 456-4305**

### 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 for 9/6/2020:  
Proverbs 8:6-21**

### Questions:

- If you were granted the ability to gain wisdom in one area of life, what would it be and why?
- Why would someone not consider God's wisdom to be a priceless treasure? What do you cherish about it most of all?
- How does fearing God lead to gaining wisdom? Can you gain true wisdom without fear of God? Explain.
- What is your testimony about the blessings you have received by living out godly wisdom? How often do you share your testimony with others?

**The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 7th for the Labor Day Holiday.**

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

### Calendar

#### Sunday, September 6th

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 9th:

7:00 P.M. . . . . Bible Study via Zoom



Your faithfulness in giving during these uncertain times is so important 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 attempt to safely navigate the new school year.

### 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.

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$ 28,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions August 30, 2020.....	\$ 3,012.00
Total Budget Contributions through August 30, 2020.....	\$ 125,537.42
Total Budget Expenses through August 30, 2020.....	\$ 140,171.21
Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020.....	\$ 18,685.00