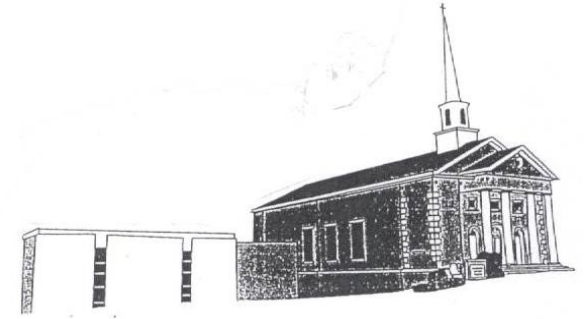


## Thoughts From Doug

I started off today (Tuesday) by reading our Scripture readings for the week as part of my morning prayer. I typically have read the texts for the coming Sunday by Monday night, or Tuesday at the latest. I will read them, pray and think about them, and see which one in particular calls me to preach on it. Then I will do the study of the text, make sure I know the background and context of it, so that any contemporary applications I may make in my sermon are faithful to the text. In our preaching classes in seminary, we were reminded that this is an important aspect to faithful, reliable preaching. We were taught that it is the job of preachers to help the listener to more fully appreciate the biblical story. It is tempting for some preachers to make it all about oratory—more of a performance in the pulpit. When the preaching task is done in this manner, there is the temptation to turn preaching into a form of entertainment—to make it more about the preacher than the Word. Sort of like having a teacher in school whom you loved because of their personality or sense of humor, or charm—but you cannot recall one thing that teacher taught you. On the contrary, a preacher who is faithful to his/her call to ministry in the manner of Christ seeks to become a servant to the biblical text, very much like an archeologist becomes a servant to history and ancient artifacts. In seminary we had to take courses in Christian Theology, Christian Ethics, Church History, Christian Philosophy, Old Testament, New Testament, Hebrew, Greek, Christian Education, Personal Counseling, Spiritual Formation, Preaching, Evangelism, Church Administration, Leadership—along with many other more specialized courses. All of these courses serve as tools that are meant to be faithfully used in the preacher's toolbox. That is quite different than preparing a sermon that is designed to impress or entertain people. Instead, those tools are utilized to help uncover the specific setting into which the Bible was first written; to pay attention to the current culture and social dynamics in which the church finds itself; and then to attempt to show that God's Word is ever fresh and relevant as it speaks to today. Of course, the key component is all of this is the Holy Spirit. If we are faithful to praying and listening for the Spirit in our daily lives, and approaching the Bible each day from a receptive heart of listening for a word, then our Spirits are better prepared to receive a word at church that speaks to us personally. Just as a preacher has to work each day on skills of study, prayer, listening, remembering, writing—so every worshiper needs to be working on their daily skills of spiritual receptivity. When we are faithful to do that, year after year, we will find that: 1.) we are experiencing an ever deeper daily worship life; and 2.) Sunday worship becomes a time which we immerse ourselves into the Bible passage that is shared, trusting God's Spirit to reveal to us a message addressed uniquely to us. When we approach the worship service with this mindset, we are more likely to leave worship a different person than when we arrived.

Love and Blessings from a Distance, Doug

# Hardwick Herald



Hardwick Herald is published weekly by the Hardwick Baptist Church, P.O. Box 39, Hardwick, GA 31034. Periodicals postage paid at Hardwick, GA, POSTMASTER. Send address changes to Hardwick Herald, P.O. Box 39, Hardwick GA 31034-0039.

Volume XLI No. 39

September 23, 2020

A black and white line drawing of several butterflies of various sizes and patterns, some perched on a flower and others in flight. The drawing is detailed, showing the intricate patterns on the wings and the structure of the flower and leaves.

It is  
God  
who  
works  
in you.

Philippians  
2:13, ESV

### 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	Brenda Tollison
Marguerite Folendore	Ben/Jackie Watson

**In Military Service:** Rudy Webb

**All Healthcare Workers, Teachers, school 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.

**Scripture Reading for  
September 27  
Psalm 25:1-9  
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32**

*"Do not be afraid of tomorrow,  
for God is already there."  
-copied-*



### 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 30th is: Isaiah 5:1-7, "The Lord's Expectations."



**Mission Georgia** is an initiative of the GA Baptist Mission Board to address critical needs in our state. Mission GA gives us an opportunity to join with God in responding to these needs.

You may give to Mission GA in the same way you are supporting HBC now by giving online (marked Mission GA), by mail and by placing your Mission Offering in the offering plates as you enter or depart in-person worship.

**Received to Date: \$50.00**

The **HBC Food Pantry** served 28 households, 84 individuals and 6 new applicants in the HBC parking lot, Tuesday, September 22nd. Thank you volunteers for your faithfulness in serving those who come.



Samaritan's Purse, "Operation Christmas Child" time is almost here. Why not begin gathering items for your shoebox now?

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Sep 27: Chase Bloodworth
- Sep 29: Deena Braddy
- Sep 30: James Josey, Rachel Powell, Marilyn Skinner
- Oct 01: Kelly Beck, Jeremy Prescott
- Oct 02: Kenneth Babb
- Oct 03: Kay Willoughby

### Deacon of the Week

September 27, 2020  
Danny Roberts, 706/485-5624

### 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 9/27/2020  
Proverbs 23:18-21, 29-35**

### Questions:

- What factors contribute most to alcohol and drug abuse? Can someone be a social or recreational user and not be an abuser? Explain.
- What is the source of your security? How do you demonstrate your confidence to the Lord?
- What is your approach to overcoming the conflicting influences that attempt to take control of you?
- What actions might a person need to take so they don't find themselves in the picture painted by addiction? How can you help others around you who seem to be suffering with addiction?

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

### Calendar

#### Sunday, September 27th

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 30th

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



Your faithfulness in continuing to give during these uncertain times is so important. We hope it won't be long before we can get back to full time in-person ministry at HBC, but in the meantime your support is crucial as we monitor pandemic conditions and prepare for that time. You may 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 health-care workers who continue to work so hard to save lives, for our church as we attempt to find safe ways to worship and minister together, and for our schools and community.

**193rd Annual Session  
Washington Baptist Association  
Tuesday, October 13, 2020  
7:00 P.M.  
First Baptist Church  
Milledgeville**

If you would like to attend this meeting as a messenger, please call the church office to give us your name.

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$ 287,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions Sept. 20, 2020.....	\$ 1,004.00
Total Budget Contributions through Sept.20, 2020.....	\$ 135,906.54
Total Budget Expenses through Sept 20, 2020.....	\$ 152,052.22
Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020.....	\$ 18,685.00