

Thoughts From Doug

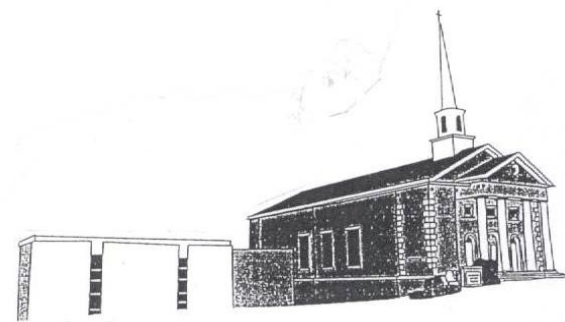
"A strong community helps people develop a sense of true self, for only in community can the self exercise and fulfill its nature: giving and taking, listening and speaking, being and doing. But when community unravels and we lose touch with one another, the self atrophies and we lose touch with ourselves as well."

These words are by Parker Palmer, Quaker and much-revered author and educator, from his 2004 book, *a Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life.* The wisdom of these words should be evident to anyone who has lived very long. Think about the ways in which being part of a strong, positive community have helped you to mature and flourish. A positive community in your family helped give you a sense that you are loved, that you are celebrated, that you always have a place and a people in whom you belong. A positive community in your elementary school days helped you to be curious and creative; encouraging teachers helped you to gain a love for knowledge and to find the unique way in which you best can learn. A positive faith community helped you to realize you are God's beloved—that you are created in the image of God, that you are a valued treasure whom Christ has redeemed, and that the Holy Spirit has gifted you to give honor and glory to God with your life and your service to others. A positive civic community—on local, state, and national levels—helped you to have a vision of what it means to be a citizen who treasures what has been handed down to us by the service and sacrifices of previous generations; and inspired you to do your part in getting involved on behalf of the commonwealth of all people (whether "getting involved" for you means running for political office, volunteering in your community, or paying taxes ungrudgingly). If you have been a recipient of any of these positive communities, I hope you have counted your blessings.

But there are plenty of people who can testify to having negative community examples during their formative years; abusive homes; discouraging teachers, life-draining or shame-enhancing church leaders; or self-centered public servants. Negative experiences from any of our sources of community can shape us into people who are less trusting, less hopeful, less loving (of ourselves and others). As Palmer says, "when community unravels and we lose touch with one another, the self atrophies and we lose touch with ourselves as well." It seems to me that the political division in our country is a sign that many people have not benefited from a strong sense of community—or they have allowed other negative, self-centered voices to cause them to forget, to mistrust, to lose touch with others. The church of Jesus Christ is tasked with being a sign of deep, self-giving, loving community—a sign of the shared community that comes when our leader is a servant. I pray that, in the days leading up to the election and beyond, we will represent that kind of community.

Love and Blessings from a Distance, Doug

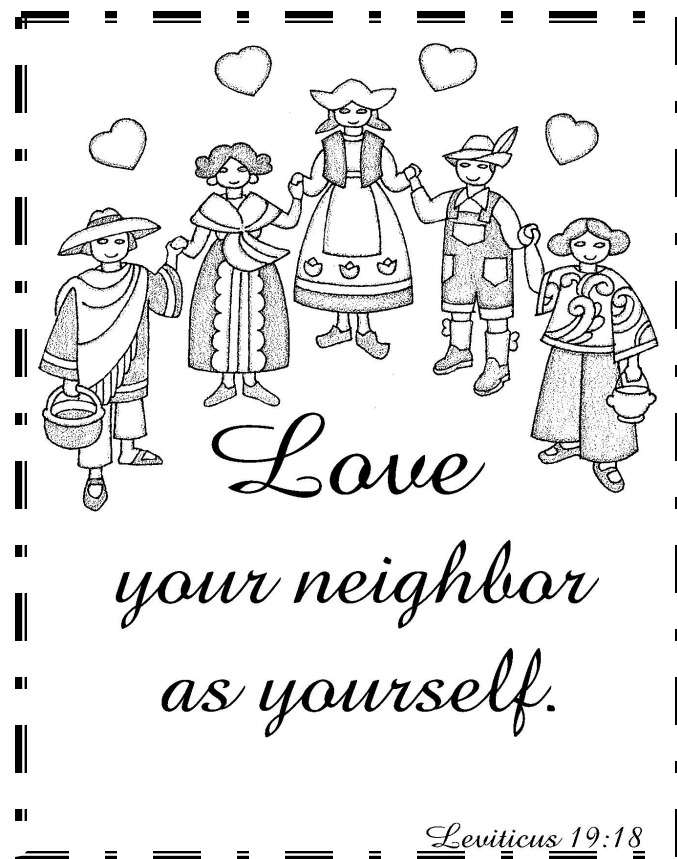
Hardwick Herald



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Volume XLI No. 43

October 21, 2020



Prayer List

Henry/Vivian Andrews	Rider Hill
James Armstrong	Kenny Huff
Mack Atchison	Martha Huff
Kenneth Babb	Jim Jennings
Anne Bayne	Joyce Johnson
Joyce Blizzard	Michael/Sharon Lord
Scott Blizzard	Nell Maddox
Harriett/Henry Braddy	Jeff McMullen
Josephine Davis	Marcus McMullen
Eugenia English	Marlene Peavy
Sandra English	Jayne Rourke
Sharon Ezell	Bonnie Stafford
Marguerite Folendore	Brenda Tollison
	Ben/Jackie Watson

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.



Mission GA Offering
Received to Date: \$385.00

*"Nothing is more truly artistic
than to love people."*
-Vincent Van Gogh-



Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study

Doug will continue to conduct a Zoom meeting Bible Discussion each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. Bible passage for October 28: Matthew 23:1-12, "Humbling Ourselves."



Samaritan's Purse, "Operation Christmas Child" time is here. Pamphlets with instructions for packing a shoebox are available in the vestibule or in the church office. If you wish to pick some up from the office, please call before coming. We do have some boxes available as well. Deadline for bringing filled boxes to the church is Wednesday, November 11th. Each shoebox is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's about telling children around the world that God loves them.

Scripture Reading for October 25:

Psalm 1
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
I Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-35

Check out the HBC Website
www.hardwickbaptist.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Oct 25: Gail Brooks
Oct. 26: Joyce Hudson, Amy Larson
Oct. 27: Craig Coleman, Marcia Hatcher
Tyler Prescott
Oct. 29: Glenn Abbey, Teresa Baker,
Kelly White

Deacon of the Week,
October 25, 2020

Sharon Lord, Deacon of the Week

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 October 25:
Song of Songs: 5:6-16

Questions:

- How might a person's investments reveal their stage of life? What might a person's investments reveal about their priorities?
- Under what circumstances have you noticed that emotional and moral support strengthens a marriage?
- How has God's love at work in you enabled you to push through the challenges you face in relationships?
- In what ways do you notice Christian couples expressing their admiration for each other?

"The two chief things are faith and love. Faith receives the good; love gives the good. Faith offers us God as our own; love gives us to our neighbor as his own.."
-Martin Luther-

Calendar

Sunday, October 25th:

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, October 28th:

7:00 P.M. Bible Study via Zoom

All Saints Day

Sunday, November 1, we will be observing All Saints Day. We will give thanks to God for the lives of two Hardwick Baptist members who have entered life eternal since All Saints Day 2019: Katie Bainbridge and Lamar Guy. For those who, out of an abundance of caution, will be watching the service from home—we encourage you to gather two candles of your own, and light them in memory of Katie and Lamar at the appropriate time in the service.



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.



Annual Budget 2020.....	\$ 287,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions Oct 18, 2020.....	\$ 110.00
Total Budget Contributions through Oct. 18, 2020.....	\$149,082.38
Total Budget Expenses through Oct. 18, 2020	\$166,901.36
Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020.....	\$ 18,685.00