

Thoughts From Doug

I read an article this week about worship. I thought it was so “spot on” that I wanted to share some of its points for this week’s article. For the past 30+ years virtually every denomination in the Protestant church in America has been involved in “Worship Wars,” in large part precipitated by the “contemporary worship” movement. Many churches have felt pressured to join the bandwagon, just because it seems the thing to do, rather than being intentional about worship and its purpose in our lives. It helps if we have a solid consistent, God-focused theology of worship whenever we face such temptations to change or adapt. I hope this article helps you think about your theology of worship. The writer is Jonathan Aigner, a Methodist minister of worship from Texas.

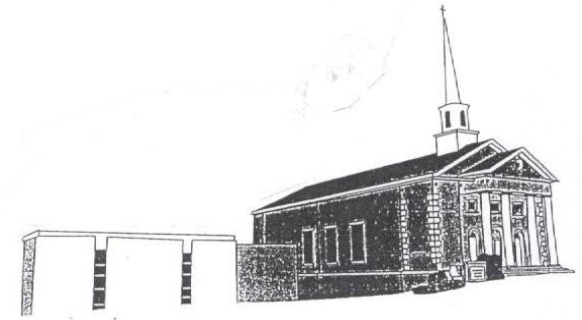
“9 Signs Your church may be Doing Bad Worship”

I’ve been saying for years now that bad worship leads to a bloated, malnourished church. We’re seeing that happen now with the prominence of commercial entertainment worship. When I say “bad worship,” I’m talking about worship that arises from a fundamental misunderstanding of its purpose. Here are 9 signs that your church may suffer from this kind of worship.

1. **It’s all about music.** Instead of gathering to tell the Christian story-our story- many churches show up to “worship” (sing along with a musical performance) and hear a sermon. We talk about “worship bands” and “worship leaders” and “worship time” before the speaker comes to deliver the message, we have lost sight of what constitutes an act of worship. Corporate prayer and confessions have no place. No more gathering, proclaiming, thanksgiving, and sending out. Just music, talking and then more music.
2. **It’s packaged in different ways to attract different “audiences.”** The worship wars are over, and preference has won. It becomes about me, what I want, and if that’s not happening, I’m going to take my ball or guitar or hymnal and go home. When this happens, we’ve begun to value comfort and convenience over community and covenant. That’s bad worship. We worship because we are a distinct group bound together by the Christian story. What God hath joined together, let no worship “style” put asunder.
3. **It’s the primary point of contact between the church and “unbelievers.”** Attracting new converts is not the goal of corporate worship. If it is, it ceases to be Christian worship. Evangelism happens when the church, strengthened by worship and discipleship, is sent out into the world as examples of Christ’s love and justice.
4. **It’s segregated by ages.** Virtually every megachurch or aspiring megachurch schedules Sundays like this:
 - one hour commitment.
 - adults go to a “worship service” with commercial music and a self-help teaching –style sermon.
 - Kids go someplace else, where they are overstimulated for Jesus with loud music and flash effects
 - after an hour of separation, everyone goes home and gets on with their lives.

This we’re told, is worship, but it certainly isn’t good worship. Corporate worship is about gathering together as a community, and not one defined by age or learning level or economic status or anything else, other than the call of God on our lives. That’s the beauty of the historic Christian liturgy. Week after week, season after season, year after year, we participate as a community in the drama of salvation history. **And our children must be a part of that, not just because we want them to stay in church when they’re older, but because it belongs to them now.** (Next week, signs 5-9!)

Hardwick Herald



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The LORD
redeems the life
of his servants;
none of those who
take refuge
in him
will be condemned.

Psalms 34:22, ESV



Daylight Savings Time Begins
This Sunday, November 1st
Set your clocks back 1 hour before retiring
Saturday evening.

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.

*"Days grow shorter,
but God's love never decreases.
Nights lengthen, but God's light
outshines all the world's darkness"*

New Address:

Vivian & Henry Andrews
109 Misty Lane, NW
Suite 511, box 25
Milledgeville, GA 31061



Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study

Doug will continue to conduct a Zoom meeting Bible Discussion each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. Bible passage for November 4 is: Matthew 25:1-13. "Being Ready"



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 Readings for November 1:

Psalms 34:1-10, 22
Revelation 7:9-17
John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

**Check out the HBC Website
www.hardwickbaptist.org**

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$ 287,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions Oct 25, 2020.....	\$ 1,315.00
Total Budget Contributions through Oct. 25, 2020.....	\$150,397.38
Total Budget Expenses through Oct. 25, 2020.....	\$169,102.34
Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020.....	\$ 18,685.00

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nov 01: Cindy Folendore
Nov 07: Deborah Tapley

Deacon of the Week, November 1, 2020

Danny Roberts, 1/706/425-5624

Virtual Sunday School Access

- **Online:** (<https://meet.google.com>). Click *Enter* or link and enter code for class.
meet.google.com/cdi-ibdd-vrx
- **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 November 1, 2020
Isaiah 1:10-20

Questions:

- When have you ever taken a relationship for granted? How did it affect the relationship? Were you able to do anything to get the relationship back on track?
- In what ways might you be guilty of going through the motions in your worship of God. In what practical way can you make sure your heart is set on God in your worship and daily actions?
- In what ways does your love for God motivate you to practice care for others in the church? Have you felt convicted because you put your own needs over helping another? Explain.
- Think of a decision in which you justified doing something you knew was not right in the eyes of God. How do the verses above motivate you to avoid this situation in the future?

Cindy Folendore Teaching

Calendar

Sunday, November 1st: "All Saints Day"

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



This 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.

The **HBC Food Pantry** served 20 households, 22 individuals, and had 4 new applicants. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who cheerfully serve those who come.