

Thoughts From Doug

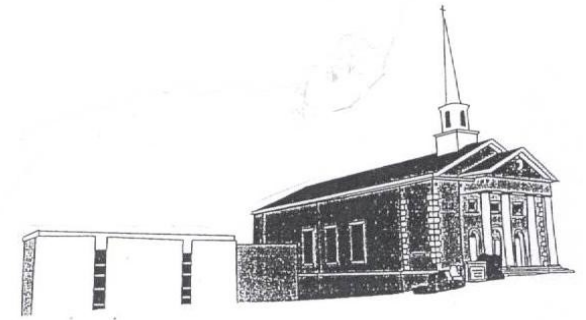
For numerous centuries, followers of Jesus Christ have observed a daily routine of morning prayer and evening prayer. Early Christians started these habits of prayer, with a desire to begin the day with praise to God, seeking to consecrate one's actions and thoughts for the coming day; and to close the day by giving thanks for the day just passed, and commending oneself to God in sleep and rest (the prayer "Now I lay me down to sleep . . . came out of this nightly habit). I personally have experienced much spiritual benefit, sustenance, and nourishment by keeping these daily prayer times—not only individually at home, but especially in a group while on spiritual retreats. In fact, experiencing the beauty and sacredness of evening prayer, particularly, with a group of other pray-ers helped inspire me to be more faithful in evening prayer on a daily basis.

So—I want to offer Sunday night evening prayer (via Zoom) for those who would love to gather with others and together seek to bring a sacred end to our Sabbath days during Advent and Christmas. We will be using an Evening Prayer liturgy that I have experienced and found very conducive to closing the day in release to God. It is an Evening Prayer liturgy that is used at Iona Abbey, Scotland, where Becky, Lydia, and Elizabeth and I spend a week during my 2013 sabbatical. I still recall gathering in the centuries old cathedral, with believers from all around the world, and closing the day by sharing Evening Prayer together. I am convinced that the deep, peaceful rest I experienced those nights was a result of the sacred winding down of the day we shared together.

Our first Sunday Evening Prayer will be on the first Sunday of Advent: November 29, at 8:30 P.M. We will share the prayers together, and will incorporate time for personal prayer concerns, whether silent or aloud. Including the reading, the prayers, the music, and the Bible reading. I expect Evening Prayer to last about 45 minutes. We will meet November 29, December 6, December 13, December 20, December 27, and January 3. The link for Sunday Evening prayer is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84795712518> I will send this link via e-mail each week as a reminder, just as I do the Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and Bible discussion. Please share the link with any friends who might want to join us on Sunday nights. And in the meantime:

A Blessed Thanksgiving to you and your family! Amen!
Doug

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“ O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry. When I have work, help me to remember the jobless. When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all. When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer. And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency, bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted. Amen.”

Samuel Pugh



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."
-John F. Kennedy-

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



Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study

You are invited to join Doug in a Zoom Prayer Meeting/Bible Discussion each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. Bible passage for December 2nd is 2 Peter 3:8-18, "Faithful to Be Patient With Us."

Scripture Readings for December 6:

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13
Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nov 29: Kendra Akbar
Nov 30: Sandra Fountain
Dec 04: Quintisha Hall, Rachel Powell

Deacon of the Week,
December 6, 2020
Sharon Lord, 452-7742

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 29:
Isaiah 25:1-10

Questions:

- What is the importance of having a plan to address a need?
- What was your response when you suffered at the hands of someone more powerful than you? How did the event impact your faith? How does our culture encourage us to become the oppressor at times? How do we recognize this and fight against it?
- What meal celebrations do you remember most fondly? Given the passage above, why are meals so important in the Bible? What does this tell you about the nature of fellowship with others and God?

The church Office will be closed for Thanksgiving Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27. In case of emergency or need, please call a staff member at home.

Calendar

Sunday, November 29th

9:00 A.M. Virtual Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
In-person worship in Sanctuary
(Live streamed those who don't feel comfortable in a crowd setting yet.)
8:30 P.M. Sunday Evening Prayer
(Via Zoom- see page 4 for more information)

Wednesday, December 2nd:

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.

Our Appreciation

Our deepest appreciation to our dedicated volunteers who give their time to stock the HBC Food Pantry and cheerfully assist those who come for assistance. Tomorrow, November 25th, is Food Pantry Day and because of their dedication and your support, we are able to make this a special Thanksgiving for those who come. Because of early printing and mailing deadlines we won't be able to publish totals, but all who come for assistance will be served as long as supplies last. May God bless all of you who are in any way a part of making this Thanksgiving special, even in the midst of the pandemic, for those who would otherwise not have much to celebrate. *"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."* Proverbs 22:9.

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$ 287,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions Nov 22, 2020.....	\$ 452.50
Total Budget Contributions through Nov. 22, 2020.....	\$162,233.96
Total Budget Expenses through Nov.22, 2020	\$181,524.65
Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020.....	\$ 18,685.00