

I hope last week's article helped you give some thought to the purpose of worship in a Christian congregation. As promised, here are signs #5 through #9 from Jonathan Aigner's "9 Signs Your Church Might Be Doing Bad Worship."

**5. The performers' voices are primary, instead of the congregation's.** Performance worship is bad worship. In many places these days, the congregation's only job is to sing along, but performance worship doesn't really require that, either. They use music crafted in the style of commercial performance genres, which doesn't lend itself well to congregational singing. The band is amplified, and the worship leader and team sings into their mics as if they were giving a performance. Performance worship sends the message that the congregation's participation doesn't matter. Only their feelings of enjoyment matter.

**6. Communion is absent or deemphasized.** Music is the bread and wine of the contemporary church, even though Jesus couldn't have been more clear when he said, "Here are my body and blood." To outsiders the concept of Christ's presence through the Lord's Supper is foolishness. That's why no megachurch model takes it seriously. But Communion reminds us of our baptism commitment. To receive Communion means that we are willing to then be sent out to do the hard, messy work of following Jesus. An entertaining festival of "Jesus-y" pop music and a self-sermon carries no such obligations.

**7. It's driven by the worship "industry."** The worship industry must engage us on a purely sensory level to find widespread appeal in an entertainment addicted culture. It must make us feel something on a purely emotional level to be profitable. The quality of theology and music suffers accordingly. And so we trade the beauty of God's story for the initial excitement of sensory stimulation. Singing love songs to Jesus is not the point of gathered worship. I find Robert Webber's definition helpful: "*Worship is doing God's story.*"

**8. The Meaning behind the liturgy (worship order) isn't personally and corporately internalized.** The liturgy of worship is meaningless without the faith. People who have been disciplined and formed in the faith draw spiritual nourishment from the liturgy. They realize **why** we have a call to worship; an invocation; hymns that praise God and teach us; occasions of confession; prayers of intercession; an offering; a hymn of response; and a sending benediction. The liturgy will only be vibrant and meaningful if orthodox Christian theology is behind it.

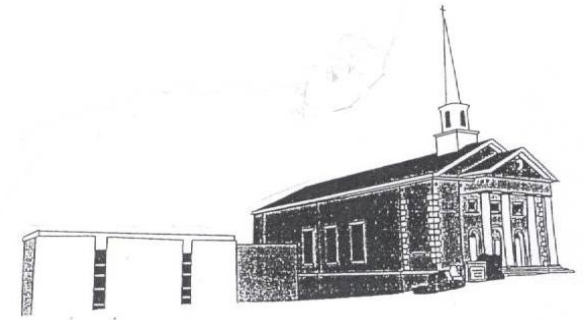
**9. It's called an experience.** We think we can create a fun, stimulating, emotionally satisfying experience to bring people to Jesus. In order to do so, we lie. We lie about who we are and where we've been. We lie by creating experiences based on popular principles of entertainment. We lie by telling people the pleasure they derive from our experience is an authentic God experience. And after a while, we begin to believe the lie ourselves. We have become idolaters. And instead of disciples, we've created a line of idolaters following our lead. **By winning them with the experience, we've won them to the experience.** This is the bottom line of bad worship in the modern church.

**It's time to be honest with ourselves. It's time to worship like the church, so that we can actually be the church we're called to be.**

I am grateful that Hardwick Baptist Church values worship that is not about putting on a show. I am grateful that we value engaging God together in sacred praise and prayer. If we are to "be holy, as I, the Lord your God am holy," worship needs to be about God and God's story—not about us.

Love and Blessings from a Distance, Doug

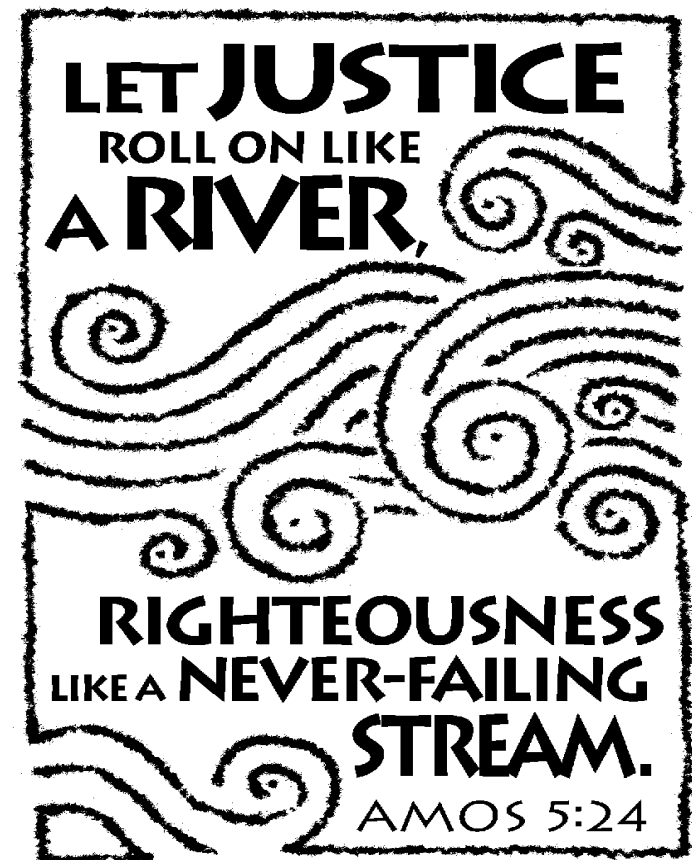
# Hardwick Herald



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Volume XLI No. 45

November 4, 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.

### Thoughts for Thanksgiving

*"Gratitude is the sign of noble souls."*

Aesop ( 6th Century B.C.)

*"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\_



### 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 11 is: Matthew 25:14-20, Using Our Gifts."



Samaritan's Purse, "Operation Christmas Child" filled Shoeboxes are due in to the church by **next Wednesday, November 11th.** If you wish to bring your shoebox to the church office, you may do so through next Wednesday any morning from 7:30 a.m. until Noon or call the church office if you need to make special arrangements to get it in. Each shoebox is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and tell children around the world that God loves them.

### Scripture Readings for November 8th:

**Psalm 70**  
**Amos 5:18-24**  
**I Thessalonians 4:13-18**  
**Matthew 25:1-13**

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

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Annual Budget 2020.....                               | \$ 287,729.67 |
| Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....                   | \$ 5,533.27   |
| Contributions Nov 01, 2020.....                       | \$ 3,137.64   |
| Total Budget Contributions through Nov. 01, 2020..... | \$154,566.46  |
| Total Budget Expenses through Nov.01, 2020 .....      | \$170,947.25  |
| 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 8, 2020

Danny Roberts, 1/706/485-5624

### Virtual Sunday School Access

- **Online:** (<https://meet.google.com>). Click *Enter* or link and enter code for class.  
[meet.google.com/cdi-ibdd-vrx](https://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 8, 2020

**Isaiah 6:1-13**

### Questions:

- Identify an experience in your life that you just can't keep from telling others. How did that experience impact your life?
- Why does God call and then use believers to carry out His purposes?
- What should we learn about God in Isaiah's vision of God on His throne? How should God's holiness affect how we think about God and how we live for Him?
- What events or circumstances in your life led you to realize your need to be forgiven and atoned for?
- Does Isaiah's mission inspire you to share the gospel message with others? Why and in what ways?
- Why is it important for believers who proclaim God's message to recognize that most who hear the message will not respond positively to it?
- When have you found it difficult to remain faithful because there seems to be no hope of change? What enabled you to keep trusting God?

### Calendar

### Sunday, November 8th:

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, November 11th:

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.



### Veterans Day Wednesday, November 11

Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military—in wartime or peacetime. It is largely intended to thank LIVING Veterans for their sacrifices to protect our freedoms, as well as those who paid the ultimate price with their lives. It was originally called Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I and changed in 1954 to honor all Veterans. Remember...

*"Heroes don't wear capes or tights, they wear dog tags and combat boots."*

GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS

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