

Thoughts From Doug

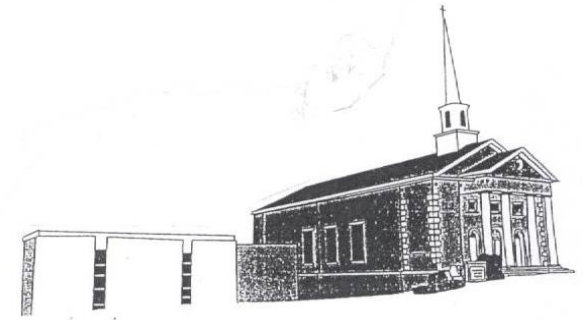
I am writing this article on the morning of Tuesday, December 1. On the way to the church office this morning, I stopped by the home of Henry and Harriet Braddy. As you have heard about by now, Harriett's earthly journey ended early this morning. She had a long, strenuous bout with cancer—as so many people we know have had. There would be occasional causes for hope and healing, but they were often met by setbacks with additional diagnoses, followed by more radiation/chemotherapy. When she had extensive surgery in October, Harriett's family was hopeful because the surgeon was able to remove the tumor. However, it was only a matter of weeks before new growths were discovered and the realization set in that little else could be done. Harriett came home under hospice care just ten days before she passed.

Advent is a season of waiting—waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled. As we live through more of the seasons of this life, we realize that God is teaching us to wait with intention; with hope; with expectation. But, more importantly, I feel, God is teaching us to wait with openness and trust. The coming (Advent) of Jesus into the world as a baby was not appreciated by virtually everyone. Only Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth, some shepherds, Anna and Simeon—and a few others as time passed (such as the magi)—were attuned to what God was doing. Those who received the Gift for what it was were people who were listening to God; were paying attention and acting with openness and trust, even when they did not totally comprehend or rationally understand what God was doing. I think this describes the manner in which Harriett lived her life and faced her cancer. There were times when I talked with her that she seemed optimistic and hopeful—trusting God to heal her. Other times (especially the last few months) she seemed to realize that she would not survive this disease. But with time, even when she expressed a questioning of God, or a frustration that her prayers had not been answered—she continued to show a conviction of hope and trust. In the last couple of weeks, she seemed to communicate that she was open to receive whatever awaited her, trusting God to take care of things in the manner in which only God can. When I saw her about 40 hours before she breathed her last breath, I sensed that peace and trust in her, even while weakened and emaciated in a hospice bed. From what I can tell, Harriett lived her life waiting on God, trusting in God to be faithful in all God has promised. That does not mean that life always turns out the way we hope. What it does mean is that we realize that, living or dying, we are God's.

In the second week of Advent, while we grieve her loss, we rejoice that Harriett does not have to suffer any longer. She does not have to wait any longer. No more surprises or unexpected turn of events in life. We trust that her faith has become sight, that she has entered the promised joy of those who are in Christ; and that she is healed. May God give us the grace to live—and to die—with such faith and hope.

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. 49

December 2, 2020

She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him the
name Jesus, because he will
save his people from their sins.



M a t t h e w 1 : 2 1

Prayer List

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

Christian Sympathy

We have just received word that Mrs. Harriett Braddy passed away this morning following a courageous battle with cancer. Harriett has been a faithful member of HBC since 1987, a member of the Agape' Sunday School Class and was presently serving as our Church Treasurer. Our heartfelt Christian love and sympathy to her family and friends.



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 9 is I Thessalonians 5:12-28, "Faithful to Make Us Holy."

Scripture Readings for December 6: Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

Deacons will meet this Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 P.M. Please let the Pastor know if you prefer to join us via Zoom.

Sunday Evening Prayer

You are invited to join the Pastor in a special time of Prayer during the five Sundays of Christmas at 8:30 P.M. via Zoom. We will share prayers together and incorporate time for personal prayer concerns, whether silent or aloud. We expect this to last about 45 minutes and will meet December 6, December 13, December 20, December 27, and January 3. The link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84795712518>

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

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$ 28,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions Nov 29, 2020.....	\$ 4,805.00
Total Budget Contributions through Nov. 29, 2020.....	\$167,038.96
Total Budget Expenses through Nov.29, 2020	\$181,524.65.
Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020.....	\$ 18,685.00

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec 06: Sharon Overman
Dec 08: Ethan Amason
Dec 09: Colton Settle
Dec 10: Eric Baker, Amanda Ptak, Anne Schrupp
Dec.11: Anne Etheridge, Ted Worsham
Dec.12: Jan Riner, Cheryl Worsham

Deacon of the Week, December 6, 2020

Danny Roberts, 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
- **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 December 6, 2020:

Questions:

- How does a crisis reveal a person's true character and beliefs? Why does a crisis bring out the worst and best in a person?
- When you face a difficult situation, is your first instinct to turn to God and trust Him with the circumstances first? Why or why not? Why are we often tempted to try everything first and only then turn to God? How can remembering God's past faithfulness help us in these situations?
- When have you seen God's unseen hand at work protecting you in your life? How did the event impact your faith and how you lived it out?
- Do you ever have trouble believing that God is in control of the events of the modern world? Of your life? How does this week's passage help you to deal with those doubts?

Calendar

Sunday, December 6th

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.)
3:00 P.M.....Deacons' Meeting
(Available via Zoom if needed)
8:30 P.M..... Evening Prayer
(Via Zoom)

Wednesday, December 9th:

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.

Advent

Last Sunday was the beginning of Advent, the time when we anticipate the "coming" or birth of Jesus. Things continue to be turned upside down with the pandemic, but this time of Advent has not changed. Each of the four Sundays before Christmas, let us take time to prayerfully remember that this is what Christmas is all about...the birth of our Lord.

Each Sunday, we light a candle on our Advent wreath representing the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that is found in Christ Jesus.

Nov. 29.....Candle of HOPE
Dec. 6.....Candle of PEACE
Dec. 13.....Candle of JOY
Dec. 20.....Candle of LOVE

It is our prayer that each of you will know the feelings that something is happening, and more is to come.