

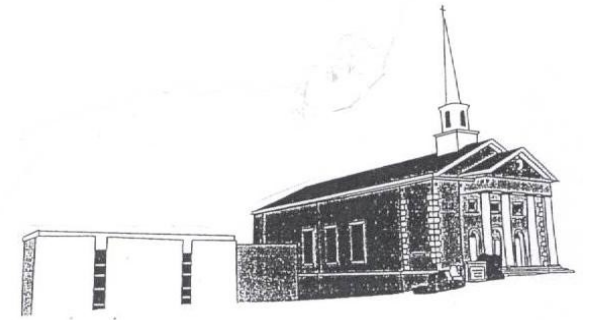
It has been an interesting year, to say the least. Who could have imagined at the end of 2019 all of the changes that 2020 would hold? If we paid attention to the news, we would have been anticipating that the virus was a real threat, but no one could have dreamed all that it would bring with it. We have learned a great deal about adapting, patience, and precautions. We have learned (some of us) how to Zoom. We have perhaps enjoyed time around a kitchen table working on a jigsaw puzzle or playing board games with family members. Some of us have re-learned the art of journaling, or gardening, or letter writing, or the joy of a simple phone call. I hope that we recalled the benefit of spiritual disciplines such as Bible reading, prayer, devotions, silence, and time in nature. But no matter what we have learned, we are aware that there is so much that we still do not know about the virus. We cannot predict the severity with which it will attack, a particular individual, nor the specific symptoms one may have—although time and medical expertise have helped us to not feel so in the dark in this respect as well.

The truth of the matter, though, is that we have no idea what 2021 will hold either. We have signs of hope all around us—from the vaccines that are already going into the arms of healthcare workers, to the thoughtful selflessness of the neighbors we see wearing face masks when we go to the store. But the future is uncertain—which is a conviction we regularly state, but often fail to truly dwell on. So maybe that is a major gift of 2020—the realization that we cannot take the gifts and blessings and freedoms of today for granted. It is one thing for the realization to come individually; it is quite another when it is a cultural/societal experience. And it is during times like these that the church shows its true grit. The Gospel lesson for this week is John 1:1-18. John gives us his unique introduction to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these verses, and he says *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it*. During this winter of continued caution and care, with over 400,000 COVID-related deaths estimated by the end of January, let us continue to let that light shine in us. The light has been shining through all these efforts—and we will celebrate whenever we are able to share that glorious light all together in one place.

- **Note:** We are trying to make accommodations for folks who still need to stay at home and are not on Facebook—so that everyone has easy access to Sunday worship. To that end, starting this Sunday, a link will be sent to the church email list on the afternoon after the recorded service. You will be able to click on that link and watch the service without having a Facebook account.

New Year Blessings of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love to you—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. 53

December .30, 2020



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
Gloria Edwards	Jayne Rourke
Amber Ellington	Bonnie Stafford
Eugenia English	Brenda Tollison
Sandra English	Laise Townsend
Sharon Ezell	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 with the hope to resume soon.

Wishes For the New Year

*Faith that increaseth, walking in light;
Hope that aboundeth, happy and bright
Love that is perfect, casting out fear;
These shall insure thee a happy New Year.*

*Peace in the Savior, rest at his feet,
Smile on his countenance, radiant and sweet.
Joy in his presence, Christ ever near!
This will insure thee a happy New Year.*

-Frances Ridley Havergal-



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 January 6 is Mark 1:1-11, "God Reveals Jesus."

Scripture Readings for

January 10, 2021
Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

2021 Offering Envelopes

You may pick up your 2021 Offering Envelopes in the Church Office any morning, Monday through Friday if you are in the vicinity. If you will call ahead, we will bring them out to you.

Pray Without Ceasing

"The more we pray, the more we shall want to pray. The more we pray, the more we can pray. He who prays little will pray less, but he who prays much will pray more. And he who prays more will desire to pray more abundantly."

-Charles Spurgeon-

"What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year."

-Vern McLellan-

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan 05: Ashley Ellington Parham

Jan 06: Sallie Guy

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 January 3, 2021:**
Isaiah 53:1-13
- What or who gives you comfort when facing a seemingly impossible situation? How does that item or person give you comfort?
- Have you ever felt frustrated when doing something you knew God wanted you to do? How do the feelings and response of the Servant encourage you for this sort of situation in the future?
- Do you ever find yourself taking God's plan of salvation for granted? How do these verses challenge you to think about it in fresh ways? Do they inspire you to make some concrete changes in the way you live?
- How does knowing how the story of redemption ends help get you through difficult times? Do you ever think about the power of God and His control over all things when you are facing difficulty? How can you apply this realization to a difficult situation you may be in right now?

"Dare we set our hope and hearts in the hands of a small-town Jewish carpenter? The answer rests in the Jerusalem graveyard. If Jesus' tomb is empty, the his promise is not."

-Max Lucado--

Calendar

Sunday, January 3, 2021:

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.)
8:30 P.M. Evening Prayer
(Zoom - <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/84795712518>)

Wednesday, January 6, 2021:

7:00 P.M. Zoom Prayer Mtg.

Deacon of the Week,

January 3, 2021
Sharon Lord, 452-7742



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.

Lottie Moon Offering For International Missions Received to Date: \$785.00

The Church Office will be closed Friday, January 1, 2021 for New Years.

Christian Sympathy

To Frank, Dana & Cole Rogers and family in the loss of Frank's father, Frank Rogers, Sr. last week. May God stay close beside them and comfort them.

Check out the HBC Website
www.hardwickbaptist.org

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$287,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions Dec. 27, 2020.....	\$ 2,325.00
Total Budget Contributions through Dec. 27, 2020.....	\$ 180,931.20
Total Budget Expenses through Dec. 27, 2020	\$ 197,420.04
Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020.....	\$ 18,685.00