

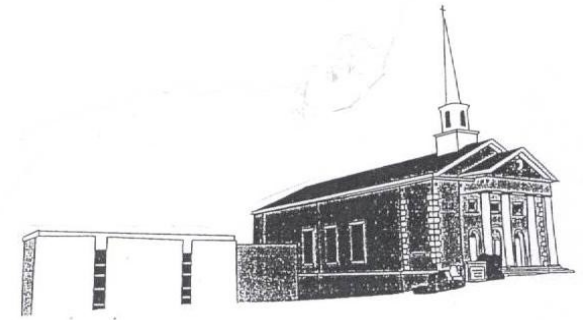
Thoughts From Doug

It was so good to run into five of our Hardwick Baptist youth and children last week. Most of you probably know Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Kamari, Zanariah, and Kanayah—siblings that have been “regulars” on both Wednesdays and Sundays over the recent years. Nehemiah was baptized at Hardwick Baptist less than three years ago, and all of them attended weekly before COVID put a temporary halt to our program. I had been to their home a few times prior to that, but the family moved over the summer—to a mobile home neighborhood just south of the church property. A letter was sent to them from the church office in early November—informing them about the Pen Pal Program. However, it was returned for some reason. Last Tuesday, before heading home, I decided to go look for them. I drove down their street, and there was no 125 street address—which told me we had the wrong address. I decided to drive further down the street, which led me to the mobile home neighborhood. And as soon as I drove on the property—I saw all five of the siblings walking alongside the pond. They came running to the car. I kept my mask on, but I could not resist giving them hugs. They were all bright-eyed and smiling, telling me how that morning they had met “Mr. Ken” at Wal-Mart for the Christmas shopping. They had gotten a gift of their choice, as well as a “necessity” or two (clothes, school supplies). And they asked, “Pastor Doug—when are we gonna come back to church?” I told them how much we miss them, and how I hoped that come early spring we would be able to resume some form of our ministry with them. They led me to their new home and I was able to speak with their mother. She was so grateful for the church’s continued contacts with them, even if by phone calls or notes, or Christmas shopping.

That visit was as holy and as meaningful as anything that I experienced through these 12 days of Christmas. I hope the Hardwick family realizes their impact on our young people. I hope, also, that we realize how much they love us and miss times of love, warmth, worship, learning, and fellowship. I hope that all of us are experiencing a longing that is at a similar depth of our kids; that we all realize that we are not the same when we are not regularly with each other, offering prayers and songs together, eating together, worshiping together, studying together. I hope that we sense the incompleteness of not physically being the Body of Christ together. And in the meantime, I hope we continue to trust that God is growing us through our faithful living and service. Let’s not take any of those blessings for granted.

Love and Blessings—Doug

Hardwick Herald



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January 6, 2021



ISAIAH 60:1, NRSV

Prayer List

Glenn Abbey	Kenny Huff
Henry/Vivian Andrews	Martha Huff
James Armstrong	Jim Jennings
Mack Atchison	Michael/Sharon Lord
Kenneth Babb	Nell Maddox
Anne Bayne	Jeff McMullen
Joyce Blizzard	Marcus McMullen
Scott Blizzard	Ashley/Will Parham
Braddy Family	Marlene Peavy
Josephine Davis	Joanna Roberts
Gloria Edwards	Jayne Rourke
Amber Ellington	Bonnie Stafford
Eugenia English	Brenda Tollison
Sandra English	Laise Townsend
Sharon Ezell	The Watson Family
Rider Hill	

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.

A Daily Prayer



Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we are in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$ 287,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 4,444.94
Contributions Jan. 03, 2020.....	\$ 1,642.28
Total Budget Contributions through Jan. 03, 2020.....	\$ 1,642.28
Total Budget Expenses through Jan. 03, 2020.....	\$ -0-



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 13 is John 1:35-51, "Jesus Reveals Himself".

Scripture Readings for January 10 Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7;10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 John 1:1-18

Christian Sympathy

Our heartfelt Christian love and sympathy to Ben, Bennie, Nita, Hunter and Michael Watson and family in the loss of their wife/mother/grandmother, Jackie Watson on January 1st. There is not a member of HBC she did not pray for, a young person who grew up with her guidance in Sunday School or mission groups she did not follow and pray for, missionaries anywhere she didn't pray for, or visitors she didn't welcome. Mrs. Jackie was a faithful member of HBC since 1953. Her sweet spirit and contagious smile were felt by all who knew her. For a number of years she and Ben prepared our Wednesday Night Family Suppers, meals at Church Camp and worked with disaster teams where needed. She had a heart for others both in her nursing experiences and her every day life. May God bless and comfort the Watson family and her many friends.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan 11: Lois Bentley
Jan 06: Jared Powell

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 10, 2021**
Isaiah 53:1-12
- How do you celebrate the sacrifice others have made for you? How does their sacrifice impact you today?
- Have you ever felt the sting of rejection or undeserved hatred? Have you ever wished you were more valued by those around you? How does remembering what that felt like help you relate to the plight of the Servant?
- How would you respond if you were asked by a loved one to go to the electric chair so a murderer on death row could go free? How does your answer help you appreciate the role of the Servant in the above verse? Are there people in your life you would be willing to help at personal cost? What would your initial response be to the idea of taking the punishment for someone who deserves punishment and doesn't know you? How does this make you appreciate the level of torment the Servant experienced in the above passage?
- If you could imagine yourself in the time of Isaiah's audience, how do you think you might react to chapter 53 and the other servant songs? How does chapter 53 encourage your faith that Jesus is the son of God?

Calendar

Sunday, January 10, 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.)
3:00 P.M. Deacons' Meeting
(Meet at the church or by Zoom .)

Wednesday, January 13, 2021:

7:00 P.M. Zoom Prayer Mtg.

Deacon of the Week, January 10, 2021

Danny Roberts, 706/485-5624



Your faithfulness in continuing to give during these uncertain times is so important. Our offering totals are down as you will note in our weekly financial statements. We are being very conservative with expenses and will continue to do so. 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 (P.O. Box 39, Hardwick, GA 31034), 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: \$885.00

As you will note on the Calendar, **Deacons** will meet this Sunday, January 10th at 3:00 P.M. at the church or by Zoom if you cannot not attend in person.

Check out the HBC Website
www.hardwickbaptist.org