

Hardeetown Baptist Church

*From the Crossroads of Levy County to
the Crossroads of the Mission Field*

- Share with your friends and contacts that the church's services are available online via the church's website and YouTube page. They can go to our church website, www.hardeetownbc.com, and click on the link to sermons.
- If you are new to the church, we offer Bible study classes for all ages. Regular Bible study is an essential part of Christian discipleship, and we encourage you to participate each Sunday at 9:30.
- If you are ill but still want to participate in worship, our services continue to be broadcast from the parking lot on Sunday morning by tuning to FM 92.1.
- Sign language classes are offered free of charge to anyone interested. See Connie Blosch for more information or call the church office.

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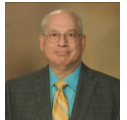
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The Pulpit and Pen



Baptist Polity

To begin with, just what is meant by *polity*? Polity sounds a lot like politics, and to some extent that is what it is. Polity describes how a church conducts its affairs, so quite often it does, indeed, become political.

While there are other, less common types, there are essentially three main types of church polity: Catholic or Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Congregational. A church that practices a Catholic polity has a clearly defined hierarchy. Normally, one individual or group of individuals governs at the top of that hierarchy. A Presbyterian polity governs by council. The individuals within the church have a voice, but the council has the ultimate authority. A church with a Congregational polity governs via a democratic process.

The overwhelming majority of Baptist churches have a Congregational polity. The congregation governs itself by bringing issues before the church and submitting them to a vote of the church. In most cases, each member has one vote, and all have an equal voice.

Baptist churches with a Presbyterian polity are becoming more common. Baptist churches utilizing that form of polity tend to have a board of elders that governs the church. While that board is normally elected by the

church as a whole, the elders govern the church. Because the elders are still accountable to the church, some claim that such a polity is still essentially Congregational at its core. However, such churches often develop a self-perpetuating board that has significant control over whom the church nominates to serve. In those situations, the Congregational polity is largely superficial at best.

Exceptionally large churches, commonly called *megachurches*, are those that tend toward a Presbyterian polity. Megachurches often shun congregational control due to the number of people involved. It becomes cumbersome to submit controversial issues to a vote, and megachurches often have hundreds of members that are still quite spiritually immature.

Nevertheless, most Baptist churches still tend toward a Congregational polity. Such churches often have a board of some sort that provides guidance and oversight, but that board may lack the authority to make unilateral decisions on behalf of the church. The same would be true of the pastoral staff, which is often tasked with the affairs of daily administration but is still held strictly accountable to the church.

Under the control of a church with a Congregational polity, all ministries and organizations within the church

remain accountable to the church. No individual or ministry acting on behalf of the church can arbitrarily make decisions or take action without being accountable to the church as a whole. That is an important distinction that separates a Baptist church from some other denominations that practice a less structured polity.

Some churches support various ministries that operate with autonomy and lack any accountability to the church. That is not true of the average Baptist church. The driving force and belief behind ministry in a Baptist church is that the church as a whole is at the top of the hierarchy. The individual member is accountable to the church as are all ministries within the church.

Southern Baptists also reject the notion that the church is accountable or subject to any denominational structure. The local church is autonomous but interdependent. In other words, local churches may choose to cooperate with one another, but no one church or denominational entity may exercise authority over the local church.

The church is the bride of Christ. Consequently, only God Himself has ultimate control over the local church. Baptists reject any other authority over the church as idolatrous.



Summer certainly has been busy for all of us. Our class has continued to study God's word and to find new ways to serve Him. The youth were a great help during Vacation Bible School, serving in various areas. They truly are a blessing!

We finished our "Jesus Changes Everything" study and followed up with a discussion about how to write your testimony. The kids have been writing out their experiences with accepting Christ and will practice shar-

ing their testimonies so they can become more comfortable sharing with others.

As school approaches, please pray for all our students. In an effort to help them be prepared for whatever they encounter, we will begin a study of the Armor of God from Ephesians chapter six. We hope this will help the kids be more prepared for the spiritual warfare they will encounter in our ever-changing world.

We are also excited to welcome the rising sixth-graders from the children's department. We look forward to having them as part of our group!



Champions for Christ Kids

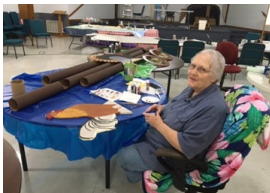
Both our vacation Bible school and annual kids' camp are behind us. We had twenty-five children attending VBS and sixteen in the kids' camp along with numerous adult volunteers. We want to thank all the adults that helped out with VBS this year. Without our adult volunteers, VBS would not have been possible. This was especially true of Casey Johnson. Casey contacted us several months ago and volunteered to take her vacation during the week of our VBS. She came at her own expense and provided leadership for the entire week. Casey's ministry at Hardeetown has been sorely missed over this past year. We also extend our gratitude to Lenny and Lisa Williams of Go Outdoors! Ministries for leading our kids' camp again this year. The kids got to participate in several outdoor activities including playing with a few animals.

We closed our VBS this year with our annual Independence Day picnic. In the past, we conducted our picnic on Sunday afternoon. However, this year we elected to combine the VBS closing with our annual picnic in order to include the parents of our VBS children. Several of the families of our VBS attendees participated, which gave us the opportunity to invite them to church.

Next year's VBS is tentatively scheduled for June 19-23, and the kids' camp has already been scheduled for July 10-14. The Go Outdoors! Ministries will be leading it again. Go Outdoors! Ministries is a Christian, family-operated ministry based in Lakeland that provides fun games and outdoor activities for elementary-aged children. The purpose of both our VBS and kids' camp is to lead children to Christ. In addition, we seek to reach out to the parents of any children that attend in order to share Christ with them also.

This year's school prayer walk will be August 7 at 4:00. However, we will not be meeting here at the church as in the past. This year the prayer walk will begin at the new high school. Everyone is invited to participate.

HBC Women's Ministries

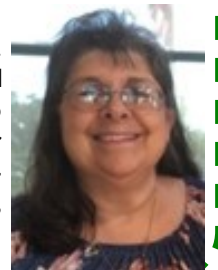


Our summer break will be over at the end of this month. We will kick off Women's Ministries again with a dinner meeting. We will meet at 5:30 in the side room at Beef O'Brady's Restaurant on August 22. To ensure that we set up enough seats, we will have a sign-up sheet in the foyer.

As we move forward with Women's Ministries, we will accept suggestions for things to do in the coming months. Please be in prayer as we discuss possible activities, interest in a future Bible Study (including who will teach it), and what our group might prefer with regard to a future meeting time.

Please invite ladies in the congregation who might not have participated before. Invite your unchurched friends, also. Our ladies' fellowship is an excellent way to introduce them to Jesus. We always have a fun time of fellowship, and I look forward to our next get-together!

We will have our annual Operation Christmas Child cake auction on August 28 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. There will be two different sign-up sheets in the foyer—a participation roster for those who plan to attend and a donation roster for those who will be baking and bringing items for the auction. All proceeds will go toward covering the shipping costs for the 240 boxes we are making this year. Please watch the bulletin for an insert with a list of items we still need. The Operation Christmas Child ministry shares Christ with children all over the world. We are still making items that will go into the shoeboxes. If you would like to help, please contact Connie or Mary Gore. Thank you for all your support!



HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY

August birthdays:

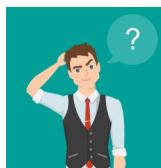
- Johnathan Hart 08/06
- Cheryl Collins 08/16
- Jan Henderson 08/16
- Jan Chesser 08/23
- Mary Ward 08/24
- Elizabeth Landrum 08/27

Happy Birthday to All!



Bible Trivia

What is the source of the river flowing through New Jerusalem?
 Last month's answer: Yes (Zechariah 5:9)



Announcements

All men are invited to a monthly fellowship dinner at 6:00 on the first Tuesday night of each month at Bett's Big T Restaurant. There is no agenda except fellowship. All men and youth are invited. The next dinner will be Tuesday, August 2.

Our next senior adult outing is scheduled for Thursday, August 25. We will be traveling to Bell for lunch at Akins Barbeque. The van will depart at 10:30.

The next women's ministry meeting will be dinner at Beef O'Brady's Restaurant at 5:30 on August 22. All ladies are invited.

Crafts for a Cause meets every Thursday morning at

9:00 in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to be a part of this important evangelism outreach ministry.

The church council will meet in the fellowship hall on Sunday, August 7, at 5:00. If you are the leader of any of our church's ministries, please make every effort to attend.

Our church bylaws committee meets every first Monday. The next meeting is August 1 at 6:30.

The annual Operation Christmas Child silent auction will be Sunday, August 28, at 5:00. Plan now to attend or donate. We will need baked goods including cakes, cookies, and confec-

tions. All proceeds will be used to pay for the shipping for our OCC Christmas boxes.

Sign language class resumes this month and meets every Tuesday at 5:00 in the fellowship hall. Anyone may attend, and you do not need to have had previous instruction. For those who work, if 5:00 is too early, arrive when you can.

There are no men's ministry breakfasts scheduled for the summer. The next men's breakfast will be at 8:00, September 4. All men and boys are invited. Please let Stan Collins know if you plan to attend so we have the correct amount of food prepared.

August Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Bylaws meeting 6:30	Sign Language 5:00 Men's Fellowship Dinner, Bett's 6:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Church council 5:00 Business mtg 6:00 School prayer walk 4:00		Sign Language 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Sign Language 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Women's ministry dinner @ Beef O'Brady's 5:30	Sign Language 5:00		Sr adult luncheon, Akins BBQ, Bell, 11:00 (10:30 departure)		
28	29	30	31			
OCC cake auction 5:00						

August Memory Verse

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

(NKJV)



1716 NW 14th ST
Chiefland, FL 32626

A cooperating Baptist church affiliated with the Harmony Baptist Association, Florida Baptist State Convention, and Southern Baptist Convention.

Hardeetown Baptist Church exists for the purpose of bringing glory to God by worshipping Christ, making disciples, fellowshiping with believers, and ministering to those in need. Our goal is to reach Chiefland and the northwestern Levy County community for Christ by evangelizing the lost and producing growing disciples of Christ through relationship-building and intentional evangelism. We are an autonomous body of believers that voluntarily cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention and Florida Baptist Convention in order to support local, regional, national, and international missions through the Cooperative Program and with the Harmony Baptist Association for the support of local and area missions.

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