

June 2021

- Send our church missionary journeyman, Abbey Irwin, of Jackson, Mississippi, a card this month. She will be returning from Tokyo in about a month. We hope to meet her in person sometime in the next few months.
- Casey Ranalli will be getting married on Saturday, September 4, at 3:30 at Grace Church in Bonifay.
- All our Bible study classes are continuing. Everyone is invited to be a part of one of our Bible study small groups. The Sunday night intensive study in Genesis is available on the website via video. Click on the link to sermons.
- Check out our website at www.hardeetownbc.com. You can also view previous services by clicking on the link to sermons. In the meantime, our services continue to be streamed on Facebook live, and you can listen to our services from the parking lot on Sunday morning by tuning to FM 92.1.

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Hardeetown Baptist Church

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

The Pulpit and Pen



What Will You Do on Your Summer Vacation?

June and summer vacation time is finally upon us. June and July vacations have been a part of our national landscape for several decades. We have come to expect it as a part of our heritage.

Every year church attendance and offerings take a turn for the worse during the summer. Attendance usually drops by as much as 10% to 20%. Offerings often drop by as much as 25%. Some churches may experience as much as a 50% drop in offerings during the summer.

Many people equate church attendance with school. If school is out, then church must be out also. Summer becomes the time for a vacation from life rather than just a vacation out of town. Summer becomes the equivalent of no school, no church, no music lessons for the kids, no responsibility. For some reason, short of taking a formal vacation out of town, summer never equates to no job or work. The promise of a paycheck every month keeps us going to work.

The old saying "out of sight, out of mind" seems to sum up the drop in offerings. So many people, who might otherwise be faithful with their tithes, will simply forget the church when they are out of town. Others often have good intentions to tithe upon

their return, but due to the expense of the vacation simply do not have the money available by the time they return home. Still others intentionally neglect to tithe while on vacation due to misplaced priorities. If tithing is considered a low priority item, other expenses, including the vacation, overrule the tithe.

In addition to summer, there are two other times of the year that seem to supersede our commitment to Christ: hunting season and ball season. There is certainly nothing wrong with taking time off to relax or going hunting with a friend or family member. For many people, hunting is a relaxing getaway. The same is true of sports. Sports can be a great way to exercise or spend time with family.

However, when recreation becomes such a prevalent part of your life that it interferes with your commitment to Christ, it is idolatry. *Anything* that replaces Christ as the central part of your life is an idol.

My challenge to you this June is to make Christ the focus of your life at all times. There is no summer vacation from Christ. Either Christ is Lord at all times or He is not Lord at all. There is no compromise or middle ground with our commitment to Christ. God simply will not accept second place.

While school is indeed out for the summer, your church worships and fellowships together all year. We cannot take a vacation from God.

If you find yourself with extra time this summer due to school or other activities being out, explore some of the ministries available at church. Every Thursday morning one group meets to sew and assemble blankets and bags for cancer and pediatric patients. The senior adults take a lunch trip together each month along with an occasional sight-seeing trip included. The ordained men of the church have a monthly fellowship meal. The men and ladies each have a monthly breakfast together, the men on the first Sunday of the month and the ladies on the fourth Sunday. There are also frequent children and youth activities that require adult supervision. God has something just for you in our church. If you have an interest in a ministry that has not yet materialized, it may be that God is calling you to start it.

Finally, tithing is an act of faith, and God expects us to be faithful at all times. Our tithe should be the first 10% of our increase rather than being just when we can afford it. If you are out of town, there is an online option to tithe on the church's website. God does bless faithfulness!

Hardeetown Student Ministries



Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the students on youth Sunday! The students worked very hard for almost two months to lead the worship service. If you were not able to make it, please go to the church website and watch it. Thanks to all those who encouraged the students after the service as well. Some said they didn't realize there were that many youth upstairs. Yes, we have anywhere from ten to fifteen students coming on Sunday and Wednesday nights, so

yes, we very much need your help in the youth ministry. Please consider donating your time to the students and getting involved with the student ministry here at the church. Please let me know if you would like to help. Again, thank you for encouraging our students.

The first Wednesday night of every month will be a prayer time with Reverend Earl Cairns. Prayer cards for the students are available in the youth room. Afterward, we will continue with the current Bible study. Also, pray for our students while they are on the Centrifuge mission trip, June 14-18.



Champions for Christ Kids



Hey friends, happy June! The time has come, and all of the children and teachers are rejoicing. Hang in there, parents. August will be here before you know it. Although the temperature is not my favorite thing, I really do enjoy the overall feel summertime brings to life. These next couple of months bring opportunities for slowing down and experiencing moments that we wouldn't get to enjoy in our normal day-to-day lives. In the recent months, at least in my own life, things have felt so fast-paced. I'm looking forward to both Adventure Camp and Vacation Bible School because these events give the kids and me a chance to connect better with God while having a blast. I look forward to Vacation Bible School most because God's kids are able to have fun and be filled with the gospel. What a faithful and good God He is to allow us to participate in activities to make Him known. Please join me in praying for the camps, VBS, and the ministry opportunities that both children and youth will participate in this summer. These opportunities will happen globally and not just in our neck of the woods. Have a great June, and see me if you'd like to serve the Lord with us in July during VBS. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer of the church. Please volunteer for one of the ministry opportunities.

HBC Women's Ministries

Summer is here! We had a good turn-out for our May 17 dinner at Beef O'Brady's. Fifteen of us got together and had a great time of fellowship. Our next get-together is breakfast in the fellowship hall on June 27 at 8:00.

Many people think of summer as break time, but ministries are still up and running even though school is out. There are many opportunities to share God's love by helping with children's and youth activities, as well as visiting shut-ins and others in need of a special touch! Crafts for a Cause will continue to meet with just a few exceptions due to the fellowship hall being in use. Please watch the church calendar and bulletin. If you have any questions about where you might get plugged in to a new ministry, please give me a call at (229) 977-8764 or call the church office.

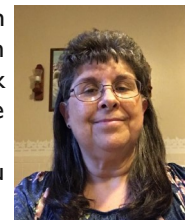
In the meantime, here is the latest report from our missionary journeyman, Abbey Irwin, as of May 12:

"I had one Easter party with two of my Vietnamese friends and two Easter parties with the Nepali family. The true story of Easter was shared with all of these friends, and all of them heard truth they haven't heard before. I pray they will always remember what Easter is about and that it would lead them to turning to Christ for salvation. One of the Vietnamese friends (Tess) kept saying 'wow' whenever I shared about the Easter story. She seems very open to the truth!

I had two parties with the Nepali family. I was able to use the resurrection eggs with A. and E. (A. is 8, and E. is 6.) I tried to explain the story in a childlike way and wanted to be mindful of my words since E. had expressed fear in death and Jesus. I said the 'bad guys' wanted to hurt Jesus because they didn't like him. A. then says out of nowhere, 'It's because they didn't believe he was God!' I was shocked! I said, 'Did you read that somewhere in a book?' She didn't! Wow! I was reviewing the story with them and asked who Jesus was praying to in the garden before the cross. A. said, 'His father.' I asked who his father is, and she needed a little help. But she said, 'God!' Don't underestimate what children can understand and how God can work in their hearts and minds at such a young age! These girls are exposed to so much through too much social media (especially TikTok) and TV. It's honestly scary. I'm praying that the stuff they see and hear from screens won't stay but that the Word of God will be planted in their hearts forever to stay. They asked if they could keep the resurrection eggs, and I said yes as long as they could tell the story to their mom. So with a little help from me, we told their mom the Easter story!

Please pray for open doors to see these friends more along with opportunities to share the gospel with them. Pray that God will open my mouth to speak through me with boldness and love and that He would open their hearts to receive his salvation. Pray for availability with the Nepali family. They are planning to move back to Nepal this summer, if all goes as planned. I really want to be able spend as much time with them as possible before their move. Would you pray for our schedules to line up so that I can still see them frequently?

Thank you for your constant support and prayers! I have about 2.5 months left! I hope I can come see you in person when I return to the states." Abbey Irwin





June birthdays:

Skipper Henderson	06/02
Donna Brock	06/10
Heather Woodall	06/13
Shirley Jackson	06/19
Paulette Moore	06/24
Timothy Reidy	06/24
David Allen	06/27
Caleb Hardee	06/28
Raymond Allen	06/30

Happy Birthday to All!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TODAY WE'LL LEARN



THE LETTERS O, L, AND D

Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



"He preaches on love too much.
That makes me mad!"

Bible Trivia

What was the population of Nineveh when Jonah prophesied there?
Last month's answer: Lot (Genesis 19:36-38)



Announcements

The church is in need of additional volunteers to serve in children's church and with the youth. Please see Casey Ranalli if you are willing to be placed in the rotation for one of the children's church age groups or Brian if you can serve as a chaperone for youth activities. You can serve as often or as little as the Holy Spirit leads. Casey will be leaving in August, so we need your help!

Casey will be hosting a kids' party on Saturday, June 26, 10:00 to 12:00 and again on Saturday, July 31.

All ordained men are invited to a monthly deacons' dinner at 6:00 on the first Tuesday night of each month at Bett's Big T Restaurant. There is no

agenda except fellowship together. The next dinner will be July 6.

Our next senior adult outing is scheduled for Thursday, June 24. We will be eating lunch at the Cypress Inn Restaurant in Cross City. We will leave the church at 10:30.

The next women's ministry breakfast will be June 27 at 8:00. All ladies are invited.

Crafts for a Cause meets every Thursday morning at 9:00 in the fellowship hall. If you can sew, cut material, stuff envelopes, or help package projects, your help is needed. Everyone is invited to be a part of this important evangelism out-

reach ministry.

The annual summer picnic will be July 4 at 5:00. This will be a great opportunity to reach our community, so please invite your unchurched friends to attend. There is no cost except to bring a side dish or dessert. The church will provide the meat.

Kids' Camp will be 9:00 to 3:00, June 7-11. See Casey to register your children. This will be a time of fun and activities.

Casey Ranalli will be marrying Al Johnson September 4 at Grace Church in Bonifay. The service will begin at 3:30.

June Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Sign language class 5:00 Deacons dinner 6:00	2	3 Crafts for a Cause 9:00	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Men's bfast 8:00; Lord's Supper; Church council/business mtg, 5:00/6:00	kid's summer camp	kid's summer camp Sign language class 5:00	kid's summer camp	kid's summer camp Crafts for a Cause 9:00	kid's summer camp	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
SBC Pastors' Conf.	SBC Pastors' Conf. Centrifuge	SBC, Nashville Centrifuge	SBC, Nashville Trip	Crafts for a Cause 9:00 To Panama City	Centrifuge	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Father's Day No evening svc				Sr adult luncheon 11:00 Cypress Inn Restaurant Cross City		Children's ministry party 10:00-12:00
27	28	29	30			
Women's breakfast 8:00						

June Memory Verse

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

(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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