

# Hardeetown Baptist Church

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



## The Pulpit and Pen

### Where Do We Go from Here?

Over the past two years churches across the world have seen a drastic drop in attendance. Covid hit us hard. However, over the past several months many churches have been slowly recovering, and attendance has been increasing. Our own church has seen an influx of new faces over the past few months.

So at this point, you may wonder, "Where do we go from here? What is God's will for our church as we consider ministry over the next few years?" As we consider the answer to these questions, the most important consideration is to remember that what we want or think is irrelevant. The only thing that matters is what God's will is.

Determining the will of God is normally not as difficult as we want to believe. God is not hiding from us, and if God wants us to do His will, He certainly would not make His will impossible to ascertain. God could not hold us accountable for seeking and doing His will if He made it impossible for us to know that will.

The easiest way for us to determine God's will for our church is simply to look around us. See what God is already doing. God does not need us to accomplish His will, but He does invite us to be a part of what He is doing.

When we see God at work around us, that is clear evidence of God's will for us. Look for what God is doing, and then ask for His permission to join Him. If that is God's will for our church, He will make it possible for us to join together with the work that He is already doing.

In the meantime, we should certainly pray for God to make His will known. There is never a bad time to pray, but faithful prayer must always be undergirded with action. James 2:14-26 tells us that prayer without appropriate works lacks real faith. So while we're praying for God to show us what He is doing and to allow us to be a part of it, we should get to work. If that work is not God's will for us, He will shut the door.

We should also search the scriptures for examples of what we are seeking to do. Is there a general principle in scripture that matches our situation? For example, does our project or ministry allow us to share the gospel? Does it fulfill a spiritual or physical need? If it only provides for a physical need, does it open the door to sharing the gospel later? Does it glorify Christ?

As we seek God's will for the church, we should always remember one important consideration—the church is not ours. It is fine to think of this as *our* church in the context of this being

our covenant congregation and spiritual family. However, never forget that the church, including this one, belongs to Christ. To claim ownership over the church due to one's tenure or work invested is sin. Christ purchased the church with His blood, and any claim of ownership on the church that seeks to supersede that is idolatry.

The Holy Spirit is at work in Chiefland. There are obvious signs around us that would show us what God's will is for Hardeetown. In the past two years, two large recreational vehicle (RV) parks have been built that have brought several hundred new residents to the area. A new high school has been built. A Christian school in Fanning Springs has recently doubled in size. Several new businesses have been built. All these have brought new people to Chiefland, and these new people, both young and old, are ripe for the gospel.

Pray that God will provide workers for this ripe harvest. In the meantime, be sensitive to the reality that God is calling us to that harvest also. Do not pray for a harvest if you are not willing to sew the seed, but sew the seed that God wants. Our will and desire will not grow the church. Furthermore, as the pastor, I am only one person. Sewing gospel seeds is a job that requires *all* of us.

- 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](http://www.hardeetownbc.com), and click on the link to sermons. We also hope to restart our streaming service this month.
- 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 at 5:30 each Tuesday. See Connie Bloesch for more information or call the church office.

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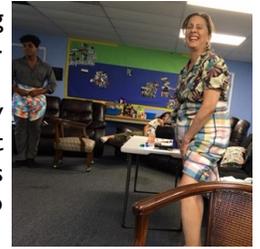
# Hardeetown Student Ministries



A new school year has begun for our students, and they are all getting into the swing of things. We continue to meet on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Please pray for all of our students and teachers.

Our study of the Armor of God went great, and the kids learned many tools God has given us to battle the evil they will encounter in their lives. It was quite amusing as we talked about “girding your loins.” Some brave souls gave it a try! We studied how to write their testimonies and will continue to

help them become more comfortable sharing Christ with their classmates, family, and friends.



Beth, Barbara, and I are looking at a few studies to do during September. Our goal is to challenge the students while helping them grow in their daily walks with Christ. Please continue to pray for us as we work with our great group of kids!

Three of our youth, Cristian Gonzalez, Jose de la Cruz, and Selena de la Cruz, did an awesome job in the Chief Theater production of “Beauty is a Beast.” We look forward to their next play, which will be at Chieffland Middle High School.



## Champions for Christ Kids

Be in prayer for our children’s ministry. We are seeing signs of significant spiritual growth among the children. One of our young children recently made a profession of faith in Christ. The next step in the discipleship process is to help this individual overcome the fear of standing in front of the church and then being baptized. That is a very real fear, and many adults hesitate to join the church for the same reason. Our other children are growing spiritually and show it.

In the meantime, pray that we can reach the extended families of both our children and youth. Keep in mind that your pastor and children’s leaders cannot accomplish the task of evangelism alone. It takes each one of us sharing our faith. Have you shared your faith with someone lately? Keep in mind that if you share Jesus with a child, avoid using such language as having Jesus in your heart or walking the aisle at church. Very young children understand such things literally. Up until about the age of seven, most children will understand the idea of Jesus being in your heart as having had someone literally climb in. Walking the aisle carries with it similar ideas, and walking an aisle at church, while required for church membership, is not necessary for accepting Christ. Accepting Christ has to come first. Joining the church can come later when the child is ready.

## HBC Women’s Ministries

We often talk about the need for Christians to come together to worship as a group, but we do not talk nearly as often about the need for fellowship. The purpose of gathering together is to develop relationships and encourage one another. Without spending time together, there is no way that we can truly get to know each other and become part of each other’s lives. The Bible speaks of that importance in Hebrews 10:24-25, which says, “And let’s consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

While the purpose of meeting monthly is to make sure we are all informed about events and activities, it is equally important to share time together to allow us to get closer to our sisters in Christ. The more time our women spend interacting, the more unified we will become.

We had a great turnout at our August 22 meeting with twenty in attendance. We considered the possibility of moving our monthly meetings to a different time since Sunday morning was difficult for some to participate. As a group, it was decided to try moving our meetings to the same time our men meet, so beginning September 6, we will be meeting at Beef O’ Brady’s on the first Tuesday of each month. I have reserved the side room for us through the rest of 2022 on that night. At the end of the year we will discuss if that plan is working out or if we want to change things again. Anyone with suggestions of whom we might contact to come speak to our group, please share the contact information with Connie or Mary’O.

Many expressed interest in doing a Bible study. We will share more information as the details are worked out as to the topic, time, and location the study will be offered.

Special thanks to all who participated in our annual OCC cake auction. A total of \$2000 was raised to help us send shoe boxes all over the world to share Christ with children ages two to thirteen. We will announce when we will be packing the shoe boxes so anyone wishing to do so can assist. In the meantime, the Thursday Crafts for a Cause group is working diligently to get the remaining items made for our upcoming OCC boxes. Anyone interested in attending is welcome to join us. The meeting time is 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursdays, except the day that our senior adult luncheon occurs, which is normally the fourth Thursday.

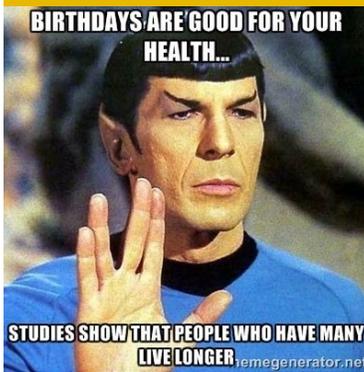




September birthdays:

- Sonya Fisher 09/03
- Megan Snyder 09/05
- Moe Stump 09/05
- Eddie Barron 09/06
- Ben Ivey 09/10
- Connie Blosch 09/18
- Michael Edmonds 09/19
- Mary Gore 09/19
- Prieston Jones 09/20
- Treva Milburn 09/20
- Earlene Crews 09/29
- Joe Gore 09/29

Happy Birthday to All!



## 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, September 6.

Our next senior adult outing is scheduled for Thursday, September 22. We will be eating at the Ocean Buffet in Gainesville. The van will depart at 10:00.

The women's ministry will be eating at Beef O'Brady's Restaurant in the future instead of a monthly breakfast. The next dinner meeting will be Tuesday, September 6, at 5:30. 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, September 11, 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 will meet Monday, September 12, at 6:30.

The next men's breakfast will be October 2 at 8:00. All men of any age are invited.

Sign language class meets

every Tuesday at 5:30 in the fellowship hall. Anyone may attend, and you do not need to have had previous instruction.

The church fall festival will be Sunday, October 16, at 5:00. All are welcome and encouraged to invite people from the community. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be served, and games will be provided for the children. Please volunteer to help with this community outreach event.

The next movie night will be Sunday, October 30, at 5:00. (movie TBD) Please invite your unchurched friends as the movies shown will be evangelistic and family-friendly.

## September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Men's breakfast 8:00 Lord's Supper	Labor Day	Women's ministry dinner @ Beef's, 5:30 Men's Fellowship Dinner, Bett's 6:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Church council 5:00 Business mtg 6:00	Bylaws meeting 6:30	Sign Language, 5:30		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Sign Language, 5:30		Sr adult luncheon, Ocean Buffett, Gainesville, 11:00 (10:00 departure)		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
		Sign Language, 5:30				

**Bible Trivia**

What left-handed man assassinated the king of Moab?  
Last month's answer: the throne and Spirit of God (Revelation 22:1)



**September Memory Verse**

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (KJV)



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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