

# Hardeetown Baptist Church

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

- The church has transitioned our live streaming from Facebook Live to YouTube. You can find our site by going to our website and then clicking on the link to SERMONS.
- The annual fall festival is scheduled for October 10. Invite your unchurched friends to come. This will be a great outreach opportunity.
- 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](http://www.hardeetownbc.com). You can also view previous services by clicking on the link to sermons. In the meantime, our services continue to be broadcast from the parking lot on Sunday morning by tuning to FM 92.1.

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## The Pulpit and Pen



### Church Membership

It used to be customary to be a member of a local church. Some denominations like Lutherans and Catholics would automatically assign you to a local parish church. If you lived in the community and considered yourself a Lutheran (or Catholic or Episcopalian), you were a member of the local parish church whether you wanted to be or not. Baptists, Methodists, and other congregational denominations encouraged you to find a local church to join voluntarily. The traditional church covenant to which many Baptist churches still adhere contains an admonition that the individual will immediately seek out a new church to join should that person move to a new community.

Membership in a group, whether it be the local church, a fraternal organization, or a club was much more common in previous generations. Being a part of something greater than ourselves or being able to share a common interest with others was an important part of society in years past. Our membership in such organizations, especially the church, was a part of our personal identity.

However, in recent years many people have lost interest in joining organizations, including the church. In the post-modern era, formal

membership is simply no longer seen as an important part of everyday life. Our identities have become defined more by our occupations and outside interests than by our social interactions.

Consequently, many people simply no longer go through the formal process of joining the local church. Those same people may regularly attend and participate in various activities but yet see no need to take the final step toward official membership. Many of those same individuals may not even realize that there is such a thing as official membership.

So why should we take that final step? What is different about the church that makes it worthy of our joining versus a local club or social activity? A club or social organization is based on a common interest or activity. For example, one could join a local gardening club and share gardening experiences with others in the community. However, that same person could quit the club and still be an accomplished gardener.

The church, on the other hand, is much more than a mere club. The church is the body of Christ. Since the Holy Spirit has gifted and called each of us differently, withdrawal from the local church is the equivalent of being cut off from the body. God has called us to serve Him by

participating in the local church (cf. Hebrews 10:25).

Some might still say that official membership is unnecessary. One can participate without actually going through the official membership process. However, those who are not of the official membership cannot be held accountable by the church. Spiritual accountability is a major function of the church. Matthew 18:15-20 addresses the method by which Christians are to hold one another accountable and by which they are to be reconciled, but that accountability must be accomplished within the context of the local church.

If you are one that regularly participates but has never taken the final step toward membership, I urge you to do so. The church is not a mere club. We are the body and bride of Christ. As the body of Christ, we cannot sit on the fence. God expects us to be wholly committed to Him, including our accountability in the church.

Church membership begins by accepting God's forgiveness in Christ and then publicly declaring that decision to accept Christ. You can do that by presenting yourself to the church at the end of the service during the final hymn. You will then be baptized by immersion, unless you have already done so previously. Then, let's get busy as the body of Christ.

# Hardeetown Student Ministries

I'm beginning to think that God chose to allow me to work with the youth for my benefit—maybe even more so for mine than for theirs. Anytime God has placed me into a role of teaching (no matter the age group), I am challenged to study His word more than I probably would otherwise. That isn't exactly a great revelation from your pastor's wife, but by sharing my reality I hope that maybe some of you will be challenged as well.

We recently began a new study entitled "The Bible" by Brody Jespersen, and it is especially challenging as we look at the Bible and its purpose instead of just looking at stories from the Bible. One thing I have learned over the past couple months is that our young people have some very deep questions. I introduced you to "Mrs. Connie's 'New' Vocabulary" last month, and this month we added a section for the kids. Recent entries have included *inerrant* and *inspired* to name a few. If you would like to go through the study yourself, you can watch it on RightNowMedia.com. If you would like access to the site, please let me know. It's easy, and there are many, many studies for adults and children on many topics. It is a great service, and you have free access through the church!



While I'm sharing, our recent study on the Prodigal Son has been an eye opener for me. I guess for some reason, over the years, I never actually looked up the meaning of *prodigal*, and I assumed it meant someone who was wayward and then returned. WRONG ANSWER! We added this one to our wall too. *Prodigal*, as an adjective, is a person who is spending money or resources freely and recklessly—wastefully extravagant. Digging deeper is always a good idea. Hopefully, we all will become better at studying God's word. I know I have lots of room for improvement.

Thanks for trusting me with teaching these awesome young people. It is truly my privilege to do so. I also want to welcome Barbara Edmonds to our happy group. I truly appreciate her help! Also, a shout out to Pam Sheffield for helping to cover the class while I'm out of town at a family event!

## Champions for Christ Kids

This month we have our annual Fall Festival. We are hosting a Trunk or Treat activity on Sunday, October 10, from 5:00 to 7:00. The festival will include food and fun games for the children. If you can host a game or activity, please sign up on the roster in the church foyer or see Charles Brock as soon as possible. We also still need donations of individually-wrapped candy.

This is one of our major community outreach events for the year. If you know of families in the community that are unchurched, please invite them to our festival. Also, keep in mind that this is an evangelism event. While you are hosting a game or serving food, take the time to share Jesus with those who are attending. At the very least, let's ensure that people understand that knowing Jesus is fun.

In the meantime, please ensure that everyone understands that this is a Christian event. We are here to glorify Christ. While the kids are welcome to dress up, please no Halloween costumes like witches, devils, or ghosts. Let's be like Jesus!

## HBC Women's Ministries



*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8*

I want to commend our ladies (and our gentlemen too!). They do so many different things each month that there is no way I can possibly list them. I wish everyone in our church knew the many hours that are put in supporting our various ministries at Hardeetown Baptist Church, within our church, and in ministries that serve our community and across the world. There are always things to be done and we have dedicated folks working in many ways to serve God. If any of you feel that you would like to find a new way to serve God's kingdom, please talk to Pastor or me, and we can help you find a spot that fits your spiritual gifts.

During my traveling over the past month, the Crafts for a Cause crew has been working diligently. In addition to the regular projects we work on, we have had a couple of packing sessions resulting in the completion of 140 of our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! One more session will get our total goal completed. These boxes will then be sent on their way to children all over the world. Thank you to those who have directly been involved with getting them ready and those who have supported this ministry in prayer and through financial support.

We are looking forward to meeting Abbey Irwin in November! Two years ago William met her father while she was being commissioned as a journeyman missionary to Tokyo. Since that time we adopted her and have been praying for her as well as sending care packages from time to time. She is back in the States and will be coming to share about her time in Japan. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, November 21, and plan to be here for this special opportunity. More details will be shared soon!





October birthdays:  
 Susan Muth 10/03  
 Rob Rosenberger 10/04  
 Mary'O HENDERSON 10/08  
 Kamala Reidy 10/14  
 William Cason 10/18  
 Skylar Moore 10/20  
 Jennie Sharp 10/21  
 June Campbell 10/25  
 Johnny Webster 10/25  
 Dorann Lam 10/27  
 Robert Allen 10/31  
 Happy Birthday to All!

**WHAT DO YOU MEAN  
 NO MORE CAKE???**



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



**Bible Trivia**

How many archangels are mentioned in the Bible?  
 Last month's answer: Ezekiel (chapters 40 -43)



**Announcements**

Please consider volunteering for the children or youth ministry while we seek new leadership. Your service is very much needed.

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 October 5. You do not have to be currently serving as an active deacon or have been ordained at Hardeetown to participate.

Our next senior adult outing is scheduled for Thursday, October 28. We will be shopping at Heritage Village in Crystal River and then eating lunch at Peck's Old

Port Cove Restaurant. We will leave the church at 9:00.

The ladies will meet for breakfast on Sunday, October 24, at 8:00 and again on November 21. We will have a special guest at our November breakfast, Abbey Irwin of Jackson, Mississippi. Abbey just returned from a two-year missionary assignment with the International Mission Board and will be sharing details about her ministry there. The men are also 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 outreach ministry.

The church council will meet in the fellowship hall on Sunday, October 3, at 5:00 and on November 7. If you are the leader of any of our church's ministries, please make every effort to attend.

This year's fall festival will be Sunday, October 10 at 5:00. Please invite any unchurched children and families from your neighborhood.

The next men's breakfast is Sunday, November 7, at 8:00. All men and boys are invited.

**October Calendar**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Men's breakfast 8:00 Church council/business meeting, 5:00/6:00		Sign Language 5:00 Deacons dinner 6:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Fall festival, 5:00		Sign Language 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Sign Language 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Women's breakfast 8:00		Sign Language 5:00		Sr adult luncheon, shopping at Heritage Village & Peck's Old Port Cove Rest., Crystal River		
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**October Memory Verse**

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (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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