

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.
- Casey Ranalli will be getting married on Saturday, September 4, at 3:30 at Grace Church in Bonifay. Everyone is invited!
- 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 broadcast from the parking lot on Sunday morning by tuning to FM 92.1.

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The Pulpit and Pen



It's for Your Own Good

Covid cases are on the rise again. The government and some health officials have said that the coronavirus delta variant is more contagious and deadlier. In addition, the statistics that are being published would seem to indicate that the overwhelming majority of new hospitalizations involve those who have not received a Covid vaccine.

Just this week the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced that even those who had received a vaccine were at risk for contracting and spreading the delta variant. There has been no real statistical data collected on this, however. That is simply the current direction of the political winds.

As a result of the recent new spread of Covid, the government has reversed course and demanded that the public begin wearing facemasks again. Both the White House and Congress have mandated facemasks while in those respective buildings. The CDC is also maneuvering to reinstitute a nationwide mandate requiring facemasks.

Recently, a group of parents in Alachua County, protesting the requirement for facemasks in the Alachua School District, contracted with the University of Florida Mass Spectrometry Research and Education Center to test the levels and types of ambient bacteria on facemasks.

The six masks tested had been worn by children in school for approximately eight hours prior to being tested. The UF lab determined that five out of the six masks tested were contaminated with dangerous bacteria, parasites, and fungi, including diphtheria, pneumonia, and meningitis.

In the meantime, the government has launched a campaign demonizing anyone refusing to be vaccinated. Many have refused on the grounds that none of the vaccines have yet been tested for long-range complications. Also, there have been several instances of juvenile deaths as a complication of a vaccine. Nevertheless, numerous countries and many liberal thinkers throughout the world are demanding that everyone receive a vaccine. Our own federal government is among those demanding nationwide vaccinations.

Just this week it was announced that the federal government is considering requiring a vaccine passport for travelers. Others across the nation and within the government, especially Congress, have started advocating for a vaccine passport in order to attend a crowded venue, enter a grocery store, or shop anywhere crowds might gather. Anyone refusing the vaccine or vaccine passport would be denied service.

That alone should be

ample cause for alarm for any well-informed Christian. Revelation 13:16-17 tells us that during the Tribulation no one will be able to conduct business unless he has the mark of the beast. Many have said that the Tribulation will be a cashless society, but that is not what the passage says. It merely indicates that no transaction will occur unless the individual has the mark.

What better way to convince the public to receive the mark of the beast than a pandemic? If you refuse to be vaccinated, you become an enemy of the state. Your family, friends, and neighbors will turn against you. Since carrying a vaccine card will be cumbersome, it is only natural that the government will develop a technology identifying an individual as safe—hence some kind of identifying mark. With the Church having already been raptured by then, those who reject Christ will be in control, and instituting the mark of the beast will be easy and even welcomed by the public.

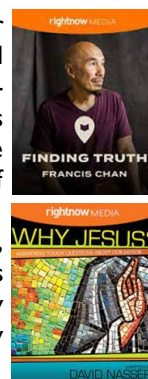
For now, whether you receive a vaccine or wear a mask is a matter of personal conscience. The vaccines may or may not work. Time will tell. However, the move toward mandatory compliance with such things as a vaccine passport is dangerous. Receiving the mark of the beast is an eternal death sentence (Revelation 14:9-11).

Hardeetown Student Ministries

As most of you know, Brian and his family have moved to a new ministry in Dayton, Tennessee. As our pastor and the personnel team are seeking the new man God wants to minister here at our church, I (Connie Blosch) will be assuming the teaching responsibilities for our youth. I look forward to filling the gap with our precious young people until a new student pastor is called to serve here at Hardeetown. I would greatly appreciate your earnest prayers as a new person is sought and as I am preparing to teach. I ask you also to pray and consider coming up to help me while I am working with our youth. We have kids with many deep questions, and spending time with them gives all of us an opportunity to make a difference in their lives.



We will continue to use both video-formatted materials and topical lessons. As a reminder, there are three opportunities for our students each week: Sunday Bible study – Sunday mornings @ 9:30 a.m., youth discipleship training – Sunday @ 5:30 p.m. (August study is “Finding Truth” by Francis Chan), and HSM mid-week Bible Study – Wednesday @ 5:30 p.m. (August study is “Why Jesus?” by David Nasser).



Champions for Christ Kids



Hey friends, happy August! Time flies when you're sweating your life away in this summer heat.

Well I thought I'd start my last newsletter with a proper introduction. My name is Casey Ranalli, and I've lived the last fifteen years in Levy County, and what an adventure those years have been. I've recently been reflecting on life and such. I guess that happens when you're packing your life into boxes. One thing that I have not been able to shake is the reality of God's presence in the midst of the last fifteen years. (I'm not saying that He hasn't been there longer.) One example is how I even came to Hardeetown in the first place. I was fresh out of college, and I came back to Bronson begrudgingly. All my friends had jobs or the mission field lined up, and I was going home with no job or plan, or so I thought. I wish I didn't remember all the pouting I did. See, even when we poke out our lip and stomp our feet, God is patient.

Fast forward to 2019. I had been praying fervently that the Lord would guide me to an opportunity to serve and teach kids again. Again, I do not know why I still get shocked when God answers our prayers. Surely I'm not alone. Fast forward again a month after praying and praying and praying—I received a call from a pastor who had received my resume. (I didn't even know the Baptist College of Florida was sending mine out anymore.) Then it kind of all just fell into place.

The last two years at Hardeetown have been such a blessing marked by growth, laughs, and sweet friendships. Thank you for allowing me to love the kids in your community. Thank you for the support and encouragement during little moments. Some of you are scary (cough, Mr. Joe ☺). Lastly, thank you for allowing me to be myself (barefooted and all). I'm praying for Hardeetown in this next season that the Lord would have His way and provide accordingly in line with His will!

With love,

Your barefoot Bronsonian!

HBC Women's Ministries



The whirlwind of life continues at its crazy pace, and here it is August already! In the fast-paced life many of us live, it is easy to get totally bogged down. Some of you have heard me use the phrase “in my spare time,” knowing full well that I'm being a bit sarcastic. I realize at times when you see the list of items on the agenda at our church, it is overwhelming. While I totally understand each of us has different callings and different gifts, I do hope each of us will continually seek God's will in our lives and not just skip opportunities under the guise of “I'm too busy.” I'm not lecturing—just sharing the observation that we *make* time for things we feel are important, and I hope you will always seek ways to serve God.

Along with our regular weekly events we have the following activities in August:

August 4, 11:30 – 1:00 TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON – Fellowship Hall

We will be hosting our annual lunch for staff returning to school. We will need help setting up, serving, and cleaning up. We would love to have a few people to help greet our guests. If you would like to help, please let us know.

August 23, 5:30 – 7:00 WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DINNER – Beef O' Brady's Restaurant
All ladies are invited to meet at Beef O' Brady's for dinner and fellowship.

August 29, 5:00 – 7:00 OCC FUNDRAISER CAKE AUCTION – Fellowship Hall
We need donations of cakes and people to participate in our silent auction. The funds collected during this event will help cover the postage for our 210 Operation Christmas Child boxes we will prepare as a church. Sign-up sheets will be in the foyer for both cakes and general participation.





August birthdays:

- Cheryl Collins 08/16
- Jan Henderson 08/16
- L. C. Cannon 08/17
- Jan Chesser 08/23
- Mary Ward 08/24
- Beth Landrum 08/27

Happy Birthday to All!



Both Brian and Casey have left us for other ministries. Be in prayer for the personnel team as they seek God's will for the church. Also, please consider volunteering for the children or youth ministry while we seek new leadership. Your service is very much needed.

The teacher appreciation luncheon will be Wednesday, August 4, beginning at 11:30. Volunteers are needed to assist in this important outreach ministry.

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

Announcements

will be August 3. You do not have to be currently serving as an active deacon to participate.

Our next senior adult outing is scheduled for Thursday, August 26. We will be eating lunch at Melanie's Kitchen in Williston. We will leave the church at 10:30.

The ladies will meet for dinner at Beef O' Brady's on Monday, August 23 at 5:30. All ladies are invited. There will be no ladies' breakfast in August.

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.

This year's annual Operation Christmas Child cake auction will be August 29 at 5:00. Bring your cakes and baked goods to donate for the auction. It will be a silent auction, so everyone can fellowship during the auction.

This year's fall festival will be Sunday, October 10 at 5:00.

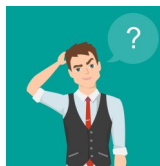
Casey Ranalli will be marrying Al Johnson September 4 at Grace Church in Bonifay. The service will begin at 3:30.

August Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Church reception for Casey 12:00 No PM svc		Sign Language 5:00 Deacons dinner 6:00	Teachers' luncheon 11:00	Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
School prayer walk, 3:00 Church council/business meeting, 5:00/6:00		Sign Language 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Sign Language 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Women's ministry dinner at Beef's 5:30	Sign Language 5:00		Sr adult luncheon, Melanie's Restaurant, Williston		
29	30	31				
OCC cake auction 5:00		Sign Language 5:00				

Bible Trivia

What were the names of the two columns supporting the front porch of Solomon's Temple? Last month's answer: Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 21:39 & 22:3)



August Memory Verse

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

(NASB)



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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