

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. Due to Internet problems, occasionally our streaming video crashes. If that happens, the video will be uploaded to the website on Monday morning.
- Plan now to attend our annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 12, at 6:00. Finger foods will be served in the fellowship hall immediately afterward.
- 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.

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- Pulpit and Pen** 1
- Student Ministry** 2
- Champions for Christ Ministry** 2
- HBC Women's Ministries** 2
- Birthdays** 3
- Announcements** 3
- Church Calendar** 3
- Trivia & Memory verse** 3



The Pulpit and Pen

Christmas Music and Football

I must confess that I am not a fan of Christmas music. While there are a few Christmas songs that I like, by the time December is behind us, I've heard so much Christmas music that I am quite happy not to hear any more for another year. I actually like most Christmas music. I just get overwhelmed by so much of it. Some people immerse themselves in Christmas music throughout December and enjoy every bit of it. I have no problem with that. To each his own. I just don't care for it that much. I'm a subscriber to XM Sirius Radio, and beginning around mid November, some of my favorite radio channels change to an all-Christmas-music format. I usually stop listening to those channels for at least a couple of months.

You might think that your pastor is just a Scrooge. Far from it. My wife will attest that I'm probably more into Christmas than she is. Christmas was the major family event when I was growing up. Christmas was huge with presents everywhere. It would take a couple of hours for everyone to open gifts.

With my own two boys grown and on their own, I still endeavor to provide them with lots to open and with which to celebrate, even if I have to spend as much on shipping as I do on the gifts

themselves. About every three or four years, my boys have blessed me with the gift of their presence in my home on Christmas day. The best gift they can give me is to celebrate Christmas with us all together as a family.

That's the essence of God's gift of His Son to us. God Himself came and dwelled with us. He also promised that He would come back for us. From that time onward, we will have the joy of living forever in the presence of God.

When I was a kid living in Jacksonville, I remember playing ball with a couple of boys down the street. They were avid ball fans, and their dad coached Little League Baseball.

One spring day I asked them if they would like to play football. They refused. When I asked why, they responded that it was no longer football season. It was baseball season, so they could only play baseball. I failed to understand why the date on the calendar was the determining factor whether they played football or baseball, especially since it was just a yard game among a few neighborhood friends.

Over the years, I have begun to understand more about some people's slavery to the calendar. People tend to live compartmentalized lives. The calendar is simply a tool declaring which com-

partment of our lives we will live in that particular month.

So like the end of football season in December, we are now in the Christmas music season. Christmas music and Christmas decorations are everywhere. (For the record, I like Christmas decorations.)

There is absolutely nothing wrong with celebrating the birth of Christ during Christmas season or even singing Christmas songs during December. The question remains, why can't we play football in April? Why can't we celebrate the birth of Christ at other times of the year? Why can't we have "Joy to the World" in June? Let's share the joy of the coming of Christ throughout the year instead of just December.

We need to stop living compartmentalized lives, and celebrate Jesus all year long. Jesus is our Savior in March, July, and September just as He is in December. We focus on the coming of Christ at Christmastime, but God is unwilling to accept mere seasonal worship. Jesus is God Almighty all twelve months of the year.

We should share the story of Jesus all year long. Jesus said that His return for the church could happen at any time. Let's be ready for when that happens. Share the story of "Joy to the World" before the song of the season becomes "It's Too Late."

Hardeetown Student Ministries

I'm not sure why the amazing things God does still catch me off guard, but frankly they do. You would think after many years of seeing Him work in the lives of people in tremendous ways that I would know to expect God to do great things. In reality I'm glad that I have not become hardened to how truly amazing He is. During the month of November I witnessed Him working in our youth department. We have had many new young people coming, and that is wonderful. If you had asked me in August if we would have nights where over fifteen kids would show up, I probably would have laughed. Yes, sometimes their attendance is due to special activities and the tasty things served like ice cream, but they are here.



During each of these activities they are hearing the Word of God. As we have studied Moses over the past few weeks, the students have heard the Ten Commandments multiple times, and we have actually looked at what those commandments mean. We have great kids that are learning about God on so many levels.

As is usually the case, we are learning from them as they learn from us. I have had the privilege of working with both Barbara Edmunds and Beth Cloues, and I think we all marvel at the challenge we have of keeping up with current things. Our latest learning moment was the introduction of Gaga Ball into our lives. Some people will probably think, "We have known about Gaga Ball forever. What rock were you hiding under?" Well, I didn't know much more than vague references to the Gaga Pit we apparently once had at Hardeetown. I knew it involved a pit of some sort. So we decided to try it with a temporary pit in the fellowship hall made from tables, and then the following week a nice wooden Gaga Pit suddenly materialized on the playground! Thanks Mr. Stan, Mr. Mac, and Mrs. Karen for caring about the kids in our church!



Champions for Christ Kids

Our children's ministry continues to flourish. We have several children that attend our Wednesday evening activities that are unable to attend on Sunday morning. Sometimes it appears that we have two different groups. If you know any families in the area with elementary school-aged children, please invite them to attend. Our ladies have done a great job of teaching and growing this ministry.

In the meantime, with Christmas rapidly approaching, our children's ministry is in for a special month. You just never know what great surprises Almighty God has in store for us in December. Be here to see for yourself. You'll know it when it happens!

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

A couple of years ago, William ran into a very emotional man at the Southern Baptist Convention. Through that chance encounter, we were blessed to learn about his daughter, Abbey Irwin. She was about to start her Journeyman ministry in Tokyo, and William asked her father if we could pray for her. So our church adopted her. Your prayers and gifts were so very much appreciated! Upon returning to the United States, she told us she would love to come thank us and to share about her experiences as an International Mission Board Journeyman missionary. We were so blessed to have her come. It was awe-inspiring to hear how our Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon funds along with our special gifts helped her share the Gospel! Please continue to pray for her as she seeks the next step the Lord has for her. Thank you to all the women and men who came to hear her at breakfast.



Our church is a tremendous giving group, and I am happy to share that your support helped a single mother greatly in early November. Three area families were assisted during Thanksgiving, and we continue to collect items and funds to help even more families at Christmas. You can donate for this ministry throughout the month of December.



Offering goal: \$1200



December birthdays:

- Ron Jackson 12/07
- Karen MacFeggan 12/08
- Frances Hardee 12/10
- Celeste Green 12/12
- Daniel Ivey 12/12
- Jenevieve Hannah 12/13
- Fred Leitner 12/15
- Lesa Ward 12/15
- Mac MacFeggan 12/16
- Stanley Collins 12/17
- Regina Goss 12/18
- Billie Sharp 12/18
- Wanda Jones 12/21
- Dean Chesser 12/22
- John Fisher 12/22
- JoAnn Hardee 12/22
- Kelly Ivey 12/28

Happy Birthday to All!

WHEN YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN DECEMBER



How to talk about the reality of Santa

Bible Trivia

What was Matthew's other name?

Last month's answer: 7 years (Daniel 4:25-33)



Announcements

The church's annual Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, December 12, at 6:00. There will be a fellowship time with finger foods in the fellowship hall immediately afterward.

Please consider volunteering for the children or youth ministry. Your help 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 December 7. 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, January 27. There are no more senior adult activities scheduled for the remainder of the year.

The ladies will meet for breakfast on Sunday, January 23, at 8:00. There will be no December women's ministry meetings.

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, December 5, followed by the monthly business meeting. If you are the leader of any of our church's ministries, please make every effort to attend.

The men are collecting clothing items for needy children in our local schools. Please see Skipper Henderson if you would like to donate. All items collected will be delivered to the school in time for Christmas.

The next men's breakfast will be Sunday, February 6, at 8:00. All men and boys are invited. There will be no men's activities in January.

December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Men's bfast 8:00; Lord's Supper; Church council/business mtg, 5:00/6:00		Sign Language 5:00 Deacons' dinner 6:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Christmas Cantata 6:00 Reception 7:00		Sign Language 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					Leadership party @ Pastor's home 6:00	New Year's

December Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

(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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