

Hardeetown Baptist Church

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

- The church will be hosting a dinner-on-the-grounds right after church, August 1. Come say good-bye to Casey as she is leaving us to get married. Please bring a dish to share.
- 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 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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The Pulpit and Pen



The Cost of Freedom

This month we celebrate Independence Day. For many of our nation's citizens, that day means barbeque, fireworks, family gatherings, and a day off. For the first citizens of this nation, it meant thirteen hard years of war.

Thousands of American and British soldiers, along with several thousand more civilians, died. Countless others, known only to God, were wounded and maimed. As war took its toll on supplies, many lived with constant hunger and cold.

Contrary to the ideas perpetuated by Hollywood movies, war is never a glamorous affair. Hollywood has portrayed wars as opportunities for fame and glory with only the enemy experiencing suffering and death. These movies elevated many Hollywood stars to fame while showing a lopsided view of the reality of war.

We have also been indoctrinated to believe that anyone who goes to war is a hero. Few who have been to war would agree. Real heroes rarely boast about what they did.

The truth of war is dirtier and much more bloody. There is nothing glamorous about being shot, dismembered, or blown apart. Quite the opposite—it is painful, permanently scarring, and often humiliating.

In the early years of our nation, not only was war just as dangerous and bloody as it is today, but also medical technology was still largely nonexistent. Wounds that could be easily treated today were fatal during the American Revolution. Many died of infection and disease. There was simply no way to treat the sick and wounded. According to the American Battlefield Trust, about 6,800 Americans were killed in action, 6,100 were wounded, and approximately 17,000 died from illness and disease.

Those figures do not include the civilians who died of hunger, disease, or at the hands of the British. Yet these thousands of Americans, and even some French, Dutch, Spanish, and Germans who came to our aid, died for this idea called *freedom*.

Since then most of the wars our country has fought have been in other areas of the world. Some have wondered why our nation would even get involved in a war that did not specifically concern North America. Those same skeptics are usually ignorant of the fact that our forefathers would probably have lost the Revolution had it not been for the French, Dutch, Spanish, and Germans coming to our aid. We won our freedom because freedom-loving patriots from across the globe came to our defense.

We are doing the same when we send our military forces to assist our allies across the world. The Kaiser was defeated in World War I because we helped. Hitler was defeated in World War II because we took the war directly to him. South Korea still exists as a nation because of American assistance.

We usually think of freedom as having the ability to determine our own destiny and to exercise personal rights and liberty. However, there is a much more important type of freedom, and that freedom came with an even heavier price attached.

We have freedom from sin and death because God sent His own Son to die on the cross for us. We were born into spiritual slavery, but Jesus set us free.

The war between eternal life and eternal death has already taken millions of casualties, and the war could never have been won had God not sent His Son to die on foreign soil. Jesus did for us what we were incapable of doing for ourselves.

His death was painful, bloody, and utterly humiliating. He was scourged by the Romans, and the Romans were experts at inflicting pain. Then, He was crucified naked on a cross for all to see.

This Independence Day, let's celebrate our true freedom—freedom from sin and death. Jesus is the real hero.



“Dear friends, it is never easy to say goodbye, but God’s will for our lives is leading us away from Hardeetown Baptist Church. Kendra, Mahala, and I have made friends here that make it very hard to leave. However, God has a different plan for us at this time.

The past two years have been challenging and rewarding. Hardeetown will always mean a great deal to us. We thank you for all your love, care, and prayers. Please continue to pray for us. I am resigning to become effective Sunday, July 25, 2021.” Brian Timney



In the meantime, our church has already begun a search for whomever God has in mind for us. Your personnel team is also considering a variety of options such as a family life coordinator or young adult minister. Since we are losing both our student and children’s ministers simultaneously, we have multiple options. Please be in prayer for your personnel team and church as we continue our search.

Champions for Christ Kids



Hey friends, happy July! I thought I’d start this out with a note of transparency. Serving the Lord through children’s ministry is the greatest and most difficult thing I have ever done. There are always the same nagging questions on repeat loop in my head: “Lord, are they getting it? Are they grasping anything? God, how do I teach this?” It can be really easy to get stuck on results and numbers, but let me tell you that is not always how God reveals growth. The Lord has been so patient with me and the kids this last year and a half at Hardeetown.

The week of June 7-11 I witnessed first-hand the fruits of God’s moving in the little hearts that walk up the stairs twice a week. Not only did they engage in the Bible lessons but also they knew the truth when an error was made. While they may not know the deep details of Old Testament history or the difference between a major or minor prophet, they can tell you the reality of sin and help you know your need for a Savior, who is Jesus.

Kids’ camp was a refreshing time to watch these kids be kids and interact and learn from other Bible teachers. What a gracious and merciful God who allows us to see glimpses of His working. If you find yourself discouraged, might I encourage you to spend some time asking God to reveal Himself and His purpose to you. Because, dear friend, when He does, you will be in awe of His faithfulness. Have a great week! Also a huge thanks to those who provided lunch during kids’ camp. The lunches were delicious and devoured.

HBC Women’s Ministries

Let’s talk about Christmas. Yes, I realize it is July, but I assure you it is not too early to talk about Operation Christmas Child! Crafts for a Cause has been busy since January working on items that we regularly put into our shoe boxes, and we are making great progress. Excitement is growing as we approach the time to start packing shoeboxes. We need some assistance as we collect items for this important ministry and as we prepare for our annual fund raiser.

Below is a list of items we need donated for our shoeboxes. Our goal this year is to make a total of 210 boxes (35 for each age and gender group). There are two ways to help with these items. First, purchase items and place them into the donation box that you will find near the nursery/pre-school area. Second, donate financially so we can purchase items that are still needed. (Please mark “OCC” clearly on the offering envelop!)

We will have our annual cake auction on August 29. We will have a sign-up sheet in the foyer beginning in August for those interested in being involved with this event. We will use the funds to cover the cost of postage as well as for purchasing any last minute items we might still be lacking when we get started on packing the shoeboxes. Please save the date, and plan to attend. More details will be shared soon!

ITEMS FOR BOXES	AGE GROUP	# NEEDED
WASHCLOTHES (2 EA)	ALL	420
SOAP (4 EA)	ALL	840
TOOTHBRUSHES (4 EA)	ALL	840
PENCILS	ALL	420
ERASERS	ALL	420
SHARPENERS	ALL	420
INK PENS	ALL	210
COLORED PENCILS	10 TO 14	70
CRAYONS	2 TO 9	140
PANTIES	ALL GIRLS	105
COMPOSITION BOOKS	5 TO 14	140

SAVE THE DATE!



**AUGUST 29, 2021
CAKE AND DESSERT
SILENT AUCTION**





July birthdays:

- Madalyn McCormick 07/03
- Pam Sheffield 07/03
- Peggy Heintz 07/05
- Chris Hardee 07/06
- Gay Webster 07/10
- Desmond Knight 07/13
- Anne Knight 07/14
- Miriam Walker 07/16
- Beth Clouse 07/21
- Matt Dillard 07/21
- Charlotte Land 07/22
- Mike Sheffield 07/25
- Bruce Goss 07/27
- Bernice Quincey 07/29
- Susan Short 07/31

Happy Birthday to All!



Both Brian and Casey will be leaving us for other ministries in the next few weeks. Brian's last Sunday will be July 25, and Casey's last Sunday will be August 1. Be in prayer for the personnel team as they seek God's will for the church. Also, please consider volunteering for one of these two ministries while we seek new leadership. Your service is very much needed.

Casey will be hosting a kids' party on Saturday, July 31, 9:00 to 12:00, to say goodbye to the kids.

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

Announcements

together. The next dinner will be July 6. You do not have to be currently serving as an active deacon to participate.

Our next senior adult outing is scheduled for Thursday, July 22. We will be eating lunch at the Stone House Grill in Newberry. We will leave the church at 10:30.

The next women's ministry breakfast will be August 22 at 8:00. All ladies are invited. There will be no women's breakfast in July.

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 youth will be having a swimming party at Hart Springs on Thursday, July 22. They will be leaving the church at 9:30.

Vacation Bible School will be July 12-16. All kids PreK-5 are invited. Please preregister your children if they plan to participate, but registration at the door will be accepted.

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

July Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Church picnic 5:00		Sign Language 5:00 Deacons dinner 6:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Church council/business meeting, 5:00/6:00	Vacation Bible School	Vacation Bible School	Vacation Bible School	Vacation Bible School	Vacation Bible School	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Sign Language 5:00		Youth Hart Springs 9:30 Sr adult luncheon, Stone House Grill, Newberry		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Sign Language 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		Children's ministry party 9:00-12:00

Bible Trivia

What was Paul's hometown?
Last month's answer: 120,000+ (Jonah 4:11)



July Memory Verse

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

(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.

A NOTE FROM ABBEY IRWIN'S FATHER: Words are so very inadequate to say THANK YOU to you and your church. A "chance" meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham in 2019 lead me to sit next to you and briefly share that the young lady on stage in the dark that was speaking was my daughter and as I cried tears of joy and sadness at her surrender to God's leadership in her life knowing that she would be halfway around the world yet right in the center of God's Will and purpose for her life. You asked if you and your church could pray for her and that was just the tip of the iceberg. The love, support, prayers, gifts and money that y'all have contributed to her and her ministry in Japan is OVERWHELMING! I put the word chance in quotation marks as this was no "chance" meeting. God directed your path and mine in order to bring about this meeting in order to bring about his will. Please forgive me for my lack of contact with you and your church through this almost two year period. Abbey's time in Japan is drawing to a close but her career in missions is just starting. She went to Thailand in the summer of 2017 through the Baptist Student Union summer missions program through the SBC and she came back changed by the power and conviction of God Almighty. She learned there is a difference between lost and unreached and her calling has been for the unreached people groups. I truly believe God has called her to be a career missionary. She plans to attend seminary to get additional training to prepare her for God's calling n her life. Thank you again for all y'all have done to support her in this time in her life. Your encouragement through this time has been so powerful in a time where her original plan was shattered by the covid-19 virus and the fact that her original focus was to be college ministry but the shut down and classes being shifted to virtual caused her to change her thought pattern but God knew what the future had instore and yet this is the door he opened for her. During this time in Japan. Abbey lost her grandfather, my dad, and she was not able to come home for the funeral but had to grieve alone. Your love and support helped her get through this dark time in her life. Thank you for all you and your church have done for God's Glory. I look forward to one day meeting you again to tell you thank you face to face. May God continue to Bless you and Hardeetown Baptist Church as you minister to the people in your area. David Irwin; Madison, Mississippi

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