

- Our church is a prayer and ministry partner with journeyman missionary, Abbey Irwin, of Jackson, Mississippi. She will be returning from Tokyo in two more months. This month will be the last opportunity to send her a care package. Her parents would love to hear from you also. See the pastor for their contact information.

- Attention ladies! Plan now for a bridal shower for Casey Ranalli on May 22.

- 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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Hardeetown Baptist Church

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

The Pulpit and Pen



Stop Witnessing

Proclaiming the gospel is a staple of the Christian life. Christ has commissioned each of us to share our faith with others. Evangelism is one of the five purposes of the church.

Nevertheless, I propose that it is time for us to take a different approach. It is time for us to stop going out witnessing. However, before anyone calls a special business meeting to discuss my demise or before anyone declares me a heretic, keep reading.

For years it has been our practice to make witnessing or sharing our faith a special activity. For example, many churches used to make visitation a regular weekly event. The purpose of such visitation was rarely to visit shut-ins or someone at the hospital. Church members would divide up into groups of two or three and go door-to-door sharing their faith.

Then, during the 1970s and 1980s, it became popular to pass out visitor cards during the Sunday morning worship service. A select group of church members would divide up those cards on Monday or Tuesday and visit those who had completed the visitor cards the previous Sunday. Sometimes the purpose of that visitation was to share the gospel, and sometimes it would be to obtain a commitment from those individuals to return to church

the following Sunday.

By the 1990s such visitation had fallen out of favor in our society, and many people refused to fill out visitor cards for fear of being the recipient of an unwanted, unannounced visit the following week. This became especially true in many cities where such visitation had become dangerous. Nevertheless, many churches insisted on continuing that approach to evangelism and ended up alienating many of the prospects they might have otherwise reached.

The next approach to evangelism was to promote some particular training event that taught one how to witness and then send the individual back out on the street to go door-to-door. Examples of such training include Continuing Witness Training from the Home Mission Board, FAITH Evangelism Training from First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Evangelism Explosion from Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale, and Share Jesus Without Fear from Bill Fay of Fort Myers. That approach to evangelism seemed to have more to do with selling new training materials than with leading people to Christ.

The problem with all these approaches is each one made evangelism a separate thing to do. Christians were being taught to set aside time

in their daily lives to focus on witnessing. Evangelism simply became one more thing to do out of an already busy week. People became tired of doing that additional thing. Jesus gradually got pushed to the rear and superseded by other concerns.

What we should have been doing all along was incorporating evangelism into *everything* that we do. God never intended evangelism to be a separate thing to do. Rather it was to be a part of our whole lives every day.

Jesus never took a day out of His busy schedule to share the gospel. He told people the Good News every single day. After Jesus' ascension, His disciples continued that process. The Apostle Paul, who was bivocational (Acts 18:3 and 2 Thessalonians 3:8), incorporated evangelism into his work. It was simply a part of what he was.

The solution to finding time and motivation to witness is easy. We must stop making it a separate thing to do and incorporate it into everything we do. When we dine out, ask the server how you can pray for her and then share Jesus. Leave a tract in the breakroom at work. Talk about Jesus when people ask what you do for enjoyment. Let people hear you when you pray over a meal. When someone asks where you live, tell them about your heavenly home. It's the thing to do!

Hardeetown Student Ministries



In case you haven't noticed, we are getting more students coming on Sunday and Wednesday nights. We are in need of adults to literally "step up" into the youth room on Wednesday nights to help. I need adults in the room with the students to accommodate the church policy to have more than one adult in the room. Please pray for the leaders to come and help.



Please pray for the students this month as they prepare for youth Sunday, May 23, and as they raise money for Centrifuge. We will be doing mission projects around the area during the course of the summer. If you know of someone the students can help, please let me know.



You can still get your HSM shirts! Sign up in the foyer by May 10. Shirts are only \$13 plus an additional \$1 for each size over XL.

On the first Wednesday night of every month we will continue to have prayer time with Earl Cairns. Prayer cards for the students are available in the youth room. The current Bible study will begin after prayer time.

Don't forget that all students who plan to go on a mission trip must have a signed permission slip and medical release. Permission and medical release forms for all events are located on the wall in the youth room. All students must have a signed and notarized permission form. Medical release forms are good for one year.



Champions for Christ Kids

Hey friends, happy May! Does anyone else feel like they just got used to the temperature being nice only to have it become hot? The sudden changes in season have had me thinking about the pending changes that are quickly coming to my life. Some of you may be asking, "How is Casey feeling about everything?" Well Casey is feeling three things all at the exact same time: (1) uncomfortable, (2) excited, and (3) known. Wow! Let's break that down. (1) I am extremely uncomfortable with upcoming changes, all the unknowns, leaving people behind, and venturing into a new place where I'm the new kid. (2) However, I am very excited that even in that fear, God is so patiently walking with me into this new season. I am excited about all the growth that has happened with the kids at Hardeetown this last year. I am excited for all the ways God is using our growth for His glory.



Y'all, those kids have been so hungry to know more about their creator, and it is something to be excited about. (3) What is scary to me is the reality that God is not caught off guard by my confessions of fear and sadness and my need to control *everything*. I am known fully, and what a blessing that is!

Maybe recently you have been feeling overwhelmed, stressed, hurt, angry, or even hungry to know more about your creator. Well friend, let me encourage you with the assurance that God knows. Psalm 139:16 says, "Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them." Just remember that in all things you are known and loved! Have a great month of May!

HBC Women's Ministries

May is here. The year is flying by, and we have many things going on at our church! On Monday, May 17, we will have our Ladies' Night Out at Beef O'Brady's Restaurant. We will meet at 6:00. Please plan to attend and invite a friend. I'd love for us to do a variety of outings, so please bring some ideas for future locations.

We have a very special opportunity this month as we celebrate one of our previous Hardeetown ladies. Saturday, May 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. we will be having a bridal shower for Casey Ranalli. Many of us are already dreading her last day, which is August 1, but May 22 is a day when we can show her how much we love her as she prepares to get married. Casey is registered at Amazon.com. If you would like to help, please contact Connie Blosch or Jan Chesser.



Please be in prayer about helping with the many children and youth activities this summer. For our church to thrive we need to minister to the younger families in our community. You don't have to make a weekly commitment. Just assist as often as possible. You may be surprised how much *you* are blessed by helping others.

← This is also the last month that you can send a care package to our missionary journeyman, Abbey Irwin. She has only two more months in Tokyo to go before she returns home to Mississippi. Her contact information is Irwin, Abbey; 180-0021; Tokyo-To, Musashino-Shi, Sakura Zutsumi 1-2-19; Sun Varie 401 JAPAN.





May birthdays:

- Earl Cairns 05/01
- Bruce Griffin 05/01
- Johnny Edwards 05/13
- Max Long 05/16
- Lois Gore 05/19
- Kendra Timney 05/27
- Ashton Weatherford 05/29

Happy Birthday to All!



Church of the Covered Dish BY THOM TAPP



"Good news pastor, the Grumblestones have agreed not to file suit if you promise not to preach against sin anymore."

The church is in need of additional volunteers to serve in children's church and with the youth. Please see Casey Ranalli if you are willing to be placed in the rotation for one of the children's church age groups or Brian if you can serve as a chaperone for youth activities. You can serve as often or as little as the Holy Spirit leads.

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. This month's dinner is May 4.

Our next senior adult outing is scheduled for Thursday, May 27. We will be eating

Announcements

lunch at Mama's Dixie Kitchen in Old Town. We will leave the church at 10:30.

There will be no women's ministry breakfast in May. This month the ladies will meet for dinner at Beef O'Brady's on Monday, May 17, at 6:00.

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 next men's breakfast is June 6 at 8:00. All men are

invited. Bring your sons, grandsons, and neighbors, too.

The church is launching a new sign language class, which will meet every Tuesday 5:00 to 6:30. There is no cost for this class, but please be prepared for a long-term commitment. We have several in the church that are losing their hearing, and we want to ensure that we have other church members that can communicate with them.

All ladies are invited to a bridal shower for Casey Ranalli on Saturday, May 22, at 11:00 in the fellowship hall. The wedding will be September 4.

May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Men's breakfast 8:00 Church council/business meeting, 5:00/6:00		Sign language class 5:00 Deacons dinner 6:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mother's Day No evening svc		Sign language class 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Women's ministry dinner at Beef O'Brady's 6:00	Sign language class 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		Youth Sunday Practice 10AM-1PM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:45 Youth Sunday	Balance of Centrifuge is due.	Sign language class 5:00		Sr adult luncheon 11:00 Mama's Dixie Kitchen Old Town		
30	31					
	Memorial Day					

Bible Trivia

Who was the patriarch of Moab and Ammon?
Last month's answer: only one (Jude 9)



May Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.

(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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