

Hardeetown Baptist Church

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



The Pulpit and Pen

Jesus Freedom

Freedom is an idea that has been tossed around a lot lately. Countless pundits have blamed government intervention regarding the Covid pandemic for chipping away our freedom. Overly zealous bureaucrats insist that our citizens wear face masks and receive a vaccine, regardless of an individual's personal health or religious convictions. A vaccine passport, which I believe is a precursor to the mark of the beast, is being considered. Some areas have begun to shutter businesses again due to the recent resurgence in Covid cases.

Regardless of the source or reason for the various steps being taken to curb the transmission of disease, there is one thing that each of these precautions has in common—a loss of freedom. Our nation, along with many others around the world, is rapidly stripping its citizens of the freedom to choose. Simultaneously, freedom of speech and religion are being attacked. In addition, while no direct government attack has been launched on the press, freedom of the press is being drowned out by media outlets themselves.

On the other hand, the government has launched a direct attack on our freedom of movement. In other words, we can no longer move about the country at

will. Some states even established checkpoints within our own country to prevent unauthorized travel. Previously open borders, like our border with Canada, have been closed.

The likelihood that life will ever return to the way it was two years ago is virtually nil. History has taught us that when people lose their freedom, nothing short of a revolution will restore it. Americans learned that lesson the hard way in 1776.

The question that we must now ask ourselves is not Where did our freedom go? or even How do we get it back? The most important question at this point is Why? What brought us to this point? How did it happen right in front of us?

That question can be answered with a little observation, common sense, and a study of history. Many Europeans came to America in order to escape religious persecution. The United States was founded on Christian principles. As long as we stood on those principles and glorified Christ, God blessed us. That same story has been repeated numerous times around the world. Canada was once a nation with a strong Christian voice, as was Great Britain. The same could be said for many other European countries of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

What these countries all had in common was a strong Christian voice and a respect for freedom. When a nation puts Jesus first, God blesses it. People live in security and enjoy the benefits of both spiritual and political freedom.

Where Christianity is absent, there is little or no freedom. The Soviet Union was an atheistic country, and freedom was non-existent. The same is still true of China and North Korea. When the Taliban took over Afghanistan last month, the first thing to go was freedom.

There is a direct correlation between love for God and love for freedom. Christians understand freedom and what freedom costs. When we are free in Christ, no government action can take that away.

When a nation turns from God, freedom is the first thing to go. Satan hates it when Christians share Jesus, so he does his best to prevent it. Satan takes away our freedom to worship and witness.

What Satan has never understood is that the more he persecutes the church, the more Christians are willing to risk to tell others about Jesus. The church has always flourished under the boot of persecution.

May our loss of freedom be a wake-up call for the church. Pray for a revival!

- 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. 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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Hardeetown Student Ministries

August has been lots of fun. I don't know about the youth, but I'm really enjoying our time together! We are blessed with a great group of kids, and we are getting to know each other better. I'm being schooled on current youth lingo. They actually have an area for "Mrs. Connie's 'New' Vocab" on our dry-erase wall where they keep a running list.



We are finishing up our August Bible studies, and then we will move on to a study of the Prodigal Son in Luke chapter fifteen. We have an open invitation to any of you who would like to join us as we study God's word.

I really appreciate those of you who have been praying for this ministry and for the encouragement as I prepare each week. I want to extend my special thanks to Earl Cairnes as he comes up monthly to pray for the kids and Max Long for covering for me when I was out of town.

As a reminder, we have our Sunday Bible study on Sunday mornings at 9:30. The Sunday afternoon discipleship study is at 5:30. Then, we have a midweek study on Wednesday at 5:30. Be sure to share with all our youth that our student ministry is ongoing. We are not slowing down at all.



Champions for Christ Kids

Bob Dylan wrote a song that was released in 1964 entitled "The Times They Are a-Changin'." While Dylan was writing about the social and political climate of the day, unfortunately for us, times really are changing. Casey Ranalli led our children's ministry for almost two years, and now she's gone. As I write this, we are making plans to attend her wedding in Bonifay. She is moving on to a new life with a man she met while attending the Baptist College of Florida. The reality of her departure became even more apparent when I had to delete her picture from this part of the newsletter. Later this week, I'll have to do the same with the church's website.

Change is an inevitable part of ministry. While God never changes, our relationship with Him changes frequently. As we grow in Christ, we have no choice but to change if we are to become more like Jesus. God also moves us to new things in life, just as He is doing with Casey's upcoming marriage. In my own life, since entering the ministry I have moved fourteen times and have been involved in eleven different ministries. I pray that God is finished moving Connie and me. I'm too old to do that again.

While God has moved Casey to a new life and ministry, we are left with a huge hole in our ministry at Hardeetown. I learned a long time ago in my own ministry that if it is God's will to move you, He has a plan for the ministry that you are leaving. So I have no doubt that God has a plan for us here at Hardeetown. That plan may involve finding someone new to fill Casey's shoes. (That really should not be too hard since Casey was rarely in them. She even plans to get married barefooted.) In the meantime, we need volunteers to step up now more than ever. Pray that God will send a new worker for His harvest, and please be obedient if God points His finger at you to be that new worker. Have faith because God does indeed have a plan.

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



Acts 1:8 is a well-known verse by most Christians as Christ gives us instructions to share about Him with all people. In spite of the chaos of the pandemic and the fear that seems to run rampant these days, Hardeetown Baptist Church is still seeking to fulfill the directive of Christ as found in the scriptures. Mind you, we have had to adjust, but we are still attempting to be on task.

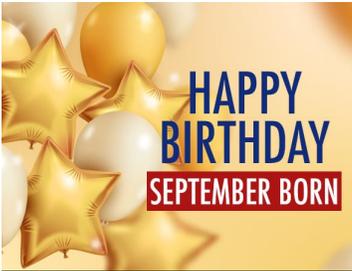
During August we were able to partner with Beau's Blankets and donate one hundred blanket sets for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Shands. Our Crafts for a Cause group (known as "C4C") is still meeting on most Thursdays, and we have been blessed with some additional workers. Not only are we productive, but also we share sweet fellowship time as we work together. We meet from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Feel free to help out all day or just part of the day, as you are able.

It is also about time to pack shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our goal this year is to make 210 boxes, which will be donated through Samaritan's Purse. These boxes go all over the world to share Jesus with children. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Mary Gore or Connie Blosch.

In an effort to include more ladies, we are altering our ladies' meeting schedule. On Monday, August 23, we met at Beef O'Brady's and enjoyed a time of fellowship. Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 26, at 8:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. If you would like to help with breakfast that morning, please contact me at 229-977-8764.

Our breakfast and dinner meetings are also great opportunities to bring new ladies into the church. Please invite your friends, including any teen young ladies that we can get involved in our youth ministry.





September birthdays:

- Sonya Fisher 09/03
 - Megan Snyder 09/05
 - Mo Stump 09/05
 - Eddie Barron 09/06
 - Ben Ivey 09/10
 - John Mooney 09/16
 - Connie Bloesch 09/18
 - C. J. Mooney 09/18
 - Michael Edmonds 09/19
 - Mary Gore 09/19
 - Raymond Ward 09/19
 - Prieston Jones 06/20
 - Treva Milburn 09/20
 - Patrick Reidy 09/27
 - Earlene Crews 09/29
 - Joe Gore 09/29
- Happy Birthday to All!

YOU SUCCESSFULLY MADE A FULL TRANSIT AROUND YOUR LOCAL STAR



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Bible Trivia

Who drew up the plans for the future temple in Jerusalem?
 Last month's answer: Boaz and Jachin (I Kings 7:21)



Announcements

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

The next tri-county men's steak dinner will be at First Baptist Church on September 16 at 6:00. The dinner is free, but there is a customary \$10 donation.

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 September 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, September 23. We will be eating lunch at El Taco Regio in Trenton. We will leave the church at 10:30.

The ladies will meet for breakfast on Sunday, September 26, at 8:00. All ladies are 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, September 12, at 5:00. If you are the leader of any of our church's ministries, including men's and ladies' ministries, children and youth, or one of our church committees, 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, October 3, at 8:00. All men are invited. Please invite a church prospect to attend, especially our area youth.

September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Crafts for a Cause 9:00		Casey/Al wedding in Bonifay 3:30
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Men's breakfast 8:00 Lord's Supper	Labor Day Church office is closed	Sign Language 5:00 Deacons dinner 6:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Church council/business meeting, 5:00/6:00		Sign Language 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00 Tri-county men's steak dinner at FBC, 6:00		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Sign Language 5:00	See You at the Pole school prayer event	Sr adult luncheon, El Taco Regio, Trenton		
26	27	28	29	30		
Women's breakfast 8:00		Sign Language 5:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		

September 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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