

SUPERIOR COURTS
CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BEN HILL, CRISP, DOOLY & WILCOX COUNTIES

JUDGE T. CHRISTOPHER HUGHES
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July 12, 2021

CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT W. CHASTEEN, JR.
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Pastor Greg Pope
P.O. Box 367
Fitzgerald, GA 31750

Dear Pastor Pope:

I personally want to thank you and First Baptist Church for making Mann Hall available to the court system for our June Term of Ben Hill Superior Court. Because of the statewide Covid-19 pandemic, we have been unable to have jury trials in Ben Hill County until April of this year. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia lifted that prohibition in an Order dated March 9, 2021 provided that we were able to comply with the CDC guidelines. Due to social distancing there is only room for a limited number of jurors at the Ben Hill County Courthouse. Thanks to First Baptist Church we were able to call in approximately 90 jurors for jury service and keep them socially distanced.

We were able to dispose of over 42 cases from the trial calendar by being able to conduct jury selection at Mann Hall. There was simply no way we would have been able to dispose of that many cases if we had been limited to using the Ben Hill County Courthouse. I want you to know that everyone involved in the court system is deeply grateful to First Baptist Church for allowing us to use this facility and it worked out perfectly. Blane Jacobs and Scott Spivey are also to be commended for helping get everything set up. Again, we are grateful for everyone who helped to make this a successful project.

Yours very truly,


ROBERT W. CHASTEEN, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURTS
CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

cc: Honorable T. Christopher Hughes
Honorable Denise D. Fachini
Mr. Steve Taylor
Mike Raynor, Chair of Deacons