

JANUARY CALENDAR

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------|---------|
| Jan 1 | No ACTIVITIES | |
| Jan 5 | Sunday School | 9:45am |
| | Morning Worship | 11:00am |
| | Youth Luncheon | 12:15pm |
| | Small Groups* | 6:00pm |
| Jan 7 | Young at Heart | 10:30am |
| Jan 8 | Family Dinner | 5:30pm |
| | AWANA | 6:15pm |
| | Youth | 6:45pm |
| | OASIS | 6:45pm |
| | No Adult Choir | |
| Jan 12 | Sunday School | 9:45am |
| | Morning Worship | 11:00am |
| | Missions Luncheon | 12:15pm |
| | Small Groups* | 6:00pm |
| Jan 15 | Family Dinner | 5:30pm |
| | AWANA | 6:15pm |
| | Youth | 6:45pm |
| | OASIS | 6:45pm |
| | Adult Choir | 7:40pm |
| Jan 19 | Men's Prayer Breakfast | 8:00am |
| | Sunday School | 9:45am |
| | Morning Worship | 11:00am |
| | Debt Reduction Luncheon | 12:15pm |
| | Small Groups* | 6:00pm |
| Jan 21 | Garden City Mission | 5:00pm |
| Jan 22 | Family Dinner | 5:30pm |
| | AWANA | 6:15pm |
| | Youth | 6:45pm |
| | OASIS | 6:45pm |
| | Adult Choir | 7:40pm |
| Jan 26 | Sunday School | 9:45am |
| | Morning Worship | 11:00am |
| | Men's Ministry Luncheon | 12:15pm |
| | Small Groups* | 6:00pm |

*See church staff for locations



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Harlem, GA
Permit No. 8

Rev. Carson Britt
Pastor
Evan Powell
Youth Minister
Rebekah Dickerson
Minister of Music and Media
Ashley Driggers
Administrative Assistant



01-23 Tiffany & Chris Gurley 01-26 Carol & Terry Carter

* Please call the Church Office if your anniversary is not listed.



| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 01-04 Kathy Maharrey | 01-17 Terry Cooper |
| 01-04 Mary Bradford | 01-18 Kelly Hawkinberry |
| 01-04 Gary Wilkes | 01-19 Claudia Rodriguez |
| 01-08 Mark Williamson | 01-19 Cole Williamson |
| 01-09 Sharon Bell | 01-22 Wendy Audette |
| 01-10 Benjie Moore | 01-23 Rusty James |
| 01-11 Mary Usry | 01-23 Nicole Abbott |
| 01-11 Donna Cagle | 01-24 Tammy Corley |
| 01-14 Tiffany Gurley | 01-25 Kathy Holley |
| 01-14 Don Heathman | 01-27 Kyle Knight |
| 01-16 Amber Lewis | |
| 01-17 Tad Bolanger | |

* Please call the Church Office if your birthday is not listed.

Deacon of the Month

Bob Knight
706-830-0774

FINANCIALS
as of December 22, 2019

Actual Expenses YTD \$311,854
Actual Received YTD \$ 350,152

CONNECTIONS



Our Vision:

To glorify God through loving Him and serving others

Our Mission Statement:

A Faith Family helping to make and develop mature disciples of Jesus Christ

THE PASTOR'S DESK

At the time that I am writing this article it is December 22 and my family is gearing up for the busyness of Christmas. And, while running from place to place can be frustrating at times, I must say how grateful I am for this busyness. I know that there are many who are grateful for just one simple and short visit. There are others who are stuck at work while their loved ones gather without them. And there are some, who are unable to gather with their loved ones at all because they are no longer with them. So, this Christmas, I am grateful for the busyness because it represents love, hope, and joy for me. My family has received this love, hope, and joy not only from our family back home in Savannah, but also our Harlem family. Know that we are deeply grateful to be part of this community. We are blessed to call Harlem our home! I pray that each of you had a memorable and joyous Christmas season.

In a recent sermon I referenced the Old Testament's reminder that God works through the Holy Spirit to recreate things. Ezekiel 37 tells the story of Ezekiel prophesying to the dry bones to make them come to life. In that story it is very clear that what was once dead had been recreated and had come to life. Thus, Christ, who was conceived through the work of the Holy Spirit, also has the power to create new life. As we begin a new year it is an appropriate time for each of us to consider what parts of our lives need recreating. To put that in more churchy terms, perhaps we need to ask ourselves what parts of our lives need revival?

Over the next several weeks many of us will make resolutions that we will likely give up by mid-February (if not sooner). I can't help but wonder if part of the reason we fail to carry out a resolution is because we are leaving Christ out of those resolutions. No, I'm not saying that all of our resolutions need to be spiritual. But, what I am saying is that Christ is the one who through whom recreation happens. Without him our work at reviving any portion of our lives will fall short. But, if we invite Christ into our new year's resolutions, asking Him for strength, self-control, and discipline, I believe we will all be much more successful. It would even be a good idea to ask the Lord to reveal to us the areas of our lives that need revival. Only then, will we realize what it means to be recreated.

I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for our faith family in the coming year.

Happy New Year! *Press on!*
Carson



January 7th
10:30 am



We now have Small Groups meeting on each Sunday night. To find out when your small group meets contact the church staff.



Men's Prayer Breakfast
January 19th
8:00 AM



Garden City Missions
January 21st
5:00 PM



Sweetheart Banquet

February 13th

Church News



There will be no **OASIS** on Wednesday, January 1st.

Sunday

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| January 5 <i>(Youth)</i> | Pork Loin, Collards, Blackeye Peas |
| January 12 <i>(Missions)</i> | Pepper Steak, Fried Rice, Chinese Wings |
| January 19 <i>(Debt Reduction)</i> | Turkey & Dressing |
| January 26 <i>(Men's Ministry)</i> | Ham & Fixings |

Wednesday

| | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| January 1 | Off-Happy New Year! |
| January 8 | Fried Chicken & Fixings |
| January 15 | Pizza & Salads |
| January 22 | Pork Loin & Fixings |
| January 29 | Spaghetti & Salad |



A Hymn of prayer as we enter into this new year...

*I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am His child and I am not afraid.
So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;
The law of love I gladly will obey.*

*I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.
I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I'll dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.*

*Your Kingdom come around and through and in me;
Your power and glory, let them shine through me.
Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor,
And may Your living Kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, O may I share with honor,
And may You feed a hungry world through me. Amen.* -Gloria Gaither

-Rebekah

HEARTS for HARLEM

giving back to the community

February 21-22

...more information to come!

Women's Ministry:

Happy New Year! As we enter into 2020 may it be a year of service to others as Jesus opens our eyes to those in need of His love & care. Let's pray to be used as His vessels to see those in need. I would like to spotlight one of our ladies who gives countless hours of her time to minister to others in a quiet but meaningful way. Donna Jones-Park serves in many areas of our church: Missions Committee, Friday Sack Lunches, Angel Tree, Treats for children's lesson, AWANA, Adult choir and mission trips. Romans 12:11 says "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." Thank you Donna for setting the example of what a person with a servant's heart looks like.

Let's all strive to be faithful servants for our Savior in the New Year.
Blessings, Kathy

::THE MISSION COMMITTEE::

The Saturday Sack pantry needs to be restocked!

Please donate INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED oatmeal, grits, Pop-Tarts, fruit snacks, breakfast bars, crackers, cookies, applesauce, Vienna Sausage, and ravioli. Thanks!

Thanks to all the "ANGELS" who helped make Christmas possible for several families!



Happy New Year!!

I don't know why, but frequently when I think of the New Year's holiday (or the idea of newness in general), one very specific Bible story comes to mind.

In 1 Kings 17, the Bible introduces us to a prophet named Elijah. Throughout Chapter 17 and 18 in the book of 1 Kings, we are quickly made to understand that Elijah is in a bad way. He was a prophet raised by God to witness and testify of the Lord's power, authority, and might to the Israelite people... a people who had forgotten God's faithfulness and had turned their backs on Him. Under the reign of King Ahab, and his wife Queen Jezebel, the Israelites began worshipping the false god Baal. Elijah was doing the best he could to turn people's hearts towards repentance, but his attempts to make Israel return in their faith put him at odds with Jezebel, a woman who thirsted for power, had a mean streak, and had the resources to track down Elijah and put him to death.

In 1 Kings 19, Elijah is on the run from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. He settles down in a cave in Horeb, when God appears to Elijah. Elijah presents his plea before God, stating: "The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too". Obviously, Elijah is in abject misery. But then God does something cool. God responds, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the presence of the Lord is about to pass by". How cool! Elijah is about to stand in the very midst of His presence.

Most of you know the story progresses in a spectacular way; there is a strong wind, an earthquake, and a massive fire, but the Lord's presence is in none of those. Instead, God chooses to make himself known to Elijah through a "gentle whisper". With a gentle whisper, God offers Elijah peace, comfort, and assurance. God explicitly tells Elijah that he is not alone - "I have reserved seven thousand in Israel - all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him".

In one small moment, Elijah had been restored. He had been renewed. The downtrodden, frustrated, discouraged, scared Elijah that entered the cave at Horeb was not the same emboldened Elijah that left that meeting with God. This renewal is what many of us will try to achieve (of our own efforts) at the New Year as we "resolve" to do a great many things. But we must understand from Elijah's story that we will fall flat in any attempt to re-make ourselves if God's power and authority is not behind it. He is the source of our renewal. He alone is the one who can give us hope anew. Also, we desperately need to understand that this renewing power from God is available to us daily, not just on January 1st.

Perhaps you are like me and you have been looking and listening for God's power through ferocious winds, earthquakes, and wildfires. This year, I resolve to take time to hear better from God, so as to not miss out on His gentle whispers.

-Evan

A.W.A.N.A WILL START BACK ON WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 8TH AT 6:15PM!