

stay CONNECTED



Stream Sunday Morning worship LIVE each week!



Join us on Wednesdays at 7PM for our online Adult Bible Study.



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

Happy Anniversary

12-03 Daniel & Rebekah Dickerson	12-17 Tony & Dianne Mundy
12-05 Daniel & Emily White	12-19 Carson & Jennifer Britt
12-11 Randy & Stephanie Lewis	12-21 Ryan & Jennifer Guy
12-12 Mike & Janis Butler	12-22 Randall & Ruth Hill
12-14 Wesley & Kacee Morris	12-24 Jimmy & Shirley Tankersley
12-15 Kevin & Valerie Allen	12-29 Alfred & Mary Hines

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

Happy Birthday

12-01 Jennifer Guy	12-14 Nick Hill
12-01 Raven Truitt	12-15 Sadie Trobaugh
12-01 Coleman McClellan	12-16 Lyndey McClellan
12-05 Annette Coleman	12-16 Chance Perdue
12-06 Shirley Tankersley	12-17 Leanna Williams
12-06 Liza Davis	12-25 Nancy Morrison
12-06 Brandy Storey	12-26 Brandi Morrison
12-10 Brigitte Cozart	12-27 Hope McClellan
12-12 Chandler Arnold	12-28 Raley Truitt
12-12 Wesley Morris	12-29 Matt Barrs
	12-29 Donna Knighton

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

Deacon of the Month

Bobby Combe
706-533-4244

FINANCIALS

as of November 22, 2020

Actual Expenses YTD \$307,224
Actual Received YTD \$350,023

CONNECTIONS

December 2020

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Well, it's finally here! We've made it to the last month of the year. I imagine that many of you are as excited about the year coming to an end as your children and grandchildren are for Christmas morning. Most of us are anxiously anticipating 2021 because it has to be better than 2020. Right? How could it not be? Perhaps for the first time in several months you have found a bit of hope as a new year will be here very soon.

As I reflect on 2020 and all that came with it, I have come to recognize now more than ever just how inwardly focused we can be. If I'm being honest, I must admit that this recognition came mainly through reflections on my own attitudes and emotions over the past year. I've been frustrated by the need to stay home and away from crowds. I can't begin to express how much I would love to eat in a restaurant or go to a football game. It would be nice to not have to always remember to grab a mask when I leave my house. I long for gatherings with extended family and friends that come without the fear of a potential outbreak. And, all of these desires have at times contributed to anger, bitterness, and frustration. It's clear that I've often made this pandemic about my own wants and desires. But, in reality, I must admit that my year really hasn't been nearly as bad as it has been for many others. Some have lost loved ones and/or become very ill. Others have lost jobs. Small business owners have been forced to shut their doors. And, in this midst of this, I'm over here frustrated because I am unable to do what I want.

The question that comes to mind then, is how should I respond? As I've reflected on this question I've come to believe that the very best way I can respond is to pray. But, rather than centering my prayers on myself I would do well to pray for those whose year has been much more difficult than my own. I think of those living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Many of these individuals have been unable to visit with family. Some of these individuals suffer from dementia. Just imagine how difficult their year has been on them and their families. Pray for small business owners who have had to close their doors and the ones who have given up their entire savings to keep the doors open. Pray for those who are sick or still recovering from Covid. And finally, pray for those who have lost loved ones. Taking the focus of our prayers off of ourselves and placing it on others is one of the very best ways that we can love our neighbor. Furthermore, I think it is one of the most meaningful gifts we can give to one another during this season that is marked with giving.

I hope that you will join me in offering intentional prayers for others throughout this advent season.

Press on!
Carson

Church News

Christmas

at Harlem Baptist

Christmas Under the Stars December 6

Lawn opens at 5:30pm
Live Music at 6:30pm
Harlem's JavaBago
will provide coffee & hot chocolate

Lessons and Carols December 13 6:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24 4:00pm & 6:00pm

join us for...



OUR CURRENT ADVENT SEASON SERMON SERIES

Music MINISTRY

I have often asked myself, what would I do if I could not access a Bible? You hear missionary stories of entire villages having just small portions of the book of John as their only Scripture, and how they read and re-read and memorize and share it over and over again. And then I look at my bookshelf with at least a dozen Bibles of varying versions and think about how blessed I am – and how much I miss. I have access to so much, yet I consume so little in comparison.

Amos 8:11-12 reads: ¹¹“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign LORD, “when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD. ¹²People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.”

This prophetic word should haunt us. We should ask ourselves, if the day comes where I cannot find the physical word of the Lord, how will I remember what He has said? What will I use for wisdom, comfort, direction, or to share the Gospel? These questions should compel us to not only read our Bible, but to study it, meditate on it, MEMORIZE it, and make sure the Word is fixed in our hearts and minds; tied as symbols on our hands and bound on our foreheads (Deuteronomy 11:18).

Ask yourself: How many Bibles do I have in my home – and how often do I read them? Do I have a dedicated study plan? When was the last time I read for understanding and growing closer to God, rather than to just check it off of a list? When was the last time I memorized a Scripture?

If you can't or don't want to answer these questions, then you are facing a famine in your life – and it's time to run to the water of God's word as fast as you can.

If you need a recommendation of a study plan/devotional, I highly suggest D.A. Carson's *For the Love of God*. It is a one year reading plan (four chapters per day) and he has two volumes so you can alternate years with the devotions.

Don't let God's word dry up and fade away in your heart. Make it a priority – because in the Word of God we find the God who created us, who loves us, who saved us, and who will never leave us. And that is worth every effort we can make.

-Rebekah

B.L.A.S.T

Will meet
December
6th, 13th & 20th

YOUTH MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS
@ 6:45pm

RYOUTH MINISTRY

The Angel Tree is up and ready for you to be the hands and feet of Christ. Select items you'd like to give this Christmas. Please return unwrapped gifts and tags by Sunday, *December 13, 2020.*



Women's Ministry:

Hello Ladies,
A couple of weeks ago I sent out an opportunity for our group to help the children of Kiffeny Harris. Liza Davis & her small group are going to partner with us to help this family.
Tiffany is working on the list.
If you are interested in helping with this project, please text, email or Call me.

Thank you,
Kathy

As I am writing this, we are still two days away from Thanksgiving. However, I know this article will be published in the December newsletter, and I usually write about Christmas during my December newsletter article. Additionally, part of me would also like to look ahead to December 31st and give some thoughts on 2020 (mercifully) drawing to a close. It's hard to believe this year will be over in about 40 days! So my attempt – in the next 350 words – is to talk about all three: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the end of this year. All will have come and gone by the time we publish our next monthly newsletter in January.

I'm a history guy. I love history because history is just stories. It's listening to stories, learning stories, and developing stories of your own to tell. History is active and it's happening all the time all around us. How we process/understand the history all around us is important. Being a history guy, I have wondered so many times... *how we will remember the year 2020?* What will be its legacy? What will we pass on to our children and grandchildren about this year?

It's easy to think about what has transpired over the past 8 months and get discouraged. But one exercise that I think would prove worthwhile is if – for the next 40 or so days – we all committed ourselves to praying this simple prayer:

- “God, 2020 was filled with so much struggle. Can you show me how you have been using this struggle for my benefit? Can you reveal some small part of what you have been up to? Can you shed light on how you are redeeming all of this? Please point out to me all that I have to be thankful to You for?”

- “God, Christmas is a time of hope and joy as we celebrate the coming of Your Son into the world. But right now, I don't feel like celebrating. Will you help my heart to know joy this holiday season?”

- “God, please help me to finish this year strong. Help me to stave off discouragement, lean into you, and pursue Your Kingdom as my main earthly goal. Strengthen me God, and help me to trust in You for all my tomorrows.”

We all have a personal history that we will share with others about this year. What history will you tell? Will it be a history of defeat and despair? Or will it be a history testifying that – even in the midst of trials and trouble – God was with you the whole time? That He neither left nor abandoned you.

We get to choose what history we will share with others. I want to commit to sharing with others that God was active and all-powerful in 2020, and He was at work doing a lot of things I don't fully understand right now... but I trust Him still.

-Evan



DONATIONS NEEDED!

We are asking for donations for individually packaged food items to help with Saturday Sacks for students at North Harlem Elementary. You can bring them to the FLC on Sunday mornings or drop them off at the church office between the hours of 9am-4pm, Monday through Thursday.

Items Needed:

-Cereal
-Pop Tarts
-Fruit Bars
-Macaroni and Cheese
-Vienna Sausage
-Ravioli

-Chips
-Juice Box
-Fruit Snacks
-Pudding
-Jello
-Grits

-Oatmeal
-Cookies
-Applesauce
-Fruit Cups