

stay CONNECTED



Join us on Wednesdays at 6:45pm in person or online!



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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

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Happy Anniversary

01-23 Chris & Tiffany Gurley
1-26 Terry & Carol Carter

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

Happy Birthday

01-04 Kathy Maharrey	01-19 Claudia Rodriguez
01-04 Mary Bradford	01-19 Cole Williamson
01-04 Gary Wilkes	01-23 Rusty James
01-08 Mark Williamson	01-24 Tammy Corley
01-09 Sharon Bell	01-25 Kathy Holley
01-10 Benjie Moore	01-26 Parks Ellis
01-14 Tiffany Gurley	01-26 Christopher Hummel
01-14 Don Heathman	01-27 Kyle Knight
01-16 Amber Lewis	01-28 Preston Ellis
01-17 Tad Bolanger	
01-17 Terry Cooper	
01-18 Kelly Hawkinberry	

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

Deacon of the Month

Jeremy Davis
678-643-4828

FINANCIALS

as of December 27, 2020

Actual Expenses YTD \$361,844
Actual Received YTD \$397,781

CONNECTIONS



THE PASTOR'S DESK

Happy New Year to each of you! Although I imagine your Christmas celebration was a bit different this year, I pray it was still a meaningful and blessed time for you and your family. I pray that you were able to reflect on the true reason for the season – the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ!

With each New Year many, if not most of us, set goals for ourselves. We call these resolutions. But, considering the year we've just endured I'm guessing that most of your resolutions might look a little bit different. Sure, many of us will still have some of those personal goals that we are striving to achieve. Many of us will still strive to improve our health. We will change our diet and add daily exercise to our routine. Others will set professional goals – striving to get that promotion or finally make that career change. Some might set some financial goals and commit to pay off debt or increase their savings. And while all of these goals are certainly admirable I think we would all do well to prioritize some different goals for the New Year.

If 2020 has taught us anything it has reminded us that life is unexpected. Even the best plans and intentions can be canceled and changed. As a result, I have come to recognize even more clearly the importance of relationships. In the midst of 2020, where we have seen just how precious and vulnerable life is we would do well to recognize the importance of relationships. In Eugene Peterson's *The Message* Bible paraphrase Proverbs 27:9b says, "A sweet friendship refreshes the soul." Although goals which strive to improve our physical health and our financial health are good, I would venture to say that we need to place even more emphasis on goals that improve our relational health. As Proverbs reminds us, our relationships refresh us on a much deeper level. Our relationships with friends and family is a source of encouragement. More importantly, our relationship with the Lord brings restoration to our lives.

As we move into 2021 I want to encourage you all to place your relationship with our Lord and with family and friends at the top of our goals list. I believe that in doing so, you will find the much needed restoration and refreshment that your soul needs after what has been a very challenging year.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you in the coming year and always.

Press on!
Carson

Church News

B.L.A.S.T



Will meet
January
3rd, 10th, 17th

YOUTH
MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS
@ 6:45pm



CHOIR RETURNS JANUARY 13TH

HARLEM BAPTIST CHURCH presents

DAN BLANKENSHIP CONCERT

SUNDAY
JANUARY 31 | 6PM



God and I had a good laugh together the other day. Facing, as most of us were, a unique Christmas weekend with plans threatening to derail at any moment because – well – 2020, I found myself praying, asking God for patience and grace to face anything that might happen, even if it meant plans changing last minute (not a favorite thing of mine). I told myself that all I wanted was to be able to enjoy Christmas no matter what, but it was at that moment that I actually *heard* my prayer...

"God – can you just, can I just know what is going to happen so that I can handle it better... I mean, it is so much easier to know what is going on right now... I just don't think I am up to a last minute change, but knowing it was coming would help make Christmas better... and I....."

I literally stopped in my tracks. WHAT? Did I seriously tell God that I just need to know what is going to happen in order to "save" Christmasas if I have any idea what is going to happen on a regular basis, during everyday life? I couldn't help it... I started laughing, hard. I knew God had to be laughing, too. Sometimes, we get so earthly minded that we forget that God knows so much better what we need. I don't need to know what is coming every day to be able to handle life with the grace and peace God has already provided – I simply need to draw closer to Him, to lean into the relationship I already have with my Savior, and say, *Whatever happens – You know. I don't have to know – because You know.*

I can't tell you the relief I felt in that moment. Nothing about my circumstances had changed. But everything about my perspective had. I knew that, come what may, it was going to be a glorious, joyful Christmas. Because God knew. When He came down to earth as an infant so long ago – He knew. When He walked through this world full of compassion and truth, sinless and holy – He knew. And when He died in my place on the cross – He knew. He knew then what the future held for me, and for the rest of the world. He knew – and yet He did it anyway.

I'm so glad that I don't have to know what tomorrow holds - because He already does. So come what may in 2021 – there is nothing there that God doesn't already know about. And that is enough for me.
When I'm lost in the mystery, to You my future is a memory – because You're already there. You're already there.
-Rebekah

Women's Ministry:

Dear Ladies of HBC & Liza's Small Group:

Thank you so much for your generous gifts to Marlexciya & her 4 brothers. These children will have a Merry Christmas because you have been the hands & feet of Jesus. Carson shared Romans 13:8 one Sunday *"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law."*

Thank you for showing your love for God by loving others.

Merry Christmas and
Prayers for a Happy and
Healthy New Year,
Kathy



Happy New Year HBC!!

You can crawl out from under your rocks now, it's 2021. 2020 has mercifully come to an end, and we are moving ahead to much better days. Well, actually I can't promise that. No one can. There is no guarantee that 2021 will be a more prosperous, more peaceful, or more pleasant year than 2020 was. But you know what I can promise you?

God will be with us through all of it! And that's really what Carson's sermon series in the month of December has been about – the fact that we can praise and worship in the midst of adverse circumstances because God is unchanged... and unchanging. To me, one of the most frustrating things about 2020 is how frequently plans changed. I'm a creature of habit. I am comfortable with routines. But in 2020, a routine was nearly impossible to establish as agendas, schedules, and "best-laid plans" all flew out the window. I felt grinded down at work. Stuck in the mud a little bit. It was so frustrating trying to make a plan for something two months away and then 3-4 weeks later, having to re-assess the situation, scrap the original plan, and make a new plan. I'm not very flexible and I don't thrive when it comes to adapting and making adjustments. So 2020, in that sense, was a huge struggle. And I suspect I am not alone.

So as I look to 2021, I am certainly hoping for a more predictable year. A year in which I can announce a youth or children's event on our monthly church newsletter two months in advance with no fear of that event getting cancelled, postponed, or altered. But even if that doesn't happen... even if all of us are called to live in limbo for a while longer, even if I am going to have to continue to face a vexing lack of schedule stability, even if I am forced into taking it one day at a time and put long-term plans on hold... Good will still come from that. Because God will be teaching me to rely on Him more fully. To trust him more faithfully. And to walk with Him one day at a time.

May we all walk more closely with our Lord, and depend upon Him for direction, provision, guidance, and wisdom this New Year.

-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