

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

02-02	Jim & Trisha Laughery	02-15	Claude & Carolyn Stevens
02-03	John & Linda Eckenroth	02-23	Don & Joy Ray

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

Happy Birthday

02-02	Kevin Bailey	02-14	Dynasti Rivera
02-02	Trisha Laughery	02-17	Gary Holley
02-03	Jeremy Davis	02-27	Sara Sillings
02-07	Carter Adams		
02-07	Alicia Fitzgerald		
02-12	Anita Abbott		

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

Deacon of the Month

Gary Holley
706-267-7102

FINANCIALS as of January 24, 2021

Actual Expenses YTD \$26,016
Actual Received YTD \$25,908

CONNECTIONS

February 2021

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

Several months ago after I picked my daughter up from the church nursery she said to me as she pointed to our Family Life Center, "Daddy, I want to go eat over there." I quickly responded to her saying, "Me too! But we can't right now." Ever since that day I've done a lot of thinking about that conversation and the implications of it. To most, it might seem as though my daughter was simply telling me where she wanted to eat. But, as I reflect on it, it has become clear to me that there was more to it than that. And, as I think about the Sunday luncheon's we've missed in the past 10 months, I have come to the conclusion that there really is more to Sunday luncheons than just food.

For some, luncheons may simply be a matter of convenience. It's easier to let others cook after a morning of Bible study and worship. But, I would venture to say that for many, hopefully most of you, our Sunday luncheons were less about what we ate, and more about those with whom we ate. Now, because we come from a close knit community, many of you have not failed to eat together throughout the pandemic. Maybe your extended family still eats together every Sunday. As a result, the loss of Sunday lunch, or small groups, or some other fellowship may not have affected you all that much. But, I want to not so subtly remind you that our faith family consists of a lot of people who consider you to be family. In fact, you may be the only local family some individual have. Perhaps their biological family has moved away, or maybe they are new to our community and are living miles away from a blood relative. Or, maybe they are a widow, widower, or simply having to quarantine and haven't been able to get out and about. Although we don't all see it, this pandemic has greatly affected our relationships with one another. This is particularly the case for those without local family ties.

Although my family and I greatly look forward to the resumption of Sunday luncheons at HBC the reality is, we don't know when that will happen. But, in the meantime, let me encourage you to pick up the phone and call someone in our faith family who may be lonely. Or perhaps you can stop by someone's house and have a socially distanced and masked front porch visit. Let me challenge you to reflect on the relationships that you might have neglected in the past year and to find a safe and creative way to renew that relationship. In such a loving, hospitable, and supportive community like Harlem, there is no reason for anyone to feel lonely. I pray that we as the body of Christ can do our part to love on the lonely in the coming months.

Press on!
Carson

Church News

B.L.A.S.T



Will meet
February
7th, 14th, 21st

YOUTH
MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS
@ 6:45pm

HEARTS FOR HARLEM *giving back to the community*

Dates: March 5th and 6th*
Cost: \$25 (includes t-shirt and two lunches)

*COVID/Rain Delay reschedule dates are April 23-24 or June 4-5 (TBD if needed)

Women's Ministry:

Harlem Baptist Church will host a Women's Retreat

Saturday, March 20th

9:00am-1:00pm

It will be based on Beth Moore's *The Basket Case*.

A \$20 donation for HBC members. Guest may attend for free.



In his devotional, *For the Love of God* (Vol. 2), D.A. Carson writes:

One of the most striking evidences of sinful human nature lies in the universal propensity for downward drift. In other words, it takes thought, resolve, energy, and effort to bring about reform. In the grace of God, sometimes human beings display such virtues. But where such virtues are absent, the drift is invariably toward com-

promise, comfort, indiscipline, sliding disobedience, and decay...People do not drift towards holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate towards godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord...We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation...

Discipline is the hallmark of a walk of faith. So often in modern times we scorn discipline, self-imposed structures, or any form of restricted living as legalism. The two are not one and the same. One can rely fully on God's grace for both salvation and sanctification without declaring that such works of discipline are trying to earn eternal brownie points. Instead, discipline should flow out of the life of a believer who wishes to be fully prepared, focused, and present on God's calling. I prefer the term "spirit-discipline" to "self-discipline", because in and of myself I cannot achieve the resolve, energy, and effort to experience such structure in my own life. Paul wrote, "I pray that out of his glorious infinite resources he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being..." (Eph. 3:16). We are not successful in discipline without the power of God's infinite resources flowing through us from the Spirit which resides within us. "Will power" eventually runs out – God's power does not.

We say we want to pray and read our Bibles, yet we do not make a structured plan to do so, and thus we leave it up to when we think we will "have time". We ask God to bless us in our health, home, work, and finances – yet we do not want to build strategies, habits, and schedules that promote these blessings. We must remember that both God's blessings and callings are often built upon the foundation of small daily miracles that bring about discipline in our lives – through the power of the Holy Spirit – rather than the big, bold moments we dream of. The problem we have with this is it requires us to move away from our personal desires, comforts, and the patterns of this world we see around us – and to even to endure scorn that we are being "holier than thou", when in reality, we simply want to be holy. Discipline can be the best tool in your belt for living a life of faith and righteousness. But it will NEVER happen by accident.

-Rebekah

Dear HBC Faith Family,

Your prayers and kind expressions of sympathy when Henry "Boot" Holley (Gary's dad) went to be with Jesus were felt and words cannot truly express our gratitude. We can only say we love you and thank God for the blessing of a faith family such as you all.

Blessings Always,
Gary & Kathy Holley



Happy February!

The first month of 2021 is in the books, and now we continue on with the year eagerly anticipating what God will do next. I know we are hopeful for a swift end to the "Covid-19 era". We may yet be a ways out from the end, but I am so encouraged by what I am seeing around me that suggests we are steadily marching towards a life that resembled that which we knew before last March.

All that said, Valentine's Day is in two weeks! Valentine's Day, and really the whole month of February, is a time when our society is hyper-focused on the idea of love. The pink, white, and red M&Ms are in stock at all the grocery stores. Prices for floral arrangements, balloons, and teddy bears will surely soar in the days to come. And those Russell Stover heart-shaped chocolate boxes – we can't forget those!

There is an emphasis in February on showing special attention, appreciation, and gratitude towards those special people in our lives. Those are some of the most tangible ways we "show" love. Gifts are great, but a husband can't just sling a vase of flowers and some candy at his wife expecting that to really make a difference if he doesn't also offer up loving words of affirmation and a warm embrace! It's important that we say, *in specific terms*, why we love our spouses and family members and remind them of this love constantly.

It's also important for us to have this relationship with God. This February, as we celebrate Valentine's Day and beyond, every time you see one of the heart-shaped boxes and candy, be reminded that God also wants to hear from you and that you love Him. Not just that, be specific. Tell God why you love Him. Thank Him for some of the ways He has loved you. Of course he already knows all of it, but – just like our spouses – I think God delights in hearing us say those appreciative words.

***Upcoming Youth Event Reminder

Sunday night, February 14th: Youth Group Movie Hangout Night; approximately 6 o'clock (exact time TBD) – call, text, or email me for more details!

-Evan

THE MISSION COMMITTEE

HELP NEEDED!

Are you interested in an opportunity to serve? Help is needed packing weekly food sacks for children until the end of the school year. Please contact the church office if interested.



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