



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

YOUTH GOLF SCRAMBLE

May 1, 2021

Rocky Branch Golf Course
Lincolnton, GA

8:30 am

\$50/player or \$200/team

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



July 7, 14, 21, 28
informational meeting
April 11 & 25



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Harlem, GA
Permit No. 8

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

Happy Anniversary

- 04-05 Jeremy & Liza Davis
- 04-06 Danny & Julie Henslee
- 04-10 Sheila & Raymond Fulcher
- 04-18 Jordan & Grier Whitaker
- 04-30 Julian & Lynda Adams, Jr.

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

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 04-01 Valerie Allen | 04-15 Steve Camp |
| 04-02 Raymond Fulcher | 4-19 Becky Windham |
| 04-02 Leslie Arnold | 04-21 Caleb Sawyer |
| 04-03 Yong Cha Clark | 04-24 Dianne Mundy |
| 04-05 Jim Laughery | 04-26 Bryce Williamson |
| 04-09 Kirsten Sawyer | 04-27 Katy Arrowood |
| 04-11 Rosie Cook | 04-27 Carson Britt |
| 04-11 Alan Hall | |
| 04-11 Travis Liming | |
| 04-11 Sonja Solomon | |
| 04-12 Paige Fleming | |
| 04-13 Summer Laughery | |

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

Deacon of the Month

John McClellan
706-799-4283

FINANCIALS

as of March 28, 2021

Actual Expenses YTD \$77,350
Actual Received YTD \$75,937

CONNECTIONS

April 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

Over the past several weeks I have been filled with a great deal of hope. It was during March of 2020 that our world was turned upside down by a new virus called Covid 19. We thought our quarantine would be short lived, and life would get back to normal quickly. But now, a year later, we are still walking through this crazy season. Many have lost loved ones to this virus. Others have missed out on time spent with loved ones. We have missed many opportunities and special events. If I'm honest, I would have to admit that portions of this past year have felt incredibly hopeless. It seemed that there was no end in sight. And, while I'm certainly not ready to proclaim victory over this virus, I am filled with hope that our situation seems to be improving. Thanks be to God for this progress!

As I reflect on this hope it seems only appropriate that this hope has been birthed in the spring season. This is a season where we see hope spring forth through nature. That which seemed to be dead and barren suddenly births new life. Additionally, we can't ignore that this is also the Easter season. It's the time when Christ followers all over the globe celebrate the hope that comes from an empty grave. Certainly, we as Christ followers should strive to embody and project this hope daily, but we also know that we are humans. At times, our humanity makes it incredibly difficult for us to hold on to hope. Some might say that this is a lack of faith. I would argue however, that wrestling with hopelessness is not a product of one's faithlessness, rather it creates an opportunity for one to increase their faith. When we learn to find hope in the midst of hopelessness our faith will naturally begin to increase. I believe then, that the hope which we find in the empty grave should become an avenue for us to increase our faith. I pray that in the midst of a seemingly hopeless year, that your hope in Christ has blossomed and that your faith has increased!

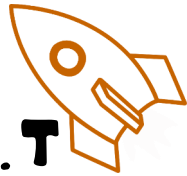
As we celebrate the resurrection I want to remind you that our God is the author of hope. It is because the grave was empty that we are able to have hope in the midst of uncertainty. If you have discovered hope in recent weeks as I have, know that this hope is rooted in a living Savior. If you are struggling to obtain hope today, know that lasting hope is found only in Christ Jesus.

I look forward to worshipping with you all throughout the month!

Press on!
Carson

Church News

B.L.A.S.T



Will meet
April 11, 18, 25

Easter Schedule:

Maundy Thursday

April 1st | 7:00pm

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service | 7:00am

Easter Services | 9:00am & 11:00am*

* Both services will have nursery and will be streamed online.

YOUTH
MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS
@ 6:45pm



GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY!



The end of the school year is fast approaching. Harlem Baptist will be celebrating its annual Graduate Recognition Day on Sunday, May 16th. Because Covid-19 has thrown so much into disarray, it's been hard to keep track of exactly who all will be graduating this school year. If you are a member or long-time visitor of HBC who is graduating high school, please contact the church office and make sure it is known. We don't want to miss out on honoring any of our high school graduates on May 16th. Thanks!



What an amazing time we had at the Women's Retreat last month! I feel so blessed to have spent this time in worship and study with each of you. Thank you so very much to every lady (and gentlemen - Evan and Alan!) who had a part in making this event happen and very special. There was so much to learn and grow in, and I hope you all got as much out of it as I did.

When it comes to anxiety, it truly is the daily struggle of women (and men!) everywhere. We care so much about "our loves" as Beth Moore called them, and we absolutely should care. But "anxiety is care, clothed in fear, intensified by anger, and clamoring for control." If we recognize our inability to control these situations that cause us such great anxiety, if we choose to release them to be the responsibility of our Sovereign God, we free ourselves to live in the "peace of God that passes all understanding, [which] will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). He can handle all that we give Him and wants to do so, both for our benefit and His Glory!

Remember, our Enemy the devil "prowls around like a roaring lion" (1 Peter 5:8). He can see by our anxious actions that we are not trusting in God at that moment. Instead, we are to be sober-minded and focused on the God of all grace – praying and surrendering our fears, trusting Him in every way. "When it comes to anxiety, we can either pray or be prey!" It is our choice. Choose peace. Choose to trust our Heavenly Father each and every day, and win the war over anxiety through prayer and surrender to all He can do – and walk through the open door He has for you each day.

-Rebekah



**HEARTS FOR
HARLEM**

giving back to the community

Dates: April 16th & 17th*

Cost: \$25 (includes t-shirt and two lunches)

Sign up at the IC station in the FLC or online at www.harlembaptist.org/hearts-for-harlem/

Women's Ministry:

On Saturday, March 20th 36 women gathered in the FLC and were ministered to through the music of two young ladies from Bethlehem, Ga (Chloe and Abby). Our hearts were blessed by their talents and their sweet spirits.

Beth Moore taught us much about letting go of the things that cause us to have anxiety in our lives. We are to cast our cares on Jesus as we are told in 1 Peter 5:7. She gave us 7 truths about Anxiety as well as many scripture passages. We were reminded that we must stand firm in our faith as well as staying in God's word. We laughed, we shared and we were honest with ourselves about our own anxious issues. One of the scriptures that I always go back to is Philippians 4:5b-7. The Bible tells us don't be anxious about anything, instead trust God with your anxiety. Cast your cares on Jesus, He will carry you through.

Blessings,
Kathy



Important Upcoming Dates/Events:

April 4 – Easter Sunday (No BLAST)
April 11, April 18, April 25 – BLAST Sundays for the month of April
April 11 & April 25 – VBS informational meetings immediately following morning worship service
April 25 – 5:00pm; church-wide Spring Fling event; family-oriented night of fun and food put on by the Family Ministry Team
May 16th – Graduate Recognition Sunday
July 7th, July 14th, July 21st, July 28th – VBS Nights!

You all may not know this about me, but I consider myself to be a pretty old-fashioned person. I'm not great with technology and sometimes have a resistant attitude toward learning how to use new technology. I prefer paper and pen most of the time. And I find a special comfort in doing things the way they have been done; the tried and true methods appeal to me. I'm not one to often look for a new or different way of doing things.

But every now and then, a different approach is called for. With that said, Harlem Baptist Church's Vacation Bible School will have a different look and feel this coming summer. It seemed like there was an appropriate window of opportunity to change up the format a bit considering we were unable to have VBS at all in 2020, so the last time we have had Vacation Bible School was back in 2019.

This summer, instead of having "VBS Week" - four nights of Vacation Bible School consecutively, Sunday-Wednesday – we will be having four Vacation Bible School NIGHTS, all on Wednesday nights throughout the month of July.

The logic behind this made decision comes down to a few factors: 1) the desire to have something for children aged 3-5th grade to have something to do on Wednesday nights during the summer, 2) how hard it is to recruit volunteers when we are asking them to sacrifice four straight evenings, and 3) with a long layover with no AWANA, we are hoping our VBS nights will create a buzz in our children's ministry and get parents and children both back in the habit of coming back to church on Wednesday nights ahead of AWANA re-launching in the fall with the new school year.

I would ask that you pray for this new direction and also support through volunteering to help with these VBS nights. If you would like to get some more information about this new-look VBS, please consider coming to one of the two VBS informational meetings immediately following morning worship service – there is a meeting on April 11th and on April 25th in case there are people who would like to attend but cannot make it on April 11th.

Thanks!
Evan Powell