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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

stay CONNECTED



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

Follow us
@harlembaptistga



Happy Anniversary

03-02 Andre & Gayle Miller
03-12 Randall & Rosie Cook
03-28 Caleb & Kirsten Sawyer

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

Happy Birthday

03-01 Tripp Lonergan	03-20 Gayle Miller
03-02 Hee Na Chung	03-22 Renee Dean
03-03 Wesley Williams	03-22 Kathy Arrowood
03-04 Amy Williamson	03-22 Kate Ellis
03-06 Elijah Rodriguez	03-22 Jennifer Grimes
03-06 Joelle Jacobs	03-23 Adam Nelson
03-07 Sheri Murphy	03-25 Zachary Piorkowski
03-09 Nick Hawkinberry	03-28 Randy Lewis
03-10 Don Ray	03-28 Joy McKettrick
03-15 Wade McClellan	03-29 Wayne Allen
03-15 Miguel Rodriguez	03-30 Clay Smith
03-18 Vann Bennett	
03-20 Brandi Lewis	

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

Deacon of the Month

Bob Knight
706-830-0774

FINANCIALS

as of February 21, 2021

Actual Expenses YTD \$50,061
Actual Received YTD \$52,577

CONNECTIONS

March 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

Five years ago this month you all called me to become your pastor. As many of you know hearing and responding to that call was not an easy process for me. In fact, I would say that the months leading up to that call were very formational for me. God did a mighty work in my life as He revealed to me His desire for me to pastor this great congregation in this wonderful community. Few days go by where Jennifer and I don't express thanks to our God for leading us to this community that we now call home. You all have embraced us, supported us, and encouraged us in a way that I can only describe as "holy." We are beyond grateful for the nearly nine years we have been part of this community. And, as we anxiously await our second child, which will come through adoption, we know that you all will continue to support and pray for us daily. I want to thank Mark Whitaker for his gracious and kind words in our service earlier this month and also the entire congregation for your generous donation to assist us in our adoption. Know that your kindness and generosity continue to bless our family.

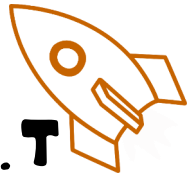
As I reflect on my time in Harlem I must admit that the past year has presented the greatest challenge. But, I'm sure that that comes as no surprise to you. I'm reminded however, that it is often during challenging seasons that God is doing the most formational work in our lives. That is, God shapes or does his sanctifying work in us through challenging circumstances. As the often cliché metaphor reminds us, storms are certainly not fun, but they do bring about growth. So, my question for you is how have you grown in the midst of this uncertain season? What formational work has the Lord done in your life? Paul says in Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it." In that text however, Paul never says that God's good work in us will be easy. Paul just affirms that our God will be faithful to complete it.

So, as you continue to take life one day at a time, praying that tomorrow will be a little better than today, know that in the midst of this challenging season God is doing a formational work in your life. And, I assure you, this is "good work." I pray that you find comfort in hope in knowing this truth!

Press on!
Carson

Church News

B.L.A.S.T



Will meet
March
7th, 14th, 21st

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

Easter Lily Orders:

Easter Lilies will be placed in the FLC on Easter Sunday. If you would like to place an order (\$12.50 each) in memory/honor of someone, please fill out a paper form or place and order online. Have all forms and payments return to the Church Office no later than **March 23rd**.



While reading in 1 Corinthians 3, I was struck by the personal metaphor Paul uses for the believer: "You yourself are God's temple and God's spirit lives in you" (v. 16). The earlier verses in this chapter build up the image this invokes in such a way that I was astounded at both its depth and practicality.

First, Paul discusses the foundation upon which individual believers (i.e. God's temple) are built. "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already

laid, which is Jesus Christ" (v. 11). Paul makes it clear – for the believer, there is no other foundation available. Christ *is* the foundation of your life if you have declared Him Lord and Savior. This then begs the question: are you acknowledging Christ as your rock? Are you living a life built upon Christ as the central focus and purpose giver, or have you leaned into a rickety structure of self-reliance to support you? Does a foundation in Christ leave you feeling guilty about certain actions or attitudes? We must realize Christ still remains underneath the rubble we have made of our lives by trying to depend upon anyone or anything but Him as our support.

Secondly, Paul asks the believer what he is building *on top of* this foundation. What is the ultimate purpose of the structure? What tools, materials, and standards are being utilized to create it? Look at verses 12-13. Paul continues his metaphor are we building with permanent, praise worthy, indestructible materials (the gold, silver, and costly stones he mentions), or with lower value, temporary materials that can be easily destroyed by fire and struggle (wood, straw, and hay). A life built on the gold of prayer, the silver of Bible reading and discipleship, the costly stones of service and worship – this life will be made of quality materials that can weather life's storms. These require specific temperatures to forge and manipulate, and so impress upon us the need to use the proper tools and standards/measures in order to insure our build is solid. But if we are building with weaker materials – the wood of worldly prosperity, the straw of popularity, or the hay of self-reliance, our building will not only be weaker, but it will not stand up against the worst of life's struggles. Further, it will not demand of us the exacting integrity that the greater materials require. It can be built shodily and still *look* ok, even when it is about to fall down.

The point, dear brothers and sisters, is made clear in what Paul says in verses 14-15: "If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. But if it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames." It is the difference of living a life for Christ daily and dancing into Heaven, versus living for the world and self and having "fire insurance", but with no joy and purpose. You are still a believer – you are still saved and nothing can snatch you from His hand. But it is time we build this temple the right way, so that our daily life, this eternal life, can be lived out fully, to the joy of all around us and for the glory of God.

-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:

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. Register at the IC
station in the FLC or online at
www.harlembaptist.org/women-retreat/

Church Family,

Just want to thank you for all
your prayers and phone calls.
We are very blessed to be part
of such a loving church.

Love this church...
Susan Knight



Carpe diem.

School curriculum is kind of a funny thing. I don't recall learning the first thing about taxes during my school days. School never taught me how to wash a load of clothes, how to tie a necktie, or even how to change the oil in my car.

But somewhere along the way, someone who had their hand in developing Georgia state school curriculum decided that middle-schoolers really needed to learn some Latin and Greek root words and phrases. So I am betting there's not a single eighth-grader out there who doesn't know what "Carpe Diem" means... unless they were being seriously inattentive and goofing off during Language Arts class.

Carpe diem loosely means to "seize the day". It is a pretty common (cliché some may say) expression and we are taught from our schooldays that "Carpe Diem" is a battle cry. It is an anthem, a proclamation, a rallying statement. As we pump our fist up in the air and shout with all our might "Carpe Diem!", we know we mean that we are about to move into action. We are about to stop sitting on the sidelines of life and get down to business. We will no longer be scared, anxious, or paralyzed by indecision, but we are going to shed our insecurities and make the most of whatever opportunity is afforded us.

Over the last month or two, I have become convicted by God about how I am spending my time. Simply put, there is no urgency - no "carpe diem" - in the way I am managing my time and the way I am going about being productive each day. I recently discovered a feature on my iPhone called "Screen Time", which reports how much time I spend each day on my cell phone. I was aghast to realize that it was not uncommon for me to spend OVER five hours a day on my phone. Doing what? Well the screen time report informs you how much of that time was spent on Facebook, surfing the web browser, or playing different game apps as well... It was terrible, and I was shaken to my core. How could I possibly be investing five hours of my time a day to a phone? All the missed opportunities! (And before you pick up a stone to cast at me, I challenge you to check out your screen time report as well!)

So here's where I have landed recently. I know carpe diem is a little bit cheesy, but the past few weeks I have been praying, in no uncertain terms, that God would help me to make the most of each day, and the time that He has given me. I have pled with God that He would light a fire under my hiney when needed. I have begged God to give me a boot in the rear when it is called for. And I have been desperate in my request that He would help me redeem my time and use it for the advancement of His Kingdom in every way, in every moment of the day.

I don't want this article to be solely about technology, because for you it might be something else that is distracting you or otherwise preventing you from pursuing God-given opportunities and having a full life. But I would challenge you to begin praying this prayer: "God, help me carpe diem." "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." – 1 Corinthians 10:31

-Evan