

stay CONNECTED



There will be no OASIS in July during Vacation Bible School. OASIS will resume August 4th.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
9:45 AM

**small groups**  
*Let's do life together.*

Follow us     
@harlembaptistga



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*



07-02	Christopher & Alisha Hummel	07-18	Brett & Kathy Arrowood
07-03	Mitchell & Brigitte Cozart	07-24	Curtis & Mandy Rhodes
07-05	Bob & Susan Knight	07-28	Jim & Yong Clark
07-11	Evan & Katie Powell	07-31	Miguel & Claudia Rodriguez
07-15	Mickey & Emily Lonergan		
07-16	Keith & Sonja Soloman		

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

*Happy Birthday*

07-01	Randall Hill	07-16	Daniel Dickerson
07-02	Peggy Edwards	07-17	Ruth Hill
07-03	John Eckenroth	07-15	Billy Elliott
07-03	Raymond Hawkinberry	07-17	Zac Homschek
07-03	Susan Knight	07-18	Tara Taylor
07-03	Matthew Nelson	07-18	Taryn Allen
07-05	Pamela Jones	07-25	Shawn Birchfield
07-07	Paul Grimes	07-27	Ken Adams
07-07	Susan Murphy	07-27	Bill Jones
07-09	Randall Cook	07-29	Chris Gurley
07-13	Gerald McKettrick	07-30	Talyn Birchfield
07-14	Scott Williams	07-30	Pat Jacobs

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

Deacon of the Month

Mark Whitaker  
706-533-3489

**FINANCIALS**  
as of June 20, 2021

Actual Expenses YTD \$161,043  
Actual Received YTD \$176,506

# CONNECTIONS

*blessed*

IS THE NATION WHOSE  
GOD IS THE

*Lord*

PSALM 33:12

July 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

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about the month of July? If you're like me, you probably think immediately about July 4<sup>th</sup>. It's a day that American's have set aside to celebrate our young country's birthday. We celebrate with fireworks and sparklers. We enjoy good food. Many take their celebrations to the lake or the beach. I can actually remember a number of July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations from my childhood. The most memorable one was watching the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks on the mall in Washington D.C. alongside my parents and my sister. That is a great memory that I will treasure forever. I imagine many of you also have vivid memories celebrating our nations' birth with your own loved ones. But, this year, as you celebrate I want to encourage you to take the time to reflect on and pray for our nation. Let's reflect on and pray about the obstacles facing our nation. The obstacles of disunity, poverty, inequality, crime, and hate. Let's acknowledge how challenging it is to consider how our actions affect the lives of our neighbors before asking the Spirit to lead us towards a deeper consideration for others. I hope and pray that these reflections and prayers will unite all Americans to work towards bringing resolve to these obstacles through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### A Prayer for July 4<sup>th</sup>

*Oh God, we set aside this day to celebrate the birth of our nation. And as we celebrate I ask that you remind us that the freedoms we enjoy in this country are blessings from you. May we never take these freedoms for granted! May we recognize you as the author of all freedom. May we give thanks each day for the many men and women who served and continue to serve to protect the freedoms we enjoy.*

*We pray also that your Spirit will lead our divided nation down paths of reconciliation. As we travel these paths, teach us to listen to others so that we can better understand them. Convict us of the actions in our lives which perpetuate the obstacles of disunity, poverty, inequality, crime, and hate. Then, lead us down the humble path of repentance as we strive to overcome these obstacles.*

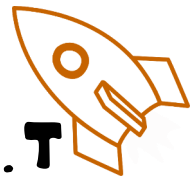
*Finally, help us Holy Spirit to be ever mindful of our heavenly citizenship. May this knowledge lead us to keep You and Your kingdom at the center of our lives.*

*In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we pray, Amen*

*Press on!  
Carson*

## Church News

B.L.A.S.T



Will meet  
July 11, 18, 25

YOUTH  
MINISTRY

Youth will **NOT**  
meet during July.

YOU'RE INVITED!



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 7, 14, 21, 28

5:15 PM-8:00 PM

(DINNER PROVIDED)

Ages 4 year through rising 6th graders

REGISTER ONLINE AT [HARLEMBAPTIST.ORG/VBS](http://HARLEMBAPTIST.ORG/VBS)

### VBS OUT REACH PROJECT

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Bring in school supplies for packing the OCC boxes this year!

#### Supplies needed:

-Composition Notebooks

-Spiral Notebooks

-Notebook Paper

-Pencils, erasers and sharpeners

-pens

-Crayons

-Markers

-Colored Pencils

-Scissors

-Glue Sticks

-Pencil Pouches



My husband is notorious for saying that he hates making plans because something always happens. I, however, am very much a planner. As Evan insisted last year, it was my need to plan out an entire year's calendar that caused the pandemic and subsequent lockdown – because since we had things planned obviously something had to take place to mess them up.

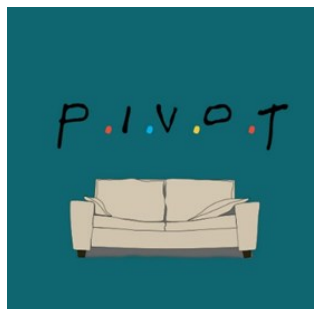
Recently, I attended a media/leadership conference that included a lesson specifically on the subject of cancelled plans. The speaker acknowledged what we had all, as church leaders, faced in 2020 - the anxiety, frustration, hurt, and inconstancy that comes with **constantly** shifting plans. For so long, events and deadlines felt like imaginary things, like we were daydreaming rather than placing items on a calendar. And while constant scheduling problems may seem minor to some, the discouragement and frustration that many leaders in the Church faced for the last 15 months is not to be discounted.

The best piece of advice I received from this conference was the concept of “pivot”. To face a changing plan or circumstance and not be so attached the way things were “supposed” to be, or even how I wanted them to go, to surrender my frustration to my Heavenly Father, and PIVOT – be willing to stop mid-stream and move in whatever direction God is sending me, even if it means “wasted” time and effort. Being able to PIVOT is a life skill a Christian cannot afford to ignore – it will allow you to be able to reach out to others when the opportunity arises, even if it messes up your plan or schedule for that day. It will help you to deal with a broken down car that seems to derail your entire week, an injury or pain flare up that leaves you in bed when you had things to do, even handle suddenly having a sick child to care for in the midst of a life already too busy. We should not only be *willing* to pivot when God calls us to, but we should *make room in our lives for God to do so!* If your life is so full that God can't change your direction for an hour or a day to have you share the Gospel or help someone, then friend – your life is too full. We need breathing room in our hearts and schedules that leave space for God to speak, to act, and if need be, to PIVOT us into what He has planned, rather than making plans and asking or even telling Him to bless them.

When was the last time you prayed for God to plan your schedule?

There is an iconic scene in the show FRIENDS where three of the characters are attempting to carry a couch up the stairs. Ross, trying to help, screams out “PIVOT!!!” in such a demanding and unforgettable way that it has remained a generational standing joke to this day, more than 16 years later. (Google “Friends pivot scene” and you'll see what I mean.) This visual reminder helps me be willing to PIVOT when things don't go as planned or if I see God moving me in another direction. I see it, laugh, and am reminded that God is in charge of me and my day - and then I am more willing to move.

-Rebekah



## DEACON NOMINATIONS



Harlem Baptist Church is seeking deacon nominations for the upcoming church year. You can find the nomination forms at the Information Center.

All nomination forms must be turned in no later than  
**Sunday, July 11th.**



### AWANA RETURNS!

Wednesday, August 11th

Dinner served at 5:30 pm

(Cost \$1 per child)

REGISTER ONLINE AT

[harlembaptist.org/awana](http://harlembaptist.org/awana)



For lots of folks, summer is a time of travel. Putting miles on the road to visit out-of-town family, long vacation drives, going to visit state parks in RVs, or maybe flying to a far-off destination... there are many different reasons for travel this time of the year. Regardless of where we are going, it kind of seems like everyone really is **on the go**.

Katie and I are the same way. Our summer schedule has already been pretty full of going places. And here's what I have discovered about travel. I **LOVE** arriving at my destination. But I don't always enjoy every second of the process. Sometimes travel can be tedious, boring, or a little painful (especially if you are riding in the back seat!) The time it takes, the patience it requires... sometimes it is a strain. But most often the reward is worth it.

As I have been traveling this summer, my mind wandered (as it frequently does) and I found myself thinking about the missionary Paul quite a bit. Attentive churchgoers know that Paul's letters make up a substantial chunk of the New Testament. These letters were often written to religious leaders at local church bodies spread throughout the Roman Empire of the time. He wrote to those people and those congregations when he could not be physically present with them to spur them on in their faith. However, it should not be forgotten – all of these places Paul had previously journeyed to. Many Bibles have map resources in their back pages. My study Bible has over 10 pages of maps and one of the maps is dedicated to “Paul's Missionary Journeys” and it traces his steps along many different trips to places around the world. According to those maps, between four different missionary journeys, Paul traveled over 2500 miles – all for the sake of the Gospel!! And this at a time when travel was much slower and more arduous than it is today! How incredible was his faith, how admirable was his persistence and perseverance, how great an example he is for modern believers - our hearts should be likewise motivated to be “on the go” for God's cause.

It's hard to believe, but summer is almost halfway over already! But for the rest of the summer as you and your family travel and do fun stuff and soak in the sun... let your heart and mind reflect on Paul for just a few moments. And may that meditation inspire you to be *driven* to a hunger and eagerness to go places for God, understanding that where He may ask you to go might be a difficult journey, but the eternal reward will be so, so worth it. Paul understood this well. May we understand it too.

-Evan

### Women's Ministry:

Have you ever heard the phrase "Think before you speak."? Recently I was listening to a pastor preach a sermon series entitled "You and Your Mouth."

As I listened; this pastor said several things that I thought were worth sharing. He used an acronym for the word **THINK**. **The T stands for TRUE?** (Proverbs 18:8) How many times do we repeat something because we saw it on Social Media or because someone shares some gossip with us? **The H stands for Harmful.** Do we say things that hurt others feelings? (Proverbs 12:18) **The I stands for Inspiring.** (Proverbs 10:31) A small compliment can make a difference in someone's life.

**VBS is upon us ;encourage these children every chance you get. They need to feel good about themselves. The N is for Necessary.** (Proverbs 10: 19)The pastor said the following sentences. "You don't have to express everything you have an opinion about."

and "You don't have to attend every argument you are invited to." I think these two thoughts are self-explanatory. I wrote them down for my own benefit to use as a reminder to myself. **Finally, the K is for Kindness.(Proverbs 16:24)** You know it doesn't take much effort to say a kind word to someone and it can change their day.

Recently late one afternoon I was heading to a ballgame. When I arrived I had to park in the gravel parking lot because the main lot was full. It was hot and as I walked to the gate I got sand in my sandals. I was not a happy camper when I reached the table to pay my \$5; but the lady taking up the money said to me " don't you look nice, you've got on just the right amount of jewelry and you look so pretty." I said to her," Well you are so kind, thank you." Her kind words had changed my attitude and made me feel better as I approached the ballgame. This sermon was preached by Rev. David McKinley on June 20th. I hope the portion I've shared will help you encourage others with

your words each day and THINK before you speak as you read these Proverbs. Blessings, Kathy 😊