

stay CONNECTED



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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
9:45 AM

**QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE**  
AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup>  
6:00PM

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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

08-01 Billy & Cate Elliott	08-11 Susan & Steve Camp
08-06 Kathy & Gary Holley	08-27 Jerry & Jill Williams
08-08 Annette & Emmit Coleman	

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

## Happy Birthday

08-02 Kayla Clark	08-15 Taryn Birchfield
08-02 Kevin Sweatman	08-16 Inez Brown
0-04 Alice Jones	08-16 Grier Whitaker
08-05 Zach Fleming	08-18 Alexis Bemisderfer
08-05 Scott Tam	08-21 Brian Murphy
08-07 Russ Lewis	08-25 Emmitt Coleman
08-10 Dale Arnold	08-25 Jimmy Tankersley
08-10 Roxie Whitaker	08-26 Tony Mundy
08-10 Cate Elliott	08-27 Kelly Tam
08-13 Edee Sweatman	08-28 Donna Carithers
08-13 James Usry	08-28 Duane Starrenburg
	08-29 Carol Carter

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

### Deacon of the Month

Gary Wilkes  
706-556-9292

### FINANCIALS

as of July 25, 2021

Actual Expenses YTD \$205,180  
Actual Received YTD \$224,828

# CONNECTIONS

August 2021

## THE PASTOR'S DESK

This is the time of year when we turn our attention to all things back to school. Parents are doing all they can to get their children and themselves prepared for the new school year. Teachers, administrators, faculty, and staff are all doing the same thing. We all know that there is a great deal to be done to prepare for the start of school. And why do we do this? We do this because we desire to see our children and the children throughout our community succeed. We want them to succeed academically so we do all we can to ensure they are prepared to do so. We want them to succeed athletically so we tote them daily to and from practice and we purchase them the best equipment we can afford. We want them to succeed socially so we do what we can to ensure that happens. Preparing our children to succeed in all things school and extracurricular is incredibly important. So we put forth as much effort as we (parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches... etc.) can to ensure that happens.

Over the past month or so Rebekah, Evan, and myself have also done a lot of preparing. With the new school year comes a new year of ministry. And this year is particularly important because for the first time in 18 months we will finally be back to full programming as Awana finally resumes on August 11. I'm very excited about this progress that has been made and I ask that you join me in praying for a safe and fruitful return to full ministry. But, I say all this because I want to highlight what I fear may be a reality in many Christian homes. That is, we place a great deal of time preparing ourselves and our children academically and athletically, while putting much less emphasis on preparing our children spiritually. I'm guessing that many of us hold our children accountable when it comes to doing their homework and practicing their sport or instrument. But, are we providing spiritual accountability to our children? There comes a point in time where every Christian parents needs to stop and ask themselves, what am I instilling in my children? Am I teaching them that athletics, academics, band, or something else is the most important? Or, are we showing our children the Gospel of Jesus Christ daily? Are we teaching them spiritual disciplines like prayer, worship, and tithing?

As we come to a time of year that is really marked with preparing our children I want to challenge us all consider what we are preparing our children for. Then, we may need to follow that up by asking, what is the most important thing for which to prepare our children? As believers in Christ we also believe in eternal life. We believe that when we take our last breath here that we will be taking our first breath in an eternal destination. Where that first eternal breath comes is undoubtedly the most important thing. May we strive daily to help prepare our children spiritually by showing them and teaching them to the gospel of Jesus Christ!

*Press on!*  
Carson



**Meets every Sunday!**  
Family worship service will be held on every 5th Sunday and only the nursery will be available.

**YOUTH**  
MINISTRY

**WEDNESDAYS**

**AT 6:45PM**



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 8TH**

**5:30PM-7:30PM**

**JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN AND FALL REGISTRATION!**



**Happy end of summer, HBC!**

I must confess that I prefer fall and winter to summer (especially weather). I'm not much of a beach person (it's pretty, but sand! Ugh!) and summers are usually pretty quiet in my family. Usually. This summer has been a blur, and in many ways challenging, and I am actually rather thankful it is over. (Sorry, teachers!) But mostly I'm just plain excited – excited for a fall and Christmas season that is coming our way, where we will be meeting together again in all of our capacities: children and youth activities, Wednesday nights, and CHOIR PRACTICES!! I can't wait to start working on Christmas music. Yes, I know I'm weird. I'm okay with it.

If you are looking for somewhere to plug in and serve or minister, please don't hesitate to ask Evan, Carson, or myself what that might look like. Don't let this precious season go to waste – a season where we re-launch all of our efforts of discipleship, ministry, community, and service to a full time schedule. Do you enjoy singing? Consider joining the choir? Play and instrument? Please call me, TODAY! Can you run a Powerpoint presentation? I could use more media help. Remember, the more people who volunteer, the less each volunteer has to do. If we have the people, we can schedule many positions for once or twice a month, rather than every week (which we know gets exhausting).

When you have a moment, take quick look at Galatians, chapter 6. In the first few verses, Paul gives many exhortations to believers in how they should live and treat each other (we know he is talking to believers because of his opening "brothers and sisters", and the content of the previous chapters). Just within the first 10 verses, Paul asks us to carry each other's burdens, to not compare ourselves to others, to carry our own load, to sow what we wish to reap, and to not become weary in doing good, especially doing good to those who are in the family of believers.

We ARE to be about the business of serving in the church: some way, somehow. It is in this manner that we help and love each other and our community, including those who do not believe. This is our job. This is the calling of every believer. There is no question that if you are a follower of Christ, you are called to serve. It's just a matter of where. Step into all that He has for you and find your place of service today!

*-Rebekah*



**AWANA RETURNS!**

**Wednesday, August 11th**

**6:15pm-8:00pm**

*Dinner served at 5:30 pm*

*Cost: \$6/ Adult & \$1/ Child*

**REGISTER ONLINE AT**

**harlembaptist.org/awana**



**ADULT  
CHOIR**

**RETURNS AUGUST 11TH**

**WEDNESDAYS | 8pm**

## FOOD FOR KIDS

We are asking for donations for individually packaged food items to help with Saturday Sacks for students at North Harlem Elementary.

### ITEMS NEEDED:

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| -cereal         | -fruit snacks |
| -pop-tarts      | -crackers     |
| -fruit bars     | -pudding      |
| -ramen noodles  | -jello        |
| -Mac-n-cheese   | -grits        |
| -Vienna sausage | -oatmeal      |
| -ravioli        | -cookies      |
| -chips          | -applesauce   |
| -juice boxes    | -fruit cups   |



Teachers and students, cover your eyes and ears for this one... summer is officially over. And as of last Wednesday night, our "Rocky Railway"-themed Vacation Bible School has come to an end as well. This was a different year for VBS at our church – splitting up VBS among the 4 Wednesday nights throughout the month of July rather than one consecutive week. Although it can be tough to measure how effective or fruitful this adjustment may have been, I definitely saw some positive signs. All total we had about 50 different children participate across the different nights of Vacation Bible School. This is especially encouraging as we look to re-start AWANA within the next two weeks. We hope for a pretty substantial carryover of kids involved in Vacation Bible School to show out for AWANA as well.

Additionally, this number is even harder to keep track of, but I think we had about 35-40 different adults and youth help out with the VBS cause. From a decorating committee that absolutely went above and beyond to make the FLC look amazing, to a faithful dinner prep/service/clean up crew, to classroom teachers and age group "conductors", to check-in specialists. It took a massive team of wonderful volunteers to make Vacation Bible School possible this summer, and I am so grateful for each and every one of these volunteers and their sacrificial efforts. And I want to offer a special word of thanks to Rebekah Dickerson for her tireless work and leadership involving decorating. I sincerely hope you all got a chance to go to the Family Life Center at some point this summer, because it was completely decked out! Thanks too, to Alan Hall for running video and audio during our VBS rally times.

Even though Vacation Bible School has ended, the fun and excitement isn't over! There are still big things happening in HBC's children's and youth ministries. At long last, BLAST Children's worship service is back up to all four weeks of the month on Sunday mornings and we are re-starting AWANA on Wednesday night, August 11<sup>th</sup>. We are also resuming regular youth group meetings on Wednesday night after taking July off.

Finally, I want to make sure everyone knows we want our whole church family to show up for a deacon-sponsored church fellowship event on Sunday night, August 8<sup>th</sup> – a night that we are hoping will also prove fruitful in having great conversations with parents and getting children and students signed up for Family ministry weekly programs.

Thank you all for your prayers – and for your helping hands – throughout a very busy summer. Love you all!

*-Evan*