

stay CONNECTED



Meets weekly on Wednesdays at 6:45pm in the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:45 AM

UPCOMING EVENTS
Church Work Day
November 6th

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CONNECTIONS is a monthly publication of Harlem Baptist Church • PO Box 790 Harlem GA • 706-556-6439 • e-mail Church@HarlemBaptist.org



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 

10-09 Anita and Truett Abbott
10-10 Sharon and Joseph Bell
10-27 Leslie and Dale Arnold

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

Happy Birthday

10-03 Johnny Morris	10-24 John McClellan
10-06 Stephanie Lewis	10-28 Ragen Truitt
10-09 Andrea Willis	10-29 Mark Whitaker
10-13 Jennifer Britt	10-31 Nancy Lewis
10-16 Linda Eckenroth	10-31 Margaret Wilkes
10-17 Kelly Lonergan	
10-20 Mark Barrs	
10-20 Pat Cook	
10-22 Ashlyn Knight	
10-23 Bob Brown	
10-23 Emily Adams White	

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

Deacon of the Month

Steve Camp
706-836-3943

FINANCIALS

as of September 26, 2021

Actual Expenses YTD \$256,844
Actual Received YTD \$285,89

CONNECTIONS

October 2021

THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

In the third chapter of Mark's gospel the writer recalls the appointing of the twelve apostles. In that text, the gospel writer identifies those who would belong to Jesus' inner circle for the next three years. These were the ones, with the exception of Judas, who would go on to start the Jesus movement. These are the men who will carry out the mission of God in the world. They will become church starters, healers, baptizers, and preachers. But, as we see throughout all four gospel accounts these men have a lot of growing to do to get there. Although our knowledge of most of them is limited, what we do know about some of them reveals their weakness. It reveals that they are ill-equipped for such a mission. And yet, in spite of that Jesus chose them to be his apostles. Mark's gospel actually says that "[Jesus] called to him those he wanted."

Have you ever felt wanted? If you have you probably know that it feels really good. As a parent I must admit that it certainly feels good to know that my daughter wants me from time to time. It feels good for a potential employer to reach out to you saying they want you to come and join their workforce. We feel special when a friend calls us up and says "Hey, I want to have dinner with you." Or, "I want you to help me with something." In a world with 7.6 billion people it feels really good for someone to want us when they could choose anyone else. Now imagine how the twelve apostles felt. Jesus could have chosen any Israelite, and he chose this group of unimpressive men to be his appointed. What a feeling that must have been.

Paul says in Ephesians 1:5, "God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure" (NLT). Most of you probably know that Jennifer and I brought home our second child last week through the gift of adoption. Although we are still very early in this journey I must admit that in just a matter of days my perspective of Ephesians 1:5 has changed dramatically. We didn't have to adopt our daughter. In fact, adopting her was costly. But, because we believe God has given us the capacity to love, nurture, and parent this child we willingly chose to adopt her. Similarly, (but on a much bigger scale) God didn't have to adopt us. But, because He wanted us so much, He paid the ultimate price and gave up His son to bring us into His family. There truly is no greater love than this! I want to challenge each of you to spend some time this month reflecting on the depth of God's love for you. He loves you so much and he wanted you so badly that Christ died so that you could be part of that family of God. Thanks be to God for this very good news!

Press on!
Carson

Church News

B.L.A.S.T

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

****Please be sure to bring a carved pumpkin for the pumpkin contest, chili to participate in the chili cook off and a dessert for the Fall Festival.****

Fall Festival



SUNDAY, October 24th
5:00pm-7:00pm

● PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST ● CHILI COOK OFF ●
FOOD ● MUSIC ● PUMPKIN GAMES ●



I don't know about anyone else, but this is my absolute favorite time of year. Cooler air, lots of fun festivals, and...Christmas is right around the corner!!! Yes, it is time to start preparing for the advent season, and I cannot wait to dig out decorations way too early and find new ways to celebrate the birth of Christ! My need to start thinking about Christmas early is a years-ingrained habit - in music, we start Christmas planning in September, no matter what choir band or group you are working with.

And so it is with our church choir! We have begun our prep work for Christmas, and if you have considered singing in the choir but aren't sure about it (for any reason), I would highly recommend you try it during this season. Come talk to me! We would love to have you join us for the Christmas season to see what choir is all about (Hint: we focus on worship! We do the work in practice but when it comes time for church services, the work is done - worship is the priority!) We would love to have you!

See me after any church service or send me an email (rebekah@harlembaptist.org), and we can sit down and chat about what choir looks like and how you can get involved in helping others encounter God in worship! Looking forward to talking to you!

October 2021 OCC Needs List:

- Water Bottles
- Hats and Gloves
- Flashlights with Batteries
- Sewing Kits with material
- Rope/Bungie Cords
- Measuring tapes
- Clothes Pins
- Work gloves

-Rebekah

Women's Ministry:

Well the Sewing Ministry Class got off to a very productive start. We had ten ladies attend. Some experienced seamstresses and others beginners. Lynda Morris put her talents to use and had all of us measuring and cutting out patterns in no time. Everyone sewed a burp pad for our nursery babies. Some of the ladies made two! We all left feeling as if we had accomplished something personally and done something for others as well which is our mission. Kelly Tam came with an idea for our next project and will be leading in that project when we meet again in October.

**Our next meeting is October 4th,
the 1st Monday in October
from 7-8:30pm.**

If you missed our September meeting please come in October. We'd love to have you. This is a time of good fellowship, meeting new friends while we do a good work for Jesus. Again leaders of this group are Savannah Bailey and Lynda Morris. I'm just a beginner myself and my purpose is to make sure you know the WHEN, WHERE AND TIME. We also need to be reminded that our focus is to reach others with our ministry. It's not the size of what we do that is important but the heart with which we do it that makes a difference. All the ladies in our church have a gift to share, ask Jesus to make your gift known to you and then

SHARE IT. 😊

Blessings,
Kathy

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10



Over the past 6 months, I have shattered my previous record of "most time spent out working in the yard". Some people LOVE doing yardwork. Those people (like our pastor) are weirdos!! I don't get it... how do these people relish such sweaty, dirty work? Whether cutting the grass, gardening, or some other home beautification processes, typically these types of chores do not thrill me by any stretch of imagination. However, in 2021, I have tried to put a better foot forward than in the past because.... well, I guess it just seems like the responsible adult thing to do. The culminating event in this chain of yard projects was actually just this past Saturday when Katie and I combined our efforts to plant three new young crape myrtles in our yard. We were out at 8:30 in the morning, shovels in hand, breaking ground to prepare for the new growth we hope will make our yard more beautiful for years to come. I couldn't help but spend quite a large amount of time reflecting on the words from John Chapter 15: "I am the true Vine and my Father is the Gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit while every branch that does bear fruit he will prune so that it will be even more fruitful... Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the Vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me." I "forgot" to mention this earlier, but these past 6 months has also been a time in which I have experienced much personal "pruning" by God. And do you know what I learned from all that? Pruning STINKS! It's terrible. It hurts to be pruned. I do not enjoy it... not one bit.

But I should not be surprised when God is busy at work pruning me, cutting off the branches in my life that aren't bearing His fruit, and even pruning the branches that do so I can become even more like Him in all I say, think, and do. If doing yardwork at my house is such tough, dirty, sweaty work... it should not catch me by surprise to realize that the personal pruning of our faith doesn't happen easily either. ***Our Gardener prepping us for maximum fruitfulness as we remain in the Vine is a laborious process.*** But it is an important one – as we show a better reflection of the image of our Creator to a world that desperately needs to see God's face. I can't believe I am even saying this, but recently I have taken to even praying to be pruned. And I recommend it! If you want to see God move and work in your life, just pray this simple prayer: "God prune me. Help me abide in You. Help me grow in You." But be warned – if you pray this prayer – get ready to go to work. Because God is going to show up, early in the morning, shovel in hand, prepping your life for new growth and new beauty for years to come. And it'll be hard, wonderful work.

Important Dates for Children's and Youth Ministry

Saturday, October 9th; 10:00am – 12:00 noon; Youth Kickball Day
Sunday, October 24th; 5:00pm – 7:00pm; Church-Wide Fall Festival
Saturday, October 30th; 10:00am – 12:30pm; Youth Dodgeball Tournament***
Sunday, October 31st; 11:00am; Family Worship Day – NO Blast Children's Service

***I am so excited about this event! And I have gotten the approval/blessing/cooperation of the Deacons on this so I want you all to know that the "Final Round" of our Dodgeball Tournament is going to feature our winning youth dodgeball team pitted up against a team of six of our church deacons! So even though this is a youth event, if you want some high-flying, fast-paced, can't-miss entertainment, I invite the whole church to show up at 12 noon on Saturday October 30th and watch our HBC deacons throw some dodgeballs right smack at kids' faces. Like... who wouldn't want to see that?! Hope to see y'all there!

-Evan

Dear Church Family,

*Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and best wishes during my recovery.
I appreciate them all!*

Mary Bradford