

stay CONNECTED



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:45 AM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Festival
October 24th

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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

Happy Anniversary



09-03	Gerald & Joy McKettrick	09-22	Terry & Tara Cooper
09-06	Dr. Gary & Margaret Wilkes	09-24	Brian & Sheri Murphy
09-07	Tripp & Kelly Lonergan	09-25	Russ & Amber Lewis
09-07	Emmett & Leslie Perdue		
09-13	Raymond & Kelly Hawkinberry		

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

Happy Birthday

09-01	Landen Lewis	09-22	Jake Phillips
09-02	Jimmie Lewis	09-22	Ken Sweatman
09-02	Andrea Allen	09-24	Denise Haynes
09-05	Emmett Perdue	09-24	Bob Knight
09-07	Taylor Camp	09-24	Rebekah Dickerson
09-08	Kristie Dozier	09-25	Connie Storey
09-11	Jackson Lonergan	09-26	LaShon Bennett
09-13	Michael Hawkinberry	09-26	Jordan Whitaker
09-14	Donna Park	09-27	Danny Henslee
09-14	Bruce Newsome	0-27	Vicki Flores
09-14	Shannon Starrenburg	09-28	Janis Butler
09-15	Rachael Stolte	09-30	Tommy Jones
09-19	Joe Jolley	09-30	Alisha Hummel

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Deacon of the Month

Dale Arnold
706-830-3089

FINANCIALS

as of August 29, 2021

Actual Expenses YTD \$232,345
Actual Received YTD \$258,610

CONNECTIONS

September 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

If you were to take a few minutes to write down a list of all of the crazy things that have taken place in our world over the past four or six weeks you might find yourself a bit overwhelmed. At the very least you will likely be a bit more concerned than you were just six weeks ago. We have seen a rather alarming Covid resurgence in that time. The state of Afghanistan has been chaotic and just this past weekend a major hurricane hit Louisiana on the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. As Christ followers we know we are called to have an increased level of compassion for our neighbors, even those living across the globe. But, if you're like me, your heightened anxiety, stress, or concern may make you feel paralyzed — not knowing how to respond. It may prevent you from discerning the appropriate response to the situation.

If I'm being honest, the past six weeks have been some of the most stressful and overwhelming weeks I have experienced in some time. But, in the midst of that stress and anxiety the Spirit of God has reminded me that even when I struggle to find hope, as one who has faith in the triune God, I am still called to pray. Paul calls us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "pray continually" (NIV). Or, as some translations say, "pray without ceasing." Have you ever tried to pray continually? It's incredibly difficult. It's especially difficult in those seasons when we struggle to see God's hand at work. In recent weeks I have become particularly aware of this reality.

Recently, as I have been praying and thinking about our next sermon series, all of these current events have been on my mind. All the while the Spirit has reminded me regularly of the words "pray continually." I don't think this is a coincidence. Rather I feel that the Spirit has led me to begin a new sermon series on the topic of prayer. This Sunday, we will begin a four week sermon series entitled *Pray Anyway*. In this series we will discuss the things in life that provide barriers to prayer life. Things like doubt, guilt, busyness, and even the "how to" of prayer. I am hopeful that by the end of this series we will each have a deeper understanding of what God's Word says about prayer. I pray also that we will learn together how to increase our trust in God particularly in those seasons when we struggle to see His hand at work.

I hope that you will join us in person or online as we learn about prayer in the coming weeks.

*Press on!
Carson*

Church News

FOOD FOR KIDS

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

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 |



When you look at the gospels and take a step back, it's pretty fascinating to think about the way that Jesus lived. He had just three years of ministry. And in those three years, He embraced the Father's mission, recruited a heavenly team of 12 rag tag men and trained them in kingdom values, and endured the hatred of the Pharisees. He resisted the temptation of the devil. He healed all sorts of sick people and loved all sorts of hurting people. He preached the word of God fearlessly. He fulfilled 351 Old Testament prophecies. And yet in all of that, Jesus never once...ran. When you read the gospels, there is no record of Him ever running, jogging, fast walking, skipping, or sprinting. Jesus was always busy, but He was never rushed. He never said to His disciples, "Boys, we're behind schedule, we gotta pick up the pace." No! He was busy, but He was never rushed on the inside. He never once ran. The Gospels are full of the phrase, "as Jesus *walked* along." He had important things to do and was fulfilling His purpose daily, but in all of that, He was never frantic. He was never rushed.

And then I thought about us. And I thought, "If we follow an unrushed Jesus, shouldn't we be living an unrushed life?" But the way I live is very different from the way that Jesus lived. I'm frantic. I'm busy. I'm stressed. I have so many "important" tasks on my to-do list... And yet, the Savior of the World was able to live unrushed, unhurried. He had a much more important job than I do. How can I follow an unrushed Jesus in such a rushed, hurried manner? So if you find yourself realizing that the pace of life has picked up beyond what you expected, and you're often rushed or stressed or overwhelmed or exhausted trying to get it all done, always falling short – well, Jesus invites you to come. Many of us are familiar with the verses in Matthew 11:28-30, but we often don't apply them to our daily Christian walk. The Message paraphrase of that passage reads:

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"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

He invites you to come to Him, to walk with Him. This walk is so much more than religious "to-do" items; it is a personal relationship where you lean on Him, talk to Him, and learn from Him. Learn to live an unhurried life! Let's get real for a second. Your "to-do" list? It will NEVER be completely done. Eventually, you will have to add something to it. Just ask any mom. The kitchen will always be dirty – even after you cleaned it and ordered take out! The list never finishes! But we insist on rushing through life, instead of doing each task with unhurried purpose, and focusing on our walk with God and our relationships with others.

Slow down. Stop fretting. Ruthlessly and relentlessly remove hurrying from your life. Don't just believe in Jesus, but learn to live the way Jesus lived. He was always busy, but He was never rushed.

-Rebekah

-When You're Too Busy for What Matters-
By: Craig Groeschel, (Paraphrased)



Food Pantry of Harlem
387 W. Church Street
Harlem, GA 30814

Doors will open
Tuesday, September 7th!

Will be open on each Tuesday and Friday from 10am-2pm. Also, will be open the third Tuesday of each month from 5pm-7pm to accommodate anyone who is not available during daytime hours.

Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry can always use donations of food, funds, and time. Anyone who wishes to help may contact them at fishesandloaves@att.net



Ecclesiastes 3:1 says: "There is an occasion for everything and a season for every activity under Heaven." It is about this time of the year when I become a lot more aware of seasonal changes. Let me explain what I mean. At the beginning of last month, school started back. Likewise, our church calendar year officially begins this week. Three weeks ago European soccer resumed (which is probably only awesome to me). And this coming Saturday the Georgia Bulldogs will kick off. In the near future, I am looking forward to it being the appropriate "season" to wear flannel and eat chili and taco soup again.

But back to Ecclesiastes for just a second. In my Bible the subtitle that precedes Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 is called "The Mystery of Time". If there is an occasion for everything and a season for every activity under Heaven... if we are aware that life progresses through in a series of predictable patterns and seasons, why is time such a mystery?

I think it's because God is the only One completely in charge of the seasons... when they begin, when they end, when they transition one to another. God holds the seasons in His capable, authoritative hands. Often when I remember this truth, it brings me to question why God has brought (me) through recent seasons. Why did this whole Covid-19 season have to be something we all collectively had to trudge through? And as much as we desperately want this season to be over, why does it seem to drag on and not let us escape it? The beginning of the pandemic last spring was the beginning of a struggle for many and church ministry was no escape. It was a colossal discouragement and a persistent personal frustration.

However, the past month of HBC's Family Ministry has brought signs of encouragement. It has brought signs of hope. Piggy-backing off the success of Vacation Bible School, AWANA club meetings, Wednesday night youth group meetings, and BLAST Children's worship are running full-force right now and it is so great to see our church buildings filled with students once more. It is, I think, a sign that a new season of ministry is coming – a season I am excited and relieved to welcome.

So when we as a church family look back at the season through which God has just brought us, rather than ask "why?" maybe it's more fruitful for us to ask "what?" As in, "What are we supposed to have learned since last March?" Or perhaps: "How are we being made more like You in this season?" As we prepare the fields for harvest and as we expectantly usher in a new season of our church's ministry, let us pray that God would allow our hearts to praise Him in each and every season.

-Evan

Women's Ministry:

The Women's Ministry is looking forward to beginning a Sewing Ministry that through our efforts will meet the needs of not only members of HBC, but reaching out to our community.

Lynda Morris and Savannah Bailey will be leading and teaching this class.

You do not have to know how to sew to be a part of this ministry. We will need people to cut out patterns, iron, package finish products and write cards, etc. There will be lots of ways to help.

Lynda has offered to teach those who have an interest in learning to sew.

This group will be called: **SEWING TO SERVE**

Our first meeting is : **September 13th (Monday)**

7pm FLC Bring your Sewing Machine if possible

First Project : Burp Pads for our Nursery (& others)

**** Look for other materials needed in the Weekly Order of Worship or Harlem HAPPENINGS. See you on the 13th!****

Blessings,
Kathy 😊