

## December CALENDAR

Dec 1	AWANA Youth OASIS Adult Choir	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM 8:00PM
Dec 4	Birthday Party for Jesus!	10:00AM— 11:30AM
Dec 5	Sunday School Morning Worship Choir Practice	9:45AM 11:00AM 1:30PM-3:30PM
Dec 6	Women's Sewing Group	7:00-8:30PM
Dec 8	AWANA Christmas Program and Awards — NO OASIS —	6:15PM
Dec 12	Sunday School Morning Worship Church Luncheon Christmas Under the Stars (An Outdoor Event)	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM 6PM-8PM
Dec 15	Cantata Dress Rehearsal Youth Adult Choir	6:30-7:30PM 6:45PM 8:00PM
Dec 18	Youth Christmas Party	5:00PM
Dec 19	Sunday School Morning Worship <i>Christmas Cantata during worship</i>	9:45AM 11:00AM
Dec 22	— NO ACTIVITIES —	
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion	6:00PM
Dec 26	Sunday School Morning Worship	9:45AM 11:00AM
Dec 29	— No ACTIVITIES —	

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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



12-03	Daniel & Rebekah Dickerson	12-17	Tony & Dianne Mundy
12-05	Daniel & Emily White	12-19	Carson & Jennifer Britt
12-11	Randy & Stephanie Lewis	12-21	Ryan & Jennifer Guy
12-12	Mike & Janis Butler	12-22	Randall & Ruth Hill
12-14	Wesley & Kacee Morris	12-24	Jimmy & Shirley Tankersley
12-15	Kevin & Valerie Allen		

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

Happy Birthday

12-01	Jennifer Guy	12-16	Chance Perdue
12-01	Raven Truitt	12-17	Leanna Williams
12-01	Coleman McClellan	12-25	Nancy Morrison
12-05	Annette Coleman	12-26	Brandi Morrison
12-06	Shirley Tankersley	12-27	Hope McClellan
12-06	Liza Davis	12-28	Raley Truitt
12-06	Brandy Storey	12-29	Matt Barrs
12-10	Brigitte Cozart	12-29	Donna Knighton
12-12	Chandler Arnold		
12-12	Wesley Morris		
12-14	Nick Hill		
12-15	Sadie Trobaugh		
12-16	Lyndey McClellan		

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

### Deacon of the Month

Barry Fleming  
706-799-4316

### FINANCIALS

as of November 28, 2021

Actual Expenses YTD \$312,804  
Actual Received YTD \$356,866

# CONNECTIONS



## 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

One of my favorite worship songs to sing at Christmas is the hymn *Emmanuel*. In fact, we just sang this song this past week. The simple words to that song proclaim, “*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called, Emmanuel; God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.*” Now, I realize that this hymn is not your typical Christmas carol. And it lacks the same nostalgia as *O Come all Ye Faithful* and *Joy to the World*. But, what I love about these words is the simple reminder that Christ, who is called Emmanuel, is God incarnate. In Jesus’ first advent we have God with us. Stop and think about that for a moment.

This past week I was reading a devotional published by Fuller Theological Seminary. In that devotional the writer asks, “What would it be like to live in light of the Incarnation, the coming of God in human flesh, Jesus, Emmanuel?” I want to encourage each of you to stop for a moment and ask yourself that question. Really ask yourself, what would it be like to live in light of God with us? As Christ followers our lives should be marked with such living. But are they?

Christmas should be a time of reset. It should be a season where we reflect on our lives, priorities, and spiritual disciplines, and then strive to make the needed changes that position us to live in light of the Incarnation of Christ. But, if you’re like me, you probably spend much more time watching Christmas movies, purchasing and wrapping presents, baking and cooking, and doing many other things to get ready for that big gathering. Sure, we do a decent job of setting aside the 11am hour each Sunday for worship. But, if we are to truly reposition ourselves to live lives that reflect the reality that God is with us one hour a week is hardly enough.

So, as you spend the next several weeks preparing I want to encourage you to truly consider what changes need to be made in your life to better reflect the reality that God is with us. It is our job as Christ followers to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to the world. May we strive this Christmas season to position ourselves in a manner that helps us to accomplish just that. Merry Christmas!

Press on!  
Carson



## Church News

**YOUTH**  
MINISTRY

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**AT 6:45PM**

# Christmas

AT HARLEM BAPTIST CHURCH

## BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS!

December 4 | 10:00am-11:30am  
(for ages 3 years through 5th grade)

## AWANA PERFORMANCE & AWARDS

December 8 | 6:15pm

## OUTDOOR CONCERT

*Christmas Under the Stars*  
featuring Wayne Hoey  
"All That Jazz"

(SERVING DESSERTS & JAVAHOUSE COFFEE\*)  
December 12 | 6:00pm-8:00pm

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

## DRESS REHEARSAL

(Sparks and T&T only)

December 15 | 6:30pm-8:00pm

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

December 19 | 11:00am

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

December 24 | 6:00pm

*\*SPECIALITY COFFEE DRINKS CAN BE PURCHASED.*



*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

*John 13:34-35*

There are many stories out there from people who have been hurt or disappointed by churches. The truths they tell are heartbreaking and can often leave people never wanting to step foot under a steeple for the rest of their lives. I personally have a painful childhood story of a church that was so "heavenly focused it was no earthly good." There was no grace there. There was no compassion there.

But I also have other stories. There is the story of church members that came by and bought the last of our family's appliances (that we couldn't take with us) as we packed up to move across the country so my dad could attend seminary. Their last minute contribution provided the funds to make the move. When we woke up that morning, my parents didn't know how we would make it. By noon we were on our way, with the EXACT amount they had prayed for in hand.

There is the story of the church who, when I found myself at age 22, pregnant and alone and battered down by a whirlwind of painful, sinful choices, wrapped their arms around me, looked me in the eye and said, "Whatever happens, you are ours. Don't you forget it." And then proceeded to throw me the most amazing baby shower ever, with enough diapers for a full year! They are the reason I pushed forward, found my way back to God, and the reason today that I continued with my dream of being in ministry.

And now I have stories of a small town church with big, beautiful hearts. The love and support and prayers and gifts and cards and the oh so many text messages I have received from Harlem Baptist Church members over the last few months has been amazing. My family is so blessed. We cannot even begin to express how much you have been the hands and feet of Jesus in our lives. The words "thank you" don't even begin to express it. You have become a story of grace and compassion and kindness and generosity that I will continue to tell, to shout from the rooftops, to show to the world that God is here and alive, and you can see Him clearly in the hearts and hands of His people.

HBC, keep being the story of someone's life that draws them ever closer to our great God.

*-Rebekah*

## HBC LUNCHEON



## December 12—Pork Chops and Fixings

December 19— Pot Roast and Fixings

*Women's Ministry:*

Dear HBC family,

The Women's Ministry would like to say thank you for the contributions you made to our pillow ministry. Some deliveries have been made and others will be made very soon to those in need. Please pray for those who will receive our gifts that their lives will be touched and they will feel the love of Christ.

During this season of Christmas as we remember the birth of our Savior, may we find ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus to others in the world we live in. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Merry Christmas,  
Kathy 😊



### Important Dates in December:

Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – Birthday Party for Jesus (in the FLC)  
 Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:15pm AWANA Performance and Awards Night  
 Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm – Christmas Under the Stars (in the field)  
 Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm – Rehearsal for HBC Christmas Cantata  
 Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm – Youth Christmas Party at the Powell House  
 Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am – Christmas Cantata featuring Sparks and T&T  
 Awana groups

Katie and I are that age now where we can scarce go a week without seeing a birth announcement on Facebook. We are just in that season of life. Everyone is having babies! Babies, babies, babies. New life being introduced into the world. We look at our friend's posts, we read their enthusiastic words, and we scroll through their "bump" pictures, noting the joy and excitement on their faces. These young couples are so full of eager anticipation to welcome their little one into the world, they are practically beside themselves with glee. They don glowing smiles from ear to ear as they await the arrival of a baby that changes everything for them.

Christmas reminds us of the extraordinary potential that babies have – the potential to change the whole world. That's exactly what Jesus did! And we have watched as our family members and friends' infants undergo remarkable transformation, growing into toddlers and small children. These children are treasures; blessings given by God the Bible reminds us. None of the kids running around HBC today are perfect, and none will grow up to be our Heavenly Savior. But they were made in the image of God. And He loves them and He has given them spiritual gifts, many of which we will see develop within our church over the years to come. That should excite us. As a church family, let us not underestimate the gift of our young children... and let us invest into the potential that these infants possess. They are the future, they are the church of tomorrow, and God can and will use them to bring about new life into the Kingdom of God.

Not only that, as we see all the babies that fill our nursery wing at church, let us also be reminded that God has called us to display a childlike faith. With all the nostalgia that surrounds the Christmas season, now is the perfect time to let go of our inhibitions and find joy and wonder and excitement about what wondrous works God will do next. The anticipation and excitement we felt as a youngster, looking out the window, peering up at the sky for a glimpse of Santa Claus... we need to bottle that enthusiasm up, capture it, and hold onto those feelings today as an adult. But this time, we are not looking for Santa's presents but the Lords' presence. He can and will use this Christmas season to bless you and your family, and I feel strongly that He will also give you some opportunities to be a blessing to others. Don't simply go through the motions of the holidays this year, but instead, in wide-eyed wonder, keep a close look-out on what amazing thing God may be up to. Merry Christmas to all!

-Evan