

February 2		
	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
	Praise Team Practice	8:00PM
February 5		
	Church Grounds Work Day	8:30AM
February 6		
	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
February 9		
	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
	Easter Choir Practice	8:00PM
February 12		
	Sweetheart Banquet	6:00PM
February 13		
	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Youth Super Bowl Party	6:30PM
February 16		
	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
February 20		
	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Bridal Shower for Joelle Jeffers	2PM-4PM
February 23		
	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
February 27		
	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM

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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

02-02 Jim & Trisha Laughery
 02-23 Don & Joy Ray

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

02-02 Kevin Bailey
 02-02 Trisha Laughery
 02-03 Jeremy Davis
 02-07 Carter Adams
 02-07 Alicia Fitzgerald
 02-12 Anita Abbott
 02-17 Gary Holley
 02-27 Sara Sillings

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

Deacon of the Month

Bob Knight
 706-830-0774

FINANCIALS as of January 23, 2022

Actual Expenses YTD \$ 22,481
 Actual Received YTD \$ 17,772

CONNECTIONS

February 2022

"WE love BECAUSE
 GOD FIRST loved US."
 1 JOHN 4:19

THE PASTOR'S DESK

When was the last time someone told you to follow your heart? When was the last time you told someone else to follow their heart? I think we would agree that this phrase is pretty popular today. We've probably at some point in time received or given this advice. For many this phrase would classify as relational wisdom. If a friend asks, "should I stay in this relationship or not?" We might respond, "Just follow your heart." This phrase also applies professionally. "Should I take this job or that one?" Our response... "You can't go wrong if you just follow your heart." We might even be tempted to say that this phrase can be really sound advice. But, I'm not convinced. In fact, I think such "wisdom" is misleading at best and can be incredibly dangerous.

In Mark's gospel Jesus reminds us that our hearts are generally impure. "'It's what comes out of a person that contaminates someone in God's sight,' [Jesus] said. 'It's from the inside, from the human heart, that evil thoughts come: sexual sins, thefts, murders, adultery, greed, evil actions, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, insults, arrogance, and foolishness. All these evil things come from the inside and contaminate a person in God's sight'" (Mark 4:21-23, CEB). When we understand the reality of our hearts inclination then it becomes clear that "following our heart" is a bit dangerous. If our heart is unhealthy, if it is contaminated, then it will always lead us down paths that are impure.

So, what are we to do? I would propose that rather than "follow our hearts" we choose to instead follow Christ. Some might wonder if we can do both. Yes, I think it is possible. But, only if our hearts are aligned with the will, mission, and purposes of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, this isn't always the case. Our hearts are a bit of a mixed bag. At times they align well with that of Christ's, but other times they align with our own purposes and desires. I think we could say that our hearts are mixtures of the good, the bad, and the ugly. We would be wise then, to reject the cultural mantra to "follow our hearts" and choose to instead follow Jesus.

Press on!
Carson

Church News

B.L.A.S.T



Will meet each Sunday
at 11:00AM

YOUTH
MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS
AT 6:45PM

Sweetheart Banquet



SATURDAY, February 12th at 6:00PM

\$50 per couple

Menu: Prime Rib/Baked Salmon, Potato, Salad, Dessert
Entertainment is TBD

The annual Sweetheart Banquet, sponsored by the Men's Ministry, will be held at the Family Life Center. All widows & widowers are encouraged to attend as guests of the Men's Ministry



"SNOW! IT'S CHRISTMAS!" my four year old yelled at the light dusting we got last Friday. Nothing could temper her excitement. Nothing we said could convince her that Christmas hadn't come again! Snow = Christmas. Period.

She's like that about a lot of things. Her way of driving to the daycare is the *only way*. She gets visibly and verbally upset when we tell her things have to be different than she has planned in her head. It is just so clear in her mind that the way she views things is the way it is going to be. She gets irritated when I tell her to not worry about the plans, to "roll with it", and her standard reply is, "I can't! I'm not a car!" And as her parents, we have to balance patience, love, understanding, firmness, and redirection...and at times even punishment for a bad attitude... in order to teach her that, despite her best efforts, *she can't always have it her way...and she's not always right*.

It's moments like these that I am reminded of how much parenting a child gives us a view of how God sees us. How many times do I pout when things don't go as I planned? How often do I insist I'm right, when someone else can see a bigger picture? How often does God look at me, gently and lovingly shake His head, and say, "Enough. I know more than you do. I know what is best. Check your attitude and roll with how things are... I am doing something you can't see." How often do I insist on my plans, my timing, my way?

God, in His grace and mercy, allows us to see things from His perspective from time to time. And I see it daily as I try to parent my children. I always say, "I'm not raising kids, I'm raising future adults." I use this to check my desire to do things just to make them happy or to keep the peace. Instead, I search for ways that help them to grow, to learn, to see their need for Christ as Savior, to prayerfully become active members of a church and productive to society as adults. I see their future in my mind's eye. And God? Well, He sees what we will become. He sees what plans He has for us. And His vision is so much better than mine.

-Rebekah

HBC LUNCHEON



February 6
Pork Chops & Fixings

February 20
Steak, Potato, Salad



SAVE THE DATE!

VBS will be every
Wednesday in June

**VBS-DECORATION
ITEMS NEEDED!**

We are in need of VERY large boxes (large T.V.'s, refrigerator, stoves, etc.) over the new few months, please contact Rebekah Dickerson at 706-888-9688 to see if we might can use it for VBS.

Thank You!



A couple of important upcoming dates to put on your calendar!

Friday, March 11 – Saturday, March 12, HBC Youth Lock-In

Saturday, March 26th, Junior Master's Golf Tournament – Children's Ministry

Saturday, April 23rd, Golf Tournament Fundraiser

2020 and 2021 were pretty rotten for lots of folks. Katie and I tried to keep our gripes and complaints minimal because, honestly, it could have been a lot worse for us. We counted ourselves as grateful that life did not change even more dramatically than it did. The challenges, annoyances, and inconveniences that presented themselves over those two years were just that: inconvenient and uncomfortable. But they weren't dire or life-threatening.

Still though, 2021 got in one last good sucker punch right at its dusk. On December 30th Katie and I both tested positive for Covid-19 for the first time. After having been vaccinated and following rules and trying to avoid germs... it still made its way into our life – how fun! In order to know for sure, we went to the MedNow in Grovetown at 9:00am, and stood in a line that was LITERALLY wrapped around the outside of the building. It took us from 9:00am to 12:30pm to be seen. All this for a 5 minute test that confirmed what we already were pretty sure of – we were sick, but it's not world-ending. Keep to yourselves for a week and then move on.

But that experience – waiting so long – it really stuck with me. And "the waiting game" has been heavy on my mind in the month of January. If you do a quick Google search you can find all sorts of different statistics about waiting as a common human experience. Some of these data points are revealing, some are humorous, some are annoying, many are conflicting. But most stats agree that humans will spend somewhere in the range of 2-5 years of their lives waiting in a queue (physical or virtual) for something.

Wowza. That is a **LONG** time. I do not have that kind of patience. As I have thought more about it, it seems waiting is a necessary evil but it can also bring about some benefits. Occasionally it can bring about spiritual fruitfulness. In short, waiting can serve a purpose. God can ordain periods of waiting in our lives to draw us near to Him or to sculpt us into people who better reflect His nature and character. The trick is: what are we doing while we wait? This is a question I have asked myself constantly over the past few months. While on the one hand, waiting may feel like an imposition or an impediment, on the other hand... what if waiting is God's way of trying to bless me with time? And what if I am ignoring that blessing or worse, spitting in the face of that blessing? This year I want to resolve to waiting better. Waiting with more vigor and more awareness. Waiting, but still being active while I wait. Asking God to help me realize the purpose for the waiting and embrace the wait as something that will bring about growth and transformation. All that scientific data suggests that waiting isn't going away any time soon. As much as we would like to, the world will never fall in line with our desires for instant gratification. But we can learn to be better waiters. And we can ask that God helps us become more like Him through whatever it is we are waiting for. So here's to hoping 2022 will be a year of improvement in this way. And surely as I write this, I know this means it is an almost certainty that I will wind up at the DMV at some point this year.

-Evan



Joelle is registered at Amazon

