

# May CALENDAR

May 1	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
	AWANA Musical	6:00PM
	Ice Cream Social to Follow Performance	
May 2	Women's Sewing Ministry	7:00PM
May 4	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
	Adult Choir	8:00PM
May 8	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Child Dedication During Service	
May 11	AWANA Rewards Night	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	Adult Choir	8:00PM
May 14	VBS Decorating Day	9:00AM-12:00PM
May 15	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
	Spring Fling	5:00PM-7:00PM
May 18	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
	Adult Choir	8:00PM
May 22	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
May 25	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
	Adult Choir	8:00PM
May 29	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Harlem, GA  
Permit No. 8

Rev. Carson Britt  
Pastor  
Evan Powell  
Minister of Youth and Children  
Rebekah Dickerson  
Minister of Music and Media  
Ashley Driggers  
Administrative Assistant

## Happy Anniversary

05-17 Duane & Shannon Starrenburg  
05-23 Harold & Margie Smith

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

## Happy Birthday

05-01 Tara Cooper	05-18 Rob Lewis
05-02 Kevin Allen	05-20 Barry Fleming
05-04 Brenna Cook	05-21 Susan Camp
05-04 Zack Gaskins	05-21 Peyton Perdue
05-05 Jason Truitt	05-22 Margie Smith
05-08 Mickey Lonergan	05-29 Lynda Adams
05-10 Kelsi Barrs	05-31 Holly Laughery
05-13 Jim Clark	
05-14 Luci Smith	
05-15 Ray Fulcher	

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

### FINANCIALS as of April 27, 2022

Actual Expenses YTD \$110,131  
Actual Received YTD \$ 125,910

### Deacon of the Month

Kenneth Welch  
706-399-0828

# CONNECTIONS



May 2022

### THE PASTOR'S DESK

As May roles around and the school year comes to a close it seems like an appropriate time to reflect. This past week I have spent some time reflecting on the kingdom work that has been done at HBC over the past year. It was in June of last year that we moved back into our Sanctuary after a year of socially distant worship in our Family Life Center. Then in July we took a different approach to Vacation Bible School by having it on four consecutive Wednesday nights. This new approach was a bit calculated as we hoped it would help our volunteers and families get back into the habit of having Wednesday night ministry for children. It worked! This past year in Awana has been nothing short of phenomenal. We have averaged 40 children each night and have had a host of volunteers to help make that happen. But that isn't all that has happened. Just across the parking lot our Student Center has also seen a great deal of activity. There, Evan and our youth ministry volunteers have hosted 25-30 students each Wednesday night. We even had one night in the fall where we had between 90-100 students on our campus hearing the gospel and learning how to apply that to their lives. Thanks be to God!

I must admit however, that one year ago, as we were discussing moving worship back into our sanctuary and the resumption of Wednesday night activities I was a bit anxious. All kinds of questions came to my mind. Will children and youth return to weekly activities? Will we be able to worship safely in our sanctuary? Will we have the volunteer support to do all of this? Clearly, the Lord has done a mighty work as the answer to each of these questions was a resounding YES!

Today, as I sit and reflect on the past year I am overcome with several emotions. First of all, I feel great appreciation. I'm grateful to work with a Christ loving, competent, and creative staff who have a passion for kingdom growth. I am grateful for the many volunteers who sacrifice their time, talents, resources, and who remain committed to serve in various capacities. I am also overcome with anticipation. While there is much to celebrate and to praise God for, I know that greater things are still yet to come. Good work is behind us, but there is still a lifetime of kingdom work to be done ahead of us. Finally, I am filled with deeper understanding. Through the tough weeks, months, and years of pandemic and post-pandemic ministry I learned a great deal more about Christ and the Church. I have come to see what can be accomplished if we allow ourselves to be Spirit-led and if we work together in unity towards a common goal. In these months many of you have played a vital role in helping me deepen my understanding of Christ and the Church. For that, I am truly grateful.

Now, as we bring this school year to a close and as we begin looking forward to another year of vital ministry in Harlem, know that you are needed! Know that we can't move into the next season of ministry without you. Let me encourage you to begin asking the Lord now, how He would use you to serve in and through HBC in this upcoming ministry season.

*Press on!*  
Carson

## Church News

**B.L.A.S.T**



Will meet each Sunday  
at 11:00AM

**YOUTH**  
MINISTRY

**WEDNESDAYS**  
AT 6:45PM

**Child DEDICATION**  
SUN, MAY 8

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE  
YOUR CHILD, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

**Awana**  
**AWARDS NIGHT**

**Wednesday, May**  
**11th**  
at 6:15PM

\*\*There will NO OASIS\*\*

## Spring Fling

MAY 15TH AT  
5:00PM-7:00PM

Join us for FOOD, GAMES, and  
FAMILY FUN!

*\*Bring a lawn chair or towel\**

A sign up list will be emailed out  
at a later day.



*"Men are developed the same way that gold is mined. When gold is mined, several tons of dirt must be moved to get an ounce of gold, but one doesn't go into the mine looking for dirt – one goes in looking for gold." - Andrew Carnegie*

When I read this quote this week, I wondered to myself, "How often do I do this? How often do I go mining for the gold in other people rather than getting side tracked by the dirt?" I didn't like the answer. Too often it is easy to see the dirt in others, while trying to make our own little bit of gold shine like our dirt doesn't exist. I'm talking specifically about sin here. We love a comparison game. We think things like, *Well - at least I'm not like so-and-so. Or What that person is doing is getting on my nerves! Why don't they just do better!* But we long for people to see the best in ourselves. We beg people to excuse our behaviors ("I was tired! It had been a long day! I'm sorry! I didn't mean it!"), but we want to hold grudges against the behaviors of others, and often these sins have *nothing to do with us in the first place*.

Galatians 6:1-10 talks about these kinds of situations among believers. We often get stuck on verse 1 about watching out that we don't get pulled into another's sin, but skip over the line of "restoring them gently". And we completely ignore verses 3 and 4! When we focus too much on the sins and struggles of others and compare ourselves, we become prideful and critical. And that is not our job! It is not our job to nitpick the sins and challenges that others face. Does your family member struggle with addiction and you don't? Love them anyway. Look for the gold in them and *point it out!* Does your friend have a bad habit of complaining? Pray for them, speak to them about it gently if called to, and then let the Holy Spirit do its work. This doesn't mean ignore dangerous or sinful behaviors, but focus on loving the person and mining their gold, rather than simply pointing out and judging their flaws.

As believers in Christ, it is our job to love one another deeply, "so that by this, all people will know you are my disciples" (John 13:35). We have to start mining for gold in our fellow Christians and family members, rather than just digging up dirt.

*-Rebekah*

### HBC LUNCHEON



**MAY 1ST**

PORK CHOPS (GRILLED/FRIED)  
AND FIXINGS

**MAY 22ND**

TURKEY, DRESSING AND FIXINGS



### JOIN US THIS SUMMER!

**June 8, 15, 22, 29**

**—5:45PM-8:00PM—**

AGES 4 YEARS THROUGH  
COMPLETED 5TH GRADES

### REGISTER ONLINE

[https://www.harlembaptist.org/  
vbs-registration/](https://www.harlembaptist.org/vbs-registration/)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We still need volunteers for our upcoming VBS! If you are interested in volunteering please see Evan Powell or Rebekah Dickerson.

### VBS DECORATING DAY

May 14th  
9:00am-12:00pm



Teachers and students, brace yourselves... it's happening. School is almost over! Woohoo! The spring season has been a busy and wonderful time for our church family, but now summer is almost upon us! And things at HBC aren't slowing down just because the hot summer heat is about to be upon us. Especially in the Children's and Youth ministries, there are still so many opportunities to stay active and connected throughout June, July, and August. Here is a little glimpse of all the scheduled activities, events, and programs we have coming up!

Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – Church-wide Spring Fling family event; 5:00pm-7:00pm  
Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – High School Graduate Recognition Sunday during AM Worship Service  
Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – Youth invited to the Powell House; 6:00pm – 8:30pm  
June 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> – Vacation Bible School (ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) – NO Youth on these nights  
Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Youth Summer Trip to Charlotte, NC  
July 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> – Special "Theme" Nights at Youth Group; 6:30pm – 8:00pm  
July 27<sup>th</sup> – HBC Youth goes to Augusta Greenjackets Game – Free Event!!

As you can see, there is a lot happening this summer, so don't miss out. I know many people spend time on vacation with their families away from Harlem – and that's healthy and great. But while you ARE here, this is a gentle reminder that we don't roll up the sidewalks. We are still here and meeting at church, so continue showing up as God shows what He can do in and through our congregation.

One final word – Vacation Bible School's theme this year is "Monumental: Celebrating God's Goodness"... and it's a theme I'm so excited about. With our kids this summer, we get to highlight and emphasize just how BIG our God is and celebrate His wondrous works, especially as they are on full display through nature and the created world. So as we prepare our hearts to teach these lessons in June, my challenge to you is – take some time these coming months to get lost in awe at the beauty and majesty of God's creation. Whether you go to the beach, the lake, the mountains... wherever, God has made a masterpiece with His own hands – all for our enjoyment and His glory. So give him the glory! And let the beauty of our world remind you to sing and tell of His matchless goodness.

*-Evan*