



Rev. Carson Britt

06-01

06-03

06-03

06-04

06-04

06-05

06-05

06-10

06-11

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

Hap	ppy Anniversa	ry 🕨	
06-05	Rob & Brandi Lewis	06-15	Jimmie & Nancy Lewis
06-08	Barry & Paige Fleming	06-19	John & Hope McClellan
06-09	Scott & Leanna Williams	06-24	Tommy & Rachael Stolte
06-13	Mark & Roxie Whitaker	06-25	Scott & Andrea Willis
06-14	Scott & Kelly Tam	06-25	Ken & Beverly Welch
		06-26	Lance & Kate Ellis

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

Нарру	Bir	thday <u></u>
	06 17	Dakota Nalo

Leslie Perdue	06-17	Dakota Nale
Beverly McCorkle-Welch	06-17	Drue Williams
Darlene Rainwater	06-20	Evelyn Stokes
Brandi Starrenburg	06-22	Anna Morris
Bryce Starrenburg	06-23	Joy Ray
Ben Hill	06-24	Matthew Murphy
Katie Powell	06-24	Andre Miller
Brooke Moore	06-26	Brett Rogers
Lance Ellis		

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

FINANCIALS	Deacon of the Month	
as of May 22, 2022 Actual Expenses YTD \$ 140,215 Actual Received YTD \$ 157,993	Mark Whitaker 706-533-3489	

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June 2022

#### 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

Although I really hate the hot weather and humidity that comes with summer, I must admit that when summer gets here I often feel a bit like a child on Christmas Eve. There just seems to be something about the summer months that makes life feel like it's slowing down. There seems to be more time for family. There seems to be more opportunity to make memories. There seems to be an increased level of rest. If you're like me, and the majority of those I know, these seasons of respite are greatly needed. We need time in our lives where we can take some deep breaths, enjoy creation, and make more memories with our loved ones. I pray that summer of 2022 can be that for you!

In my experience there are many individuals who struggle to slow down. When they stop to take a deep breath and enjoy creation they often feel guilty about doing so. Or, they go on and begin planning or preparing for whatever is coming next. Can you relate to this? If so, I want to remind you that rest, Sabbath, and slowing down, was actually God's idea. We know from the account of creation that even God, the creator of heaven and earth, took time to rest. Jesus often tried to find places of isolation so that He too could rest. Rest is good for us physically, mentally, and spiritually. However, we must recognize that real restorative rest is only found in Christ. It's not found on a beach somewhere. It isn't found at a theme park or in the mountains. Yes, those things and places are good and fun, but when we return to the daily grind of life we will find that the anxieties and demands are still very present. However, when our weary selves choose to go to Christ and to give our burdens to Him, He promises to give us rest. Remember what Jesus said in the gospel of Matthew, ""Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt. 1128, NIV).

So, as the summer begins let me encourage you to find rest. Let me encourage you to find Sabbath rest that comes only through Christ Jesus. Let's choose to be refreshed through the Word, through worship, and through service to Him! I'm looking forward to finding rest in Christ with you throughout the summer!

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

# CONNECTIONS



Press on! Carson

## JOIN US THIS SUMMER!



June 8,15,22,29 5:15PM-8:00PM Ages 4 years through completed 5th grade



REGISTER TODAY!

## A Baby Shower IN HONOR OF





HOSTED AT KACEE MORRIS' HOUSE 5901 HWY 221 SE Harlem, GA 30814



REGISTERED AT TARGET & AMAZON

In 2 Kings 4, a lonely widowed woman comes to God's prophet and tells him of her need. When asked what she could offer, all she had was a small jar of olive oil. The man of God tells her to go, borrow vessels from her loved ones and neighbors, get alone in her home, and to pour out before God all that she has. As she began to pour, I can only imagine her heartache and fear. "This is it," she

prays. "God, I have nothing - absolutely nothing. This seems so foolish. At least I could have sold what I had here, and lived a little longer. It's just a little oil."

How often has God asked you to pour out what little bit you have left into vessels that seem far too big and far too many - vessels that can't even begin be filled with your small amount of oil. These vessels could be responsibilities, finances, the church, family, friends, work. The sheer size and number of vessels that we need to fill is overwhelming and impossible. Yet God never tells us to hoard our time, energy, strengths, or talents. Instead, He repeatedly asks us to pour out what we have left, for His glory and His honor, in His name and by His strength. And as one vessel after another begins to be filled when we pour out our all, it seems we have just a little bit more to give. And then a little bit more.

From time to time we must step back to be refilled by God and His love - even Christ went off alone to pray on a regular basis. God knows we have a human need for restoration. We are called to be still before Him, to be filled by His strength and love, refreshed in His word and by prayer daily. But as one song I know says, "Open your arms - Empty your hands - so I can fill them with better." And another, "I know I am filled to be emptied again - the seed I receive I will sow." We are not meant to stay in a place of being filled – but are rather to be offered up and poured out on a daily basis. We must learn to be generous with our very lives, our time and talents and schedules, in order to share Christ's love with others by our very presence.

At times when I call out to God from the deepest parts of my heart, "I don't know what to do! I don't have much left!" It's then that He reminds me of verses like these. All He asks for is my little bit of oil - and the smallest ounce of faith that He will not only fill the vessels surrounding my life - but that He we refill me as well. Remember: the widow's jar wasn't empty when all the other vessels were filled - it just no longer needed to keep refilling until it had been poured out again.

-Rebekah

## Church News

#### **HBC** LUNCHEON



JUNE 5 FRIED FISH/CHICKEN & FIXINGS

JUNE 26 ITALIAN TRIO, SALAD, DESSERT



Will meet each Sunday at 11:00AM

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Going on break until July!

### To My Church Family.

Thank you so much for your prayers and love you have shown me during these difficult days. Please continue to lift me up as I am still having broken-hearted.

Youth – Theme Nights each Wednesday in July July 5<sup>th</sup> – Patriotic Night July 12<sup>th</sup> – Surfer Night July 19<sup>th</sup> – Tacky Night

Becky Windham

(Nomen's (Ministry: This Summer the HBC Women's Ministry is going to give special attention to minister to the entire Elliott Family. Courtney, youngest daughter of Billy and Cate was diagnosed with Leukemia in January. We want to minister to and encourage the Elliott Family in several ways-including collecting loving gifts for Courtney during her long hospital stays. We are calling our efforts "Caring for Courtney." If you want more info please speak with Kathy Holley. Let's all commit to pray for Courtney and the Elliott family this Summer!



School's... Out... Forever!!!

June and July will still be taking some vacation time to go travel, explore, or just get away and relax. It is a time for vacationing, re-energizing, and de-stressing. BUT did you know... it's also a time when church is still going on? Carson, Rebekah and I are all still here. We still have weekly programs and activities (like Vacation Bible School on Wednesday nights in June, youth group on Wednesday nights in July, and Oasis which will continue to meet all summer long). There will still be BLAST Children's Worship service on Sunday mornings, and Carson will still be bringing "a good Word" on Sunday mornings during "big church".

Ok, so maybe not forever, but students and teachers now have 2 months of glorious, blessed freedom! And many of us who have to work through the hot days of

In short, even though it's summer, EVERYTHING is not shut down. Don't roll up the sidewalks. Of course we want all of our families to have the time they need and deserve to relax and unwind from the stresses of daily life – which seem to be increasing all the time, just like the rate of gas prices! BUT summer doesn't have to mean a break from your spiritual walk with the Lord and a hiatus from your involvement in the church. In fact, a strong case can be made that summer is the perfect time to "double down" and re-commit yourself to the work of the Lord through the local church body. When many of us are less busy than we normally are - we can take advantage of that opportunity to stay involved and active in the life of our church. Because here's something I have learned in 7 years of church ministry. You may think to yourself: "Our family will just take 6 weeks off from church this summer", but guess what? Church attendance is habitual. Church involvement is habitual. Volunteering and serving and using your gifts for the church's benefit is habitual. And if you decide to put church down for a while this summer as you are enjoying a more relaxed pace of life... it will be much harder to "pick it up again" when the fall rolls around. God is the same God who created the Sabbath and designated it for rest. He knows life can make us weary and that our hearts and souls need intermittent restoration. But there is a way to do that – a balanced way of getting that rest - that does not "forsake the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25) and ensures that we are "guarding our hearts, for it is the wellspring of our lives" (Proverbs 4:23). See you at church this summer!

#### Youth Reminders:

Youth – Summer Trip to Charlotte ; Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>

- July 26<sup>th</sup> Redneck Night (and Augusta Greenjackets Baseball Game)

-Evan