



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

07-02	Christopher & Alisha Hummel	07-18	Benjie & Annette Moore
07-03	Mitchell & Brigitte Cozart	07-18	Brett & Kathy Arrowood
07-05	Bob & Susan Knight	07-24	Curtis & Mandy Rhodes
07-11	Evan & Katie Powell	07-28	Jim & Yong Clark
07-15	Mickey & Emily Loneragan	07-31	Miguel & Claudia Rodriguez

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

07-01	Randall Hill	07-16	Daniel Dickerson
07-02	Peggy Edwards	07-17	Ruth Hill
07-03	John Eckenroth	07-18	Tara Taylor
07-03	Raymond Hawkinberry	07-19	Tommy Stolte
07-03	Susan Knight	07-23	Jill Williams
07-03	Matthew Nelson	07-27	Ken Adams
07-05	Pamela Jones	07-29	Chris Gurley
07-09	Randall Cook	07-30	Talyn Birchfield
07-13	Gerald McKettrick	07-30	Pat Jacobs
07-14	Scott Williams		
07-15	Billy Elliott		

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

as of June 26, 2022

Actual Expenses YTD \$177,378
Actual Received YTD \$199,507

Gary Wilkes

706-556-9292

CONNECTIONS

July 2022

THE PASTOR'S DESK

By now you have likely heard that this is the season of volunteer recruitment. This is the time of year that Evan, Rebekah, and I sit down and hold, what I refer to as, a ministry draft. In past years, this process has been a huge challenge as we try to put together teams and committees without even knowing if those we ask to serve on those teams or committees will serve. In the past it has been a tedious, laborious, and even a frustrating job at times. But this year we have changed things up as we made a very intentional effort to recruit a nominating committee that would help us with this “ministry draft.” I will be the first to acknowledge, that this team has been a game changer. I’m deeply grateful for the work that Alice Jones, Ken Sweatman, and Lindsey Bryant have done. I’m sure many of you have already received emails or phone calls from one of them asking you to consider serving on a ministry team or committee. What a blessing these folks have been!

As we are in this season of volunteer recruitment I want to continue to encourage you all to prayerfully consider how you will serve at HBC. I suspect that for many of you your service in the coming year will not look too different from what it has been in past years. For some, it may be time for you to transition into a different place of service. For others, it may be time to finally step up and take action. There should not however be anyone who sits idle. We must all work together to carry out the mission of *Loving God, Loving people, and Making Disciples*. Paul tells us in the book of Ephesians that “We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph. 2:10, NIV). With these words Paul reminds us that one of the very reasons that God created us was to carry out the good works that He has prepared for us to do. Our failure to carry out these works is a failure to fulfill one of the very reasons that he has created us.

As we move towards a new church year and a new season of ministry please join me in praying for the work that will be done. I hope that you will also join in my excitement and anticipation of what God is going to accomplish through HBC. But most of all, I long for you all to serve alongside side me and the many others who know that the work we are doing is Kingdom work.

Thank you all in advance for being part of the mission of God at Harlem Baptist Church.

Press on!
Carson

Church News

B.L.A.S.T

Will meet each Sunday
at 11:00AM

Will Not Meet July 31st

YOUTH
MINISTRY

Wednesdays | 6:45PM



**SUNDAY
JULY 31ST**

**THERE WILL NOT BE
BLAST ON THIS MORNING**



**HARLEM COMMUNITY
BLOOD DRIVE**

**TUESDAY, July 12th
2PM-6PM**

Harlem Library
145 N. Louisville St
Harlem, GA 30814

Parent's Night Out

Date: Friday, July 29th

Time: 6:00PM-9:00PM

Ages: Nursery—Rising 5th Graders

Cost: \$15 for 1st child, \$5 per additional
child (max payment will be \$25)

**Dinner will be provided. Expect a fun
night of games and activities!**

****Registration is required. Deadline
to register is July 25th.****

HBC LUNCHEON



JULY 10

GRILLED CHICKEN & FIXINGS

JULY 24

PORK CHOPS & FIXINGS



What's the first thing you hear a TV police officer say to the criminal? "Stop! Put your hands in the air!" While no real comparison, raised hands is a posture of obedience and surrender... and it is one that has long been practiced during the music portion of church worship, and rightly so. The lifting of hands and other more visible acts of worship are both Biblically accurate and important for us to practice from time to time, even when they are out of our comfort zone. Raised hands in both prayer and song are found consistently throughout Scripture, with every major Biblical player you can think of: Moses (Exodus 9:33, 17:11-13); Aaron (Leviticus 9:22); Joshua (Deuteronomy 32:40); David (Psalms 134:1-3; 119:48, 28:2, 63:4); Solomon (1 Kings 8:22); Ezra (9:5); Nehemiah (8:6); Jeremiah (Lamentations 3:40-41) Job (11:13); and even Paul (1 Timothy 2:8).

I've never been one to try and dictate how another person sings worship to God. As a worship leader, it doesn't bother me one iota during services when people don't always sing every song, or move to the music, or clap, or raise their hands. Don't get me wrong...I love when I do see it; it moves my heart to know the Holy Spirit is working in our midst in such a visible way. But I don't discount the quiet worshiper.

However, it must be stated: the lifting of hands in surrender to God during worship is a visible and physical sign of a heart embracing what the Holy Spirit is impressing upon them. It is an act of freedom that comes from recognizing our songs of praise and hymns of adoration are solely about Him, and never about others...meaning I must never lift my hands in show or for attention or simply because others are doing it. I must let the Spirit guide me, both in singing and physically when it comes to worship. And nothing should hold me back from such displays...nor should I feel required to do them.

I wasn't always so open in worship. God spent a good number of years working on my heart to become comfortable worshipping Him in a way that I knew would be visible to others, regardless of what they might be thinking. But as I began to embrace His calling to that freedom, He opened my heart to surrendering in other, less visible ways. Ways that others could not see, but that required just as much personal sacrifice. The lifting of hands is an act of surrender to a Holy God who loves you, who wants you to open and empty your hands, so He can fill them with better. It is about Him and Him alone. We must come to place where we feel comfortable visibly worshipping God, regardless of our surroundings. It will look different for everyone, but we cannot allow ourselves to be held back from surrendering our all... even if it means lifting our hands and saying, "I give up. I give it all up to You, O God. Even this."

"Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD! Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven." Lamentations 3:40-41

-Rebekah

2023 GUINEA MISSION TRIP



**INFORMATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JULY 31ST
AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE**

Women's Ministry:

I would like to thank the men of our church who helped put the Play Set together for Courtney, which was given by a non-profit group.

I think our basket for Courtney could use more donations of love. Please look at the screen on Sundays and pick up a letter which has lots of ideas listed.

Thank you church for being a part of this mission ministry.

As July 4th approaches let's express thankfulness for being part of a Nation built under God and share the love of Christ with others as our pastor encouraged just recently.

Let Freedom Ring! Happy 4th of July!

-Kathy



"Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly – mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready." 1 Corinthians 3:1-2

It's such a painful and powerful cliché isn't it? The nightmare when you are up in front of the class, having to give an oral report in front of your peers – one that you are ill-prepared for... And then you look down and realize you are in your underwear?! What a horrible day that would be.

I'll be honest with you – I have never had such a bad dream as this one. But, partially because of the family I was born into (we had a tendency to run behind schedule quite a bit), I do have a recurring fear of being "behind time" or "not ready" for big things in my life. I get anxiety when I think about big upcoming church events, and I can't help but have an internal dialogue that constantly says: "What have I forgotten? What if I mess up? I'm not ready for this!"

That's why I feel this short passage above is one of the most direct and most convicting verses in the whole of the Bible. Of course, Paul is not writing here about lack of *preparation*... but rather he is discussing the ongoing process of *sanctification*. If you are a little confused as to what that means, let me recount it to you in a way that I have heard this passage preached on before. For all of those who are Christians, who have placed our heart and belief in Christ Jesus, imagine that your Christian life is on a timeline. And the day that you chose to believe upon Christ was the very first point on that timeline, the beginning, *your new birth*. And then imagine as you grew older and more mature and wiser, as you had big spiritual milestones of learning spiritual lessons through your close communion with God... each spiritual milestone was another point somewhere along your timeline... Now, honestly, how many MORE points are marked on your timeline BEYOND just the starting point when you first believed?

Friends, we are not intended to become a Christian in join in a saving believer's faith, and then immediately stop any effort to get closer to God! We are intended to walk a long, steady, diligent path for the rest of our human days. Understanding that there will be twists and turns in the road, and occasionally we will go backwards and occasionally God will have to pick us up and carry us when we fall down big time... but the point is – we are called to progress! We are called to bear spiritual fruit. Accepting Jesus as our Savior is not an end, but a beginning!! So... whether you are 18 or 45 or 88, what has God been teaching you of late? What spiritual milestones have you celebrated this past year? How is God continually shaping you, molding you, and sanctifying you? Are you more like Him today than you were yesterday or a decade ago? Hopefully the answer to that question is yes. I don't want Paul's words to be true of me – that I was a mere infant in Christ, and that I was not ready for solid food (spiritually speaking) but needed milk instead.

One of our 3 main goals of youth group is to "grow spiritually". Katie and I are constantly praying that we may see progress in terms of our students' faith journeys and to see them move forward as proximity to God and His Word refines and sanctifies them. I think this would and should be a primary goal of the wider church body as well. And I appreciate you all for being role models and examples to our students of what it means to work out your faith; showing them that spiritual growth does not occur by accident, but rather by intentional sustained effort. May we all press on and lean into Christ to be made more over like Him each day.

-Evan



**AWANA Returns
— August 10th —**