



## CALENDAR

Oct 2	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Informational meeting about KY trip	
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
Oct 5	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
Oct 9	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Small Groups*	5:30PM
Oct 12	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
Oct 16	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
	Fall Festival	5:00PM-7:00PM
Oct 19	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
Oct 21	Parent's Night Out	6:00PM-9:00PM
Oct 23	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Small Groups*	5:30PM
Oct 26	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
Oct 30	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM

\*For more information please see church staff.

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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 

10-09 Truett & Anita Abbott  
10-27 Dale & Leslie Arnold

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

Happy Birthday

10-03	Johnny Morris	10-24	LeeAnn Meyer
10-06	Stephanie Lewis	10-24	John McClellan
10-09	Andrea Willis	10-28	Ragen Truitt
10-13	Jennifer Britt	10-29	Mark Whitaker
10-17	Kelly Lonergan	10-31	Margaret Wilkes
10-20	Mark Barrs		
10-20	Pat Cook		
10-22	Ashlyn Knight		
10-23	Bob Brown		
10-23	Emily Adams White		

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

## FINANCIALS

as of September 25, 2022

Actual Expenses YTD \$305,277  
Actual Received YTD \$283,817

## Deacon of the Month

Michael Bryant  
478-986-8945

# CONNECTIONS

## FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS

Matthew 17:20

October 2022

## THE PASTOR'S DESK

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 was a day that Jennifer and I got a memorable phone call. But I almost didn't answer the phone. It was about 2:30 in the afternoon on a Sunday. It had been a good day of worship followed by a rather lengthy deacons meeting. I was home and still in my church clothes when my phone started to ring. I pulled out my phone, didn't recognize the number, and looked at Jennifer and said, "I don't know anyone from this number... they'll leave a message if it's important."

But, for some reason or another, I answered the phone. It was the call that the Lord had orchestrated for over a decade. It was a call that Jennifer and I had hoped and prayed for. It was the call that so many of you – our family, our church family, former church family, college friends, and even strangers – made possible through your generosity and prayers. I believe to this day, on the other end of that line was the Lord himself speaking to us through our caseworker - telling us that a brave teenager had chosen us to parent her little girl. Now, I recognize that the caseworker would have likely left a voicemail. I would have called her back and it's very improbable that Jennifer and I would have missed out on bringing this beautiful girl home. But I have reflected a lot on that day, that moment, and on the reality that I almost didn't answer that phone call. And it makes me wonder how many God ordained calls have I failed to answer?

Over the past year, Jennifer and I have heard a lot of encouraging words and comments from friends, family, and strangers. And as grateful as I am to hear these words, my hope is much deeper. My hope and desire is that our willingness to answer the call to adopt might be the nudge someone else needs to answer a similar call. Not everyone has been called to adopt. I get that. But, we have all been called to take care of "widows and orphans." This isn't a call that Christ followers can simply choose NOT to answer. How one does this work will look different from person to person but it is still work that we must engage in. After all, this is Gospel work. This is Kingdom work.

So, as any good preacher would do, I leave you with this question. What call has the Lord placed on your life recently? Perhaps he's calling you to consider adoption or foster care. Maybe he's calling to you to minister to a coworker or a neighbor. Or, maybe he is calling you to go on a mission trip or serve Him in a new capacity. If I have learned anything from answering that phone call on Sept. 19, 2021, it is that the blessings that come with answering God's call far outweighs the sacrifices made.

So, the next time the Lord comes calling I sure hope you pick up the phone!

Press on!  
Carson

Church News

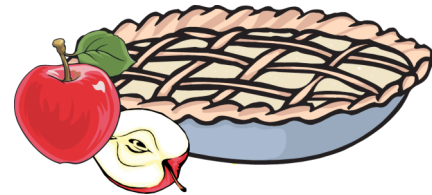
B.L.A.S.T

Will meet each Sunday at 11:00AM



Wednesdays | 6:45PM

Fall Festival



SUNDAY, October 16th 5:00PM-7:00PM

HBC LUNCHEON



OCTOBER 2 (YOUTH LUNCHEON) PORK CHOPS & FIXINGS

OCTOBER 16 (GUINEA MISSION LUNCHEON) BOSTON BUTTS & FIXINGS



Some say you are what you eat or you are what you do. I believe who you are is connected to the voices you are listening to – be them out loud or by what you are reading. This is why reading our Bible and praying are so important. They pour God’s voice and truth into our hearts, which in turn becomes a part of who we are, how we act, etc. We live out what we *actually* believe, not what we say we believe, and those core tenants of belief come from what we are pouring in. That’s straight scripture (Matthew 15, Luke 6). It is also good for us to listen to other believers, read and test against scriptures books from those who have gone before us, who have studied and who work to understand God’s Word and apply it to our lives. We are quick to turn on the news, some music, or flip through reels and TikToks on our phones first thing in the morning, but when was the last time you turned on a sermon or worship music to fill your heart and mind instead? I love listening to sermons or a good podcast while I work. And they don’t have to be “uber pious” to be spiritually encouraging. For example, I’m a long time listener of the Craig Groeschel Leadership Podcast and highly recommend it to anyone, no matter your job/position (even if you are retired). He is a pastor out in Oklahoma who has decided to use an alternate venue, teaching leadership skills, to show that life lessons and Biblical truths can be applicable in every walk and way of life, for every leader or individual. One of his more recent podcasts spoke about influence and made the following three statements.

Influence = Leadership. Everyone has Influence. It’s easier to influence someone negatively than positively.

Wow. There’s a lot of depth to be found here. We all have influence over those around us, one way or another. We all have someone we are leading, whether it is our spouse, our kids, our Sunday School or Awana class, our friends, a whole church, or in work/business. But while it is very easy to lead negatively – to pour out a bad attitude or snap at people when we are tired, to criticize and judge rather than work to understand – it is much harder and takes much more thought, effort, and earnest prayer to influence positively. If you want to influence someone positively, you have to actually *make an effort!* It won’t happen naturally. And the same can be said for our own lives; if we want to have positive influences poured into our hearts and mind – influences that will edify us and help us glorify God and reach people with the Gospel – folks, that is going to take effort. You aren’t going to hear that on the news or a TikTok or your Facebook feed. You are going to have to be intentional about it.

What influences are you seeking to pour into your own life today? And kind of influence are you pouring into others?

-Rebekah



GAMES | FOOD | MOVIES | FUN

Date: Friday, October 21st

Time: 6:00PM-9:00PM

Ages: Nursery to 5th graders

Cost: \$15 for 1st child, \$5 per additional child (not to exceed \$25)

Register at harlembaptist.org/pno/

\*\*Deadline to Register is Monday, October 17th\*\*

Women’s Ministry:

We are experiencing signs of Fall. Cooler days, leaves beginning to change and the word Harvest came to mind. Luke 10:2 says “The harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few.” As Christians we see the word “harvest” as those who need to hear the Gospel of Jesus. We are the laborers called to live out carrying the Gospel to those who need to hear.

Our Sewing Sisters have a new project that we will start October 3rd. We meet the 1st Monday of every month in the FLC at 7pm or come early and someone will be there. We have made many projects that have touched the lives of those in the “harvest.” Sometimes you touch lives by being the hands and feet of Jesus and loving them with a Christlike faith.

A new phase in our WM is prayer groups. The goal is to have two but right now we are starting with one that will meet in the JavaHouse on the 2nd Monday of the month at 11:30am. We will meet for a time of fellowship and prayer.

The 2nd prayer group is in the planning phase. This group is designed for working moms, stay at home moms or ladies who can’t come to a daytime group. The challenge is finding a night to meet or an alternative to a night and time. The meeting place could be the FLC. These groups are not designed to be “food” groups, but strictly fellowship and prayer groups. So if you desire to be part of this group and have ideas please let me know.

May we continue to see ways to minister within our community and share the love of Jesus with those we meet along the way. Blessings, Kathy



Recently, Katie and I watched the new Pinocchio movie on Disney+. For those unfamiliar with the story, a brief recap: A lonely woodworker/toymaker carves for himself a string wooden puppet in the image of a small boy. One night, this older man “wishes upon a star” and his puppet comes to life. The fairy tells Pinocchio that he can become a real boy if he is brave, honest, pure of heart, and unselfish. Throughout the rest of the movie, Pinocchio encounters dangers, temptations, and detours that will tear him away from his father before, at the end of the movie, they are reunited. While we were watching this classic Disney remake, I couldn’t help but be astounded by how many parallels there were to the Gospel.

Consider: Pinocchio features a loving, adoring Father Pinocchio features a life that was dead and is brought to life Pinocchio features an antagonist who disguises himself as “honest”, but is full of deceit and evil intentions Pinocchio features a “Pleasure Island” where children are encouraged to participate in any behavior they deem pleasurable Pinocchio even features a person swallowed by a great fish before being vomited back onto shore!

The Christian parallels throughout this movie were far too obvious to be missed. And although I didn’t ultimately like the movie all that much, I did enjoy all the glimpses of the Gospel story. BUT there was one big difference – one important distinction – between Pinocchio’s story and the story that is true of every Christ-follower. Following the symbolism, Pinocchio can only become a real boy if he is unselfish, pure, brave, and honest... His happy reunion with his father is predicated on HIS actions, HIS works of righteousness, and HIS good deeds. The onus is on Pinocchio to achieve his goal. For Christians, while we may not be striving to “become a real person” our goal IS to see Heaven and forever sing of our Father’s glory. Unlike Pinocchio, we cannot achieve or earn Heaven of our own volition. We have Christ – the only faultless, sinless one – upon which we can place our faith and belief, and His righteousness covers us and presents us to God the Father as blameless and worthy of entering the Kingdom of Heaven. Praise be to Christ for doing what we could never do. Praise to Jesus, King of our Hearts, for taking our sin and shame upon His shoulders, accepting the burden of our punishment, raising back to life and defeating the grave... and allowing us to be his co-Heirs. Our story is so much sweeter than that of our friend Pinocchio’s.

-Evan

OPPORTUNITIES OF SERVICE

IN ADDITION TO OUR WEEKLY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES HERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL AREAS OF NEED

☐ Welcome Team -In an effort to better connect with visitors we are in need of individuals who are willing to arrive early and stay late , to answer questions, to offer direction, and to simply be a welcoming presence.

☐ Parent’s Night Out Volunteers

To sign up for these opportunities go www.harlembaptist.org or email us at church@harlembaptist.org