

# FEBRUARY

February 1	
AWANA	6:15PM
Youth	6:45PM
OASIS	6:45PM

February 4  
Men's Breakfast 9:00AM

February 5	
Sunday School	9:45AM
Morning Worship	11:00AM
Church Luncheon	12:15PM
Leadership Meeting	4:45PM
Church Conference	6:00PM

February 8	
AWANA	6:15PM
Youth	6:45PM
OASIS	6:45PM

February 12	
Sunday School	9:45AM
Morning Worship	11:00AM
Small Groups*	5:00PM

February 15	
AWANA	6:15PM
Youth	6:45PM
OASIS	6:45PM

February 19	
Sunday School	9:45AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Church Luncheon	12:15PM

February 22	
AWANA	6:15PM
Youth	6:45PM
OASIS	6:45PM

February 26	
Sunday School	9:45AM
Morning Worship	11:00AM
Small Groups*	5:00PM

\*For more information please see church staff.



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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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 🍷💕💕💕💕

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

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

Happy Birthday

02-02	Kevin Bailey
02-02	Trisha Laughery
02-03	Jeremy Davis
02-07	Carter Adams
02-07	Alicia Fitzgerald
02-12	Anita Abott
02-17	Gary Holley

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

## SAVE THE DATE

# Women's Winter Worship Retreat

**SAT, March 4th**  
10:30AM-2:30PM  
\$25/person

*WORSHIP, STUDY, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, CRAFTS AND MORE!*

## FINANCIALS

as of January 25, 2023

Actual Expenses YTD \$32,260  
Actual Received YTD \$29,195

## Deacon of the Month

Randall Hill  
706-339-5735

# CONNECTIONS

# February 2023

## The Pastor's

Have you ever wondered what a balanced life looks like? It seems we live in a society where finding that sweet spot between work and rest/play is increasingly difficult. For many, the days of leaving work at work are all but gone. Making time exclusively for rest and play often takes a tremendous amount of intentionality. It certainly seems to me that things are a bit out of balance for many... myself included.

Part of the problem with finding balance is that our society has convinced us that seeking rest or Sabbath is somehow lazy. We are inclined to think that if we are to “keep up” with society and if we are to make great accomplishments then we must work all the time. Why do we feel the need to “keep up” with others? Why do we feel the need to make great accomplishments? Why do we not consider spending quality time with family, discipling our children, and loving our spouse well to be great accomplishments? Why can’t we see that living a healthy life and getting adequate rest is more important to our physical, mental, and spiritual well-being than getting that promotion or making that grade?

The book of Ecclesiastes suggests that our motivation to keep up and to have great accomplishments is envy. It says this, *"I saw that all toil and all achievements spring from on person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Fools fold their hands and ruin themselves. Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind"* (Ecc. 4:4-6, NIV).

With these words the author calls us to live a balanced life. The author says that living a toilsome life chasing after achievements in an attempt to keep up with another is wasteful. Notice that the author likens this behavior to “chasing after the wind.” The author also calls out those who do nothing and choose to fold their hands rather than use them to do good and meaningful work. Verse 6 is where the author suggests the balanced life. The author suggests that an individual should have one handful filled with tranquility and the other filled with meaningful work.

I'm not sure about you, but my start to the year hasn't been as balanced as I would like for it to be. I've not really done well to get the Sabbath rest that scripture mandates. Even when I'm not "working" I can't help but see all that needs to be done at my house. I feel the need to not waste my time. Can you relate to this? If you can, let me invite you to strive to re-define rest. Let's reject any notion that "rest" is a waste or lazy. Let's recognize that scripture calls us to rest and let's choose to embrace this good news!

**I pray that we can together work to find that “sweet spot” in our lives!**

Press on!  
Carson

## Church News

### B.L.A.S.T

Will meet each Sunday

**YOUTH**  
MINISTRY

Wednesdays | 6:45PM

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

Harlem Baptist Preschool is seeking resumes for the position of director effective March 2023. Resumes must be submitted by 2/20/23 to Carson at [carson@harlembaptist.org](mailto:carson@harlembaptist.org). Scan the QR code for job description.



### HBC LUNCHEON



**FEBRUARY 5**  
(PRE-K BENEFIT)

MEXICAN BUFFET & DESSERT

**FEBRUARY 19**  
(GUINEA MISSION TRIP BENEFIT)  
TURKEY, DRESSING & FIXINGS



I reached the point of “enough” this week. The stressors of life and living, health and medical concerns, to do lists and chores and children, were weighing down one on top of the other until I felt like I couldn’t breathe. The emotion of feeling like nothing could go right was overwhelming, and I sat down in the empty sanctuary to ugly cry and let God know exactly what I thought about it all. I was tired. I was out of ideas for how to make things better. I had had enough.

Elijah had reached the point of “enough”. After enduring years of famine by hiding alone, facing death from a king and queen who wanted to kill him, battling mightily against the prophets of Baal, running for miles, for days, to the place where God would have him without rest. So he wandered away, alone. Sat down by a tree and prayed to God, “Let me die. I can’t take anymore.”

God met him there. Fed and watered him. Allowed him to rest. Told him he was right, that he couldn’t do this alone. And then led him for forty more days to the mountain of God. Elijah was tired. Bone weary. He had had enough. And there, God showed himself so fully to Elijah that he would never doubt His love or provision again. God came not in the wind and the rain, but in the form of a whisper. When God whispers, He draws close to us, close enough to feel His presence. Close enough to be touched by His love. We often ignore God’s shouting. But it’s hard to ignore His whisper. Because He whispers when we get quiet. When we get alone when Him. And often, very often, when we have reached the end of ourselves and have the courage to fall before Him and say, “God, I can’t do this anymore.” And that is when God whispers, “I know. But I can. I. Am. Enough.” None of my problems were solved by sitting in an empty room crying. Nothing changed outside that room. But I walked out knowing that I had enough – enough to keep going, enough to keep letting God be God and allowing myself to be human. Enough to not quit.

Have you had “enough”? That’s okay. It’s okay to rest. It’s okay to not be able to do it all. It’s okay to pour out your heart to God, not matter how ugly it may seem. He longs to hear from you, to have you lean on Him. But don’t use your lack as an excuse to quit. Because you can only quit when you are out of options. And believers – we are *never* out of options. Because He is our “enough”.

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you’re trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest if you must, but don’t you quit.  
John Greenleaf Whittier

-Rebekah

### Women’s Ministry:

#### MINISTRY

*What does this word mean to you?*

Have you heard the song “Thank you for Giving to the Lord?” This is what ministry means to me. It is when I, either by myself, or with a group commit to serve God in a way that brings glory to Him by the way we minister to others. At times we refer to it as being the hands and feet of Jesus.

For example, when our Sewing Sisters made Baby Blankets for the NICU and little bags for the mothers who sat with their babies filled with items that would be helpful for themselves. Other projects we have done to minister are: Walker Caddies for the personal care home residents, pillowcase dresses for Operation Christmas Child boxes just to name a few. Our church teamed up with the WM over the summer to provide toys, hats, any kind of fun things for Courtney Elliott, a 3 year old child (now 4) in our church, who has Leukemia, that she could enjoy while receiving treatments and being inside during the hot summer months. This was a wonderful example of Christ’s love from our Faith Family to the Elliott’s. Thankfully Courtney is in remission.

**In looking ahead, a Saturday Lady’s Retreat**, is planned for **MARCH 4, 2023**. We will have a guest speaker, special music and possibly bring in a beauty expert with some “Beauty Tips” and always DOOR PRIZES!

**A Women’s Prayer Time** is something we have talked bout starting, so lets’ begin!

**First Monday of the Month: February 6**

**Place: Old HBC Kitchen**

**Time: 9:30AM**

**Bring your coffee or beverage of choice**  
**No Childcare will be provided**

Hopefully, you have a glimpse of the Women’s Ministry and how we desire to serve in Ministry. Sometime this month please read 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 (The Prayer of Jabez). Jabez asks God to bless him and “enlarge his territory”. As women and men of faith may we ask God to enlarge our territory and show us more ways to minister. You will celebrate Valentine’s Day this month; try to think of one person you could show love to that my be lonely on this day.

I thank all of you for “giving to the Lord”  
With a heart of love and blessings,  
Kathy



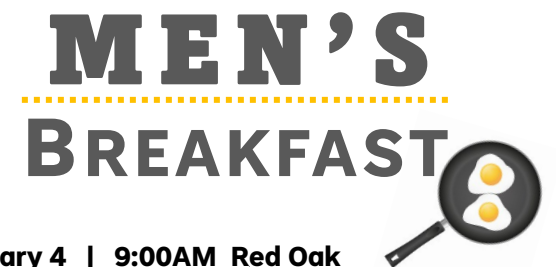
Last week, in an attempt to move me in a more organized direction, Katie went out and bought me a calendar planner. I have now been using this planner for a week and I can honestly say... I don’t know how I ever got anything done before I started using this thing.

It’s not that I was averse to writing down tasks or responsibilities in a weekly/monthly schedule, it’s just that it was new. And no one loves new things. ESPECIALLY when that new thing feels like more work. I was skeptical about the results it would yield, arrogantly thinking that I could keep track of all that I needed to accomplish just fine in my own head... and then taking time to write stuff out would just slow my progress down.

Suffice it to say... I was wrong about all my assumptions. Trying not to be too over-dramatic or overly optimistic about what the future holds, but this planner has now become an ever-present, trusted friend.

This small change in routine, which has had big ripples in my life already, got me thinking about what else I could learn (or how else I could grow) if I was only willing to try. Applied to my spiritual walk, I wonder how many opportunities I have missed for spiritual growth because I was set in my ways or had an attitude of cynicism rather than a mindset of faith. It is cliché to say that “God loves us the way we are, but He doesn’t want us to stay that way”. But there is definitely some truth in the principle of God desiring for His children to remain stagnant, but rather grow and advance in their sanctification process. This year, which is still pretty young, challenge yourself to grow in Christ and in the fruits of the Spirit. The sermon series that Carson is preaching through right now is a great resource towards those ends, as he is walking our church through the spiritual disciplines. Don’t be like I usually am; jaded and full of doubt about improvement. In the year 2023, I am going to try to commit myself towards assuming that God is capable of bringing about the best results for me in my life, and I am going to walk towards that promising direction understanding that sometimes what is holding me back is my own stubbornness and pessimism. I pray you join me!

-Evan



**Saturday, February 4 | 9:00AM Red Oak**

Family Style-\$10 for all over age 10. 10 and under pay their age.

### Coffee with Carson



**All retirees are invited to join Carson at Red Oak Manor for breakfast!**

**Tuesday, February 28th  
8:30AM**

**Let us know if you are coming!**  
706-556-6439 or [church@harlembaptist.org](mailto:church@harlembaptist.org)