

hello
AUGUST
CALENDAR

August 2	HBC Pre-K Open House	5-7PM
August 5	Men's Breakfast	9:00AM
August 6	Sunday School Morning Worship	9:45AM 11:00AM
August 9	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
August 13	Sunday School Morning Worship	9:45AM 11:00AM
August 16	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
August 20	Sunday School Morning Worship	9:45AM 11:00AM
August 22	Coffee with Carson	8:30AM
August 23	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
August 27	Sunday School Morning Worship Large Group Discipleship	9:45AM 11:00AM 6:00PM
August 30	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM



Rev. Carson Britt
Pastor
Evan Powell
Minister of Youth and Children
Rebekah Dickerson
Minister of Music and Media
Ashley Driggers
Administrative Assistant
Lindsey Rogers
HBC Pre-K Director

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Happy Anniversary

08-01	Billy & Cate Elliott
08-05	Chris & Ariel Smith
08-06	Gary & Kathy Holley
08-08	Emmit & Annette Coleman
08-08	Marshall & Stefenie McCallie
08-11	Steve & Susan Camp
08-27	Jerry & Jill Williams

Happy Birthday

08-02	Kayla Clark
08-02	Kevin Sweatman
08-04	Alice Jones
08-05	Zach Fleming
08-07	Russ Lewis
08-10	Dale Arnold
08-10	Roxie Whitaker
08-10	Cate Elliott
08-13	Edee Sweatman
08-13	James Usry
08-15	Taryn Birchfield
08-16	Inez Brown
08-16	Grier Whitaker
08-18	Rachael Hill
08-21	Brian Murphy
08-25	Emmit Coleman
08-25	Jimmy Tankersley
08-26	Tony Mundy
08-27	Mitchell Cozart
08-28	Donna Carithers
08-29	Carol Carter

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

FINANCIALS

as of July 13, 2023

Actual Expenses YTD \$222,478
Actual Received YTD \$209,372

Deacon of the Month

Scott Williams
478-456-6366

CONNECTIONS

August 2023

The
Pastor's
Desk

A couple of weeks ago I preached a sermon out of Acts 28 where Paul finds himself having landed on the island of Malta after experiencing a shipwreck. In that text, Luke tells us three times about the hospitality that he and Paul experienced from the Maltese people. In verse 2 Luke describes this hospitality as *unusually kind*. At the conclusion of this sermon I challenged our church to practice unusual kindness. Since that sermon I've spent a great deal of time thinking about what unusual kindness might look like in our daily living.

One definition of the word unusual is "*not habitually or commonly occurring*." So if we are to practice unusual kindness it means that we are going to engage in a kindness that is not habitual. It means we are going to engage in a kindness that does not happen regularly. To be unusually kind must then require intentionality and forethought. Now, this isn't to say that a "random act of kindness" isn't good or helpful. But if we are to be people who practice unusual kindness it means that we are actively looking for ways to be kind to others. Some might say, it means that we are thinking regularly about how we can better love our neighbors.

As I write this article I am reminded that teachers have returned to work. In just a few days students will return to school. And the routine and rhythms of the academic year will return as well. And with this, comes the return of incredibly busyness. If we're being honest, I suspect that many of our routines leave little time for us to think about how we can practice unusual kindness. We have a tendency to get so caught up in our own schedules, the needs of our children, the desires of our employers, and maybe even our own wants, that we fail to practice thoughtfulness. I dare say, that sometimes our schedules do not afford us the time to be unusually kind. On occasion, doing "all the things" comes at the expense of loving our neighbors well. But, there is perhaps no better time and no better opportunity to create space in our lives for unusual kindness than in a season that is marked with a return to routine. Perhaps we can "add" space in our schedule to practice unusual kindness. Perhaps we need to reject the temptation to "do all the things" and instead choose to do a few of the things so that we can create space to be unusually kind.

I pray that this year will be a year filled with intentional kindness for each of us. I want to encourage you to share with me and others in our faith family your encounters with unusual kindness. What a blessing we can be to our neighbors when we choose daily to practice unusual kindness.

Press on!
Carson

Church News



HBC PRE-K OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, August 2nd
5:00-7:00



RESUMES
AUGUST 9TH



AUGUST 6
CHICKEN CORDON BLEU
& FIXINGS

AUGUST 20
PORK CHOPS & FIXINGS

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, August 5th
9:00am
Red Oak Manor
Harlem, GA

Sign up at the Information Station
by August 4th

Contact Brett Rogers for more info



School is now in session!

Teachers and other staff returned last week and admin probably the week before that. And now our students prepare to head back on Thursday morning. Before looking ahead to this next school year, I briefly want to look back at the summer that was for HBC's Children's and Youth Ministry.

In some ways, this summer was a little quieter across HBC Family Ministries on account of me being in Africa for two weeks in June. But in other ways, we had just as much fun and excitement as in years past... but condensed into a tighter schedule. We started off the summer with a bang with Camp Harlem. About 100 children were served during that short week and many of these children had never set foot on HBC's campus before. Then starting in July, action really picked up with our youth ministry with several fun Wednesday night activities, and then a Youth Serve Week and a good month was capped off by going to a Braves game in Atlanta. Finally, in something that has nothing to do with me personally but is a HUGE happening in the life of our church, just yesterday we had a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the beginning of our brand new HBC Preschool.

I am so grateful for all that God has done in the past school year and especially this summer, and I am similarly excited about all that He will continue to do as we begin this next school and church ministry year. As we ready ourselves to begin again, it feels appropriate to reflect on this short passage from the book of Joshua.

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it." - Joshua 1:7-8

As a church family, let us all aim to be bold and courageous in meeting the challenges and opportunities of a new ministry year, let us be careful in our adherence to God's Word, and let us continually reflect and meditate on the truth that God provides us to guide us through life. If we do this – and if we do not turn astray to the right or left – we can be assured that we are following closely in the footsteps God would have us do. And I believe the church will be blessed because of it.

-Evan



This year we had 4 individuals accept deacon nominations and have four spots to fill so we will not hold deacon election this year. The oncoming deacons are: Bob Brown, Randy Sawyer, Gary Wilkes and Mark Whitaker.



LARGE GROUP
DISCIPLESHIP
6:00PM

MORE DETAILS TO COME!



Can you believe that summer is almost over? As we gear up to go into a school year once again, I am reminded that seasons come and seasons go, and that God will bring us in and out of different seasons that have different purposes in our life. At times, we have a tendency to look at others and the season that they are in and want *that* to be our current season. But we have to remind ourselves regularly that we can't live in their season, and they can't live in ours. We also must have grace and compassion to recognize that what someone needs or what they are able to do while and one season, might be different when they're going through a different season. It gets really complicated when we refuse to apply this to ourselves. Do you have a newborn at home? Your season isn't going to look like someone who can be at every event because you've got to take care of that little one and heal your body right now. Do you have young children or children in school? Then your life can't look the same as someone who is retired. Are you a caretaker for a loved one right now? Don't beat yourself if you don't have the time or energy to do everything you usually do; this season has enough challenges of its own without unnecessary guilt. Grace others, yes; but also, *grace yourself*. And while we must not use our seasons as excuse to keep from obeying, giving, or serving, we must also not use their challenges as mental punishments about our capabilities or capacities. Instead, we must diligently pray and work towards doing our best *where we are now*, serving God and others in the midst of any and every season and in whatever way He has given us at that time.

Have you ever noticed that the changing seasons happen slowly? The leaves don't change colors overnight. The same is true in our lives. It's like we don't even notice the changes until one day we wake up and realize that we're in a different season. But we often expect seasons, especially hard ones, to change for the snap of our fingers. For them to happen immediately. That's just not God's way most of the time. The changing season should not feel like riding large, dangerous waves on the ocean, but rather the gradual increasing and decreasing of the tide upon the shore in a slow and steady ebb and flow.

Whatever season you are in, let God move in you and through you, giving yourself and others grace. And one day you will wake up to find that you are in a new season, with new things to learn and new ways to grow. God in His wisdom has given us seasons to help us and draw us closer to Him. Don't waste your season by wishing it away.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven..."

Ecclesiastics 3

-Rebekah

Coffee with Carson



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

Tuesday, August 22nd
8:30AM

Let us know if you are coming!
706-556-6439 or church@harlembaptist.org