



CALENDAR

January 1	CHURCH OFFICES ARE CLOSED	
January 3	NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES	
January 7	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
January 10	AWANA Resume	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
January 13	Men's Breakfast	9:00AM
January 14	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
January 17	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
January 21	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
January 23	Coffee with Carson	8:30AM
January 24	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
January 28	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
January 31	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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
Lindsey Rogers
HBC Pre-K Director

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday

01-22 Tommy & Susi Lumley
01-23 Chris & Tiffany Gurley
01-26 Terry & Carol Carter

01-04 Gary Wilkes
01-05 Tommy Lumley
01-07 Marshall McCallie
01-08 Casey Allen
01-10 Benjie Moore
01-14 Tiffany Gurley
01-16 Amber Lewis
01-17 Terry Cooper
01-18 Kelly Hawkinberry
01-18 Taylor Allen
01-19 Claudia Rodriguez
01-19 Gwen Hardy
01-25 Kathy Holley
01-26 Parks Ellis
01-26 Reece Stolte
01-27 Kyle Knight
01-28 Preston Ellis

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

FINANCIALS

as of December 17, 2023

Actual Expenses YTD \$383,281
Actual Received YTD \$372,758

Deacon of the Month

Barry Fleming
706-799-4316

CONNECTIONS

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

January 2024

The
Pastor's
Desk

Just prior to the advent and Christmas season our church went on a 7 week journey where we talked at length about what it means to be and make disciples of Jesus. During these weeks of conversation and Bible study, I was convicted of the reality that we seem to be doing a good job of helping to increase biblical literacy without necessarily placing a great deal of emphasis on obedience to Christ. I wonder if many of us have allowed our biblical knowledge to surpass our level of obedience. As we begin a new year I pray that we will work intentionally to grow in discipleship. This renewed commitment begins to happen for each of us when we choose to engage in opportunities for study, service, and fellowship together.

Throughout the next month I will be talking with our Sunday school and small group leaders to see how I can help their classes/groups grow in discipleship. As I have stated, becoming disciples of Christ requires that we apply God's word to our daily lives both individually and corporately. For many of us this is the next step in our discipleship process. I know many of you are already part of a Sunday School or small group and you are growing in knowledge. Now it is time for you to begin serving alongside the very people within your group. After all, this is the model that Jesus' disciples gave us. For those of you who will take this step, know that I am here to support you and help you get started along the way.

There are some of you who have not been part of a Sunday school or small group for some time. Naturally, the next step for you would be to find a small group and get started. In addition to our ongoing groups and classes we have several new discipleship opportunities beginning. We will begin two other home groups this month including a women's small group. More details about these groups will be forthcoming. We also have a new Sunday school plant that will be led by Curtis Rhodes and Jeremy David and will meet in classroom 111 (behind Evan's office) on Sunday mornings' at 9:45. This group is focused on individuals with school-aged children, but will be open to all. All of this is to say that there are increased opportunities for you to get engaged in discipleship. And, maybe, some of you are interested in starting your own group.

As we move into a new calendar year, I pray that we will all be intentional about being disciples and about making disciples. This is how the church in Harlem and throughout the world grows. This is how the world hears the good news. This is how we have an eternal impact on our neighbors.

I'm looking forward to growing in Christ with each of you in 2024!

*Press on!
Carson*

LOVE
GOD

LOVE
PEOPLE

MAKE
DISCIPLES

Church News

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND HOME GROUPS at HARLEM BAPTIST CHURCH

Listed below are discipleship opportunities at HBC along with our current and on going Sunday School

UPCOMING GROUPS:

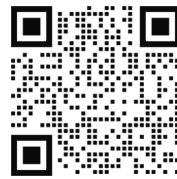
- Sunday School plant led by Curtis Rhodes & Jeremy Davis will begin meeting on January 7th at 9:45am in room #111 (located behind Evan's office)
- Women's In Home Group hosted at Lee Ann Meyer's home every Sunday night at 6:00pm beginning January 14th*
- In Home Group hosted by Edee Sweatman will meet bi-weekly beginning on January 14th and will meet in various homes*

*In Home Groups are limited in number due to space constraints. Please scan the QR code or call the church office to sign up.

CURRENT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES:

- Sue Whiddon Class hosted by Beverly Welch meeting in the Choir Room
- Blankenship Class hosted by Mike Grimes meeting in room #128
- Young Adult & Youth hosted by Brett Rogers meeting in the Student Center

SCAN TO SIGN UP



JANUARY 7

(YOUTH)

PORK LOIN & FIXINGS

JANUARY 21

(OUTREACH)

GRILLED CHICKEN
& FIXINGS



One of my favorite things about worship is the fact that it is so very different from the other music that we know and hear. Worship is less about the notes and more about the note-maker. It is less about the tune and more about the tuning in of our hearts to the Holy Spirit's presence. It is less about having perfect pitch and more about the Perfect one who "rejoices over us with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17). We are to give God our best and sing/play with accuracy – but that is not the *focus* of worship. Instead, it a conversation - one where we are telling God that we recognize who He is and what He has done, and we are simultaneously being reminded of His promises and all that His word says. Worship is not SUPPOSED to be the most challenging, most technically interesting piece of music you will ever here. It can be. But that is not its purpose.

I once heard a pastor say, "You can do a lot of good, or you can do God's greater in your life." This obviously can apply to everything – it can be the basis for simplifying our schedules so we can focus on making sure our family is in church; it can be the reason we don't take a promotion so that we are able to spend time building relationships; or it can be saying no to something because we see that God is leading us in a different direction (even if what we are saying no to is a *good* thing – it may just not be what we need to do). But I also like to apply this saying to music and worship. We can play a lot of good music. There is SOOOO much music out there; it is often the biggest challenge of my week to figure out what we should sing in worship each Sunday. But I try to focus on God's greater – what are the needs of the congregation right now? What songs are 'sing-able' for the everyday worshipper so that they are able to participate as much as possible? What kind of season is our church in? What is God's greater for our worship this week? It may mean doing the same song every week for a month so we can learn it as a church. It can mean repeating choruses and bridges that speak truth over our hearts so that we remember them. (Think: "There is no God like Jehovah! There is no God like Jehovah! There is no God like Jehovah!!") It OFTEN means choosing songs that are not within my personal preference. And it all has to come back to making God more through our worship.

What we sing in worship is so special – because it is meant to highlight the Creator, not the performer. It's not about us. "He must become greater – I must become less." (John 3:30). This is freeing if you let it be. You can worship without worrying about what people think. Let's start the new year out with a heart focused on worshipping our Audience of One.

-Rebekah

CHURCH
OFFICE
CLOSED

JANUARY 1ST

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Saturday, January 13th

at 9:00am

Red Oak Manor

Harlem, GA

Sign up by January 12th



— NO —
WENESDAY
ACTIVITIES
January 3rd



Here's an honest confession.

I have a horrible habit of starting things and not finishing them. I am probably the world's worst when it comes to this. I'm not sure if this habit is because I get too easily distracted or if I get too easily discouraged and demotivated or if I simply have too little self-discipline, but I think it's probably a combination of all three. I will even get frustratingly close to finishing a task – think 90% – and then just... give up or decide that what I have done so far is good enough. I hate that I am like this. I really, really hate it. And I have tried (with some successful baby steps) to change this about myself.

But still, this terrible practice sticks with me. So as I look around my life I see incomplete projects and unfulfilled desires and empty hopes all around me. I am guilty of often dreaming things up but never seeing them through. While I may feel like an absolutely hopeless case, the beginning of the new year is the perfect time for me to cling to this passage of Scripture:

"being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

If you make a lot of New Year's resolutions and then spectacularly flame out on all of them by mid-March...

Be encouraged in knowing that God is not a God who gives up. He won't wash His hands of you or throw in the towel. God is a finisher. What He says He will do, He does. And He does so thoroughly... completely... 100%. Not half-heartedly, not inadequately, but perfectly. And if we need the evidence to back this claim up, we look no further than the cross. That God would send His only Son – whom He loved – to Earth to the cross to the grave, and that Christ overcame death and ascended once more... this is a sign that God has a plan **and He has the power to bring about that plan** and no earthly circumstance – including my own propensity to stop short of carrying out a task – can derail His ability to work in me and through me.

This is the best news I can give to you on January 1st... as we are full steam ahead towards 366 days of opportunities. You probably won't, but He will. You definitely can't, but He can.

"Great is thy faithfulness, o God my Father. There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not. As thou has been thou forever wilt be."

-Evan

Coffee with Carson



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

**Tuesday, January 23rd
8:30AM**

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