



CALENDAR

March 2	Men's Breakfast	9:00AM
March 3	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
	Easter Choir Practice	1:00PM
March 6	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
March 8	HBC Women's Event	6:30PM
March 10	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
March 13	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
March 17	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
	Easter Choir Practice	1:00PM
March 20	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
	Easter Choir Practice	8:00PM
March 24	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	
March 26	Coffee with Carson	8:30AM
March 27	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
	Easter Choir Practice	8:00PM
March 28	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00PM
March 31	Easter Sunrise Service	7:00AM
	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Easter Service	11:00AM

AWANA Choir
Easter Program
"Because He Lives"
April 3 at 6:30pm

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Harlem, GA
Permit No. 8

Happy Anniversary

03-02 Andre & Gayle Miller
03-12 Randall & Rosie Cook
03/25 Ben & Rachael Hill

Happy Birthday

03-01 Tripp Loneragan
03-02 Susi Lumley
03-06 Elijah Rodriguez
03-06 Joelle Jeffers
03-07 Sheri Murphy
03-09 Nick Hawkinberry
03-10 Don Ray
03-15 Wade McClellan
03-15 Miguel Rodriguez
03-19 Jessie Arnold
03-20 Brandi Lewis
03-20 Gayle Miller
03-22 Renee Dean
03-22 Kathy Arrowood
03-22 Kate Ellis
03-25 Zachary Piorkowski
03-28 Randy Lewis
03-29 Wayne Allen

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



FINANCIALS

as of February 18, 2024

Actual Expenses YTD \$50,202
Actual Received YTD \$60,541

Deacon of the Month

Mark Whitaker
706-533-3489

CONNECTIONS

March 2024

The
Pastor's
Desk

Have you ever noticed that within the church we use a lot of words that we rarely use elsewhere? Some fancy theological words that we use are: justification, sanctification, salvation and redemption. But there are also some less theological words that are used frequently within the body of Christ and less frequently outside of it. One of those words is fellowship. Churches have fellowship halls. They have fellowship meals and fellowship gatherings. Some churches may even have "times of fellowship" built into their worship services. Have you ever stopped to wonder why this word is so commonplace within the church?

When we look through the gospel accounts we see that Jesus did a lot of what we would consider fellowship. Jesus had 12 men and several woman with whom he was in just about constant fellowship. Jesus often entered into the homes of people to share a meal with them. I have even heard some people say that Jesus ate his way through the gospel account. When we look in the book of Acts we see in chapter 2 and 4 that the early church spent a lot of time together. They "broke bread together" regularly. The author of Hebrews says "*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near*" (Heb. 10:24-25, ESV). When we take a sweeping glance at the New Testament narrative it is very clear that fellowship is supposed to be an important part of the life of the church.

So what is the purpose of fellowship? In its most basic form, fellowship is what helps us to nurture and develop our relationships with one another. We cannot develop new relationships nor can our current relationships grow without this important activity. I suspect that this is why Jesus made fellowship such a critical part of his ministry and why the early church prioritized fellowship amongst the believers. Jesus, along with the early church, understood the importance of relationships. And, if we are going to follow these Biblical examples, we must also understand this.

If you haven't noticed yet, Harlem is growing. This growth brings with it the need for new relationships to develop. The same is true of HBC. As new faces begin to attend we must be diligent to develop and nurture relationships with these individuals. Remember, most of us were new to HBC at one point or another. When we were new, fellowship played a large part in our ability to connect with one another. So as we continue to see new faces join us for worship, consider inviting those individuals to sit with your family. Consider inviting those new individuals to join you for a cup of coffee or dinner in your home. Let's choose to take more opportunities to fellowship with one another, new and old, so that we can continue to grow relationally.

Press on!
Carson

Church News

HBC Ladies Event

"A Time for Growth"

MARCH 8TH 6:30PM-8:30PM



Join the ladies of HBC to fellowship, share a meal and grow in God's image.
Childcare is not provided for this event. No Sign up required.



JUNE 26-28

—SCAN TO REGISTER—



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, March 2nd
at 9:00am**

Red Oak Manor
Harlem, GA



MARCH 3

(YOUTH)

CATFISH/CHICKEN
& FIXINGS

MARCH 17

(FISHES & LOAVES)

HAM & FIXINGS



tics being shared by people on social media in ALL CAPS...as well as the dozens of daily pings of text messages from various candidates (how DID they get my number!?!?) I tell you – I find myself seriously relating to the Grinch: *"If there's one thing I hate, it's all the noise NOISE NOISE NOISE!!!!"*

I am oh so tired of the constant screaming for attention that never seems to cease in a society where everyone, everywhere, is clamoring for someone to listen to them...even if they have to keep getting louder. Have you ever noticed that God doesn't really...scream? In the Bible, you will find Him to be firm in His righteous wrath, He will "rejoice over you with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17), and He absolutely will tell you what you need to hear. But in my studies this far (and please let me know if you find an example!) the closest God comes to SCREAMING at someone is when He tells Job, "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and **you** shall answer **me**." No, God is far more likely to speak to us in a still small voice-as He did to Elijah on the mountain (1 Kings 19:11-13). God doesn't need to yell at us to get His message across – and yet we feel like we have to "yell" at others to get their attention when we are sharing the Gospel. We feel like evangelism needs to be a big gesture, a huge undertaking, a long conversation that *always* results in someone accepting Christ. I am guilty of this – knowing that in social and communication platforms the church is often a blip on the radar of people's media consumption – I often worry that we are not BIG or LOUD enough.

But that's not God's way. God whispers. He comforts. He sings. He "quiets us with His love". And His commands to us are often gentle in spirit and nature: "A soft answer turns away wrath," (Proverbs 15:1); "A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back" (Proverbs 29:11). And it is becoming increasingly apparent to me that it is the calm, quiet, consistency of spirit and conversation that will be far more impactful than megaphones and bright colorful banners.

When was the last time you had a relaxed, simple conversation with someone about what God is doing in your life? Or just shared your heart about why you love getting to worship on Sunday? The most precious and effective things in life are usually not the big moments of shouting, but the steady, habitual, even mundane way of daily working out your faith, giving God glory and honor in everything, and consistently telling people about who He is.

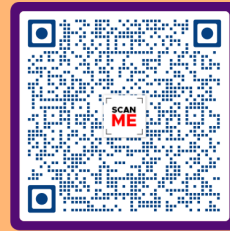
But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

Important Dates:

Easter Choir Practice Dates– March 3, 17, 20, 27

AWANA Musical– April 3rd

**YOU'VE BEEN
EGGED!**



Scan the QR Code to
register to be "egged".



Palm Sunday

MARCH 24TH AT 11:00AM

Maundy Thursday

Service & Communion

MARCH 28TH AT 7:00PM

Easter Sunrise Service

MARCH 31ST AT 7:00AM

Easter Service

MARCH 31ST AT 11:00AM



I can't believe it's already March. These first two months of the year have flown by... it feels like just 10 days ago I was writing my monthly newsletter article for January 2024.

It seems the older I get, the faster those calendar pages keep ripping off. Gone are the days in my childhood and teenage years when afternoons crawled on at a glacial - seemingly interminable - pace as I anxiously awaited an escape from science class. Now days go by at lightspeed. Perhaps you can relate.

Because our lives are so fast-paced, and because life doesn't ever really seem to slow down, I think it's especially important for us all to remind ourselves of this Scripture passage from ***Ephesians 5:15-17***:

"Be very careful then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

When reading these verses, it's important to note that Paul does not mean there is something evil about the day itself – God has created each and every day, and as such, it is a wonderful creation. However, when we take a precious gift that God has given us (a new day) and do nothing with it, we are not being brought closer to righteousness, but closer to wickedness. It is unwise and foolish to let divinely appointed opportunities pass us by because we are not attentive to the Holy Spirit's guidance. The message from God's Word is clear – no matter how quickly life sprints by, we are to take great care in "making the most" of each moment we are given. This is the Lord's will!

What does this look like for you and your family? Maybe instead of listening to a true crime podcast, you can/should be listening to a podcast oriented around spiritual encouragement. Maybe instead of investing extra time and energy perfecting your craft, you should invest that extra time and energy into a church small group to receive increased discipleship. Or maybe it just means turning the TV off at dinner time and instead starting conversation with your family.

I can't tell you the right adjustment to make, but I can bring this Scripture to your attention and advise you to live carefully and be on the lookout for any "good works" that "God has prepared in advance" for you. As you are doing so, I will be praying for you. And I hope you will do the same for me. In 10 months' time, I want to look back and not be filled with regret as I survey all my missed opportunities. Today is the perfect day to start making the most of each day.

-Evan

Coffee with Carson



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

**Tuesday, March 26th
8:30AM**

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

**CHURCH
WORK DAY**

**MARCH 23RD
8:00AM**