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Harlem, GA
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May

CALENDAR

May 1	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
May 4	Men's Breakfast	9:00AM
May 5	Sunday School Morning Worship Church Luncheon Nacho Average Spring Fling	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM 5:00PM
May 8	AWANA Night of Worship - Church-wide Event- Youth	6:30PM 6:45PM
May 12	Sunday School Morning Worship <i>(Child dedication during service)</i>	9:45AM 11:00AM
May 15	Youth OASIS	6:45PM 6:45PM
May 19	Sunday School Morning Worship <i>(Graduate recognition during service)</i> Church Conference	9:45AM 11:00AM 6:00PM
May 22	Youth OASIS	6:45PM 6:45PM
May 26	Sunday School Morning Worship Deacons Meeting	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM
May 27	MEMORIAL DAY—OFFICES ARE CLOSED	
May 29	Youth OASIS	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

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday

05-17	Duane & Shannon Starrenburg	05-01	Tara Cooper
05-23	Harold & Margie Smith	05-02	Kevin Allen
		05-03	Terry Carter
		05-04	Brenna Cook
		05-05	Jason Truitt
		05-08	Mickey Lonergan
		05-18	Rob Lewis
		05-20	Barry Fleming
		05-21	Susan Camp
		05-21	Peyton Perdue
		05-22	Margie Smith
		05-23	Easton Hill
		05-29	Lynda Adams
		05-31	Holly Laughery

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



HBC PRE-K REGISTRATION 2024-2025



Limited sports available!!
Email
lindsey@harlembaptist.org
to register Today!!

FINANCIALS

as of April 23, 2024

Actual Expenses YTD \$76,923
Actual Received YTD \$96,923

Deacon of the Month

Curtis Rhodes
318-607-5137

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Sunday, May 19th
6:00PM

CONNECTIONS

May 2024

The
Pastor's
Desk

One of my favorite things to do is to work in my yard and my garden. And my favorite time of year to do this is in April and May. There is just something about planting new flowers, spreading mulch, and cutting the grass this time of year that brings joy and calm to my heart. Now I realize that this is not everyone's cup of tea. Some people don't really enjoy getting dirty, sweaty, and crawling around in flower beds. But if you are able to get beyond all of these uncomfortable aspects of yard work you might realize that there are some benefits to spending even just a little bit of time in creation.

What are these benefits? Doctors and scientists agree that physical activity has wonderful benefits for our mind and our body. I recently read an article that said that physical activity can help prevent many chronic diseases. There is also the "curb appeal" benefit. Maybe it's just me, but I thoroughly enjoy pulling into my driveway to a sea of colorful flowers. I also enjoy the tastes of home grown vegetables. These are all wonderful benefits of working in creation. But, most importantly, there is a spiritual benefit. When we get out there and work in creation we connect more deeply with the Creator. The Psalmist says, "When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers – the moon and the stars you set in place – what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority – the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents. O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! (Psalm 8:3-9, NLT). Creation tells the story of our creative God. It proclaims His majesty. It tells of His power. It mirrors His splendor. Perhaps the greatest benefit that we receive from being and working in creation is that through it we can see glimpses of the glory of our God.

Perhaps all of this is why God has given us the responsibility of taking care of creation. Genesis 1 reveals that we have been tasked with the job of creation care. The Lord says, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground" (Gen. 1:26, NIV). I really love the way Eugene Peterson's "The Message" paraphrase puts this. It says, "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself..." When we look around at the world and it's splendor, you may find yourself wondering why God would ever put us in charge of His creation. We all know that He would do a better job of creation care that you and I. But God's desire is for us to know Him more and more. And caring for creation is one way that we discover more about Him. So as we move forward in this spring season let's strive to get out in creation just a little bit more so we can rediscover the power, beauty, and majesty of our God!

Press on!
Carson

Church News



HARLEM BAPTIST CHURCH
NACHO AVERAGE
SPRING FLING

FOOD | FELLOWSHIP | GAMES

SUNDAY, MAY 5TH AT 5 PM



Scan the QR code for food sign up!



MAY 5
(150TH ANNIVERSARY)
PORK CHOPS & FIXINGS

MAY 19
(CENTRIKID)
POT ROAST & FIXINGS



CAMP HARLEM

JUNE 26TH-28TH

9AM TO 1PM

AGES PREK-3 TO FINISHED 5TH GRADE
\$3 PER KID/PER DAY (\$25 FAMILY CAP)



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, May 4th

at 9:00am

Red Oak Manor
Harlem, GA



Have you ever stopped to think about what a lie the idea of self-sufficiency is? The concept of being able to “pull oneself up by the bootstraps”, to work through or handle anything that happens on our own, to be fully independent because that’s what the world tells us we should be... friends, there is *NOTHING* in Scripture that supports that idea. We were not made to be self-sufficient. We, instead, were made to be desperately dependent.

Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) **Nothing.** Not. One. Single. Thing. Did you get that? I cannot breathe, I cannot live, I cannot *be* apart from Him. “He is before all things, and in him all things hold together (Colossians 1:17).”

And we hate that. We want to be able to depend on ourselves, our strengths, our hard work, the money that we’ve earned, the life that we’ve built... we cannot STAND the fact that we are unable to figure life out without Christ’s help, wisdom, strength, and guidance.

Why is that? Why do we get so frustrated when we don’t get it right, or need help, or struggle to be self-sufficient? To us, the opposite is terrifying... we don’t want to have to need God so desperately that we *can’t even breathe without Him*. For the believer, this should be comforting, but instead, we often work hard to make ourselves the only *one* that we can depend on. Self-sufficiency is the only way we can avoid needing God as desperately as we actually do. Because that kind of need for God requires something of us that is so huge, we cannot fathom it.

Complete and total *surrender*.

Truly, when the very way we live our lives is dependent upon our own abilities/job/hard work/finances/knowledge/etc., then we will use our self-sufficiency to say that “we’ve got this, God.” But then life throws curveballs at us, and suddenly we need him, we call on him when things get really hard – instead of leaning on him 100% of the time, walking in the peace and strength He gives. We are very much like toddlers who declare “I can do it!”, and then pitch a fit when we can’t.

You want to really be able to handle what life throws at you? You want to stand strong and peaceful, assured of Who your rock is? You want to be able to give glory to God in all that you say and do? Then **embrace your desperate dependence** on the loving grace and person of our Savior – and stop trying to do *anything* in your own power.

We must surrender everything if we want to live in the light of His empowering Grace - to bring glory to His name by OUR VERY NEED OF HIM. We are supposed to need Him, you know. We are “by nature objects of wrath...in order that He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed by His kindness to us in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:3, 7). The lie of self-sufficiency will eat away at your peace and purposefulness until you are so busy surviving that you can’t be a fruitful brunch.

Stop lying to yourself. Embrace a desperate dependence on a Savior who loves you more than you could ever ask or imagine. And then hold on tight, because that is when God starts doing some amazing things.

-Rebekah

CHILD DEDICATION

SUNDAY, MAY 12TH



In honor of our 150th Anniversary, we will be creating a cookbook highlighting the wonderful cooks of our church. Starting April 7th and running through May 18th we will be collecting recipes for our cookbook. The forms will be located at the Welcome Center. You can return the completed forms to the same location or give to Susan Camp, Nancy Lewis, Susan Knight or Roxanne Whitaker. We also need a cover for our cookbook. If you would like to design the cover, please submit your design to one of the listed ladies by May 18th. A copy of our 130th cookbook will be located at the Welcome Center as well.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION

SUNDAY, MAY 19TH



If you would like your senior recognized, please contact Evan Powell ASAP!



Summer is just around the corner!

Sure, May will be jam-packed with awards ceremonies, graduations, tournaments, practices, and recitals. But in about three short weeks, the breakneck pace of life will shift down just a bit. All of the sudden, many families will find themselves with a little more time to breathe deeply. Of course, many folks still work throughout the summer, but particularly in young families... summer will usher in a short season where everyday stresses and demands will ease up just a bit. And gradually, you may find that your agenda gets a little less filled.

My question to you is: what are you going to fill that vacated space in your life with? When you only have two practices to drive kids to each week instead of five, what will you do with that extra time you have gained? When you go away for a week on vacation and leave behind normal household chores, where will you direct your efforts?

When God offers you respite, do you take that time to renew your connection with Him and give Him all due praise and glory for sustaining you through another school year, or will you take the opportunity to start binge-watching your favorite Netflix show for the 7th time?

Summer presents many of us with a rare opportunity: the opportunity to re-examine priorities and re-assess how we are spending our time. And for those of you who regularly feel like you are drowning under tight schedules and too many obligations, summer can give you much needed time and space to “catch up” or “get your head back above water”. But the reality is, the time we once were spending working on science fair projects... will still be spent doing something. Just a different something for the next two months. So be conscious about how that time is being spent! Let’s all challenge ourselves to be intentional and show great discernment in what we fill our days with in this wonderful gift God has given us called summer.

“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” - Ephesians 5:15-16

-Evan

Announcements

Thanks for all who joined in our Masters Juniors Putt-Putt Tournament on April 20th. And congratulations to Kyle Knight, Noah Bryant, and Liam Ogle who won Green Jackets!

Don’t miss out on your opportunity for fun, food, and fellowship – Sunday, May 5th at 5:00pm is our church-wide Spring Fling! Taco ‘bout a good time!

AWANA Night of WORSHIP

Wednesday, May 8 | 6:30PM

AWANA store to follow

CHURCH-WIDE EVENT!