

July CALENDAR

July 3	NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES	
July 4	CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	
July 7	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
July 9	First Tuesday	6:00PM
	<i>Music Rehearsal</i>	
July 10	OASIS	6:45PM
July 12-14	CentriKid Camp	
July 13	Men's Breakfast	9:00AM
July 14	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Ladies Latin Luncheon	1:00PM
July 17	Youth Serve Day	
	Choir	5:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
July 21	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Diapers and Wipes Shower	
	For Katie Powell	2:00PM
July 23	Coffee with Carson	8:30AM
July 24	Youth Trip to Six Flags	
	Choir	5:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
July 27	Parents Day Out	10:00AM-1:00PM
July 28	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
July 31	Choir	5:45PM
	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

07-03	Mitchell & Brigitte Cozart	07-01	Randall Hill
07-05	Bob & Susan Knight	07-02	Peggy Edwards
07-11	Evan & Katie Powell	07-03	John Eckenroth
07-15	Mickey & Emily Lonergan	07-03	Raymond Hawkinberry
07-18	Benjie & Annette Moore	07-03	Susan Knight
07-18	Brett & Kathy Arrowood	07-03	Matthew Nelson
07-24	Curtis & Mandy Rhodes	07-05	Pamela Jones
07-31	Miguel & Claudia Rodriguez	07-09	Randall Cook
		07-14	Scott Williams
		07-16	Daniel Dickerson
		07-17	Ruth Hill
		07-18	Tara Taylor
		07-18	Taryn Allen
		07-18	Debbie Brown
		07-19	Tommy Stolte
		07-23	Jill Williams
		07-27	Ken Adams
		07-29	Chris Gurley
		07-30	Talyn Birchfield

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nomination process will take place in June-August. This means our nominating committee will be working throughout the summer to fill church wide committee vacancies and recruit volunteers to serve in various ministries. Those serving this year's nominating committee are: Jennifer Guy, Marshal McCallie, and Edith Sweatman. Please pray for them as they do this valuable work and prayerfully consider where you will serve in the coming church year.

FINANCIALS

Actual Expenses YTD \$167,030
Actual Received YTD \$173,936

Deacon of the Month

Curtis Rhodes
318-607-5137

CONNECTIONS

July 2024

The Pastor's Desk

Most of you know that at the end of April our church staff attended a conference called "Church Leaders Conference" in Dallas, TX. Within the first 20 minutes of our arrival at the conference it was clear to the four of us that those who planned this conference had considered all the details. Before we arrived I received a phone call from one of the conference leaders to let me know that they were praying for our group. When we arrived they had people helping us park and find our way to the check in areas. The check-in process was incredibly efficient and well thought out. They even had an app just for the conference. And if you had trouble with your app there was someone who could fix that for you quickly. They had snacks and drinks galore. Even the bathrooms were stocked with mints and toothpicks. It was clear that doing things with excellence had been placed on high priority at CLC (Church Leaders Conference).

Over the past couple of months I have reflected on the standard of excellence that was on display at CLC. And I have challenged our staff, as well as myself, on numerous occasions to strive to do everything with excellence. Although we miss that mark on occasion I want you to know that your staff is working hard to help create a culture of excellence. King Solomon spoke to this in Ecclesiastes 9:10 where he says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom" (NIV). Here Solomon communicates that our days of living are limited. And when we are no longer living there is no more working, planning, or learning to be done. So, while we are living, whatever we do should be done with all of our might. Paul tells us in Colossian 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (NIV). The reminder that in all that we do, whether within the church, in our home, vocationally, or something else, we should do as if we are working for the Lord. And to do so is to do it "with all our heart." Additionally, that phrase, "with all your heart", is an echo of both Deuteronomy 6 as well as the Greatest Commandment which call us to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. So, how do we love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength? How do we do everything as if we are working for the Lord? I believe we do this when we strive for excellence in all that we do.

I stated above that our staff is striving to help create a culture of excellence at HBC. However we simply cannot do this on our own. We are only five people. We cannot make every guest feel welcome. We cannot help check-in all of the children to our children's programs. We are unable to check on all of the sick and needy in our church weekly. If we are to create a culture of excellence we need you to join us in doing this work. When our membership recognizes that we are striving for excellence in all that we do their church engagement increases and they will become more likely to join us in our work. And, just as our staff experience at CLC has led us to already register to go back next year, the experience that a guest has at HBC will directly influence their choosing to come back next week. I recently heard a pastor say on a podcast that striving for excellence requires that we consistently "anticipate and over deliver." As we move towards a new church year and a new season of ministry, let's together embrace the challenge to do everything with excellence. I believe that this commitment will lead to authentic kingdom growth.

*Press on!
Carson*

Church News

PARENTS DAY OUT
JULY 27TH
10:00AM

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
 A PARENTS DAY OUT
 EVENT FOR LOCAL FOSTER
 FAMILIES.**

**HBC 150th Anniversary
 Celebration**

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN FORMER CHURCH
 STAFF AND THE HBC CONGREGATION FOR A
 DINNER OF CELEBRATION OF THE CHURCH'S
 150TH ANNIVERSARY.

AUGUST 10TH AT 6:00PM
\$20 PER PERSON
 RSVP BY JUNE 30TH

PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY AGES UNDER 18



NO LUNCHEONS
 FOR THE MONTH
 OF JULY



CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED



July 17, 24, 31
 at 5:45PM



Saturday, July 13th
at 9:00am
 Red Oak Manor
 Harlem, GA



Every marriage has its little arguments, and mine is no exception. The other day, Daniel asked if I could help him with something because he had several tasks he needed to get done over the weekend. So early the next morning, because I had a few minutes, I went ahead and...helped! I knocked out the task so it was no longer something he needed to do. Great, right?

Except that when Daniel asked for help, what he wanted was me to show him how to do this specific thing because it is something I do every day. He didn't want to delegate the task to me...he wanted to get support in learning and growing in a skill. While the argument was easily resolved with a discussion, the idea of what "help" means to different people lingered for both of us. How often do we, as learning Christians, ask God for help – and what we really want is to delegate the task to Him, not learn how to do it ourselves. Oh, we say the right things, "God help me to do this. If you can just give me the strength/knowledge/money/fill-in-the-blank, I can do it." But are we really asking for help – for support and encouragement so that we can learn and grow? Or are we actually trying to delegate the given task - budgeting, reading our Bible, parenting our kids, managing our time – to Him so we can just keep doing things the way we always have?

I've been thinking about delegating and what it involves a lot lately. I've generally taken the idea of delegating as the, "Is it done? Great!" attitude. I've been taught in leadership classes that if someone else can do something 80% (or even 60-70%!) as well as you, then it needs to be delegated so you can focus on leading, rather than tasks. The problem comes in with our pride – we want help accomplishing things, but want people to do it *our way*. I can completely empathize with that. Delegating involves losing control over a situation. It's the reason why so many parents are quick to do things for their kids rather than endure the painful process of watching them learn for themselves how to do it – even failing a few times before they get it right. But helping? Helping is different. Helping involves discussion. It involves teaching. It involves spending time and effort to make sure someone else understands how the intricate details of a process/task/event/activity works. There are times when it is brutally hard to train and teach in that way, especially when we know we could do it so much faster and better ourselves (at least, for the moment. Often, if we will take the time to teach, our student will surpass our skill!)

Friends, we need to take a moment to think about what we are asking God for "help" with, and if we really mean it. Do we truly want His help to learn and grow, to go through the agonizing process of training and building something within us that will help us do better in the long run? Because God doesn't just delegate tasks to us...He calls us to a mission and then walks along side us as we learn. And we should do the same for others. Because He could absolutely do it faster and easier and WAY BETTER that we ever could... but instead, He allows us the privilege, the JOY, of participating in His work day in and day out. And He helps us to do so. Maybe we need to stop delegating what God has given us *back* to Him with our prayers, and instead lean into the learning process so that we, too, can disciple others to grow in the future.

"7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:7-9

-Rebekah

LADIES
Latin Luncheon

JULY 14TH
MI RINCONCITO
 5114 Wrightsboro Rd.
 Grovetown, GA 30813



**YOUTH
 EVENTS**

JULY 3 & JULY 10
 No Youth Group Meeting



JULY 17TH
 Youth Serve Day

JULY 24TH
 Six Flags Day
 sign up by July 14th



Coffee with Carson

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

Tuesday, July 23
8:30AM

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



As of writing this newsletter article, Camp Harlem 2024 is still about a week out. This is probably our biggest family ministry event of the entire calendar year. In addition to requesting that each of you be praying for the work God will do through the week, I also want to preemptively thank the many volunteers who helped by serving in a host of different capacities. HBC members helped with registration as parents checked in their children and checked them out in the afternoon. They provided meals. They served as team captains, they led activity rotations and fun recreation initiatives. Camp Harlem will be a ton of fun, but it takes a ton of work. I am so thankful to each of you co-laborers in this worthy work.

Important Youth Dates:

No Youth Group meeting on Wednesday nights, July 3rd and July 10th

Wednesday, July 17th – Youth Serve Day

Wednesday, July 24th – Six Flags Day*

Wednesday, July 31st – Youth Prayer Night

*I have told students that I need to have at least eight students signed up for the Six Flags Day by Sunday, July 14th in order for us to go. Please let me know ASAP if you intend to participate!

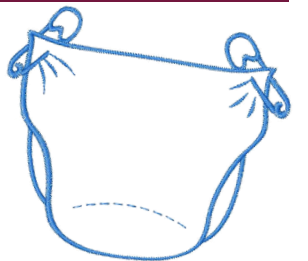
"Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." - Matthew 13:2-8

We cannot force spiritual growth upon someone else any more than we can force a crop to grow overnight. We cannot force someone to go to church any more than we can will rain to fall from the sky. However, the good news is that we do not need to. We are called to plant seeds. Then we rely on the Holy Spirit to go to work. We don't have to bring our own rain, we get to pray that God will rain His Spirit down on spiritual fields that are ripe for spiritual harvest. So our job? Again, it's to plant. Recently, I have been convicted of the fact that I am not always the most proactive or efficient or consistent when it comes to sowing spiritual seeds. So this summer I am committing to pray that God will strengthen me in this effort. Won't you join me in this prayer for the benefit of the community of Harlem?

-Evan

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Diapers & Wipes Shower
 FOR *Katie Powell*



SUNDAY, JULY 21ST | 2:00PM