

August CALENDAR

August 2	Men's Ministry Event	5:45PM
August 3	Church Work Day	8:00AM
August 4	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Deacon Election	
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
August 7	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
August 10	150th Dinner Celebration	6:00PM
August 11	Time Capsule & Breakfast	9:30AM
	Homecoming Worship	11:00AM
August 14	AWANA Returns	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
August 18	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Promotion Day	
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
	Bridal Shower for Ashlyn Knight	2-4PM
August 21	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
August 25	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Deacons Meeting	12:15PM
August 27	Coffee with Carson	8:30AM
	At Red Oak Manor	
August 28	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

08-05	Chris & Ariel Smith	08-04	Alice Jones
08-06	Gary & Kathy Holley	08-05	Zach Fleming
08-08	Emmit & Annette Coleman	08-07	Russ Lewis
08-08	Marshall & Stefenie McCallie	08-10	Dale Arnold
08-11	Steve & Susan Camp	08-10	Roxie Whitaker
08-27	Jerry & Jill Williams	08-13	Edee Sweatman
		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
		08-29	Carol Carter

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

FINANCIALS

as of July 30, 2024

Actual Expenses YTD \$197,949
Actual Received YTD \$204,670

Deacon of the Month

Scott Williams
478-456-6366

CONNECTIONS



The Pastor's Desk

This month HBC celebrates 150 years of ministry. For 150 years this church has existed. For 150 years she has served this community and beyond. For 150 years community has been experienced in this place. For 150 years people have worshiped and grown in Christ here at Harlem Baptist Church. I suspect that if we tried really hard we could look back at all of our membership records and make an educated guess at the number of members that Harlem Baptist has had over the past 150 years. We might could figure out just about how many baptisms were had here as well. We could work diligently to figure out how many deacons we have had and we might could even figure how much money we have given away to missions. Quantifying all of these things would help tell part of the story of HBC. But there is more to Harlem Baptist's story than we can quantify, and I want to challenge you to consider some of those things as well.

Imagine for a moment the amount of prayers that have been offered at HBC over the past 150 years. Consider how many seeds of faith have been planted and how much fruit has grown in that time. I wonder how many people have been encouraged by a visit or a meal delivered from someone representing this local body of Christ. I wonder how many individuals could trace their own faith journey back to this church. It is impossible to quantify any of these thoughts. But I still believe it is important to consider each of them because in reality, so much of what we do as a local body of Christ can't be quantified. We base our judgments and assessments on tangible or quantifiable information. But, within the church, we simply are unable to fully grasp the growth that God has brought through our ministry efforts.

This same concept applies to our present ministries. We assess the fruitfulness of our ministries and our efforts on the elements that we can quantify. If we have 40 children in Sunday School or in our BLAST children's church we assume that those programs are fruitful. But, does this mean that if we have only 10 in these same programs that they are not fruitful? Certainly not! In reality, we are deficient in our ability to assess the total efficacy of our ministry. Yes, we have metrics that we use to measure our successes but those metrics are lacking. There is simply too many spiritual variables and too many immeasurable elements for us to truly grasp the reach and growth of our ministry. So, in light of this what are we to do? Well, we should continue to strive to faithfully carry out the *missio dei* (mission of God) in our world. We should give glory to God for the numerous ways that He has expanded the ministry reach of Harlem Baptist. We must remember as Paul states in 1 Corinthians that one person plants, another waters, but it is God and always God that makes things grow (1 Corinthians 3:6-9). As we move into the next season of ministry may, we always remember that it has always been and will always be God who makes things grow!

Press on!
Carson

Church News

150th Anniversary Celebration Events

CELEBRATION DINNER
August 10th at 6:00pm

**TIME CAPSULE REVEAL
AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
August 11th at 9:30am

HOMECOMING WORSHIP
August 11th at 11:00am

CHURCH WORK DAY



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD
8:00AM**



Bridal Shower

PLEASE JOIN US TO
CELEBRATE THE BRIDE TO BE

Ashlyn Knight

08.18.24 | 2:00PM
LOCATED IN THE FLC



Menu

AUGUST 4
(150TH ANNIVERSARY)
**PORK CHOPS
& FIXINGS**

AUGUST 18
(YOUTH)
POT ROAST & FIXINGS



and I couldn't get them re-aligned. It was ruined. I felt so bad. So I pulled her aside and I told her I would fix it. That afternoon, I tried to line up the beads and make it work, and I got it to come together...sort of. But it just looked awful. It wasn't going to work.

So I decided to re-make it from scratch. It took a WHILE, but I got the entire thing put together. I stood up from my chair to plug in the iron...and promptly knocked the leg of the table the art was sitting on, scattering all of my carefully placed beads everywhere. I was steaming mad. Why was this one little piece of art so hard!!!! By Friday morning, I finally got it pieced together and ironed, but it took FOUR TIMES!! It felt like such wasted time doing double work.

Isn't that like our Christian walk in some ways? We work hard to live like Jesus, to do things right, but then something messes it up. And then we try to fix it, but it doesn't work. What I discovered in that craft-making was a wealth of spiritual truth was waiting for the willing observer.

First – it is a whole lot harder to fix a mistake than it is to do it right the first time. Trying to piece together the mistakes of that first frame she made was stressful, almost heart breaking. Just like it is in our life. When we sin, life is just sooo much harder than when we work carefully to avoid sinning in the first place.

Secondly, I found it SUPER frustrating to get right to the end of the project, only to have the last thing (that blasted iron!) mess it up. More than once, I found myself seething with frustration to have gotten so far only to start over. The lesson there – commit and follow through. The minute we become less careful, less prayerful, less diligent in our walk with Christ, is the minute that we will slip and fall, and knock all of our hard work off the table, and the pieces of our life can go everywhere.

Finally, when I was working with the beads, the logical thing *seemed* to be to work from the outside edges (much like a puzzle), and then move inward, so that you had a framework to go by. But then it was next to impossible to put the inner pieces together! Instead, carefully counting, planning, and placing beads in the right place in the center FIRST made it infinitely easier to build the frame. Moving inside out, rather than outside in, required diligence and consideration, rather than just blind work. But it was vastly easier in the long run. The hard work of our faith at first will carry us through to the end, to a life abundant, rather than a life of surviving and sliding in by the seat of our pants.

Are we doing the hard work first? Are we striving to build our life around Christ through prayer and devotion and study and worship? Are we committed and following through, day in and day out, so that God doesn't have to rebuild us over and over. Or do we see the end goal and try to drive there before God has even cleared the ground and paved the road? Do we work diligently from the inside out? Or do we plow through from the outside in, and then have to slow down and get frustrated as we are pieced together after the fact?

You know, you can learn a lot from bead art at Camp Harlem.

-Rebekah



150TH COOKBOOKS

Our cookbooks will be in around August 2nd! We will also have cookbooks available for sale after they arrive. We have 412 recipes in our cookbook! Cost is \$20.00. If you wish to have the cookbook delivered via USPS, there will be an additional charge for postage.

**PROMOTION
SUNDAY**

AUGUST 18TH

All children and youth will be promoted

HBC MEN'S MINISTRY



**AUGUSTA
GREEN JACKETS**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2ND

Meet at FLC at 5:45PM

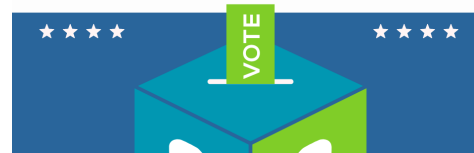
First pitch at 7:05pm

*Purchase general admission tickets in
advance or at the game*

**DEACON
ELECTION**

**AUGUST 4TH
AFTER WORSHIP**

JEREMY DAVIS, GARY HOLLEY, JIMMIE LEWIS,
MARSHALL MCCALLIE, CHRIS SMITH



I try not to talk about foster care an obnoxious amount at church. After all, "foster care" is not what I am, it's what I do. And it's not even all that I do, it's just a part of the whole. But after this past week, I felt moved to use my space in the newsletter article this month to do just that.

On Wednesday of this past week I watched a movie called "Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot". It was a movie produced by a Christian entertainment company and the content matter was fully about foster care and adoption. It was a dramatic re-telling of a real life story... a community in East Texas – "Possum Trot" – that got on board the train of taking care of all the orphans they could. Unsurprisingly, it was a church that was at the center of the movement. A woman and her husband (the pastor) took a large step of faith, and dominoes of faithful obedience continued to fall until... at the end of the movie... it was revealed that there were no orphans waiting on a home within 100 miles of Possum Trot. It was impossible to watch this movie and not be moved. At one of the climactic moments, the Baptist church pastor sat across the desk from the social worker and said: "We want to take the kids no one else wants".

And then this past Saturday, our church got to flex its "neighborly love" muscles and partner with Families 4 Families; a local foster care agency. We hosted over 20 foster children for several hours on Saturday morning to love on the foster parents and give them a much-deserved respite. And yeah... some of the kids were challenging. Some of them exhibited difficult behaviors. But all of them have experienced stuff in their short lives that I've still never dealt with as a full-grown adult. And haven't we all been challenging and difficult at times?

Katie and I have learned a lot in the last year plus of being foster parents. A lot of what we have learned is that "Baby P" is probably the easiest foster baby imaginable. But that isn't a true representation of what foster care life is like... it's wildly difficult. It's painful. And it's heartbreaking. So why would anyone sign up for it? If we think it's so we can be play the role of the "Savior" in the life of a child, we have it wrong... it's actually because we realize that we have far more in common with the foster children than we do with Christ. Because of our sin, we were the ones no one wanted. But God first loved us. And His love has allowed us to become a vessel of that love and to "visit widows and orphans in their distress" (James 1:27) When I think about that town of Possum Trot... I think of Harlem, and I ask myself: "why not us"? It is a big, scary call. But it is so worthwhile.

-Evan

Coffee with Carson



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

**Tuesday, August 27th
8:30AM**

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