

September CALENDAR

Sept 1	Sunday School 9:45AM Morning Worship 11:00AM Church Luncheon 12:15PM
Sept 2	CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED
Sept 4	AWANA 6:15PM Youth 6:45PM OASIS 6:45PM
Sept 7	Men's Breakfast 9:00AM <i>at Red Oak Manor</i>
Sept 8	Sunday School 9:45AM Morning Worship 11:00AM
Sept 11	AWANA 6:15PM Youth 6:45PM OASIS 6:45PM
Sept 12	2nd Thursday Rehearsal 6:00PM
Sept 15	Sunday School 9:45AM Morning Worship 11:00AM Church Luncheon 12:15PM
Sept 18	AWANA 6:15PM Youth 6:45PM OASIS 6:45PM
Sept 22	Sunday School 9:45AM Morning Worship 11:00AM <i>Communion during service</i> Deacons Meeting 12:15PM
Sept 24	Coffee with Carson 8:30AM
Sept 25	AWANA 6:15PM Youth 6:45PM OASIS 6:45PM
Sept 29	Sunday School 9:45AM

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

09-06 Gary & Margaret Wilkes	09-01 Landen Lewis
09-07 Tripp & Kelly Lonergan	09-02 Jimmie Lewis
09-07 Emmett & Leslie Perdue	09-02 Andrea Allen
09-13 Raymond & Kelly Hawkinberry	09-05 Emmett Perdue
09-22 Terry & Tara Cooper	09-07 Taylor Camp
09-24 Brian & Sheri Murphy	09-08 Kristie Dozier
09-25 Russ & Amber Lewis	09-11 Jackson Lonergan
	09-15 Rachael Stolte
	09-19 Joe Jolley
	09-22 Ken Sweatman
	09-24 Bob Knight
	09-24 Rebekah Dickerson
	09-24 Stefenie McCallie
	09-25 Connie Storey
	09-26 Jordan Whitaker
	09-27 Robin Curcie
	09-30 Tommy Jones
	09-30 Kylie McCallie

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

FINANCIALS

as of August 21, 2024

Actual Expenses YTD \$237,886
Actual Received YTD \$245,664

Deacon of the Month

Bob Brown
706-691-3200

CONNECTIONS

September 2024

September

The Pastor's Desk

This month marks the official beginning of another church year. For most of us though, that new season of ministry feels like it really starts with the resumption of school. Either way, we are in the midst of a new season. And often times with new seasons comes change. This year is no different. I suspect many of you have experienced change on some level in your own life. Perhaps you have a child who has just started at a new school or who went to college. Maybe you are expecting a new child. It could be that you have started a new job or maybe it's something as (in)significant as a new quarterback for your favorite football team. No matter how great or small the change is, the reality is few of us enjoy change.

Over the past 150 years Harlem Baptist has endured a lot of change. But, if things had remained the same over the past 150 years, HBC would cease to exist. If she had somehow managed to stay stationary, we would be a church without the conveniences of indoor plumbing, air conditioning, and the telephone. I suspect we are all incredibly grateful for those changes. In seasons marked with change, it is important to remember that (outside of Christ) the one constant in life is change. And yes, there are some changes that are less than ideal, but many changes that occur are good. And I would propose for you that one of the best changes that the church experiences is growth. Part of our mission statement is to "make disciples." The process of making disciples involves life change. It begins with people making a decision to follow Christ. That decision then leads to spiritual growth. And when individuals are growing spiritually, both the global Church and the local church grows numerically. The process of making disciples is at its core a growth process. So if we are doing our job as a local church- we will see growth. And as we all know, growth leads to change.

This is where many people struggle in the local church. This is particularly true of individuals who have been present for a long time. It can be hard to see the faces of your church change. It can be difficult to watch the way we worship change. For some it may even be frustrating to see the number of individuals filling "your" pew on any given Sunday. But friends, we need to remember that this growth and the resulting changes are signs that we are fulfilling the commission that Christ has for us to do. And if we are going to continue to faithfully carry out our mission, then we need to come to expect, and joyfully anticipate, change and growth.

Friends, I do not know what God has in store for HBC in the next season of her ministry. But I promise, that if we faithfully "Love God, Love People, and Make Disciples", then there will continue to be growth and there will continue to be change. As we grow and as we change may we choose daily to welcome growth and change with open arms. Because we know that growth in our local body means growth in the Kingdom! Thanks be to God for what he is doing at HBC!

*Press on!
Carson*

Church News

150TH Cookbooks

Cookbooks are here! Each Cookbook cost \$20 each and shipping can be arranged for an additional cost.

WE WILL BE CLOSED ON LABOR DAY



CHURCH OFFICES WILL
BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND

Mena

SEPTEMBER 1
(MEDIA)
GRILLED CHICKEN
& FIXINGS

SEPTEMBER 15
(PRE-K)
FRIED FISH/CHICKEN
& FIXINGS

NEXT STEPS LUNCHEON

Want to learn more about HBC? All newcomers are invited for a lunch following our worship service on September 29th.
Meal and Childcare provided.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, September 7th
at 9:00am
Red Oak Manor
Harlem, GA



Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24

As Jesus spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well, they discussed the different ways that their two nations worshipped. Astounded at Jesus' knowledge of her life, she immediately goes on the defensive. "I can see you are a prophet. We worship God, but you Jews tell us we do it all wrong, because we worship at the mountain rather than in Jerusalem." She's deflecting; she's thinking, *Maybe I can get this weird Jewish guy into a debate so he'll stop bothering me about my past....* And it was a smart play. Historically speaking, Jews insisted on the priority of worshipping in Jerusalem, yet there is no specification to this in the Old Testament. Therefore, because of the animosity between these two nations, Samaritans established their on practice of worshipping on Mount Gerizim (where Moses blessed the Israelites in Deuteronomy 11).

But Jesus astounds her even more when he declares that neither the mountain nor the temple were what mattered, but the heart of the worshipper (vs. 21-22). Too often, we church folk feel as though worship has to be one kind of way, because it is what we know, what is familiar, what is loved. It is hard for us to move past feeling off kilter when the worship we're presented with is unfamiliar or isn't something we particularly like.

A few weeks ago I attended a Christian night of worship concert. I was looking forward to hearing some well-known music, but first, we were given a surprise opener: a new Christian rapper who is becoming more well-known in the field. But what impressed me to no end was watching an elderly couple sitting two rows ahead of us, with their hands raised in worship and praise throughout the entire set. The words were on the screen (to a point), but even if they didn't understand what was being said, these folks didn't care. They knew by reputation of the artist alone that Jesus was being preached in song, that many generations of lives were being touched, and they were getting to participate. But I don't know if even that was more impressive to me than the parents with two children, probably 4 and 6 years old, who brought their kids to worship...and they were PREPARED. They had snacks, and entertainment, and sound reducing headphones, and you name it. Those kids were comfortable and having a blast. And they knew half of the words of the headliner's songs. It was obvious that these parents poured worship into those kids' lives. Worship was taking place across at least 4 generations in that room, and the style or the music didn't matter.

Sometimes, we need to stop worrying about where and what of worship, and get busy making sure our hearts are tuned in anyway. We must choose to worship in Spirit and in truth each and every day, no matter what.

-Rebekah

Deacon Meeting

SEPTEMBER 22ND
AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE



We are needing volunteers for the upcoming Oliver Hardy Festival to help with parking and to provide refreshments. If you are interested in participating please contact the church office.

Coffee with Carson

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

Tuesday, September 24th
8:30AM



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



"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." - Ephesians 4:29

Sometimes in the church we have a habit of filtering our speech through a small list of "don't"s... you know what I mean. **Don't** use "cuss" words. **Don't** call people mean names. **Don't** gossip. **Don't** swear on the Bible, etc. To be certain, this is in step with the first part of Ephesians 4:29. It is good and right to apply a set of culturally appropriate and practical rules to guard our mouths from unwholesome talk. But the second part of Ephesians 4:29 establishes a higher standard for Christians and their speech patterns.

Notice the word "**only**"... we are instructed to **ONLY** speak words that are helpful for building others up according to their needs. What would this look like in practice?

Many of you are probably unaware that Katie and I recently began a big home renovation project. And I mean, a BIG one. We are closing in our carport and making it a new bedroom suite so that we will go from 3BD/2BA to 4BD/3BA. This is an important step as we prepare ourselves for the future growth of our family. I bring this up because – left to our own devices – Katie and I are in no way capable of completing this new construction project. We asked plenty of people for advice on the best way to finance such a project. We asked for expert opinions on the best way to draw up a blueprint. And now that those preparatory steps have been completed, the labor begins. Only we don't have the skills and abilities necessary to do the work. Nor do we have the know-how. Or the appropriate tools. So last week Katie's stepfather (Scott) took an entire week off of work (he lives in Florida!) to come up here, and – while we were working at our own jobs – he stayed home and worked about 10 hours a day on building this new bedroom out of the existing carport. It is amazing to be loved in such a sacrificial way. And each day, we would come home from work, pull into our driveway and we would see the progress that had been made that day while Scott was busy building up the new look for our home.

We felt so incredibly grateful and so thoroughly encouraged by the whole thing. Each night we both just wanted to praise Scott for his efforts on our behalf and we reminded him over and over again the incredible difference he was making in our life; this would be a significant and beneficial thing for our lives for years to come. What a wonderful metaphor of what it would be like to "build others up" with our words. **We are laying the groundwork and preparing a better life for others around us all by the way we speak.** Every conversation is an opportunity to love, encourage, strengthen, protect, and provide for the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Ephesians 4:29 sets a much higher standard for our speech than simply: "Avoid the four letter words." It is directing us to be construction workers as we build one another up. I pray that moving forward, we are all up for this challenge.

-Evan

Now is the perfect time to join a Sunday School or Small Group. To find a list of groups visit the welcome center or speak to Carson.

MORE
INFO