

# December CALENDAR

December 1		
Sunday School		9:45AM
Morning Worship		11:00AM
<i>Sue Whiddon Building Fund</i>		
Church Luncheon		12:15PM
Deacons Meeting		1:00PM
December 4		
AWANA		6:15PM
Youth		6:45PM
OASIS		6:45PM
December 5		
Women's Christmas Event		6:30PM
December 7		
Men's Breakfast		9:00AM
<i>at Red Oak Manor</i>		
December 8		
Sunday School		9:45AM
Morning Worship		11:00AM
Baby Shower		
for Brenna Grooms		2:00PM
December 11		
AWANA Performance		6:30PM
Youth		6:45PM
December 13		
Pre-K Christmas Program		6:00PM
December 14		
Community Stocking Shop	10:00AM	
<i>Volunteers arrive at 8:30AM</i>		
December 15		
Sunday School		9:45AM
Morning Worship		11:00AM
Church Luncheon		12:15PM
Youth Christmas Party		5:30PM
December 18		
Youth		6:45PM
OASIS		6:45PM
December 22		
Sunday School		9:45AM
Morning Worship		11:00AM
December 24		
Christmas Eve Services		4:00PM
		6:00PM
December 25		
CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED AND NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES		
December 29		
Sunday School		9:45AM
Morning Worship		11:00AM
<i>Family Worship-No BLAST</i>		

## 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

12-03	Daniel & Rebekah Dickerson	12-01	Jennifer Guy
12-11	Randy & Stephanie Lewis	12-01	Raven Truitt
12-14	Wesley & Kacee Morris	12-06	Annette Moore
12-15	Kevin & Valerie Allen	12-06	Shirley Tankersley
12-17	Tony & Dianne Mundy	12-06	Liza Davis
12-19	Carson & Jeniffer Britt	12-06	Brandy Storey
12-21	Ryan & Jennifer Guy	12-10	Brigitte Cozart
12-22	Randall & Ruth Hill	12-11	Wil Hardy
12-24	Jimmy & Shirley Tankersley	12-12	Wesley Morris
		12-15	Sadie Trobaugh
		12-16	Lyndey Moore
		12-17	Leanna Williams
		12-19	Randy Sawyer
		12-25	Nancy Morrison
		12-26	Brandi Morrison
		12-27	Hope McClellan
		12-28	Raley Truitt
		12-28	Chris Smith
		12-29	Donna Knighton

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



**Sunday, January 19th**  
**Informational/Interest meeting for Guinea Mission**  
**Trip this June immediately following service.**

### FINANCIALS

as of November 26, 2024

Actual Expenses YTD \$288,933  
Actual Received YTD \$303,287

# CONNECTIONS



**December 2024**

## The Pastor's Desk

The gospel of Luke, which records the bulk of the Biblical Christmas narrative, begins with the gospel writer telling his reader the purpose of his writing. The gospel writer says this, "Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught" (Lk 1:1-4, NIV).

When I read this passage recently, it was the last phrase that caught my attention. Luke is writing to help his readers "know the certainty" of all that they have been taught by those who were eyewitnesses to the life and ministry of Christ. In the world of science, certainty is centered on proof. Things that are proven to be true are called laws. But those that are not or cannot be proven are called theories. When we think about the Christmas story I wonder how many still wonder if this whole seemingly impossible story is nothing more than a "theory" created by a handful of religious extremists. Could it be that the "eyewitnesses" that Luke referred to in Luke 1 were no more than a handful of Jewish men who were tired of waiting on the Messiah so they made all of this up? I'm sure there are some who would think that this is likely and that the birth narrative, because it is "unproven", is nothing more than a false narrative. But Luke writes to help bring certainty to the hearts and minds of his readers. In a world where truth is increasingly subjective, how do we find certainty in the unlikely story of Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection?

Did you know that Luke probably never met Jesus himself? And still he had the certainty to record the life of Christ based on what he had been told from those eyewitnesses. I was recently reminded in my quiet time that "[Luke] was willing to do the hard work of researching written records and interviewing the people who had been with Jesus." It took hard work and the leading of the Holy Spirit for Luke to record an account that would help bring certainty about Christ to his readers. And I suspect, because of Luke's faithful work and because of the Spirit's work in the lives of Luke's readers, that certainty was attained by many people. It is unfortunate that certainty doesn't always last. Doubts have this tendency to creep into our minds and we may even find ourselves losing faith.

As we walk through this Christmas season, how firm and secure does your faith in what you've read and been taught about Jesus feel? Are you in a season of doubt and faithlessness? If so, let me encourage you to spend some extra time studying God's word this season. Let me encourage you to pray diligently and ask the Spirit to renew your confidence and strengthen your foundations in Him this season. May we all be reminded in this season of the One who came who IS the truth!

LOVE GOD

LOVE PEOPLE

MAKE DISCIPLES

*Press on!  
Carson*

## Church News



# Community STOCKING SHOP

In the wake of hurricane Helene, we want to help make Christmas easier on our local families. HBC will host a Community Stocking Shop on **DECEMBER 14TH AT 10:00AM** while supplies last. Parents will be able to stuff stockings at \$5 each per child while children will participate in holiday activities. All proceeds will benefit the hurricane relief efforts.

**\*\*VOLUNTEERS ARRIVE AT 8:30AM\*\***



**CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE**

**DECEMBER 11TH**

**AT 6:30PM**

(LIGHT SUPPER SERVED AT 6:00PM)

**FAMILY CRAFT  
AFTER PROGRAM**

**CHRISTMAS PARADE**

**DECEMBER 14TH**

**MEET BEHIND CHURCH  
AT 5:00PM & PICK UP BEHIND  
CHURCH AFTER PARADE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
Services**

**4:00PM | 6:00PM**



*Mena*

**DECEMBER 1**  
(COMMUNITY STOCKING SHOP)  
**STIR FRY & FIXINGS**

**DECEMBER 15**  
(MEDIA)  
**PORK CHOPS & FIXINGS**



Christmas season is upon us, and already I'm feeling the pressure. Making lists, planning events, maneuvering through family gatherings, and praying for enough rest. It's easy to get bogged down in the gotta-donows during this season. There is so much to do and be at. But there is a part of me that also thrills at this time of year - the steady flow of Christmas themed plans and beautiful lights and some of my favorite music. It is easy to let either the busy schedule or the commercialized atmosphere distract us from what is truly important.

"Today I bring you good tidings, of great joy, which shall be for all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

The entirety of who we are as believers is summed up in these short verses. Christ, our Savior, our Lord, came into the world... for the whole world. He came humbly and without fanfare. He came for the high king and the lowly shepherd. He came for each and every single person we will encounter throughout this season. He came for your sweet children, and your grumpy great Aunt Muriel. He came for the overworked cashier at Walmart and the snarky customer in front of you who took the last Funko pop figure you needed to finish your grandkids wish list. He came for the foster kid who longs for their own family, and the great-grandmother with 4 generations surrounding her. For the homeless. For the refugee. For the CEO. For the President.

He came and he didn't care where we come from... only that we come TO Him...

Let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas...that Christ, "who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2)

May our reflection of who Christ is and who He came for inform and excite our worship during this beautiful holiday season.

O Come Let Us Adore Him.

-Rebekah



# CHRISTMAS at HBC

**WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT**  
December 5th at 6:30PM

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
December 7th at 9:00AM

**AWANA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
December 11th at 6:30PM

**COMMUNITY STOCKING SHOP**  
December 14th at 10:00AM

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
December 15th at 5:30PM

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
December 24th at  
4:00PM and 6:00PM

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Church Offices Closed and  
No Wednesday Activities

**NEW YEARS DAY**  
Church Offices Closed and  
No Wednesday Activities



Baby Shower in Honor of  
*Brenna Grooms*

**DECEMBER 8TH**  
2:00pm-4:00pm

Register on [Babylist.com](http://Babylist.com)



I love Christmas hymns. And one of my very favorites is "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing". In my opinion, it is one of the most theologically dense and powerful hymns out there. Consider the following words from verse 3:

"Mild He lays His glory by;  
Born that man no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth."

What a succinct and profound explanation of the Gospel story... wrapped up in a celebratory song about the coming of the Christchild.

In just 26 words, this Christmas hymn reminds us of:

- Christ's lowly nature and His willful humbling to be born a baby in a manger... even though he was in very nature, God. The glory that is rightfully His He laid aside to be born in a feeding trough.

- The truth out of 2 Peter 3:9... that the Lord does not want any to perish. Christ's birth was a mission to do away with eternal death once and for all; the Sacrifice of all sacrifices.

- The resurrected life. For true believers, we are buried with Christ in death and raised again to new life in His glorious resurrection. We cannot control the circumstances of our "first birth"... and we all are helpless to overcome our sin nature and our propensity to rebel against God's heart. But because of Jesus' coming, we can shed our original selfish nature and be clothed in righteousness. We are reborn into the family of God.

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This Christmas season, I pray that you and your family will carry around a joyous song in your hearts, because indeed... Christmas is a time of much joy. But beyond that, I pray that as we sing songs together in corporate worship throughout the month, you will take time to stop and think deeply about the wondrous Biblical truths that we are celebrating as we join in song. Our world desperately needs to know that Christ was "born that man no more may die." May that song – in one form or another – never leave our lips.

-Evan

**COFFEE WITH CARSON<sup>^</sup>**  
**WILL RESUME IN  
JANUARY**



**MEN'S  
BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, December 7th**

**at 9:00am**

Red Oak Manor  
Harlem, GA