

January CALENDAR

January 1	CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED & NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES	
January 5	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
January 8	AWANA Resumes	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
January 9	2nd Thursday (Music Rehearsal)	6:00PM
January 11	Men's Breakfast at Red Oak Manor	9:00AM
January 12	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
January 15	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
January 19	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Info meeting for mission trip to Guinea	
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
January 22	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
January 25	Harlies Family Ministry Volunteer Banquet	5:00PM
January 26	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Deacons Meeting	12:15PM
	Church Conference	6:00PM
January 28	Coffee with Carson at Red Oak Manor	8:30AM
January 29	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

01-15	Roger & Nancy Kubeck	01-04	Gary Wilkes
01-22	Tommy & Susi Lumley	01-05	Tommy Lumley
01-23	Chris & Tiffany Gurley	01-07	Marshall McCallie
01-26	Terry & Carol Carter	01-08	Casey Allen
		01-10	Benjie Moore
		01-14	Tiffany Gurley
		01-16	Amber Lewis
		01-17	Terry Cooper
		01-18	Kelly Hawkinberry
		01-18	Taylor Allen
		01-19	Claudia Rodriguez
		01-20	Gwen Hardy
		01-25	Kathy Holley
		01-26	Parks Ellis
		01-26	Reece Stolte
		01-27	Kyle Knight
		01-28	Preston Ellis
		01-30	Chase Sherbon
		01-31	Marcy Sawyer

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

Save the Date: March 15th– Women's Retreat

FINANCIALS

as of December 23, 2024

Actual Expenses YTD \$350,693
Actual Received YTD \$351,576

CONNECTIONS

Happy New Year

January 2025

The Pastor's Desk

Generally, during the month of January I spend some time looking ahead. I spend some time wishing, hoping, and setting goals for the New Year. I have a tendency to cling to the words of the prophet Isaiah who says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" In some ways, this text does call us to look forward and to take hold of the promise that God is "doing a new thing." This passage calls us to be hopeful and to anticipate the good things that God is going to do. However, the reason we have the ability to be hopeful and to anticipate God's future work in our lives is because of God's faithfulness to us in the past. This is why we see so many Old Testament texts that call the nation of Israel to "remember" what God did in their lives. The evidence of God's past work in our lives is the foundation of our future hope. So, if we are to look into the New Year with great anticipation then we do so with the memory of God's past action.

This season, as you begin 2025 I want to encourage you to spend time reflecting on where you saw God's faithfulness to you in 2024. For some of you identifying His faithfulness will be pretty easy. If you experienced the birth of a baby, a new job, a successful surgery, retirement, or graduation you will easily be able to see God's work. But I know that there are many who have had difficulties in 2024 and for you, it may be more difficult to see God's work in your life. If you can relate to this, let me encourage you to reflect on the "small" victories. Perhaps you saw God's faithfulness in the support of friends and family during a season of loss or illness. Maybe you saw God's grace or provision after an accident or job loss. It could be that you are walking into 2025 with some unresolved circumstances or conflicts. If you can relate to any of these situations it may be challenging to see God's provision. And yet, I promise, if you spend time reflecting and praying through the past year the Spirit will remind you of God's work in the midst of those trials.

As we move into 2025 my prayer is that we will have the eyes to see God's work in and through us. I pray that whether we are in seasons of "feast" or in seasons of "famine" that we will know that our God is for us. I pray that we will commit to remind one another and to share with one another the goodness of our God always. And finally, I pray that we will eagerly anticipate the good plans that our God has for us both individually and corporately.

Happy New Year!

Press on!
Carson

LOVE
GOD

LOVE
PEOPLE

MAKE
DISCIPLES

Church News



INFORMATIONAL/INTEREST MEETING: MISSIONS TRIP TO GUINEA

Following worship service on January 19th, there will be a meeting held for those interested or wanting more information on the upcoming mission trip to Guinea in June.

Mena

JANUARY 5
(WOMEN'S MINISTRY)
MEXICAN BUFFET

JANUARY 19
(YOUTH MINISTRY)
FISH/CHICKEN & FIXINGS



RESUMES
JANUARY 8TH

CHURCH CONFERENCE

JANUARY 26TH
AT 6:00PM

2ND THURSDAY

MUSIC REHEARSALS

JANUARY 9TH
6:00PM-8:00PM



"There isn't much that I can do, but I can share my bread with you, And sometimes a sorrow, too, as on our way we go. There isn't much that I can do, but I can sit an hour with you, and I can share a joke with you, and sometimes share reverses, too, as on our way we go."

There isn't much that I can do, but I can share my flowers with you, and I can share my books with you, and sometimes share your burdens, too, as on our way we go. There isn't much that I can do, but I can share my songs with you, and I can share my mirth with you, and sometimes come and laugh with you, as on our way we go.

There isn't much that I can do, but I can share my hopes with you, and I can share my fears with you, and sometimes shed some tears with you, as on our way we go. There isn't much that I can do, but I can share my friends with you, and I can share my life with you, and I can share my Lord with you, and oftentimes a prayer or two, as on our way we go."
-Author Unknown

As we move into a new year, my prayer is that I become better at the ministry of presence. Of being there when a need arises, even if and especially if I don't have a solution to help. I want to show up without being asked. I want to do what is needed without telling someone, "Let me know how I can help." I've found that in the hardest moments of trials or grief or sorrow, it is challenging to articulate what you need, and that the greatest gifts are those given in sincerity of heart to help, even if they aren't sure what to do.

I recently looked at some ministry demographics for our area, and one particular fact stuck out to me. Of the top three things that local people (within a 5 mile radius of HBC) are looking for in a church, one is warm and friendly encounters, and another is the opportunity to develop personal relationships. Hurricane Helene only highlighted this reality: people are struggling, and lonely, and hurting. Being there for them is something we CAN do, both inside and outside our church body. Whether it is a meal or a card or a prayer or a text, the ministry of presence is sorely needed in our world today.

I pray that as we enter 2025, HBC will be a church that walks alongside our community during whatever storms life brings, and that we'll befriend them during the good times, as on our way we go.

-Rebekah

DEACONS

Meeting

January 26th
After worship service



HARLIES FAMILY MINISTRY VOLUNTEER BANQUET

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH
5:00pm

If you received an invitation, be sure to RSVP immediately!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 11th
at 9:00am
Red Oak Manor
Harlem, GA



***If my wife reads this, I hope she doesn't ring my neck when I get home! Recently Katie and I were given some cookies for Christmas. Chocolate chip and M&M. Man oh man, they were delicious. The cookies were given in a plastic holiday container, and it seemed fairly evident to me that the person who gifted us with the cookies intended for us to keep the container. But when we finished the cookies (it did NOT take long), my wife insisted I returned the container. So I relented and returned the container.

What does this short story have to do with anything? In Christ, we all have been given a gift. The best gift, in fact. The Light of the World, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace came into the world to bring a path of salvation for all the unrighteous. The atonement of sins, and redemption through Jesus' blood... Christ came in order to see "God and sinners reconciled". This gift – the gift of salvation – is achievable only through faith upon the One who provided the sacrifice of His shed blood. But so many of us try to "add" our good deeds on top of God's grace expressed through the old, rugged cross. You know what that's kinda like? It's kinda like eating the cookies and returning the container!

It's important to note – this is a learned behavior. Many of us were recently around little ones opening presents around a Christmas tree. I bet none of you witnessed a child turn to their parents or grandparents and say: "Are you sure? This is too much, I can't accept this great gift!" I wonder if this is partially what the Bible is speaking of when it mentions a "childlike faith". Children have faith that a gift is theirs fully and completely, with no strings attached. But as we grow older and mature into adults, years of social conventions and life lessons about etiquette and polite manners become ingrained in us and we feel a sense of indebtedness that – at times – prevents us from accepting the generosity of others.

But we must always be mindful not to reject the generosity of the loving Father. Salvation comes from Christ alone, through grace alone, and it requires our faith alone. There is nothing we can do to be more or less deserving of Heaven. And there is nothing we should do to try to curry more favor from our co-Heir. We simply enjoy the gift. So eat the cookies... and when you are done, keep the container. God would not have it any other way.

-Evan

Coffee with Carson



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

Tuesday, January 28th
8:30AM

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