

# February CALENDAR

Feb 1	Men's Breakfast <i>at Red oak Manor</i>	9:00AM
Feb 2	Sunday School Morning Worship Church Luncheon Church Conference	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM 6:00PM
Feb 5	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
Feb 9	Sunday School Morning Worship <i>Communion During Service</i> Youth Super Bowl Party <i>hosted at the Powell House</i>	9:45AM 11:00AM 6:00PM
Feb 12	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
Feb 13	2nd Thursday <i>Music Rehearsal</i>	6:00PM
Feb 16	Sunday School Morning Worship Church Luncheon	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM
Feb 19	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
Feb 23	Sunday School Morning Worship Deacons Meeting	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:00PM
Feb 25	Coffee with Carson <i>at Red Oak Manor</i>	8:30AM
Feb 26	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 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

02-02	Jim & Trisha Laughery	02-02	Trisha Laughery
02-23	Don & Joy Ray	02-02	Nancy Kubeck
02-26	Randy & Marcy Sawyer	02-03	Jeremy Davis
		02-07	Carter Adams
		02-07	Alicia Fitzgerald
		02-17	Gary Holley

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

**Save the Date:**  
March 15th– Women's Retreat  
March 21st-22nd– Youth Lock In  
March 30th-Next Steps Luncheon

**FINANCIALS**  
Final 2024 Giving

Actual Expenses YTD \$362,402  
Actual Received YTD \$412,656

# CONNECTIONS



February 2025

## The Pastor's Desk

The 149<sup>th</sup> Psalm begins with these words: "Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people." (NIV) I suspect this is not the first time you've read this verse. In fact, the book of Psalms has numerous verses that call the reader to sing to or praise the Lord. It also has many verses that speak of the psalmists own praise to God. We can hardly read through more than two or three psalms without hearing words of praise or adoration given to God. It is as if the psalmist simply can't help but offer praise and adoration to his God.

Have you ever had that experience? Have you ever had an experience where your natural response was to offer praise to God? Or, is there a circumstance or situation where you feel naturally inclined to offer praise to God? I suspect that there have been a few moments in your life where you felt like the only appropriate thing to do was to praise the Lord. But, if you're like me, those moments come on seldom occasion. If this is true, how then do we become someone whose natural response, no matter the circumstance, is to praise God? I really don't know the answer to this question. But I do know that there are countless times in scripture when we are told to praise God. In many (if not most of those instances), the call to praise God is not an invitation. It is not a suggestion either. Rather, it is a command. Offering praise and worship to God is not optional – it is required. Now for some of us, this is not a problem at all. We love to come to worship each Sunday. We find joy in singing praises to God. We find encouragement in the public reading of his words. But there are others who struggle mightily with this. These individuals come to worship expecting to be entertained. They come to worship as a consumer rather than as a participant. The question that we should consider then, is how does one move from being a consumer to an active and joy-filled participant in worship?

Over the next month we are going to explore that very question in a sermon series on worship. And we will begin to answer this question by considering why we worship. Why does the psalmist in so many psalms seem to be naturally inclined to praise God? What does it take for you and me to get to that point? We are also going to consider how to worship. I suspect that most of us think we know "how" to worship. But I am not fully convinced of this. I think we as a church need to really assess what worship is and how we go about it. Perhaps we need to re-learn what worship is and how to go about worshiping. Then, finally, we will consider how worship affects our own lives and the lives of those around us.

As we move through the month of February – a month marked with love – let's focus on one of the ways that we best reveal our love for our heavenly Father. I look forward to worshipping alongside each of you this month!

*Press on!*  
Carson

LOVE  
GOD

LOVE  
PEOPLE

MAKE  
DISCIPLES

# Church News

## Mark your calendar!



### WOMEN'S RETREAT

MARCH 15TH | 10:00AM-2:30PM

More details coming soon!

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 2ND  
AT 6:00PM

## 2ND THURSDAY

MUSIC REHEARSALS

FEBRUARY 13TH  
6:00PM-8:00PM



**FEBRUARY 2**  
(MEDIA MINISTRY)  
HAMBURGER STEAK  
& FIXINGS

**FEBRUARY 16**  
(GUINEA MISSION TRIP)  
PORK CHOP  
& FIXINGS



Last week, I gleefully watched as the snow began to fall outside my window, ready for it to fill the ground with its fluffy-white joy. I love snow. It is one of the most soothing and peaceful things in the world to me to watch it come down, one flake at a time. But the temperature was still dropping and there wasn't a lot of moisture in the air; as the first flakes fell I began to worry that it wouldn't really

stick. (I've been disappointed by Georgia snow so many times before.) But as the yard began to become whiter, and the grass began to be covered, a thought came across my mind. Each and every one of those snowflakes was tiny – miniscule even. Alone they made no impact, no difference. Alone they would melt quickly and you wouldn't even know they had been there if you hadn't seen them fall.

*But together.* Together, the tens, hundreds, thousands, perhaps millions of tiny, almost imperceptible snowflakes can come together and fill the world with white – and bring with them both beauty and chaos. Together, they change things. Together, we can't help but notice them. Oh, church. So often we miss what God is showing us right before our very eyes. As we begin a new year, so many will start new habits of exercise or dieting, trying to fulfill resolutions they long to achieve, but they will stop after a few weeks because they are not seeing the impact. They aren't noticing a difference. But it's not one workout or 9 or 30 that really make us see the difference... it's the day in, day out consistency of workouts over a long period of time. Same with diets. Same with Bible reading. The same with prayer.

The next time you see snow falling, remember that it may only start with one snowflake, but if it continues, if they consistently fall, then you'll be walking in that winter wonderland all too soon. Much sooner than you realize. Our faith is built not by the big moments, but by the many, tiny, consistent moments of seeking God's face, of prayer, of worship and praise, of going to Him when it's hard, of lifting each other up, of choosing the right path anyway. Don't strive for perfection. The snow doesn't fall at exactly the same rate or size or quantity, yet its goal is still achieved. Strive for consistency. Strive for coming back when you falter. Strive that each day, each moment, is a new chance to keep doing all that God has called us to do.

May each and every snowfall in your life remind you of His love and all that He can do when we keep doing the small things every day.

-Rebekah

## DEACONS

### Meeting

February 23rd  
After worship service

## YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY

FEBRUARY 9TH | 6:00PM  
HOSTED AT THE POWELL HOME

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 1st  
at 9:00am  
Red Oak Manor  
Harlem, GA



**FOOD FOR KIDS**  
Continue to bring in  
items!



For this month's newsletter article, I'm going to be talking about my mom. As many of you know, my mother has been fighting breast cancer since October 2019. Over the last few weeks, it has become clear to the family that her fight is coming to an end. This is very sad, but we have peace that Mom's life was a very well lived; a life full of taking care of others and seeking to glorify God in all things. Both Jennifer and I are very appreciative of all the prayers you have lifted on our behalf and, most especially, on behalf of our families... who have no doubt felt pressed by the current situation.

As tough as the current circumstance is, it has afforded us the opportunity to spend more time in Savannah with my parents at their house. Spending this time in my parents' house – including doing a little bit of cleaning and organizing (because it's been very hard for them to maintain the house in recent months) – has put me in a unique situation; I have been surrounded by frogs.

Let me explain. At some point in my Mom's adult life, she decided that she loved frogs. More than anyone should love such ugly creatures. Going back probably about twenty-five years, my mother was outspoken about her appreciation for these jumpy jokers and so... people started gifting her with frogs. Throughout the years, there have been frog keychains, frog sticky notes, frog statuettes, frog yard ornaments, frog fountains, frog flower pots, frog blankets, frog sweaters, frog towels, etc. It is a fascination that is lost on me. I don't find anything cute or redeeming about the little blighters, but Mom sure loves them. I recognize this may sound a little crazy. And to be fair, my Mom probably does have a tiny little bit of "crazy" in her... but then again, don't we all? But before you write my mother off as someone who belongs in the loony bin, you need to know something else. If you were to ask my mom why she loves frogs so much, she would say they remind her to Fully Rely On God. I used to think this was a silly rationale. But now – as we seem to be very near the end of her earthly story – I can see that Mom really has been fully relying on God throughout the past 5+ years of her cancer journey. She has navigated the past few years with more grace and poise than I could have, that's for sure. Throughout her fight with illness, she has no doubt had to rely on God to sustain her from one day to the next. She's had to rely on God to provide her with peace, comfort, and rest in the face of fear, uncertainty, and physical pain. Even now, I know she is relying on God to take care of her family when she is no longer here to take care of us as she has done for so long. I might not get what she sees in those hoppy horrors, but I can at least appreciate how they have helped her choose to trust in the Heavenly Father. So I guess in the end, frogs aren't so bad after all.

Consider today as your reminder – whatever you are facing, fully rely on God to get you through it. FROG.

-Evan

## Coffee with Carson



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

Tuesday, February 25th  
8:30AM

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