

March CALENDAR

March 1	Men's Breakfast <i>Located in the FLC building</i>	9:00AM
March 2	Sunday School Morning Worship AWANA singing in service Church Luncheon	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM
March 5	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
March 9	Sunday School Morning Worship	9:45AM 11:00AM
March 12	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
March 13	2nd Thursday <i>Music Rehearsal</i>	6:00PM
March 15	Hurricane Helene Community Clean Up	8:00AM
March 16	Sunday School Morning Worship Church Luncheon Called Church Conference	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM 6:00PM
March 19	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
March 21	Youth Lock In	
March 23	Sunday School Morning Worship <i>Communion during service</i>	9:45AM 11:00AM
March 25	Coffee with Carson <i>At Red Oak Manor</i>	8:30AM
March 26	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
March 29	Women's Retreat	10:00AM
March 30	Sunday School Morning Worship Next Steps Luncheon	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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

03-02	Andre & Gayle Miller	03-01	Tripp Lonergan
03-12	Randall & Rosi Cook	03-02	Susi Lumley
03-25	Ben & Rachael Hill	03-03	Wesley Williams
		03-06	Elijah Rodriguez
		03-06	Joelle Jeffers
		03-10	Don Ray
		03-15	Wade McClellan
		03-15	Miguel Rodriguez
		03-16	Kathy Hollaway
		03-19	Jessie Arnold
		03-20	Brandi Lewis
		03-20	Gayle Miller
		03-22	Kathy Arrowood
		03-22	Kate Ellis
		03-28	Randy Lewis
		03-29	Wayne Allen

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



CAMP HARLEM JUNE 18-20

FINANCIALS AS OF FEBRUARY 27, 2025
Actual Expenses YTD \$66,892
Actual Received YTD \$61,587

CONNECTIONS

March 2025

The Pastor's Desk

Ever since our return from India the Britt family has gone through a pretty big transition. Trying to get used to having a new toddler in the house has come with challenges. Finding a daily rhythm as a family of five has been a bit bumpy. But we have made great strides. In fact, for nearly three weeks now, Davis has been sleeping pretty well in his crib in his own room. (To God be the Glory!) In fact he even goes down in his crib each night without hardly a fuss on most nights. Still, Jennifer and I usually sit in his room until he falls asleep. Although I've been tempted to catch a little bit of sleep during these sits, I have tried to be intentional to spend that time praying and listening to the Lord. For the most part, I have managed to make this happen.

In my lifetime, just finding time to sit down in prayer and with a listening posture has always been hard. I struggle mightily with focus. Anytime I sit still I find myself thinking about what I need or want to be doing. I often find myself pulling out my phone and checking my email, reading the news, or looking for deals on Amazon. Other times I remember something I needed to tell or discuss with Jennifer so I would go find her to have that conversation. In spite of the many years that I have worked to find time for meaningful prayer and meditation, I have failed to succeed with any consistency. However, over the past few days as I have reflected on what has helped me to be more successful in this and I recognize that it now comes down to one thing. I have managed to eliminate distractions. When putting Davis down my environment is completely out of the norm. I am sitting in a dark room, with a noise machine on, and my phone is in a different room. For many this might be the perfect atmosphere for falling asleep and this may not be the ideal situation for you. But what still applies to us all is the need to create a distraction free environment so that we can have some quality time with the Lord.

When we put in the effort to find a distraction free place and time to spend quality time with the Lord we are following the pattern of Christ. We see multiple times when Jesus retreated from his norm to spend time with the Father in prayer and meditation. In fact, Jesus began his ministry with 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness. Then, throughout his ministry, he often got away from the crowd, early in the morning to spend time with the Father. Jesus was intentional to find distraction free places to commune with the Lord.

Wednesday, March 5th, begins the season of Lent. This is a season leading up to Easter where Christ followers have historically placed added emphasis on fasting and prayer so as to more deeply grasp the sacrifice that Christ made for us on the cross. This is a season marked with confession, meditation, contrition, and sacrifice. This is a season that requires more time in prayer and meditation. And if that time is to be meaningful, if it is to have greater depth, then we must strive to find time each day to eliminate our distractions. As we walk through this season of lent, I want to encourage you to join me in eliminating the everyday distractions so that the Spirit of God can lead you into a deeper relationship with the Father.

Press on!
Carson

Church News

Mark your calendar!
WOMEN'S RETREAT
 MARCH 29TH | 10:00AM-2:30PM

CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE
March 16th
 6:00PM

Hurricane Helene
COMMUNITY CLEAN UP
 MARCH 15TH//8AM

Mena
MARCH 2
 (YOUTH)
 TURKEY WITH DRESSING
 & FIXINGS
MARCH 16
 (GUINEA MISSION)
 GRILLED CHICKEN
 & FIXINGS

HBC Pre-K Enrollment

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will open for HBC members beginning March 30th. Registration kick-off for the public will be Thursday, April 3rd from 5:00pm-6:30pm.



TO SING DURING MORNING WORSHIP MARCH 2ND

2ND THURSDAY
 MUSIC REHEARSALS

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

Last fall, our ladies ministry team sat down and decided that we want to create a theme for this year's women's activities. Thinking about the daily challenges our ladies face, we decided that theme would be "Real Life: Acknowledging Needs and Breaking Barriers." We had the goal in mind of bringing out of the shadows those challenges that women face daily but do not always feel like there is a place they can bring their struggles and pain, without judgement. Beyond that, we knew that only by speaking of needs and hurts out loud that the social barriers which prevent true, authentic relationships could be broken down.

And then 5 months ago, a hurricane swept through our small town overnight and left us with even more weight to carry. Even now, with all of the progress made, there is barely a street in Harlem you can ride down without seeing some sort of damage. Many are still waiting for repairs and for contractors to have room for them in their schedule. Others are struggling because they are unable to live in their home, or are fighting with insurance, or simply just tired from all that has happened. The mental, emotional, and physical toil that we ladies are carrying for our families is so heavy, and, in case you need to hear this: you are not alone in that battle.

On Saturday, March 29th, we will have our Two Things Women's Retreat. The goal of this day is simple: bring women together for love and fellowship, and lovingly acknowledge various aspects of life that are not always talked about, while finding Biblical truths to stand on and practical advice to work with.

I hope you will join us as we laugh, learn, eat some delicious food, and so much more! Please sign up today!!



Women's Retreat
 2025

-Rebekah

COMMUNION
 MARCH 23RD

NEXT STEPS
 Newcomer Luncheon

HBC invites all newcomers to join us for lunch following our worship service on March 30th. This a great opportunity for you to come and ask the staff any questions you have about HBC or to simply get to know them and the church a little better. Let us know if you plan on joining us by texting your name and number of people attending to 706-528-6469.

Youth Lock In
 March 21-22
 7pm-7am

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 1st
 at 9:00am
 Located in the FLC
 Guest Speaker: Steve White



Over the past few years, I have taken a few baby steps towards limiting my consumption of news coverage from different media. Some of these steps have been difficult for me, because I am pretty curious by nature and I don't like to be ignorant of what is going on around me in the world. Also, I love history... and current events are "history" before they become historical.

But I've realized that following the news as closely as I have been isn't always good for me. In fact, sometimes trying to stay abreast of everything going on in our world leads me to despair. I can't just tune in for 20 minutes of TV news coverage and then carry on with life as normal... the evil, the greed, the corruption, the chaos, the conflict, and the malice stays with me long after I have changed the channel or gotten off Instagram. I carry that darkness with me as I go, and it clouds my vision. It negatively affects my mood. It fills me with worry and doubt. It robs my peace. But it only does those things because I have allowed it to.

Part of my growth as a person is understanding that I don't have all the answers. I can't fix all the things that I feel like are broken in the world. And I can't control how others think. What I can do is guard my heart, understanding that my heart affects all other areas of my life (Proverbs 4:23). If I allow darkness to dwell in my heart, my life will be worse off because of it.

There is a solution, though; a better way forward. I realize my great need to take the words of Colossians 3:1-3 to heart and to aim to live them out in my daily life... "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."

I often wonder: when people interact with me, do they experience me as someone whose life is hidden with Christ? Or do they see someone who is dragged down by the doom-and-gloom of the world? I desire to be a person filled with hope. I want to possess and display the joy of the Lord in all I say and do. And I want to be focused more on eternal things than on earthly things. But this is very hard, and I need your help. I need you to help keep me accountable to this. And I need your encouragement as my church family.

Thanks in advance!

*** Date to Remember*** Youth Lock-In; Friday March 21st @ 7:00pm – Saturday, March 22nd @ 7:00am

-Evan

Coffee with Carson



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

Tuesday, March 25th
 8:30AM

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