

April CALENDAR

April 2	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
April 3	2nd Thursday: Music Rehearsal	6:30PM
April 5	Men's Breakfast <i>At Red Oak Manor</i>	9:00AM
April 6	Sunday School Morning Worship Church Luncheon	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM
April 9	No Wednesday Activities	
April 13	Sunday School Morning Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9:45AM 11:00AM
April 16	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
April 17	Maundy Thursday <i>Communion Service</i>	7:00PM
April 19	Masters JR Tournament <i>At Putt-Putt Fun Center</i>	10:00AM
April 20	Easter Sunrise Service Sunday School Easter Worship Service	7:00AM 9:45AM 11:00AM
April 22	Coffee with Carson <i>At Red Oak Manor</i>	8:30AM
April 23	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM
April 27	Sunday School Morning Worship Deacons Meeting AWANA Spring Musical	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM 6:00PM
April 30	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

04-05	Jeremy & Liza Davis	04-01	Valerie Allen
04-10	Raymond & Sheila Fulcher	04-02	Raymond Fulcher
04-17	Casey & Andrea Allen	04-02	Leslie Arnold
04-18	Jordan & Grier Whitaker	04-05	Jim Laughery
04-18	Taylor & Kristen Camp	04-06	Harold Smith
04-30	Julian & Lynda Adams	04-09	Kirsten Sawyer
		04-10	Jerry Williams
		04-11	Rosie Cook
		04-11	Alan Hall
		04-12	Paige Fleming
		04-13	Summer Laughery
		04-15	Steve Camp
		04-19	Becky Windham
		04-21	Caleb Sawyer
		04-21	Rafael Diaz- Ortaga
		04-24	Dianne Mundy
		04-26	James Oliver
		04-27	Katy Arrowood
		04-27	Carson Britt

Upcoming Events:
May 11th– Mother's Day/Child Dedication
May 14th: That "Big" Spring Event at 6:00PM

FINANCIALS

AS OF MARCH 25, 2025

Actual Expenses YTD \$85,567
 Actual Received YTD \$77,286

CONNECTIONS



April 2025

The Pastor's Desk

In recent weeks I have spent a lot of time thinking about the changes that have occurred at HBC in my time here. Perhaps the most drastic change that has occurred is found in the faces that have changed over the past twelve years. Some have moved away or been led to join another local congregation. Many individuals are now walking in their heavenly home. There are some who long to attend church in person, but due to life's circumstances have been forced to stream our services each week from their own homes. The void left by these absences is simply irreplaceable. And while these losses have caused sadness for many we must also celebrate the variety of new faces that have arrived as well. And with these changing faces, God has reminded me of His great provision as well. Where voids of leadership were left the Spirit of God has risen up new leaders. Where holes in various ministries were found, the Lord has provided new volunteers. God has a way of giving us what we need and who we need when we need it. In fact, when I reflect on how God has provided for HBC in my time here, it's evident that God was often working behind the scenes when we were incapable of perceiving it. This makes me wonder what God may be up to in our current season at HBC that lies beyond our perception.

It doesn't take a very in depth study of scripture to recognize that the Spirit of God often moves in unforeseen ways. Just think about the Israelites' exit out of Egypt. Did anyone suspect that God was going to part the Red Sea? What about the daily provision of manna? Did anyone anticipate that provision coming? Knowing that God is often moving in unforeseen ways makes me wonder what He is currently up to in our midst. It makes me wonder what changes He may have in store for us at Harlem Baptist. Now I recognize that few people like change. But at some point every growing organization - church, school, or business - has to make necessary changes to accommodate that growth. Sometimes it means doing less so that you can do more. Other times it means adjusting the way things are done. In almost all cases it requires a cultural shift. And this is, in my experience, almost always the hardest part. We are a people who find comfort in the familiar. We have a tendency to get nostalgic about the way things used to be. But when we get caught up wishing that things were as they used to be we fail to recognize that if things remained as they were then we would miss out on the blessings that currently are. Friends, as we continue to walk into uncharted waters at HBC let me challenge you to embrace the shifts that will undoubtedly occur. The way we do ministry has evolved and will continue to evolve. The faces that fill our pews, hallways, and classrooms will continue to change. Just as spring ushers in the beauty of a changing environment so too is the Spirit of God leading us through a season of change at HBC. What a blessing it is to be able to walk alongside each of you as we join God on His mission in our community!

*Press on!
Carson*

Church News

AWANA SPRING MUSICAL

THE SALT COMPANY

SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH
AT 6:00PM
FLC



CAMP HARLEM VOLUNTEER INTEREST MEETING

On Sunday, April 6th after worship service there will be a meeting for those interested in volunteering at Camp Harlem this year.



APRIL 6
(GUINEA MISSION TRIP)
MEXICAN BUFFET & FIXINGS

APRIL 20
EASTER SUNDAY
NO LUNCHEON

MASTERS JR TOURNAMENT



Putt-Putt Fun Center
April 19th | 10AM



Two weeks ago my Mom's five-and-a-half year battle with cancer came to an end. It was an end that was covered in the grace, mercy, and victory that only the blood of Jesus Christ can provide. Even though Mom's homegoing means she is now fully clothed in righteousness, even though she is now relieved of her suffering, and even though she is now enjoying eternity worshipping God the Father, there is still a lot of sadness this side of Heaven.

For my Dad, myself, Katie, Jennifer, Carson, and my extended family... there is sadness. And that sadness will likely linger for days, weeks, and months to come. However, I want to say – from the bottom of my heart – thank you to my Harlem Baptist Church family for attending to us in the midst of our grief. You have shown me and my family the love of Christ over the past several weeks, and it has been very special. As we were going through a very hard time, your actions brought relief and comfort. I am still in disbelief about how many of you attended my mother's visitation and funeral services. You took off work, you made arrangements for your families, you put miles on your vehicles, you did whatever was necessary to be there for us and to shoulder our heavy burdens. And for that... I truly cannot thank you enough. I would be lying if I said I didn't still feel a heaviness, two and a half weeks on from Mom's passing. But if you were to peel back those layers of grief and mourning, you would find somewhere deep inside me an extraordinary appreciation and love for all of you and for the powerful way that you stood by our sides in a time of such loss. You bore powerful witness to the wonderful benefits of being a part of the local body of Christ, and I am incredibly grateful for the way in which you all rose up and loved me through this tough time.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

-Evan

April 6th– Camp Harlem Volunteer Interest Meeting after worship service.



NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES
APRIL 9TH

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.



2ND THURSDAY

MUSIC REHEARSALS

APRIL 3RD
6:30PM
(SCHEDULE CHANGE DUE TO SPRING BREAK)

Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.
Ecclesiastes 11:4-6

In leadership, you learn two things very early on – if you are willing to pay attention. First, you learn that people (including you) HATE CHANGE. You will never institute a change that everyone will like. In fact, more often than not, it requires some pretty hefty convincing that the change will be worth the pain. Secondly, you learn that there is one thing you wish the people you lead knew – that you don't change things because it's fun. It's not!!! It is always easier to keep the status quo, to roll along and let things be what they are. Doing so avoids conflict, keeps things simple, and makes your job easier. It also kills growth of any kind.

Not allowing change to happen means that you will become stagnant and complacent. Just as still water becomes gross, growing mold, gathering dirt, attracting mosquitos – so the person, family, business, or organization that refuses to change and shift as needed will become unusable. You will not grow if you do not allow changes. It's irrefutable. You cannot grow in your comfort zone. So change is not only inevitable, but necessary. However, there is hope for those of us (all of us) who wish things to stay calm and familiar, and that is this: God is sovereign, and we are not.

Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, reminds us in Ecclesiastes that, as followers of God, we are not to trust our eyes, our minds, our understanding, or our circumstances for clear direction on what, when, where or how change can and should occur. Instead, we are to trust in what God is doing and work alongside it to help it grow. Using the farming metaphor, he reminds us that the farmer must plant in faith – he must use wisdom and discernment for the best time to plant, what to plant, and how to care for the plants, absolutely. But he also must trust. Once the seeds are in the ground, he is working to maintain and cultivate – but he physically cannot make that plant grow. It is entirely in God's hands. But if the farmer has to wait for the perfect conditions to plant, then he'll never get that seed in the ground. It doesn't matter that he has the resources he needs to grow food – he must ACTUALLY plant the seed in order to see it grow. If he doesn't, his livelihood will be gone; his family will suffer or starve, and he will be left with nothing. It is the very definition of the adage, "Put your money where your mouth is."

What area of your life are you struggling with change that you see coming? Where do you feel like God is asking you to trust His plan and not your own, and are you too busy waiting for the "perfect season" to do what He is asking you to do? It's time to sow seeds of faith so that we can reap a crop of righteousness and joy. You will not always understand why God is asking for this change...but it will always be worth it.

-Rebekah



AT HARLEM BAPTIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday
April 13th at 11:00 PM

Maundy Thursday
Service & Communion
April 17th at 7:00 PM

Easter Sunrise Service
April 20th at 7:00 AM

Easter Worship Service
April 20th at 11:00 AM



Saturday, April 5th
at 9:00am

Located at Red Oak

Coffee with Carson



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

Tuesday, April 22nd
8:30AM

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

Child Dedication

SUNDAY, MAY 11TH



If you would like to dedicate your child, please contact the church office by April 27th.