

September CALENDAR

Sept 1	LABOR DAY-CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED	
Sept 3	MIDWEEK	6:30PM <i>Doors open for youth at 6:00pm</i>
Sept 6	Men’s Breakfast	9:00AM <i>At Red Oak Manor</i>
Sept 7	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
	Baby Shower for Sang & Shann Lee	2:00PM
Sept 10	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
Sept 14	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Next Steps Luncheon	12:15PM
	<i>All Newcomers are welcomed!</i>	
Sept 17	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
Sept 21	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
Sept 23	Coffee with Carson	8:30AM
	<i>At Red Oak Manor</i>	
Sept 24	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
Sept 27	Men’s Event	
Sept 28	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Deacons Meeting	12:15PM

Save the Date:

FALL FESTIVAL
October 27th

FINANCIALS

AS OF AUGUST 21, 2025

Actual Expenses YTD \$269,681
Actual Received YTD \$254,046

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Carson Britt
Pastor
Evan Powell
Minister of Youth and Children
Rebekah Dickerson
Communications and Connections Minister
Sang Lee
Worship Leader
Ashley Driggers
Administrative Assistant
Lindsey Rogers
HBC Pre-K Director

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Harlem, GA
Permit No. 8

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday

09-06	Dr. Gary & Margaret Wilkes	09-01	Landen Lewis
09-07	Tripp & Kelly Lonergan	09-02	Jimmie Lewis
09-07	Emmett & Leslie Perdue	09-02	Andrea Allen
09-13	Raymond & Kelly Hawkinberry	09-05	Emmett Perdue
09-16	Chase & Kandise Sherbon	09-07	Taylor Camp
09-22	Tara & Terry Cooper	09-08	Kristie Dozier
09-25	Russ & Amber Lewis	09-11	Jackson Lonergan
		09-15	Rachael Stolte
		09-19	Joe Jolley
		09-22	Ken Sweatman
		09-24	Bob Knight
		09-24	Rebekah Dickerson
		09-25	Connie Storey
		09-26	Jodran Whitaker
		09-27	Robin Curcie
		09-27	Ari Hoagland
		09-30	Tommy Jones

As we begin a new church year, we want to be praying over our church. Here are a few ways you can pray specifically over our church throughout the month.

- **OPEN HANDS**—God, I come with open hands and willing heart. Teach me to make space for Your will over my comfort.
- **CLEARING SPACE**—Father, show me what needs to go so I can make room for Your presence, peace, and purpose.
- **WELCOMING OTHERS**—Jesus, help me make room for others in my life—especially those who feel unseen or unwelcome.

CONNECTIONS

September 2025

The
Pastor’s
Desk

While the calendar may still say summer, we can feel the shift: fall is coming. And with it, football season kicks into high gear. High school games are already underway, college teams are taking the field, and the NFL season is right around the corner. There’s something exciting about watching a football game live—the roar of the crowd, the energy of the stadium, and the sense of shared purpose as fans rally behind their team. But let’s be honest: the live experience has its challenges. The weather doesn’t always cooperate. The view isn’t always ideal. And perhaps most challenging of all, the seats are close—often uncomfortably so. For some of us, being shoulder to shoulder with strangers is more draining than energizing.

Interestingly, I think this dynamic can reflect something deeper about how we navigate growth and community, even in the life of the church. As our community continues to grow, it’s natural to feel a little overwhelmed. We miss the “good old days” when everything felt familiar and close-knit. The temptation is to resist change, to cling to comfort, to retreat from the crowd.

But Scripture paints a different picture of God’s people. From the Old Testament to the New, we are called to be a people who *make room*. Leviticus reminds us: “*The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself...*” (Lev. 19:34, NIV) Paul urges the church in Rome: “*Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality... Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*” (Romans 12:13, 10) And of course, Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

These are not just lofty ideas—they are practical commands that shape how we welcome, include, and care for those around us. Yet if we’re honest, it’s not always easy. Sometimes we act as if there’s not enough room—in our pews, in our schedules, in our lives—for anyone new. But remember this: *Heaven is spacious*. Jesus tells us in John 14 that in His Father’s house there are many rooms. And Revelation gives us a beautiful picture of a vast multitude from every *nation, tribe, and language*, all gathered before God’s throne. God has made room for us—and now we’re invited to make room for others.

As we move through September, let’s embrace the spirit of hospitality. Invite someone to sit with you in worship. Welcome a visitor with a warm greeting. Share a meal with someone new. Be willing to stretch a bit—because in doing so, we reflect the generous, welcoming heart of God.

Let’s be a church where everyone can find a place.
Let’s be a people who make room.

Press on!
Carson

Church News



SEPTEMBER 7
(RENOVATIONS)
MEXICAN BUFFET

SEPTEMBER 21
(MEDIA)
GRILLED CHICKEN & FIXINGS



DOWNLOAD OUR NEW
CHURCH CENTER APP TO
STAY UP TO DATE!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A



IN HONOR OF

SANG & SHANN LEE

SEPTEMBER 7TH | 2PM
HOSTED IN THE FLC



REGISTERED AT BABYLIST.COM &
AMAZON WISH LIST

“Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:6–7

Hi Church Family,

Life today seems busier than ever. Between Harlem Java House, church staff work, and preparing the house for a newborn, the moment the alarm goes off in the morning it feels like the day doesn't stop. There are so many small things pulling for our attention. Even when we finally sit down at the end of the day, our minds are often still racing. I think many of us know what it feels like to lie in bed exhausted but unable to find rest.

In moments like these, peace can feel almost impossible. The world tells us that peace comes when life is organized, when the to-do list is done, or when we finally get a break. But if we are honest, those moments are rare and short-lived. The Bible gives us a different picture. Paul writes in Philippians that peace is not found in our circumstances; it is found in Christ.

What stands out to me is that Paul wrote these words from prison. He did not have freedom, comfort, or certainty about his future, yet he still talked about a peace that surpasses all understanding. That tells me something important. God's peace does not depend on everything in our lives being settled. It is not fragile or temporary. It is steady and lasting because it comes from Him.

In my own life, my first instinct is often to hold tightly to the things that worry me. I replay conversations in my head. I overthink and try to control situations that are outside my control. At times, I stay awake in bed thinking about mistakes I've made in the past, relationships that went wrong, or future financial expenses I know will strain our budget. Maybe you can relate. Peace comes when I finally stop striving and hand it all over to God. Sometimes that means whispering a simple prayer in the middle of the day. Sometimes it means reminding myself of His promises when my thoughts are spinning. Every time, He has been faithful to meet me with a peace I could not have found on my own.

Peace does not always mean the problem goes away. Often, it does not. God invites us to bring our anxieties to Him, not because He does not already know them, but because He wants us to know Him. And when we do, He gives us something this world cannot give—His peace.

As a church family, I believe one of the greatest gifts we can give one another is encouragement to keep trusting God in the middle of life's chaos. Sometimes peace comes through a reminder from a brother or sister in Christ, a prayer shared after service, or even a simple conversation over coffee. We were never meant to walk through life's burdens alone. God gave us Himself, and He gave us each other.

If you find yourself overwhelmed this week, slow down and remember this: the same Jesus who said "Peace be still" to calm the storm is the same Jesus who is with you right now. His presence is greater than any storm we face, and His peace will hold us steady no matter what comes.

-Sang Lee

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, September 6
at 9:00AM
meet at Red Oak

NEXT STEPS LUNCHEON

SEPTEMBER 14TH
AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE
All newcomers to HBC are invited to
join the staff for lunch!
To RSVP text Rebekah
at 706-528-6496

CONNECT—GROW—SERVE

Coffee with Carson

All retirees are invited to
join Carson at
Red Oak Manor

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD
8:30AM



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

We Are **CLOSED**
LABOR
Day
SEPTEMBER 1ST

I'm writing this newsletter article from my new office. Which makes me want to say two things.

First, thank you! If not for your generosity and support, the second floor renovation would not have been possible. With the entire upstairs area in disrepair and decay, an upgrade was overdue. But it couldn't have happened without your sacrificial giving.

Second, the transition from downstairs to upstairs has prompted some expected hustle and bustle on my end: Packing and unpacking, reorganizing, reshuffling, dusting off books. But it also brought something unexpected; the opportunity to reflect and ask questions of myself. Yesterday, as I began the task of organizing my new space, I found myself asking several questions... "Why do I have three copies of this one book?" "Where did this half-eaten box of Poptarts come from?" "Should I throw this 2023 Joke Calendar away or keep it?" and "Is there a more sensible way to organize my desk drawers?"

The process was mentally demanding, but – even though I'm still not quite finished getting the office in shipshape – I felt a lot more clear-headed after spending several hours working through the clutter and chaos. As I drove home yesterday afternoon, it occurred to me just how healthy regular self-reflection is. Others have made this observation as well. Socrates is credited as having said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." And when we combine a natural inquisitiveness and open-mindedness to a regular practice of self-reflection, it can really open some doors. As my favorite fictional soccer coach said, "Be curious, not judgmental."

Ultimately, though, what speaks far more truth than the words of man is the Word of God. And the Bible, too, has something to say about the matter. Romans 12:2 clearly states: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is..."

Self-reflection allows us the opportunity to be transformed. Asking questions allows us the opportunity to renew our minds. Rather than doing the same thing, the same way, day after day, we can ask ourselves why we are doing a certain thing. Or doing something in a certain way. And in those moments – like the moment I found myself in the middle of yesterday – God can and will speak! He will reveal His perfect will to us; we just have to make time and space to hear from Him. And it all starts with taking the time and making the effort to re-examine our life and priorities...being more thoughtful and intentional with each moment of our day. May we all pray to do just that!

-Evan Powell



SEPTEMBER 27TH | 5-7PM

Join the men of HBC for a night of grilling, tailgating, and good times as we come together for food, faith, and friendship.
Come hungry and bring a friend!