

Happy New Year
2019



3375 Church Lane
Duluth, GA 30096

Rev. Ronald L. Bowens
Pastor



FRIENDSHIP
BAPTIST CHURCH



VOL. 7 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2019

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 20 Sis. Monique Allen's Initial Sermon
3:00pm
- 26 Senior's Ministry 11:00am

FEBRUARY

- 9 Women's Ministry 9:00am
- 14 Valentine's Day

FBC MISSION STATEMENT

Exalt the Savior
Equip the Saint
Evangelize the Sinner

OBEDIENCE

By Hyacinth Chung

Obedience in the dictionary can be broken down as simple compliance, dutifulness, respect, discipline, conformity or submissiveness. God's definition of Obedience relates to hearing or hearkening to a higher authority or positioning oneself under someone by submitting to their authority and command.

Because of disobedience, Saul was rejected as king because he failed to utterly destroy the Amalekites, instead, he chose to keep the best of the best for himself and to offer sacrifice to God. God did not want his sacrifice, he wanted his obedience.

I Samuel 15:22 - But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. This means we have to hear, trust, submit and surrender to God and his Word.

Reasons for Obedience:

1. **Jesus calls us to Obedience** – John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
2. **Obedience is an Act of Worship** – Our works cannot make us righteous but because of the Grace the Lord has extended to us, obedience should be flowing from our hearts out of gratitude. Romans 12:1 says "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
3. **God Rewards Obedience** – Genesis 22:18, "And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me."

(cont'd next page)

(Theme: Obedience cont'd)

4. **Obedience to God proves our Love** – 1st and 2nd John shows that obedience to God demonstrates love for God. “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments” (1 John 5:2-3) and doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning. (2 John 6)
5. **Obedience to God demonstrates our Faith** – When we obey God, we show our trust and faith in Him: And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. (1 John 2:3-6)
6. **Obedience is better than Sacrifice** – 1 Samuel 15:22-23, But Samuel replied, “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.”
7. **Disobedience leads to Sin and Death** – the disobedience of Adam brought sin and death into the world but Christ's perfect obedience restores fellowship with God for everyone who believes in Him. Romans 5:19 “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous” and I Corinthians 15:22 “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”.
8. **Through Obedience we experience the Blessings of Holy Living** – Jesus was the only perfect one who walked sinless and in perfect obedience. As we spend more time with God through his Word, Fellowship and Worship, the Holy Spirit will transform us from within as we can grow in holiness. Obedience should be a lifestyle for us. 2 Corinthians 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Rom 6:16



The Scriptures of this Song

Psalm 84 vs 11-12: For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

Isaiah 50 vs. 10: Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

The Story Behind this Song

This hymn was written by Rev. John H. Sammis, a Presbyterian minister, who was born in Brooklyn, New York and a successful businessman in Logansport, Indiana. Through his work with the YMCA he was called to the ministry, attended McCormick and Lane Seminaries, and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1880. After serving congregations in Iowa, Indiana and Minnesota, he joined the faculty of the Los Angeles Bible Institute.

The hymn was inspired in 1886 when the composer of the music, Daniel B. Towner (1850-1919) as the music leader during one of Dwight L. Moody's famous revivals. Mr. Moody was conducting a series of meetings in Brockton, Massachusetts, and Mr. Towner had the pleasure of singing for him at one of these meetings.

One night a young man rose in a testimony meeting and said, "*I am not quite sure, but I am going to trust and I am going to obey.*" Mr. Towner jotted down that sentence and sent with a little story to the Rev. John H. Sammis, he wrote the chorus first, "Trust and Obey, for there's no other way, To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." After writing the chorus the hymn and the tune was born.

As in the case with most gospel songs, these lines provide the central theme around which all of the

stanzas were written. The text and tune first appeared in the 1887 collection, Hymns Old and New, and the hymn has been included in countless hymnals since then. Methodist hymnals in the United States have carried it since 1897.

This Hymn is concerned with the rewards of trusting God's word and obeying God's will. The ultimate reward, a heavenly one so common in hymnody, appears in the last stanza when the writer muses that, "In fellowship sweet, we will sit at His feet."

The Hymn – Trust and Obey

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2. Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.
3. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.
4. But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.
5. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Submitted by Hyacinth Chung

INSPIRATION FROM THE PSALMS

Written By Evangelist Deloris Williams

ONE LIFE TO LIVE



PSALM 139:7 KJV A HYMNAL MEDITATION OF DAVID

"Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your Spirit?"

A SPIRITUAL GLIMPSE: A child evolves from a vast place of *"spiritual origin at birth"* to never remember its **"Tranquil Nativity"** prior to entering the most **"Traitorous Maze of Human Treacheries."** The world is a place that reeks with spiritual drought, due to **"hollow"** belief systems. A Mankind with (hollow, unbelieving, beings) unwilling to explore (life's worthy purpose) are beings who put trust in temporal, sensualities and what they can see. They dismiss the "Royalty of the Sovereign Blood's Power." Beings can suffer from a spiritual form of anorexia; spiritually starving, and an under-nourished being (**very mere**) in (interest) to pursue spiritual understanding of how spiritual order influences our physical decisions, and physical wellness! If ever is the need for a **"Deeper Understanding"** of the purpose of what (**Biblical Insight**) means, and how spiritual (**Heart Tidiness**) is ever an **"ETERNAL ORDER,"** and its significance of **"Divine Regularity"** which balances a (**Mighty Mighty**) **Creation and Spiritual Construction**), that makes universe, and the earth we know as GOD's vastness of time, space, and energies known and unknown to those humans that marvel (the cell) of life as we know it. We must embrace each day's duty by the same grace that sustains nations, universes, and all therein! As mortals, many dwell on the surface of the gospel more than delving into the core of our purpose. David understood this. David is uniting his "Spiritual Union" with GOD, 1Corinthians 6:17 KJV But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. David was meditating with an (Instructed Tongue) Isaiah 50:4 NIV from a heart that has been introduced to a deposit of "Eternity!) Ecclesiastes 3:11 KJV, David is **imaging the Themes and Life Lessons, how a believer in this day and age should be daily meditating from a (changed) soul. How do you mirror CHANGE?**

WIDE AWAKE REALITY: We are visited countless times daily, by angelic activity, in (this earthly sphere)! **"Time and Physical Life" has processed circumstances that are (spiritually inclined) to each of our births! YOU are a Magnificent Energy waiting to become spiritually awakened to "ONE TRUTH, ONE LIFE and "The One WAY!"** David meditates upon the ever presence of **"The All-Knowing Creator,"** and realizes such knowledge of the Creator and all his **"Divine States of thoughts"** are ABOVE all we can even imagine. **How Divine do you regard the One who should never be under-estimated of (KNOWING) our every intent?** Can you conceive being inside his creation and yet going to a place outside his creation to remain in an eternal life to live in a spiritual state (of eternal awe, or spiritual reality of the (Lake) of fire; to (later) find out that it was a crucial learning that should

(Inspiration from the Psalms cont'd)

have been a (class) of how it all works before arriving in an inferno of flames? Take the time to join David's mental thoughts in this Psalm by reading its entirety. David praises his GOD for his fidelity of being a **(Rescuer)** to his own! Mankind has a **(mandate)** to learn about his spiritual **DNA** and the **maturity, and danger** of trading – surface skin, rather than a spiritual understanding how to **PLEASE OUR ABBA FATHER!** David extols his heavenly **(Sovereign) Father with a grateful heart, he humbles himself in awe of his "Spiritual Weaver," a powerful artisan, Verse 6: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high I cannot attain it.** *HOW DOES YOUR AUTHOR SPEAK TO YOU IN YOUR LIFESTYLES?*

BIBLE VIRTUES TO MIMIC: David in this Psalm powerfully utters articulately his **feelings of eternal gratitude to his "Creator's Intrinsic Worth!"** David being merciful of writing him in "The Book of Life" before he was knitted in the womb! *David's inspiration to his Creator, using an effective pronoun "O LORD YOU" verses 1-2, O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up.* **Question:** *How often do YOU exert how stunning your (Maker) is? How GREAT a FATHER that lifts us up when our "Strengths become (NUMB)"* from wicked and self-centered societies, biblical cliques, both ancient and present day evil people? Well, the next time the host of bad influence come to **YOU** with anything other than **"Quality Praises"** of **"Your Creator's WORKMANSHIP,"** instead of praying to GOD about intentional enemies—approach the LORD like David's approach to the throne with a strong (effectual expression) of those sowing injustice, slander, envy, evil intent; appeal to the (mighty) to produce a fast and effective result of a powerful solution to "evil's" blood thirsting opponents! **All over the world if the GOSPEL is being rightly preached, there is Only One Life to Live! There are no Alternatives! Each soul is writing a spiritual memoir of the heart's contents that produce our deeds!** David in this Psalms- verse (4) understands his Creator knows words before they are even on the tongue! **HE SEES YOU....US?**

HOW DO I TEST MY HEART: **Intrinsic worth, a gradual ascent by means of virtue.** **"THE NEW NORMAL"** in our society today is do it, then abuse grace with a license to sin all we want since we are (saved); **let's look at the gradual ascent.** Meaning: To Climb, Rise, Incline, "Way Up" a Slope. David's wisdom surely was perhaps at some point in his life a **LADDER EXPERIENCE TOWARDS CHANGE.**

THE INSIGHT OF PERCEPTION: **The LADDER EXPERIENCE,** Jacob's dream was a Spiritual Glimpse and a Prophetic Dream of a symbol of a ladder and angels ascending and descending to heaven and earth into the invisible world and a promise of God's word. Read Jacob's Dream at Bethel (**Genesis 28:10-12 - Genesis 28:21-22**). **What does Jacob's dream have to do with this Psalm, and why the symbol of a LADDER?** David shows us the way to GOD's approval in this Psalms, Prayer is ascending to heaven from a high caliber the asset of a man's heart.

OBERVATION & INSPIRATION: **JESUS CHRIST is the Perfect "Ladder" and he refers himself as such.** **John 1:51,** *"And he (Jesus) said to him, 'Truly, truly I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.* **JESUS is the TRUE JACOB'S LADDER!** *How Hot Are Your Prayers and Credible your Boast?* David makes biblical history of his story that we may find faith, trust, endurance that beckons heaven to hear him.

(Inspiration from the Psalms cont'd)

CONCLUSION: The message is, Man cannot make his way to heaven by any other way, Genesis 11, and Babel teaches us that. Bethel demonstrates that the Heavenly Sphere comes to us by way of JESUS, the Ladder for which all men must seek to ascend into his righteousness, by choice, prayer, change and confession and commitment! GOD used angels as messengers, but today, the WORD is a SOLUTION TO GAPS, eternal glue spiritually reunites man from a fallen state of a dark wilderness called sin, and what was apart, can now be the highway of the HOLY SPIRIT! David in this Psalm explodes with the “Spark of Eternity” deposited in his heart! What JESUS ACCOMPLISHED now surrounds us by unseen Angels out of Psalm 91 surrounding us in the invisible presence of angels, and his wings! Let us seek the stairway to Heaven today.

**TEST YOUR HEART TO SEE WHAT IS DWELLING AROUND YOU
AS WE ACCEPT GRACE AND MERCY WHOLE-HEARTLY WITHOUT ABUSE**



When in the Wilderness, those seven seconds of Choice will make the Difference!

WE ALL MUST PRACTICE VIRTUE

Heart, Mind, Body and Soul – An Asset of Good Worth
Good Quality, Desirable Quality, High Merit, High Caliber

SPELLS VIRTUE

I will not escape God's knowledge of me (Psalm 139:1-6)

I will not escape God's presence (Psalm 139:7-12)

I will not escape God's power and sovereignty (Psalm 139:13-18)

**JESUS OF NAZARETH, HELP US ALL CONNECT TO
THE SPARK OF ETERNITY IN OUR HEARTS TO OBEY!**

78 Seeds of Faith

MORTGAGE ELIMINATION CAMPAIGN



FBC | FRIENDSHIP
BAPTIST CHURCH

THREE KEYS TO THE SEED OF FAITH CAMPAIGN:

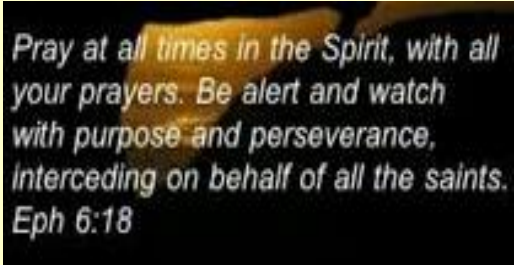
1. **Recognize that God is your Source** - Philippians 4:19 says, *"My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* God will use many different instruments to supply our needs—but He alone is the Source, and He alone cannot fail.
2. **Give first, so that it may be given back to you** - Luke 6:38 says, *"Give, and it will be given to you."* We must first plant a Seed of Faith so that God can multiply it back to meet our needs. Jesus is talking about giving in the deepest sense of the word—the giving of ourselves to God. This includes anything we can give: love, time, patience, forgiveness, finances, and our prayers. Please note that our giving reflects our Trust in God.
3. **Expect a miracle** - Mark 11:24 says, *"Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."* The moment we ask God for something—the moment we do our part and plant our Seed of Faith—we should believe God that the answer is on its way. It's important to expect our miracle so we can recognize it and reach out to take it when it comes.

How This Campaign Will Work: Over the next 78 weeks, we are asking every member and friends to sow a seed of \$26 over and above your tithes and offerings. If you are not able to give \$26, give what you can, and if you are able to give more than \$26, please do so. If you are blessed to give \$260 or \$2,600 per week, be obedient to God.

We are asking you to please utilize the blue envelopes located on the back of the pews. Using the blue envelopes will help our Finance Ministry greatly. This allows them to track and account for your seed offerings. So please each Sunday for 78 weeks, give God something to work with. No matter how little you think you have, sow it in Joy and in Faith, knowing you are Sowing Seeds so you, your family, our church, each ministry and our community may reap miracles from the seeds that are sown.

Remember – God is Our Source – Give so that it can be Given Back to you, and Expect a Miracle! Thank you and God Bless!

Prayer List



Remember with prayer, calls and visitations

Bro. James Agee
 Bro. Gabriel Bell
 Bro. Willie Benton
 Sis. Linda Berry
 Min. Karen Blacknell
 Rev. Kenneth Blacknell
 Dea. Hezekiah Bowens, Jr.
 Bro. Julius Brogdon
 Sis. Joyce Brooks
 Sis. Sherie Brown
 Bro. Tyler Caldwell
 Sis. Pearl Coles
 Sis. Nekka Dean
 Sis. Doris Doyle

Sis. Everlene Fisher
 Barbara Hall
 Sis. Crystal Ingram
 Bro. Willie L. Harris
 Sis. Charlotte Hayes
 Bro. Leroy Hurt
 Bro. David Johnson
 Sis. Mary L. Jones
 Bro. Patrick Jones
 Sis. Diedra Joyner
 Bro. Dennis Kimmey
 Sis. Mabel Lawrence
 Bro. Edwin Logan
 Sis. Sylvia Marrow

Sis. Roxanne Motley
 Evg. Valerie Montaque
 Sis. Khuyen Nguyen
 The Palmer Family
 Sis. Gloria Peters
 Bro. Garvin Potts
 Bro. Kelvin Pruitt
 Sis. Carrie Rawls
 Sis. Peggy Rogers
 Bro. Benny Rollins
 Bro. Rennie Samuels
 Dea. Clarence Slaughter
 Bro. Antone Smith
 Sis. Latisha Smith

Sis. Valerie Smith
 Bro. Xavier Stephens
 Sis. Tiffany Stovall
 Bro. Julian Sydnor
 Sis. April Walker
 Sis. Mabel Thomas
 Sis. Savalia Thomas
 Rev. Dwight Wilkerson
 Min. Floyd Williams
 Dea. Clendon Wilson
 Sis. Sadie Wilson
 Bro. Donald Wood





WELCOME TO FLIGHT 2019!

As we prepare to take off into the New Year, please ensure your seat belt is securely fastened! Make sure you have the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness locked in an upright position in your hearts! All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time.

Before takeoff, we will come around with a trash bag to collect all negative thoughts: hurt, pain, envy, worry, doubt, and discouragement. They are NOT allowed on this flight! Should we lose cabin pressure during the flight, just reach up and pull down a Prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated you can assist other passengers.

There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. Please leave all baggage from past relationships, financial woes, sickness, hurt, rejection, and frustrations behind. However, you may bring carry-ons of Hope, Love, and Faith!

For your enjoyment during our flight, a complimentary copy of the Bible is in the seat pocket in front of you! GOD, our Captain, has cleared us for takeoff. Now, sit back, relax, and enjoy your flight! Destination GREATNESS, VICTORY, and FAVOR as you continue to walk in His Word.

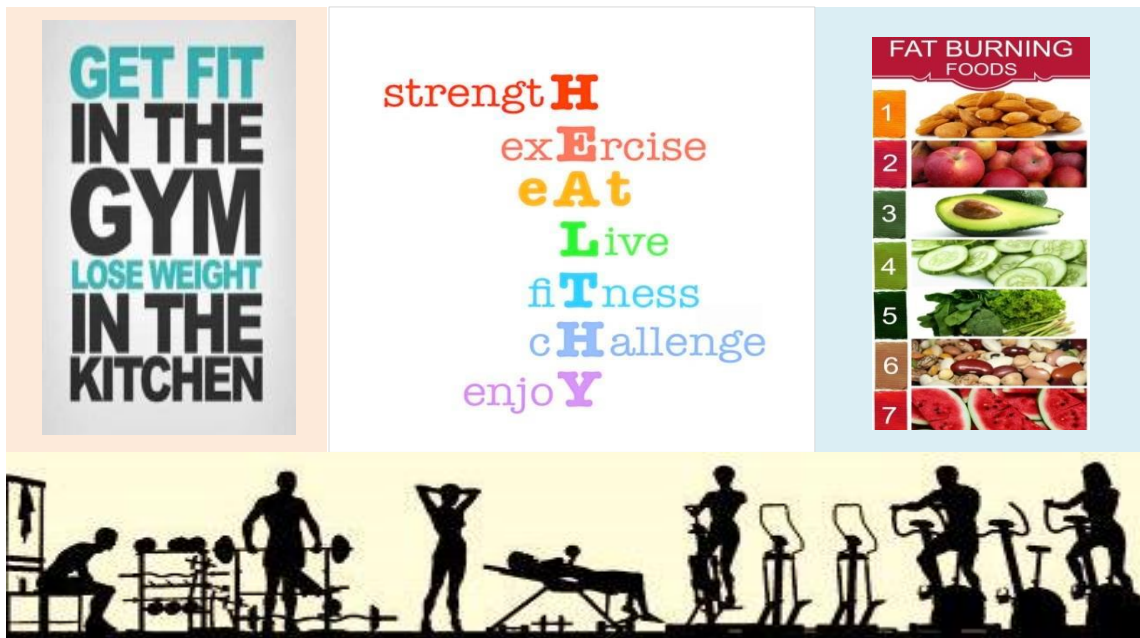
Author Unknown

HEALTH MINISTRY – Glaucoma Awareness Month

Glaucoma is a leading cause of vision loss and blindness in the United States. People are often unaware that glaucoma has no symptoms in its early stages. If detected early, before noticeable vision loss occurs, glaucoma can usually be controlled and severe vision loss can often be prevented. Vision that is lost from glaucoma cannot be restored.

FIVE GLAUCOMA GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER:

1. More patients than ever.
Over 3 million people in the U.S. have glaucoma, and the number is rising.
2. Glaucoma can affect people of all ages.
Although generally associated with seniors, glaucoma can strike anyone since each person has their own level of eye pressure tolerance.
3. Demographics do play a role.
Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness among African Americans; it's also highly prevalent in Hispanics over the age 65.
4. Is glaucoma hereditary?
The risk of developing primary open-angle glaucoma is up to nine times more likely if parents or siblings have the disease.
5. Hope for future glaucoma patients.
Although there is no cure for any form of glaucoma, early diagnosis and treatment help control the disease and slow the process of vision loss or blindness.



FAMILY LIFE CENTER GYM AND FITNESS CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION:		
Mornings	Monday – Friday	9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Evenings	Tuesday	4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

OUTREACH MINISTRY – “ONE BODY SAVED TO SERVE”

OUTREACH CENTER HOURS:

Mondays & Saturdays: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Wednesdays: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm



“The Friendship Market”

The “Friendship Market” food distribution project needs more **MALE VOLUNTEERS between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Fridays**. If you can volunteer for any hours during that time, please contact Diana McGhee at 404-312-1232 or by email: dianaymcghee@bellsouth.net.

FRUIT & PRODUCE HOURS:

Wednesdays: 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Fridays: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Saturdays: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Items will be distributed in the Fellowship Hall on Fridays and from the Outreach Center on Wednesdays and Saturdays. First Come, First Served.



Did you know that the Outreach Ministry hosts a mid-week worship service every Wednesday at noon in the Fellowship Hall? **Join us!!**



The FBC Outreach Ministry offers a Care Community to support foster care parents and information on becoming a foster parent. We also offer training to members who wish to become Care Community volunteers. Please contact Vanda Young @ 219-688-1365 or Linda Milton @ LBmilton1@charter.net for more information.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



December 2018

Tis the season to be jolly and to be sure, the Women's Ministry had a jolly good time.

Our fellowship began the Friday night before our Saturday fellowship. The women had been grouped in teams of 4-5 sisters. Our goal was to set up tables for the Christmas tea. The ladies brought their holiday decorations, teacups and saucers, teapots and plates along with matching runners, napkins and everything and anything to beautify their table. Those present worked together helping each other as each table was prepared.

On Saturday, December 8th, several members of the Male Chorus stopped by to select the three best decorated tables. It was so close that they weren't able to decide on third place so two tables were chosen.

All of the women present had an opportunity to admire the beautiful setup. The women spent some time fellowshiping and enjoying a light breakfast before closing out the last meeting of the year. Sis. Vickie Chambers announced that she would be passing the responsibility of Servant Leader to another sister who chose to remain anonymous until the January meeting. Congratulations and best wishes to Vickie as she prepares to assume her new responsibilities.

Submitted by Cheryl Alford

Photos by Shirley Price



(Women's Ministry cont'd)



A Word from “Creative Learning” (a division of the Women’s Ministry):

Greetings, Friendship Family!

Creative Learning was quite busy during 2018. We came together in January and hit the ground running, starting with the making of prayer shawls and “lapghans”. We gave out a total of 46 to various members.

Prayer is a primary tool for our group. We pray before beginning a project, while working on it and when it is done. We were blessed to have received donations throughout the year. They truly helped us in completing these projects.

We were also given the task to make blankets and quilts for October to give to cancer survivors. We made 28 in total and they were gifted to each survivor during the Women’s Ministry October meeting.

At our “Christmas in July” event, we displayed our goods and offered workshops on such crafts as wood burning, painting on canvas, making rain hats, big bags, purses, glass etching, wreath making and we even learned how to make a fascinator and some pin cushions.

Creative Learning goes on hiatus the 2nd week in November and reconvenes the 2nd Saturday in January. If you have any crafty ideas you would like to share or if you would simply like to come and join us and learn from our gifted volunteers, we meet every Saturday in the basement of the Heritage Church from 11:30 am – 3:00 pm with the exception of 4th Saturdays and holidays.

Our goal for 2019 will include: reverse glass painting, making a footstool, jacket quilting, wood burning, quilting, crocheting and other projects yet to be determined. For more information, please contact Pat Malone at 770-329-1006. You may also see Gerry Powell or Gertie Brock.

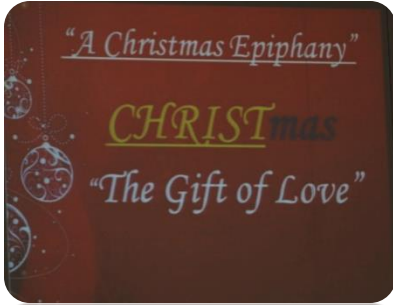
Be blessed! Pat Malone

SENIOR'S MINISTRY

The last Senior's Ministry outing took place on Saturday, December 8, 2018, at the Arts Center of Georgia Tech where the seniors experienced the theatrical performance of the Gospel Christmas Musical: Black Nativity. This was an African-American telling of the Nativity story, written by acclaimed African-American poet and playwright Langston Hughes. This one-act musical opened in a modern day African-American church on Christmas day, filled with testifying deacons, sanctified ladies, and down-home preaching. The show was about a journey back to the Bethlehem of Mary and Joseph, with African costumes and moving songs of worship and dance. All those who attended had a wonderful time.



DRAMA MINISTRY



“An Evening Epiphany: *The Christmas Gift*” - On Sunday, December 16, 2018, the Youth Department along with the Gospel Choir celebrated the season of joy and merriment with a short play titled, “The Christmas Gift,” and concluded with a ministry of songs during a candlelit service.

As people were gathering to the church for the 6:00 p.m. service, it was noted that three wise-looking men were seen walking along Church Lane appearing to be on their way to Friendship. Another sighting was that of what appeared to be a pregnant woman and her husband, also making their way up the hill to the church. They were not seen much after that, but they certainly caused many to wonder who they could have possibly been.

The evening service began with the beloved recitations. The 2018 congregation was no less entertained and blessed by the youngest little people whose verbal skills are in the beginning stages of development to the more advanced wordsmiths. Each displayed their talent – some that were quite audible, though intelligible, to the more complex and completely flawless in delivery, each recitation was a joy to the ear and a reminder that the season is all about the real Christmas Gift, JESUS.

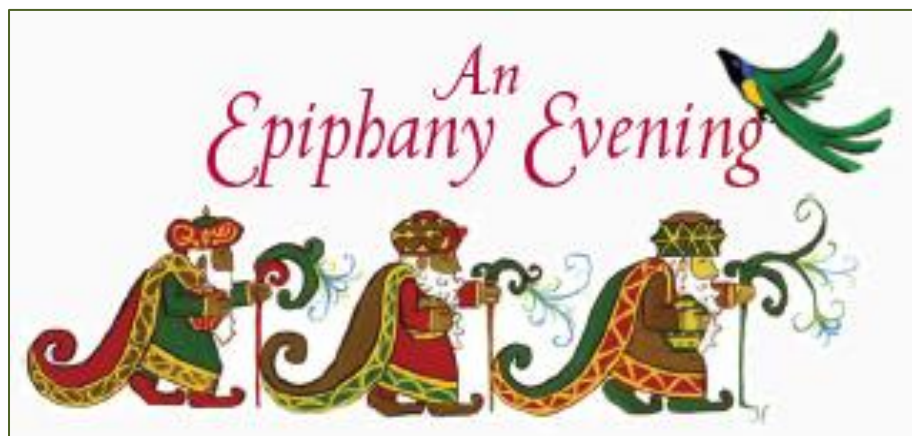
The recitations were followed by a play titled “The Christmas Gift” presented by the Youth Department and youth workers, while being directed by Sis. Hazel Franklin. Through scripture, magnificent song delivery and very good acting skills, we learned through an epiphany that the greatest gift was indeed the prophesied Messiah, Jesus Christ, born in the city of Bethlehem. No greater gift has been given to humankind.

The blessed evening culminated with a combination of more than 250 loaned and gifted tea lights, votives and stick candles. This array of candles adorned the center aisle, balcony banister, baptismal pool, choir banister, window sills, random sections of the altar steps and pulpit floor area. By candlelight, the Choir ministered “Immanuel” and “Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child.” And for the finale, “Mary, Did You Know?” was played and Rayven Smith, who herself was illuminated with LED lighting, danced to the Glory of God. Her movements were in harmony with the lyrics and slideshow presentation which depicted in today’s societal atmosphere the often ugly side of humanity, which after all is the reason for the season.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed candles for the evening’s service. And a BIG round of applause to all the volunteers who labored to help make this event a glorious one!

Written by Cynthia Urquhart

Photography by Louie Malone and Shirley Price



(Christmas Drama cont'd)



(Christmas Drama cont'd)



(Christmas Drama cont'd)



Epiphany



Celebrate
BLACK HISTORY

Dr. Gladys West, The Black Woman Who Invented The GPS, Gets Honored By U.S. Air Force At The Pentagon



Source: balleralert.com

Did you know that a black woman from Virginia was instrumental in creating a convenience we use every day and almost can't live without? Yes indeed, Dr. Gladys West invented the GPS or the Global Positioning System and has finally received the recognition she deserves by being inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame by the United States Air Force during a ceremony held at the Pentagon this week.

The 87-year-old scholar knew as a child that she did not want to work in fields, picking tobacco, corn, and cotton or in a factory, beating tobacco leaves for cigarettes and pipes like her parents did. She said, "I realized I had to get an education to get out." And that she did, studying math at #VirginiaState and graduating top of her class. She became a teacher for two years, then went back to school for her Masters.

In 1956, West began to work at Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division, where she was the second black woman ever to be employed. There, she collected data from satellites, and that job is what eventually led to the development of the Global Positioning System. In 1986, West published "Data Processing System Specifications for the Geosat Satellite Radar Altimeter," a 60-page illustrated guide, which was based off data created from the radio altimeter on the Geosat Satellite, which went into orbit on March 12, 1984. She worked at Dahlgren for 42 years and retired in 1998.

West's humble character is part of why many people were unaware of her role in the development of the device for decades. She said, "When you're working every day, you're not thinking, 'What impact is this going to have on the world?' You're thinking, 'I've got to get this right.'"

In 2017, Capt. Godfrey Weekes, the then-commanding officer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division, described the "integral role" West played in a Black History Month message. He wrote, "She rose through the ranks, worked on the satellite geodesy [science that measures the size and shape of Earth] and contributed to the accuracy of GPS and the measurement of satellite data. As Gladys West started her career as a mathematician at Dahlgren in 1956, she likely had no idea that her work would impact the world for decades to come." Congratulations to a "hidden figure," Dr. Gladys West! Thank you for your great contribution to science.

National Black Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?



We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.



Church News & Other Important Information

You are invited!

You are cordially invited to the Initial Sermon of Sis. Monique Allen on Sunday, January 20th at 3:00 pm here at Friendship Baptist Church.

Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration!

Leadership: YOU are the Difference! Sponsored by the United Ebony Society on Monday, January 21st at 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046. Parade, food, vendors, performances and community organizations. Kick-off starts at 11:00 am. Parade ends at Moore Middle School, 1221 Lawrenceville Highway, Lawrenceville, GA at 3:00 pm. For more information, call 678-856-7602 or go to:

www.gwinnettmlkparade.com

Senior's Ministry

The Seniors will meet on Saturday, January 26th at 11:00 am in the Fellowship hall. If you're 55+ years old, you are welcome to join us as we make plans for the New Year.

Transportation Ministry

Interested in being a driver? Dial 404-643-0755. Need a ride to the church? Dial 770-622-2797 and leave a message.

2018 Contributions

Contribution Statements will be mailed to the address on file by January 31st. Please forward any address updates by January 27th.

WEEKLY CLASSES

Sunday

Masterlife 1: "The Disciple's Cross" - FLC Room 130
 Masterlife 2: "The Disciple's Personality" - FLC Room 210
 Masterlife 3: "The Disciple's Victory" - FLC Room 211
 Masterlife 4: "The Disciple's Mission" - FLC Room 213
 GriefShare - FLC Room 234

Monday

"**When Life Is Hard**" Turning Your Trials into Gold.
 Join us Monday nights from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Books are \$12.

OTHER NEWS AROUND GWINNETT



Seniors 65 or older on January 1 can get an exemption. If you are 65 years or older as of January 1 and your taxable income is below \$91,912, you likely qualify for the Senior School Tax Exemption. Apply **by April 1, 2019**, to be eligible. To apply for an exemption, visit www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com.

For assistance, email tax@gwinnettcountry.com or call 770-822-8800.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Know the Symptoms of CO Poisoning



Deaths from carbon monoxide spike every year in wintertime as people try to warm up with faulty or improperly used or maintained generators, stoves, fireplaces, and furnaces.

CO, which is odorless and colorless, is produced when fuel is burned. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, confusion, vomiting, unconsciousness, and even death.

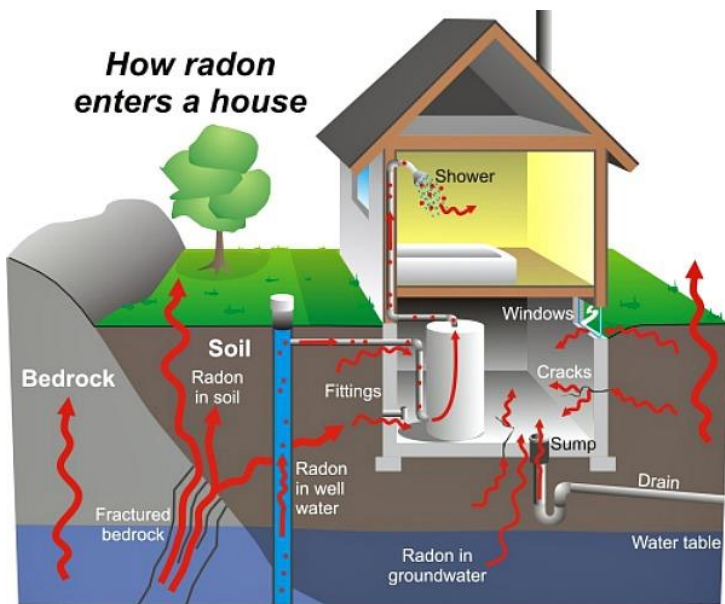
CO alarms should be installed outside sleeping areas and on each level of the home. They are not substitutes for smoke alarms.

Here are some tips to avoid CO poisoning:

- Use portable generators outdoors away from windows, doors, or vents
- Make sure vents for your furnace, stove, fireplaces, and dryers are not blocked
- Annually inspect your heating system, water heater, and fireplaces
- Only use charcoal grills and camp stoves outdoors
- Don't use a gas oven for heat

For additional information, please call 678.518.4845 or email fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com.

January is National Radon Action Month



Your home could have radon, a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring gas that is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in America. According to UGA Extension, 22 to 28 percent of all homes in Gwinnett have significant levels of radon, which typically enters a building from the soil below.

The only way to tell if your house has radon is to use a testing kit. UGA Extension provides radon test kits for \$10. The kit includes test instructions and ways to measure results.

The UGA Extension Gwinnett office is located at 750 South Perry Street in Lawrenceville. To learn more, call 678.377.4010 or visit the UGA Extension Gwinnett [radon awareness webpage](#).

Get the facts about Gwinnett's transit plan, contract with MARTA before the March 19 referendum:

Gwinnett County residents will go to the polls March 19 to vote on a [contract](#) with MARTA for the provision of expanded transit services.

If the referendum passes, Gwinnett's transit system and services will expand based on Gwinnett's plan and its contract with MARTA. The expansion will be funded through a one-cent sales tax for transit.

The contract provides control to Gwinnett over funds, expenditures, projects, and services. It requires Gwinnett funds to be spent for the benefit of Gwinnett. It sets Gwinnett's transit plan, [Connect Gwinnett](#), as the source of transit projects. It also provides Gwinnett with three seats on the MARTA board.

Starting next week, the County will engage in a series of open house education sessions where residents can drop in and learn about the referendum. The first five sessions will be:

Tuesday, January 22, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center Community Room
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

Wednesday, January 23, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center Community Room
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Berkeley Lake

Thursday, January 24, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Mountain Park Activity Building
1063 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain

Monday, January 28, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Grayson City Hall Senior Center
475 Grayson Parkway, Grayson

Wednesday, January 30, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center Community Room
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

To learn about the contract, visit the Gwinnett County [Department of Transportation page](#). For more information about the transit plan, visit www.ConnectGwinnettTransit.com.

Summary of Long-Term Vision: The Long-Term vision for the Plan looks to enhance the lives of Gwinnett residents through the provision of high-quality and sustainable transit. The proposed plan looks at ways to invest in travel time, reliability, and capacity improvements in higher-demand corridors with transit-supportive densities while growing overall transit coverage of the County through appropriate levels of investment. The Plan itself envisions a breadth of transit services within Gwinnett County, tailored to the transit needs and densities of the various communities around the County. The suite of transit services is planned to include: Heavy rail transit Bus Rapid transit Rapid bus Local bus Express Commuter bus Vanpool Flex service Paratransit



FBC YOUTH MINISTRY

gifted.

MIND+BODY+SPIRIT

**AGES: NURSERY - 5TH GRADE
7:30 AM & 11:00 AM SERVICES**



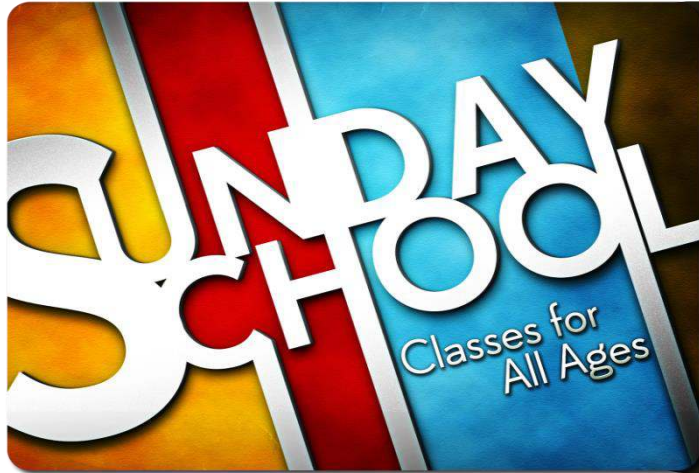
As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace
1 Peter 4:10

TEEN MINISTRY



HERITAGE CHURCH

**AGES 12 TO 19 (MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL)
7:30 AM & 11:00 AM SERVICES**



Bro. Dorian Rogers
Superintendent
 4integrityauto@gmail.com

CLASSES LOCATED IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER (FLC):

Class	Room	Class	Room
Men's Class	131	In Teens (High School)	217
Survival Kit	135	Jesus and Me (Middle School)	219
Women's Class	139	CONN3CT (College age 19-29)	220
Basic Bible Study	208	IGNITE! (Singles and Young Adults 29 & Older)	221
New Member's Class	209	Marriage Class	233
Master Life 1: "The Disciple's Cross"	130	Single Parenting	220
Master Life 2: "The Disciple's Personality"	210	Note: Adult classes are combined on the 5th Sundays and meet in the Sanctuary	
Master Life 3: "The Disciple's Victory"	211		
Master Life 4: "The Disciple's Mission"	212		

CLASSES LOCATED IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE MAIN BUILDING:

- The Nursery (3 months-2 years old)
- Beginners (3-4 year olds)
- Primary (K-2nd Grade)
- Juniors (3rd-5th Grade)



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

WEEKLY

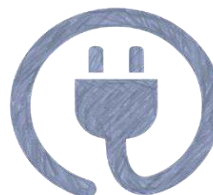
Worship Services	Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Sanctuary
Teen Church	Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Heritage Church
Sunday School	Sunday	9:45 am	Family Life Center
Sunday School (Youth)	Sunday	9:45 am	Lower Level Main Building
New Members Class	Sunday	9:45 am	Room 209 Family Life Center
Deacons Meeting	Tuesday (1st & 3rd)	7:00 pm	Room 232 Family Life Center
Mid-Week Service	Wednesday	12:00 noon	Heritage Church
Intercessory Prayer	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Sunday School Teachers	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lower Level Main Building
Adult Bible Study	Wednesday	7:30 pm	Sanctuary
Youth Church Bible Study	Wednesday	7:45 pm	Lower Level Main Building
Recovery Ministry	7 days a week – 24 hours a day		Contact: Tim Sanford @ 678-598-1120

MONTHLY

Education Ministry	2nd Monday	7:00 pm	Room 303 Lower Level Main Bldg
Usher Ministry	1st Tuesday	7:00 pm	Room 135 Family Life Center
Men's Ministry	1st Saturday	7:30 am	TBA Monthly
Media Ministry	1st Saturday	9:30 am	Room 130 Family Life Center
Mothers Ministry	1st Saturday	9:30 am	Room 135 Family Life Center
Ministers Meeting	1st Saturday	3:00 pm	Room 232 Family Life Center
Women's Ministry	2nd Saturday	8:45 am	Fellowship Hall
Money Matters	2nd Saturday	11:30 am	Fellowship Hall
Male Chorus Preparation	2nd & 4th Saturdays	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Health Ministry	2nd Saturday	11:00 am	Room 303 Lower Level Main Bldg
Outreach Ministry	3rd Saturday	9:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Shepherd's Care Ministry	3rd Saturday	10:00 am	Room 202 Lower Level Main Bldg
Communications Ministry	3rd Saturday	11:00 am	Room 135 Family Life Center
Marriage Ministry	3rd Saturday	5:00 pm	Room 239 Family Life Center
Seniors Ministry	4th Saturday	11:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Singles Ministry	4th Saturday	12:30 pm	Lower Level – Heritage Church
Prison Ministry			
Gospel Choir Preparation	Tuesday before 1 st & 3 rd Sundays 7:00 pm		
Youth Choir Preparation	Tuesday before 2 nd & 4 th Sundays 6:45 pm		

SPECIAL MONTHLY SERVICES

Holy Communion	1st Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Sanctuary
Baptism	3rd Sunday	11:00 am	Sanctuary
Baby Dedications	4th Sunday	7:30 & 11:00am	Sanctuary



Get plugged in and start serving today. Your gifts, talent, skills and time are needed.



CHURCH ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

3375 Church Lane, Duluth GA 30096

Contact: Rita Bowens, Office Manager @ 770-497-8227

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Email: fbcduluth@att.net

Website: www.fbcduluth.org

FBC LEADERSHIP

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 Rev. Garfield Garner
 Rev. Eugene Graves
 Min. Shurron Green
 Rev. Timothy Twyman
 Min. Floyd Williams
 Rev. Stan Williams
 Rev. Alton Wilson

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Min. Karen Blacknell
 Min. Amelia Brown
 Evg. Geneva Burse
 Evg. Karen DeLee
 Min. Roslyn Long
 Evg. Valerie Montaque
 Evg. Ruthell Morris
 Evg. Kimberly Rogers
 Min. Nicole Walker
 Min. Barbara Williams
 Evg. Deloris Williams

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 Photographer: Shirley Price
 Publisher/Webmaster: Terrill Tarver

Friendship Baptist Church has a newly-enhanced website to provide greater communication across all FBC Ministries. Improvements are ongoing. Feedback can be provided to the Communications Ministry at tag49llm@aol.com.

SUBSCRIBE today at: www.fbcduluth.org

Articles for next month's newsletter are due Friday, February 1, 2019.