



3375 Church Lane
Duluth GA 30096
Rev. Ronald L. BOWENS, Pastor

July 2019

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE Vol. 7, Issue 7

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JULY

- 4 Independence Day/Church Office Closed
- 13 Christmas in July Extravaganza
- 14 2019 Graduates Recognition
- 20 Annual Back-to-School Event

AUGUST

- 3 Men's Ministry Cookout
- 4 Donuts with Debbie
- 10 Ponce City Market/Seniors' Ministry
- 18 Back-to-School Cookout/Teen Ministry
- 25 Youth Day 2019

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

"Exalt the Savior"

"Equip the Saint"

"Evangelize the Sinner"



Forgiveness can be considered as the intentional and voluntary process by which a victim undergoes a change in feelings and attitude regarding an offense, lets go of negative emotions such as vengefulness, forswears recompense from or punishment of the offender, however legally or morally justified it might be and with an increased ability to wish the offender well. Forgiveness is different from condoning, excusing, forgetting, pardoning and reconciliation.

The dictionary gives the synonyms of Forgiveness as: pardon, absolution, exoneration, remission, dispensation, indulgence, understanding, tolerance, purgation, clemency, mercy, pity, lenience, reprieve, discharge, amnesty, delivery, acquittal, clearing, condonation, vindication, exculpation, shrift or shriving.

Throughout the Bible, forgiveness is a dominant theme and, as Christians, we have many questions about forgiveness. The act of forgiving does not come easy for most of us. Our natural instinct is to recoil and hide in self-protective mode when we are hurt, so mercy, grace and understanding flies out of our vocabulary as we are now in a physical shutdown.

Following are some Questions and Answers that will definitely help you to exercise forgiveness.

(cont'd next page)

(Forgiveness cont'd)

Is Forgiveness a conscious choice or an emotional state?

Forgiveness is a choice that we make, it is a decision of our will, motivated by obedience to God and his command to forgive. The Bible instructs us to forgive as the Lord forgave us.

Colossians 3:13 - *"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."*

How do we forgive when we don't feel like it?

We forgive out of obedience by faith. Since forgiveness goes against our human nature, we must forgive by faith whether we feel like it or not. We must trust God to do the work in us that needs to be done so that our forgiveness will be complete. Our faith brings us confidence in God's promise to help us forgive and shows that we trust in his character.

Hebrews 11:1 - *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

How do we translate our decision to forgive into a change of heart?

God honors our commitment to obey him and our desire to please him when we choose to forgive. He completes the work in his time and we must continue to forgive by faith which is our job until the work of forgiveness, which is the Lord's is done in our hearts.

Philippians 1:6 - *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

How will we know if we have truly forgiven?

We will know the work of forgiveness is complete when we experience the freedom that comes as a result. We are the ones that suffer most when we choose not to forgive. We experience the release from anger, bitterness, resentment and hurt that previously imprisoned us. It can be a slow process which puts added stress on us causing all kinds of physical challenges but Jesus had given Peter the answer to forgiveness.

Matthew 18:21-22 - *"Then came Peter to Him and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee until seven times but, until seventy times seven."*

Jesus' answer to Peter makes it clear that forgiveness is not easy for us and does not come with an expiration date. We have to keep on forgiving until we experience the freedom of forgiveness. This may require a lifetime of forgiving until it is settled in our hearts.

What if a person we need to forgive is not a believer?

We are called to love our neighbors and our enemies and pray for those who hurt us. Our secret weapon to fight unforgiveness is prayer. When we begin to pray for the person who has wronged us, saved or unsaved, God takes the scales from our eyes to see and the veil from our hearts to care for that person as we are all God's creation.



(Forgiveness cont'd)

Matthew 5:43-48 - "Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven, for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethen only, what do ye more than others? Do not even publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect."

Is it okay to feel anger and want justice for the person we need to forgive?

Again, this can be resolved in prayer as we ask God to deal with the injustices. We can trust God to judge that person's life and then we ought to leave that prayer at the altar. We no longer have to carry the anger, although it is normal for us to feel anger toward sin and injustice, it is not our job to judge the other person in their sin.

Luke 6:37 - "Judge not and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."

Why must we forgive?

- Jesus commands us to forgive or we also will not be forgiven (Matthew 6:14-16).
- We forgive so that our prayers will not be hindered (Mark 11:25).
- We forgive out of obedience to the Lord. It is a choice and a decision that we make. Forgiving others releases blessings on us, we receive the reward of our forgiveness which is spiritual freedom.



HYMN OF THE MONTH: "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power"



Author: Andraé Crouch

Born in San Francisco on July 1, 1942, and raised in Los Angeles, Andraé Edward Crouch was the son of bivocational-pastor parents Benjamin and Catherine Crouch. He has recounted that he received the gift of music as a child, when his father was called as a guest preacher and pastoral candidate to a small rural church that had no musicians. He began playing for them at the age of 11. He wrote his first gospel song at 14, and formed his first band, the COGICS, in 1960. In 1965 he formed The Disciples, which lasted until 1979, and as a protégé of Audrey Mieir, Ralph Carmichael, and other leading Contemporary Christian Music artists of the time, went on to win a total of nine Grammys, and numerous other awards. He wrote his first well-known song, "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power," at the age of 15, but most of his songs that have gained congregational currency flowed from the years when he was active with The Disciples. After The Disciples were disbanded, Crouch continued his recording and performing career, and also became more active in church ministries.



After his parents died (1993-94), with his twin sister Sandra, he took over the pastorate at the church his parents had led, New Christ Memorial Church of God in Christ in Pacoima, California. In December 2014, Crouch was hospitalized for treatment of pneumonia and congestive heart failure, and on January 3, 2015, he was readmitted to the hospital following a heart attack. He died there five days later, at the age of 72. His twin sister and co-pastor Sandra Crouch issued the following statement: "Today my twin brother, womb-mate and best friend went home to be with the Lord. Please keep me, my family and our church family in your prayers. I tried to keep him here but God loved him best."

*Submitted by Hyacinth Chung
Communications Ministry*

The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power

The blood that Jesus shed for me,
way back on Calvary;
the blood that gives me strength
from day to day,
it will never lose its power.

Chorus:

*It reaches to the highest mountain,
it flows to the lowest valley;
the blood that gives me strength
from day to day,
it will never lose its power.*

It soothes my doubts and calms my fears,
and it dries all my tears;
the blood that gives me strength
from day to day,
it will never lose its power.

INSPIRATION FROM THE PSALMS

Written by Evangelist Deloris Williams

PRAYER BREAKS THROUGH ALL WALLS



Acrostic Psalm 119:1-32 KJV (Author Unknown)

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.” (Verses 1-3)

HOT POINT: The indication of Psalm 119:1-32 starts out with a sacred recital of its unknown author which illuminates his eternal and then current condition at the time of his spiritual yearning and drive to please his maker with meditation of confidence with Morale and a planned and a thirst for ordered Morality as this psalmist then continues to characterize values of GOD’s statues for his (spiritual structure) for his people who say that they love him to have control of self, both then and now. We find that this recital of inauguration and spiritual meditation is about rebuilding. It is believed that “Ezra the Priest” penned this Psalm after the physical structure, meaning the Temple, had been rebuilt (Ezra 6:14-15). The spiritual temple itself also refers to the spirit of dedication of those who were committed to the sacred institution of the “Holy of Holies.”

INTERGITY AND THE CHURCH: This Psalm is giving the “Sacred Institution” of GOD and endorses the capability of a mortal’s heart potentially to be filled with the Holy Spirit’s fire to be a “capacitated soul” filled to be made a “vessel of indwelled power” to be an electric potential and profitable vessel of the one who lives in the Infinity of time without end, or the one who “**Perpetually**” encourages his keepers of the “**TRUE CHURCH**”, through repetitive meditation on the “**BEAUTY**” of GOD’s word and how it helps us to stay pure and grow through the Holy Spirit’s help.

MEDIATION AND MEDITATION: Intercession is intervening on behalf and prevailing by thoughts of intense worshipping through a spiritual “**Structured Life**” of one deliberately chosen to pray without ceasing, succeeding and abounding “A Life Time” in meditation and prayer. Many have assumed Ezra the Levite Priest or David, Daniel or Nehemiah wrote this psalm. Regardless of the penning author, the Psalmist was hearing from GOD, and penning the longest Psalm in the bible. Each writer in the bible of the Division of Psalms is his poets, writers, or rather the Chronological Books of Chapters and (or) Events from the earliest to the end which would be Genesis through Revelations in order of a “calculated timeline” of those named in such books as the “Old Testament, and the New Testament.” **How do you fit or focus on being genuine to GOD? How can you see how wrong it is to say we cannot live holy as long as we are indwelled by the HOLY SPIRIT? HOLY means CHOOSING to do RIGHT with a LOVE for your relationship with your Creator and Savior. The more we stop making human loop-holes why we couldn’t wouldn’t, shouldn’t have, etc., we change our attitudes to enter new altitudes!! GOD has set standards for his people, and His Church! His WORD is absolute.**

SPIRITUAL IDENTIFIERS: The Holy Spirit is always with the True Christian to remind him or her that he is the witness of every action or the thoughts we think by conviction. He reminds us to change and live righteously. *“They that are of a **forward heart** are an **abomination** to the **LORD**; but such as are upright in their way are his delight” (Proverbs 11:20).*

ROOTS AND THE HOOK OF SCRIPTURE: On-line definition of Christian meditation is a form of prayer in which a structured attempt is made to become aware of and reflect upon the revelations of GOD. Christian meditation is the process of deliberately focusing on specific thoughts, such as a Bible passage and reflecting on its meaning in the

(Inspiration from the Psalms cont'd)

“context of the Love of GOD.” This Psalm is GOD’s TRUTH, and has already been measured by his own “Plumb line like a skilled carpenter. GOD’s people are rooted to serve him, and the hook of scripture snatches the righteous and will redeem the sinners. Grounded, rooted, and established (Ephesians 3:17) is a “vital” objective for all members of the Church and especially for this generation, “lamentably” changing to varying degrees of “Luke Warm Standards” and the “Absence of Affirmative Commitment”, not of works but of a sold-out heart and an unwavering conscience. This Psalm has sections pointing to the principles of standing on Holy ground and Holy principles. **Please compare the next insight with the Church, or prayer houses today, and then. There is a spiritual wall of “do as we please Monday through Saturday” and Sunday drop in to find a scripture to live carnally and casually, and substituting “holiness” for casualties of desired pleasures. Matthew 13:5-6 says “some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth; And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.” WHAT KIND OF SEEDS ARE WE TODAY? This Psalm is GOD’s heart writing through the Psalmist’ heart to believe the Word, and stay true to GOD’s Word no matter how bad the world becomes. Obedience to GOD’s laws and commandments are the only way into his kingdom. PRAY for understanding without being offensive of scripture which is your obligation to revere him.**

OBSERVATION: Many churches today are in dire trouble for compromising the WORD! Man’s theology has become prevalent to “clay men” with escalades instead of their Maker and Redeemer. Philosophy is being mixed in class rooms instead of precept upon precept of GOD’s designed “Theme,” which is “literal or symbolic” Modesty of GOD’s Church has been reduced to “Provocative” and a flood of unholy presentations that distracts with subtle intent! And an unbiblical excuse by a heart that says its perspective instead of what GOD has “penned in his own script and feelings of what he is addressing, because he knows how subtle Satan uses sinful people. If he says don’t do it, how can you explain that away? If he says don’t sit in the seat of the ungodly, don’t do it! “*Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful*” (Psalms 1:1-3). Blessed means holy, sacred, sanctified, hallowed, consecrated, set apart. Walk not means stroll, march, pace, hike, toddle, totter, stagger, move or to go. In the counsel means inside, with, into. Counsel is taking advice from them, go a direction with them. Ungodly means impious, irreligious, profane, disrespectful, sinful, wicked, immorality, fornication, corruption, debaucheries, sin.

INSPIRATION: The Psalmist proves that a dishonest man can become a converted admirer of his/her new found friend in whom elements obey, and GOD will allow no harm to snatch that person from him as he continues. HOW? Notice that Psalm 119 has 22 sections of carefully constructed letters beginning with a different letter of its Hebrew alphabet section. Example:

- **ALEPH** means TRUTH in Hebrew (vs. 1-8)
- **BETH** means (house), the “house of GOD” (vs. 9-16)
- **GIMEL** is related to gemul, meaning “justified repayment,” or the giving of reward and punishment (vs. 17-24)
- **Daleth** means a symbol of an open door, or a curtain of a tent, letting something in or finding your way into GOD (vs. 25-32)

Suggestion: Read this Psalm until the Holy Spirit opens up your EYES and place his spirit upon your hearts, mind, and ears to HEAR in these last days, or even to be ready when names are being called to exit! HEAR THIS: His people are destroyed for the LACK OF KNOWLEDGE! READ for yourselves. SEARCH for yourselves, test your relationship with the WORD BIBLICALLY. Jesus has done his part; the Father has kept his own LAWS...now it’s our turn to take that bold step to examine ourselves with every WORD--Not some but all.

THE SOVEREIGN PLUMB LINE: The Churches of today have become “Captives of the World’s New Age Millennial” called the “New Now” a compromised abomination of the HOLY Bible! No one seems to be reading for themselves, taking FIRE insurance on their souls. No one wants to hear about hell being preached from the pulpit. Surprisingly, many ministers adhere to this heresy. But again, this Psalm is echoing the danger of replacing mediocre living, instead of believing any mortal that has become a new creation, the old man should be passed or

(Inspiration from the Psalms cont'd)

passing away! Yes, it's a process being converted over from iniquity into a righteous being, but Psalms 119 proves we are only to live one life if we are saved; verses 1-3 tells us how to live righteous lives! Read it!

INSIGHT: The Hebrew culture and its people then did not have personal copies of the Scriptures to read as we do, so GOD's people memorized his Word and passed it along orally. This structure of this psalm allowed for easy memorization. We all must remember, GOD's Word, the Bible, is the sure guide for living a pure life, a clean life according to Scripture. How could the Hebrews memorize such a glorious thing? Simply, they LOVED their Creator and the Messiah, just as we should love him, reverence, revere him today, and understand that those who are GOD's people got the idea. GOD knows the highway to heaven; he knows what he wants, the road map is to all who stay focused on him, his Word until the end. Next read how we will be measured by GOD's values.

ETERNAL PLUMB LINE METRIC SYSTEM: This term plumb line is used in Scripture in several contexts. The LORD pictures Himself as a builder in Isaiah 28:16 - "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious corner stone for a sure foundation." This is an unshakeable Kingdom with the Messiah in charge. Jesus Christ is "the precious corner stone" (Mark 12:10, Acts 4:11, Romans 9:33, 1 Peter 2:6). As the LORD builds his Kingdom, he will ensure it is perfect in every way: "I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line" (Isaiah 28:17). There will be no crookedness/sin in the Kingdom of Christ. A plumb line is a cord with a magnetic weight attached to it. When the cord hangs downward, the weight pulls the cord taut creating a true vertical line. The plumb line applies the law of gravity to find right angles to indicate the most direct route from top to bottom. It doesn't change or move with the whims of the carpenter. It remains true lest the work risk being crooked. Every builder/carpenter will use this plumb line, also called a plumb bob or plummet which our houses are built by one.

SITUATION: Amos 7:7 says "this" what he showed me: The LORD was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD asked me, what do you see, Amos? "A plumb line," I replied. Then the LORD said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer." "When GOD said he was a plumb line among his people, He was declaring an end to their attempt to justify their crooked ways. The LORD was setting the standard. GOD does not negotiate his laws. He does not change with the whims of culture (Numbers 23:19). **GOD'S moral law is the plumb line against which we determine right and wrong (John 17:17). Just as a carpenter's plumb line is not subject to the opinions or the frustration of the worker, so GOD's moral standards are not subject to the opinions of man! Wise people are those who line up their lives according to GOD's plumb line rather than trying to move it to satisfy their own agendas.**

CONCLUSION: Time to Measure UP Church! Man's philosophy and theology are traditions of men. Only the Biblical Word will be approved. Read more about False Doctrines by men and their own ideologies! For 15 important Bible verses about Philosophy, go to BibleReasons.com. **TIME IS GETTING SHORT...BELIEVE GOD!**

**GOD IS GOING TO MEASURE OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS BY HIS OWN PLUMB LINE...
HIS METRIC SYSTEM OF HOLINESS**



**BEFORE BIBLES ARE CHANGED, GET THE WORD IN YOUR HEART-MIND-BODY-AND SOUL.
The World Should Not Be Teaching the Church How to Live Holy!**



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!

Pastor Ronald & Sis. Debra Bowens
35th Pastoral Anniversary
October 6, 2019



You are cordially invited to Pastor Bowens 35th Anniversary Luncheon on Sunday, October 6th immediately following 11:00 am service. Please register at Eventbrite.com and in the “look for event section” type: FBC Pastor Bowens 35th Anniversary. In the “location section,” type: Duluth, GA 30097 and select enter.

Registration deadline is 11:00 pm September 16th.



35TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK PRICES

\$100 full page

\$50 half page

\$25 one quarter page

\$20 for patrons

Please make checks payable to Friendship Baptist Church. Photos with ads, words of inspiration and encouragement can be sent to fbcduluth@att.net or to either of the Shepherd Care Ministry Anniversary Book committee persons:

Vickie Chambers

Rita Bowens

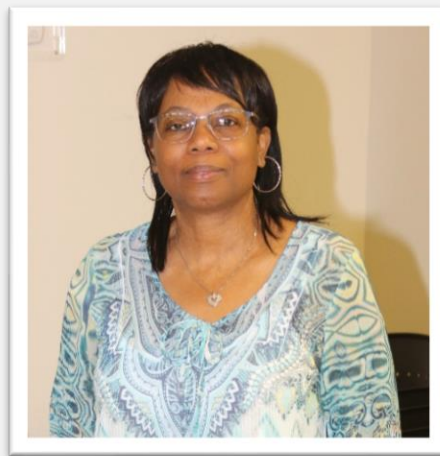
Rhoda Green

Mary Blackburn

Deadline is August 16, 2019.



Let's Celebrate Sis. Debbie's 65th Birthday!



**YOU'RE INVITED TO
DONUTS WITH DEBBIE!!
AUGUST 4, 2019**

Immediately following the 7:30 am Service
in the
Family Life Center

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Sis. Sharon Norman, Ministry Leader



Top Row: Jonathan Bell, Charles (Trey) Short, Brooklynn Mullins, Kayla Shadburn, Kayla Maxwell, Calneh Richardson, Jr.

Bottom Row: Matthew Brock (Attorney), Angelica Cummings, Pastor Ronald L. Bowens, Tyler Commodore, Alaina Hall (Certified Medical Assistant)

Not Pictured: Jaylen Curry, Kiara Oldham

OUTREACH MINISTRY - "One Body Saved to Serve"

Sis. Diana McGhee, Ministry Leader

OUTREACH CENTER HOURS:

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

Wednesdays: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

"THE FRIENDSHIP MARKET"

Fruit and Produce



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.

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



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 Venda Young at 219-688-1365 or Linda Milton at LBmilton1@charter.net for more information.



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

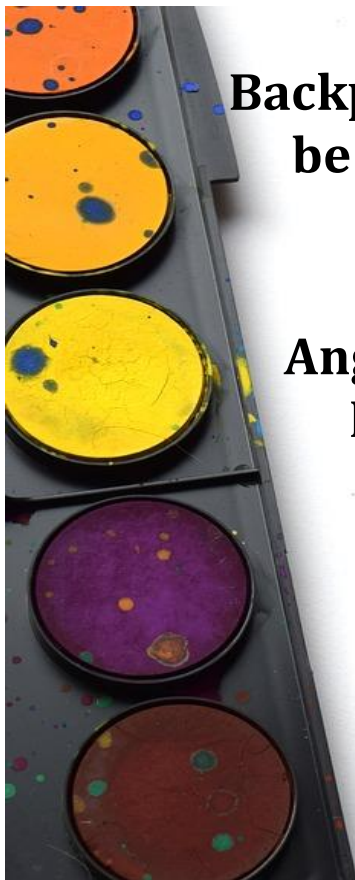


THE FBC ANNUAL
"BACK-TO-SCHOOL" EVENT
(Sponsored by the Outreach Ministry)
WILL BE
SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2019
10:00AM - 12:30PM
(1st come, 1st served)

**Backpacks filled with school supplies will
be distributed in the Fellowship Hall**

For more information, contact:

**Angela Campbell @ 914-441-4821 or
Diana McGhee @ 404-312-1232**





THE OUTREACH MINISTRY PRESENTS

Its Annual Walk-A-Thon FBC Ministries' & Business Owners' Showcase

Free Car Wash & Fish Fry

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 8:30 AM AT FBC

Same Day Registration Begins @ 7:30 AM

Walk Starts At 8:30 AM

Advance Registration Forms Are Now Available In The FLC, Outreach Center, Church Office & Fellowship Hall

Funds Raised Will Support Church School Tuition, Orphanages, Food Pantry Refrigeration/Storage Needs

You Can Also Donate Via Offering Envelope

**For More Information, Contact:
Diana McGhee @ 404-312-1232
Catherine Stafford @ 678-983-7587**



HEALTH MINISTRY

Sis. Vickie Perry, RSN/BSN, Ministry Leader

JULY IS JUVENILE ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH

That's right, kids get arthritis. It is a common misconception that only "old" people are afflicted with arthritis. Nearly 300,000 children in America have been diagnosed with [juvenile arthritis](#).



When juvenile arthritis first shows its symptoms in a child's body, many parents write off swollen joints and fever as a flu bug, or think that a sudden rash might have occurred from an allergic reaction. The symptoms might even recede slightly before showing up again, sometimes delaying diagnosis for quite some time. After all, who expects a small child to have arthritis?

Most people don't know that kids get arthritis. A child's immune system is not fully formed until about age 18; so, an "autoimmune" form of arthritis is especially aggressive in children, compromising their ability to fight normal diseases and leaving them open to complications that may affect their eyes, bone growth, etc.

Juvenile Arthritis affects children of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. About 294,000 American children under age 18 have arthritis or other rheumatic conditions.

Source: ANRF and NIH



THE FLC GYM & FITNESS CENTER



Hours of Operation

Mornings Monday-Friday 9:00am-Noon





FREE vision screenings, eye exams and if necessary glasses for your child.

Screenings will take place at the following GWINNETT COUNTY LIBRARY FACILITIES:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Lilburn Branch | Monday, July 15th |
| Centerville Branch | Tuesday, July 16th |
| Lawrenceville Branch | Thursday, July 18th |
| Norcross Branch | Tuesday, July 23rd |
| Buford Branch | Wednesday, July 24th |
| Snellville Branch | Friday, August 2nd |

SPACE IS LIMITED. NO WALK-INS WILL BE ACCEPTED. YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER VIA EMAIL OR AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 770-978-5154.



GWINNETT COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Sis. Cheryl Alford, Ministry Leader

The June Women's Ministry was a continuation of "What's On Your Mind?" which started in April with questions that were submitted at an earlier meeting.



We had opening prayers led by Mother Pat Ashe. After the women welcomed the presence of the Holy Spirit with an inspirational rendition of "Order My Steps" played by Dranita Morrow, they were invited to share scriptures handed out upon arrival or they could share a verse of their own choosing.



Sis. Harriet Hairston welcomed first-time attendee Denise Anderson. Harriett also acknowledged those celebrating birthdays in June, Kimberly Rogers and in July, Lula Tally.



Following the reading of our ministry covenant led by Lynne Alford, Gerry Wright introduced the morning topic "Straight Talk" along with the five panelists on hand to answer the remaining questions from our April meeting (questions 13 through 20). The panelists included Rev. Denise Jackson, Min. Karen Blacknell, Mother Gerald Baker, Sis. Mary Blackburn and Sis. Teresa Rainey.



(Women's Ministry cont'd)

Below is a brief combined summary of the questions and answers:

13. Many people are dealing with different types of abuse (sexual, marital and even divorce). What can or should the church do to address these issues?

Answer: We need to realize that each of us in The Body of Christ is the Church. Those of us who have been victims, and are now victorious through deliverance by the Holy Spirit, can now reach out to help the next victims by leading them to The Word of God and scriptures that can aid them with deliverance and healing. Also pray for and with them; Luke 22:32 says "and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

14. How do you grow in the Lord?

Answer: Eat the Word, if we partake of the Word we will grow step by step. In order to grow, we must be born again. When God saves us, he asks us to "present our body as a living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). We are also commanded to "study to show ourselves approved" (2 Timothy 2:15). Also blessed are those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

15. Please discuss some ways in which a Christian person can address sexual harassment from any male, a family member, socially, or in the workplace.

Answer: First take it to God in prayer. Seek someone who has training in the field as a counselor. Tell somebody. Talk about it until someone listens. If someone is trained to help, he/she should not shut up about it; they need to help the victim.

16. Why do Christians constantly backslide and live in sin even though we know it's wrong?

Answer: Read Galatians 6:1-10: "If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted." We are constantly at war between the spirit and the flesh. We have a choice and free will. Sometimes we fall, but like David, if we repent and ask for forgiveness, God is Just and Merciful. We also must show compassion to the backslider and build relationship with people.

17. Please explain how we can lead others to Christ. In other words, how do we witness to the unsaved in these last days?

Answer: God gives us opportunities to witness before others through our words and actions which will glorify God. Try to find ways to witness so that they understand. Your lifestyle should be more than words. Can the blind lead the blind (Luke 36:9)? We must be filled with the Holy Spirit if we are to lead others to Christ with the good news.

18. How should God have us deal with disappointment?

Answer: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).

"What's on your mind?"

(Women's Ministry cont'd)

19. As a new Christian, how do you know when God is speaking to you and leading you? What do you feel?

Answer: It is not about feeling. It's all in the Word of God. Every Christian ought to be a Bible reader. It is one habit that will make every follower of Christ what he or she ought to be in every way. Being a reader, hearer and doer of God's Word brings blessings (James 1:22-25). You must be born again!!! The following verses from 1 John are important for us to remember:

We know that we know God (2:3).

We know that we are in Him (2:5).

We know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him (3:2).

We know that we are of truth (3:19).

We know God abides in us (3:24).

We know that we have eternal life (5:13).

We know God hears us (5:15).

We know that eternal life begins when a person becomes a Christian and it never ends. It is a life of Divine quality and endless duration.

20. How is one sure she is doing God's Will?

Answer: When what you do lines up with God's Word. The more you read, the more you will hear the still small voice of the Holy Spirit guiding you and convicting you when your actions are not lining up with His Word.

Following is a quote from Abraham Lincoln: "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated in this Book."

We do hope many of our sisters had their questions answered. We are grateful to our panelists for taking the time to respond with Bible references to all the questions asked.

There are still six questions remaining to be addressed, and we hope to be able to do so at our August gathering. We look forward to seeing you there. We will also have a printed copy of the questions and answers available for your review.

Written by Gerry Wright, Asst. Ministry Team Leader

Photography by Shirley Price, Communications Ministry



to be continued...

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!



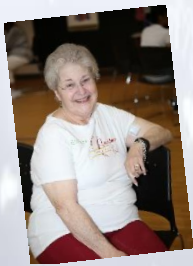
Creative Learning held its 3rd Annual Christmas in July Extravaganza on Saturday, July 13, 2019. The event took place in the Family Life Center from 9:30 am until 3:00 pm. There were various activities to please everyone. What a wonderful day of fun and fellowship. For more information and to learn more about what Creative Learning is doing, please contact Sis. Pat Malone by phone at [770-329-1006](tel:770-329-1006) or via email at p52grammy@aol.com.



(Creative Learning cont'd)



(Creative Learning cont'd)



(Creative Learning cont'd)



CHRISTMAS *in July*

Photography by Shirley Price and Louie Malone, Communications Ministry

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sis. Charlene Benn, Ministry Leader

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

Rev. Stan Williams, Ministry Leader



AGES: 12 TO 19 (MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL)
MEETS IN THE HERITAGE CHURCH
7:30 AM & 11:00 AM

ATTENTION! YOUTH DAY IS COMING AND WE NEED YOU!! IT'S A YOUTH REVIVAL EXPLOSION!

August 25, 2019



This year's theme for Youth Day is **"The Light and New Life in Following Jesus"**

"Jesus said I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life." John 8:12

Rehearsal dates for those wanting to sing will be August 6 at 6:45 pm, August 20 at 6:45 pm and August 24 at 10:00 am. If you play an instrument or want to be involved with the music, please see the musician leaders on those rehearsal dates.

Uniforms will be all black with white ties.

If you want to serve in another capacity (read announcements, read scripture, introduce our speaker, MC the program, door greeter, walk in the choir, etc.), please let Ms. Ronda know! We want you all there the 4th Sunday in the main sanctuary! Please stay tuned for updates and activities that will be taking place throughout the week before for everyone to take part in.

Ms. Ronda's email: Ronda.Razor@gmail.com or text her cell (513) 259-9197



**FBC MONEY MATTERS MINISTRY
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US ON
A 9-WEEK JOURNEY TO
FINANCIAL PEACE**

Dave Ramsey's 9-week course teaches steps to achieve and maintain financial peace.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY (FPU)
Will Be Held Every Saturday
from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

September 14th – November 19th

FBC Members can purchase kits for a discount of \$50.

For additional information and/or to purchase discounted kits, please contact the FBC Office,
Sharon Levister @ 404-218-8662 or
Kitrich Pettway @ 678-521-9555.

COME JOIN US

Every Wednesday Night for:

Intercessory Prayer

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

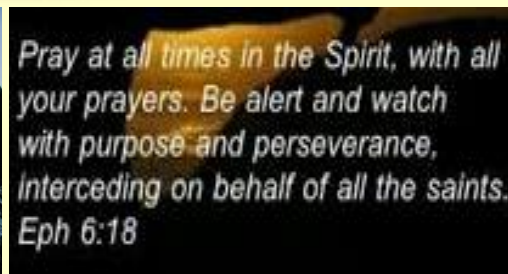
PRAYER
changes things

Worship Service & Bible Study

7:30 pm.



Prayer List



Remember with prayer, calls and visitations

Bro. James Agee
Bro. Willie Benton
Min. Karen Blacknell
Rev. Kenneth Blacknell
Bro. Julius Brogdon
Sis. Joyce Brooks
Sis. Sherie Brown
Bro. Tyler Caldwell
Sis. Pearl Coles
Sis. Nekka Dean
Sis. Doris Doyle
Sis. Everlene Fisher
Sis. Barbara Hall

Sis. Crystal Ingram
Bro. Willie L. Harris
Sis. Charlotte Hayes
Bro. Leroy Hurt
Sis. Mary L. Jones
Bro. Patrick Jones
Miss Quincie Joyner
Bro. Dennis Kimmey
Sis. Mabel Lawrence
Bro. Edwin Logan
The Manget Family
Sis. Sylvia Marrow
Sis. Roxanne Motley

Evg. Valerie Montaque
Sis. Khuyen Nguyen
The Palmer Family
Sis. Gloria Peters
Bro. Garvin Potts
Sis. Carrie Rawls
Sis. Peggy Rogers
Bro. Benny Rollins
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
Rev. Dwight Wilkerson
Min. Floyd Williams
Dea. Clendon Wilson
Sis. Sadie Wilson
Bro. Victor Winston, Jr.
Bro. Donald Wood



**GriefShare Ministry Leader**

Minister Karen L. Blacknell

678-896-1441


Karen83052@gmail.com**Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, a child, family member or friend.**

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. The support group is led by caring people who have experienced grief themselves and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

The GriefShare Ministry has received the necessary GriefShare training to be able to provide a warm, caring and comfortable environment to those experiencing the pain of grief. Training is key for effective ministry. GriefShare provides ongoing training to the support group in order to continue to build and maintain a strong leadership team.

GriefShare is a 13-week class that takes place at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday in the Family Life Center Room 234. Each participant will need to register to attend this class. The workbooks are \$15.

The GriefShare Ministry support group members are: Minister Karen L. Blacknell, Rev. Kenneth M. Blacknell, Rev. Garfield Garner, Minister Amelia Brown, Minister Barbara Williams, Sis. Sandra Williams, Sis. Linda Berry, Sis. HaLynn Brown, Mother Gerald Baker, Mother Dorothy Blagmon, Sis. Tyesaha Peak-Lane, Sis. Tradenia Hill, Sis. Cortney Garner, Sis. Hyacinth Chung and Evangelist Deloris Williams.



Church News & Other Important Information

Men's Ministry

On August 3, 2019 from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm, the FBC Men's Ministry will be Fellowshiping at the Jones Bridge Park for our Men's Ministry Cookout. Address: 4901 E Jones Bridge Road, Peachtree Corners, GA. We are asking that ALL Men and especially our Young Male Teens of FBC to come out for an Exciting day of Fellowshiping, Food, Fun, Fishing, and more. If you have any questions please contact one of the following: Brother Brandon Owens at 205-503-1715 or Brother Rommell May at 770-715-6117. Matthew 4:19 (KJV): "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

FBC Creative Learning Fall Classes

Join one of our experienced sewing and craft educators to learn more about your craft. No matter your skill level or area of interest, Creative Learning has a class for you. **Upcoming classes:** August: Quilted Christmas Skirt; September: Tuffet Stool; October: Beadwork. Join us every first, second & third Saturdays (excluding holidays) from 12-3 pm in the Heritage fellowship hall. Come check out all of our exciting, upcoming classes and events.

You are cordially invited to **Pastor Bowens 35th Anniversary Luncheon** on Sunday, October 6th immediately following 11:00 am service. Please register at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and in the "look for event section" type: FBC Pastor Bowens 35th Anniversary. In the "location section", type: Duluth, GA 30097 and select enter. Registration deadline is 11:00 pm September 16.

Neighboring Church News

Fairfield Baptist Church, Auburn, GA invites you to their Annual Homecoming Service on Sunday, July 21st at 11:00 am. Revival week will begin Monday, July 22nd thru Friday, July 26th at 7 pm nightly. FBC is asked to serve on Thursday, July 25th. Fairfield's 124th Church Anniversary will be Sunday, August 18th at 3:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Rev. Rodney Lackey, Antioch Baptist Church; Gainesville, GA. Dinner will be served.

Springfield MBC, Lula, GA cordially invites you to celebrate their Choir Anniversary on Sunday, July 28th at 3:00 pm. FBC is asked to render A&B selections. Refreshments will be served.

Mt. Carmel MBC, Duluth, GA invites you to their Annual Choir Day on Sunday, August 11th at 3:00 pm.

Poplar Hill MBC, Buford, GA Annual Golf Tournament will be Saturday, August 17th at Bear's Best Atlanta in Suwanee, GA. We will also celebrate our 136th Church Anniversary, Sunday, September 22nd. Please contact us at 770-945-6131 for additional information.

St. James UMC, Alpharetta, GA invites you to attend their 2019 Inspirational Jazz Fest on Saturday, September 7th. Come enjoy the sounds of straight-ahead jazz, R&B, Neo-Soul and even a bit of gospel jazz. General Admission: \$30 includes: Table Seating, Full Buffet with Beverage and Dessert. Purchase tickets online at www.stjamesumc.org beginning July 28th.

Lost and Found – If you have lost items and would like to check the Lost and Found, you may contact the church office Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. If you find a lost item, please see one of the ushers after any Sunday service, or contact the church office.

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.

JULY IS NATIONAL HEATSTROKE PREVENTION MONTH



LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK!
Create a routine!



Make it a routine to open the back door of your car every time you park.



If you are driving a child, after you correctly buckle them in a car seat or booster seat—put something you need at your destination in the back seat so you will open the back door: a cellphone, employee badge, handbag, or other item you need to keep with you...even your left shoe!



Ask your babysitter or child care provider to call you if your child hasn't arrived as scheduled.



Keep a stuffed animal in the child's car seat. Place it on the front passenger seat as a reminder when the child is in the back seat.



Set the alarm on your cell phone or computer calendar as a reminder to drop your child off at child care. Remember to make the alarm song/sound different from all other alert sounds on your device.



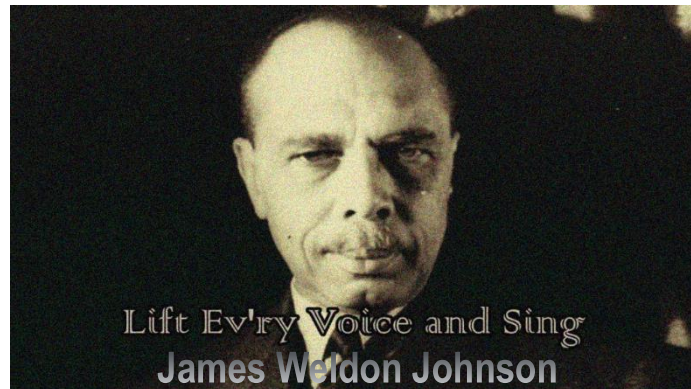
If you have a change in routine, such as your spouse or parent dropping your child off at child care instead of you, make sure you and the other person communicate to confirm the drop-off was made.



Consider technology that alerts drivers to check the back seat. (Vehicle and child restraint manufacturers have been working on various evolving alert systems and some technologies are available now!)

Source: NSC.org/Heatstroke

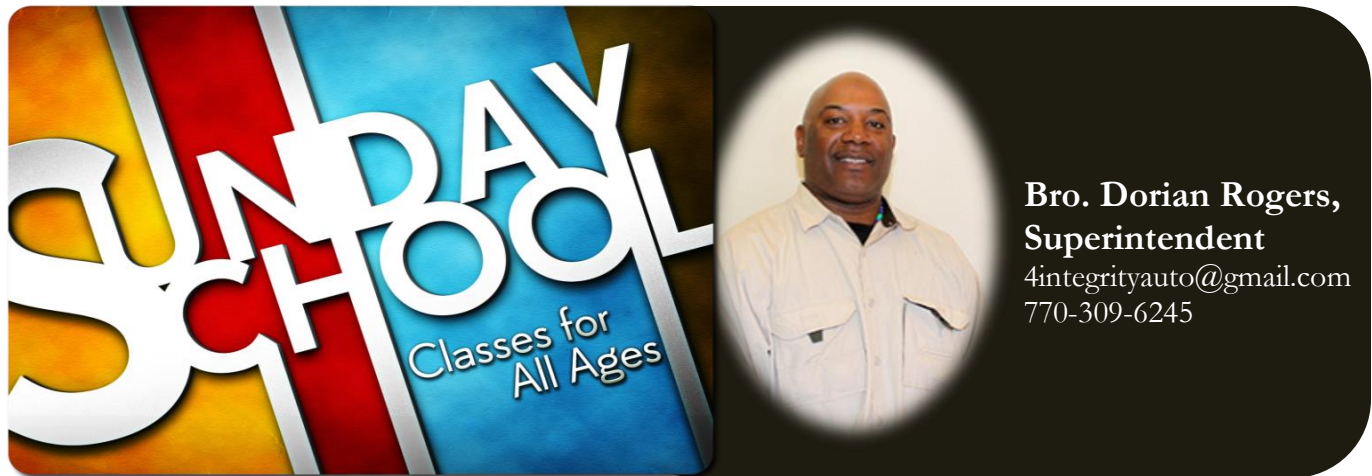
National Black Anthem



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.



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 |
| MasterLife 1: "The Disciple's Cross" | 130 | Single Parenting | 220 |
| MasterLife 2: "The Disciple's Personality" | 210 | GriefShare | 234 |
| MasterLife 3: "The Disciple's Victory" | 211 | Note: All Adult classes are combined on the 5th Sundays and meet in the Sanctuary | |
| MasterLife 4: "The Disciple's Mission" | 213 | | |

CLASSES LOCATED IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE MAIN BUILDING:

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



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

W E E K L Y

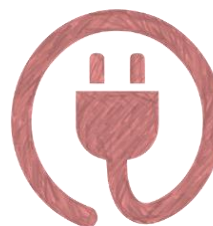
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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Worship Services | Sunday | 7:30 & 11:00 am | Sanctuary |
| Teen Church | Sunday | 7:30 & 11:00 am | Heritage Church |
| 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 |
| God's Calling & Purpose for Your Life | Monday | 7:00 pm | Fellowship Hall |
| Deacon's 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 |
| Marriage Class | Thursday | 7:00 pm | Room 201 Lower Level Main Bldg |
| Recovery Ministry | 7 days a week – 24 hours a day | | Contact: Tim Sanford @ 678-598-1120 |

M O N T H L Y

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------|--------------------------------|
| 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 |
| Mother's Ministry | 1st Saturday | 9:30 am | Room 135 Family Life Center |
| Minister's 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 Saturday | 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 |
| Communication's 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 Sunday 7:00 pm | | |
| Youth Choir Preparation | Tuesday before 2 nd & 4 th Sunday 6:45 pm | | |

S P E C I A L M O N T H L Y S E R V I C E S

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 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

FBC ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

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

FBC MINISTERS OF EVANGELISM

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. Monique Stroman
 Min. Nicole Walker
 Min. Barbara Williams
 Evg. Deloris Williams

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 Vice President – Tina Patterson
 Secretary – Paulette Tapp
 Assistant Secretary – Kelly Wilson
 Treasurer – Jerry Fisher
 Chaplain – Hyacinth Chung
 Deacon Advisor, Harold Mitchell

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Editor-in-Chief/Graphic Designer – Paulette Tapp
 Editor/Proofreader – Christine Smith
 Photographer – Louie Malone
 Photographer – Shirley Price
 Publisher – Louie Malone

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 the next newsletter are due the 1st Friday of the month. **NEXT DUE DATE: AUGUST 2, 2019.**