



3375 Church Lane, Duluth, GA 30096 Ronald L. Bowens, Pastor

May 2019

CELEBRATING 71 YEARS!

Vol. 7, Issue 5

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

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CALENDAR

MAY

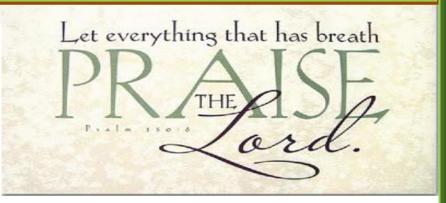
- 26 71st Church Anniversary
- 27 Memorial Day Holiday-Church Office closed
- 30 LIT 2019

JUNE

- 8 Men's Ministry Fellowship Cookout
- 9 High School/College Graduates Recognition 10-14 Vacation Bible School

FBC MISSION STATEMENT

"Exalt the Savior"
"Equip the Saint"
"Evangelize the Sinner"



Praise is an expression of warm approval or admiration of someone or something. It is a social interaction which expresses recognition and reassurance. Praise is expressed verbally as you compliment someone for something they have done. Synonyms are, "Commend, Applaud, Eulogize, Compliment, Congratulate, Celebrate, Laud, Cheer, Flatter."

As Christians, our praise to God should be verbal and also with body language, attributing Reverence, Honor, Adoration and Glory to God. Praise goes hand in hand with Worship. You cannot have a good sandwich without the bread and the meat, just as Jesus is the Bread of Life and His Word is the meat that we feed on daily. In the same sense Praise brings on Worship—that is us telling God who He is to us and thanking Him for what He has done for us. This is a natural response to God which happens as a result of knowing God as your Father, your Redeemer and your Provider.

Sincere Praise brings about breakthroughs in our lives. **John 4:23**, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."

The Bible commands us to Praise the Lord. **Psalm 150:6**, "Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD". One of the Hebrew words for Praise is "**Yadah**" which means Praise, Give Thanks, or Confess". Then, there is "**Zamar**" which means to sing Praise and a third Hebrew word translated "Praise as "**Halal**", the root word for Hallelujah, meaning to Praise, Honor or Commend. These three words contain the idea of giving thanks and honor to God, one who is worthy of praise.

[cont'd on next page]

(Praise cont'd)

The book of Psalms is a collection of songs filled with Praises to God. **Psalm 9:2**, "I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High". **Psalm 18:3**, "I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies". **Psalm 21:3**, "Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power."

Even though there are many scriptures referring to Praise, both in Old and New Testaments, Psalm 150 is the most profound. The word Praise is used 13 times in six verses.

- Verse 1 tells us **WHERE** to Praise the Lord In His sanctuary and in the Firmament of His Power.
- Verse 2 tells us **WHY** we should Praise the Lord For His mighty acts and according to His excellent greatness.
- Verses 3 to 5 tells **HOW** to Praise the Lord The sound of trumpets, the psaltery and harp, the timbrel and dance, stringed instruments and organs, the loud cymbals and high-sounding cymbals.
- Verse 6 tells us WHO should Praise the Lord Everything that has Breath, Praise ye the Lord.

So now that we know what the true meaning of Praise is, we should have no excuse why we can't praise God. Praise should be a lifestyle. Think of first time you are riding a bike, you may swerve from side to side, you may fall or may even crash into something BUT you always get up and keep trying until you can ride with one hand, no hands or with close eyes.

Praise is the same thing, you thank God for one thing He did for you, next time you add more and keep adding, before you know it, you are praising him without even thinking of what to say, it just comes naturally until you are totally united, blended in and on one accord with God.

If you have no musical instruments, that is not an excuse—you have hands to clap and feet to stomp. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, you may hurt the ears of man but God welcomes and accepts our Praises, off keyed or deaf notes, He's ready to accept them.

If Heaven is your destination, then learn to Praise God on Earth because at the end of time, all of God's people will join in eternal praise of God. **Revelation 22:3**, "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him."

May the Lord Bless and Keep you and I pray the Lord will pour out the Spirit of Praise upon our Friendship Family, that we may take our worship to a higher level.

Hyacinth Chung Communications Ministry





HYMN OF THE MONTH



Blessed Assurance which is a well-known Christian hymn was written in 1873 by Fanny Crosby who is a blind hymn writer. It was told that Fanny Crosby was visiting her friend Phoebe Knapp who was having a large pipe organ installed in her home. Since the organ was incomplete, she started playing a new melody she had just composed on the piano.

Mrs. Knapp then asked Ms. Crosby "What do you think the tune says?" Without missing a beat Ms. Crosby's response was "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine". The hymn appeared in the July 1873 issue of Palmers Guide to Holiness and Revival Miscellany, which is a magazine printed by Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Palmer of 14 Bible House, New York City. This publication helped to popularize the song which became one of the most beloved hymns of all time.

This song reflects Fanny Crosby's walk of faith as expressed in Philippians 1:21 by the apostle Paul, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain (KJV) and is also the interpretation of Hebrews 10:22, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." (KJV)

Fanny Crosby

SONG LYRICS

Verse 1

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood. (**Refrain**)

Verse 2

Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels descending bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (**Refrain**)

Verse 3

Perfect submission, all is at rest! I in my Savior am happy and blessed, Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. (**Refrain**)

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

INSPIRATION FROM THE PSALMS

Written By Evangelist Deloris Williams

PERFECTING THE HIDDEN SPIRITUAL BEING



LET US REMAIN TRUE AND MASK FREE

Psalm 19:12-14 - Author is David: "Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength and redeemer."

The challenge of a nation, its inhabitants, individuals, homes, families, in (all) cultures, are not how we obtain (temporal) stuff, meaning possessions, bits and pieces, objects, or deem the quality of life by status or titles (or a form of love by deceitful, conceited tactics), but by every WORD out of the mouth of the CREATOR to REVERENCE the SON of our CREATOR. One should ponder the utter simplicity how Spiritual Laws govern Life on Earth!! The Mortal's spiritual recovery is "packaged" GOSPEL we hear every Sunday. Leaders in authoritative positions, Gospel Messengers and Pew members must understand the World is much bigger than and evolves by the high spirits of something, someone more Colossal than global energy itself! The Lone Ranger behind the mask has an agenda to break rules and is a player of deceit and illegitimate vows of living life legally, choosing to lurk in the darkness of their dark matter of pretense and a depth of rebellion's revolt of SPIRITUAL MUTINY comfortably without a true desire to change or to be changed.

LUKE WARM PROFESSION: The **TRUE CHRISTIAN** must never use spiritual discernment that the revolt of this masked being is known as the old nature and/or the spirit of iniquity in full control when he/she is allowed to have control over every thought and deed working for one master, but professing the way. THE QUESTION IS: What Way? Very few are spiritually found in true reverence of (warnings) to be spiritually AWAKE and MATURE. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other, Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matthew 6:24 (KJV). Mammon meaning: characterization of a false god of wealth and riches considered as an evil and corrupt influence. Society is influencing many to treat biblical warning as LUKE WARM.

OBSERVATION: David's spiritual journey of recovery ushers him into an awakening of Spiritual Maturity of the greatest boast a mortal's soul can shout out in a harmonious symphony of ABBA's GREATNESS!! We witness the **(LIGHT) EFFECT** in this mortal's soul leaping in **SPIRITUAL REBIRTHING! HOW**? David's rebirth (reflects) his consciousness from the reality of his own sins as he ponders, traces, confesses his near **(eternal death)** as he meditates **TRUEFULLY!** In Psalm 19:1, David is (touched) by that great (spiritual finger) of GOD, revealing how great GOD is—David experiences what a **TRUE CHRISTIAN** will do once (reborn). David is a witness of his sin to his salvation. Verses 1-6 exclaims the Power of GOD and our finiteness. Humanity suffers because of willful sin from Adam and Eve's contempt and insubordination.

<u>SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING:</u> Finiteness online means: Limited. We only have a finite amount of resources of ourselves. Our (limited) understanding has a limited END! In other words, we cannot, will not usher ourselves into any correct reasoning or correct truth without the (spiritual anointing) of GOD! David is only

(Inspiration from the Psalms cont'd)

able to see spiritually in Psalm 19:1 from creation to his own sinfulness by the WORD to his wonderful Salvation! **WHAT SURGE of power has opened your eyes spiritually?**

SPIRITUAL INSUBORDINATION: The nature of a masked (spirit) David prays NOT to have in this Psalm vs. 13 where he asks to be kept from presumptuous sins and let them NOT have dominion over him, then David responds, then I shall be (UPRIGHT), then I SHALL BE (INNOCENT) from the (GREAT TRANSGRESSION)! WOW!! Self of its (Self) can never be righteous by human nature!

THE DEATH OF THE MASKED SPIRIT: In this same verse, take heed to the word (*PRESUMPTUOUS*), a biblical suggestion to search *GOD's WORD* is required here as this spirit leads to the great transgression!! Sin isn't really hid. It is revealed through a person's character and life-style of choices. How So? Deeds! Gossip, adultery, fornication, slander, ego, (intentional sin) you know is wrong, lustful flirtation with sinful natures, being inappropriate with all (contempt) of (righteousness), as scripture defines as acceptable unto the call from all (worldliness) offensive to GOD and (all) that he hates!

<u>BIBLICAL SENSE:</u> What is Presumptuous Sin? Sin that is committed intentionally, blatantly, deliberately, in defiance of GOD, with no remorse or care or warning which is defiant consistent rebellion and contemptuous default of eternal warnings! The World's Way is Satan's MASK of Defiance and his Spiritual Devices. GOD's Laws are his Covenants that are a vow he shall always keep! "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 5:18 (KJV)

THE SENSE USING SPIRITUAL SENSES: ALL SINS are great sins, but yet some sins are greater than others are. Every sin has in it the very (soul's poison) of spiritual mutiny, and as spiritual adultery, is full of the critical soul and spirit of two-timing rejection of God. But there be some sins which have in them a greater increase of the (blasphemous) waywardness to the core of rebellion, and which wear upon their faces more of the blatant pride which defies the Most High to the point he will judge one as the reprobate spirit. Our cure is in the WORD!! What is Spiritual Mutiny linked to? REBELLION, PRIDE, both sins are equated with witchcraft and paganism. A clear act of rebellion and its consequence is found in 1 Samuel. King Saul's pride blatantly disobeyed GOD's directive of instruction in Samuel 15:23 and did his own THING?!

SATAN A MASTER OF THE VULGAR DISGUISE OF THE MASK: PRESUMPTUOUS SIN is the (Intentional Will) to sin without shame, unruliness and noncompliance of acceptance of the plan of (SALVATION), defiance that leads to the blasphemy of the HOLY SPIRIT (that unpardonable sin), deceit, insolent, disrespectful, rude, bad-mannered, ill-mannered behavior, the mortal who disengages his moral reasoning and principals, and justifies his bad behavior, morally unclean, sexually impure, willful sins, or "deliberate sins." Brazen disregard of GOD's directives and or instructions. Breaking God's covenants in the dark and wearing a (mask) to masquerade as a (Christian). This is committing evil, giving the name of the Divine Deity a bad image.

<u>HOW DID DAVID REMAIN FAVORED:</u> David's conversion (vs. 7-11)—he realizes, the law converts us, makes us wise, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eyes, warns us and rewards us. He realizes GOD's law lights our path, rather than chains us, but positions us to receive joyfully the plan of "Salvation" on his terms, not our critiquing what we want and do NOT want because it chastens our fleshly pleasures and spiritual uncleanness!

QUESTION? How are you (critiquing) your own heart today? Are you really ready? <u>Are you MASKED</u> with hidden agendas? What is your (Spiritual Heart Condition)—what would JESUS say about your HEART TODAY? What could cause you to be left (BEHIND) if he comes this SUNDAY?

<u>INSPIRATION:</u> **GOD** removed David's "Masked" hunger and the tenacious doggedness and hidden drive and his vulgar vices of secret sin, becoming "Presumptuously" The Great Transgression. David was born from the "Biblical Prophetic Election of GOD," meaning Scripture states GOD's Foreknowledge of his "own." "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." Romans 8:29" (ESV). So what has been said in this verse? Let's go to the root of conform:

(Inspiration from the Psalms cont'd)

- (1) GOD shaped David with (Unconditional Favor). Why? Because he, GOD, Ordained and Predestined David and chose David.
- (2) Why? Because David was foreknown by GOD by GOD's all-knowing-Omniscience; GOD knew David would except his plan of Salvation and GOD's purpose for David was a "Prophetic Position" for NOT only his Divine Purpose, but he knew David's heart would seek him all the days of his life!
- (3) David's longevity aspires us today, sent in a special position, with a purpose. How? He knows those from birth who would repent (Genuinely) and truly die daily.
- (4) Why? Because once (Touched by GOD's Love), it's a done deal; those genuinely chosen to be Edified by the "Holy Spirit" is ABLE to keep the "chosen from falling into the "GREAT TRANSGRESSION" AND PRESUMPTUOUS SIN! TODAY, THE HOLY SPIRIT is calling his OWN!

THIS IS IT: Because GOD does NOT go by the outer appearance but Judgment will be by the contents of a man's heart, and if we are thinking, speaking, living behind spiritual masks... well, YOU... figure this one out and ponder?!

THE CONCLUSION OF THIS MATTER: IT IS TIME TO RIP THE HALLOWEEN MASK OFF? HOW? Realize the price of the masks you wear. Understand that your masks prevent you from experiencing intimacy with God. Do we really mean it when we say good morning with a smiling face? What secret faults do you harbor? What dialogue of speech flows from your lips?

Proverbs 26:24–28 "[Whose] hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the [whole] congregation. Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him. A lying tongue hateth [those that are] afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin."



REMOVE THE MASKS

- Hypocrisy = pretend, fake, not real
- The BIGGEST obstacle to many becoming Christians is when they see our HYPOCRISY.



Proverbs 6:16-19 (NKJV) "These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren." Psalm 37:37 (KJV) says: "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace." These are the heritage of the qualities of righteous men and women. They enjoy peace, but there is no peace for the wicked who broke God's law, or the believer pretending to worship God and never intends to change!

TWO MEN AND A MASK: JUDAS, THE MASKED TRAITOR – KING SAUL, THE BOLD DEFIANT ONE. GOD, preordains, predestines those whom he has chosen by his All-Knowing Omnipotence, meaning God is All-Powerful. This means God has "Supreme-Dynamism power and has no limitations" unlike limited humanity. Omniscience means God is All-Knowing. This means God knows everything, including the past and future. Omnipresence means God is everywhere at the same time. David came by GOD. WHO ARE YOU?

DON'T YOU KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL BARE WITNESS AND IS LEAVING NO ROOM FOR EXCUSES!

AFTER ALL HE'S NOT TRYING TO FIT INTO OUR PLANS BUT TRYING TO FIT US INTO HIS!!

THIS PSALM IS KNOCKING ON THE DOORS OF HEARTS HE HAS BEEN OBSERVING!

< Subtly Disguised with Spiritual Mutiny and Presumptuous Sins>



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!





Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all your prayers. Be alert and watch with purpose and perseverance, interceding on behalf of all the saints. Eph 6:18





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
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

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

Sis. Valerie Smith



THE OUTREACH MINISTRY - "One Body Saved To Serve"

Diana McGhee, Ministry Leader



It's Prom Time Again

The Outreach Ministry has several beautiful gowns available for our young ladies to wear to prom this year. For confidential fitting services, please contact Pamela Stodghill at 504-343-2606 or by email at pamelabarksdale@yahoo.com. We also need volunteer alteration services. If you would like to donate a gown or a tuxedo, please bring items to the Outreach Center during our business hours.



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



Fruit & Produce

"The Friendship Market" is open Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m., Fridays from 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Items will be distributed in the Fellowship Hall on Fridays and from the Outreach Center on Wednesdays and Saturdays on a first-come, first-served basis.



Mid-Week Service

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

HEALTH MINISTRY

Vickie Perry, RSN/BSN, Ministry Leader



Many health and heart organizations come together every May to raise awareness about the causes and effects of stroke. One of their biggest campaigns is FAST, teaching the world to know the symptoms of stroke and how to respond quickly to help save a life.

- **Face** By asking the person to smile you can tell immediately if one side of the face droops.
- **Arm** Ask the person to raise both arms. Observe to see if one arm drifts lower than the other.
- **Speech** Slurred speech is a symptom of stroke. Ask the person to repeat a single sentence.
- **Time** Call 911-Fast. Time may be the difference between life and death or even partial and full recovery.

HOW TO OBSERVE

Visit the cdc.gov and stroke.org to find out more.

HISTORY

National Stroke Awareness Day was proclaimed in 1989 by President George H. W. Bush. It had been observed for many years before the proclamation. The Centers for Disease Control, the American Heart Association, World Stroke Campaign and many others have all participated in bringing education, research, and treatment on a global basis.





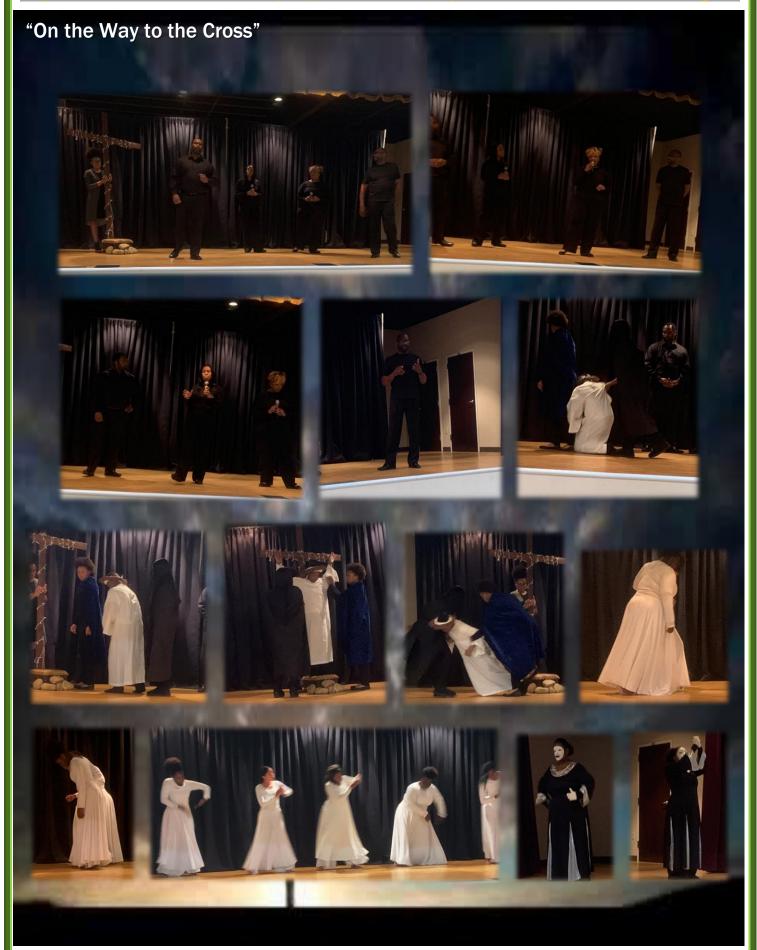
Easter in our beautiful Family Life Center. The FBC Drama Ministry presented "On the Way to the Cross" written by Sis. Hazel Franklin. A walk through Jesus' journey leading up to his death and resurrection. We followed along as Jesus stopped to heal and deliver, making so many personal sacrifices along the way—knowing that his death

loomed near. This drama ended with a simple challenge to the audience: Will we let the story of the cross go in one ear and out of the other <u>or</u> will we make the personal sacrifice as Christ did.

Additionally, we were blessed with another skit entitled "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone," where we discovered that being a follower of Jesus Christ comes with some trials and tribulations. As a Christian, we are given a cross to bear, and we have no choice in how big or small that Cross may be. We saw that those who chose to take up their cross and follow Jesus (though the road was sometimes tough) were rewarded with a great celebration in the end!

As always, the youth did an amazing job proclaiming the story of Easter through beautiful recitals. Many thanks to our Master and Mistress of Ceremonies, Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Vernell Timmons, to the parents, the Sound Ministry, the Dance/Mime Ministry, the Communications Ministry and all who helped in any way!











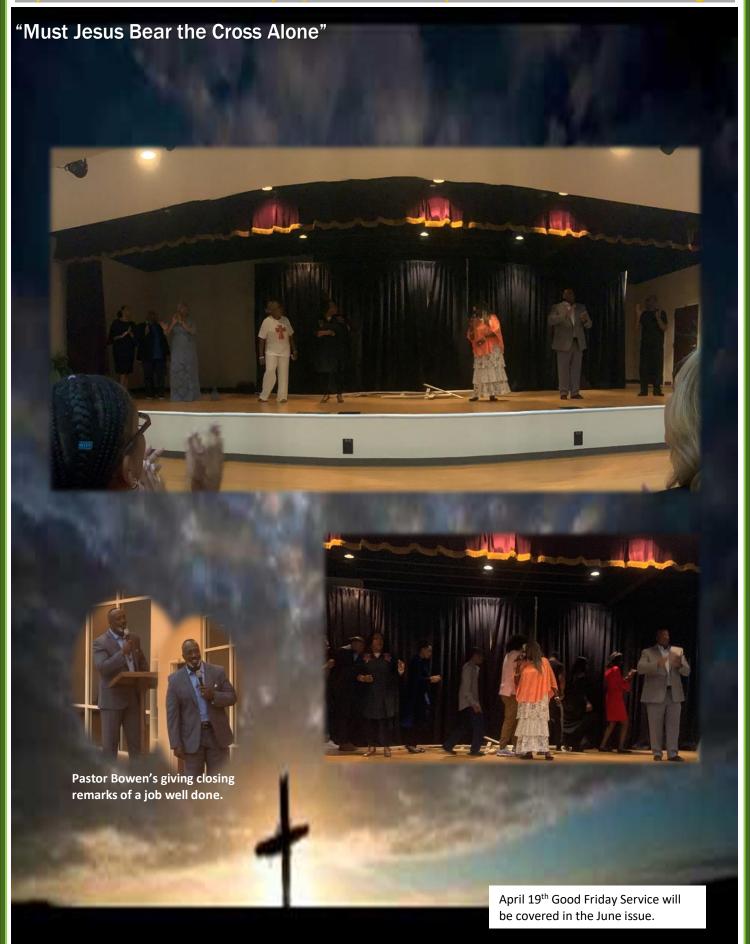


MUST JESUS BEAR THE CROSS ALONE?

If any man come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Matthew 16:24





SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMIT

Dorian Rogers, Sunday School Superintendent

FBC Sunday School Summit was held Saturday, April 27. The mission of the Sunday School Ministry is to educate every student that comes through the doors about the love and life of Jesus Christ in order to lay a foundation for his or her knowledge of Jesus and about Salvation. It is important to demonstrate the love of Jesus in the flesh so that the life that we live brings power to the words that we speak and to we are to train up every child or student in the way that he or she should go with the assurance that as he or she gets older, he or she will not depart from the truth nor the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Dea. Larry Kinsey gave the welcome and prayer followed with scripture reading by Mother Gerald Baker. Sis. Jocelyn May rendered a song of praise. Dea. Woodrow Williams offered up prayer over the breakfast to be served. Bro. Rommell May was the presenter for Session One: "In the Numbers"; Superintendent Dorian Rogers was the presenter of Session Two: "Teaching On Purpose" (our theme-T.O.P. Summit) and Min. Monique Stroman presented "Love in Action." Superintendent Dorian Rogers and Pastor Ronald Bowens gave the closing remarks.







(Sunday School Summit cont'd)























WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Cheryl Alford, Ministry Leader

The April Women's Ministry was an amazing eye-opener from beginning to end. At the onset, we welcomed the presence of the Holy Spirit with an inspirational rendition of "I Came to Worship You" by Terry Macalmon and an opening prayer led by Min. Roslyn Long. Several women were invited to share a scripture which had been handed out upon arrival. The women were also afforded the opportunity to share a verse of their own choosing if they felt led to.

After the women were uplifted with "This is a Move" by Tasha Cobbs-Leonard, Sis. Harriett Hairston welcomed first-time attendee and new member, Evelyn Snellings, as well as Sandra Goode-Kouyate who had been out of town for the past few months. Harriett also acknowledged those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during April as follows: **Birthdays**: Gertie Brock, Barbara Johnson, Mary Blackburn, LaRahn Waldon, Linda Berry and Brenda Graves. **Anniversaries:** Harriett Hairston (25 years) and Min. Roslyn Long (33 years).

Following the reading of our ministry covenant led by Lula Tally, Cheryl Alford introduced the morning topic, "What's On Your Mind?" along with the five panelists who graciously agreed to respond to the 26 questions provided by the women during the March fellowship. Rather than share a brief bio on these ladies, an acronym was used to describe them as Wise, wonderful worshippers, outstanding moms, mentors, managers (who are) enthusiastic, energetic nurturers. They included Rev. Denise Jackson, Min. Roslyn Long, Mother Gerald Baker and Sisters Mary Blackburn and Teresa Rainey.

Not only were these women of God present but they were prepared and were powerful in their responses. Out of 26 questions, the panelists were only able to respond to 12 of them before running out of time. **Each sister** had a response to **every question**. Our desire is that no one be ignorant or without understanding, so below is a list of those questions and a brief *combined* summary of the answers:

1. When sharing a serious situation where not only the person involved but you cry out to the Lord for His healing or provision or protection and you see Him working it out, is that considered your testimony or the other person's?

Answer: The situation can impact a person individually but it's a testimony for both. It's important to remember that we share the goodness of God by the word of our testimony which is an opportunity to express what God has done no matter who shares it.

2. How do you respond to an individual who knows the Lord but does not actively attend church yet doesn't want you to initiate a conversation on anything spiritual?

Answer: Matthew 10:14: "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when you depart out of the house or city, shake off the dust of your feet." Everyone who claims to know the Lord is not of the Lord. Tell the truth. Be who you are. Change associates if they are contrary. Keep your conversation positive and focused. Respond in love and pray for that person. Another scriptural reference was Hebrew 10:25-31.

3. We understand that God wants us to communicate with Him. He doesn't want repetitive clichés or recitations. So how do we know how and what to pray? Is there a pattern for prayer?

(Women's Ministry cont'd)

Answer: Yes. Read Matthew 6:9-13. Prayer is simply talking to God who loves us and wants to hear from us. In your prayer, acknowledge Him first. Communicate with Him regularly; develop a relationship with Him. Pray according to His will. You must read the bible to know His word and will. Read Luke 11:1, 1 John 5:14 and Romans 8:26. Ask The Lord to teach you and know that when you don't know what to pray, the Holy Spirit will help you. He will intercede for you.

A follow-up question was asked: *Is it speaking in tongues when the Holy Spirit intercedes with moanings?*

Answer: No. For the Holy Spirit to intercede you must be a follower of Christ. He will bring things to your remembrance. Tongues is a separate issue.

4. Why do we hesitate to pray in an open forum?

Answer: We hesitate out of fear which is what Satan wants. There are three things we tend to fear: loneliness; death and public speaking. However, we have power over the enemy. Intimacy with God will take away our fears. It's important to realize who you're talking to; to be in the spirit when you pray. Also, understand that there are different kinds of prayers: adoration, repentance, forgiveness, supplications, thanksgiving. You must be in agreement. You must pray with understanding. Understanding how to pray the different kinds begins with teaching. Realize also that there are private prayers and corporate prayers. Be willing to learn both ways. Don't worry about what others think. Read Philippians 4:6-8, 13; 2 Corinthians 12:19.

5. Why do we wait until after our blessings come before we praise or thank God?

Answer: Sometimes, we don't believe or trust. We need to realize that it's about faith. Read Hebrew 11:1. We must understand that our ways are not God's ways. We must trust and call those things that are not as though they were. It goes back to our teaching. We must learn the importance of thanking God in advance of His blessings. Hebrew 13:15 says, "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. Additional suggested reading: Proverbs 3:5-6.

6. Why do some men enter the sanctuary with a hat on? Is that dishonoring God?

Answer: God is interested in the posture of our hearts; not in our outer wear. Another thing to keep in mind is that it's disrespectful if God has convicted that person about it. One panelist posed this question to the women: is it a salvation issue? Will it send you to hell? We are urged to ponder these questions on our own. Another panelist responded that we tend to be legalistic in the church. Instead of this, we need to learn right from wrong and don't criticize. When you know better, you do better.

7. Are we to take what the bible says literally?

Answer: No. However, some things can be taken literally and some figuratively. We must use discernment in our understanding. Learn how to apply the word. Learn what was going on at the time the scripture was written. Be thankful for the grace of God and rightly divide the Word. Learn to understand the Word from a spiritual perspective.

8. Are the instructions that Paul provided to the churches mentioned in the New Testament applicable to today's church?

(Women's Ministry cont'd)

Answer: Absolutely! Discernment is necessary. Walk in obedience to the Holy Spirit who is your guide. Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

9. How do we begin to build relationships?

Answer: Our foundation must be Jesus Christ. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you". Proverbs 18:24: "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." You show yourselves to be friendly so that you can address their needs.

10. Please explain what a born again believer is and what types of behavior identifies them as such?

Answer: It's one who has repented of sins and turned to Christ for salvation. It's one who is known by their love. You must love unconditionally. Being born again begins with a seed. Your new life in Christ must grow. It includes confession. Ref. Romans 10:9. We will walk and fall but God will pick us up every time. Also when you're truly saved, your life will encompass the fruit of the spirit found in Galatians 5:22. You will say as it says in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and his life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

11. There are a lot of young women in our church. What can we do to reach out and show concern and friendliness? How can we get young women (18 and ^) more involved with the Women's Ministry?

Answer: Greet them. Reach out to them. Pray for and with them. Pray for direction. Invite young girls to share and express themselves. Open your arms and hearts to them. Invite them to our Women's fellowship. Find out their needs. To do that, we must ask.

12. Why do Christians act like they do when they say they're born again and have been transformed?

Answer: Short answer: Some really haven't been. They may be saved but it stops there. Read Romans 12:1-2. You must grow if you're to walk in maturity. We go from infancy to maturity. 1 Peter 2:2: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby" Also, true repentance brings about change. Matthew 7:21-23, Matthew 7:1: "Judge not, that ye be not judged." All of us fall short of God's glory. Stop looking at others and examine yourself.

TO BE CONTINUED...

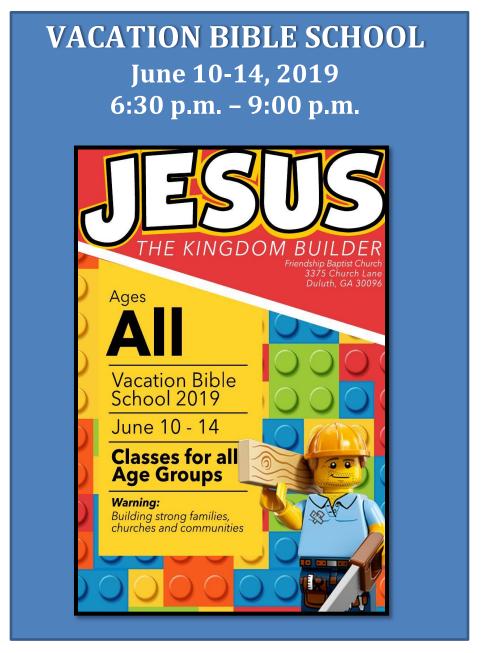
Although it was hard and sad, we had to end this part of our fellowship so that we could break bread together but no worries, we plan to continue the discussions in <u>June</u>.

We do hope more of our sisters will be encouraged to join with us. In the meantime, words can't express how grateful we are to our panelists who poured heart and soul into preparing their responses through the unadulterated Word of God.

Article by Cheryl Alford

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sis. Charlene Benn, Ministry Leader



Please join the VBS Team as we plan a full week of exciting Bible Study, Praise and Worship and Fellowship for the entire family and community. To sign up or if you have any questions, please contact the VBS Directors:

Kindell May: kpmay03@yahoo.com

Madelyn Sharpless: madelynsharpless@gmail.com

Nita Owens: juanitamowens@gmail.com

BLACK HISTORY

Facts and a famous quote from a novel written by Alexandre Dumas



Alexandre Dumas

Note: Alexandre Dumas pere (pere is French for father or Sr. because his son Alexandre Dumas fils (Jr) is also famous. Dumas is not American but French, so this is not African-American history but African history. There are three generations of Dumas' who are famous: 1) General Dumas – General in Napoleon's army, 2) Alexandre Dumas pere – subject of this article, son of General Dumas and 3) Alexandre Dums fils – son and playwright.

Ancestory: His father, Thomas-Alexandre Dumas Davy de la Pailleterie, was born in the French colony of Santo Domingo (present-day <u>Haiti</u>) to Marquis Antoine-Alexandre Davy

de la Pailleterie, a French nobleman, and <u>Marie-Cessette Dumas</u>, a black slave. His father, Thomas-Alexandre was taken to France, where he was educated in a military academy and entered the military for what would later be an illustrious career in general Napoleon's army.

Facts:

- Author of magazine articles, plays, novels and travel books, enjoyed travelling and cooking
- Traveled to Belgium, Italy, North Africa and Russia
- Highly respected French author whose works have been translated into many languages
- His works are experiencing a renaissance with modern academia for his contribution to French literature.

In 2002, under the orders of French President, Jacques Chirac, Alexandre Dumas pere's body was exhumed, and in a televised ceremony, his new coffin, draped in a blue-velvet cloth and flanked by four Republican Guards costumed as the Musketeers - Athos, Porthos, Aramis and D'Artagnan - was transported in a solemn procession to the Panthéon of Paris, the great mausoleum where French luminaries are interred.

In his speech, President Chirac said: "With you, we were D'Artagnan, Monte Cristo, or Balsamo, riding along the roads of France, touring battlefields, visiting palaces and castles—with you, we dream." In an interview following the ceremony, President Chirac acknowledged the racism that had existed, saying that a wrong had now been righted with Alexandre Dumas enshrined alongside fellow authors Victor Hugo and Voltaire.

Author of the following books: The Three Musketeers, The Count of Monte Cristo, The Man in the Iron Mask, The Prince of Thieves, The Black Tulip, and many more.

Words of Wisdom

Taken from Chapter 117 – The Fifth of October, Page 459 - From The Count of Monte Cristo: Tell the angel who will watch over your future destiny, Morrel, to pray sometimes for a man, who like Satan thought himself for an instant equal to God, but who now acknowledges with Christian humility that God alone possesses supreme power and infinite wisdom. ... There is neither happiness nor misery in the world; there is only the comparison of one state with another, nothing more. He who has felt the deepest grief is best able to experience supreme happiness. We must have felt what it is to die, Morrel, that we may appreciate the enjoyments of living. "Live, then, and be happy, beloved children of my heart, and never forget that until the day when God shall deign to reveal the future to man, all human wisdom is summed up in these two words—wait and hope."

http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=GPS&u=som&id=GALE|A18454701&v=2.1&it=r&sid=GPS&asid=3c1f5ca5&password=boushuperionos&ugroup=outside; http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/features/blackeuro/pdf/dumas.pdf; http://msdl.cs.mcgill.ca/people/tfeng/books/The%20Count%20of%20Monte%20Cristo.pdf

Submitted by Ardie McDaniels Communications Ministry

COME JOIN US

Every Wednesday Night for:

Intercessory Prayer
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
PRAYER

Worship Service & Bible Study 7:30 pm.



FBC YOUTH MINISTRY



MEETS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

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



MEETS IN THE HERITAGE CHURCH NEXT DOOR

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





GriefShare Ministry LeaderMinister Karen L. Blacknell
678-896-1441
Karen83052@gmail.com

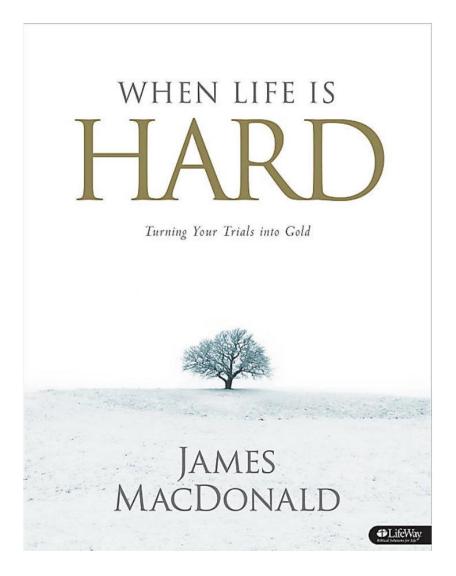
Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, a child, family member or friend.

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.

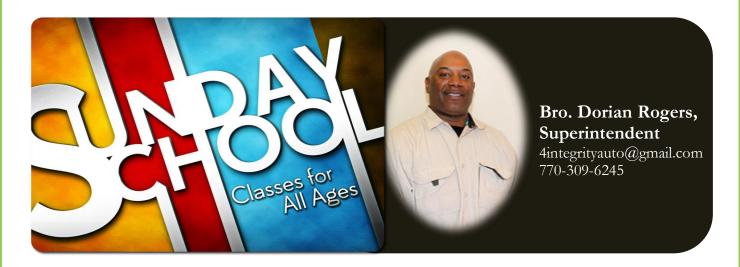
GriefShare's 13-week class started on March 25, 2018, and is ongoing. The class meets at 9:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center in Room 234. Each participant will need to register to attend this class. The workbooks are \$15.

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.



If you are a child of God, you can be sure that trials are coming your way. But your hardships are raw materials in the hands of a mighty God who wants to work in your life for good. This study is anchored in the scriptural truth that God disciplines all of His children, using trials to train you for your good and for His purposes.

Class Meets in the Fellowship Hall Monday Nights 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Books - \$12



CLASSES LOCATED IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER (FLC):

Class	Room	Class	
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: 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)



News & Other Important Information

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.

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

To request a ride to church, call (770) 622-2797 by Saturday at 4:00 pm.

GWINNETT TAG AND TITLE SERVICES

Tag and title services interrupted May 21 through May 29. Services will be interrupted while a new state motor vehicle system is installed. From May 21-29, tag renewals are unavailable via online services or at kiosks; from May 23-27, tag and title services are unavailable both at tag offices and by mail. If your birthday falls within those dates, **please renew by**

May 20 at: www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com/renew.



Go to fbcduluth.org and click on "Giving" From your phone, text to: fbcduluth to 73256

EDUCATION MINISTRY



On Sunday, June 9, 2019, during the 11:00 a.m. service, FBC will honor our High School and College Graduates. Come help us celebrate and lift them up as they begin their next chapter.

College Graduates: We at Friendship Baptist Church are excited about your accomplishments and look forward to seeing your continued success in the future. If you are a member of Friendship and a recent college graduate (June 2018-May 2019), please send your name and contact information to fbcduluth@att.net and sharon4282.sn@gmail.com no later than May 28, 2019.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

OS National LLC, a provider of residential and commercial title and escrow services, has plans to expand its Gwinnett County headquarters and create more than 1,000 new jobs. Learn more and to apply for current postings at: https://osnational.com/jobs.

NEIGHBORING CHURCH NEWS

LIT 2019 – Living in Truth Conference sponsored by Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church from May 30–June 1 for Youth ages 13-21. Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church. For more info go to: www.getlit.church.

INDOOR PEST CONTROL WORKSHOP - FREE!

In this workshop, learn how to use a multitude of tactics to control roaches, ants and spiders bothersome to homeowners. OneStop Centerville, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville. May 29 from 6:30-7:30 pm. 678-277-0228

OTHER IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION



National Lyme Disease Awareness Month in May is an excellent time to take precautions and learn the signs of Lyme disease.

With the spread of the disease to all 50 states, Lyme disease awareness, education, and early intervention are critical. Every year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 300,000 are diagnosed with Lyme disease. They contract it from the Ixodes ticks, which are also known as deer ticks or black-legged ticks. They cause a bacterial infection. Their habitat is wooded and grassy areas.

Depending on where you live, tick season can range from climate to climate, but they are active in the late summer, fall and during a mild winter for some regions.

How to Take Precautions

- Know when ticks are in season in your area.
- Wear light-colored clothing. It's easier to spot ticks and remove them.
- Wear long sleeves and pants to cover your skin.
- Stay to the center of trails. Avoid brushing up against brush and resting under trees.
- Keep your yard maintained and shrubs trimmed.
- After spending time outdoors, do a tick check. Check your pets, too.
- Use EPA registered insect repellants with DEET and follow instructions for safe use.
- Treat clothing and gear with 0.5% permethrin.

How to Observe

Do you know how to remove a tick? Be prepared and learn the signs and symptoms of Lyme disease. If you have symptoms such as fever, chills, aches, and pain and were bitten by a tick, you should seek a diagnosis from a physician. Visit www.cdc.gov for more information.





Youth Choir Preparation

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 WoW 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

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
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 1st & 3rd S	unday 7:00 pm	

SPECIAL MONTHLY SERVICES

Tuesday before 2nd & 4th Sunday 6:45 pm

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: <u>fbcduluth@att.net</u> Website: <u>www.fbcduluth.org</u>

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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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: JUNE 7, 2019.**