



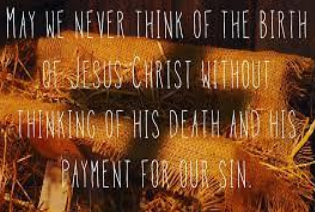
FRIENDSHIP

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

DECEMBER 2019

VOL. 7. ISSUE 12



FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Theme of the Month	1
Hymn of the Month.....	3
Burning of the Mortgage	4
Signs of the Season.....	8
Outreach Ministry	9
Tips for the Temple	13
Spotlight on Ministry	14
Women's Ministry.....	15
Communications Ministry.....	18
Pete Bowens' Bowling League	19
Honda Battle of the Bands.....	20
History of Watch Night Services.....	22
Church News.....	25
Prayer List.....	27
Sunday School Classes	29
Opportunities to Serve	30

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 14 Women's Ministry 9:00am
- 18 Youth Bible Study Fun Night 7:30pm
- 22 Annual Christmas Program 3:00pm
- 24-25 Church Office closed
- 25 Christmas Day
- 28 Bible Study Fun Night 7:30pm
- 31 Church Office closed
- 31 Watch Night Service 10:00pm

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day 2020
- 1 Church Office Closed
- 4 Creative Learning 11:30am
- 5 Bowling League 5:00pm
- 11 Women's Ministry 9:00am
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 20 MLK Jr Day Breakfast 10am FLC
- 25 Honda Battle of the Bands

FBC MISSION STATEMENT

Exalt the Savior
Equip the Saint
Evangelize the Sinner

The Birth of Christ

Jesus' birth was prophesied hundreds of years before his birth in the Old Testament around 1500-1300 BC. In Genesis 22, after Abraham took his son Isaac to be sacrificed, God intervened with a ram in the bush for the sacrifice. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham out of the Heavens and gave him many promises of blessings, one of which in verse 18 is *"And in thy seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."*

Another prophesy came in the book of Numbers between 1446-1260 BC in Chapter 24, when Balaam listened to God and started blessing Israel, it was spoken in verse 17, *"I shall see him, but not now; I shall behold him, but not nigh; there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel..."*. Both these prophesies were fulfilled in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38.

The Virgin birth was prophesied in 740 BC in Isaiah 7:14, *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel"* (God with us). This was fulfilled in Matthew 1:20-25 and Luke 1:26-35.

Jesus had to come to us as the Incarnate, meaning becoming flesh. He was God in human form, He was here from the beginning of the world as seen in John 1:1, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* To relate to man, He had to come in the form of a baby, growing up as a child, rubbing shoulders with us, showing us He was not better than us because of his great Love for us.

(More next page)

(The Birth of Christ cont'd)

In Luke Chapter 1, Gabriel, the Angel of the Lord, appeared to Mary and told her of her upcoming task, being the mother of Jesus and His responsibilities:

1. He was to be called Jesus (vs. 31).
2. He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High (vs. 32).
3. God will give Him the throne of David (vs. 32).
4. There will be no end of His kingdom (vs. 33).
5. He will be called Holy, the Son of God (vs. 35).

Gabriel gave Mary the assurance that these things will surely take place because, *"With God, nothing shall be Impossible"* (vs. 37).

As we celebrate the holidays with traditional things like Christmas carols, Christmas trees, decorations and gifts, let us focus on the real reason of the season. God wrapped his Son in his Love, entrusted him to Mary for a season and gave us the chance of eternal life through Christ Jesus.

He's no longer the little baby in the manger but the Risen King who gave his life at Calvary's cross for our sins. He adopted us in His royal priesthood and made us joint-heirs with him in Glory. We should remember the great Love God gave us in His Son and emulate such love by giving and sharing with those who are less fortunate. Let us celebrate Christ, the reason for the season.



HYMN OF THE MONTH

“Joy to the World”



“Joy to the World” is a popular Christmas carol that came out of a collaboration of three people: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), George Frederic Handel (1685-1759) and Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

This song could be considered the most unlikely Christmas hymn because first, it is based from Psalm 98 instead of the Christmas narrative in Luke 2 and, secondly, it celebrates Christ’s second coming more than his first.

Isaac Watts was an English poet and a clergyman who challenged many teachings of the Orthodox church. He paraphrased the entire Psalm 98 in two parts, and it first appeared in his famous collection, “The Psalms of David, Imitated in the Language of the New Testament 1719.”

“Joy to the World” was taken from the second part of the paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9, entitled, “The Messiah’s Coming and Kingdom.” In commenting on his paraphrase, in his own words, Mr. Watts said, “In these two hymns I have formed out of the 98th Psalm, I have fully expressed what I esteem to be the first and chief Sense of the Holy Scriptures.”

Verse 3 of the hymn is sometimes omitted because it was not based on Psalm 98: “No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found.” This “curse” is a reference to Genesis 3:17 when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden.

George Handel was from Germany residing in London and Lowell Mason was from Boston USA. After all three composers collaborated and put their spin on this song, it resulted in a favorite Christmas hymn based on an Old Testament psalm, set to musical fragments composed in England and pieced together across the Atlantic in the United States of America.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come,
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns.
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.



Submitted by Sis. Hyacinth Chung
Communications Ministry



FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

The Mortgage Burning Service of Celebration was held Sunday, December 8, 2019, after Pastor Bowens delivered the Word of God during the 11:00am Worship hour. Afterwards, the Church transitioned to the Family Life Center for a celebratory reception.

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*

Mortgage Burning Litany

Pastor: Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who has made heaven and earth. And we believe that God has ordained Friendship Baptist Church to minister to Duluth, Georgia and to the world.

Congregation: We are Committed to the Journey.

Pastor: God's hand is on us. He has prospered us to free up debt to put more resources toward saving more souls and strengthening the spiritual lives of disciples of Jesus Christ.

Congregation: We are Committed to the Journey.

Pastor: We therefore meet joyfully today to transform indebtedness into humble gratitude and prepare to continue on.

Congregation: We are Committed to the journey.

Pastor: And now, Holy Father, trusting in Your love and goodness, confident in Your power, and dedicating ourselves anew to the support of our beloved Church, and through that support to the growth and expansion of Your Kingdom, we praise Your name and we burn this mortgage, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Thank You Lord!

(Mortgage Burning Celebration cont'd)



(Mortgage Burning Celebration cont'd)



(Mortgage Burning Celebration cont'd)



SIGNS OF THE SEASON

By Sis. Christine R. Smith, Communications Ministry

Christmas - Christ's mass

The name 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ (or Jesus). A Mass service (which is sometimes called Communion or Eucharist) is where Christians remember that Jesus died for us and then came back to life.

The First Christmas - The first Christmas celebration by the early Christian Church occurred 331 years after Christ's Crucifixion in Jerusalem. The church didn't celebrate the birth of Christ until the third century because no one knew the date. The date of the birth of Christ is not recorded in the Bible. It wasn't likely that shepherds were watching their flocks in the middle of a Northern Hemisphere winter. They were more likely to be doing this in the warmer months. Nonetheless, the actual date of Jesus' birth remains a mystery. The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25th was in 336 AD in Rome; the date sanctioned by Pope Julius. This corresponds to the date of the solstice on the Roman calendar.

Some people think that December 25th might have also been chosen because the Winter Solstice and the ancient pagan Roman midwinter festivals called '[Saturnalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saturnalia)' and '[Dies Natalis Solis Invicti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_Invictus#Festival_of_Dies_Natalis_Solis_Invicti)' took place in December around this date so it was a time when people were already celebrating.

The Tradition of Advent - Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas or sometimes from December 1st to Christmas Day. Advent means 'Coming' in Latin (the coming of Jesus into the world.) Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. The four weeks of Advent are themed; each represented by a candle placed in the Advent Wreath. The wreath symbolizes God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible!

1st Sunday: Hope (or promise)

2nd Sunday: Preparation (waiting or prophecy)

3rd Sunday: Joy (peace)

4th Sunday: Love (adoration)

The Friendship Baptist Church Youth Department has made a tradition of celebrating Advent each Sunday in December with our youth. It is a spiritual time where the children participate around the altar commemorating and anticipating the coming of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Conclusion - The celebratory traditions associated around the world with Christmas have a mix of pre-Christian, Christian, and secular themes and origins. Popular modern-day customs of the holiday include gift giving, completing an Advent calendar, singing Christmas music and caroling. Fellowshiping, feasting, spending time with family and friends and helping those less fortunate are all Christ-like ways to live out our faith in Jesus! Although there's no Biblical or historical proof that Jesus was born on December 25th the Blessing is, **He was born!**

*John 1 (KJV): ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... ¹⁴And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth. **For Christians, this is absolutely worth celebrating!***

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

For more information about the Outreach Ministry or to volunteer, please contact:
Diana McGhee at 404-312-1232 or via email at dianaymcghee@bellsouth.net or
Catherine Stafford at 678-983-7587.

"THE FRIENDSHIP MARKET"



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!!



A Huge Thank You! Our sincere thanks to our FBC members and friends for supporting our Annual Thanksgiving Eve service and lunch through your donations, service and attendance. We could not have done it without you.
Sis. Diana McGhee, Outreach Ministry Leader



(Thanksgiving Eve Service & Luncheon cont'd)



(Thanksgiving Eve Service & Luncheon cont'd)



TIPS FOR THE TEMPLE

By Sis. Diane Russell, Communications Ministry

I Cor. 3:16-17 *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”*



Mind, Body and Soul

Getting proper food, rest and exercise are part of the basic routine to follow to keep your body fit and healthy. Apart from this, it is also essential to take proper care of our overall body from skin, hair, eyes to hands and legs. We should take care of our body not only in the day but at night as well.

Sleep is vital to our health and well-being. Hundreds of biological processes occur while we snooze — and missing out on them can undermine the immune system, metabolism, cognitive function, emotional stability, and more. For healthy sleep, try to stick to a schedule. Create an electronic sundown. An hour before bedtime, turn off your devices. After dark, the blue light from screens can prevent quality slumber. If you can't unplug entirely, consider a light-dimming app like flux for Apple or Twilight for Android.

Healthy eating starts with healthy food choices. Eating healthy doesn't have to mean dieting or giving up all the foods you love. Balancing the healthy diet with an occasional treat. Eat a variety of nutritious foods from all the food groups. This should include but not limited to, a variety of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, low fat dairy products, poultry and fish. Try to limit saturated fat, trans fat, sodium, red meat, sweets and sugar-sweetened beverages. If you choose to eat red meat, compare labels and select the leanest cuts available. Most healthy eating patterns can be adapted based on calorie requirements and personal and cultural food preferences.

Regular exercise can help protect you from heart disease and stroke, high blood pressure, noninsulin-dependent diabetes, obesity, back pain, osteoporosis, and can improve your mood and help you to better manage stress. Regular exercise can help you sleep better, reduce stress, and control your weight. **Everything in moderation!!**

Romans 12:1-2 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

Articles from <https://experiencelife.com/>

Less	More
Junk Food	Real Food
Sitting	Walking
Late Nights	Rest
TV Watching	Reading
Frowning	Smiling
Talking	Listening
Complaining	Encouraging
Negativity	Gratitude
Arguing	Understanding
Worrying	Praying
Taking	Giving

FLC GYM AND FITNESS CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION:

Mornings Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon



SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY



Left to right: Cedric Hitchcock, Randel Carr, Bobby Williams, Richard Sylve,
Dallis Harrison, Jim Vandiver, Ryan Deny and Marvin Whitfield
Not pictured: Germain Patterson, Raymond Poole and Victor Jones

The primary purpose of the FBC Gatekeepers is to provide safety and security for our church family and visitors attending Friendship Baptist Church.

If you have a desire to serve faithfully in this capacity, please contact Bro. Bobby Williams at 954-579-6002 or Bro. Randel Carr at 305-967-5950 or join us at one of our meetings to learn more. The Gatekeepers meet every 4th Saturday at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center in Room 130.

1 Chronicles 9:22-23

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Sis. Cheryl Alford, Ministry Leader

December 2019

The Women's Ministry ended the last meeting of the year with a fun-filled celebration acknowledging the birth of our Savior and a table full of presents for each attendee.

Upon arrival, each sister was given an opportunity to pick a number from a stocking bag held by Sis. Shirley Price who also handed out the gift of a paper fan to keep cool during worship services. No, we didn't have a play or a cantata. However, we did take a moment to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit through prayer led by Evangelist Lenn Jones and scripture reading from Isaiah 9:6-7 by Sis. Lynne Alford.

We reflected on the Christmas season through two songs: "Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child" and "Emmanuel" played by Sis. Dranita Morrow. After the musical renditions, Sis. Geraldine Powell led the women in the reading of our covenant followed by Sis. Cheryl Alford who came forth and shared the following poem:

The Gift of God's Love

All over the world at this season, expectant hands reach to receive
Gifts that are lavishly fashioned, the finest that man can conceive...
For purchased and given at Christmas are luxuries we long to possess,
Given as favors and tokens to try in some way to express
That strange, indefinable feeling which is part of this glad time of year
When streets are crowded with shoppers and the air resounds with
good cheer...

But on each tinsel-tied package exchanged at this gift-giving season,
Unrecognized often by many, lies a deeper, more meaningful reason...
For, born in a manger at Christmas as a gift from the Father above,
An infant whose name was called Jesus brought mankind the gift
of God's love...

And the gifts that we give have no purpose unless God is part of the giving,
And unless we make Christmas a pattern to be followed in everyday living.



(Women's Ministry cont'd)

After the reading, Sis. Cheryl thanked everyone for their participation and support of the ministry throughout the year.

As most of you our readers know, each month we acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries. December birthday greetings went to Mother Dorothy Blagmon (1st), Mother Patricia Ashe (6th), Sis. Dranita Morrow (8th), Sis. Lynne Alford (12th); not present but not forgotten, Sis. Gerry Wright (31st). Anniversaries included Mother Dorothy Blagmon (1st) and Sis. Gerry Wright (1st).

The women spent some time participating in three word games which challenged them to answer bible trivia questions related to the birth of Jesus. Following these activities, the women enjoyed a special, mouth-watering breakfast of salmon cakes, bacon, grits, quiche and biscuits prepared by Sis. Gertie Brock who has faithfully served this ministry for the past seven years. We hope she knows how much we sincerely appreciate her dedication in keeping us physically nourished.

Following breakfast, everyone was invited to get the gift that matched the number she received upon arrival. The gifts were very special and well received especially since all of them were hand-made. Sis. Cheryl made sure to acknowledge those who generously contributed gifts for this occasion and also shared the following statement after reading the poem above: *"We have not forgotten the reason for this Christmas season. It is our Lord through His Holy Spirit who has placed it in our hearts to give. He has blessed us abundantly with the strength and determination to fulfill the task of serving this ministry. Our giving is a way to say thank you to those of you who have remained a part of the ministry throughout the year. The gifts you received today are just a small expression of appreciation. But please know that we are all aware that the greatest gift we've been given is God's love through our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. We can't top that and won't try, but we can be mindful that we are blessed and can bless somebody else."*

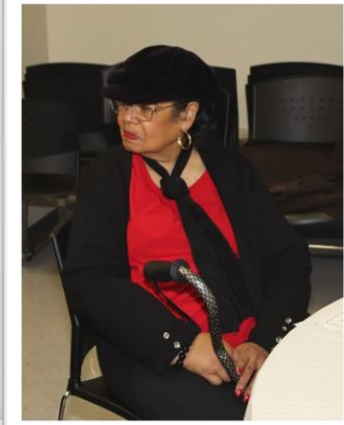
Finally, special thanks to Sis. Gertie Brock, Sis. Erichka Shadburn, Sis. Lynne Alford and Sis. Tracey Alford for their contributions and to Sis. Kindell May for the beautiful, festive decorations.

We had an awesome time and look forward to the new year and the opportunity to continue fellowshiping with our sisters.

Article by Sis. Harriett Hairston, with contributing comments by Sis. Cheryl Alford.
Sis. Shirley Price, Photographer - Communications Ministry



(Women's Ministry cont'd)



COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

Bro. Louie Malone, Ministry Leader



Louie (Pat) Malone



Diane Russell



Tina (Germain) Patterson



Shirley (Frank) Price



Paulette (Rhoal) Tapp

Ardie (Denise) McDaniel

The Communications Ministry members enjoyed an end-of-the year evening of good food, laughter, gift giving and fellowship at the Oyster Bay Seafood Café in downtown Lawrenceville on Sunday, December 15th. We are thankful to have Diane Russell to join the ministry and look forward to doing new and exciting things in 2020. Please contact Bro. Louie at tag49llm@aol.com to learn how the ministry serves and supports FBC and how you can get involved. Together as a team, we accomplish much. Join us! We meet every 3rd Saturday at 11:00am in Room 135 in the FLC.

Not pictured: Kiane Davis, Wanda Hall, Jennifer Jones and DL Whaley

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2020!



Regina Gilbert

Kelly Wilson



Jerry (Betty) Fisher



Christine (Tennyson) Smith

PETE BOWENS' FELLOWSHIP BOWLING LEAGUE

Last year, our Friendship in Fellowship Bowling League's faithful member, Deacon Hezekiah "Pete" Bowens, made his transition. In honor of his memory, the name has been changed to Pete Bowens' Fellowship Bowling League.

The season will start on Sunday, January 5, 2020, at Bowlero Bowling Center (formerly Brunswick Lanes), 3835 Lawrenceville Highway, Lawrenceville, GA at 5:00 pm.

Please come out and fellowship.

For more details, you can contact the Church Office or
Deacon Michael Jerralds @ 770-815-0604
Sis. Rosena Heyward @ 770-361-1296
Sis. Ethel Emery @ 678-362-2177



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020



FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
YOUTH MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP
AT THE 17TH ANNUAL
HONDA BATTLE OF THE BANDS
MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM
CONTACT SIS. KEISHA THORNTON
OR SHEVONNE MEEKS
TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sis. Charlene Benn, Ministry Leader

gifted.
MIND+BODY+SPIRIT

**AGES: NURSERY - 5TH GRADE
MEETS IN THE LOWER LEVEL MAIN BUILDING
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**

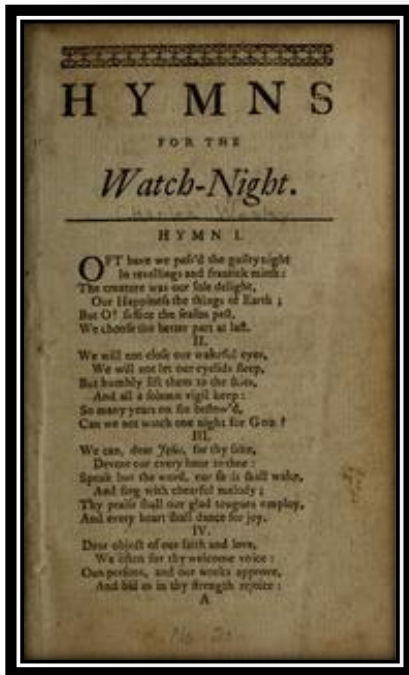
TEEN MINISTRY

Rev. Stan & Min. Barbara Williams, Ministry Leaders



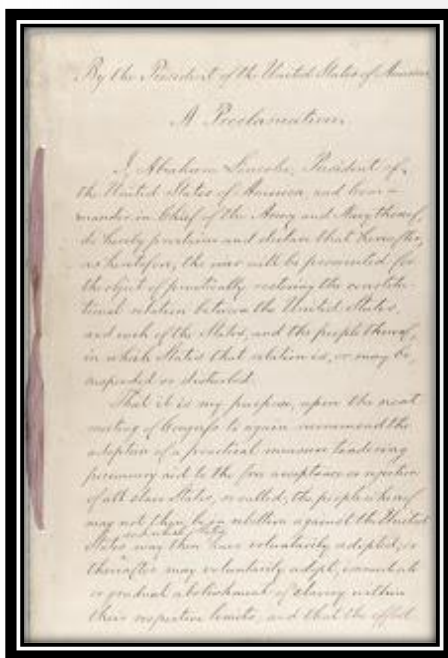
**AGES: 12 TO 19 (MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL)
MEETS IN THE HERITAGE CHURCH
7:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

THE HISTORY OF WATCH NIGHT SERVICES DECEMBER 31



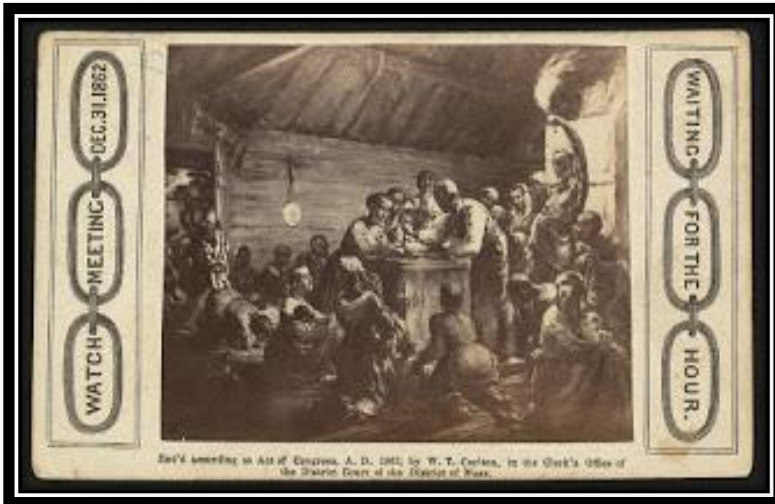
Watch Night church services originated within Moravian communities. During these gatherings, the pastor would begin a sermon just before midnight, never intending to finish. Instead, when the church bells rang in the new day, congregants would interrupt the sermon, either by singing or walking out of the church. This practice was meant to remind participants that Jesus could return at any moment and that the faithful must be ever ready for his arrival. These midnight services gained popularity outside of Moravian churches when John Wesley adopted them. The first Methodist Watch Night services were held in England during the full moon, when attendees would be sure to have enough light for their late-night walk home, and they became popular in the American colonies shortly after the first were celebrated in Philadelphia and New York in November of 1770. Though they began as monthly celebrations, by the nineteenth century, these regular meetings declined in popularity among Methodists, while the New Year's Eve services became particularly popular as an alternative to the rowdy celebrations that had come to characterize this secular holiday.

Although the Watch Night ceremony began within Moravian and Methodist churches, it is perhaps most popular today within evangelical Protestant churches, especially African American denominations and congregations. This is because the Watch Night service has an additional significance within many African American religious communities. Sometimes referred to as Freedom's Eve ceremonies, church services in many black churches not only mark the beginning of a new year and a fresh start, but also commemorate the end of American slavery.



In 1862, Abraham Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which read "on the first day of January...all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." Although the proclamation was issued in September, Lincoln promised to sign the document on the first day of the new year, thereby declaring the freedom of all the slaves in any Confederate states that had refused to rejoin the Union. On December 31, 1862, enslaved and free people gathered in churches and hush harbors throughout the divided country in anticipation. One popular story tells of a man in Boston running into the Tremont Temple Baptist Church just before midnight announcing that freedom was coming to the South. Although slaveholders in Confederate states obviously did not recognize Lincoln's authority to issue such an order, nor was there any way for Union forces to enact such a decree, the proclamation was nonetheless symbolically significant and has therefore been remembered in innumerable African American churches every year since.

(Watch Night cont'd)



In addition to commemorating the events of 1863, congregants in African American churches gather for many of the same reasons that early Methodists had. Watch Night services provide a religious way to celebrate an otherwise secular holiday that is often characterized by drunken revelry. Churchgoers gather in the late evening and hold services until the dawn of the new year in order to contemplate the previous year and evaluate their choices. They also think ahead to the coming year, make resolutions, and renew their commitment to God. Prayers are said, songs sung, and sermons given, and in some cases the Emancipation Proclamation is read.

Although Watch Night services have traditionally taken on an additional historical significance within African American religious communities, this additional meaning is becoming increasingly less known. Many African American church celebrations today are indistinguishable from European Watch Night celebrations and no longer include any reference to Freedom's Eve. This has led some ministers to question whether they should continue to celebrate the event. New Year's Eve is not, after all, generally thought of as a religious holiday, and as the particular African American historical and cultural significance becomes less commonly understood, some have chosen to abandon the practice all together. Nonetheless, the Watch Night ceremony remains significant in many African American churches, and the tradition is likely to continue for many years to come.

Source: <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2015/12/december-31-is-watch-night.html>

The service usually begins anywhere from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and ends at midnight with the entrance of the New Year. Some people come to church first, before going out to celebrate; for others, church is the only New Year's Eve event. Read more at <https://aaregistry.org/story/the-first-black-watch-night-service-occurs-in-america/>

Submitted by Paulette Tapp
Communications Ministry

Can You Find 16 Books of the Bible in the Story Below?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was lulu, kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to the numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there really are 16 names of the books in the Bible in this story. *Still having trouble, go to page 31.*



James Weldon Johnson

National Black Anthem

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

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

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
 Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
 Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
 Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
 We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
 We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
 Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
 Where the white gleam of our star is cast.

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



Church News & Other Important Information

Job Opportunities

- The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring for the 2020 Census. Interested applicants should apply at: www.2020census.gov/jobs.
- IT/Facilities Assistance II – Full Time w/after-hours and weekends required. If interested, send your resume to kim.thompson@southeastmortgage.com.

Drama Ministry - Attention Parents: This year's Christmas Pageant will feature the beautiful voices of the FBC youth. We invite all children ages preschool to middle school to come be a part of our very special Christmas choirs. We need your help to bring this year's production to life! Last rehearsal date: **December 21st at 11:00 am in the Family Life Center.** Please bring your children out to be a part of this wonderful celebration of our Savior's birth! For more information, please contact Victoria Jones at 662-315-1107.

Scholarships

1) The Gwinnett County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated is pleased to announce that we are offering scholarships for high school seniors. All African-American high school seniors who attend a high school in Gwinnett County, except Centerville, Snellville and Loganville, are eligible to apply. The link for the online application is [:tinyurl.com/GCACscholarship](http://tinyurl.com/GCACscholarship). **Deadline is January 31, 2020.**

2) Do you know any High School Seniors interested in Agriculture or Animal Sciences who want to attend an HBCU? Requirements: 3.0 GPA and 1000 SAT score. <https://www.outreach.usda.gov/education/1890>. The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program will provide full tuition, employment, employee benefits, fees, books and room and board each year for up to 4 years to selected students pursuing a bachelor's degree at Alabama A&M, Alcorn State, Central State Univ., Delaware State, Florida A&M, Fort Valley State, Kentucky State, Langston Univ., Lincoln Univ., North Carolina A&T, Prairie View A&M, South Carolina State, Southern Univ., Tennessee State, Tuskegee Univ., Univ. of Arkansas, Univ. of Maryland Eastern Shore and Virginia State. **Application Deadline: Friday, January 31, 2020.**

Youth Ministry Christmas Schedule 2019 - Join us for Youth Church during 7:30 and 11:00 Services in the Main Fellowship Hall. **SAVE THE DATE:** Honda Battle of the Bands, Saturday, January 25, 2020

FBC Creative Learning Fall Classes - The Creative Learning Class is on fall break and will return on Saturday, January 4th, at 11:30 am.

The Gatekeepers Ministry is looking for volunteers. The Gatekeepers Ministry is a group of volunteer Guardians (1 Chronicles 9: 22-23).

Monday Night Bible Study - Monday Night Bible Study from 7:00 pm-8:00 pm in the Main Fellowship Hall. The new topic is: JAMES Faith/Works by Matt Chandler. Book cost is \$15.

Outreach Ministry – SAVE THE DATE! Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – 2020. On January 20, 2020, FBC together with the Jack and Jill chapter of Greater North Atlanta will host a breakfast and program for our young people as we commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a day of service as we restock our food pantry. The breakfast program will begin at 10:00 am in the Family Life Center. Please encourage our youth to attend and participate. Please stay tuned for more information.

Lost and Found – If you have lost items and would like to check the Lost and Found, you may contact the Church Office at 770-497-8227 Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:30 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, 4:00 pm.

ONLINE GIVING

<https://abundant.co/fbcduluth/give>. Go to fbcduluth.org and click on: "Giving" tab or text: fbcduluth to 73256

COME JOIN US

***** Every Wednesday Night *****

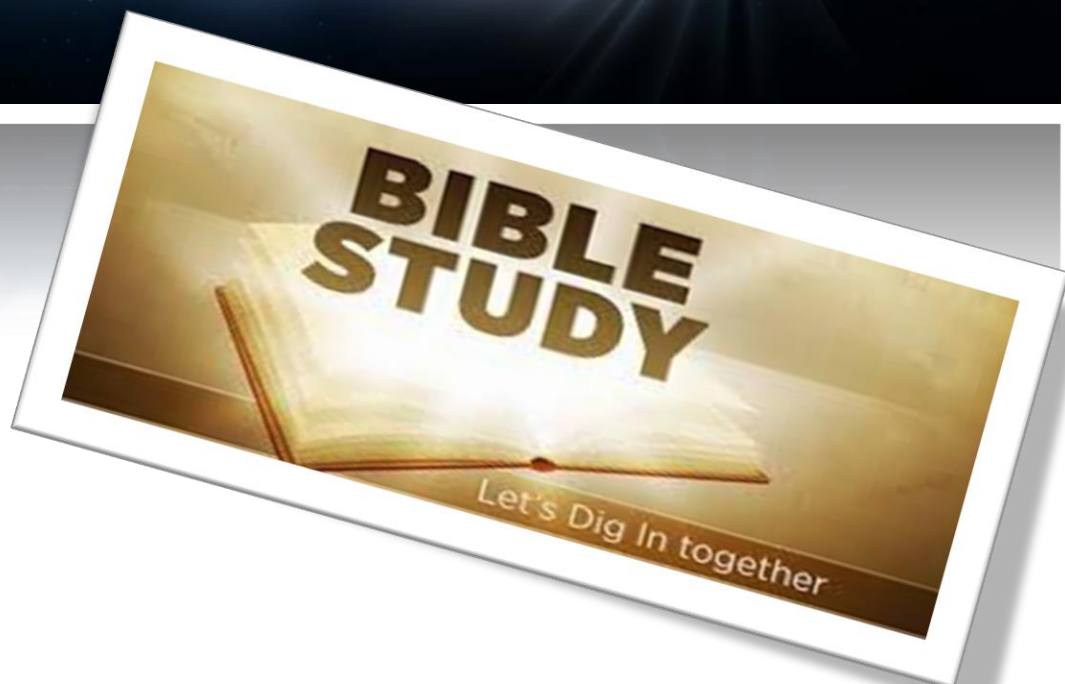
Intercessory Prayer

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

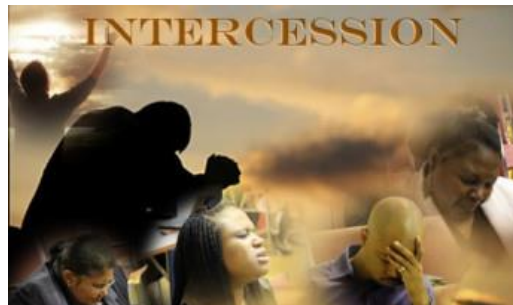
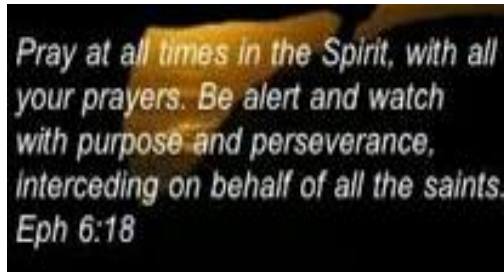
PRAYER
changes things

Worship Service & Bible Study

7:30 p.m.



Prayer List



REMEMBER WITH PRAYER, CALLS AND VISITATIONS

Bro. Willie Benton
Min. Karen Blacknell
Rev. Kenneth Blacknell
Bro. Farrell Bowens
Sis. Joyce Brooks
Sis. Sherie Brown
Bro. Tyler Caldwell
Bro. Lakee Danner
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

Sis. Sylvia Marrow
Sis. Roxanne Motley
Evg. Valerie Montaque
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
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





We are here to help: This might be the first holiday after your loved one's death, or maybe it's the second, third or beyond. In the coming days you are going to be facing some tough emotions. You can lessen the emotional impact by knowing what to expect and being prepared. We have started a new series of GriefShare "Surviving the Holiday." Be part of the discussion group and receive a Survival Guide with daily encouragement and helpful exercises for the days ahead. Join us at 9:45 am in Room 234.



GriefShare Ministry Leader

Minister Karen L. Blacknell

678-896-1441

Karen83052@gmail.com

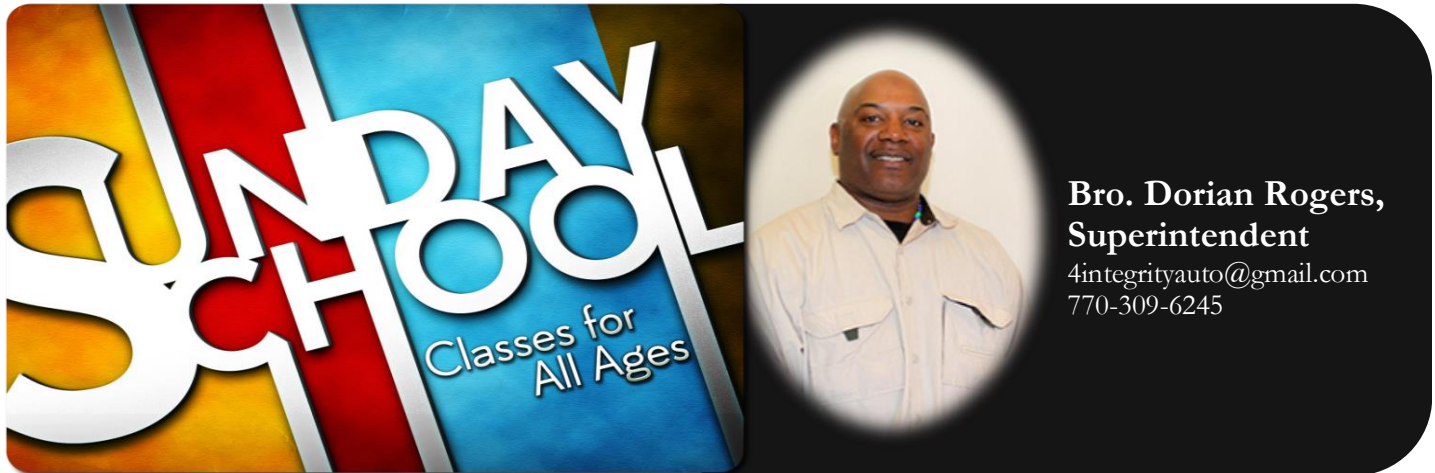
Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, a child, family member or friend.

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 meets every Sunday 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.

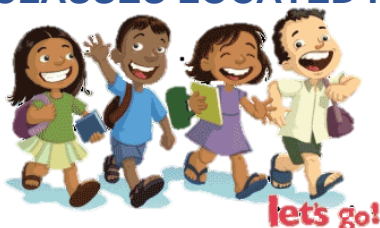


CLASSES LOCATED IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER (FLC):

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		

Sunday School

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)

PROVERBS 22:6
**"TRAIN A CHILD IN
 THE WAY HE
 SHOULD GO, AND
 WHEN HE IS OLD
 HE WILL NOT TURN
 FROM IT."**



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

WEEKLY

Bible Study (Adult)	Wednesday	7:30 pm	Sanctuary
Intercessory Prayer	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Mid-Week Service	Wednesday	12:00 noon	Lower Level Main Building
New Members' Class	Sunday	9:45 am	Room 209 Family Life Center
Sunday School	Sunday	9:45 am	Family Life Center
Sunday School Teachers	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lower Level Main Building
Sunday Worship	Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Sanctuary
Teen Church	Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Heritage Church
Youth Church Bible Study	Wednesday	7:45 pm	Lower Level Main Building

MONTHLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

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

SPECIAL MONTHLY SERVICES

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



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

**Thank You
Dear Readers**

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

To: Bro. Malone, Sis Tapp and all involved staff--Just want to commend all of you for the beautiful, detailed, informative, and amusing presentation of the November issue. An informative way to learn more about my sisters and brothers at FBC, their experiences, ideas, and most of all, love for our LORD and SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. In many ways, there is so much to be learned and applied to the lives of others and I'm grateful.

Do keep up the great work, both in words and photos!!

*Love and blessings,
(Mother) Gerald C. Baker* 🌹

*"I adore and am amazed with this crew of the "HOLY SPIRIT" filled beings; that are truly ushered by the "Spiritual Finger" of The Fire of ABBA, bringing such a display, free "Free Professionalism" with people who in spite of personal storms, dedicate their Reverence, gifts, talents, time, energies, to edify his "Church" and bring "Gospel" good news with visual effects so "Well Done" ♡
MAY YOU ALL BE BLESSED.
Evg. Deloris Williams*

Communications Ministry - I just had to tell you guys/gals what an AWESOME JOB you did on the praise team lyrics!!!! The bold flashing effects are a super idea!!! I mentioned to the minister of Music what a wonderful job you did and he suggested texting to let you know but I had already planned to "communicate" with you to let you know.

Just in case you haven't heard it lately, THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXCELLENT MINISTRY. What you do directly affects the understanding of God's Word in song. Just hearing the words is sometimes not enough, but SEEING the lyrics helps the meaning sink in and resonate for some people.

If ever there is anything I can do to help make your job easier, just whisper it and consider it done. ♡

*With Gratitude,
Veronica Tate*

Answers - 16 Hidden Books of the Bible: I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible. It was **lulu**, **kept** people **looking** so hard for the **facts** and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, **especially** since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the **truth** finally struck home to the **numbers** of readers. To others, it was a real **job**. We want it to be a **most** fascinating few moments for you. **Yes**, **there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. Relax now for there really are 16 names of the books in the Bible in this story.

[Mark, Luke, Kings, Acts, Revelation, James, Ruth, Numbers, Job, Amos, Esther, Judges, Titus, Lamentations, Hebrews, Peter]



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
 Min. Clyde Conerly
 Min. James Cottingham
 Elder Chris Evans
 Rev. Garfield Garner
 Rev. Eugene Graves
 Min. Shurron Green
 Rev. Artis Johnson
 Min. Larry Jones
 Rev. Timothy Twyman
 Min. Floyd Williams
 Rev. Stanley Williams
 Rev. Alton Wilson

FBC MINISTERS OF EVANGELISM

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

COMMUNICATIONS LEADERS

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

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor-in-Chief/Graphic Designer – Paulette Tapp
 Editor/Writers/Proofreaders:
 – Christine Smith
 – Hyacinth Chung
 – Diane Russell
 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 and event write ups are due the 1st Friday of each month.

NEXT DUE DATE: JANUARY 3, 2020