



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



June 21, 2019

June 2020

SUMMER TIME

Vol. 8, Issue 6

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

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JUNE

- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 Pastor & Sis. Debbie's 39th Anniversary
- 21 Father's Day

JULY

- 3 Holiday - Independence Day Observed
- 20-24 Virtual Vacation Bible School

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

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

SALVATION

WHAT IS SALVATION?

The secular meaning of salvation is: lifeline, preservation, conservation. In other words, it is a means of escape or a source or means of being saved from harm, ruin or loss.

The Christian meaning of Salvation is: redemption, deliverance, saving, help and reclamation. It is deliverance for sin and the consequences of sin that is brought about by faith in Christ. Death is the price we pay for sin, so if we are saved from sin we have the re-assurance of eternal life through Christ Jesus.

John 3:16-17 *¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

To gain salvation, we must exercise faith in Jesus and demonstrate that faith by obeying His commands (Acts 4:10 & 12, Romans 10:9-10, Hebrews 5:9).

The Bible shows us that you must have works or acts of obedience to prove that your faith is alive (James 2:24-26). However, this does not mean that we can earn salvation.

Salvation is Gods' gift based on his undeserved kindness or grace (Ephesians 2:8-9), *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, least any man should boast".*

(cont'd next page)

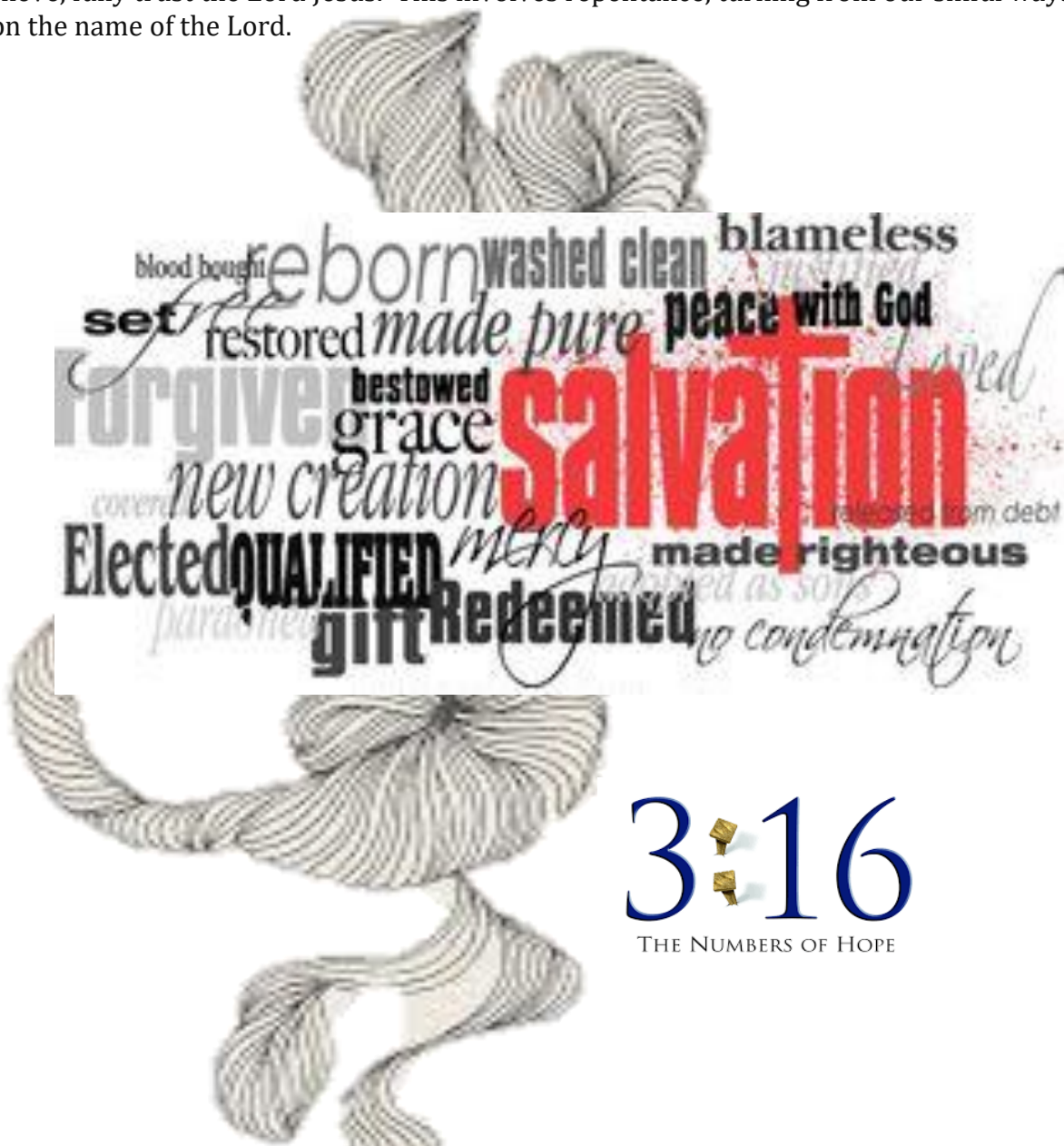
(Salvation cont'd)

Salvation in a nutshell is an eternal, spiritual deliverance. Jesus equates being saved with entering the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:24-25). Paul also told the Philippian jailer what he must do to be saved, (Acts 16:30-31).

Our sin has separated us from God and the consequence of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Salvation is our deliverance from the wrath of God and the removal of sin. Only God can save us, so he sacrificed Christ to die on the cross to bear our sins and resurrected Him so that when we are saved and start living a Godly life, He can see Christ in us.

It is clearly stated in Ephesians 2:5,8 that salvation is the gracious, undeserved gift of God and is only available through faith in Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12).

We can only receive salvation by first hearing the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection, then we must believe, fully trust the Lord Jesus. This involves repentance, turning from our sinful ways and calling on the name of the Lord.



3:16
THE NUMBERS OF HOPE

HYMN OF THE MONTH: "ON CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK I STAND"

Submitted by Hyacinth Chung
Communications Ministry

This song was written by Edward Mote and the tune composed by William B. Bradbury in 1863. Edward Mote was born in Upper Thames, London on January 21, 1797. He underwent a great spiritual change through the preaching of Rev. J. Hyatt of Tottenham Court Road Chapel, and ultimately became a Baptist minister. He was a Pastor at Horsham, Sussex, for the last 26 years of his life and he died on November 13, 1874. Mr. Mote published several small pamphlets and also Hymns of Praise. A New Selection of Gospel Hymns, combining all the Excellencies of our spiritual poets, with many originals by Edward Mote published in 1836.



Hymn History: Sometimes the grace of God penetrates into unlikely places. Edward Mote's parents were hostile to religion, but while still a boy Edward became a Christian through the influence of a cabinetmaker to whom he was apprenticed. As a man, he became a skilled cabinetmaker with a successful business of his own.

Regardless of the claims of his business on his time, Mote always found time to worship God. He was especially interested in Christian music, and one day felt inspired on the way to work to write down a verse that came to his mind. Before the day was finished, he had completed four verses. His new hymn began with the words, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

Not long thereafter, Mote visited a friend whose wife was ill. It was a Sunday, and the friend mentioned that he and his wife liked to observe Sunday by singing a hymn, reading a scripture, and having prayer together. Mote had a copy of his hymn in his pocket, so they sang it. The friend's wife was so taken with the hymn that she requested a copy for herself. Encouraged by her interest, Mote had copies printed -- and soon found himself the author of a beloved hymn.

BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 7:24 - *"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."*

THE SOLID ROCK

- 1) My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
- 2) When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.
- 3) His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the 'whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way He then is all my hope and stay.
- 4) When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found, dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

Chorus:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

Happy 39th Wedding Anniversary

Pastor & Mrs. Ronald L. Bowens



*And the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

May God bless this special milestone in your lives. Sharing these many years is a blessed statement about the gift of married life and the reward of love, dedication and its precious moments. May God continue to bless you with great joys and cherished memories and may the love you share last a lifetime through.

Time to Reflect

On your anniversary,
it's time to reflect on all the joy
your marriage has brought you over the years.

Remember your wedding day?

Your wedding photos show
your affection, your passion,
the bond you feel with one another.

Since that day,
many more pleasures have come to you
because you chose to love each other.

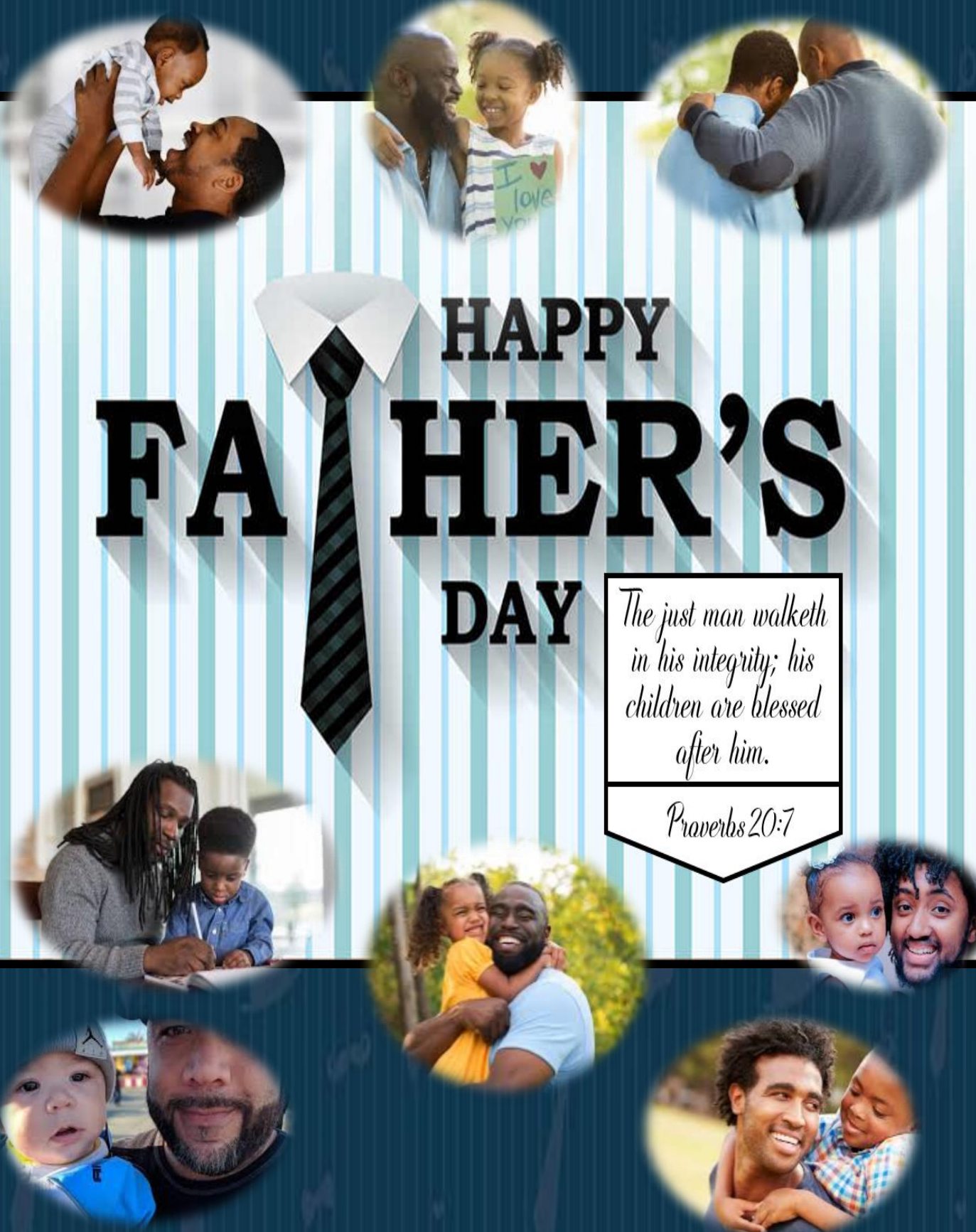
As you reminisce,
let those fond, happy memories
strengthen your commitment
to love and care for each other...
forever.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

*The just man walketh
in his integrity; his
children are blessed
after him.*

Proverbs 20:7



HEALTH MINISTRY

Vickie Perry, RN/BSN, Ministry Leader



Your health is a life-long journey.

- 1) Take care of body and mind;
- 2) Get and stay active;
- 3) Manage a healthy weight; and
- 4) Practice good sleep habits.

If anyone suspects they may be ill with COVID-19, call 770-513-5631 to schedule a FREE drive-through appointment. A doctor's referral is not needed and no insurance/billing is required. The test location is DPH-Health District 3-4/Lawrenceville East Metro Health District, 2570 Riverside Pkwy, Lawrenceville, GA 30046. (near Old Norcross Road)

Also, the following websites are accessible for reliable information pertaining to COVID-19:

<http://www.gnrgealth.com/covid-19-info>

<http://www.dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, please remember to wash your hands. Wash your hands before you eat, after coughing/sneezing in your hands and after using the restroom. Also, please stay home if you are sick.

COVID INFORMANTION & PREVENTION TIPS



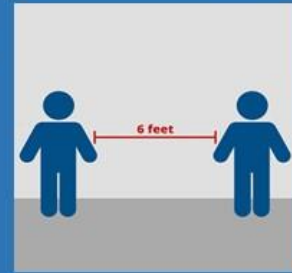
STAY AT HOME
AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE



WASH HANDS
WITH SOAP OR USE
60%+ ALCOHOL
HAND SANITIZER



WEAR A MASK
WHEN OUT
AND ABOUT



STAY 6 FT APART
DO YOUR
PART

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

TO ACCESS THE SYMPTOM CHECKER GO TO

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

REMEMBER WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

5



MAKE SURE YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR FAITH.

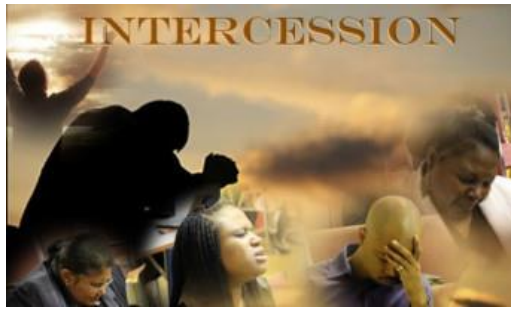
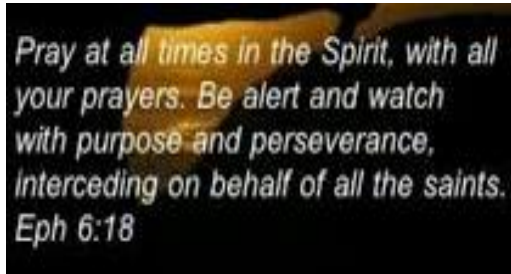
STAY 6FT FROM DOUBT

AND ISOLATE FROM UNBELIEF. OH YEAH,

AND WASH YOUR HANDS FROM

WRONGDOINGS!

Prayer List



REMEMBER THE SICK AND SHUT-IN WITH PRAYER AND CALLS WHILE THE SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT

Bro. Willie Benton	Sis. Essie Foy	Bro. Laceem McCall	Bro. Xavier Stephens
Min. Karen Blacknell	Sis. Marlon German	Sis. Roxanne Motley	Sis. Tiffany Stovall
Rev. Kenneth Blacknell	Sis. Barbara Hall	Evg. Valerie Montaque	Sis. Mabel Thomas
Dea. Willie Blake	Sis. Crystal Ingram	Sis. Gloria Peters	Bro. Seth Tyler
Sis. Joyce Brooks	Sis. Charlotte Hayes	Bro. Garvin Potts	Sis. April Walker
Sis. Sherie Brown	Bro. Emanuel Hazell	Sis. Catherine Pressley	Rev. Dwight Wilkerson
Bro. Dwayne Bynum	Sis. Dorothy Jamison	Sis. Carrie Rawls	Min. Floyd Williams
Bro. Nicholas Caldwell	Bro. Patrick Jones	Sis. Peggy Rogers	Dea. Clendon Wilson
Sis. Sherita Caldwell	Miss Quincie Joyner	Dea. Clarence Slaughter	Sis. Sadie Wilson
Bro. Tyler Caldwell	Bro. Dennis Kimmey	Bro. Antone Smith	Bro. Victor Winston, Jr.
Sis. Nekka Dean	Sis. Mabel Lawrence	Sis. Latisha Smith	
Sis. Doris Doyle	Dea. Jack Leverett	Sis. Valerie Smith	



If you need prayer, dial

866-875-8245



FOR THOSE GRIEVING
THE LOSS OF
A LOVED ONE

GRIEF  SHARE



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.

Due to the pandemic and sheltering-in-place, GriefShare now meets every Monday from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm via conference call. If interested in joining us, please dial 701-802-5331 and enter access code 2098635#. You must first register with GriefShare. To register, please call Minister Karen Blacknell at 678-896-1441.

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.

OUTREACH MINISTRY – “ONE BODY SAVED TO SERVE”

Diana McGhee, Ministry Leader



“THE FRIENDSHIP MARKET”

**NEW HOURS:**

Fridays from the Fellowship Hall: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Saturdays from the Outreach Center: 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED

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

-----URGENT REQUEST-----

Can you help a young man who needs a kidney?

Give the gift of life to a young 28-year old male in need of a kidney donor. He is the godson of Hyacinth Chung. His kidney was compromised due to an attack from Lupus, a chronic, long-term disease that causes inflammation and pain in any part of the body.

Donor Requirements:

- Blood type O (+ or -)
- In good health (free of cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure)
- 18-60 years old

Recipients insurance will cover all expenses for the donor. A screening is required. Please call **678-662-7966** if you are willing to be a donor.

Thank you and God bless you!

CONGRATULATIONS, 2020 FBC GRADUATES!!

1 Kings 2:3 (KJV)

And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

HIGH SCHOOL



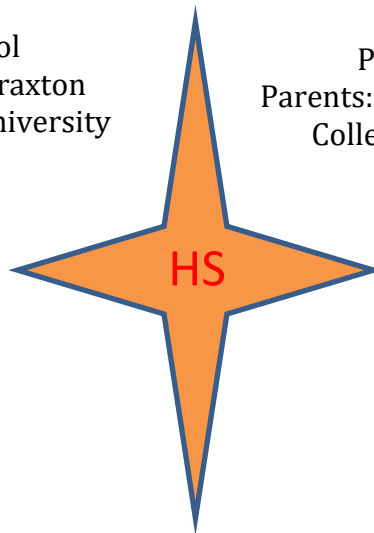
Takiyah Braxton

Mountain View High School
Parents: Charlos Sr. & Kandi Braxton
College: East Tennessee State University
Business Administration



Madison Gavin

Peachtree Ridge High School
Parents: Kerade Gavin & Courtney Randall
College: Kennesaw State University
Business Management



Matthew Harris

Peachtree Ridge High School
Parent: Angie Harris
College: Warm Spring Vocational
Technology



Alfonso Hillard III

Mill Creek High School
Parents: Alfonso & Valerie Hillard
College: Undecided
Physical Therapy

(High School Graduates cont'd)



Marcus Jones

Archer High School
Parents: Aleta Pitts & Fredrick Jones
College: Georgia Southern University
Construction Engineering & Finance



Kwentin Kearse

Collins Hill High School
Parents: Harry & Felicia Kearse
College: Middle Georgia State University
Civil Engineering



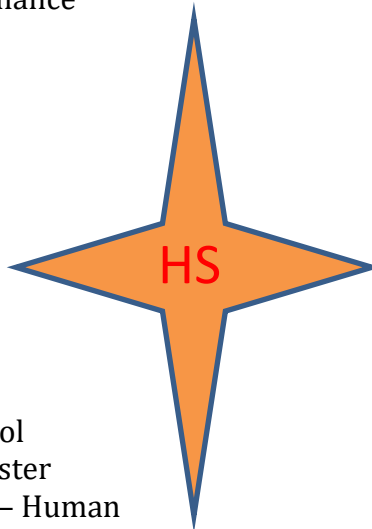
Brianna Levister

Peachtree Ridge High School
Parents: Gary & Sharon Levister
College: Georgia State University – Human
Biology



Darion Malone

Northview High School
Parents: Louie & Pat Malone
College: Undecided
Mass Communication and Film



Mustafa Murphy

Duluth Hill High School
Parent: Freda Murphy
College: Prep School & College
Psychology



Jawon Rush

Archer High School
Parents: Tommy Rush, Jaron & Jackie Duddley
College: Gwinnett Technical College
Auto Mechanics

(High School Graduates cont'd)



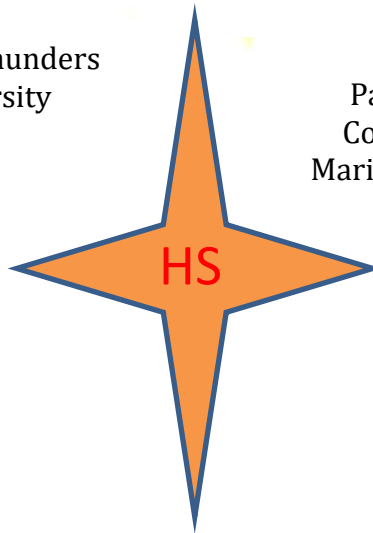
Lavonte' Saunders

Parents: Linton & Thereesa Saunders
College: Vanderbilt University
Medicine and Biology



Michon A. Shaw

Discovery High School
Parents: Michael Sr. & Terri Shaw
College: Savannah State University
Marine Sciences and Ocean Engineering



Evan Wells

Peachtree Ridge High School
Parent - Charlotte Wells
College: Kennesaw State University
Kinesiology

COLLEGE GRADUATES



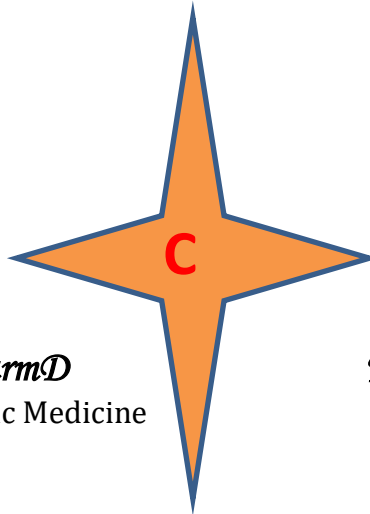
Brittany A. Bowens
Georgia Gwinnett College
Bachelor of Science
Special Education



Charlene Benn
Luther Rice College & Seminary
Masters of Arts
Christian Studies



Dr. Taylor R. Bailey, PharmD
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
School of Pharmacy
Doctor of Pharmacy



Kareem McDonald-Burks
Georgia State University
Bachelor of Science
Biology



Shenavia Grady
Valdosta State University
Bachelor of Arts
Interdisciplinary Studies
Minor in African American Studies



Ethan Spencer Rice
University of West Georgia
Bachelor of Science
Mass Communications

(College Graduates cont'd)



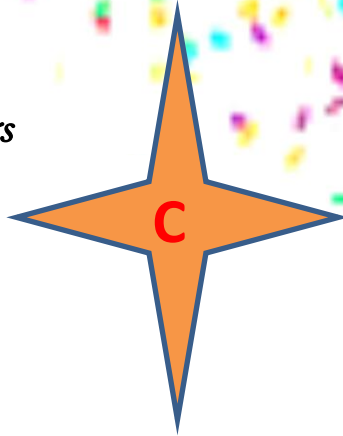
Erichka Shadburn Rogers

Gwinnett College
Associate of Science
Business
Magna Cum Laude



Joni Rene' Weatherspoon

Kennesaw State University
Bachelor of Science
Exercise Science



Brianna Wynter

Howard University
Bachelor of Science
Biology
Minor Chemistry

"Behind you, all your memories. Before you, all your dreams. Around you, all who love you. Within you, all you need." ~Lilli Vaihere

The Friendship Baptist Church Education Ministry wishes to say congratulations to all our graduates. Our goal is to glorify God through assisting and supporting students of all ages.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

AND THE WINNER IS.... LOUIE MALONE



Congratulations and well done, Louie. It is rare today for anyone to be on their job for 50 years through all the ups and downs you've experienced during your tenure! Kudos, the Communications Team.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON

Submitted by Christine Smith
Communications Ministry



Summer Solstice 2020: Marking the First Day of Summer

This year, the June solstice occurs on Saturday, June 20, marking the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere; it is the longest day and shortest night of the calendar year. The summer solstice is when the Sun reaches both its highest and northernmost points in the sky.

Psalm 74:17 It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

The word solstice is derived from the Latin word *solstitium*—from *sol* (Sun) and *stitium* (still or stopped). Solstice reflects that the Sun appears to stop “moving” in the sky as it reaches its northern - or southernmost point for the year (the winter), as seen from earth.

Isn't God Good? Every good and perfect gift comes from Him. There are no mistakes with God. God tells us in Ecclesiastes 3:1, To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

With the summer's longer, warmer days and shorter nights, we love to get outdoors and have “summer” fun enjoying family and friends, enjoying the school break, fishing, swimming, enjoying cookouts, and vacations. This summer may be a little different for most of us as we continue to shelter-in-place with COVID-19 still an eminent threat.

Following, courtesy of TriciaGoyer.com, are kid-friendly Bible verses for you and your children to learn together this summer. Younger children can memorize the bolded words in each verse. We can still enjoy family time during the summer of 2020.

Have a safe summer, Friendship!



Kid-Friendly Verses to Memorize This Summer

*Hiding God's Word in our hearts will be the most important thing we do this summer. If you'd like to join me, here is a list of 10 kid-friendly verses to memorize! If you have younger kids memorize the **BOLD** words alone. (All Scriptures are in NLT.)*

Whatever is good & perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.
James 1:17

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.
Proverbs 3:5

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."
Romans 10:13

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice & be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.
Ephesians 4:32

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.
Romans 3:23

Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.
Colossians 3:2



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Cheryl Alford, Ministry Leader



As I sit in front of my computer and gaze out at the bright blue sky, I can't help but rejoice in the fact that this is another beautiful day that our God has allowed us to enjoy.

Before going any further, I'd like to acknowledge and congratulate our sisters who have celebrated birthdays and anniversaries since last we fellowshiped together:

Birthdays:

March – Thelma Matthews, Vennie McDowell

April – Gertie Brock, Barbara Johnson, Mary Blackburn, LaRahn Waldon, Linda Berry and Brenda Graves

May – Vickie Chambers, Kindell May

June – Evg. Kimberly Rogers

Wedding Anniversaries:

March – Cheryl Alford, Debbie Chambers, Dranita Morrow

April – Harriet Hairston, Min. Roslyn Long

May – Evg. Kimberly Rogers, Gail Newton

June – Debbie Bowens



As we continue to stay at home during the COVID 19 pandemic, many of our sisters have found comfort in one or more of their favorite scriptures. Since we've not been able to come together, it seemed appropriate to use this opportunity to communicate with one another and our church family what has kept us uplifted these past few months. Maybe you too can find encouragement as you read what they shared.

All verses below are being shared from the KJV and names of those who provided scriptures are in no particular order.

Cheryl Alford: Isaiah 41:10 – *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”*

Geralyn (Gerry) Wright: Psalm 34:19 – *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.”*

Geraldine Powell: 2nd Timothy 1:7 – *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.”*

Evg. Lenora Jones: Matthew 5:15-16 – *“Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

Lynne Alford: Philippians 4:13 – *“I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.”*

(Women's Ministry cont'd)

Brenda Graves: Philippians 4:6-8 – *“Be careful for nothing: but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* Our sister also shared an additional verse: 2 Chronicles 7:14 – *“If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*

Teresa Rainey: Joshua 1:9 – *“...Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”*

Linda Berry: Jeremiah 29:11-13 – *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”*

Rosetta Garnett: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - *“Pray without ceasing.”*

Alice Burnes: Proverbs 23:7a – *“For as he thinketh, so is he...”*. When asked if she would like to expound, Sis. Alice offered this comment: *“Change will come through the way we think and subsequently by the way we act.”*

Marian Whaley: Philippians 4:19 – *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

Venda Young: Philippians 4:11 – *“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatever state I am, therewith to be content.”* Sis. Venda commented: *“this scripture lets me know that no matter what...if I can't go out, go to church or see my children...I still have a roof over my head, food, clothing, my husband and my health isn't bad. Praying for your family and our Church family.”*

I don't doubt that all of the above can and have expressed this same sentiment.

To all of our Friendship Family: May the peace of God bring you comfort; may the presence of God bring you joy and; may the power of God give you strength and confidence that this too will pass.

Submitted by Cheryl Alford, Servant Leader



RESILIENT BELIEVER

An excerpt from the "Words of Encouragement" about the Resilient Believer, shared on a recent Sunday morning conference call that was a real life experience for Angelia Byrd, daughter of Deacon Stewart Blagmon and Mother Dorothy Blagmon.

Philippians 4:13 says "Todo lo puedo en Cristo, que me fortalece," or you know it as "I can do all things (which He has called me to do) through Him who strengthens and empowers me (to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace)" Amplified version.



"I share this scripture in Spanish because it will always speak of the most difficult time in my life. As a missionary in Mexico, I was in a country 10 hours into the border where there were no people who looked like me. I was often stared at in public like I had two heads. I was called with two other people to start up a discipleship center for people with drug, alcohol and emotional problems; there were three other centers in the United States. Unfortunately, I could not speak the language, what they taught me in high school did not prepare me for living in a Spanish-speaking country.

Shortly after arriving, our Spanish classes ended, which was teaching two of the three of us the language. For many reasons, I felt abandoned by God in this country where I felt very alienated. The first scripture I memorized in Spanish was this, Philippians 4:13. As I allowed God's strength to empower me, miraculous things began to happen. I began singing in Spanish first and then praying in Spanish, and speaking biblical Spanish to the point where I could teach a devotion and give tours of the center.

That was the resiliency of a believer who knows that God will always show up, and He reminds me of this when I encounter difficulties beyond what I think I can survive or endure. The scripture always comes to remind me first in Spanish, not English, so it is brought to my remembrance of when God showed up and showed out, and to be encouraged in the present situation."

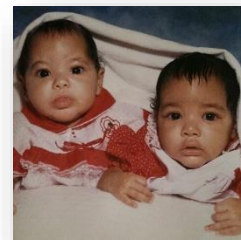


The Blagmons



“TWINNING IS WINNING”

*Mothering Twins: A 2-for-1 Deal
Testimonial from Michele Wilson*



In the year of 1989, having twins was a big deal. We moved to a city in New Jersey and were surrounded by church members who had twins. I was able to learn quickly the dos and don'ts of raising twins. Twins also run in my family; however, we had skipped several generations until my daughters were born. I was elated because I wanted a daughter and my son wanted a sibling. On the other hand, I was anxious about taking care of two babies at once. Fortunately for me, I was able to quit my job and stay home and raise all three of my children. Life as I knew it was about to change drastically.

The day my twins were born, February 8th, two other sets of twins were born at the same hospital within hours of each other. This was the talk of the hospital for days and weeks to come. All three sets of twins, identical boys, fraternal girls, and fraternal boy/girl, and parents were featured on the local news throughout the tristate area as well as being featured in the hospital's brochure. An interesting fact was that all three families had an older son prior to giving birth to their twins. Although the families were of different races, we all shared common ground with our children.

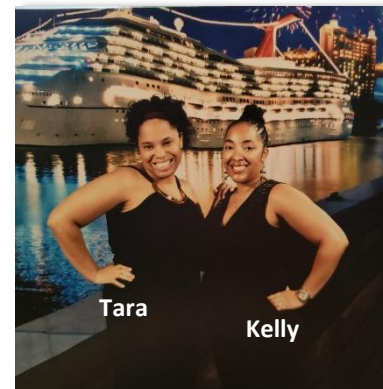
Let me walk you through a typical day of caring for my twins. It started with getting my son ready for school and friends picking him up to take him to school. I survived off of literally an hour of sleep within a 24-hour period. Neither of my daughters would sleep at the same time. When one went to sleep, the other one was up and vice versa every night. I saw many sunrises and sunsets. In addition to my sleep deprivation, we had constant visitors, day and night. My mom stayed with me for a week to help me get adjusted to the new babies. I literally did nothing that week. When she left, I cried. I had to find my own schedule. I learned how to quickly put everyone on a schedule, limit my visitation hours, and rest. Once I accomplished all of that, it was smooth sailing from there.



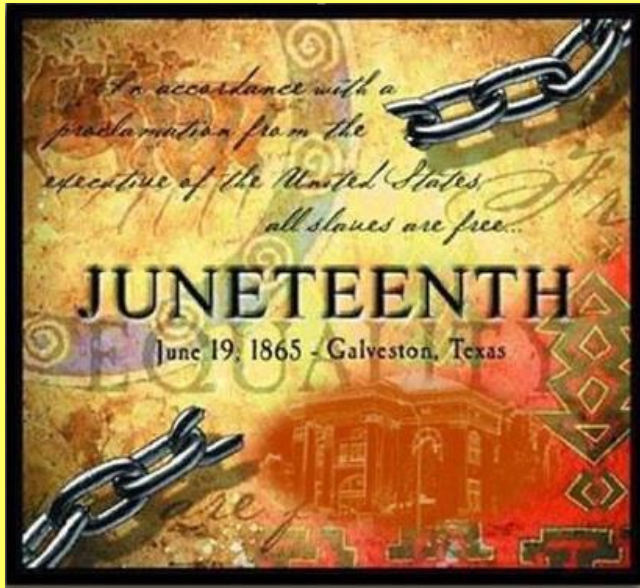
I enjoyed each stage that my children were in. Fortunately for me, I had friends that were stay-at-home moms and we formed an informal children's group. We held bible study on Tuesdays at church; we went on field trips; we arranged carpools for school and tennis practice; and, most importantly, supported each other spiritually, mentally and physically. When you have multiples, you're going to need a strong support system. My family lived in New York, my in-laws lived in Virginia, but having a close-knit group of friends, I felt supported at all times.

As I look back over the last 31 years, I am so grateful that God blessed me with three great children, a Christian husband, a supporting cast of friends and family that honor God and live according to His Word.

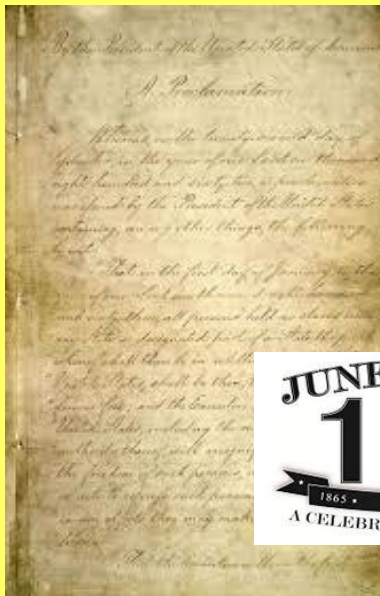
I will close with this piece of advice that greatly helped me in raising twins – pray at all times, have great reliable friends and family members, stay on a schedule, take time for yourself, laugh often, cherish every moment, and don't take yourself too seriously.



JUNETEENTH



Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.



Celebrating Our History

A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.

Attributed to Marcus Garvey

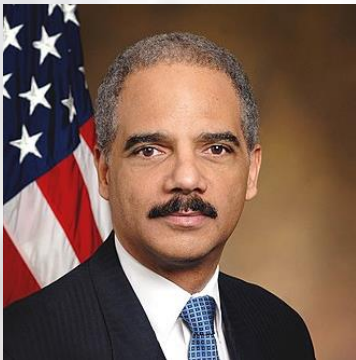
BLACK HISTORY

OUR VOICES. OUR STORIES.

*Sis. Diane Russell
Black History Coordinator
Communications Ministry*

POLITICS

1ST AFRICAN AMERICAN ATTORNEY GENERALS – ERIC HOLDER & LORETTA LYNCH



Eric Holder was born January 21, 1951, in New York City, NY and grew up in Queens, where he attended the prestigious Stuyvesant High School before enrolling at Columbia University. After graduating with a degree in American history (1973), he remained at Columbia to complete a law degree (1976). In 1976 Holder joined the U.S. Justice Department's public integrity office, where he prosecuted cases involving government corruption. U.S. Pres. Ronald Reagan nominated him to be a superior court judge for the District of Columbia in 1988, and during his tenure he presided over civil and criminal cases in one of the country's busiest court systems.

In 1993 Pres. Bill Clinton nominated Holder to serve as U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. Confirmed by the Senate later that year, he became the first African American to head the country's largest U.S. attorney's office. Holder made community outreach a priority, establishing a domestic violence task force and forging partnerships with local law enforcement and civic groups. He also worked to reduce gun crime. In 1997 Holder was named deputy attorney general, the second highest official at the Justice Department. The post gave him the opportunity to expand on the initiatives that he had launched as U.S. attorney. He stressed the importance of citizen involvement in the legal process, and his Lawyers for One America project encouraged diversity within the legal profession. After leaving office in 2001, he joined a law firm in Washington, D.C.

In November 2008 President-elect Barack Obama selected Holder to serve as attorney general, and he was confirmed (75-21) by the Senate in February 2009. During his term in office, Holder broke with the precedent established by the administration of Pres. George W. Bush and advocated civilian, rather than military, trials for terrorism suspects. This recommendation met with resistance from Republican lawmakers, who introduced a measure that prohibited the transfer of prisoners from the Guantánamo Bay detention centre to the United States for such trials. Holder's Justice Department initiated an investigation of the New Orleans police department, spurred by accusations of police misconduct in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The result was the preparation of a consent decree that would place the department under federal oversight. Holder once again clashed with Republican legislators in the wake of Operation Fast and Furious, a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigation of gun trafficking on the U.S.-Mexico border from late 2009 to early 2011. After Holder failed to respond to a congressional subpoena of documents relating to the operation, and in spite of an assertion of executive privilege by

Obama, the Republican-led House voted in June 2012 to find Holder in contempt of Congress. The vote marked the first time that a sitting member of the cabinet had been cited for contempt.

In September 2014, Holder stepped down as attorney general. He was succeeded by Loretta Lynch in April 2015, the first African American woman to hold this rank. Holder subsequently returned to private practice, but he remained involved in politics and was especially noted for his opposition to gerrymandering. In 2017 he became chairman of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee.



Loretta E. Lynch was born on May 21, 1959, in Greensboro, North Carolina. She received her A.B., cum laude, from Harvard College in 1981, and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1984.

Lynch's grandfather, a sharecropper, assisted those seeking to escape punishment under Jim Crow laws, and Lynch later recalled how her father, a fourth-generation Baptist minister who was active in local civil rights issues, took her to watch legal proceedings at the courthouse in Durham, North Carolina. Her mother was a school librarian.

She worked as a litigation associate at the New York City law firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel from 1984 until 1990, when she was hired as an assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of New York, which handled federal law enforcement across three New York City boroughs (Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island) and two counties on nearby Long Island. She rose through the ranks of that office, serving as deputy chief of general crimes (1992–93), chief of the Long Island division (1994–98), and chief assistant to the U.S. attorney (1998–99) before being named U.S. attorney in 1999 by Pres. Bill Clinton.

Lynch returned to private practice in 2002 as a partner at a Washington, D.C., law firm, Hogan & Hartson LLP (later Hogan Lovells), where she specialized in commercial litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and corporate compliance issues. During that time she also served as special counselor to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. In 2010 Pres. Barack Obama chose her to resume her former job as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York.

In November 2014 Obama nominated Lynch to succeed Eric Holder as U.S. attorney general, the head of the Department of Justice (DOJ). After a contentious 166-day confirmation process—involving hours of testimony by Lynch, hundreds of written questions, and debates over funding for the Department of Homeland Security, Obama's executive actions on immigration, and human-trafficking legislation—Lynch's nomination finally came up for a vote in the Senate on April 24, 2015, and passed, 56–43. She took office three days later.

(Black History cont'd)

PINCKNEY BENTON STEWART PINCHBACK— 1ST AFRICAN AMERICAN GOVERNOR IN THE U.S.



Pinchback was born in May of 1837 in Macon, Georgia, to a slave and her former master who were by then living together as husband and wife. At the time the family was on its way to begin a new life in Mississippi, where the senior Pinchback had purchased a new, much larger plantation. As a youngster, Pinchback lived in relatively affluent surroundings, and his parents even sent him north to Cincinnati to attend high school.

In 1848 his father died, and to add to the grief of his wife and five children, the paternal relatives were vengeful. They disinherited Pinchback's mother and her children. To evade the possibility that the northern Pinchbacks would legally appropriate the children as slave property, Pinchback's mother fled with all five to Cincinnati. P. B. S. Pinchback worked for many years on the boats that plied the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Some were notorious dens of gambling, and it was on such a vessel that Pinchback encountered a posse of white gamblers who took him on as their personal assistant. He soon became an experienced swindler himself in three-card monte and chuck-a-luck, but to avoid great repercussions, his

victims were only his fellow African American coworkers on the boat.

In 1860, when Pinchback was 23, he married Nina Hawthorne, a 16-year-old from Memphis. When the Civil War broke out the following year, Pinchback hoped to fight on the side of the Union troops against the South. The main issue in the conflict between North and South was slavery, and Pinchback's heritage gave him an insight into the status of both blacks and whites in the country. In 1862 he furtively made his way into New Orleans, which was then under occupation by Northern troops. There he raised several companies of the Corps d'Afrique, part of the Louisiana National Guard, and was the military body's only officer of African American descent.

In 1863, passed over twice for promotion and tired of the prejudice he encountered at every turn, Pinchback resigned from the Guard. When the war ended and the slaves were emancipated, he and his wife moved to Alabama, eager to test out their new freedom as full citizens. However, racial tensions in their new surroundings were reaching shocking levels of viciousness. Occupying Union forces shared equally prejudiced views as those of their former Confederate enemies, and would sometimes don the Confederate uniform at night and terrorize the newly freed African Americans. The movements of African Americans were also restricted by the so-called "black codes" across the South, and it became obvious that white Southern politicians were going to do everything possible to prevent them from gaining any political power. Pinchback's political career was born out of this hostile climate. He began speaking out at public meetings and soon became a well-known orator who urged the former slaves to organize politically.

Pinchback eventually returned to New Orleans with his family. Now a committed Republican—the party of Abraham Lincoln originally established to oppose slavery—he was elected a delegate to the Republican State Convention and even spoke before the assembly. His orations helped win him election to the party's Central Executive Committee. During the Constitutional Convention of 1867-68, Pinchback accepted the candidacy for a state senator on the Republican ticket. He campaigned vigorously for both himself as well as his close political ally, Henry Clay Warmoth, another radical Republican and Pinchback's mentor. When Pinchback narrowly lost his bid for the state senate seat, he charged voting fraud. The newly convened legislature agreed and allowed him to take his oath of office.

Pinchback joined a Louisiana senate that held 42 representatives of African American descent—half of the chamber—and 7 of 36 seats in the senate, and his battles against the state's racist Democrats brought him enemies. Walking down the street in New Orleans in September of 1868, an attempt was made on his life, but Pinchback fired back in time. The more conservative Democrat newspapers vilified him as unfit to hold public office. As James Haskins noted in *Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback*, "a turning point came for Pinchback at this time; he would continue to work for his people and for himself, but he would no longer trust any whites, and he would take anything he could get from them."

Pinchback was not the only one. By 1871 nearly the entire state legislature had degenerated into political corruption; abuse of power and misuse of public funds became synonymous with the Reconstruction era.

(Black History cont'd)

In 1871, Warmoth's lieutenant governor, an African American physician named Oscar Dunn, died suddenly of pneumonia. In a bid to thwart Democratic control of the state, Pinchback's name was put forth by the Warmoth faction as Dunn's replacement, and the senate elected him by a narrow margin in December of that year. The lieutenant governorship also brought with it the post of president pro tempore of the state senate. At the time of Pinchback's ascension to Louisiana's second-highest political office, the political climate in the state was fractious and violent. A second legislature had convened, called the Customhouse senate, and both political bodies were vying for legal control of the state, asserting that they represented the electorate. Mostly Democrats, this group had long tried to impeach Warmoth, but had backed off when Pinchback replaced Dunn as lieutenant governor.

Became First African American Governor - Pinchback continued in his role as lieutenant governor for the rest of 1872, but by the fall of that year many Republicans in the state had turned on Warmoth and wished to unseat him. Election results once again came into dispute, and Warmoth enacted a special extended legislative session to settle the problem. Through complicated political maneuverings—and with the help of Pinchback—a House majority ejected Warmoth from his governor's post on November 21; Pinchback took the oath of office a short time later. The state's Democrats were naturally enraged to have a man of African American descent in the governor's chair, but the state's Supreme Court upheld the legality of Pinchback's ascension.

Formal impeachment proceedings against Warmoth were underway, while Pinchback went about fulfilling his duties as acting governor. Pinchback became the recipient of vicious hate mail from across the country as well as more local threats on his own life. A hundred years later, Pinchback was still the only African American to have achieved such a position of political power, although he had not been elected by popular vote. When final tallies came in and were accepted for the November, 1872 election, Republican William Kellogg was declared governor and was sworn in on January 13, 1873, ending Pinchback's brief but historical executive stint.

In that same election Pinchback had run for a U.S. Senate seat, and in January of 1873 he became a congressman. It was a public office he had long coveted, and with it he achieved another pioneering accomplishment as the state's first African American representative to Washington. His victory, however, was short-lived, as opposing factions in the state unseated him by charging election fraud and naming a white candidate instead. It was the beginning of a reversal of the political gains African Americans had achieved since the war's end.

In 1885, nearing 50 years old, Pinchback took up the study of law at Straight University and was a member of its first graduating class. In the early 1890s Pinchback and his family moved to New York City, where he served as a U.S. marshal, but later they settled in Washington, D.C. Sadly, the achievements he had worked toward—mainly the political enfranchisement of African Americans—were by then legally and illegally reversed. With the reassertion of state legislative control by Southern Democrats and the 1896 U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Plessy vs. Ferguson* permitting "separate but equal" public facilities, white power was again firmly entrenched in the South. The number of registered black voters in Louisiana was one indication: it fell from 130, 000 in 1896 to 1, 300 in just eight years.

Pinchback died in December of 1921 and was buried in the Metairie Ridge cemetery of New Orleans. In an eightieth birthday party a few years earlier, the poet Bruce Grit had celebrated Pinchback's Reconstruction era achievements, when he and other African Americans obtained a fair measure of political power. "The equality we seek is not to come to us by gift, but by struggle, not physical but intellectual, " declared Grit. "In this struggle we should be as wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. The civic and political experiences of Governor Pinchback should serve as a guide to our young men in the future and help them to break down the barriers which were set up by designing white men of his own political faith. ... He is one among the last of the old guard and he has fought a good fight."

(Black History cont'd)

BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA II – 1ST AFRICAN AMERICAN PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



Barack Obama served as the 44th President of the United States and was elected for two terms (2009 and 2013). His story is the American story — values from the heartland, a middle-class upbringing in a strong family, hard work and education as the means of getting ahead, and the conviction that a life so blessed should be lived in service to others.

Barack Hussein Obama II was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 4, 1961. Obama's father, Barack Obama Sr., was born of Luo ethnicity in Nyanza Province, Kenya. Obama Sr. grew up herding goats in Africa and eventually earned a scholarship that allowed him to leave Kenya and pursue his dreams of going to college in Hawaii. Obama's mother, Ann Dunham, was born on an Army base in Wichita, Kansas, during World War II, and sometime later, her parents moved to Hawaii. While studying at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Obama Sr. met fellow student Ann Dunham. They married on February 2, 1961, and Barack II was born six months later. His father left soon after his birth, and the couple divorced two years later. In 1965, Dunham married Lolo Soetoro, a University of Hawaii student from Indonesia. A year later, the family moved to Jakarta, Indonesia, where Obama's half-sister, Maya Soetoro Ng, was born in 1970. Several incidents in Indonesia left Dunham afraid for her son's safety and education so, at the age of 10, Obama was sent back to Hawaii to live with his maternal grandparents. His mother and half-sister later joined them.

As a child, Obama did not have a relationship with his father. When his son was still an infant, Obama Sr. relocated to Massachusetts to attend Harvard University and pursue a Ph.D. Obama's parents officially separated several months later and ultimately divorced in March 1964, when their son was two. Soon after, Obama Sr. returned to Kenya.

Obama struggled with the absence of his father during his childhood, who he saw only once more after his parents divorced when Obama Sr. visited Hawaii for a short time in 1971. "[My father] had left paradise, and nothing that my mother or grandparents told me could obviate that single, unassailable fact," he later reflected. "They couldn't describe what it might have been like had he stayed." While living with his grandparents, Obama enrolled in the esteemed Punahou Academy. He excelled in basketball and graduated with academic honors in 1979. As one of only three black students at the school, he became conscious of racism and what it meant to be African American.

Obama entered Occidental College in Los Angeles in 1979. After two years, he transferred to Columbia University in New York City, graduating in 1983 with a degree in political science.

After working his way through college with the help of scholarships and student loans, President Obama moved to Chicago in 1985, where he worked with a group of churches to help rebuild communities devastated by the closure of local steel plants.

In 1988, Obama entered Harvard Law School, where he became the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review in 1990. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law in 1991.

Upon graduation, he returned to Chicago to help lead a voter registration drive, teach constitutional law at the University of Chicago, and remain active in his community.

Obama met Michelle Robinson, a young lawyer who was assigned to be his adviser at the Chicago law firm of Sidley Austin. Not long after, the couple began dating. On October 3, 1992, he and Michelle were married. They moved to Kenwood, on Chicago's South Side. Barack and Michelle Obama welcomed two daughters several years later: Malia (born 1998) and Sasha (born 2001).

Obama published his autobiography, *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*, in 1995. The work received high praise from literary figures such as Toni Morrison. It has since been printed in more than 25 languages, including Chinese, Swedish and Hebrew. The book had a second printing in 2004 and was adapted for a children's version. The audiobook version of *Dreams*, narrated by Obama, received a Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word album in 2006.

Obama's advocacy work led him to run for a seat in the Illinois State Senate as a Democrat in 1996. During his years as a state senator, Obama worked with both Democrats and Republicans to draft legislation on ethics, as well as expand health care services and early childhood education programs for the poor. He also created a state earned-income tax credit for the working poor. As chairman of the Illinois Senate's Health and Human Services Committee, Obama worked with law enforcement officials to require the videotaping of interrogations and confessions in all capital cases after a number of death-row inmates were found to be innocent.

Following the 9/11 attacks in 2001, Obama was an early opponent of President George W. Bush's push to go to war with Iraq. Obama was still a state senator when he spoke against a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq during a rally at Chicago's Federal Plaza in October 2002. "I am not opposed to all wars. I'm opposed to dumb wars," he said. "What I am opposed to is the cynical attempt by Richard Perle and Paul Wolfowitz and other armchair, weekend warriors in this administration to shove their own ideological agendas down our throats, irrespective of the costs in lives lost and in hardships borne." Despite his protests, the Iraq War began in 2003.

In August 2004, diplomat and former presidential candidate Alan Keyes accepted the Republican nomination to replace Ryan. In three televised debates, Obama and Keyes expressed opposing views on stem cell research, abortion, gun control, school vouchers and tax cuts. In the November 2004 general election, Obama received 70 percent of the vote to Keyes' 27 percent, the largest electoral victory in Illinois history. With his win, **Obama became only the third African American elected to the U.S. Senate since Reconstruction.**

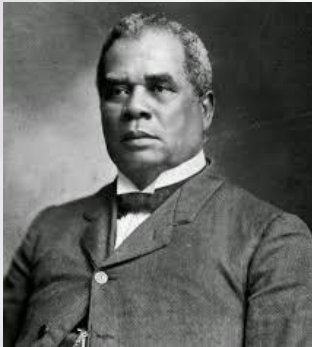
His second book, *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*, was published in October 2006. The work discussed Obama's visions for the future of America, many of which became talking points for his eventual presidential campaign. Shortly after its release, the book hit No. 1 on both the *New York Times* and Amazon's best-seller lists.

On November 4, 2008, Obama defeated Republican presidential nominee John McCain, 52.9 percent to 45.7 percent, **to win election as the 44th president of the United States—and the first African American to hold this office.**

On November 6, 2012, **Obama won a second four-year term as president** by receiving nearly five million more votes than Romney and capturing more than 60 percent of the Electoral College.

(Black History cont'd)

PIERRE CALISTE LANDRY – 1ST AFRICAN AMERICAN MAYOR IN THE UNITED STATES



Pierre Caliste Landry, a former slave turned educator and minister, is noted as the first African American to be elected mayor of a town in the United States. Landry was born into slavery on April 19, 1841 on a sugar cane plantation in Ascension Parish, Louisiana. He was given the name Caliste at birth by his mother, Marcelite, an enslaved cook on the plantation, and his father, Roseman Landry, a white laborer. Caliste was sent to live with Pierre Bouissiac and his wife Zaides, a family of free African Americans and was educated at a local school for free children. However, despite his owner's wishes that he be freed, Landry, at the age of 13 was sold for \$1,665 to the Houmas Plantation, whose owner was Marius St. Colombe Bringer.


The Bringer Family owned over 35,000 acres of land on various plantations. Landry was allowed to continue his education in the plantation schools and live inside the family mansion. After working various positions, Landry was appointed superintendent of the yard and allowed to form a business partnership with the head butler on the plantation. They operated a plantation store, selling candies and goodies Landry made.

In 1866, Landry, now freed by the 13th Amendment, changed his first name to Pierre and moved to the African American community in Donaldsonville, the former capital of Louisiana between 1829 to 1831. Within a year, he started two day schools and a night school for the children, built the first home owned by a former slave, and opened a small store.

Two years later Landry had become one of the town's most prominent citizens and that year (1868), he was unanimously elected as Mayor of Donaldsonville, making him the first African American to be elected as mayor of a town in the United States. He served for one term, and additionally served as a Justice of the Peace, member of the Ascension Parish School Board, and Superintendent of Schools. In 1870 he was elected President of the Police Jury and an appointed Tax Collector for his town. Two years later Landry was appointed Postmaster of his town by President Ulysses S. Grant and elected to the State House of Representatives. Landry was also responsible for founding the third African American College in Louisiana, New Orleans University, which later became Dillard University in 1935. Pierre Landry became the State Senator for the 8th Senatorial District of Louisiana in 1874, where he served one term, and in 1879 he was elected to represent Donaldsonville as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention. After the Civil War, Landry converted from Catholic to Methodist and helped establish and served as Pastor in nine parishes across the state from Shreveport to New Orleans. Landry had a combined 50 years of service as a minister. He also practiced as a private attorney for 12 years.

Landry married Amanda Grigsby in 1867 and together the couple had twelve children. After her death, he married Florence Simpkins and together they had two children. Unusual for that era, all fourteen of his children attended colleges.

Pierre Caliste Landry died on December 22, 1921, in the Algiers Section of New Orleans, Louisiana. He was 80.




You are young, gifted, and Black. We must begin to tell our young, There's a world waiting for you, Yours is the quest that's just begun.

— James Weldon Johnson —

Lift Ev'ry Voice And Sing

Lyric by JAMES WELDON JOHNSON Music by J. ROSEMOND JOHNSON

Maestoso ben sostenuto



National Black Anthem

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
 Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
 Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
 Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
 Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us;
 Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
 Let us march on till victory won.

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

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

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
 Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
 Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
 Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
 True to our God, true to our native land.



Church News & Other Important Information

Youth Department – We are growing by leaps and bounds ...

The Youth Ministry is excited to announce that we will be adding a new Preschool Room to our Sunday Youth Church. The Preschool Room will accommodate our 3- and 4-year-old children who are transitioning from the Nursery. We need volunteers to help out in the new room one service a month. If you are interested and gifted in serving with the Preschool Team as they minister God's Word in an age-appropriate environment, please contact Sis. Shevonne Meeks at shevonnemeeks@yahoo.com.

We are also looking for gifted workers in the Pre-K and Elementary Teams on Sundays and at Wednesday Night Bible Study. Please contact Sis. Charlene Benn at cbenn527@gmail.com, or the church office, if you are interested in working with us!

FBC Sunday School on ZOOM! Please join one of our Sunday School classes each Sunday at 9:45 am. We

Adult Sunday School Classes
9:45 am
go to www.fbcduluth.org and click...

Online Adult Sunday School

†Men's Class	†Women's Class
†Marriage Class	†Conn3ct
†Living Single for Christ	

will begin our new Summer Quarter: Wisdom. The first unit (Wisdom in Proverbs) explores the nature of

God's wisdom as found in the book of Proverbs. These lessons describe how wisdom calls to us, the value of wisdom and the gifts she offers, and finally the metaphor of the feast of wisdom.

Lesson 1: The Call of Wisdom (Proverbs 1:1-4, 7-8, 10, 20-22, 32-33)

Please go to our website at www.fbcduluth.org for the link to the Zoom classes. See you there!

Virtual Vacation Bible School July 20th - 24th



Please join us for FBC Vacation Bible School. More information coming soon.

Transportation Ministry – To request a ride to church, call 770-622-2797 and leave a message by Saturday at 4:00 pm.

ONLINE GIVING

<https://abundant.co/fbcduluth/give>

Go to fbcduluth.org and click on: "Giving" tab or text: fbcduluth to 73256.

Contributions can also be mailed to:

Friendship Baptist Church
P.O. Box 604
Duluth, GA 30096

Neighborhood Announcements

Emergency assistance for seniors is available for those who are over 60. If you or someone you know is over 60 and facing hunger, health, or mobility issues, please call 678-377-4150 to speak with Senior Services staff.

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

The 2020 Census counts everyone. Make sure you're counted! Respond Today at: my2020census.gov.

Deadline extended until October 31.

VAROOM YOUR ZOOM ROOM

Shared by Felicia Kemp

Written by a member of her Toastmasters Club



- 1) First, put your laptop on a stack of books. Now raise your computer in-line with the top of your head.
- 2) Then point the camera down toward your eyes.
- 3) Good light makes Great Pictures. Place a tall lamp on the “best side” of your face. ***Important*** The lamp should be slightly BEHIND the computer. Overhead light makes you look tired and highlights under eye circles.
- 4) #1 best placement for windows are in front of you. Side window placement is okay, but sometimes the light is harsh and unflattering. Never put windows behind you!
- 5) Best Tip! A white tablecloth or a white piece of paper under your laptop gives you... LIGHT BOUNCE! (flattering glow)
- 6) Watch your background. Keep it simple: on you or on your background.
- 7) All Genders: Everybody looks good with a touch of powder. Say no to shine!

CONGRATULATIONS! You’ve got **VAROOM ZOOM!**

[Toastmasters International](https://www.toastmasters.org/): For anyone who wants to improve their communication/presentation and leadership skills, please check out Toastmasters. Due to Covid19, Toastmasters clubs are almost all meeting online now using Zoom. This is a wonderful opportunity to join a club and benefit from the comfort of your home. I’ve been a member of Toastmasters for 20 years now and I can say that it has really helped me with communication and leadership. The online meetings have been a great new experience and we are all learning a lot of different techniques. To find out more, go to <https://www.toastmasters.org/>. Click on “Find a Club” towards the top to find a club that meets your schedule. You can visit for free and then the membership fee for joining is around \$60 to cover six months. Dues are paid every six months (April and October).

If I can answer any questions, feel free to reach out to me at FeliciaKemp777@gmail.com.

GWINNETT NEWS

GWINNETT COUNTY, LIBRARY SYSTEM, GCPS PROVIDES SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS

Gwinnett County, Gwinnett County Public Schools, and Gwinnett County Public Library are collaborating to provide summer meals for youngsters needing food during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gwinnett now has 20 library locations countywide where children 18 years old and younger can pick up free grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches. Parents can pick up nutritious meals for their children at the locations to take home or the children can pick up their own meals. The meals, which consist of food like sandwiches and wraps, meet USDA guidelines. Meals are also available for adults with disabilities. The County's Summer Meals program complements a summertime meals program for students offered by Gwinnett County Public Schools. **THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL RAMP UP ITS SEAMLESS SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN JUNE 8 THROUGH JUNE 26,** and will provide school locations once they are finalized. Funding for the program comes from the USDA. Visit GwinnettSummerMeals.com for more information or call 770-822-8840.



REGISTER EARLY FOR SCHOOL!

New to Gwinnett? Is your child changing schools due to a move? Summer is the best time to register! Gwinnett County Public Schools has an easy-to-use, secure [online registration system](#) that allows you to upload required documents and records. Once online registration is completed, the school will contact you to verify documents and complete the process. To find which school your child will attend, use "[School Look-up](#)" and [call the school](#) if you have questions. Register today and look for back-to-school info and key dates on the GCPS website later this summer.

GWINNETT OFFERING FEDERAL GRANTS, LOANS FOR STRUGGLING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Gwinnett County is offering \$20 million in federal CARES Act loans and grants under the Gwinnett Small Business Assistance Program for local for-profit businesses that have been hurt during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds are intended to help businesses reopen their doors with such needs as deep cleaning facilities, modifying facilities to accommodate ongoing social distancing, restocking inventory, marketing to their clients, and/or paying staff in advance of reopening and achieving revenue. **APPLICATIONS FOR THE FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE JUNE 30.** Grants are capped at \$75,000. The loans will range from \$50,000 to \$200,000. For eligibility, application requirements, and more, visit the Small Business Assistance Program webpage.

PROPER DISPOSAL OF MEDICATION PROTECTS WATER QUALITY IN THE ENVIRONMENT

It may be tempting to flush old medications down the toilet, but doing so can contaminate our lakes, rivers, and other waterbodies, affecting water quality. Just because a medication will dissolve does not mean that it should be flushed. Anything that enters the sewer system through the toilet or the sink has to be processed at the wastewater treatment plant. Improper disposal of pharmaceuticals in the sewer system complicates processes at the plant and increases the risk of contamination in the environment. Privately owned septic systems can also release these contaminants into the groundwater. Fish and other aquatic wildlife in rivers can be vulnerable to pharmaceutical contaminants, which can cause changes to reproductive and other systems. Ensuring that you properly dispose of pharmaceuticals benefits public health and the environment. You can help keep our waterways free of pharmaceuticals and personal care products by remembering to maintain drug-free drains at home. For locations that accept old medications, you may visit GwinnettCB.org/recycling.

PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE ONLINE

The Gwinnett County Public Library Summer Reading Challenge is happening online right now through virtual programming on social media through August. Register for the program through the Beanstack app or GwinnettPL.Beanstack.org to keep track of reading activities, participate in virtual events, earn digital badges, receive chances to collect great prizes, and more! Fun virtual programs such as crafts, storytimes, and workshops for all ages are free and open to everyone through GCPL's Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram pages.



(Gwinnett News cont'd)

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES OFFERS DIGITAL SAFESITTER CLASSES

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services is offering its Fire Prevention and Life Safety Digital Learning Programs online, starting with a baby-sitting safety class in July. These live programs will be hosted through WebEx with a certified educator giving a PowerPoint presentation and live demonstrations when applicable. **The first online course, Safe Sitter, is set for July 11 from 9:00am to 4:00pm**, Safe Sitter will prepare students in grades 6 to 8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Using games and role-playing, the instructor-led class will teach CPR, first aid, and rescue skills as well as child care and business skills. To receive their course completion certificate, students must demonstrate their knowledge in a hands-on assessment on **July 18 from 9:00am to 11:00am and from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Gwinnett Fire Headquarters**. Class sizes are limited to eight students. To register, please email fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com or call 678-518-4845.

GWINNETT EMERGENCY DISPATCH NOW TAKING TEXT MESSAGES

The Gwinnett 911 Center is now equipped to receive and respond to mobile phone SMS text messages for situations where it is too dangerous to make a voice call to 911, and for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired. The Federal Communications Commission offers the following guidelines for texting 911:

- If you can, call 911; text if you can't
- If you are deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech disabled, and Text to 911 is not available, use a TTY or telecommunications relay service if it's available
- If you text 911 and text is not available in your area, you will receive a bounce-back message advising "text is not available please make a voice call to 911"
- Location accuracy varies by carrier so be prepared to give your location
- Text to 911 service will not be available if the wireless carrier cannot determine the location of the device sending the message
- Text to 911 is not available if you are roaming
- A text or data plan is required to place a text to 911
- Photos and videos cannot be received at the 911 center at this time
- Text messages should be sent in plain language and not contain popular abbreviations or emojis, which will not be recognized
- Text to 911 cannot be sent to more than one person; do not send your emergency text to anyone other than 911
- Texts must be in English

CONNECT WITH GWINNETT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BY MOBILE APPLICATION

The new Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office mobile application allows residents to report crimes and submit tips and offers other interactive features. Users can receive alerts and notifications from the Sheriff's Office on the app, which includes:

- Inmate search and other jail information
- Wanted suspects
- Tip line
- Push notifications/alerts
- Local sex offender search
- Operation Second Chance information
- COVID-19 local and national information



This app is not intended to be used to report emergency situations. Please call 911 in an emergency. The GCSO app is available for download on iPhone and Android platforms. Visit your App Store or Google Play and search "Gwinnett County Sheriff" to download it free of charge.

CHRISTIAN JOKES

The Ham Sandwich

A Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest were good friends. At a picnic one day, the priest was eating a ham sandwich. "You know," he said to his friend, "this ham sandwich is delicious. I know you're not supposed to eat ham, but I don't understand why such a good thing would be forbidden. When will you break down and try it?"

To which the rabbi replied, "At your wedding."

How to Get into Heaven

A man dies and meets St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. Peter says to the man, "Here's how it works. You need to have one hundred points to get into heaven. You tell me about all the good things you've done. They are all worth a certain number of points. If your total is one hundred or more, you can come in."

"Well," says the man. "I was happily married to the same woman for 52 years. I never looked at another woman. I was attentive and loved her dearly."

"That's great," says St. Peter. "That'll be two points."

"Hmmm," says the man. "This is going to be harder than I thought. Well, I attended church regularly, volunteered my time and tithed faithfully."

"Wonderful," says St. Peter, "That's worth another point."

"One point!" says the man. "Okay, okay. I was involved with a prison ministry for 25 years. I went into the prison, at least monthly, and shared Jesus with them."

"Wow!" says St. Peter. "That's another two points!"

"Only two points!" says the man. "At this rate, it'll be only by the Grace of God that I'll ever get into this place."

"Bingo!" says St. Peter. "That's one hundred points! Come on in."

Late for Class

A little girl, dresses in her "Sunday best" was late and running to her Sunday school class. As she ran, she prayed, "Dear God, please don't let me be late."

Dear God, please don't let me be late." Then she fell.

She got up, dusted herself off and saw that her dress was now dirty and had a little tear. She started running again, still praying,

"Dear God, please don't let me be late." But this time she added, "But please don't push me, either!"

Forest Gump and St. Peter

When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest. We've heard a lot about you." He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.'"

"Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are."

- 1) Name two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?
- 2) How many seconds are in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?

"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"

My Dad's Better Than Your Dad

Three boys on the playground were bragging about their dads. One said, "My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a song and they pay him 50 bucks."

"Oh, yah. My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a poem and they pay him 100 bucks." "That's nothin'," said the third kid. My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a sermon and it takes six people to collect all the money!"



OPPORTUNITIES TO **SERVE** AT FRIENDSHIP

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 using your gifts, talent, skills and time serving
God's people **TOGETHER IN LOVE.**





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 Email: fbcduluth@att.net
 Website: www.fbcduluth.org

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 Min. Clyde Conerly
 Min. James Cottingham
 Elder Chris Evans
 Rev. Garfield Garner
 Rev. Eugene Graves
 Min. Shurron Green
 Rev. Artis Johnson
 Min. Larry Jones
 Min. James Redman
 Rev. Timothy Twyman
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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.

**** NOW RECEIVING ARTICLES FOR JULY ISSUE ****