



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



#### August 2020

# FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE Vol. 8, Issue 8

#### Calendar

#### AUGUST

- 1 Sis. Debbie Bowens' Birthday
- 1 Back-to-School Distribution
- 11 Primary Runoff Election
- 12 First Day of School

#### SEPTEMBER

2 Labor Day Observance 25-27 Youth Weekend

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Theme of the Month	Cover
Scripture of the Month	3
Repentance	
Raising Our Prayer Altars	5
Living a Life that Pleases God	6
Miracles Still Happen	7
Baby Dedication	
Prayer List	
GriefShare	10
Outreach Ministry	11
Health Ministry	12
A Story of Perseverance	14
How the Pandemic Affected Our Home	15
Gardening	16
Youth Day - Save the Date	18
Sunday School	
Black History	20
Word Search	25
Church News & Other Information	26
Opportunities to Serve at FBC	
Mission Statement	29



### REPENTANCE

## 2 Chronicles 7:14

To get a better understanding of Repentance, the dictionary version is: the action of repenting, sincere regret or remorse, contrition, penitence, sorrow, guilt, self-reproach, conversion and pangs of conscience. It is the reviewing of one's actions and feeling remorse or regret for the past wrongs, repenting and putting actions in place to change for the better.

Repentance as taught in the Bible is a call to persons to make a radical turn from one way of sinful living to another way of renewed life with Christ. The Repentance called for throughout the Bible is a summons to a personal, absolute and ultimate unconditional surrender to God as Sovereign.

2 Chronicles 7.14 says, "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. "

After King Solomon rebuilt the temple, the Lord reminded him of His Covenant with Israel. In Deuteronomy 28 God promised to take care of Israel and will cause them to prosper BUT this covenant came with conditions, they must obey God. Just as Israel is willing to accept God's Divine Blessings, they must also suffer the consequences of Divine punishment if they walk away from God's statutes.

God being an All-Forgiving God, is telling Solomon that even after he allowed the drought and locusts and pestilence in His wrath upon the land of Israel, if His people humble themselves, pray, seek His face and turn from their wicked ways, Then and only then will He forgive their sins and heal their land.

(cont'd next page)

#### (Repentance cont'd)

Fast forwarding to 2020, the world is in the same predicament as Israel was before Christ. We have turned away from God. Our hearts are hardened as we depend more and more on technology for the wrong reasons. We are caught up in many social clubs that are demonic and we don't realize what we are getting into until we are so entrapped and the enemy laughs at God.

We see on the news, locusts are eating the crops and causing devastation in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia, Eritrea, India, Pakistan, Iran, Yemen, Oman and Saudi Arabia, this is a plague on the land. Wildfires are burning thousands of acres of land all over the world. Flooding, hurricanes and tornadoes have increased drastically on the land while some places are suffering from drought and, now we have the COVID-19 pestilence on the land.

Each one of us has to do our part in pleading with God for healing of our land. We must first:

- 1. Recognize that we have done wrong
- 2. We must truly regret that we have done wrong
- 3. We must be remorseful in our wrong doing and the pain it caused
- 4. We must commit never to repeat the act again regardless of the temptations or situations

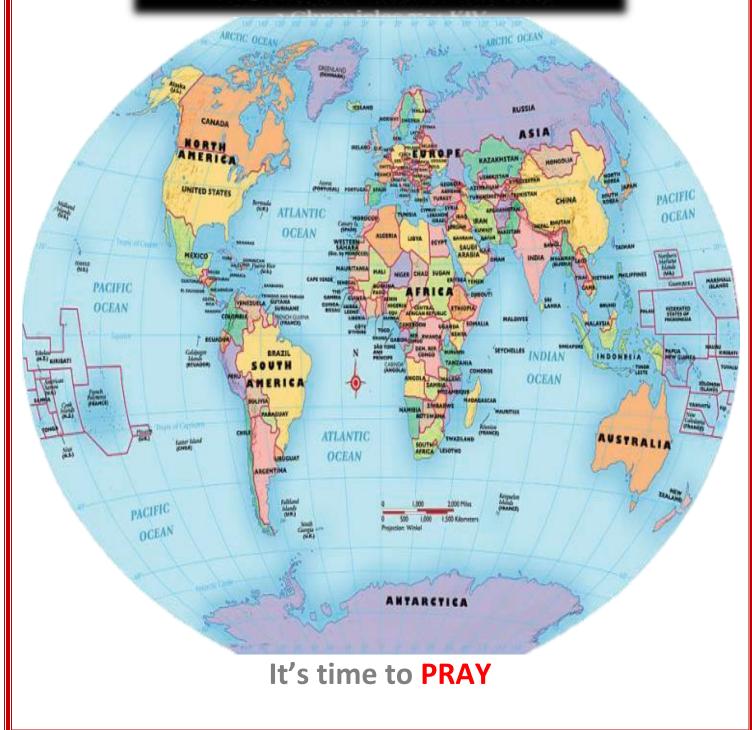
Repentance is a change of heart toward sin, toward the world and toward God. It is an inner change that gives rise to new ways of living that exalt Christ and gives evidence of the truth of the Gospel.

Submitted by Hyacinth Chung Communications Ministry



## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH 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."



Page 3

#### Friendship Baptist Church A Purpose-Driven Church

Page 4

Remorse is to have deep regret for something. In order for us to repent, our regret has to be so great that we never want to commit that action (sin) again. True repentance comes from us no longer wanting to commit sin(s) against God. We cannot merely ask for forgiveness and then at the next opportunity commit the sin(s) again. Although God will forgive us every time we ask, repentance is only achieved when the cycle of that sin is broken. Mark 1:4 - John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Repentance comes when we are earnest in our prayers so that God knows we are truly sorry for our behavior that caused us to sin against Him. We can't just murmur words for God's forgiveness. When we are sincere and let God know that it grieves us to grieve Him we are moving towards repentance. We have to have such a strong desire to seek forgiveness from God that it's down in our heart and we can feel it in our soul. Our desire must be to not grieve God with sinful actions and disobedience. Thank God He knows our heart and that our thoughts are not hidden from Him. 1 Chronicles 28:9 - As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. Confess, Pray, Repeat! Once we've confessed our sin(s) we must continuously pray to God to help us walk in the Spirit and not after the flesh. Our flesh is our sinful nature and to be repentant, we must deny our flesh. When we're in the habit of being Spiritual we can resist our sinful nature. Numbers 21:7 - Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. Are we eager to please our friends, eager for "likes" and followers on social media? Are we eager to gain approval from others? My brothers and sisters, our eagerness should be to please God and to seek His face. In doing so we have to put down anything that displeases Him. If we sin or have a sinful nature we have to turn that "thing" over to God. Whatever it is, we must hastily and **eagerly** turn it over and ask Him to take the "taste" of that sin away. Titus 2:14 - Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. To be repentant requires us to abandon the sin so that we never do it again. Once we confess our sin to God the next step is to pray the desire be taken away. Acts 3:19 - Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. We have to turn away from sin - I say "Run, run as fast as you can! Sinful behavior should make us cringe; sin should repulse us because it offends and grieves God. Just as we don't want to disappoint and offend our earthly parents, we should not want to disappoint and offend our Heavenly Father (especially repeatedly). Ezekiel 18:30-32 - "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct," declares the Lord God. "Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you. Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord God. "Therefore, repent and live." God accepts our apology and He will forgive us of our sin when we come to Him with a sincere heart. Exodus 34:9 - And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance. To be truly repentant we have to say, "No more!" to old behavior that offends God and causes us to sin. No more means I'm not going back. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. We must confess of our sin before God so He may forgive us. 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Sin will erode our relationship with God but repentance renews and restores that relationship. As Christians we want to be in right fellowship with God every day. Lamentations 5:21 - Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old. Submitted by Christine Smith, Communications Ministry



# Raising Our Prayer Altars to the Lord

#### Psalm 85:6-13

<sup>6</sup> Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? <sup>7</sup> Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation. <sup>8</sup> I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly. <sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. <sup>10</sup> Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and

peace have kissed each other. <sup>11</sup> Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven. <sup>12</sup> Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase. <sup>13</sup> Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.

Now is the time to Wake Up and PRAY. Desperate times calls for drastic measures, it's time to raise our Prayer Altars to a higher level in the Lord:

- We pray that prayers will come alive again in our churches
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will rekindle the fire to pray at home and at church/prayer line
- Pray for divine visitation of the Power of God
- Pray for the Baptism by Fire as on the day of Pentecost
- Pray that your home and church will be called a "House of Prayer" (Matt 21:13a)
- Pray that God will raise up church leaders with a heart for Prayer and not activities
- Pray for the cleansing by the Power of the Blood of Jesus over our Prayer Altars at home and at church
- Pray as we come to our prayer altars that we come clean
- Pray as we come to the prayer altar that our sacrifice will be alive, holy and pleasing to God (Romans:12:1)
- Pray that the churches will have the desire to build a prayer altar (Genesis 26:25)
- Pray that our hearts will be truthful and cleansed with the Blood of Jesus so that our prayers will be heard (Hebrews 10:22)
- Pray for a desire to call upon the Lord (Jeremiah 33:3)
- Pray for a heart like Jesus to rise up early to pray (Mark 1:35)
- Pray that the church will embrace this truth and desire to pray (Psalm145 :18-19)
- Pray that the Word of God will burn off the spirit of prayerlessness in the church (Jeremiah 23:29)
- Pray for an outpouring of the Heavenly rain upon the thirsty ground of our prayer altars (Isaiah 44:3)
- Pray for an outpouring of the Grace to Intercede (Zechariah 12:10)

For God's hand to move, we have to take our prayers to a whole new level.

Submitted by Hyacinth Chung, Communication Ministry

#### Friendship Baptist Church A Purpose-Driven Church

Page 6



#### LIVING A LIFE THAT PLEASES GOD $\sim$ IN OTHER WORDS $\sim$

By Rev. Eugene B. Graves, Associate Minister

"Lord remember Your love over me in Your judgment. If there is any way that I have not been made right with You, I pray that You would clean my heart now. Teach me Your ways God and make me more like You. In all I am and in all I do, I want to be pleasing to You."



Purify my heart in the beauty of Your holiness. Create in me a clean and new heart. I surrender to Your purpose and Your design. For You alone Jesus know the way to eternal life. I surrender to Your leading that I may walk along the path closely behind you.

Remember Your promise over me. Write my name in Your book and remember me for eternal life. "And this is the promise that He has promised us – eternal life." (1 John 2:25) "He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." (1 John 5:10-13)

Take time to meditate on the Lord. Consider His love for you and everything He's given for you. Consider everything He's doing for you now and mediate on His faithfulness.

If you ever have found yourself questioning where you stand with God, or if you've never given your life to Christ: Take this time to dedicate or rededicate your life to Him. Take some time to reflect on your sins. Remember that God doesn't have to forgive you, it's not His obligation. He chooses to do so out of love.

Repent from your heart and walk in His love. True repentance suggests that we are not only sorry for the things we've done but want to make a life altering change to make it right again. Yet this life altering change is not something that we do, but something He <u>does</u>. God gives us forgiveness and salvation but leads us in the path of salvation daily.

Whether you're new to the Lord or not, following Him is a priority for every Christian. Christian means, "Follower of Christ." In order to follow Him you must be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit and obey Him. It is He who leads us in the paths of Christ Jesus.

Let Him work through you. Let His Spirit guide you into the exact works He has for you. Let Him determine what pleases Him most. He knows better than we do as to what would please Him. He is God after all!

So, surrender to Him, walk in purity, and be rejuvenated by His Holy Spirit. If you've never asked for the Holy Spirit, ask for Him now, with a sincere heart. You will never receive Him if you haven't repented of your sins. Also, you cannot have what you don't seek. So, ask for the Spirit and you will receive Him.

Whether you are a new Christian or a seasoned Christian, be refreshed by the Spirit of God. Sit in His presence today and listen carefully to His voice. Continue to meditate on His presence for the rest of the day. True servants of God are ones that makes themselves ready for His service at all times.

"When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him," (Proverbs 16:7

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Page 7

# Miracles Still Happen

Testimony of God's Miraculous Move

the vister of the dead man, said to him, "Lotd, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her. Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said. "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I have that you do not hear the ball that they that you do not hear the ball that

as a cover, and a stome lay against

To share your story in the next FBC Voice, send by email to Paulette Tapp at ptapp1052@gmail.com.

I have a friend that I pray with regularly. She has sickle cell and never tried to apply for disability. She had mentioned to a relative that she was online looking for part-time jobs that she can do from home because she needs to pay off the hospital bills that Emory is hounding her for. She is always in and out of the hospital and doing tons of blood transfusions.

The relative recommended that she file for disability first, instead of trying to get a job that may aggravate her and help in compromising her health.

So, she applied for disability on Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, and got a response on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The next day, Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, she got an approval email detailing her benefits and that all her medical bills will be taken care of. All she had to do was submit the invoices and input her banking information for direct deposits.

Isn't our God an **On-Time** and **Miracle Working God**??? Keep the *Faith* my Brethren and remember... **PRAYER WORKS!!!** 

Submitted by Hyacinth Chung

Retell the stories of God in your life & plant seeds of\_

hope, faith. E

ITUSE in the lives of others

#### Friendship Baptist Church A Purpose-Driven Church

Page 8

#### **BABY DEDICATION**

A baby dedication is a ceremony in which believing parents, and sometimes entire families, make a commitment before the Lord to raise that child according to God's Word and God's ways. The practice of baby dedication is rooted in this passage found in Deuteronomy 6:4-7: *4Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (KJV) Source: Learnreligions.com* 



On Saturday, July 18, 2020, 2:00 pm, baby Vaugh (Deuce) Roddy St. Fleur, Jr. was dedicated to the Lord by Pastor Ronald L. Bowens. Baby Deuce is the sixth grandchild of Rhoal and Paulette Tapp. Witnessing the ceremony were his parents, Vaugh (Von) St. Fleur, Sr. and Myia Williams, Lawrence Scott (godfather), Carmen Callaway (godmother), maternal grandparents, Rhoal and Paulette Tapp, paternal grandmother, Marie St. Fleur, Abeni Tapp (aunt), siblings and cousins.







#### **REMEMBER THE SICK AND SHUT-IN WITH PRAYER AND CALLS WHILE THE**

#### SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT

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



If you need prayer, dial 866-875-8245

Prayer changes things.

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Page 10

# FOR THOSE GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

# GRIEF



**GriefShare Ministry Leader** Minister Karen L. Blacknell 678-896-1441 <u>Karen83052@gmail.com</u>

# 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.

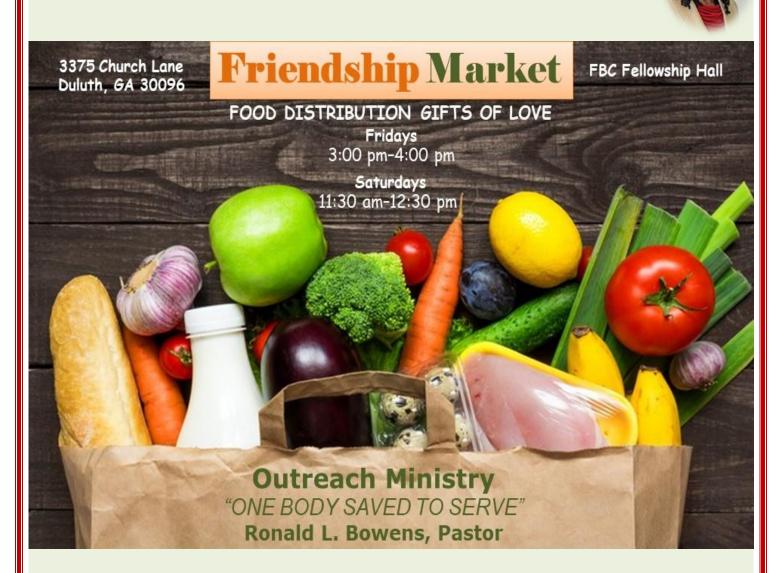
Due to the pandemic and sheltering-in-place, GriefShare now meets every Monday from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm via conference call. If interested in joining us, please dial 701-802-5331 and enter access code 2098635#. You must first register with GriefShare. To register, please call Minister Karen Blacknell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

Page 11

# **OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Diana McGhee, Ministry Leader



#### **FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED**

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

#### Friendship Baptist Church A Purpose-Driven Church

## HEALTH MINISTRY

Vickie Perry, RN/BSN, Ministry Leader



**Page 12** 

#### 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).

# COVID-19: How to Protect Yourself & Others

Updated April 24, 2020 CDC

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

#### Wash Your Hands Often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It's especially important to wash: •
  - Before eating or preparing food
  - Before touching your face
  - After using the restroom
  - After leaving a public place
- After handling your cloth face covering
- After changing a diaper 0
- After caring for someone sick
- After touching animals or pets 0
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing 0
- If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that has 60% alcohol. .
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. •

#### **Avoid Close Contact**

- Inside your home: Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- **Outside your home:** Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household. •
  - 0 Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus. Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people. 0

#### Cover Your Mouth and Nose with a Cloth Face Cover When Around Others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Everyone should wear a cloth face cover in public. •

#### Friendship Baptist Church A Purpose-Driven Church

Page 13

(COVID-19 cont'd)

#### **Cover Coughs and Sneezes**

- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol.

#### **Clean and Disinfect**

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them.
- Then, use a household disinfectant.

#### **Monitor Your Health Daily**

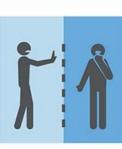
- Be alert for symptoms.
- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
- Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.



STAY HOME EXCEPT FOR WORK AND OTHER NEEDS



WEAR A FACE COVERING WHEN GOING OUT



PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING OF AT LEAST 6 FEET FROM OTHERS



SHOP AT NON-PEAK HOURS



WASH HANDS OFTEN WITH WATER AND SOAP (20 SECONDS OR LONGER)



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH WITH UNWASHED HANDS OR AFTER TOUCHING SURFACES



COVER YOUR MOUTH WITH A TISSUE OR SLEEVE WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING



CLEAN AND DISINFECT "HIGH-TOUCH" SURFACES OFTEN



DON'T WORK WHEN SICK



CALL BEFORE VISITING YOUR DOCTOR

Page 14

#### Cordy

#### A Story of Perseverance

James 5:11 – "Indeed, we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord – that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful."

Cordy, the younger of two boys for his parents was a very brilliant, outgoing, energetic kid. At the age of eight years old, his mother had a medical emergency due to sickle cell complications. He always said he wanted to be a doctor, but when he saw how sick his mother was, he purposed in his mind that he was going to be a doctor to take care of her.

He did well academically and physically and was an avid athlete until his middle school years. He was diagnosed with lupus which took a toll on his organs. He was in and out of hospitals and still made it to high school. Six months before his graduation from high school, he had renal failure, yup, those kidneys decided to shut down and he had to undergo dialysis. He was told he had to repeat 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, but his counsellors advised he had already completed the high school curriculum and was taking AP college courses, so he was able to graduate and with honors as well.

With much prayers and practicing a healthy diet, he was taken off dialysis and he started college as planned. Now 10 years later, after graduating from Florida State University, Class of 2020, College of Medicine, Dr. Cordy is in South Carolina specializing in Child Psychiatry.

He has a calling on his life to mentor young people, and he thinks children have too many distractions today and are causing tremendous danger to themselves with all the technology at their hands leading them astray. With his strong spiritual beliefs, the experiences he's had with his medical challenges and the various emotions a body can go through during a crisis, he feels he can be a positive role model and mentor to kids who are broken.

Once again, the enemy has pointed his grimy fingers at Cordy's kidneys. His numbers are falling daily and now he needs a kidney transplant. His immediate family were ruled out due to the sickle cell trait and other hereditary illnesses. If you are so led or know someone who is an organ donor, please help my godson.

I know this is a big request, but I make it on behalf of Cordy who devotes his life to making a difference in others' lives. If you can help give him a better quality of life, please consider this request or share with others who may be willing.

#### Willing donors must be:

- Blood type 0 (+/-)
- In good health (free of cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure)
- 18-60 years old

A screening is required. His insurance will cover <u>all expenses</u> for the donor. If you think you are a likely candidate and are willing to give one of your kidneys to help him, please call Hyacinth Chung as soon as possible at 678-662-7966.

Thank you and God bless you!

#### **How Has the Pandemic Affected Our Home?**

By LaRonda Razor-Wilson

Being the mother of young men, I inquired how they felt about the pandemic and how it has affected them and changed some things in their lives. Coming from a 21-, 20- and 16-year old, it was interesting to hear how they felt about things.

The 16-year old stated he was an introvert anyway, so it really hasn't affected him much. He enjoyed going to school, football practice and being a homebody, so he didn't feel it affected him much. He did, however note how he has paid more attention to those who have gotten in more trouble (not having anything to do, so they get into mischief). He was surprised (and sounded a bit disappointed) to learn that a friend their age is now pregnant.

The older two indicated they found themselves bored more often. Something as simple as running to the store late night for something was no longer a capability with the stores closing so early now. (They liked the freedom of 24-hr. shopping!) There are a lot less things to do as well, so dating is tough (got a little difficult to take a young lady out to eat when all the eating establishments were closed). The biggest issue they have run into is when their part-time jobs ended; it has been more difficult to find another job. Not only due to a lot of businesses closing and cutting back, but they have a fear of where to apply because they don't know if they are practicing good hygiene to protect them from contracting the coronavirus.

Looking at it from another perspective, we have been blessed by people offering food and hearing of more and more food giveaways (as well as our own church on either Friday or Saturday)! My employer made sure everyone was capable of working from home and closed our office doors, so I haven't missed a paycheck (Thank you, Lord!)

I have also been able to make it to not only worship with our church, but have been able to support my friend from home who has an online church as well! She asked if I would support her annual Women's Conference and be a speaker this year since it was virtual. One thing I almost forgot to add is we all agreed as to what our oldest boy said, "I actually miss going to church, too." We all concur!

I, too, am a homebody, so staying in the house hasn't negatively affected me. I have just been able to seek God's word in many different ways, now just more virtually.









Page 16

Gardening -- whether growing food or beautiful flowers, to some may be a hobby or a lifestyle, but for me and my FBC friend, Shirley Price, it's a lifestyle. We both love it and were gardening long before the pandemic. We just wanted to invite you in to our garden experience during this time of shelter in place.

This year, I expanded my garden space to grow a huge number of vegetables as I have retired and can spend more time in the garden. It was quite challenging for me, to



say the least, as I did a direct sow into the ground for the majority of my veggies as well as planted in pots as done in the past. However, instead of starting my seeds indoors, I waited until Good Friday to sow my seeds which left me waiting much too long for harvesting (and I am just now seeing evidence of okra, cantaloupe and some of my tomatoes—much too late in the season). Some people say they plant by the moon phase. I'll have to look more into this method to determine what crops to plant during which moon. Shirley planted transplants and harvested much sooner than I did and had some very nice veggies, too! Perhaps, it was intended for me to plant transplants at that time and not seeds... Oh, well—a lesson learned when sowing seeds!

When we compared our yields and exchanged stories, we found we both had successes and failures. No worries, though – we will try not to make the same mistakes next year. I may consider her idea of building raised beds and I think I'll use composted wood chips instead of pine straw to keep the weeds at bay—and did I ever have WEEDS!!! I used the extra pine straw we had but I don't like it and it doesn't hold enough moisture for the plants. Remember the story in the Bible about the wheat and the tares growing together? I had that kind of experience where I could not tell the good stuff from the weeds—instead of verifying it on YouTube, I started pulling up "weeds" from my watermelon hills only to learn I left the weeds behind and pulled up the tiny seedlings...I was fit to be tied when I saw that I would not be enjoying watermelon from my garden this year!

She and I both planted tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, hot peppers, lemon balm, herbs, dill, parsley, zucchini, onions, corn, cabbage, carrots, asparagus and spinach. However, because of the space I have, I was a bit overzealous and also sowed swiss chard, cauliflower, lettuce, okra, sweet potatoes, red and white potatoes, radish, beets, sorrel, cantaloupe, four varieties of tomatoes, basil, thyme, sage, rosemary, several varieties of mint, butternut squash, kale, green beans and sweet peas. I also grow strawberries in pots and have blueberry and blackberry bushes, a nectarine and fig tree, two young apple trees and grape vines (no fruit yet from these or the apple trees—still too young).

Gardening this year was a huge undertaking for me and required much attention, given the trouble keeping the rabbits and chipmunks from wreaking havoc and not to mention the intense heat we've had (and still getting). Fortunately, we have a 275-gallon rainwater collection tank which gave us a huge saving on our water bill, but we need to figure out a better watering system using the tank. Right now, there is not much pressure coming from the tank to connect a hose to it. If any of our readers are gardeners and have any suggestions, please reach out.

We hope you enjoy our article and become inspired (see pictures on the next page). We would encourage everyone to try growing your own vegetables. They taste so good and you know what you are getting. All of my seeds were organic and non-GMO. Pots are a great way to grow vegetables if you don't have the space. It is so worth it! You can start seeds indoors or just buy transplants. Not planning to have a fall garden, though, as once considered – I need a much needed break. LOL

The last thing we'd like to share is that gardening teaches patience and what a wonderful feeling when, finally, you get to taste the goodness that you've waited so long for! *"Now if we hope for what we do not yet see, we eagerly wait for it with patience."* Romans 8:25 CSB

Blessings to you all! Paulette Tapp and Shirley Price

# August 2020 Page 17 Friendship Baptist Church A Purpose-Driven Church Paulette's garden Shirley's garden















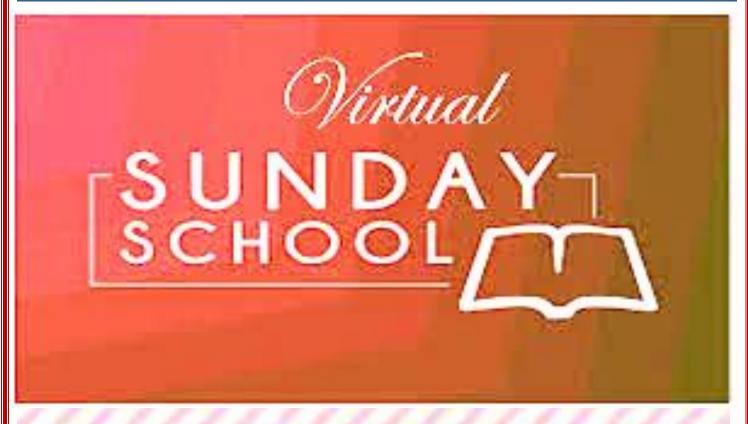






Friendship Baptist Church 
A Purpose-Driven Church

Page 19



**FBC Sunday School on ZOOM!** Please join one of our Sunday School classes every Sunday at 9:45 am. We have begun our new Summer Quarter: Wisdom. The third unit (Faith and Wisdom in James). This unit offers five lessons. Lesson 10: Hearing and Doing the Word (James 1:19-27.

#### **Classes Available**

Men's Class Women's Class Marriage Class Conn3ct Class (Young Adults) Singles Class

Also, join us for Youth Church and Teen Church.

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

Sunday school books are available for pick up from the Church office Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm.

Dorian Rogers, Superintendent <u>4integrityauto@gmail.com;</u> Phone: 770-309-6245

Friendship Baptist Church 
A Purpose-Driven Church

BLACK

Page 20

#### **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

#### **BUSINESS**

Sis. Diane Russell Black History Coordinator Communications Ministry

#### THOMAS L JENNINGS



Thomas L. Jennings was an African-American tradesman and abolitionist in New York City, New York. Jennings built a business as a tailor and dry cleaner, and was well-respected in the community. He developed a process called *"dry scouring"* for cleaning clothes, for which he applied and was the first African American to be granted a patent from the state of New York on March 3, 1821. He spent his early earnings on legal fees to purchase his wife and some of his children out of slavery. Their daughter Elizabeth Jennings was born free in March 1827 and became a schoolteacher and church organist.

**OUR VOICES. OUR STORIES** 

In 1831, he was selected as assistant secretary to the First Annual Convention of the People of Color in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which met in June 1831. He helped arrange legal defense for his daughter, Elizabeth Jennings, in 1854, when

she challenged a private streetcar company's segregation of seating, and was arrested. She was defended by the young Chester Arthur and won her case the next year.

With two other prominent black leaders, Jennings organized the Legal Rights Association in 1855 in New York, which raised challenges to discrimination and organized legal defense for court cases. He founded and was a trustee of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, and a leader in the black community.

Jennings also supported the abolitionist movement and became active in working for civil rights of free blacks. He worked tirelessly on issues related to emigration to other countries; opposing colonization in Africa, as proposed by the American Colonization Society; and supported expansion of suffrage for black men.

Jennings' success in gaining a patent resulted in a considerable amount of controversy. The U.S. patent laws of 1793 stated that *"the master is the owner of the fruits of the labour of the slave both manual and intellectual,"* thus slaves could not patent their own inventions. The efforts of slaves would be the property of their master. But, Thomas Jennings was a free man, so he gained exclusive rights to his process. In 1861 Congress passed a law to extend patent rights to slaves.

Thomas Jennings died in New York City on February 12, 1856.

Friendship Baptist Church 
A Purpose-Driven Church

(Black History cont'd)

#### URSULA BURNS



Ursula Burns was born September 20, 1958, in New York, New York.

She is a business executive who served as chairman (2010–17) and CEO (2009–16) of the Xerox Corporation. She was **the first African American woman to serve as CEO of a Fortune 500 company**. She succeeded Anne M. Mulcahy in becoming the first female CEO to follow another in that role.

Burns was raised in a low-income housing project on Manhattan's Lower East Side. She was the second of three children raised by a single mother who operated a home daycare center and took ironing and cleaning jobs to earn money to pay for Burns to attend Cathedral High School, a Roman Catholic preparatory school. Excelling at math, Burns later earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering (1980) from the Polytechnic Institute of New York University in Brooklyn. In the same year, she began pursuing a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Columbia University and joined Xerox as a summer mechanical-engineering intern through the company's graduate engineering program for minorities, which in turn paid a portion of her educational expenses.

After completing a master's degree in 1981, Burns joined Xerox as a full-time employee and quickly gained a role in product development. From 1992, she progressed through various roles in management and engineering, and in 2000 she became senior vice president of corporate strategic services, a position in which she oversaw production operations. The appointment eventually afforded Burns the opportunity to broaden her leadership in the areas of global research, product development, marketing, and delivery, and she was named president of Xerox in 2007. Two years later, she was named CEO, and in 2010 she became chairman of the board. Burns stepped down as CEO in 2016, and the following year she resigned as chairman of the board. She is currently a director of the boards of Exxon Mobil, Nestlé and Uber.

In 2009, U.S. President Barack Obama selected her to help lead the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, a national alliance of more than 1,000 technological organizations striving to improve student participation and performance in the aforementioned subject areas through legislative advocacy; she held the post until 2016. Burns was also a member (2010–16) of the President's Export Council (PEC), a group of labor, business, and government leaders who advise the President on methods to promote the growth of American exports; she chaired the committee in 2015-16.

On March 27, 2018, Ursula was appointed as Executive Chairman of VEON. VEON's Supervisory Board is undertaking a search for a new CEO, and once a replacement is named and installed, Ms. Burns will revert to her role as Chairman of the Board.

Page 22

(Black History cont'd)

#### THASUNDA BROWN DUCKETT



Thasunda Brown Duckett was born in Rochester, New York, in 1973. She later moved to Texas with her parents. She graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor's degree in Finance and Marketing and Baylor University with an MBA.

Duckett is the **Chief Executive Officer of Chase Consumer Banking**. She is a member of the Consumer and Community Banking Leadership Committee.

Chase is one of the largest U.S. providers of banking, lending, treasury, wealth management and investment services. Duckett oversees a banking network with more than \$684B in deposits and investments, 5,300 branches, 18,000 ATMs and more than 47,000 employees – including 3,000 financial advisors – serving 23

million households nationwide.

Duckett was previously the CEO of Chase Auto Finance, one of the leading bank providers of auto financing in the country with a portfolio of more than \$60 billion in assets and relationships with 75% of U.S. franchised automotive dealers. Under her leadership, Chase Auto Finance moved from #27 in the JD Power Dealer Financing Satisfaction Survey to #1 in Prime and Non-Prime. She broadened its dealer partnerships and launched Chase Auto Direct, the bank's new direct-to-consumer business.

Prior to Auto, Duckett served as National Retail Sales Executive for Chase Mortgage Banking, where she managed 4,000 mortgage bankers who provide home financing to customers across the nation. She previously led Mortgage Banking's East Region Sales team for three years. She has also served as the Channel Executive of Bank Branch Integration and as Director of Affordable Lending and Emerging Markets.

Before joining JPMorgan Chase, Duckett was a Director of Emerging Markets at Fannie Mae, where she led the implementation of national strategies designed to increase homeownership among African Americans and Hispanics across the country.

Duckett has been recognized widely as a leading executive in the financial industry. She was named as a "Top 100 Leading Female Executive" by Automotive News; one of the most powerful women in banking by American Banker magazine; one of the 50 most powerful women in corporate America by Black Enterprise magazine and among the top most influential blacks in corporate America by Savoy magazine.

Duckett has worked as an executive for years around inclusion and empowerment. She's also the executive sponsor of the Advancing Black Pathways program under JPMorganChase, an organization focused on providing financial, educational and career resources for African Americans.

In recent years, Nike has made strides to diversify their workforce and better their workplace culture. In 2019, Nike Inc., appointed Duckett to the company's board of directors. Hopefully, Duckett's presence as **the only African American woman in the C-suite to serve on the board** can help to change that.

For more on Thasunda Brown Duckett, read her strategies for building and preserving black wealth in an article by Derek T. Dingle, April 2, 2020 Black Enterprise

Friendship Baptist Church 
A Purpose-Driven Church

(Black History cont'd)

#### MAGGIE LENA WALKER



Born Maggie Lena Mitchell in Richmond, Virginia, on July 15, 1864. Maggie was educated in Richmond's public schools. After graduation she taught grade school for three years. Her teaching career ended in 1886 when she married Armstead Walker, Jr. She then directed her energies toward caring for her family and strengthening the Independent Order of St. Luke. Life was full and prosperous for the Walkers and their sons, Russell and Melvin.

Maggie Lena Walker achieved national prominence as a businesswoman and community leader. Her business acumen, personality, and lifelong commitment to a beneficial burial society fueled her climb to success. **She was the first African American woman in the United States to found a bank**. As a leader, her successes and vision offered tangible improvements in the way of life for African Americans and women.

When she was a teenager, Maggie joined the local council of the

Independent Order of St. Luke. This fraternal burial society, established in 1867 in Baltimore, administered to the sick and aged, promoted humanitarian causes and encouraged individual self-help and integrity.

She served in numerous capacities of increasing responsibility for the Order, from that of a delegate to the biannual convention to the top leadership position of Right Worthy Grand Secretary in 1899, a position she held until her death. Under her leadership the Order's membership and numbers of councils were significantly increased throughout the country and its finances achieved solvency. Through sound fiscal policies, a genius for public relations and enormous energy, she took a dying organization, gave it life and helped it thrive.

In 1902 Mrs. Walker established a newspaper, <u>**The St. Luke Herald</u>**, to promote closer communication between the Order and the public. In speeches, Mrs. Walker had reasoned, "Let us put our money together; let us use our money; Let us put our money out at usury among ourselves, and reap the benefit ourselves." In 1903 she **founded the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank**. Mrs. Walker served as the bank's first president, which earned her the recognition of being the first African American woman to charter a bank in the United States. Later she agreed to serve as chairman of the board of directors when the bank merged with two other Richmond banks to become The Consolidated Bank and Trust Company. Until 2009, the bank thrived as the oldest continually African American-operated bank in the United States.</u>

In addition to her work for the Independent Order of St. Luke, Maggie Walker was active in civic groups. As an advocate of African American women's rights, she served on the board of trustees for several women's groups. Among them were the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) and the Virginia Industrial School for Girls. To assist race relations, she helped to organize and served locally as vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was a member of the national NAACP board. She also served as a member of the Virginia Interracial Commission.

On December 15, 1934, Walker died from complications due to diabetes.

#### Friendship Baptist Church A Purpose-Driven Church

Page 24



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 —

#### **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.

Page 25

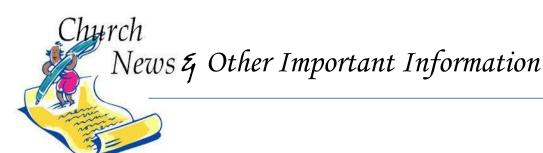
# SCRIPTURE WORD SEARCH (See Cover Page for Scripture)

# 2 Chronicles 7:14

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Answer on p. 27



Youth Department - 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!

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.



The 2020 Census counts everyone. Make sure you're counted!

Respond Today at: mv2020census.gov. Deadline extended until October 31.

2020

#### GWINNETT COUNTY NEWS

**County accepting CARES Act grant applications through August 28** - Gwinnett County is making available funds awarded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to nonprofit agencies providing valuable services in Gwinnett to support their response to local needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. All interested agencies should complete the <u>online application</u> through **August 28**. Gwinnett County awarded more than \$13.3 million to 104 nonprofit and faith-based agencies in the first round of its COVID-19 Nonprofit Funding Opportunity program. Questions regarding the COVID-19 Nonprofit Funding Opportunity should be directed to the Gwinnett County Community Development Program office by phone at 678-518-6008 or by email at crf@gwinnettcounty.com.

**Census takers set to visit households that haven't completed the survey -** Census takers have begun interviews at households that haven't yet completed the 2020 Census questionnaire. If you haven't completed the survey yet but want to skip the knock on your door, be sure to fill out the census online at My2020Census.gov, by phone, or by mail using the form mailed to your house. Census data determines federal funding, representation in government, and planning for community resources like schools, hospitals, and roads. Your private information is confidential by law and can't be shared with any other agency. For more information, visit 2020Census.gov.

Page 27

#### How did you do?

"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."

				From p. 25
2 Chronicles 7:14				
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# **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 1st & 3rd S	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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	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**.

Friendship Baptist Church 
A Purpose-Driven Church

Page 29

#### **Communications Ministry**

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Vice President Tina Patterson

Secretary Paulette Tapp

Assistant Secretary Kelly Wilson

> **Treasurer** Jerry Fisher

Chaplain Hyacinth Chung

Deacon Advisor Harold Mitchell

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> Editor/Proofreader Christine Smith Diane Russell

> > Photographers Louie Malone Shirley Price

Publisher Louie Malone

#### **Reporters/Writers**

Hyacinth Chung Jennifer Jones Tina Patterson Christine Smith Kelly Wilson

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 to: www.fbcduluth.org

Submit articles for the next newsletter now through Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020



#### **Mission Statement**

Exalt the Savior • Equip the Saint • Evangelize the Sinner

#### **A Purpose-Driven Church**

Friendly through Fellowship Developed through Discipleship Enlarged through Evangelism Sharing and Caring through Servanthood Stronger through God's Word and True Worship

#### **Church Address and Contact Information**

3375 Church Lane, Duluth GA 30096 Contact: Rita Bowens, Office Manager @ 770-497-8227 Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am-5:00pm Email: <u>fbcduluth@att.net</u> Website: <u>www.fbcduluth.org</u>

#### Leadership

FBC Associate Ministers Rev. Ken Blacknell Rev. Garfield Garner Rev. Eugene Graves Min. Shurron Green Rev. Artis Johnson Rev. Timothy Twyman Min. Floyd Williams Rev. Stan Williams Rev. Alton Wilson

**FBC Ministers of Evangelism** 

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