



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

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

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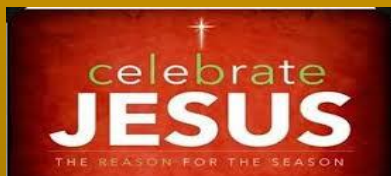
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DECEMBER

- 20 January Newsletter Article Deadline
- 24 Church Office closed
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 21 Newsletter Submission Deadline



Church is open with limited seating. Reservations required.
 Go to fbcduluth.org/reopening/ for information and registration.

The Birth of Christ

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

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

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

(Cont'd next page)

(The Birth of Christ cont'd)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submitted by Hyacinth Chung
Communications Ministry



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH



HYMN OF PRAISE – “Joy to The World”

Written in 1719 by Isaac Watts, an English minister and hymnwriter, based on Psalms 98:4.



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Submitted by Hyacinth Chung,
Communications Ministry

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Diana McGhee, Director



“One Body Saved to Serve”

The Market will be closed December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st.

FBC Outreach Ministry
is here to *HELP* during these
challenging times!

Drive through
on
Fridays

3:00pm-4:00pm

and

Saturdays

11:30am-12:30pm

to get **FREE** groceries
(Meat, Produce, Dairy & More)

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED !!!

Friendship Baptist Church ~ 3375 Church Lane ~ Duluth, GA 30096
Phone ~ 770-497-8227 ~ Email ~ friendshipduluth@att.net

For more information about the Outreach
Ministry, please contact:

Diana McGhee
404-312-1232
dianaymcghee@bellsouth.net
or
Catherine Stafford
678-983-7587

HEALTH MINISTRY

Vickie Perry, RN/BSN, Ministry Leader



AIDS Awareness Month

Educating yourself about [human immunodeficiency virus \(HIV\)](#) is the most important way to stay healthy if you are trying to avoid infection or if you are HIV-positive. While modern therapies are far simpler than they've ever been—as easy as one pill per day—[preventing](#) or treating the disease takes more than just pills. It takes insight.

There are often no [symptoms](#) at the onset of HIV infection, and that when symptoms appear, it's often after the virus has caused irreparable damage to a person's immune system.

That's why it is important that you get [tested](#) if you think you could have been exposed. Early [treatment](#), before you become symptomatic, can substantially improve your outcome.

Early diagnosis = early treatment = better health = longer life. As many as 20 to 25% of the estimated 1.2 million Americans living with HIV remain undiagnosed.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) issued recommendations that everyone between the ages of 15 and 65 should be screened for HIV as part of their routine medical care. The recommendations were made in line with evidence showing that early initiation of antiretroviral therapy results in fewer HIV- and non-HIV-associated illnesses and reduces the infectivity of a person who has HIV.

Source: [Verywellhealth.com](https://www.verywellhealth.com)

Your Health Is A Life Long Journey



COVID-19

Key Facts About COVID-19 and COVID-19 Vaccines

WHAT WE KNOW COVID-19 is a deadly virus that does not discriminate.

WHAT WE NEED Population/Herd immunity which makes it hard for a disease to spread from person to person.

WHAT CAN WE DO Educate ourselves about the COVID-19 vaccine and get vaccinated.

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Vaccines cannot give you COVID-19. You may have side effects after vaccination. These are normal and should go away in a few days.

HOW WILL THE COVID-19 VACCINE HELP COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19, especially severe illness and death. COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of people spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

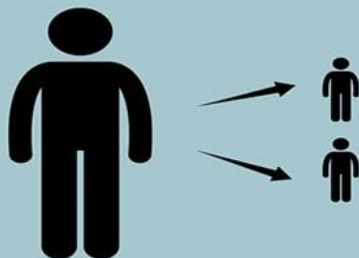
For more information go to

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/index.html>

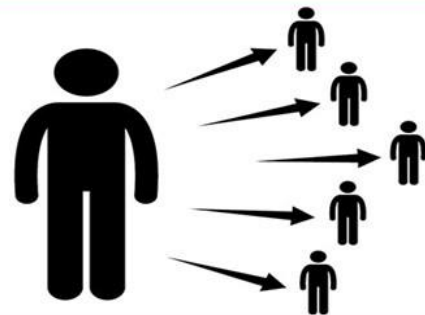
Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

The Delta variant is more contagious than previous strains—it may cause more than **2x as many infections**

ORIGINAL COVID-19 STRAIN



DELTA VARIANT




Vaccines protect you from hospitalization, severe infections, and death



cdc.gov/coronavirus

HOW TO ACCESS A COVID VACCINE



- 1 ONLINE**
 Make an appointment on line at
www.gnrhealth.com/covid-vaccine-scheduling
- 2 BY PHONE**
 Make an appointment by calling
 888-457-0186
- 3 WALK-UP**
 Walk-up at one of our mass vaccination sites
 Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
 • Lawrenceville Health Center, 455 Grayson Hwy, Suite 300
 Monday-Friday 9am-4pm
 • Gwinnett Place Mall, 2100 Pleasant Hill Rd

COVID INFORMATION & PREVENTION TIPS



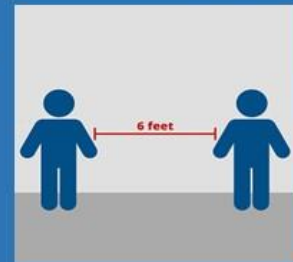
STAY AT HOME
AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE



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



WEAR A MASK
WHEN OUT
AND ABOUT



STAY 6 FT APART
DO YOUR
PART

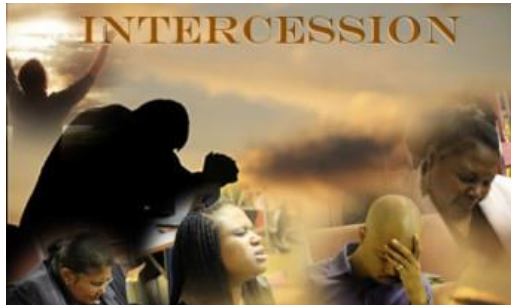
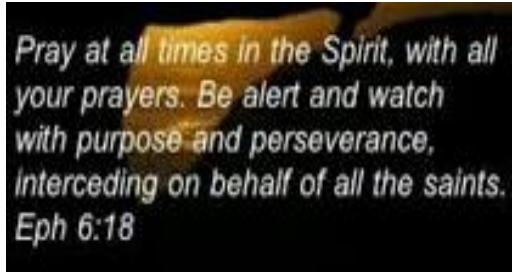
COVID-19 has a wide range of mild to severe symptoms which may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

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

Prayer List



REMEMBER THE SICK AND SHUT-IN WITH PRAYER AND CALLS

Bro. Willie Benton	Sis. Essie Foy	Sis. Thelma Matthews	Sis. Latisha Smith
Min. Karen Blacknell	Sis. Minnie Fry	Bro. Quintrell Melancon	Bro. Xavier Stephens
Rev. Kenneth Blacknell	Sis. Marlon German	Sis. Roxanne Motley	Sis. Tiffany Stovall
Dea. Willie Blake	Sis. Barbara Hall	Evg. Valerie Montaque	Sis. Mabel Thomas
Sis. Joyce Brooks	Sis. Crystal Ingram	Sis. Mary Myers	Mother Shirley Thomas
Sis. Sherie Brown	Sis. Charlotte Hayes	Sis. Ruthie Nelson	Amonte Tolbert
Bro. Mark Bryant	The Hayes Family	Sis. Gloria Peters	Bro. Seth Tyler
Bro. Dwayne Bynum	Bro. Emanuel Hazell	Bro. Garvin Potts	Sis. April Walker
Bro. Nicholas Caldwell	Sis. Dorothy Jamison	Sis. Catherine Pressley	Rev. Dwight Wilkerson
Sis. Sherita Caldwell	Bro. Patrick Jones	Sis. Carrie Rawls	Min. Floyd Williams
Bro. Tyler Caldwell	Bro. Dennis Kimmey	Sis. Leslie Reese	Sis. Sadie Wilson
Sis. Erika Crosby	Sis. Mabel Lawrence	Sis. Peggy Rogers	Bro. Victor Winston, Jr.
Sis. Nekka Dean	Dea. Jack Leverett	Dea. Clarence Slaughter	
Sis. Doris Doyle	Bro. Laceem McCall	Bro. Antone Smith	



Signs of the Season: Winter

The winter solstice happens on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 10:59 AM EST. Winter is God's season for rest and dormancy; it is a time when plant life (with the exception of evergreens) die, leaving their seeds, and others just stop growing until spring; numerous insects die and many animals hibernate.

Don't despair because Winter is a beautiful time of year when we take a rest from the toils of the year and prepare for what is to come with the resurrection of Spring. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:" Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV



The book of Job describes Winter in the 37th chapter vs. 6-10: ⁶ For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise, to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength. ⁷ He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work. ⁸ Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places. ⁹ Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north. ¹⁰ By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened." Job 37:6-10 KJV

As Christians, at the coming of Winter we most look forward to Christmas and the holiday season! Holiday decorations, Christmas stories (that announce the anticipation and birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ), hot cocoa and a crackling fire are all signs that Winter is here.

As Winter is the season of hibernation, that doesn't mean you have to bury your head under the covers and not come out until Spring ☺. There are plenty of fun activities you can do with family and friends. Create your own bucket list of things to do this Winter.

- ❖ Start a hobby
- ❖ Learn a craft (quilting, knitting, Cricut, etc.)
- ❖ Host a small football watch party for your favorite team(s)
- ❖ Perfect your chili recipe
- ❖ Start a paper or electronic scrapbook
- ❖ Keep a gratitude journal (start each morning by listing five things you are grateful for)
- ❖ Challenge yourself to complete the Winter Wonderland Word Search on the next page and try not to peek at the answers.

Submitted by Christine Smith, Communications Ministry

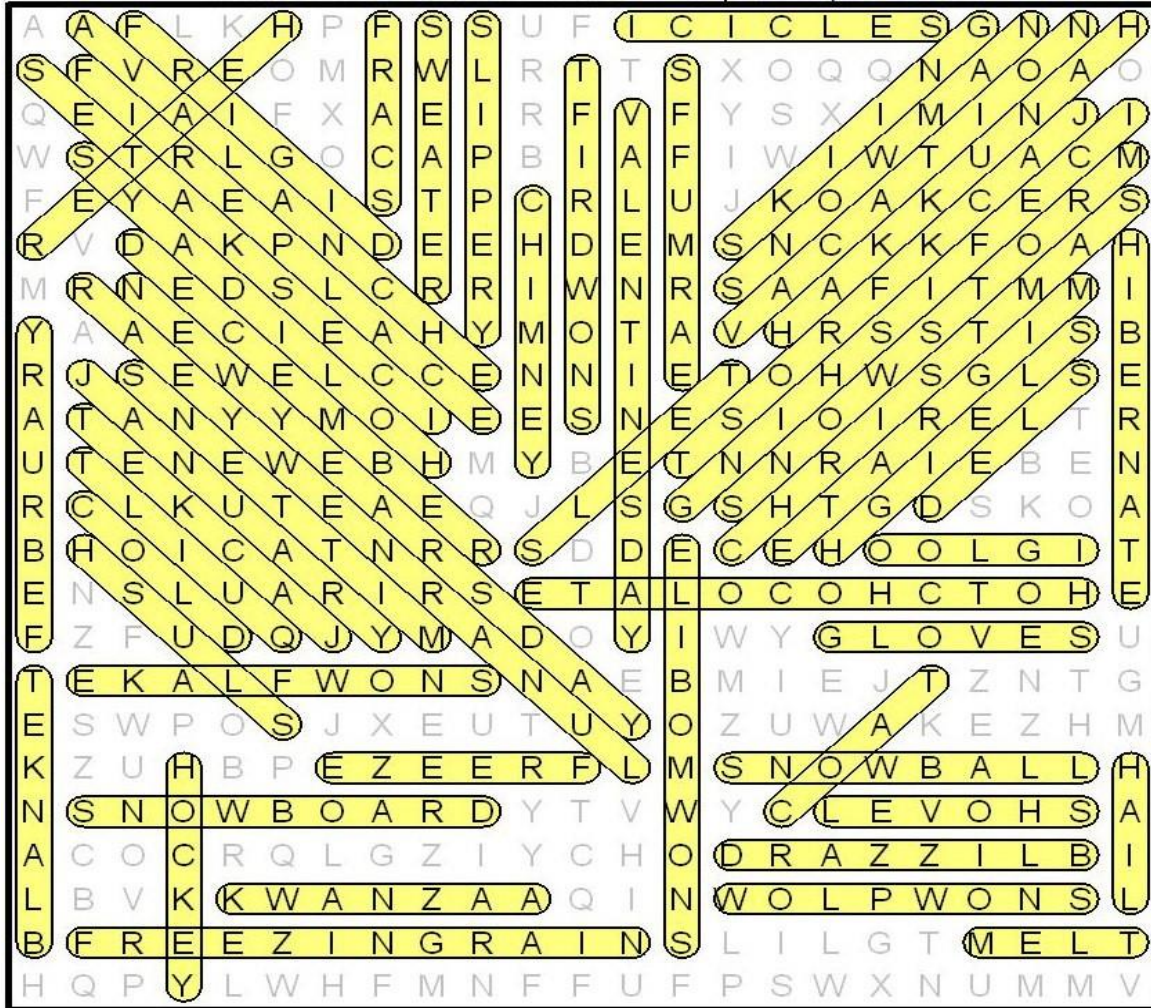
Winter Wonderland

This monster word search includes more than 50 winter words going in every possible direction. Can you find them all?



avalanche	gloves	January	slippery
blanket	hail	Kwanzaa	slush
blizzard	Hanukkah	lunar new year	snowball
chimney	heater	melt	snowboard
Christmas	hibernate	migrate	snowdrift
coat	hockey	mittens	snowflake
cold	holidays	New Year's Day	snowman
December	hot chocolate	quilt	snowmobile
earmuffs	ice fishing	scarf	snowplow
February	ice skates	shovel	snowstorm
fireplace	icicles	skiing	sweater
freeze	igloo	sled	vacation
freezing rain	Jack Frost	sleet	Valentine's Day
frigid	jacket	sleigh	

Answer Key





Rev. Stanley Williams
FBC Associate Minister



The Shepherd is a Watchman. It was his business to keep a wide-open eye, constantly searching the horizon for the possible approach of foes. There were floods, animals, birds of prey. And then, most dangerous of all, humans, birds, and beasts of prey.

There are two quarters from which enemies should be expected—the outside and the inside; from the world and also from the church. The journey from the cradle to the grave is hazardous. **Men are to pray and to watch.**

The Shepherd is a Guard. His mission was not only to oversee, but likewise to protect. He was a guardian of the sheep. He was their defender. Sheep are among the most defenseless of animals. Their helplessness is pitiful.

Everything that the Psalmist calls God, a sheep might call its shepherd—its refuge, its buckler, its shield, its rock, its fortress.

The Shepherd is a Guide. Sheep are not independent travelers. They must have a human guide. They cannot go to predetermined places by themselves. They cannot start out in the morning in search of pasture and then come home at evening time. They have, apparently, no sense of direction. The greenest pasture may be only a few miles away, but the sheep left to themselves cannot find it. The sheep realize their impotence, for no animal is more submissive. Where the shepherd leads, the sheep will go.

They know that the shepherd is a guide and that it is safe to follow him. The shepherd cannot drive the sheep, he must lead them.

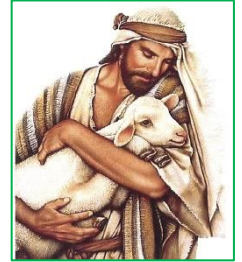
The Shepherd is a Physician. A shepherd in Israel was a physician to the sheep. There was usually at least one of his sheep which was lame and ailing, and upon this invalid the shepherd bestowed more abundant care. The nature of his calling compelled a shepherd to be a doctor and a nurse.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always regarded Himself as a physician. The diseases of the soul are numerous, and the remedies provided by the Almighty are successful only when applied by a skilled doctor.

(The Good Shepherd cont'd)

The Shepherd is a Provider. The feeding of the sheep is an essential duty of the shepherd. Sheep cannot feed themselves nor water themselves. They must be guided to the water and the pasture. The grass varies with the seasons, and the shepherd is ever changing the location of his flock. Unless wisely fed they become sick.

The Shepherd is a Savior. He saves sheep that are lost. A critical part of the shepherd's task is rescue work. Sheep have a tendency for getting lost. They get lost through their stupidity. A sheep will keep his nose to the ground following the greenest grass, little by little separating himself from his companions, until at last, his companions are completely out of sight and the poor isolated animal doesn't know where he is. **The shepherd who left his ninety-nine sheep in the fold and went forth in search of one sheep which had wandered away was held up by Jesus as an ideal and example.**



The Shepherd is a Lover. The Oriental shepherd did one thing more—he loved the sheep. Here is a lovely touch: *“He calleth his own sheep by name.”* It was not necessary that he should give to each sheep a name, but he did it because he liked them. Love always individualizes. It is not love if it is not personal and intimate.

The shepherd was a lover of the sheep, and it was because of his attachment to them that in time of danger he thought not of himself, but of them. In defending them he was willing to lay down his life. **This is the crowning virtue of the shepherd—his self-sacrificing love.** Love is the great nourisher at life's feast. Love satisfies.

The Good Shepherd

For safety purposes:

Sheep are basically timid, fearful and gentle animals. When it comes to protecting themselves from predators, sheep feel helpless. Thus, many carnivorous animals easily make sheep their prey. A shepherd accompanies sheep in order to keep a watch over such predators. Shepherds can actually keep flocks of sheep away from such areas where they could become the food of other animals. They keep all these sheep at protected places so their safety can be ensured.

For guiding sheep:

Sheep are not thought to be very intelligent. They often forget their routes when they go grazing. Thus, shepherds can guide them on the right way while sheep wander in a large area. Shepherds make them reach their habitats, as well as to places where they can find enough grass to graze on.

For governing sheep's activities:

When sheep find an open area, they just start running from here to there. They may also indulge in activities that could be self-destructive. Thus, shepherds are very much required to take care of these sheep. Shepherds govern all the activities of a flock and help them survive in this world. Without a shepherd, a sheep could any time be run over by a passing vehicle or be eaten by a cruel animal.

(The Good Shepherd cont'd)

CONCLUSION:

Allow the Good Shepherd to lead, guide, protect, and love you when life is good or challenging. God is our Good Shepherd and wants us to trust him to lead and protect us regardless of our circumstances. We are weak even on our strongest day without the Lord. He will never lead us astray or into harm's way, without him we are lost and the enemy will destroy us. Trust in the Lord and allow him to take care of you. His love is endless and his grace and mercy is sufficient.



FBC OUTREACH MINISTRY THANKSGIVING “DRIVE THROUGH”

“O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.” Psalm 118:1 KJV

In place of our Annual Thanksgiving Eve service and lunch, the FBC Outreach Ministry hosted a Thanksgiving “Drive Through” and pick up a prepared Thanksgiving meal and grocery box on Wednesday, November 24th, 2021 from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm at Friendship Baptist Church.

A warm and heartfelt thanks to all of you who helped with the Thanksgiving drive through event. It was a huge success. Prior to distribution, Pastor Bowens prayed with us and for us and expressed his thanks and appreciation for the ongoing work done by the Outreach Ministry. We distributed 148 grocery boxes and served over 300 meals.

The journey began on Saturday with washing and marinating turkeys, etc., and continued Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Special thanks to Deacon Woodrow Williams, Sis. Audrey Wilson, Sis. Telesa Jakes, Sis. Gail Lewis and Sis. Vanessa Davis and all the men and women who showed up and worked until late in the afternoon each day. Without your service and commitment this event would not have been possible.

Thanks also for the monetary contributions which allowed the Ministry to purchase additional items which helped to make this event a success.

Blessings and thanks again for a great day of SERVICE... Thanks to Bro. Louie Malone for photographing the event.

Diana McGhee, Director
(404) 312-1232



(Thanksgiving Drive Through cont'd)



PRAISING GOD THROUGH 2021!

By Vanessa Pratt

I thank God for His goodness not only today, but all through this year to the last month of 2021. So many of us have traveled through 2020 with painful circumstances, loss of jobs, loss of health, and so many through death. Yes, God is still good even when we look past that, it has shaken so many of our faiths in 2020.

I shared in an earlier issue of the newsletter how God moved my husband and I from our apartment that had flooded into a rental house during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. But, two months after we had moved into the house in July, I found myself waking up in the hospital in

ICU after being hooked up to a ventilator for six days. I had lost my mobile skills and soon after my voice due to complications from the ventilator.

By mid-November I was walking again and returned to the workplace. But, one and a half months later, I was down again, this time from COVID--there were over 40 people in my unit of the Gwinnett County Police Department that got the COVID. So, by mid-December as I was preparing for surgery on my throat, I received a call that I would not be able to have the surgery until I was over the COVID. That was a long road again of recovery, but PRAISE GOD, I made it!

I returned to work in January 2021 and surgery on my throat was rescheduled for February. I had decided that after the surgery I would retire from the Police Department after 15-½ years of employment. So, I retired.

Fast forward – my next testimony. The Lord has blessed me to turn my hobby of making roses that last for years (called “Preserved Roses”) into a business. I frequently patronize a nearby shoe repair/alterations shop. On one particular visit I went in to see if the owner (Linda) could design a suit for my husband and after the suit, I went back for her to design me a top and shorten a dress. Linda commented that I was always coming up with so many different designs for her to do. We talked and I told her I love doing wedding flowers and was working on my stepson’s wedding flowers.

After I left her shop that day and went home to continue working on the wedding items, my phone rang and it was Linda calling to ask if I could come back to her shop to speak with me in person. So, I return to her shop where she invited me to come in and have a seat with her. We talked some more and I informed her that I had retired from the Gwinnett County Police Department in February and was home now. Linda informed me she had started studying how to preserve roses and just paid for some classes to learn more about it.

At that point she asked me if I would become a partner with her making preserved roses. I told her I would love to be in a flower business but I don’t have that kind of money. She told me not to worry about the money that she would buy the roses and other items needed for us to get the business going. And that she did. She purchased all the materials we needed, including the website and newspaper ads. PRAISE GOD! I invite you to visit our website and if you see something you like, you may order online at the address below:

Preserved Roses
& Wedding Artistry
By Vanessa

Website: www.storelenox.com

Email: rosesbyvanessa@yahoo.com

I truly thank God also for my daughter’s move back to Georgia from Peoria, Illinois, with my grandson Eric and granddaughter Erion. **All Praises to God!**

MEN'S MINISTRY

Marvin Whitfield, Ministry President



GENTLEMEN, PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MONTHLY ZOOM MEETINGS EVERY FIRST SATURDAY @ 10:30 AM AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86809041871?pwd=YkdXWDFoREs1YzJzbDBIL3RHRTI4UT09>

The Men's Ministry met on November 7, 2021 at 10:30am. Seventeen members were present including Marvin Whitfield, Dale Hill, Dallis Hairston, and Ryan Dendy. Rev. Eugene Graves opened with prayer.

Dea. Blagmon discussed that we needed to elect a co-chair to fill the vacancy left when Bro. Rommell May passed away. Bro. Marvin Whitfield moved into the Chairman office. This is the only office that has an automatic fill from the vice position. All other offices must have an official election. Dea. Young read the official policy and procedure on how offices are to be filled. An official election was held to move Bro. Ryan Dendy to the office of Vice Chairman. The election was presented; votes were cast; and one no vote from a non-member. Bro. Ryan Dendy is officially the Men's Ministry Co-Chairman. After the election, the meeting was turned back into the hands of the Chairman – Bro. Marvin Whitfield.

Bro. Ryan Dendy provided the scripture reading from Colossians 3:17 *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him,"* and Colossians 4:2 *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."*

The minutes were read by Bro. Dallis Hairston. Bro. Dale Hill presented the Treasury Report - funds were used for the Game Day event and the ministry is well under budget. Minutes and report were approved.

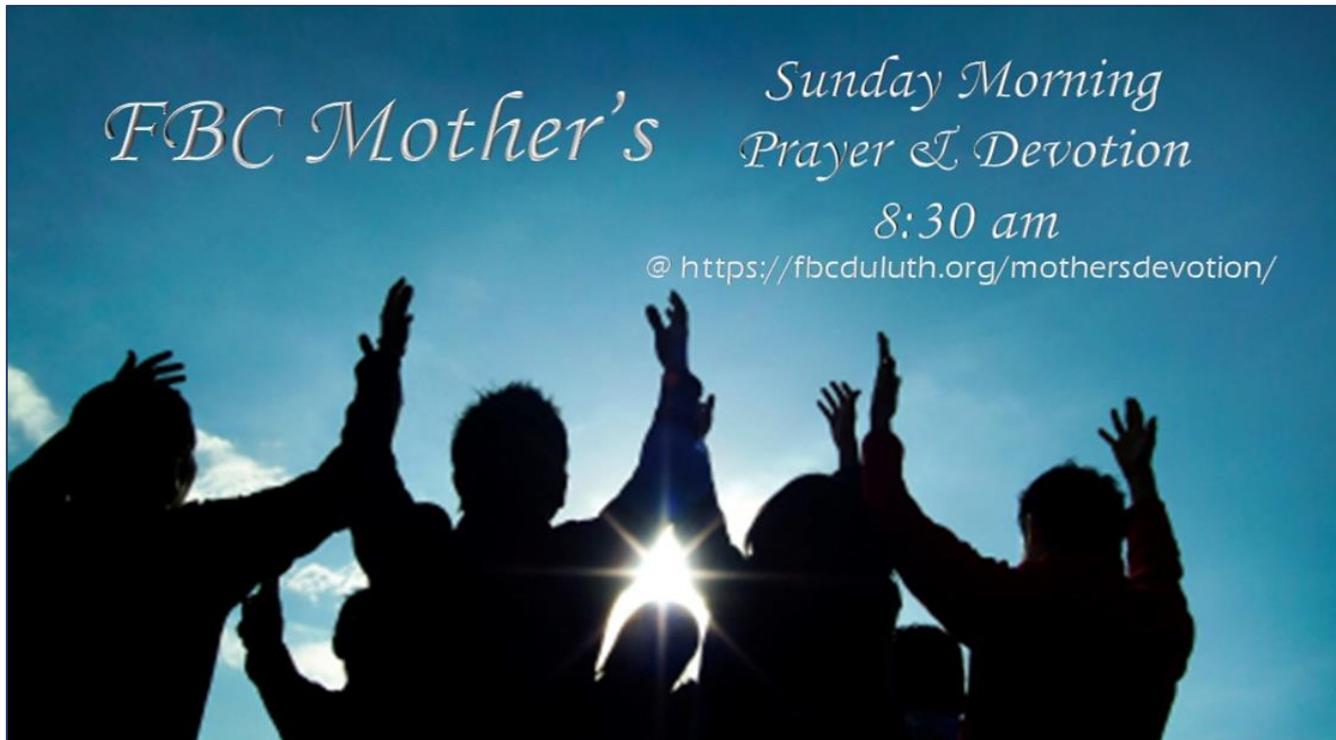
Bro. Dorian Rogers presented 12 tips on car care and how to ensure your vehicle lasts longer. He provided the following synopsis:

1. Make sure you have oil in your car.
Recommends changing every 3500–5000 miles.
2. Always keep your air filter cleaned and checked.
3. Maintain good brakes.
4. Keep good tread on your tires and rotate them.
5. Top all your fluids off, especially during colder months.
6. Ensure you have good clean antifreeze.
Recommends changing every two (2) years.
7. Always check your belts.
8. Get your engine light checked immediately.
9. Always check your battery. Suggested you carry a jump box and maintain between 12-13 amps.
10. Keep good air in your tires.
11. Never take off before your car warms up.
12. Study your vehicle. Read your Manual.

Rev. Graves has taken over as Chaplain after Min. Redman stepped down due to health issues. Rev. Graves will be distributing a book called No More Excuses by Tony Evans. We will be studying as a group.

Bro. Ricki Bowens will be looking at venues for holding a holiday luncheon and there was one birthday acknowledgement – Bro. Dallis Hairston.

Rev. Graves gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm by Bro. Marvin Whitfield.



FBC Women's Ministry 2021 - "We're All In!"

Women's Ministry

connecting

teaching

encouraging

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil His promises to her" Luke 1:45

We meet the 2nd Saturday each month!

Come join us as we go after God with all our heart!

Intercessory
Prayer
8:30

Zoom Meeting ID: 827 8986 6699
Passcode: 903992

Fellowship
9:00

For more info contact Min. Monique Stroman (678) 357-8282 or Sis. Leslie Houston (770) 296-8874

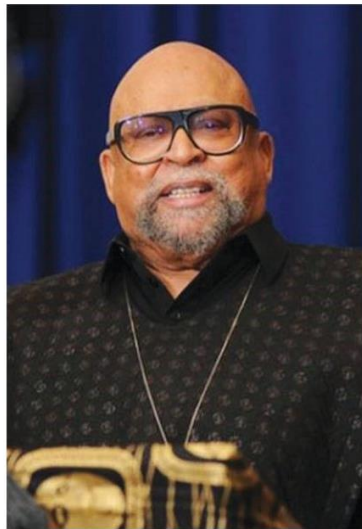
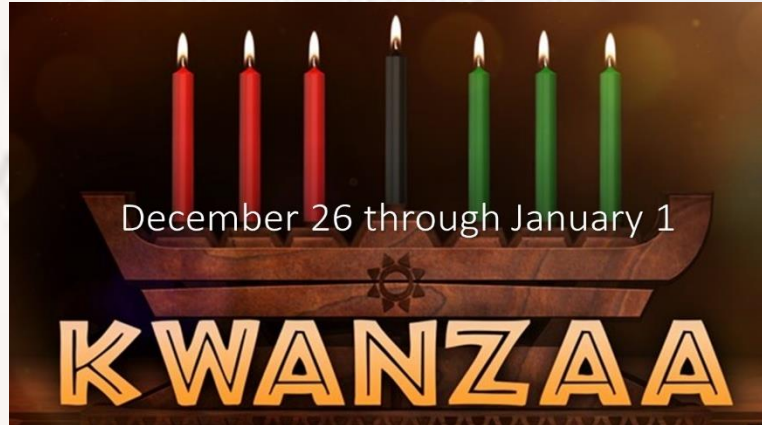
Celebrating Our History

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

Attributed to Marcus Garvey



Sis. Diane Russell, Black History Coordinator
Communications Ministry



The Origins of Kwanzaa

American Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966 during the aftermath of the Watts riots as a specifically African-American holiday. Karenga said his goal was to give blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and their history. For Karenga, a major figure in the Black Power movement of the 1960s and 1970s, the creation of such holidays also underscored the essential premise that "you must have a cultural revolution before the violent revolution.

The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa



(Black History cont'd)

Definition of Seven Principles

- Umoja**
Unity
- Kujichagulia**
Self Determination
- Imani**
Faith
- Ujamaa**
Cooperative Economics
- Nia**
Purpose
- Ujima**
Collective Work and Responsibility
- Kuumba**
Creativity

KWANZAA

UMOJA
Unity

To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Day 1 - December 26

KWANZAA

KUJICHAGULIA
Self-Determination

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Day 2 - December 27

KWANZAA

UJAMAA
Cooperative Economics

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Day 4 - December 29

KWANZAA

UJIMA
Collective Work & Responsibility

To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.

Day 3 - December 28

KWANZAA

KUUMBA
Creativity

To do always as much as we can, in the way that we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Day 6 - December 31

KWANZAA

NIA
Purpose

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.


Day 5 - December 30

KWANZAA

IMANI
Faith

To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Day 7 - January 1



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

Lyrics by
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

Music by
J. ROSAMOND 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.



Pete Bowens Fellowship Bowling League

Who: Individuals and/or 2-member teams
When: January 9, 2022, 5:00PM
Where: Bowlero (formerly Brunswick Lanes)

3835 Lawrenceville Highway
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

For more information, contact:

Michael Jerrals @ 770-815-0604
Rosena Heyward @ 770-361-1296
Ethel Emery @ 678-362-2177

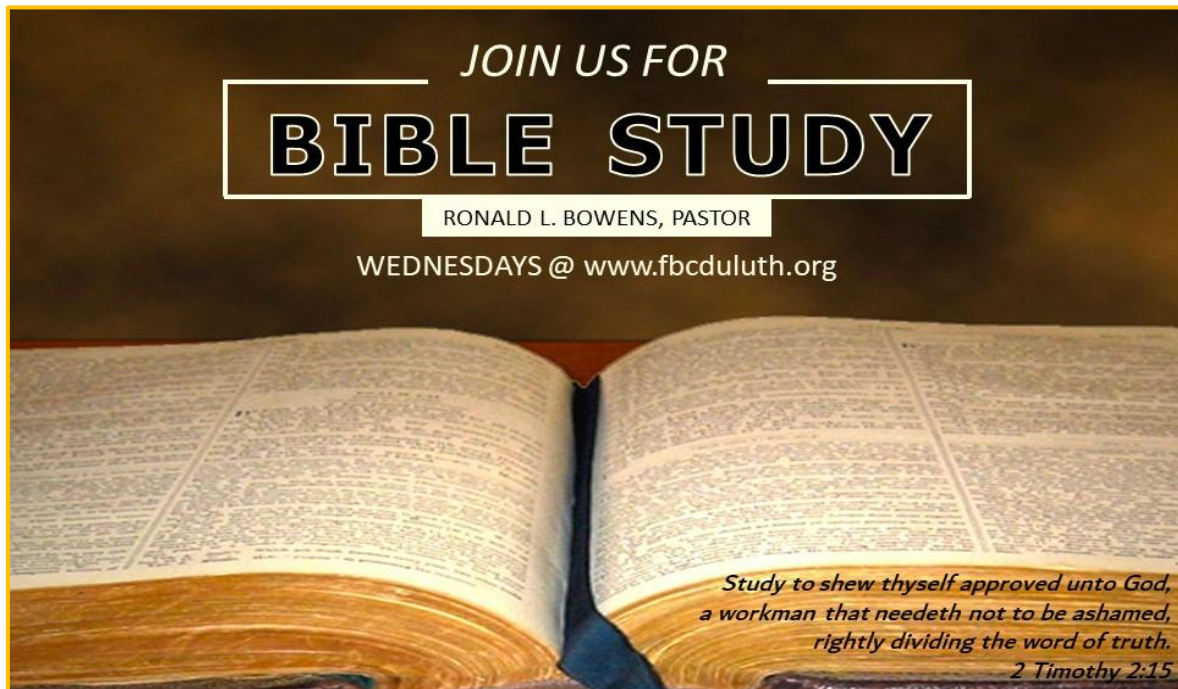
JOIN US FOR

BIBLE STUDY

RONALD L. BOWENS, PASTOR

WEDNESDAYS @ www.fbcduluth.org

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.
2 Timothy 2:15*




You are a masterpiece. You are handpicked by God. You are a person of extreme value and significance. Every morning is God's way of telling you that your purpose in life is yet to be fulfilled. It's up to you to find beauty in the ugliest days. When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive. To breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love. Get up every morning and tell yourself I can do this! Today, be prepared for success, love, happiness, peace, joy and financial abundance! Be prepared for your wildest dreams to come true. And because you are prepared, no weapon, no drama, no negative energy will prosper! Today, be prepared and be ready to receive. Your day is only as good as you make it.

MAKE IT GREAT!





ADULT ONLINE
Sunday
SCHOOL 9:45 am
@fbcduluth.org

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

Sunday School Books
available in the Church Office
Monday-Thursday
10am-2pm



Dorian Rogers,
Superintendent
[4integrityauto@gmail.co](mailto:4integrityauto@gmail.com)

FBC Sunday School on ZOOM! Please join one of our Adult online Sunday School classes every Sunday from 9:45 am – 10:45 am. Go to fbcduluth.org and choose your class. The study for the winter quarter will focus on “Justice, Law, History” Deuteronomy 5:1-3, 10:12-13; 27:1-10. Sunday school books are available for pick up from the Church office Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm.

From the November 28th lesson “Good News For All” Acts 10:34-35. ³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: ³⁵ But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. Divisions in the Church have led to the formation of new denominations, or worse, schisms within the professing Body of Christ that dilute our unified testimony and preaching of the Gospel. The circumcised Jewish believers questioned the extension of water baptism to Gentile believers who had been baptized in the Holy Spirit

Liberating Lesson: Like trees in a forest, Christians need to support one another. When we find Christians of dissimilar races, cultures, classes, genders, callings, and expressions of worship, we should become like a forest of trees and link up to nourish one another in the faith. Through our inclusion of all believers, the Church is fortified and God is glorified. Instead of excluding Christians who do not look like us or worship like us, we must extend our roots of righteousness to give what we have and get what we need to grow as the church until Christ returns.

Application for Activation: When was the last time you or your church had worship or fellowship with another body of Christian believers that you know has doctrinal differences? A good place to begin to know others in the body of Christ is through neighborly relationships. If someone in your family, workplace, or neighborhood belongs to a different church or denomination, ask them if you might accompany them to a fellowship or worship service, and extend a reciprocal invitation. Resist the temptation to rank or condemn the various styles of expressions of worship; but rather, seek to experience God through the eyes of another.



Friendship Baptist Church

YOUTH SUNDAY
SCHOOL

SUNDAYS
🕒 9:00 - 9:45 AM

Go to fbcduluth.org and click Online Youth Sunday School

Come fellowship and gain a much deeper understanding of God's Word
so you can apply these scriptural truths to your everyday life.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sis. Charlene Benn, Ministry Leader



TEEN MINISTRY

Rev. Stan & Min. Barbara Williams, Ministry Leaders

Bible Quiz: Jesus' Birth

Select one answer for each question. Then go to page 28 to check your answers.

1) Jesus was born closest to which year?

- 10 B.C.
 - 5 B.C.
 - 0 A.D.
 - 5 A.D.
-

2) Where was Jesus born?

- Nazareth
 - Bethlehem
 - Jerusalem
 - Jericho
-

3) Why did Joseph and Mary give the baby the name Jesus?

- He was named after Joseph's brother.
 - They were instructed to by an angel.
 - It was suggested by Mary's cousin Elizabeth.
 - It was foretold in the Book of Isaiah.
-

4) How did the shepherds who visited Baby Jesus know where to find Him?

- They followed a star in the east.
 - King Herod told them where Jesus was born.
 - They were told in a dream.
 - An angel of the Lord told them.
-

5) How did the Magi (wise men) who visited Baby Jesus know where to find Him?

- They followed a star in the east.
 - The shepherds told them Jesus had been born in Bethlehem.
 - They were told in a dream.
 - An angel of the Lord told them.
-

6) Which was *not* a gift the Magi brought to Jesus?

- gold
 - frankincense
 - myrrh
 - silver
-

7) Why did Joseph take Mary and Baby Jesus to Egypt?

- To look for work as a carpenter
 - That was where they lived.
 - To escape from King Herod, who wanted to kill Jesus.
 - To visit Mary's cousin Elizabeth
-

8) Of what religion were Joseph, Mary and Jesus?

- Islam
 - Christianity
 - Judaism
 - Buddhism
-

9) Where did Jesus grow up after returning from Egypt?

- Nazareth
 - Bethlehem
 - Jerusalem
 - Jericho
-

10) One year when Jesus and his family went to Jerusalem for Passover, Jesus stayed behind in the Temple and his parents could not find him for 3 days. How old was Jesus then?

- 10
 - 12
 - 14
 - 16
-



Church News & Other Important Information

Welcome Back! Friendship Baptist Church is open Sundays at 11:00 am. The opening is limited and reservations are required. For Information and Registration go to fbcduluth.org/reopening/.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

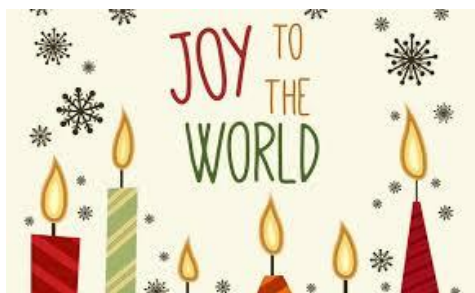
For the protection of everyone:

- Maintain social distancing
- A face mask is required at all times
- Follow ushers and staff instructions
- Walk directly outside after service
- Adhere to the signs posted in the church

"Let all things be done decently and in order."
1 Corinthians 14:40

Communications Ministry

FBC's newsletter, Friendship's Voice, is the voice of the people. Consider sharing a word for God's people, a testimony, an inspiration, a helpful tip for parents trying to balance working from home and helping their children with school work. Have you adopted a new hobby or some other activity you would like to share with your Friendship family? For more information, contact Paulette Tapp at ptapp1052@gmail.com or call 678-779-4661. If you need additional information about the Communications Ministry and would like to be a part of the team, please contact Louie Malone at tag49llm@aol.com.



Gwinnett County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. We are announcing our 2021-22 College Scholarship Program. We invite all Black/African American high school seniors who are attending high school in Gwinnett County (except Centerville, Loganville, and Snellville) to apply with the link below. If you have any questions, please contact Tuwanda Williams at scholarships@gwinnettdst.org or 404-428-8493. **Deadline is February 11, 2022.** <https://form.jotform.com/GCAC/2022-gcac-scholarship-application>.



<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

Answers to Bible Quiz:

- 1) 5 BC
- 2) Bethlehem Luke 2
- 3) They were instructed to by an angel Matt. 1:20-21, Luke 1:26-33
- 4) An angel of the Lord told them Luke 2:8-20
- 5) They followed a star in the east Matt. 2:1-10
- 6) Silver Matt. 2:11
- 7) To escape King Herod Matt. 2:13-15
- 8) Judaism
- 9) Nazareth
- 10) 12

AROUND GWINNETT

Assessor's Office to conduct onsite property field visits

The Gwinnett Board of Assessors appraisal staff will be conducting routine field visits to maintain accurate appraisal data as part of an annual review process. The appraisers — Gwinnett employees or contractors with Tyler Technologies or LMC — will be verifying existing or new construction, measuring exteriors, and taking photographs. Appraisers will carry identification and will announce their presence at the property before beginning a review. If no one is available, information will be left to advise you of the visit. Call 770.822.7200 or email Taxpayer.Services@GwinnettCounty.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Emissions required for 1998 to 2019 model years

For 2022, all gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks 8,500 pounds or less with the model years 1998 through 2019 require an emissions test to register and renew. For testing locations, senior exemptions, and other information, visit CleanAirForce.com. Once your vehicle has been tested, renew online at GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Renew.

Stay safe with holiday shopping tips

Holiday shoppers can reduce their risk of becoming a robbery victim by taking certain precautions. Robbery is a dangerous crime and can affect any person or business. Robbery can be done through intimidation, threats, coercion, or placing a person in fear of immediate serious bodily injury. Robbery can also happen by snatching. Please observe the following tips as you and your family shop for gifts this holiday season

:

- Do not leave valuables or gifts in your vehicle unless they're hidden in a closed compartment like a trunk
- Park in well-lit areas and be aware of your surroundings
- Do not carry unnecessary credit cards or your social security card in your wallet
- If you carry a purse, cross the strap over your opposite shoulder to keep it secure
- There is safety in numbers; use the buddy system
- If your credit card is stolen or misplaced, contact your credit card issuer immediately
- Try to get a good description of your assailant; compare them with someone you know or have seen who looks like them
- Call 911 immediately if you notice suspicious activity or persons

Have a COVID-free holiday season

As people gather for holidays during the pandemic, it's important to take some precautions to avoid spreading COVID-19 to friends and loved ones. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers several tips to have a safe holiday season.

- Get vaccinated
- Wear a mask in public indoor settings
- Remember, outdoor settings are safer than indoors; avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces
- If you are sick, don't host or attend a gathering
- Get tested if you have symptoms or have close contact with someone who has COVID-19

Are you 65 as of January 1? If you are 65 years or older as of January 1 and your taxable income is less than \$101,000, you likely qualify for the Senior School Tax Exemption. Go to GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply now through April 1. For assistance, email Tax@GwinnettCounty.com or call 770.822.8800.



A Little Humor -- A very poor woman called a radio station asking for help from God and this happened: Well this non-believer was listening to the radio station at that time and thought he would make fun of the lady so he called the radio station and asked for the woman's address and decided he was going to send this woman a bunch of groceries... so he told the secretary to "go and buy all these groceries and take them to this woman's house and the only request I have is when she asks who sent them, you tell her it's from the devil." So the secretary goes and takes the groceries to this woman's house. The woman was so happy and excited that she was getting all this food and she was getting the bags carrying them into the house, going back and forth, bag after bag taking them inside, then the secretary finally said "well, don't you want to know who sent them?" The woman replied "No, she said 'cause when God orders, even the devil will have to obey."

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

**Classes and Meetings
are virtual until further
notice**

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.**

Communications Ministry

President

Louie Malone

Vice President

Tina Patterson

Secretary

Hyacinth Chung

Assistant Secretary

Kelly Wilson

Treasurer

Michal Patterson

Chaplain

Regina Gilbert

Deacon Advisor

Harold Mitchell

Newsletter Staff

Editor-in-Chief/Graphic Designer

Paulette Tapp

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

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ARTICLES IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 20TH



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, Executive Assistant @ 770-497-8227

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Email: fbcduluth@att.net

Website: www.fbcduluth.org

Leadership

FBC Associate Ministers

Rev. Ken Blacknell
 Min. Clyde Conerly
 Min. James Cottingham
 Elder Chris Evans
 Rev. Garfield Garner
 Rev. Eugene Graves
 Min. Shurron Green

Rev. Artis Johnson
 Min. Larry Jones
 Min. James Redman
 Rev. Timothy Twyman
 Min. Floyd Williams
 Rev. Stanley Williams
 Rev. Alton Wilson

FBC Ministers of Evangelism

Min. Karen Blacknell
 Evg. Geneva Burse
 Min. Erika Cottingham
 Min. Roslyn Long
 Evg. Valerie Montaque
 Evg. Ruthell Morris

Min. Jada Redman
 Evg. Kimberly Rogers
 Min. Monique Stroman
 Min. Nicole Walker
 Min. Barbara Williams
 Evg. Deloris Williams