



Friendship Baptist Church
3375 Church Lane
Duluth, GA 30096

Rev. Ronald L. Bowens
Pastor

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

MARCH 2024

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Theme of the Month.....	Cover
Scripture of the Month	2
Hymn of the Month	3
Prayer List.....	4
Signs of the Season	5
A Celebration of Women	6
Spotlight on Ministry.....	7
Moments in Black History	8
Men's Ministry	13
FBC Creative Learning	15
Education Ministry	17
Church News	18

CALENDAR

MARCH

10 Daylight Saving Time
19 Spring
24 Usher's Anniversary
28 Palm Sunday
29 Good Friday Service
31 Easter Sunday
31 Easter Program

**Deadline for April Newsletter Articles
is Friday, March 15th**

FBC MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

The resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, signifying the fulfillment of God's plan for redemption and offering believers the promise of eternal life. It is a day of immense joy and hope, as Christians celebrate the victory of light over darkness, life over death, and the triumph of God's love for humanity. Easter Sunday serves as a profound reminder of the transformative power of faith and the enduring message of hope that resonates throughout the ages.

Easter is considered the most important and joyful celebration in the Christian liturgical calendar. It is a time for Christians to reflect on the significance of Jesus' sacrifice and the promise of eternal life. The resurrection is seen as a central doctrine of Christianity, emphasizing the hope and redemption offered through faith in Jesus Christ.

The significance of Easter is Jesus Christ's triumph over death. His resurrection means the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. The purpose of Easter also means the full confirmation of all that Jesus taught and preached during His three-year ministry. If He had not risen from the dead or simply died and not been resurrected, He would have been thought of as just another teacher or prophet. However, His resurrection rebuked all that and provided final and undeniable proof that He was the Son of God and that He had overcome death once and for all.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the core of the Christian gospel. Saint Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and hope are in vain ([1 Cor. 15:14](#)). Certainly, without the resurrection, there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The apostles of Christ would have continued as the disheartened group, which the Gospel of John depicts as being in hiding for fear of the Jews. They were in total despair until they met the risen Christ ([John 20:19](#)). Then they touched Christ's wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him.

(Cont'd next page)

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST (cont'd)

The resurrection became the foundation of everything they said and did ([Acts 2-4](#)): "... for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have" ([Luke 24:39](#)).

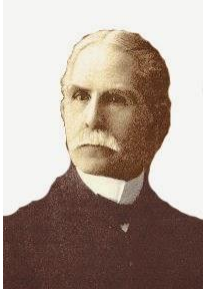
The resurrection affirms Jesus of Nazareth as the prophesied Messiah of Israel and the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth.

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

³ For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.
1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NASB)



HYMN OF THE MONTH



Elisha Albright Hoffman's life had just taken a new turn when he wrote "Glory to His Name" in 1878, probably a transition he hadn't wanted to endure. How would he

manage as a widower at the time of one of his early writing efforts with three kids—adjusting to single parenting? What would you or I do in such a situation? Is it possible that God heard the words Elisha wrote as a pledge of loyalty, and that He crafted a response—perhaps even a reward—for this servant whose heart must have been broken?

Elisha Hoffman had been a lover of music directed vertically since his childhood, and would remain so for a lifetime, even as he was challenged at one point. In the Pennsylvania community in which he was reared, Hoffman learned the love of music from parents and the church in which he was nurtured. He was the son of an evangelical minister, so it wasn't a surprise that he devoted his adult life to ministry. Before his ordained ministry, however, he worked for just over a decade with a publishing house, a period which must have also spawned his lifetime energy as an editor of songbooks (he edited some 50 songbooks over his life). He'd been in ministry just three years when his wife died, leaving him alone with three sons as a 37-year old in 1876, perhaps the pivotal point in his life. It was in this period prior to his 40th birthday that he wrote the words for "Glory to His Name." Reading the words, it is not apparent if he was struggling with the recent turn of events, but instead quite the opposite. He's clinging to the Holy Redeemer with devotion, an appreciation of his eternal assurance. Could his wife's death have crystallized something, perhaps bonded him stronger still to his God, even if his upbringing, education, and ordination had informed him of His presence as one would expect? Perhaps this time was a crucible for Elisha, wherein he discovered the glue he had with God was deeper and much more meaningful, an unbreakable thing. Is it just coincidental that Hoffman wrote the words in 1878, and remarried the following year? Or, that he went on to minister, beginning in 1880, in three churches over the next 42 years, and composed over 2,000 hymns, most of them in that four-decade stretch? What would you say?

What is the way to respond to a personal crisis? What prepares one for it, or does it happen randomly? Ask Job. He may have endured more than 10 believers are supposed to suffer. Elisha Hoffman must have had moments when he too cried out in despair as his 40th anniversary on earth approached, yet his words in 1878 sound like a man who had decided he was "all in" with this God.

GLORY TO HIS NAME

1. Down at the cross where my Sav-ior died, Down where from cleans-ing from
 2. I am so won-drous-ly saved from sin, Je-sus so sweet-ly a-
 3. O pre-cious foun-tain that saves from sin, I am so glad I have

sin I cried, There to my heart was the blood ap-plied; Glo-ry to His Name.
 bides with-in, There at the cross where He took me in; Glo-ry to His Name.
 en-tered in; There Je-sus saves me and keeps me clean; Glo-ry to His Name.

Chorus
 Glo-ry to His Name, Glo-ry to His Name;
 There to my heart was the blood ap-plied; Glo-ry to His Name.

Prayer LIST

Bro. William Annan	Sis. Wanda Burrell	Sis. Virginia McLemore	Sis. Tonya Sellers
Sis. Charre Armstrong	Bro. Dwayne Bynum	Sis. Thelma Matthews	Bro. Claudius Stafford
Sis. Pat Ashe	Sis. Chastity Collier	Sis. Josephine May	Bro. Xavier Stephens
Bro. Charles Bailey	Sis. Sarah Collins	Bro. Will May	Sis. Johnnie Stewart
Bro. Willie Benton	Dea. Kevin Corbett	Miss Kaitlyn Miles	Sis. Mabel Thomas
Min. Karen Blacknell	Sis. Ruth Ellis	Sis. Alice Murphy	Rev. Dwight Wilkerson
Sis. Sheila Blackwell	Sis. Andrea Green	Sis. Teresa Rainey	Sis. Valerie Williams
Dea. Willie Blake	Sis. Ruth Griggs	Sis. Carrie Rawls	Sis. Sadie Wilson
Bro. Don Bowens	Sis. Barbara Hall	Sis. Letitia Robinson	Bro. Victor Winston Jr.
Sis. Liz Bowens	Bro. Emanuel Hazell	Sis. Linda Rogers	Sis. Priscilla Wise
Bro. Isaac Brown	Sis. Dorothy Hines	Sis. Carrie Royals	Sis. Dorothy Woods
Sis. Barbara Williams Brown	Bro. Patrick Jones	Bro. Rennie Samuels	Sis. Lola Wright
Sis. Alice Burnes	Sis. Mabel Lawrence	Sis. Jacqueline Scott	

**Please remember to
PRAY FOR OUR
SICK AND SHUT-IN**

as well as people who are
grieving the loss of a loved one.

**Send them a card, give them a
call, visit them. You never know
how much it could mean to them.**

SIGNS OF THE SEASON

Fall Back, Spring Ahead, and Lift Him Up!

Jesus said, **And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.** **John 12:32 KJV.** This scripture can be interpreted as pick up or raise someone or something from a lower position. **John 12:32** is further explained in **John 6:44-45.** **John 6:44-45 KJV** ⁴⁴ *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.* ⁴⁵ *It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*



Jesus' Resurrection is celebrated in the Spring which is synonymous with new life. To me, this is the most wonderful time of the year. I know... it's not Christmas, which is when you usually hear this but, isn't this season of renewal and Resurrection just wonderful?

Resurrection Sunday is when we (Christians) celebrate Jesus' triumphant victory over death. Three days after being crucified on the cross and buried in a borrowed tomb, Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to Heaven, seated at the right hand of the Father. Hallelujah -- that is great news and, indeed for some, "the most wonderful time of the year!"

Rebirth and rejuvenation in the springtime shows up as dormant trees and grass growing and reproducing; coming back to life from the cold winter season. Animals come out of hibernation and begin their nesting and reproductive activities. As Christians, we are given new life and new mercies every morning.

Consider these four R's of springtime and rebirth—

- **Raise** - to set upright by lifting or building; to place higher in rank or dignity (elevate)*
- **Renewal** - the act of renewing; the state of being renewed*
- **Resurrection** - the rising of Christ from the dead*
- **Risen** - to move upward (ascend)*

As you reflect on the Resurrection of our Risen Lord and Savior, meditate on the scriptures below related to the Spring.

¹⁴ *That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.* **Deuteronomy 11:14 KJV**

⁴ *And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses.* **Isaiah 44:4 KJV**

¹ *Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.* **Zechariah 10:1 KJV**

¹¹ *For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;* ¹² *The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;*

¹³ *The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.*

Song of Songs 2:11-13 KJV



Submitted by
Christine Smith
Communications
Ministry

Women's History Month

“A Celebration of Women”



With March being the month that women are internationally celebrated, we can look to God's Word for the loveliest homage of them all. Proverbs chapter 31 is a beautiful, heartfelt celebration of Godly women - the apples of God's eye!

Proverbs 31:10-31 (NKJV)

“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands. She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar. She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants. She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet. She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants. Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her: “Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all.” Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.”

Perhaps one of the most striking verses is verse 25 which reads, *“Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.”* (NKJV) Strength and honor: two characteristics more befitting than any clothing item, and more breathtaking than even the rarest of diamonds! The Word gives many examples of strong, honorable women. In *Romans 16:1-2*, we learn of Phoebe, God's noble servant in the church of Cenchrea. She was a helper of many--including Paul, who instructed the Romans to treat her in a manner worthy of the saints because of her service. *Acts 9:36* introduces us to Dorcas, a woman full of good deeds and charitable works--such as making garments for the local widows! And *Judges 4:4* tells us about Deborah, a respected prophetess and judge.

Another great verse in Proverbs chapter 31 is verse 30 which reads, *“Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.”* (NKJV) Here, God teaches us that worldly charm or fleeting beauty should not be the focus of a woman of God. Rather, we are to seek and fear the Lord in all His majesty! Rahab is a woman in the Bible of whom we can look to as an example of a woman who feared the Lord. Considered one of the lowest members of her community, Rahab's fear of the Lord was greater than her fear of her king, and led her to save herself and her family from Joshua and the Israelites. God touched Rahab's heart out of love, regardless of her past sins. Rahab responded to that touch with a fearful respect of the Lord that superseded anyone and everything else. Listed above are but a few of the many amazing women that we meet throughout God's Word. The Bible speaks of many other women that served, were used by, and loved by our Father. All of God's children are fearfully and wonderfully made, man or woman. (*Psalm 139:14 NKJV*)



However, how sweet and full is God's love for His daughters! He holds our value far above even rubies; that is truly worth celebrating! (*Proverbs 31:10 NKJV*)



Submitted by
Whitney Brown
New FBC Member
Freelancer and Poet

SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY

The **WOMEN'S MINISTRY** is a ministry purposed to serve women of all ages. We endeavor to love, strengthen, encourage, build up and support women, our families, our family in Christ and our community by upholding the Great Commission and the Mission of our church. ***Our aim is to exalt the Savior, equip the saint and evangelize the sinner.***

We greatly desire to grow in the Lord and are fervently pursuing our relationship with Him through the study of His Word and through worshipping and praising Him. We study the Word to know God and grow in our relationship with Him, to know all God has for us as His daughters, to grow in love, in faith and trust in Him. We want to honor God with our lives, walk in the Spirit daily, fulfill our callings according to His will and be a blessing to our families, loved ones and everyone God places in our lives.

We also have planned outings so that we may serve the community. Last September, we had the opportunity to serve at State Farm's Million Meal Pack to help pack 1 million meals for those experiencing food insecurity and, prayerfully, hope to participate in this effort this year as well.

We have also committed to participating in a fun activity every quarter so that we can have fun and fellowship outside of our regular meeting time. As women, we take on so much in caring for our families, etc. We want to make sure that we take a little time for us, build strong relationships with each other as godly women and do something enjoyable! In December, we attended the Black Nativity and everyone loved it! Lord willing, we are planning to attend again this December. This month, we are attending the Sisters in Christ Ministries' Annual Women's Conference, which will be held at Mt. Pisgah Church in Johns Creek.

Our theme for this year is **"More in 2024!"** We want more of the Lord, and we want to give Him more of us!

We are excited about God and are so thankful for all He is doing! We pray to continue to draw closer to God and be the mighty women of God that He has called us to be.



We meet the 2nd Saturday of every month in the Family Life Center gym.

Intercessory prayer starts at 8:40 am and the meeting begins after prayer. We look forward to your fellowshiping with us.



Minister Monique Stroman
Servant Leader



Evangelist Kimberly Rogers
Co-Assistant Servant Leader



Sis. Dyanna Agee
Co-Assistant Servant Leader



Mother Brenda Graves
Secretary

MOMENTS IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH



February 4, 2024

First Sunday Presenter:

SHENISE PERRY

Sophomore at School of the Arts (SOTA)

Aspiring to be a Performing Arts Actress

SPOTLIGHT: SHIRLEY CHISHOLM



Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm, otherwise known as Shirley Chisholm, was born November 3, 1924 in Brooklyn, New York.

During her life, she was a member of the New York State Assembly from January 1, 1965 - December 31, 1968. In 1972, she was the 1st African American woman in Congress, and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for President of the United States from one of two major political parties. Her bid was unsuccessful, but her candidacy

allowed her to raise critical issues of importance to African Americans and women while forging the way for others.

She was a member of the House of Representatives from New York's 12th district from January 3, 1969 - January 3, 1983. She also served as the secretary of the House Democratic Caucus from January 3, 1977 - January 3, 1981. These are just some of the many roles and offices she held throughout her life.

Chisholm passed in 1985 at 80 years old, but her legacy continues to inspire African Americans and women today.

MOMENTS IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH (cont'd)



February 11, 2024

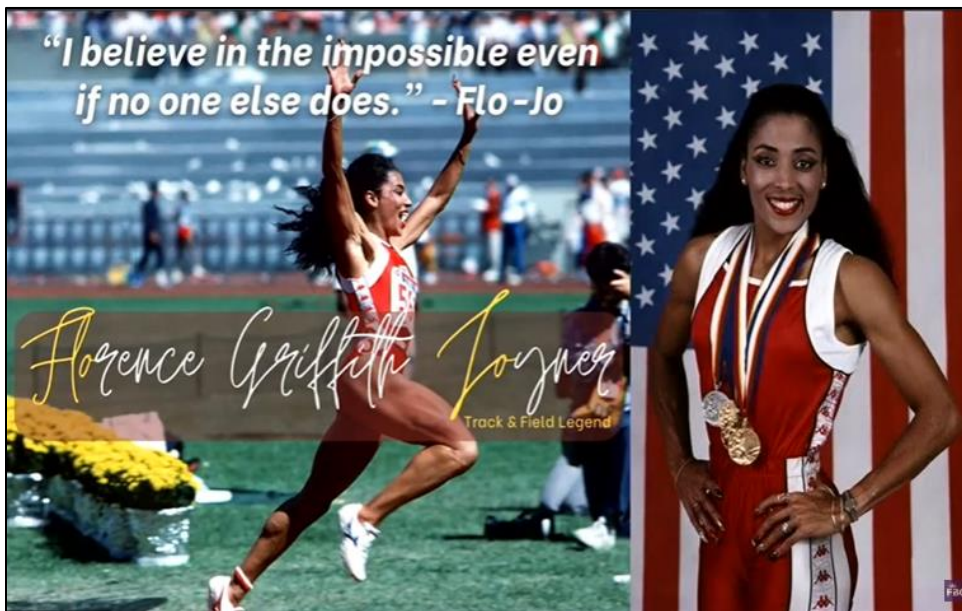
Second Sunday Presenter:

ALEXANDRIA "LEXI" CONWELL

Freshman at Buford High School

Aspiring to run Track & Field at a D1 college

SPOTLIGHT: FLO JO



Florence Griffith Junior, more commonly known as Flo Jo, was born on December 24, 1959, in Los Angeles, California. She began running at the early age of 7, training with her father in the desert by chasing jack-rabbits to improve her speed. At the age of 14, she won the Jesse Owens National Youth Games and went on to break many high school records. She had to stop running at the age of 19 to take care of her family, but was later given the opportunity to run at the College of UCA.

She became an NCAA champion in 1982 with a victory in the 200m dash. The following year, she took the top spot in the 400m dash. During the 1984 Olympics, she won silver in the 200m dash and quickly became a media icon with her dazzling fingernails and unique, custom running shoes.

In 1987, she married Al Joyner, Olympic triple jump gold-medalist, and later selected him to be her coach. In 1988 Summer Olympics, Flo Jo won 3 gold medals - 4x100m dash, the 100m and 200m dashes, as well as a silver medal in the 4x100 meter relay. She is the current world record holder for the women's 100m (10.49 sec) and 200m (21.34 sec) dash. She once said, "Believe in yourself and all that you are, and know that there is something inside of you that is greater than any obstacle." Unfortunately, she passed away on September 21, 1998, at the age of 38.

Nevertheless, her accomplishments in the sport of Track & Field continue to inspire young Black athletes all over the world.

MOMENTS IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH (cont'd)



February 18, 2024

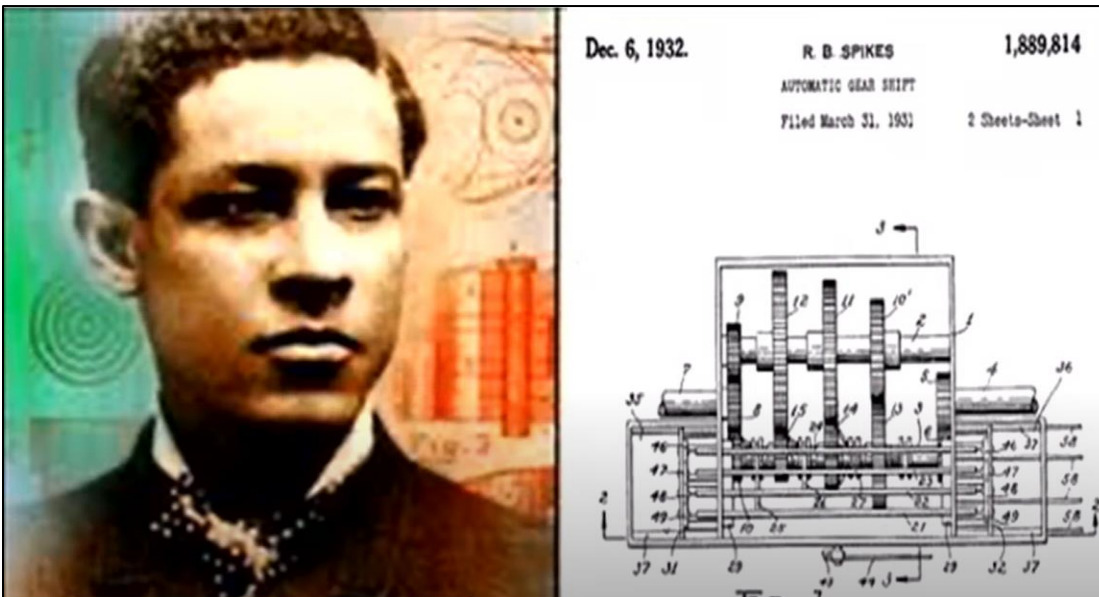
Third Sunday Presenter:

P. J. HARRIS

Senior at Grayson High School

Will be attending Howard University

SPOTLIGHT: RICHARD SPIKES



Richard Spikes was a prolific inventor born on October 2, 1878. He invented the automatic gear shift, the automatic brake system, directional signals, and car washers.

His inventions transformed the transportation industry, but he also innovated in other fields as well.

Spikes created the spinning barber chair and the beer keg tap. His eyesight began to fade due to glaucoma and, therefore, he created a drafting machine for people who were blind. Unlike most people at the time, he was blessed enough to patent all of his inventions. Many major companies welcomed his inventions which earned him over \$100,000 - an incredibly large sum of money for a black man in the 1930s. He was one of the highest earning black men of his time period.

Spike died on January 22, 1963, at the age of 84, but the impact of his engineering brilliance would continue to support our society for decades to come.

MOMENTS IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH (cont'd)



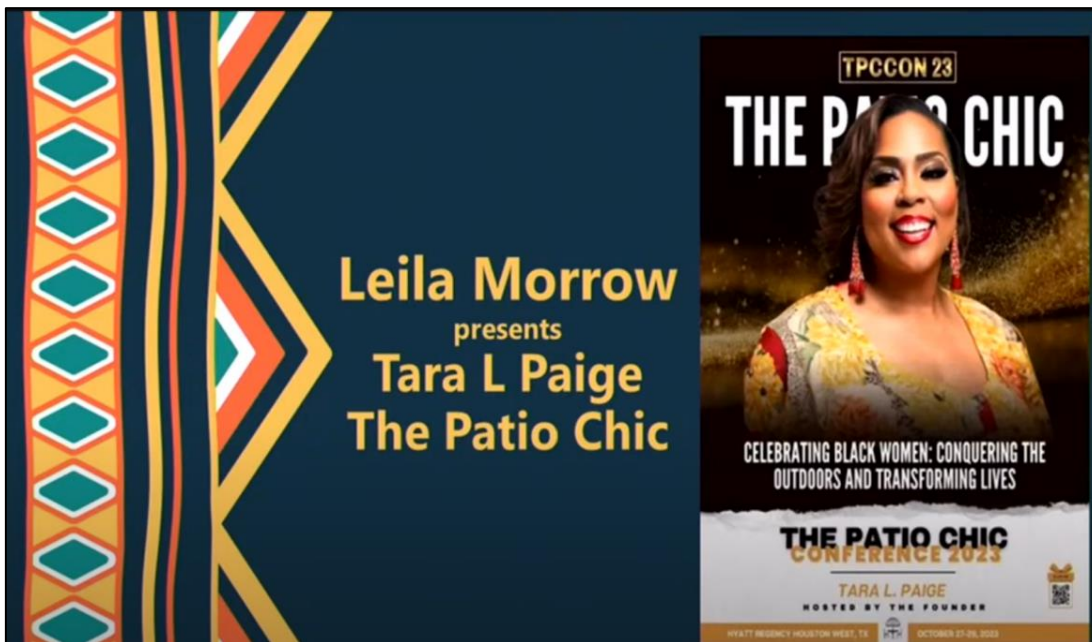
February 25, 2024

Fourth Sunday Presenter (1):

LEILA MORROW

Youth Department

SPOTLIGHT: TARA PAIGE



Tara Paige is an educator located in Dallas, Texas, who is known for supporting women and positivity.

In 2020, during the pandemic, her Facebook page for black women who love outdoor spaces went viral. With the group now including over 244,000 followers, Paige monopolized on the interest and support of black

women who found peace in not only sitting on their porches and backyards, but decorating them and sharing ideas and decor.

She has since then spearheaded TPC Con and conferences with those followers from around the world which call themselves the “Sugar Sisters.”

She has also announced that in the spring and summer she will launch her own patio line.

MOMENTS IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH (cont'd)



February 25, 2024

Fourth Sunday Presenter (2):

MIYA COLLINS

Youth Department

SPOTLIGHT: MATTHEW WHITAKER



Matthew Whitaker is a 22 year old pianist, born April 3, 2001, in New Jersey. He was diagnosed with blindness at birth and learned how to play the piano at the early age of three years old.

When Whitaker was 10, he was invited to perform in front of Stevie Wonder at the Apollo Theater. When he was 13, he became the youngest musician in history to be endorsed by Hammond as a jazz pianist.

Whitaker attended the Manhattan School of Music's Pre-college Jazz Program and has since performed on many great stages including the United Nations Headquarters, the Lincoln Center, and the JFK Center.

He is currently furthering his talents in the Jazz Studies program at The Juilliard School.



Black History Month Contributor
DeLauryn Brown
Communications Ministry

MEN'S MINISTRY

The Men's Ministry at Friendship Baptist is growing, and we are looking for more men to come out and fellowship with us on the 1st Saturday of each month. We have several activities planned for 2024 that include in-person seminars, outside meeting locations (Billiards, Bowling, Top Golf), and the Taste of Friendship, to name a few. We will conclude the year with our Annual Appreciation Breakfast/Lunch Outing. Our objective is to ensure we have activities for all the men of Friendship Baptist Church.

We are eager to fellowship, grow, and cultivate relationships that foster a community of men who help men. In January, we had a seminar on 2023 Tax Law that focused on how to maximize your tax returns and how to write off various expenses; February was a morning full of games, inclusive of Spades, Dominoes, Cornhole, Chess and Checkers. We even had some men shooting a few hoops. It was a great time, and we look forward to expanding our footprint. We encourage all men to come out to have fun, laugh, and enjoy awesome fellowship.



Ryan Dendy, President
rdendydfg@yahoo.com



... so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpens Iron

Pictures courtesy
of Louie Malone
Communications
Ministry



February Craft Project: Transforming Sweatshirts into Jackets!

On Saturday, February 10th, 2024, the Fellowship Hall at Friendship Baptist Church was buzzing with creativity and excitement as participants gathered for a special craft project organized by the FBC Creative Learning Ministry. Led by instructor Betty Johnson, attendees were tasked with

revamping their ordinary sweatshirts into stylish jackets during a craft workshop titled "I Can't Believe It's a Sweatshirt."

The event, which was held from 10am to 2pm, offered a unique



opportunity for participants to explore their creative side and learn new skills in a

supportive and fun environment. From beginners to experienced crafters, everyone was welcomed to join in the fun and discover the art of transforming simple sweatshirts into cozy winter jackets. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm and fellowship as participants worked on their jackets, sharing tips and encouraging one another.



Throughout the day, participants were amazed at the creative possibilities that unfolded before their eyes. With Mrs. Johnson's expert guidance, they learned step-by-step how to turn a plain sweatshirt into a quilted, loose-fitting jacket. The process was not only incredibly simple but also beginner-friendly, allowing even those with limited sewing experience to successfully complete their projects.



Overall, the "I Can't Believe It's a Sweatshirt" project was a resounding success, showcasing the transformative power of creativity and the joy of learning something new. To participate in the class, attendees were required to bring an oversized sweatshirt and their choice of material. Additionally, they were asked to bring their normal sewing supplies, including a sewing machine, as it was an essential tool for the project.

CREATIVE LEARNING (cont'd)

For those who missed out on this exciting event, there's no need to worry. The FBC Creative Learning Ministry is always planning new and innovative workshops to inspire creativity and foster community connections.



To learn more about upcoming events and how to get involved, interested individuals can contact Erichka Shadburn-Rogers at 404-819-6901.



Article submitted by Latrell Carr
Writer, Communications Ministry

Pictures courtesy of Diane Russell,
Communications Ministry



EDUCATION MINISTRY



Sharon Norman
Ministry Leader

FBC Celebrating Academic Success June 9, 2024.

Celebrating high school seniors and college students who are members of Friendship Baptist Church. Students, if your graduation date was/is between July 2023 and June 2024, please contact Sharon Norman at sharon4282.sn@gmail.com before **March 31, 2024**.

ACT PREP TEST FROM A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

A few weeks ago, I was offered by the Education Ministry to take the ACT Prep Test. The ACT is a standardized test that colleges use to evaluate students for admission. The test measured my skills in subjects of English, Math, Reading and Science. The duration was about 3-4 hours long and was divided into sections for each subject. Between every two sections, the students were given 10-minute rest breaks to clear their mind before the next section started.

While taking the test, I was anxious. There were some materials on the test I was familiar with, and some parts I was not. When the test ended, I was relieved it was finally over, but appreciative that I got the opportunity to see and prepare for this test. Overall, the ACT helped me to identify my strengths and areas for improvement.

Thank you,
Shenise Perry

... FROM A PARENT PERSPECTIVE

Dear FBC Education Ministry,

I want to thank Ms. Sharon and the Education Ministry for offering the free ACT Prep Test conducted by the Huntington Learning Center in Cumming on January 20, 2024. My daughter, Shenise, attended the testing and she learned a lot from the test. Shenise is a sophomore at SOTA (School of the Arts) and this was her first introduction to the ACT.

The testing opportunity helped her realize the prep work she needs to succeed at the ACT for college. She was able to see what her strengths and weaknesses were on the test. I am so glad she had the opportunity to take the ACT Prep Test, especially because her plans are to attend college after high school and most colleges require either the ACT or SAT. Shenise also enjoyed the breakfast and lunch as well.

As a parent, you want to give your child every opportunity to successfully reach their goals, because of the free ACT testing, you have helped me keep Shenise on track without causing financial strain on my household in this economy. I was also able to see her first reaction after taking the test. Because she takes her test at school, I normally do not get to see this first reaction, and we were able to discuss the test immediately.

By offering this test, you also made sure that when she takes the ACT for college entry, it is not her first time seeing the test and this helps remove some of the testing jitters our kids face. Most of the time, when the kids are confident going to take the test, they score well. Please keep offering this free ACT testing for our youth because they need it, and the parents need the help in giving their child this opportunity.

Thank you,
Mrs. Shevonne Scott





Volunteers needed for the following ministries:

- The **Gatekeeper's Ministry** is looking for new members. The purpose of this ministry is to establish an environment that is safe so that those in attendance at Friendship Baptist Church can enjoy the worship experience. If you're interested in joining this ministry, please contact Randel Carr at 305-967-5950 or Victor Jones at 470-248-8772.
- The **Greeter's Ministry** is looking for volunteers, especially a few good men. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Edward Johnson at 678-910-5069.
- The **Music Ministry** is looking for new members 18 years or older. If interested in the Gospel Choir, please contact our Minister of Music, Bryan Bowens at 678-200-9443. If interested in the Male Chorus, please contact Deacon Derick Chambers at 678-863-4046.
- **Sunday School** is in full force and is looking for a few dedicated and called teachers. If this is you, please contact Bro. Dorian Rogers, Sunday School Superintendent at 770-309-6245. Please join us every Sunday morning at 9:45am in person or on Zoom.
- The **Transportation Ministry** plans to start operating again and need drivers (no CDL required). For those who need transportation to church, please contact the church office. If you are interested in becoming a driver, please contact Deacon Michael Patterson at 770-367-9583. Luke 14:23 *"And the Lord said unto the servant, go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."*
- The **Usher's Ministry** - FBC Doorkeepers of the Lord, welcomes you to serve with gladness by helping our congregation experience the sacredness and joy of worshipping God. If you have a desire to become a Doorkeeper for the Lord, please contact: JoAnne Williams at 678-978-7876.

Neighboring Church News. Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church Women's Ministry invites you to Women's Day, Sunday, March 10th at 11 am. Theme: "No Impostors Here...Embracing the Value of Women." Speaker: Deaconess Jackie Goodman-Cook.

GriefShare is for anyone who has experienced a loss. The GriefShare class will begin on Thursday, March 7, 2024, from 6pm to 8pm via zoom. You must register online by going to GriefShare.org, click find a group, click on Friendship Baptist Church and register. The cost of your workbook is \$20. For more information, contact Minister Karen Blacknell at 678-896-1441.

Health Ministry- American Heart Awareness Month

You have the power to take action to protect yourself against heart disease. Small heart-healthy actions like adding more movement to our day or choosing healthy foods can have a big impact on protecting #OurHearts.

MasterLife Series - MasterLife is a developmental, small-group discipleship process, comprised of four books. Each book will be taught over a period of six weeks by a different instructor. Please register for this class on the church website at fbcduluth.org. **New Class beginning Sunday, March 10th.**

Please join the **Mother's Ministry** in a project to collect used eyeglasses (prescribed or non-prescribed) from August 2023 until May 2024. A container will be placed in the vestibule for collection weekly. The glasses will be donated to support a deaf and mute orphanage in Jamaica. For more information, contact Mother Gerald Baker at geraldcbaker64@gmail.com or Mother Dorothy Blagmon at dblag@bellsouth.net.

The Outreach Ministry. "ONE BODY SAVED TO SERVE" is the Mission Statement for the Outreach Ministry at Friendship Baptist Church and SERVE is what we do by sharing God's bounty and blessings with our neighbors and the greater Community. The Friendship Market offers a variety of healthy food options, including meat and vegetable protein, produce, fruit and more, and it is open and available to all who can USE it. **Current hours are: Fridays 3:00pm-5:00pm.** Items will be distributed at the Fellowship Hall; just drive through and we'll be there waiting for you!

Please join the **Women's Ministry** in March in the Heritage Church Saturday, March 8th at 8:40am for prayer and 9:00am for fellowship. Contact Min. Monique Stroman at 678-357-8282.

Spiritual Warfare: Biblical Truth for Victory! You are cordially invited each Monday night at 7pm via Zoom as we gather together to glorify God through fellowship with one another and to study God's word. For more information, contact - Deacon Michael Bailey at 770-595-4199.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS ...



The Atlanta Community Food Bank will host its 2024 Hunger Walk/Run on **March 10, 2024**. Friendship Baptist Church is once again partnering with the ACFB to increase our food outreach in Gwinnett County and beyond and we need your help. Please join FBC to make an impact as we strive to surpass the \$10,375.00 that you helped raise in 2023. Please encourage your family, friends, and associates to donate!

We would like to remind you that your tax-deductible donation will go a long way in ensuring that we can purchase food from the Atlanta Community Food Bank at

a reduced cost. With every dollar raised, we receive 100% credit towards our goal. We encourage you to visit our website at fbcduluth.org or www.HungerWalkRun.org to donate today. Once again, we appreciate your unwavering support in our mission to eliminate food insecurity in our community.

"Together, we are making a difference!"

Casting Call & Rehearsals

for
"The Easter Story"

- Saturdays 2:30PM
- In the Sanctuary

Teens & Adults * Actors * Production Assistants
Stage Managers * Prop Designers

Text or Call Cynthia Urquhart @ 501.554.5208 FMI

The Easter Program is Sunday, March 31st at 3:00 PM



Communications Ministry

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Diane Russell

Christine Smith



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 – Thursday 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm

Email: fbcduluth@att.net

Website: www.fbcduluth.org

Leadership

FBC Associate Ministers

Rev. Ken Blacknell

Elder Chris Evans

Rev. Garfield Garner

Rev. Eugene Graves

Min. Shurron Green

Rev. Stanley Jackson

Rev. Artis Johnson

Min. Larry Jones

Rev. Timothy Twyman

Rev. Stanley Williams

Rev. Alton Wilson

FBC Ministers of Evangelism

Min. Karen Blacknell

Evg. Geneva Burse

Evg. Valerie A. Montague

Evg. Ruthell Morris

Evg. Kimberly Rogers

Min. Monique Stroman

Min. Barbara Williams

Improvements to FBC's website are ongoing.

Feedback can be provided to the

Communications Ministry at

tag49llm@aol.com.