



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



# FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

April 2024

Volume 11, Issue 3

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Theme of the Month..... Cover  
 Scripture of the Month ..... 2  
 Hymn of the Month ..... 3  
 Prayer List ..... 4  
 Baby Dedication ..... 5  
 The Last Seven Sayings of Jesus ..... 6  
 Spotlight on Ministry/Ushers..... 9  
 National Women’s Month ..... 12  
 Senior’s Ministry ..... 14  
 Celebrating Black History ..... 15  
 Hunger Walk/Run ..... 18  
 Answer the Call ..... 19  
 FBC Vacation Bible School ..... 20  
 2024 Graduates..... 21

## CALENDAR

### April

6 Men’s Ministry Outing, Main Event 10am  
 13 Creative Learning, Fellowship Hall, 10am  
 27 Seniors Ministry, FLC 11am

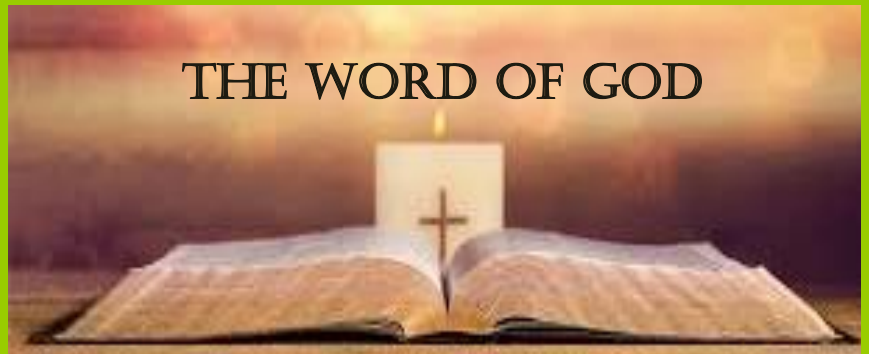
### June

3-7 Vacation Bible School  
 9 Celebrating 2024 Graduates

### **FBC MISSION STATEMENT**

“Exalt the Savior”  
 “Equip the Saint”  
 “Evangelize the Sinner”

**Deadline for May Newsletter Articles**  
**\*\* April 19<sup>th</sup> \*\***



## THE WORD OF GOD

The Word of God has a twofold meaning in the Bible. Firstly, the “Word” is another name for Jesus Christ as seen in John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God”. Jesus is God’s personal message to the world. In Greek philosophy, the concept behind the Word is the divine principle that permeates an orderly universe.

Secondly, the Word is also the things God has said to us. Psalm 119:89 states, “Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens”. Isaiah 40:8 also says, “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever”. In Malachi 3:6, God again makes known the fact that, “I the Lord do not change”, and as Matthew 24:35 rightly states, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

God’s Word works in us, in our minds and hearts, purifying our consciences, renewing our minds. It illuminates our spirits and drives away darkness. Its light exposes the dark areas in our lives that need to be changed. As God speaks through His Word, He makes clear His character and nature, also mankind’s character and nature and how man can be reconciled to God through his Son, Jesus Christ. God’s Word provides warning for disobedience, it also promises reward for obedience with the greatest reward being God Himself.

(Theme cont’d next page)

## THEME (cont'd)

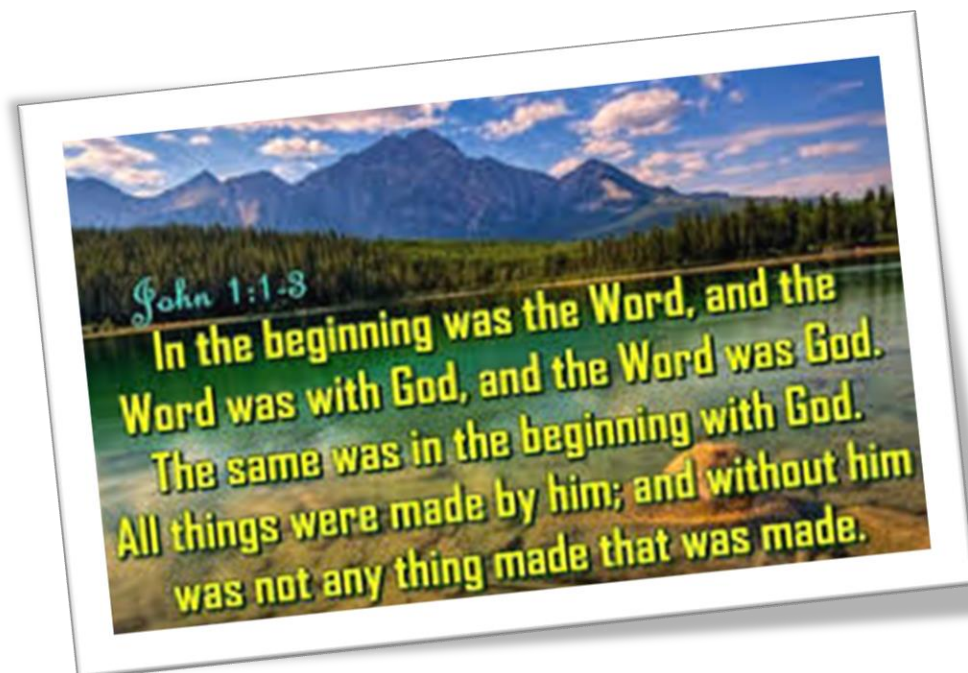
Hebrews 4:12 tells us, "For the Word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart". God gave us His Word so we would know right from wrong. By His Word, we can be transformed into His likeness and walk in the fear of the Lord. His Word is true and eternal and speaks to every generation, it never changes.

God's Word restores, revives, heals, leads, guides, encourages and admonishes His people. As God speaks to us through His Word, we can respond to Him in prayer. His Word keeps us from sin and helps us to grow in Christ-likeness. As we spend time with God He reveals our sins, our need for Him and begins the process of making us more like Christ.



Submitted by Hyacinth Chung  
Communication's Ministry  
(Some material taken from Google)

## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH



## HYMN OF THE MONTH

### “What A Friend We Have In Jesus”



The hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” was originally written as a poem in 1855 by Joseph M. Scriven to comfort his mother who was terribly ill and who was living in Ireland while he was in Canada. Scriven was born in 1819 of prosperous parents in Bainbridge, Down County, in Ireland. He graduated with a degree from Trinity College in Dublin in 1842. In 1843, the night before he was married, his fiancée accidentally drowned. In 1845, at the age of 25, he left his native Ireland and migrated to Canada. The poem was then titled, “Pray without Ceasing” and was published anonymously; it only received full credits in the 1880s.

In 1868 Charles Crozat Converse composed a tune for it and William Bolcom composted the setting of the hymn. This hymn also has many versions with different lyrics in multiple languages. Scriven did not have any intentions nor dream that his poem would be for publication in the newspaper and later becoming a favorite hymn among the millions of Christians around the world. In 1857, in Port Hope, Ontario, Canada, he again fell in love and was due to be married, but in August 1860 his fiancée suddenly fell ill of pneumonia and died. He then devoted the rest of his life to tutoring, preaching and helping others.

LIFE IN CHRIST: PRAYER AND INTERCESSION

#### 435 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*In everything, by prayer and petition, . . . present your requests to God. Phil. 4:6*

1. What a Friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3. Are we weak and heav - y - la - den, Cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our Ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.

O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;

All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

TEXT: Joseph M. Scriven  
 MUSIC: Charles C. Converse

CONVERSE  
 8.7.8.7.D.



## PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN LIST

as well as those 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.**

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

*Prayer changes  
things.*

## Baby Dedication

March 24, 2024

Children were brought to Jesus, perhaps by their parents, to be blessed by Him. Serving as Jesus' well-intentioned security team, the disciples rebuked them and tried to turn the people away. In response, "Jesus said, Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14



Baby's Name: Arielle Neseta White  
Parents: Neseta Baker and Albert White  
Godmother: Hyacinth Chung





## THE LAST SEVEN SAYINGS OF JESUS



On Friday, March 29, 2024, with Rev. Garfield Garner, presiding, seven associate ministers of Friendship Baptist Church presented an impressive scripturally supported 'sermonette' on the topic "The Last Seven Sayings of Jesus." Rev. Garner opened by giving a brief synopsis of the reason for the program and read Romans 10:14-15:

*14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

*15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

The Praise Team then did a dynamic rendering of "Praise Him" before the speakers began. The speakers and a synopsis of their sermonette follows:

### **FIRST WORD - "Father, forgive them for they know not what they doeth" (Luke 23:34)**

**Rev. Stanley Jackson – Topic: Excruciating Forgiveness.** Rev. Jackson encouraged us to deeply reflect on the unimaginable pain on the cross as Jesus was betrayed, mocked and then crucified. He did not act in retaliation, but forgiveness.

In our relationships, look to forgive others, instead of showing bitterness. Choose love, show mercy, as well as receive mercy. Walk in Jesus' love and extend it to others. Forgiveness requires humility and courage. It is a conscious decision to free us from unforgiveness. Forgiveness is a required act that must be performed repeatedly. By choosing to forgive, we, the Believers, must begin with ourselves. Luke 23:24, Matthew 6:14-15, Psalm 103:12 all teach us that we must forgive. Colossians 3:13 tells us to forebear one another, endure and even support others. Ephesians 4:32 teaches us to be kind and tenderhearted! Jesus' birth, death, resurrection and even salvation all happened so that we would be equipped to do so.

### **SECOND WORD - "Jesus said unto him, verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43)**

**Min. Monique Stroman – Topic: Remember Me.** Min. Stroman began by telling us that Jesus was misunderstood by many of the people. He was falsely accused, but made no reply, had not complained. He did not open His mouth.

Adam and Eve sinned: God had a plan to save humankind again. Jesus, the sinless man was the only One who could bring God's plan into reality. Do not try to please the crowd. Do not give in to the pressures of man. For God's plans always win. Recognize that Jesus was totally innocent and willing to save others?



## The Last Seven Sayings of Jesus (cont'd)

He promises to be with us, and we can be with Him in Paradise! Jesus is love and grace. He intercedes for all who accept Him as Savior (Romans 8:34). Remember: Jesus loves each of us.

**THIRD WORD - "When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, woman, behold thy Son. Then he said to the disciple, behold your mother" (John 19:26)**

**Rev. Eugene Graves - Topic: Don't Forget Your Family.** Rev. Graves reminded us that Jesus' love prevailed for His mother, even while He was in total agony on the cross. She would be remembered as that mother of that crucified one called Jesus.

We should learn that love for parents and family is especially important. We are not absolved from familial responsibilities and obligations.

**FOURTH WORD - "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me" (Matthew 27:46)**

**Rev. Alton Wilson - Topic: Total Access.** Rev. Wilson began by asking a question: "What do the events around Jesus' death mean to us?" Secondly, he asked three more questions: (1) why did an earthquake occur during the crucifixion; (2) why was the veil in the temple torn into; and (3) why did Father God forsake His sinless Son in a bruising death? Rev. Wilson elaborated on each question: God could not sin; He did not look on His Son as He took on all the sins of this world. Jesus was separated from His Father.

Christ's Holy Blood was sacrificed for us. God does not tolerate sin. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifices for us to be able to reach the Father through Jesus, and boldly so!

**FIFTH WORD - "Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished that the scriptures might be fulfilled said, I thirst" (John 19:28)**

**Rev. Garfield Garner - Topic: I Thirst!** Jesus does not do anything by happenstance. He knew while he was at this well that He would encounter a woman who had a bad reputation or no righteousness, drawing water at high noon when no other women would be there as they would gather in the cool of the morning to draw water. This wicked woman had five husbands and the one she was with was not her husband. Jesus asked for a drink of water but she was reluctant and made excuses. Jesus told her that the water He would give her would well up in her as everlasting life. Many people were saved by this encounter.

Rev. Garner emphasized that Jesus always has a purpose regardless of what sin we commit. Jesus is righteous and He never fails. We were urged to thirst for righteousness.

**SIXTH WORD (Part 1) - "He said, It is finished" (John 19:30)**

**Rev. Larry Jones - Topic: It is Finished!** Rev. Jones emphasized that all of God's plan for Jesus was that He was born to die. No matter what language is used to describe the assignment, it all added up to the debt was paid in full, and in complete submission. Rev. Jones asked why was Jesus on the cross? He went on to explain that the journey had all started in the Garden of Eden with the fall of humankind. Jesus was the only one capable of bearing all of our sins. No other humankind could do it. **The ultimate plan: Jesus is born to die on the cross.**

There were three items brought by the Wise Men to visit the newborn child. They brought frankincense for priestly usage, gold represented royalty, and myrrh was used to anoint the dead.

## The Last Seven Sayings of Jesus (cont'd)

Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us (John 3:16). We must all go through Jesus to get to God. Salvation comes through Jesus for all our needs. Jesus had a purpose; He was called and performed as His Father directed Him.

### **SIXTH WORD (Part 2) - "It is finished" (John 19:30) and Mark 15:37 "With a loud cry, Jesus breathed His last breath."**

**Rev. Shurron Green – Topic: Jesus said "It is Finished!"** Rev. Green emphasized that Jesus knew His purpose for the words He spoke. Jesus' last words have power, deep meaning and significance. Jesus knew what His final words needed to be and He had a great purpose for saying all of those seven words as He hung on the cross.

Rev. Green reflected on the importance of the last words of anyone. Even in our time as we live today, when someone utters their last words, it holds a great significance. Jesus became the final and ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Jesus came to finish God's work. The work of salvation in each and every one of us. He came to pay our sin debt in full. It is finished on the cross, and yet His work is finished also, His sinless blood shed for all of our debt has paid it all in full!

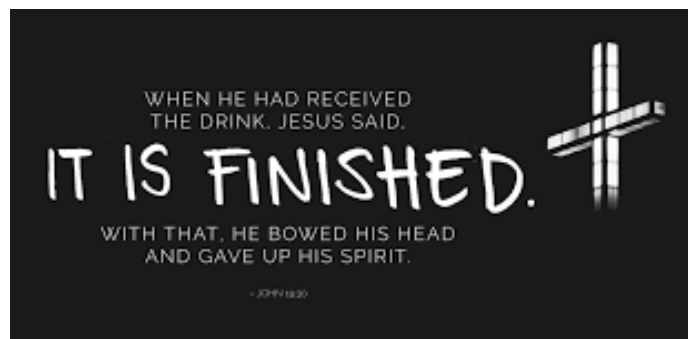
### **SEVENTH WORD - "Father into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46)**

**Rev. Artis Johnson – Topic: Don't Give Up, Give In.** A few of the names we know Jesus by are: The Bread of Life, Light of the World, Resurrection and the Life; even included are True Vine and Master Teacher. Now Jesus is being crucified at the demand of Pilate. All of mankind's sins are now on Jesus. His father could not look at His Son due to all the sins of men then, and even now. How much does Jesus have to take? His crucifixion was more terrible than any Hollywood depiction may try to show. Jesus was beaten all night. He was tortured so intently that it could not be described. He was mocked, spat on, experienced indescribable pain. He even sweated blood in the Garden because He knew the pain He would endure. The whips used were so indescribably painful; but Jesus endured it all.

Good Friday was not always good, Rev. Johnson explained. Jesus was nailed to an old rugged cross, and He suffered, but He now asks God, His Father, to forgive those who were torturing Him. **Now He has the victory! And in all His suffering, Jesus did what He had to do - He died.**

We are charged to take up our cross daily. But because of the grace of Jesus, we can do what God wants us to do. We wish for "if I had," but Jesus is trying to teach us to place ourselves in His Hands, whether we are broken, addicted, rejected, etc. Take one more step! Trust God. Don't Give Up!

Pastor Ronald Bowens gave the closing remarks and extended his hand beckoning those who have not yet accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior to come. He said we are all recipients of God's blessings.



Summation by  
Mother Gerald Baker





The Usher's Anniversary Service was incorporated into the 11:00 a.m. morning worship service on Sunday, March 24, 2024. The celebration began with the grand procession of all ushers, grouped according to the Sundays they serve, marching in to the song "Walk With Me". Seated in the first four rows of the sanctuary, the ushers were able to relax and hear the Word of God without being on duty.

The Ushers were recognized by their President JoAnne Williams and a poem was read by Demitra Casseus on the Duties of an FBC Usher. Pastor Bowens was presented with a gift from the Usher's Ministry.

The speaker of the hour was our own Pastor Ronald L. Bowens who took the message from Romans 12 verses 11-13. The sermon title was "God's Challenge to Ushers". He reminded us that Ushers are the first offense in the sanctuary, a type of forerunner for worship to maintain a reverent-type atmosphere in the House of God.

Despite Ushers being the first line of Authority in the church, they are also Helpers to those who need help during service to cut down on unnecessary movements. They prepare the way of the Lord. Ushers are greeters, gatekeepers, encouragers, prayer warriors and so many more characteristics as portrayed by Christ.

Ushers are also committed to:

- Serving the Lord by having their priorities in good order
- Being devoted in prayer at all times
- Contributing to the needs of the saints
- Taking initiative in hospitality and showing love for others

## Usher's Anniversary (cont'd)

Challenges encountered by Ushers as noted in Pastor's sermon is in discernment. Whether the:

- Believer is entering the church with a desire to participate in fellowship and worship.
- Believer is thankful about being in God's house. (When the Usher's spirit makes a connection with the Believer's spirit, the Usher then prays a silent prayer.)
- Believer's spirit exhumes praise. (We need expression in praise to show our gratitude because praise completes our Joy. We have to open up the gates and usher in the King of Glory. The gate is the heart of the Believer.)

We gratefully recognize and extend thanks to our Reserve Ushers, who were ready and willing to step up and take their rightful place at the doors and throughout the service to keep the flow moving smoothly. The Reserve Ushers on duty were: Rita Bowens, Al Cassell, Ethel Emery, Randy Harrell, Kevin Hayes, Sharon Jerrals and Rose Nolan.

To God be the Glory.

Hyacinth Chung (Usher and member of the Communications Ministry)





Usher's Anniversary (cont'd)



Ushers listed in alphabetical order:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Julia Brown                             | Nicole Moss                        |
| Al Cassell                              | Patrick Nagbe                      |
| <b>Irene Cassell (Chaplin)</b>          | Eugenia Nah                        |
| Demetra Casseus                         | Raymond Poole                      |
| Hyacinth Chung                          | Eric Porterfield                   |
| Brenda Commodore                        | Jewell Powell                      |
| Tyler Commodore                         | Joseph Reeves                      |
| <b>Michael Dibrell (Vice President)</b> | Henry Richardson                   |
| Patricia Harris                         | Latasha Richardson                 |
| Rosena Heyward                          | Isabelle Robinson                  |
| Bonita Ingram                           | <b>Lula Tally (Treasurer)</b>      |
| Barbara Johnson                         | Emma Stephens                      |
| Frances Johnson                         | Vanessa White                      |
| Rainey Lee                              | Carolyn Williams                   |
| Jackie Miller                           | <b>JoAnne Williams (President)</b> |
| <b>Yolanda Morgan (Secretary)</b>       | Stephanie Wilson                   |

Deacon Tennyson Smith, Ministry Leader





**FBC** celebrated the following four women in March during Women's History Month for their outstanding accomplishments and for making a positive impact today. We salute them!



A resident of Peachtree Corners for over 25 years, Ora B. Douglass was elected as the first African-American female Councilwoman in November 2023.

Ora B. Douglass was born at Atlanta's Grady Hospital, but was raised in Fort Pierce, Florida. Orphaned at 18 months, she has worked hard for her accomplishments and knows the importance of a good education, perseverance, dedication, and service to all mankind.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from **Florida A&M University** and earned a Master of Nursing Administration degree from **Emory University**. After graduating nursing school, Douglass was commissioned an officer in the **U.S. Army Nurse Corps**.

A veteran with over 13 years of service, she has been stationed in Hawaii and was part of the **U.S. Army Reserves**. Ora is a retired Registered Nurse and was a veteran commissioned officer of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps.

She has worked at numerous hospitals in the Atlanta area. She served as Director of Community Home Based Nursing at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ora is dedicated to and passionate about community service. In 2014, Ora led a group of members in chartering the Psi Omega Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. chapter in Peachtree Corners, Georgia, where she served as President. In 2016, she established The Georgia Pearls of Service (GPOS) Foundation in Peachtree Corners, where she currently serves as the group's President.

Mrs. Douglass also serves on the Board of the Robert D. Fowler YMCA and is a member of the Peachtree Corners Rotary Club. Mrs. Douglass and her husband, Adrian, have four children and three grandchildren and are members of Friendship Baptist Church in Duluth.



Dr. Theresa Goodman has been a member of Friendship Baptist Church since 2013 and is currently serving as Leader of the FBC Health Ministry.

Dr. Goodman is originally from Nocatee, Florida, and has been a resident of Georgia 17 years. She holds multiple post-graduate degrees, having received her first degree in Medical Records Technology in 1990. She currently holds a Doctor of Philosophy – Epidemiology (2012).

Dr. Theresa Goodman was the first to graduate with a PhD in her family. She is a retired Captain from the US Army with 24 years of services. She is a combat veteran who served in the Gulf War (Desert Shield/Desert Storm). She supported the Iraq Freedom in mobilization and demobilization of troops. She received numerous accommodations within the Armed Forces, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

She is published in Phantom Shoulder Pain in the Patient Care for Nurse Practitioner Journal. 50. Musal, S.; Corrigan-Carias, M.; Spencer, T.; Sarvin, C. (4/2001); and Perceptions and Knowledge of Stroke Risk as Predictors for Risk of Stroke (dissertation) in ProQuest.

She is currently the Director of the Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Residency Program at Joseph M. Cleland, Atlanta Veterans Administration.

She is the mother of two sons, Darrell A. Spencer and Thomas L. Spencer III, grandmother of three grandchildren and great-grandmother of one great grandchild. She is a child of God and accepted Christ at the young age of 16. She is an example that with God all things are possible.

## Women's History Month (cont'd)



A Georgia native, Dranita Morrow is originally from Thomasville, GA and has been residing in Duluth, GA for 16 years. She graduated from Thomasville High School and was recognized for having 12 years of Perfect Attendance. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Georgia Southern University where she majored in Early Childhood Education. She received her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Walden University. She also obtained her Leadership Certification from Mercer University. In 2017, she successfully defended her doctoral thesis and was hooded at Clark Atlanta University with a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership.

Dr. Morrow is a member of the Alpha Alpha Pi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and has been a member since 1998. Additionally, she served as the President of the Undergraduate Lambda Kappa Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

The first in her family to receive her doctoral degree, Dr. Morrow went from a child who attended school every day to an adult aspiring to capture an educational degree at every level. She is dedicated to the education of all children and has served as an educator in Gwinnett County for 23 years. Dr. Morrow was the first Black Teacher of the Year at Shiloh Elementary School in 2010. Prior to being appointed Principal at Kanoheda Elementary school, she served as an Assistant Principal at two schools for a total of 8 years. Dr. Morrow together with her staff and students celebrated being recognized as a "Distinguished" PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) School by the State of Georgia for two consecutive years.

Dr. Morrow has been a member of Friendship Baptist Church since 2004. She and husband, Deacon Tyrone Morrow, are the parents of Ty'Asia, Leila and Aiden Morrow.



Leslie Clark is a wife, mother, engineer, entrepreneur, and author. She was born in San Bernardino, California, but spent the majority of her childhood, along with her two siblings, in Bradenton, Florida, where she ultimately calls home. Mrs. Clark currently resides in Buford, Georgia.

Leslie received her undergraduate degree from Florida State University where she majored in Environmental Engineering. Additionally, she received her Master of Engineering from the University of Florida.

Mrs. Clark is currently employed as a Sr. Sustainability Program Manager for Amazon. However, she has always wanted to be an entrepreneur. During the Pandemic lock down in 2020, she decided to turn her love of reading into actual writing and publishing her own books.

Her love for children and volunteering in her community sparked her desire to write books that reflect on issues as well as topics she believed were not being discussed. While being pregnant with her son, Leslie decided to start a Blended Family Series to focus on the positive and healthy examples of what a blended family could be. As part of a blended family herself, Leslie experienced first-hand the complications that blended families undergo and wanted those families to see themselves represented. From there, she has authored several 5-star review books, some of which include "Grandpa's Magical Hugs", "A Legacy of Excellence: A Coloring Book Celebrating HBCU Alumni", "O is for Ownership! The ABCs of the Stock Market for Beginners."

Leslie has been recognized for the significant impacts she has made within her community. She was named the "Take Stock in Children Mentor" of the year in 2014. In 2016, she was selected to be one of Florida's Black Expo 20 under 40 award recipients. She was a part of Jacksonville's Business Journal 2018 Class of 40 under 40. Most recently, she was recognized as an Alumni trailblazer through Florida State University during their Black History Month Program. She is a recent graduate of the 2022-2023 Journey Leadership Institute Cohort and currently sits on the Gwinnett County Young Professional Advisory Board where she was nominated to be Top 35 under 35 Young Professionals. She volunteers in the Outreach Ministry's Friendship Market on Fridays.

Of all her accomplishments, Leslie feels the greatest is that of being the mother to Elise and Camden and wife of Travis Clark. Her motivating motto is "Be the Change."





The FBC Seniors' Ministry had its first outing on Saturday, March 23, 2024, to Samurai Blue Japanese Hibachi Restaurant located at 2160 Riverside Parkway #136 in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

The occasion was to celebrate the ministry chairperson, Rev. Eugene Graves' 79<sup>th</sup> birthday and Sis. Vennie McDowell's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. They share the same birthdate.

We were joined by members: Sis. Audrey Anderson, Sis. Barbara Brown, Bro. Al Cassell, Sis. Irene Cassell, Rev. Eugene Graves, Mother Brenda Graves, Sis. Vennie McDowell, Bro. Louie Malone, Sis. Rose Phinzy, Sis. Joan Prehay, Dea. Thomas Roach, Sis. Leslie Roach, Sis. Selena Stewart, Sis. Paulette Tapp, Dea. Marvin Whitfield (our ministry deacon) and Sis. Carolyn Whitfield.



We were offered both the lunch and dinner menus. Some selected dinner as the portion was bigger and you had something to take home to eat later in the day. The selections were all served hibachi style with fried rice. Some ordered chicken and shrimp, scallops and shrimp, steak and shrimp, and tofu and vegetables. Note: Dea. Roach and Sis. Tapp were pros with the chopsticks.



The restaurant staff helped celebrate the two birthday guests with drum playing, music makers and group sing along as Rev. Graves and Sis. Vennie donned their birthday hats!



We thank God for allowing us to come together for this wonderful fellowship and birthday celebrations!

Submitted by Mother Brenda J. Graves, Ministry Secretary



## Celebrating Our History

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

Attributed to Marcus Garvey

## BLACK HISTORY

OUR VOICES. OUR STORIES.

*Diane Russell, Black History Coordinator  
Communications Ministry*

### Annie Minerva Turnbo Malone



Annie was an American businesswoman, inventor, and entrepreneur. In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, she founded and developed a large prominent commercial and educational enterprise that focused on cosmetics for African-American woman. There are debates that she was the first African American woman to become a millionaire.

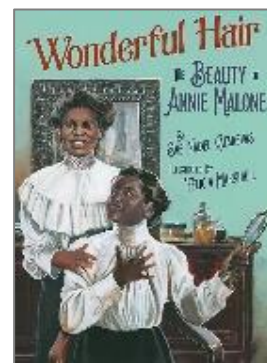
Annie was born on August 9, 1877, in Metropolis IL, which is about 350 miles south of Chicago. Her parents, Robert and Isabella, were former slaves. Annie's father, Robert, fought for the Union in the 1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Calvary while her mother

escaped by following the Ohio river to Metropolis IL, the tenth child out of eleven. Unfortunately, Annie was orphaned at an early age when both her parents died.

Annie's early education was in Metropolis, and she moved to Peoria to live with her older sister Ava Moody. She attended high school in Peoria. While in high school Annie had an interest in chemistry but due to multiple illnesses, she had to drop out of school. While out of school, Annie became interested in hair dressing and hair care products. She would often practice hair dressing on her sister. With a chemistry background and an interest in hair care products, she began developing her own hair products, with a focus on the scalp and damaged hair.

In 1900, Annie moved to Lovejoy, IL and it is here that she started to experiment with hair care products she was creating. She wanted to produce products that would help strengthen the hair and repair damaged hair. During this time women would use goose fats, heavy oils, or bacon grease to straighten their hair. Annie's product was made of special oils and hair stimulants and called The Wonderful Hair Grower. Annie sold her product door to door. It was one of the first products that would revolutionize hair care products for African American women.

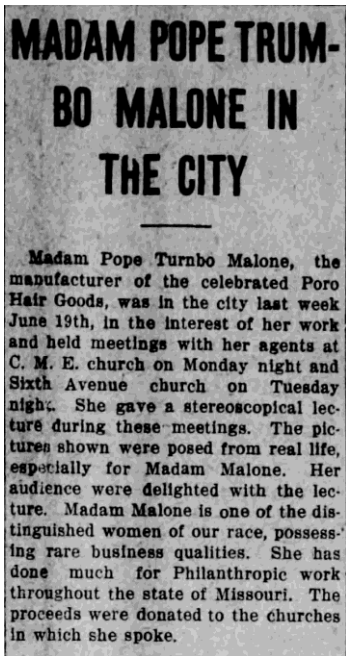
When Annie's business started to thrive, she moved to St. Louis, MO in 1902. At this time, it was her and three other employees selling her products door to door. With the high demand for her products, Annie decided to open a standalone store in St. Louis on Market Street. She began a big marketing and advertising program in the black neighborhoods, and she hired more agents to sell her products. One of those agents was Sarah Breedlove Davis aka Madam CJ Walker. Sarah started working for Annie in 1906.



Black History (cont'd)

Due to the success Annie's products had at the World's Fair, another larger location was opened on Pine Street.

When a disagreement happened between Annie and Sarah, Annie created the company Poro and began to copyright her products. This was to prevent fraudulent imitations and to discourage counterfeit versions of her products, both hair care products and skin care products.



Poro reported assets of \$14 million in 1920, making Malone arguably the first recorded female African American millionaire. Adjusting for inflation, her fortune would be worth \$186 million in today's dollars, Turnbo not only rode this wave — at its height, the company's sales amounted to almost \$37 million in today's dollars and employed 75,000 women around the world — but she fueled it as well.



Although Annie and Sarah were competitors, both were successful businesswoman, and both hired more African American woman in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century than any other company. Their philanthropy is what lives decades after their deaths.

In 1918, Annie established Poro College, a cosmetology school and center. The building included a manufacturing plant, a retail store where Poro products were sold, business offices, a 500-seat auditorium, dining and meeting rooms, a roof garden, dormitory, gymnasium, bakery, and chapel. It served the African American community as a center for religious and social functions. She gave thousands of dollars to the local black YMCA and the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C.

She became a benefactor of the St. Louis Colored Orphans Home, where she served as president on the board of directors from 1919 to 1943. With her help, in 1922 the Home bought a facility at 2612 Goode Avenue, which was renamed Annie Malone Drive in her honor. The Orphans Home is in the historic Ville neighborhood. Upgraded and expanded, the facility was renamed in the entrepreneur's honor as the Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center as well as funding many programs.



## Black History (cont'd)

**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.

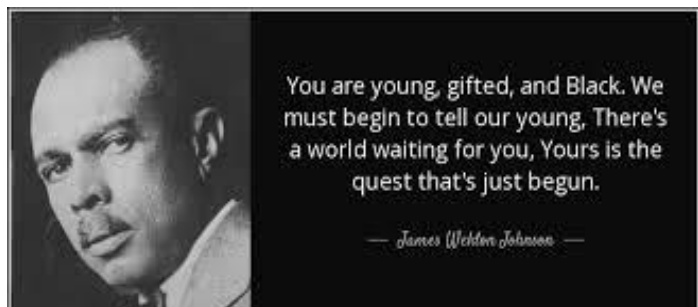
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory won.

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.







## FBC OUTREACH MINISTRY ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK HUNGER WALK/RUN

In Georgia, 1 in 8 children and 1 in 13 seniors do not have access to enough food and certainly not enough nutritionally adequate food – in other words, these people are food insecure. For over 14 years, Friendship Baptist Church through its Outreach Ministry has helped to address this situation. In the past five years, the Outreach Ministry increased its efforts to help address food insecurity in Georgia by becoming an agency partner with the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Being an agency partner allows FBC to purchase food at a substantially reduced cost from the Atlanta Community Food Bank which, in turn, reduces the amount that FBC invests in the Friendship Market.

The annual Hunger Walk Run is a fundraising event hosted by the ACFB in conjunction with other sponsors to raise both awareness of food insecurity and to provide funds to enable the ACFB to purchase food from wholesalers at significantly reduced prices. ACFB stocks its warehouses with food purchased from suppliers and some donated food. Agencies that participate in the Hunger Walk/Run receive a matching credit for each dollar raised to purchase food at the ACFB.

The FBC Outreach Ministry first participated in the Hunger Walk/Run in March 2023 and raised \$10,375.00. In March 2024, our goal was \$15,000.00. With the overwhelming and generous support of our FBC members, family, friends, businesses, co-workers, and colleagues, **we raised \$19,340.00**. With these funds we will be able to increase the amount of food we distribute and serve more households. We could not have reached and surpassed our goal without our donors understanding and appreciating the urgency to address food insecurity in our community. We extend our thanks to everyone, and we are grateful for your continued support.



**OUTREACH MINISTRY** – *“ONE BODY SAVED TO SERVE”*

*Diana McGhee, Ministry Leader*

## Answer the Call



RING! RING! It's our Heavenly Father calling, seeking believers who are "letting our lights dawn in the darkness" of this world through service to others. (Isaiah 58:10 NKJV)

**April is National Volunteer Month**, so it's the perfect time to reflect on God's call for us to serve mankind! We can start by noting that in Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) Paul reminds us that we are saved by grace through faith, and so we are not to boast about our good works on this Earth. Works do not get us into Heaven; accepting Christ into our hearts does. However, Paul goes on in verse 10 to tell us that having been created [anew] in Christ Jesus, we should be "walking" in good works. This means that we are called to serve others, and to do so heartily- as if we are serving The Lord Christ, Himself! (Colossians 3:22 NKJV)

The Word even gives us clear examples of some ways that we can serve and please God. For example, we can feed the hungry and comfort the afflicted as instructed in Isaiah 58:10 (NKJV). We can give of our worldly possessions to the poor as directed in Luke 12:33 (NKJV). We can even share spirits of gentleness and restoration with our family in Christ, "bearing one another's burdens" as it says in Galatians 6:1-2 (NKJV).

Now of course we may have all heard the old adage, "Charity starts at home!" Well, what better place to start? Galatians 6:10 (NKJV) reads, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." What opportunities to serve the household of faith may you have recently overlooked? Do you have any worshipful gifts that God has put on your heart to share with our church family?

Within every Sunday Bulletin lies a list of FBC ministries that are in need of "faithful stewards" to answer the call to serve. (1 Peter 4:10 NKJV). Pray today about which ministry God may be calling you to volunteer your time and gifts to



Written by  
Whitney Brown  
FBC Member  
Freelancer and Poet

**COMING SOON**

*Save the Date!*

**6 - 9pm**  
**June 3rd - 7th**  
**FBC VBS 2024**

**Online Registration Opens March 31st**

**REGISTER NOW!**  
**TO VOLUNTEER – SEE BELOW!**

**FBC VBS 2024**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

**TEACHERS, REGISTRATION,  
DECORATION, KITCHEN CREW,  
CRAFTS, GAMES, SECURITY & MORE**

**CONTACT KINDELL MAY AT  
(770)715-3726 OR  
FBCDULUTHVBS@GMAIL.COM**



## FBC CELEBRATING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

**JUNE 9, 2024**



Celebrating Friendship Baptist Church

High School Seniors and College Students

with a Graduation Date between

July 2023 and June 2024

Please contact Sharon Norman at [sharon4282.sn@gmail.com](mailto:sharon4282.sn@gmail.com)

**Communications Ministry**

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**Vice President**

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**Assistant Secretary**

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Hyacinth Chung

Jennifer Jones

Diane Russell

Christine Smith

Improvements to FBC's website are ongoing.  
 Feedback can be provided to the  
 Communications Ministry at  
[tag49llm@aol.com](mailto:tag49llm@aol.com).



**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](mailto:fbcduluth@att.net)  
 Website: [www.fbcduluth.org](http://www.fbcduluth.org)

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Rev. Garfield Garner	Rev. Timothy Twyman
Rev. Eugene Graves	Rev. Stanley Williams
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Rev. Stanley Jackson	

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