



Rev. Ronald L. Bowens
Pastor

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

MAY 2024

VOL. 11, ISSUE 4

“Exhalt the Savior, Equip the Saint, Evangelize the Sinner.”

True Repentance

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MAY CALENDAR

- 1 - Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
- 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- 11 - Women's Ministry Meeting & Creative Learning Workshop
- 12 - Mother's Day
- 18 - A Day of Education & Fun
- 21 - Gwinnett County General Primary Election Day
- 27 - Memorial Day

Change of Editorship

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS



Paulette Tapp

PREVIOUS EDITOR IN CHIEF

Some time after joining the Communications Ministry in 2015, I assumed the editorship of Friendship's Voice. It has been a wonderful and challenging experience, which over time has become more than a newsletter. To me, it is a ministry - informative, a source of encouragement and inspiration to our readership, as made known to me by others so many times. I very much appreciate all who have and still are contributing articles, taking pictures, and proofreading to help make Friendship's Voice what it is today.

Now, the time has come for me to pass the torch. We are excited to announce that DeLauryn Brown will be taking responsibility of the newsletter moving forward!



DeLauryn Brown

NEW EDITOR IN CHIEF

Greetings! I have been a member of Friendship for many years, but after rededicating my life to Christ in April of 2023, I found my way back into regular attendance. Knowing that those in the body of Christ are called to serve, I began to explore areas where I could become more involved and was eventually introduced to the Communications Ministry in the Summer of 2023. You may have seen me in the video room or taking pictures of the Moment in Black History presentations, but now I will be furthering my reach as the new Editor-in-Chief of the newsletter!

THEME OF THE MONTH

True Repentance

WRITTEN BY HYACINTH CHUNG



True Repentance means changing the desires of your heart, whereby changing the orientation of your whole life and lifestyle. This relates to the change of mindset, attitude and outlook on one's life.

We truly repent when we recognize our sins, admit that we have sinned and done wrong, and seek God's help through confession to Him. We must be truly sorrowful for our deeds and forsake what we have done, forgive others and make restitution for what we have done. Keeping the commandments of God is vital in our restoration of faith and fellowship with God.

In Psalm 51:1-2 David prayed to God for mercy and to blot out his transgressions, to wash him from iniquity and cleanse him from sin. Honesty is the best policy and God desires honesty; that means this is not lip service or crocodile tears, but true repentance from the heart. We must confess our wrongdoings to God and man. We should not conceal what we have done in the past but be willing to bring it to light so that the enemy does not have anything to hold over our heads.

We sometimes are ashamed of what we have done and refuse to talk about it, but worldly sorrows bring about death. Godly sorrows bring repentance of the heart, which leads to salvation and there is no regret in this. True repentance moves us from sorrow to confession, to humble contrition, and then to grace. We walk in forgiveness, covered by the Blood of Jesus with all shame removed from us.

Scripture of the Month

14 Now after John has been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

MARK 1:14-15 (NASB)

HYMN OF THE MONTH

I Surrender All

WRITTEN BY JUDSON W. VAN DEVENTER

CALLED TO BE HOLY

739

I Surrender All

Chords: D^b A^{b7} D^b A^{b7} D^b

1 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, all to him I free-ly give;
 2 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, make me, Sav-ior, whol-ly thine;
 3 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, Lord, I give my-self to thee;

Chords: A^{b7} D^b A^{b7} D^b

I will ev-er love and trust him, in his pres-ence dai-ly live.
 let me feel thy Ho-ly Spir-it, tru-ly know that thou art mine.
 fill me with thy love and pow-er, let thy bless-ing fall on me.

Refrain Chords: D^b A^{b7} D^b

I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all;
I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all.

Chords: G^b D^{b/A^b} A^{b7} D^b

all to thee, my bless-ed Sav-ior, I sur-ren-der all.

Words: Judson W. VanDeVenter, P.D.
 Music (SURRENDER 8.7.8.7 refrain 5.5.8.5): Winfield S. Weeden, P.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.

Mr. William Annan

Sis. Charre Armstrong

Sis. Pat Ashe

Bro. Charles Bailey

Bro. Willie Benton

Min. Karen Blacknell

Sis. Sheila Blackwell

Dea. Willie Blake

Bro. Don Bowens

Sis. Liz Bowens

Bro. Isaac Brown

Barbara Williams Brown

Sis. Alice Burnes

Bro. Dwayne Bynum

Sis. Chastity Collier

Sis. Sarah Collins

Dea. Kevin Corbett

Sis. Andrea Green

Sis. Ruth Griggs

Sis. Barbara Hall

Bro. Emanuel Hazell

Sis. Dorothy Hines

Bro. Willie Irvin

Bro. Patrick Jones

Sis. Mabel Lawrence

Sis. Virginia McLemore

Sis. Thelma Matthews

Sis. Josephine May

Bro. Will May

Miss. Kaitlyn Miles

JC Mitchell

Sis. Alice Murphy

Sis. Carrie Rawls

Sis. Letitia Robinson

Sis. Linda Rogers

Sis. Carrie Royals

Bro. Rennie Samuels

Sis. Jacqueline Scott

Sis. Tonya Sellers

Bro. Rudy Simmons

Mr. Claudius Stafford

Bro. Xavier Stephens

Sis. Johnnie Stewart

Sis. Mabel Thomas

Rev. Dwight Wilkerson

Sis. Valerie Williams

Sis. Sadie Wilson

Bro. Victor Winston Jr.

Sis. Priscilla Wise

Sis. Dorothy Woods

Sis. Lola Wright



SIGNS OF THE SEASON

A Mother's Love

WRITTEN BY CHRISTINE SMITH



What words or thoughts come to mind when you think of “mother”? Caregiver, nurturer, agape love, provider, protector, comforter, teacher, and disciplinarian are a few that come to my mind. Do these attributes sound familiar? Do they sound like the triune (Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit)?

Our Heavenly Father Himself gave us mothers and we thank God for mothers! *“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you;” Isaiah 66:13 (NIV)* *“Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.” Genesis 3:20 (NIV)*

What a wonderful gift from God a mother is. Whether you’re a biological mother, a mother through adoption, an “auntie” mother, or a godmother, we have been given an awesome opportunity to pour into and nurture our children. *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)*

Mothers give unselfishly of their time and talent, they wipe tears from eyes, and they hug and love unconditionally. A mother’s arms are our safe space.

In the United States, we set aside the second Sunday in May to celebrate mothers. Mothers should be celebrated every day for the many sacrifices they make. I remember growing up watching my auntie (mother’s sister) and my mother’s first cousin go off together on vacations and cruises. As a little girl I thought, wow...mommy would rather be here with us than travel and have fun with her sister and cousin. They were all best friends, and it wasn’t until I was older that I realized my mom wouldn’t go because of the sacrifices she made for us as our mother. Sure, she would have loved to travel with her sister and cousin but her love and responsibility to us was greater. She certainly could have left the three of us home with dad but for my mom, her priority and place were always with her children.

“27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:” Proverbs 31:27-28 (NIV)

“Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.” Proverbs 31:31 (NIV)

Wishing every mother and mother figure a blessed and Happy Mother’s Day!

[Fun Activity: Test your knowledge of “Mothers in the Bible” on the next page.]



Mothers in the Bible

Match Up

Match each Biblical mother on the left with the correct description on the right.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ Sarah | a. 2nd wife to Abraham, mother of Ishmael |
| 2. _____ Eve | b. mother of John the Baptist and cousin of Mary |
| 3. _____ Mary | c. 2nd wife of Jacob, mother of Joseph and Benjamin |
| 4. _____ Jochebed | d. faith-filled mother-in-law to Ruth |
| 5. _____ Hannah | e. mother of Solomon, wife of King David |
| 6. _____ Rebekah | f. she hid her baby in a basket and sent him down the Nile River |
| 7. _____ Hagar | g. elderly mother of Isaac, wife of Abraham |
| 8. _____ Widow of Zarephath | h. mother of Samuel, whom she offered to Eli the priest |
| 9. _____ Naomi | i. 1st wife of Jacob, who bore many children |
| 10. _____ Elizabeth | j. mother of Timothy who was praised by Paul |
| 11. _____ Rachel | k. she was "blessed among women" as the mother of Jesus |
| 12. _____ Bathsheba | l. mother of King Hezekiah |
| 13. _____ Widow of Nain | m. the first mother or "mother of all living" |
| 14. _____ Ruth | n. gave the last of her flour and oil to Elijah |
| 15. _____ Abijah | o. mother of Jacob and Esau |
| 16. _____ Leah | p. due to her faith, Jesus raised her son from death |
| 17. _____ Eunice | q. married Boaz at Naomi's encouragement, mother to Obed |

NUMBER CORRECT _____

©JB Moms Designs

Answers can be found on the next page.

HIGHLIGHTING BLACK HISTORY*John Morton Finney*

JUNE 25, 1889 - JANUARY 28, 1998

WRITTEN BY DIANE RUSSELL

**BUFFALO SOLDIER AND STUDIED LAW**

John was born in Uniontown, Kentucky to a father (George) who was a slave and his mother (Maryatta) who was a free woman in June 1889. John's mother passed away in 1903 when John was just 15 years old. John's father could not care for him and his six siblings, so they moved to Missouri to live with their grandparents on their farm.

After high school John enrolled in Lincoln College in Jefferson City, Missouri but was interrupted and joined the army, the 24th U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as the Buffalo Soldiers and served in the Philippines. Morton was promoted to corporal and sergeant but was denied an officer's rank due to racial discrimination. John served in WWI as a infantryman in the American Expeditionary Force in France and served in WWII directing rationing programs to African American soldiers in Indianapolis.

When John finished his tour in the Philippines, he returned to Lincoln College in 1914 to obtain his undergraduate degree in 1918. John had undergraduate degrees from Lincoln College, Iowa State University, and Butler University. He obtained law degrees from Lincoln College, Indiana University and Martin University. John also obtained his master's degree from Indiana University in French. John could speak fluent French, Latin, Greek, and Spanish. He was conversational in Portuguese and German.

Not only did John pursue education most of his life but he also taught, from high school level to college. John taught at Fisk University and Lincoln College. When John moved back to Indianapolis, he started teaching in the Indianapolis Public Schools and taught for 37 years. He taught languages (Greek, Latin, Spanish), mathematics, and social studies, and served as a principal in different schools within the IPS.



With multiple law degrees John practiced law for 60+ years. At the age of 107 Morton was believed to be the oldest person in the United States practicing law. John was admitted to the bar of the Indianapolis Supreme Court in 1935 and the U.S. District Court of the United States in 1941. At the age of 83 in 1972 John was admitted to practice in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, *STATE OF INDIANA EX REL. JOHN MORTON-FINNEY v. BOARD OF SCHOOL*.

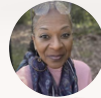
John was married to his wife Pauline for 52 years and they had one daughter, Gloria Ann. When John died in 1998 he was given full military honors and was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Bible Mothers Match Answers

1.G 2.M 3.K 4.F 5.H 6.O 7.A 8.N 9.D 10.B 11.C 12.E 13.P 14.Q 15.L 16.I 17.J



WRITTEN BY CYNTHIA URQUHART



The Resurrection Celebration of 2024, presented by the Drama Ministry, was a blessed event that beautifully narrated the greatest story ever told - the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The celebration commenced with warm greetings from Deacon Marvin and Sister Carolyn Whitfield, setting the tone of fellowship and joy from the beginning. Mother Yvette Leverett’s welcome, Brother Arthur Peters’ scripture reading and prayer, along with Sister Vanessa White’s soul-stirring rendition of “Hallelujah,” ensured the event began on a spiritually high note. Each segment was infused with genuine passion and a moving presence of the Holy Spirit, engaging the congregation deeply from the very beginning.

The event’s second phase, the “Recitals,” showcased the exceptional oratorical talents of the youth. The segment was a beautiful blend of nerves and confidence as both first-timers and “seasoned” young speakers addressed the congregation. Watching these young individuals articulate their faith with such conviction was not only a testament to their personal growth but also a source of inspiration and blessing for all in attendance. Their courage coupled with their blossoming skills in public speaking, made this segment a highlight of the celebration.



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The culmination of the celebration was a profound portrayal of “The Easter Story,” starting from the lively reenactment of Palm Sunday to the somber reflections of the crucifixion, and finally the triumphant declaration of Jesus’ resurrection. The narrative journey, enriched with strictly scripture reference brought the story of Easter to life in a way that was both engaging and enlightening. The closing with “The Great Commission served as a powerful reminder of the enduring presence and authority of Jesus Christ. The actors’ dedication and the congregation’s response underscored the event’s success in stirring the hearts and motivating continued spiritual growth. The outpouring of support, both in-person and online, was a testament to the event’s impact, leaving attendees filled with hope and the ministry compelled to do more to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.











Pre-K - 2nd Grade Paint & Sip

PRESENTED BY THE EDUCATION MINISTRY



On January 27 the Education Ministry held a paint and sip for grades Pre-K to 2nd grade. There were seven participants who came out and enjoyed snacks and juice while painting their masterpieces. Each child chose the canvas they wanted to paint. The children laughed and critiqued each painting in a good way. Once finished they were able to sign their painting and take it home.





Upcoming Events




CREATIVE LEARNING

Hand Made

Whether you're headed to a family gathering, the church potluck or any other celebration /get together. You'll love this lovely DIY pie/casserole carrier!

CLASS INSTRUCTOR: SIS. SHARON WILSON

WORKSHOP DATE: SATURDAY
MAY 11
10 AM - 2 PM

FOR CLASS INFORMATION
CONTACT ERICHKA @ 404.819.6901

Women's Ministry

"More in 2024"

2nd Saturday Every Month
9:00 Prayer / 9:30 Fellowship
in the
Family Life Center

Women Connecting, Encouraging & Teaching!

Contact Minister Monique Stroman (678)357-8282

Zoom ID: 830 4414 2582
Pass Code: FBCWOMEN

Psalm 51:10

A Day of Education & Fun

May 18th for grades 3rd-5th



hosted by the
Education Ministry

FMI Contact

Sister Joyce Bowers 678*793*0893
 Sister Shevonne Scott 678*748*0018

EARLY VOTING

April 29th-May 17th 7am-7pm

Gwinnett County Early Voting Locations

Gwinnett County Baldwin Building, Bogan Park,
 Dacula Park, George Pierce Park, Lenora Park,
 Lucky Shoals Park, Mountain Park, Pinckneyville Park,
 Rhodes Jordan Park, and Shorty Howell Park

GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

May 21ST 7am-7pm



**GOD'S ROCK-SOLID TRUTH IN A
WORLD OF SHIFTING SANDS**
ROMANS 12:2

FBC VBS 2024

God's Truth Never Changes!!

Theme Verse: "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God."

Romans 12:2 CSB

Get ready for a week of adventure at Breaker Rock Beach where students will learn that God's truth never changes! As they fly kites in the misty seaside air, explore tide pools, and spot orcas and sea lions, students will be challenged to recognize the difference between the lies (or half-truths) of culture and God's unchanging truth.

FBC VBS 2024

Breaker Rock Beach

June 3rd-7th
6-9pm

Day 1: Truth Comes From God

Bible Story: (Genesis 2-3)

Satan Tricked Adam and Eve

Bonus Verse: Psalm 119:160

Spirit Night: Blue

Day 2: God's Plan is Best

Bible Story: (Daniel 1)

Daniel Chose God's Way

Bonus Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

Spirit Night: Yellow

Day 3: Everyone Needs Jesus

Bible Story: (Mark 10:17-27)

The Rich Young Ruler

Bonus Verse: Romans 3:23-24

Spirit Night: Green

Day 4: Jesus Is The Only Way

Bible Story: (John 14:1-6; 18-20; Acts 1:9-12)

John Wrote About Jesus

Bonus Verse: Acts 4:12

Spirit Night: Orange

Day 5: Speak The Truth In Love

Bible Story: (Acts 9:1-6; 19:1-10, 21-31; 20:1; Ephesians 3:14- 4:16)

Paul Encouraged the Ephesians

Spirit Night: Red

Beach Party!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for teachers, registration, decoration, kitchen crew, crafts, games, security, and more!

Contact Kindell May at (770) 715-3726 or fbcduluthvbs@gmail.com

JUNE 9, 2024 | FBC CELEBRATING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

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



MENS MINISTRY PRESENTS TASTE OF FRIENDSHIP EAT, LAUGH, & FELLOWSHIP



June 15th 2024

Family Life Center @ 12PM -2PM

The Men's Ministry is spicing things up with the revival of "Men Who Cook" now rebranded as "A Taste of Friendship." Calling all men to come out and flaunt your top dishes for this fun culinary showcase! Let's turn up the heat and have a blast!

We are encouraging all men to come out and show off their skills.

Registration Cut-off: MAY 26, 2024

We invite everyone to join us and support the men as we aim to impress you with our culinary creations. This event is open to everyone, come out and let

The Men of Friendship cook for you.



To register contact

Ryan Dendy (267) 252-7868

Kevin Hayes (678) 287-6997



Spring Cleaning



WRITTEN BY WHITNEY BROWN



This time of year is synonymous with the hustling and bustling of spring cleaning and heavy dusting. Windows are washed, floors are hand-scrubbed, and linens are freshened. As we refresh our physical homes in preparation for the warmer weather, let us be reminded to also refresh our spirits in preparation for all that God has in store next season!

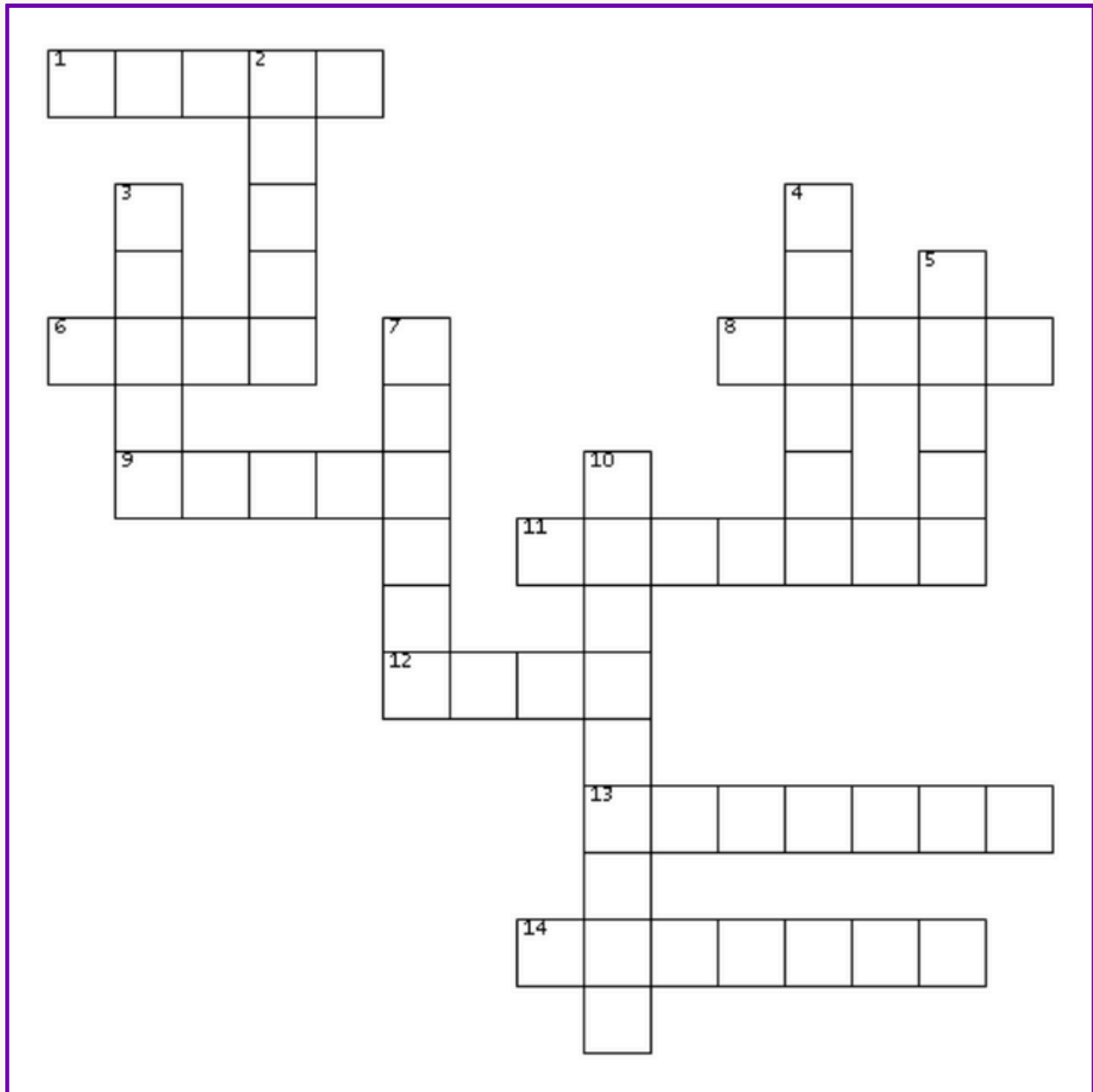
Every spring, we watch withered, winter leaves blossom anew into colorful spring blooms. Likewise, let us pray for renewal in the spirit of our minds so that we may “put on a new man created by God.” (Ephesians 4:22-24 NKJV)

In Psalm 51:10 (NKJV) David asks God, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.” A few scriptures prior in verse 7, he also says, “Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

Like David, let us be asking God to cleanse our spirits and renew our minds so that we may better reflect Him. Let us also be grateful for a God whose lovingkindness and mercies upon us are abundant in every season of our lives. (Psalm 51:1 NKJV)



What's the Word?



Answers can be found on the next page.

ACROSS

1. The mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments
6. Garden where Adam and Eve lived
8. The tenth commandment
9. The number of days it took for God to create the world
11. The first book of the Bible
12. The Ark builder
13. The wife of Isaac
14. The symbol of God's covenant with Noah

DOWN

2. The brother of Moses
3. The disciple who betrayed Jesus
4. The disciple known as "the doubter"
5. The son of God
7. The land promised to Abraham's descendants
10. The father of John the Baptist

"We walk in forgiveness..."

Thanks for reading

Friendship's Voice

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter!

The deadline for June Newsletter articles is Friday, May 17th



What's the Word Puzzle Answers

1. Sinai 2. Arron 3. Judas 4. Thomas 5. Jesus 6. Eden 7. Canaan 8. Covet 9. Seven 10. Zechariah 11. Genesis 12. Noah 13. Rebekah 14. Rainbow

Communications Ministry

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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 9:00am - 4:00pm

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

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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