



Rev. Ronald L. Bowens
Pastor

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

SEPTEMBER 2024

VOL. 11, ISSUE 8

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

Peace

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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 2 - Labor Day
- 7 - Author Signing Event
- 8 - The Master Life Series begins
- 9 - The Mind of Christ bible study begins
- 14 - Creative Learning Ministry: Craft Date Pt. 1
- 28 - Duluth Fall Festival (Sept 28-29)
- 30 - Revival (Sept 30-Oct 2)
- Oct**
- 4 - 40th Anniversary Dinner
- 6 - 40th Anniversary Service

The deadline for October Newsletter articles is Friday, September 20th

THEME OF THE MONTH

Peace

WRITTEN BY SIS. HYACINTH CHUNG



Peace can be considered freedom from disturbance, tranquility, calmness, restfulness, lawfulness or order. When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, we can have peace even when the storms are raging around us because we can lean on God and rest upon His Word. In the midst of the storm we can have contentment and calmness.

Believers must be civil, forgiving and loving towards each other for peace to reign among them. Then, God's people will see fertility in the church from the blessings produced by the Word of God. *Colossians 3:15: "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."*

True peace comes when we exercise the fruit of the Spirit. Peace with God is designed in a man's conscience, and is produced by the Spirit of God. The effect of peace is quietness and tranquility of mind; it is also peace with men, with the saints and with all others. *Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

The Apostle Paul charges us to pursue peace and holiness. Pursuing anything requires energy, and it can sometimes be very hard work. Peace is contrary to our sin nature, so we must try very hard to feed the fruit of the Spirit. We should be exercising daily, so peace can conquer and reign in our lives. *Hebrews 12:14: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."*

Peace can only come about with good, clean living and feeding on the Word of God. When we eat the Word of God daily, His characteristics will show in our walk and talk; this, we are reminded by *Philippians 4:7, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

Scripture of the Month

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILLIPIANS 4:6-7 (NASB)

HYMN OF THE MONTH

At The Cross

WRITTEN BY ISSAC WATTS

At the Cross

139

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us — Romans 5:8 NIV

1. A - las, and did my Sav - ior bleed, And did my Sov-'reign die?
 2. Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned up - on the tree?
 3. Well might the sun in dark - ness hide, And shut his glo - ries in,
 4. Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While Cal - v'ry's cross ap - pears,
 5. But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The debt of love I owe;

Would He de - vote that sa - cred head For sin - ners such as I?
 A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
 When Christ the might - y Mak - er died For man, the crea - ture's sin.
 Dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
 Here, Lord, I give my - self a - way, 'Tis all that I can do.

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light, And the

bur - den of my heart rolled a - way, It was there by faith
 rolled a - way,

I re - ceived my sight, And now I am hap - py all the day!

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; refrain, Ralph E. Hudson, 1843-1901
 MUSIC: Ralph E. Hudson, 1843-1901

HUDSON
 8.6.8.6.(C.M.) with Refrain

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

Barbara Williams Brown

Sis. Alice Burnes

Bro. Dwayne Bynum

Sis. Chastity Collier

Sis. Sarah Collins

Dea. Kevin Corbett

Elder Chris Evans

Sis. Andrea Green

Sis. Ruth Griggs

Sis. Barbara Hall

Bro. Emanuel Hazell

Sis. Dorothy Hines

Bro. Willie Irvin

Bro. Patrick Jones

Sis. Valerie McClendon

Sis. Virginia McLemore

Sis. Thelma Matthews

Sis. Josephine May

Bro. Will May

Sis. Diane Meeks

Miss. Kaitlyn Miles

JC Mitchell

Sis. Alice Murphy

Sis. Terry Nagbe

Ms. Patricia Ochogu

The Poe Family

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

The Wells Family

Rev. Dwight Wilkerson

Sis. Valerie Williams

Sis. Sadie Wilson

Bro. Victor Winston Jr.

Sis. Priscilla Wise

Sis. Dorothy Woods

Sis. Lola Wright

Prayer changes things.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON*National Grandparents Day!*

WRITTEN BY SIS. CHRISTINE SMITH



Grandparents play a very special and significant role in the lives of their grandchildren. *Proverbs 17:6: Grandchildren are the crown of the old, And the glory of sons is their fathers.*

This year, National Grandparents Day is observed in the United States on Sunday, September 8, 2024. National Grandparents Day was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter in 1978 and is recognized the first Sunday after Labor Day each year. The official flower for the occasion is the “forget-me-not” (pictured above.)

The grandparent/grandchild(ren) relationship (whether biological or honorary) is often characterized by a unique bond that can have significant positive effects on both parties. Research shows this intergenerational connection can lead to many benefits, including improved long life for grandparents and emotional resilience for children. *Proverbs 16:31, A gray head is a crown of glory; It is found in the way of righteousness.*

National Grandparents Day is an opportunity to celebrate this important bond between generations. It encourages families to spend quality time together and strengthens bonds that positively contribute to the emotional well-being of children and the overall health of their grandparents. *Psalms 103:17, But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting for those who fear Him, And His justice to the children’s children.*

You may want to celebrate grandparents with a special card or gift, yet a “grand” gesture just may be the gift of time – quality time spent together and to appreciate the older generations of our families. *Psalms 37:25, I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging for bread.*

Grandchildren are the pride of their grandparents – you often hear grandparents say they are far more lenient with their grandchildren than they were with their children. They often and almost always say, “Yes!” when the parents say, “No!”

What a wonderful way to celebrate National Grandparents Day at church service with loved ones. Quality time together spent in worship and Sunday dinner seems like a win-win for the generations.



Happy Grandparents Day, Meemaw and G-paw!



Pastor's Speaking Engagement

PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH'S "TERRIFIC TUESDAYS IN THE WORD"

WRITTEN BY SIS. LATRELL CARR



On Tuesday, August 6th, at 7:30 p.m., Pastor Ronald L. Bowens delivered a powerful sermon at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, where Dr. Ronald D. Dunnigan serves as Senior Pastor. The evening was part of Pleasant Hill's "Terrific Tuesdays in the Word," a special summer revival series.

The service began with a scripture reading from Psalm 85:1-6, setting a tone of reflection and hope. Following this, the Friendship Baptist Church (FBC) Praise Team, accompanied by the FBC Music Ministry, filled the sanctuary with worship, singing Fred Hammond's uplifting anthem, "We're Blessed." The praise and worship set the stage for a spiritually enriching evening.

The sanctuary was filled with members from both Pleasant Hill and FBC, all eager to hear the word that Pastor Bowens would share. Pastor Bowens' sermon, entitled "Life's Cave Experiences," drew from 1 Samuel 22:1-4, where David, the future king, finds himself in a cave—alone, defeated, and discouraged. Pastor Bowens skillfully wove together the ancient story of David with relevant lessons for today's believers, emphasizing that even in our darkest moments, God is at work, shaping us for greater things.



The sermon was structured around three key points:

1. The Realities of the Cave:

David's time in the cave represented a period of separation, where he was stripped of all his usual supports and left to rely solely on God. Pastor Bowens reminded the congregation that there are times in our lives when we are similarly isolated, but it is in these moments that our dependence on God deepens.

2. The Revelation of the Cave:

Pastor Bowens highlighted that in the cave, the true nature of David's character and heart was revealed. Through pain and problems, David's leadership qualities were brought to the surface. Pastor Bowens encouraged the congregation to recognize that our own cave experiences can reveal and refine our character, preparing us for the roles God has in store for us.

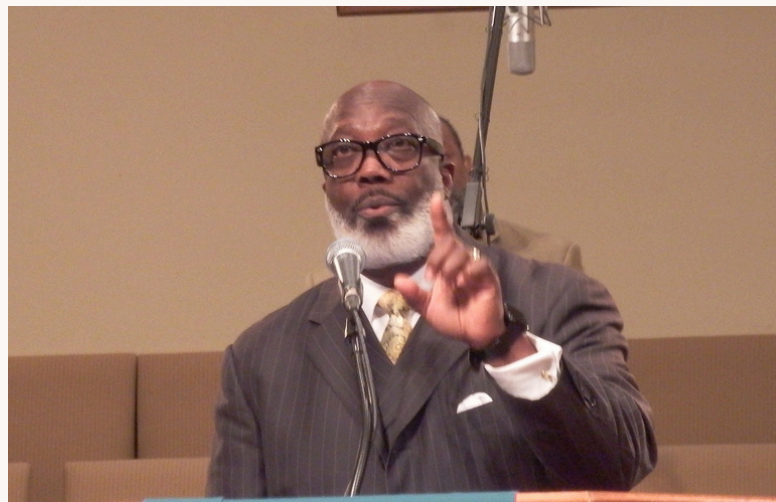
Pastors' Speaking Engagement

3. The Refreshments of the Cave:

Despite the hardships, David emerged from the cave refreshed and renewed, ready to embrace his destiny as king. Pastor Bowens underscored that God uses our cave experiences to renew our focus, helping us discern what truly matters. These moments of darkness can be times of transformation, where God restores, revives, and prepares us for the blessings ahead.

As the service concluded, Pastor Bowens' message was a reminder that even in our lowest moments, God is at work, shaping us for His purposes. The evening was a testament to the power of God's word to uplift, challenge, and transform His people.

We give thanks for the fellowship shared between our congregation and Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, and for the opportunity to be blessed by Pastor Bowens' anointed message. Let us carry these lessons with us, confident that in every cave, God is preparing us for the crowns He has in store.





Annual Back to School Event



Submitted by Sis. Angela Campbell



The Friendship Baptist Church Outreach Ministry held its annual Back to School event on Saturday, July 27, 2024, in the Fellowship Hall. One hundred backpacks filled with school supplies were available for students from Pre-K to High School. We were also able to provide backpacks and supplies for 2 Pre-K classes at a local Title 1 elementary school.

The event included lunch, arts and craft activities and a special guest speaker, Judge Tadia Whitner of Gwinnett County Superior Court. Judge Whitner provided valuable insight, and encouragement to the students on how to make the most of their academic years.



Key take aways from Judge Whitner's address:

- The importance of being mindful of what is posted on social media. She reminded the students that these items will exist indefinitely and the potential impact of posting inappropriate content.
- The importance of getting involved in extracurricular activities, particularly those that provide opportunities to build leadership skills.
- Various tips and insight on achieving academic success such as time management, taking advantage of opportunities for extra credit and asking for help when needed.



📚 Back to School Event 🖍️

The event was chaired by Angela Campbell who coordinated the shopping, packing and distribution along with a team of very able and committed volunteers.

The Outreach Ministry would like to thank Judge Whitner, the volunteers, and those who donated supplies. Your assistance went a long way in helping our students get ready for a successful school year.

We pray God's protection over all the students as they return to school this year.





Men That Cook: Taste of Friendship



The Men's Ministry extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our Taste of Friendship event. We were thrilled to have 24 men showcase their culinary talents. The menu featured a variety of dishes including brisket, ribs, meatballs, fried fish, jerk chicken, and croissant waffles. Meanwhile, the kids enjoyed a movie, pizza, nuggets, and snacks throughout the event.

A special thank you goes to Deacon Patterson for providing the inspiration with the Men that Cook initiative from the 2000s, which we were excited to revive in 2024. We also appreciate Deacon Jerralds for introducing this idea to the Men's Ministry and Deacon Marvin Whitfield for his invaluable assistance during the planning and execution.



The event was a wonderful demonstration of unity, fellowship, and good old-fashioned fun. Our gratitude also goes to Omaarh for enhancing the afternoon with delightful music and easy listening. We look forward to bringing this event back in 2025 and hope for even greater participation. No one left hungry, as there was more than enough delicious food to go around.



🔪 Men That Cook: Taste of Friendship 🍲

The Men's Ministry is thriving, and we're excited to close out 2024 with purpose and enthusiasm. We invite all the men of Friendship to join us for upcoming indoor and outdoor activities and fellowship.

A huge thank you goes out to all the men who helped set up, clean up, prepared dishes, and participated in conference calls. This event wouldn't have been possible without your efforts. You've shown what can be accomplished when we come together, and your contributions are both appreciated and essential.





Creative Learning Ministry Charity Project

On Saturday, August 10th, the Creative Learning Ministry led by Sis. Erichka Rogers gathered in partnership with The Ryan's Case for Smiles to assemble 25 pillow cases for children in treatment for cancer. The vibrant and charismatic pillow cases help bring a much needed emotional boost and bit of extra hope so they can "feel better to heal better."

The instructor of the day was Coordinator Barbara Means.

Thank God for the opportunity to use our creativity to pour into others in their time of need.



“We, the Mothers...”

We, the Mothers of Friendship Baptist Church, strive to lead by example. We are very passionate about the manner in which we dress, speak, and demonstrate our love for Christ, our pastor, and others. We are especially passionate about ensuring that our attire lines up with representing our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We refrain from gossiping, idleness, and strive to be more Christlike in all circumstances. We have raised our children in a manner not pleasing to ourselves, but pleasing to God, by teaching them to always remember their morals, and to act with integrity. We support and pray for our Pastor, church leaders, and congregation. We are also responsible for preparing the communion elements and assisting with baptism.

The Mother's Ministry is here to serve and we are approachable in any and all situations as it pertains to our members, especially our young women. We love each and every one of you!

The Mothers Ministry

**Welcomes YOU to
Prayer, Devotion &
Biblical Inspiration**



Every Sunday at 8:30 AM

Join via Zoom: [FBCDuluth.org](https://fbcduluth.org)

Select: Worship - Word, Prayer, & Devotion

Click: Join Live



The Mother's Ministry of Friendship Baptist Church

Mother Gerald Baker 404-539-9133

Mother Dorothy Blagmon 404-583-5658

Mother Pat Ashe 678-464-7886

Mother Estella Brown 470-796-4176

Mother Brenda Graves 770-710-5128

Mother Yvette Leverett 727-348-3331



Prepare Your Home!

Written by Sis. Whitney Brown



In 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated September as National Preparedness Month, encouraging people to gather supplies and prepare their homes for any future emergencies. As important as it is to prepare our Earthly homes for the future, how much more important is it to prepare for our eternal homes?

I once heard a preacher say, “Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people.” What a soul-stirring statement! In John 14:2-3 (NKJV), Jesus tells us, “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” Christ is busy preparing a glorious place for us in Heaven, and its splendor cannot compare to any Earthly dwelling! However, we aren’t supposed to just be sitting idle while waiting for His return. In Matthew, Jesus charges us to “..lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”
(Matthew 6:20 NKJV)

You may wonder, how do we collect and store these “heavenly treasures” for our homes? The answer is found in Apostle Paul’s letters to Timothy. 1 Timothy 6:18-19 reads, “Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. (NKJV)” Living a life rich in mercy and compassion, grounded in service to God and to others is how we can store up for ourselves many treasures for our future heavenly home.

As we draw up our emergency plans and dutifully prepare our ‘brick and mortar’ homes this September, let us ensure our lives are aligned with the Word of God so that our eternal homes may be prepared also.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33 NKJV)





Sis. Kiane Denise Davis



On behalf of the Communications Ministry we want to acknowledge and celebrate the life of our very own Kiane Davis who was called home to glory on August 1, 2024. Even though her transition was a shock to all of us, we trust that it was right in God's timing, and we are blessed to have known her during her life. Kiane leaves an inspiring legacy of vibrance, grace, and love. She will be missed tremendously.

Our Ministry President, Bro. Louie Malone, was able to attend her home going celebration in New Orleans, LA. He is still singing praises about the majesty of the ceremony. Please enjoy some of the moments captured below.

Kiane's obituary can be found on the next page.



A Tribute to Sis. Kiane Davis

Obituary

Kiane Denise Davis was born August 28, 1973. She departed this life on August 1, 2024, in New Orleans LA. She was the first-born child to parents Melvin Bernard and Barbara Scott Davis. Kiane accepted Christ and was baptized at an early age at Law Street Missionary B.C. where she attended with her family, pastored by Rev. Eddie B. Scott and Rev. Joseph T. Benoit. Kiane spent much of her formative years at Franklin Ave. B.C. in New Orleans, pastored by Rev. Fred Luter Sr.

Kiane was a graduate of McDonald 35 High School and attended Xavier University and The University of New Orleans where she studied music. Kiane grew up dancing at Syrell’s School of Dance with her sister Deidra. Many of their childhood dance classmates became lifelong friends. Kiane always looked out for her younger brother, Kevin, who greatly admired his sister. Kiane was fondly known to her family as “Keedy”.

Kiane was a true renaissance woman in the performing arts. Her professional career in Entertainment Production, Theater Performance and Production Management covered a period of 25 years. Kiane’s career stretched from Louisiana to Georgia and abroad. Her roles included Director, Production & Stage Manager, Choreographer, Singer, Dancer and Performer. As a performer she sang with the world renown Moses Hogan Choral and continued to travel abroad with Bridget Bazile. Made for the stage, she would often speak of how much she enjoyed working behind the scenes, making things happen and watching it all come to life. Kiane was vibrant and loved the creative side of the arts.

In her early twenties after moving to Atlanta, she became a member of Friendship B.C., pastored by Rev. Ronald L. Bowens. Here, Kiane actively served in the Audio Visual & Production Ministry. In Atlanta Kiane also worked as a Massage Therapy Instructor, a Tournament Director for Interstate Poker and competed with a semi-pro competition Pool League. As a gamer she built strong bonds with her Online community.

Kiane’s transition is preceded by her paternal grandparents Alton & Celestine Davis and her maternal grandparents Richard & Rosie Scott. She is survived by her father Melvin B. Davis; her mother Barbara S. Davis; sister Deidra Davis Dunham, Brother Kevin Scott Davis; Brother-in-law Lucious Dunham, and her two nephews Lucious “LJ” & Langston Dunham, who affectionately called her “Nanny”, including a host of other friends, relatives, and business associates. Her legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all those who knew and loved her.

Kiane’s 25 years in Entertainment Production, Theater Performance & Production Management :

- Bazillionaire Group LLC, Touring Manager, Creative Coordinator
- Manager for Summer and Winter European Tours (Gospel & Classical Music), France, Spain
- Jefferson Performing Arts, Production Stage Director/Stage Manager/Choreographer/Performer
- New Orleans Opera, Production Stage Manager/Assistant Director
- New Dawn Theatre, Production Director/Stage Manager, Duluth Georgia





**HAPPY
LABOR
DAY**

The graphic features the words 'HAPPY LABOR DAY' in large, bold, sans-serif letters. The letters are filled with patterns from the American flag: stars and stripes. The word 'HAPPY' is blue with white stars, 'LABOR' is blue with white stars, and 'DAY' is red with white stripes. To the left of 'DAY' is a red and white hammer, and to the right is a red and white wrench.



THE
CHURCH OFFICE
WILL BE
CLOSED ON

The background of this section is a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars, angled diagonally from the top right to the bottom left.

LABOR DAY

LIBERTY BOOKS; 176 CROGAN ST. LAWRENCEVILLE, GA

Author Signing Event

Leslie N. Clark

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7TH 10-2PM

Come celebrate National Grandparents Day with local author, Leslie Clark and her Magical Grandparent Series!



www.LeslieNClark.com

FBC Creative Learning

Craft Date
Part I

SEPTEMBER

14th

10 am - 2 pm

in the Fellowship Hall

Instructor:

Ms. Catherine Morgan



Double Crochet
Cardigan/ Shawl

Register NOW

Contact:

Erichka Rogers

404.819.6901

required materials

40th Pastoral Anniversary Overview

Pastor Bowens is about to achieve a major milestone. Several activities are planned to commemorate Pastor Bowens' 40th Pastoral Anniversary. Pastor's Anniversary Theme: "Determined to Finish Well"
Scripture: Acts 20:24

Friendship Baptist Church and the Shepherd's Care Ministry encourage you to join in this celebration.



40th Anniversary Service

Anniversary activities will conclude with a special dedicated service on Sunday, October 6, 2024 @ 11:00am in the main sanctuary.



40th Anniversary Book Signing Opportunity

You have the opportunity to provide a personal acknowledgement of this milestone for Pastor Bowens and Sister Debbie. The autograph book is located in the church foyer. Stop by and provide your acknowledgements from 9:30 to 10:45 am or immediately after the 11:00 am service.



40th Anniversary Revival

There will be a 40th Anniversary Revival held Monday - Wednesday, September 30 to October 2, 2024 @ 7:30 pm nightly. The guest speaker will be Rev. Abraham Mosley, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Athens, GA.

For more information, visit the 40th Anniversary page on the church website: fbcduluth.org. If you have questions, please contact one of the Shepherd's Care Ministry representatives below.

Vickie Chambers @ 678-682-1105

Rita Bowens @ 678-459-2202

Rhoda Green @ 678-910-9888

"True peace comes when we exercise the fruit of the Spirit."

Thanks for reading

Friendship's Voice

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter!

The deadline for October Newsletter articles is Friday, September 20th



Communications Ministry

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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

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 Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

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 Website: www.fbcduluth.org

Leadership

FBC ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Rev. Ken Blacknell	Rev. Artis Johnson
Elder Chris Evans	Min. Larry Jones
Rev. Garfield Garner	Rev. Timothy Twyman
Rev. Eugene Graves	Rev. Stanley Williams
Min. Shurron Green	Rev. Alton Wilson
Rev. Stanley Jackson	

FBC MINISTERS OF EVANGELISM

Min. Karen Blackwell	Evg. Kimberly Rogers
Evg. Geneva Burse	Min. Monique Stroman
Evg. Valerie A. Montague	Min. Barbara Williams
Evg. Ruthell Morris	

Improvements to FBC's website are ongoing. Feedback can be provided to the **Communications Ministry** at tag49llm@aol.com