



Rev. Ronald L. Bowens  
Pastor

# FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE



OCTOBER 2024

VOL. 11, ISSUE 9

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

## 40th Pastoral Anniversary

# Humility

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### OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 6 - 40th Pastoral Anniversary Service
- 7 - Voter Registration deadline
- 12 - Women’s Ministry meeting  
Creative Learning Craft Date Pt. 2
- 13 - Communion Sunday
- 19 - Education Ministry Meet & Greet  
Emergency Services Guideline  
Awareness
- 20 - Pink Out Sunday
- 26 - Friendship Clothing Boutique Grand  
Reopening & Fish Fry

**The deadline for November Newsletter articles is Friday, October 18th**

# Rev. Ronald L. & Sister Debbie Bowens

## 40th Pastoral Anniversary

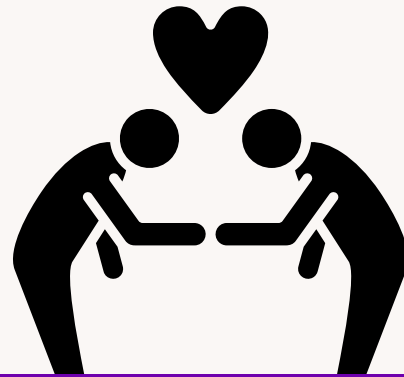


This year marks Reverend Ronald L. and Sister Debbie Bowens' 40th Pastoral Anniversary. Congratulations, on this monumental milestone. We cannot thank you enough for your constant dedication and admirable leadership throughout the years. May the Lord continue to bless you, your family, and your ministry greatly.

## THEME OF THE MONTH

# Humility

WRITTEN BY SIS. HYACINTH CHUNG



The dictionary defines humility as a mode or low view of one's importance, humbleness, modesty, meekness, lack of pride, lack of vanity, and unassertiveness. In other words, it can be considered as the feeling or attitude that you have no special importance that makes you better than others.

Biblically speaking, humility is the practice of meekness, obedience to God, respect of self and others, submissiveness, and modesty (Colossians 3: 12-14). People with humility put others' needs before their own, making sacrifices for the love of others. Therefore, humility is a divine characteristic that is a foundation for a life that pleases God and a way to imitate Christ. It is a virtue that can be practiced by anyone, regardless of wealth, status, or job title (Philippians 2:3-8). Christ gives us a perfect example of humility. He went to the cross and gave up His life so that others might live.

We can exercise humility if we aim to continually listen, receive, and respond to others with generous openness to life from the deep conviction of God's loving kindness and goodwill. Spiritual humility is reliant upon the God who is above us all. He is most often known in ways that include and yet transcend our physical senses alone.

Jesus' biggest act of service that showed His humility was when He washed the feet of His disciples on Good Friday. This action is taken as a sign of servitude and humility. Proverbs 22:4 states "Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life". 1 Peter 5:6 tells us to "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time".

Let us therefore strive to exercise humility in all we do. Whether in the church, on the job, or in our homes, we must have a spirit of servitude and humbleness, helping each other along the way. A good way to start is by opening your heart to God, letting the Holy Spirit in so the Fire of God can burn away all the dross and callousness, so then true revival will set in making the changes as you submit wholeheartedly to God.

# Scripture of the Month

**<sup>9</sup> Be miserable, and mourn, and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy into gloom.<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.**

JAMES 4:9-10 (NASB)

HYMN OF THE MONTH

# Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

WRITTEN BY JENNIE WILSON

248 **Hold to God's Unchanging Hand** F. L. EILAND

JENNIE WILSON

1. Time is filled with swift tran-si-tion, Naught of earth un-moved can stand,  
 2. Trust in Him who will not leave you, What-so-ev-er years may bring;  
 3. Cov-et not this world's vain riches, That so rap-id-ly de-cay;  
 4. When your journey is com-plet-ed, If to God you have been true,

Build your hopes on things e-ter-nal, Hold to God's un-chang-ing hand!  
 If by earth-ly friends for-sak-en, Still more close-ly to Him cling!  
 Seek to gain the heav'n-ly treas-ures, They will nev-er pass a-way!  
 Fair and bright the home in glo-ry, Your en-rap-tured soul will view!

**REFRAIN**

Hold to God's un-chang-ing hand! Hold to God's un-chang-ing hand!  
 Hold to His hand, Hold to His hand,

*rit.* *Repeat Refrain softly*

Build your hopes on things e-ter-nal, Hold to God's un-chang-ing hand! A-men.

# 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

Bro. James Brownsmith

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. 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

Mr. Cyril Shields

Bro. Rudy Simmons

Mr. Claudius Stafford

Bro. Xavier Stephens

Sis. Johnnie Stewart

Sis. Mabel Thomas

The Wells Family

Rev. Dwight Wilkerson

Sis. Shelby Wilkerson

Sis. Valerie Williams

Sis. Sadie Wilson

Bro. Victor Winston Jr.

Sis. Priscilla Wise

Sis. Dorothy Woods

Sis. Lola Wright



**HIGHLIGHTING BLACK HISTORY**

# *African American Quarterbacks and the NFL*

WRITTEN BY SIS. DIANE RUSSELL



As the new NFL season begins, I'm excited for my Pittsburgh Steelers, I guess every team's fans feel they have an opportunity to win the Super Bowl this year. As my friends and I debate who our starting quarterback will be, it is brought to my attention that we have an African American coach deciding which African American quarterback will start for his team. While I take this for granted, the generation before me reminds me how infrequently this was just 25 years ago. The Atlanta Falcons' 1st African American starting quarterback was Michael Vick in 2001. Of the 32 teams in the NFL, 15 teams will have an African American quarterback starting for their team. This is the most in NFL history.

It was once thought that African American football players did not have the intelligence to be quarterbacks, they were just athletic and would not be able to make the decisions (this is before coaches could talk to quarterbacks through their helmets) without calling a timeout and getting the play from the coaches. The desegregation of the quarterback position in the NFL took place in 1968 with Marlin Briscoe of the Denver Broncos.



Briscoe played quarterback at Omaha University from 1963-1967 and had a record of 27-11 as their starting quarterback. When the Broncos drafted Marlin, they intended to convert him to a cornerback, which is a defensive position. While at Omaha, Briscoe set 22 records, including a passing 55% percentage, 4,935 passing yards, 52 touchdown passes, and 6,253 total offensive yards.

On September 29, 1968, the starting quarterback for the Broncos was injured with a broken collarbone, and the 2nd string quarterback was spotty. Lou Saban, the coach at the time, put Briscoe in as the quarterback. Even though the Broncos lost to the Patriots, Briscoe had 43 passing yards and 51 rushing yards with 1 touchdown pass. The final score of the game was 20-17. Martin was the starting quarterback for the Broncos for the remainder of the season, with a record of 5 wins and 6 losses.

### HIGHLIGHTING BLACK HISTORY

As the 1968 season was to begin, the Broncos wanted Briscoe to play wide receiver, but he was determined to play quarterback and asked to be traded. He was traded to the Buffalo Bills. The Bills had Marlin playing wide receiver because the team had 3 superstar quarterbacks, including African American quarterback, James Harris.

Nevertheless, Briscoe not only desegregated the starting quarterback position, but he also dispelled the stereotype of African American football players. Following Martin Briscoe, we've had Doug Williams, Russell Wilson, and Patrick Mahomes win Super Bowls. Rodney Peete, Randall Cunningham, and Warren Moon showed us they can do more than run for yards. Jalen Hurts, C.J. Stroud and Jordan Love have led legendary football teams to the playoffs. Briscoe was a true trailblazer for the legacy of African American quarterbacks.







# FBC Health Fair



On Saturday, August 24th, the Health Ministry, led by Sis. Teresa Goodman hosted the FBC Health Fair in the Family Life Center. This event featured multiple vendors from our local community including farmers markets, chiropractors, financial health, senior living, food demos, blood pressure screenings, blood drives, and more! It created a great opportunity for members of the community to gain awareness and connect to local wellness resources and information. The event also featured raffles and giveaways for the participants. You can view some of the many wonderful vendors in the pictures below.



### FBC HEALTH FAIR



### FBC HEALTH FAIR



# Creative Learning Ministry Craft Date Pt.1



WRITTEN AND SUBMITTED BY SIS.  
CHRISTINE SMITH



In September, the Creative Learning Ministry learned and perfected the double crochet stitch. This month's instructor was Ms. Catherine Morgan.

Ms. Morgan taught the essential skills for anyone interested in crocheting. The double crochet stitch is versatile and can be used to create various patterns and designs, making it a valuable technique to master. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced crocheter, learning how to double crochet is an important step in your crochet journey to create your prayer shawl or cardigan.

The ministry members took away tips and tricks to help master the technique as it can be a challenging stitch. Some tips and tricks shared were to practice your tension; use stitch markers; count your stitches; learn to read your work; practice, practice, and more practice! The finished products should be revealed in October, stay tuned.



**CREATIVE LEARNING MINISTRY CRAFT DATE PT. 1**





# FBC Outreach Sunday



On Sunday, September 15th, the church took time to recognize the efforts and service of the Outreach Ministry. The ministry sat in the front left pews of the sanctuary, and recap video recap of ministry activities was played over the projectors, and then they were blessed with kind words and praises by Deacon Williams.

Thank you to the Outreach Ministry for all that you do for our church and our community. God bless you all!



# “Changing Colors”

Written by Sis. Whitney Brown

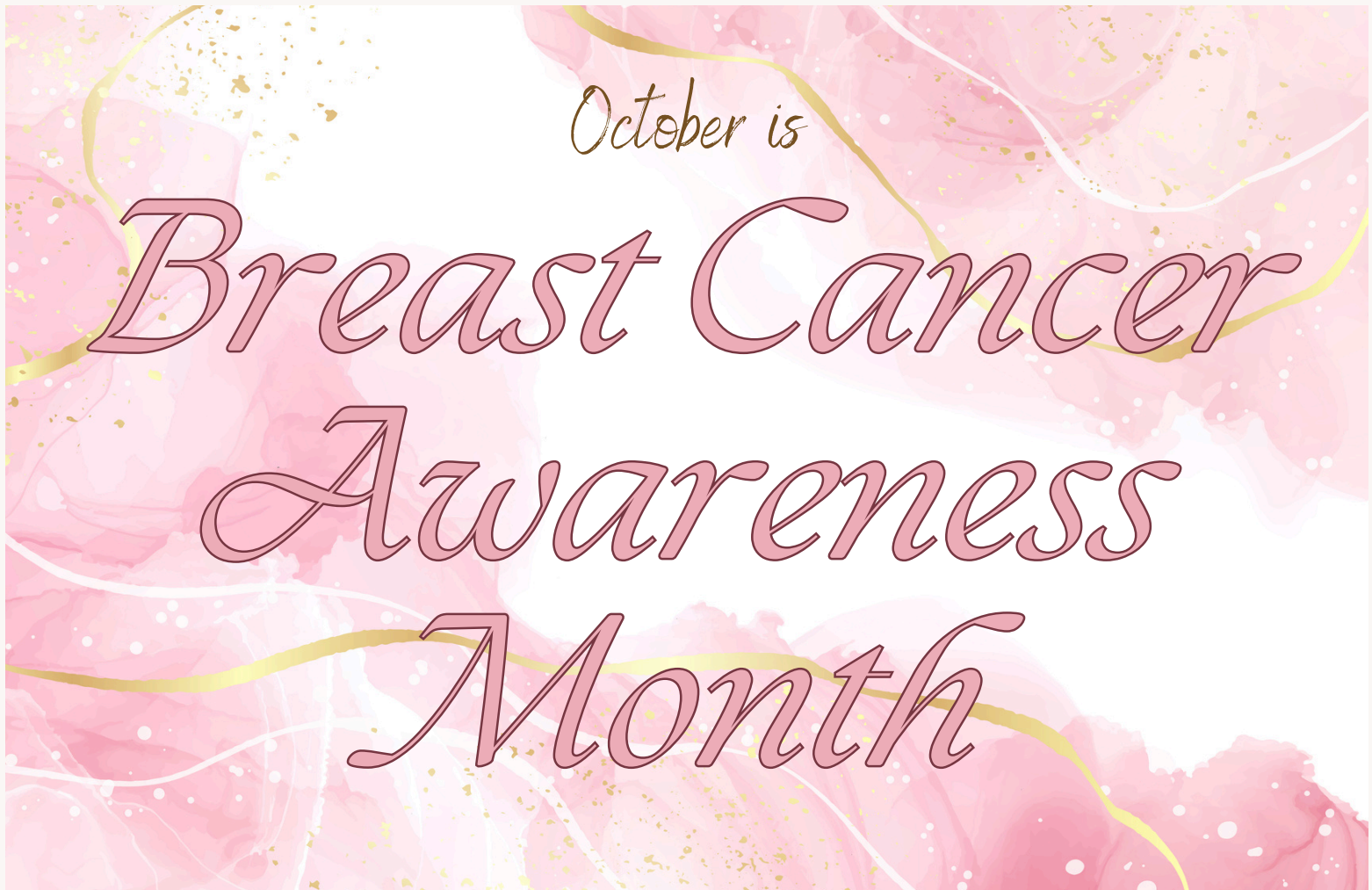


If you've taken a moment to look outside of your windows lately, you've probably noticed some big differences. The once fully green foliage has seemingly in an instant become brilliant hues of red, orange, and yellow. Expected as it may be, the sight never fails to amaze. Autumn has arrived, and God's creative workmanship celebrates its arrival with vibrant colors surrounding us!

As we near the end of the calendar year, this colorful season always causes me to center in on my walk with God and in which ways “my leaves” may better reflect The Creator's design. Fall's gusty wind carries with it my solemn prayers of repentance and restoration. And as He did for David, God “..restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. (Psalms 23:3 NKJV)”

When we regularly meditate on God's Word and kneel at His feet in request for the renewing of our minds, we are like the tree that David speaks of in Psalm 1:2-3 (NKJV). Even as the seasons begin to change, our leaves shall not wither and we shall always prosper. And with a heart posture of hope in Christ, we are like the tree planted by the river in Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NKJV). We will not fear when seasons of hardship come upon us; we will have blessed roots- forever yielding fruit and luscious leaves. Praise be to God!

**“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever. (Isaiah 40:7-8 NKJV)”**



*October is*

# *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*



*The Women's Ministry  
invites you to observe*

## **Pink Out Sunday October 20th**

*In observance of  
Breast Cancer Awareness Month*

*Feel free to represent in any  
attire or accessory of pink.*





# FBC Creative Learning

Part II

Saturday

October 12th

10 am - 2 pm

Location:

Fellowship Hall

Craft Date

Contact:

Erichka Rogers

404.819.6901

\*required materials\*

Instructor:

Ms. Catherine Morgan



Double Crochet  
Cardigan/ Shawl

## Evacuation Services Ministry Emergency Services

Emergency Evacuation Service Guideline Awareness

October 19<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am

FBC Gym

Deacon Thomas Young  
[tyoung6027@gmail.com](mailto:tyoung6027@gmail.com)

219.622.0635

Deacon Michael Jerrals  
[jerrals@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrals@hotmail.com)

770.815.0604



*FBC Education  
Ministry presents . . .*

# *MEET & GREET*

**Interested in hearing more about, and  
working with, the Education Ministry ?**

*Join us . . .*

**Saturday, 10/19/24**

**at 11:00 AM**

**Family Life Center**

**Room 130**



*"A good way to start is by opening your heart to God..."*

Thanks for reading

# Friendship's Voice

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter!

**The deadline for November Newsletter articles is Friday, October 18th**



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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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Elder Chris Evans

Rev. Garfield Garner

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Rev. Stanley Jackson

Rev. Artis Johnson

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Rev. Timothy Twyman

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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

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