



Rev. Ronald L. BOWENS
Pastor

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

NOVEMBER 2024

VOL. 11, ISSUE 10

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

Thanksgiving

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NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 3 - Daylight Savings ends
- 5 - Election Day
- 9 - Women’s Ministry Meeting
Creative Learning Open Craft Day
- 10 - Veteran’s Day Service
Pastor Bowen’s Speaking Engagement
- 11 - Veteran’s Day
- 27 - Thanksgiving Luncheon
- 28 - Thanksgiving Day

THEME OF THE MONTH

Thanksgiving

WRITTEN BY SIS. HYACINTH CHUNG



Thanksgiving is a secular holiday, observed in many countries, as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the previous year's harvest. This celebration is set aside as a once-per-year event.

Thanksgiving, for God's people, should be a lifestyle - an everyday continuous act. It should be embedded in our hearts and be the heart of our daily worship to God. We were created for worship, and worship without thanksgiving is like having the spread without the turkey. Thanksgiving should be the protein in our diets whet with praise, just like turkey or ham without the dressing would not appeal to our palettes. It is a way of life, the relationship between God and man.

The Pilgrims who came many years ago were dying of diseases and the Natives helped them back on their feet with food and medicine. Unfortunately, the Pilgrims later turned on the Natives and looked down on them as savages. However, when we were wallowing in sin, God looked down upon us with pity and sent His only Son to die on the cross so we could have eternal life. He saved us from the wretched path we were going down, so each day we open our eyes, we should be giving him thanks instead of looking back from whence we came.

Nehemiah 12:27 reads, "And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres". In the same manner, we should dedicate ourselves to God and His work with thanksgiving and praise.

Some of the many scriptures that support God's requirement for Thanksgiving are:

Psalm 116:17 *"To you I shall offer a sacrifice of Thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord."*

Psalm 50:14 *"Offer to God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving and pay your vows to the most High."*

Psalm 95:2 *"Let us come before His presence with Thanksgiving. Let us shout joyfully to Him with Psalms."*

Psalm 100:4 *"Enter His gates with Thanksgiving and His courts with Praise. Give thanks to Him and bless His name."*

Let us continue to praise God with gratitude, joy, and thanksgiving because if we are not grateful, we cannot be thankful. Keep praying for each other, my church family, and always give thanks for the gift of life.

Scripture of the Month

**Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good,
For His faithfulness is
everlasting.**

PSALM 136:1 (NASB)

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Oh Give Thanks

WRITTEN BY JUDITH CHRISTIE MCALLISTER

Oh give thanks unto the Lord
For He is good, yes He is good

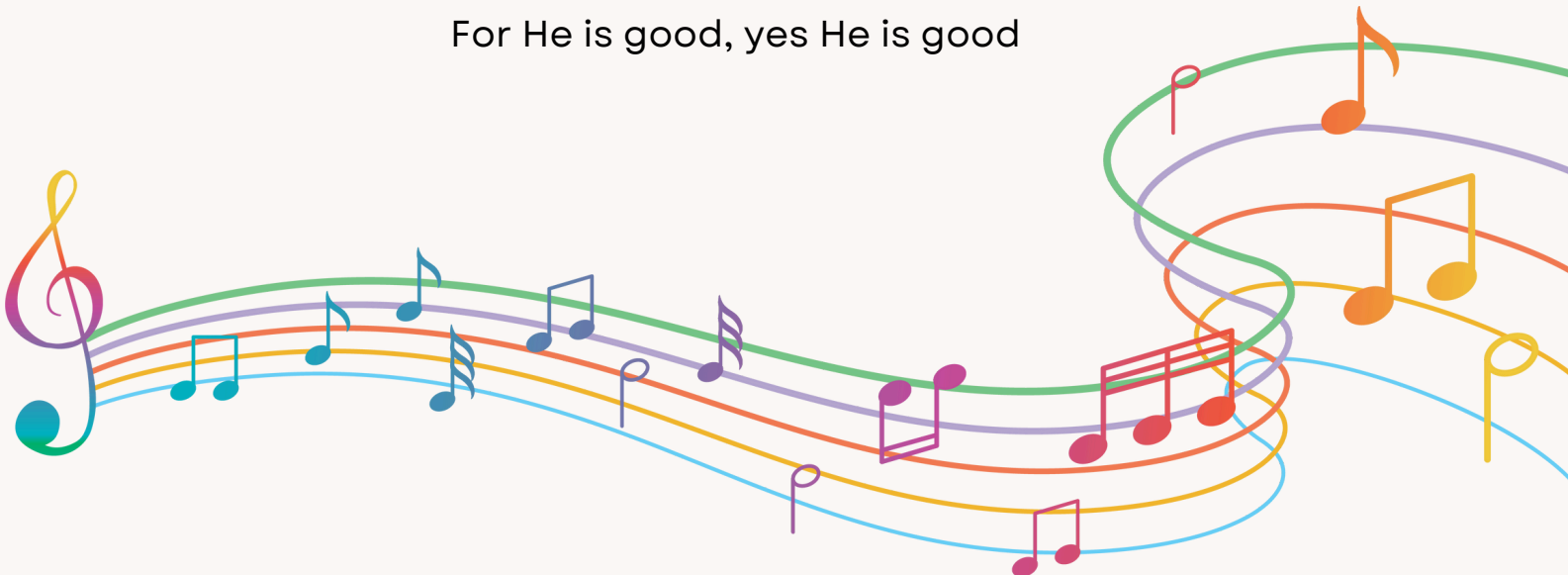
Oh give thanks unto the Lord
For He is good, yes He is good

For He is worthy, worthy
For He is good, yes He is good

For He is worthy, worthy
For He is good, yes He is good

(Repeat 2x)

For He is worthy, worthy
For He is good, yes He is good
For He is good, yes He is good
For He is good, yes He is good
For He is good, yes He is good
For He is good, yes He is good





It's almost

Thanksgiving

During this special time of year, take a moment to reflect and show gratitude for all the blessings the Lord has given and sustained for you.

The church will be hosting the Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on Wednesday, November 27th.
More details coming soon!

NOVEMBER IS

Diabetes Awareness Month

Here are a few tips to remember when managing prediabetes and diabetes:

- Get active!
- Eat a balanced diet with foods from all the food groups.
- Seek support from a healthcare professional and loved ones.
- Take small steps. You don't have to change everything at once!

Remember our Veterans

November 11, 2024 | Veteran's Day

Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served. For one day, we stand united in respect for you, our veterans. This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on November 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" to account for all veterans in all wars.

When first celebrated as Armistice Day, the day marked the end of World War I, formally recognized on the "11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month" in 1918. Today we continue to celebrate the day as Veterans Day, still recognizing the original tie with November 11. That means Veterans Day is on the same day every year -- November 11 -- regardless of on which day of the week it falls. When the date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, government officials or businesses may recognize it on both the official day and the following Monday.

Veterans, we thank God for both the lives He claimed, and the lives spared during the wars fought for the honor of this country. The church thanks you for your courageous service. Your bravery and your legacy will not be forgotten.

Happy Veteran's Day



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

Sherita Caldwell

Breann Caldwell

Nick Caldwell

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

Mr. Cecil Upshaw

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

Prayer changes things.

HIGHLIGHTING BLACK HISTORY

Granville T. Woods

WRITTEN BY SIS. DIANE RUSSELL



Growing up in Boston, I rode the train every day not knowing I had Granville T. Woods to thank for the convenience of the train in single-digit temperatures.

Granville T. Woods was known as the Black Edison in the 19th century. He was the inventor and patent owner of the Tunnel Construction for the electric railroad, and he was the first African American mechanical and electrical engineer after the Civil War.

Granville was born April 23rd, 1856 to Martha J Brown and Cyrus Woods in Columbus Ohio where he attended school until he was 10 years old. Due to his family's poverty, Granville had to quit school and get a job to help support the family. He did not return to school until his 20s. He got a job in a machine shop as an apprentice and learned the trades of machinism and blacksmithing.

Granville's engineering knowledge was obtained through his jobs until he went to college for two years, studying mechanical engineering. At 16 he was a fireman in Missouri for the Southern Railroad. At 22 he took a job on the Ironside steamer, and within two years he was the chief engineer.

Granville moved back to Ohio in 1880 and established his business as an electrical engineer and inventor. As an inventor, Granville had over 50 patents: steam boiler furnace, telephone transmitter, electric railroad conduit, and safety dimmer.

In 1888 there was a blizzard in New York City, and the Mayor, Hugh J. Grant, declared that all of the wires had to be removed and buried, emphasizing the need for an underground system. Woods' patent for installing electrical contactor rails, built upon previous third rail systems, improved safety by using wire brushes to connect metallic terminal heads without exposing wires.

HIGHLIGHTING BLACK HISTORY

Granville died in 1910, at the Harlem Hospital in New York City. He was buried in an unmarked grave, but in 1975 the companies Granville sold his patents to contribute to getting a headstone placed on Granville’s burial site. Granville sold patents to Westinghouse, General Electric, and American Engineering.

Granville was honored with a New York transit card in 2004, a street was named after him in Brooklyn, NY, and he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. When you sit comfortably on the train, rushing through miles instead of being stuck in traffic, you can thank Granville T. Woods for the technology to move trains rapidly underground.





State Farm Million Meal Pack

W O M E N ' S M I N I S T R Y



On September 21, 2024, the Women's Ministry of Friendship Baptist Church joined 6,000 volunteers to participate in the Hawks, State Farm One Million Meal Pack to combat food insecurity in the Atlanta area. Our group included not only women but also children and teenagers. It was gratifying to see the younger ones starting a journey of helping and providing for others from a spirit of love and commitment.

As this was our second year participating in the event, some knew what to expect; however, nothing could take away the joy and enthusiasm we felt being on the floor of the Atlanta Hawks arena, preparing, weighing, packaging, and boxing meals for those in need. It was an exhilarating experience! With music playing, the event organizers encouraged the volunteers throughout our two-hour shift. Even our table was acknowledged with inspiring words that helped to push and lift us through.

As we were scheduled for the last packing group, it was certainly exciting to see and hear the sponsors and Atlanta Hawks players announce that the goal of 1,000,000 meals was surpassed. In fact, according to the event website, this year set a record for the number of meals packed. The official total was 1,050,336 meals, all packed in one day, 450 minutes.

We enjoyed working with so many others for such a worthwhile effort and look forward to participating next year with an even larger group.

- Sis. Dyanna Agee



STATE FARM MILLION MEAL PACK



40th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration Dinner



On the evening of October 4th, our congregation gathered to celebrate Pastor Bowens and Sister Debbie for their 40th Pastoral Anniversary with an elegant catered dinner. The room was filled with gold decor and gratitude as we reflected on the beautiful journey of service, sacrifice, and selflessness that Pastor Bowens and Sister Debbie have shown our church and community over the past four decades.

The celebration began Monday, September 30th, with a three-day revival that rejuvenated our spirits. Each night Minister Abraham Mosely of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church ushered us into the presence of God. We were encouraged and blessed by his

teachings. These three days set the tone for a week filled with celebration and fellowship. As we came together Friday evening for the anniversary dinner, we were blown away by the beautiful atmosphere that was created by the Shepherd's Care Ministry. As our honorees entered the room, "Wind Beneath My Wings" gently played in the background by saxophonist Venus Jarrell. The live entertainment throughout the evening also included talented musicians, a comedian, and a photographer capturing special moments. You could feel the reverence that we collectively shared for Pastor and Sister Debbie; it was truly a night to remember.

The celebration continued into Sunday's service, where special presentations were made in honor of Pastor Bowens and Sister Debbie. Throughout the service, members of the congregation offered tributes highlighting the legacy of love, faith, and leadership that has marked their 40 years at Friendship Baptist Church.

As we reflect on this milestone, we are filled with immense gratitude for Pastor Bowens and Sister Debbie's tireless dedication. Their leadership has been a light, guiding us closer to God and strengthening our bonds as a church family. We are excited and hopeful for what God has in store for the next chapter of their lives and for the body of Christ that God has bestowed upon them.

- Tori L. Edwards



40TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER



40TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER



40th Pastoral Anniversary Service

On Sunday, October 6th, we continued the 40th Pastoral Celebration with a continental breakfast hosted by Pastor Bowens for his Ministerial Staff, Deacons and their wives, the Mother's Ministry, and the Shepherd's Care Ministry. Many people attended and enjoyed great food and fellowship as everyone showed their appreciation for Pastor and Sis. Debbie's dedication to Friendship Baptist Church.

Admiration and celebration continued during the 11:00 service, with the church adorned in beautiful colors celebrating their golden years. A wonderful video dedicated to Pastor, Sis. Debbie and their family were presented and shared. The choir, Sis. Kelly Wilson through mime, and the preached word from Rev. Stanley Jackson blessed us. Rev. Jackson's topic, "Standing at the Crossroads," is based on the Pastor's theme scripture Acts 20:24.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Bowens and Sis. Debbie on behalf of the Shepherd's Care Ministry for allowing me to oversee their ministry. It has been a true honor to be a willing vessel, producing a labor of love for them and their family but also for the ministry and the church.

A huge thank you to my team! Special thanks to Latrell Carr, Harriet Hairston, Rev. Artis Johnson, Kelly Wilson, Tori Edwards, Reggie Denson, Telesa Jakes, Dranita Morrow, and Anisha Dyce.

- Vickie Chambers | Shepherd's Care Ministry Servant Leader



40TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

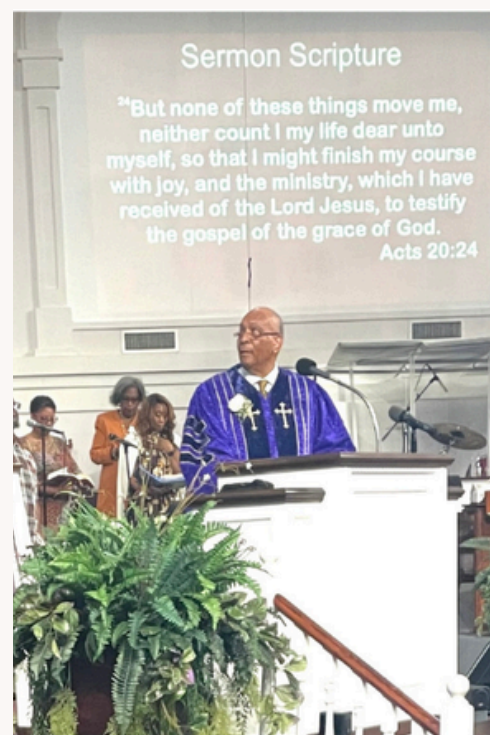


40th pastoral
Breakfast

We are delighted to invite you to a Continental breakfast celebrating Pastor & Sis. Debbie Bowens. Please take a moment to honor their unwavering love, dedication and support, and show them how much they are appreciated.

Sunday, October 6, 2024
8:30 am- 9:45 am
drop-in

Family Life Center
Conference Room



40TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



40TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



"All I Can Say"

An original poem by Sis. Whitney Brown



Thank you, Lord, for this beautiful day.
Thank you, Lord, is all I can say!
Your grace and mercies are always new.
I can see your glory in the morning dew.

Thank you, Lord, for friends and family.
I see your love for me, in my community.
A kind word or hug whenever we meet,
They truly are your hands and feet.

Thank you, Lord, for my cozy home.
You provide my shelter, wherever I roam.
I'm grateful for every morsel and meal.
I always say grace, fold my hands and kneel.

Thank you, Lord, for angels of protection.
Mysterious ways, but I never question.
cover my children, you cover me.
You fight our battles against every enemy.

Thank you, Lord, for always making a way.
Thank you, Lord, is all I can say!



Pastor Bowens Speaking Engagement



Sunday, November 10th-3:00 pm
Springfield Baptist Church Anniversary

Reverend Arthur Will Jones, Pastor

6155 Hammett Street

Lula, GA



Drama Ministry Christmas Program

December 22nd @ 3 pm

(save the date)

"Let us continue to praise God with gratitude, joy, and thanksgiving..."

Thanks for reading

Friendship's Voice

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter!

The deadline for December Newsletter articles is Friday, November 15th



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Improvements to FBC's website are ongoing. Feedback can be provided to the

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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

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