



Rev. Ronald L. Bowens
Pastor

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

DECEMBER 2024

VOL. 11, ISSUE 11

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

The Birth of Christ

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DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 21 - Outreach Boutique Closed
- 22 - Drama Ministry Christmas Program
- 24 - Christmas Eve
- 25 - Christmas Day
- 27 - Friendship Market Closed
- 28 - Outreach Boutique Closed
- 31 - New Year's Eve / Watch Night Service
- Jan**
- 1 - New Year's Day
- 3 - Friendship Market Closed
- 4 - Outreach Boutique Re-opens

THEME OF THE MONTH

The Birth of Christ

WRITTEN BY SIS. HYACINTH CHUNG



Jesus' birth was prophesied hundreds of years before his birth in the Old Testament around 1500-1300 BC.

In Genesis 22, after Abraham took his son Isaac to be sacrificed, God intervened with a ram in the bush. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham out of the heavens and gave him many promises of blessing, one of which in verse 18 is, "And in thy seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice".

Another prophecy came in the book of Numbers 1446-1260 BC, in chapter 24, when Balaam listened to God and started blessing Israel. It was spoken in verse 17, "I shall see him, but not now; I shall behold him, but not nigh; there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel...". Both these prophecies were fulfilled in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38.

The Virgin birth was prophesied in 740 BC in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us)." This was fulfilled in Matthew 1:20-25 and Luke 1:26-35.

Jesus had to come to us as the Incarnate, meaning "becoming flesh". He was God in human form, here from the beginning of the world as seen in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". To relate to man, Jesus had to come in the form of a baby, grow through childhood, rub shoulders with us, and show us He did not consider himself better than us. He did this because of His great love for us.

In Luke chapter 1, Gabriel, the Angel of the Lord, appeared to Mary and told her of her upcoming task, being the mother of Jesus and His responsibilities:

1. He was to be called Jesus, vs. 31
2. He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High, vs. 32
3. God will give Him the throne of David, vs. 32
4. There will be no end of His kingdom, vs. 33
5. He will be called Holy, the Son of God, vs. 35

THEME OF THE MONTH

Gabriel gave Mary assurance that these things will surely take place because, “With God, nothing shall be Impossible”, vs. 37.

Picture the scene so many hundreds of years ago - the family traveling in the cold, on foot, with the Baby on the way. All the rooms were full, and there was no place to stay except with the animals.

Mary and Joseph labored in a stable, and when Jesus was born he was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger, which was the animal’s feeding trough. That is how God has us today, in the secret place of the Most High, wrapped in His Love.

As we celebrate the holidays with traditions such as Christmas carols, trees, decorations, and gifts, let us focus on the real reason for the season. God wrapped His Son in His love, entrusted him to Mary for a season, and gave us the chance of eternal life through Christ Jesus.

Jesus is no longer the baby in the manger but the Risen King who gave His life at Calvary’s cross for our sins. He adopted us into His royal priesthood and made us joint heirs with Him in Glory. We should remember the great love God gave us in His Son and emulate such love by giving and sharing with those who are less fortunate. Let us celebrate Christ, the reason for the season.





Scripture of the Month

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

ISAIAH 9:6 (NASB)

HYMN OF THE MONTH

O Come All Ye Faithful

WRITTEN BY JOHN FRANCIS WADE; TRANSLATOR: FREDERICK OAKELEY

133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri -
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e -
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul -
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py

um - phant; O come ye; O come ye to Beth - le -
 ter - nal, born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he -
 ta - tion; sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a -
 morn - ing; Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry

hem! Come, and be - hold him, born the King of
 comes; ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre -
 above! Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the
 given; Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap -

an - gels!
 at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let us a -
 high - est!
 pear - ing!

dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

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

Tressa Norwood

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.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON*Come Let Us Adore Him*

WRITTEN BY SIS. CHRISTINE SMITH



*O come all ye faithful,
 Joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem,
 Come and behold Him,
 Born the King of Angels,
 O come let us adore Him!*



We know December 25th is not the actual birthdate of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, but it is a “set aside.” It is the date set aside to celebrate the magnificent birth of Jesus. *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel (meaning “God with us.”).”* (Isaiah 7:14 NASB)

The exact date of Jesus’ birth is not specified in the Bible. The celebration of Christmas serves as a reminder of God's gift to humanity through Jesus Christ. For many Christians, Christmas focuses on what Christ's birth represents: hope, love, and salvation.

Before the Christmas tree, before the presents, before the decorations, there is Christ. Decorating trees, exchanging gifts, and singing carols can sometimes overshadow the message and focus of Christ coming in the form of man. *“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* (John 1:14 NASB)

What better gift to give and get at Christmas than the gift of love? The gift of love is often considered the most meaningful and cherished gift one can give or receive during Christmas. Love stands out as the best gift because it’s enduring and timeless - unlike material gifts which become obsolete and fade away. Love is unconditional in nature (agape) – it should be given without conditions. Love is a reflection of Christ – as Christ emphasized, love is central to faith. *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Mark 12:31)

Many people strive to keep Christ at the center of their celebrations by attending church services, reading scripture related to His birth (i.e., Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 1:18-25), and engaging in acts of kindness and giving during the season.

May your Christmas be merry and bright and remember, Jesus is the reason for the season.

HIGHLIGHTING BLACK HISTORY

Charity Adams Earley

WRITTEN BY SIS. DIANE RUSSELL



Tyler Perry made a movie about the extraordinary women of the 6668 Battalion Corp. Below is information about the 6668's first commander, Charity Adams Earley.

At the start of World War II, there were no female military units. By May 1942, Congress realized the commitment that a war on two fronts required. They approved a bill that provided for a volunteer civilian women's unit, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, commonly known as WAC. Initially, this provision was intended for white women only. After pressure from African American newspapers and activists, including First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and her friend, educator Mary McLeod Bethune, it was decided that 10% of WAAC volunteers would be African American. Today, in 2024, 17.5% of the armed forces are women, and of that 17.5%, 29% are African American.



In the summer of 1942, Charity Earley became the leader of the 6668 Battalion, and by the end of World War II, Charity was the highest-ranking woman in the Army. She was the first African American woman officer.

Charity was born December 15, 1918, in Kittrell, North Carolina. Her parents believed strongly in education and were high achievers. Her father, a college graduate, was an African Methodist Episcopal minister. Her mother was a schoolteacher. Adams was the oldest of four children. She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School as valedictorian and then went on to graduate from Wilberforce University in Ohio in 1938, majoring in math and physics. After graduation, she returned to Columbia, where she taught mathematics at the local high school while studying part-time for an M.A. degree in psychology at Ohio State University, and received her master's degree in 1946.



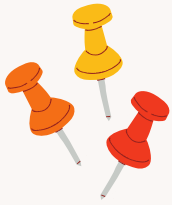
HIGHLIGHTING BLACK HISTORY

Adams enlisted in the U.S. Army's Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in July 1942. At the time, the U.S. Army was still segregated, so she was placed in a company with fellow female African American women officers and stationed at Fort Des Moines. In 1943, she was assigned to be the training supervisor at base headquarters.

In March 1945, she was appointed the commanding officer of the first battalion of African American women, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. They were stationed first in Birmingham. Three months later they were moved to Rouen, France, and then to Paris. They were responsible for the delivery of mail to over seven million soldiers during World War II.

In December 1944, Adams led the only company of black WACs ever to serve overseas. They were stationed in Birmingham, England. The women began to socialize with the citizens and broke through prejudices on both sides. Adams was put in charge of a postal directory service unit which included raising the morale of women, and she achieved this by creating beauty parlors for women to relax and socialize in.





Education Ministry Meet and Greet:

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT



WRITTEN BY SIS. LATRELL CARR



On October 19th, the Education Ministry held a vibrant Meet and Greet event in the Family Life Center, marking two decades of dedicated service to the Friendship Baptist Church student community. Established to provide comprehensive academic support for students from kindergarten through college undergraduate levels, the ministry is led by Deacon Dallis Hairston and Sister Sharon Norman. With a current membership of ten, the ministry's mission is to “enhance education through planning, supporting, and cultivating the learning process by identifying the needs and addressing those needs with resources and leadership”.

Throughout the years, the Education Ministry has developed a wide array of student support services. These include tutoring, ACT and SAT prep classes, and college fairs, as well as an annual Graduation Recognition Ceremony. In addition, the ministry emphasizes the importance of community involvement, collaborating with organizations like United Cerebral Palsy, the United Way, and a local Children's Shelter to encourage students to give back. Their Life Skills Seminars offer valuable skills such as financial literacy, time management, resume writing, and interview techniques, all designed to empower both students and parents.

At the Meet and Greet, attendees learned about the ministry's ongoing initiatives and future plans, as well as the critical need for new members. The ministry is seeking individuals with social media expertise, those who can help communicate its offerings to the congregation, tutors for various subjects, and ambassadors for a variety of grade levels. Those interested in joining need to fulfill three requirements: 1) a background check, 2) a commitment to the ministry and to Friendship Baptist Church, and 3) a meeting with Pastor Bowens and Deacon Hairston.

The Education Ministry continues to thrive, fostering an enriching environment for learning and personal growth. For those looking to make a difference in the lives of students, please contact Sister Sharon for more information on how to get involved at sharon4282.sn@gmail.com.



Friendship Clothing Boutique:

GRAND RE-OPENING AND FISH FRY

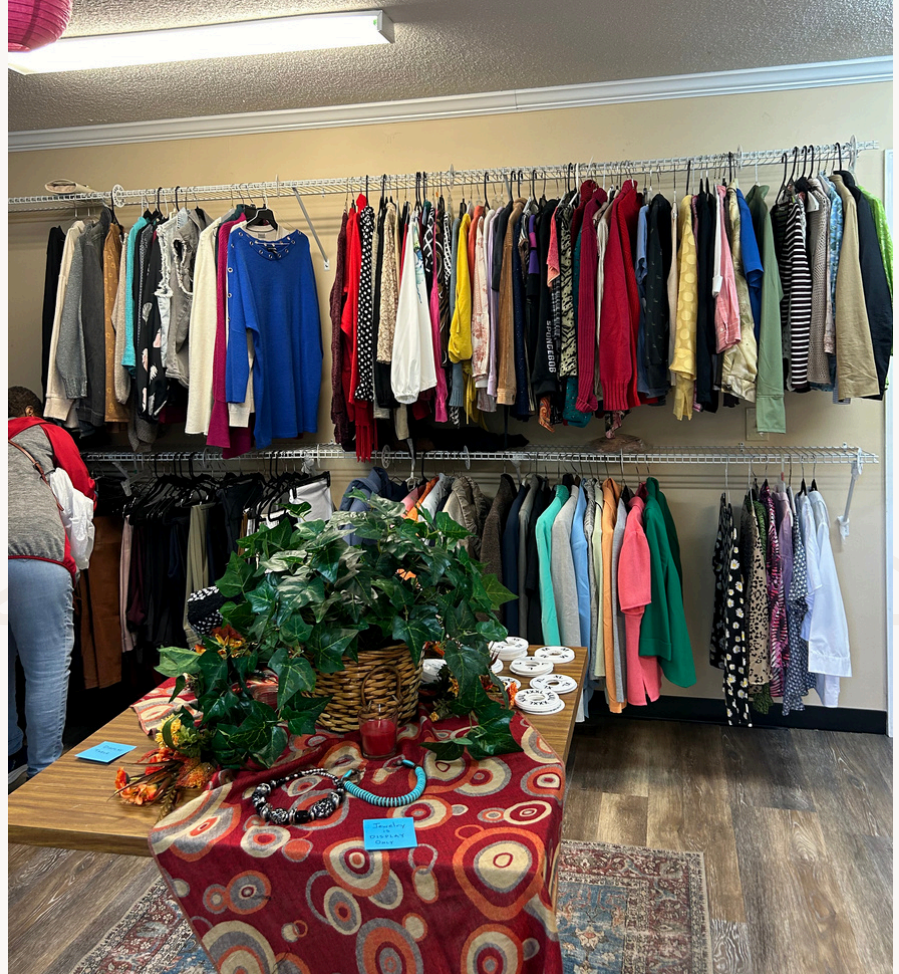
After more than four years of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Friendship Boutique at the Outreach Center has joyfully reopened its doors to serve the community both near and far. The grand reopening event on October 26th was a joyous occasion, filled with music, a fish fry, and fellowship.

The Outreach Ministry extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated clothing, with special recognition for the volunteers who dedicated countless hours to cleaning and decorating the Center. Your generosity and hard work made the grand reopening a memorable day for all attendees.

The Friendship Boutique is now open every Saturday from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, ready to assist anyone in need of clothing. Whether you are seeking warm outerwear or a cozy sweater, we are here to help. If you would like to donate clean, gently used items, please visit us any Saturday during our operating hours. Your contributions help us continue to provide this essential service to those in need.

We are thrilled to resume this vital part of the Outreach Ministry and look forward to seeing many familiar and new faces.

Regards,
Angela Campbell



CLOTHING BOUTIQUE GRAND RE-OPENING & FISH FRY



CLOTHING BOUTIQUE GRAND RE-OPENING & FISH FRY



CLOTHING BOUTIQUE GRAND RE-OPENING & FISH FRY



International Day of Worship at FBC Duluth

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY INC.® - PSI OMEGA OMEGA

WRITTEN BY SIS. CHRISTINE SMITH



The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® – Psi Omega Omega chapter located in Peachtree Corners, GA worshipped with Friendship Baptist Church on November 3, 2024, for the sorority's International Day of Worship.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® is the first, black Greek letter sorority founded on the campus of Howard University in 1908!

Under the 2022 – 2026 administration of International President, Mrs. Danette Anthony Reid, Psi Omega Omega is “Soaring to Greater Heights of Sisterhood and Service!”

The ladies of Psi Omega Omega will celebrate their 10th anniversary serving Peachtree Corners and surrounding areas. The chapter's chartering date is December 13, 2014, or as they like to say...12.13.14! The chapter is also the 15th Metro Atlanta chapter chartered giving us the distinct designation, 12.13.14.15!

Chapter Vice President, Mrs. Christine R. Quashie-Smith (FBC member) addressed the congregation, introducing the sorority and chapter President, Dr. Lauren Haire.

Dr. Haire expressed appreciation for the warm welcome from Friendship and presented the church with a love offering from the chapter.

It was a wonderful time of reflection and celebration for Psi Omega Omega!



Drama Ministry

Christmas Recitals

will be distributed following service
in the FLC on December 1st

Christmas Program Rehearsal

All ages are welcome

Saturday, December 7th

12:00pm @ FLC



FMI contact Victoria Jones
vdghoston@yahoo.com
or 662.315.1107



Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpeneth iron;
so a man sharpeneth
the countenance of
his friend.

*Men's Ministry &
Meeting*

December 7th @ 8:00 am

**Annual Year End
Breakfast**

OY Restaurant

4108 Hamilton Mill Road
Suite 330
Buford, GA 30519

For More Information Contact
Ryan Dendy 267.252.7838
Kevin Hayes 678.287.6997



Drama Ministry Christmas Program

December 22nd @ 3 pm
(save the date)



**Roswell & Buford
Seasonal Worker Positions**

**Package Handlers & Driver Helpers \$21/hour
Seasonal Support Drivers \$23/hour**

**Apply online at jobs-ups.com and register
online for the virtual information sessions**

Austin Thompson
Lawrenceville City Council



Cost: Free to the community

INVITE YOU TO

First Annual Community Health Fair

THEME
YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR WEALTH

Health Screenings & Discussions



Blood Pressure Checks
Managing Mental Health



Prostate and Colon Health
Heart Disease



Stress Management
Managing Depression
(youth and adults)



Dietary Choices /
Eating to Live
Cooking Demonstration

Enjoy food, music, and information. An event for the entire family



New Jerusalem Baptist Church, 422 E. Crogan Street, Lawrenceville, GA 30046



Saturday, DECEMBER 7, 2024
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

"...Christ, the reason for the season"

Thanks for reading

Friendship's Voice

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter!

The deadline for January Newsletter articles is Friday, December 20th



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Hyacinth Chung

Assistant Secretary

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

Communications Ministry at

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

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Leadership

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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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Min. Karen Blackwell

Evg. Geneva Burse

Evg. Valerie A. Montague

Evg. Ruthell Morris

Evg. Kimberly Rogers

Min. Monique Stroman

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