



Rev. Ronald L. Bowens  
Pastor

# FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

APRIL 2025

VOL. 12, ISSUE 2

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

# The Resurrection of Jesus

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Theme of the Month.....	2
Scripture of the Month.....	3
Hymn of the Month.....	3
Prayer List.....	4
Signs of the Season.....	5
Remembering Our Black History.....	6
Moments in Black History.....	7
Highlighting the Congregation.....	8
Remarkable Women at FBC.....	9
Recent events.....	11
Upcoming events.....	11
“A Farmer’s Heart”.....	12

## APRIL CALENDAR

- 12 - Women’s Ministry Meeting  
Creative Learning Craft Class
- 13 - Palm Sunday  
Easter Candlelight Cantana
- 17 - End of Lent
- 18 - Good Friday  
Good Friday Service
- 20 - Easter Sunday  
Easter Sunday Service

## THEME OF THE MONTH

# The Resurrection of Jesus

WRITTEN BY SIS. HYACINTH CHUNG



Jesus was beaten and mocked as He took on our sins, burdens, shames, and disgraces with His body. He died, giving His life as a living sacrifice to redeem us from our wretchedness and wicked ways. He rose again on the third day to give us hope for a new life in Christ, a rebirth of man's soul in His new covenant by His Blood.

By rising from the dead, Jesus Christ demonstrated that He had cleansed the guilt of our past and was able to help us in our present lives. His resurrection assures us that our future is safe and secure in Him. Without this act of selfless love and shedding of His blood, we would have no salvation from sin and no hope for our future of eternal life.

The joyous proclamation of the angel at Jesus' empty tomb shows us the victory we have in knowing that Christ's body was not still lying in the tomb, but He got up and walked out of that tomb to accomplish God's plan for mankind. This is backed by the scripture in Matthew 28:6, "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

Christ's resurrection shows us the Father's clear signal that Jesus is the powerful Son of God who has conquered death and reigns as Lord of all.



Romans 1:4, "Jesus Christ, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the resurrection of the dead."

Romans 4:25, "He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification". How much proof do we need to know that Jesus' death was a sacrifice for our sins, and His resurrection is the basis for our being declared righteous in God's eyes."

The resurrection of Jesus is the main teaching in the New Testament. Jesus was raised because of His perfect character. The hope of resurrection has been the hope of all the faithful before and after the first advent of Jesus.

As we celebrate Easter, let us reflect on the crucifixion where our sins were laid out and the joy of the resurrection, giving us new life and hope to live a life of righteousness. It's not about Easter eggs and bunny rabbits but about the slaying of our old self by the blood of Jesus and emerging as a new creation in Christ.



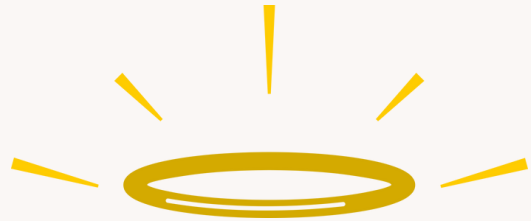
# Scripture of the Month

**Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.**

MARK 16:9 (NASB)

## HYMN OF THE MONTH

# Glory to His Name



WRITTEN BY E. A. HOFFMAN

*Verse / Estrofas*

1. Down at the cross where my Sav - ior died,  
 2. I am so won - drous - ly saved from sin,  
 3. Oh, pre - cious foun - tain that saves from sin,  
 4. Come to this foun - tain so rich and sweet,

3  
 Down where for cleans - ing from sin I cried,  
 Je - sus so sweet - ly a - bides with - in;  
 I am so glad I have en - tered in;  
 Cast thy poor soul at the Sav - ior's feet;

5  
 There to my heart was the blood ap - plied;  
 There at the cross where he took me in;  
 There Je - sus saves me and keeps me clean;  
 Plunge in to - day, and be made com - plete;

*Refrain / Estribillo*

7  
 Glo - ry to his name!  
 Glo - ry to his name! Glo - ry to his name,  
 Glo - ry to his name!  
 Glo - ry to his name!

11  
 Glo - ry to his name; There to my heart was the

14  
 blood ap - plied; Glo - ry to his name!



# 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

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

Sherita Caldwell

Breann Caldwell

Nick Caldwell

The Carmack Family

Sis. Chastity Collier

Sis. Sarah Collins

Sis. Carolyn Dukes

Bro. Joe Dukes

Sis. Andrea Green

Sis. Ruth Griggs

Sis. Barbara Hall

Sis. Dorothy Hines

Bro. Willie Irvin

Sis. Jennifer Jones

Bro. Patrick Jones

Sis. Valerie McClendon

Sis. Virginia McLemore

Sis. Josephine May

Bro. Will May

Sis. Diane Meeks

Miss. Kaitlyn Miles

Sis. Alice Murphy

Tressa Norwood

Ms. Patricia Ochogu

Bro. Rickie Perry

Bro. Charles Phinizy

The Poe Family

Sis. Carrie Rawls

Sis. Linda Rogers

Sis. Cindy Rollins

Sis. Carrie Royals

Sis. Jacqueline Scott

Sis. Tonya Sellers

Mr. Claudius Stafford

Bro. Xavier Stephens

Sis. Johnnie Stewart

Sis. Mabel Thomas

The Wells Family

Bro. Clarence Wilkerson

Rev. Dwight Wilkerson

Sis. Shelby Wilkerson

Sis. Valerie Williams

Sis. Joan Wilson

Sis. Sadie Wilson

Bro. Victor Winston Jr.

Sis. Priscilla Wise

Sis. Dorothy Woods

Sis. Lola Wright

Prayer changes things.





**SIGNS OF THE SEASON**



# Spring has Sprung & He is Risen

Behold, all things are new! New life, new hope to all He brings; the angels and the birds sing. New life brings hope, dreams, and aspirations that blossom in our hearts.

Spring has sprung, and He is Risen!

*“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.” – Matthew 28:6*

*“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” – Romans 6:4*

Spring has always been synonymous with “Easter” or as Christians reference, “Resurrection Sunday” – The resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To resurrect is to bring back to life. After a long, cold winter in most parts of the world, Spring brings the bloom of flowers, leaves on trees, butterflies, and the happy chirping of birds.

Just as nature revives after the cold winter, our hearts can be filled with the anticipation, excitement, and joy of new life brought by Jesus.

With the arrival of spring, we see God’s works in nature.

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” – Psalm 19:1*

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

APRIL							2025
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

FEBRUARY WAS **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



# A Reminder of Our Black History

WRITTEN BY SIS. DIANE RUSSELL



As we celebrate Black History, it is important to remember the contributions of African American inventors that occur daily in our routines.



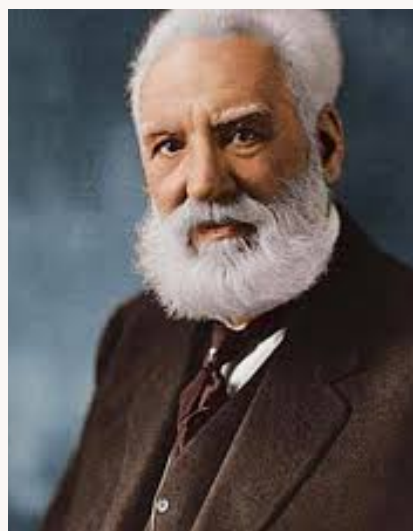
As you get dressed for the day, remember to thank George W. Carver for laundry soap. Although he is famous for inventing peanut butter, Carver, used peanuts to create many products such as hand lotion, rubbing oil, mayonnaise, Worcestershire sauce, and more than 200 others.



When you cook breakfast, thank John Standard for his refrigerator and stove improvements. He created a separate ice chamber with air ducts to circulate cold air. His 1889 oil stove was a space-saving design, ideal for buffet-style meals on trains.



Garrett Morgan invented a manually operated traffic signal with moving arms displaying "stop" and "go" signs, which could be placed on a post at traffic intersections. The arms could also be raised halfway to indicate caution. A traffic attendant would turn the crank to operate the signal, and all lanes could be stopped by showing "stop" if necessary.



The automation of closing elevator doors can be attributed to Alexander Miles. Before this invention, elevator doors were closed manually and were not always fully closed, leading to numerous injuries.

## A REMINDER OF OUR BLACK HISTORY



At work, you likely use a computer. Mark E. Dean, a co-creator of the ISA bus and leader of the team that invented the one-gigahertz computer processor chip, contributed to advancements in measuring computer processing speed.

If you set the alarm in your house, thank Mary Van Brittan Brown. Her invention included an electrically controlled lock, peepholes with covers, a sliding camera, motors, loudspeaker, microphone, and associated electronics. The camera moved to each peephole, uncovering them as it went, and transmitted images to a TV monitor inside the home. This setup allowed occupants to see and communicate with visitors without opening the door. Push buttons on a control panel could remotely control the camera and lock via radio signals.

Since the arrival of the first Africans in America, we have significantly contributed to advancements in technology, communication, medicine, development, and other fields.

### More notable innovators and accomplishments:

Michael Croslin (1933 – 1989) – Blood and pulse monitoring device

James E. West (1931 – present) – Electret microphone

Patricia Bath (1942 – 2019) – Cataract Laserphaco probe

Henry Brown (1800s) – Safe deposit box

Joseph R. Winters (1824 – 1916) – Fire escape ladder

Charles Drew (1904 – 1950) – Blood banks

Janet Emerson Bashen – LinkLine software



# Moments in Black History

PRESENTED BY THE CONGREGATION

Each weekend in February, a member of the congregation, including the Teens Ministry, enlightened the church on a notable moment in Black history. The topics and presenters can be found below.



## Sister Rosette Tharpe | Guitarist

Presented by Kyra Taylor

Rewatch the February 2nd service, “Let Love In”, on Youtube



MOMENTS IN BLACK HISTORY



**“I AM an AMERICAN SOLDIER” |  
Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee  
Airmen, and Montford Point  
Marines**

Presented by Trooper 1SG Gregg Bostic


Rewatch the February 9th service, “Avoiding an Attitude Adjustment”, on Youtube

**A Moment in  
Black History**

**Fannie Lou Hamer**

Presented by

**Judea Wood & Keturah Frank**



**Fannie Lou Hamer | Well-known  
activist who fought to gain black  
people the right to vote.**

Presented by Judea Wood and Keturah Frank

Rewatch the February 16th service, “The Need for God’s Presence”, on Youtube



**SENSTORY | An interactive  
association game for children**

Presented by Caleb Rogers

Rewatch the February 23rd service, “Why Love is the Greatest”, on Youtube

# Highlighting the Congregation

## Bro. Joseph Q. Lynch



Lynch has been a member of Friendship Baptist Church since approximately November 2023.

He is an attorney for the federal government, and advises the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and

### HIGHLIGHTING THE CONGREGATION

Immigration Services. In his role as Associate Counsel, he is the first and only African American attorney to be hired in that position in the entire western United States (NV, CA, AZ, OR, WA, ID, AK, HI) as well as outlying territories like Guam and the Mariana Islands.

### Dea. Anthony Williams



Williams and his family have been a member of Friendship for almost 20 years.

He is the author and illustrator of “The Powerful Impact of African Americans” (Coloring Book Series)



John Lewis, as a little boy, was given the opportunity to attend school rather than work in the fields. He enjoyed learning at school but noticed the “separate and unequal” materials for African-American students. As a college student, he was very active in non-violent civil rights protest and organizations. As a United States Congressman, John Lewis dedicated his life to social justice and human rights for all people.

Kamala Harris had a mother that encouraged her to do her best in everything. As a college student, attorney, and United States Senator, Kamala Harris was a servant leader that always put the interests of her family and community first. She understood and respected the women’s suffrage, as well as the “shoulders” she stood on. Kamala Harris followed her mother’s advice and became the first woman and African American Vice President of the United States of America.

### MARCH WAS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH



# Remarkable Women in the FBC Community

WRITTEN BY SIS. LATRELL CARR



Women's History Month serves as an opportunity to recognize the achievements and ongoing efforts of women who have shaped society in countless ways, from education and community service to leadership and innovation. At FBC, we were proud to spotlight a few women whose dedication and impact inspire us all.

This March, we honored Sister Charlene Benn, Sister Joyce Bowens, and Sister Ruthie Nelson for their exceptional contributions to education, service, and leadership. Each of these women has made a lasting impact in their professional fields and the FBC community.

## Charlene Benn





## REMARKABLE WOMEN AT FBC

FBC recognized Sister Charlene Benn for her outstanding leadership in both her professional and church life. Since joining Friendship Baptist Church in 2007, Sister Benn has served in various roles, including as Chair of the Education Ministry. She holds a degree in Computer Science and has built a successful career in the tech and finance industries, along with co-founding High Road Logistics with her husband, De'Metris. Her commitment to education and philanthropy, including the establishment of scholarship funds and mentoring future leaders, continues to make a profound impact on our community.

## Joyce Bowens



FBC celebrated Sister Joyce Bowens for her remarkable 35-year career in education and her unwavering commitment to service. Sister Joyce has touched countless lives as a teacher, mentor, and community leader. She has

served in various roles at Friendship Baptist Church, including as a nursery leader and a member of the Outreach Ministry and Education Ministry. Sister Joyce's dedication to youth development, along with her involvement in organizations like Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, continues to inspire and empower those around her.

## Ruthie Nelson



FBC also honored Sister Ruthie Nelson (affectionately called Ms. Ruthie) for her lifetime of service to education, her church community, and the many individuals whose lives she has touched. A retired educator, Ms.

Ruthie taught for decades in Tennessee and Michigan and was a mentor through the A Better Chance program. She has been a member of Friendship Baptist Church since 2005 and is an original member of the Outreach Ministry. At 94 years old, Ms. Ruthie remains an inspiring example of resilience, faith, and dedication to service.

These women were celebrated during Women's History Month for their dedication to service, education, and leadership. Their contributions serve as a powerful reminder of the vital role women play in shaping our world and inspiring future generations.





RECENT EVENTS

# Hunger Walk-Run



A huge shoutout and thank you to all who donated to the 2025 ACFB Hunger Walk-Run! The goal was to raise \$20K, and we were able to surpass that goal by over 25%. We thank God for the collective opportunity and willingness to give. May you all be blessed!

# Usher's Anniversary



On Sunday, March 23rd, the church celebrated the Usher's Ministry Anniversary. Let us always remember to recognize and appreciate our ushers for their gracious and dedicated service. Thank you for all that you do!

UPCOMING EVENTS

## Women's Ministry

*FBC* April Meeting April 12th  
9:00 AM  
Heritage Church - Lower Level

**ZOOM ID: 830 4414 2582**  
**PASSCODE: FBCWOMEN**

Servant Leader  
Minister Monique Stroman  
(678)357-8282



**FBC CREATIVE LEARNING**  
**APRIL CRAFT CLASS**

Make & Take  
Fabric  
BOOK MARKS

10 AM - 2 PM

Register TODAY

**SATURDAY 4/12**

CONTACT ERICHKA SHADBURN-ROGERS  
404-819-6901 FOR CLASS INFORMATION

**The Drama Ministry** Easter Candlelight Cantata  
"He is Risen, Jesus the Light of the World"

Presented by the Youth of Friendship

Sunday, April 13th - 3:00 PM in the Family Life Center

Rehearsals are currently in progress during  
Children's Church Ministry time today March 30th, & April 6th  
Final Rehearsal SATURDAY April 12th at 2:30 FLC

Parents, if your child can stand, please allow him or her to be a part of this Easter service.

**RECITALS ARE AVAILABLE**  
See Sis. Selena Stewart or Sis. Christina Stewart  
in Children's Church after the 11 o'clock service  
See any member of the Drama Team or Children's Church Ministry FM!

**Good Friday Service**

Seven Last Sayings of Christ

April 18th - 7:00 pm @ FBC & YouTube Livestream



# A Farmer's Heart

Written by Sis. Whitney Brown



*“Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord’s return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen.”*  
- James 5:7 {NLT}”

As the sunny Spring season arrives in the south, my heart has been filled with the wisdom found in James chapter 5. In that epistle, James was providing encouragement to the church, and stressing the importance of an enduring faith. Throughout chapter 5, we see him provide warnings to the wealthy, speak on the power of prayer, and show care for wandering believers. However, what stands out to me the most is James’ example for patience and attitude in verses 7 and 8. Impressing upon us the need to be patient as we await the Lord’s return, he says, “Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. {NLT}”

What a thought-provoking comparison! Farmers plant and tirelessly tend to their crops several months before seeing a single sprout. Yet, they patiently complete their needed work, keeping faith that a full harvest will prove their patience was not in vain. And not only are they patiently waiting, but James said that they are also eager! The farmers eagerly await the fruits of their service. With Resurrection Sunday approaching, I thought about how I wait not only for Christ’s physical return, but also for His miraculous presence when I’m navigating life’s struggles.

I challenge us all to take an intrapersonal look at our hearts and minds today. When we’re in need for our Savior to show up in a trial we’re facing, are we irritated and disgruntled- impatiently waiting for God to grant us a golden wish? Or are we prayerful and patient like the farmers, steadfast in faith that Christ will show up right on time?! And are we idly appearing in the church pews each week, clapping our hands and watching the clock like it’s simply another appointment? Or are we eager farmers and fishers of men- excitedly serving and worshipping our Savior whenever we can?!

*“You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.”* - James 5:8 {NLT}



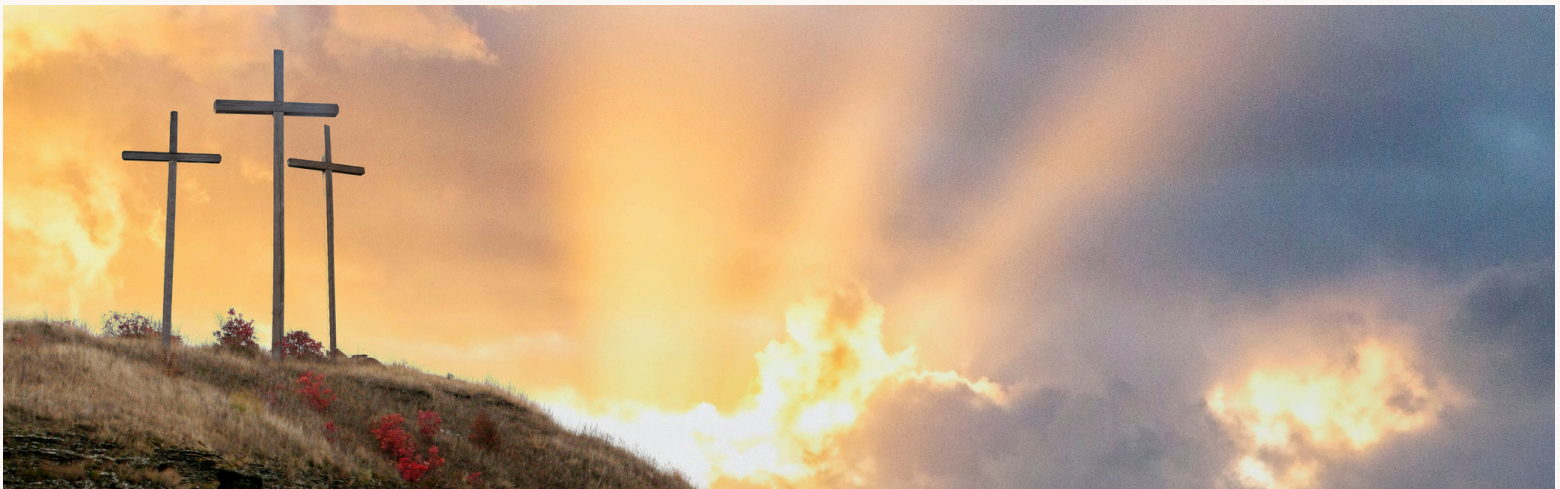
*"His resurrection assures us that our future is safe and secure in Him."*

Thanks for reading

# Friendship's Voice

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter!

**The deadline for May Newsletter articles is Friday, April 18th**





## Communications Ministry

### President

Louie Malone

### Vice President

Tina Patterson

### Secretary

Hyacinth Chung

### Assistant Secretary

DeLauryn Brown

### Treasurer

Michal Patterson

### Chaplain

Regina Gilbert

### Deacon Advisor

Michael Bailey

## Newsletter Team

### Editor-in-Chief

DeLauryn Brown

### Editor/Proofreader

Christine Smith

Paulette Tapp

### Graphic Designer

DeLauryn Brown

### Photographers

Louie Malone

Shirley Price

### Publisher

Louie Malone

### Reporters/Writers

Latrell Carr

Hyacinth Chung

Jennifer Jones

Diane Russell

Christine Smith

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

## 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](mailto:fbcduluth@att.net)

Website: [www.fbcduluth.org](http://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

### FBC MINISTERS OF EVANGELISM

Min. Karen Blackwell

Evg. Geneva Burse

Evg. Valerie A. Montague

Evg. Ruthell Morris

Evg. Kimberly Rogers

Min. Monique Stroman

Min. Barbara Williams