



Rev. Ronald L. Bowens
Pastor

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

MAY 2025

VOL. 12, ISSUE 3

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

Peace

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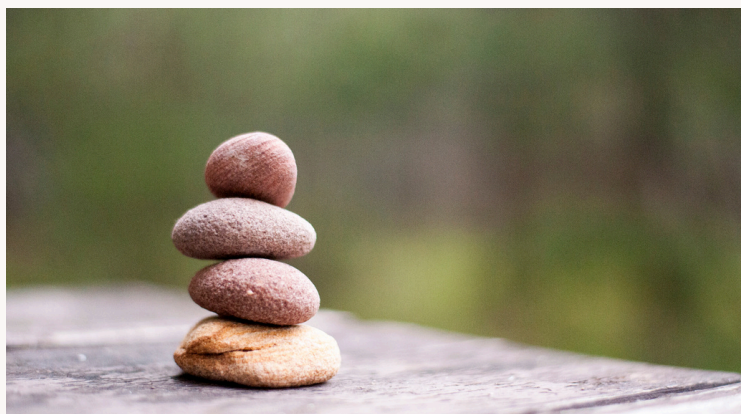
MAY CALENDAR

1 - National Day of Prayer
5 - Cinco de Mayo
6 - Delta Academy Info Session
10 - Women's Ministry “Pearls Tea”
11 - Mother's Day
17 - Creative Learning Workshop
26 - Memorial Day
28 - Church Anniversary Celebration

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 fruits of the Spirit. Peace with God is designed in a man's conscience and produced by the Spirit of God. The effect of peace is quietness and tranquility of mind; it is also peace with men, the saints, and all others.

Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, 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 sinful nature, so we must try very hard to feed the fruits 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 of.

Philippians 4:7, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."



HYMN OF THE MONTH

I Surrender All

WRITTEN BY JUDSON W. VAN DEVENTER

Scripture of the Month

³Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. ⁴Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength

ISAIAH 26:3-4 (KJV)

739

I Surrender All

The musical score for 'I Surrender All' is presented in a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) with piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes three verses of lyrics, a refrain, and a final line. Chord symbols (D^b, A^b7, G^b, D^b/A^b) are placed above the staff to guide the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are as follows:

1 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, all to him I free-ly give;
 2 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, make me, Sav-ior, whol-ly thine;
 3 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, Lord, I give my-self to thee;

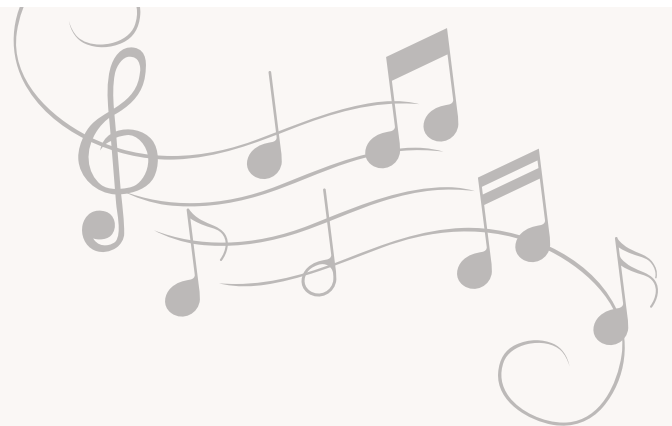
I will ev-er love and trust him, in his pres-ence dai-ly live.
 let me feel thy Ho-ly Spir-it, tru-ly know that thou art mine.
 fill me with thy love and pow-er, let thy bless-ing fall on me.

Refrain
 I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all;
 I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all.

all to thee, my bless-ed Sav-ior, I sur-ren-der all.

Words: Judson W. VanDeVenter, P.D.

Music (SURRENDER 8.7.8.7 refrain 5.5.8.5): Winfield S. Weeden, P.D.



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

Sis. Diane Hodge

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



RECENT EVENTS

The Drama Ministry Presents: The Easter Cantata

“He is Risen: Jesus, the Light of the World”

WRITTEN BY
SIS. CYNTHIA URQUHART



On Sunday, April 13th, around 3:00 PM, the lights went out in the Family Life Center. The room was transformed into a sanctuary of reverence and awe as the lights dimmed and a soft instrumental of "Jesus Loves Me" began to play. From the back doors emerged a solemn candlelight procession—our youth, glowing with purpose, marched down the center aisle and onto the stage. Candle lights flickered in their hands and lined the stage floor and upper banister. The setting was sacred as the children stood quietly in place until the music ended.



This year's Easter Cantata was beautifully directed by Shenise Perry, a former member of Friendship who graciously returned to share her gifts of leadership and creativity. Shenise's passion for the

arts and heart for youth ministry shone brightly throughout the event. Her presence was a gift, and though we will miss her continued involvement, we pray God's richest blessings over her new church home.

Serving as Master of Ceremonies was the poised and polished Jai McBride. Dressed impeccably for the occasion, Jai opened the program by reminding us that Easter is a season of hope, love, and new beginnings. He invited the audience to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and rejoice in His resurrection. Through scripture, music, and worship, he encouraged everyone to open their hearts and allow the light of Jesus to shine through in their lives.



The cantata followed a meaningful flow of spoken word, scripture, and song, under the guidance of Stage Manager Dia McBride, who also led the candlelight processional. Dia's opening and closing prayers anchored the program with reverence, and his eloquence and leadership throughout were nothing short of inspiring.

Behind the scenes, none other than our Technical Support Specialist, Jaylen Johnson, kept the production running smoothly. From lighting design during rehearsals to managing audio, visuals, and stage lighting during the program, Jaylen's passion and skill in tech ministry were on full display. His eagerness to learn and serve is both admirable and contagious.

The Youth choir lifted their voices in hymns that reminded us of the power and promise of the Cross. Songs such as "The Old Rugged Cross," "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord," "Because He Lives," and "Hosanna" stirred hearts and brought many to tears. Dressed in coordinated black, white, and red attire, the children looked radiant as they ministered through song and scripture.



The program concluded with the always looked forward to Easter recitations. This year, we were also blessed by instrumental musical recital selections. Some of our youngest voices boldly took the stage for the very first time to proclaim the Good News. Watching them exalt the risen Savior gave us all hope for a brighter today- and tomorrow.

Truly, Jesus is the Light of the World, and on that afternoon, His light shone brilliantly through the hearts and voices of our children. Friendship is blessed beyond measure by the gifts, talents, and leadership emerging in and through our young people.





SIGNS OF THE SEASON

I'll Always Love My Mama

WRITTEN BY SIS. CHRISTINE SMITH



I'll always love my mama, she's my favorite girl...¹

Our Heavenly Father Himself gave us mothers, and we thank God for mothers!

Isaiah 66:13 (NIV), "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you;"

Genesis 3:20 (NIV), "Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living."

What a wonderful gift from God a mother is. Whether you're a biological mother, a mother through adoption, an "auntie" mother, or a Godmother, we have been given an awesome opportunity to pour into and nurture our children. *Proverbs 22:6 (KJV), "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

Mothers give unselfishly of their time and talent, they wipe tears from eyes, and they hug and love unconditionally. A mother's arms are our safe space.

In the United States, celebrated on the second Sunday in May, Mother's Day was officially recognized in 1914, thanks to the efforts of Anna Jarvis. Across cultures around the world, we celebrate mothers with flowers, cards, or gifts, and acts of service, including an all-time favorite breakfast in bed, brunch, and dinners. [Continue→](#)

1. I'll Always Love My Mama – Song by the Intruders, 1973

MAY 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	31


Exodus 20:12 (NIV): "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

Mothers are the backbone of families. Good mothers share the characteristics of Jesus – they pray for their children, heal us and mend our broken hearts, and above all, they show us unconditional (agape) love. These traits or characteristics are even present in first-time mothers because these traits are inherited. Thank God for mothers!

Proverbs 31:27-28 (NIV), "27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:"


Proverbs 31:31 (NIV), "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

Wishing every mother and mother figure a blessed and Happy Mother's Day!



Mothers In The Bible

Match Up Game



Match the biblical mothers with the correct chil/children . Earn one point for a correct answer. The most correct answers wins!

1. Mother of Boaz	-----	Asenath
2. Mother of Isaac	-----	Jedidah
3. Mother of King Hezekiah	-----	Eve
4. Mother of Cain & Abel	-----	Sarah
5. Mother of Ishmael	-----	Zibiah
6. Mother of King Josiah	-----	Tamar
7. Mother of Isau & Jacob	-----	Rachel
8. Mother of Adonijah	-----	Rahab
9. Mother of Joseph & Benjamin	-----	Naamah
10. Mother of Timothy	-----	Hagar
11. Mother of Manasseh & Ephraim	-----	Mary
12. Mother of Joash	-----	Elizabeth
13. Mother of Moses & Aaron	-----	Abijah
14. Mother of Samuel	-----	Bathsheba
15. Mother of Jesus	-----	Haggith
16. Mother of Perez & Zerah	-----	Jochebed
17. Mother of John the Baptist	-----	Hannah
18. Mother of King Solomon	-----	Zilpah
19. Mother of Gad & Asher	-----	Eunice
20. Mother of Rehoboam	-----	Rebekah

Total Points: _____

[Find the answers on page 15]



MOTHER'S DAY MENTIONS



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11th, and in honor of all the loving mothers and mother figures, here are some Mother's Day Mentions from the congregation.

Mom, thank you for showing me the beauty of kindness and patience. Your strength inspires me every single day, and I cherish all the memories we created together. You've taught me the true meaning of unconditional love, and I Thank You for being both my mom and my best friend. I admire your grace and the love you pour into everything you do. Rest in Peace, Mom, and you will forever be in my heart. In loving memory of Peggy, Minna Ann, Margaret, and Winnie Bell Shadburn.

– Erichka Shadburn Rogers

I love you and I'm so grateful to have a mom like you in my life!

– Quinn Conwell

Mommy, I can't recall a time when you weren't the selfless God fearing person you are. You are the reason I wanted to be a mom. The love and care you gave me and my brothers is indescribable. I always knew that when I grew up, I wanted to be like you in every aspect. I love you so much for not giving me everything I wanted, but definitely giving me what I needed. I appreciate you for so many reasons and in so many ways, Lord knows I do. I am grateful to God that I still have you here with me. I love you!

– Cassidi Taylor Medina

Happy Mother's Day, Serenity!

– Sonya Jones

We thank God for you and all that you do for us!
Happy Mother's Day!!

– Autumn, Justice & Lanessa Williams

"The love of a mother is measured not in words, but in the quiet sacrifices she makes every day." We love you and thank God for choosing YOU to be our MOM.

– Megan Simon



To my mother—your love is the quiet strength that shaped my heart. Your prayers covered me when I didn't even know I needed them. Thank you for showing me the power of faith, compassion, and resilience. You are my blessing, my guide, and my inspiration. Happy Mother's Day to you and all the mothers whose love lights the world.

– Derick Chambers

To my momma, I wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to tell you how much I love and appreciate you. As a mother myself, I model my actions after you. You taught me it is important to be strong and courageous for our children. You taught me to never give up on our children. Because of you, I am the mother I am today. You were always there to back me up and make sure I was treated fairly. What better mom than a mom who is present. I love you, momma.

– Alecia Craine

I'd like to thank my mother, Jeanette Magwood, for always being my support system and showing me how to be strong. She is also the best nana I could ask for for my children.

I'd also like to recognize Joyce Bowens as a wonderful mother and grandmother figure for me and my kids; her unconditional love and support truly doesn't go unnoticed.

– Ja'Naya Johnson

Faith, Love, Beauty, Grace- you embody all of these and more, Mama. I am so grateful that God blessed me with YOU! You are my Mama, my mentor, and my best friend. And now that I have a little one of my own, it has been such a joy watching you be the best GiGi any little boy could ask for. We love you!

– Sis. Whitney Brown

Dear Mommie, Thank you for being my quiet strength and biggest inspiration. You showed me what's possible and taught me to walk with my head high. Your voice lifts me when I want to give up, and your love keeps me grounded. I hope I've made you proud. I love you no matter what.

– Your Daughter, Gabrielle aka Millie ❤️

The lord has blessed me with an amazing wife and now our daughter with an amazing mom. Happy Mother's Day 🧡❤️

– Trence Askew

R is for radiant. O is for optimistic. S is for sociable. E is for engaging. To the world, you are ROSE and our matriarch, but to us, you are the GOAT. Happy Mother's Day!

– Mrs. Retecher Todd



To my momma Jessica, thank you for all that you do and for always loving me unconditionally! You're such an inspiration to me with your dedication and perseverance! Not more than I love you!!!

– Kyra Taylor

To Priscilla Hines, Happy Mother's Day! We are all endlessly grateful for the faith that you have instilled in us and for the intention and dedication you put into being a mother. It is a privilege to be your kids.

We love you.

– The Hines Kids

Happy Mother's Day, Mom! Your love and wisdom guide me every day. Thank you for being my rock. I love you!

–Essence Finley

Mom! Your countless sacrifices, constant provision, and endless love have not gone unnoticed! From class parties and sports competitions to life-event debriefs and spontaneous brunch, you have always been there. Thank you for being a superhero, and thank God for giving us you as a mother. You have done well, and now that we're grown, we hope that you fully embrace your soft girl era! (We still expect you to always pick up our calls though <3)

We love you so much. Happy Mother's Day!

– Your Brown Girls



NATIONAL STROKE
AWARENESS MONTH
MAY



The letters **F.A.S.T.** can help you remember what the sudden signs of stroke are. When you spot these signs, **call 9-1-1 right away.**



HIGHLIGHTING BLACK HISTORY

FBC and the Enduring Legacy of the Black Church

WRITTEN BY SIS. LATRELL CARR



This article highlights the history of FBC Duluth and provides a glimpse of the history of the Black Church as a whole.

Friendship Baptist Church (FBC) will celebrate its 77th Anniversary on May 28, 2025. Under the steady leadership of Pastor Ronald L. Bowens, it stands as a living testament to the enduring legacy and cultural significance of the Black Church in America. Founded in 1948, FBC has grown from humble beginnings to become a vital source of spiritual and community support in Gwinnett County.

At FBC's 76th Anniversary service held on May 26, 2024, Sister Cynthia Urquhart shared a powerful retelling of the church's dynamic history, drawing from the memories and insights of various church members. What follows are key highlights from the presentation. The complete presentation is available on the FBC website.

The Founding and Early Years (1948–1978)

Founded in 1948 under the visionary leadership of Reverend P.J. Dodson and Moderator Dr. C.N. Ellis, FBC began with fewer than 25 faithful members. During its first three decades, The Heritage House (now the Heritage Church) was constructed, and the building was fully paid for.

A Time of Expansion (1978–1988)

The period from 1978 to 1988 brought tremendous growth with the formation of the Deacon Board, Sunday School, and Church Choir. Membership expanded dramatically – growing from under 25 members to over 1,200. In 1984, Pastor Ronald L. Bowens was installed as Pastor.

A New Era: Services, Structure, and Sanctuary Plans (1989–1999)

FBC adopted a distinctive worship rhythm: morning services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, and evening services at 8 p.m. on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays. In 1995, the church officially incorporated and received its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. In 1998, FBC celebrated 50 years of ministry, launching a building fund calendar drive in anticipation of a new sanctuary.

A New Sanctuary and Global Reach (2000–2010)

The new millennium marked another major transformation with a wave of new members – including many from State Farm Insurance. The Children's Church and the New Members Ministry were introduced. On April 27, 2003, the last service was held in the Heritage House. One week later, on May 4, the congregation marched joyfully into a new sanctuary.

In 2010, FBC expanded its missionary outreach, as Pastor Bowens and several church members traveled to Monrovia, Liberia, furthering the church's global impact. That same year marked the passing of beloved founding member Mother Lena Blake, who lived to the age of 106.

Spiritual Growth and Education (2011–2021)

As the congregation expanded, FBC began construction on its Family Life Center to accommodate more classes and activities. The church began offering courses on seminary

studies, worship, discipleship, marriage, forgiveness, and more. In 2016, Reverend Stanley Williams and Minister Barbara Williams began leading the Youth Church Service, helping build a foundation for the next generation of believers. In March 2020, FBC, like churches across the world, faced the global COVID-19 pandemic. But instead of shutting down, the church adapted. Through livestreamed services on YouTube, Pastor Bowens – supported by the Deacons, Praise Team, and Communications Ministry – continued to minister. As Sister Cynthia Urquhart expressed during FBC’s 76th Anniversary service, “what was meant to shut us down literally opened us up to the world...” (Urquhart, 2024).

Continuing the Mission (2022–Present)

Today, FBC continues to uphold its mission to “exalt the Savior, equip the saints, and evangelize the sinner” through a diverse range of ministries, spiritual education classes, and community outreach programs. Some of the most notable outreach efforts include initiatives such as the Friendship Market, which offers food assistance to those in need; collaborations with the Atlanta Community Food Bank’s Hunger Walk Run 5k event aimed at combating hunger; and volunteer outreach supporting individuals experiencing homelessness through organizations such as Rainbow Village.



The Broader Context: The Legacy of the Black Church

FBC has a rich and significant history, yet it is essential to recognize that this history is part of a much larger story in American history—the story of the Black church, which traces its origins back to the era of slavery, when enslaved Africans began blending their spiritual traditions with Christianity. During a time when enslavers often tried to control or suppress their worship, slaves found ways to gather and practice their faith in secret, creating what became known as the “invisible institution.” “Through signals, passwords, and messages not discernible to whites, they [slaves] called believers to ‘hush harbors’ where they freely mixed African rhythms, singing, and beliefs with evangelical Christianity” (Maffly-Kipp, 2001).

In the early 1800s, Black communities started forming their own independent church denominations. Richard Allen’s African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, founded in 1816, was born out of his frustration with segregated churches and racial tension (National Archives, 2021). Other institutions like the AME Zion Church and the National Baptist Convention followed. These churches weren’t just about worship – they also became anchors for learning, activism, and community support.

After the Civil War and during Reconstruction and Jim Crow, the Black Church began to have a significant influence on African American education. Primarily across the south, several colleges – now known as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), were established by Black ministers and white philanthropists to educate freed slaves (Freemark, 2015).

During the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Church served as a powerful agent for social change. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC),

and pastors across the nation used their ministries not just to deliver sermons and preach The Word, but to inspire action—igniting protests, sit-ins, and marches nationwide (Southern Christian Leadership Conference [SCLC], 1957.)

Still Standing

As Donnie McClurkin so movingly sings in “Stand” – “What do you do when you’ve done all you can?” – the answer is: “You just stand.” For 77 years, in the face of adversity and growth, in times of celebration and loss, Friendship Baptist Church (along with many other black churches) has stood and is still standing – by the grace of God!



References

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DELTA SIGMA THETA, INC.
NORTH FULTON ALUMNAE CHAPTER

DELTA ACADEMY
Informational Session
MAY 6, 2025 7:00 PM

ZOOM Link

The Delta Academy was created in 1996 out of an urgent sense that bold action was needed to save our young females (ages 11-14) from the perils of academic failure, low self-esteem, and crippled futures.

Visit our website
www.northfultondst.org/deltaacademy

Join the Women's Ministry
"PEARLS Tea"

Featuring Guest Speaker and Author of:
PEARLS

Dr. Sandi H. Atkins
Saturday May 10th
Intercessory Prayer begins at 9:00 AM
Heritage Church Lower Level

If you plan to attend please
contact Min. Monique at
YSMonique984@gmail.com

FBC CREATIVE LEARNING

Join us on **Saturday, May 17, 2025**
10am – 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

make and take **HAND CRAFTED**
Fabric Composition Book for your:
Prayer Journal, Writing Journal
or Quilting/Craft Journal.
(no-sewing option available)

To register text your name to Erichka @ 404-819-6901



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friendship Baptist Church 77th Anniversary Service

Wednesday, May 28th at 7:00 pm

Guest speaker: Rev. Donald Dunnigan of
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Be on the lookout for more details!



FBC
Vacation Bible School
June 2nd - 6th
Register on fbcduluth.org
Volunteers Still Needed!
Contact Kindell May
(770) 715-3726

SAVE THE DATE

MENS MINISTRY PRESENTS
TASTE OF FRIENDSHIP
EAT, LAUGH, & FELLOWSHIP

- Date: Saturday, August 9th, 2025
- Time: 12PM - 2PM
- Location: Family Life Center

Registration Date
May 1st - June 30th




Mothers In The Bible Match Up Game

Match the biblical mothers with the correct chil/children . Earn one point for a correct answer. The most correct answers wins!

1. Mother of Boaz	<u>Rahab</u>	Asenath					
2. Mother of Isaac	<u>Sarah</u>	Jedidah					
3. Mother of King Hezekiah	<u>Abijah</u>	Eve					
4. Mother of Cain & Abel	<u>Eve</u>	Sarah					
5. Mother of Ishmael	<u>Hagar</u>	Zibiah					
6. Mother of King Josiah	<u>Jedidah</u>	Tamar					
7. Mother of Isau & Jacob	<u>Rebekah</u>	Rachel					
8. Mother of Adonijah	<u>Haggith</u>	Rahab					
9. Mother of Joseph & Benjamin	<u>Rachel</u>	Naamah					
10. Mother of Timothy	<u>Eunice</u>	Hagar					
11. Mother of Manasseh & Ephraim	<u>Asenath</u>	Mary					
12. Mother of Joash	<u>Zibiah</u>	Elizabeth					
13. Mother of Moses & Aaron	<u>Jedidah</u>	Abijah					
14. Mother of Samuel	<u>Hannah</u>	Bathsheba					
15. Mother of Jesus	<u>Mary</u>	Haggith					
16. Mother of Perez & Zerah	<u>Tamar</u>	Jochebed					
17. Mother of John the Baptist	<u>Elizabeth</u>	Hannah					
18. Mother of King Solomon	Zilpah	19. Mother of Gad & Asher	<u>Zilpah</u>	Eunice	20. Mother of Rehoboam	<u>Naamah</u>	Rebekah
19. Mother of Gad & Asher	<u>Zilpah</u>	Eunice					
20. Mother of Rehoboam	<u>Naamah</u>	Rebekah					

Total Points: _____



Biblical Battle-Dress

WRITTEN BY SIS. WHITNEY BROWN



“Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Soldiers don’t get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.” -2 Timothy 2:3-4 (NLT)

Did you know that May is National Military Appreciation Month? Throughout May of every year, we observe a month-long celebration to honor those who sacrifice for our country’s freedoms. In 2 Timothy, the Apostle Paul instructs us not to get caught up in worldly affairs and to be good soldiers of Christ Jesus. But what exactly does it mean to be a “good soldier?” What does that look like?

For starters, before setting foot on any battlefield, a good soldier must be dressed properly. He or she must also have the proper equipment if they are going to endure suffering and *“please the officer [Christ] who enlisted them.”* (2 Tim. 2:4 NLT) We can look to Ephesians 6:13-17 (NLT) to see Paul’s list of a good soldier’s dress code and equipment.

1. **BELT of Truth**- to gird up your waist with what is honest and true.
2. **BREASTPLATE of Righteousness**- to guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it (Prov. 4:23 NIV).
3. **SHOES of Peace** - because blessed are the peacemakers! (Matt. 5:9 NIV) These will help you travel far and wide with the Gospel of peace.
4. **SHIELD of Faith**- to shield you from the enemy’s fiery darts. He seeks to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10 NIV).
5. **HELMET of Salvation** - which protects your mind from fear, doubt, and worldliness. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2 NIV).
6. **SWORD of the Spirit** - which is the Word of God. Truly, it is sharper than any two-edged sword! (Heb. 4:12 NIV)

“Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.” Ephesians 6:13 (NLT)



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

Thanks for reading

Friendship's Voice

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter!

The deadline for June Newsletter articles is Friday, May 16th



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DeLaurn Brown

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DeLaurn Brown

Photographers

Louie Malone

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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

Website: www.fbcduluth.org

Leadership

FBC ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Rev. Ken Blacknell

Elder Chris Evans

Rev. Garfield Garner

Rev. Eugene Graves

Min. Shurron Green

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