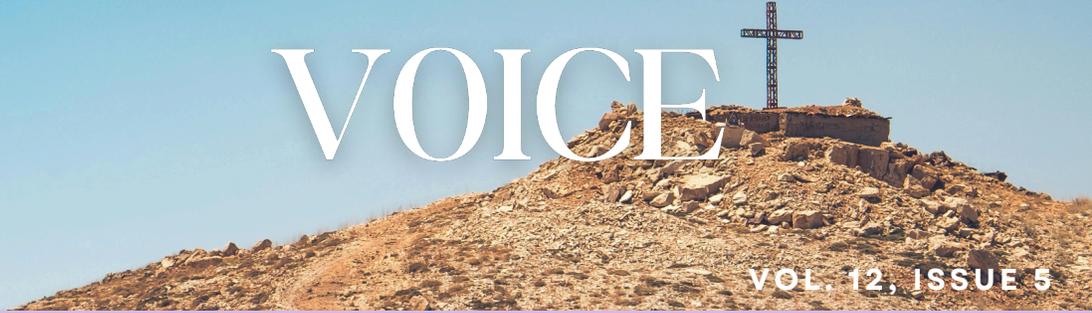




Rev. Ronald L. Bowens  
Pastor

# FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE



JULY 2025

VOL. 12, ISSUE 5

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

# Salvation

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## JULY CALENDAR

- 4 - Independence Day
- 16-18 - Pastor Bowens speaking engagement
- 19 - Christmas in July
- 26 - FBC Annual Back to School event
- 30 - Pastor Bowens speaking engagement
- Aug**
- 1 - Sister Debbie's Birthday

## THEME OF THE MONTH

# Salvation

WRITTEN BY SIS. HYACINTH CHUNG



The secular world often defines salvation as being saved or rescued from peril, danger, or a negative state.

For believers, salvation is being saved from sin through faith in Christ Jesus. It is a transformation of the heart that leads to a virtuous life and the promise of eternal life in Him.

To experience salvation, we must recognize our sins, believe by faith that Jesus Christ is our Savior, repent, confess our faith in Christ, and be baptized. Salvation is not a "once saved, always saved" guarantee that allows us to live however we want.

Recognizing our sins means acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. Believing in Jesus means accepting Him as the Son of God, who came to deliver us from sin by dying on the cross and rising again to sit at God's right hand, interceding for us daily.

Repentance is turning away from sin and choosing to follow God's way, trusting Him

fully. Confession is publicly declaring faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Baptism is a symbolic act of cleansing and becoming a new person in Christ.

Continuing in faith involves maintaining a relationship with God through prayer, Bible study, and living by Christian principles.

A clear example of salvation is found in Jonah 2:9, where God forgave the people of Nineveh and offered them grace and eternal life. Forgiveness is essential because all people are born with a sinful nature.

Salvation is deliverance from the power and consequences of sin, primarily separation from God. It is achieved through faith in Jesus Christ.

In simple terms, salvation is being saved, restored, and made new through faith in Jesus.



# Scripture of the Month

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

ROMANS 1:16 (NASB)



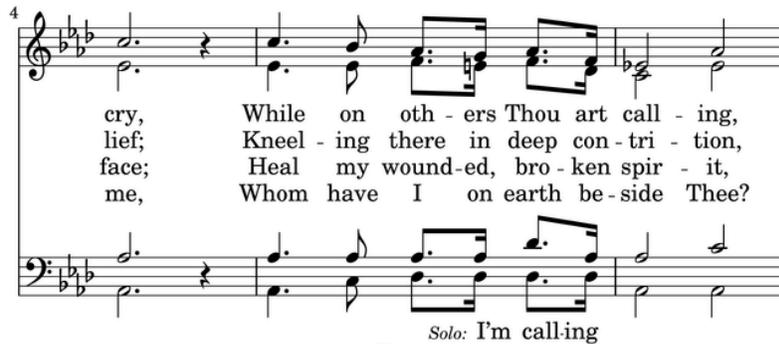
## HYMN OF THE MONTH

# Pass Me Not

WRITTEN BY FANNY CROSBY

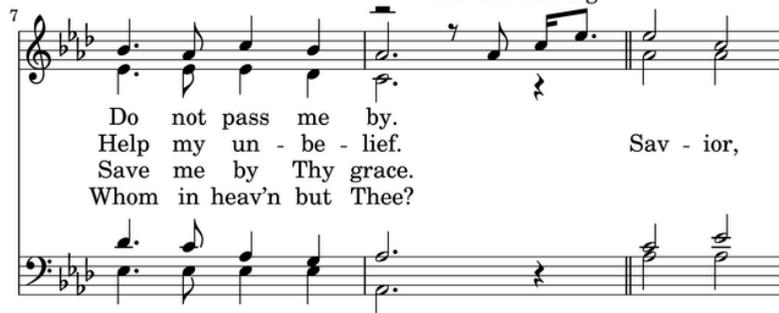


1. Pass me not, O gen-tle Sav-ior, Hear my hum-ble  
 2. Let me at a throne of mer-cy Find a sweet re-  
 3. Trust-ing on-ly in Thy mer-it, Would I seek Thy  
 4. Thou the Spring of all my com-fort, More than life to



4  
 cry, While on oth-ers Thou art call-ing,  
 lief; Kneel-ing there in deep con-tri-tion,  
 face; Heal my wound-ed, bro-ken spir-it,  
 me, Whom have I on earth be-side Thee?

*Solo: I'm calling*



7  
 Do not pass me by. Sav-ior,  
 Help my un-be-lief.  
 Save me by Thy grace.  
 Whom in heav'n but Thee?



10  
 Sav-ior, Hear my hum-ble cry;



13  
 While on oth-ers Thou art call-ing, Do not pass me by.

# 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

Sis. Theresa Byrd

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. Marie Keys

Ms. Jessie McCall

Sis. Valerie McClendon

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. Nilda C Sankitts

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.

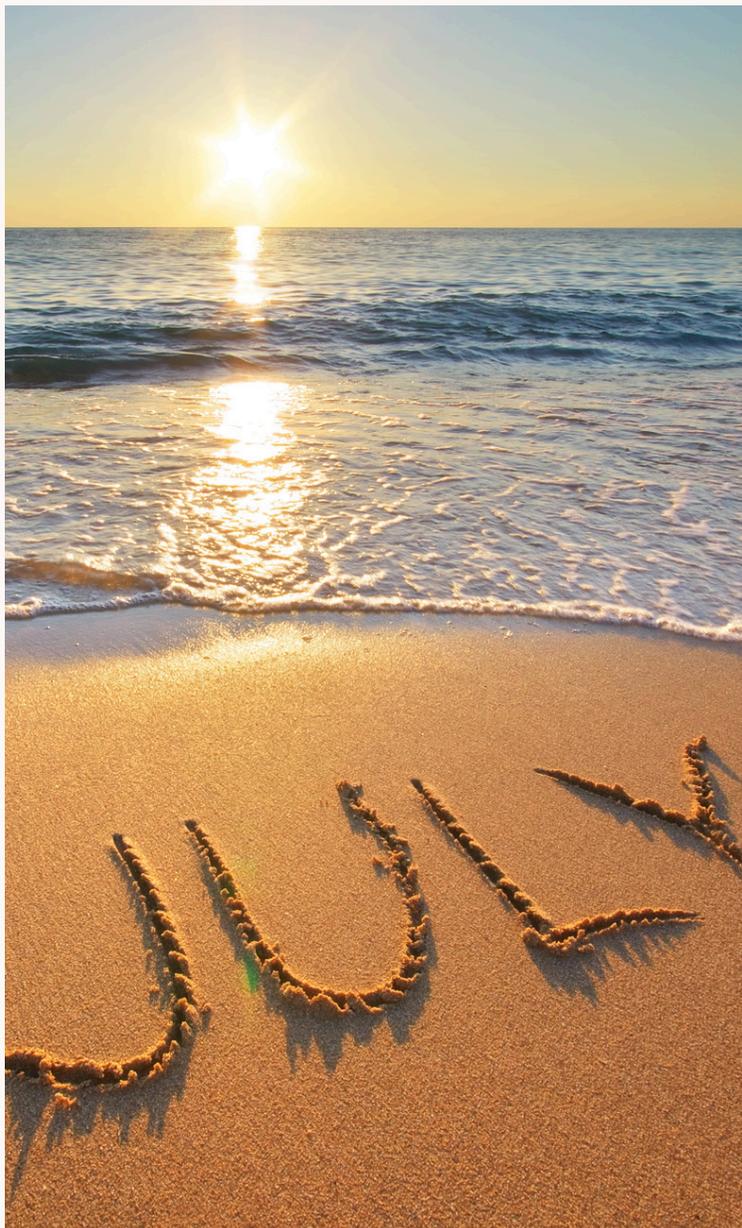
Sis. Priscilla Wise

Sis. Dorothy Woods

Sis. Lola Wright



Prayer changes things.



## Celebrating True Freedom on Independence Day

As we gather to celebrate Independence Day, we are reminded of the great blessing it is to live in a nation where we can worship freely and openly. July 4th is a time to honor the sacrifices made by those who fought for our country’s freedom, but as believers, we also recognize a deeper freedom – the freedom we have in Christ.

Galatians 5:1 says, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” While we celebrate the liberties granted by our country, let us not forget the eternal liberty given by Jesus. Our salvation frees us from the bondage of sin, giving us the ultimate reason to rejoice.

This Independence Day, may we pause to thank God not only for our nation but for the spiritual freedom that transcends borders and time. As we enjoy family, food, and fireworks, let’s also reflect on how we can serve our community, love our neighbors, and stand firm in our faith. True freedom is found in Christ, and it is a gift worth sharing with the world. Happy Independence Day!

**JULY**

**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		

**HIGHLIGHTING BLACK HISTORY**

# The Remarkable Story of Sarah Rector

WRITTEN BY SIS. DIANE RUSSELL



As graduation season comes to a close, I wanted to share the inspiring story of a young African American girl who became an oil magnate at just 12 years old.

Sarah Rector was born on March 2, 1902, in the all-Black town of Taft, Oklahoma, to Rose McQueen and Joseph Rector. Sarah's family were descendants of Creek Native Americans. During the integration of Indian Territory with Oklahoma Territory, Sarah was allotted 159 acres of land near Glenpool, Oklahoma.

The land was considered poor for farming and came with a \$30 annual property tax—an expense her family struggled to afford. To cover the cost, they leased the land to the Standard Oil Company. In 1913, the company struck oil, producing 2,000 gallons per day.

Due to racial prejudice, the state transferred Sarah's guardianship to T.J. Porter, a white man. Sarah's earnings quickly grew to over \$11,000 (equivalent to about \$285,000 today), but her wealth was mismanaged, leaving her in poverty while others benefited.

In 1914, The Chicago Defender began investigating Sarah's situation, challenging rumors that she was a white immigrant. Their reporting caught the attention of national Black leaders Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois. James C. Waters Jr., an NAACP agent, advocated for Sarah's well-being, raising concerns about her guardianship and finances. He wrote: "Is it not possible to have her cared for in a decent manner and by people of her own race, instead of by a member of a race which would deny her and her kind the treatment accorded a good yard dog?"

With the support of Washington, Sarah's finances were restored, and her siblings were enrolled in school.

By age 18, Sarah was a millionaire. She invested in stocks, businesses, and owned over 2,000 acres of valuable land. Her wealth brought both marriage proposals—from Black and white suitors—and death threats.

In 1920, Sarah married Kenneth Campbell in Kansas City, Missouri. They had three sons before divorcing after 10 years. She later married William Crawford in 1934.

Unfortunately, during the Great Depression of the 1920s, Sarah lost much of her wealth. Still, she continued earning income from her Kansas and Oklahoma properties until her death in 1967.

SALUTE THE GRADUATES

**Friendship Baptist Church**  
*Class of 2025*  
**High School & College Graduates**

## ESSENCE ELISE BRYON

Discovery High School  
Dance, National Honor Society

Parents  
Ryan and Quinteria Dendy

Youth and Teen Church, Sunday School  
Youth Secretary, Dance Ministry,  
Vacation Bible School

Georgia Gwinnett College  
Major: Biology

Favorite Scripture: John 15:5

## JAYLA JE'ANA GREER

Gwinnett Online Campus  
Marching Band, Childhood Education  
Pathways

Parents  
Larry and Tiffany Houser

Youth Church, Teen Church

Fort Valley State University  
Major: Middle Grades Education

Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:6-7

## JOYCE LEIGH ANN HILL

Peachtree Ridge High School  
Art Club, Academic Letter

Parents  
Brenden and Tiffany Hill-Blount

Teen Church, Vacation Bible School

Buice Center - ADAPT Program  
(Assisting Developing Adults with  
Productive Transitions)

Favorite Scripture: James 1:17

## JADA NOELLE CYBILMAR NAGBE

Seckinger High School  
Student Council Vice President,  
National Honor Society, DECA

Parents  
Patrick and Terry Alston-Nagbe

Youth Usher Ministry

Georgia Institute of Technology  
Major: Industrial Engineering

Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:13

## ORLANDO TODD OLDHAM, JR.

Brookwood High School  
Students for Christ, Track & Field, BBA  
Basketball

Parents  
Orlando and Andrian Oldham

Youth and Teen Church

University of West Georgia  
Major: Mass Communication - Sports  
Broadcasting

Favorite Scripture: Matthew 5:30

## CHRISTA MARY PATTERSON

Mountain View High School  
Key Club, Student Council, Maxwell  
Leadership Student Ambassador

Parents  
Reginald and Kimberly Patterson

Youth and Teen Church

University of Georgia  
Major: Biomedical Physiology

Favorite Scripture: Ephesians 4:2

## ADRIAN SENIOR

Peachtree Ridge High School  
Track, Student Council, Pan-African  
American Student Association,  
African American Student Association

Parent  
Lyntrell Jacobs

Youth Church

Georgia State University  
Major: Middle Grades Education

Favorite Scripture: Psalm 23:1

**SALUTE THE GRADUATES**

**KAYLA CHRISTIANA TODD**



Peachtree Ridge High School  
Academic Letter - Junior Year

Parents  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher J. Todd

FBC Christmas Program, 2023

Buice Center - ADAPT Program  
(Assisting Developing Adults with  
Productive Transitions)

Favorite Scripture:  
1Thessalonians 5:17

**BRADY MICHAEL WILLIAMS**



The Gwinnett School of Mathematics,  
Science, and Technology  
Robotics Club President, DECA, Georgia  
Tech Intern

Parents  
Michael and Cynthia Williams

Youth Church, Teen Church, Vacation  
Bible School

University of Georgia  
Major: Finance/Computer Science

Favorite Scripture: Psalm 20:7

**TAKIYAH BRAXTON**



Troy University  
May 2025

Masters of Business  
Administration

Career : Human Resources  
SHRM Certification

Favorite Scripture  
Proverbs 3:5

**STEPHANIE HURST**



Georgia State University  
December 2024

Master of Arts - Special  
Education

Career: Middle School Educator  
Speciality: Students with Autism

Favorite Scripture: James 2:17

**MARCUS JONES**



Georgia Southern University  
December 2024

Major: Information Technology/Cybersecurity

Favorite Scripture: Matthew 6:26

**Mecca LaShea Patrice Malone**



University of Maryland  
Global Campus  
December 2024

Master of Science  
Strategic Communications

Career: Project Manager at a  
Marketing Firm

Favorite Scripture  
John 14:27

**MARISSA TURK**



Georgia State University  
May 2025

Bachelor of Business Administration  
- Finance  
Cum Laude, HOPE Scholar  
Dean's List

Career: Financial Analyst

Favorite Scripture  
2 Thessalonians 1:11

**MYRIAH WELLS**



Emory University School of  
Law  
May 2025

Doctor of Jurisprudence

## RECENT EVENTS

# "Breakfast and a Movie"

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

**WRITTEN BY MEN'S MINISTRY PRESIDENT,  
RYAN DENDY**

On June 7, 2025, the Men's Ministry hosted a special event titled "Breakfast and a Movie", inviting all men and teenage boys to come together for fellowship and inspiration. The featured film, *The Forge*, is a powerful, Christian-based story that follows a young man whose life begins to change after a local businessman takes him under his wing following a job interview. The film highlights the vital role men play in mentoring and positively shaping the lives of the next generation.

*The Forge* is filled with both struggles and triumphs, reinforcing the message that transformation is possible when we embrace growth, receive guidance, and center our lives around God. It is a film every man should see—one that challenges us to be godly influences in the lives of others.

The event was well attended, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Many participants had already seen the movie but appreciated the opportunity to watch it again in the company of brothers in Christ. It sparked meaningful conversations and strengthened bonds among those present. The event was not only enjoyable but also



spiritually enriching, and we are excited to make it a regular part of our Men's Ministry calendar.

As men, we are called to lead by example and mentor our youth, encouraging them to pursue a God-centered life. This calling extends beyond our immediate families to every young person we encounter. Our ministry is grounded in the truth of Proverbs 27:17: "Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." As the heads of our homes and the foundation of our church, it is our responsibility to guide, uplift, and lead with integrity.

We encourage all men to get involved in the Men's Ministry and join us for future events. Together, we can continue to grow, support one another, and make a lasting impact on the next generation.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## *Sis. Debbie*

**Happy 71st Birthday, Sis. Debbie!**  
You are a true gift to our church and community, gracefully balancing your roles as a wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and ministry leader with unwavering love and strength. Your selfless dedication and spiritual leadership bless us all.

**August 1st, we celebrate you** and give you your flowers while you can receive them. May your day be filled with the joy, love, and appreciation you so richly deserve!

Vickie Chambers  
Shepherd's Care Ministry  
Servant Leader

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

**FBC CREATIVE LEARNING**  
**Christmas in July**  
**Annual Event**

**SATURDAY JULY 19TH**  
**10 - 2 PM**

**Located in the Family Life Center**

Please contact Erichka Rogers at [esharee@att.net](mailto:esharee@att.net) or text 404.819.6901

OUTREACH  
 MINISTRY  
**BACK TO SCHOOL**

Saturday  
 July 26th

SAVE  
 the  
 DATE

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

OPEN RECRUITING

We're looking for ministry workers in the following areas:

- Audio/Visual Support
- Sound Engineering
- Live Stream Assistants
- Camera Operators
- Website Technicians & Innovators
- Digital Creators & Content Designers

FMI Contact Louie Malone at 404-353-0943  
*"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few..."*  
 Matthew 9:37

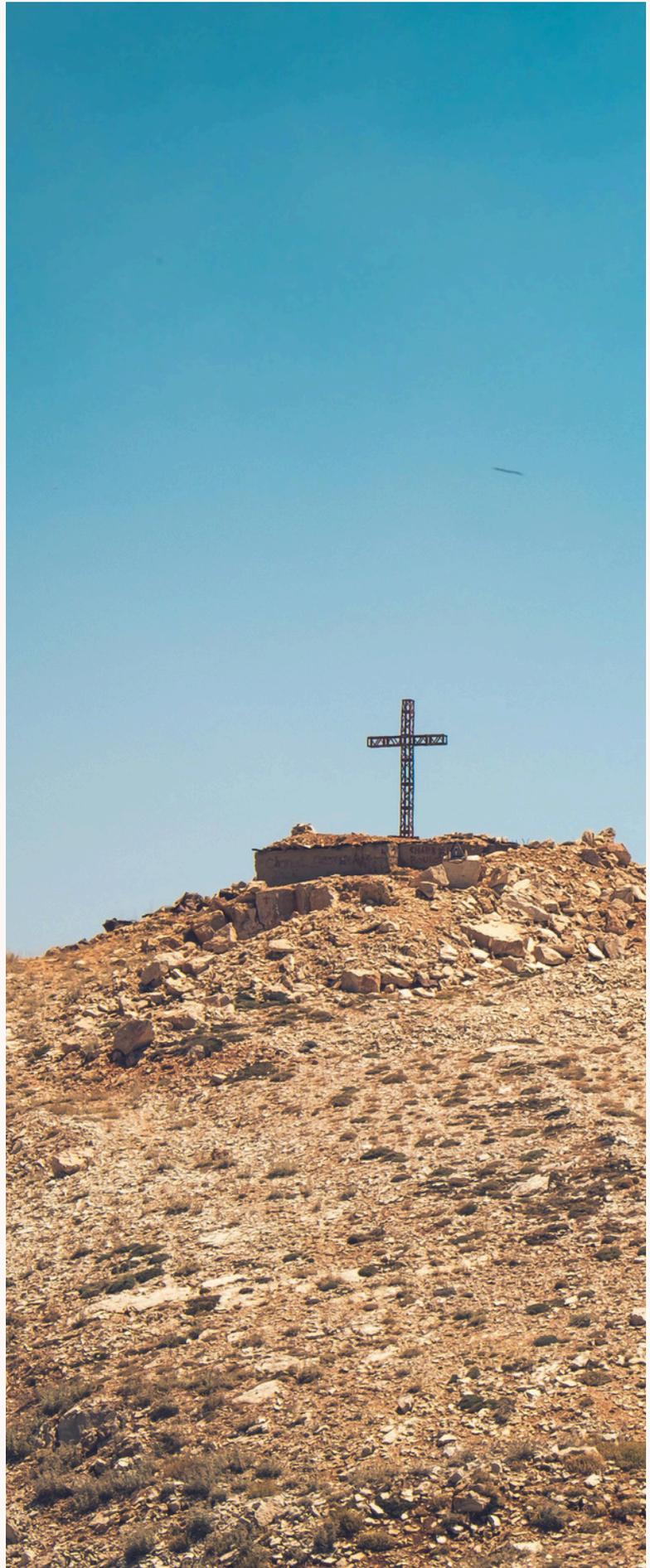


SAVE THE DATE

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

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

**Registration Date**  
**May 1<sup>st</sup> - June 30th**



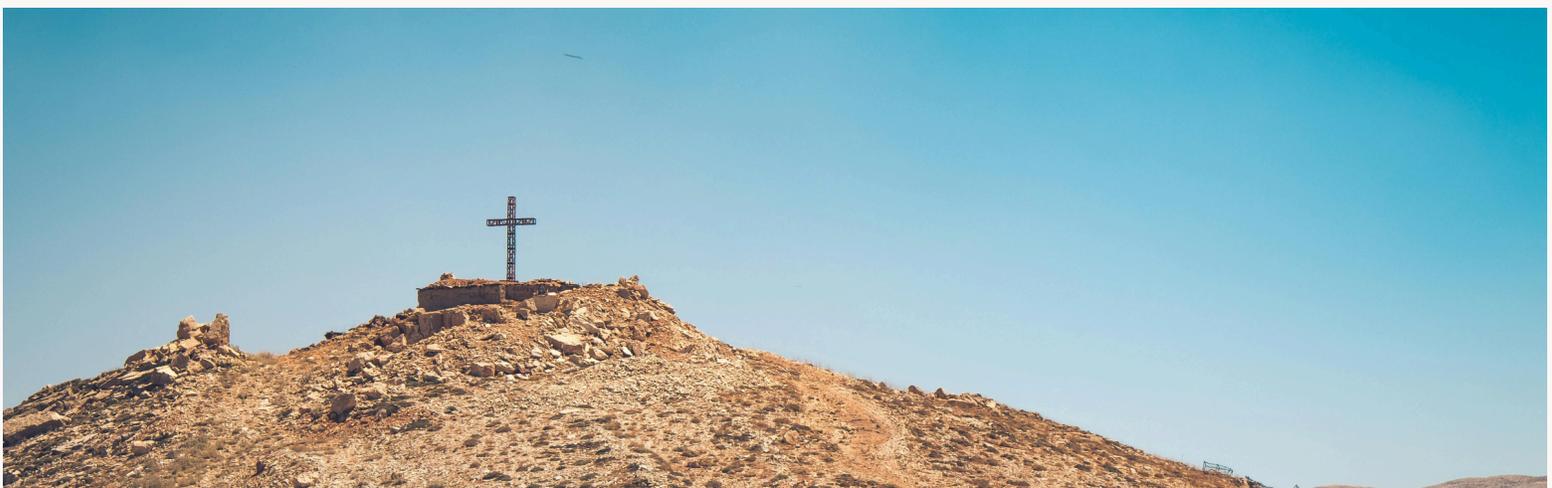
“Salvation is being saved, restored, and made new through faith in Jesus.”

Thanks for reading

# Friendship's Voice

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter!

**The deadline for August Newsletter articles is Friday, July 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

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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