



Rev. Ronald L. Bowens
Pastor

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

AUGUST 2025

VOL. 12, ISSUE 6

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

The Word God

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CALENDAR

Aug

- 9 - Taste of Friendship: Men That Cook
- 9 - Creative Learning Ministry Craft Class
- 24 - Youth Day

Sept

- 1 - Labor Day
- 6 - Grandparents Day
- 12-13 - Prayer Vigil

THEME OF THE MONTH

The Word of God

WRITTEN BY SIS. HYACINTH CHUNG



The Word of God has a two-fold meaning in the Bible. Firstly, the “Word” is another name for Jesus Christ, as seen in John 1:1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Jesus is God’s personal message to the world. In Greek philosophy, the concept behind the Word is the divine principle that permeates an orderly universe.

Secondly, the Word is also the things God has said to us. Psalm 119:89 states, “Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.” Isaiah 40:8 also says, “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” In Malachi 3:6, God again makes known the fact that, “I the Lord do not change,” and as Matthew 24:35 rightly states, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

God’s Word works in us—in our minds and hearts—purifying our consciences, renewing our minds. It illuminates our spirits and drives away darkness. Its light exposes the dark areas in our lives that need to be changed.

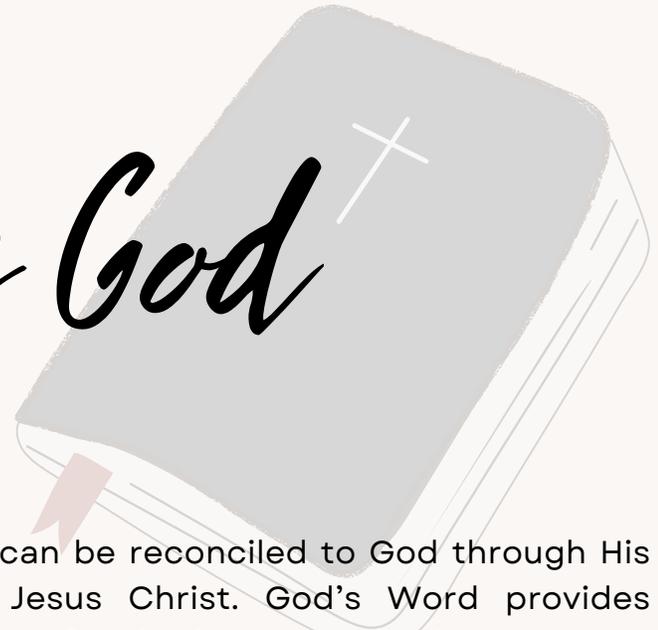
As God speaks through His Word, He makes clear His character and nature, also mankind’s character and nature, and how

man can be reconciled to God through His Son, Jesus Christ. God’s Word provides warning for disobedience; it also promises reward for obedience, with the greatest reward being God Himself.

Hebrews 4:12 tells us, “For the Word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

God gave us His Word so we know right from wrong. By His Word, we can be transformed into His likeness and walk in the fear of the Lord. His Word is true and eternal and speaks to every generation—it never changes.

God’s Word restores, revives, heals, leads, guides, encourages, and admonishes His people. As God speaks to us through His Word, we can respond to Him in prayer. His Word keeps us from sin and helps us to grow in Christ-likeness. As we spend time with God, He reveals our sins, our need for Him, and begins the process of making us more like Christ.



Scripture of the Month

**In the beginning was
the Word, and the
Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

JOHN 1:1 (NASB)

HYMN OF THE MONTH

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

WRITTEN BY JOSEPH MEDLICOTT SCRIVEN

430 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

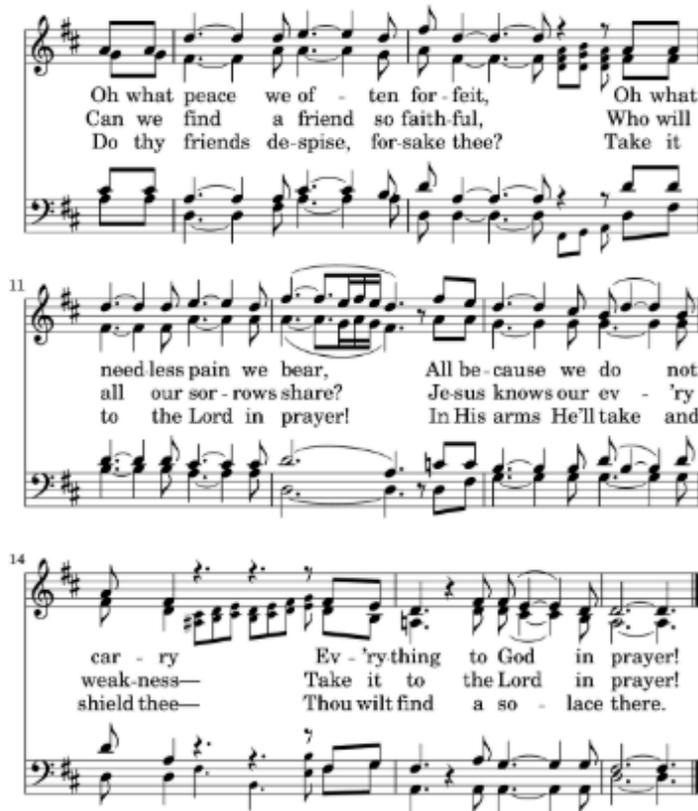


1. What a Friend we have in Je-sus, All our
 2. Have we tri - als and tempt-a-tions? Is there
 3. Are we weak and heav - y - lad-en, Cumbered

sins and griefs to bear! What a priv - i - lege to
 trou - ble an - y - where? We should nev - er be dis-
 with a load of care? Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our

car - ry Ev - 'rything to God in prayer!
 couraged— Take it to the Lord in prayer!
 ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer!

430 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



Oh what peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh what
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, Who will
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it

need less pain we bear, All be - cause we do not
 all our sor - rows share? Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry
 to the Lord in prayer! In His arms He'll take and

car - ry Ev - 'rything to God in prayer!
 weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer!
 shield thee— Thou wilt find a so - lace there.

African American Heritage Hymnal # 430
 ©1911 Joseph Scriven, #1919-1980
 Tune (ANNIE LOOSELY) # 1 & 7 Dr. Traditional Collection: Yvonne A. Foster, © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.

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

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. 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

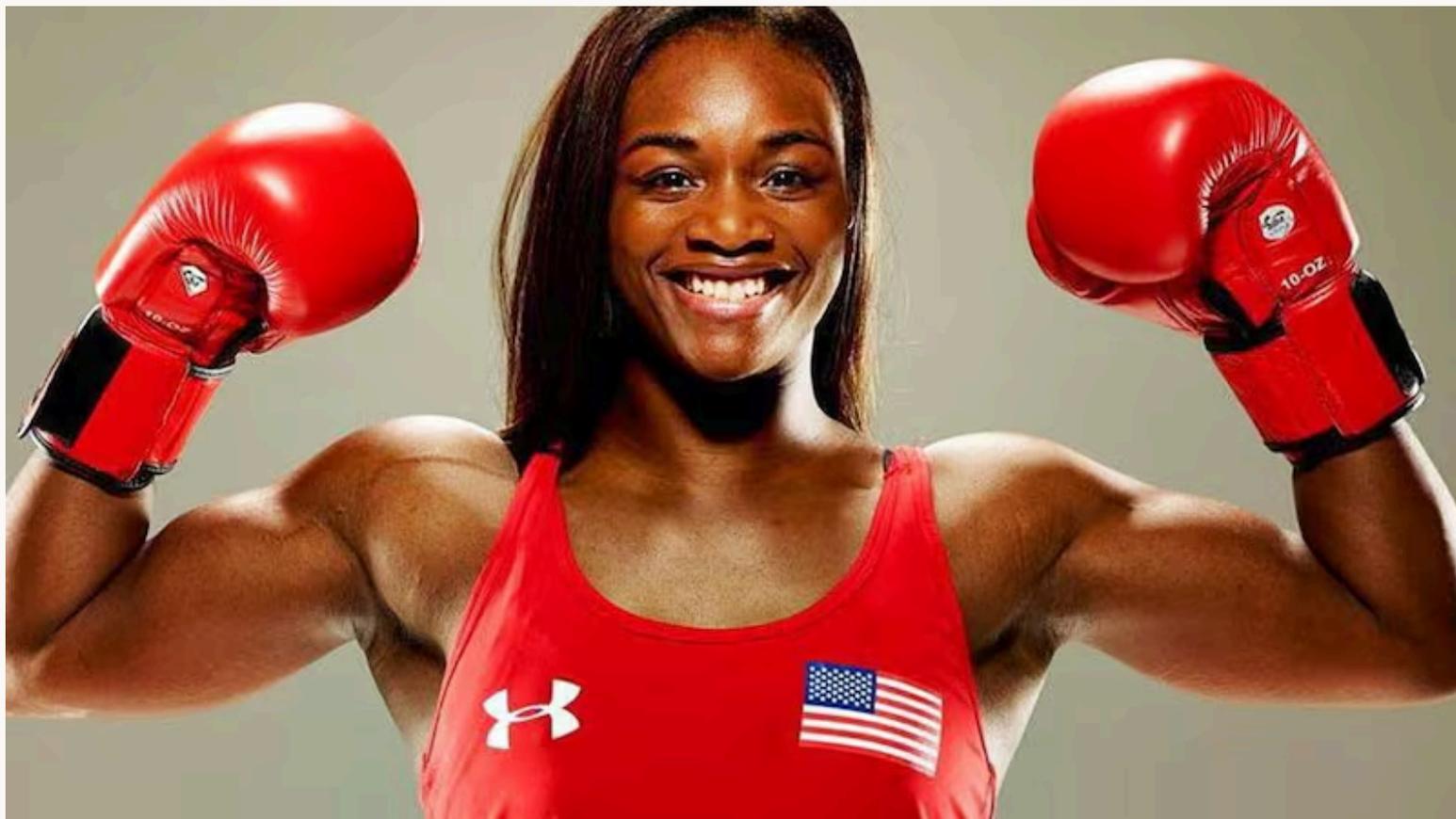
Prayer changes things.



HIGHLIGHTING BLACK HISTORY

Claressa Shields: The Unbeatable Champion

WRITTEN BY SIS. DIANE RUSSELL



Born on March 17, 1995, in Flint, Michigan, Claressa Maria Shields grew up in a city marked by economic decline and instability. Raised primarily by her grandmother, she faced homelessness and hardship early in life. Yet, amid the adversity, Shields discovered a dream.

At age 11, inspired by her father's stories of Laila Ali, she asked to join a local boxing gym. The Berston Field House in Flint became her sanctuary and training ground.

By 16, Shields qualified for the 2012 Summer

Olympics in London—the first to feature women's boxing. Competing in the middleweight division, she became the youngest boxer on the U.S. team and won gold, becoming the first American woman to do so. In 2016, she returned to the Olympics in Rio and secured a second gold medal, making her the first American boxer—male or female—to win back-to-back Olympic golds.

After turning professional, Shields continued to dominate. In 2019, she became the undisputed middleweight champion, holding all four major titles (WBA, WBC, IBF,

HIGHLIGHTING BLACK HISTORY



She has ventured into MMA and continues to train for new challenges. Her influence stretches beyond sports—she stands as a symbol of resilience and a voice for the marginalized.

Claressa Shields' legacy is already legendary. Her journey from Flint to global champion shows that greatness can rise from even the toughest beginnings—and that fighting for your dreams can inspire a movement.

WBO) simultaneously. She later repeated the feat in another weight class, becoming the first boxer—regardless of gender—to unify all four titles in two divisions. Her professional record remains undefeated, with victories over top contenders like Christina Hammer, Hanna Gabriels, and Ivana Habazin.

Shields' achievements reflect years of sacrifice, grit, and unmatched skill. Beyond the ring, she advocates for women's rights, equal pay, and greater visibility for female athletes. Drawing from her own experiences of abuse, discrimination, and struggle, she uses her platform to mentor youth and push for change.

She's been outspoken about the lack of opportunities for women in boxing and continues to call for greater equity. Her community involvement, school visits, and motivational speaking further underscore her commitment to empowering the next generation.

Despite her success, Shields remains grounded.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Merry Christmas...in July!

Hosted by the FBC Creative Learning Ministry, Led by Ministry Servant Leader Erichka Shadburn Rogers



WRITTEN BY CHRISTINE SMITH



On Saturday, July 19, the FBC Creative Learning ministry, under the leadership of Servant Leader Erichka Shadburn Rogers, joyfully hosted its annual Christmas in July event at the FBC Family Life Center (FLC). This cherished summer tradition was originally founded by the late Mrs. Pat (Louie) Malone, whose legacy continues to inspire the ministry's creative spirit.

The FLC was transformed into a festive wonderland, complete with Christmas trees, wreaths, ornaments, and seasonal décor. The main event of the celebration was a stunning display of quilts and crafts created by ministry members over the years—an enduring tribute to their creativity and dedication.

The event opened with a heartfelt prayer and welcome, setting the tone for a day filled with

inspiration, fellowship, and holiday cheer. Guests explored a variety of handmade crafts and gift ideas, sparking creativity for the upcoming holiday season.

The Creative Learning ministry proudly showcases the diverse talents of its members, and this event was a beautiful reflection of that mission. From intricate quilts to imaginative crafts, every piece told a story of community, artistry, and love.

Erichka and the ministry team extend their deepest thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to making this year's Christmas in July a truly memorable and festive occasion!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY



CHRISTMAS IN JULY



BACK TO SCHOOL 2025

Back to School 2025

Friendship Baptist Church Outreach Ministry, Saturday, July 26, 2025 - Fellowship Hall



WRITTEN BY OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADER,
ANGELA CAMPBELL

The Friendship Baptist Church Outreach Ministry was pleased to host its annual Back to School event on Saturday, July 26, 2025, welcoming a diverse group of students and families from the community. This year, more than 120 backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to students ranging from Pre-K through high school.

Guests enjoyed a lunch prepared by the Men's Ministry, who graciously grilled hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone in attendance.

The program featured inspiring messages delivered by Ministers Stan and Barbara Williams, who encouraged students to:

- Stay focused on God and keep Him at the center of their lives
- Let their light shine wherever they go
- The importance of choosing godly friends

- Speak up for those who are bullied
- Have faith in God as they face the challenges of the new school year

As a new academic year begins, we pray for God's protection, wisdom, and strength for every student.

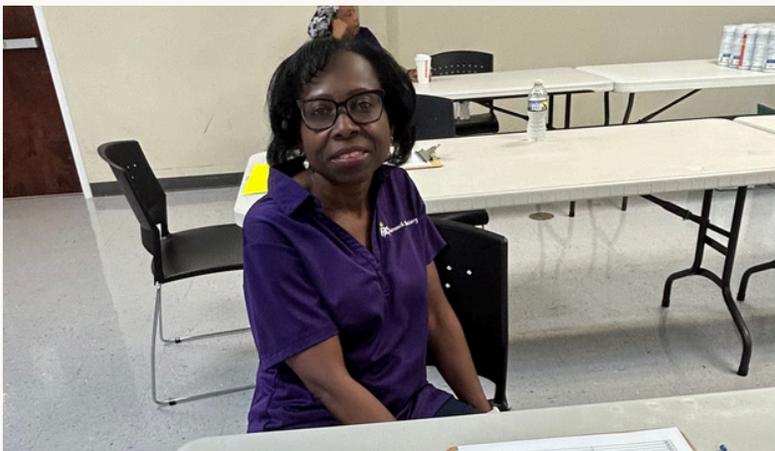
Thanks to the volunteers whose dedication made this event possible. Your support is truly appreciated.



BACK TO SCHOOL 2025



BACK TO SCHOOL 2025





AUGUST 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						





Through Me and For Me

WRITTEN BY SIS. WHITNEY BROWN



Before evangelizing, praying, or generally sharing the Gospel, we often, as believers, call on the Holy Spirit to “speak through us.” We’ll utter something like, “Holy Spirit, speak through me. Let there be less of me and more of you.” It’s a powerful request to the spiritual comforter- asking Him to use our vessels to convey Christ’s powerful love to the listeners.

However, did you know that the Holy Spirit can speak FOR us, as well? Moreover, He’ll speak directly to God for us! In Romans 8:26 (NKJV), Apostle Paul says, “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

The Oxford English Dictionary defines intercession as “the act of saying a prayer for somebody.” So, what Paul is saying in that verse is that the Holy Spirit is strong in our fleshly weaknesses and often utters perfect prayers to God for us. Wow, what a great act of love! What a profound comfort it is to know that when I don’t have the wisdom or even the strength to pray for myself, the Holy Spirit goes to the Father to intercede on my behalf- all by the Father’s own design.

Sit in that truth for a moment today, and allow the weighty depth of God’s love to envelop your heart, fortify your mind, and ease your soul.

“Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” Romans 8:27 (NKJV)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

**You're Invited!**

The Men's Ministry of Friendship Baptist Church warmly invites all church members to join us on Saturday, August 9, 2025, from 12 PM to 2 PM for an afternoon of fellowship, food, and fun as we give back to you. Men that Cook - A Taste of Friendship

This special event was originally founded by Deacon Patterson, Deacon Jerrals, and several others to showcase the culinary talents of the men of Friendship. After bringing it back in 2024, we're excited to host it again this year—and we hope to keep the tradition going for many years to come!

Last year's event saw an incredible turnout, and we're planning to make this year even better. With over 20 dedicated cooks preparing a wide variety of delicious dishes, you're in for a treat.

Enjoy generous samples of Lasagna, Ribs, Mac and Cheese, Brisket, Jerk Chicken, Fried Chicken, and many other mouth-watering options—plus a full array of desserts.

This year, we're also featuring an Art Show by our very own Zack Pratt, who will be displaying his incredible paintings.

The event begins promptly at 12 PM. You'll be free to visit each food station as many times as you like—while supplies last! Bring a friend, bring your appetite, and come ready for great food, lively conversation, and uplifting music provided by our own Omaarh Holcomb from the Communications Ministry.

Let the Men of Friendship serve you and make it an afternoon to remember. We can't wait to see you there.

Written By Ryan Dendy

UPCOMING EVENTS

In anticipation of Youth Day **The Teen Ministry Speaks!**

Teen Church at Friendship Baptist Church has been a staple in the lives of many young people in the community, including mine. I've had the privilege of attending this vibrant and dynamic service since I was 13 years old. What sets Teen Church apart is its transparency and willingness to tackle real issues that affect teenagers today. The messages are not only spiritually nourishing but also extremely informative, providing guidance and wisdom that helps us navigate the challenges of adolescence.

One of the things I appreciate most about Teen Church is its ability to create a safe and supportive environment where teens can openly discuss their thoughts, feelings, and struggles. The leaders are passionate, knowledgeable, and genuinely invested in the well-being of the youth. They approach topics in a way that is both relatable and thought-provoking, encouraging us to think critically about our faith and its application in our daily lives.

Attending Teen Church has been a truly formative experience for me. It's not just a weekly service; it's a community that has a sense of belonging and purpose. I've learned so much about myself and about God's love through the messages, worship, and fellowship. The impact of Teen Church extends beyond the service itself, as it has helped me develop a stronger faith and a greater sense of purpose. I feel grateful to have been a part of this community for so long, and I'm excited to see how God continues to work in the lives of the teens at Friendship Baptist Church.

Written by Discovery High School graduate,
Essense Byron

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

HOW TO Crochet A CHUNKY BLANKET

FBC CREATIVE LEARNING

CRAFT CLASS DATE: 8/9/25

Class Instructor:
Catherine Morgan

Class starts promptly at 10 am until 2 pm
Located in the Fellowship Hall

Age: 10+ - Adults - Skill level: Beginner

*Contact Erichka Rogers (404) 819-6901 to obtain a copy of the supply list requirements.

FBC FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

24-Hour Prayer Vigil

THEME
Healing in Our Land;
A Call to Prayer and Total
Surrender to God

Date: September 12, 2025
Time: 5:00 PM - 5:00 PM
September 13, 2025
2 Chronicles 7:14

Friendship Baptist Church Sanctuary
Rev. Ronald L. Bowens, Pastor

Main Sanctuary – Doors Open 24 Hours

*"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.
From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee,
when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the
rock that is higher than I."*

– Psalm 61:1-2

Read all the details on the next page!

24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL: “HEALING IN OUR LAND”

Greetings Everyone!

Our church family and friends are invited to gather for a 24-Hour Prayer Vigil, beginning Friday, September 12 at 5:00 PM and continuing through Saturday, September 13 at 5:00 PM in the Sanctuary. This sacred time is being set apart for prayer, fasting, and surrender before God as we seek His healing in our land—in our homes, churches, communities, and government, both local and global.

Opening Session

The Mothers Ministry and GriefShare Ministry will graciously host our opening session as we gather to seek God’s presence together. Every two hours, the prayer mantle will be passed to a different ministry leader or their appointed representative, ensuring continuous prayer and unity throughout our 24-hour vigil. We will begin in the evening, as the sun sets, praying:

Psalm 91:1-2 “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”

As we enter this sacred time, we rest and trust under God’s covering, praying for healing and hope in our land.

Why We Pray

In a world filled with uncertainty, brokenness, and deep need, we are calling on the Lord together. This vigil is a call to prayer and total surrender to God—an opportunity to intercede for healing: physical, emotional, spiritual. Whether you come with a burden or simply a willing heart, the Lord will meet you here.

Closing

How fitting it is that the Communications Ministry will bring our vigil to a close. After all, isn’t that what prayer is all about – communicating with our Heavenly Father? So, come let us have a little talk with Jesus. Let us tell Him all about our troubles. He will hear our faintest cry, and He will answer by and by. Please don’t wait – pray now and continually. God bless!

How It Works

- The church doors will remain open for 24 hours.
- The altar will be available for anyone who wants to pray, meditate, or simply sit quietly in God’s presence.
- There is no formal schedule—come whenever you are led.
- Whether you stay 24 hours, 24 minutes, or 2–4 minutes, your presence matters.

Ways to Participate

- Come alone, with family, or as part of a small group.
- Engage in silent prayer, read scripture, or worship quietly.
- Fast and pray if you feel led.
- Pray not only for yourself, but for those who cannot come.

What to Expect

This vigil is about intentional reverence—a time to cry out to God and to listen for His voice. Expect peace. Expect power. Expect God’s presence to meet you in a personal way.

Invitation

This is a church-wide effort to unite in prayer and seek God’s face. Come to lay down our burdens. Come to lift up our community. Come to stand in the gap for healing. The altar is open for all—for 24 hours straight. Come expecting. Come surrendering. Come believing. In Jesus’ name, we pray.

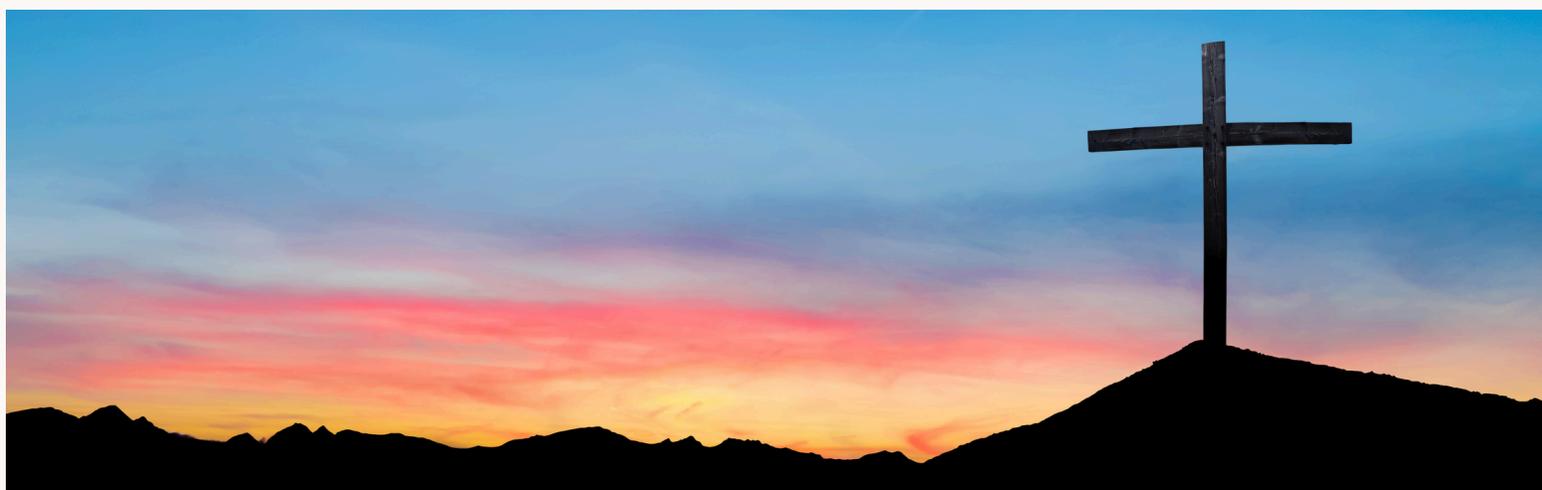
“His Word keeps us from sin and helps us to grow in Christ-likeness.”

Thanks for reading

Friendship's Voice

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter!

The deadline for September Newsletter articles is Friday, August 15th



Communications Ministry

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Vice President

Tina Patterson

Secretary

Hyacinth Chung

Assistant Secretary

DeLauryn Brown

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Michal Patterson

Chaplain

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Deacon Advisor

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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

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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

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Evg. Geneva Burse

Evg. Valerie A. Montague

Evg. Ruthell Morris

Evg. Kimberly Rogers

Min. Monique Stroman

Min. Barbara Williams