



Rev. Ronald L. Bowens
Pastor

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

OCTOBER 2025

VOL. 12, ISSUE 8

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

Commitment

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CALENDAR

Oct

- 4 - FBC Musical
- 5 - Pastor Bowen’s 41st Pastoral Anniversary Service
- 18 - Education Ministry Field Trip
- 18 - Creative Learning Ministry T-Shirt Quilt Class pt 2

THEME OF THE MONTH

Commitment



WRITTEN BY SIS. HYACINTH CHUNG



Commitment is an action on our part in response to someone or something. Some of the dictionary meanings of Commitment can be considered as: faithfulness, dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, promise, oath, covenant, contract, pact, responsibility, obligation, liability and much more.

The Biblical meaning is merely to give of yourself. It is a personal commitment to give of yourself to a person or a thing under consideration. Jesus is the perfect example of Commitment to God and to Man, He gave his Life for us. When we commit to someone or something we must see it through to the end.

We commit to a spouse/partner, a job, a contract, even a faith but if we do not see it through to the end then it is not commitment, it cannot be partial or halfway, just like "Faith without works is dead" commitment without faith and loyalty is null and void. In Revelation 3:15-16, God said, "I know your works, that you are neither cold or hot. I wish you were either cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth".

We, as Christians are crippled in our walk with God because of half-hearted commitment for the things of God. This is evidenced in our tithing, church attendance, prayer time, our service in the various ministries we signed up for, we have no joy in serving because we do not have a personal committed relationship with God.

Scripture references: Deuteronomy 6:5-7 tells us to: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up".

Deuteronomy 11:13, "And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, 14That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil".

These scriptures are also affirmed in the New Testament in the teaching of Christ in Matthew 22:37, "Jesus replied: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." When you are acting on the things you have committed to and things are not looking good and the walls are caving in on all sides, continue on your course. In 1 Peter 2:23 we are reminded,

"When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly."

Scripture of the Month

¹⁵ But if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served, which were beyond the Euphrates River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

JOSHUA 24:15 (NASB)

HYMN OF THE MONTH

I Am on the Battlefield

WRITTEN BY SYLVANNA BELL AND E.V. BANKS

ON THE BATTLEFIELD

As Sung by Mr. and Mrs. MORTENSON

1. I was a-lone and i-dle, I was a sin-ner too, I heard a voice from
 2. I lost my flag and banner, My staff is in my hand, I'm tak-ing it to
 3. I'm fighting for the kingdom, The battle al-most won, The trum-pet will be

heav - en, Say-ing there is work to do. Then I took my Master's hand,
 Je - sus, O - ver in the glo-ry land. In that dis-tant land I trod,
 sounding. The com-ing of the Son. I'll lay my ar-mor down,

And I joined that heav'nly band, Now I'm on the bat-tle field for my Lord.
 Cry-ing sin - ner come to God, Now I'm on the bat-tle field for my Lord.
 Take up my robe and crown, Then I'll walk the streets of gold with my Lord

D.S.— on the bat-tle field for my Lord.

CHORUS

Oh! I'm on the bat-tle field for my Lord. Yes, I'm on the bat-tle

D. S.

field for my Lord. I promised Him that I would serve him till I die. Now I'm

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. Robert Beal

Bro. Willie Benton

Min. Karen Blacknell

Sis. Sheila Blackwell

Dea. Willie Blake

Bro. Don Bowens

Sis. Liz Bowens

Barbara Williams Brown

Sis. Denise 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. Quincie Joyner

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



24HR PRAYER VIGIL

24-Hour Prayer Vigil

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 5



WRITTEN BY SIS. CYNTHIA URQUHART

What a mighty God we serve. The vision was one thing, the reality another. Only God.

The 24-Hour Prayer Vigil began at 5:00 PM on Friday, September 12, 2025, and continued until 5:00 PM on Saturday, September 13, 2025. Ministry Leaders were asked to attend or send an appointee from their ministry. They were advised that a deacon, a Gatekeeper, and/or a member from the Men's ministry would always be present. This was to ensure that no woman would be alone in the sanctuary, especially overnight. The goal was to keep the church doors open continuously for 24 hours so that anyone could come at any time to pray or receive prayer.

As the event began Friday evening, leaders arrived

and brought their teams. The vigil began with Grief Share and The Mothers' Ministry, whose leaders were accompanied by their ministry team members, with almost every other ministry following suit. Throughout the 24 hours, each ministry participated with scriptures, songs, and, most importantly, prayers.

Some prayer warriors remained in the sanctuary for the full duration, rarely leaving their posts from 5:00 PM Friday to 5:00 PM Saturday. Two in particular were posted at the far ends of the sanctuary as if purposely positioned that way. Most of the time, they sat still with heads bowed in prayer. I had to check on them a couple of times to make sure they were okay—just kidding, but I did keep my eye on them.

24HR PRAYER VIGIL

A toddler escaped from the prayer circle and made her way to the drums to provide musical accompaniment. Gatekeeper Ryan Dendy quickly intercepted her and returned her to the battlefield. Prayers continued nonstop for 24 hours, without idle chatter. This was not a social event, but an actual battlefield. God united us in prayer, seeking His face.



We prayed for our world, nation, local government, families, children, violence, same-sex preferences, human trafficking, the immigration crisis, health, church scandals, pastors, the elderly, and more. I cannot recall everything. But, you name it ... it was prayed for. One of the many memorable prayers was one from a child requesting prayers for “his friends” and for his “mom and dad”. How sobering that a child was moved to make his request known unto the Lord.



Prayers were offered every hour for Friendship members and Pastor and Sister Debbie as they traveled to Tampa, Florida, for Sister Jewel Fye’s homegoing, the wife of Deacon Reggie Fye and sister to Deacon Michael (Sharon) Jerrals. As the hours passed, we watched evening turn to night, and night eventually gave way to morning and then day right before our eyes, marking each phase of the vigil. Night becoming day reminds us: dark times will brighten. We must keep praying—not just once, but every day. Prayer is ongoing work.



It was inspiring to see people gather, not for entertainment or a meal, but to humble themselves and pray for healing in our land. Families prayed together. Our men watched over the sanctuary through the night. Police were present, their headlights shining outside. Most importantly, we knew that God was watching over us all. The vigil has ended, but the prayers must continue.



24HR PRAYER VIGIL



REVIVAL

"Determined to Finish Well"

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH THREE-NIGHT REVIVAL

WRITTEN BY SIS. LATRELL CARR

"**Determined to Finish Well**" was the theme of Friendship Baptist Church's three-night Revival, held September 16-18, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Each evening was filled with uplifting praise & worship, heartfelt prayer, meaningful scripture readings, and powerful messages from Reverend Abraham Mosley, Pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Athens, GA.

The ministry of music blessed each night of the revival, beginning with heartfelt worship from the FBC Gospel Choir on the first evening. On night two, the FBC Male Chorus offered inspiring praise, and The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Choir wrapped up the three-night revival with a series of uplifting selections.

Reverend Mosley delivered spirit-filled sermons each evening of the revival, leaving a lasting impact on the congregation. On the first night,

his message titled "A Good Habit to Have" drew from the life of Daniel, emphasizing the value of consistent prayer and unwavering faithfulness. The second night's sermon, "Bring Them to Jesus," was a passionate call to parents to lead their children to Christ early in life, laying a spiritual foundation for the future. On the final night, Reverend Mosley preached "When Your Load Gets Heavy," a powerful message based on Psalm 23:2, reminding the congregation that through God's Word and prayer, we are equipped to face the challenges of life.

Psalm 85:6 asks, "Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?" This spirit of renewal was evident throughout the revival, which left the congregation encouraged, uplifted, and spiritually refreshed—truly determined to finish well.



COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

Outreach Ministry Community Fellowship

The Outreach Ministry of Friendship Baptist Church hosted a joyful Community Fellowship on Saturday, September 20, in the Family Life Center. Led by Sis. Diana McGhee, the event embraced the theme, "Fellowship with the Community," bringing members and neighbors together for fun, food, and fellowship.

The day featured lively activities including karaoke for all ages, a cake bake-off, and a delicious fish fry. Outside, the Men's Ministry served with cheer by offering car washes, while inside, guests toured the Friendship Market and Outreach Center to learn more about ministry resources. Members who recently joined the church were especially welcomed, giving them a chance to meet and connect with the FBC family. Prizes and giveaways added to the excitement.

The celebration concluded on Sunday, September 21, with a heartfelt worship service in the Sanctuary, affirming Friendship's dedication to outreach, unity, and community.



COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP



COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP



HEALTH FAIR

FBC Health Fair

HOSTED BY THE MEN'S MINISTRY

We were honored to have our very own Dr. Adrian Douglass join the men of Friendship Baptist Church for an open and insightful discussion on men's health. Too often, as men, we avoid talking about our health or taking the necessary steps to prevent serious issues. Regular checkups are skipped, medications go untaken, and we delay care until it's too late.

Dr. Douglass created a welcoming space where the men felt comfortable speaking openly about their health concerns. The conversation was rich and informative, covering a wide range of topics including prostate health, sleep apnea, acid reflux, colon health, and more. It was a powerful reminder that the health issues we face are not unique – many others are going through the same things.

We must continue having these important conversations. The choices we make today can lead to healthier, more impactful lives tomorrow. Early detection can prevent many serious conditions—so don't wait. Get your screenings. Follow your doctor's advice. Use the tools and medications provided to help improve your quality of life.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Douglass for making these complex topics relatable and easy to understand. His visit sparked meaningful dialogue and gave us clarity we often don't get in a typical doctor's visit. We're looking forward to welcoming him back again soon.

To all the men of Friendship: we encourage you to be part of the next session—and bring a friend. It's an experience you won't want to miss.



An Expression of Gratitude

On behalf of the Jerrals and Fye families, I would like to sincerely thank Pastor Bowens and my Friendship Church family for your prayers, love, support, cards, flowers, and monetary contributions during the passing of my sister, Jewel. Words cannot fully express how much I appreciate your kindness and compassion during this time. Please continue to keep us lifted in your daily prayers.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Deacon Michael Jerrals

OCTOBER

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	



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTO
BER 

BREAST CANCER

Awareness Month



*Fully Committed to
Preaching the Word*

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. II Timothy 4:3-5

41st PASTORAL
Anniversary

**HONORING
PASTOR & SISTER
RONALD & DEBBIE BOWENS**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Education Ministry Invites students of all ages and adults to the **Hooper-Renwick Themed Library**

an Enriching Community Experience

Free Field Trip

Saturday, October 18th

Registration Deadline-October 8th

Register @ sharon4282.sn@gmail.com

Bus departs @ 9:15am



FBC Creative Learning

T- SHIRT QUILT CLASS : PART II

SATURDAY 10/18/25 AT 10 AM

CLASS INSTRUCTOR

SIS. STEPHANIE WILSON

LOCATED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

SKILL LEVEL: EXPERIENCED BEGINNER SEWIST



In the 2nd class, learn to: Piece shirt blocks with sashing & borders.
Bring supplies, shirts and a your lunch/snack to share.

Class Information: Contact Sis. Erichka Rogers 404-819-6901

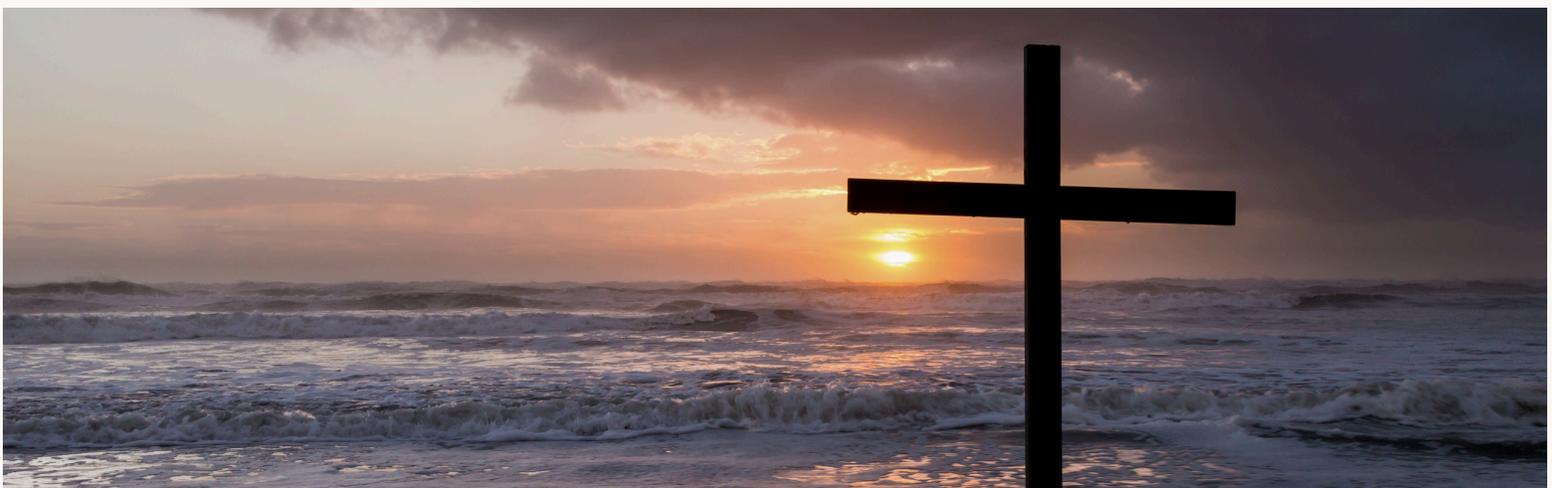
"...Jesus is the perfect example of Commitment to God and to Man..."

Thanks for reading

Friendship's Voice

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter!

The deadline for November Newsletter articles is Friday, October 17th



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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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 Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Email: fbcduluth@att.net
 Website: www.fbcduluth.org

Leadership

FBC ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Rev. Ken Blacknell | Rev. Artis Johnson |
| Elder Chris Evans | Min. Larry Jones |
| Rev. Garfield Garner | Rev. Timothy Twyman |
| Rev. Eugene Graves | Rev. Stanley Williams |
| Min. Shurron Green | Rev. Alton Wilson |
| Rev. Stanley Jackson | |

FBC MINISTERS OF EVANGELISM

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Min. Karen Blackwell | Evg. Kimberly Rogers |
| Evg. Geneva Burse | Min. Monique Stroman |
| Evg. Valerie A. Montague | Min. Barbara Williams |
| Evg. Ruthell Morris | |

Improvements to FBC's website are ongoing. Feedback can be provided to the **Communications Ministry** at tag49llm@aol.com