



Rev. Ronald L. Bowens  
Pastor

# FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

DECEMBER 2025

VOL. 12, ISSUE 10

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

# The Word

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## CALENDAR

### Dec

- 13 - Thanksgiving Food Giveaway
- 21 - Christmas Program
- 24 - Christmas Eve
- 25 - Christmas Day
- 31 - New Year’s Eve
- 31 - Watch Night Service

### Jan

- 1 - New Year’s Day

## THEME OF THE MONTH

# The Word

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 and 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, as well as



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

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14 (NASB)

HYMN OF THE MONTH

# Joy to the World

WRITTEN BY ISSAC WATTS

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re-  
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

6  
 ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks,  
 fest the ground; He comes to make His  
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His

10  
 pare Him room, And heav'n and na - ture  
 hills, and plains Re - peat the sound - ing  
 bless - ings flow Far as the curse - is  
 righ - teous - ness, And won - ders of His

1. And  
 1. And

13  
 sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
 joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -  
 found, Far as the curse is found, Far  
 love, And won - ders of His love, And  
 heav'n and na - ture sing,  
 heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture

16  
 heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 as, far as the curse is found.  
 won - ders, won - ders of His love.  
 sing,

# 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

Sherita Caldwell

Breann Caldwell

Dominique Caldwell

Nick Caldwell

The Carmack Family

Sis. Chastity Collier

Sis. Sarah Collins

Sis. Trisha Dawson

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

Sis. Juanita Semedo

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.

# Service Time Changes

We are excited to announce new service times starting **January 4, 2026!** Join us for worship at **10 am** and Sunday school at **8:45 am**.

Please make note of these important changes!



**Effective January 4, 2026**

*Sunday Services Start Times*

**8:45 am-Sunday School**

**10:00 am-Worship Service**



# DECEMBER 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			



**SIGNS OF THE SEASON**

# Jesus is the Reason for the Season

WRITTEN BY SIS. CHRISTINE SMITH



## **Come, Let Us Adore Him**

O come all ye faithful,  
 Joyful and triumphant,  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
 Come and behold Him,  
 Born the King of Angels—  
 O come, let us adore Him!

As we enter this blessed season, we are reminded that while December 25th may not be the exact birthdate of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, it is the day set aside to celebrate His magnificent coming into the world.

## **The Promise of His Birth**

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and she will name Him Immanuel (‘God with us’).” – Isaiah 7:14 (NASB)

The Bible does not specify the precise day Jesus was born. Yet Christmas remains a sacred reminder of God's ultimate gift to humanity—His Son, who brings hope, love, and salvation.

## **Christ Before Everything Else**

Before the Christmas trees, before the presents, before the decorations—there is Christ.

Amid the beauty of the season, the lights, music, gifts, and traditions, it can be easy to lose sight of the true meaning. But Christmas calls us back to



the miracle announced in the Gospel:

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” – John 1:14 (NASB)

## **The Greatest Gift: Love**

What better gift can we give or receive at Christmas than love?

Why Love Is the Best Gift:

- Love is timeless – material gifts fade; love remains.
- Love is unconditional – reflecting God’s agape love toward us.
- Love mirrors Christ – who taught, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31).
- Love brings hope and healing – lifting burdens and encouraging hearts.

Many Christians keep Christ at the center by attending church services, reading the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-25), showing kindness, and giving generously.

## **A Christmas Blessing**

May your Christmas be merry and bright, filled with joy, peace, and the unending love of Christ. And always remember—Jesus is the reason for the season.



# Monday's Manna

WRITTEN BY SIS. WHITNEY BROWN

*In the 16th chapter of the book of Exodus, we can read the miraculous story of God raining down manna from Heaven to nourish the hungry, wandering Israelites. Like morning dew on swaying grass, manna had fallen fresh on the ground each morning for the Israelites to collect and enjoy for one day at a time. In fact, any attempt to store extra manna for another day was met with spoil and rotteness. Through this, God taught the Israelites to put each day's provisions into His hands, and let tomorrow worry about itself (Matthew 6:34 NKJV).*

*We are facing a time in history riddled with impoverishment, hurt, homelessness, and food insecurity. Even as people of God, it's far too easy to get wrapped in worry about physical needs like housing, healthcare, or even our next meal. However, I challenge you today to respond to every anxious thought from the enemy with a single scripture:*

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33 NKJV)*

*Christ instructs us in the book of Matthew to focus on God- all else that we need will be provided. God numbered the hairs on our head, so of course He knows every need that we have! (Matthew 6:32 NKJV)*

*Oh, ye (and me) of little faith, stand encouraged and excited to see God continue to act as our daily provider- just as He was for the Israelites those many years ago. May God "give us this day our daily bread," and may we respond with a heart of gratefulness for Monday's manna. For Tuesday, Wednesday, and every other day will worry about itself.*

*"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread."*

*(Matthew 6:9-11 NKJV)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



## Christmas Recitals are now available!

You can visit the FBC website to request a Christmas recital for your children.

Recitals will also be available for pick up during Children's church starting on Nov. 30.

Victoria Jones 662.315.1107

## Christmas Recitals!

**Please meet the Drama Ministry on the FLC Stage for rehearsal.**

**Saturday, Dec. 20 at 1:30 pm**

Victoria Jones  
662.315.1107



## UPCOMING EVENTS

FBC Drama Ministry presents:

*“The Greatest Gift”*

*Sunday Dec. 21*

*3:00 PM*

*Family Life Center*



# Yesterday Today Forever

Movie Premiere

December 21<sup>st</sup>

Red Clay Theater • 3116 Main Street • Duluth

\$30/person • \$50/couple • \$10/children under 18

Dinner & Access to 2 feature films included

Tickets may be purchased online @ [YTFMovie.com](http://YTFMovie.com)

Doors Open @ 5 PM • Movie Begins Promptly @ 6 PM

## UPCOMING EVENTS



## ***Seasonal Employment***

November 24th-December 20th

*(or after the last shoe box is processed)*

**Location: Doraville, GA**

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Shifts • 40 hours+ per week

*Administrative Assistant • Bag Screener • Chaplin*

*Customer Service • Forklift Operator • Temporary Class-A CDL Truck Driver*



To apply scan the QR Code or go to  
[careers.samaritanspurse.org](https://careers.samaritanspurse.org)

For more info: [jgreenwood@samaritan.org](mailto:jgreenwood@samaritan.org)

The joy of being part of a community of believers whose efforts are making a difference around the world.

A promotional poster for a Watch Night Service. On the left, a large, ornate clock face is shown with the year "2026" on it. The background is a warm, golden glow with bokeh light effects and several bursts of fireworks. In the center, the logo for Friendship Baptist Church (FBC) is displayed, consisting of a stylized cross above the letters "FBC" and the words "FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH" to its right. Below the logo, the text "Watch Night Service" is written in a large, elegant, cursive font. Underneath that, the date "December 31, 2025" and the time "10:30 pm" are written in a similar cursive font.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**THE  
Pete Bowens  
Fellowship  
Bowling  
League**

**Individual  
and/or  
2 member  
teams**

**Jan 5th  
@ 5pm**

Stars & Stripes \* 1601 Horizon Parkway \* Buford, GA  
Contacts: Ethel Emery @ 678.362.2177 or Deacon Michael Jerrals @ 770.815.0604

*The VILLAGE: Solutions to the Problems of Detentions/Suspensions, Expulsions,  
and Incarcerations*

**PARENT TOWN HALL**

**SATURDAY  
JANUARY 31  
10 AM - 2 PM**

Friendship Baptist Church Family Life Center  
3375 Church Lane, Duluth, GA 30096

Light Refreshments Provided!

**Guest Panelists will Be Professionals**  
in the Areas of **YOUTH EDUCATION,**  
**CHILD PSYCHOLOGY, MENTAL HEALTH,**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT, JUVENILE LAW,**  
and **YOUTH MINISTRY**

**FREE & OPEN TO PARENTS  
& GRANDPARENTS of All  
Youth**

Register by Scanning the QR Code OR Contact Dr. Anthony Williams at 404-429-4684

*"God's Word restores, revives, heals, leads, guides, encourages, and admonishes His people."*

Thanks for reading

# Friendship's Voice

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter!

**The deadline for January Newsletter articles is Friday, December 19th**



## 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