



From the Pastor's Pen



Timothy Tee Boddie
Senior Pastor

“Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy!” declared the angels on that blessed Christmas morn. As we approach the dawning of a new year, let us join with the angels in spreading this message of faith, hope, and love. As you know, the gospel is “good news.” However, so often what we hear about this time of year are exhortations to spread Christmas cheer, to get busy doing good work, even occasionally, to *“put Christ back into Christmas.”* But of course, that is the one thing we are not able to do. God alone can do that and God has put him in a manger among the *“poor, oppressed, and lowly.”* What an embarrassing place to find the one who is *“Lord of all.”* Yet, unless we find him there,

we will discover neither our own embarrassing poverty nor the abundance of God's grace.

On behalf of my wife, Geulia, and our children, Maya, and T. Michael, I am grateful to God for the privilege of serving God and each of you as your pastor. This year has been a roller-coaster ride of ups and downs, but through it all, God has remained true to His promise, for He “never leaves us nor forsakes us!”

Friendship Baptist Church exists to bear witness to the lavish goodness of God in Jesus Christ. We are grateful this Christmas season to share with you in this embarrassment of riches. Thank you for walking with us and faithfully fulfilling your commitments this past year. Thank you for supporting us during

these tough times. Thank you for your ongoing support of and investment in “VISION 2012.” Thank you for your hopes and prayers and sacrificial gifts for our future.

At this Christmas season, in addition to your tithes, please prayerfully consider blessing God and our beloved Friendship with a generous year-end offering of love. We all have an important role to play in the mission of the church as we form and *equip [disciples] for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ (Eph.4:12).*

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration, as I continue to pray for you the merriest of Christmases and the best New Year you have ever known!

New Members Program

Greetings, Friendship Family:

Congratulations! If you are reading this, then you are one of those our Heavenly Father chose to bless with a new year. So I wish you a very happy, healthy, blessed and prosperous New Year. As we transition from the old to the new, we look at so much that was done in our Savior's name here at Friendship, and are reminded that there is much more to be accomplished. Having said that, we look with anticipation to our first major church function as a

Church Statistics

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Mr. Justin Wyatt
Mrs. Venus McClinton-El
Master Christopher Borden
Miss Mariah McClinton-El
Miss Viviana McClinton-El
Master Brandon McClinton-El

Miss Tanisha Walker
Miss Meyoshae Walker
Ms. Sandra Moultrie
The Rev. Juliana Turner
Mr. Shaion Walker

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF

Mrs. Trilby Taylor
12-13-09

Children's Church Ministry

What a year it has been for our Children's Church Ministry! After reigniting this creative, educational, and participatory worship experience for our young people, we have seen this ministry evolve and grow.

We have gathered around the Lord's Supper and Baptism, the two ordinances or sacraments of our Baptist heritage. We have honored our parents during Mother's Day and Father's Day. We have learned to identify, express, and talk about when we feel angry, scared, sad, joyful, peaceful, and powerful. We have discovered the true meaning of Christmas and the reasons for celebrating this season. We have even explored the history and the principles of Kwanza.

We are excited about entering a new year of worship experiences, activities, and celebrations in Children's Church. Our children will continue to learn and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through the arts, music, scripture, and skits. Please continue to pray for the advancement, leadership, and work of our Children's Church Ministry and to encourage all children ages 6 to 12 to come to Children's Church every 2nd and 4th Sunday.

- Jamison Collier

Who's Doing What Around Friendship



Viola Blackshear is a 2009 Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Award Recipient. This award was given by Atlanta Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. Belinda will not be in church on Sunday because she will be in Washington, DC, receiving the award for having a "2009 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence" showing significant improvement in closing the achievement gap. She is the principal of Carter G. Woodson Elementary School.

Nursery News

A goal of the nursery is to support Vision 2012 by increasing membership of families with young children. Attendance for 2009 was up 28%!

We will provide support by continuing to offer child-care during Sunday worship service, Wednesday Bible study and other church-wide meetings and functions. We would like to keep it innovative and fun for the kids by offering activities such as gymnastics, tae-kwon do and dance classes for children ages 2-5 during some of the week-day gatherings.

What was new in 2009? We started a book club where the 4s and 5s (and a certain motivated 3-year-old) take a field trip to the church library and read aloud. We've also installed two "book nooks" in the nursery where kids can take a break from playing and cuddle up with a book. We teach the children about love and compassion by sending home-made cards to Friendship's sick and shut-in. Lastly, we encourage healthy eating habits by serving lots of fruit and whole-grain snacks. The exception being the

Continued on p. 7

Friendship Sends Ten Delegates to Area III Meeting

On October 16-17, 2009, First Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina, hosted the 39th Area III Meeting of American Baptist Churches of the South. The following members represented our church: Pastor Boddie, The Reverend Charles W. Washington, Minister Jamison Collier, Deacons Kevin K. Calhoun, Marla Coleman-Holloway, Earle D. Clowney, Larry Dozier, Charles N. Hawk, Jr., Josephine Jackson, and Caroline Terry.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the persons listed below were recognized as the incoming Executive Board:

Moderator:

Dea. Charles N. Hawk, Jr.
(Atlanta, Georgia--**Friendship**)

Vice Moderator:

The Reverend Douglas Stowers
(Atlanta, Georgia)

Treasurer:

Dea. Kevin K. Calhoun
(East Point, Georgia--**Friendship**)

Secretary:

Mrs. Wendy Ladd (Charlotte, North Carolina)

A B Men:

Dea. Earle Clowney
(Atlanta, Georgia--**Friendship**)

A B Women:

Mrs. Elizabeth McPhatter
(Fayetteville, North Carolina)

A B Ministers Council

(Person to be appointed by Executive Committee)

Past Moderator:

The Reverend Dr. Lacy S. Alford
(Atlanta, Georgia)

On Friday afternoon, our pastor, Dr. Timothy Boddie, conducted a workshop for the AB Ministers' Council on balancing the traditions with the contemporary in the postmodern, postsoul Black Church. Following the well-received presentation, Pastor Boddie remained for several more minutes to offer a book-signing of his edited tome, Wisdom of the Sages: Conversations with The ACD Vaughn Senior Statesmen of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference, 1996-2005, published by UMI of Chicago.

The American Baptist Women's Session was called to order by president Mrs. Elizabeth McPhatter. After the scripture reading, prayer and opening remarks, the women were greeted by ABCOTS National president, Mrs. Alice M. Grant.

Dr. Josephine W. Jackson, Regional Coordinator of Personal Development, the workshop presenter, began the session with the attention-getting title, "Stepping Out of State of Stuck." The background scriptures were: Exodus 2:23; 3:1-12; 4:10-13; and Acts 7: 23-29.

Workshop participants were asked to use their eyes, ears and imaginations to see how Moses was caught totally off guard when he heard the voice of God (played by Deacon Kevin Calhoun) call him to be part of His plan to free the Israelites.

This workshop examined Moses' life mission and his five big excuses to show how Christians often find themselves in a personal state of "stuck." Most of us can list excuses why we don't act when we should, just as Moses did. Some suggestions offered for getting out of a state of "stuck" are: 1) Place ourselves in the hands of God, remembering that He is everything we need, 2) Change our habits and set aside some time to be alone with God, 3) Step out on faith and step out of "stuck," 4) Recognize God's prompting when He tells us to move.

The women's session ended after the election of officers.

In addition to presiding over the **Family Reunion Luncheon**, where three ABCOTS members were recognized for their dedicated service (Mr. C. Bruce Bailey, posthumously; Dr. Douglas Stowers, and Dr. Walter L. Parrish II), Dea. Clowney chaired the **American Baptist Men's** session, where he introduced Dea. G. Larry Walton of Second Calvary Baptist Church, Columbia, as guest presenter. Using the broad subject of stewardship, Dea. Walton made a splendid presentation based on the book *Mastering Money* by Dudley Deffs. He then distributed handouts describing various scenarios on managing and mismanaging money for the men to study in groups. Each group provided its collective decision on how the particular money issue should be resolved. Solutions ranged from the serious to the comical, and a lively, meaningful discussion characterized the session.

Timothy Boddie
Earle D. Clowney
Josephine Jackson

Reporters

Auxiliary News

Adult Fellowship Ministry

Morehouse College Glee Club Presented in Concert

On Sunday, November 15, 2009, Friendship's Adult Fellowship Ministry hosted the renowned Morehouse College Glee Club for an outstanding afternoon of great music and wonderful fellowship. Under the dynamic leadership of Dr. David Morrow, the Glee Club presented a magnificent concert with a repertoire of selections based on the Scripture (Parts I & II), the popular ensemble from Verdi's *Rigoletto* (the Quartet in Part III), and two Spanish romantic pieces (Part IV). A particular favorite for many was the majestic rendition of the Olatunji/Whalum arrangement of "Betelehemu" (Part V), sung in Yoruba and excellently performed by the Glee Club. Part VI of the program was devoted to soul-stirring arrangements of spirituals that were flawlessly rendered. As a special feature, Pastor Boddie, an alumnus of Morehouse College and former member of the Glee Club, delighted the audience with a splendid revival of his role as baritone in the Morehouse College Quartet. The program ended with the Glee Club's singing of the Morehouse College Hymn, joined by alumni from the audience.

Established in 1911 by Mr. Kemper Harreld, the Morehouse College Glee Club became internationally known during the tenure of the late Dr. Wendell Whalum. Having had only three directors, the Glee Club, today, boasts a ninety-eight year tradition of musical excellence, and has performed in a variety of venues both in the United States and abroad. The Morehouse

College Quartet has been in existence even longer than the Glee Club. The first official singing organization at Morehouse College, the Quartet can boast of a number of memorable performances in its history, including command performances for the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt at Warm Springs, Georgia, in 1932, and for President George and First Lady Barbara Bush in 2001.

The Adult Fellowship, under the leadership of Deacon DeLloyd Wilson, biennially presents a musical performance that seeks to enrich the spiritual and cultural life of the Church. We are indebted to Dr. Morrow and the Morehouse College Glee Club for agreeing to a performance at Friendship, and we are grateful that so many member of the congregation were in attendance. The Adult Fellowship hopes that all were spiritually and culturally enriched by the concert.

The program was dedicated to Mrs. Annie B. Smith, a diligent, dedicated, and beloved member of the Adult Fellowship.

Alexa B. Henderson
Reporter

Trustee Board

During the regular meeting of the Trustees of Friendship on November 9, the following Trustees were nominated to serve in the Class of 2010-2011, for a two-year term:

Edward W. Bowen, Lloyd S. Hawk, Yvonne Gloster, Thelma McKelpin, Robert McNeil, Charlie Moreland, Webster Pope, Adam Smith, Ozell Sutton, Isaiah Tidwell,

and Carl Williams. These Trustees were approved by the Church during the Conference on December 7.

The Trustees closed the year with a dinner meeting in Fellowship Hall of the Church on December 8. Following the business meeting, The Trustees enjoyed a delicious dinner, reminisced about most memorable Christmas gifts, and then exchanged gifts. The Trustees applauded Trustee Brenda Tolliver, who arranged the dinner meeting.

On December 23 the Trustees plan to continue their Christmas project of preparing and delivering fruit baskets to residents of Friendship Towers.

Yvonne Gloster
Reporter

Uplifters Ministry

Uplifters' 2009

Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner For

The William V. Guy

Friendship Tower Residents

It was a rainy, Tuesday afternoon, with a bit of a chill in the air, but it did not dampen the spirit or desire of the residents of the Friendship Tower. They eagerly awaited the arrival of the church van, and one by one, they climbed aboard, dressed to the nine, and were chauffeured to the Fellowship Hall. Once again, allow me to give kudos to Sam Bacote and Larry Dozier, Honorary Male Members of the Uplifters for their continued assistance whenever asked.

On November 17, 2009, the Uplifters hosted their second annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the residents of the William V. Guy Friendship Tower. The Program Committee, chaired by Mrs. Jean Scott, planned the event, meticulously arranged the place settings, complete with fancy holiday trimmings, colorful décor, mouth-watering cuisine and the opportunity to be serenaded by none other than Mrs. Henrietta Antoinin. There was an inspiring reading by one of our historians, Mrs. Thelma McKelpin, and Dr. Lois Moreland led us in prayer. On this occasion, one of the sweetest women in the world blessed our food, Mrs. Leila Barfield.

The Uplifters have a lot of talent, and we are especially proud of our educators. The sister-duo, Mrs. Gwen C. Alston and Mrs. Vy-vyan C. Dean, always comes prepared to ignite and stimulate our brain cells by challenging our memory bank with some of their thought-provoking games. After it was over and I was on my way home, I thought, "Were we smarter than a fifth grader?" I believe we were!!!

This was a time for us to give back to other seniors who live in our community, particularly those who reside in the William V. Guy Friendship Tower. The residents were so sweet and delighted to be treated as our special guests. When I telephoned the Resident President and asked if they would be amenable to changing the time from dinner to lunch, the venue to the Church and provide them with transportation, he responded by saying, "Absolutely."

The Program Committee decided to host the event in Pastors Memorial Fellowship Hall for a

couple of reasons. Our faithful caterer, Mr. Clark, is familiar with our kitchen, and more important, Pastors Memorial Fellowship Hall has more space than the Community Room at the Tower.

During the program, the residents were too cute—they were all dressed up and had no problem with the rain or cool weather. They gave their names, shared what they were thankful for, praised the Lord and enjoyed their meal!

The Uplifters have begun their tasks for "Vision 2012: Taking the Hill." Our continued outreach to the residents of The William V. Guy Friendship Tower is one of the five pillars of Vision 2012.

"Under Discipleship Goals," bullet number three: "Facilitate current outreach initiatives targeting Friendship Tower Residents," we are definitely in compliance with achieving one of the goals and objectives of our beloved Friendship Baptist Church.

As we come to the end of yet another year, let us stop, praise God, and thank Him continuously for our health, family, friends, homes, and just for being here on this great earth. Peace!!!

Margie Shannon Telfair
President

Deacon Board

Having completed a successful year of service and leadership, members of the Friendship Board of Deacons look forward to 2010. Board Chair Marla Coleman-Holloway heads a slate of officers reelected to serve in leadership po-

sitions during the new year. Also continuing as officers are: Charles N. Hawk, Jr., vice chair; Mabel Bryant, secretary; Curtis Evans, treasurer; Adrienne Scandrett, assistant secretary; Robert O. Bozeman, parliamentarian; and John Briggs, chaplain.

The following members of the Board, whose terms expired in December, have been reelected by the Friendship congregation to serve an additional three-year term: Robert E. Bozeman, Charles Hawk, Jr., Mark Randolph, Gregory Russell, Kevin Calhoun, Earle D. Clowney, Rinzer Ray, Jr..

Kenneth J. Echols
Reporter

New Members (con't.)

family for the new year: the welcoming of our newest family members. Our New Members Program will be on Sunday, January 24, 4:00 PM. We will recognize more than two dozen new members who elected to join with us either by baptism or Christian experience.

Let us all plan to be in attendance as we get to know each other better, and become even more familiar with the various ministries here at Friendship. During this program, our new members will have an opportunity to meet their deacons, as well as get information on all our ministries. Come one, come all, and let us fellowship together. See you then!

Amelia Woodruff
Reporter

“Ain’t No Mountain High Enough”

Just as blustery winds howl in the winter, flowers bloom in the springtime, sandy beaches beckon sun seekers and green vegetation turns into a red, yellow, orange and brown palette in the fall, change is inevitable, and we see change as well in Friendship Baptist Church. I believe, however, there are at least two aspects about FBC that shall not change - our love of our Church and our desire to see it flourish above our self-interests long after we have accepted Christ’s invitation to join His church in heaven.

To ensure that Friendship continues to be that beacon of light spiritually, fiscally, educationally, brotherly and sisterly, Pastor Boddie, along with the membership’s in-put, has provided a visionary plan, “Taking the Hill 2012,” inspired by Pas-

tor Emeritus, William Guy, which is comprehensive, doable and crucial in the midst of inevitability. Of particular import is the need to increase membership.

So what is one aspect (There are others.) that Friendship will need in 2012, 2020, 2030, 2040 ... as we take the hill, starting now? Answer: Husbands and Wives who support the church with their tithes, offerings, time and other resources, and who teach their minor children to be the future leaders and sustainers of Friendship.

Unscramble the words familiar to Friendship’s youth (answers on back page):

1. TGHENETI
2. MROP
3. RVDIRSE TMPRIE
4. ESOBMIL
5. TADETUTI
6. LCCOI
7. GNAITD
8. DOLRETD
9. XITGETN
10. UFRCWE
11. IFACEPIR
12. RYUERNS
13. ICAPRANEIDTI
14. TAS CTA SSETT
15. TOELTB RWAEMR

Contributed by:
Ruby Thomas

Someone’s in the Kitchen With....Deirdra!

This tasty salad is quick and easy to prepare, using only a few simple, fresh ingredients. It is a refreshing side dish that will compliment a variety of entrees and is delicious all by itself. Plus, it’s FAT-FREE!

CUCUMBER SALAD WITH FRESH DILL

INGREDIENTS:

3-6 large cucumbers—strips of peel removed all around and sliced very thin

1 small red onion—peeled, halved and sliced as thinly as possible with rings separated

1/2 bunch fresh dill— stems discarded and leaves finely minced to yield 3-4 heaping tablespoons

DRESSING:

1 c. sugar

1/2 c. water

1/2 c. distilled white vinegar

2-3 tsp. salt, to taste (kosher or sea salt)

1/4 tsp. black pepper

METHOD:

Place cucumber, red onion and dill in a large bowl—toss together. In a small saucepan, combine the dressing ingredients and bring to a boil, stirring occasionally.

Pour the dressing over the cucumber mixture and toss to coat. Place salad in airtight container and refrigerate at least 3 hours or overnight.

Salad will keep, tightly covered, at least 3 days.

For Your Health: Exercise

Exercise can improve your life, promote weight loss and give you a better night's sleep. A 30-minute brisk walk can stimulate some brain chemicals that will make you feel happy and more relaxed. It can even prevent depression. Exercise can decrease your risk for chronic illnesses such as high blood pressure, Type 2 Diabetes, osteoporosis, and some cancers. It can also decrease cholesterol by lowering buildup of plaque in your arteries. Exercise can manage your weight by burning calories. Take the stairs instead of the elevator, en-

roll in a dance club, play a Wii game, or play a light-weight sport. Exercise boosts your energy by increasing your oxygen level. It helps circulate the blood through the heart and blood vessels. Physical activity improves your chance of getting a better night's sleep. It helps you fall asleep faster and sleep more deeply thus improving concentrating, productivity and mood.

Let us not forget the benefits of stretching before and after exercising. Stretching helps to keep us healthy by increasing flexibility and circulation. Flexi-

ble muscles improve your daily tasks such as lifting and bending to tie your shoes. Stretching also improves range of motion of your joints, therefore keeping you in better balance and decreasing your chances of falling. Stretching improves circulation and thus increases blood flow to your muscles. It relieves stress by relaxing the tense muscles that often accompany stress.

So get up and get moving to a better you in 2010!

- Kim Carr, RN

My Role in the ABC USA Black Church Conference

The American Baptist Churches, USA, held its annual Black Church Leadership Summit one day prior to the start of the annual Black church conference. Both the summit and conference were held November 3-7, 2009, at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Matteson, IL. Dr. G. Daniel Jones, president of the Black Church Caucus, sent out a special appeal to pastors around the country who were perceived to have some national influence, and so, as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, a leading ABC congregation in Atlanta, GA, I responded to the call to attend the one-day leadership summit.

Having served for eleven years as the Executive Secretary of the nationally acclaimed Hampton University Ministers' Conference, I was also selected to moderate a "fish-bowl" panel of new pastors and educators, discussing the timely topic, "Bridging the Gap Between the Traditional and the Contempo-

rary in the 21st- Century Black Baptist Church." Lively and often contentious debate ensued among an array of young and new church leaders, including Dr. Adam Bond, Assistant Professor of New Testament at the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University; the youth minister at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Charlotte, NC; and the youth minister of the 25,000-member megachurch, Salem Baptist of Chicago, IL. The "fish-bowl" technique used provided a forum for summit attendees to eavesdrop on the conversation, but not to participate in the conversation.

At the conclusion of the panel discussion, summit attendees were invited to debrief with panel participants and add their voices to the ongoing, ever-evolving dialogue on this important subject.

by Timothy T. Boddie

Nursery (continued)

occasional pancake day!

We play hard in the nursery. So the kids don't get bored, we would like to rotate the toys and books every quarter. Toys get worn and broken and have to be replaced regularly.

All of these things cost money, and here's where we ask for your support. The church budget is very lean this year and we're depending on member contributions to make it happen. Please consider allocating money to the nursery so we can continue to provide a safe and fun atmosphere for our littlest ones.

Lastly, our portable CD player was "removed" from the nursery. If anyone has an extra, that's at the top of our wish list!

Thank you,

Anika Bozeman



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FBCATLANTA.ORG

Sunday School

8:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study

6:30 p.m.



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Puzzle Answers

1. Teething
2. Prom
3. Driver's Permit
4. Mobiles
5. Attitude
6. Colic
7. Dating
8. Toddler
9. Texting
10. Curfew
11. Pacifier
12. Nursery
13. Pediatrician
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