

Baby Dedications

9:30a Service

Marcia Chanel Johnson

Bro. & Sis. Johnson (Maurice and Jenee')

Olivia Noel Robertson

Bro. & Sis. Robertson (Eddie J. & Brandi R.)

If you or someone you know is going into the hospital.....

If you have lost a loved one.....

If you need counseling.....

If you have a Prayer Request.....

If you need to add or remove a name from the Sick and Shut-In List.....

Then...

call **704.391.3884** or
e-mail:
sicknshutin@friendshipcharlotte.org

About Friendship Missionary Baptist

3400 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216
Office - 704.392.0392
Fax-704.391.5800
Prayer Line - 704.391.3880
www.friendshipcharlotte.org

Worship Service
7:30a; 9:30a; 11:30a
Church School - 9:30a-10:30a
Adult & Youth Bible Study
Wed., 7:15p

Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr., Senior Minister

A Celebration of Worship Baby Dedication and the Third Sunday of Advent



Fill the earth with

JOY



Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr.,
Senior Minister

December 16, 2007

7:30a, 9:30a, 11:30a

Call to Worship/Invocation

Opening Hymn

Announcements and Welcome

Lighting of Advent Candle

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9:6-9; Luke 2:25-32

Altar Call

Musical Selection

Baby Dedication

Pastoral Reflections

Offertory

Musical Selection

Proclamation

Invitation

Benediction

We invite persons with prayer requests to go to **Room 360 (third floor)** immediately following each service. A minister will be there to have prayer with you.

Action – Energized, alert, ready and mobilized for engagement

During this season of Advent, we are more aware of, and wait with great anticipation the coming of the Christ child. Many of our **actions** centering on the Advent wreath, energize gathered congregations, waiting with great hope, joy, faith and love for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Many children have advent calendars and count down the days to December 25, not only because of the anticipated toys and gifts under a Christmas tree, but in celebration of the coming of Jesus, the Incarnate One – Jesus in the form of humankind, yet wholly divine. The prophet Isaiah, with great expectancy foretells in Isaiah 9:6 “*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*” (KJV)

On the third Sunday of each month, we have Baby Blessing and Dedication, an **action** that causes parents, family and friends to wait with great anticipation, as the children God has blessed our church family with are blessed and dedicated back to Him. During this time of blessing and dedication, we, the church congregation, should prepare to take **action** and become an integral part of the life/lives of the babies that God has blessed to be among us. Maybe you are asking how can you be a part of a child’s life, when you do not know their parents, grandparents or any other family member. The answer is simple. When we take **action** – are energized, alert, ready and mobilized for engagement, we influence the lives of those connected to us in the church, the community and the world. The **action** of using the gifts, talents and abilities that God has given us, via the Holy Spirit transforms us from strangers into teachers, encouragers, helpers, servers, evangelists, preachers, pastors and mercifully compassionate servants of God, for the children in our congregation, the community and the world.

During this season of expectancy and giving, let your **actions** mobilize you for engagement. Give the gift of time. Take the **action** necessary to give time back to God, as you develop stronger spiritual disciplines. Take the necessary **action** to give the gift of time to a child in school who needs tutoring, mentoring, or encouragement. Take the time to give to someone you do not know; take an angel from the angel tree, adopt a family for this sacred season. Take **action** – be energized, alert, ready and mobilized for engagement in your spiritual life and development, it will help equip you for service in the kingdom of God. Take **action**, so the lives of those you love, and the lives of those who desperately need you, not because of the anticipated beautifully wrapped package, but also for the wonderful spiritual gifts that God has placed in you for this season, and for the edification of the church.

Increasing Your Knowledge of Christianity and Spirituality

The word literacy, which is defined as the ability to read, write and compute or as the condition or quality of being knowledgeable in a particular subject or field, is applied to many aspects of life. We speak of computer literacy, consumer literacy, cultural literacy, health literacy, social literacy and even technological literacy. Being literate in these areas helps us increase our physical, mental, social and cultural development or well-being in this modern society. However, we rarely speak about spiritual literacy, which is being educated about Christianity and our spirituality. Becoming spiritually literate will help us find the sacred in every day life, teach others about God’s word and stand strong in our faith during challenging times.

December is designated as Spiritual Literacy Month. This month provides an opportunity for us to focus intently on how we can increase our knowledge of Christian doctrine, scripture, prayer, spiritual gifts, church history, evangelism, ethics and theology. We can educate ourselves on these topics in various ways that fit our individual learning styles and meet our individual needs. Christian books, CDs, DVDs, workshops and seminars as well as Bible studies and even the internet are valuable resources. However, be sure that the authors, workshop leaders and websites are credible.

As you think of the perfect gift for friends and family during Christmas and Kwanzaa, consider giving gifts of age-appropriate Bibles, study Bibles, devotional books, CDs, and DVDs to help them increase their spiritual literacy. Since Advent marks the start of the Christian (liturgical) year, now is an excellent time to make a commitment to your spiritual development and the spiritual development of those you know and love throughout the year.

Following is a list of suggested materials for children, youths and adults to help build spiritual literacy. If you would like additional resources or to check the credibility of resources you find as you browse through bookstores and websites, please set a time to speak with someone on our ministerial staff.

- Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life**, Brussart, Frederic, Brussart, Mary Ann and Moore, Thomas (Scribner, 1998)
- The Beginners Guide to Fasting**, Towns, Ekmer L., (Gospel Light Vine Books 2001)
- Sit, Walk, Stand**, Nee, Watchman (Tyndale 1977)
- Soul Tending: Life forming practices for older youth and young adults**, Dean, Kenda Creasy and Foster, Robert (Abingdon Press 2002)
- The Art of Personal Prayer**, Webb, Lance (Upper Room 1977)
- Companions in Christ: A Small-Group Experience in Spiritual Formation**, Bryant, Stephen D., Grana, Janice T., and Thompson, Marjorie, (Upper Room 2001)
- Disciplines of the Spirit**, Thurman, Howard (Friends United Press 1963)
- Helping Youth Pray: How to Connect Youth with God**, McKinnon, Greg (Abingdon, 1997)
- Soul Feast**, Thompson, Marjorie (Westminister John Knox, 1995)
- The Way of the Heart**, Nouwen, Henri J.M. (Image Books 1995)
- Living in the Presence: Disciplines for the Spiritual Heart**, Tilden, Edward (Harper & Row 1987)

Health and Wellness/Fitness

YOGA IS BACK ON A NEW DAY!

Join Sis. Nettie Reeves of "N'shape with N" on Sundays beginning January 6, 2008 from 2:00p-3:00p. Bring a yoga mat, towel and a light wrap. Classes will be in Conference Room C. Fees: \$35 for 6 weeks or \$7 per class. You may register for the six week session at anytime. **Contact N'shape with N at 704-334-4848 or www.nshapewithn.com**

HEALTH AND WELLNESS RETREAT: PLANNING SESSION FOR 2008

Jan. 12 from 9:00a-1:00a - Room 133

Please RSVP for lunch to Cassandra

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS (OA) MEETING

**At FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, 3301 BETTIES FORD ROAD
Beginning Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 11:00a- 12: 00p**

NO dues – NO fees - NO weigh-ins - NO diets - WE are a Fellowship

IS FOOD A PROBLEM FOR YOU?

- ⇒ Do you eat when you're not hungry?
- ⇒ Do you go on eating binges?
- ⇒ Is your weight affecting your life and health?
- ⇒ Do you eat to escape worries or trouble?
- ⇒ Do you worry about the way you eat?

Overeaters Anonymous may have the answer for you!

There are over 15 OA meetings in the South and East Charlotte areas.

This is the first weekly OA meeting in West Charlotte.

Call the Charlotte OA Hot Line at 704.319.1625 or go to www.oa.org for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

AARP TAX PREPARATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church has partnered with AARP to provide **FREE** tax preparation services.

Volunteers are needed to assist in answering phones and setting up appointments starting January 15, 2008.

If you are interested, please call Sharon Barnhardt at 704-510-0018.



During this season of giving, we would like to THANK YOU for supporting Great Things! Stop by and visit us for our December Sale on clothing and holiday Decorations! Tax season will be here soon, remember to donate your items to Great Things before 12/31/07. We are conveniently located at 1914 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte NC, 704-394-9292.

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Text: John Mason Neale; Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

ALL

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

WOMEN

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

MEN

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

ALL

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Music and Arts

7:30a - Hymn Choir

9:30a - Male Chorus

11:30a - Church Choir

Brenda Wimberly, Guest Vocalist
Professor of Music, Fayetteville State University

From the Pastor...

“Energized by the Promise”

Isaiah 9:6-9; Luke 2:25-32

Word for the Month - **“Action”**

Scriptures for the Month - Proverbs 29:7-27; Matthew 28:16-20

Thought for the Month:

Energized, Alert, Ready and Mobile for Engagement

“Additional Readings”

Monday	Isaiah 9:6-9	God promised.
Tuesday	Isaiah 11:1-5	A promised agenda.
Wednesday	Isaiah 22:22-23	Broad shoulders.
Thursday	Isaiah 42:1-9	God’s promise.
Friday	Isaiah 56:1-9	A promise for you.
Saturday	Luke 1:26-38	The angel promised.

Point to Ponder – God can be trusted and the Christmas event is proof. Others are depending on you to have a Merry Christmas.

Prayer – Lord, grant me a creative Spirit that isn’t restricted by me or my resources. Please cause me to be a Merry Christmas in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Deacons on Call for the Week

Edward Fox	704-568-8519; 704-564-8623
Douglas Jones	704-375-8188; 704-578-8827
Roosevelt Maske	704-875-6837; 704-357-1099

ATTENTION PARENTS:

For the holidays, there will be no Junior Worship on Sun., Dec. 23, Dec., 30 nor Jan. 6. Junior Worship will resume on Sun., Jan 13.

Discipleship and Christian Education



Bible Study is offered on various days and times during the week. Please come and share with us as we learn more about the Bible, about God and understand more clearly God’s will for our lives.

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday - **10:30a** (Book of Revelation)

Wednesday Evenings - **7:00p—8:15p** (Daniel)

Thursday - **11:30a - 12:30p** (I Chronicles)

Thursday Evenings - **7:00p—8:30p** (Genesis)

Every 1st and 3rd Saturday - **3:00p** (Titus) (Women)

RECYCLE TO HELP OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Proceeds from our new recycling program will provide educational, cultural and Christian development opportunities for our children and youth.

So, please put your old cell phones and used printer cartridges in a plastic baggie and drop them off at one of the collection boxes located at the church entrances.

This program will benefit the environment and help our children in their Spiritual and cultural development.

We thank you in advance for your support and participation.

Friendship Community Development Corporation

Applications now being accepted for positions at Great Things! Our retail store located at 1914 Beatties Ford Road. This is a 30 hour per week position, Tues. –Sat., 10:00a-5:00p. Job description and application available at the Friendship CDC office and on the website. Please go to www.friendshipcdc.net or contact Ms. Parker at 704-391-3862. Application deadline Dec. 26, 2007.

Under a grant provided by the United Way, we will be hiring a workforce development coordinator for a job training program beginning January 2008. This will be a 30 hour per week position. Job description and application available at the Friendship CDC office and on the website. Please go to www.friendshipcdc.net or contact Ms. Parker at 704-391-3862. Application Deadline Dec. 26, 2007.

The Friendship CDC is accepting bids to rehab seven (7) town homes on Catherine Simmons Ave.

Bid packages available at the Friendship CDC office.

All bids are due by **January 11, 2008.**

Please contact Ms. Lekeasha Parker at 704-391-3862 to pick up a package.

Today’s candle will be lit by:

7:30a - *The Evans Family (Dupree and Joann)*

9:30a - *The Morris Family (Otis, Lugertha);*

The Collier Family (Judge and Brandi)

11:30a - *The Jarrell Family (Reverends Greg and Helms)*