

**Fairfield Baptist Church
Service Times**

Mondays
Intercessory Prayer
7:00PM
Sanctuary
"The Upper Room"

Wednesdays
Bible Study
12 Noon
C.L. Nall Chapel
7:00 PM
C.L. Nall Chapel

Worship Services
Sundays
7:30AM & 10:45AM
The Son's House

Sunday School
9:15AM
Zack Brown
Administrative Center

Youth Church
Last Sunday of Each
Month
10:45AM
C.L. Nall Chapel

Church Directory

Call 770-482-7660

Pastor Benton
Ext. 0

Counseling Ministry
First Lady Benton
Ext. 104

Administrative
Assistant
Alice Cunningham
Ext. 109

Church Administrator
Bonni Ware
Ext. 115

Team of the Month
Ext. 172

Lost & Found
Usher Ministry
Ext. 180

Maudie Norman
Mission
Food & Clothing
Ext. 112

What's In Your Heart?

Deacon Frederick Jackson



I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works. (Psalms 9:1)

February is considered to be the month of love. Approximately 150 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second most popular card-sending holiday after Christmas. Every February 14th across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine.

Most scholars believe that St. Valentine was a priest who served during the 3rd century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Before he was executed, he allegedly sent his lover a letter signed "from your Valentine." The story surrounding St. Valentine is one not focused on Eros (passionate love) but on Agape (Christian love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion as a Christian.

Who we are and who we become depends, in part, on whom we love. The most important commandment God gave to His people gives the heart the prominent place. "And thou shall love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. (Mark 12:30)

Those of us who follow Christ also know the importance of whom we love. When we obey the greatest commandment and make God the object of our love, we can be assured of having a purpose that transcends anything we could imagine or our strength could achieve. When our desire for God dominates our hearts, our minds will stay focused on ways to serve Him, and our actions will further His kingdom on earth and in heaven.

So I leave you with this short prayer by Julie Ackerman Link:

Lord, we long to make You the supreme desire of our heart.

As You taught Your disciples to pray, so too we ask You to teach us how to love.

Black History Month



Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied-or even documented-when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

Blacks Absent from History Books

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population-and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Established Journal of Negro History

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

To celebrate Black History Month, R3 will share Black History Moments during each worship service in the month of February.

Ministries' News

Ushers' Ministry

Calling all ushers. Please plan to practice during the month of February. Check with your Trinitarian for your training date. If you are interested in joining the Ushers Ministry, please see an usher on duty.

Veterans and Supporters' Ministry

The Veterans and Supporters Ministry will host a dinner meeting fellowship Thursday, February 9, 2017, as we celebrate Black History Month. The March monthly meeting will be held at FBC as we prepare for our Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner. If you are a veteran, family member of a veteran or troop or just a supporter, please join us. Please continue to keep our troops, their families and our Country in your prayers.

Singles' Ministry

The Singles' Ministry monthly Bible Study is held each 3rd Thursday monthly at 7:00 PM in the Eli McKenzie Jr Media Center. Please invite your friends, family and co-workers. Come hear a word from our bible study teacher, Reverend Brenda Rush. The Singles next fellowship will be a Valentine's Dinner. The date is to be determined. Also join us as we assist the Tribe of Gad with the outreach "Sole for Hope", March 18. If you have any questions for the Singles' Ministry, please see Terry Scott, Tamika Foster or Robin Junious.

Institute of Biblical Studies

Register Now for 2017 Classes

Registration now for the Winter 2017 semester. Please go to the church's website, www.fairfieldbaptistchurch.org and view the courses. You may register and pay online or download the registration form.

Tribe of Gad

The Tribe of Gad is asking all members with the last name beginning with the letters I and J, to join us for our fellowship and outreach, Soles for Hope, March 18, at 1:00 PM. Please wear your Tribal ribbons every 3rd Sunday. For more information or to get involved, please see Tribal Leader Minister Leonard Jones.



**Micheal Benton
Family Life
Center**

Pastor's Legacy Program

Goal is \$100,000

Purpose to restore the family life center that bears the name of our Pastor.

Air conditioning & heating system, sound system and flooring

Members, let us honor our Pastor by contributing \$100 each for this project.

Donations will be collected through your Tribe.

**A Healthy Diet Which Promotes
Healthy Heart Function?**

Since February is the month which deals with matters of the heart, lets focus on a healthy diet which promotes heart function. What is a healthy diet? The American Heart Association provides the following information: A healthy heart diet includes plenty of fruits and vegetables. When it comes to fruits, blueberries tops the list as being very good for heart function. The diet should also include whole grain foods, fish and nuts. Try to avoid foods high in salt and added sugar. For a snack, try nuts, fruit or vegetables instead of things like potato chips. Drink water instead of sugary drinks. Limit the amounts of red meat, instead try lean meat and poultry and select low fat dairy products. Try to limit saturated and trans-fat, examples (fried foods, pizza, baked foods, sausage, hot dogs, bacon, whole milk, pork fat, stick margarine). Change may be difficult at first but a healthier lifestyle is well worth it.

A Moment in Black History

Barack Hussein Obama II made history when he became the first African American President of the United States of America on November 4, 2008. He was our President for eight years. He left the office on January 19, 2017, with one of the highest approval ratings (60%) of any United States President. President Obama in his two successful terms accomplished much to move our nation forward. For some of our children, he has been the only President they have known. For some, he, along with the former First Lady Michelle will, be among our favorites. To the Obamas, you have made us proud! Thank you and farewell. May God continue to bring love, peace, and protection to you all!

Tribe of Issachar

Events

**February 5
Communion Worship Service
7:30 AM & 10:45 AM**

**9:15 AM
Sunday School**
Zack Brown Administrative and Educational Center
New Member Class
Executive Conference Room
Baptism Class
2nd & 3rd Sunday
Computer Lab

**Intercessory Prayer Ministry
Monday Nights, 7:00 PM**
The Upper Room
"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much".
- James 5:16b

**Wednesday Bible Study
12 Noon**
C.L. Nall Chapel

7:00 PM
C.L. Nall Chapel
February 8
Tribe of Issachar

Youth
Zack Brown Administrative & Educational Center

Our Healing & Convalescing

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."
- 3 John 1:2

- Blanche Abrams
- Mother Lucille Durden
- Margaret Freeman
- Cathy Gardner
- Ann Garrette
- Arthur Giles
- Taylor Hamm
- Ola M. McGuire
- Blontine Moody
- Queen Moore
- Evan Parrish
- Dorothy Reed
- Ansley Robinzine
- Barbara Saunders
- Mary Lou Smith
- Ann Delores Yarborough
- Margie Williams
- Yvonne Williams



Welcome New Members

- Anthonia Adams
- Jacoby Blanding
- Quintin Byrd
- Tracey Cannon
- Ruth Goodrich
- Melody Johnson
- Johnetta Osahon
- Derris Taylor



Contributing Communication Coordinators

- Sister Sandra Crocker
- Sister Marilyn Dukes
- Sister Robin Junious

Stay connected with us.



Rev. Micheal Benton
 Visionary/Pastor
 6133 Redan Road
 Lithonia, GA 30058
 Phone: (770) 482-7660
 Fax: (770) 484-1483
 www.fairfieldbaptistchurch.org

Newsletter Staff

- Visionary.....Pastor Micheal Benton
- Editor.....Sister Shalynda McIvory
- Contributing Editor.....Deaconess Bonni Ware
- Copy Editor.....Sister JoAnn Williams-West

Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

The FBC Newsletter is published on the first Sunday of each month. Articles MUST be submitted by the 15th of each month for inclusion. Please send submissions to: medianews@fairfieldbaptistchurch.org.

Kingdom Kreation Youth News



February's Theme - I am...Love

Calendar of Events
 Saturday, February 11, 4:00 PM
 Valentine's Day Dinner
 Micheal Benton Family Life Center

The Mime Ministry is seeking youth interested in the art of mime. More information to come.

Follow us on Instagram: @kingdomkreation



Join in on the Fun 2016-17
Basketball & Cheerleader Season

Games
Friday & Saturday
 Micheal Benton Family Life Center

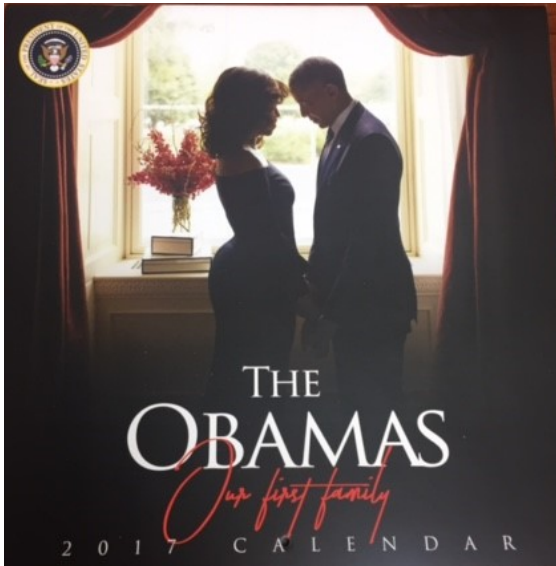


Upcoming Dates

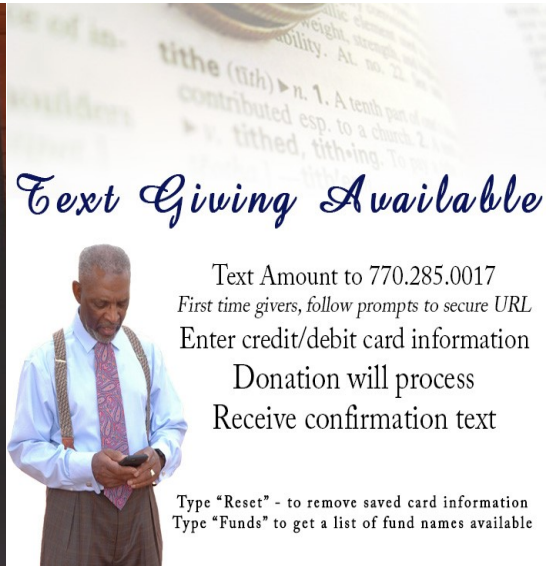
Friday, February 10
 Friday, February 24

6:30 PM—8:00 PM
 Youth Ages 4—17 and
 Adult Fitness Center Classes

8:00 PM—9:00 PM
 Open Gym for Adults
 Micheal Benton Family Life Center



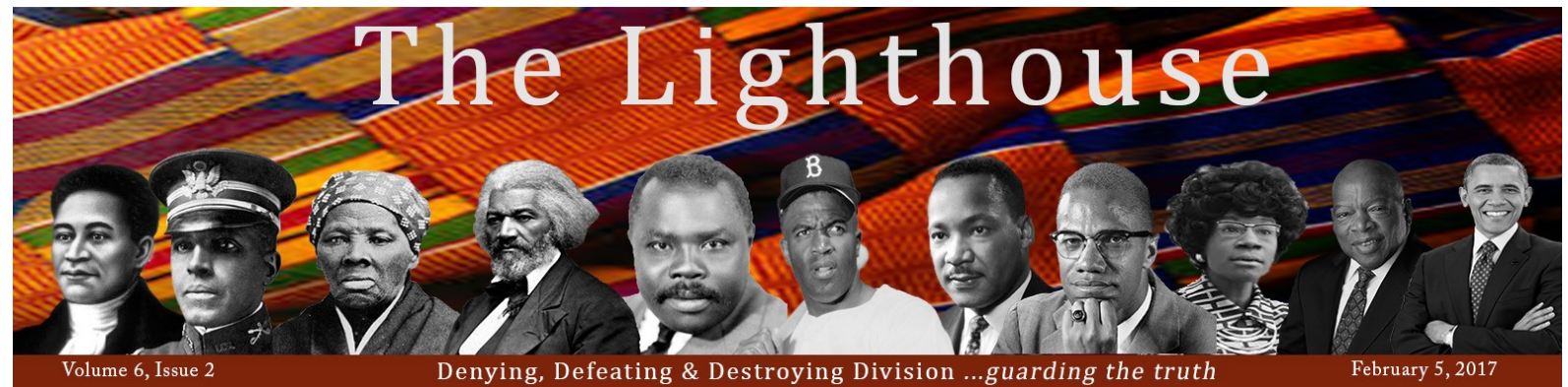
Purchase your commemorative calendar Available in the Yoke Bookstore \$5.00 each



Text Giving Available

Text Amount to 770.285.0017
 First time gives, follow prompts to secure URL
 Enter credit/debit card information
 Donation will process
 Receive confirmation text

Other giving options available:
 Online @ fairfieldbaptistchurch.org
 easyTithe app
 Kiosk located at the Son's House bridge entrance



Will You Be His?

Brother Terry Scott



With Valentine's Day approaching, we start looking for signs of love outside of ourselves—chocolate, cards, phone calls, flowers, gifts or other sweet sentiments. These are sentiments and expressions of love for the special someone in our lives. Like Christmas and other major holidays, Valentine's Day has become a day when our thoughts, feelings and expressions are heightened more than on a normal day. The day is used as a reason to say "I love you" and "Will you be mine?" Do you remember celebrating Valentine's Day as a child? Perhaps you made cards by hand for those you loved or, maybe you gave valentines to all your classmates, even the ones you did not really like. Do you still remember last Valentine's Day when someone made you smile and feel special? Why? Because Valen-

entine's Day was meant to be shared by everyone without exclusions. The over commercialization of it has caused us to focus primarily on the expression of love between a man and a woman. Love is meant to be shared by everyone. Rather than focus on material gifts and exclusive relationships, why not see if there is a spiritual side to Valentine's Day? Having said that, as Christians we should examine our relationships to see if we have been excluding anyone lately. If so, this would be a good time to reconnect and express our care and concern. Perhaps you had a falling out with someone. Let Valentine's Day be a reminder to let go of past mistakes and resentments. Use Valentine's Day to symbolize forgiveness and healing at every opportunity. What about people you do not particularly like? Remember that we are all divine beings worthy of love and respect. Seek opportunities to think about those who are often forgotten on holidays and special occasions. Those who are elderly, alone, ill or homeless need love too. Remember them! If you have the chance to volunteer your time, money or resources, make the effort to do so. Given the opportunity to express love on Valentine's Day, it is only fitting that we

remember that one true act of love started with God's expression of it towards us in Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." It started in Genesis and that love was further demonstrated towards mankind in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Hearing the three words "I love you" coming from another person can be a melodious tune to the ear no doubt. Hearing it regularly or on Valentine's Day is special, but experiencing it from the original source of love is priceless. The perfect example of a love relationship is the love between The Father and The Son. We exchange cards, chocolates, or flowers as expressions of love, but God gave us His only begotten Son as the ultimate expression. There is no greater expression than that. This expression of love needs no man's appointed time on a calendar in order to be shared or experienced, but instead it is an expression we can experience every second, minute, hour, day, week, month, year, and for all eternity. On Valentine's Day and forever more, Will you be His?"

Decisions Reflected in our Lives

Minister Vicki D. Freeman

Our theme for the past couple of years has been **Denying, Defeating, and Destroying Division**. In order to accomplish that, we must be on one accord and of the same mindset, having the mind of Jesus. Strife, schism, and division should not reside among us. By allowing the unfailing love of God to abide and take up residence in our hearts and minds, we reflect His love in our daily lives wherever we are at any given moment. Though we are many members, we are one body, which is Christ Jesus. In his letter to the Philippian Church, the Apostle Paul exhorts us: *If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if His love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care — then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-*

talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. Philippians 2:1-4 MSG It is important that we decide the reasons why we choose to do or not to do certain things. Otherwise, we will regret our choices down the line. When we fail to look ahead and make a quality decision about what we desire to achieve and why, we may succeed, but coupled with that, we have regrets. In the final analysis, we need the peace of God in our decision-making. Then and only then do we have the ability, the capacity, and a clear mind to make a decision for all the right reasons, objectively, without biases. Finally, decisions affect our lives. Decisions are firmly founded upon our desire to see clearly the value of why we made a particular decision:

not based on what someone else thought, influenced us to think, or even what they offered us in return to say or do or not say or do. The Holy Spirit IS our Teacher and our Counselor. He guides us into all Truth. Ultimately, we must all individually stand before the Father when Jesus comes again and it is our desire to hear Him say, "Well done my good and faithful servant".

