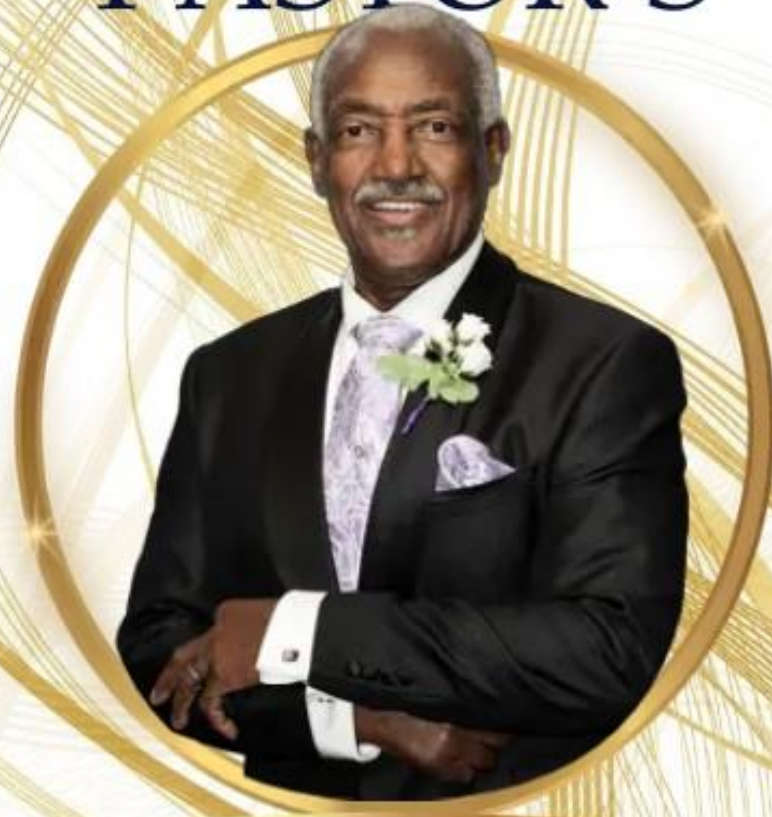


Friendship Baptist Church

**CELEBRATING OUR
PASTOR'S**



*45th Anniversary &
Retirement*

**Sunday, April 7, 2024
3pm Service**

Worship Service
With
Revelation Missionary Baptist Church

Devotion	Revelation Missionary Baptist Church
Processional	Rev. Dr. Emmett S. Aniton, Jr. Elder Rhonda Spears Bell, Escort
Musical Selection	Friendship/Revelation Mass Choir
Welcome/Occasion	Sis. Harriet Stephens
“What is a Pastor”	Sis. Morgan Walker
Video Tribute	
Introduction of Speaker	Rev. Reginald Thompson
Music Selection	Friendship/Revelation Mass Choir
Sermon	Rev. Valerie Thompson Pastor, Revelation Missionary Baptist Church
Invitation to Discipleship	
Reflections	The Aniton Family
Remarks	Rev. Dr. Emmett S. Aniton, Jr
Benediction	Rev. Valerie Thompson



Dear Beloved Congregation,

As I sit to write this letter, I think about 58 ½ years of pastoring. My heart is overflowing with loving emotions.

Reflecting on these years, I am reminded of the countless faces that have graced our pews, the many prayers lifted in faith, and the numerous lives transformed through the power of the Gospel. Together, we have weathered storms and basked in seasons of harvest, each moment a testament to God's unfailing love and sovereignty.

My tenure at Friendship Baptist Church has been nothing short of a divine appointment. From the first day I stepped into our beloved sanctuary, I knew God had placed me here for a purpose. Through His grace, we have seen our community grow in love, unity, and spiritual depth. We've baptized believers, dedicated children, married young couples, and bid farewell to saints who've gone ahead to glory.

The lessons I've learned in leadership, compassion, patience, and humility have been invaluable. I've witnessed firsthand the power of a community that rallies in prayer, serves with selfless devotion, and loves without condition. You have taught me as much, if not more, than I have imparted to you, and for this, I am eternally grateful.

As I transition into retirement, my heart is filled with peace, knowing that I leave you in the capable hands of God and the leadership He has prepared for such a time as this. My prayer is that you will continue to flourish, rooted and built up in Christ, established in the faith, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Though I may no longer stand at the pulpit each Sunday, be assured that my love and prayers for you will not fade. I eagerly anticipate hearing about the great things God will continue to do in and through Friendship Baptist Church.

As I close this chapter, I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:3-6, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

May this promise fill you with hope and assurance as we part ways, knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain. The best is yet to come.

With all my love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emmett S. Aniton, Jr.".

Rev. Dr. Emmett S. Aniton, Jr.



Reverend Valerie Allen Thompson Bio

The oldest girl of seven children born to Reverend and Mrs. Rudolph C. Allen, Sr. Pastor Valerie A. Thompson acknowledged and accepted her call into the ministry of God's Word on October 6, 1996. She was educated in the Muscogee County School System, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, and Mercer University in Macon, GA. A third-generation minister, Valerie began studying the gospel under the tutelage of Bishop Othal H. Lakey and attended The Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Valerie worked as the News Information Supervisor at the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. After ten years at the Ledger, Pastor Thompson exercised great faith, leaving her job, and becoming full-time in her pastoral calling.

Reverend Thompson was the pastor of Oakridge Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Greenville, Georgia and Emanuel Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in West Point, Georgia. After serving two years at Emanuel Chapel, God gave her instructions to return to Columbus, Georgia to assist her father at Revelation Missionary Baptist Church.

The founder and only pastor of the twenty-five-year-old Revelation Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Rudolph Carter Allen, Sr. felt the urge to retire in December 2004. In his place would not be one of his three minister sons, but Valerie, his daughter. By inheriting her father's pulpit, Reverend Thompson became the only female senior pastor in the denomination of Columbus among all local Baptist congregations.

She received the Community Service Award from the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Woman of the Year Award from Ross Report News of Atlanta, Georgia. Reverend Thompson has received the Woman of Courage Award from the Greater Columbus Business and Professional Women's Club. She served on the Board of Community Developmental Advisory Council for the City of Columbus.

Pastor Thompson is on the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Greater Columbus, and she served on the Minority Board of Directors for the American Red Cross. She was the Vice President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Columbus, Georgia. In 2019 Pastor Thompson was appointed by the Mayor of Columbus to sit on the Council for District 4. She most recently became the first woman to sit on the Cabinet of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia as a Regional Vice President.

Reverend Thompson is a member of the Columbus Georgia Chapter of The Links, Inc. She received the Lift Her Up award given by The Courier Eco Latino Newspaper.

She is married to Reverend Reginald A. Thompson, son of the late Reverend Tony Thompson and Mrs. Malinda Colbert. They have four children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Reverend Thompson's continuous confession is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

THANK YOU FROM THE COMMITTEE

Dear Reverend Dr. Emmett S. Aniton Jr.,
We extend our heartfelt thanks to you for exemplifying a life of profound faith. Your presence has been a tremendous blessing to our church, enriching our congregation and the broader community in countless ways. Your contributions have played a pivotal role in transforming our church into a sanctuary of encouragement and spiritual growth. Thank you for everything you have done to make a lasting difference.



45th PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY & RETIREMENT COMMITTEE:

Program Committee

Sis. Chimere Vicks
Sis. Sharon Clarke
Sis. Angela Jackson
Sis. Blondean Christian
Sis. Laverne Jemison
Sis. Mequetta Quick
Sis. Rosemary Williams
Bro. Oliver Eaton
Dea. John Bennett
Dea. Larry Hixon
Bro. Rhuel Pringle
Sis. Dee Franklin
Sis. LaNora Emizah
Sis. Anne Henry

Hostesses

Bro. Zion Emziah
Sis. Zaire Emizah
Sis. Morgan Walker
Sis. Kayla Golden
Sis. Asia Golden
Sis. Sienna Slaughter
Bro. Chandler Quick
Bro. Trevor Davidson
Bro. Torian Davidson
Sis. Alicia Rembert
Bro. Devin Franklin
Bro. Isaiah Emizah
Sis. Alexis Jesse

Decoration Committee

Sis. Maggie Stephens
Sis. Sara Davis
Sis. Eva Smith
Sis. Barbara Lee



45 years of
Faithful
Services



Congratulations!

Pastor Emmett S. Aníton, Jr.

45th Pastoral Anniversary and Retirement

“For God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

” -Hebrews 6:10 NIV

Congratulations and best wishes on your milestone celebrations. We join Friendship Baptist Church in celebrating your 45th Pastoral Anniversary and Retirement. This is truly a significant occasion in the history of your church, the ministry of preaching and pastoring in Columbus and surrounding areas. This noteworthy and celebratory occasion is why we honor and salute you on your day of celebration.

Congratulations for helping to shape the lives of many through your distinguished and meritorious service of teaching and preaching God’s Word, as pastor of this great church, and as servant leader in the community of Columbus.

Your meritorious leadership speaks volumes of who you are as a person, and as a preacher and pastor. We are always endeared by your selfless and humble spirit,

As an instructor of the GMBC Congress of Christian Education during my tenure, we express sincere gratitude for your faithful commitment and congratulate you for dedicated service for many years.

Take some time to reflect on your ministry and enjoy your well-deserved retirement. Commendations are extended to you on this commemorative occasion, this great milestone of 45 years and momentous day of retirement.

Yours in Christ!