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The Church at Antioch

Bible-based, Christ-centered, Holy Spirit-led, Mission-bound • Fellowship, Evangelism, Doctrine, Stewardship

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Antioch bids farewell to its choir director

Minister Otis Byrd Jr. called the day bittersweet and noted he felt "forever indebted" to Antioch Baptist Church North for all the love and support shown him during the last 16 years.

February 19 was the young minister's last official day leading Antioch in song.

For the congregation, it is safe to say, it was a sad day. Indeed in the years since his arrival, Minister Byrd had become one of the church's most loved and admired ministry leaders. In addition to directing four choirs, he masterfully orchestrated concerts twice a year.

In a farewell to him, Pastor Kenneth Alexander said he had no words to express the love Antioch felt for Minister Byrd and although he'd been recommended over 16 years ago to fill in for Bro. Zebulon Ellis, Alexander said that Byrd had been on assignment at Antioch. Not only did he direct the Adult, Youth, and Male choirs, he founded the popular Cameron Madison Alexander Ensemble.

Since the church's return to in-person worship, he has been leading songs during the Sunday

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Rev. K. L. Alexander celebrates 4th anniversary

Celebrating a Pastor who is doing the work

For 30 years, in so many ways, God has allowed Pastor Kenneth Alexander to play a part in kingdom-building.

He has fed the hungry. He has clothed the naked. He has preached the word.

This proof of his ministry, the Rev. Rodney Turner said, made the 4th-anniversary theme - Do the Work - celebrating Antioch Baptist Church North's pastor all the more meaningful.

Indeed a man's work reflects his character, said Turner, guest preacher

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After surgery, a warm welcome

Antioch Baptist Church North greeted the Reverend Kenneth Alexander with a standing ovation in January, welcoming him back after a nearly three-month absence.

His return on Communion Sunday marked his successful recovery from triple by-pass heart surgery performed after doctors, despite the absence of any symptoms, discovered plaque buildup in the arteries of his heart.

"I don't look like what I've been through," he told the congregation. "I'm glad to be back."

Heart disease, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the leading cause of death in the United States. And for African Americans, the statistics are even more serious as they are 30% more like-

Continued on page 3

The student who "played" school creates her own

As Antioch Baptist Church North members have done before her, Dr. Carla Santos stood in late January to give the morning announcements.

She welcomed visitors, invited members to join daily morning devotion, recognized those celebrating birthdays, and asked prayers for those who'd recently lost loved ones.

Her presentation wasn't all that unusual except for this: it had been nearly five years since Santos had joined the church service in person.

Soon after joining the congregation in 2019, Santos, who holds a doctorate in education, accepted a job as executive principal at the Dipont Huayou Collegiate School in Kunshan, China, just west of Shanghai.

That might sound simple enough, but it meant leaving behind her two children, a grown daughter and a son who was still in high school. It also meant designing a school from the ground up.

"I'm very grateful to Dipont for allowing me to bring my leadership experience to this project," she said. "To start a school completely from scratch is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

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A Message From The Pastor

My Dear Antioch,

I thank you for recognizing that through the Holy Spirit, I have tried to put John 9:4 into practice and do “the works of him that sent me, while it is day.” Lisa and I fully enjoyed celebrating my fourth anniversary as pastor. Friday’s Game Night was fun as you played Jeopardy through the different categories in my life. When we got to Kahoot, there were almost some questions that I couldn’t answer! Sunday’s service with my dear friend and fellow yoke man, Rev. Rodney Turner, pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church, was a little taste of heaven. I thank the committee who worked so diligently and effectively.


Joining the teens at Top Golf, I felt like we have a generation that grew up overnight. The deep voices and makeup showed me that the teens, who were children on the front side of the pandemic, have matured. We had a great time fellowshiping, and they have said they would like to have similar outings at least once a quarter.

As I looked out at the congregation on Pioneer Sunday and our guest preacher and retired son of Antioch, the Rev. Fred Davis, called the names of some of those who had been instrumental in helping him as he studied at Morehouse and served at Antioch, I had a sense of pride about Antioch’s rich heritage. To have members who have not just stayed but served and continue to serve for over 60 and 70 years is a mighty blessing.

We will miss Minister Otis Byrd, but we know that he is carrying out the assignment God has called him to at the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley. Thank you, Sis. Wendy Harding and the Antioch Shape Note Singers for keeping our history alive. You represented us well at the “A Moment in Time” program sponsored by R.O.S.A. (Reaching Out to Senior Adults), Inc.

Hearty thanks to our Christian Education Ministry. As I join the Adult class each Sunday and hear about the lessons for our preschool, children, and teen classes, I know that we are continuing to grow biblically knowledgeable disciples. Morning Devotions and Noonday Preaching enlighten, empower, and encourage not just our members but many people who we don’t even know about. Other pastors comment positively and ask how we are able to continue these ministries. Thanks to Sis. Lisa Scott for coordinating the morning devotions and Rev. Darrell Arnold who coordinates the noonday schedule. The Word is going forth much, and I believe God is pleased.

Yours in God’s service,


Reverend K. L. Alexander, Pastor

Continued from cover - Doing the Work



Rev. Rodney K. Turner

for the Feb. 12 anniversary service. said.

“It says a lot about who we are,” he said. “It determines our attitude about life and is a testimony about how we feel about God.”

That, he said, was never more true than in the life of Pastor Kenny, who not only continued to work during the pandemic but even while recuperating from triple bypass surgery.

Clearly, Turner said, the work won’t always be easy.

“Sometimes you won’t want to do the work,” he said. “But you got to learn to play hurt.”

Turner said that Pastor Kenny has continued to work because he understands God expects us to work no matter what else is happening around us or how we feel.

“God expects the best from us but some want to work just part-time while reaping full-time benefits,” he said. “Some work out of duty or work to get applause. Then there are others, like Pastor Kenny, who work out of a heart for God and need no applause.”

They give what they give. They sacrifice what they sacrifice. They put it all on the field because Jesus brought them out of darkness, opened their eyes, looked at their faults and saw their need. They do what they do because they understand what was done for them.

Pastor Kenny, Turner said, has shown us how to serve hurt and to give sacrificially.

Turner challenged him to continue to do the work, and he challenged Antioch to continue to support him.

“Do the work,” he said. “Don’t let anyone stop you.”

JANUARY



Disaster Relief: Immediately following the tornado that decimated large portions of Griffin, Ga., in January, a General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia truck, stocked with supplies, was en route there to assist those in need. When the power remained out for the next several days, Fifth District members, under the direction of Antioch Baptist Church North son John Byrdsell, pastor of Concord Baptist Church, traveled to Griffin to provide hot meals to residents. Rev. Byrdsell is the Fifth District’s Disaster Relief Coordinator. The Eighth Street Baptist Church, in partnership with other volunteer groups and businesses, provided water, non-perishable food items, hygiene and cleaning supplies, and even some toys for children to residents. The Rev. Antoine C. Lucas is pastor of Eight Street Baptist.

Continued from cover - After Surgery



ly to die from heart disease than non-Hispanic whites.

Those stats were not lost on Pastor Alexander as he praised God for his return, noting he had a new appreciation for God’s power to bring us through dangers seen and unseen.

He thanked the sons of the church for standing in for him in his absence and his church family for their prayers and the love and care shown him during his recovery.

He called his wife Lisa his number one medical assistant and biggest fan, saying he owed his full recovery to her.

Pastor Alexander said that he decided with his family to take all the extra steps to his recovery and is currently undergoing cardio rehabilitation.

“I am a walking miracle,” he said. “I am a living witness that God is a heart fixer.”

Continued from cover - “playing” school

Prior to joining Dipont, Santos enjoyed a long and successful career in education. In addition to heading the Centennial Academy, a public day school in Atlanta, where she spearheaded efforts to improve students’ academic performance and embrace a culture of excellence, she spent more than 25 years teaching at Westover, a private girls’ school in Middlebury, Conn., and at Miss Porter’s School, a renowned girls’ boarding school, also in Connecticut, coached varsity basketball and served as dean of students.

Even as a little girl, Santos knew she wanted to be an educator.

“I was the kid who went to school and came home and played school,” she said.

And so when the opportunity to create a school presented itself, Santos jumped at the chance.

At Dipont, Santos and her team planned everything from the school’s curriculum and ethos to the design of the campus. The school has some 700 students in grades 2 through 12.

“It’s still an unbelievable phenomenon that



Carol Santos

the school opened during the height of the pandemic,” she said.

Despite having to direct the academic operation for seven months from her hotel room while her staff taught virtually from around the world,

they managed to get the job done.

And despite the language - Santos does not speak Chinese - and cultural differences, she said that not only have staff members embraced her, but students are also eager to please her.

Antioch was pleased to see her in person, the Rev. Kenneth Alexander said as he recognized her presence at the end of the Jan. 22 service.

“God took something the devil meant for bad and through (Santos) expanded the church to China,” he said. “The Holy Spirit just gave me this. Carol Santos heads our mission in China.”

Santos said Alexander’s comments inspired her to encourage those she encounters to join Antioch’s online worship service.

Still, Santos said the next school year may be her last in China. She hopes to become an Independent Consultant of Education here in Atlanta.

To learn more about how her passion and purpose steered her along this path, click on this video link: [CLICK HERE](#)



A sonic sound remake: *In addition to a new floor and roof, Antioch Baptist Church North's new look includes new audio, video, and lighting systems. The design, by AEE Production, was completed in January and allows for pristine sound throughout the sanctuary. There are literally no bad seats. According to Pastor Kenneth L. Alexander, many components of the church's AV system were more than 30 years old. "Our sanctuary had 'dead sound' areas and places we could not see in the choir stand," he said. "An old friend of mine, Yergan Jones, understood our congregation and facility. His comprehension of the authentic worship experience is incomparable. His combined knowledge of current technology and praise and worship was exactly the professionalism we needed. The upgraded space looks and sounds great."*



Back In Session: Members of the Antioch Baptist Church North Adult Choir returned to weekly rehearsals in December. According to Bro. Eric Alexander, the choir resumed its regular rehearsal schedule at 6:30 p.m. each Thursday in preparation for its return to Sunday morning worship services. Members interested in joining are welcome. Sis. Myra Walker, pictured here, has assumed the role of choir director. The next phase of preparation will include composing four groups of six to eight members to provide music throughout the month.

NBC adds new education seminars

Generally a mixture of worship and business, the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Mid-Winter Board Meeting added a new educational component this year as it convened for three days in Birmingham.

Five seminars were added: "How Everyone Can Do Evangelism;" "How to Disciple People in a Post-Pandemic Age;" "Financial Responsibility in a Post-Pandemic Age;" "Preaching & Strategic Lead-

ership," and "Senior Life."

The Youth and Young Adult Division included three workshops. Sis. Cynthia Hillery-Jackson, a member of Greater Piney Grove in Atlanta, presented "Safe Sanctuary," a workshop which emphasizes taking care of the most vulnerable populations—youth and seniors.

Hillery-Jackson outlined practices and procedures churches need to take to keep members safe and protect the

church from an increasing number of lawsuits. A mental health workshop hosted by Tangie Martin Macon, a therapist with Willow Grace Wellness Center in Birmingham, focused on issues facing youth and young adults and the increasing suicide rate.

Aaron Brazelton presented on the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering, a one-of-a-kind school other states are hoping to replicate. It is a com-

muter and residential magnet high school which focuses on the integration of cyber technology and engineering in all academic disciplines. Students take traditional and specialized courses for three years and move into full-time internships at some of the nation's foremost companies during their senior year.

In other news, plans for the Congress to return in full force June 19 in Louisville, KY, were announced.

FEBRUARY

Wives, widows encouraged to be women of virtue, vision

The story of Nahor and Abigail in 1 Samuel 25:32-33 provides three lessons all of us can live by, the Rev. Vincent Dortch noted during his remarks at the 44th Southeast Regional International Ministers' Wives and Minister's Widows Conference.

Dortch, pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Carrollton, preached on the conference theme: "A Beloved Sisterhood: Women of Virtue, Vision and Victory."

In 1st Samuel, he said that

although Nabor refused King David's request to help, his wife Abigail obliged.

She was "a beautiful woman of intelligence married to a fool," Dortch said.

Abigail, he said, was a woman of virtue who made haste to do the right thing showing us that "it is terrible to have so much and help so little." We must be people of vision, not narrowly focused on right now but looking ahead to victory knowing that "God will take care of

you."

Dr. Dortch's sermon reverberated throughout the three-day conference, held February 23-25 with the body planning outreach efforts that included a \$50,000 endowment to HBCUs. Presenters discussed various aspects of self-care that put one in the position of being able to be virtuous while also doing the right thing.

For instance, the Rev. Gloria Reeves emphasized the biblical mandate to con-

tinue to "equip, empower, and enhance others" while caring for ourselves. And Dr. Monica W. Parker, Director of two programs in the Emory Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, said self-care should include recognizing the signs of Alzheimer's and other dementia.

Named one of the top doctors in family and geriatric medicine, Dr. Parkers leads a forum entitled "Brain Talk Live" on dementia and aging, which is open to the public.

Continued from cover - Farewell



Otis poses with the band



Farewell hug from Pastor Alexander

worship.

During his tenure, Alexander said that Byrd had been a shining example of what it means to be a leader in the African-American community.

"Otis knows all our old songs," he said. "He's a walking Negro spiritual, gospel encyclopedia. More than that, he has truly touched our hearts."

Even during the pandemic, he said that Min. Byrd continued to serve, accompanying him at many graveside services.

While he possesses enough talent to rest on his laurels, Reverend Alexander said that when Min. Byrd decided he wanted to return to Morehouse College to complete his degree, he fought through all his classes, finished Morehouse and got into

Princeton.

"We are proud of you," he told him.

Byrd cried as he thanked members of the church band and every choir member who loaned their gifts and time.

"There is no doubt in my mind I would not be where I am, with what I have...without the love and support of Antioch Baptist Church North," he said, wiping away tears. "To come to such a historic place was a blessing and a privilege. It was not easy. Some people made me prove myself. Everybody didn't trust me at first."

Sixteen years later, he said, "I get it."

In a Facebook post after the 10 a.m. service, Byrd said that he was particularly grateful to Bro. Eric

Alexander and Antioch's late Pastor Cameron Madison Alexander for seeing something in him and taking a chance on a then 22-year-old.

"Pastor K. L. Alexander, I am grateful for your leadership, friendship, support, and belief in me," he said.

Byrd will be joining the staff of the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church as the assistant to the pastor for online ministry.

On his final day in his official capacity, Byrd bid Antioch a tearful goodbye but assured the congregation he was not severing ties.

"This relationship is forever," he said. "Please keep praying for me, and I'll be praying for you as well."

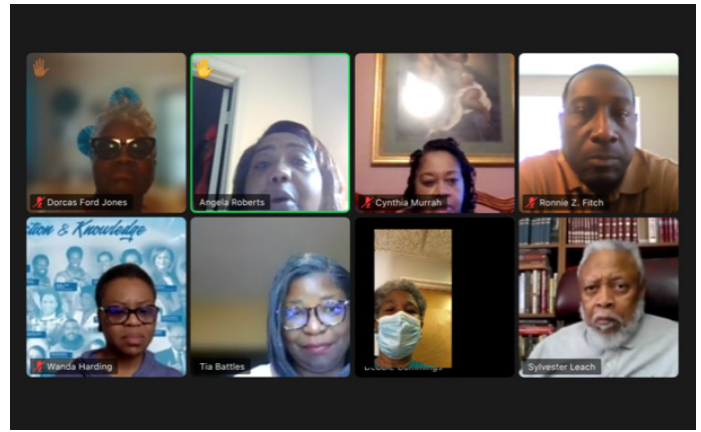


Deundra Metzger

Outstanding Hairstylist:

Deundra Metzger, daughter of Antioch Baptist Church member Sis. Bennie McDonald, was among the nominees for Outstanding Hairstylist in Television and Film category in this year's NAACP Image Awards. Metzger was nominated for her work on the movie *Till*. Camille Friend won for her work on *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. Metzger,

McDonald said, has been styling hair since high school. After operating two Atlanta Salons in which she was the sole owner, Metzger started competing in the Bronner Brothers Hair Shows and got her start in television on Tyler Perry's *Meet the Browns*. After working at the TP studio and styling celebrities for album covers, television shows, and other ventures, she became a member of IATSE Local 798 Union (Hair Department Head) affording her opportunities to earn stylist credits in both television and film. You can see her work on *The Last Days of Ptolemy Gray*/Amazon, Zoltar/AppleTV+, SWARM/Amazon, *Black Panther*, and *Suicide Squad*. Last year Metzger was awarded *Variety Magazine's* "Top 10 Artisans to Watch" for the hairstyles created for the movie *Till*. "I am one proud momma," McDonald said.



Vacation Bible School Workshop: Several members of Antioch Baptist Church North's Christian Education ministry previewed 2023 Vacation Bible School materials during the annual workshop hosted March 4 by the Christian Education Leadership Institute of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. Dr. Debra Berry, SSPB Senior Director of Christian Ministries and Resources, provided an in-depth overview of the materials and the reason for the theme - *Faith Builders: Restoration Word Ahead*. Berry said the theme is centered around the second half of Nehemiah 2:18, which says "Let us rise up and build." Coming out of the pandemic and experiencing natural disasters as well as trials, loss and pain, the VBS materials are designed to provide tools for handling life's challenges. Mark your calendars for Antioch's VBS, June 5-9.

GMBC looks to future, embracing new methods

The GMBC Ministers Maximum Impact Conference was laser-focused on moving into the post-pandemic era with a clear vision for the future.

The goal is in keeping with this year's theme: "Visioneering for the Future: Ministry Beyond the Moment" based on Proverbs 29:18.

Each sermon, presentation and panel emphasized the need to remain rooted and grounded in God's unchanging word while embracing new methods of engaging congregations

and the wider society.

The Rev. Jerry D. Black, pastor of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church in Decatur preached the opening message on January 30. The Rev. Dr. John Adolph, pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas, preached both the evening service and closing sermon Feb. 1 and 2, respectively.

The common thread was rebounding and reimagining after the pandemic by clearly writing the vision

of God.

A panel discussion featuring pastors and their wives, including Rev. William E. Flippin, pastor of Greater Piney Grove in Atlanta, emphasized the need to balance serving the church and maintaining a healthy family life.

Sis. Monica Swayne, LCSW, and Rev. Paul Little, II, pastor of Bibb Mount Zion BC in Macon, followed up with a panel discussion emphasizing practical self-care strategies for church

leaders.

Extending the metaphor of a well, addressed by Rev. Dr. Lonnie Slater, pastor of Piney Grove MBC, Macon, in his presentation on "Visionary Preaching: Drawing Fresh Water from an Old Well", the panels focused on how to keep fresh water flowing by attending to one's physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being in order to be able to rehydrate the congregations they serve and not become dried up.

GMBC holds Adjourned Session

Antioch members sat up a little straighter when it was announced that a son of the church, the Rev. Johnnie H. Flakes, III, is stepping into the role of Congress of Christian Education President.

Flakes immediately announced that there would be a strong emphasis in bringing young people back to the Con-

gress in large numbers when it convenes in Brunswick in July.

Both the Oratorical Contest and scholarship awards for graduating high school seniors will be available for entrants.

The General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia's Adjourned Session, which

met in February in Columbus, planned the convention work for the year.

According to President Anthony Corbett, the C.M.A. Land of Promise in Culloden suffered extensive weather damage recently but the renovations are underway. When they are complete, Project 2nd Chance, a program that

will provide prisoners who have completed their sentences to be released to a place to live, will begin operation.

He said, the convention-owned property in Fitzgerald, formerly known as Bryant Theological Seminary, is also being refurbished to house and provide services for veterans.

MARCH

Zion Byrd takes a shot at ending gun violence

Zion Byrd, a senior at Midtown High School, had long been concerned about the growing number of youths her age and younger falling victim to gun violence.

But it wasn't until the teen and Antioch Baptist Church North member learned about the shooting death of Zyion Charles and Kameron Jackson near Atlantic Station that she knew she had to do something.

"They just went to have fun and never came back home," Zion said. "Their deaths made me try to figure out if there was something I could do."

A member of the Atlanta Public Schools Student Advisory Council, she and fellow senior, Eleanor Jones, hosted a "Stand Against Violence" Rally in December.



Zion Byrd

They didn't stop there.

Zion and other members of the Student Advisory Council decided that if the authorities heard from the youth, they would put a higher

priority on trying to end the violence.

The council came up with a list of demands it felt would help, including a request for more officers on campus and scanners and identification badges that have to be worn at school. While those measures will help to provide a heightened sense of safety at school, Zion stressed, "more has to be done to give young people a sense of purpose, knowledge of a different lifestyle than one of violence."

To that end, the student council also asked for more extracurricular programs to enrich youths' experiences and more mental health services.

"Gun violence is nothing new, especially here in Atlanta," she said recently. "We just decided that if not us, then who, and the time is now."

After the pandemic, Antioch teens check-in

The excitement at being able to fellowship again was evident as Antioch Baptist Church teens gathered at Top Golf, greeting each other with high fives, hugs, and chatter, chatter, chatter.

It was the first in-person gathering since the start of the pandemic.

"I'm so glad to see you; we've got to catch up" or some version of those sentiments could be heard as they encountered each other. In typical teen fashion, the boys gathered at one set of tables, and the girls gathered at another. It didn't matter.

With the help of Sis. Tamara Ross, Sis. Chelsi Lester, a recent Spelman graduate and dance teacher; Nicholas Brown, a recent Georgia Tech graduate working as an engineer in Dallas,



and Kolby Morton, a recent graduate of North Carolina A&T who works in IT in Raleigh, they opened up.

What was it like coming out of the pandemic?

Some felt like they were behind in academics, but others had been able to keep up

despite having taken lots of breaks and not always paying attention. The biggest adjustment, they said, has been socially. It seemed as though they were starting over when it came to making friends.

Pastor Kenneth Alexander, who attended with his wife, Lisa Alexander, shared his experience starting at Morehouse, transferring to Florida A&M, and returning to Morehouse years later. He cautioned them to not make any decisions without praying so that "you won't make major mistakes that end up causing a lifetime of difficulty."

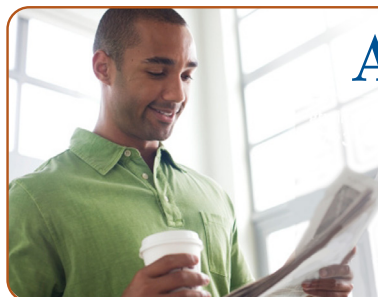
He told them to have fun and said he enjoyed college.

"One of my best moves was going to A&M because that's where I met Lisa," he said.

ANTIOCH FAMILY!

Proud of the job you do or want to nominate your sister or brother in Christ to be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Church at Antioch*?

E-mail your story idea to Sis. Gracie Staples at: gracie.staples@gmail.com





Christian Leadership Institute

Antioch Baptist Church North members took advantage of classes offered by the Christian Leadership Institute. The classes—A Christian View Toward Political Involvement, Basic Christian Beliefs, Introduction to Discipleship, Christian Evangelism, Building Healthy Churches, and Organizing the Church for Christian Education - were held virtually Feb. 15-17. The institute, an arm of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., provides training for the National Baptist Convention USA, Certificate of Progress Program (COPP) and a variety of seminars addressing issues of concern to the local church and Baptist denomination. According to Antioch members, the classes were full of excellent information and practical advice for implementation but also intense because there was homework each night.

Christian education like no other

This year's Congress of Christian Education will be like nothing anyone has ever seen before," said Marcus Davidson, president of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary.

He made the pronouncement in March during the Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary's strategic planning meeting held in New Orleans.

The Congress of Christian Education will be held in Louisville at the Kentucky Exposition Center, a venue large enough to hold all of the classes and events, so they will not have to be spread out in various hotels as has been true in the past.

Sis. Wanda Harding will be teaching a STEM Experience, to help youth understand how science, technology, engineering, and math are part of God's plan.

Sis. Dorcas Ford Jones will be leading the Rites of Passage. The program for youth ages 13-17 will begin during the three days of the Congress, continue virtually throughout the year

and conclude with a ceremony during Congress 2024.

Young adults and adult leaders will be able to enroll in Certificate of Progress Certification Program. There will also be a College Fair and health emphasis seminar in partnership with the HOPE or Health Outreach Prevention Education Ministry.

In addition, youth can participate in the Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Congress, the Oratorical and Essay Contests sponsored by the Laymen's Auxiliary.

The Children's Rally, Youth Rally and iRock worship experiences will include opportunities for youth and young adults to use their gifts in music, liturgical dance, mime, and drama. Youth and Young Adults who are artistically inclined will be able to display their works in an art display. There will be opportunities for evangelism and service through Home Mission, and the Foreign Mission team will finalize preparation for the mission trip to Grenada, scheduled to begin July 6th.

AUMI hosts hunger walk

It was cold, windy and rainy, but the Antioch Urban Ministries Team braved the inclement weather to participate in the 39th Annual Hunger Walk/Run in March.

Antioch partners with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the major sponsor of the event, which raises money to help feed those experiencing food instability. High food prices and shortages have caused the number of people Antioch is feeding

each week to rise again following the previous uptick during the pandemic.

According to the Rev. Terry Hightower, the Antioch team was smaller this year than in past years.

He said, however, he hopes those who did not come out either registered for the virtual walk or will make a donation.

"Antioch knows the needs in our community and is good about supporting our efforts," he said.

Happy 4th Anniversary Pastor Kenny!

from
The Church at Antioch
Staff



Betty Jo Cooke



Karen McKinney Holley



Maryann Morgan



Gracie Bonds Staples



Reggie Tolbert



Walk to end hunger:

The Rev. Terry Hightower, pictured above along with other members of Antioch Baptist Church North, joined an estimated 10,000 people from across metro Atlanta to participate in the 39th annual Hunger Walk Run on March 12. Participants of the Hunger Walk/Run, which benefits the Atlanta Community Food Bank and five other local nonprofits with hunger relief programs, could join the event virtually or in person at The Home Depot Backyard at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. For some families, food insecurity has worsened since the start of the pandemic, forcing them to choose between paying rent, purchasing medication, or buying food for their family, a food bank announcement said. Some families experienced food insecurity for the first time. Rev. Hightower stated that the Antioch Urban Ministries Food Bank provides food for more than 350 families per week, 100 seniors on a monthly basis, and distributes 10,000 pounds of produce on a weekly basis for those over 55. AUMI also provides food for more than 35 students attending Atlanta Metropolitan State College on a bi-weekly basis.



Time to apply for Antioch scholarships

One of the many missions of the Antioch Baptist Church North has long been to support the higher educational aspirations of its members.

In keeping with this mission, scholarships are awarded twice a year to graduating high school seniors.

In the Spring, Congratulatory Scholarships are awarded to high school graduates with plans to attend college or vocational school during the fall.

In the winter, college sophomores, juniors, and seniors are presented memorial/book scholarships.

Because college tuition continues to increase, Antioch members are encouraged to increase their giving. That can be done in a couple of ways, said Sis. Wendy Harding.

One, you can establish a memorial scholarship. Two, award book scholarships designated for a special field or content area are welcome.

Students graduating from high school can apply beginning the latter part of May

and early June. Deadline dates and applications can be found on the church website.

Applications for book scholarships are accepted in November. The awards, Harding said, will be mailed to the college scholarship office around the first of January.

This year, according to ministry leaders, nearly 30 book scholarships were awarded.

The scholarship ministry was the brainchild of Antioch's late Pastor Cameron Madison Alexander and continues under the leadership of his son and the current pastor, Rev. Kenneth L. Alexander.

The Holy Bible teaches us "The Way" to a productive life. Education gives us instructions on "The How" to prepare for productivity. Then working in concert through our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, it is the church prayer that investments in Antioch youth will yield high dividends in the future.



National Baptist Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary provide outreach to Selma, AL tornado victims

Upon learning of the devastation from tornadoes in Selma, AL, the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary Home Mission Disaster Relief, led by Bro. Matthew Hamilton and Sis. Linda Farinas, went into high gear. Monetary contributions, non-perishable food items, cleaning and health supplies, and clothing were collected in a matter of days. Members of

the Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary traveled to Selma on Monday and Tuesday, January 23-24, to provide assistance. Hot meals were prepared at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Rev. James Perkins, Jr., pastor, which itself had received damage to the roof. Volunteers took the meals out into the community and informed people that FEMA was available to process claims at the church.

Did You Know?

Researchers have found substantial evidence that most people can improve their mental health.

If you want to be happier this afternoon, do something kind for someone else with no expectation of reward.

A Japanese research project found that happy people become happier through performing acts of kindness.

brought to you by
Mental Health Task Force

VIRTUAL
Thursday Bible Study
 Thursdays at 7pm
TTG
 Theological Therapy Thursday
 Join us!

AUMI Introduces CHL **CHOOSE HEALTHY LIFE**

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Visit www.antiochurban.org for more information, and remember,
Choose to be Healthy!

MLK Day of Service



Join us each week!



Sunday School

Sundays
9:00 am
via Zoom

www.antiochnorth.org

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Starting at 7:00 pm



facebook.com/antiochbaptistchurchnorth
youtube.com/antiochbaptist



Sunday Worship

10:00 am



www.antiochnorth.org
facebook.com/antiochbaptistchurchnorth
youtube.com/antiochbaptist



Bible Study

Join us!

Thursdays | 7:00 pm

Connect to Zoom via www.antiochnorth.org



Celebrating Pioneers

Pioneer Sunday: Antioch Baptist Church North paused to pay tribute to her pioneers on March 12 for their contributions to its growth and prosperity. Some who have been members for 30 or more years are pictured above with Pastor Kenneth Alexander and his wife Lady Lisa. Bro. Tommie Jennings, who has been an active member of Antioch for 36 years, is pictured left with Pastor Kenny and Lady Lisa. These pioneers have stayed the course, anchored church teachings to a strong biblical foundation, and supported the pastors all while providing strategic leadership that has kept the Antioch family focused on the mark of the high calling. They all share a common thread: a love for God and obedience to his word.

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