



The Church at Antioch

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

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Celebrating 145 years We've come this far by grace

Antioch Baptist Church North marked her 145th Anniversary on Nov. 13, with the Rev. Rodney Turner, pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church and a son of the church, returning once more to her pulpit.

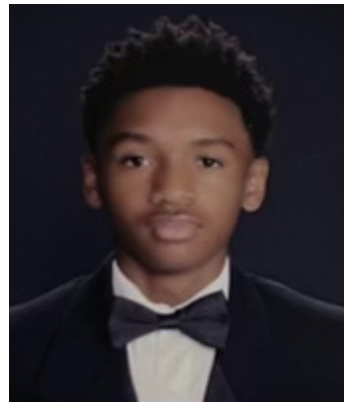
Turner's message, simply entitled "Grace Brought Us," drew from the anniversary theme scripture Hebrews 4:14-16: *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Saying he's not ashamed to admit he is a recipient of God's grace, Turner shared his journey from addiction to the pulpit and in doing so provided a living testimony of his restoration from a broken, beat up, tied up, tangled up man in sin.

He recalled watching from across the street as Antioch worshippers would come and go between Sunday services. He'd cry out for mercy



Logan Kirkland



Julian Dudley



Alyse King



Cameron Gray

Youth Emphasis Sunday

Alyse King, Logan Kirkland, Cameron Gray and Julian Dudley each delivered soul-stirring messages on Oct. 30, the day billed as Youth Emphasis Sunday. The messages, edited inside for space, were gleaned from 1 Cor. 15:58 - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

New leader, same care and comfort

More than 40 Antioch Baptist Church North members delivered Christmas gifts to the sick and shut-in during the Churchwide Visitation Sunday, Dec. 11.

The annual delivery, which began more than 10 years ago, was the brainchild of Antioch's late pastor, Cameron Madison Alexander, and is a demonstration of the church's concern and care for her members.

Until last October, the ministry, which includes Bereavement Aftercare, DVD, Home Going Service Arrangements, Monday Night Visitations, Transportation, Thursday Prayer Warriors, and the Women's Missionary Society, was led by Sis. Redelle Doyle. The Rev. J. Scott Copeland is the Ministerial Advisor.

Sis. Doyle still remembers when she bumped into Rev. Alexander at the Kroger on Cascade Road and he appointed her leader of Care and Comfort.

"After I gave him a hug, he began to tell me about his vision," she said. "He asked me if I could lead it telling me he wanted me to work with Rev. Copeland. When he asked me if I thought I could do it, I answered, 'Yes, pastor, with the help of Jesus I believe I can.'"

Sis. Doyle has a heart for those



A Message From The Pastor

Antioch,

As pastor I should not show favoritism, but I cannot help but to have two favorite events this quarter. The outpouring of love for my wife as she celebrated her birthday in November made us both so full that we could not contain our joy and gratitude. The Pink Frog Foundation Fashion Show featured five first ladies, but I only had eyes for Lady Lisa. As I watched her walk the runway, my mind went back to those many years ago when I first saw her out of my dorm room window, and I fell head-over-heels in love all over again, and we had a grand early anniversary celebration!

On the 5th Sunday in October, our youth were phenomenal as they let the Holy Spirit use them. Their messages were on point and gave us not only much to think about but to apply to our lives. They are among our Future Pioneers, not waiting to become a certain age or have a specific number of years of membership before using their God-given gifts for the Lord. That is why we felt it prudent to celebrate not just our Legacy Pioneers but our Future Pioneers. Everyone is participating in building upon the strong foundation laid by our beloved Bethursday Prayer Group. I commend our 145th Church Anniversary Committee for the innovative ideas that generated so much excitement as we celebrated. Hearing the bell toll and rededicating our renovated sanctuary in our ribbon cutting ceremony bridged the old and the new.

We had a record number of members participate in our Care and Comfort Visitation Sunday, and I know our members who are unable to come to the sanctuary physically are especially grateful. The ABCNN Ministry, including our technologically savvy, dedicated younger members, continue to do an extraordinary job in the virtual space. Being among the sick and shut-in for a few weeks has given me a new appreciation for all that they do.

Even though I had to slow down to recover from heart surgery, Antioch kept the pace, remaining the heartbeat of our community. We have continued to serve four hot meals per week at no charge as well as provide food through our Food Bank, clothing through our Apparel Shoppe and mentoring for our youth through the Malachi Ministry.

As only Antioch can, you have come together to make our once-a-year special outreach extraordinary as well. A delicious Thanksgiving meal and Spirit-filled worship service at the Salvation Army provided by the Male Chorus and Sons of the Church reached mouths and souls who don't come to the church campus. Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes delivered to our seniors contained food but also love and care. The A.S.K. Ministry celebrated our seniors with a drive-thru for them to pick up gift bags. The number of coats and toys distributed exceeded what we have done in past years. There is an untold host of other services to meet needs as they present themselves that occur day-in and day-out because you give, 365 days a year, not just during the Christmas season as we seek to fulfill the six-fold ministry mandated by Christ in Matthew 35:31-40.

Antioch, Antioch, Antioch! You never cease to amaze me as you open yourselves to the lead of the Holy Spirit. I love you and miss you!

Yours in God's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Reverend K. L. Alexander, Pastor

Continued from cover - Celebrating 145

from God and plead for the day of his own return.

"I did not realize at that time that I was already covered by God's mercy," he said. "I knew that by God's grace I'd one day return to Antioch, but I didn't know how or in what state."

When the day came, however, mercy welcomed him at the door and accepted him just as he was—through the congregation's outpouring of love under the leadership of Antioch North's late pastor, Rev. Cameron Alexander.

Since that moment, Rev. Turner said he has done works beyond his imagination through Antioch's outreach ministries—Ananias's House, Ruth's Place, Matthew's Place, and many others.

"When we find grace, we find mercy," he said. "Mercy and grace go together. Once God's mercy is obtained, grace becomes the vehicle to move us forward."

Indeed, Rev. Turner became an ordained minister and was later called to pastor.

"Only God can take our burdens and turn them with grace to redirect our paths," he said.

That same grace works to help others find their way. In fact, Turner said, "we do not go through any situation that God is not aware of, but we must come boldly to the throne of grace with sincerity and the unwavering belief that God can do anything.

"We are recipients of His mercy but when we come to him, we receive His grace which continuously moves us forward. Whatever we have gone through makes us better, stronger, and wiser."

Mercy is not greater than grace, he said. Mercy restores us but grace preserves us. Mercy holds us but grace rocks us. Mercy provides food but grace prepares us to eat. Grace keeps us, goes before us, pulls us, prods us, pushes us, equips us, prepares us for living and fixes us for dying.

"By the Grace of a true and living God," Turner said, "we are here today celebrating 145 years because Grace Brought Us."

Amen.

OCTOBER

Continued from cover - Y.E.S.

Devoted, determined and driven to do God's Will

Logan Kirkland

Today's scripture comes from 1 Corinthians 15:58. A servant that embodied this message was Job. Satan, however, believed that if God removed all material goods from Job, Job would forsake his faith in Him. Satan's belief is flawed because he doesn't understand that the material goods on earth do not compare to the everlasting love of God. Even after his family and his livestock were stripped away from him, Job's faith never wavered.

Temptation is a strong force that challenges everybody, but especially the youth of today. Recently a girl was vaping in the school bathroom stall next to me. As I headed out, she stopped me and of-

fered me a vape. I quickly responded "No" and walked out thinking "Did she really just ask me that?" The devil wanted me to deviate from God's plan, but I was driven to do God's will and said NO.

Although we may not see God's plan for us, right now, we must trust that he has complete control. While Satan may appeal to our weaknesses, Jesus preached that God conquers all evil, and no matter how much stronger evil may seem, God will always have the ultimate triumph. God is the most constant person in our lives. His omnipresence is shown throughout the Bible as well. For example, Job and Jesus are from different testaments.

Job is in the Old Testament and Jesus is present in human form in the New Testament.

This shows that God is looking out for us through it all, the new and the old, the past and the present, the easy and the hard, the sad and the happy, the sick and the healthy, and most importantly, the sinner and the saint. Today's scripture says, "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain".

We as Christians know that the Lord has brought us through it all; therefore, our labor is being devoted, determined, and driven to do his will. God has personally

brought me through hard times by protecting me when we were robbed. The truth is he showed up for us even before we were born. He did this by sending his only son, Jesus, to earth to redeem us from our sins and give us eternal life.

Jesus faced brutal discrimination while on earth but remained devoted to his father, determined to complete his mission, and driven to do his father's will. One Friday, Jesus died on a cross, but bright early Sunday morning he got up with all power in his hands, and because he did this for us, we should live our lives devoted, determined, and driven to do God's Will.

Alyse King

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 English Standard Version says this: Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable. So, I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

We all run a race, but in order to win the eternal race we must discipline ourselves, train ourselves, and prepare ourselves.

I play volleyball. The summer before the start of the season I had to meet certain goals in order to be on the team. To earn a team jersey, my mile time had to be under 8 minutes. And so I spent my summer conditioning and disciplining my body. One of the hardest things was getting up in the morning to run up a hill and do push-ups.

At first, it was hard. I was sore and tired and had to take a lot of breaks. I asked my dad how long it would take till I got faster. He told me the exercise wasn't about building muscle but breaking down what was there in order to build it back stronger. Sometimes God allows certain things to hap-

pen that break you, but it's because he plans to build you back stronger than before.

The apostle Paul had to be blinded to see he was on the wrong course. Likewise, sometimes we have to be broken to be made strong.

This reminded me of when I first started doing morning devotion. It started with me saying, I'm going to get up and spend this amount of time reading my Bible. Similarly, the workout took discipline and some urging from my dad to get me up. And yet, the more I did these things, the more determined I became to do them. When I missed a day of devotion, the rest of my day felt off. When I didn't work out,

I was disappointed, so even when I was tired and sore, I ran up the hill. Even when it was a school day and I had to get up early if I wanted to read my Bible, I set my timer and got up. My determination became a drive, knowing that the "prize" was worth it.

Even when doing devotion, you have to discipline both the body and the mind to not only read but live out what the Bible says because faith without works is dead. So, as we run our race, seeking to win the eternal prize we must remain devoted, determined, and driven to do God's will and let Him work both in us and through us.

Continued on page 4

Julian Dudley

My day starts by keeping my eyes on God, because early in life, my family planted and nurtured the word of GOD in me. In my adolescent years when faced with situations, due to peer pressure, finals week coming swiftly, or even my internet connection cutting out when playing games with friends, I put myself in the shoes of young David. While King Saul trusted in his armor, David trusted in his God. Likewise, I've learned that no matter the challenge, with God all things are possible.

In trusting God, you don't run from challenges, you

face them.

When Covid first became a chatter in my area, schools shut down for two weeks. At the time, it felt almost like Spring Break until the break continued to extend. I became lazy with no drive to continue; the days started to feel longer and longer. My family made sure God was still flowing through me, by continuing to pray daily and reading the Bible consistently. With their help, I put my full trust in God. Like David, I remembered who was in control, to not fear or be dismayed.

James 1:1-2 tells us, "Con-

sider it all joy my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the test of your faith produces endurance." God doesn't want us to see challenges as disadvantages, but rather as stepping stones for growth.

I was in a program called Challenge at GA Tech that tested me beyond comfort. My first obstacle was not taking a Calculus class before. I was told that Georgia Tech does not accept students without knowledge of Calculus. The odds seemed against me, but I had a 'but God' moment. I was accepted into GeorgiaTech, com-

pleted the summer Challenge Program, and went on to become the President of a Freshman Leadership engineering organization.

It's true I had been discouraged, but I remembered who has been there every step of the way, guiding me on the right path. I thought about my journey with God. I know he tests our faith and as long as I put my full trust in him, I can overcome any challenge I may face.

Bottom line is God is my professor, and the lessons he teaches are meant to help me become more like Christ.

Cameron Gray

Do you know what it's like to live life in 3D? Well, it means to be Devoted, Determined, and Driven to do God's work. It means doing things in the name of God. Even when God tells you to do something that doesn't seem to make sense, you still need to do it.

Moses had had such an encounter with God. From what looked like a burning bush, God told him to go to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to set the Israelites free. Moses didn't agree right away. He told God that he wasn't the right person. God told Moses to get his brother Aaron to be his spokesperson. So, they both

went to Pharaoh to ask him to let God's people go, but Pharaoh wasn't going to let that happen. Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh 10 times. There were 10 plagues, and after the 10th Pharaoh was tired of it.

Moses was determined to free the Israelites. Because Moses was devoted to God, he was driven to do what God told him to do, because he knew that God was steering him in the right direction. God may have you do things differently than you think, but His way is the right way. He has a perfect plan for you; you just have to trust him all the way.

This is just like my mom. She has all types of projects going on in and outside our home. When the siding she'd ordered arrived late and wrong, she, like Moses, was determined to straighten out the issue. She called the store manager, then the branch manager, then the corporate office in order to get what she needed.

This made me think about writing this message. At first, I didn't feel motivated; I didn't think I was the right person to give this message to you. I asked myself, "Why did they pick me?" Just like Moses, I started to ask more questions. This task assigned

to me to speak today was a sign from God that I need a deeper connection with him to better understand him. I learned that my mom does not want her labor to be in vain. Her devotion to having the siding on our house installed correctly comes from her desire for everything she does to be the best for God. I now understand that I have to depend on God for everything and give him my best. I feel like my relationship with God is stronger than ever, and I am driven, I am determined, and I am devoted to having a deeper connection with God.



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

Continued from cover - New Leader...



Redelle Doyle



Doris Labitue

experiencing illness and bereavement. Under the leadership of the late Mother Frances Miles, she began going out with the Monday Night Mission to visit the sick at home, in nursing homes or in the hospital.

“Going out on the church bus every Monday night was my therapy,” she said. “No matter what kind of day I may have had on the job, it was all forgotten once I was on the church bus.”

All these years later, she remembers Mother Miles’ praying, everyone joining in to sing and praise God, sharing treats and jokes, moments of laughter that bubbled out of them, and the visits.

One visit, in particular, still touches her.

“When (our church member) saw the bus pulling up, she started crying, ‘Here comes my church family,’ Doyle recalled the woman saying. “They are coming to see about me.”

When Sis. Doyle was led to return to her hometown of Savannah, she knew she needed someone who shared her commitment to those in need to succeed her.

The Lord, she said, led her to Sis. Doris Labitue.

“As a relatively new member of Antioch, I am honored to have been asked to serve in this position,” Labitue said recently.

She and her husband Russell moved to Atlanta in 2014 after years of serving the sick and shut-in members at 12th Baptist Church in Roxbury, MA, where they were active.

The couple joined what became the Thursday Prayer Warriors at Antioch to continue those efforts.

“Serving alongside the committed members of the Care and Comfort Ministry is truly a privilege, and I hope to continue the mission established when the ministry came into existence, stated Sis. Labitue”

Fall Revival

The Rev. Clarence Moore, pastor of Good Shepherd Baptist Church in Augusta, returned to Antioch Baptist Church North in October to deliver three revival messages. Below is a synopsis of each night’s sermon delivered in person and virtually:

Monday, Oct. 24

Scripture: *Exodus 15:23-25* And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them...

Title: From bitter to sweet

Sermon notes: The book of Exodus is an exciting book about the redemptive activities of our God. God heard the groans of Israel while they were in slavery, and he moved to redeem them. This book shows how God protected and sustained them while taking them through the wilderness. The children of Israel, having been set free, are singing and celebrating, but not so fast. You still have some hard and stressful days ahead. Not so fast Antioch. Not so fast America because the fight is not over. Just when you thought you had it made and were about to enter the promised land, the door was closed in your face.

Notice in the text how the Israelite’s singing and dancing turned into lament. After three days in the wilderness, they’re out of water and when they did find water it is bitter.

What do they do? Not only do they begin to doubt Moses, but they also start to doubt God. Look how soon they forgot what God had already done for them.

They had watched the Lord open the Red Sea, and now they doubt God can provide water for them to drink. They realize not all their problems were solved. In all of our lives, there will be bitter water—bitter waters of financial setbacks, unemployment, and illness—and it can destroy the one who drinks it. But bitter moments and bitter days shouldn’t make you a bitter person or cause you to doubt God.

Notice the Bible says the people complained against Moses. But don’t be too hard on the children of Israel. We do the same thing. We need to ask is if there anything too hard for God. When we complain, we’re saying you don’t know how to take care of me and my need. The Israelites were not content with the care of God. What did Moses do? Moses prayed.

God heard Moses’ plea and he answered him. When you don’t know what to do, don’t curse, don’t complain, don’t hit the bottle. Prayer says there is somebody bigger than I am.

After Moses prayed, the Lord did a strange thing and showed Moses a tree, which his servant threw in the water, and the water turned sweet.

At Marah, the Lord was teaching them about trust and obedience. God will test us every now and then, but no matter how bitter things may seem, there is hope at the cross. When I think about the tree Moses put in the water, I’m reminded of the cross. No matter how bitter things may seem, there’s hope at the cross.

Tuesday, Oct. 25

Scripture: *Exodus 15:1* Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

Title: I have a song to sing

Sermon notes: This song is a splendid example of biblical poetry. This song praises God for his goodness to Israel. This song tells us how Moses must have felt after the victory at the Red Sea. Moses and the children were able to sing because they could look back and see the safety through the Red Sea. They had

walked through the Red Sea on dry ground, but they had also witnessed the destruction of their enemy. They had reason to sing.

Just like the children of Israel we, too, ought to have a song to sing.

Why? The first thing we need to notice is the Lord is our strength. We cannot truly sing, feel joy, grasp the grace of God. There are some who can't sing because they can't remember their history. The children of Israel had a great memory.

Before we even get to chapter 15, the children are enslaved, making bricks with straw. For 430 years they longed for freedom. God intervened, sending plagues until the children of Israel were set free.

When we look around, we can see Satan is constantly assaulting the people of God. Satan is waging war on our families, on our finances, the church, and even the doctrine of God. But the Lord wants you to know the race is not given to the swift, nor the strong but to he who can hold out until the end. We will have trials and tribulations, but be of good cheer because God has already overcome them. The Lord is calling us to endure.

It was by faith that Noah endured the flood. Harriet Tubman risked her life leading her countrymen to freedom; Martin King, Jr. endured the

civil rights movement. These patriarchs endured the struggles of life because they put their faith in God.

I stopped by to tell you Jesus can set you free, and once you are free, you have a song to sing. When I look at this text, I see that the Lord is my song. He's glorious in holiness. Let him be more than the supreme ruler, for he is the one in our hearts.

The character of Jesus Christ is without question. When we look at the character of Jesus, we find nothing wrong. We can't say that about ourselves. We all have character flaws. But Jesus knows how to cover up and clean up our flaws. He can do that because Jesus is holy, set apart for the special work of bringing us salvation. There's nobody like him. God has given us a song to sing, and this world needs to hear our song.

The text says I need to sing because the Lord is my salvation. If you've rejected Jesus, there is no reason to hope. You have a leaky reservoir. Your well will go dry.

I want you to know that God has a better plan. He created us. He redeemed us. And through faith brought us to salvation.

He went to the cross and allowed God to blame him for our sins and condemn him in our place. That's why I'm here today. I come to sing my song.



Rev. Dr. Clarence Moore

I come to praise him and sing my song for who he really is. I come to praise him for his holiness. And that's what worship is all about. It is a reaction to all that God has done and who he really is. When I come, I come to worship in spirit and truth, to through up holy hands and tell him he's worthy.

I come tonight to sing my song. I'm gonna sing, I am redeemed. I've been bought with a price because Jesus has changed my life. Where there was hate, love now abides. Where there was confusion, peace now reigns because I am a child of the king. I'll tell of his favor, his love to me. I have been set free. I'm free as can be because Jesus has changed my whole life.

Wednesday, Oct. 26

Scripture: *Psalms 92:1 It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High.*

Title: There's Power in praise

Sermon notes: God's desire for all of us is to praise him. That's why he created us. Praise simply means we pledge our allegiance to God and we give him honor in our lives. You don't have to walk or have eyesight to give God praise.

The first thing I learned from this text is it's better to praise God than to panic. We're panicky about many things—powerful nations developing nuclear weapons, the political climate here in America, the gap between black and white, rich and poor, health care, and no jobs.

We're living in a scary time. It seems nothing is stable.

But in the midst of all this, Jesus tells us his

followers can be brave because we have a father in heaven.

Now let me be the first to say it's easy to praise God when everything is going well. But how can I praise God at the panic point in my life? Remember what God has already done. Remember where God has brought you from; remember how he has led you and how God has taken care of you.

We often say we lifted ourselves up by our own bootstraps but we can't do it by ourselves. Our Lord is the one who brought us to this land of plenty where food is not scarce and we lack for little.

The second thing I learned from this text is that it's better to praise God than to be pessimistic. Pessimism says I don't believe in God.

We have to have faith. To have faith is to be truly convinced of the trustworthiness of God. Faith in God isn't intellectual. It's spiritual. For we walk by faith and not by sight.

The question is will we take our burdens to the Lord? We have sickness, yet we don't call on the greatest physician in the world. We have financial problems, but we fail to talk it over with the one who owns the world and the fullness thereof.

No matter what it looks like, it's not finished until the Lord says it's finished.

We have someone who interceded on our behalf. We have somebody who looks out for us.

Give thanks to the Lord for all he's done for he's already done what he said he'd do.

When I was hungry, you gave me manna from on high. When I was thirsty you gave me water. When I was lost, Lord you found me. When I was on my way to hell, Jesus came to redeem me.

But what makes me really happy is when I think about what happened one Friday on a hill called Calvary. He died, but early Sunday morning, he got up, and because he got up, I can tell the Lord thank you for saving me.



Pink Frog Foundation Fashion Show: Lady Lisa Alexander was stunning as she strutted the runway at Arbor Place Mall as one of the models in the “Passion for Pink” Fashion Show. This was the first fashion show sponsored by the Pink Frog Foundation, which raises money to help find a cure for breast cancer. As a host of Antioch Baptist Church North members cheered her on, Lady Lisa modeled two outfits: one casual, and one Sunday-go-to-meeting. Her good friend, Lannett Stanley Turner, and Turner’s daughter, Jada, also bedazzled the runway. Turner is the wife of Antioch son Rodney Turner, pastor of the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. Three other first ladies, including Pam Tillman, a breast cancer survivor and first lady at Second St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, also modeled.

Fifth District meets for Annual Session

After two years of meeting virtually, Fifth District members gathered in large numbers for two days of in-person worship in October at First Corinth Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Both Kebearl Rivers, president of the Women’s Auxiliary, and the Rev. Anthony Corbett, president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention, lauded the district members for their accomplishments.

One of the highlights of the session was honoring the Rev. W.J. Lawson, immediate past president,

for his eight years of stellar leadership. One indication of the depth, breadth, and significance of his leadership is that not everyone who wanted to make remarks in tribute was able to do so.

Lawson, who preached during the opening night of the session, admonished those in attendance to look beyond the physical and see with the eyes of Jesus.

“Situations that appear to be hopeless and people who look unredeemable provide the best opportunity for Jesus to show that he is

master of the impossible,” he said.

President’s Night was, in essence, Antioch Night.

Sis. Princeanna Walker, Director of Christian Education, gave greetings in the absence of our pastor Rev. Kenneth.L. Alexander.

President Eddie Bright, a son of Antioch, centered his address in Jeremiah 31:31, emphasizing the need for change.

“As we slowly emerge out of the Covid-19 pandemic, the recognizable difference is undeniable change, for ‘God is Doing a New

Thing,” the Rev. Bright said. “For many of us, we feel like after 2 ½ years we woke up and it is 20 years later; however, with our voting rights, it seems as if we are 20 years back from where we were.”

In order for the Fifth District to be what God desires for us to be, we’re going to have to seek God’s face to do things a little differentl, he said.

“The Fifth District is not in the hands of Allstate, but we’re in good hands, the hands of Jesus Christ.”



Fellowship on the Yard

Dozens of Antioch Baptist Church North members turned out for Fellowship on the Yard, one of many activities leading up to the church's 145th culminating anniversary service. The event, held Nov. 5, provided an opportunity for the congregation to gather, fellowship, and enjoy each other on the grounds of the 590 building. As DJ/MM provided soulful sounds, members showed off their rhythm with line dancing or simply bounced to the tunes as they competed in some friendly board and card games. Decorations by Sisters Marsha McCracken and Kathleen Corley added a festive mood to an event that will be remembered for years to come.



Sunday School delegates call NBC conference “the best”

The theme of the the Sunday School Publishing Board Conference, “The Micah Mandate,” could not have been more timely.

Indeed, every lecture and sermon presented during the Nashville conference November 28-30, echoed the called to walk as Christians.

Dr. Carolyn Gordon presented a genealogical historical retrospective of how we descended from Abraham and in every age have allowed sinful disobedience to rupture our relationship with God and with others.

“Whether anyone else is doing right or not,

Christians must commit to living Micah 6:8 on a daily basis and “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly,” Gordon said.

President Dr. Jerry Young cautioned the body not to be undercover agents, concealing our light in the world by being “relevant in the culture at the expense of being irreverent to Christ.”

Antioch Baptist Church North’s 10 delegates unanimously agreed that the conference is “the best” the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. offers, noting they plan to use much of the in-

formation shared as they teach and present morning devotions at Antioch.

Nevin Harton, Antioch’s Sunday School superintendent, said, “The excellence of the Conference is reflected in how the materials have progressed and become more relevant to our situation over the years.”

Antioch uses the Sunday School and Vacation Bible School materials published by the SSPB, the largest black-owned publisher of Christian resources in the world.

NOVEMBER

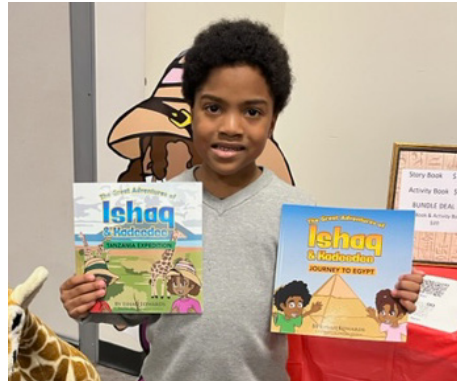
Meet Antioch's newest, littlest author

"I sold more books than you did!" Ishaq Edwards gleefully informed his grandmother at a book signing on November 12.

The six-year-old, grandson of Dea. Benny and Sis. Bonita Williams, was the youngest author at the Joy of Reading Celebration at Avant-garde Books in The Mall West End.

Jacqueline James, a retired educator, historian and published author, created the Joy of Reading Celebration to promote literacy. Her mission aligns perfectly with that of the mother-daughter owned Avant-garde Bookstore as they seek "to strengthen and support literacy development around the world."

Ishaq got his inspiration for *Journey to Egypt* (*The Great Adventures of Ishaq & Kadeedee*) and the accompanying *Journey to Egypt Coloring &*



Ishaq Edwards

Activity Book after studying about Egypt at school.

Excited about what he'd learned, he wanted to share his knowledge with others.

His mother, Breyuna L. Williams, and grand-

mother, an author of several books, encouraged him to write the book; and his mentor, aunt Bennecia Williams, guided him through the publishing process.

Character Kadeedee has been Ishaq's imaginary friend since he was two years old, so it was only natural that she should accompany him on his travel adventures.

"Even if you don't want to read the book, you can look at the illustrations," Ishaq said. "The coloring and activity book gives children something to do on their breaks, and even for adults it helps them to feel calm and peaceful."

Egypt is the first book in a series of travel adventures; the other 3 books will take readers to Tanzania, Ghana and North America.

A short journey to the golf course

Tiffany Burton was just three years old when she grabbed one of her dad's golf clubs and started swinging.

Her dad, Richard, long an avid golfer, instinctively went out and purchased her a toy golf set, igniting a lasting interest in the sport.

Five years later, you could say golf is one of Tiffany's greatest passions. When the 13-year-old isn't at Ridgeview Charter School or Antioch Baptist Church North, where she is active in the youth dance, choir and usher ministries, it's a good bet she's on the golf course.

Since that fateful day when she first picked up her dad's golf club, Tiffany has been hitting balls far and straight. Not surprising, she credits her joy and inspiration to play to her dad and believes reparation, practice, and prayer are the foundation to dreams that come true.

If you missed her at the CMA Golf Classic this year, it's only because she had prior commitments that prevented her participation.

Tiffany said she's in this sport for the long haul and hopes to play professionally one day. And not just that. She dreams of becoming one of the world's top female golfers.



Tiffany Burton

To be that as an African American would be truly a dream come true, she said.

For now, she'd be happy to just make the girls' golf team at her high school and earn a four-year college scholarship to play the sport.

Tiffany took second place in the Atlanta Girls Golf Cup tournament, and last year, she placed second in the Ludacris Golf tournament.

Look for her next year at the C.M.A. Golf Classic, and as she put it, expect a win.



Sis. Wanda J. Harding was the featured author at the Children and Parents Ministry Celebrating Christmas Dec. 8 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where the Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock is pastor. Harding signed copies of her book, *When I Consider God's Amazing Universe*, which introduces the wonders of space from a biblical perspective. She invited youth to join her "Launching Leaders Steam (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) Club," which features activities and events to engage children in integrating skills to solve real-world problems.

Connecting to the Word through music

While he's always had an affinity for music and has spent most of his life in music ministry, it was Minister Otis Byrd's call to the ministry that led him to Princeton Theological Seminary to pursue a master's of divinity degree.

"Once I answered my call and began the journey toward being licensed, seminary was not optional for me," he says. "There was no way I could accept this serious call and not be prepared. For me, a theological education is a necessary part of that preparation process."

Still Byrd, now in his senior year, consistently uses his music ministry. A known figure in Princeton Seminary's chapel, he conducts chapel choirs, forms gospel ensembles, and sings. Last year, in addition to interning at the Princeton University Office of Religious Life, he led as a student conductor during the 2021 and 2022 Carols of Many Nations services.

"I appreciate that I can demonstrate the diversity of my training and experience within the PTS community," Byrd said. "I have conducted not only traditional and contemporary Gospel music but also music from the likes of Felix Mendels-

sohn. To do both in one space with a receptive ensemble and audience has definitely been a rewarding experience here."

The son of a Baptist preacher, he was just 15 when he started conducting and directing the choir at his late father's church in Atlanta. Byrd also toured and was a recording soloist with the Morehouse College Glee Club. In 2007, he secured a position with Antioch Baptist Church North in Atlanta, where he currently serves on the music and ministerial staff.

"It is an honor to share music which contains the spirit of my faith tradition and my upbringing," Byrd says. "It is life-giving to have the space to share and for the music to be received well from my colleagues who sing in the choir and to those who attend Chapel as worshippers."

Some of Byrd's colleagues at Princeton Seminary never sang gospel music prior to performing with him. To be able to expose people to different genres and experiences is impactful because there's not one way or one style that's superior to another, he says.

"We can all participate and all learn from each



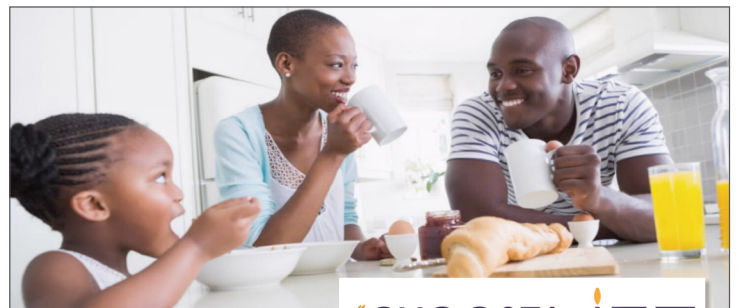
Rev. Otis Byrd, Jr.

other and with each other," he says. "I believe music is one example of what diversity looks like."

For Byrd, the Word and music are synonymous. "No matter what I'm feeling, music can soothe, answer, and inspire," he says. "It just has a myriad of benefits and possibilities."

Following seminary, Byrd's plans include getting ordained, serving on a ministerial staff, and eventually becoming a senior pastor. (Originally published in the Princeton Seminary News, this article was edited for space.)

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DECEMBER



AUMI holds annual coat drive

Although the weather was uncharacteristically warm on December 10th, 65 people showed up to get warm coats, thankful for the gift that promised to keep them warm in a climate that's known for frequent changes. As one mom said: "This weather is crazy; one day it's like spring, and the next morning it's cold as ice. Now, we're going to be prepared." Patricia Cothran jumped up and down and twirled around with joy after receiving a hooded parka. "I have to walk 1 ½ miles to work after getting off the bus. By the time I get to work, I'm frozen because it's so cold in the mornings," Cothran said, still wearing her new coat. "Now, I'm going to be nice and warm."

Warnock addresses annual session

During the final day of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia's annual session, the Rev. Raphael Warnock left the senate campaign trail to return to the pulpit.

Sounding like the Baptist preacher that he is, he summarized the history of activism borne out of the values of love and justice from which the convention sprang and implored pastors to "preach the gospel of voting rights because it is sacred.

"Your vote is your voice; your voice is your human dignity," he told those gathered. "It is a sacred right; a vote is a kind of prayer for the world we desire for ourselves and for our children."

Still in the throes of a re-election campaign that he would win on Dec. 6, he trumpeted a senate record that includes passing legislation that capped the cost of medicine.

"That's what blind Bar-



GMBC Past President Rev. Clarence Moore join the ministerial leadership to pray for U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock, kneeling. Moore is a son of Antioch Baptist Church North.

timaeus, the lepers, and the woman with the issue of blood had, pre-existing conditions, and they needed health care at a reasonable cost," he said. He asked for the prayers of the GMBC.

In other business, President Anthony Corbett likened the GMBC to a widow, saying the organization is in

a period of refinement and must see beyond the right now and see what can be. He announced three significant initiatives to be implemented for the convention's future.

A legal agreement was signed that will allow holdings of the Third Shiloh Missionary Association to be turned over to the convention

should the association cease operation. The C.M. Alexander Land of Promise, which has experienced storm damage and vandalism, will be renovated, restored, and rebuilt to serve as an RPH provider, the largest religious organization to serve in this capacity in Georgia. The dorms on the campus of the Bryant-Harmon Conference Center in Fitzgerald will be converted into housing for veterans.

In addition to urging pastors to prepare to bring their young people to the Congress of Christian Education in 2023, Corbett hopes to hold a Statewide Youth and Young Adult Conference in 2023 that will meet them where they are.

"Just because the song is not 'Amazing Grace' doesn't mean it's not of God," Corbett said. "Everybody singing 'Amazing Grace' hasn't experienced a saving grace."

Christmas Toy Giveaway

The Annual Antioch North and AUMI Toy Drive-Thru Celebration made the Holiday Season brighter for 558 children from 157 families on December 17, 2022.



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