



# The Church at Antioch

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

July-September 2022

Volume 11, Issue 3

**IMPORTANT  
 UPDATE**

**REGISTRATION  
 NO LONGER  
 REQUIRED**

**SUNDAY  
 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE**



**Visit  
 antiochnorth.org  
 for details.**



*Participants prepare for a day of golfing at the CMA Golf Classic.*

## Antioch returns to the golf course

A beautiful summer day greeted dozens of Antioch Baptist Church North golfers, family, and friends, who after a two-year hiatus returned to the golf course Aug. 20 for the 13th Annual CMA Golf Classic.

The annual event, held this year at the Crystal Lake Golf Club in Hampton, Ga., drew nearly 70 youth, women, and men who turned out to help

raise funds for the Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. The proceeds are used for the non-profit's general operating expenses and services.

This year's tournament marked the first year golfers were able to return to the green since the Covid-19 epidemic caused a shutdown here and across the country in late 2019.

*Continued on page 2*

## A 'nudge' and then a pop-up food pantry

For years, Sis. Michaela N. Vincent had heard Pastor Kenneth Alexander encourage Antioch Baptist Church North's members and visitors to visit the church's Food Bank.

"Just as Covid hit, I decided to stop in," Vincent said recently. "I received so much food, I knew I had to share it."

She would soon ask a convenience store manager in her neighborhood if she could provide food to be given away there.

Visitors to the store snapped up the free food in record time.

And so what began as "a quiet love project in (her) neighborhood" led to Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. extending its

love far beyond Antioch Baptist Church's 455 Northside Drive facility to unincorporated DeKalb County.

"With food prices rising, I kept running into people who needed food," Vincent said.

In one instance, a woman

*Continued on page 3*



## A Message From The Pastor

Antioch! Antioch! Antioch!

Not only were we first called Christians at Antioch, we are still called Christians at Antioch. I almost don't know exactly what day my birthday is anymore because there has been such an outpouring of love from Antioch from July into September. Cards, calls, texts, gifts, money, yard signs, and well wishes in so many creative and caring expressions just keep coming. Thank you, my Antioch family. I am looking forward to reaching the high milestone birthdays of some of our members, and celebrating by cruising high on the seas, like Mother Grace Brooks did in celebrating her 100th birthday.

The Holy Spirit laid on my heart the need to address mental health issues on a more regular basis. Our Mental Health Task Force is doing a fantastic job. In our "Healthy Breakfast, Healthy Brain" Mental Health Workshop, Dr. Lila K. Walker provided sound, practical information in clear terms, dispelling myths about dementia.

The Manhood Ministry and Womanhood Ministry continue to offer opportunities to learn and fellowship. I pray that our men have shared the information we received about prostate cancer in our July Prayer Breakfast with their wives, family, neighbors, and friends. Experts in various fields have given us sound, practical advice, and our families should be the better as we implement the knowledge. AUMI continues to stretch. Thanks to your gifts, as the needs in our community and beyond grow, we are responding. It is rewarding to know that when one of our members saw a need in her neighborhood, we were able to show up with a pop-up food distribution site. Our volunteers in the Food Bank and Apparel Shoppe span the generations. You showed up and showed out for our 1st Annual Recovery Walk and 15th Annual CMA Golf Classic.

We are somebody! Our Shape Note Singers, under the direction of Sis. Wendolyn Harding, were on a national stage as they sang at the Conference of the National Association of Music. Our members—young and old—are excelling in so many areas, it is hard to keep up. We are a witness to the world, that when we are led by the Holy Spirit and use our gifts to glorify God, the world sits up and takes notice. To God be the glory!

Our newsletter can only capture a glimpse of Antioch. Like those early Christians, you have spread out far and wide, and you are demonstrating the love of Christ where you are planted. They were first called Christians at Antioch, and we are still called Christians at Antioch. I love you!

Yours in God's service,

*Kenneth Alexander*  
 Reverend K. L. Alexander, Pastor

*Continued from cover - Golf*

Despite the long shut down, the camaraderie and competitive spirit remained.

Indeed, Deacon Bennie Williams said he expects the 2023 tournament, named for Antioch's late Pastor Cameron Madison Alexander, will be bigger and better.

Sunday School Superintendent Nevin Harton and his team, including his 2 sons, captured first place.

Nevin Harton, Jr. was among those recognized for their skills this time around. Harton, Williams said, had the longest drive of about 200 yards on a Par 5, and Ms. Charise Sims had the longest female drive of approximately 200 yards also on a Par 5.

Youth participants included Jeffery Copeland and Josiah Holley.

Other winners included Will Davis, Will Davis II, Henry Fisher, and Ervin Richards whose team effort captured second place.

The first-place team included Andre Harton, Nevin Harton, Nevin Harton, Jr. and Carlos Smiley with a team score of 55.



**JULY**

*Continued from cover - Pop-up*



*Cars drive through during the pop-up.*

mentioned she'd run out of Food Stamps. Vincent gave her food and the name of our church.

"She was the sweetest, most grateful person," she said of the woman. "That gave me the nudge to do more."

Vincent contacted the AUMI Executive Director and together they set up a pop-up food distribution site on the store's property in late August.

"Because I already had a relationship with the store manager, it was easy for him to allow us to set up on the property," Vincent recalled. "It was a quiet, community effort, very discreet. All of the food was distributed in a short time period."

The store owner, who was watching via camera, called the manager that day. The manager was somewhat uneasy, wondering what the owner was going to say. He had one question: "When will they be able to come back?"

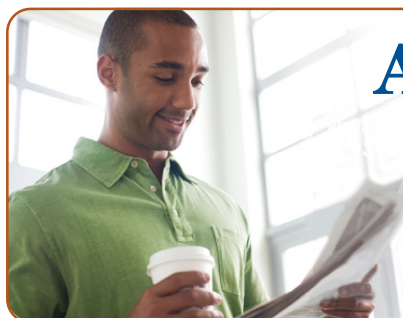


After the event was over, Vincent gifted the Rev. Hightower with a check made possible from donations from her, volunteers and friends. She said the donation will feed an additional 200 folks through AUMI.



**Min. Otis Byrd, Jr.**

who served as a summer intern at the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church, was its guest preacher July 31. In "A Pivotal Pause" based on Psalm 3:1-3, Byrd said that David professes his problems; then he pauses (Selah) and peruses the chapters of his life, which causes him to pivot and proclaim God's provision and performance in his life. Like David, we must not give into our problems but remember who our God is and what he has done for us. No matter the enemy, the challenges, the disappointments, God has the victory. Alfred Street Baptist Church, located in Alexandria, VA, is the first black Baptist church north of Richmond. The Rev. Howard-John Wesley is pastor.



**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](mailto:gracie.staples@gmail.com)





## Antioch Note Singers

The audience exploded with shouts of “Hallelujah” and “Yes, Lord” as the Antioch Shape Note Singers sang “I Just Can’t Tell It All” and “Heaven’s Gonna Shine” during a July performance at the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center of Morehouse College in Atlanta. Sis. Wendolyn Harding, director, gave a short historical introduction to the shape note genre, explaining that no instruments but the human voice and body were used as each note of the scale is represented by a shape. The audience enthusiastically joined the singers as they sang along with the choruses, and throughout the venue, you could hear the percussive tapping of feet and hand clapping. The National Association of Negro Music Conference included a representative sampling of the full range of our music—jazz, classical—including a harpist, violinist, and opera singer—Negro spirituals, gospel music and shape note singing. The Ray Charles Performing Arts Center, a medium-sized auditorium that provides for intimacy between performers and audience, was perfectly suited for the performance.

## GMBC recalibrating to unite the generations

“How do we recalibrate?” was a recurring question throughout the 60th Annual Session of the Congress of Christian Education of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.

The focus of the session was on serving this present age, a time in which there have been worldwide changes.

Not surprising, the Rev. Keith W. Mitchell, dean of the Congress, issued the challenge that “as we are being bombarded by agenda, agenda, agenda, we must not lose our focus nor compromise the truth, for Jesus is the way through it all.”

President of the Congress, Rev. Benjamin E.V. Lett, pastor of Hill Chapel BC in Athens and son of Antioch acknowledged that he’d been reluctant to livestream before a young adult pressed him to start.

“God had to nudge me forward,” he said, “and I am thankful he had already provided someone who was technologically knowledgeable so that we were able to move forward, and we have been able to do that here in the Congress as well.”

One of GMBC President Anthony Q. Corbett’s core goals is to unite the generations. Because very few youth and young adults were in attendance and there were no scholarship applicants, reaching them was a major focus of one panel discussion. Using technology was cited as key to reaching the younger generation both through social media and involving them in operating the machinery and producing content.

The Congress had already made a step forward by providing an app for delegates to download to be notified in real time of all

updates during the week. Additionally, the Congress was hybrid with some in person at the Macon Coliseum and others joining virtually.

From July 18th-21st, the Congress provided power-packed days of classes, panels, seminars and preaching. As Antioch continues to move toward a National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. school certified to offer Certificate of Progress Program (C.O.P.P.), several delegates enrolled in classes.

Sis. Princeanna Walker is a dean and serves as the Northern Regional Coordinator for Christian Education; Sis. Brigitte Hill assisted with recordkeeping, including making sure that cards indicating course completion were issued to all students, and several sons of the church taught classes.

## GMBC Girls of Excellence make debut

Sis. Linda Ball reminded those attending the July Women of Excellence Lunch and Learn that “our words can empower or break” those who hear them.

Instead, she said, be a “hope dealer,” texting words of affirmation. In an era when so many young people are anxious, overwhelmed and depressed, Ball offered this as one way to connect with youth and young adults.

The Lunch and Learn series addressing timely topics meets quarterly via Zoom and is open to everyone. Information is posted on the [gmbcofgeorgia.org](http://gmbcofgeorgia.org) website.

In other business, “High Praises, High Places and High Heels: Let’s Go Higher in the Lord wearing Denim and Diamonds,” the Women of Excellence Unity Fest lived up to its theme. Although even couture designers fashion outfits in denim, its history as durable, sturdy workwear made it the perfect pairing with diamonds, representing the down-to-earth, practical service WOE provides to those in need.

The Girls of Excellence, young ladies in high school, made their debut, assisting with many tasks, including serving lunch. Presentations included impacting the community, prayer, and being one’s best self in the Lord.

Fulton County Assistant District Attorney Jana Dixon expressed concern regarding the need to reach out to young adults and help them learn how to handle disagreements and disappointments. She



recounted the shooting death of 7-year-old Kennedy Maxie by a stray bullet fired by Daquan Reed following an argument two years ago at Phipps Plaza.

In keeping Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness month in September, the Women’s Auxiliary partnered with the Shepard Center to hold a blood drive at Broadway Baptist Church in Augusta. The Rev. Anthony Booker is pastor.

The auxiliary also hosted its last Book Talk in September. The Rev. H. Bernard Young, Sr., pastor of Thankful BC, Rome, GA, led the discussion on his book, *A Personal Testimony: Lessons on What a Shepherd Does for His Sheep*. The book is a practical guide to understanding how God guides, guards, protects, and validates us, his sheep.

## GMBC Fifth District Congress of Christian Education

The Rev. Edward London, taking his address from John 6:25-35, recounted the challenges of the past two years, giving startling statistics about the number of people affected by food shortages, both because of supply chain and their own lack of funds

London, Dean of the Fifth District Congress of Education, said that “even in a pandemic, bread alone does not fill you; it’s only temporary, so you must eat the food—the Word of God—that endures for eternal life.”

As delegates moved from their classes to the general assemblies, the halls came alive with enthusiasm as members shared what they’d learned during classes.

Members of the “Creative Ways of Teaching” class were already sharing ideas they planned to implement upon returning to their home churches.

Bro. Ronnie Fitch, for instance, gave an



*Rev. Ed London*

impassioned summary of the class on Cults, noting there are some particularly vile cults luring youths into their organizations.

Sis. Janet Hill’s Sign Language class be-

gan immediately using their newly found signing skills during the assemblies. Both Sis. Brigitte Hill, who serves as Registrar, and Sis. Princeanna Walker, who serves as Northern Region Dean, were instrumental in the planning and execution of the Congress.



# Run, baby, run

*In July, Stephanie Scott, friends celebrated a 694-mile trek across America*

At 3 a.m. on the morning of April 24, Stephanie Scott, climbed out of bed to sit on the balcony of her hotel room in Maui, HI.

There she would talk to her God as the sound of Yolanda Adam's voice danced in the air, all part of a morning ritual she'd adopted the moment she decided to complete 50 half-marathons by her 50th birthday.

She gulped down a few peanut butter crackers and water to get her body ready for what would be her final race in that journey.

"I was excited and nervous all at the same time, but I knew it was going to be all right," Scott said recently.

At 4:30 a.m., she headed out to meet a group of friends, her cheerleaders, on the beach, her mother's favorite place. She knew in her heart Emma Kelly, though dead now, would meet her there.

"Run, baby, run," her mom whispered to her.

That mantra, Scott said, would take her to 50 states and as many races over the course of seven years.

It all began, she said, in 2014 when she moved from Atlanta to Jacksonville in search of a fresh start, when running became a kind of therapy. Her first try at long-distance running was a disaster.

"I had not run that far before, I did not have on the right gear, my knee braces were too tight, I didn't hydrate enough, and the list goes on," she said.

When she met a group of black women who'd already embarked on a 50-state marathon journey, Scott, who grew up at Antioch Baptist Church North, decided "if they can, I can."

It took her three hours, 15 minutes to complete the 6-mile trek but she kept training, kept running the races - two full marathons in Florida and Arkansas, the rest half marathons that took her to states like Nevada, Washington, and Alaska.

Her mom would soon pass, but Scott began a regimen that included running



*Scott completes her journey*

with Black Girls Run, strength training and downing a health diet.

"I also spent a lot of time praying, reading, and meditating," she said.

When that wasn't enough, she'd take a peek at a picture of her mom that she kept on her phone or listen to her voice "in my heart."

Good. Better. Best. Never let it rest, "till your good gets better and our better gets best," she remembered her saying. "Run, baby, run."

Scott kept going and was on track to complete her final four marathons in 2020 when Covid shut her down.

Delayed, but still determined, she continued to work out, eat right, and train for two long years.

Those years brought more strength, more endurance, and more savings to complete the journey.

They led her to this spot on the beach. By 6 a.m., the Maui half-marathon, a 13.1-mile run, was underway. A group of

friends, some she'd known for more than 25 years, were there to cheer her on.

"My sweet angel Moma, too," she said.

Scott would take her time, savor every moment. She sang songs, repeated scripture, took pictures and posted to Facebook.

"Besides giving birth to my two sons, it was the most extraordinary moment of my life," she said.

Four hours later, she approached the finish line exhausted, hot, sore.

Out of nowhere, she said, Moma appeared, arms outstretched. I could hear her voice: "run, baby, run."

"I ran my hardest until I crossed that line," she said.

In all Scott, now 51, had run 694.3 miles across the U.S.

"I thank God for every step," she said. "I hope my story encourages someone else to dream big and don't stop until their dream comes true. If I can do it, anyone can."

## AUGUST

### Dudley wins Laymen's Scholarship

When Julian Dudley entered his essay, entitled "No Parking," into the National Baptist Laymen's Scholarship Contest, he had no idea it would prepare him for a challenge he'd face during his freshman year at Georgia Tech.

In it, he explained that his family had instilled in him the need to pray, read the Bible, and stand firm in Christ no matter what challenges he faced.

During orientation week, an advisor looking at his record indicated that he was ill-prepared because he had not taken a specific math course. That comment and the rigor of the orientation classes shook his confidence for a moment, but as he prayed Julian said he realized that as stated in his essay, "each day, I abide by the sign NO PARKING, and I encourage others to get in the car and get started."

Even though he did not have the prerequisite courses, he realized he'd been admitted because they knew he was a superior student and could make up the deficit as he pursues his



*Julian Dudley*

aerospace engineering degree.

Julian was recently elected President of LDR, a freshman leadership component of Tech's Society of Black Engineers that is responsible for organizing community service projects and planning events.

Julian used his experience to prepare for the oratorical contest Aug. 20 before the Laymen's Committee, the final step towards obtaining a National Baptist Convention scholarship.

He delivered "How Do You Overcome Challenges as a Christian" with passion and with help from Bro. David Henderson prepared for step three - committee questions.

### At 15h Annual Conference, hymns take center stage

#### *Deaconess, Deacons' Wives and Deacons' Widows*

Hymn raising has long been a hallmark of Baptist Deacons so it was not surprising a class on the art proved to be popular at this year's GMBC Deaconess, Deacons' Wives and Deacons' Widows 15th Annual Conference.

Although instructors Dea. Gregory Bailey, the Rev. Dr.

Jayson Haynes and the Rev. Dr. Richard Haynes, pastor host of church Salem Baptist of Lilburn did rare back and demonstrate short, common and long meter hymns, the class concentrated on the historical background and the elements of devotion, including devotion as a way of life.

Other classes included Personal Safety, Safe Sanctuary and

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH NORTH

# Fall Revival

**Mon-Wed  
Oct 24-26, 7pm**

**Revivalist  
Rev. Dr. Clarence Moore**

Visit  
[www.antiochnorth.org](http://www.antiochnorth.org)  
for more info.



"Without David's guidance, I probably would have been very nervous about that portion, but I was able to speak confidently," Julian said.

He placed third and was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship and laptop.

Bro. Tom Jennings, a long-time member of Antioch, was instrumental in bringing information about the NBC Laymen's Scholarship Program to Antioch and working with Sis.

Homerzelle Gentry, Youth Ministry Director, in identifying young men to enter.

This year, the Laymen instituted a new scholarship initiative to assist students beyond their freshman year. Winners from previous years are invited to enter each successive year they are in an institution of higher education. Bro. Henderson was awarded a scholarship through the new initiative.

Being a Spirit-Filled Deaconess.

Attendees to the conference were each awarded certificates and pins.

Sis. Gwen West, daughter of the late Dea. Johnny and Sis. Delaware Jones, and the State-wide Coordinator, said she took great pleasure in awarding pins to three who have attended each of the 15 conferences.

The Rev. Frederick Favors,

pastor of Springfield Baptist Church in Thomson, GA, and son of Antioch, challenged the congregation to "maintain our strong traditions, such as powerful devotions and preparing communion, but also move beyond by expanding our sick visitation to include those who are experiencing mental health challenges and those who are prisoners of wrong thinking."

**SEPTEMBER**

# Dementia: How to keep your brain healthy as you age



*Dr. Lila Walker*

## Resources for support

- Alzheimer's Association - information, education, support and advocacy; 24 hour hotline - 800-272-3900
- Jewish Family and Career Services (JFCS) - caregiver support 770-677-9300
- Georgia Psychological Association - find a psychologist <https://www.gapsychology.org/>

Are older people doomed to experience dementia?

According to Dr. Lila Walker, a neuropsychologist and long time member of Antioch Baptist Church North, not if we pay close attention to our physical and mental health

Walker was the featured speaker at a church-sponsored mental health forum held Sept. 10.

She said that while all of us will experience cognitive changes in our lifetime, it's important to know when those changes are a normal part of aging or are an indication of something serious like dementia.

The key, she said, is to know when it's time to seek help.

If your memory loss, for instance, disrupts normal activities of daily living, you find it difficult to complete familiar tasks or experience changes in mood, it may be time to get help. Other indications of trouble include confusion with dates, times and places, trouble with the spoken or written words, withdrawal from other people or misplacing items and an inability to retrace steps to find them.

Walker said that Alzheimer's is the most common type of dementia accounting for nearly 70 percent of the disorder. Other

types of dementia include vascular dementia, lewy body and parkinson's. It is usually first noticeable in the late 60s or early 70s.

Dementia, she said, is caused by changes in cells of the brain: amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles that form in the memory centers of the brain.

The second most common cause is the impairment of blood supply of many of the

***September is Mental Health Awareness Month  
Dial 988 for help.***

tiny, blood vessels in the brain over time.

Prevention and early intervention is key to avoiding brain impairment. Because signs of brain decline begin silently, Walker said it's important to engage in activities that can prevent symptoms from developing in the first place.

Take care of your health, she said. Follow up with medical and mental health care, and take medications as prescribed.

Use the tools God gave you to remain health. Dance like David. Eat right. Spend time with family. Keep learning. And get some sleep.

"A well rested brain is a healthy brain," Walker said.

*Mental Health Awareness*

**The new crisis line is 988.**

*Helpful resources are located  
at [antiochurban.org](http://antiochurban.org)*



**Men's Prayer Breakfast**

**Entrepreneurs: Remember you are serving Christ**

Home Depot co-founder Arthur Blank invested in Atlanta's Westside to embody Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Beloved Community." Chick-Fil-a founder S. Truitt Cathy closed his restaurants on Sunday to allow associates to worship with family. And Herman Russell, president of H.J. Russell, used his resources and profits to fund faith and civil rights initiatives.

These men, cited by Bro. Joseph Malbrough, topped a list of local entrepreneurs who incorporated Christian values as part of their business practices.

Malbrough, a long-time member of Antioch Baptist Church North and owner of a UPS store in Marietta, was the featured speaker at the Men of Antioch virtual prayer breakfast held Sept. 17.

His topic? Entrepreneurship, the process of designing, launching, and running a new business.

Malbrough said entrepreneurs should possess seven characteristics, including passion and confidence. They should also be visionaries, possess leadership and money management skills, be persistent and willing to take risks.

"Whatever you do, work heartily as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward," he said, quoting Colossians 3:23-24. "You are serving the Lord Christ."

He said, among other things, that successful entrepreneurs

have a passion for what they do.

Whether it is a brand-new invention, an improvement on an existing product, or a revolutionary service, successful entrepreneurs believe that their offering is game-changing, and they know why, he said. They also know how to convey this passion to others.

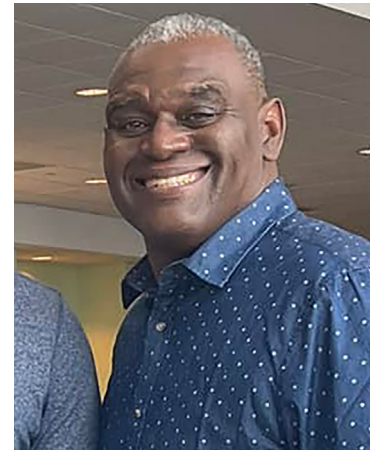
They should also have a clear vision, keeping in mind that in order to turn an idea into reality, you must be willing to take risks and have a lot of resources and employees willing to work alongside you.

Malbrough said that while having a business degree can provide enough accounting know-how to manage your finances in the beginning, if this isn't your strong suit, make it the first thing that you outsource.

"It's way too important to be ignored," he said.

Whatever you do, Marlborough said, never give up.

"Bringing a product or service to the marketplace is a lot of hard work," he said. "There will come times when you think you've done all you can. That's when you must pull yourself



back up, call on the knowledge, expertise, passion and commitment you have, and give it one more shot."



Bro. Evan Malbrough was the keynote speaker at the Georgia State University First-Year Student Convocation, a formal event that welcomes new students to campus in August. Malbrough, who grew up at Antioch Baptist Church North and who graduated from Georgia State in May 2020, urged students to take time to enjoy the many activities the university has to offer. He is the founder of The Georgia Youth Poll Worker Project, which recruited 1,000 student poll and census workers, enough to staff 100 precincts.

# Youth Emphasis Sunday

## Sunday October 30th 10am Worship Service

1 Corinthians 15:58

### Speakers

Logan Kirkland

Alyse King

Julian Dudley

Cameron Gray

# The A-Wall

Antioch's A-Wall for youth is expanding to include the rest of its high achievers. This quarter we present Brother Olu Baker, Sister Renee Sudderth, and Dea. Donald George.



*Olu Baker*

## Olubade Baker

Brother Olubade Baker is both a star student and a star athlete at Morehouse College. He is an honor roll student who was on the Dean's List last year. As a redshirt freshman on the football team, he has excelled as the starting kicker and punter. Because of his stellar performance in the first game of the season against the University of West Alabama, he was named the Special Teams Player of the Week. His parents, Olu and Nancy Baker, are justifiably proud.



*Renee Sudderth*

## Renee Sudderth

Renee Sudderth has the singular honor of being chosen to receive the Presidential Volunteer Service Lifetime Award. A civil award bestowed by the President of the United States, the Lifetime Achievement Award is given to those who have volunteered over 4,000 hours of documented service to others. Sis. Sudderth says of her nomination by Goodwill Ambassador Dr. Lenora Peterson-Maclin of Global International Alliance, "Always be your best self and give God the glory in everything you do; you never know who is watching you."



*Dea. Donald George*

## Donald George

Deacon Donald George received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Motor Coach Operators at the 2022 annual conference in August. The award is now named after the first recipient, Gurnie Blunt, a pioneer whose perseverance against Greyhound, Trailways and federal bureaucrats paved the way for Blacks to be granted interstate operating authority. Dea. George owned George's Motor Coach Company for over 25 years and shared his business acumen by mentoring elementary and high school students.



## Happy Birthday!

*Mother Grace Brooks celebrated her 100th birthday in August*

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

# Scenes from Inaugural Recovery Walk

See related story on back page.



# Recovery Walk reveals God's power

They had all come to walk, to help kick off the inaugural Antioch Urban Ministries' Recovery Walk, a 3.1 mile trek from the 590 Building to Rodney Cook, Sr. Park and back.

Antioch Baptist Church North Pastor Kenneth L. Alexander was there, and so was the Rev. Rodney Turner. After enrolling in programs to heal from their experiences with substance abuse, they knew a program needed to be started at Antioch. The Rev. J.W. Calvin and the Rev. Scott Copeland, who came through Antioch's substance abuse recovery program, attended as grateful recipients of Rev. Alexander's and Rev. Turner's vision.

Their very presence at the Sept. 24 walk, coupled with lingering influence of the late Rev. C.M. Alexander, proved to be a powerful witness to what God can and continues to do in the lives of those who put their faith in Him.

Pastor Kenny recalled at the start of the walk that he and Rev. Turner "asked my father, Rev. Dr. C.M. Alexander, not to tear down an old house but let us start a substance abuse recovery program and house people."

Since then, he said, Antioch has helped some 8,000 people off the street and offered them hope "because we know that what the Bible says is true: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."

"Dr. C.M. Alexander declared war on drugs, HIV, and other social issues, and we continue to see the fruits of his labor over 35 years later," said Rev. Turner, a son of Antioch and pastor of Mt. Vernon BC, Atlanta, as he acknowledged that some of the people in attendance were part of the Ananias



*Rev. K. L. Alexander*



*Rev. J.W. Calvin*



*Rev. Rodney K. Turner*



*Rev. J. Scott Copeland*

House, the first residence.

Rev. Calvin, son of Antioch and pastor of Solomon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Vidalia, said he came to Atlanta homeless from Houston with nothing but the clothes on his back. He testified, "God will restore unto you all the things that the devil took and more."

But the walk wasn't just about substance abuse or mental health, said Rev. Terry Hightower, AUMI Executive Director.

"We are here today to walk, to acknowledge, to bring awareness, to let everybody in the English Avenue Community know that

we are serious about what we've been empowered to do," he said.

Hightower thanked the elected officials who were present—Fulton County District 4 Commissioner Natalie Hall, Atlanta City Councilman Byron Amos representing District 3, and Post 1 At-Large City Councilman Michael Julian Bond—for what they have done and offered a plea for them to do even more.

"We cannot do this alone, but with your continued help and support, "We can do all things through Christ Jesus that strengthens us," he said, quoting Phil 4:13.

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