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 Happy Easter!

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 People
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The Church at Antioch

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

April 2009

Volume 2, Issue 4



The women in red at the Women's Division Culmination was a sight to behold!

Sis. Weaver: Checkmate

No matter the circumstances in your life, God is able to turn them around.

That was the message Dr. Margaret Weaver delivered to Antioch Baptist Church North during the 7:45 a.m. Women's Division culminating service March 29.

"No matter how hopeless it seems, no matter how impossible or destitute the situa-



Sis. Margaret Weaver

tion, God can turn it around," Weaver told the crowd to rous-

Continued on page 3

Sis. Kirby: Put God first

It's not often that Augustine, Gladys Knight, Aretha Franklin and Barry White are quoted in the same sermon.

Okay, it's probably never happened before.

But this was no ordinary sermon.

Sis. Ethalyn Kirby was the guest speaker for the 11 a.m. Culmination Celebration for the Women's Division Stew-



Sis. Ethalyn Kirby

ardship. A public speaker and historian for the General Mis-

Continued on page 2

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Brothers & Sisters:

I am constantly amazed by the swift passage of time, so seamless and so unobtrusive, that brings us back to a period in our history that appeared to have transpired only a moment ago – the passing of the leadership of the Vision.

As usual, the Women's Division provided awesome programs from the First Seven Words to the Inaugural Prayer Breakfast in honor of President Barack Obama and concluding with an inspirational, breathtaking torch-passing ceremony.

The women sang, spoke, and danced to the heavens and I have no doubt that the heavens smiled and rejoiced right along with them. Under the theme, "Women of Antioch - Withstanding and Embracing Change through Faith," Ruth 1:16, the Women's Division led an outstanding worship service which raised the bar for culminating Vision quarter activities. Thank you, ladies, for allowing God to use your gifts, talents, and resources to deliver such an outstanding musical and spoken tribute to God's grace and power.

Though the passing is exciting – looking back at the extra-ordinary events that helped to shape our fellowship – it is even more inspiring to look to the future, to those events that will continue to help us grow stronger, wiser, and on one accord with God and each other.

Join me in welcoming the Men's Division to the leadership of Vision 2009. Although the women will support every initiative, we look forward to the creative and resourceful talents of our men to continue the celebration of Vision 2009 in a style that only they can muster. Dea. Calvin Booker, Dea. Milton Dodson, and Bro. Darryl Speed are prepared to take our fellowship through April, May, and June, beginning with Palm Sunday, the Triumphal Entry of Christ.

The fellowship and spiritual-development activities which follow are designed to inform, inspire, and uplift us as we travel this Christian journey: Passion Week activities, Seven Last Words, Easter Sunday – The Risen Saviour, Easter Program, Spring Revival Concert, Spring Revival, Seniors Appreciation Luncheon, Youth Achievement Banquet, Christian Education Mini-Conference, Pentecost Sunday Celebration, Vacation Bible School, Christian Education Ministry Graduation, Mother's Day, A Taste of Antioch, Pastor's Barbeque Outing, and Father's Day.

We trust that as we begin this spiritual cycle with the Triumphal Entry of Christ into Jerusalem through our celebration of Palm Sunday, we will embrace His entry into our hearts and celebrate it in the hearts of the unsaved, bringing more souls into the ark of safety.

Thank you to the Men's Division for upholding the banner of love, faith, and stewardship as we look to the future and another awe-inspiring journey.

It is my constant prayer that God will continue to bless you and keep you forever in His care.

*In God's service,
Rev. C. M. Alexander, Pastor*

Continued from cover: Kirby

sionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., Sis. Kirby paired the Good Book and soul classics to implore Antioch to rely on their faith in a world where she noted children curse their parents and churches are built without crosses or steeples.

"It's only what we do for Christ that will last," said Sis. Kirby, a member of Revelation Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Ga.

She added later in her 25-minute sermon, "Life is a test called faith."

Sis. Kirby used her own story of perseverance as the first African-American theology graduate from Seattle University to inspire the women of Antioch to "keep on fighting the good fight."

"I didn't pursue, nor did I desire a degree in theology to be a teacher, a preacher, a pastor nor a speaker. But I wanted to know more about my maker and He who died on Calvary to set me free," Sis. Kirby said.

Her sermon was part-Maya Angelou, part Ella Fitzgerald. It was poetic and melodious, smooth and sharp.

Sis. Kirby cited First Lady Michelle Obama as an example of a modern woman who has put God first and is living by those principles. Sis. Kirby compared her to other great women, such as Queen Esther, Coretta Scott King, Eleanor Roosevelt and Sis. Barbara Alexander.

"I don't know who Gladys Knight was singing about, but as for me... [God is] the best thing that ever happened to me," Sis. Kirby said during her sermon.

"I don't know who Barry White had in mind, but [God is] my first, my last, my everything."

Antioch throws Sis. Alexander a pink birthday

Some wore cerise, some fuchsia, magenta, and rose. No matter the shade, it was all to celebrate the birthday recently of Sis. Mrs. Barbara J. Alexander.

The event, coordinated under the leadership of the Women's Division and chaired by Sis. Rosalyn Curington, featured Sis. Alexander's favorite things, but most of all her favorite people - family and lifelong friends.



Café 590 was transformed into a pink palace equipped with a beautifully decorated stage and tables for members and guests who feasted on a smorgasbord of good food from decorated tables. The best-decorated table prize went to Sis. Dorcas Ford Jones.

Some of Antioch's most talented (and funny) members, including a few of her grandchildren, saluted Sis. Alexan-

der. Adam Alexander serenaded his grandmother with a beautiful song and granddaughters Erica and Shatavia mimicked her in a way that only they could, depicting her high-school major-ette days and the successful businesswoman that she is.

The fun didn't stop there.

Next up was Antioch's version of the Family Feud, hosted by Bro. Barney Simms with Sis. Joy Carter and Sis. Penny Jones as team captains.

"This event turned out really great," said Sis. Audrey Cooper. "All of the different



shades of pink really made it special."

Sis. Curington called the celebration phenomenal.

"Everything was perfect," she said. "Even the rain didn't hold people back."

Curington attributed the success to the planning committee but said the "Lord was the head of it all and He gets all the honor and praise."

Continued from cover: Weaver

ing applause.

The question is, she said, will we do our part?

Weaver said that it could be God will ask us to go to a place we've never been before, to leave the familiar for the foreign or leave that which is comfortable and embrace the uncomfortable.

Such was the case in the 19th chapter of Genesis, where Lot and his wife were told to leave sinful Sodom and Gomorrah and don't look back.

Lot's wife, however, ignored God's instructions, looked back upon the destruction and was turned into a pillar of salt.

That was bad enough, Weaver said, but it wasn't the end of the story.

Lot's wife's actions wreaked havoc on the destiny of the couple's two daughters who later decide to get their father

drunk and sleep with him.

Both daughters gave birth to their father's sons.

"It's not how you start out, it's how you end up."

"How tragic," said Weaver, a long-time member of Antioch and licensed Christian psychologist.

Lot's oldest daughter's son Moab grows up to become father of the Moab nation, one associated with trouble. It was so bad, Weaver said, no one would like to look at his or her family and see Moab hanging from the family tree.

"But it's not how you start out, it's how you end up," she

said. "Our God can take a shaky beginning and turn it into a fabulous finish."

Weaver expanded on that theme, leading the congregation from Genesis to the book of Ruth where the story of Elimelech and his wife Naomi unfolds and her daughter-in-law Ruth finds favor with Boaz.

"If our story ended here what a wonderful story it would be, but our story doesn't end here," Weaver declared.

God started moving in the situation and Boaz asked Ruth to marry him, moving Ruth from laborer in the field to lady of the house.

Ruth then becomes pregnant and has a son named Obed. Obed had a son named Jesse who had a son named King David. Thus Ruth the Moabite, Weaver said, became the great grandmother of King

David, the one who declared the "Lord is my light and my salvation."

"If the story ended there what a wonderful story it would be but the story doesn't end there," said Weaver turning to the first chapter of Matthew.

It is in the fifth verse, she said, that this same woman Ruth shows up in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the one who can turn things around even when it looks like your opponent is about to declare checkmate.

As the entire church stood shouting, Weaver said that 2000 years ago, Jesus was nailed to the cross.

"It looked like checkmate," she said.

They buried him in a grave.

"It looked like checkmate but three days later," she said, "my King got up."

Meet Deacon Frederick Pinkston

Each month *The Church At Antioch* profiles a deacon. This month meet Deacon Frederick N. Pinkston.

Q: What do you most like about serving in the Deacon's Ministry, and what excites you about being a member of Antioch?

A: When my wife Alfreda and I moved to Atlanta three years ago, we knew that Antioch would be our new church home for a couple of reasons. First, both of our daughters live in Atlanta, and when we attended we really enjoyed the services and the fellowship. Second, having been ordained as a deacon in 1974 by our former pastor, Dr. George Weaver, I felt a closeness with

Antioch because he and his family were members here.

Serving as a deacon has been a joy; the members have been warm and accepting, and it is an honor and a privilege to serve under the dynamic leadership of such a gifted and noted pastor as the Rev. Cameron Alexander.

Q: What is your favorite hymn, and how did you develop your love for music?

A: "A Charge to Keep I Have" because as Christians we have been given a charge



Dea. Frederick N. Pinkston

to serve God and our fellow man.

Q: What is your favorite scripture, and what advice do you have for maturing as a Christian and raising chil-

dren?

A: My favorite verse of scripture is 2 Timothy 2:15. My father and mother wrote that as a quote in the Bible that they presented to me as I was leaving for college, and I have tried to live by that. To mature as a Christian, one must continue to work at being a good Christian and have

patience. In raising children, parents should model the kind of behavior that they expect from their children, including involvement in church.

Q: What is your profession, your hobbies, your talents?

A: I retired after 45 years as an educator—teacher guidance counselor, coach and administrator. In addition to church, I stay active with my Virginia Union University Alumni Association (Immediate Past President of the National Association) and my fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi. My hobbies are reading, track and field officiating, traveling, crossword puzzles and watching Jeopardy.

Ministers' wives fellowship



Sis. Jean Byrdsell and Sis. Karen S. McKinney

Embracing the four pillars, the Minister's Wives recently enjoyed two fellowship engagements. On Feb. 28, they treated the women of Ruth's Place to lunch at Copeland's Cheesecake Bistro in Atlantic Station. The third Saturday

regular meeting usually held at the church was held at Six Feet Under Restaurant. Both fellowships gave those attending a chance to relax and get to know each other better as well as make plans for extending the ministry.

Mission Institute draws a crowd

Antioch was well represented at the Mt. Hermon Association Mission Institute at First Baptist Church on Gresham Road, where the Rev. Norman Thomas is pastor. Participants included Mother Frances Miles, president of the Senior Mission, and Sisters Frances Reeves, Brigitte Hill, and Karen McKinney.

Three nights of classes focused on understanding God's

call for every Christian to "go ye therefore." Classes were offered for each age group, nursery through adult. The women's class, "Bend Your Knees and Find His Feet: Living a Mary Lifestyle in a Martha World," applied DNA (Divine Non-negotiable Analysis) to Luke 10:37-42. Each student was encouraged like Mary to choose "the good part" and improve her spiritual walk.

The Church At Antioch is looking for you! 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 gstaples@ajc.com.

God will make a way — somehow

In response to record high unemployment in Georgia and among our members, Pastor Cameron Alexander recently took steps to bring employment resources to Antioch members and the surrounding community.

“God will make a way — somehow” became the theme of the newly formed employment assistance ministry, known as the Empowerment Outreach Ministry. The ministry was implemented by Pastor Alexander on Feb. 10 and coordinated by the Rev. Rod Reese, a former human resource manager who has been unemployed for two years.

This opportunity, Reese said, is a “match made in heaven.” He will be able to share his skills and training to provide outplacement services, free of

charge, to those least able to afford them.

In addition to empowering people to compete for jobs, the ministry is an effort to provide a niche career fair in which employers are matched with perspective employees. The ministry has three basic components: employment development, owner-operated businesses, and new products and services (inventions).

Michelle Clark, a former sales director who has been unemployed four months, is secretary for the ministry. She compiles and sends out 15 to 20 job announcements daily — information about job fairs, work orders, and corporate and government job vacancies.

“I have never been involved in anything in the church be-



Antioch members attend an Antioch empowerment meeting

fore,” said Clark. “I see this as a way to serve my church in a different and much-needed way.”

The ministry, Clark said, offers people hope, encouragement, and networking opportunities.

As the ministry progresses,

Reese hopes to introduce perspective employers and give them an opportunity to meet persons who are qualified to meet their respective workforce needs.

The Empowerment Outreach Ministry meets noon every Tuesday in the chapel.

New Antioch committee to promote inventions

Do you have an idea or creation that can be profitable to you and helpful to many, but have no idea how to get started with marketing your creation?

Here’s your chance to change that.

Join Antioch’s new Inventor’s Committee.

In yet another testament to his commitment to answering the needs of the church, Pastor Cameron M. Alexander formed the committee recently to help promote members’ inventions.

The committee is a part

of the Antioch Empowerment Outreach Ministry, which assists members seeking employment and promoting their inventions.

Members of Antioch can now get informed on the four main ingredients to becoming successful with their invention:

- You need GOD’S HELP!
- Protection from theft.
- A method to bring the product or idea to the market.
- Money.

The mission of the Inventor’s Committee is to discover how to accomplish these things in

a cost efficient manner. It will offer resources, Web sites, recommended books, and trade shows to attend, as well as assist with creating marketing and sales philosophies for your invention.

In addition to inventors, the committee is looking for patent attorneys, patent drawers, marketing and sales professionals, and business consultants.

For more information and to volunteer your time and skills, contact Minister Michael Price at the church office.

Don't miss this great opportunity!

Advertise your business here in **The Church at Antioch**. For more info, visit the web site at www.antiochnorth.org

Achievement banquet set for May 15

Antioch Baptist Church North's Youth Ministry will host its annual Youth Achievement Banquet at 7 p.m. May 15 in the Fellowship Hall.

The banquet is held each year to recognize church youths for their accomplishments in academics, athletics and the community during the 2008-2009 school year.

Graduates and retirees will also be honored.

Registration forms are available in the Northex and Fellowship Hall, where you can also drop off completed forms and photographs.

All forms and Photographs should be submitted by April 7.

Antioch businesses and members are encouraged to purchase advertising space congratulating students.

The cost for a full page advertisement is \$75; \$40 for half page; \$25 for quarter page and \$10 for a business card size advertisement.

For additional information or to purchase ad space, please contact Olivia Rencher at 404-688-5679.



Married Couple

Antioch Baptist Church North extends congratulations to Apollonia Spann and Brandon Alexander who were united in marriage at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 7, 2009.

Best wishes, Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Alexander.

A woman with a mission

In the summer of 2004, Sis. Mary L. Hicks sat in a commencement exercise for a group of women who'd successfully completed requirements for associate degrees in child development.

It was a proud moment for the long-time Antioch Baptist Church North member. For months Hicks worked to prepare them and now she was seeing the fruits of her labor, more than 100 students dressed in caps and gowns, posing for photos with their loved ones.

That was the moment when Hicks says she knew the time was right to fulfill her mission. She wanted to establish a teacher's college, a place where women could come and prepare themselves to be good teachers, fulfilling a critical need for more early childhood educators in Georgia.

"Let the legacy begin," she whispered to herself.

The following year, Hicks founded The Mary L. Hicks Foundation, Inc. to support the development and sustainability of the Mary L. Hicks Teachers College. Since that time, 800 women have graduated from the Teacher's College.

A native of Atlanta, Hicks is renown in the fields of Christian education, early childhood education and childcare provider training. Her contributions in these areas span more than 30 years of service throughout the United States, France and Africa. In these roles, she has held associate professor positions at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Atlanta University, and Clark Atlanta



Sis. Mary Hicks

University.

Here at Antioch, Hicks teaches in the Antioch School of the Bible and the Sunday Schools Leaders class. In addition, she is an active member of the Mother's Board, the S.W.A.T. Prayer team and co-team leader in the Women's Division.

For leisure, she enjoys taking morning walks with her husband, Deacon Clarence Hicks.

"Cold or rainy, we just bundle up and walk," she said.

More about Mary L. Hicks

Mary L. Hicks was a professor at Howard University and assistant professor at Clark Atlanta University. Currently, she is a CDA (Certified Development Associate) instructor. Students enrolled receive degrees in that field and are able to go out and work in pre-schools and daycare centers.

Passion Week—The Suffering Savior

April 5-12

Daily Noon Day Preaching
Monday-Friday, 12 Noon

Sun, April 5, Palm Sunday, The Triumphal Entry, 7:45am/11 am

Mon-Sat, Apr. 6-11, Churchwide Fast, 12pm-6pm

Fri, April 10, Good Friday -7 LAST WORDS, 12:00pm

Sat, April 11, Street Corner Preaching and S.W.A.T., 11 am

Easter Egg Hunt, 12:30pm, 590 Bldg.

Sun, April 12, EASTER SUNDAY, The Risen Savior, 7:45am/11 am

Discipline, love, and music

His first exposure to good music was at home, listening to his father's record collection.

But it wasn't just the love of music, Eric Alexander said, that made him the musician he is today. It was also a steady dose of discipline and love doled out by his parents, Rev. and Mrs. Cameron Madison Alexander, the pastor and first lady of Antioch Baptist Church North.

Together they instilled in him a good work ethic, values he and his wife of 13 years, Pam, tries to pass on to their own sons, 27-year-old Cameron Eric and 11-year-old Adam Michael, values he brings to his work both as a real estate agent and as liaison between Antioch's choir directors and its band.

Although his father preferred the saxophone, Eric Alexander's first instrument of choice was the trumpet.

It was only after a group of friends formed a band and needed a bass player that he turned to the guitar, he said.



Bro. Eric Alexander

He started playing by ear at first, picking out the bass parts to records. It was a creative, innovative time for music in genres like soul, R&B, funk and rock in the early 70's. At the same time, Alexander started playing at Antioch Baptist Church North.

He attended Morehouse College for two years and switched his major from business to music but found the call of the road, fortune and fame overwhelming.

By this time his band was in high demand, playing the chitlin circuit and at colleges, hotels and corporate gigs. They were opening for such artists as Chaka Kahn, the Commodores, BarKays and Earth, Wind and Fire.

Once he met Jaco Pastorius, one of the most iconic electric bass players ever.

"The world didn't know who Jaco was yet, but I knew I had heard a true genius up close," said Alexander.

The band soon broke up but he landed a record deal with Polygram, playing with a group called Mantra out of Orlando.

He was there when he appeared on Soul Train and started riding in limos and fancy tour buses. He knew he had made it but he also knew the music business could be tricky. He needed something to fall back on so he got his Real Estate license, learning the trade from the best, his mother Barbara J. Alexander.

By 1992, Eric was a lifetime member of the Million Dollar Club of the Atlanta Board of Realtors but music always beckoned, sometimes in places as far away as Switzerland, where he played at the Montreux Jazz Festival.

Music, he said, is so infinite that there is always something to improve upon.

He's just thankful, he said, for the opportunity to use his talent for God.

"That's what's gratifying for me," he said.

WHY U – Finishing the foundation to success

The women of Ruth's Place recently participated in Life Skills and Image Education sessions presented by volunteer Natosha Green, founder and instructor of Why U.

Why U is the final component to life success and trains men and women not only to market themselves but also to perform well in a professional environment.

Green said that understanding basic life skills and image education increases a job candidate's chances of getting a second look by companies.

Why U classes are 2-4 p.m. every Thursday, providing training in job readiness and professional image.

Sis. Yolanda Trimier, a resident of Ruth's Place, said the

class has been invaluable in helping her get ready to return to the workforce.

Green said she has been blessed to have the opportunity to work with the ladies.

"They are more of a blessing to me than I am to them, and I feel strongly that they will be successful in their job search," she said.



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- 4 Trimming of selected hedges in front and/or back
- 5 Blowing off all pavement and patio areas
- 6 Removing of incidental trash and debris from grounds
- 7 Monthly billing with recommended landscape management enhancements/improvements

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At peace with her harp

Morgan Jones is one of the many phenomenal students at the New Schools at G. W. Carver School of the Arts. The 15-year old 10th grader has one interest that is a little different from many young people her age -- she plays the harp.

Morgan said she became interested in the harp when she attended Carver's freshman orientation during the summer of 2007.

"I learned about the Harp program and was immediately interested, knowing that it is rare to come upon a young African-American harpist," she said. "The harp gained my full interest so during my second semester of my freshman year, I decided to change my major (from Chorus) to Harp."

Morgan described the harp as "a peaceful instrument."

"When I play, I feel very relaxed," she said.

Morgan is the daughter of Ms. Wanda Jones who has a strong appreciation for Morgan's love for the harp.

"It takes a unique individual to recognize, appreciate and ultimately develop a love for such a timeless, melodic instrument," said Jones. "Not only am I blessed that Morgan has chosen such a worthwhile pursuit, I am doubly blessed that she shares her beautiful music with our family on a regular basis."

Morgan is a member of the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble, Signature Arts Program: Classics through the Ages (The



Sis. Morgan Jones

Links, Inc.), a March of Dimes and United Way volunteer. At Antioch she participates in Sunday school and the MADD for Christ Choir.

After graduation, Morgan

plans to further her education at Rhodes College, the University of Miami or the University of Georgia to pursue studies in either Law or Communications with a Minor in Music.

New Women's Auxiliary president

The Fifth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. recently held a reception to congratulate Sister Lois C. Broughton on her appointment as president of the Women's Auxiliary. The wife of the Rev. Robert Broughton, pastor of New Springfield Baptist Church, has served the con-

vention in many capacities, most recently as state coordinator of the Minister's Wives and Widows Auxiliary.

Sister Barbara J. Alexander, representing the Minister's Wives and Widows, described Broughton as "poised, self-confident, compassionate, concerned, and humble; she fits herself to serve."

Broughton, who spoke at the Women's Division prayer breakfast on April 4, succeeds Sister Mary P. Murray, president emeritus, who served for 14 years and is the mother of our own Sister Rosalyn Curington.

Sis. Lois C. Broughton



Mission Institute draws a crowd

Antioch was well represented at the Mt. Hermon Association Mission Institute at First Baptist Church on Gresham Road, where the Rev. Norman Thomas is pastor. Participants includ-

ed Mother Frances Miles, president of the Senior Mission, and Sisters Frances Reeves, Brigitte Hill, and Karen McKinney.

Three nights of classes focused on understanding

God's call for every Christian to "go ye therefore." Classes were offered for each age group, nursery through adult. The women's class, "Bend Your Knees and Find His Feet: Living a Mary Life-

style in a Martha World," applied DNA (Divine Non-negotiable Analysis) to Luke 10:37-42. Each student was encouraged like Mary to choose "the good part" and improve her spiritual walk.

Tips to prepare students for the CRCT

Students in grades 1 through 8 will be taking the Criterion Reference Competency Test on April 16-23, 2009.

The test will cover basic material measured in the core subjects of reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

Public schools and any school that receive federal funding are held accountable for the success of their students. All schools must make Adequate

Yearly Process by having 73.3 percent of all students passing the reading section and 59.5 percent of all students passing the mathematics section.

Students in the 3rd grade must pass the reading section to be promoted to the fourth grade and students in the fifth and eighth must pass both the reading and mathematics sections to be promoted to the next grade.

If a school fails in either area, the school can be listed on the needs improvement list.

Parents can perform these five tasks to assist their child/children pass the test:

- Read to or have your child read daily for at least 20 minutes
- Have your child estimate the cost of groceries to assist with building math skills
- Have your child perform

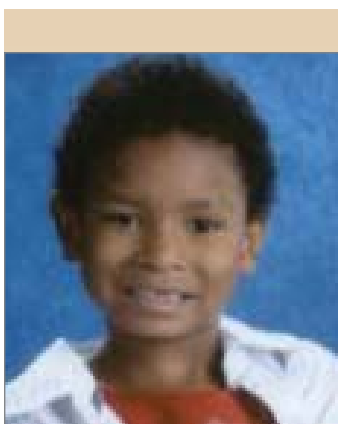
percentages when purchasing clothes

- Check your child grade from first semester
- Make sure your child completes his/her homework daily

Lastly, make sure the child is not receiving any undue pressure prior to test and eat healthy meals and snacks during the testing period.

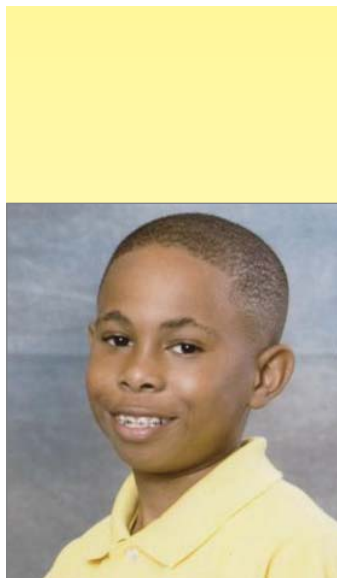
Source: Christian Harden

Youth praise the Antioch Academy



Bro. Elijah Barkley - Grade 1

I have learned many things for test preparation in Math – subtraction, addition, and word solving. In Language Arts, I have learned about capitalizing letters in sentences. I like coming to the Academy. It helps me in school.



Bro. Auston Collier - Grade 7

The Antioch tutorial helps me a lot. It helps me complete my homework. Since I have been coming here, my averages on my report card have increased. The subject that the tutorial helps me with the most is Math. The first day that I got here I had a project. I didn't understand it so Ms. Malaika (Syphertt) reminded me how to solve the problems. When I turned in the project, I got a 100%.



Sis. Abria McNeill - Grade 3

I have learned a lot in the Youth Academy. In Language Arts, I have learned how to write a story. In Math, I have learned all of my multiplications tables. I have gotten better in Reading Comprehension and have learned how to generate ideas.



Bro. Omar Washington - Grade 7

The Youth Academy has helped me in many ways. One, my tutorial teacher reviewed all of the standards where my Math teacher said I needed improvement. Secondly, it has helped me with practicing these skills that I have had problems with in school. My teacher, Ms. Malaika (Syphertt) breaks down the steps and really explains the Math problems. She makes the problems easy to solve. I think the help that I am receiving will help me exceed the standards when I take the CRCT. Thanks, Rev. Alexander, for the Youth Academy.

Don't let violence destroy your family

An estimated 1.5 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.

Although more commonly perceived as male-to-female violence, intimate partner violence or IPV is a leading cause of injuries for girls and women between the ages of 15 and 44 in Georgia.

What might surprise you is this: most victims and perpetrators of domestic violence are members of the faith community, according to a report by the Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality review project.

With the current challenging economic times, one may believe that stress is one of the causes of domestic abuse, said Dr. Sheryl Heron, associate professor of emergency medicine at Emory University and member of Antioch Baptist Church North. The reality is that most people who are living under severe stress do not abuse.

"Stress may be a contributing factor, but reducing stress will not necessarily reduce violence in the family," she said.

Heron said that psychological, physical and financial control of an intimate partner is a problem, not a symptom of stress.

"We know relationships are not perfect," she said. "Some-



Dr. Sheryl Heron

times we may feel angry but we should never feel scared, humiliated or controlled. Love, respect and supporting each other should be the goal of healthy relationships."

To achieve this goal, Heron said, communication is essential. Couples should take time to talk with each other and respect each other's opinions. Finally and most importantly, it's important to remember that family matter and is God's secret weapon.

How can the Antioch church family respond to IPV?

Honor the lives of those lost to IPV and pray for peace in the home, said Heron. She also suggested members seek help.

"We have members in the Health Ministry who can offer assistance as well as additional information on IPV," she said.

"Three Miracles" becomes part of national archive

On the Sunday before Martin Luther King Day, before the inauguration of our nation's first African-American president, the Rev. Cameron Alexander reminded Antioch that God is still able to perform miracles.

Even in the midst of an economic crisis, home foreclosures and record unemployment, he noted that third Sunday in January that God had wrought a miracle on the Hudson and at Pennsylvania Avenue.

Those miracles and the miracle at Calvary were subject of his sermon entitled "Three Miracles."

That inaugural sermon was one of 300 submitted to the American Folklife Center to mark the historic election of Barack Obama as first black president of the United States. It was re-

cently accepted into center's spoken-word collection at the Library of Congress, said Megan Halsband, a processing technician at the center.

The collection will become one of many oral history and spoken-word collections at the American Folklife Center that preserve American's accounts of, and reactions to, important cultural events.

The donated recordings will be preserved at the American Folklife Center in order to enhance the nation's historical record and preserve the voices of religious leaders and other orators for researchers and scholars of the future. After being processed by archivists, the collection will be made available to scholars, students and the general public.

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