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# The Church at Antioch

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

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## Barbara J. Alexander-Women's Transformation Conference

### 'Our well has not run dry'

For the longest time, it looked as if her well had run dry.

But just as Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well in the heat of the day (John 4:14), he met Sis. Sonya May Calvin, too.

"I was so thirsty," she said of that moment.

Her grandmother has passed and her father had been killed in a car accident. To rid herself of the pain, Calvin said she turned to drugs.

Thus began the dehydration and her downward spiral.

"I lost jobs, family trust and nearly my soul but I asked the Lord has my well run dry," she said.

Calvin was the keynote speaker at the Fourth Annual Women's Transformation Conference held February 21.

The conference, which was renamed the Barbara J. Alexander Women's Transformation Conference this year, drew hundreds of Antioch Baptist Church North women who paid special tribute to the first lady.

Calvin, first lady of the Solomon Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Vidalia and former special projects coor-



Barbara J. Alexander

dinator at Antioch, said she was eventually jailed facing 99 years for four felony charges but by that time she was tired of feeling like she was on the "short" bus.



Sonya Calvin

"I remembered God's grace and mercy," she said.

All but one of the charges was dismissed and Calvin was sentence to Ruth's Place.

At Antioch the next Sunday, Calvin said she heard Rev. Cameron Alexander preach "everybody is recovering from something."

That was 18 years ago, she said. Today, every lose she suffered has been re-

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Photos by Jane Butler and Elizabeth Jones

## A Message From The Pastor



My Brothers and Sisters,

There is nothing more beautiful or more rewarding than experiencing the glorious jubilation of springtime in Atlanta. The city is so fragrant from the countless blossoms of flowers that announce the start of another new season. A season so closely associated with the awakening of brand new opportunities for redemption, rebirth, renewal, and rewards.

Spring seems to glorify the magnificence of God's creation on earth. Every spring I pause and celebrate all the new life around me. I am reminded of the presence of our God and our Creator. More importantly, I am thankful that God has given us this earth with all of its beauty for our enjoyment.

As we see God renewing the earth from winter's sleep and bring beauty out of the earth's barrenness, we can ask Him to do the same thing for our lives. We can and we all should ask God to use the power of the Holy Spirit to search out and renew the areas within our personal lives that have become cold and barren because we were caught up in the many problems associated with the winter of our lives.

Just as God uses the warmth of sunshine to chase the cold weather away and bring the beauty of flowers from the barren ground, God can also use the sunshine of His love to bring warmth and renewal to any cold areas in our lives.

As pastor, I pray that all of us will bring forth the fruit of the Holy Spirit into our lives as found in Galatians 5:22-23: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance..."

So this spring, let God into your life. After all, you are His loved and beautiful creation.

Yours in God's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. M. Alexander".

Reverend C. M. Alexander, Pastor

*Continued from cover - Women's Conf.*

placed. God gave her a husband in Antioch son Rev. J.W. Calvin. He gave her a job and friends, a son and a daughter.

"He gave me another chance," she said.

And then she was made to go back to Dublin where "I tore my pants" and the whispers.

Not only did God call Rev. Calvin to pastor Solomon, he provided him a job, and would later provide her one, too.

Despite the lingering felony charge, which was later pardoned, Sis. Calvin said, the Lord blessed her with a teaching position at Diamond Academy, where she was recently named Teacher of the Month.

"Don't let the enemy stop at your well," Sis. Calvin told the women to applaud. "Our well has not run dry."





## JANUARY

# The 1st Seven Words of Jesus Christ

At the Jan. 27 Wednesday Night Service, seven sons of Antioch delivered sermons on the first seven recorded statements of Christ. Below is a synopsis:

### Minister Willie Rockward

**Scripture:** Luke 2:49

**Sermon:** The very first recorded words of Jesus are unusual in that they are questions. In Genesis, everything that God said was a statement, and whatever He said happened. "Questions are the path to knowledge and the mark of change." Jesus's answer to Mary's question is a question that provides confidence and reassurance, for there is no safer place to be than "in the Father's house," and we are all called to "be about our Father's business, doers of the Word."

### Minister Michael Price

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:15

**Sermon:** "When Jesus comes into your life, things change, you change. Vipers can become sheep; chaff can become wheat, and crooked places can be made straight." The fulfillment of prophecy is wrapped up in "Suffer it to be so," is his statement to John the Baptist to let him have his way in John's life. "Jesus wants to have his way in your life, too; get out of his way, and let him work."

### Minister Marion Kelley

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:4

**Sermon:** "The devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy. What we have going for us is the same that Jesus used; what is written in the Word should be our choice for battle every time." When the devil knocks at the door, we should let Jesus answer the door through the Word. The Word is enduring, sanctifying, saving, and restraining, and it will do more for us than bread will do any day.

### Minister Bryan Mitchell

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:10

**Sermon:** The devil comes at us when we're at our weakest and most vulnerable moment. "The devil has a program. He often comes with temptation after we've had a victory, after we've reached a pinnacle.

High places are slippery places." Satan tempts Jesus to jump off the pinnacle because he couldn't push him off. "He can't throw you down. Every man is tempted when he's drawn away in his own lust. Don't say, 'the devil did it.' All he does is entice; he gets you off focus. We must keep our eyes on Jesus."

### Minister Kelvin Turner

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:7

**Sermon:** "Adam was tempted in paradise, but Christ was tempted in a lone, desert wilderness. Adam was at his best, but Jesus was hungry when he was tempted. Adam sinned and lost what he had; Christ obeyed and regained what Adam lost. Adam was defeated and brought death; Christ was victorious and brought life to all who would trust him. Who are you like? The first Adam, or Christ, the second Adam?"

### Minister Herman Cain

**Scripture:** Matthew. 4:17

**Sermon:** "What time is it? It's preaching time. Jesus began to preach, 'Repent.' It wasn't an ambiguous directive; it was a definitive order from the lips of Jesus Christ." Instructions on how to repent are found in the instruction manual, the Bible. "The Lord Jesus Christ understood how to use Twitter before Twitter was created for he sums up the instructions in 140 words in Matthew 22. #Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

### Minister James Hill

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:19

**Sermon:** In all of your following, first of all, follow Jesus. Jesus's invitation meant that sometimes the way would get hard and the road would get tough. The Lord told me to preach, "Follow me, and I will. Jesus has an invitation and a promise tailor made for whatever you're going through."

## Ministry focus of statewide conference

The General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. held its annual Statewide Ministers Conference Feb. 2-4 in Macon.

Although there is excellent preaching throughout the conference, the emphasis is on the seminars and workshops designed to help develop every aspect of ministry.

The Rev. E. Dewey Smith, pastor of Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church

in Decatur, Dr. Sam Davis, pastor of Beulah Grove Baptist Church in Augusta and out-of-state guest, Rev. Arthur Jackson, III, pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Miami Gardens, FL, each expounded on the theme scripture, 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

Rev. Jackson noted that the theme scripture says to build up your ministry by having strong footers and foundations. The footers undergird the

foundation.

“The first footer is the preaching of the Word,” he said. “Preaching is the communication of divine truth through human personality leading people to Christ and transformation. Christ is the centrality of the message, and you cannot be so concerned with social justice and current events that you leave out Christ and the cross.”

## GMBC holds 144th Adjourned Session

February Snow and ice caused power outages and the cancellation of some services of the 144th Adjourned Session but it did not stop the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. from doing the work of the Lord.

The two day session, held in Gainesville, included courses for both clergy and lay people. They included The Christian Message to Our Present World. Spiritual Maturation, and Developing Skills for Sharing Your Faith.

The Adjourned Session is one of the main business sessions of the GMBC, and each of the auxiliaries meets to assess yearly progress and plan for the remainder of the year. The focus on the GMBC Theme, “Solidarity with the Savior Through

Mission and Evangelism,” is evident in all auxiliaries as an emphasis is placed on outreach.

One of the major projects of the Laymen’s Department is to reach young African-American males and mentor them in an effort to reduce the number who are dropping out of school and to help prevent them from becoming part of the judicial system.

The Women’s Department, which includes the Young People’s Department, has several mission projects in place, including a coat and blanket drive for the homeless. The Business and Professional Women, led by Dr. Mary Hicks, has been reaching out to young women to help them obtain the Child Development Associate Training required of early childhood

professionals in Georgia.

Strong, biblical preaching is a hallmark of each GMBC session, and the Adjourned Session was no exception. Son of Antioch, the Rev. Frederick Favors preached the Black History message, emphasizing the accomplishments of African Americans throughout the years and the need to pass this information to the younger generations.

The Convention Theme,” and theme scripture formed the underlying core of the session from the classes through the music to the preached word. Although the Adjourned Session is one of the main business sessions of the GMBC, it is the Father’s business, and does not resemble other corporate gatherings.



**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 [gstaples@ajc.com](mailto:gstaples@ajc.com).

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# The trailblazers among us

During the Month of February Antioch Baptist Church North youth introduced the congregation to church members who have not only made commitments to serve God but also commitment to their communities, the corporate world, the arts and entertainment, and the Civil Rights Movement.

Abbreviated versions of their biographies are below:

### Deacon Joseph Beasley

Beasley has dedicated his life to being a public servant and an international humanitarian; working for more than 50 years to uplift the less fortunate.

As head of the church's AMUI ministry, he has directed the shipping of medical equipment and supply relief program, economic development for emerging countries and promoted and organized trade missions.

A respected leader with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Regional Vice President with PUSH, Beasley is no stranger to us, Fulton County, Georgia, Africa, Brazil, Haiti nor Columbia.

### William Clement

A native of Atlanta, Clement earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Morehouse College and his MBA from the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania.

A former President and CEO of the Atlanta Life Financial Group, Inc., Clement is founder and former chairman and CEO of DOBBS, RAM &

Company, a technology business.

He has served in numerous civic and community organizations, including the Board of Opportunity Funding Corporation, the Maynard Jackson Youth Foundation, and the Woodruff Arts Center. He was a charter member of the 100 Black Men of Atlanta and served on the board of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank and the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, D.C., with appointments from President Jimmy Carter.

Clement is also a co-grantor of the Brown-Clement Endowed Scholarship Fund at Morehouse College.

At Antioch, he is a member of the Trustee Board and Care & Comfort Ministry.

### Wendolyn Harding

A woman who has dedicated her life to teaching, Harding is considered a servant leader at Antioch and throughout the state of Georgia.

Born in Augusta, she was baptized by her minister father and attended Spelman College where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and a master's degree in Kindermusik from Atlanta University.

Harding spent 45 years as a teacher with assignments in Thomasville and Atlanta, where she has had a special kinship with young children and their parents. She has maintained her Kindermusik Studio for more than 14 years.

In 1970, Harding joined Antioch and has served in several rolls in the Music & Mission ministries. She is the Director of the Anthem/Accapell-

la Choir & Antioch Shape Note Singers and Co-chairs the very successful Antioch's Scholarship Ministry.

Harding is the wife of the late William "Bill" Harding, former chairman of the Deacon Board, and mother of two daughters and three grandchildren.

Her daughter, Wanda Harding, is a technical director with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration in Washington, DC and Tonja Harding Ward is a promotions and community outreach consultant with Christian Radio Based in Texas.

### Herman Cain

A history maker in his own right, Cain grew up in Georgia and in 1967 graduated from Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics. He earned a Master of Science degree in Computer Science in 1971 at Purdue University before joining the Pillsbury Company in Minneapolis where he became vice president.

During the 1980's his success as a business executive at Burger King prompted the Pillsbury Company to appoint him as chairman and CEO of Godfather's Pizza, where he provided senior leadership from 1986 to 1996. All the while he was a member of Antioch

Cain served two years as chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Omaha Branch, and Deputy Chairman and later chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas.

In 1995, he was appointed by

*Continued on next page*



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH... *continued from page 5*

Newt Gingrich to the Kemp Commission and was a senior economic advisor to the Bob Dole presidential campaign.

The next year, he was named CEO of the National Restaurant Association, a position he held until 1999.

Cain is a syndicated op-ed columnist, and a radio talk show host known for his speaking and singing abilities.

In May of 2011, he announced his presidential candidacy and later became the front-runner, leading President Obama in the polls.

A long-time member of Antioch, Cain was ordained to preach earlier this year.

He is married to Gloria Cain and has two children and four grandchildren.

### ***Terrence Moore***

A sports journalist, Moore writes columns for national internet sites and has appeared on national and local television shows including CNN, ESPN, the Oprah Winfrey show and WSB's "Sports Zone", the most watched ABC affiliate in the country.

Moore, a staff member of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for nearly 25 years, has covered more than 25 Super Bowls, numerous World Series, Olympic Games, NBA Finals, Indianapolis 500's, Championship fights, major Golf Tournaments and other sporting events.

Prior to joining the AJC, Moore spent five years at the San Francisco Examiner covering the San Francisco Giants and Oakland Raiders and three years at the Cincinnati Enquirer where he covered Indiana and Purdue University sports, the Cincinnati

Reds and Xavier University basketball.

After leaving the AJC, he worked two years as a columnist for AOL Fan House.

In 1999, Moore was honored by the National Association of Black Journalist as the longest-running African American Sports columnist in the history of major newspapers.

But he's not just a sports journalist. Moore is also a college professor.

Moore was born in South Bend, Indiana, but graduated high school in Milwaukee where he starred in baseball and football and was news editor of the high school newspaper.

In 1978, he earned a bachelor's degree in business at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

At Antioch, Moore is a member of the Anthem Acappella and the Note Singing choirs.

### ***Dea. Frederick and Sis. Alfreda Pinkston***

This husband and wife team's work in the Civil Rights Movement began in their central Florida hometown, where their parents were active in the church, the NAACP and other civic organizations.

While a student at South Carolina State University, Sis. Pinkston participated in the mass meetings, sit-ins, and demonstrations in Orangeburg where she was water-hosed and arrested along with other students.

After graduating, she moved to Fort Lauderdale where she met and married Frederick. While teaching in the Broward County Florida School System, they continued their involvement in the civil rights struggle.

Frederick would become the first

African American named head coach in Fort Lauderdale/Broward County school district. The two of them were the first African Americans to integrate the movie theaters and charter fishing boats. They organized and chartered the Urban League of Broward County. And along with now U.S. Congressman Alcee Hastings, they helped organize a bi-racial group called Action Committee to Involve Our Neighbors, which helped to foster peaceful integration of Broward County.

The Pinkstons sponsored the NAACP's ACT-SO (African-American Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics), a group focused on developing the talents of high school students. They were named the Broward County Family of the Year through an initiative sponsored by former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

Alfreda worked for 40 years as a media specialist and senior technology specialist. Frederick worked for 45 years as a teacher, counselor, administrator and highly successful track coach. He was selected to the Florida Track and Field Hall of Fame. He also has a high school track named in his honor.

In Fort Lauderdale, they were members of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church under the pastorate of Rev. George E. Weaver. They also taught Sunday School and were a part of the Music Ministry and other auxiliaries.

In 2005 the couple, which this year celebrated 54 years of marriage, moved to Atlanta and united with Antioch Baptist Church North where they are active members of the Anthem Accapella Choir.

## IN THE NEWS



### Leona Barr-Davenport

In celebration of Women's History Month, The Atlanta City Council honored Barr-Davenport, president & CEO of the Atlanta Business League, Atlanta's oldest minority business development and advocacy organization.



### Candy Moore

Moore, senior vice president and Southeast community development manager for Wells Fargo, has been named a 2015 Super woman by Atlanta Tribune magazine. She was honored March 12 along with Letty Ashworth, director of Global Diversity for Delta Air Lines; Patrise Perkins Hooker, vice president and general counsel for the Atlanta Beltline; and Daphne Nicely, executive director of the Atlanta Pregnancy Resource Center in a ceremony at the commerce club.



### Dea. Calvin Booker Sr.

Booker, corporate vice president of Public Affairs for Waste Management, Inc., was recognized March 13 by the Georgia Senate for his community service. A long-time member of Antioch Baptist Church North, Booker teaches the Men's Sunday School class and is vice chairman of the Bethursday Development Board. He is a former president and vice president of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Atlanta Alumni Chapter and the university's Foundation Board. Last year, the National Black College Hall of Fame Foundation awarded him with the National Alumni President of the Year award.

## Antioch Panthers enjoy winning season

The Panthers of Antioch Baptist Church North recently ended the season undefeated.

Jimmy Thompson, who coached members 17 and under, rallied players against teams in the all parks leagues in East Point's Jefferson Park, while the Rev. "Skip" Walker coached those 14 and under in the North Atlanta Christian basketball league.

Sis. Lynn Roberts worked with those eight and under at Sandtown recreation center. Youth age 10 and under were led by Bro. Andre Stevenson at Welcome All Park.



*Antioch Panthers scramble for the ball against Chamblee*

The team played various metro Atlanta churches, including Wieuca Road Baptist Church and Chamblee United Methodist Church. The Panthers were supported by cheerleaders, directed by Sister Julia Byron.

The team, along with the coaching staff – Bro. Kentrell Porch and Bro. Fred and Sister Paulette DeVaughn, were recognized during the 11 a.m. service March 1.

"Without this team effort and the support of the Antioch family, parents and friends, we couldn't do it," Bro. Fred DeVaughn said.

# Seay named Legislator of the Year

State Senator Valencia Seay (D-Riverdale) recently received the 2015 AKA Capitol Legislator of the Year Award as part of the annual Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority Day at the State Capitol.

“I have long admired the commitment and dedication AKA’s have for leaving a lasting positive impact on their communities,” said Sen. Seay. “It was an honor to be joined by so many outstanding females who share the same goals and values as I do. I look forward to continuing my work with this organization for years to come.”

AKA Sorority Inc. noted her longstanding commitment to the people of the 34th Senate District and her tireless efforts to make portions of Clayton and Fayette County a better place for all Georgians in their selection process. They also recognized her distinguished committee work, her role as Vice Chair of the State Senate Democratic Caucus as well



*Valencia Seayd receives award during Sorority Day at the State Capitol.*

as her work with the National Organization of Women Legislators, Women in Government and the Women’s Legislative Caucus.

Sen. Seay was presented her award at AKA’s annual luncheon where she was joined by numerous state legislators and other members of AKA

## Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority makes donation to AUMI

The Antioch women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. celebrated their 107th anniversary during Antioch’s morning service on January 11.

Sorors Jennifer Stevens and Jenan McNealey presented a love offering to Antioch Baptist Church North’s Co-Pastor Rev. Kenneth L. Alexander to benefit Antioch Urban Ministry Inc.



AUMI, founded in 1990, is a non-profit charitable organization which provides comprehensive substance abuse recovery services to the homeless, low-income, those recently released from incarceration and/or are living with HIV/AIDS. The agency also provides essential services to families throughout metropolitan Atlanta and surrounding areas through its food and clothing bank, internet access, job search and other social support services.

The AKA donation was in keeping with the sorority’s mission: “Service to All Mankind.”

## 5th District holds fellowship service

The first quarterly fellowship service of the 5th District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia Inc. was held March 3 at the Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church.

The quarterly fellowship service was instituted in lieu of one monthly business meeting by the Rev. W. J. Lawson, district president, to bring members together through worship and provide more opportunity for them to experience each other’s music ministries and preaching.

Lawson also announced a new mentoring ministry for youth between the ages of 8-18, calling district churches to help shore up their academic performance and behavior to hopefully stem the tide of youth incarceration.

In a sermon titled “You Can Stand Up,” the Rev. Karl D. Moore, pastor of Clarkston First Baptist Church, preached from Luke 13:10-17

For the woman who had been stricken for 18 years, Moore said, Jesus did three things: “He put his eyes upon her, he spoke to her, and he touched her.”

He said that Jesus will do the same for each of us, but he expects us “to look upon the overlooked, speak to those unspoken to, and reach out - with helping hands- to those who are untouched.”



## MARCH

# 'The Lord has done great things'

They made their entrance singing "Oh, when the saints," as throngs of Antioch Baptist Church North members looked on, beaming with joy.

The entrance marked a year since Mt. Mount Vernon Baptist Church move from his former location, purchased to make room for the Atlanta Falcons Stadium at Northside and Martin Luther King Drive.

It happened on Palm Sunday and while no one created a carpet of palm trees for the church and its Pastors entry, the spirit was just as high, reminiscent of the day Jesus made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem hundreds of years earlier.

Inside, Pastor Cameron Alexander said the grand sanctuary with its stained glass windows looked like heaven.

"It's simply beautiful," he said as he stood to preach the entrance service sermon on March 29.

Minutes later, he reminded them that they hadn't done it by themselves, that this was the work of the Lord beginning with the Rev. Rodney Turner's call to pastor Mt. Vernon.

God had orchestrated it all, Alexander said.

"There are a whole lot of people in heaven today who are happy about this occasion," he said referring to the church's old members and pastors. "You've already brightened up this corner."



*Members, led by Rev. Turner, march into the new sanctuary*

Then referring to Psalm 126, he proclaimed: God has done great things for us.

Even as he read that Psalm three weeks ago, Pastor Alexander said he'd thought of this day and how God had turned the Falcon's offer to purchase the old Mt. Vernon into good.

"The Lord is still the same for he has done great things for us," he said, repeating that mantra throughout his remarks.

He said told the church not to make the mistake of thinking it was the Falcons but rather God who wanted Mt. Vernon on this corner of Lynhurst Drive because he wanted a witness.

"God did this," he said. "He didn't stop doing great things when he dried up the Red Sea. He didn't stop doing good things when he shut the lions jaw. He didn't stop doing great things when he put air conditioning in the fiery furnace.

The Lord has done great things."

The grandest of those things, Alexander said, was his death, burial and resurrection.

"It ain't never over on Friday," he said. "If you can make it until Sunday, the Lord's got a way of showing up Sunday. He's got a way of making everything alright."



## GMBC holds VBS and Congress Workshop

The General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. held its annual Vacation Bible School Workshop and Congress of Christian Education planning meeting March 14 at Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church in Macon.

Antioch's VBS will run from June 8-12, said Sis. Brigitte Hill, director of Christian Education. The theme is

"Adventures at Sea: Dive Deeper."

Hill said the goal will be to get participants to dive deeper for understanding, courage, peace, healing, and calling, all of which are based on Scripture.

The Congress, Children's Convention and Youth and Young Adult Convention will be held in Albany, GA,

the week of July, 13-17. Classes will be available for children through adults and in all areas of ministry.

During the Congress, graduates from high school will be recognized, and GMBC Scholarship Applications are available from the youth ministry, as are Articles of Faith topics for the Oratorical Contest.

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



### *Adam keeping positive in music and life*

We know him as Adam Alexander, but in music circles, the 17-year-old singer/songwriter/producer is, well, Demo Taped.

Adam, son of Eric and Pamela Alexander, was featured recently in Daily Discovery, part of the Pigeons and blog that highlights newly discovered artists, in which he talks openly about his music and suffering from depression.

Instead of dwelling on the negative and the dark places the illness can take him, Adam says he intends to spread love and good vibes through his music.

“I want to be able to put a smile on someone’s face, or to make someone dance,” he said.

Drawing inspiration from the likes of Jai Paul, Spazzkid and Flying Lotus, his debut CD Heart EP promises to do just that. The lead single, “I Luv U,” he said is about having someone’s back and letting them know that no matter how difficult the trials are, you are always there for them.

“I wrote this song for the one I love and she knows who she is,” he said.

Adam has been writing music since 5th grade, when close friends encouraged him to put pen to paper.

In addition to starting his own band, Adam produces music as well, a skill he learned through trial and error and tutorials.

His idol? Music producer Flying Lotus.

“He’s THE producer in my eyes,” he said. “He’s THE artist.”

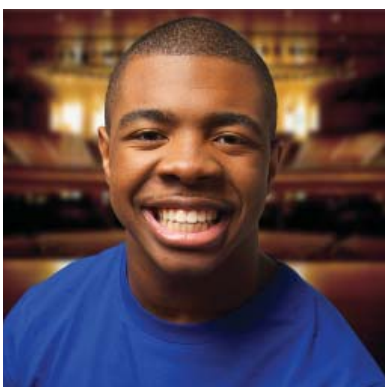
Still, his main inspiration, Adam said are his mother and father who shaped him into the musician and person he’s become.

“My dad would play Earth Wind & Fire, Stevie Wonder, Curtis Mayfield, Parliament, and all these soulful, powerful groups for me when I was a child,” he said. “He also introduced me to jazz and many other genres.”

Adam said he hopes to go on tour as Demo Taped and earn a bachelor’s degree in film direction in college.

“I want to find a way to create harmony between these two mediums,” he said.

(To hear Adam’s CD, log onto [demotaped.bandcamp.com](http://demotaped.bandcamp.com), [Soundcloud.com/demo-taped](http://Soundcloud.com/demo-taped) or Demo Taped on iTunes and Spotify.)



### *Carpenter already acting the part*

He is only 17 but in many ways Joshua Carpenter is already realizing his dream of becoming a writer, playwright and actor.

Antioch Baptist Church North first saw his work in 2013, when he wrote a dramatization for the Youth Culmination Service based on the popular Kirk Franklin song “Lean on Me,” and last year when he drew inspiration from DeWayne Woods’ “Let Go and Let God.”

He won applause then and again more recently when he shared his first play, “A Change Within You” with Antioch.

His message: “Believe in yourself and keep trying, never give up...keep pressing forward and follow your dreams.”

It is a message, Carpenter, son of long-time Antioch member Judi Rawls, lives out every day. The Grayson High School senior has been writing since elementary school, when his mother would assign him topics to explore and he’d turn them into short stories.

“They were always so well written that even his friends enjoyed reading them,” Rawls said.

Joshua not only writes, his passions extend to acting as well. He starred recently in his school’s Black History Month production, written by good friend Courtney Deckard, and appeared as an “extra” in the short film “Free Pass.”

After graduating high school in May, Joshua plans to attend Full Sail University in Winter Park, Fla., where he will major in film production.

*Continued from page 10 - Youth Spotlight*



### ***Gray inducted into national honor society***

Gerald W. Gray, III was recently inducted into Floyd Middle School's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. The NJHS recognizes students who exemplify outstanding achievement, leadership, character, and service.

Gerald, 12, is in seventh grade and participates in the band and the South Cobb Junior Eagles basketball team. He also is the sports anchor for Floyd Middle School's student news broadcast, WFMS. Gerald serves on the Jr. Ushers ministry at Antioch.

He is the son of Gerald and Kim Gray and grandson of David and Betty Cooke.



### ***Samuel, the shining star***

Samuel Tolbert, who plays the trumpet in the Stephenson Middle School Band, was named section leader of the school's Honor Band recently.

The 13-year-old seventh grader is the son of Reggie and Cheryl Tolbert.

In addition to playing in the school band, which recently received superior scores at the district festival, Samuel is a member of the Beta Club and the National Honor Society - two organizations that promote academic achievement, character, service and leadership.

He spends his free time constructing Legos and playing video games such as Minecraft.

Samuel has a strong interest in astronomy and aspires to be an astrophysicist.

## **Tips to help chose the right college**

For years Joe Schmoke believed students were too often misled by slipshod ranking systems only to end up overpaying for their degrees.

And because the former university president understands the financial burdens associated with higher education, he has created University Research and Review ([www.urandr.org](http://www.urandr.org)) to help fix flaws in the selection process.

Visitors to website take an online survey and the results are evaluated individually by one of URR's advisors, who then generate a personalized report for the survey taker.

The report evaluates an individual's unique interests and preferences, and its advisors personally work with students to narrow down their search to about five schools, out of the more than 7,000 colleges and universities in the United States.

Schmoke said these five red flags are good indications you and your child might be looking at the wrong college:

- Schools charge just to fill out applications

Colleges trying to increase the amount of applicants to make money off of applications fees and make their universities appear to be more selective which may help schools rise in standings.

- Students that default on their loans

Students may be defaulting on loans because, although it is a student's responsibility to actively search for work, the university may not be offering sufficient resources for job placement. (Tip: Look up the school's Cohort Default Rate)

- Decrease Rate of Enrollment

This may show prospective students are overwhelmed by cost of education.

- Schools in Financial Trouble

Some schools accept a high percentage of applicants just for the money.

- Low Graduation Rates

A good graduation rate for a school is about 60 percent. Some colleges are more concerned with admitting students than graduating them.



# Meet the Church at Antioch newsletter staff



## Betty Jo Cooke

Betty Jo has been an Antioch member for forty plus years. Betty Jo has been a member of the following auxiliaries, CMA Young Adult Usher Board, CMA Psalms 150 Choir and the Tape Ministry. Currently she is a member of the Adult Choir and the newsletter staff. She's employed at Clark Atlanta University as an Office Manager, married to David B. Cooke III, one daughter and son-in-law and the grandmother of two wonderful boys.



## Karen McKinney Holley

Karen, an associate professor of English at Georgia Perimeter College, may be the hardest working woman at Antioch. In addition to writing for the newsletter, she serves as a Sunday School teacher and is a member of Christian Education, Mission, and Ministers' Wives Ministry, and the Adult, Anthem/Acappella, and Adult Handbell choirs. Karen is also active in the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., the Board of Trustees of Bryant Theological Seminary, and the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. She is the wife of Minister Harry Holley, the proud mother of five, and the doting grandmother of eight intelligent and talented grandchildren.



## Leslie Johnson

A native of Cleveland, OH, Leslie is new to Antioch and Atlanta. She joined the congregation in December along with her daughters, Gabrielle and Ariel, and granddaughter Syelle. A native of Cleveland, OH, Leslie served eight years in the United States Air Force as a Telecommunications Specialist and a certified paralegal. In addition to serving on the newsletter staff, she and her daughter Ariel sing in the Adult Choir. "My daughter Ariel has a beautiful angelic voice," Johnson said. "I love being with her in the choir because both of us enjoy singing for Christ our Savior. We love all the choir members."



## Gracie Bonds Staples

Gracie is an award-winning features writer and columnist with 36 years of experience writing for daily newspapers. Before joining The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in July 2000, she worked for five other dailies, including the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and the Sacramento Bee. Her honors include a Media Professional

of the Year award, four-time winner of the best feature writing award from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists and a community organizing award given in her honor from the Dallas/Fort Worth Birthing Project, which works to lower the infant mortality rates in the African-American community. She founded the Fort Worth and Atlanta projects.

Gracie joined Antioch 2000 with her husband of 29 years, the Rev. Jimmy Staples, and their daughters, Asha and Jamila, now grown and gone. She is editor of the Church at Antioch newsletter, a member of the Adult Choir and the Ministers' Wives ministry.



## Reginald Tolbert

Reggie has been a member of Antioch since 1990. Originally from Williston, SC, he's a Graphic Designer and owner of Tolbert Graphics, where he produces attractive print media and web sites. He does the layout and design of *The Church At Antioch* newsletter as well as the posters, flyers, and banners that you see throughout the church. He also upkeeps the church web site. Reggie and his wife, Cheryl, are the proud parents of 13 year old middle schooler, Samuel.



## Pamela Ware

Pamela has been an Antioch member since she was 17 years old. She is the daughter of long-time members Thomas and Naomi Ware and the niece of Joan Leavell. She is the god-daughter of Joe and Donna Perrymon. Prior to her return last year to Antioch, Pamela was an active member of the Adult Choir, September Birth Month and Women's Ministry. She's employed at Georgia Tech as a Research Faculty member and is a divorced mother of two daughters, Kelsi Brooks who graduates from college in May and Kaila Brooks who is a sophomore in college. She's half crazy without coffee or chocolate and her favorite verse is Proverbs 3:5-6.



## Bethany Watson

Bethany began attending Antioch in 1990 when she came to Atlanta from Detroit to attend Spelman College. She has been a member of Antioch since 1999. Bethany has participated in past women's culmination services and just recently joined the newsletter staff. She is married to Vince Watson, works as a senior recruiter for Accenture and has two boys ages 9 and 5.