

Men pass leadership torch to youth in moving services

In yet another moving service, choked full of memorable moments, Antioch's men division passed the leadership torch July 26 to the children of the church.

The 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, in a lot of ways, foreshadowed the 40th anniversary celebration of Pastor Cameron Madison Alexander.

Tributes to him were infused through much of the services as the men reminded the congregation that Alexander had been preaching and saving souls 55 years and leading Antioch for the last 40.

This Sunday, however, Pastor Alexander would not be preaching.

Deacon Calvin Booker spoke during the 8 a.m. and Brother Lee Baker was the guest speaker during the 11 a.m. service.

A full male chorus sang like they numbered 300, from the first rendering of "I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John" to the hymn raised by Dea. Clarence Hicks to the final number led by Ronald Wilbur.

Then in perhaps the two most moving moments of the 8 a.m. service, the men demonstrated putting on the whole armor of God – girding a brother with the



Passing the torch

breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the spirit and shodding his feet with the peace of the gospel before honoring Master Sgt. Tracy Jones.

Jones, a retired U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq, passed a symbolic torch to the children charging them to put on the whole armor of God but to remember that the battle isn't theirs.

"It's the Lord's," he said.

The services were the culmination of

three months of leadership that included Palm Sunday services, the spring concert and revival, graduates' and retirees' recognition and the 55/40 motorcade.

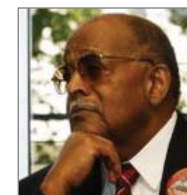
Antioch's youth will carry on the vision August through September.

Bible Quiz Answers

- 1) Bethsaida
- 2) Five loaves and two fishes
- 3) 5000 men, plus women and children
- 4) Twelve

Happy Anniversary!

Pastor Alexander



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August 2009

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Celebrating 40 years

The number 40 has significant Biblical importance.

It was the number of days Noah stayed in the ark as rain washed the Earth. It was 40 days after Jesus' crucifixion that He was seen again on Earth.

At Antioch Baptist Church North, the congregation this month will celebrate a major milestone with this same number - the 40th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Cameron Madison Alexander as pastor of Antioch.

"I would have been content with whatever number of years the Lord assigned me here to work," pastor said when asked if he ever imagined serving at Antioch for 40 years.

Anniversary celebrations are planned for both services on Aug. 2. A 50-car motorcade was held on July 18 across north-west Atlanta at important sites in Pastor Alexander's professional and pastoral development, such as Booker T. Washington High School, the Morehouse School of Religion and the Interdenominational Theological Seminary.

The accolades for Pastor Alexander have been overflowing in recent months. For example, the Georgia Legislature passed a resolution earlier this year honoring Pastor Alexander.

Since becoming pastor in 1969, Antioch



Pastor Alexander waves to crowd during his 55/40 motorcade. (See story on page 5)

has created seven transitional housing ministries for people suffering from HIV/AIDS, women recovering from substance abuse, men who are disabled or recovering from substance abuse, the homeless and people recovering from tuberculosis. The church has created a prison ministry, an incarceration intervention program, a HIV/AIDS prevention education program

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Advisor
Sis. Barbara J. Alexander

Managing Editor
Gracie Bonds Staples

Editor
Monica Richardson

Design Editor
Reggie Tolbert

Writers
Betty Jo Cooke
Vivian Edwards
Karen S. McKinney
Olivia Rencher
Holly Speed
Eric Sturgis

Photographer
Darryl Speed

The Church at Antioch Newsletter Staff

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540 Kennedy St. NW • Atlanta, GA 30318
404-688-5679 • www.antiochnorth.org

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Thank you for 40 exciting years in God's service through you, my Antioch family. As we survey the many wondrous blessings that God has bestowed upon us, I cannot help but feel honored and humbled by His goodness. God called me to the ministry, but you called me to Antioch's pulpit.

Over these past 40 years you have entrusted to me the administration of the sacred office of pastorate, the building of a worship center, both inside and out, the sanctity of souls saved and those to be saved, the spiritual care of the members, the delivery of God's message with joy and gladness, courage and power, with certainty and truthfulness.

Together, we have openly embraced visitors – Nelson Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Maya Angelou, Billy Graham, Cicely Tyson, Johnny Cochran, and others whose humanity found a kindred spirit in Antioch. We have welcomed old and new friends, among them, Rev. C. T. Vivian, Ambassador Andrew Young, Congressman John Lewis, Mayor Shirley Franklin, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Coretta Scott King, Mrs. Juanita Abernathy, Governor Sonny Perdue, Dr. Caesar Clark, Dr. Benjamin E. Mayes, Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr., and the least, the less, and the lost" who will always find a "home" at Antioch. Together, we have grieved for friends gone on, and comforted the loved ones left behind.

And the places that we have visited – The Bahamas, The Holy Land, Russia, Jamaica, Haiti!

Together, we have demolished the walls of racism, bigotry, and indifference and opened doors to employment, housing, legal, social, and educational opportunities though the struggle continues. We remained in the neighborhood of our forefathers and defied the odds to build an edifice worthy of God's glory. Together, we have uplifted the six ministries of Christ and made them real in the lives of the disenfranchised. We have taught and learned from each other and grew in wisdom and understanding of God's calling to each of us according to the steps that He had ordered.

Thank you for the love, care, and support that you have shown me, Barbara, and the family over the years, together, building friendships and enjoying relationships that only a family could inspire.

This has been a journey of mutual love, trust, and respect, and, by God's grace, it will continue. I embrace each moment that God allows me to serve as your Pastor and look forward to more opportunities to witness the wonders of His grace. However, I do so in anticipation that we will do it together.

On behalf of Barbara and the family, thank you, we love you, and may God continue to bless you and keep you forever in His care.

Yours in God's service,

Rev. C. M. Alexander, Pastor

Continued from cover: 40 years

and a Christian recovery support group.

When Dr. Alexander became pastor in 1969, Antioch had one part-time clerical employee, an annual budget of \$38,000 and a declining membership of less than 500 members. Today, the church has 60 full-time and part-time workers, an annual budget of \$4.5 million and a membership exceeding 12,000 people.

The church's growth is part of the pastor's vision for a church that's engaged in the community.

Asked what's the most important lesson he's tried to teach at Antioch, Pastor Alexander replied: "To be Bible-based, Christ-centered, Holy Spirit-led and mission-bound."

Pastor Alexander credits the Holy Spirit for that vision, known as the "four pillars."

So what's the most important lesson pastor said he's learned in his time at Antioch?

"That I don't have a monopoly on good sense," he said.

As for where he sees Antioch in the next 40 years, Pastor Alexander said he couldn't envision the possibilities.

"My imagination does not have that depth," he said.

Correction

Ja'Necia Wilson is the daughter Carol and Randall Wilson. Alexia Doward, who will be attending Albany State University in the fall, is the daughter of Dorcas and Walter Jones Jr. Their parents' names were inadvertently omitted in an article about their friendship last month. We regret the error.

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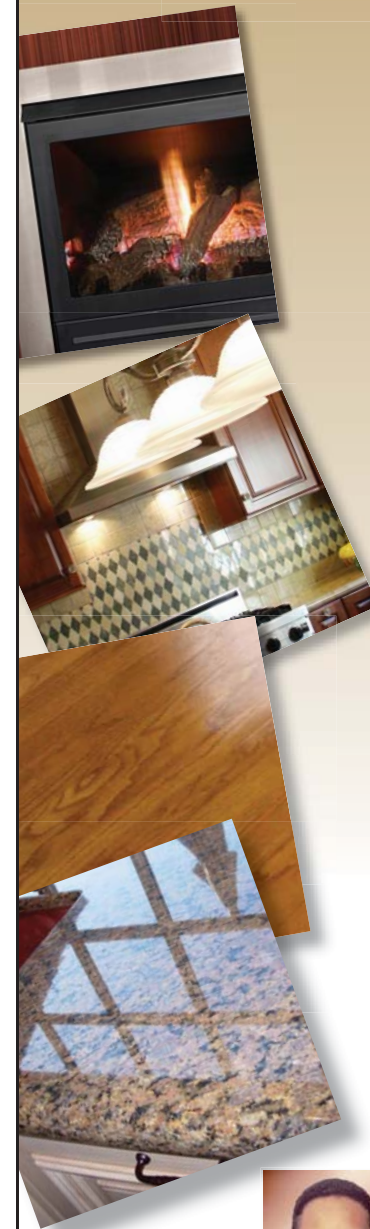


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Wisdom gained from pastor Alexander

Before becoming a pastor in 2003, I spent eight years at Antioch under the dynamic leadership of the Rev. C. M. Alexander.

For three of those years, I was the secretary of the Minister's Alliance, recording the minutes and storing up a veritable treasure trove of notes and quotes from our pastor.

I'm not sure I thought much about those tidbits of wisdom at the time but I can't tell you the impact they've had on my life and ministry, how they've kept me grounded on my journey.

And so with that in mind, I thought I'd share a few with you as I know they'll make all the difference on your journey as well:

On reaching the lost: "A preacher who doesn't want to evangelize should turn in his license."

On learning: "Always learn something. You'll never reach post-graduate with God. You are always in a learning mode. Even let your disappointments and frustrations teach you something."

On preaching through trouble: "Preachers are not perfect but you can preach



Rev. Fredrick D. Robinson

through your imperfections. Hit yourself with the sermon. The faucet gets wet before the water hits

the glass. If the gospel can change others it can change you."

On helping others: "Learn how to help somebody. Every preacher ought to ask, 'what is my help-somebody-assignment?'"

On the urgency of prayer: "Don't wait until you start pastoring to start praying. Develop an aggressive prayer life now. Get into the habit of becoming disciplined in your prayer life—now."

Submitted by Rev. Fredrick D. Robinson, pastor of the Mt. Gilead Missionary Baptist Church

Training to lead

Members of Antioch Baptist Church North recently attended a series of workshops on Baptist doctrine and the Bible that they hope will eventually benefit the entire church. The Congress of Christian Education, the training arm of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc, presented the classes in early July.

Those in attendance included Bro. Nevin Harton and Dr. Vanessa English, Sunday School Superintendents; Sis. Brigitte Hill, director of Christian Education; the Rev. Eddie Bright, ministerial advisor; Sis. Karen S. McKinney, Sunday school teacher; and Sis. Brenda Eason, Usher's Ministry coordinator.

Sis. Janet Hill, SCAN coor-



Tonja Harding-Ward and Diana Patton

dinator and Sign Language Ministry advisor, taught in the Interpreter's Clinic. Sis. Wendy Harding's daughter, Tonja Ward, and Diana Patton, co-founder of their company presented a very well-received Mid-Day Forum entitled "FIT-itudes: Fitness God's Way."

Otis Byrd, Jr.: Born to sing God's praises

For as long as he can remember, church music has played a big part in Otis Byrd Jr.'s life.

From the moment he uttered his first words, he has sung God's praises, honing his skills both at home and in churches across the country, as a choir member and as a director of choirs.

The son Rev. Otis B. Byrd, Sr. and Diana Harrison Byrd of Atlanta, he grew up in the Lindsay Street Baptist Church where his father was licensed and ordained and young Otis dedicated his life to Christ and fell in love with all things musical.

By age 15, Byrd was a featured soloist with the All-Atlanta City Chorus and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. He later sang in the All-State Chorus at Roswell High School. Twice he received the Juanita C. Burns voice scholarship at Gospel Music Workshop of America's national convention.

After graduating high school,

Byrd headed to Morehouse College, where he majored in music, vocal performance and conducting and studied voice with Dr. Uzee Brown Jr. and Dr. Mel Foster. He sang with the world renowned Morehouse Glee Club, recording a solo on their last recording, "A Legacy Continued."

Two years ago, at just 22 years of age he became director of choirs at Antioch Baptist Church North, directing the adult, CMA Male Chorus, and MADD for Christ choirs.

"To be a part of one of the largest Mega churches in the Atlanta area is a great honor," said Byrd.

It is, however, but one of many choirs the young director has either led or sang with over the years. In addition to serving as minister of music at Woodward Baptist Church, where his father is pastor, Byrd was choir director of Mount Carmel Baptist Church and youth choir and praise team director of the Gospel Tabernacle Church.



Bro. Otis Byrd, Jr.

A member of the Atlanta Collegiate Artist Association, a collegiate division of the National Association of Negro Musicians, he is often sought after to direct and conduct workshops around Atlanta. He has traveled across the United States and abroad, sharing the stage with such gospel greats as Shirley Caesar, Ricky Dillard, and Dottie Peoples.

Shortly after coming to Antioch, he started Adoration, a community choir that not only sings but also hosts com-

munity and youth-centered projects.

In honor of his birthday, Adoration will host "Celebration of a Praiser," Aug. 14 at Word of Life Outreach Ministries featuring, among others, Kevin Lemons and Higher Calling and Maurice Culpepper and the Praise Power Fellowship Choir. (For more info contact Jason Allen, 404-759-9863 or adoration.ministry@gmail.com)

Adoration will release its first live project, The Experience, in January, featuring Zebulon Ellis and produced by Antioch's own Carlos Simon.

Byrd said none of this would be possible without God and the positive feedback and encouragement he receives from Antioch members.

To be called to such an esteemed ministry at an early age, he said, has caused him to strive to be better both personally and professionally.

"I may never reach perfection," he said, "but God knows I try."

Bible Quiz

- 1) One day Jesus was teaching a large crowd about the kingdom of God. When supper time came, the disciples urged Jesus to send the crowds away so they could find food and lodging for the night. However, Jesus took a few loaves of bread and fishes belonging to a boy in the crowd and miraculously broke them into enough food to feed the entire crowd! Where did this miracle occur?
- 2) How many loaves of bread and fishes did the boy have?
- 3) How many people did Jesus feed?
- 4) After everyone had eaten their fill, Jesus told His disciples to pick up the leftovers so that nothing would be wasted. How many baskets full of leftovers did they pick up?

Answers on page 12

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Church Briefs

Beasley, Simms receive ABL Award

Deacon Joe Beasley and Barney Simms have been named two of Atlanta's 50 Men of Influence.

The Atlanta Business League recognized both men July 14 for their social consciousness, ability to effect change and their commitment to the citizens of Metro Atlanta.

Dea. Beasley is the Director of Human Resources at Antioch, Southern Regional Director of Rainbow/PUSH organization, and the President of African Ascension, which works to expose discrimination and human rights violations against Africans and people of African descent all over the world. He travels extensively and is a much sought-after presenter on Civil Rights in America and its impact on the global community. (See



Beasley



Simms

www.africanascension.org) Bro. Barney Simms is the Chairman of Antioch's Trustee Ministry. He currently serves as the special assistant to Chief Executive Officer Renee Lewis Glover for external and community affairs of the Atlanta Housing Authority. Simms has served as president of the Neighborhood Association of Southwest Atlanta, president of the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board, the compilation of all Neighborhood Planning Units, chairman of the Board of the Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services, secretary of the Atlanta Development Authority, chairman of Neighborhood Planning Unit-R and chairman of the city of Atlanta's license review board.

Sterling Bright wins scholarship

Sterling Bright, son of Rev. Eddie and Mrs. Vivian Bright, has been selected from among some 2,000 youths as one of Kohl's department stores Kids Who Care.



Bright

Sterling won a \$1,000 scholarship for his post-secondary education.

The 10-year-old collected and donated more than 250 toiletry bags to needy families.

Winners were selected based on initiative, leadership, creativity and generosity. Sterling now qualifies for one of 10 national scholarships worth \$5,000.

National winners will be announced at the end of July.

Back to School

Tips for a successful school year

The summer is just about over, signaling the start of another school year. But is your little one ready to give up the long lazy days for those seemingly longer school days?

Either way, there is a way for parents to help make the transition a little less painful, experts say.

How do you that that? Here are 10 fail-proof tips to get you started:

- Have your child start going to sleep a little earlier each day the week before school. Children need ample sleep to have academic success.

- Get him/her excited about back to school shopping. Make them part of the shopping process. Stick to your budget but let him select some of his clothes.

- Buy a special folder, child friendly tape, glue, pens and pencils. These special things go a long way toward making a child feel good about his school supplies.

- Plan breakfast and lunch with your child and make sure he eats both. A hungry, under nourished child is not capable of learning.

- Discuss grades. Decide to

reward your child for improving his grades. Choose a reward that is not materialistic such as a day at the movies.

- Don't push for ALL A'S although that is a great achievement. Just remind your child that you expect him/her to do his/her very best.

- Meet your child's teacher. Ask what kind of fun learning adventures are planned. Children perk up at the mention of field trips.

- Remember that your attitude toward school goes a



long way toward influencing your child's. Be involved. Be positive. Be excited about your child's academic success. Chances are he will get excited, too.

School festival August 8

Antioch Baptist Church's Youth Ministry will host a Back to School Festival at 10 a.m. August 8 in the 590 Building.

The annual event promises to be a fun-filled four hours with food, games and plenty of excitement.

In addition to receiving school supplies, students will be issued a challenge to work hard in the new school year.

Parents are encouraged to register their children after both services July 26 through August 2 in the fellowship hall or vestibule.

"We are also asking our members to donate school supplies," said Shawn Oates, one of the organizers of the event.

Oates said that crayons, pencils, flash drives, college-ruled paper, glue sticks, notebooks, binders, staples, calculators, highlighters and pens are among the list of items needed.

For additional information, please contact Oates at 404-688-5679.

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.

They're off to college

A new crop of Antioch Baptist Church North youth will be heading off to college this fall. They are:

- Kia C. Andrews**, Georgia Tech
- Alex C. Ausborn**, Georgia State University
- Julian L. Bright**, Emory University
- Kelli A. Cogburn**, Howard University
- Alexia J. Doward**, Albany State University
- Mikea N. Gray**, Albany State University
- Tim L. Melton, II**, Tuskegee University
- Alexis C. Nelson**, Kennesaw State University
- Nia K. Oates**, Howard University
- Roy Quinn, III**, DeKalb Technical College
- Khari A. Rockward**, Morehouse College
- Willie J. Rockward, III**, Morehouse College
- Maria L. Samples**, Georgia Perimeter
- Asha Dianne Staples**, University of Southern Mississippi
- Jonathan M. Thompson**, Georgia Southern University
- Andrea J. Trimble**, Savannah State University
- Sasha G. Trusty**, U.S. Air Force
- Jeremy R. Wallace**, Savannah State
- Charles J. Walker, III**, Clark Atlanta University
- Ja'Necia D. Wilson**, Alabama Southern University

CALENDAR

August Events

Southeast Region YPD Conference	July 30-Aug 1	7:45am & 11am	Sanctuary
55/40 Pastoral Anniv. Celebration	Sunday, Aug. 2		
ACE Meeting	Thurs, Aug 6	6:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Back to School Fellowship	Sat., Aug 8	10am-2pm	590 Building
AUMI Golf Classic	Fri., Aug 21	9am	Heron Bay
Trash to Treasure	Sat, Aug 22	9am	590 Building
New Fellowship Baptist Church, Dedication	Sun., Aug. 23		Macon, GA

September Events

ACE Meeting	Thurs., Sept 3	6:30pm	Fellowship Hall
National Baptist Convention	Sept 7-11		Memphis, TN
911 Observance	Sun, Sept 6	7:45am & 11am	Sanctuary
Baptism/RHF(July & August)	Wed, Sept 16	7pm	Sanctuary
Communion	Sun, Sept 20	7:45am & 11am	Sanctuary
55/40: Pastor Alexander inducted into Black Alumni College Hall of Fame	Fri, Sept 25	7pm	Hilton Hotel
Rev. Rodney Turner, 6th Pastoral Anniv. Mt. Vernon Baptist Church	Sun, Sept 27	3pm	

School of the Bible classes are held every Wednesday, 6:15pm - 7pm
 Wednesday Prayer Meeting - every Wednesday, 7pm
 The Good Grief Ministry meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:30pm for families in bereavement.

Meet Dea. Morton...

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

A: It's really an honor for me to serve in the capacity of Deacon; especially at Antioch, my home church where I was born. My uncle was a Deacon at Antioch; Deacon Eddie Wilborn, so I guess you could say I'm third generation. Antioch has been my extended family; I literally grew up at Antioch playing in the old church in the basement and running around with Kenneth Alexander. As young as six



Dea. Keith Morton

or seven years of age we rolled old tires in the parking lot of the "old church" and during our teenage years I remember converting the old "Blue Bird" church bus into a scary or hunted house for the younger kids are probably my most fondest memories growing up here at the church. It's what I've known all my life! Antioch is and has always been my FAMILY! Serving as the Clerk of the Deacon's Ministry means I'm responsible for much of the business of the church. A deacon's role in its fundamental definition means "servant". To serve the people of the church is an honor; a role that I do not take lightly.

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

A: I'm probably not the greatest singer leading a song, but one of my favorite hymns is "A Charge to Keep." It's the flagship hymn of all the deacons past and present at Antioch. It spiritual tone in how it is sung brings the past alongside the present, from slavery to the present age. It is what deacons, and really all the members of Antioch, should embody as the banner hymn to do GOD's will. That song is very powerful to me. I developed my love and inspiration from watching the deacons in the old church raise it and other hymns over the years as I was growing up. These songs helped Deacons like Raglin, Willis, and Wideman make it through the years. They served their present age with distinction.

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

Christian?

A: One of my favorite scriptures is Romans 12:4-7 as it speaks to the church being one body with many members. We all have a role and function in the church. Pray and ask God to show you your talent, and use it to serve him. GOD gives each one of us a talent, and everyone can serve.

Q: What are your children's names, and what advice do you have for raising children?

A: My parents raised us and their parents, aunt and uncle raised their children with a Christian foundation within the church. Raising your kids in church is the stabilizing force that will keep them grounded for this earthly life's journey. The church has been the regulator for me and my journey thus far. The things my mother, Mildred Morton, reinforced have kept and sustained me on this side of the Jordan. The lessons learned have never left and continue to be a "beacon of light" as I travel to find my way. God's word never changes, and generations have lived by these teachings. These are the things I pray and past along to my children, Kaylin, Dennis and Kolby.

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

A: I was dedicated at Antioch as an infant, and I joined Antioch at the age of 8. These days, I enjoy watching my kids grow, develop and mature. When possible, I enjoy golf, gardening, and cycling (a recent revisited activity).

Q: Do you have words of wisdom that you have lived by that may help someone else?

A: Mother Merritt, my former Sunday School teacher, used to tell us, "just trust and obey God." Those are simple words for a little boy to live by, and you learn to grow in grace with other teachings as you become older. Antioch has been a staple for my Christian growth and has given me direction as I continue this Christian journey. Keep God in your life, and he will direct your path.

Rev. Ladd installed



Rev. Alexander and Rev. Terry Ladd at Installation reception at Kingdom Center

The Rev. William Terry Ladd, III, was installed July 12 as the 13th pastor of the historic First Baptist Church of Chattanooga.

Antioch Baptist Church North came "two on a mule" to witness and participate in Rev. Ladd's installation giving evidence of their affection for Ladd and his wife Terrilynn, a sentiment well expressed by the B.J. Terrill Verse Speakers.

The Vessels of Praise and Adult choirs' awesome rendition of "Total Praise" was echoed in Rev. Ladd's remarks as he thanked God for the opportunity to serve First Baptist. The Note Singers recalled the slaves who built the beautiful Gothic-Cathedral styled building.

Dea. Walter F. Williams, Chairman of the Board of Deacons quoting the Rev. Otis Moss stated, "Rev. Battle, who served First Baptist for 43 years was your Moses," said Dea. Walter F. Williams, quoting the Rev. Otis Moss. "Rev. Ladd is your Joshua."

The comparison to Joshua, who trusted God and believed that he could do anything with God's help, permeated the service from the reading of the Old Testament scripture, Joshua 1:1-9, to Rev. Alexander's sermon, "A Divine Appointment."

Pastor celebrated in motorcade

It was a ride down memory lane; moment from a life Pastor Cameron Madison Alexander would later say was spent mostly within a five-mile radius.

Along the way, there were proclamations and tributes given, ministry offerings and a pledge by Councilman Ivory Young to petition the city council to rename Kennedy Street in his honor.

Mostly it was time for Antioch Baptist Church North to show her appreciation for a Pastor after God's heart, a man who has given 55 years of his life preaching the gospel, including the last 40 at Antioch Baptist Church North.

And so in a well-appointed limousine, in a motorcade of some 50 decorated cars, members gathered to celebrate Pastor C. M. Alexander and his wife, Barbara.

There was no question that the two of them are blessed and highly favored of the Lord.

At the end of a week marked with high humidity, scorching temperatures, and torrential downpours, the July 18 weather was as pleasant as a gentle breeze on a hot summer day.

In stop after stop, Pastor Alexander shared memories from bygone days, first at the Interdenominational Theological Center, then at Morehouse College, where he received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees and later served as a distinguished alumnus and trustee. He was presented a proclamation and acknowledged former classmate Rev. Levi Terrell who, he said, helped him though French. He returned the favor, he said, helping Terrell through religion.

Old classmates, including Antioch Dea. Clarence Hicks, greeted him at Washington High School. He affectionately pointed out the "Little White House" so named because it belonged to accordion player and singer Rem Jackson who often played at the White House for President Roosevelt.

Pastor Alexander recalled standing on the front steps and until the principal ran him away, chanting: "C'mon Hicks."



Then looking to his right at the open area, he recalled getting carried away in a drama production and slipping off the ladder as he climbed up to his Juliet. He credited his lifetime Juliet, Sis. Alexander, with helping him to get through high school as he enthusiastically declared, "there were some pretty, pretty girls up in

here, especially this majorette."

The motorcade then wound its way pass his childhood home on Michigan Avenue and his elementary school, E.R. Carter, before stopping at the Lindsay Street Baptist Church, where Rev. Y.L. Davenport baptized him. In later years, during his father, Rev. H.M. Alexander's pastorate of Lindsay Street, Pastor Alexander was licensed and ordained.

Sisters Marilyn Hurston and Evelyn White took him back to his days in the choir as they sang "Thank You, Lord" in tribute.

Dea. Russell Weaver with whom Pastor played marbles and fought as they walked back and forth to church and school said of their 70-year friendship, "he had to walk the chalk line because he was the pastor's son, but I wasn't, so he said I was mean."

Sis. Lois Broughton, women's president of Georgia Missionary Baptist Convention, presented a resolution from the GMBC, and current pastor, Rev. Motley, presented a resolution from Lindsay Street to the man he called a "ground-breaking, barrier bursting, and ceiling shattering minister."

That description is a far cry from the boy who got "turned out of church for nicking Sonny Wooten with his Boy Scout knife."

"Reverend Alexander has built something on this corner that will last longer than the strongest steel," said Commissioner Emma Darnell when the motorcade finally reached Antioch.

All in all, said Pastor Alexander the motorcade, the day with members of the church was "a foretaste of glory divine."

Indeed, he said, "When we die, there is another celebration, and as we arrive at sites along the way, people will be there to cheer and encourage us. You have given me a procession I can see and words I can hear today, so whenever I do go home, you don't have to do all that; just have a worship service"

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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

- Landscape Design • Grass & Shrubbery Trimming • Fertilization & Weed Control • Aeration & Seeding • Plant/Flower Application • Pine, Bark, Mulch Application • Brick/Stone Retaining Walls • Residential & Commercial • Landscape Lighting •



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*Average price range for residential properties less than .25 acres.

GMBC Congress of Christian Education

During the week July 20 to July 24, 2009, Antioch sent 14 youth and 4 chaperones as delegates to the 47th annual session of the Congress of Christian Education of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia. The session was held at the Monroe High School in Albany, GA. The theme this year was "The Heavenly Vision: The Mission of the Church." Our teenage youth attended a variety of classes including, Youth Understanding Themselves, Drug Abuse and Our Youth, and Helping Youth Appreciate Their African American Heritage. Our youth ages 12 and under attended Children Leading Worship. As always, our youth were involved in many events of the congress. They participated in the Choir, Dance, Bible Jeopardy, Oratorical Competition, and The Great Debate, where our own Kayla Wilson took the 1st place trophy.

According to our youth, this was a very exciting and moving congress session. They were all touched by Dean Winfred Hope's message that witnessing is the mission of the church. They were all impressed by his use of the props as he always does to bring his point full circle. Congress president, Rev. Thurmond Tillman's message was brought from John 14:14 and John 15:7. He reminded us that whatever we ask God for, He will provide. All we need to do is please God.

The youth of Antioch would like to thank Rev. Alexander



Antioch youth attend the GMBC Congress of Christian Education

and the church family for the vision and providing the means to attend the Congress of Christian Education and they all look forward to attending again next year.

A large delegation from Antioch attended the General Missionary Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education held recently at Monroe High School.

In addition to attending classes, the fifteen youth participated in other activities, including Bible Jeopardy, the Oratorical Contest, and The Great Debate, in which Kayla Wilson took first place in the 12-14 age group.

Here's some of what they had to say about the experience:

Let's get REAL

Are today's youth more familiar with the secular world than the spiritual world? Are they equipped with the armor of God to ward off temptation?

Thanks to a new series of rap sessions called Real Talk, Antioch Baptist Church North's youth division will soon have the opportunity to not only establish a stronger relationship with God and the child, but to develop a balance within each individual child.

Bro. Cameron E. Alexander, Jr., Youth Co-Coordinator, will facilitate the Brown Bag Saturday Session beginning August 8. The sessions, which will begin at 10 a.m. each Saturday, are for youth of ages 13 to 19.

Topics of discussion will include tackling peer pressure, the negative effects of media and Internet and other challenges.

For more information, please contact Bro. Alexander, Jr. or Sis. Lynn Roberts at 404-688-5679. The Classes will run through October.