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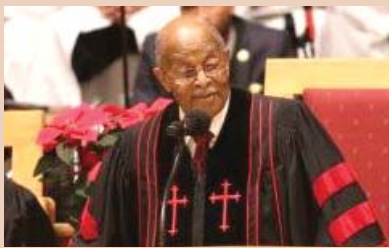


The Church at Antioch

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

October-December 2015

Volume 6, Issue 8



A Global transformer *by Gracie Staples*

The Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander was among a half dozen civil rights icons presented a Global Transformer Award in December by the Interdenominational Theological Center.

ITC honored Antioch Baptist Church North's pastor for his unwavering faith-based leadership.

Alexander was presented the award at ITC's inaugural Global Transformers Gala, which recognized global political, civic and spiritual icons whose life's work and leadership – inspired by their faith – addressed societal ills, influenced nations, and transformed societies across the globe.

Other honorees included former President Jimmy Carter, Ambassador Andrew Young, Congressman John Lewis, Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery, Dr. C.T. Vivian; and Rabbi Alvin Sugarman.



Antioch celebrates its 138th anniversary with one awesome worship service.

Antioch celebrates 138th Anniversary

On the Sunday set aside to celebrate her 138th anniversary, Antioch Baptist Church North was reminded of two lambs, the one provided Abraham and, well, the Lamb of God, who came to take away the sins of the world.

The Rev. Calvin McKinney, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Garfield, New Jersey, drew from Genesis and the book of John.

Abraham, known as the father of the faithful because he believed God, takes us on a journey into the land of Mariah,

where we come upon an interesting scene.

The Scripture says that it came to pass that God did test Abraham, instructing him to take his only son Isaac to Mariah and offer him as a human sacrifice.

Interestingly, Abraham's first born Ishmael, conceived as a result of scheming, was not the son of promise, McKinney said. Isaac was.

And so, in obedience to God, Abraham rises early and does as God in-

Continued on page 2

A Message From The Pastor



My Brothers and Sisters,

In reading from the Bible's Book of Lamentations, we are reminded of God's compassion and God's mercy. In chapter 3, verses 22-23, we are told that trusting in God's faithfulness day by day will make us confident in His great promises for the future.

This edition of *The Church at Antioch* spotlights the Christian Education outreach of many of our members engaged in activities that demonstrates "His mercies begin afresh each morning." We acknowledge with pride the unyielding leadership and service that many of our members are giving to the ongoing success and Christian Education efforts of our religious associations. Their commitments and sacrifices of time make us all proud.

As pastor, it is always my hope that all of us will become more engaged in opportunities to heighten our Christian Education. That can be done easily at Antioch or with other approved affiliations. Our participation in Christian Education must be continuous to equip us to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. We all need to be educated in the doctrines of the Bible if we are to impact the world around us.

Our church has a busy and effective Christian Education program. If you are not engaged in any of our Christian Ed programs, I challenge you to get involved as it is the strongest and most comprehensive of our Bible teachings. In so doing, you will strengthen your foundation as a God fearing Christian.

Yours in God's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. M. Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Reverend C. M. Alexander, Pastor

Continued from cover - 138th Anniversary



Rev. Calvin McKinney

structs him. When he arrives at Mariah, Isaac asks Abraham "where is the lamb?"

God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering," Abraham tells his son.

"In the gospel of John," McKinney said, "we come upon a similar scene in which Jesus, the Lamb of God, about to be offered in our stead."

Just as Abraham stretched forth his hand to slay Isaac an angel stopped him.

"At that moment," McKinney said, "Abraham lifted his eyes and saw a ram in the bush."

"In the gospel of John," McKinney said, "we come upon a similar scene in which Jesus, the Lamb of God, about to be offered in our stead."

As we claim to be professed believers, McKinney said that people are asking "where is the lamb?"

We're supposed to be witnessing, showing this world Jesus, he said. Jesus is supposed to be the epitome of our being, the content of our preaching, the evidence of our witness.

"We ought to have Jesus to give, to offer, to present," McKinney said. "God gave Jesus, his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him shall have everlasting life. He gave him as a ram in the bush."

By Gracie Staples

Become A More Effective Witness



Attention Members! Do you want to be a more effective Witness for our Lord? If your answer is yes, please attend the Witnessing Training Classes on Saturdays, March 5, 12, and 19, to be held at our beloved Antioch, between 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon. During the sessions, participants will learn how to share the Gospel and help others address the most important question in their lives: **Where will they spend Eternity?** You will also learn how to witness and help them to understand how the decisions that they make now will determine whether their family, friends, and others that they encounter will go to Heaven. Members and friends are encouraged to attend and learn more effective ways to share the good news about **God's Amazing Grace!**

Seniors reminded to listen and wait on God

More than a dozen members of Antioch Baptist Church North, including members of the Mother's Mission, Deaconess and Minister's Wives auxiliaries, worshipped Oct. 22 at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

The gathering, which drew members from 12 other churches, was a chance to encourage "senior" saints.

In a sermon entitled "Did You Hear Me," the Rev. Eddie Bright, a son of Antioch and Pastor of Mount Zion, preached from Isaiah 40:28-31.

Bright recalled that when his parents summoned him he was oftentimes so consumed with what he was doing that he did not hear them. In the same way, he said, we get so busy, so tied up in our own affairs that we don't hear God calling us.

Not only must we guard against that, he said, we must be careful not to worship idols who can never have the power of God, our Creator.

"We must not get weary while waiting but remember, as Pastor Alexander says, 'God doesn't have to do anything by



Friday,'" Bright said. "God will help and strengthen us through our wait if we trust Him." *By Karen McKinney Holley*

OCTOBER

Raising awareness: A walk against cancer

Several Antioch members participated in local breast cancer awareness events held in October.

The Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, held Oct. 17 and sponsored by Morehouse College, the alma mater of both Antioch Baptist Church North Pastor Cameron Alexander and Co-Pastor Kenneth Alexander, took a two-mile path around the Atlanta University Center to raise awareness about breast cancer in the African-American community.

It followed the Pink Frog Affair,

an evening of poetry, music, and dance, celebrating breast cancer survivors and honoring the memory of loved ones who lost their lives to the disease.

A week later on Oct. 24, the American Cancer Society held its annual Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk in Centennial Park.

Because breast cancer diagnoses are rising among African-American women and men, organizers this year stressed the importance of early detection.

All money raised through the effort



stays in Georgia and is used to provide free screenings for those who cannot afford them.

By Karen McKinney Holley

Co-pastor tells Fifth District fellowship God is CEO

The Fifth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., held its quarterly fellowship Oct. 6 at the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

Antioch turned out in large numbers in support of Co-Pastor Kenneth Alexander, who brought the message. The Vesels of Praise danced to “In the Safety of His Arms” and the C.M.A. Note Singers brought the congregation to its feet singing “Heaven’s Gonna Shout.”

In his sermon entitled “My Father’s Business,” taken from Luke 2:49, Rev. Alexander reminded those gathered that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus had traveled to



Jerusalem to attend the Passover celebration and that “every worship service we attend is like a Passover celebration as we are reminded that death passed

over us as we slept.”

Like Mary and Joseph, he said that when we find ourselves out of the presence of the Lord, we need to turn back, seek him, and expect to find him in the Temple.

Jesus told his earthly parents that he had to be about his Father’s business, and we, too, should be following God’s business plan that He wrote in 66 books.

“God is the CEO; Jesus is the CFO, and the Holy Ghost is the COO, and following the instructions in the Employee Handbook will lead to an abundant life,” Alexander said.

By Karen McKinney Holley



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.

Fall Women's Retreat a Holy Ghost experience

Nearly 150 women from Antioch Baptist Church North made the trip to Orange Beach, Ala., for this year's fall Retreat.

The weekend retreat, hosted by the church Womanhood Ministry, kicked off just hours after arriving at the fabulous Perdido Beach Resort, Oct. 16, and began with what was billed as "A Night of Royalty." Sisters dressed "to the nines" in purple evening attire mirrored the weekend weather.

"Simply gorgeous," one member said.

As the theme, taken from Jeremiah 29:11, suggested: they turned out "*Standing on the Promises of God.*"

Drawing from the theme, Sis. Cynthia Butler-McIntyre, a member of Olive Branch Baptist Church in Algiers, La., delivered a powerful keynote address that challenged women to stand firm in the faith as they endure the challenges that will come during their journey.

As if that weren't enough, Saturday's gathering on the beach at sunrise was a sight to behold and the prayers offered on behalf of the Antioch church, the old and young, the sick and shut-in were as powerful as they were stirring. The morning was clear and cool but the gathering was warmed by the move of the Holy Spirit. More than 10 bystanders joined in the fellowship.

"All was right with the world," one woman observed.

With the Holy Spirit still moving, the sisters moved inside for breakfast, games and split into groups for the six "Break-Out Sessions,"

that included spiritual lessons on everything from Christian Sisterhood to the Grieving Process and Right Relationships.

Two breakout sessions were of particular note:

How to Stand When Life Deals You a Bad Hand, presented by Sister Adrienne McGahee-Jackson, who offered this daily instructional message:

S-T-A-N-D:

S - Surrender Serenity Prayer

T - Trust in God

A - Awareness of the Lesson

N - New Challenge

D - Decide how to Move Forward And ***When the Knot Feels Like a Noose,*** presented Sis Shatavia A. Thomas. Thomas encouraged attendees to:

- Recognize the levels of stress related to obligations, commitments, etc.
- Learn benefits of dealing with that stress and related feelings in healthy ways
- Learn ways to find a balance between connection and independence/freedom
- Maximize strengths and resources

Sis. Margaret R. Edinburgh called the experience awesome and Sis. D'Bora Emory said that she and her mother, Ms. Helen Emory-Campbell, were blessed to be surrounded by their Christian sisters for three days of joy, peace, and happiness.

"I will always remember this experience as a time of fellowship, giving all honor and glory to God in a public display of song, dance and prayer," she said.

By Leslie Johnson



NOVEMBER

Baptist women meet for day of prayer

Antioch joined the Fifth District Women of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., and several other Baptist organizations on Nov. 7 for the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer.

The day of prayer was held at Peachtree Baptist Church.

In addition to the GMBC, a leg of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., members of the New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. and its Northern Region, and the Atlanta Baptist Women on Mission/

WMU were also in attendance.

The annual day of prayer, which draws women from around the world together to pray for each other and their nations, began in 1948 following the devastation and division of World War II as "a means to reunite Baptists separated by the pain and devastation of war, and to strengthen the spiritual bonds in years to come."

Still today, women from many war-torn countries meet on this day to pray for the needs of others at home and abroad.

For instance, many women in Asia and African countries are suffering persecution for trying to worship Christ. They are seized, put in jail and even killed if they are found defying the laws of their country and gathering for worship.

In keeping with this year's theme, "In step with the Spirit through Kindness," heartfelt prayers were offered for women who are suffering and the strength to reach out to assist those who are unable to worship freely.

By Karen McKinney Holley



ANTIOCH FAMILY!

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GMBC delegates honor Pastor C.M. Alexander, remember Sis. Thomas

Delegates to the 145th Annual Session of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., were urged to continue putting hands and feet to the theme, Solidarity with the Savior through Mission and Evangelism.

The session, held Nov. 9-12, is a combination of worship, education, mission, evangelism, business, and fellowship. Special tribute was paid to Pastor Cameron Alexander and Sis. Rosalie Thomas, an avid supporter of the convention.

Mission projects that included filling 1,500 backpacks with personal items and school supplies and delivering them to Division of Family and Children Services offices in counties across the state for foster children was supported President Kenneth B. Martin's call to action.

Martin is pastor of Antioch Baptist



Sis. Rosalie Thomas

Church in Augusta.

As does at every GMBC meeting, the S.W.A.T. (Saints with a Testimony) team hit the streets to evangelize the lost and encourage the backslider to re-dedicate their lives. In some cities,

the evangelism was accompanied by food and clothing donations, health screenings, free grooming services, and fun activities for children.

Workshops on heart disease and women and mandatory reporting of child abuse provided the delegates with solid information to take back to their congregations to increase personal health and safety for our children.

During the memorial period of the Women's President's Hour, Sis. Rosalie Thomas, who was not only a strong Antioch member but an ardent supporter and hard worker in the GMBC for many years was remembered.

Antioch Pastor Cameron Alexander, President Emeritus of the GMBC, Inc. was presented with a plaque and medallion in recognition of his 50 plus years of pastoring.

By Karen McKinney Holley

Annual bowl provides nourishment for the soul

For three nights in mid-November, the Fifth District gathered for its annual Soul Bowl Revival held at Macedonia Baptist Church.

The Nov. 17-19 services followed several days of evangelism in the surrounding community by the Laymen's Auxiliary and S.W.A.T. team fulfilling the theme, "Solidarity with the Savior through Mission and Evangelism."

In one of several workshops titled "Why You Should Be a Soul Winner," Rev. Curtis expounded on four reasons every Christian should seek to win the lost to Christ. Sis. Patricia Lawson, wife of 5th District President Rev. W. J. Lawson, presented a workshop on how to effectively engage youth in the life of the Church and build their faith to help them resist the world's temptations and live for Christ. And the Rev. Daniel Dickson, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church (Joyland) taught that one must be equipped before seeking to evangelize.

"There was a deficiency in the disciples, and when the man brought his son to them, they could not heal him," Dickson said. "We must allow the Holy Spirit to work in us if we are to have power."



Rev. Eddie Bright delivers the message.

Antioch's son and pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, the Rev. Eddie Bright, preached on the opening night of the revival, taking his text from I Kings 17:3-13.

When Elijah followed God's directions, he had all he needed, Bright said. Likewise, we will have what we need if we're willing to go where God sends us.

"Your blessing is over there," Bright said.

On the final night, host pastor Rev. Johnny Johnson preached "The Message and the Ministry of Reconcilia-

tion" based on 2Cor 5:17-21.

He began by telling the story of two brothers whose animosity caused one to put a wide creek between their adjoining properties. The second brother asked a carpenter to build a fence high and wide enough to keep him from being able to see the other brother's property, but the carpenter built a bridge instead, and the two brothers were reconciled.

We need to build more bridges than fences as we relate to others, Johnson said.

By Karen McKinney Holley

UPCOMING EVENT

BLACK HISTORY...OUR HISTORY MATTERS!

On Saturday, February 27, the Youth Ministry invites the congregation to the **Antioch Black History Heritage Festival** between 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Festival is entitled "**We are the Drum..From Africa to America...We are the Drum.**" Join us as we walk through the Black Heritage Museum, learn about our journey from Africa to America and hear about the history of Atlanta, Antioch and Tuskegee University. Your participation in the **Dreaming Out Loud** experience will help build a strong future for our Youth. Persons interested in participating should see Bro. David Vaughn, Bro. Kurt Gilbert, Bro. P. J. Simpson, Sis. Judi Rawls or Sis. Homerzelle Gentry.

Vesper Service

One out of 10 offered praise

By Gracie Staples

The story of the 10 lepers in the 17th chapter of Luke is a familiar one. It is also a favorite of the Rev. Kenneth Alexander, co-pastor of Antioch Baptist Church North.

Alexander made that observation during the opening moments of his keynote address at the annual Vesper Service where he had been invited to speak Nov. 15 at the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel.

While revisiting the passage, he said he “got caught up with the connecting word “and” because it was a reminder that when Jesus is in your life there is no end to your story.

Indeed, when he looks back, he said he realizes “my life is a long list of accumulated blessings. I was lost and he found me. I stumbled and fell and he picked me up. I was hungry and he put food on my table.”

“Somebody ought to praise him for the ‘and’,” he said to rousing amens.

Looking back on one’s life doesn’t mean living in the past, Alexander said. It does mean, however, recognizing we have a reason to praise God because “it came to pass.”

“Jesus knows how to give us some passing through power,” he said.

Alexander, a Morehouse man like his father, the Rev. Cameron Alexander, said that when he arrived there in 1981, he did everything he could to run from his



call to the ministry.

He later transferred to Florida A & M, where he met his wife Lisa, but returned to the college in 1990 and graduated in 1992. To earn his degree, Alexander acknowledged needing some passing through power.

Then turning to the scripture, he said the writer Luke noted that Jesus met 10 lepers, standing afar off. The lepers, however, got as close as they were allowed under the law and cried out. “Lord have mercy on us.”

When Jesus saw them, he told them to go and show themselves to the priest, and as they ran they were healed.

All 10 of the men were healed but only one returned to thank and offer Jesus praise.

“Nine of the 10 got their blessing and kept going,” Alexander said. “Praise him. I’m not one of the 10.”

An Antioch debutante



Price makes her debut

By Debbie Jo Carol

For three years, Alexandria Simone Price dreamed of becoming a Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority debutante.

As such she’d follow in the footsteps of her mother, Alexia Price, and grandmother, Sis. Barbara Barnes, both long-time members of Antioch Baptist Church North.

That dream came true Nov. 12, when Price, a senior at Woodland High School in Stockbridge, was crowned “Miss Rhomania” queen of the Debutante Ball, sponsored by the Eta Sigma Chapter.

Price, who has been a member of Antioch since age five, said the experience helped broaden her life vision and encouraged her to believe in herself and work to make a difference in the world.

“I am excited to have had the opportunity to participate in this very elegant cotillion,” she said.

Alexandria is the daughter of Guy and Alexia Price and sister of Michael Price. She plans to attend college in the fall and major in nursing.

Fall Revival *By Gracie Staples*

Simmons returns for three nights of restoration

Antioch Baptist Church North held its annual fall revival Oct. 28-30 with the Rev. Jermaine Simmons, one of the sons of the church and the pastor of Jacob's Chapel in Tallahassee as the guest preacher.

Here's a synopsis from the three nights:

October 28

Scripture: Psalms 1:1-3

Subject: Roots and Fruits

Sermon Notes: Whenever there is a discussion about the Church, there are many labels applied to us. Ye are the light of the world. The salt of the earth. Like a tree planted by rivers of water. There are some things in our environment that can stunt our spiritual growth. Our character can be corrupted by our compassion. Just as you are what you eat, you're known by the company you keep. We have to get over the desire to fit, to be liked by others. God doesn't intend for us to fit in with everybody. David said don't walk with them; don't sit by them.

As a child of God, you ought to find delight in the law of the Lord. Growth is a process. None of us come here ready-made Christians. David said you got to be like a tree planted by rivers of water but you have to stay long enough



to see some results. Even when I cry, my roots are getting deeper. It was the hard times that made us trust God.

October 29

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12: 7-9

Subject: What do you do when God says 'no'

Sermon Notes: All of us were born selfish, wanting what we want when we want it. We learn very early that if we act a certain way, we get what we want. And when we hear the word no, tantrums kick in. We've raised a generation of Christians who only

expect yeses from God. We're taught that whatever we speak into the atmosphere, it will be. As a result, we're raising a generation of Bible brats.

To keep us grounded, God allows thorns to keep our egos under control. We don't know what the Apostle Paul's thorn was, but we know he prayed for God to remove it. God's answer to Paul was "my grace is sufficient."

Grace isn't all about getting out but about Jesus getting in us, being with us in the midst of our situation.

October 30

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-5

Subject: God is not through with me yet

Sermon Notes: God has a plan for your life. No matter who you are, your personal circumstances, you should never lose sight of the fact you have a purpose. As we consider the text, I need to talk to those who wear the label seasoned saint. You're saved. You're satisfied. You're not struggling with what you believe. You're not going on what you heard about Jesus. You've experienced him. You've seen him calm your storm. You've seen him make a way out of no way. Everything in your life is stable. Your finances are stable. You have a roof over your head.

But what would you do if God came in one day and decided to shake things up?

Abraham was 75 and just when he thought he had life figured out along comes God to announce where you are isn't where you will end. Some times in order to grow up you got to be repotted.

Never get resigned to your circumstances. No matter who you are, never lose sight of the fact you have a purpose. Just because things are improbable doesn't mean they're impossible.

Scenes from the 145th GMBC Annual Session



Johnsons celebrate anniversary at Calvary Hill

Antioch attended in large numbers Dec. 6, to mark the first pastoral anniversary of the Rev. Craig Johnson at Calvary Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ellenwood.

The theme, "Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord, Serving the Lord with Gladness" was quite fitting for the occasion. Even though dinner was served prior to the worship service, it was so lively there was no danger of anyone falling asleep.

Our own Sis. Sylvia Lester and Rev. Rodney Reese led the Calvary Hill Choir in two selections after which the Antioch Adult Choir provided musical selections.

When the offering was taken and the ushers did



their "Usher's Strut," Rev. Craig and Sis. Belinda, following in the footsteps of Sis. Barbara Alexander, joined them. Dea. Clarence Hicks did not join the usher's line but did the "Deacon's Step,"

and the church erupted.

Drawing his message from Isaiah 43:10, Pastor Alexander said that in the Bible, churches are not known by individual names but by the cities in which they are lo-

cated because there is only one church in different locations.

"I don't know why God selected human beings to be His witnesses because I am sure Stone Mountain would have a louder voice to proclaim every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.," he said.

Flashing lightning, clapping thunder, and a roaring ocean would be louder, he said, but God chose man to proclaim His word.

And so for a year, he said, "Calvary Hill has been coming to hear Rev. Johnson be God's witness as he preaches a person, Jesus Christ, a right now God."

By Karen McKinney Holley

10 Tips for facing real cost of college

By Gracie Staples

1. Stay in state: There's simply no denying that having your child attend an in-state, public university can be a huge money-saver.
2. Consider community college: When money is tight but college is a priority, a community college can be your best friend.
3. Look local for scholarships: Think your student has to have off-the-chart intelligence or exceptional athletic ability to get a scholarship? Think again. Scholarships exist for all kinds of students, including those with a particular passion, strong leaders, and service-minded kids.
4. Keep your student on track: Nothing can cause college cost overruns like having to stay in school an extra semester, an extra year, or more.
5. Don't make assumptions: You may figure that your family won't qualify for need-based aid, but go through the motions just in case. Start by filling out the FAFSA.
6. Know your priorities: Avoid making a huge Target or Wal-Mart run before you leave for school. Bring only the necessities and make a list over the next few weeks of what you really need.
7. Make the most of your meal plan: At the end of my first semester at school, I still had 50 meals that I hadn't used, which made me regret all those trips to Chipotle and McDonald's. Many dining halls offer take-away lunches that you can use instead of buying lunch on campus or picking up snacks at the grocery store.
8. Identify local student discounts: Many college town businesses, such as local shops and restaurants, will offer great savings if you show your student ID.
9. Skimp on the small stuff: When it comes to school supplies, pretty floral notebooks and sets of 24 highlighters may be tempting, but these can be double the cost of more basic items.
10. Know when to say "no": It's a hard pill to swallow, but you can't buy every last t-shirt, baseball cap, or tote bag that your club or organization offers.

Antioch's Toy Drive December 19, 2015

& Christmas Giveaway



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