

# IN MEMORIUM

Connecting  
People  
to Christ



# The Church at Antioch

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

October - December 2018

Volume 8, Issue 9

## Cameron M. Alexander 1932 - 2018

The Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander, who spent more than four decades as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church North, was summoned home Dec. 30, 2018. He was 86.

Born Feb. 12, 1932 to the Rev. Homer M. and Augusta (Hutchins) Alexander, he was a natural leader who honed that skill at Booker T. Washington High School where he ran track, played football and the saxophone. Not surprising, history was his favorite subject, but a pretty majorette named Barbara Jackson was his favorite girl.

He graduated in 1948 before heading to Florida A&M University, serving in the U.S. Air Force, and eventually graduating from Morehouse College. On Nov. 28, 1954, he married the love of his life, and to their union, was born four children - Cameron Eric, Gregory Madison, Kenneth Lamont

*Continued on page 10*



*Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander and his "Honey", Barbara J. Alexander—together again in Heaven.*

## Barbara J. Alexander 1933-2019

Just days after Antioch Baptist Church North gathered to celebrate the life of Pastor Cameron Madison Alexander, Barbara Jackson Alexander left to join him.

And so, on Jan. 19, 2019, Antioch gathered once more to bid farewell to her first lady and Pastor Alexander's Honey.

She was born Barbara Evelyn to the late John Henry Jackson and Emma Booker and demonstrated at an early age a love for Christ, a zest for life and comportment of style and grace.

Mrs. A, as she was affectionately known, was educated in the Wilkes County School District and Atlanta Public Schools. She met Pastor Alexander at Booker T. Washington High School, where she was a majorette, and the two were married Nov. 28, 1954.

When her husband answered his call to the ministry, Mrs. A committed to

*Continued on page 11*

### INSIDE

- 2 Remembering Pastor & Mrs. A
- 5 ACE Workshop
- 6 Lett: Church Anniversary
- 8 Twymans donate marquee
- 9 Fall Revival

# Antioch members remember Pastor and Mrs. A

## “Pastor and Sis. A loved us”



**Fran and Willie Carter** - Willie and I have so many fond memories of our Pastor Alexander and his beautiful and AMAZING wife Sis. Barbara J. Alexander, it would take forever for us to share, so we will share a memory that Pastor and Sis. A instilled in

us during Marriage Counseling almost 17 years ago, in hopes that our marriage would be blessed with love and longevity.

Pastor gave us scriptures to live by, one that he mentioned most often, Ephesians 5:22 & 25:

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”

He told us never to let nothing and no one come between us. More than anything, our Pastor and Sis. A, lived by example. The way he so affectionately called her “HONEY”; the way they walked so proud when they were together and the way they talked so affectionately about each other.

We know that Pastor and Sis. A loved us because they were ALWAYS concerned with our well-being. We loved them so much and will forever cherish them in our hearts. May they RIH together.

## “She told me to never change”



**Tito Hicks** - I got to know Mrs. A up close and personal.

How you might ask? We stayed across the street from the church, the old building. My great grandmother, Mary Ray, was always at the church doing something: teaching Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, visiting the sick and shut-in, etc.

I would always meet Mrs. A on the Northside Drive entrance either as she was getting out of that big old Mercedes or as she was leaving.

“Tico” is what she called me no matter how many times I corrected her. Eventually I just took on “Tico,” but she was the only one who could get away with it.

She liked to talk and I liked to listen and ask questions. She was patient and kind and no matter when she saw me she would say, “Hey Tico.”

I was much younger then but she told me to never change who I am to make others comfortable. I carry that in my heart to this day.

## “I will miss his words of wisdom”



**Sharon Cobey** - I started attending Antioch Baptist Church North in the Spring of 1984 because my sister told me about this young preacher there who preached the Word of God in everyday “folk” language where she could understand his message versus the “traditional preaching style” that was customary in my hometown of Albany, GA.

She was correct! I joined the first Antioch and the Psalms 150.

I didn’t have a personal relationship with Rev. Alexander like a lot of Antioch members but I admired his leadership and was proud to call him my Pastor. He was a people’s pastor and you could instantly tell that he had a love affair with Antioch. I also admired how he was very protective of the sanctity of God’s house. He was all about doing things in decency and in order. I loved the fact that our worship services remain true to our heritage as a black church, from the deacons and mothers leading devotion to the Note Choir singing. These are all special nuggets of our services that Rev. Alexander kept in place and are still enjoyed today.

I will miss his words of wisdom and his Christian teachings and I am so grateful that I was under his teachings for the past 35 years. He will truly be missed.

## “You came and got me”



**Tom Jennings** - I first came to Antioch Baptist Church North when I was in college, and a member asked Rev. Alexander if our choir could sing at the church while in Atlanta. He extended us an invitation.

Being the son of a Baptist pastor, I knew of Reverend but had not met him.

Years later, in 1987, Reverend preached our summer revival at the Ebenezer Baptist Church West in Athens. One night in particular, he spoke from Psalm 23:5: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.

Three weeks later, my district manager promoted me to Atlanta. I came to Antioch that Sunday, and when Reverend extended the invitation, I joined.

I often laughed and said to him, “You came and got me.”

Over the 31 plus years as a member of Antioch Baptist Church North, I came to appreciate the creative way in which he delivered God’s word, and I’m so thankful that I was able to tell him how much I loved and appreciated him as my pastor and spiritual leader.



## Antioch siblings establish student union at Roswell High

Antioch siblings Rachel, David, and Michael Henderson made black history by establishing a Black Student Union at Roswell High School. The club has over 25 members and two teacher sponsors. Of the eight officers, Rachel is co-president, David is co-vice president, and Michael is chief financial officer.

“I wanted unity at school, and I wanted to meet more people like me so that we could talk about ‘black issues,’” said Rachel when asked why she joined the club.

Roswell High’s student body is approximately 57 percent

white, 16 percent black, 20 percent Hispanic, and four percent Asian.

The first BSU was started at San Francisco State University in 1967 during the Civil Rights Movement to encourage students to strive for academic excellence, promote positive images of African Americans, provide safe spaces to meet other black students, and engage in discussions about black issues. Today there are BSUs on high school and college campuses all over the world.

## Sunday School conference meets in Nashville

The 40th National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc. Sunday School Publishing Board Conference, held in December was true to its theme: “Empowering Christians to Engage the Culture.”

The classes, lectures and sermons, held over three days in Nashville, TN, provided sound biblically-based doctrine with modern applications. In the class on the book of James, Rev. Terrence Chandler-Harrison, teaching on James 2:26 and putting faith into action said, “Believers are called to respond to the ills of the world with faith-activated actions, not proclamations. Faith without action does not project, provide or produce. Don’t be guilty of being a faith imposter, a spiritual Milli Vanilli.”

Antioch uses Sunday School, Liv-

ing the Baptist Faith Bible Studies on Wednesday nights, and Vacation Bible School materials from our NBC publisher.

In his lecture entitled “For Mature Audiences Only,” Dr. Charles E. Booth noted that the Christian life includes suffering. “Stephen is an example of kingdom suffering; he was stoned to death for preaching about Christ. Thirteen times in the Bible there is reference to Jesus juxtapositioned next to God in heaven. In 12, he is seated. Only here is he standing. He is not standing in order to see Stephen but so that Stephen can see him.”

Rev. Johnny H. Flakes, III, pastor of Fourth Street BC in Columbus and son of Antioch, was named the Southeast Regional Coordinator and held his



first meeting of the region during the conference. In his new role, he said he expects the same stellar support from Antioch that he has always received. If you want to grow as a Christian, put this Conference on your calendar in 2019.

# OCTOBER



*Rev. Kenneth Alexander and wife Lisa try out one of the new sofas.*

*A fabulous and long-awaited renovation was finally put on full display in a magnificent reveal on November 4. New furniture, decor, and lighting has refreshed Burden's Rest, enhancing its role as a meeting place of quiet reflection, meditation, and fellowship. Welcome additions include "Thy Word," a wall of framed perspectives on bible verses of significance.*

## Seniors gather for annual luncheon

A large delegation of Antioch seniors, joined by seniors from 12 other metro-Atlanta congregations, attended the annual Senior Saints Luncheon held Oct. 18 at Mount Zion Baptist Church, where the Rev. Eddie Bright is pastor.

Bright, a son of Antioch, took his text from Acts 16:16-40, walking through the account of Paul and Silas in prison. When you know God's word, you know His promises,

including that He'll "make your enemy your footstool," he said. Paul and Silas had been wounded for proclaiming Christ, but in verse 33, God had the keeper of the prison wash the wounds he had inflicted upon them.

"Jesus will earthquake situations in your life when you believe in him, and he will set you free," Bright preached. When you serve that kind of God, an earthquake can come in the mid-



dle of Atlanta and not touch want to know about the God you serve.

## ACE members told to have a solid business strategy

To have a successful business, one must have a strategy, Min. Herman Cain told those who gathered Oct. 27 for the Antioch Christian Entrepreneurs workshop.

Having a strategy is a good first step, but he asked “Do you have a solid strategy?”

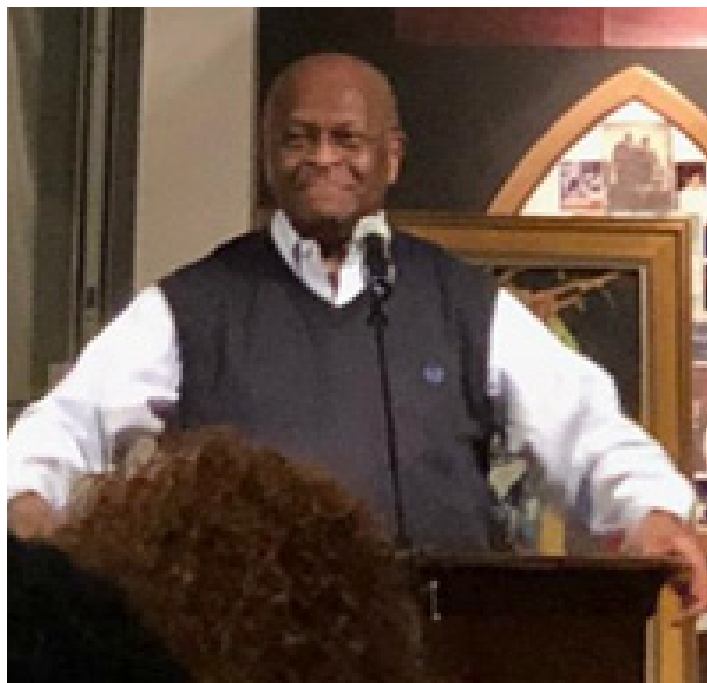
Successful strategies, he said, should include looking at economically depressed areas, where one can take advantage of tax cuts and partnering with others to provide a range of businesses to impact the entire area. By doing so, you will uplift and inspire the people who live in the area because they will know someone cares about them.

Cain emphasized the need for exceptional quality, in whether the business in-

volves product or service and noted the difference between “sick puppies” and companies with a solid strategy that provide a service, like business owner and ACE member Joseph Malbrough. Malbrough was named the 2018 Small Business Person of the Year by the Smyrna Business Association.

ACE members displayed their businesses, providing products or appointments for services.

Antioch member, David Vaughn, author of *A Healthier You*, is an example of the multi-faceted business presentation presented by Min. Cain. “Going Places...Doing Things” is his personal career and event planning business. He is also a cater-



er and provided the food for the workshop.

Artist Cecil Bernard, dubbed “the artist to the stars” because his works are displayed in some of the

country’s most prominent homes, sold his art work.

He says he is “inspired by the struggle, humor and spirituality in the balance of life.”

## Baptist Association hosts Annual Session

“Being Committed to God’s Work in the New Millennium: NOW” was the theme of this year’s Mt. Hermon Missionary Baptist Association Annual Session held Oct. 23-25 at Zion Grove Baptist Church.

President Deidre R. Thomas-Watson urged everyone to look at the energy and time invested in activities outside of the church and compare them to the time spent in service to God. She then challenged everyone to make a commitment to “a nevertheless obedience to serve the Lord over other activities that sap one’s energy and time for an eternal impact instead of a temporary pleasure.”

On Tuesday evening, the Youth Department Team held the Annual King and Queen Musical, the major fund

raiser for monies used for scholarships presented to a graduating youth from each member church.

Two sermons were presented during the Wednesday morning session.

Rev. Dr. W. J. Lawson, pastor of Cornerstone Community Missionary Baptist Church and President of the GMBC Fifth District, preached the memorial sermon, “The Struggle is Real... The Lord Has Plans for You,” based on Jeremiah 29:11-12. Rev. Arthur Carson, pastor of Atlanta’s Springfield Missionary Baptist Church, and President of the Mt. Hermon Congress of Christian Education, gave the introductory sermon. He detailed three ways to get on board to serve in his sermon based on Luke 5:1-11, “On Board to Serve.”

During the afternoon session, Dea-

Byron Whatley, Laymen President, spoke about Jonah in “You Can Run, But You Can’t Hide.” The Rev. Norman Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church in Decatur, preached from James 3, saying we can keep our mouths in check by evaluating our heart, mind and speech.

Closing out the session on Thursday, the Rev. Douglas Stowers, President of the New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, gave the doctrinal sermon. He said that we need to reclaim the Sabbath. He was followed by Moderator Stanley Smith, pastor of Greater Fellowship Baptist Church, who, preaching from Psalm 100, said that we must rejoice in our praise.

## NOVEMBER

### Church Anniversary

# Lett: “Don’t quit, don’t come down”

On the Sunday set aside to celebrate the 141st anniversary of Antioch Baptist Church North, the Rev. Benjamin Lett offered the congregation encouragement from this passage found in Nehemiah 6: 1-3:

“Now it came to pass when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;)

“That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

“And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?”

Lett, president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education and pastor of Hill Chapel Baptist Church in Athens, assured Antioch that it, too, is doing a great

work.

“Don’t quit, don’t come down,” he said.

Although we live in a time when sin is brazen, when people will do anything, including violate places of worship, Lett said the church still has a charge to keep and a God to glorify.

“Don’t let anyone fool you, the church is still alive,” he said. “Christ said on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

And so, Lett said that the church has nothing to do but stand boldly and not quit. We have an assignment on our lives, and it will not be complete until the weary be at rest.

“Don’t you know all other things will pass away, but God’s wisdom and his church will stand forever,” he said.

Returning to the text, Lett said that Israel has been released from captivity, and a message comes to Nehemiah, the King’s cupbearer, that things in his homeland aren’t what they once were. People don’t worship like they used to. Nehemiah, he

said, goes into prayer, and God places on his heart to go back home.

In the same way, Lett said that God has placed a desire in us to be like Him, but it’s going to take all of us to make sure the walls don’t fall.

Well, Nehemiah is back home, the walls are up, and now he has opposition from Sanballat and Tobiah.

Like Nehemiah, Lett said that whenever you are about something, you’re going to have opposition. Whenever you are working on your assignment, you’re going to have opposition. Because you have God’s name on your back, you’re a target.

But as the passage indicates, Nehemiah refuses to quit the work God gave him to do.

The challenge for Antioch, Lett said, is to continue the work.

Don’t just come to church, Lett said, but be the church. Don’t just sing the songs, live the songs.

In the final analysis, Lett told those gathered Nov. 11, to be careful who they listen to because they have a



*Rev. Benjamin Lett*

charge to keep; be careful what they look at because everything in their view is not for them; and keep looking straight ahead.

“I look back over 140 years; some people didn’t make it,” he said. “I show up every now and then, but I quit. We’ve got to stay in there and fight. What would’ve happened had Jesus quit: if he had not breathed the words ‘Father forgive them.’”

Jesus stayed on the cross; he stayed in the grave, but early Sunday morning, he got up from the grave.

“We’ve done a good work,” Lett said. “We’ve hung in there, but the race is not over; the victory hasn’t been won. Stay on the wall, and don’t come down.”



## 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)



## Delegates to annual session receive spiritual and physical food

At the 148th Annual session of the General Missionary Baptist Convention in November, President Martin, likened the catalog of ills in America today to those endured by the Israelites during their Babylonian captivity.

“They were asked by the very people who inflicted misery upon them to sing for them,” Martin said during his annual address in Athens.

When mistreated on your job, abused in the justice system and cheated in the counting of your vote, he said, remember that you still belong to God. Don’t let anyone stop you from singing your song; tell somebody how good God has been to you knowing that ‘At the Cross’ Jesus gave you assured passage to another land where glory dwells, joy flows like a river and everyone loves everyone.”

Each ministry presented a report at the Executive Board meeting of the activities and accomplishments of the past year. President Martin tasked



each of them to focus on mission and evangelism.

As each ministry met for its retreat

or annual conference, food and clothing donations were given to a local charity or ministry; individual ministries collected and distributed items such as school supplies, shoes and pajamas for foster children. The entire Convention continued its collection of Dial soap for distribution to women in Georgia’s prisons where the soap is so harsh, it causes skin problems. Additionally, the Disaster Response Ministry actively responded within days of Hurricane Michael and followed up to assist with cleanup in the weeks following. Those who responded to evangelistic efforts were referred to local churches; one person was baptized during the Annual Session.

Delegates had the opportunity to have their kidney function tested and receive health information. NBC Certificate of Progress classes, Mission Institute and Young People’s Department seminars provided Christian education opportunities.

## AUMI celebrates anniversary, recognizes partners

Antioch Urban Ministries Inc. celebrated its 26th anniversary in high style with a benefit gala Nov. 30 at the Atlanta Airport Marriott Gateway.

In all that time, the ministry has transformed thousands of lives and saved countless individuals from the ravages of poverty, unemployment, and inadequate health care.

Add to that people suffering from HIV/AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse and those caught in the criminal justice system.

The gala, however, wasn’t just about AUMI. The ministry also celebrated those who have helped fulfill its mission.

Those included John Ahmann, President/CEO of Westside Future Fund, who received the 2018 Chairman’s Award, presented to individuals and corporate citizens anchored in



*John Ahmann*



*Dionne Moore-Peasant*



*Noel Khalil*

the mission of AUMI and whose charity and generosity exceed the height of eagles.

This year’s Eagle Award was presented to Dionne Moore-Peasant, CEO of Meat Masters, Inc.

This award is given to recognize church and community members for outstanding contributions to the mis-

sion, goals, ideals, and spirit of AUMI.

The Macedonian Award, presented to Noel Khalil, Chairman/CEO of Columbia Residential Apartments, is given to human rights activists who seek to improve the quality of life for humankind on an international level while ensuring that there is no abrogation of their human rights.

## Fifth District holds annual Soul Bowl

On three nights in November, the Fifth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia held its Soul Bowl Revival at Welcome All Baptist Church.

The Soul Bowl was started by Antioch Baptist Church North's late pastor, Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander. He got the idea one day while watching the sports portion of the local news, and there was "so much excitement as the teams playing in the various 'Bowls' were announced."

A few days later at church, Alexander, then President of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., said he heard several conversations about Bowl games and Bowl parties and thought, "It would be great if people would get as excit-

ed about souls being saved as they get about these football games."

He met with the GMBC leadership and formulated a plan for emphasizing witnessing and rejoicing over souls being saved and called the idea Soul Bowl.

Today, the GMBC's 12 districts hold Soul Bowl Revivals in the weeks leading up to the first Saturday in December when the Statewide Soul Bowl is held at the Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church in Macon. The Laymen's Department and Saints With A Testimony teams go door-to-door in designated areas with the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Those contacted are invited to attend the Soul Bowl Revivals or their local churches.



*Jonah Hildreth, son of Randall and Jan Hildreth, donated clothing and other items he collected for the homeless to the Antioch Baptist Church North clothing bank. His efforts, which included producing a documentary on homelessness, grew out of a classroom human rights assignment he completed in 2018.*



## Twyman family donates church marquee

Dozens of Antioch North members gathered Nov. 4 to mark the installation of the church's marquee at the corner of Northside Drive and Cameron Madison Alexander Boulevard.

The state-of-the-art screen is topped by a replica of Antioch's iconic roof, and rests upon four pillars, a physical representation of what the church is (Bible-based, Christ-centered, Holy Spirit-led, and Mission-bound) and what it stands on (Fellowship, Evangelism, Doctrine, and Stewardship).

The marquee was made possible by a donation from Mrs. Maudette Twyman and family in memory of her late hus-

band, Lovell. A plaque commemorating their generosity sits at the base of the marquee. Mrs. Twyman read a statement of thanks, and son Van Twyman, an Antioch deacon, spoke lovingly of memories shared with his family and the church.

Prayers of devotion, dedication, and gratitude were sent skyward. Sis. Elaxis Neal thrilled the gathering with a soaring rendition of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," and the ribbon was cut by Mrs. Twyman and Reverend K.L. Alexander.

In 1991, Pastor Rev. Cameron M. Alexander asked, "how do we adequately

express who we are and WHO do we represent? Our pastor always had the vision to let the community know that Antioch will always stay right there on the corner to continue to reach out and save lost souls."

In addition to dedicating the marquee, members also celebrated the redesign of Burden's Rest, a place where they and their immediate family can go to meditate, meet for counseling and comfort, and welcome Antioch guests and visitors.

The redesign was just one of three at the church. Both women's restrooms also got makeovers.



## DECEMBER

# Fall Revival

The 141st Antioch Baptist Church North Anniversary/Thanksgiving Revival was held Nov. 7-9. Instead of one revivalist, there were three. Below is a synopsis of each night's sermon.

**Nov. 7 - Rev. E. L. Jones**

**Pastor of First Corinth Baptist Church**

**Subject: An Empowered Church for a Sinful World**

Sermon notes: Based on Acts 3:8. Jesus commanded his disciples to go back to home base to wait and tarry for the promise of the Father. He didn't want them to go out unequipped. People come into the church with shallow faith, hollow commitments and no prayer life expecting happiness and peace. "We must remind them that Jesus fixed at Calvary what was broken in the Garden of Eden, and because he died and rose, the plan of redemption is complete. He did not leave us alone but sent the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, who will empower you if you prepare with prayer before you go out on the front line."

**Nov. 8 - Rev. Clayton Taylor**

**Pastor of Saint Paul Baptist Church and President of the Fifth District Congress of Christian Education**

**Subject: When God Uses the Worst to Bring Out the Best in Us**

Sermon notes: Concentrating on Genesis 50:19-20, Taylor gave a catalog of biblical personalities for whom the devil caused evil and trouble, trying to bring out the worst in them. No matter how good you think you are, the devil will try to bring out the worst in you. However, God is sovereign and will override, overrule, and overturn any evil the devil throws against us and then turn around and use it to bring out the best in us. Sometimes we've got to be stretched, cut open, pressed down and go

through storm and rain in order for God to bring out the best in us. "Like Allstate insurance, you're in good hands." God assumes complete liability and total coverage head to toe, including inside coverage for your body and mind. Nothing happens to you that God doesn't know about, and He can use the worst situation to bring out your best. An oyster must be irritated in order to produce a pearl. One Friday, it took an old rugged cross to bring out the best in Jesus in order to give us the best.

**Nov. 9 - Rev. M. Davis**

**Pastor of the Greater Ephesus Baptist Church**

**Subject: The Power of the Holy Ghost: You've Got To Do Something To Get Something**

Sermon notes: Based on Acts 1:8, Davis said that we have lost our power in the church because we refuse to teach holiness. In looking for power, you have to first look for the power source. We have to seek the Holy Ghost; He is available, but He is not going to force Himself on you. Why is it that we don't want the holy? Holiness keeps us from being whorish, from lying and stealing. The fullness of the Holy Spirit makes you want to live like God wants you to, not like the world says. When God gives us the Holy Spirit, He gives us strength for our spiritual weakness, healing for our hearts, inspiration for our spiritual exaltation and power for our lives. The fullness of the Holy Spirit makes you walk, talk and live right. Let nothing separate you from the Holy Ghost.



*Antioch celebrated its longest-serving and most dedicated members with its annual Pioneers recognition held on Nov. 4. The Sunday service featured a processional of members who have served for 30-plus, 40-plus, 50-plus, 60-plus, and 70-plus years. "Future Pioneers" of 25-plus years of service were recognized as well.*

*Rev. Alexander - continued from cover*



and Barbara Maria.

Before arriving at Antioch in 1969, he pastored Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Cartersville, GA, Flagg Chapel Baptist Church in Milledgeville, and New Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Macon, where in 1962 he led the Macon bus boycott that integrated the city buses, helped improve the living conditions for Blacks and other minority groups, and desegregated public areas and institutions, including Mercer University, lunch counters and the Bowden Golf Course.

He left Macon in 1965 to pastor St. John Baptist Church in Savannah, GA. There he formed a partnership with C & S Bank to improve 109 blocks of city real estate and provide affordable housing and jobs to the needy.

Four years later, he was vacationing in Atlanta, when his father encouraged him to serve as the guest preacher at Antioch. After hearing him preach “There is a man in town,” the church voted to include him as a write-in candidate for pastor.

Pastor Alexander accepted that call and over the next 49 years, Antioch would grow from fewer than 600 members to some 14,000 members, nearly a half-dozen mission churches, and 75 ministries, including prison, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and affordable housing. He trained, licensed and ordained 600 ministers, 150 of whom went on to pastor other churches.

As President of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., a role he held for 29 years, he secured the Land of Promise and named the first female historian, among other notable accomplishments. He also served as vice president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and dean of the Sunday School and Baptist



Training Union Congress.

Far beyond Antioch and this nation’s borders, he sought to address, through the Antioch International Macedonian Missionaries ministry, inadequate access to safe drinking water, medical care and food in Haiti. Antioch sent two ambulances, built a school and a church, opened a clinic and sent a medical staff to provide for the Haitian people. The ministry has included work in nearly a dozen other countries, including South Africa, Turkey, and Brazil, where AIMM facilitated the opening of the first university for black Brazilians, known as Afrobras.

In 2010, Atlanta city officials paid tribute to Rev. Alexander’s leadership renaming Kennedy Street Cameron Madison Alexander Boulevard. He was inducted into the Atlanta Business League’s Legends Hall of Fame and the International Civil Rights Hall of Fame and invited to submit one of his sermons to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The sermon became part of the oral history and spoken word collections that preserve American’s accounts of and reactions to important cultural events.

“God’s paper boy,” as he often described himself, was serious about spreading the gospel and guiding anyone he met to an understanding of the Bible and the importance of a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. He looked at everyone through the eyes of Jesus, treating everyone with love and respect.

“There is not a finer man than Rev. C.M. Alexander,” Mother Willie May James once said. “I have been living on this earth for 97 years, and I know who is fine and who is not. He is a fine pastor.”

*Mrs. Alexander - continued from cover*

being the loving, supportive “helpmeet” he needed, a role she served in faithfully for nearly 65 years.

Mrs. A. was an astute businesswoman with the unique ability to balance the demands of family and career. Her passion for the real estate profession spanned more than 40 years and began when she was a teenager working as an office assistant for Q.V. Williamson & Company. She later joined the Harold A. Dawson Company, Inc. where she eventually became a sales manager and the company’s executive vice president, a trailblazing role at a time when few women and even fewer African-American women provided leadership in a profession dominated by men.

Mrs. A. left the Dawson Company and opened the Barbara J. Alexander Realty Company, Inc. in 1977. A highly successful real estate broker, she provided exceptional leadership and service to the Empire Real Estate Board, the Atlanta Board of Realtors, the National Association of Realtors, and the National Association of Real Estate Brokers.

In the community, Mrs. A. was intimately involved in a wide range of community and civic organizations, including the Atlanta Union Mission Board of Directors, Atlanta Economic Development Corporation, Atlanta Housing Authority, and Habitat for Humanity of Atlanta, Inc. She again blazed new trails when she was appointed Tax Assessor of Fulton County, a first for a woman.

Her realty firm, known for high ethical standards and service-oriented professionals, represented a wide variety of customers, including politicians, medical professionals, news reporters and attorneys. In fact, many of Antioch’s real estate holdings are the result of her work and that of

her sons, Kenneth and Gregory, who passed in 2018.

In addition to earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Education from Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University) and an honorary Doctorate from Carver Bible College, Mrs. A. received numerous citations and awards for her service, including the Entrepreneur Award from the Nu Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc.’s Eagle Award and the Trumpet Awards Foundation’s High Heels in High Places Award. She also was one of the inaugural inductees into the Atlanta Business League’s Hall of Fame.

At Antioch, Mrs. A. will always be remembered as a source of inspiration. She loved the Antioch Lakewood Mission and the Men of Luke’s Place, and it showed. Once a week, she shopped for groceries for Luke’s Place and taught Sunday school at the Mission. At Antioch, she was Coordinator of the Women’s Division, advisor to the newsletter staff, a member of the Ministers’ Wives ministry, and for many years, Coordinator and Advisor of the Antioch Council of Entrepreneurs.

While her church, business and civic achievements were great, Mrs. A. would tell all who knew her that her greatest accomplishment was her family. Rev. Alexander once beamed from the pulpit: “She’s large and in charge in her real estate business and during the 18-minute drive from her office to our home, she makes the transition from business woman to loving wife.”

Indeed, Mrs. Barbara Jackson Alexander was the epitome of the Proverbs woman. She was virtuous, her price far above rubies.

The CMA Male Chorus held its annual Christmas Fellowship on Dec. 14 at the Guilford Forest Clubhouse.

The event was hosted by Diane Johnson, wife of the late Millard Johnson. She and Millard had previously provided their subdivision clubhouse as a warm and festive environment in which to hold the fellowship, and this year was no different. Minister Otis Byrd, Jr. and several others received gifts in recognition of their untiring contributions to the Male Chorus, and Brother David Vaughn provided the delicious food.



Antioch Baptist Church North held its annual Candlelight Communion service on Dec. 16. The music ministry presented a spirit-filled program of songs celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Later, the light of hundreds of candles gave the sanctuary a heavenly glow as Rev. Kenneth L. Alexander exhorted the congregation to surrender their burdens to the Lord, using the example of the snuffing of a candle to illustrate the ease and power with which God can provide relief.

**Managing Editor**  
Gracie Bonds Staples

**Design Editor**  
Reggie Tolbert

**Writers**  
Karen McKinney Holley  
Bennie McDonald  
Gracie Bonds Staples  
Betty Jo Cooke

**Photographer**  
Steven Thomas

**The Church at Antioch  
Newsletter Staff**

**Contributions by  
March 15, 2019**

540 Cameron M. Alexander Blvd, NW • Atlanta, GA 30318 • 404-688-5679 • [www.antiochnorth.org](http://www.antiochnorth.org)