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**MEN'S DIVISION**  
 RUTH 2 APRIL-JUNE  
**EVANGELISM**



# The Church at Antioch

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

April - June 2012

Volume 4, Issue 12

## Culminating services: "As for Me"

How many men today can speak for themselves and their homes?

It was a simple question that reverberated across both the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services as Pastor Cameron Madison Alexander preached June 24 from Joshua 24:14.

There, he said, Joshua confronts the children of Israel who have forsaken their God.

"He is pointing out to them how good God had been to them, bringing them out of Egypt into the Promise land and he's reminding them that they seem to be shifting in their gods, that they are falling in love with idol gods," Pastor said. "He's saying to them don't forget the flood. Remember where you came from and remember who brought you through."

Then in the 13th verse, he



*Continued on page 6*

*Rev. Reese and the men's choir amp up the praise singing "I Am A Living Testimony".*

## A Message From The Pastor

My Brothers and Sisters:

Summer is here in all of its splendor and glory. Our nights are shorter; giving us more time during the day to enjoy the majesty that God has created for us on this very special planet.

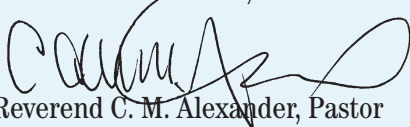
If you have not done so lately, I'd like to encourage you to get up earlier for your daily prayer and experience the great joy of a summer sunrise. In so doing, you will symbolically undergo a spiritual renewal that is so closely associated with this warm and wonderful season. Moreover, by waking up early enough to watch the sunrise, you will have more time to enjoy the extended daylight hours of summer which is a special gift from God.

This issue of The Church at Antioch is filled with stories of events, activities, and personalities that impacted our Church Family during the spring quarter of **Vision 2012** wherein the Men Division provided leadership for the congregation with an emphasis on **EVANGELISM**. The activities included Ascension Sunday, A Taste of Antioch, Scholarship Sunday, the Seven Last Words preached by the Sons of Antioch, the Pastor's Barbeque, the Pentecost and Passion Week Celebrations. The variety of these programs and variation of activities were powerful and instrumental ways for disseminating the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Men of Antioch are to be commended for a job well done.

As Pastor, I look forward to our Youth providing leadership during the third quarter of **Vision 2012** when our emphasis will be on **FELLOWSHIP**. It is my prayer that we will all unite behind our young people and support them with our prayers, patience, and participation in every way that we can to ensure the success of their planning and programming.

As we look forward to the stretch of the minds and imaginations of our young people, I am reminded of Psalm 37:25-26: "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed."

Yours in God's service,



Reverend C. M. Alexander, Pastor



## Congratulations, Dr. Alexander

Sister Barbara J. Alexander, wife of Antioch Baptist Church North Pastor Cameron Alexander, received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree May 5 during the 66th annual commencement at Carver College.



Robert W. Crummie, president of the college, called Sis. Alexander an outstanding model of commitment and leadership in the local Church. He cited her extensive and exemplary leadership in serving and uplifting "the least of these", as well as her local and national leadership and influence in both residential and commercial real estate.

At Antioch, Sis. Alexander serves as the Chairperson of the Women Division where for the past eight years she has mobilized our "sisterhood" into a strong and engaged body of Christian women deeply focused on God's great commission.

Using a wide variety of Christian Education programs and learning opportunities, Sis. Alexander has been a reassuring mentor and friend, supporting many of Antioch's women to navigate their Christian journeys. Her ordered steps have led to her being an encourager and a strong role model for every woman that attends Antioch.

Crummie told a packed chapel at Carver, "She is worthy of recognition."



## Three nights, three powerful sermons

Hundreds of Antioch Baptist Church North members turned out April 24-26 for some soul-steering preaching delivered during the church's annual spring revival.

Here's a recap of the messages delivered by the Rev. Fred Davis, pastor Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., and a son of Antioch:

### Monday, April 24

Scripture: Mark, Chapter 1  
*When Jesus Shows up*

Sermon synopsis: Jesus is no respecter of persons. He shows up to men and women and when he shows up he doesn't just show up. He shows up with a purpose. He showed up not only to Mary but to the two disciples who saw him crucified and buried and are now weeping and wailing. He shows up and reassures Mary and the two disciples that what they are experiencing won't last.

### Tuesday, April 25

Scripture: John, Chapter 21  
*Jesus said try again*

Sermon synopsis: The resurrection is the most important piece of Christian doctrine. Jesus now comes to the disciples while they are fishing. They've been fishing all night but caught nothing. They were fishing for fish was their plan but it wasn't God's plan. Any time you plan something not in line with God's will, your plan will fail. He tells them to cast the net on the right side, to try again. They cast their net and are not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. When you obey God, you will be successful. When you follow him, burdens are lift-

## Adam Alexander garners first place in film competition

Adam Alexander won first place in March for his short film at the 2012 Georgia Education Technology Fair held at Macon State College.

The Ridgeview Charter School eighth grader won in the Digital Video Production category - an original video project that has been edited on a computer with digital video editing software, and exported into a digital video format.

Adam, an honor roll student who plays in three school bands, is the son of Eric and Pamela Alexander and grandson of Antioch Baptist Church North Pastor Cameron and Mrs. Barbara Alexander.

The Georgia Education Technology Fair is an annual event produced by the Georgia Educational Technology Consortium. It represents



the highest level of student technology competitions in Georgia, with over 400 projects by more than 500 students.

ed. When you follow him, nets are filled. When you take him at his word, without question, increase will come. When it seems all is lost and there's no way out, wipe yourself off, try again.

### Wednesday, April 26

Scripture: John 20-29-30

*It's time to believe*

Sermon synopsis: This gospel of John is the one most scholars say expresses in clarity that Jesus is the Christ, who was to come, who came and shall come again. Here he encounters Thomas with the dilemma of unbe-



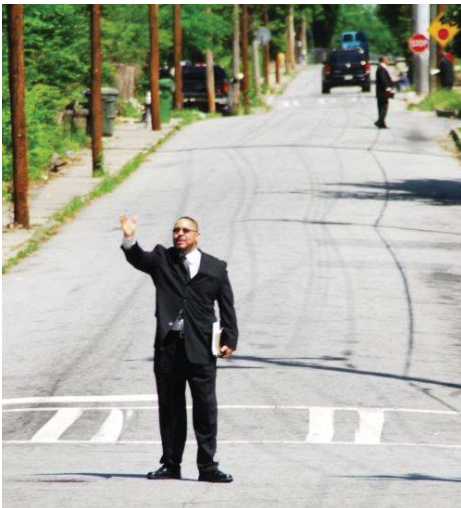
*Rev. Fred Davis*

lief. We like to point fingers at Thomas but there are a lot of Thomases up in here. Here's what you must believe: Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God; whosoever believes in and confesses the Lord Jesus they shall be saved; the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he who

began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it; greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. You don't need to see, you just need to believe. It's time.

# Street Corner Preaching

See more images at [www.antiochnorth.org/scp.htm](http://www.antiochnorth.org/scp.htm)



## Briefly



### Pastor receives leadership award

Antioch Baptist Church North Pastor Cameron Alexander was one of five Atlanta icons to receive the Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation Leadership Award during a gala held April 26 at the Twelve Hotel.

Other winners were, WSB-TV anchor Monica Pearson, Atlanta Public School Superintendent Errol Davis, media mogul and philanthropist Ted Turner, and civil rights activist Xernona Clayton.

## Gaining financial knowledge

Dozens of Antioch Baptist Church North members turned out June 23 for helping getting their financial house in order.

“Get Financially Fit,” sponsored by the Concerned Black Clergy, CredAbility, and Wells Fargo Bank, included workshops on saving and budgeting, the basics of credit, purchasing a home, and preserving and retirement planning.

The first bit of good news came as CredAbility Financial Education Manager Deatra Riley shared her personal story with credit cards while in college.

Fortunately, Riley said, the Credit Card Act of 2009 now prohibits those under age 21 from obtaining a credit card unless they are able to prove income and an ability to repay.

Parents breathed a sigh of relief.

During the saving and budgeting workshop participants helped each other with cost cutting techniques.

They applauded Anthony Patrick, a resident of Luke’s Place, who now has two bank accounts as a result of employing the discipline and commitment Wells Fargo officers Pamela Cross and Stephen Norris hammered in throughout their presentation.

“We knew we needed to help people be empowered during these harsh economic times,” the Rev. Frank Brown, president of CBC, told the crowd.

He thanked Antioch Pastor Cameron Alexander and Dea. Joe Beasley for helping organize the effort.

Participants left with a wealth of information, handouts, CDs to help set up a budget, and specific follow-up activities for fixing errors on credit reports. Those experiencing credit challenges or in danger of losing their homes were able to set individual follow-up appointments, and the first 30 participants received \$25 gift cards—a helpful boost to their personal budgets.

# Antioch Christian Entrepreneurs

The Antioch Christian Entrepreneurs (ACE) is made of members of Antioch who have established businesses within the community and encourage the entrepreneurial spirit within others. The goal of the ministry is to provide fertile ground that allows people with a God-given idea to learn how to establish and grow a professional business. The ministry offers enlightenment through the experiences of successful entrepreneurs,

encouragement and some assistance in developing business plans and potential direction in finding financing through the Small Business Association and others.

Some of the original members of ACE from 1993 are still in business and some have moved on. Nevertheless, the need still exists for all Antioch entrepreneurs to come together and network, support each other, and share ideas and make ourselves avail-

able to service the needs of the Antioch Baptist Church North congregational families.

You're invited to bring your gifts and talents to the ministry. Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month at the church at 10:00am. Sis. Helen Burgess serves as the ministry coordinator along with Sis. Barbara J. Alexander as the ministry advisor.

Visit the ACE web page at [www.antiochnorth.org/ace.htm](http://www.antiochnorth.org/ace.htm).

## Stay tuned for upcoming ACE activities:

- "ACE on Tour" Events
- 2012 Business Directory
- Montly Meetings
- Meeting Seminars
- "ACE Sunday School Class
- Business EXPO
- Display your business on the ACE web page.

## NEXT ACE MEETING

Our next ACE meeting will be on **Saturday, July 14**, at 10am at the church. Topics of dicussion will be:

- the 2012 ACE Business Directory update
- ACE on Tour/Cookout event - Saturday, August 4, at Aaron's Automotive, Bro. Milton Aaron
- 2012 EXPO

# ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN ENTREPRENEURS BUSINESS



# ECONOMIC RECOVERY WORKSHOP & JOB FAIR

**OCTOBER 6, 2012 • 9:30AM-2PM • 590 BUILDING**

*Workshops, Health Screenings,  
Display Booths, and More!*



MAY

## Youth Banquet - Our Children: Born to do great things

More than 400 Antioch Baptist Church members, the largest group ever, turned out May 31 for the annual youth banquet.

Congratulations marked the night as some 226 youth from pre-kindergarten to post-graduates were awarded plaques and trophies for outstanding achievement during the school year. Thirteen youths collected ads totaling more than \$8,500 and received personalized banks for saving and \$25.00 deposited to their Antioch bank account.

Trey Brown and Faith Rockward served as master and mistress of ceremony, respectively, doing outstanding job keeping the program running smoothly. Other youths showcased their musical talent and offered tips about college life.

Ms. Wanda J. Harding, the guest



*Antioch's youth receive accolades for their achievements*

speaker and highlight of the evening, provided words of wisdom and encouraged the youth to work to become men and women of integrity, having a concern for others.

Harding, who initially wanted to be an engineer, said that her journey to NASA began with the love, encourage-

ment and support of her family.

The banquet theme had five words, "born to do great things." Harding added five more, "to the glory of God," and reminded the youth that success begins with prayer and reading His Word. "Then, and only then, are you ready to do the great things," she said.

### *Continued from cover: Men pass torch...*

said that Joshua reminds them of what God had done - giving them land for which they did not labor, cities they did not build, food they did not plant.

The people's attitude in many ways mimics ours today, he said, and if we're not careful, we too will start to believe God hasn't done anything for us.

"In 2012, we have just gotten beside ourselves," the Rev. Alexander said. "But the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof and they that dwell therein."

Joshua understood this and went on to tell the children of Israel that he and

his house would serve the Lord.

On this men's culmination day, Alexander said that we need more men like Joshua, more "as for me" men, men who don't shy away from their responsibilities, men whose wives and children know they can depend on them and look up to them.

At the 11 a.m. service, he said that there comes a time when all of us must chose which side we're on.

"It's hard to be supportive of both sides," he said. "It's like a man trying to straddle two horses going in opposite directions."

The choice is ours: God or



*Passing the torch to the Youth Division*

the devil.

For a man to speak like Joshua, Rev. Alexander said he had to have made the right decision.

"How many of you have made the same decision," he asked. "How many men when they speak in the name of the Lord speak for their wives and their chil-

dren?"

Joshua, he said, set the example because he understood that once he got himself straight, then he could talk about his house.

"Me, my and we starts with the man and extends to the we," Pastor Alexander said. "As for me and my house, we will serve the lord."

## *Spotlighting Antioch Scholarship recipients*

# Scholarship Ministry makes annual appeal for support

More than 50 Antioch students and their families benefit each year from donations made through the Scholarship Ministry.

Last year, some \$40,000 was awarded to members, said Sis. Wendolyn Harding.

Harding said during a scholarship observance March 11 that the love of God that dwells in us “compels us to do what he did – give.”

This year, Harding said, members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority issued a challenge for other greeks to join

them in their giving. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha and Omega Psi Phi fraternities accepted.

In an on-going effort to recognize the work of the ministry, we highlight three students who’ve benefited from the ministry:



### ***Nia Oates***

Nia Oates is a junior at Howard University in Washington, D.C. where she is a 2013 candidate for a Bachelors of Arts Degree in philosophy and minor economics, 2013. She has been on the Dean’s List for 3 years and has a 3.85 grade point average.

Oates is the recipient of the AT&T Foundation Scholarship, a four year academic scholarship to Howard University and the William Harding Memorial Book Scholarship from Antioch Baptist Church North. In 2010 she was selected as an intern for Congressman David Scott.

In 2011, Oates was selected as a Communications Fellow by the National Black Law Students Association. At Howard, she is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council, Deputy Director of Student Advocacy, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the NAACP and the Urban League.

Oates is also very active in the community, where she leads tutoring sessions for elementary school students and volunteers at the Capitol Area Food Bank and with Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America.

After graduating from Howard, she hopes to attend law school in the Washington, D.C. or New York area before pursuing a career in international law or public service.

Oates is the daughter of Vincent and Shawn Oates and the sister of Nile Oates.



### ***Frieda Aden***

She had a high school diploma and an A.A.S in Business Administration but it wasn’t until Frieda Aden applied for a position in corporate American that she realized she needed a bachelor’s degree to even compete for the job.

“That’s when I got mad,” Aden said. “Never again, would anyone tell me that.”

And so in August 2004, with a full-time job and a scholarship from Antioch Baptist Church North, she enrolled at Georgia State University in August 2004.

Not only was she employed full time, Aden was the single parent of two college students: her daughter Maya, then a senior at Georgia State and son Christopher, who

was a freshman Jackson State University.

In 2008, Aden earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Policy Studies.

“I thought I was done but a BS degree didn’t satisfy me,” she said.

In the spring of 2010, Aden enrolled at Central Michigan University to pursue a Masters.

“I was now a grandmother of four and much older than I was when I first stepped foot on a college campus in 1980,” she said. “Once again, Antioch Scholarship ministry was right there by my side.”

In May, Aden was awarded a Master’s of Science degree in Health Service Administration and a Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Administration/

“I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Rev. Alexander, Antioch Baptist Church North, the Antioch Scholarship committee, and the many supporters and contributors to the scholarship foundation,” she said.



**JUNE**

# Sprinting into the Olympic Trials

David Dickens, a former University of Georgia Bulldog Allstar and Antioch Baptist Church North member, recently qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials.

Dickens clocked a season-best 45.66 to win the 400-meter dash at a UNC-Charlotte “last chance” meet and qualify for his first Trials, which began June 21 at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

After his qualifying race, it took a couple seconds for Dickens to soak up what he had just accomplished.

“I really didn’t know how fast I had run,” he said. “When the time popped up, I just lost it. I must have said, ‘thank you God’ at least 20 times



Dickens was a constant threat on the Bulldogs’ track during his career, setting the school’s indoor 200 record and becoming part of four of the 10 fastest outdoor 4x400 relay finishes in

UGA history.

In addition to holding down a full time job John Hancock, Dickens bounced between weekend home meets at Georgia, Georgia Tech and Auburn, driving up on Saturday mornings before the meet and then back to Atlanta following his events.

The training, which usually included Dickens holding his own stopwatch, was without a coach on site. He gets workouts from his former high school coach, Chris Malcolm.

Dickens, who dropped his time to 46.14 a week before racing in Charlotte, garnered a provisional “B” cut time in the 400 and a spot at the Olympic Trials.

## Thomas wins Emmy

Marcita Thomas was awarded an Emmy June 9 during the Southern Regional Emmy Awards ceremony at the Grand Hyatt in Buckhead. The award for Best Producer was presented by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Thomas, who has been at 11Alive/WXIA-TV since 1997, previously at WSFA-TV in Montgomery, Ala. She has been a member of Antioch since 2000.



## VBS: A taste of heaven’s kitchen

With an attendance high of 196, this year’s Vacation Bible School was a spiritually rejuvenating and fun-filled time.

The theme was “Heaven’s Kitchen: Nourishing a Healthy Soul, Body, and Mind,” based on Matthew 6:11. Each day provided a different spiritual and physical menu: Daily Bread, Proper Nutrition, Soul Food, Following God’s Recipe, and Clean Up.

Children of all ages and gender began each night

began with an old-fashion, energetic VBS devotion then headed to classes. Some who were members of Antioch. Some were not.

Each session closed with a recap of the lesson, complimented by creative cheers, skits and games of trivia. The final night included a family style buffet celebration, a movie, and a take-home healthy snack box for all attendees.

What better way to begin the summer!

## 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).





## Happy Anniversary!

Congratulation to the following couples who recently celebrated wedding anniversaries:

### April

Bro. Samuel and Sis. Janie Grundy, 4/28/90  
 Bro. Calvin and Sis. India Jones, 4/26/81  
 Bro. Michael and Sis. Sandra Milligan, 4/24/99  
 Bro. Andre and Sis. Shelia Stephney, 4/24/04  
 Bro. Benny and Sis. Bonita Williams, 4/10/76  
 Bro. Randall and Sis. Carol Wilson, 4/30  
 Bro. Myron and Sis. Stephanie Hicks, 4/4/09  
 Bro. Arthur and Sis. Jeannette Williams, 4/14/07  
 Bro. Vincent and Sis. Shawn Oates, 4/18/87  
 Bro. Craig and Sis. Belinda Johnson, 4/30/88  
 Bro. Willie and Sis. Diane Grimes, 4/30/83

### May

Bro. Leonard and Sis. J. Renee Livsey, 5/23/09  
 Bro. Vince and Sis. Bethany Watson, 5/25/02  
 Bro. Michael and Sis. Lisa Irby, 5/23/92  
 Bro. Horace and Sis. Isabella Copridge, 5/30/81  
 Bro. Roy and Sis. Audrey Cooper, 5/4/84  
 Bro. Richard and Sis. Libra Burton, 5/24/08  
 Bro. Donaldson and Sis. Valerie Garner, 5/24/97  
 Bro. Darrell and Sis. Renee Arnold, 5/23/92  
 Bro. Ernest and Sis. Fasia Pure, 5/9/87  
 Bro. Gesner and Sis. Carolyn Herard, 5/27/01  
 Bro. Hearn and Sis. Marilyn Dukes, 5/11/91  
 Bro. Kelvin and Sis. Vickie Lewis, 5/26/07  
 Bro. Chad and Sis. Chiquita Smith, 5/26/02  
 Dea. Bob and Sis. Elizabeth Jones, 5/24/80  
 Dea. Rodney and Sis. Denise Floyd, 5/18/02  
 Bro. Dana and Sis. Autumn Lewis, 5/24/03  
 Bro. Thomas and Sis. Melody Jordan, 5/23/92  
 Bro. Clifford and Sis. Gwendolyn Spikes, 5/9/81  
 Bro. Bill and Sis. Deborah Lane, 5/22/81

### June

Bro. Vincent and Sis. Karol Cain, 6/16/07  
 Bro. Earnest and Sis. Vickie Cook, 6/19/93  
 Bro. Fred and Sis. Paulette DeV Vaughn, 6/23/79  
 Bro. Ken and Sis. Na'Taki Jelks, 6/30/07  
 Dea. Ronald and Sis. Scarlett Smith, 6/19/82  
 Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Sonya Diamond, 6/12/08  
 Bro. Frank and Sis. Kelly Edwards, 6/10/95  
 Bro. Van and Sis. Cheryl Twyman, 6/30/90  
 Bro. Aaron and Sis. Ave' Totten, 6/2/00  
 Bro. William and Sis. Stephanie Scott, 6/16/06  
 Bro. Michael and Sis. Simone Willingham, 6/16/01  
 Bro. Joseph and Sis. Cara Malbrough, 6/3/97  
 Bro. Andre and Sis. Robbie Kearns, 6/28/97  
 Bro. Fred and Sis. Jocelyn Curry, 6/5/10  
 Bro. Herman and Sis. Gloria Cain, 6/23/68  
 Bro. Peter and Sis. Tonya Coles, 6/25/11  
 Bro. Dexter and Sis. Ardon Smalls, 6/27/87  
 Bro. Eric and Sis. Kamila Washington, 6/13/98  
 Bro. Michael and Sis. Anita Price, 6/29/91  
 Bro. Sean and Sis. Erika Drake, 6/23/07  
 Bro. Joseph and Sis. Jessie Hood, 6/23/01  
 Bro. Robert and Sis. Lucille Walker, 6/12/60

## 2012 Graduates and Retirees

### Kindergarten

Layla Ariana Collier  
 Cameron Sanders  
 Joshua James  
 Oscar Scott  
 Taylor Pitts  
 Evan Watson

### Elementary School

Janae Baker  
 Diamond T. Glass  
 Rachel Christina Henderson  
 Jared Malbrough  
 Geneva Danielle Tillman  
 Chase John Walker

### Middle School

Adam Michael Alexander  
 Sterling Chandler Bright  
 Nebrina Racquel Harton  
 Deana N. Jones  
 Alexis Leaks  
 Evan Malbrough  
 Kaylan A. Marks  
 Kennedy J. Marks  
 Johnathan Howard Mitchell  
 Joseph Albert Mitchell  
 Zakariya Nichols  
 Amber Nicole Ponder  
 Alexandria Simone Price  
 April J. Simmons  
 Alexandria Smith  
 Victoria Blondell Stovall  
 Rodney Q. Wilson II

### High School

Chelsey Allen  
 Morgan Alyce Burrell  
 James William Calhoun  
 Demarcus Calloway  
 Nia Monay Carnegie  
 Charles Collier Jr.  
 DeAnthony Lemarcus Fleming  
 Kristen Ashleigh Godette  
 Samuel Nicholas Grundy  
 Ashley N. Hill  
 Nevin R. Harton Jr.  
 Sheryl Diesha Holloway  
 Wyann Sharquita Jackson  
 Khadijah Symone' Jones  
 Hugdston Clark Leaks  
 Marcus Cornelius Lee Jr.  
 Jebril Bryant Reeves  
 Cherish Leandra Riley

Donovan Thomas  
 Brandon Jamaul Williams  
 Charles Kennedy Wright

### Undergraduate Degrees

Destiny Joi Andrews, Georgia College and State University, B.A. Theatre  
 Nikendra Marie Andrews, Alcorn State University, B.A. Music  
 Tiffany Shanta Hall, Georgia Southern University, B.A. History/Minor Criminal Justice  
 Chinique Lashay Hardison, Valdosta State University, B.S. Sports Physiology  
 Jourdan Alexander Mott, Alabama State University, B.A. Business Management  
 Britteny Quillen, Alabama State University, B.S. Recreational Therapy  
 Ashley Danielle Smalls, Howard University, B.S. Allied Health  
 Joy B. Carter, University of Phoenix, B. S. Psychology  
 Omar T. Williams, Morehouse College, B.A. English

### Graduate Degrees

Frieda Elizabeth Aden, Central Michigan University, Master Health Services Adm.  
 Rev. Terry Hightower, St. Leo University, Associate Degree Liberal Arts  
 Christy Lee Melton, Georgia State University, M.A.T.

### Honorary Degrees

Sis. Barbara J. Alexander, Carver Bible College, Doctor of Divinity Degree

### Retirees

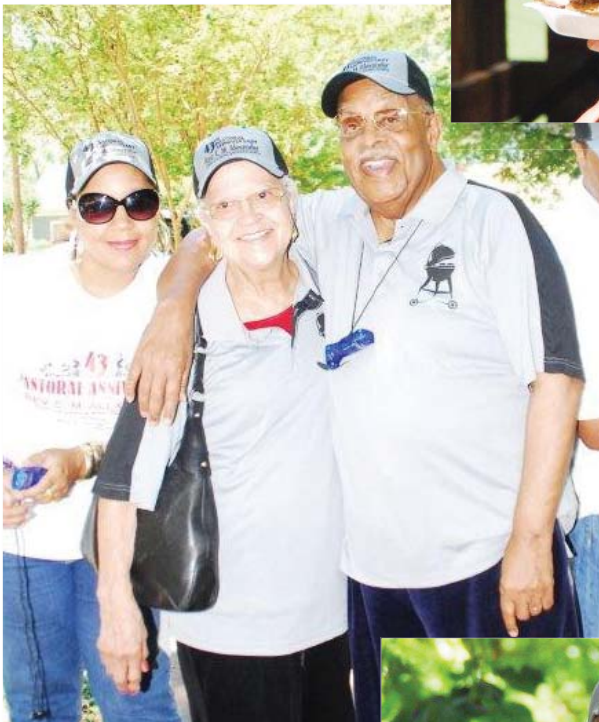
Dianne Marie Grimes, Teacher, 21 Years Fulton County Board of Education  
 Shirley Monroe, Senior Staff Registered Nurse, 41 Years Grady Health Systems  
 E. Marie Turner, Resources Assistant, 23 Years USDA/FSIS



# Pastor's BBQ









# Homerzell Gentry: The woman behind “These Hands”

For as long as she can remember, Homerzelle Gentry has tried to live out Proverbs 3:5: Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding”.

And so it was as she contemplated writing this year’s Easter presentation “With These Hands...The Redemption Story.”

One morning while reading scripture, Gentry said it became clear the role our hands play in our daily lives for good and bad.

“Adam used his hand to create Sin,” she thought to herself. “Jesus used his pierced hands to redeem us from sin.”

It was then that Gentry knew that this was the message God wanted her to share on Easter Sunday, that would minister to the congregation and, at the same time, glorify Him.

The daughter of a Baptist preacher and pastor, Gentry was very familiar with the redemption story. Now she was seeing it in a whole



*Homerzelle Gentry*

new light. She began writing the vision.

Gentry said that it wasn’t always crystal clear that God would lead her down a theatrical path. After graduating from high school with honors, she earned a BA degree in both business and computer science from the University of Houston.

And although she would go on to receive management certification from University of Georgia and certification in Child Evangelism, she has no formal training in theater.

“Rev. Alexander gave me

the opportunity to present these productions and it has opened a door in my life that I never knew existed,” Gentry said.

She said she also owes credit to a team of Antioch members - Kurt Gilbert, David Vaughn, Dorcas Ford-Jones, Bonita Williams, Tamara Ross, Judy Rawls, and Shawn Oates - who help with rehearsals, dance and scenery.

“I couldn’t do this without them and appreciate very much all that they do for our youth,” she said.

A native of small town Hearne, TX, Gentry moved to Atlanta in 1997.

“The very first Sunday after my move, I attended worship services at Antioch,” she said.

She joined several Sundays later and soon began working with the Youth Ministry, a gift she discovered some 15 years ago.

Today, she serves as Antioch’s Nursery Coordinator, MADD Coordinator and member of Christian Edu-

cation.

“Working with Antioch’s Youth is the best,” she said. “They are always willing and eager to present God’s message.”

As she writes, Gentry said she can see the productions come to life and often envisions specific kids playing specific parts.

“Whenever this happens, I will ask that particular youth to perform the part,” she said.

Gentry said she believes it was God’s plan that this year’s presentation called for a majority male cast.

“I explained to them that this was not a performance, but ministry, and that as they spoke, they should focus on telling the story so that it ministered to the congregation,” she said. “To those who know the story, it would be a reminder. To those who did not, it would be Christian education.”

The end result, she said, was proof that following God’s direction leads to God Himself.”

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