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The Church at Antioch

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

April- June 2019

Volume 9, Issue 2

Antioch brings witness, prayers to Bluff residents

On April 20, the day set aside annually for street corner preaching and witnessing by Antioch Baptist Church North, dozens of members and ministers gathered to prepare sandwiches, fill lunch bags and pray.

Done, they fanned out into the "The Bluff" to saturate the neighborhood with God's word.

Some residents closed their doors and windows but others stopped to listen, said Min. Bryan Mitchell.

He said that one woman "came out of the house and quickly headed in the other direction" only to encounter another preacher proclaiming the word just a block away.

And when everyone gathered in front of the stone church at Cameron M. Al-

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Henderson dazzles crowd to win NBC oratorical contest

Rachel Henderson, daughter of Bro. Eric and Sis. Yvonia Henderson, beat back 16 accomplished and poised teens to capture the top prize in the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Oratorical Contest.

The contest was held July 19, 2019, during the Congress of Christian Education in Baltimore, MD.

"This is the first time I have attended the NBC Congress as pastor of Antioch," the Rev. Kenneth Alexander told the congregation on their return to Antioch Baptist Church North. "I have to thank Rachel and her par-

ents for a phenomenal beginning - first in the entire country!"

Henderson, who received a \$5,000 scholarship and tablet, will attend the University of Missouri and plans to major in broadcast journalism. The Roswell High School graduate was a member of the State of Georgia Gold Chapter of Distinction SkillsUSA program, winning both state and regional in Broadcast News. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to help stu-

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AUMI teams with Atlanta Food Bank to stop hunger

When the Atlanta Community Food Bank held its annual Walk/Run for Hunger on April 28, Antioch Urban Ministries Inc.'s team was on it just as they are every day of the week, feeding and clothing those in our community and beyond.

In addition to receiving food and non-perishable donations from our members, AUMI partners with the Atlanta food bank to obtain and distribute nutritious food. In 2017, an estimated 1 in 8 Americans were considered food insecure, equating to 40 million Americans including more than 12 million children. The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

Through its OASIS program of food distribution, AUMI puts a human face on the statistics, treating each

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A Message From The Pastor



Dear Antioch Family,

I am elated about the accomplishments of our members and the wide variety of programs and activities highlighted in this first newsletter since I was consecrated as pastor of this phenomenal congregation.

Rachel Henderson made us all proud by using her God-given gift of oration to win the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Oratorical Contest. I have appointed her as our first Oratorical Director so that she can use her expertise to help other youth develop their skills as orators.

Sincere gratitude goes to Sis. Rosa Jean Tomlinson for 40 stellar years of service as Wedding Coordinator. Her efficiency and proficiency coupled with her strong spiritual foundation have kept weddings at Antioch as sacred worship services while preserving the unique ceremony each couple desired.

We see our members serving here at Antioch but often do not know how diverse their lives and accomplishments are when they are away from the gathered church. Sis. Maggie McCollum is a prime example.

As our late pastor, Rev. Dr. C.M. Alexander, used to say, “Don’t let the sign be lying.” Our marquee clearly depicts the four pillars of fellowship, evangelism, doctrine and stewardship. We enjoyed great fellowship at the Consecration Brunch, the Men’s Prayer Breakfast, the Law Day and Added Members receptions, the Taste of Antioch, the Youth Appreciation and the Men’s Appreciation brunches.

Our Combined Choirs extended the fellowship during the Spring Concert with special guest, Minister David Walker and High Praise, and as they participated with Ebenezer Baptist Church in its Annual Scholarship Concert in memory of Mrs. Alberta King. While we engage in evangelism every time each of us witnesses to someone who is unsaved or backslidden, we have engaged in targeted outreach through our street corner preaching in the Bluff, bringing neighborhood youth to Vacation Bible School, and the ongoing faithfulness of our S.W.A.T. Team on 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

I am grateful to Rev. Ken Jelks, Pastor of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Columbus, for his sound doctrinal preaching in our Spring Revival. Our Law Day speaker, Judge Glenda Hatchett, emphasized how essential faith is in the application of the law in the justice system. Our Wednesday Bible Study series on Job, biblical personality portraits, Vacation Bible School and even the Easter speeches by our youth provided us with a stronger doctrinal foundation.

Likewise, our stewardship continues in the scholarships we give to help our members continue their education beyond high school, our ASK ministry’s service to seniors and as we provide food and clothing to over 400 families each week highlighted as AUMI participated in the Atlanta Food Bank Hunger Walk. Stewardship as citizens requires us to vote, so we extended a platform to hear from Senator Bernie Sanders, 2020 candidate for President of the United States.

We continue our outer affiliations with the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. the Fifth District of the GMBC, the Mt. Hermon Association, and the International Association of Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows and its state and local chapters. We look forward to having more members involved in these organizations as Antioch has a lot to share beyond our steeple.

Yours in God’s service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth Alexander".

Reverend K. L. Alexander, Pastor

AUMI - continued from cover

recipient of services with dignity and compassion. How appropriate that the walk/run route came directly past the ABCN church campus and the AUMI building.

Beginning and ending at the Home Depot Backyard by Mercedes Benz Stadium, over 8,000 people joined together as a community to walk or run the 5K to raise awareness about and funds for the Food Bank and other local nonprofit organizations, including AUMI.

Everyone who registers can choose to donate to a specific partner charity, such as AUMI, whether physically participat-



ing in the walk/run or not. Corporate sponsors and others provided games, educational activities, live entertain-

ment and food trucks to create a giant community party both before and after the walk.



Ushers, health Professionals host annual conference

The General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia Inc. Ushers and Health Professionals held their 24th Annual Conference April 4-6 at the Macon Centreplex Coliseum and Convention Center. The theme was “Working Together as One Body in Christ” based on 1 Cor. 12:12.

The conference is the brainchild of Sis. Brenda Eason, director of Antioch’s Ushers and Health Professionals and State Coordinator, who convinced late pastor C.M. Alexander, then president of the GMBC, of the need for starting a statewide training program.

While the focus of the conference is centered around equipping ushers or

health professionals, you do not have to be one to benefit from the seminars or sermons offered during the three-day gathering. Seminars such as “Unshakable Hope—Building Our Lives on the Promises of God” or “Anxious for Nothing—Finding Calm in a Chaotic World” are guaranteed to help anyone.

“It takes a lot of work to put this conference together, but it is well worth it,” said Sis. Jean Jones, who serves as executive Administrator.

Prior to the official opening of the conference, the ushers, under the leadership of Sis. Redelle Doyle, blanketed a pre-designated area and witnessed to the

lost—unsaved, hopeless, on the wrong path. Doyle is coordinator of the evangelistic (S.W.A.T.) team.

In addition to the educational seminars and workshops, worship services, an elegant gala and awards banquet and a closing candlelight rededication service make this an uplifting, enriching experience for all in attendance.

Sis. Peggy Cooper, who is not an usher, said that she missed the first several years, but people kept telling her that she should attend.

“Once I did,” she said, “I knew I would never miss another one if I could help it.”



The celebration continues: *Hundreds of Antioch Baptist Church North members turned out April 13 to celebrate Pastor Kenneth Lamont Alexander and his wife, Sis. Lisa Alexander at a Consecration Brunch held in Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from the brunch were designated to support Antioch Urban Ministries Inc. The Alexanders gave heartfelt thanks for the love shown to them.*



VBS offers timely, real life lessons

Both attendance and enthusiasm were high as Antioch Baptist Church North members turned out June 3-7 to explore what it means to be a steward for God during Vacation Bible School.

Under the theme “On Safari: Be a Steward 4 God!” based on Psalm 24:1, participants studied a different aspect of stewardship—being stewards of the Earth, their lives, their resources and their relationships each night.

After devotion and the opening as-

sembly in which Antioch youth led the pledges, everyone dispersed to age-appropriate classes. The children enjoyed arts and crafts projects related to the theme, and each night, in the closing assembly, a youth and an adult class reviewed the lesson using skits, verse speaking and songs.

Pastor Kenneth Alexander visited each of the classes.

“I was excited to see everyone engaged in lively discussions and inter-

active activities,” he said.

Emphasis is always on bringing people to Christ and helping those who know Christ grow. Participants couldn’t help noting more adults attend Antioch’s VBS than children.

Sis. Jacquese Walker summed up the week in a Facebook post: “Vacation Bible School lessons are sending powerful, timely, real life messages to those who may not know or those of us who may have forgotten!”



Biblical characters come to life in Wednesday Bible study

On the two Wednesday nights immediately preceding and following Resurrection Sunday, Antioch Baptist Church North members were transformed into biblical personalities.

On April 17, the third Wednesday of the month, Personality Profiles were presented with Dea. Clarence Anderson “interviewing” Mrs. Salome Zebedee, the mother of James and John, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and Peter. Judas Iscariot, a fourth panelist, failed to show.

Since the scene took place following the Last Supper but before the Crucifixion, the personalities don’t know that Jesus will rise again, only that he will be cruci-

fied. Salome, played by Rene Baker, explains that she was just looking out for her sons when she asked Jesus about having them sit on his right and left in his kingdom.

Elizabeth “Penny” Jones portrayed Mary and gave a portrait of Jesus as a child and expressed her concern for his safety as he traveled with 12 men, was followed by crowds and targeted by the religious leaders.

Peter, aka Dea. Jerome Trimble, explained that he was THE disciple, closest to Jesus and seen as the leader of the other disciples. He intended to stay close to Jesus, but he was so confused that he denied being one of the Jesus’s select group.

On the following Wednes-

day, Personality Profiles—The Sequel, featured Dea. Trimble interviewing Sis. Mary Magdalene and Cleophus, one of the two men on the Emmaus Road. As he did when Jesus first appeared after his resurrection, “Doubting” Thomas was not present.

Portraying Mary Magdalene, Johnnie Thomas gave an impassioned recounting of how she felt after the crucifixion as she arrived at the tomb and her complete joy when she recognized her risen savior. Cleophus, as depicted by Melvin Buchanan, expressed the amazement he felt during his encounter with Jesus on the Emmaus Road.

WOMANHOOD ANNUAL FALL RETREAT

OCTOBER 11-OCTOBER 13

The Antioch Womanhood Ministry cordially invites you to the 2019 Womanhood Ministry Fall Retreat! Join us as we travel to Lake Blackshear Resort in Cordele, GA (just 2½ hours away). On our way, we will enjoy a stop at the Shoppes at River Crossing in Macon. The cost for this year’s retreat is \$350 per person, based on double occupancy, and includes transportation, 4 meals, accommodations and retreat materials. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due at registration. Three additional payments of \$100 each are due on 8/18/19 and 9/8/19. When submitting payments via the Givelify app, please scroll down to select **Other** in the **THIS DONATION IS FOR** section and indicate **WOMANHOOD MINISTRY FALL RETREAT** by adding a memo. Registration will close on Sunday, September 22. For more info and to register, stop by the registration table in the narthex after Sunday Worship service or in the rear of Fellowship Hall before or after Wednesday night service.

UPCOMING

ANTIOCH MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SUNDAY

It is that time again when Antioch Baptist Church North will host the Second Annual Mental Health Forum. 2019 will include events on both **Saturday, September 7 and Sunday, September 8, 2019.**

On Saturday, Sep 7, 2019, Antioch will host a Mental Health Conference for Youth and Adults from 8:00 am-1:00pm. Mental Health Professional will cover the topics such as Forgiveness, Living with Stress, Coping with Chronic Illness and many more. Our own, Dr. Margaret Weaver, Dr. Lila Walker, Dr. Beverly Dorsey and other mental health professionals will serve as facilitators. The cost for the event is FREE, but we ask that you register in the Narthex after service so that we have an accurate headcount. Registration will be held every Sunday after service and available on Eventbrite.com until Sunday, September 1.

New this year, Antioch will host Mental Health Awareness Sunday at the 10am service on Sunday, September 8. Our own, Dr. Shatavia Alexander Thomas, will serve as the keynote speaker. We are asking members to wear green in recognition of September as Suicide Prevention Month.

Ministers' wives, widows hold annual session

The 56th Annual Session of the Georgia Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows was held April 24-27 at the Atlanta Marriott Century Center Hotel.

The GAMWMW has 22 chapters representing 11 denominations.

The theme, "Walking In The Light Of God's Love: A Chosen Vessel for Global Service" was based on Ephesians 2:8.

Our late pastor's wife, Sis. Barbara J. Alexander, encouraged the wives of Antioch's sons to become involved in the Association. She said that as the sons of Antioch were called to churches across the country, the wives would be able to

reach out to a local chapter to enjoy the support and encouragement from fellow preacher's wives, a position that she said is a unique calling that only other minister's wives truly understand.

There is a prescribed program of classes in three tracts leading to graduation, with a master series of seminars for those who have graduated. The classes and workshops encourage personal, spiritual, mental and emotional growth.

"The emphasis is on continued growth in order to have effective outreach that will impact the culture for Christ one person at a time," said Sis. Karen McKinney

Holley, one of the Association's teachers.

The ministers and children enjoy a separate program of activities, and everyone comes together for worship. The children had an opportunity to visit the Center for Civil and Human Rights and the Dr. M.L. King Center. They also did an outreach project for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to help children experiencing cancer. Annually, the GAMWMW provides scholarships for its "PKs" (preacher's kids) to continue their education.

This year's session was a time of high worship, inspired study and joyful fellowship.

Ministry leaders encouraged to groom others to take their place

The Fifth District held its second Leadership Empowerment Training Workshop June 30 at Cornerstone Community Baptist Church, where the Rev. W.J. Lawson is pastor. The Rev. William E. Flippin, Sr., pastor of the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, served as facilitator for the parent body, and Sis. Cynthia Hillery-Jackson, also of Piney Grove, served as facilitator for youth workers and young people.

In his unique approach to leadership training, Flippin challenged attendees to evaluate their leadership styles. Laying out five levels of leadership, he explained how to move from one level to the next as one hones his or her leadership skills. He emphasized the need to be training others to establish a legacy of leadership. "You should be grooming people to take your place - reproducing leaders so there is never a leadership void," he said.

Our late pastor, Rev. C.M. Alexander had well established this principle in Antioch's Three-Deep philosophy, where leaders in every area of ministry are making sure to prepare at least two others, including a young person, to lead the ministry.

In other business, Sis. Hillery-Jackson explained that the Safe Sanctuaries program "is designed to make sure that all of our churches and activities sponsored by our churches are places of trust. Our sanctuaries must be made "SAFE" from abuse for children, youth and vulnerable adults. Training is required for anyone who works with youth as we follow the biblical instruction in Matthew 19:14.

Sis. Dorcas Jones, GMBC Statewide Director of Young People and member of Antioch's Christian Education Ministry, will implement the training at Antioch.

Montgomery installed as pastor

Rev. Tony Montgomery, son of Antioch, was installed as pastor of the Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church, Jackson MS, on June 9th.

Pastor Kenneth L. Alexander preached the morning worship service, and Rev. Dr. Jerry Young, President of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. preached the afternoon installation worship service.

Several Antioch members traveled to Mississippi to witness the momentous occasion, and Rev. Montgomery was more than pleasantly surprised. "I was overwhelmed that my Antioch family thought enough of me to make such a long trip," he said.



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



MAY

Salute to grads/retirees

Antioch Baptist Church North recognized more than a hundred retirees and graduates during the May 26 worship service.

With smiles on their faces, you could see the joy, relief and excitement they felt throughout the annual service.

Antioch's scholarship ministry has been celebrating graduates and providing financial assistance to members since its founding in 1970 under the late Rev. C. M. Alexander. The ministry is funded largely through donations from church members, who since that time have given more than \$1 million to help with tuition and books.

This year scholarships were awarded to 10 high school seniors with plans to attend college in the fall.



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders brought his stump speech to Antioch Baptist Church North in May and called again for reducing economic inequality and expanding access to health care and public education. The senator from Vermont, pictured below with Antioch Pastor Kenneth Alexander and Congressman Hank Johnson, is trailing both former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, according to a national Quinnipiac Poll. Ohio Sen. Nina Turner, national co-chair of the Sanders campaign, is pictured right.



Pastor Alexander, Bernie Sanders, Congressman Hank Johnson



Ohio Sen. Nina Turner

Pastor Alexander admonishes the saints to “get up”

Antioch Baptist Church North turned out in full force to show support for the Rev. Kenneth Alexander as he preached the May revival at Simpson Road Baptist Church.

It was the Rev. Pastor Alexander’s first official revival as pastor of Antioch.

The revival, held May 21-24, was a full circle moment. The Rev. Orange Weems, pastor of Simpson until his death, invited Rev. Alexander to be the Youth Day speaker and later, after he answered the call to preach, to preach his first revival there.

“We were young and crazy together, but the Lord took hold of both of us and reined us into His service,” said Weems as he reminisced about earlier days.

In his final sermon on Thursday night, Rev. Alexander preached “Get Up” based on Mark 2:1-5.

“If you’re saved, you ought to have four saved friends whom you can carry and who will carry you when you need to be carried,” he said. “They couldn’t get into the crowded house for a blessing themselves, but they lowered their friend down so he could be blessed. Jesus told

him to “Get up.”

UP should be a big word in your life: Depressed? Look UP. Hard decisions? Wise UP. Living for Christ? Be Straight UP. Moving slow? Speed UP.

Don’t tear down: Build UP. Witness for Christ: Speak UP. Blessed by Christ: Lift Him UP

No matter what you’re going through, God is able to make you GET UP, he said. If you’re beat down and been put down, if you trust Him, God won’t leave you down. He’s a gettin’ UP God!”

Mt. Hermon hosts scholarship banquet

Antioch Baptist Church mothers and Missionary Society members participated recently in the Mt. Hermon Scholarship Banquet, a time of fellowship and fundraising for student members of participating churches.

Having served in various capacities in the Association for 50 years, Moderator Emeritus H.D. Freeman said he has seen many lives touched as churches come together to impact lives for Christ.

As a young man, Freeman said he used

to ask, ‘Why don’t those old men ... sit down and stop talking so much?’ Well, now, we’re the old men, and I understand.”

On a more serious note, he said he’s watched the association grow, though not numerically.

“We had 23 churches when I was moderator, and now we only have 8 good churches,” he said. “However, I would rather have a small number of dedicated, active churches than large numbers where peo-



ple can hide behind others. We see the truth in this Association because though we have not grown numerically, we have grown financially and in true fellowship.”

Congress of Christian Ed: “The church door has moved”

Delegates to the Mt. Hermon Congress of Christian Education were challenged recently to take advantage of the doors God opens for them and fulfill the purpose God has for their lives.

Every Christian must first be a witness and also use the individual gift God has given each of us to uplift the body of Christ.

The theme, “The Church Door has Moved,” was based on John 10:9-10 and permeated every class and sermon preached during the gather at First Baptist Church in Decatur.

In his introductory sermon titled “God’s House of Help based on 1 Peter 4:7-11, the

Rev. Stanley A. Smith said, “God will keep the door open; we must keep the light on and reach out to help those in need of all types of healing.”

Min. Loretta Thompson Grissom, who grew up in Antioch Baptist Church North, set the tone for worship with her powerful rendition of “Total Praise” before her husband, Rev. Antonio Grissom, pastor of Chapel Hill Baptist Church, preached the educational sermon. Quoting the Rev. William Flippin in his message, “A New Paradigm,” he reminded those gathered that “you can’t do 8-track ministry in a downloadable generation.”

“Once we change our talk and our ac-

tions, our outcome will be different,” he said. “As we operate, live and breathe in fellowship, we will be able to spread the liberty and unspeakable joy that is Christ’s love.”

The Rev. Arthur Carson, president of the Congress, expounded upon the message to the church at Philadelphia.

“God’s open door never contradicts His word nor is it a door of disagreement,” he said. “God’s open door gives us the privilege to represent the love of Jesus and speak his love into someone’s life at the grocery store, the gas station and anywhere that we encounter people in our everyday lives.”

JUNE

Antioch returns to Congress of Christian Education

For the Antioch delegates to the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Congress of Christian Education, the highlight was the oratorical Contest, which Sis. Rachel Henderson won hands down. But there was another reason to give praise, too.

Along with the 8,300 delegates from across the country, Antioch delegates were able to participate in the more than 200 classes and workshops with an expectation of increasing their knowledge and returning to share what they had learned with other congregants.

There were some structural changes of note as well. The children's and youth sessions were redesigned so they can receive instruction in church worship and Baptist doctrine and protocol. The classes and workshops, together with the Children and Youth Rallies, provide outlets for their gifts but also give them a foundation and teach them why and for whom they are to use their gifts.

Expounding on the Congress theme, "Envisioning the Future Exceptionally as We Send Disciples for Christ" in his address, the Rev. James H. Cokley, president of the Congress, said, "We've become hotels for saints, haberdasheries for fashion shows, men in black and women in white, more concerned with what we wear than who we are, more focused on how something is said than what is said. We cannot live in fear—as the disciples were after Jesus died—of an immoral culture, afraid to speak for Jesus even though he has given us the power of the Holy Spirit."

The Rev. Ronald Terry, a son of Antioch, was honored for writing the Children's Rally song and his wife, Sis. Doris Terry, was recognized for instituting a rally for children 12 and under.

In another change, youth shadowed the Youth Rally officers to learn what they do and how to do it. Their theme for the week was "Outpouring - God outpouring of His spirit, our outpouring of praise."

Fifth District hosts fellowship

The Fifth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. held its quarterly Fellowship Service April 2, 2019, at Bethany Baptist Church, where the Rev. Craig White is pastor.

Rev. Dr. W.J. Lawson, Fifth District President, conceived the idea to provide members with more opportunities for collective worship, fellowship and teaching. "Snacks" provided by Bethany turned out to be more like the feast multiplied from the little boy's lunch of two fish and five loaves.

Rev. Garry Baker, pastor of Greater Faith Missionary Baptist Church, encour-

aged members to focus on Jesus.

"When you take your eyes off Jesus, you will run into something and get hurt," he said. "Don't get distracted; don't lose your focus."

Rev. White, preaching from Phil. 4:6-7 used "God's Word for Your Worry" as a topic and offered practical suggestions to secure our Christian walk and help us to be strong, steadfast and stable Christians. They included, remembering to pray about everything, to trust in God and receive the promise of prayer, which is peace.



McCullom warrior athlete

Maggie McCullom sits near the elevator each Sunday to collect tithes and offerings from those who prefer to use a credit or debit card. As she carries out her ministry, she checks in with an engaging smile asking about members' general well-being and previous week's activities.

If you haven't seen her there, you may have interacted with her over at Antioch Urban Ministries Inc., helping clients obtain food or pick out clothing and other needed items. You would never guess from her demeanor that she is a warrior in athletic competition.

In fact, Maggie has been involved with Senior Olympics for the past several years, winning many medals in individual sports in both the Georgia Golden (Senior) Olympics and the National Senior Games.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Maggie said, "I decided to try something different this year and play basketball."

Maggie may be 5 feet if she stands really tall and stretches her hands high above her head, but it doesn't matter.

The Atlanta Angels placed 4th in Division 3 beating out the home team, the Model T's of New Mexico, during the National Senior Games held June 14-25 in Albuquerque, NM.

Q & A with Sis. Rosa Jean Tomlison

After over 40 years and more than 200 weddings, Sis. Rosa Jean Tomlison retired in June as Antioch Baptist Church North's wedding coordinator.

Tomlison, who is being succeeded by Sis. Joy Rollins, agreed recently to answer a few questions about her role.

Here's what she had to say:

Do you remember the moment you were named wedding coordinator? Tell me about that.

"I don't remember the exact moment or date, but I was assigned Wedding Coordinator by Rev. C. M. Alexander shortly after he became Pastor, about 47 years ago."

Why did you accept this role?

Before Rev. Alexander came to Antioch, one of the members, who has since passed away, Sis. Samples asked her to coordinate her daughter's wedding. Surprised and flattered that she thought that she could do it, especially since she had no training, she stepped up to the challenge and discovered that she enjoyed it. Also, she had admired what she had seen in the Wedding Coordinator role of Antioch's First Lady, Mrs. Maurice Williams (wife of the late Rev. Marcus Williams).

What prepared you for the job?

I started reading and studying. Having



been a high school counselor advising students in my professional career, that role help me feel very comfortable in advising brides and the parents of the bride.

What exactly does the job entail?

Once the Bride and/or Groom submit their Premarital Questionnaire to the church office staff for confirmation of membership, Sis. Evelyn Roberts notifies me. After notification, the Wedding Coordinator contacts the couple to schedule Wedding Orientation to discuss the church calendar, wedding guidelines, music, reception, honorarium, etc. Pre-

marital Counseling Sessions are scheduled with Pastor during the orientation. Once all the sessions are completed and the wedding date has been determined, the wedding rehearsal is scheduled. On the day of the wedding, the coordinator and team are available to assist the bride at both the wedding and the reception, provided they are held at the church.

What other ministries were you involved in?

Sunday School & SunBeam Children's Choir Pianist; October Birth Month Club; and various choirs.

When did you decide to resign and why?

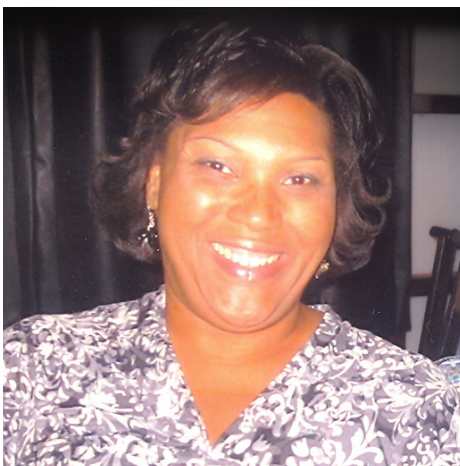
I wanted to pass the torch to someone younger, since I had been in the role so long. I submitted my letter of resignation on June 30, 2018, but Pastor Alexander would not accept it. Both Rev. C.M. and Rev. K. L. Alexander advised me to "get me some help." My resignation was not approved until 2019, and my role has now changed to Wedding Advisor.

Anything you'd like to say about the experience that my questions didn't prompt?

"I have enjoyed the role so much over the years. I honestly felt that it was my stewardship."



Maria & Ray Hunter



Joy Rollins



Ashley & Ryan Bright



Antioch women fulfill promise at annual appreciation brunch

According to the men of Antioch, the June 15 Appreciation Brunch was all that was promised.

When they registered, they were told that the women of Antioch would be at their beck and call for the duration of this brunch. Close on the heels of the

welcome from Sis. Johnnie Thomas and grace by Dea. Jerome Trimble, the men were treated to an All-Star breakfast of waffles, scrambled eggs with cheese, grits, hash browns, bacon, sausage and coffee, tea and juice.

Then as they built a second appetite

while talking, playing cards and listening to jazz, homemade desserts were served.

Before closing out in prayer, Pastor Kenneth Alexander suggested that, perhaps, the brunch could occur more often - monthly, or at least quarterly. "I like this treatment," he said.

Bluff - continued from cover



exander Blvd. and James P. Brawley Dr., Rev. John Byrdsell was there, preaching. When the door of the church was opened, two people came forward and asked for prayer.

A woman named Grace said she had accepted the Lord but had never been baptized.

"God has brought us grace in two ways today," said the Rev. Darrell Arnold as

they encircled her to pray. "Grace, who is seeking and will certainly receive God's amazing grace that covers all sin for those who believe."



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



Henderson - continued from cover

dents develop personal, work-place and technical skills grounded in academics as they prepare a skilled workforce. Rachel was recently recognized with a SkillsUSA Award by the Fulton County Board of Education.

At Antioch, Henderson is well known for her skilled delivery of the Sunday morning announcements and introduction of guest speakers.

Her win at the NBC wasn't the first time she'd represented Antioch well.

Henderson won the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. Oratorical Contest last July during the Congress of Christian Education. She had won first place previously in younger age groups, but her win last

year as a rising high school senior placed her in position to compete on the national level.

When she won first place in the state, Gregory Bailey, a deacon at Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia and coordinator of the GMBC Oratorical, promised to do "everything possible to ensure that Rachel is able to compete on national level because I know that she will bring first place home to Georgia."

As more than 30 Antioch members, including her parents and two brothers, prayed and cheered her on, Henderson held an audience of thousands spellbound, pausing often as she was forced to wait until the ap-



Rachel Henderson

plause died down.

"What have you done as Christian disciples to change this mean world?" she asked them at the start.

She closed with this challenge: "In today's technologically-driven society, it seems as if everything is going viral: videos, pictures,

and especially memes. What our goal as disciples should be is to make Christianity and salvation just as viral and far-reaching as any on-line trend that the world sees and learns from, but the difference is, we want the impact to be permanent. ...God wants disciples who have gone through "editing" and "spell check" and who know the grave responsibility of being a disciple. The reality of what's happening in the world today must define our paths as Christians and must dictate our destiny. To be a Christian is to be a change agent and carry the knowledge that no matter what, the journey is not over until all of God's sheep know and find their way home."



Members of the ASK Ministry presented this pillow in memory of and appreciation for the support of the late Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander during a service in June. Sis. Lisa Alexander accepted the token on behalf of the Alexander family. ASK - Antioch Senior Kare - provides assistance and activities for Antioch Baptist Church North seniors.



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