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People  
to Christ



# The Church at Antioch

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

April-June 2022

Volume 11, Issue 2



## A re-entry and resurrection Sunday

After more than two years of on-line services, Antioch Baptist Church North opened its doors again to in-person worship on Easter Sunday 2022.

It seemed appropriate that members would gather again on the day set aside to commemorate Christ's death and resurrection. Christian tradition, after all, holds that the sins of humanity were paid for that day by Jesus's death and that his resurrection represents the anticipation we believers can have in our own resurrection.

In some ways, re-entry felt like a kind of resurrection from a pandemic that had cut us off from one another, and shouts of "alleluia!" weren't just songs to self but songs of renewal and gratitude.

Indeed there was much to shout about.

Despite a deadly pandemic, Antioch, as noted by Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, kept feeding and clothing  
*continued on page 3*

## A Message From The Pastor

My brothers and sisters,  
 There are no words to express the exhilaration of standing in the pulpit on Resurrection Sunday and once again being able to look out at our members seated in the pews.



I am grateful that the expertise of our ABCNN Team allowed us to worship virtually throughout the pandemic and continues to connect us through cyberspace, but there is really no substitute for joining in with our deacons as they pray and raise a hymn from the front of the church, watching our mothers waving holy hands, seeing our ushers seat members, hearing our choir members and band live, and looking at our members as they express praise and worship our matchless Lord. To God be the glory!

As always, I am indebted to our ministry leaders who have continued to serve in innovative ways throughout this challenging time. The Manhood Ministry provided treat bags for our mothers and mother figures in a drive-thru. The Womanhood Ministry reciprocated on Father's Day and distributed tokens of love to our fathers as they exited the sanctuary. The Womanhood Ministry launched a new event targeting physical health and wellbeing. On each second Saturday, they walk the Beltline for an hour, toning up "the temple."

Our Memorial Service honoring those who have passed from this life to the heavenly realm in the past two years was a beautiful and moving tribute.

We have never stopped serving the community through our Food Bank and prepared lunch and dinner distributions. Through the hard work of a group of volunteers, we have been able to re-open our Clothing Bank, now known as the Antioch Apparel Shoppe. Its new name and uptown look had some community residents thinking they had to pay for items, but they quickly learned that everything remains free, and they enjoy "shopping" in the new environment.

Vacation Bible School was just plain fun! We laughed a lot as we learned a great deal about several biblical figures and how they -and we - should handle challenging situations. Applying 1 Thess. 4:13 a little out of context, "I would not have you ignorant brethren..." we also went back to our roots in the black church and learned about 5 famous black Americans.

Antioch, you continue to make us proud. We salute our graduates and retirees as they move into their next life phase.

Bro. Hank Stewart was the commencement speaker at Georgia Gwinnett College, becoming the first poet laureate to be invited. Sis. Nell London and Bro. Terence Moore had their books published to wide acclaim. And Dr. Christopher Harden went international presenting at the 4th Global Congress on Sickle Cell Disease in Paris, France.

Antioch continues to make a global impact!

Yours in God's service,

Reverend K. L. Alexander, Pastor

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*continued from cover*

folk, kept serving the least, the less, and the lost.

Dickens, who was ordained a deacon during his time at Antioch and now serves at New Horizon Baptist Church, said the church proved once again that “love needs to look like something.”

His remarks opened the April 17 service and were followed by a hallelujah sermon preached by Pastor Kenneth Alexander - “Trials, Trails, and Triumphs.”

The story of Jesus’ resurrection in the first eight verses of Matthew 28, Rev. Kenny said hasn’t aged.

“Fact is, I love to tell the story of Jesus and his love,” he said. “I love to tell the story because I know it’s true.”

When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary arrived at the sepulcher the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.”

He is not here.

Those four words, Pastor Kenny said are repeated in both Matthew and Luke and are a reminder that Jesus has power over even death.

Jesus, however, had a trial. He hung on the cross, not for his sin but mine and yours.

His death, Rev. Kenny said, was also a trail because it was part of a plan.

“One Friday it seemed like Jesus had lost his case but death was not his trial, it was his trail,” he said.

Early on Sunday morning, he got up with all power in his hand and so what looked like Jesus’ trial was ultimately his triumph.

And with that, the church doors were officially re-opened - in person.

“Halleluia!”



*Re-entry check-in*

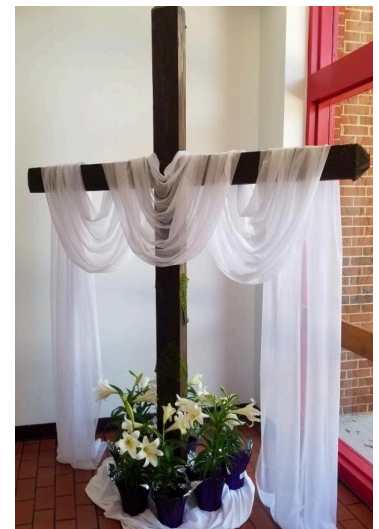


*Bob Brown manning his post in the church parking lot.*

*Although so restrictions have been eased, members must still get their temperature checked before entering service*



*Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens*



MAY

# Monday mornings with Dr. Weaver

For nearly 40 years, Dr. Margaret O. Weaver has been providing one-on-one counseling to people struggling with mental health issues.

And so when the coronavirus pandemic settled in, it didn't take long for her to discern the negative impact it was having on many of us.

Adapting our lives to the pandemic, Weaver said recently created a sense of discouragement and quiet upheaval leaving a lot of us struggling emotionally much like some in biblical times.

Elijah, for instance, was stressed so much that he asked God to take his own life (1Kings 19:4). The woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8:43-48) for twelve years was ostracized and isolated from her community.

As the pandemic took hold, Weaver felt a tug to go beyond in-person counseling and provide another way to reach people. Following the prompting of the Holy Spirit, she would soon create and launch "Monday Morning with Dr. Margaret", a 15-minute podcast meant to help people and glorify God.

The podcast, which officially launched May 2, airs at 8:00 a.m. Eastern every Monday.

Although the technical definition of a podcast is a program made available in digital format for download over the internet,



*Dr. Margaret O. Weaver launches podcast*

Dr. Weaver sees "Monday Morning" as a vehicle for getting a message across.

"There is a lot of flexibility in podcasts, and they can cover a variety of subjects and conversations," she said. "A sermon can also be converted to a podcast as well as interviews with a single guest or multiple participants."

Dr. Weaver hopes to eventually include interviews with Antioch elders and members who were present prior to our beloved Pastor Cameron Alexander.

Topics might include how does our faith impact us in our secular lives? How does

our faith and belief shape our day-to-day interactions with family, co-workers, and people we may not know? And how can she minister with knowledge gained from conversations with guests outside of Antioch's church family?

Dr. Weaver says "The goal of the podcast is to glorify God," Weaver said. "If not, what is the point? When our people are helped, God is pleased and he is exalted."

Prior podcasts can be accessed at any time using either of the following platforms:

Instagram: [margariteoweaver](https://www.instagram.com/margariteoweaver)

Facebook: [margaretweaver1754492](https://www.facebook.com/margaretweaver1754492)

Buzzsprout: [Buzzsprout.com/1754492](https://www.buzzsprout.com/1754492)

## GMBC conference provides chance to recharge

The GMBC Minister's and Moderator's Conference returned to an in-person gathering for three days in May.

Evening sermons could also be viewed virtually.

The focus of this year's conference, which gathered in Macon, was "A Modernized Ministry Model Approach: Educating, Equipping, and Empowering God's Servants."

Not limited to clergy, breakout sessions covered a variety of topics, in-

cluding embracing technology and addressing emotional and mental health challenges arising from the pandemic.

The entire conference was structured to be a learning experience. Vendors and sponsors were chosen not just to sell products but to provide helpful information, such as how re-districting has dissipated the voting power of people of color and how to plan for retirement.

The Rev. D. Brown challenged attendees to up their game as Christians and

strive toward having a maximum impact on the world and, like Nehemiah, to keep rebuilding. One thread heard throughout the conference was that it was a time to be re-charged.

Comments from people as they dispersed indicated that the conference had accomplished that purpose, and as one presider aptly stated, we can keep feeding from the seminars and messages this week, and "our batteries won't go dead."

# 2022 graduates celebrated

Antioch Baptist Church North recognized students completing kindergarten through graduate school during services held May 22. The nearly 30 graduates are listed below.



## Poet Stewart makes commencement address

Hank Stewart delivered the commencement address at the Georgia Gwinnett College spring commencement ceremony May 11 at the Gas South Arena.

Stewart, a DeKalb County resident and long-time member of Antioch Baptist Church North, was named the poet laureate for the 4th Congressional District by U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson in 2016.

Stewart has recited his poetry for Civil Rights Movement icon Rosa Parks and former First Lady Michelle Obama. He has been an artist for 25 years and co-founded The Stewart Foundation, which is a youth leadership-development organization.

The foundation promotes excellence in youth programming by offering health and financial wellness, community service, educational and social programs.

Stewart was also commencement speaker at Columbia Middle School.

### Kindergarten:

Branch, Raylan  
– Panola Way Elementary  
Edwards, Ishaq  
– Kilombo Academy & Cultural Institute  
Rachel, Tyler  
– Stonewall Tell Elementary

### Elementary:

Boynes, Matthew  
– Coweta Charter Academy  
Craft, Paris  
– Huntley Hill Elementary  
Gladney, Sahana  
– C.J. Hicks Elementary  
Porter, Carlin  
– D. L. Sims Elementary  
Rachel, Trenton  
– Stonewall Tell Elementary  
Sherman, Chad  
– Beecher Hills Elementary

### Middle School:

Cochran, Jr, Nigel  
– Chapel Hill Middle School  
Hanna, Courtney  
– Snellville Middle School  
King, Alyse  
– Atlanta Classical Academy  
Kirkland, Logan  
– McClure Middle School  
Mayi, Julia  
– Wesley International Academy  
Miller, Caleb  
– General Ray Davis Middle School  
Sims, Zavier  
– Irma C. Austin Middle School

### High School:

Bailey, Xavier  
– Mill Creek High School  
Dudley, Julian  
– Heritage High School  
Jackson, Preston  
– Creekside Christian Academy  
Johnson, Zachary  
– Westlake High School  
Jones, Brooke  
– Hillgrove High School  
Jones, Zoe  
– Greater Atlanta Christian School  
Hildreth, Jonah  
– Hillgrove High School  
Holmes, Caleb  
– Woodland High School  
Williams, Michael Langston  
– Holy Innocents Episcopal School

### College and University:

Allen, Rikki Kay  
BS Degree Sports Management, University of West Georgia  
Baker, Janae  
BA Degree Psychology “Summa Cum Laude”,  
North Carolina A & T State University  
Brown, Nicholas  
BS Degree Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Buchanan, Yohance  
BS Degree Cyber Security, Kennesaw State University  
Carroll, Jillian  
BA Degree Journal Sports Medicine, University of South Carolina  
Garner, Donatella  
BS Degree Health & Human Performance,  
Albany State University  
Jackson, Celena  
BA Degree Marketing, University of West Georgia  
Johnson, Kaylan  
BS Communication Arts, St. John’s University  
Lamar, Julian  
Assoc. Degree Geology, Georgia Highland College  
Lester, Chelsi  
BFA Degree Dance Performance & Choreography,  
Spelman College  
Morton, Kolby  
BS Degree Mechanical Engineering,  
North Carolina A&T State University  
Price, Michael  
BA Degree Interdisciplinary Studies,  
East Tennessee State University  
Roberts, Lynn  
BS Degree Organization Leadership Administration and  
Technology, Atlanta Metropolitan State College  
Trimble, Jerome B.  
BA Degree Digital Media Entertainment,  
Atlanta Metropolitan State College  
**Post Graduate School:**  
Brown, III, George  
Doctor of Dental Medicine,  
Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine  
Ghosten, Nicole  
Master of Arts Degree Law, Regent University  
Hammond, LaNore  
Master of Science Degree,  
Walden University/College of Education  
Jenkins Rev., Brandan  
Doctorate of Ministry Christian Preaching,  
Samford University/Beeson Divinity School  
Weekes, Jalissa  
PhD in Geological Sciences, University of Florida



# A Sister Stroll for fitness and fellowship

With the coronavirus pandemic in full swing, members of Antioch’s Womanhood Ministry were finding new ways to remain active.

They were hiking, taking long walks, and participating in outdoor workouts. Fellow members found that inspiring and wanted to gather safely as well not just to exercise but to fellowship.

Thus began The Second Saturday Sister Stroll on the Atlanta Beltline, the brainchild of ministry leader Almelida Baker.

“We chose this location because you can see the Atlanta Beltline’s Westside Connection bridge from the Church and there is an entrance to the Beltline on C. M. Alexander Boulevard,” Baker said.

Because the ministry wants to ensure participants were as safe as possible, Baker said women who want to participate are required to register and provide proof of vaccination.

Some 23 ladies registered and participat-

ed in the first walk held in May.

As an extra bonus, Baker said representatives from Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield led the group in pre-walk stretching exercises and provided information about Medicare, sun visors, hand sanitizer, healthy snacks and other gifts.

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*3 John 1:2 - “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” - Baker said, “captures our hopes and prayers for the women who participate in all our activities.”*

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Weather permitting, Baker said The Second Saturday Sister Stroll will become a monthly event.

“We are also in the early stages of exploring some inclement weather alternatives,” she said. “The goal is to continue to safely gather, fellowship and exer-

cise.”

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Since creating its Facebook Group in 2016, the Womanhood Ministry has been distributing the Monday Ministry and established the Tuesday Evening PowerHour, Thankful Thursday Prayer Call and SelfCare Saturday, now the SelfCare Saturday Sister Circle.

“We have been working and sharing resources to support (members) spiritual growth, health, wellness, mental health, education, financial well-being, and happiness,” Baker said. “We encourage our brothers to walk as well and consider future joint outings with the Womanhood and MAN Ministries.”



## 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: [gracie.staples@gmail.com](mailto:gracie.staples@gmail.com)



**JUNE**



**GMBC USHER’S CONFERENCE** *Sis. Marie Thompson, pictured left and far right, was among those 80 years and above who were recognized as platinum members of the General Missionary Baptist Convention’s Usher’s and Health Professionals Conference for their service. Sis. Thompson said it was a singular honor. Dr. Brenda Eason began the Ushers’ Ministry under Antioch Baptist Church North’s late pastor, Rev. Cameron M. Alexander, as he served as president of the GMBC, Inc. Sis. Jean Jones assists in the administration of the auxiliary. Antioch’s 9 delegates who attended this year’s conference unanimously agreed that it was the best conference ever, saying “every round goes higher.”*

## Nell London, granddaughter tackle bullying in new book

Sis. Nell London is no stranger to helping others, especially girls and young women, through mentorship, and non-profit outreach programs. And not surprising, her granddaughter Kaitlynn has already established a legacy of service, leading a drive to provide first aid kits to community playgrounds.

And so when the two of them found it nearly impossible to find a book addressing the real-life issues like bullying, the duo decided to write one them-

selves.

“We knew we had to do something to help others,” Sis. London said.

*The American Princess with All Those Beautiful Curls and the Red Bird* is now on bookshelves.

Granddaughter Kaitlynn was born with beautiful curls but that natural feature often became the subject of teasing, ridicule, and outright bullying.

Over 3 years, Kaitlynn, an honor student about to enter high

school, and her grandmother created the main character, Kala, who began to hate her hair, and the red bird who helps her appreciate her curls.

The strong messages of self-love and self-esteem coupled with showing love to others who look different are beautifully developed through Kala’s encounters with the red bird.

Sis. London, wife of the Rev. Ed London, offers a pictorial “sermon” that provides a roadmap for handling a pervasive



cultural practice that has been exacerbated by social media.



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[www.antiochurban.org](http://www.antiochurban.org)



# Vacation Bible School...a thrill ride

Antioch's Vacation Bible School was a thrilling adventure in the amusement park.

That's right. For five days, beginning June 6, Antioch members from ages 3 up enjoyed "Rockin' Rampage: Trusting God Through Life's Ups and Downs" based on Psalm 20:7. Each night's lesson included a Thrill Ride, the basic message of the day; the chain lift, the verse for the day; and lap bar, the key terms.

Students took the ascent as they studied the biblical personality and answered questions as they dropped and boomeranged around the loops on the roller coaster. A different black history figure was the faith rider each night, and Airtime provided practical application as the Willis family with whom Antioch tagged along, talked about their experiences.

Though virtual, the experience was highly interactive.

Students Grayson, Cassidy and Savannah, responding to teachers Dr. Royal Baxter and Rev. Lester Duncan, who taught the 9-12 age group, shared moments when they were scared.

Cassidy recalled having to answer questions regarding the catechism at her Christian School.

"I was very nervous," she said.

Asked if God helped her as he did Moses, the focus of that night's lesson, her answer was

an enthusiastic "Yes."

"Whatever twists and turns you have, God's going to be in your life all the time," Grayson said.

Classes gathered each night in assembly. Attendees dressed in the different colors of the Plan of Salvation, and the video narrated by Sis. Janet Hill explaining what each color meant captured the main purpose of VBS, winning souls to Christ.



*Sis. Kay Carter, Sis. Helen Burgess, Bro. Ronnie Fitch, Bro. Tommy Jennings, Sis. Karen McKinney Holley, Brenda Eason (not pictured)*

## Congress holds in-person meeting

Six members of Antioch attended the "limited edition" National Baptist Congress of Christian Education for three days in Jackson, MS.

The Congress, which met in late June, was originally slated to be virtual, but Dr. Jerry Young, convention president, and Dr. Elliott Cuff, congress president, agreed to reconvene with safety protocols in place.

The Health Outreach Prevention Education (HOPE) ministry, launched in response to Young's concerns about health disparities in the black community, partnered with local health officials to provide on-site COVID testing. The ministry addresses a different health issue on the last Thursday of every month starting at 7 p.m. Registration for the seminars is free and open to everyone at <http://www.hopenbc.com/home>.

Antioch was represented well by Sis. Helen Burgess, Sis. Kay Carter, Bro. Ronnie Fitch, Bro. Tommy Jennings,

Brenda Eason, president of the nurses and ushers auxiliary, and Sis. Karen McKinney Holley, assistant chief of staff of the Youth and Young Adults.

Keeping education, mission, and worship at the forefront, the YYA held classes in the morning and preparation for the Children's and Youth Rallies and iRock, which were merged this year into one worship service.

Youth packed backpacks with a Bible, coloring book, and children's evangelism materials to be shipped to Grenada, where some will travel next summer on a foreign mission trip. They packed and distributed food boxes to seniors and snack bags for low income, at-risk children who are food insecure and don't have access to school breakfasts and lunches.

They also participated in a walk through the Georgetown Community, where unemployment and crime rate are high, praying as they went for the violence to stop.

## Want to move forward? Stop dwelling on the past

"Today, I am doing a new thing!"

That theme, based on Isaiah 43:18-19, undergirded the Mount Hermon Missionary Baptist Association Mission Institute and was at the center of lessons taught no matter the age group.

"Our past need not be our future," the Rev. John Byrdsell, Antioch Baptist Church North son and pastor of Concord Baptist Church told members of the adult class. "Old baggage doesn't go away, but to move forward, we must see ourselves the way God sees us and commit ourselves to God's plan."

And 13-year-old Morgan Baxter, summing up the lesson taught by her mother, Dr. Royal Baxter, reminded teens that "Dwelling on the past won't help you move forward."

The virtual institute, held March 21, was organized by assistant dean Vanessa English, a long-time member of Antioch.

At the Congress of Christian Education, held June 22-23 at Springfield Missionary Baptist Church, classes focused on a Psalm 122-based theme: "Enter the Gates, Come Inside and See Something Good."

"We have it better than the Israelites in the Old Testament who heard God's Word through the prophets only at certain times," the Rev. Craig E. White said. "We have a direct relationship with Jesus Christ and can hear from him at any time."

White is senior pastor of Bethany Baptist Church.

Both the youth fellowship and young adult classes were held via Zoom.



# AUMI Apparel Shoppe



*The AUMI clothing Bank, re-branded as the Apparel Shoppe, re-opened May 7th, just in time for Mother's Day. "You all are giving me the best Mother's Day present. I have a whole 'new' outfit, and now I can go to church tomorrow," one of its first shoppers said. The Clothing Bank shut down in March of 2020, and re-opened in April 2021, operating outside until weather conditions in November caused it to close again.*



## GMBC auxiliary encouraged to wait on God

"High Praises, High Places, High Heels: Stepping into Destiny" was the theme under which the Northern Region of the Women's Auxiliary of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. gathered June 11 virtually.

Keynote speaker Patricia Lawson, leading lady of the Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, drew her message from Jeremiah 29:11, telling how false prophets convinced the Israelites that God was going to bring them out of their exile immediately instead of in 70 years.

"God keeps his promises, so don't get impatient and take matters into your own hands," she cautioned. "Wait for God and walk in the path he has set to fulfill your destiny, his plans for you."

Sister Doris Callahan James, 7th District Women's presi-

dent, welcomed participants, explaining agape love in detail.

It is not just a feeling but "active outreach," she said. To that end, the Northern Region districts, 5, 7, and 9, are donating to On My Mother's Shoulders.

The non-profit, founded by Claudia Phillips, provides basic necessities, such as toiletries, to students who cannot afford them.

"Some of the students are homeless, couch-surfing in their friends' rooms," James said. "Others are barely scraping by, and they are extremely grateful for the seemingly small things like deodorant and toothpaste."

Students across the state of Georgia, from Savannah State to the University of North Georgia, benefit from the donations..

## Terrance Moore tells the story of his friend, Hank Aaron

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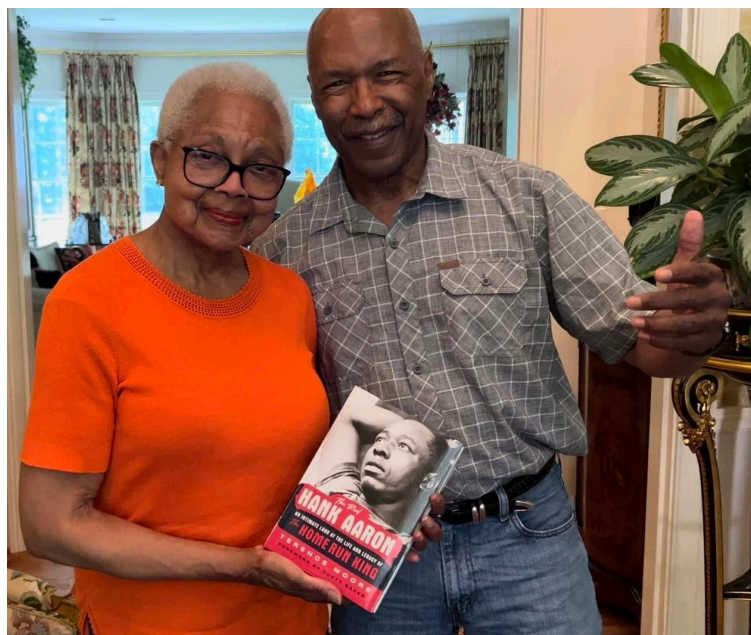
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*Terrance Moore with Hank Aaron’s wife, Billie Aaron*

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## Virtual Thursday Bible Study



*“The Lord is my sheperd;  
I shall not want”*

Psalm 23, KJV

The Antioch School of the Bible invites all members and visiting friends to our Thursday Night Bible Study on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., a “**New Series**” from 23rd Psalm.

***“I’m Drinking from My Saucer..My Cup Has Overflowed”***

*We look forward to seeing you all!*

JOIN US

# Antioch at the Peachtree Roadrace



*Karen McKinney Holley*



*Mayor Andre Dickens  
Joseph Malbrough  
Cara Malbrough*



*Cheryl Twyman*



*Christian Harden*

## Womanhood Ministry

**POWER HOUR**

Tuesdays at 7pm  
on Zoom

SelfCare  
**SATURDAY**

1st and 3rd Saturdays  
at 10am on Facebook Live

thankful  
**THURSDAY**

Thursdays at 7am  
on Zoom

[AntiochWomanhoodMinistry@gmail.com](mailto:AntiochWomanhoodMinistry@gmail.com)

# ABCNN steps up for such a time as this

Long before there was a COVID-19 pandemic, there was Antioch Baptist Church North Network, also known as ABCNN.

Indeed, the audio-video ministry had been streaming Antioch services since the Fall 2021 revival, when Brother Ray Hunter, using his cell phone, made a post to Facebook Live.

That post marked the beginning of ABCNN which streams services live on the Antioch website, Facebook and YouTube.

When the pandemic caused the church to meet virtually, ABCNN pivoted immediately keeping the community connected for worship services and Wednesday Night Bible Study. Zoom was quickly added as the platform for our Sunday School



*Ray Hunter*

classes, Bible Study, and auxiliary meetings. Each meeting room has to be scheduled, which means a member of ABCNN—usually Bro. Ray or Sister Maria Hunter—must be contacted, and then has to open the room at the time of the meeting. As active as Antioch is, this is a



*Maria Alexander Hunter*

huge undertaking.

With Covid-19 being airborne, having a live choir seemed out of the question. Minister Otis Byrd, however, worked to select music, provide rehearsal tapes, and gather choir members, mainly the C.M.A. Ensemble, to provide “live” selections. Sis. Wanda

Harding has worked with the children and Sis. Sylvia Lester has gathered the Anthem/Acapella Choir.

The process is tedious and depends on choir members learning their parts, then recording and sending tapes to a studio to be combined into a cohesive musical selection.

Some videos were recorded by ABCNN staff, principally Dea. Jerome Trimble and Bro. David Jackson, and other videos, people recorded at home and submitted. The ABCNN staff organized them, meshing them together so that the viewers see an uninterrupted flow from devotion to announcements to musical selection to sermon.

**Managing Editor**  
Gracie Bonds Staples

**Design Editor**  
Reggie Tolbert

**Writers**  
Karen McKinney Holley  
Gracie Bonds Staples  
Betty Jo Cooke  
Maryann Morgan

*The Church  
at Antioch  
Newsletter Staff*

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